COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
PUBLIC HEARING
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
FY '02 OPERATING BUDGET

- - -

Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Wednesday, February 14, 2001
9:45 a.m.

- - -

BILL NO. 010005 - Adopting the Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2002.

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PRESENT:

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2/14/01 - FY '02 OPERATING BUDGET

P R O C E E D I N G S

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Good morning. I would ask all Council Members in their offices to please come down to the chamber. We are about ready to start with our hearings.

Good morning, everyone. This is a continued Public Hearing of the Committee of the Whole regarding Bill No. 010005.

The Chair recognizes the Managing Director.

JOSEPH S. MARTZ: Good morning, Madam President.

Madam President, members of Council,I am Joe Martz, the Managing Director of the City of Philadelphia. And with me today is Estelle Richman, Director of Social Services.

Today I am here to present testimony on the proposed Managing Director's Office Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2002, and to answer any questions that you may have.

The total proposed Operating Budget for the Managing Director's Office for Fiscal Year 2002 is $21,503,858, which includes $17,652,706 in the General Fund and $3,850,652 in Grants Funds.

2/14/01 - FY '02 OPERATING BUDGET

The Fiscal Year 2002 General Fund BUDGET request represents an increase of $10,016,523 from Fiscal Year 2001 estimated obligations.

The overwhelming majority of this increase, $10 million, will support the Mayor's Neighborhood Transformation Initiative through the launch of a lot cleaning program and a street tree removal program.

The budget in the Grants Fund contains an increase of $297,534 from Fiscal Year 2001 estimated obligations.

The FY 2002 budget request includes 13.2 million to fund the Administration division to perform both administrative and management functions, as well as neighborhood-based functions; such as, management of municipal services centers in North and Northeast Philadelphia.

Funding for programs in the Neighborhood transformation Initiative are also included in this division.

421,000 for the Office of Emergency Management and the Emergency operations Center, which is responsible for coordinating the city's response to crisis situations; such as,

environmental incidents, natural and man-made disasters, and weather emergencies.

$699,000 to the Targeted Assistance Program to provide employment-related social services, primarily to refugee and entrants recently arrived from Eastern Europe, Africa, South East Asia, and translation services for members of the refugee community.

$3.2 million for the Criminal Justice Coordinating Office, to ensure that the prison population is managed and to continue to seek appropriate alternatives to incarceration for nonviolent criminals.

$23.3 million for the Municipal Energy Office, which is responsible for optimizing energy use in city facilities, reducing city government energy-related expenditures, fostering the development and implementation of energy-efficient technologies, and protecting the environment.

$389,000 for the Police Advisory Commission, which advises the managing Director and the Police Commissioner on policies and actions of the police department in order to improve the ability of police personnel to carry out their

duties and improve the relationship between the police department and the community.

$1.3 in the Anti-Graffiti Network, which coordinates graffiti-fighting measures across a number of departments, city-related agencies, and volunteer organizations in an effort to promote the beautification of the city.

Some of the philosophy and recent history of our office. Complex urban problems, including blight, graffiti, crime, homelessness, and the loss of both jobs and residents to the suburbs, have demanded that comprehensive, coordinated initiatives be developed to target a variety of special needs.

In the last few years, the Managing Director's Office has broadened its mission in order to assume responsibilities for organizing, coordinating. And supervising major inner-departmental programs.

Recently, this approach helped implement the city's successful abandoned vehicle program. At the direction of the Mayor, the MBO began working with the Police Department, Streets Department, Department of Licenses and Inspections, Procurement

Department, and the law Department in early January 2000 to develop a program that would successfully remove the backlog of abandoned vehicles that had accumulated on city streets.

The result was an unprecedented 40-working-day program that towed 33,318 abandoned vehicles, and essentially eliminated the abandoned vehicle backlog.

The success of this initiative, the extensive effort toward improving the quality of life for Philadelphians, is clearly reflected in the 83 percent of respondents who reported being satisfied with the program in the most recent citizen satisfaction survey.

Following this success, the city established an aggressive maintenance program to ensure the backlog of abandoned vehicles does not accumulate again.

Through the Police Department, the city has towed between 800 and 1,000 vehicles per week since May, with 48,000 vehicles towed projected for FY 2001 and 2002.

The MDO will continue to coordinate services for Operation Sunrise as it moves through

Phase 4.

Phase 4's boundaries include the area from 4th Street and Germantown Avenue, and Tioga Street and York Road.

The MDO will also coordinate support services for Operation Take Back in the Fairhill section of the city, and will continue to coordinate successful programs such as Operation Sunrise, Weed and Seed, and the Anti-Graffiti Campaign that complements the Sunrise approach.

The MDO will also play a role in the Mayor's Neighborhood Transformation Initiative to eradicate blight.

The city completed an aggressive neighborhood reinspection program in January of this year, identifying all vacant and dangerous buildings throughout the city, using inspectors from the Department of Licenses & Inspections and the Philadelphia Housing Authority, and, for the first time in the city's history, the Police Aviation Unit.

As a result of this survey, which is the most accurate in the city's history, we have identified 30,729 vacant lots, 26,115 vacant

buildings, and 2,950 vacant commercial properties.

Although not specifically funded in this budget, the MDO will be instrumental in coordinating the expanded demolition and encapsulation portion of the NTI.

One of our primary goals is to eliminate the city's inventory of dangerous buildings over the course of approximately four years and to preserve appropriate property through encapsulation.

Through the encapsulation program, properties are thoroughly cleaned and roofs and drainage systems are repaired and properties are sealed to prevent further deterioration before redevelopment.

The encapsulation program offers a less expensive alternative to demolition for vacant, nondangerous buildings that enables the city to preserve the integrity of an otherwise viable city block.

The Managing Director's Office is developing a program that will lead to the cleaning of the city's 30,729 vacant lots of accumulated trash and debris in approximately one year.

The city will spend approximately 6.5

million in FY 2002 for the initial extensive lot cleaning.

The MDO's Fiscal Year 2002 budget also includes 3.5 million to begin the process of eliminating the city's current backlog of 8500 dead and imminently dangerous street trees through the implementation of the Street Tree Management Program.

Beginning in FY 2002, the city will remove 4300 trees annually until the backlog is eliminated.

Once the backlog is eliminated, funds will be shifted into an ongoing tree management program that will increase the level of planting and pruning activity.

The Managing Director's Office, the Streets Department, and the Office of Fleet Management completely revised the city's snow-fighting plan to plow tertiary for the first time in the city's history.

The goal of this plan is to allow all Philadelphians to return to their normal daily activities as quickly as possible, and reduce the occasions when city government would have to be

closed due to winter weather emergencies.

Under the plan, the city using resources from several operating departments has created a reserve snow-fighting fleet of 123 mostly smaller and more maneuverable vehicles to plow tertiary streets, expanding the total number of vehicles available to fight snow to 428.

The city now will plow a total of 2350 miles of street during significant snow storms. The snow-fighting plan has enabled the city to plow an additional 900 miles of roads, which represents a 40 percent increase in plowed roads.

The Mayor created the position of Director of Social Services to ensure his goal of improving the quality of social services provided to residents of Philadelphia.

The purpose of this new structure is to more effectively anticipate, plan, and respond to the health and social service needs of Philadelphia's children, adults, and families through a more integrated and coordinated system of services.

Estelle Richman will provide more detail regarding the division's activities at the

conclusion of my testimony.

In addition, the MDO will also coordinate -- continue to play a key role in the following areas: accessibility compliance, criminal justice population management, municipal energy office, emergency management, special events, and the targeted systems program.

The Deputy Managing Director for Accessibility Compliance is charged with coordinating the ADA compliance activities of every city department and agency as effectively and efficiently as possible, while providing citizens with disabilities access to all public services, programs, and activities.

The city has instituted several alternative procedures to manage population levels, including implementing pretrial release services, monitoring the city's prison population, and encouraging the appropriate use of alternatives to incarceration through the Criminal Justice Population Management Program.

These programs are for nonviolent offenders, such as house arrest and rehabilitation clients.

The Municipal Energy Office. Since 1993, the MDO, through the Municipal Energy Office, has invested approximately 15.5 million in energy-efficient equipment at city-owned facilities, saving an estimated 3.8 million in energy-related expenditures annually.

In addition, rate discounts, negotiated with local utilities annually, save another $7.5 million.

In the area of emergency management, the Office of Emergency Management coordinates all contingency planning for the city and interdepartmental activities during emergency situations.

With regard to special events, in FY 2001, the city was host to several high-profile events, most notably the 2000 Republican National Convention.

Other high-profile events included the annual Greek Picnic, OpSail 2000. The city's success in attracting large-scale events continued most recently when the city was awarded the 2001 and 2002 Summer X-Games in this past November.

The X-Games will bring approximately

260,000 people to Philadelphia and generate approximately $40 million in additional revenues.

The Targeted Assistance Program. As I noted previously, TAP provides employee-based social services to refugee communities, primarily to persons from Eastern Europe, Africa, and Southeast Asia.

In addition to these activities, the Mayor has encouraged us to explore new and innovative ways to make the government work faster, better, and smarter.

Our challenge is not only to look at the way we do business internally, but also at the way that the outside world views us and how we interact with both the private sector and the community.

We are currently working on several projects at this time that I look forward to discussing with City Council in the months ahead and the years to come.

For example, the MDO is currently working with the Commerce Department to review the city's business regulatory processes to make the city more business friendly.

As part of this project, we are

examining ways that we can automate permit and licenses applications, encourage the use of the Internet to conduct on-line bidding, perform our inventory management and purchasing processes, and to streamline the services provided by all agencies involved in the economic development throughout the city.

Exploring avenues to consolidate the services provided by both the city and the school district, including fleet and property management services and maintenance support services.

Combining these services could help realize savings and help improve service delivery in the city and the schools.

Developing a new right-of-way policy to help oversee the infrastructure build-out of the technology that fuels the new economy.

Working with the Streets Department, the Department of Public Property, and the Law Department, the policy will help coordinate street work and minimize the number of times that streets are opened.

Chairing the City Hall task force that is charged with looking at ways to revitalize and

increase the use of one of our architectural and cultural treasures.

And assessing ways in which the city can reduce the cost of doing business and improve service delivery, including same-day co-collection of recyclables and refuse, reducing the size of the city's vehicle fleet, and linking mapping and other technology across city departments.

This concludes my testimony. Estelle Richman will now tell you about her mission as the director of social services.

At the conclusion of Estelle's testimony, both of us will be available to answer questions.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you very much. Good morning.

ESTELLE B. RICHMAN: Good morning, Madam President and members of City Council. I am Estelle Richman, Director of Social Services within the Managing Director's Office.

The Mayor named a Director of Social Services to further his goal of improving the quality of social services provided to residents of Philadelphia.

The purpose of this new structure is to more effectively anticipate, plan for, and respond to the health and social services needs of Philadelphia's children, adults, and families through a more integrated and coordinated system of services.

The areas of responsibility within this new division are the Department of Public Health, the Behavioral Health System, Mental Retardation Services, the Department of Human Services, the Philadelphia Prison System, the Department of Recreation, the Office of Emergency Shelter and Services, the Mayor's Office of Community Services, the Mayor's Commission on Aging, the Mayor's Commission on People With Disabilities, and Philadelphia Safe and Sound.

Individuals and families often require the services of many city agencies. For example, an alarming percentage of those in the Philadelphia prison system have a history of substance abuse.

They eventually return to their communities, often without the tools or resources to lead productive lives, and end up back in prison.

Many of the families whose children are

under the supervision of the Department of Human Services also are served by the behavioral health system. Many of those who live in city shelters have physical health, substance abuse, and mental health treatment needs.

Many youth who participate in programs provided by the recreation department come from homes where poverty and its effect result in multiple health and social service needs.

Many low-income elders who require help from a number of city agencies have difficulty navigating the various social service systems.

These are only some examples of how the city's social service agencies are inter-related in carrying out their respective missions and contributing to the overall health and well-being of our residents.

The charge is to bring these departments together, to determine the ways in which their programs affect the same families and individuals, to redirect their efforts towards better integrated and more coordinated services, resulting in more effective outcomes for those they serve, and examine financial and staff resources and allegations to

ensure that the considerable amount of public funds directed to social services are directed in the most efficient and effective way and avoid duplication of effort and focus collectively on how best to assess the quality and effectiveness of services and prevent the conditions which result in the need for these services.

Achieving this ambitious agenda will require a number of strategies over the next several years.

In Fiscal Year '01, initiatives in three areas were identified: Assessment of quality and effectiveness, health and wellness, and services to children.

The essential question for the Division of social Services is whether its services are making a difference in the lives of consumers.

The departments within social services will adapt a performance measurement system in order to focus efforts on achieving the outcomes that achieve the positive changes in the lives of the people they serve.

The quality management unit was created in Fiscal Year '01 to support and direct departments

in this effort.

There are three standards that we are proceeding with right now. First, to ensure the existence of standards in all social service programs, compliance with standards as a measurement of the quality of service delivery processes, and also is a primary focus for all divisional social service programs.

Because, if based on established best practice, they help ensure that services are delivered in the manner most likely to bring about successful client outcomes.

To develop database accountability systems. A data of performance-based contracting will be implemented over the next five years.

Departments will involve their contractor providers in Fiscal Year '02 in the design of a performance-based system that reflects program standards and emphasizes consumer satisfaction and success.

A partnership between the city and its many service providers is critical in order to achieve success for those who receive services.

Enhancement of information systems,

support performance measurement will be another significant area of focus.

To improve the health of Philadelphians, we will design and implement Philadelphia-specific health and fitness programs.

The Office of Health and Fitness will continue to identify the most significant behaviors that undermine the health of Philadelphia's residents, and to develop, implement, and manage innovative ways for individuals to change these behaviors and the attitudes that support them.

The office plans to generate increased participation in its programs through educational techniques that will present simple health principles in interesting and informative ways.

All programs initiated under Fun, Fit and Free will be evaluated in Fiscal Year '02 to ensure that they are effective in making a difference in the health of participants and the overall health of Philadelphians.

Those activities that meet this criteria will then be replicated and expanded.

To improve services for children, we will enhance the effectiveness of services through

cross-departmental coordination. Initial joint efforts, centrally directed by Division of Social Services, are focused on policies and operating practices affecting children and youth.

These policies and practices have in the past been developed and carried out by individual departments without meaningful involvement of and coordination with other departments that have services that could help the same children.

In Fiscal Year '02, the Administration plans to invest 1.2 million in school-based behavioral health and parent education programs and to direct an additional 5 million to improve or to develop promising service models.

You will hear more about these programs in the testimonies of the operating departments.

To improve and to expand children and youth development services, social services is using a number of strategies to leverage available funds to improve and increase the availability of youth development programs, including the development of quality standards, increasing available funding, providing technical assistance, training providers, reducing regulatory barriers to child care capacity

and sustainability, and fostering community partnerships to better meet the school-readiness needs of Philadelphia's children.

The city will allocate an additional 5 million to these programs, more than doubling the 4.2 million included in the Fiscal Year '01 budget.

This funding would be made available for additional capacity and improvements in quality, safety, accessibility, and training.

We will also promote systemic reform through developing a framework to apply and assess models of change that would lead to systemic reform.

This worm work is spear-headed by the Philadelphia Safe and Sound. Working with the city and foundations, uses research and studies that have examined similar efforts at integrated services to children and families around the country.

In addition, Philadelphia Safe and Sound works within local neighborhoods to elicit community involvement in identifying and assessing local needs, and uses that information to help develop the division's initiatives.

The Social Service Division has collaborated with Philadelphia Safe and Sound on two

initiatives: The report Card 2000, The Well Being of Children and Youth in Philadelphia; and The Children's Budget.

The children's Commission has also been developed which is comprised of leaders within the private, advocacy, and faith-based communities which serves as a steering committee to social services and provides guidance on all major initiatives and assessments involving children's policy and services.

This concludes my testimony. Joe and I will be happy to answer any questions that you may have at this time. Thank you very much.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

Mr. Martz, you indicate in your testimony that your budget includes an additional $10 million for the NTI.

Please give us a breakdown both programmatically and geographically as to how this money will be spent.

MR. MARTZ: Programmatically, Madam President, we will begin with the lot cleaning program, which we estimate will be about 6 and a half million of the full $10 million.

The other three and a half will be earmarked for a street tree removal program, matching those resources with what's already existing in the Fairmount Park Commission, to expand both tree removal and a pruning program.

So we are pruning approximately 6800 trees right now in Fairmount Park, and we are going to increase that to about 8,000 until we reduce this backlog of imminently dangerous street trees.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: We are referring to street trees.

And, yet, in many of the older sections of the city, these massive trees grow in the alleyways.

And I truly believe that if in the event of a fire, I think the fire department would have an awful, awful time trying to get down the alley.

Are we considering removing the alley trees, also?

MR. MARTZ: The answer to that is yes, we are considering. However, that --

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: But that would not be included in the three and a half million dollars that's being appropriated for the removal of

street trees?

MR. MARTZ: That might end up forcing us to extend the program a little bit, in the event that we -- the backlog right now is estimated to be about 8500, with about 2500 trees a year that gets added to that.

And we want to make sure that as we move through the backlog, it is possible that some of those are duplicates that come in a second time.

So there might be some opportunities within that 2500 to do some of the alleyways.

But, in addition to that, for the first time we have been trying some things in our demolition of vacant buildings. And that is that we have included in the bid specs the removal of some of these trees that are actually on the lots of vacant houses.

We did that just most recently in our latest bids. We also did that in some money that had been set aside that Representative Keller gave us for a section of his legislative district in South Philadelphia.

So we are looking at it. We need to find out, because some of these things are very hard

to get to, as you know, Madam President. These things often don't just grow in alleys. They are week trees, essentially. They kind of start from nothing.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: A weed. I know.

MR. MARTZ: And they grow 30 feet high. And they are often very, very difficult to get to.

So although they are not included necessarily in the immediate street tree program, we are looking at that and trying to figure out a way of getting to them in as safe a manner as possible.

We will get back to you as we talk to you in greater detail about NTI. We are out there looking at these very same trees right now.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: I assume when we talk about removal of street trees, we are not just talking about removing the tree to a stump?

MR. MARTZ: That's my understanding. We are talking about a full removal of the street tree.

And I will look very quickly to Director Mifflin, if he is here, just to verify that.

But it is but my understanding that we are talking about removing all of the tree,

including the stump.

COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: As a followup, Madam President.

Because now when the contractors go out and demolish a building and clear a lot, they don't remove the tree; they cut it down.

MR. MARTZ: Well --

COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: They just did one in my area, they finished about a month ago, and they didn't remove it. Because I asked the contractor.

MR. MARTZ: Councilwoman, we are looking at that.

In the spec that we have out right now, I will tell you that the removal of the tree is part of the new spec that we have put together. And we are testing that out in Representative Keller's district.

COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Great. Just spread it out west.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Mr. Martz, you state in your administrative -- Councilman Clarke, do you have a followup on trees?

COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Just a question.

Good morning, Mr. Martz.

I introduced an ordinance I think the last of last year that would extend L & I's jurisdiction to allow them to abate a nuisance, meaning a tree, that's on an adjoining property, be it vacant.

And in that particular bill, it would essentially lien that propertyholder.

But under this new program, could it be that that funding could be a resource for that particular legislation, if in fact we get it passed and it is supported by the legislation ?

MR. MARTZ: Generally, if we have speced demolition, if we have added that into the spec for demolition, the cost of that tree removal -- the demolition of that house includes the tree removal.

COUNCILMAN CLARKE: We have these trees, as Council President said, in the adjacent property owner's yard. Sometimes these properties are vacant. That tree is leaning over on the person's property, on the wires.

And, you know, we send these letters out to the property owner, the person is never going to respond to it. So the tree just stays there.

And this particular bill will authorize Licenses and Inspections to go in and abate that nuisance the same way they abate the nuisance of a vacant property in sealing it up. This would then allow L & I to abate that nuisance, which is the tree.

My question is, would this particular funding possibly be a resource for that?

MR. MARTZ: Yes, we are looking at that. That is a real possibility, yes.

COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Okay. So you would be in support of the bill when we have the hearing?

MR. MARTZ: Councilman, we are going to do our best with the resources we have.

We are going to do a lot better than we have done before, and we are going to try like heck to address that issue, yes.

The bottom line is, as you know, one of the bad things about these weed trees, or trees in general that grow in alleyways, is they seek out the water sources of people's houses.

They wrap themselves around water pipes and sanitary pipes, and they cause a lot of damage. And we understand that.

And we are actually helping ourselves in many ways by dealing with this issue.

COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you.

Thank you, Madam President.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Joan Krajewski lives in an area which would not be considered a blighted area. She has several of her constituents who have diseased trees in her area.

Will they be able to remove the trees in that district, since it is not part of the blight program?

MR. MARTZ: Yes.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: So this is going to be a citywide program. And it doesn't matter whether you are in a blighted area or not; is that my understanding?

MR. MARTZ: That's exactly what this is. This program is a citywide program.

And we are going to begin with the oldest trees in the system. And some of them are in the Far Northeast and some of them are in South Philadelphia, some are in North Philadelphia, and work our way, from that backlog, with the oldest trees forward.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

Mr. Martz, you state that in your administrative division funds for the Neighborhood Transformation Initiative, have been included.

What role does your office perform in the NTI program? And what areas of the NTI program come under the jurisdiction of your office?

MR. MARTZ: That's pretty extensive, Madam President.

I would say that, at a minimum, we are involved -- I am involved in a lot of the discussions at the senior government officials are having with regard to NTI in general.

So there is a greater discussion taking place among the Mayor's Office and the Redevelopment Authority and the Housing Authority.

But, very specifically, we are working closely will Bob Sibibly and his team to develop a good demolition program. We are also deeply involved in the lot cleaning component of the program.

Most of the operational things that you will see take place, when we actually get together with you and discuss how we want to run the program,

and agree to that, operationally I would imagine that the bulk of it will ultimately come back to the Managing Director's Office, and we will be responsible for the execution of whatever our joint policy is with regard to the NTI.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

You also state under your Vacant Property Remediation section of your testimony that, although not specifically funded in this budget, the MDO will be instrumental in coordinating the expanded demolition and encapsulation portion of the NTI.

Why isn't this funded in FY '02? And has it been included in the five-year plan ?

MR. MARTZ: I believe it is actually included in the area of the new bond issue. So it would be included in the FY '02 debt service line item. And I think Rob could speak specifically to that.

But this would be the area that we would actually be borrowing money to demolish homes with, or to encapsulate homes with, which could be part of the overall bond program.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: For the

record, can you expand on what the encapsulation program will be?

MR. MARTZ: Yes.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Heretofore, if I ever called about a house in my district that had to be cleaned and sealed, more often than not all they would do would be to board the first-floor windows; not the second floor, but simply the first floor.

How is this encapsulation program going to be working?

MR. MARTZ: Well, it is a little different. And we have been trying it out for the last year in a variety of places.

And it started specifically when I was with the Mayor at a Lawncrest town meeting up in the Lower Northeast section. I think it would be Councilman Mariano's district, actually.

And we were up there, and we saw the neighbors were complaining about a particular home on one street that was an otherwise very viable street.

This one house had been abandoned for a period of time. I believe that the homeowners had

passed away.

And, as a result -- it was a corner property, a very viable block -- the roof had started to leak and the interior of the building started to fail.

The encapsulation program actually would -- we joined forces through L & I and the PHA to come in and actually put a new roof on the building, to put some new windows in place, and to basically make the building water tight.

And as a result of that, we are now moving that building through the process to see if we can't get it into a new homeowner's hands. Because it just hadn't made its way through the sheriff's sale process.

We ended up in the end saving an otherwise viable street by not just boarding a house up, but by actually replacing the windows and by making it water tight and structurally sound again.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: It sounds good.

You state on Page 7 of your testimony that to combat the prison population increase, the city has initiated construction of two new

facilities to house female offenders, and will make renovations to the House of Corrections and to the Curran-Fromhold Correctional Facility.

These initiatives will add about a thousand new beds to the prison system's capacity.

In what Capital Budget are these funds provided, and when do you expect these additional beds to come on line?

MR. MARTZ: That's a great. The one would be the women's detention facility.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: I don't know why I am having difficulty hearing. Maybe if you just pushed it a little further away.

MR. MARTZ: The first would be the women's detention facility, which we actually broke ground on this past year, in the Year 2001.

That money had been in the Capital Budget for several years.

That is a 750-bed female facility.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Where is that?

MR. MARTZ: That is in the prison complex in Northeast Philadelphia.

The second a is a smaller facility -- and I will let Estelle speak to that, which is

actually on 17th Street.

It is actually not a construction project for us; it would be funded out of operating dollars.

MS. RICHMAN: The second one is a smaller facility of 235 beds, at 17th and Cambria. It should open in April.

And it is a leased facility, so we did not do the renovations or the building of the facility. So the cost of that is coming out of our Operating Budget.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: What we're going to do today, we are going to have a first go-around of each Council member who has questions will be afforded ten minutes.

And if they are not completed within the ten minutes, we will have a second go-around. So everyone will be timed. Because yesterday our hearings were just much, much too lengthy.

The Chair recognizes Councilwoman Blackwell.

COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you, Madam President.

As a followup, our understanding is that

the design of these new facilities incorporate the needs of special moms and special rooms for visits, for mothers to visit with children, and separate holding cells for children charged as adults?

MS. RICHMAN: The Women's Detention Center that is being developed on the property of the prison now, yes, will have those facilities that have been designed within those facilities. That is correct.

COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you very much.

On Page 33-4 of the Operating Budget. It is only a small amount, about almost 33,000, is allocated to Women's Death Review Team.

What is this program?

MS. RICHMAN: The Death Review Team is modeled after our Youth Fatality review Team. It is looking at the deaths of all women that happen in the City of Philadelphia to see if we can put their lives back together and determine what some of the causes of death were, and where it could be preventable. It is a retrospective look.

One of the things that we have determined that probably is not a huge surprise is

that women who work as prostitutes have a higher probability of death.

And because of that, we have begun to look specifically at prostitution, how we can begin to work with these women and how we can be more effective, one, in preventing their death, but, two, helping them protect themselves better to have more health precautions, and hopefully help them to choose another line of work.

COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: We hope in that regard that you would look back. We held hearings on the death of women in Mantua.

And certainly in many, many cases, most cases, the women had bags over their heads, they had been raped.

And, of course, some mothers say their daughters weren't on drugs, and some admit they were.

But, at any rate, there are extensive hearing that we held when Commissioner Neal was here. So we hope you would look back to that.

They still have yearly affairs to deal with the death of these women, and there is a lot of testimony about it. And we have a lot of testimony

in the office about it. So we hope you would include them in that study.

MS. RICHMAN: We certainly will.

This is an ongoing event. This is the second year, so we are just beginning to pick up the trends.

But certainly any woman who dies within the City of Philadelphia, we begin to look at those deaths, both natural causes, accidents, and deaths that could be prevented.

COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: That's great.

Who are some of the providers of employment counseling and job-related skills services provided by the Refugee Targeted Assistance Program? That's on Page 33-30 of the Operating Budget.

What programs are available for West African immigrants from Frankafone, Africa? That is, in my district we have several people who live, who are from the Ivory Coast, Senegal, Benin, and Gabon?

MR. MARTZ: I am going to let Donna Wolf, our director of the program, answer that for you.

DONNA WOLF: My name is Donna Wolf, and I have been the Director of the Refugee Targeted Assistance Program.

The primary African population we see now are folks from Liberia. And the program is specifically limited, by its definitions, to those who arrive as refugees.

And the Liberian church we have been dealing with is actually out in Montgomery County.

So the Liberian population comes with excellent English and the regular targeted assistance they have been supporting that.

And there are some folks coming in from Sierra Leone, particularly the kids, the lost boys. But we haven't seen them yet.

COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: We deal with some members from that community, from Liberia, in my area, who they have a church near 60th and Market, in that general area.

So certainly if you give me your number, if you have a card, we will try to put them in touch with you.

MS. WOLF: Good. Because we do like to deal with community groups through their own

organizations primarily. We subcontract wherever possible. And haven't had much luck with the Liberian population inside Philadelphia.

COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Great. So this is specifically for this Liberian population.

MS. WOLF: Great. Yes.

COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Okay. Thank you very much.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

The Chair recognizes Councilman Rizzo.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thank you, Madam Chair.

Managing Director Martz, I just wanted to talk a little bit about the recent effort in snow plowing.

But before I get there, I just want you, I know that Fleet Management is going to be here later. But I wanted you to know I had a few visitors in town. And both are involved in the management of significant fleets in another state.

And very, very complimentary on the appearance and also the mechanical specifications.

I can't imagine visitors to Philadelphia stopping on Chestnut Street to inspect the trash

compactor, but they did, and were very, very impressed with the equipment that we purchased.

And they just couldn't believe, in a big city, that the equipment was maintained and had the appearance that it had.

And I just wanted you to know, since you are the top guy --

MR. MARTZ: Thank you.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: -- that people notice. And sometimes we take it for granted. But our fleet, I think, is impeccable.

MR. MARTZ: Councilman, you and I have talked about this on a couple of occasions. You know how I feel about the senior team over in the office of Fleet Management.

They are the best, and they are recognized that way. And they deserve every bit of that recognition. Thank you.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: You are quite welcome.

I just wanted to, again, comment, this is probably -- and you know, if I don't call you -- this is probably one of the first times that there hadn't been a lot of phone calls.

Obviously we didn't have a significant amount of snow, but we had enough to test the system. And I know that one way was very complicated, where it caught up on us when we had normal trash pickup on that particular day.

You indicate that you are plowing 2350 miles of city streets. How many miles do we have? And the ones that aren't plowed, are they streets that are significant?

If you live on one of those streets, how do you deal with that? Can you explain why some day our goal isn't to get to everything?

MR. MARTZ: At this point we are structured to do all but 20 miles of the smallest, the narrows streets, which are essentially 9 feet wide.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: My block is on that list.

MR. MARTZ: I was afraid of that.

And you know a street, a block, is about a tenth of a mile long. So we are talking about 200 streets that we simply can't get to at this point.

But we have been looking at the plan and trying to alter the plan in such a way that we can

get some smaller equipment in to deal with that.

And we are going to try some different things out in this current summer. So we will make the plan a little different for next year. But our goal is to get to every single street.

We got a lot further than we did a year ago. And we have some work to do ahead of us. But I believe by the time we sit down and talk about this next year, we will have a plan for all of them.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Is it because we just ran out of resources, or are there mechanical reasons, size, configuration, parking? Is it just because we decided not to do these 20 miles?

If someone called me from one of those streets, what would I call them? Call Joe Martz.

MR. MARTZ: Yes, that's about the size of it. You should call me.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: No, I wouldn't do that to you.

MR. MARTZ: No. And I appreciate that. Those streets are really remarkable. And the Council President has a number of them in her district, actually. They have parking on one side. And they are really enormously narrow.

So we are looking at Bob Cat type equipment to get down there. We don't have that stuff right now.

And what we were able to do, interestingly enough, with the plan that we have right now, we were able to do it with virtually no new equipment.

We retrofitted some of the new stuff that we brought in. But we are actually doing most of it with older equipment that we would have normally sold off at the end of its useful life.

We have reprogrammed some of that stuff, about $400,000 worth of it, to get it into the mix so we can use it for snow plowing. And that's good for all but those 20 miles.

We are looking at the smaller Bob Cats. And we have a few of them, but we don't have a lot of them. And we need to increase them. Because they are about the only thing small enough to actually get down those blocks.

And it is very tough. Because, as I said, when you get down them, you find out that no matter where you invert the plow, you end up pushing the snow either back onto somebody's pavement or

blocking in the cars.

And you and I have been through that a few times in discussions before, as well.

It is a very, very difficult problem for us, but we are working on it.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: That complaint seemed to be dealt with, where people complained that when the plow would come through the street, that they would push the snow where the cars were parked, blocking their vehicles in.

You simply said to the folks, turn the plow the other way, so they don't have to dig out in the morning.

MR. MARTZ: Exactly.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: But, again, great job.

MR. MARTZ: Thank you. I appreciate that. Thank you very much.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: I do, too.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: You are welcome.

The Chair recognizes Councilman Goode.

COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you, Madam

President.

Good morning, Mr. Martz. I was interested in your testimony on the streamlining of business regulations.

I was glad to hear last week when the Mayor talked about it at the chamber luncheon, you mentioned your testimony about automating permits and licenses, and on-line bidding and streamlining the services.

But there is any intention to actually streamline regulations in terms of actually taking regulations off of the books?

MR. MARTZ: That's what we are actually going to take a very close look at, the Commerce Director and myself.

And obviously that's not something we can do without coming back and having that discussion with City Council.

But we want to take a look at all our business practices. And if it makes some sense to recommend some changes out of our office, we would hope that you would entertain those.

COUNCILMAN GOODE: Is that a process that Council would be involved in before the report

is made to the Mayor?

Because, actually, we were planning on doing a study out of my office on stream-lining business regulations, and offering legislation beginning to take some of the regulations off the books.

I am wondering what the process is going to be, and how we might get involved before the fall legislative agenda comes up.

MR. MARTZ: Well, just so you know, typically our practice in our office is that if there are folks from Council that are interested, the Council President's office makes that call over to us, and we try to be as inclusive as possible.

So if you would like to send somebody over, I am sure you could work that through the Council President. We would be very happy to have somebody involved.

COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you.

My second question is actually for Ms. Richman. Good morning.

MS. RICHMAN: Good morning.

COUNCILMAN GOODE: I had some involvement this past summer with the Freedom School

Program up in Frankford.

And it is my understanding that that program is being eliminated at the Frankford Family Development Center, although the program in general is being expanded.

But I had a great experience this summer. There were 112 young people there. It was a free program. Children of all ages.

And was actually, while I was there to read to them, it was a very high-intensity level, and I think they were being actively engaged.

I was just wondering why the program was being discontinued in that particular location.

MS. RICHMAN: I am not sure I know exactly why it is being discontinued, Councilman. But I am willing to look at the program and to go out and visit.

COUNCILMAN GOODE: It is funded under MOCS. And my understanding is that the Freedom School Program in general is being expanded, but is being discontinued at that particular location.

Can we just get an answer to that, and could you forward that to the Chair?

MS. RICHMAN: I certainly will. And we

will have and answer for you before the MOX testimony.

COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you, Madam President.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: I am sorry.

The Chair recognizes Councilwoman Brown.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you, Madam Chair. Good morning again.

MR. MARTZ: Good morning, Councilwoman.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: My first question is not completely tied to the testimony. It speaks from my experience at the Tax Review Board prior to coming to City Council.

But having been here, my office has received some calls around this notion of what's called customer service.

Please speak to, if you will, what kind of -- what the Managing Director's Office has done in that area prior to you assuming leadership and what's on line to better serve taxpayers in the city.

MR. MARTZ: I believe the whole review of business regulatory processes is key to anything that we do in the field of customer service. But

from a technology perspective, we just, the city has just, purchased a new radio system, as you know.

And if you walk up on the 7th floor of this building right now, we are actually outfitting a whole new communications center.

And we are going to try to do things a little bit differently. We actually have the Department of Public Property working with the Streets Department, and L & I and the Water Department, to see if there is a better entry point for gathering information. So when people call in, they don't necessarily just get sent to a department.

Because we essentially operate our communications center the same way we did 30 years ago. It directs phone calls. It is a switchboard. We want to get past that.

And we are actually looking at technologies that are out there so that people can bring up multiple screens from different departments and enter information as people call in, and start the process. Start the process of saying, "I have a water main break," it can begin at that point of entry.

Give people a tracking -- give people tracking information, let them be able to call back at later points and find out where they are in the process, how our service is being delivered.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: And, therefore, take that initial contact out of the department and put it at the starting point, if you will.

MR. MARTZ: Just so you know, it is not something that's new. It is something that a number of other cities have already done.

Los Angeles is doing it quite well and a couple of other cities. And we are looking at that model.

Because it just makes more sense to be able to call one number, be it 686-1776 or 311, or whatever that number is, and start the process and being able to reach a person.

Because we operate that switchboard 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. And it is just the logical place to start the process, and have people be able to go back into it and find out what's happening with their situation at any point.

Look, it is a fairly complicated process. Because you have so many different systems

that don't necessarily speak to each other right now.

But the key to that is to have at least an interactive call answering point that can begin it, and then we will see what we can do.

And part of this whole review of our technology is to see how we can get our systems to speak to each other so that a single point person can kind of handle all of those calls.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: So a plan and a strategy is in place now; it is a matter of implementation, if you will?

MR. MARTZ: That's exactly what we are doing.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: That's encouraging.

Let's move to the vacant lot cleaning program that you discussed.

Did I hear you correctly, six and a half million is being slotted for that effort?

MR. MARTZ: Yes, ma'am.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: And it could be wording, but help me understand.

You say that first there will be an initial cleaning -- and this is the second paragraph

on Page 1.

After this initial cleaning, a maintenance plan will be developed that includes periodic followup cleanings.

It could be the wording. But could that be backwards? It is important to have the strategic plan ready that you will use for the sustaining of the effort, once the cleaning is done.

MR. MARTZ: That's right. Let me --

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Maybe it is the wording.

MR. MARTZ: Maybe it is the wording.

And I shouldn't have the word "maintenance" in there, because I don't like the word "maintenance." It is the wrong word, and I apologize for that.

We are hoping to establish a baseline. See, and keep in mind we are talking about removing debris from lots here.

So what we are trying to do is get to a baseline, get in there and clean them up, and try to maintain them at some reasonable level, as the Mayor said in his initial address.

I mean, I don't think I can get back

there every day like we do for graffiti and say this is a zero tolerance lot, for that many lots. It is just not going to be possible.

What we want to do is to get back periodically and remove the debris that's there.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: It is also very, very costly.

MR. MARTZ: Yes, it is.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: As part of this strategic plan around the major neighborhood revitalization piece, is there consideration for community participation?

I mean, linkages with community groups and churches, so that they have some responsibility in the world immediately around them?

MR. MARTZ: You hit it right on the head. I mean, it cannot be our long-term goal to be maintaining our lots.

It is our long-term goal to gets those lots into people's hands. It is part of our short- and long-term goal to get the communities active in taking care of these lots.

And there are programs that are going on around this city right now that work well, and they

are the models that we are looking at.

There is one up on the American Street corridor right now, with PHS and the Empowerment Zone, that seems to be working quite well. So they are the models we are looking at.

Look, we don't want to be in the individual lot maintenance business forever. It is just not a good, long-term policy.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Very costly.

MR. MARTZ: Yes, it is.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: You discussed a number of initiatives that your department is undertaking, new initiatives.

I am excited about that which will look at -- it is important to work smarter. But this speaks to spending money smarter, and that is the consolidation of services between the city and the School District.

What's the analysis of that project at this hour? The plan is in place, and the strategies are in place?

MR. MARTZ: For individual operations.

We have taken a look at those things -- the last thing I want to do, and I won't do, is to

go to the School District and say, "We can do all these things better than you."

It is just not factually correct, and I wouldn't do that to my counterpart in the School District. It isn't fair to them.

But there are certain things that I think the City of Philadelphia does quite well. And Councilman Rizzo points out that the Office of Fleet Management might be the best of any big city.

And if that's something that we can do -- and we have started those discussions with the School District -- we want to see if there are opportunities for consolidation over there that make some sense.

And it might lead to some savings, and at a minimum it just leads to better service delivery. And those are the kinds of areas that we are looking at right now.

If it doesn't make sense, I don't want to do it. But if it does, and we can help them out, that's where we want to go.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: So in terms of where you are, currently you are at discussions, exploring where the opportunities might lie.

MR. MARTZ: Yes, we are. Myself, Phil Goldsmith, and Tom McClinch, who is, essentially, my counterpart in the School District, have begun those conversations, yes.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: One more, and then I would like to hear from Ms. Estelle Richman.

The status and future of Town Watch, where is that on the radar screen with regards to the efforts in your office?

MR. MARTZ: Continuing commitment to it.

As you know, Anthony Murphy does a great down of Town Watch here in the city. And we continued our financial commitment to it.

It is a cornerstone of the work that we do in the Managing Director's Office.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: And let me just underscore the conference that your office pulls off every year, to continuously train those of us that care about our immediate world, I think, is important and should continue.

I know there is a cost attached to it, but it is worthy.

MR. MARTZ: It is. And it is a worthy mission, and it is one that we are committed to.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you very much, Mr. Martz.

Ms. Richman, you mentioned that 1.2 million has been now slotted for school-based behavior health and parent education programs.

Is that new? Is that on top of current efforts? Where?

MS. RICHMAN: That is actually a continuation of funding that we have had in the past that was funded through the behavioral health system as a pilot.

It was successful. Many of the schools that had been involved in it have written many letters saying that it has really made a difference, and getting control of those youngsters in their schools that have had behavioral problems.

We would now like to continue it and do some expansion. And we are using some dollars within DHS, which have come from the state, to be able to expand this project.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: That was one of my questions, too. Are these new dollars?

MS. RICHMAN: These at this point, yes, are new dollars from the state.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: The Office of Child Care. What are some of the plans for moving the office forward?

And I ask that for very selfish reasons, because I have some interest in some legislative matters around that.

MS. RICHMAN: As you know, this has been the first year to have an Office of Child Care in Philadelphia.

We have two full-time people working in that office now to begin to develop, work with regulatory, work with the state.

We have also determined that one of the things, one of the issues here in Philadelphia are how to get the child care providers that are underground above ground, to be able to get them more federal dollars and to get them licensed.

And some of the barriers in keeping them there range from fees, to structural improvements that need to happen either in homes or in the centers.

We are working with them individually. This year we have put about $300,000 out in an RFP to have the small child care providers apply for

that money so they can begin to do some of the improvements that will get them closer to regulation and licensing.

It is still a slow process, but I think we are making progress in it.

Our goal for Fiscal Year '02 is to continue, at least keep our funding level, keep it level that we have now from the state, and to look for opportunities within the state to increase it.

We are still in the process of analyzing the Governor's budget. But we think that the new Governor's budget has a variety of different kinds of opportunities to expand child care opportunities here in the city.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you very much.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Councilwoman, I am sorry. Your time is up. You will have to wait for the second go-around-

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Okay. I will see you in the next round.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair recognizes Councilwoman Krajewski.

COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Thank you.

Mr. Martz, we have heard a lot this week about funding for various projects included in the Mayor's Neighborhood Transformation Initiative.

I think you can understand the growing frustration among Council Members, in that we are asked to approve funding for certain projects, but we still have nothing before us.

I don't know what we will be funding. We have no plans. We haven't received anything. And what input are Council Members going to have?

MR. MARTZ: I can speak for the Administration in so much as I think that the Chief of Staff said that we will be back to you with a briefing, and we will obviously have a very public discussion about the process of neighborhood transformation.

And I will tell you, I mean, I have done this now for eight years. This is the most complicated initiative I have ever been involved in myself.

When I think about last year, as we sat here and we were talking about some different things, and one of them was how we are going to remove abandoned cars, I tell you at that time it

was probably the most overwhelming thing I thought to be involved in.

And at some point we actually had the opportunity to sit down with you guys and talk about what we wanted to do.

And you certainly told us what things we needed to modify in the plan to make that program work. And then we went forward with a plan, and it seems to have been very successful.

And, again, I am here talking about, within my budget, at least, the few things that I have a little bit of information on that I am actually asking in the FY '02 Operating Budget.

But we are going to be back before you -- and again I am just speaking, you know, from what I have heard from the Mayor's Office -- within the next month to talk about this in a much grander way.

COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Well, do you think that these lots will be broken down by Council districts.

MR. MARTZ: Yes.

COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Will we get a list of all of the citywide --

MR. MARTZ: Sure. Let me just say that last week I had provided the first of the information to the Council President's office. And I hope that she was able to disseminate that and get it out to all the members.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: We did.

MR. MARTZ: But one of the things the president had asked us, Councilwoman Krajewski, is to be able to give that information back in more detail by street address, by ward. And we needed to go book and start matching it up.

And we have actually had meetings with the Revenue, and BRT, to start trying to get that information to you so it would be more manageable for you.

Because I know you have a lot of interest in folks in your own community that want to know about that. And that's what we are working on right now.

I mean, we just literally got our hands around this information three weeks ago. And I gave you what we had at this moment, and I will continue to give you it as we refine it.

COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you very much.

The Chair recognizes Councilman Clarke.

COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you, Madam Chair.

Mr. Martz, with respect to some of the testimony on the demolition issue, I recall maybe two or three months ago there was some discussion about this stuccoing issue, and the concerns about property owners when you demolish a property, most properties are built to be in row homes, and it somehow causes concerns about the structure of the building and the instability of that particular building once you do the demo.

Then there was actually some reference to a new type of method that the stucco had beams or something in it, possibly.

Can you tell me where we are with that?

MR. MARTZ: I will tell you where we have kind of come, and it is interesting.

We were actually now looking at bringing in somebody to help us out with this.

The program is so large, it is incredible. It is as big as any major project that

the city has ever been involved in.

And when we do those kinds of things, if we are building the Women's Detention Center up in Councilwoman Krajewski's neighborhood, we bring help in. We bring project management teams in to help us with that.

What we decided to do, because we think we need some additional engineering services, so when we are out there in the field doing this kind of stuff, we need help in managing that process.

So what we are going to do is offer an RFP, I believe, for a project manager, owners' representative type model -- and we have used that on several large construction projects here in the city -- to kind of help us work those issues through.

So that's the direction we are going.

COUNCILMAN CLARKE: There was a particular reference to -- and I don't recall where it was. I think Bobby was talking about it.

And it was somewhere where somebody actually used a -- you guys said you were investigating the possibility of using --

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Councilman,

I'm sorry, we can't hear you. I think when you turn your head, and you are not talking into the mike, it is very difficult to hear you.

COUNCILMAN CLARKE: I will take care of that. I will speak loud.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

BOB SOLVIBILE: Bob Solvibile, Deputy Commissioner, Licensing and Inspections.

Councilman, to answer your question, we had people go to a training, where in the training they discovered these steel, I will call them, beams, for lack of a better word, that you can apply to a wall that stops the bulge outward.

And we are looking at people. Our people at L & I are now researching that for us to see how effective it would be to reinforce walls that we stucco, if it would be a proper application.

COUNCILMAN CLARKE: And do you have a sense of when we might get a definitive answer on it?

MR. SOLVIBILE: Within about three weeks I should have an answer back from the people that are looking into it and the staff.

COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: May I follow up on that question, please?

COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Sure.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: At the present time who does the stuccoing? Do we have a contractor?

Because I remember a couple of years ago during the budget hearings we were told that we had only one contractor doing the stucco work for demolitions.

Who is doing that now?

MR. SOLVIBILE: At the present time there are two contractors, one east of Broad, one west of Broad, that have a performance contract to stucco the walls citywide. And it is divided by east and west of Broad.

Do you want the names, Councilwoman?

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: No.

MR. SOLVIBILE: There are two contractors that have the contract for the city. And they are obligated to do X amount of square feet a week.

I think it is something like 20,000 square foot a week need to be completed by the

contractor, weather permitting.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: And how long does it take before they are able to stucco the wall once the adjacent property has been demolished?

MR. SOLVIBILE: At the present time, too long.

Probably within three to four weeks, everything being perfect, the weather and everything.

Our goal, with the Neighborhood Transition Initiative, is to have it done immediately after the demolition.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Well, who is going to do it immediately, or are we going to get several more contractors on board or --

MR. SOLVIBILE: We are going to look into -- we are looking into having the demolition contractor become responsible for the wall being stuccoed.

So as soon as the contract is completed for demolition, that same contractor will be responsible for stuccoing a party wall, which would give us that immediate access to having the wall stuccoed, which will solve 50 to 60 percent of the

complaints I think we receive from demolition, post-demolition activity.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Councilwoman Clark, I am sorry. I just wanted to ask that question.

And I did stop the clock, so you still have some time.

COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you.

The encapsulation program. And I want to thank you because you have actually done a couple of them in my district, and people were extremely happy with that.

As we move ahead, knowing the limited resources that we will have, because we are not going to be able to encapsulate every property, obviously, will the priorities associated with that program coincide with the short-term development strategy or reuse strategy of that particular property?

Meaning that, if there is a block that had one property that needed to be encapsulated, we encapsulate it, would you then talk to OHCD, or prior to encapsulating talk to OHCD, about possibly rehabing that house and selling it to someone or

talk to someone in the neighborhood who would be interested in purchasing that home?

MR. MARTZ: That's precisely what we have been doing. That's exactly the path we have been taking on all this stuff.

We have to take control of the title to that property. There are some situations where they haven't even gone through sheriff's sale yet. It creates a bit of a problem for us to do that.

I mean, the one that I used in the Northeast as an example, it hadn't even gone through the sheriff's sale process. We still thought it was important to stabilize that particular house, knowing that it was going to come into our ownership at some point.

So we put the lien on the property for the amount of money that we actually invested in that property.

COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Does that trigger the Revenue Department to move ahead with sheriff's sale, or does it trigger the Redevelopment Authority to start the condemnation process?

MR. SOLVIBILE: Councilman, the Office of Housing and Community Development, before we even

encapsulate the property, we tell them, this 1234 Anywhere street, we intend to encapsulate it.

They say, okay. And then we let them know when it is completed. This way their system can start the process of getting that and finding a community group to take it over.

The whole idea behind encapsulation is that the complaints that we would get when a community group and a CDC was ready to rehab a building, the building was so far deteriorated that we had to come, L & I, and tear it down. And that was creating problems and rift in the community.

So Ed McLaughlin and our staff at L & I came up with encapsulation to preserve a property for several years, so the Office of Housing and Community Development could put it through this process of acquiring it, and it wouldn't deteriorate to the point where it would need to be demolished.

The whole thing is to weather-tight the property.

COUNCILMAN CLARKE: I am on a time base. Actually, I understand I am on the timer.

Ms. Richman, you were familiar, having worked in the field that you have, with this

escalating phenomenon about grandparents having to take responsibility of grandchildren.

And over the years in our work here you know we have had to deal with the very social ills associated with that.

And one of the problems that we have had is this whole housing issue. A lot of times our seasoned citizens want to give up that home or they want to go into a senior citizens facility or some other type of housing initiative, and they are always told that you can't bring that grandchild with you.

And I actually had the pleasure of meeting with a group called GAPS. Are you familiar with them, grandparents group?

MS. RICHMAN: Yes, I am.

COUNCILMAN CLARKE: And we have actually worked on an initiative that would build a senior citizens' facility.

I think they are looking at a location in West Philly right now that would provide housing for both that grandparent and that child in the same facility.

It would also provide social services

for both that grandparent and that child.

Can you tell me what your office is going to do to support it? Because at some point we are going to go begging for funding for that particular facility.

Could you lend us any support on that, and tell us what we need to do.

MS. RICHMAN: I would be very glad to sit in and talk and work with the group.

We are actually working with a couple of groups of where grandparents have taken either custody or primary support of their grandchildren.

And, you are right, there are a myriad of problems that are presented in those kinds of situations; from legal, to financial, to just sometimes having some respite.

Because while they can take care of it, they are into maybe sometimes being the primary and only provider.

So I would be very willing to talk to the group or to work with them around where there may be some resources or supports within social services.

Because the reality is, if they aren't

taking care of those children, they fall in the custody of DHS sometimes, and then cost us more dollars in different ways.

So being able to work with them in a way where they can provide that support is beneficial to all of us.

COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Great. Thank you. Do I have anymore time? One more question.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: You have one minute.

COUNCILMAN CLARKE: One more question. Let's jump back to Mr. Martz.

On the NTI program, we are talking about I hoping upwards of $700 billion. There will obviously be a lot of business opportunities.

Who is working on that? Who will ensure that neighborhood organizations or small businesses in neighborhoods have an opportunity to participate, which is going to be an economic development ?

MR. MARTZ: Greater Philadelphia Urban Affairs Coalition, we have actually asked them to help us put together a program.

COUNCILMAN CLARKE: So that will be rolled out when the NTI program is rolled out.

MR. MARTZ: That's correct.

COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you, Madam Chair.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

The Chair recognizes Councilman Cohen. Oh, I'm sorry. Councilman Cohen, you are not next.

Councilman Kenney.

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you, Madam President.

Mr. Martz, the city did a tremendous job in the initial year of removing abandoned cars from the city streets.

Do you have yet the ability to tell us what the overall cost of that program was in its initial large stage, the 40,000 number ?

MR. MARTZ: It was $1.2 million.

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Okay. Is there a plan going forward? Maybe you could explain how the plan works.

The initial scoop was a major movement. What the process is now, and what the ongoing expected costs are. And I am sure you have looked at other cities and how they do it.

And it has been touted much about

Chicago and their ability to actually make a few dollars on this process. I don't know how they do it, but maybe you do from your research.

MR. MARTZ: We actually have looked at how those cities do it.

And Chicago basically takes all of its towing under one program. So they roll it altogether.

And in some ways that complicates some things because the way we do business currently in the city. Because there are so many agencies that are involved in towing.

I mean, the police department does some towing, the Parking Authority does some towing. But out in the city of Chicago they have rolled it under one vendor, and as a result of doing that have lost a little bit of control.

So we are actually looking at trying to put together some type of master towing kind of program, Councilman.

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Is that the ugly P word, that privatization word?

Obviously Chicago has probably privatized that process.

MR. MARTZ: And, I mean, look, you know, when I looked at the original program for abandoned vehicles, the program was initially going to be run by the Parking Authority.

The cost of $12 million was the estimated cost of removing those cars in the last Administration.

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Seems about right for the Parking Authority.

MR. MARTZ: And not to take anything away from the Parking Authority. That was just a program they came up.

But we are actually looking at the program in great detail to find out if there are opportunities for us to make some money. And we are using some of those models that are out there.

But we want to refine them. Because they neat to fit Philadelphia.

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Does it make general sense that we have Parking Authority towing, Police Department towing, that we really kind of should be looking -- and I know you are looking at the whole process -- but that's really what costs us, all the overlap.

MR. MARTZ: It is not a bad process as long as the roles are real well defined.

Some of the problems that we are having are actually out there when people are having accidents on the street, and some tow truck goes rolling up, and you have absolutely no idea how much it costs to get your car towed or where it is towed to.

So those are the kinds of things that we are concerned about as part of this program, is to try to get some control, and for people to feel that they are not being abused in that process at a time when, you know, they just had a horrible accident.

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: We have an existing tow truck ordinance that we passed a number of years ago.

And with the exception of the actual sticker that we put on the trucks, a lot of those provisions of the bill are really not enforced.

People call continuously about having their car towed, having it held hostage by the body shop.

It really is difficult to -- I guess with L & I's responsibilities and enforcement in so

many different areas.

I was the Chairman of the L & I committee. It was kind of like, well, if no one else will do it, L & I will do it.

And it a shame, because they get blamed for not doing it right, but there is just not enough people there to do it.

MR. MARTZ: But one of the things, if you look at the Chicago model, that worked out very well is, they actually found a master vendor to oversee all of that. So it took all of those issues away from another things that L & I has to enforce.

We actually had a contractual relationship that said, this is how we are going to go about getting those cars when there is an accident. This is the vendor that you would contact, and this is the way to do it.

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Are we actively pursuing that type of model?

MR. MARTZ: We are.

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Let me shift gears to another car issue. And that is the issue of live stop and confiscation of automobiles driven by unlicensed drivers with cars that are unregistered.

MR. MARTZ: I heard that question yesterday.

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: The police I have talked to, anecdotally, have told me that they are very happy with the ability in the 3rd, 6th and 4th police districts to actually stop somebody who is driving with 30 suspensions, and take their car and have it impounded. And probably they won't be able to get the car back.

And I am wondering what the plans are to kind of have that as a rule of thumb in every neighborhood in the city.

MR. MARTZ: There is some work underway right now to try to take a look at the whole issue of insurance in Philadelphia, and affordable insurance in Philadelphia.

I think the Mayor feels very strongly about the need to have affordable insurance in the City of Philadelphia.

And, as a result of that, and whatever that committee work will be done will probably give us the guidelines we need to either expand or not expand the live stop program, Councilman.

I think we are in this chicken or egg.

Is it the live stop program that leads to higher insurance?

So I think until that works gets done in the committee, I am not sure the Administration wants to go much further than where we are right now with the program.

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: My only concern in that regard is that I don't think we will ever get insurance rates that are affordable as long as we have 50,000 estimated drivers on the streets of the city driving around at any given time without auto insurance.

And the live stop program that was given authority from Harrisburg for us to do has nothing to with auto insurance.

What it has to do with is that the guy is not licensed, then he shouldn't be driving the car. And if the car is not registered, the car shouldn't be on the street.

As a matter of fact, I believe the insurance provision was taken out of the state bill because of the concern that people would either not have their insurance forms processed in time and would come up on the computer that they were

uninsured.

But there is no doubt when your license is suspended. And there is no doubt when your car is not registered.

And I think part of the concern is that there seems to be some belief that there is an inherent constitutional right to drive an automobile in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on the streets of Philadelphia that really not only cause higher insurance rates for all of us, but frustrate the law-abiding citizen who says, "I must be a dope. I pay my gas bill, I pay my taxes, and I pay my auto insurance."

In Philadelphia, you really don't have to do those things and can live day-to-day.

So I guess the message I would like to send back to the Administration is that, while I recognize the need to kind of review and look at the insurance rate issue, which is a broader macro issue statewide, we should be taking the bull by the horns here and get those cars off the street.

Because a lot of those people are the ones that are blowing stop signs, riding up on the pavement, causing trouble in the neighborhoods. And

we need to get the cars from those people.

MR. MARTZ: I look forward to talking to you more about this.

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: I may go for a minute to Commissioner Richman, or Secretary Richman.

The issue of homelessness. The city, through its sidewalk behavior ordinance and cooperation with Sister Scullion and some of the outreach agencies, have done a very good job in getting almost all of the homeless women off the streets of the City of Philadelphia.

And it is a tremendous effort. It is a good thing for us to do, because these people were in desperate physical and danger out there on the streets.

The homeless male population has dropped significantly, too. However, there seems to be times when the homeless male population on the sidewalk is a tougher group to deal with. And I am concerned about the process.

My understanding -- and it may be incorrect, and you can inform me -- is that when the police are called to a location where an individual

may be lying across the sidewalk or blocking the public thoroughfare, that the police come, they view the situation, and then they make a call to an outreach worker, who then comes out and has interface, engages the individual, asks them whether or not -- what their problems are, can they be of any help, and can we get to you a shelter.

If the individual refuses, it is my understanding that there is very little we can do after that.

Or if the individual moves 10 feet, 20 feet to the next corner, the process must start all over again. Where, hypothetically if an individual is encouraged to move, moves down to the next block, the outreach worker leaves, the police officer is called again by a citizen or shop owner, then he must, he or she must, come back, go through the telephone call, wait for the outreach worker, come back out, and engage in the process again.

Could you give me an idea what the process is and what we are doing about trying to get these people into shelter and off the streets in these cold winter days and nights.

MS. RICHMAN: Let me call up Mike

Nardone. But, in the meantime, let me try to tell you what the process is.

And you are essentially right, that when the police encounter someone who is laying across the sidewalk or otherwise blocking public access, the routine is that they call an outreach worker, who does come to talks to the person.

My understanding at that point is that there is every effort to convince the person to leave that spot. Not just walk across the street or just to pretend to move, but to really get the person off that spot, to go with them somewhere.

They may return, that part is true. But to get them to physically move.

If they do physically move, and they go away and they come back an hour later, the process is repeated. But let me have Mike fill in.

MICHAEL NARDONE: My name is Mike Nardone, and I am Deputy Managing Director for Special Needs Housing.

And basically I think the process that Estelle outlined is basically correct. I don't know that there is much more to fill in.

I would just say, though, that generally

the outreach teams, when they have been called, have had a very high success rate in terms of getting placed into shelter.

And over the course of last year, when the outreach teams were responding to a call, they were placed somewhere in the order of 55 to 60 percent in shelter upon that call.

So I think that the system of the police working cooperatively with outreach has worked very well.

And I think that as we are able to reduce the population -- and we have seen, according to both Sister Mary's count, as well as police count -- we witnessed somewhere in the order of a magnitude of a 50 percent reduction of people on the street.

I think as we get down to lower numbers, we are going to be able to intensify the outreach that those folks who are left on the street can get to convince them to a shelter.

I don't think that we are going to be able to snap our fingers and get this problem to go away. But I think we are gradually making progress in the right direction.

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: I think the city has made tremendous effort in really dealing with the problem.

However, my certain is for that other 50 percent, 40 percent of the homeless male population.

Do we have a number? I know we used to have a census of how many people we had on the street, as high as 600-some at the worse. And I think --

MR. NARDONE: The latest count in January by the police was 80.

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: 80?

MR. NARDONE: Yes. That's down from --

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: This will be your last question on this go-around, please.

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Once we have looked at all of this, and we have done everything we possibly can, what is that ultimate solution for that 80?

MR. NARDONE: Well, I think what we have to do is begin to move the people -- I think we have a good system of entry-level housing along the model developed by Sister Mary in terms of the safe haven approach. So I think we have the kind of structure

in place.

And now I think that the next step is to begin to move some of the people from entry-level housing, into more permanent housing opportunities, and therefore support the infrastructure that we put in place and be able to continue to move people into those entry-level facilities, and to continue intensively working with the clients from the outreach perspective.

There have been very few tickets that we have instituted. It has really been working more in terms of an outreach police cooperative model.

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: The tickets are kind of a silly kind of thing to begin with.

MS. RICHMAN: One of the things we do know is we are getting to a very resistant population, which is going to take some intensive work in putting teams to have that have the expertise to deal with them.

And that we will do more frequent continual contact. The frequency of contact seems to be the variable that determines when we get people off the street.

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Point of order. Mr. Nardone, would you remain. Thank you.

Certainly I think the city, everybody is doing a great job in this regard. And I am glad we did it in kind of a friendly way, as you mentioned, without doing tickets and without being heavy handed.

Because victims shouldn't be punished twice. They are already victims to begin with.

And our understanding is that we are down to maybe 70 people a night. And I know I mentioned this to the Mayor and I mentioned it to you.

And certainly we would hope that, Secretary Richman, that you and Mr. Nardone, and certainly the Mayor, if we are so close, I think we are -- I pray every night. I think we are at that point where we should be able to say in Philadelphia that we really don't have people on the street at night.

70 is so close. We can absorb them somewhere in the system. And certainly we are asking that that commitment be made, that we can

absorb this last group of people, whether they be male or female or women with children, such that the city can stand up and say we finally have gotten there.

Maybe by the time you come back, Mr. Nardone, and testify in your own right, that we will have a commitment from on high to certainly have it done.

MR. NARDONE: Well, I would just say that the question isn't actually absorbing people into the system. Because I think we have the capacity. It is really a question of getting them to accept shelter and to come in.

And I think that's where the resources that have been put on line with the sidewalk ordinance have really been helpful in that regard.

And we are just going to have to continue to work with those folks to ensure that they are willing to come in.

COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: So you are saying, then, that we do have a commitment to remove all of those people, even those 70 who are left, they are just the more resistant folks; is that it ?

MR. NARDONE: Yes.

COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Then that's excellent. Because certainly Sister Mary and Horizon House and our own city outreach people really have done a great job and have the experience and know these people and know how to deal with them and who they are.

Thank you all for your efforts.

MS. RICHMAN: Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

The Chair recognizes Councilman Cohen.

COUNCILMAN COHEN: Thank you, Madam President.

First to Mr. Nardone.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Mr. Nardone.

COUNCILMAN COHEN: Just one general question, Mr. Nardone. Is there any reconsideration in professional circles about the policy of having mentally ill people -- and I understand the general thinking is that most of the homeless that are actively on the streets for long periods of time do suffer from some form of mental illness.

Is there any reconsideration of the policy which says they all ought to go out into the mainstream, rather than to have them

institutionalized -- not warehoused, but institutionalized -- with a program of care?

MS. RICHMAN: No. Essentially, both the national policy and the state policy and the city policy is fairly consistent, that people do better in integrated settings than any kind of segregated setting.

And the difference of how well they do is based on how much support they receive.

In other words, if there is support on a continual basis, whether it is called case management or a variety of other names, people tend to do well in communities.

The largest portion of population here that we see continually on the street happens to be people who still have addictions, as opposed to mental illness. Although you can determine that addiction is a mental illness. But it is people with addictions.

Most of the people with mental illnesses we tend to be able to get off the street a little sooner.

Those that still have no commitment for a clean and sober lifestyle continue to want to stay

on the street, and tend to be the ones that are most consistently resistent to shelter.

COUNCILMAN COHEN: Well, the peripheral problem that seems to be a very severe one affects not so much the particular homeless person or the person with the mental illness, but the family, which often is in no position whatever to control a situation.

For example, I am thinking of a mother who lives in the Phillip Murray House up on York Road and Stenton Avenue, who has an adult son in his late 30s who seems to have -- we are not sure of the drug addiction, but clearly a mental problem. He is often on the streets.

But when he is not, he is even a worse problem to the mother, because he makes her life impossible. She gets threatened constantly with eviction because he comes banging at the doors of the apartment building. And that's been repeated many times.

And I am wondering whether there is any consideration in the treatment of those who themselves are mentally -- you know, suffer mental problem or have a drug addiction, is there any

thought given to the impact on the immediate families?

MS. RICHMAN: Yes. And if you could give me the name of that mom, there are a lot of supports on what moms should do when that happens, rather than let the child that has the mental illness continue to abuse them in that way.

There are a variety of supports, who she can call, and placements that can be done to get him into a safer setting, where he won't be begging and won't be homeless.

Most of the families that have been worked with permit that to happen because they don't want to see their family member on the street, because they understand how dangerous the street is.

But, at the same time, they know that they can't cope at home, they can't offer the support, and they can't offer the treatment that is needed.

There is a treatment system that needs to be sought, and that can provide the kind of both support and housing arrangement for him, within a community and treatment environment.

COUNCILMAN COHEN: Thank you. One

further, more in the nature of a comment.

In my rather lengthy history with the city, there have been a number of managing directors who have done very fine work. But I have to say that the current managing director is on a totally different level.

During the day, Council Members are pretty much protected by their staffs, their problems. There is an ability of the staff to begin dealing with it. We get involved sometimes, sometimes the staffs are successful.

But I have been calling the managing director ever since he has been in office at the hours when the Council member is not protected by the staff because the staff may be home, but calls come in to the home of the Council member for services.

And I have called him at 6:00 in the evening, I have called him at 10:00 in the evening, I have called him at midnight, I have called him Saturday during the day, and I have called him just this past weekend on a Sunday morning.

And I have to tell you, that in all of these calls -- and there are many numbers of them

that have occurred -- I can't remember a single occasion in which the managing director was not readily available. If not immediately, within minutes, a call would come back, and the problem would be addressed, and generally resolved very satisfactorily.

And it is a level of performance I guess like these superstars in sports do. You think other people do extremely well, and then somebody comes along as the superstar.

And I just wanted to express publicly. Because it is quite a relief when you are at home, and your wife is asking for a little bit of time, finally, and a problem comes up, and you feel guilty, somebody is without heat, or without light or there is some other kind of an emergency somewhere going on, it is just such a great relief to be able to call somebody in city service and get the problem solved.

And so I wanted to just make this public expression of thanks to the managing director.

MR. MARTZ: It is very kind of you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Councilman, I am sure that we all share your comments.

COUNCILMAN COHEN: I don't know how he does it.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: He has really done a fantastic job.

COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: I am listening about all hours of the night and day. He lives around the corner from me, and I can't find him. I can't get him. He never answers the calls.

COUNCILMAN COHEN: Because I have got him busy.

COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: He hides when he sees me coming.

I am going to remember that.

COUNCILMAN COHEN: Now I am going to get calls from Councilwoman Krajewski at night.

COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: I am going to call you to get him.

MR. MARTZ: Councilman, everything I have learned, I have learned from Councilwoman Krajewski, my life-long friend. She has taught me everything about constituent service.

COUNCILMAN COHEN: I know she shares the feeling I have, and all the members of Council have, about the wonderful service we get from our managing

director.

COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Madam President, before Mr. Nardone leaves, let me certainly, we thank you, too, for your help during a holiday dinner where the Striped Bass, La Famiglia, and Avenue B sponsored all the food. And we focused it in our newsletter.

So I will ask the Sergeant At arms to give you a few newsletters that we put out periodically to let everybody know.

And it made a big difference and it lets our city know, and everyone involved know, that people from all walks of life in our city care about one another. And when we work together, I believe all problems are solvable. Thank you.

MR. NARDONE: Councilwoman, that was a truly incredible event. And I want to thank you for your leadership on the homelessness issue during my tenure here.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair recognizes Councilman Rizzo.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thank you, Madam Chair.

My first question -- I have a couple --

is, I guess, to Estelle Richman. I know the Health Department will be here later today.

In the previous Administration, we funded an organization known as Prevention Point, where we give, at the city's expense, syringes to intravenous drug users --

COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: That's correct.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Is that the proper way to say it?

Do you have a current position of this Administration? And could you just describe what we are doing to support Prevention Point in the distribution of these syringes in Philadelphia?

I would like to know how much money we are spending and exactly what Prevention Point does.

MS. RICHMAN: The Health Department still has a contract with Prevention Point.

I do not have the exact numbers, but they will be within the Health Department testimony. And I will be able to get you those exact dollars that are being spent prior to that testimony.

And I believe that the testimony is on Friday, as opposed to this afternoon. But I will make sure you have those.

The Prevention Point mission is to be able to decrease HIV within an injection drug population, where the incidence of HIV is the highest in most populations within a city.

In Philadelphia, it has been a successful endeavor. The number of needles that return -- and the process, as you know, is that people bring needles that have been used to get new needles that are clean.

And the exchange rate in Philadelphia has basically been somewhere between 95 and 98 percent needles returned.

The effort there -- I believe there are four sites, exchange sites, in Philadelphia at this point; one in West Philadelphia, three in North Philadelphia, Kensington area.

The sites are monitored very closely by CODAAP, the Coordinating Office of Drug and Alcohol Abuse Programs.

I believe they are monitoring even tighter the exact -- all the activities that Prevention Point is engaged in.

As you know, Prevention Point at different points in time has either put out

literature or other information that hasn't been necessarily preapproved by the Commissioner's office or at this point by my office.

We have them on a fairly tight leash now. But, at the same time, we are still concerned about continuing to bring down the incidence of HIV disease in the injection-drug-use population.

The other related piece is that we do feel that we are having an impact at getting people off injection drugs.

In other words, there is a continuing education process that goes on, in trying to make sure people are aware of what injection drugs are doing to their body, alternatives, treatment programs, and trying to do as much education to try to give them other choices and make sure they know treatment choices when they come in to the needle exchange program.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: So I assume, then, the executive order that a previous Mayor signed to put this program in place is going to be supported by the current Mayor?

MS. RICHMAN: As far as I know, the current Mayor has supported this at this point in

time, but we haven't specifically talked about it lately.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Even though -- maybe you could just answer a question for knowledge purposes -- even though this is good, according to the Health Department and you, is this legal?

MS. RICHMAN: In the City of Philadelphia, yes.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: State? Pennsylvania? Are you allowed to distribute needles the way that we do legally, or is it just being overlooked?

MS. RICHMAN: I'm not sure I know all the legal implications of that, Councilman. I just am not sure.

I am not the person who can answer the legal question.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: The Health Department is going to be asked that question again when they come. So would they be prepared to answer that question.

MS. RICHMAN: I will make sure either they can answer it or that a member of the City Solicitor's staff will be here to answer it.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thank you. Now I

switch to my second question, which, Managing Director Martz, maybe you can answer or you need to draw someone from L & I.

From yesterday's testimony, we discussed the delinquent receivables of the Board of Revenue Department, the Water Department, that there's a significant amount of money on the street that hasn't been collected.

And we learned yesterday that it might be just counting, because we have debt we have been carrying 30, 40, 50 years that's still in the numbers of receivables.

I have received a letter recently from a constituent. And Water Revenue passed the buck to the department of L & I, so I will tell you what the situation is.

We have what we call permits, where contractors, lawn maintenance companies, et cetera, et cetera, that need water can go to a hydrant, fill a 2000, 3000 gallon tanker to do weed control, to do construction.

And I was told yesterday by Water Revenue that they don't involve, they don't bill; that the bills come from the department of L & I.

I just asked a member of L & I about that. And I was basically told, will have to look into it, and get back to me.

But, from what I understand, contractors and again these lawn maintenance companies, consume a tremendous amount of water from hydrants.

Police stop to see if that activity is appropriate. They will show them some type of a pass that allows them to take the water from the hydrant.

And water revenue says, well, we don't involve ourself in this particular issue, that the Department of Licenses and Inspection does the billing.

That sounded kind of strange to me, that Water Revenue wasn't in the loop on this.

And we are talking a significant amount of water and a significant amount of contractors that take water from our hydrant system for profit, to spray lawns, to build buildings, and do all the things that water is required to do when it is a construction site.

So could you clear up the issue? And how do these contractors get billed for this water,

since Water Revenue doesn't do it?

RICHARD ROY: My name is Richard Roy. I am the Acting Water Commissioner.

Councilman, people can use hydrants if they take out an appropriate permit. There is restrictions with that hydrant, there is requirements with that hydrant. They have to know how to use that hydrant.

And the fee for the permit covers the cost of the water.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: How much is the fee?

MR. ROY: It varies, and I can get those numbers for you. But it varies depending on how long they have a permit for that hydrant.

And I did hear your question the other day, and we are looking into whether we have any lawn-care providers with permits.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: I would like to know that.

Because with the potential of a water rate increase, many Philadelphians might want to get one of those permits and draw the water from the hydrant, rather than their faucet.

Because I have talked to, since that

testimony, a couple contractors that said that they haven't -- and you know they are not cutting off their nose here to spite -- they told me that they haven't been billed for water forever; that they draw water, thousands of gallons a week, and basically that little piece of paper gets them all the water they want, any time they want it.

And I think this is a process that really needs to be looked at, really hard.

MR. ROY: If those would be reported to the Water Department, we can investigate those.

I don't think there is ongoing permits. And these are probably illegal users of the fire hydrants.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: You say to me now that you don't know of any permits you have out there for contractors to draw water?

How do you monitor that, Commissioner? I mean, come on. We have to be realistic here today.

You give somebody a permit and say, you can go to a hydrant any time you want, and tell them that they can only take a thousand gallons a week, give me a break.

Do you have people out there checking to see how much water they take? I mean, come on. Let's be honest with each other here.

MR. ROY: I said at the present time I am not aware of any lawn-care providers that have permits. It may be illegal.

There are 28,000 hydrants out there. And most often if your seeing a hydrant on a side street being used and a back street, it is probably an illegal use.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: I am talking to a police officer that said he stopped a contractor taking 5000 -- had a truck filled with the capacity of 4500 to 5000 gallons.

He produced a paper, which backed the officer off right away, indicating that, you know, he was approved to take this water from the City of Philadelphia.

So I think you need to maybe send to the Chair a list of the contractors that have this permit. And I would like to know how we get paid for it.

MR. ROY: We will do that.

MR. MARTZ: And I will ensure that he

does that. I am interested myself in this.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Because if these little pieces of paper are flying around, 4000 gallons here, 5000 gallons there...

MR. MARTZ: Absolutely.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thank you.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair recognizes Councilwoman Brown.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you, Madam Chair. I have a followup question for the Water Revenue -- Director of the Water Revenue Bureau, please, sir.

My question is related to educating the consumer, and particularly senior citizens.

Infrequently we receive calls in the office, and again leaning on my experience at the Tax Review Board, where seniors are not familiar with the reality that they are responsible for service charges, even if the water is turned off.

So my question is, what kind of efforts does the Water Department undertake to educate the consumer about financial obligations that they have with regards to the Water Revenue Bureau, and/or any

linkages you might have with the Philadelphia Corporation of Aging or other agencies that provide services to seniors, so that they don't end up at the Tax Review Board with humungus bills and then discover that the service charges is a rightful charge?

MR. ROY: We have a number of public education programs that we have.

Probably the most public contact is the bill stuffer that we put out public messages about responsibility.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: It is called what?

MR. ROY: It is a bill stuffer that goes in with the monthly bill.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Bill stuffer. Got you.

MR. ROY: I think that as we develop programs, because of the automatic meter reading system we have, when we start to see zero usage at properties, it can trigger some investigation of that property as to whether it is abandoned or if there is some reason that there is no usage.

At which point we can have a discussion with that homeowner about what their obligation is

in terms of a service charge.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Okay. That goes to part of my question.

When we look at the issue citywide, however, has any thought or consideration been given to a strategy so that we lessen the burden, if you will, of seniors, who we know are on limited fixed incomes and who have to get downtown to the Tax Review Board?

And you're heart sick because you know they can't afford the massive bills, yet they're ill-informed or uninformed and obligated to pay the bill.

Have you had a chance to just look at that citywide from a strategic standpoint in educating that particular constituency?

MR. ROY: One of the efforts we are putting together now is a booklet on homeowner responsibility, and what the homeowner's requirements are.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: What's the status of that project?

MR. ROY: I believe we have a draft of that booklet at this point in time. It is being

reviewed. And I would hope that we would be able to get it out.

Our focus was to distribute it to real estate agents around the city, so that they could hand it out to people as they buy homes, and they will have a better idea of what their responsibility is when they buy that home.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: But that's on the right track, I think.

I would ask that you consider broadening your outreach to include senior citizen agencies, if you will, and others who are in the business of providing services.

Someone has to speak up and stand up for them. And so that's my issue and concern here, and why I raise the question. Okay?

MR. ROY: Okay.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you.

I have two final questions around the issue of standards and the Mayor's Children's Initiative.

I know that last year the process started, and I know that it is long. I guess the good news is that a lot of cities around the country

are taking a serious look at standards as relates to after-school programs.

Where are we currently, what barriers are you experiencing, and where do you see the end of the line? Where do you see a period at that particular initiative?

MS. RICHMAN: We have actually put out standards on after-school programs now. I will make sure you get a copy of those.

We are in the process now of working with all the programs in the City of Philadelphia that we funded during this past year to determine whether they can meet the standards. And, if they can't, what do we have to do to help them.

And that's where we are now.

While we have put out standards, putting out standards, having people agree that the standards are appropriate, and then having the providers either have the resources or the knowledge to meet those standards is an entirely different process.

So we are going provider by provider, looking, talking to them, visiting their programs, determining what is it in the standard that they

can't meet, the reason they can't meet it, and what we can do.

With the money coming into the after-school programs for the new fiscal year starting in July, some of the money will be for new programs.

But we have made the commitment that probably at least half of that money needs to be spent to bring the programs that are existing up to the standard.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: You addressed my followup question, which was, is technical assistance being provided.

MS. RICHMAN: We actually have a contract. Not only we are doing, but we have a contract through United Way that are providing the technical assistance.

The first sessions of that started in January. And I believe there have already been four sessions that have taken place, and there are more being planned on an ongoing basis.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: I will look forward to that standards document.

Finally, as best as I can understand,

there are two banner initiatives that the Administration has established. And they would be the NTI and Improvement of Quality of Life For Children and Youth; is that a fair assessment? Would you agree on your end?

Who are the designated experts, if you will, or leaders that speak on those two issues?

MS. RICHMAN: I'm --

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: And let me -- not paraphrase; footnote.

I care about NTI. I am more concerned about the children and youth piece. So who do we look to in terms of leadership, aside from the Mayor, on that particular issue?

MS. RICHMAN: I think for the initiatives that involve children and social services and all the things that happen with children, I am probably the spokesperson for the Administration on this, through the managing director, back to the Mayor.

There are a variety of activities in the ways we do it.

One of the first things, as you remember, that the Mayor did in the new

Administration was to a point a Commission on Children.

And the Commission on Children, as a group -- and I head that, I am part of the commission and head of the commission -- actually begins to look at policy and acts sort of as a steering Committee on that.

But in terms of who in the Administration is putting this into operations, monitoring it, and make sure that the things we say happen, that probably falls under my level of responsibility.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Okay. Then let me follow up.

You said from -- correct me -- from the managing director, back to the Mayor. What does that mean.

MS. RICHMAN: That means I report to the managing director.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: And the managing director becomes the spokesperson in the Mayor's Office on Children and Youth; is that accurate?

MR. MARTZ: I think that anybody who knows Estelle realizes that she doesn't need anybody

to be a spokesperson for her.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you much.

Thank you, Madam President.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you. The Chair recognizes Councilman Ortiz.

COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Thank you, Madam Chair.

Estelle, in terms of the health centers, I have been told that there are vacancies that are going unfilled.

And I would like to find out, what is the current state of staffing at the health centers, and what is the current vacancy rate, and what positions are vacant?

MS. RICHMAN: I will make sure that is included in the Health Commissioner's testimony on Friday.

COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Okay. And also I spoke to you the other day, and there has been a shifting of directors of centers.

MS. RICHMAN: Yes, that's correct.

COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: I know that usually we transfer captains and other officials in the police department, usually because we fear

corruption developing, and that's one way of keeping the flow moving.

I would like to find out, what's the rationale for the shifting of the different center directors across the board.

And is this going to be a policy of yearly shifting? And what impact does it do to continuity of service, if that is the case?

MS. RICHMAN: I do have that explanation now. I will also make sure both the explanation is shared with you individually and to have it before the testimony.

COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: For the record, also, you know that we had hearings on the prison health system.

MS. RICHMAN: Yes.

COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: There are questions that are still not answered.

And you know that we asked those things. And perhaps those answers that we requested at the hearing, they might be available by the time the Prison Commissioner comes before us?

MS. RICHMAN: We will try to make sure we do that. He comes before you in a couple of

hours.

COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Oh, well, I know that he can come back.

MS. RICHMAN: Okay. I will try to figure out which one of those questions you haven't received.

I thought they had all been done right now, but I will double-check. They should be able to get that to you quickly.

COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Also, the contract for the health system is a four-year contract.

MS. RICHMAN: It is a one-year contract, with an ability to renew it in three subsequent years.

COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: It is a four-year contract in order to get around the ability of City Council to be able to approve it or not approve it. Okay? It is a four-year contract with an option for a fifth year.

I think that given the nature and the controversy that has ensued over the quality of health service in the prison, and the magnitude of the contract, which is above $25 million, I think that we need to have a real look into it, this body,

look into the process of -- bidding process, and how it was awarded, and so on down the line, for the record of the whole Council, and not just the Committee on Public Safety as we had it.

So if we can have that also ensued, I would really appreciate that.

MS. RICHMAN: Okay. We will make sure we get that, that explanation of how the bidding process proceeded and how recommendations, decisions were made, to you.

COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Okay. Thank you, Madam Chair.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

The Chair recognizes Councilman Nutter.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you, Madam Chair. Mr. Martz, good morning.

MR. MARTZ: Good morning, Councilman.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Director Richman.

MS. RICHMAN: Good morning.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: First let me say, Mr. Martz, it is good to see you this morning, and you look very nice today.

MR. MARTZ: Thank you, Councilman.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Let me ask you

about -- I know you have talked about a couple of these earlier. I wanted to get a little better understanding.

On Page 1 of your testimony, the $10 million for the Neighborhood Transformation Initiative, obviously this is separate from the $250,000,000 bond issue.

MR. MARTZ: It is.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: And you will correct me, I am sure.

I mean, this is, I guess, a way of at least getting some portion of the initiative started, obviously, on something that we all care about.

And as NTI is put together, I mean, to some extent, I guess, it is a recognition that life must go on and the government must continue to function and operate.

MR. MARTZ: I think, quite honestly, it is just more an issue of what qualifies for longer-term debt service and what doesn't.

I mean, these are clearly more operational in nature.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Maintenance type.

Okay.

We had some discussion, I guess, on Monday in the Appropriations Committee about a transfer ordinance related to lot cleaning, which testimony was that portion of the program is anticipated to start in April.

And this $10 million, I guess, is the continuation of the $960,000 that was proposed in the transfer ordinance?

MR. MARTZ: As you know, this stuff is really challenging. And we have to do a few things.

We have to kind of try out different technologies. We are trying to find the right mix of equipment and manpower.

And based on what I learned from the abandoned car program, we have a sense of what it is going to cost us to do it. But we need to work our bugs out before we jump into this thing with both feet in July.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay. Tell me, as a part of this program -- and I think you know from earlier conversation, I have adjusted, to some extent, a lot of my thinking as it relates to vacant lots and what should go on in different

neighborhoods and different techniques and strategies.

But, just for the record, and because of my ongoing concern, tell me a little bit about where fences or other protective measures for these lots fit into this particular program, and what happens after we clean them all.

MR. MARTZ: And I know how strongly you feel about them, and you know how I feel about them.

I think the ordinance does the best it can by stating that these things can be looked at on a case-by-case basis. Because clearly they work in certain places and they don't in others.

Our goal is to find ourselves in a situation where we can do this one-time cleanup, and then to get into a situation where we can come back periodically and maintain them at a certain level.

In certain places it is going to make some sense to have things fenced, and we realize that, and in other places it just doesn't because we know what happens behind those fences.

So, again, I would like to stay along the terms of the ordinanance and start reviewing these things on a case-by-case basis, through the L

& I Commissioner, with me and you and members of Council, and where it is appropriate to do it.

And, look, there are going to be times when we disagree on whether or not it makes the best sense to do it there. But I think that's the best vehicle to do it.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: When you used the phrase "ordinance," were you making reference to Ordinance 25 in the fence bill that was passed last year?

MR. MARTZ: I was, yes.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: And is that being utilized? I mean, is that being implemented presently?

MR. MARTZ: I am not sure that -- I can't answer that right now from the perspective of whether or not we have appropriately funded that ordinary.

But I will tell you that it is part of our ongoing thinking with regard to what we want to do starting with FY '02.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Tell me, as a part of Bill 25, and I would hope that at least this portion would carry forward in the new program, tell

me about vegetation management as it relates to these lots.

Do we anticipate any special treatment of these lots to keep weeds and other evasive vegetation down?

MR. MARTZ: One of the things that we are actually looking at is whether or not we can go out and use some of the citywide contracts that we have for things like turf maintenance in Fairmount Park, and kind of piggyback off of those for these small lots.

A lot of that is going to depend on whether or not there is an appetite for it in the private sector. But, yes, that's exactly why we are looking at it.

And that's why we are looking at the right tools. I mean, certain lots are just dirt, other ones have grass on them, some of them have trees.

All of those things, vegetation maintenance is a very important part of the whole program.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Reuse strategy. In many instances the next-door neighbor wants to get

the lot, maybe they want to park their car, do whatever they want to do, the block wants to get it, nobody wants to get it.

What are we going to do with all this? And do we have a list? Do we know where they are? Is it broken out by census tract, Council district, ward, I mean?

MR. MARTZ: We have the list by census tract. We just met with VRT to cross-reference that list to make sure that all the lots kind of line up with their proper addresses.

We have provided the census tract list to the Council President. She has passed it along to your office.

We are going to come back and give you a more detailed list that actually gives you addresses and wards, so you have a better sense of where all these lots are.

Our goal clearly is to get these lots into community hands. And we have had some successes in some models, like up in the Empowerment Zone, where we are working with community groups to king of manage them through PHS. And those are the kinds of programs we want to do.

Clearly, clearly it is not our intention to keep these lots in our jurisdiction for long periods of time. We want to get rid of them.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Most of them aren't, anyway. We have our own inventory. What is it, about 70/30, 65/35?

MR. MARTZ: I know the raw number now, but I don't know what the splits are just yet, what the new number is.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: In on our ongoing effort to, I guess, kind of be as anticipatory in the government process as possible, can you get us, through the Chair, lists of -- I mean, do we know, do we have addresses for all the lots? Is that something that can be shared?

In your testimony you talk about the dangerous building situation, dangerous trees. All of that information would be very helpful.

MR. MARTZ: Interestingly enough, the Council President had asked me whether I can provide her with that information on a street address and ward list.

And that's what we are trying to cull right now, to see if we can do it, because it would

be more user-friendly that way.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: It would.

Tell me about, there has been a fair amount of discussion -- I want to commend yourself and the chief of staff and the Mayor and others who have been involved in it -- you will recall some of, in the past Administration, tree wars, and the care and maintenance of trees, and primarily street trees.

And we did ultimately pass legislation and got some funding. We knew it was not necessarily enough, but you have to start somewhere.

A couple of initiatives that you are proposing, one is the removal of, I think you have identified, 8600, 8700 dangerous trees. And you plan this year to remove 4300; is that my understanding?

MR. MARTZ: Yes. We expect to have the entire -- we actually get about 2500 trees a year into the system.

So when you skew this thing all out, you end up at about a four-year life cycle in getting rid of the backlog.

So our goal is to eliminate the backlog

in four years, and then turn to the a greater maintenance program for the existing trees that are out there.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: And this is also with operating dollars out of that pool of 10 million?

MR. MARTZ: It is. It would be three and a half million from my budget, and the remaining dollars that were already in the Fairmount Park Department's budget.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Who is going to do the work?

MR. MARTZ: It is going to be privately contracted, like it is today.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Who is going to manage this operation?

MR. MARTZ: Fairmount Park, in coordination with my office.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: And funding may be an issue in the past, and I guess currently.

One of the issues that we are always challenged with in the tree, dangerous tree, regard, is, citizens write in, they have a dangerous tree.

They get a letter saying, you know, we

will send somebody out, we will take a look at it, we will get around to it. You could always take it down yourself, if you would like.

We did change the law, and I thought we kind of squared that away.

And, I mean, unless it is a tremendously dangerous situation or, you know, kind of phone calls get made, we never really have a sense of when it is going to happen.

And we end up in some situations with some people are pleased with the service and other people are totally outraged.

How are we going to make sure that we are really managing this 4300-a-year process?

MR. MARTZ: I mean, what I am hoping -- because we do have some new tree management software, at least that's what I believe.

Bill, do you want to come up for a second?

We are going to be able to provide you with some detail on how we are performing with that 4300 number, and where we are actually doing it.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: And how will all of these efforts impact our ability to continue ot

respond to requests for new trees?

WILLIAM MIFFLIN: Good morning. My name is William Mifflin, the Executive Director of the Fairmount Park Commission.

I am really pleased to be here this morning to talk about the street trees.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Are you sure about that?

MR. MIFFLIN: We are prepared to work from the leadership of the Managing Director's Office on this new initiative of removing 4300 trees, as the managing director indicated, for the next three, four years of the program.

We are in the process of identifying all of the locations right now. We have a completion date of March 1 to having identified all those tree removals.

You are right, Councilman, when you indicate that probably part of the or the majority of the problem has been funding, when it gets back to what we both agree is an unsatisfactory answer to the homeowner as to when specifically we will be able to remove that tree.

As I have testified previously, we

attempt to prioritize the trees into a category of immediately dangerous, and dangerous, and those then that should be removed for other reasons.

And, as you well know, the delay has been as a result of just the demand far exceeding the available resources.

I think with this program, we are going to be able to give a date certain within a parameter of a period of time of a month or two as to when that tree would be removed.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: This is on removal?

MR. MIFFLIN: That's correct.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Councilman Nutter, your time is up. Are you complete?

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: If I could finish one thought, then I will come back.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: In that regard, I saved this message from one of my constituents, Irma Parker.

Irma Parker called me not too long ago, and this is what she said. She has been waiting since the summer of '98 to have trees planted. She was told the fall of 2000 originally, now it has been moved to the spring of 2001.

There are some other parts of the message which I will not read into the record, they are not for a family kind of place that we have here.

This is not unusual, specifically with the tree planting requests.

And I guess unlike some other departments, I mean, you know, we are pretty good on time performance.

I feel relatively confident that in, you know, Wynnefield on Monday and parts of West Philadelphia on Tuesday, and as you go throughout, that the trash is going to get picked up. I think I get pretty decent response if we called 911.

And those are certainly emergency services, but there are other things out there.

I have never been able to tell anyone with any certainty, no matter when they call, no matter what they were told, that they were actually going to get a tree when they asked for it.

And, you know, it is not life or death. But it is in the realm of, this is what people pay for, this is what they expect from the government.

And I think, one, we should be able to

tell them with some reasonable certainty when, and then I think we should actually be able to deliver.

And, if we can't, we should tell them that.

MR. MARTZ: If I can, for just a second, I actually took the microphone back from Bill only because one of the reasons that we wanted to put the money in my budget is because I have been here for eight years, and I have kind of heard this over and over again, and we understand how important it is.

I want to make sure that the program is set up that people feel as comfortable about our promises to deliver as they do when we go out to pick up their trash.

So we will eventually end up migrating it back to Fairmount Park. But until I feel that the systems are in place that give those kinds of assurances, then it is going to stay right in my house.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you, Madam Chair.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

The Chair recognizes Councilman Kenney.

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you, Madam

Chair.

Secretary Richman, I recently had to take my son to an emergency room for a sports injury at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

And while we waited there for service -- obviously I have health coverage -- there were about maybe 20 other families there, parents, young kids, who were waiting to see emergency room physicians for various things like the cold and flu and those kinds of items.

Now I know you know, and myself from experience understand the expense of that kind of medical care being delivered that could be delivered by a primary care physician or from a pediatrician.

The money that we spend on our health centers, the money that we get from the state for medical aid to people who are poor, is there some way we could try to organize this in a way that we wind up sending people to neighborhood physicians through some type of health maintenance organization, through some type of managed care process, so that we can reduce the cost to the hospitals, reduce the costs to the municipalities and the state that is providing that kind of help,

that kind of care, and maybe even getting to these young people and their families early in the process, prior to expanded asthma problems, kind of just get these kids to a physician on a regular basis?

Is there some way to pool all these dollars and to use them in a way that better facilitates the healthcare and the cost?

MS. RICHMAN: You have identified a problem that I think many, many of the healthcare professionals in this country are struggling with right now.

In fact, there actually is study going on at the University of Pennsylvania to look at how do we begin to get people out of the emergency rooms for nonemergencies, and to get them to either go to their primary care physician, which is ideal, but to seek the help in a different way, up to and including going to a health center?

It is an education process of having people understand that the emergency rooms are not actually the best place for nonemergencies; and for them to be able to handle emergencies, they need not to be clogged with nonemergencies.

Unfortunately, even people who have primary care physicians often feel they get faster, more immediate service in emergency room, and tend to head off that way.

The state is struggling with this and using all sorts of incentives with the managed-care companies to try to motivate them even more. And I think they try to work with the hospitals in their primary care physicians.

This isn't something the city at this point has taken a lead on.

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Does it affect our cost from a city Health Department perspective, or is it hard to quantify what those costs are directly to us?

MS. RICHMAN: It is probably hard to quantify that directly.

And my guess is, if we made an effort to say people who use emergency rooms inappropriately should come to a health center, would probably increase the city's costs within the health centers.

More appropriately it would be to say, people who need healthcare, who have a primary-care physician, should use their primary-care physician,

both preventively and in those terms.

Our health centers and many primary-care physicians have phone hours to say, you know, call, maybe it is something, advice we can give you over the phone, if you are a client of ours.

Other states have done other initiatives like having care centers, emergent care centers, where things aren't quite an emergency, but people want to seek that kind of care on a 24-hour basis.

The other factor that plays into the high use of emergency rooms are, they are open 24 hours a day. And most of the -- whether it is our health centers or whether it is the Federally qualified health centers, basically are open from 8:00 or 9:00 in the morning until 5:00 or 6:00 at night, with some evening hours.

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Do we need to look at a reevaluation of our hours?

MS. RICHMAN: Yes, I have always been in favor that we look at our hours and when they are open.

But I also think we may need -- and maybe not just the City of Philadelphia -- but look at the healthcare, primary healthcare system within

the state.

What are other ways to address this problem, as opposed to shifting it to another source?

Many people, again, who go for emergency room care have primary-care physicians that they should be seeking help from first.

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: In the same area of healthcare, what are your departments or your responsibilities relative to issues of sex education, family planning, and teenage pregnancy?

A lot of our problems socially, economically, family structurewise, comes about as a result of a teenager having children.

It affects just about everything we deal it, from the School District, to neighborhoods stability, to everything.

What are the efforts or initiatives that you're involved in now to do a better job educating our young people about sex education, about pregnancy issues and family planning issues?

And, also, how does that role into the problems faced in our public schools, with outright sexual assault now of some of our students?

MS. RICHMAN: We actually have identified that as a primary issue at several points.

In the children's report card that we put out last June, one of the out-of-control issues for us was sexually transmitted diseases, and the, I think, 14 to 19 year old age group, the ensuing pregnancies and sexually active teenagers.

We have begun, because we are going to put out that report card every year, we are already begun to identify initiatives that hopefully will address sexually transmitted issues, sex education to youth, pregnancy within teenagers, and that whole range of topics that you just identified.

I would be very glad to provide you with some of the planning efforts that are going on within that framework, and how we plan to reduce the percentage of youngsters that are caught up in that.

We do fund agencies. And there are both federal funds, state funds, and city dollars that are going into reducing sexually transmitted disease, teenage pregnancy, where there has been some fairly significant improvement both in Philadelphia and across the country.

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Is this effort with the schools?

MS. RICHMAN: Much of this is with the schools, not all of it. Some of it is independent of the schools.

But we are working closely with the schools in the area of sexually transmitted disease in terms of education.

We are also are working within the recreation centers, and trying to work on as many fronts as we can get the attention of both the adults and the teenagers.

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: And finally in this round, the SPCA contract is, I assume, an issue that we need to deal with.

MS. RICHMAN: Yes.

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: What are the plans when it comes down to managing animals, especially in light of our pit bull explosion?

MS. RICHMAN: As you can imagine, this is actually a primary focal point for the Health Department over the next year.

Actually, the major decisions on it are probably going to have to be made within the next

six months, as we then plan for a transition.

The SPCA has felt that euthanizing animals is not within their mission, and that they need to be able to shift that responsibility.

The city is in a planning process. This is a major task.

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Are there other private agencies or private concerns that do this type of work?

I mean, I am sorry to lose the SPCA, but I can understand their burn-out.

I mean, their mission is one of preventing cruelty, and they are becoming a pit bull killing machine.

And it is just something we have to deal with. Who else is out there?

MS. RICHMAN: We have contacted all of the people right in Philadelphia, or immediately around Philadelphia, who would be most likely to be able to do this.

None of them are interested at this point in time. That's why it is going to take a major planning effort, and looking at other models in other cities, what are other cities our size

doing, how are they doing it, how much does it cost, what do we have to put in place, does the city do it, do we contract it out.

So we are now looking at the full spectrum of animal control in the city and where we need to proceed with that.

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: You would expect to have some recommendations by?

MS. RICHMAN: I would hope that we would be ready to have some recommendations by September, if we have to change this contract by June of 2001.

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair recognizes Councilwoman Tasco.

COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Yes. I wanted to go back to the tree issue.

Is there an overall plan where you target areas in the city to go through at one time and cut down all the dead and dangerous trees, or is it done --

MR. MARTZ: It is going to be done on a citywide basis, Councilwoman.

We are going to take a look at --

because there are dead trees in every single Council district in this city that date back many, many years.

So we are going to do it on, hopefully, a last -- the deadest, oldest dead tree reported to the system, and work our way back through the backlog, to try to be as fair as we can.

COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: And you could be all over the city at different times?

MR. MARTZ: That's likely the way it will happen.

COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: And not targeted to one area? You just go through and cut them all down?

MR. MARTZ: That's correct.

COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Will that take too long?

MR. MARTZ: We just think it is the fairest way to do it. Because there have been so many reported dead trees in so many areas of the city, that it is blight in many places.

COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Thank you. Thank you very much.

I have to add to my comments about what

Councilman Cohen said about the managing director. If you put a call to him, he calls you.

If I can't get him, that's because he is off doing Joan Krajewski's work.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: We all appreciate you, believe me.

Councilman Nutter, do you care to be recognized?

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Yes. But, I mean, only when my turn.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: It is your turn.

And I would ask you to try to be somewhat brief. Because the Police Commissioner has been waiting since 9 o'clock this morning.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Well, Madam Chair, because of --

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: And we are going to have to recess our hearing for the COS hearing at 1 o'clock.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Madam Chair, when you put it to me that way, I think that I would like to pass on by.

I can hassle Joe Martz any day of the

week. And, you know, just happened to be his day today. But I can chase him down about 11:00 at tonight.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Call him any time you want.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Ask him all the questions on my list tonight.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Call him any time you want to.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you, Madam Chair. No problem.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: If there is something, seriously, that you want on the record --

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: He can come back.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you both very much.

MR. MARTZ: Real quickly, a lot of our Commissioners are here today. Estelle and I have a really fine staff, and I just want, a lot of them are here today, and I just want to recognize them for the great work they do as well within the office.

(Applause.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

2/14/01 - FY '02 OPERATING BUDGET

(Stenographic recording of proceedings now being taken by Josephine Cardillo, Registered Professional Reporter.)

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COUNCILWOMAN VERNA: Good afternoon, the Chair now calls the Police Department.

(Witnesses come forward.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Commissioner, thank you for your patience. We appreciate your waiting.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Good morning, Council President Verna and members of the Council. I'm John Timoney, the Police Commissioner. With me today is First Deputy Commissioner Sylvester Johnson and Deputy Commissioner Tom Nestel and Fiscal Officer Tom DeWale (ph.). Also, in the audience is Deputy Commissioner Charles Brennan and Chief Rooney from the Narcotics Division and others that will be available to answer any questions that Council might have.

We have submitted a rather detailed point-by-point discussion and so I'm not going to go into all that; let me just go over the

highlights.

The Police Department's General Fund budget's request for FY '02 is $431,588,000, which is about 5.6 million more than the estimated obligation of 425 and 950 for the Fiscal Year '01. This request will fund a 4 percent sworn-personnel pay increase effective 7/1/01 and a 3 percent pay increase effective 12/15/01 for all civilian employees including the school crossing guards. The General Fund request will provide for 6,917 sworn personnel, including 3 classes of approximately 80 recruits each, 974 civilians, and about 1,037 school crossing guards. The 125 sworn officers assigned to the Airport Unit are funded by the Aviation Department, and the total sworn strength of sworn personnel is 7,042, which is the greatest number in over 13 years.

The Department's FY '02 General Fund budget request is sufficient to continue funding of the Department's ongoing programs, as well as to provide for new equipment purchases and the launching of new programs. The focus of the Police Department's FY '02 will continue to

include a strong emphasis on narcotics enforcement and gun control, as well as the newly initiated programs consisting of a school safety zone and the reduction of nonviolent and nonviolent crimes overall, including quality-of-life arrests.

The year 2000 proved to be an exciting and successful year for the Department and the City alike. In early 2000, I was appointed public to the cabinet-level post of Secretary of Public Safety. In this capacity, law enforcement activities involving SEPTA, the Philadelphia School District, and several local-university police departments are coordinated -- the day-to-day activities are coordinated through my office. This position permits me to better communicate among the various agencies as well as better utilizing City and university police resources. Additionally, this position enables me to further focus on safety issues in the Philadelphia School District, and I'll address that a little later on.

What I'd like to do now is just mention briefly some of the major accomplishments. And then, I guess, those ones that the Council wishes to delve further into, we can in the questioning.

2/14/01 - FY '02 OPERATING BUDGET

Again, some of the major accomplishments:

The Abandoned Vehicle Unit removed over 62,000 abandoned vehicles in FY 2000.

During the year, we introduced the first ever required protocol for police officers handling the very sensitive issue of racial profiling.

We've formulated an oversight committee comprised of various women's groups and organizations that help us review sexual assault complaints and assists the Department in the proper identification and classification of sexual offenses.

Our arrests have increased to 81,400 in FY '00, which is an increase of about 16 percent over FY '98. There has been a steady decrease in homicides to 3,006 in FY '00, which is down 32 percent from FY '96;

We have introduced a court overtime program where there -- it really is a pilot project in Courtroom 405, which deals with narcotics, where the appearance of officers are limited to one police officer per case. We are

looking, hopefully, in the next year to expand that program to other courtrooms.

We have also initiated a violent offender program under the Warrant Division, where we have removed and arrested 586 fugitives locally and an additional 92 who have fled Philadelphia and been located and brought back to justice by the Warrant Division. We estimate that an additional 360 fugitives in FY '01 and '02 will be apprehended;

And some significant programs over the last year. Again, the COMPSTAT program, that most of you are familiar with, meets every Thursday morning, and this is a forum that brings commanders from across the City and promotes crime awareness, crime reduction strategies, and it's a collaborative effort between the various police bureaus and units within the Department;

We expanded the anti-drug initiative, Operation Sunrise, into Phase IV, and also created in the fall of last year violence response teams, where we put an additional 100 officers into the Narcotics Division, and they were -- they were allocated to the various narcotics districts: the

South Narcotics, East Narcotics, and NorthWest. And so that complement of police officers will use the creating violence response teams within each narcotics district. Basically what these narcotics -- and in addition to making narcotics arrests, they are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. And they do respond immediately to assist detectives or homicide units on any drug-related shootings drug-related shootings. It's been quite successful so far.

We have also expanded our youth violence reduction program, which is a program that began about two years ago in the 24th District, where the Police Department's working with probation and patrol, with the so-called street workers who are working for the anti-violence project. And we identified 100 young -- mostly young -- men, who, going through police records and court records, we have identified as the most likely to either kill or be killed. It's based on the so-called Boston Model. That has now been expanded from initially 100 teenagers to well over 200 teenagers. And after two years, the program, I think overall has

been a big success. Interestingly enough, Professor John Dillilio from the University of Penn, who was instrumental in getting this program off the ground, has been chosen by President Bush to come to Washington and see if he can't expand more like this nationwide and in other cities. I think professor Dillilio has gone on record as saying that maybe Philadelphia can provide the model for the rest of the nation.

We put together last year -- you know, police departments are famous for doing this, but we put together a paperwork reduction committee, and I am happy to report that as a result of the work done by that committee -- we had a young woman from the Harvard Business School who works for us now in our research and planning head up that committee, and we have reduced the preparation of 48s by 700,000, quite a reduction. There is -- the committee still stands as far as reforming or changing the 48s and to make them more user-friendly and create different information categories that we think, in turn, will help reduce some of the paperwork in the near future that's prepared by detectives.

The curriculum for the recruits up at the Academy has been revised and enhanced, and they now go for a full 40 weeks as opposed to 32. And so we have, along with New York, the only two cities in the nation that have almost a full nine months of training of recruit police officers.

We began two years ago, and continued last year, our college degree initiative, and we have well over 300 police officers engaged in this that are going to college for the first time or have returned to college, and we're working closely with five or six local universities in this endeavor.

The School Safety Initiative, which you may have heard of, where the Mayor allowed us to fund six police captains and one is a assigned to each police division, and the only function of that captain is to deal with the issue of school safety violence in and around the schools. And I can tell you, it's become an integral part of our COMPSTAT meetings, and the six captains that are assigned, their reports are (indiscernible), and some of the initiatives and creative solutions they've come up with -- I'm not easily impressed,

but I am impressed with these six captains and what they're trying to do in the area of school violence.

As I mentioned earlier, we set up the Special Victims Case Review Unit with a variety of women's groups.

In the area of science and technology, we have put out to bid -- and it should be coming on line -- a new PIIN project, which is the Police Identification and Integration Network, which, again, will help us gather data in, you know, easy-access fashion that will help in our crime-fighting initiatives but will also help in our integrity for the Internal Affairs Unit to get them better information and integrate those systems. We have what we call a Temple Penn Interface Initiative. This came on line about six months ago at both Temple and Penn. You know, both of those universities have significant-size police departments, and we found, looking over how they operate and how we operate, that there was a tremendous amount of duplication of effort. And so now both of those departments are hooked into the 011 system. And so if a call for service, for

a police service, happens on the Penn campus or the Temple campus, those departments are simultaneously notified. And particularly at Temple, it's been quite successful, where those police departments notify us that they are handling the assignment and there's no need for the local district to respond. It's been so much successful at Penn that we need to improve the response on the part of Penn. But, again, it's another initiative of working with the university police to help reduce the workload of the local districts that cover the various universities.

The AFIS system, which is the automatic fingerprinting identification system, came on line in November of last year, and that's been a great success. It reduced the waiting time for processing prints found at the scene of crimes, and we find more and more of our police officers and detectives taking more prints, whether it's from a past burglary or a stolen car, and we've had great success in just three or four months into this program. Because the turnaround time so fast, it rally encourages police officers and detectives to submit a lot more prints. And there

is no backlogging and waiting for prints to come back from Harrisburg. Prior to this system, it would be six to eight weeks, which in itself is a bit of a disincentive to submit those prints. Now they're getting a turnaround in less than a week, and quite often we're getting hits on some very significant cases.

As far as police facilities, again, the upgrading -- or actually the building of the new 23th and 25th District will go on line and is expected to be completed in the year 2002. In about a year and a half, we expect to have our new laboratory completed, which will create a state-of-the-art police lab, and we have, I think, very great plans for that laboratory, where we will create not just a lab for the Philadelphia Police Department but a regional lab that will service other police departments in the locality, and we will charge them for that service and we will wind up making money. That's not the intent of the lab, but since we have it, we will provide a service that now is provided by the State Police but we will provide to it local police departments for a charge, and we're looking forward to that.

And, finally, the construction continues, and should be finished shortly, of the Background Unit, which is located on the third floor of the 39th District. That should be completed in the next month or two.

Finally, Madam Chair, as the Department advances into the 21st century, it must be prepared to face new challenges and to evolve into an increasingly complex environment. The Department's emphasis on the efficient and intelligent utilization of new technology, improvements in training and education of its personnel, and the promotion of greater sensitivity to Philadelphia's diverse population and its changing needs has enabled the Department to establish better relationships in the community it serves. We hope in the near future to enhance upon the gains made over the last few years, and, you know, we look forward to obviously working with the Mayor, but also to working with yourself and the others members of Council.

And, you know, hopefully this time next year, we'll receive the same recognition that, deservedly so, the Managing Director, Joe Martz,

got from Councilman Cohen. Because, you know, he doesn't get enough praise in this city 'cause he's remarkable -- not just for Council, enough from the rest of us, but also, he's been tremendous for the Philadelphia Police Department. He's a good friend, and whatever we need, up to a point, he gets us.

And so, Madam, I want to thank you for your indulgence, and we're prepared to answer any questions you have.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you, Commissioner.

We're delighted to learn that we're going to be receiving 37 additional school crossing guards.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Yes, ma'am.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: I think we've needed them for a quite a while.

Commissioner, you indicated that you have assigned six police captains on the School Safety Initiative?

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Correct.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Would you please elaborate on what that initiative is and

what the students and their parents can expect as a result of this program.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Yeah, as you're well aware, there was a report that came down from Harrisburg by, I guess, the State representative body regarding the security and the police, and it wasn't a very flattering report, and there were accusations of, I guess, failure to report crimes within the school system.

When I became the Secretary of Public Safety, the Mayor made it clear to me that the number-one priority for his administration was education and the issue of safety within the schools. And so we put those six captains in there to do a variety of things; to spend the first month or two really just taking a look-see, in September and October, to find out what's going on there and to find out what were some of the best practices, what were some of the worst practices, and to report back to us informally in my office and formally at the COMPSTAT meetings.

And they have surpassed, really, even my expectations on some of the information that they've come up with and some of the initiatives

they've undertaken. And so, for example, in your area, in South Philadelphia, the captain that's down there -- there had been a series -- not a series, but there were one or two incidents of sexual assaults, really groping; there wasn't -- it wasn't very serious sexual assaults, but sexual assaults nonetheless, where male students were groping female students. She set up, with the help of the local principals, you know, where they brought kids into the auditorium and they conducted lessons on, you know, on what's appropriate behavior, what's going to be tolerated and not tolerated, and then the significance of what was going on and the possibilities of arrests, that this is not -- it really isn't kid stuff, that this is quite serious. And there's been a whole host issues like that.

There's been a look-see at the mechanisms, you know, the metal detectors, to see how they're set up. We found -- just yesterday, we recovered another gun in a local school. By us going in there and looking around the schools and the systems in place, it became clear to us that there are other ways of kids getting weapons,

whether it's a gun or a knife, into school, going around the metal detective, that kids provided easy access through doors that would normally be kept closed.

So we have been providing not just safety tips, but really security surveys of every school. The captains have visited every school in that district, working very close with the principals, the assistant principals, and the counselors.

And as I say, what we're trying to do with the overall strategy is to find the best strategies 'cause some schools are fine; other schools need some help. And what we're looking to do hopefully by the end of the school year is to come up with a whole list of recommendations. Where we see the opportunity to make recommendations and implement those recommendations right now, we don't wait. But the master plan, if you will, will be to, at the end of this year, to come up with a kind of a comprehensive set of recommendations hopefully that are cost-neutral.

There has been, as you're well aware, a

consultant group that came in and made a series of recommendations last fall, and a lot of those recommendations have been taken and put in place. Others have some cost implications, others have some labor implications.

I've met with the new School Chancellor, or CEO as he's called, and he's met with all of our captains. And wherever we can help, wherever we can help, we're going to help, but there are some things that the Philadelphia Police Department can't help that may have monetary implications, and he and the board will have to make those decisions.

But I can guarantee you, the relationship between the Philadelphia Police Department and the School District could not be closer. I mean, we're all on the same page, we have our marching orders from the Mayor. And clearly, things aren't perfect, but I can guarantee you that they're a hell of a lot better than a year or two years ago.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you, Commissioner.

What is the composition and role of the

oversight committee who review sexual assault complaints?

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: As you're well aware, the Philadelphia Inquirer did a series of articles over a two-year period regarding how crimes, sexual crimes, were classified and investigated. And it's -- you know, it's no secret that those reports, those articles were not very flattering. And as a result of those articles, even Council's Public Safety Committee held hearings.

It seemed to me that, you know, it wasn't really anything that we didn't know. We had uncovered a lot of the problems ourselves, and we set about the task of fixing it, and we took what I considered the best captain in Internal Affairs at the time and put him in charge of the Special Victims Unit. We also gave him for the first time an executive officer and put all new sergeants and lieutenants in there, and for the first time ever, put detectives in the Special Victims Unit. And then in addition, we gave them additional detectives, newly promoted detectives to help work on and solve old cases. And I think

we made great strides.

But the damage was done, and there really was an issue of credibility for this department and specifically for that unit. And I could have spoken till I was blue in the face regarding all of the great reforms we made, but if there really wasn't some outside entity, a non-police entity to say yea or nay on those reforms, I think we would have still had an issue of public confidence in that unit.

We had been working informally with women's groups all along -- Women Organized Against Rape and a whole host of other ones. We knew they were serious about the business they're involved in and that we have a lot of things in common. And we asked them -- and I thought it was the right thing to do, for them to come in and help us institute and implement certain reforms and to take a look at the reforms we already put into place and take a look at how we're categorizing and investigating. It's a lot of hard work, and those women, to their credit, helped put in an awful lot of hours in every month reviewing those cases, really to say yea or nay in

regards to how we're handling them. And they have testified before Councilman Ortiz's committee. And I think so far, so good, but they've gone a long way in instilling, or raising, public confidence in the work of that unit.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Commissioner, if my memory serves me, I think last year, we had heard that the overtime for court-related business in the Police Department was somewhere in the vicinity of approximately $10 million; is that correct?

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Yeah, that's correct, ma'am.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: You know, we've been told for the last 20 years that we're certainly going to try to cut back on that, and I know that you did say that today that you do have a program now in effect that has been taking place in Courtroom 405 or 450.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: In 405, yeah.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Are you going to be expanding that, and can you project the budget for court-related overtime in FY '02 and tell us how that compares to the prior years?

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Well, I'm not going to project because I don't control the court system. We rely on the kindness of strangers -- in this case, it's judges -- that are willing to go along with the program that we've instituted.

We think there is plenty, plenty of room for improvement, and we'd like to expand that concept to 405. As a matter of fact, we just had a meeting on this the other day. We think there are improvements to be made in the system to do two things: that will reduce overtime and that will also help complainants, victims of crimes.

For example, in the area of property crime, the only thing that's necessary for a man or woman that's been a victim of a property crime, whether it's a stolen car or their house is burglarized, if they didn't witness it, then the only thing they really need to do is say, "I didn't give that person permission to burgle my home or steal a car." We should be allowed to have a police officer have in their radio car, or a detective when they're processing the paper, the paperwork where the complainant signs that he gives permission -- and that should suffice, that

should go with that case through the system. That's the way it's done in -- we did this in New York about ten years ago, and it works.

Here, for whatever reason, they want the complainant there, they want all of the police officers there, and it's completely unnecessary. And so we're going to propose a whole series of recommendations, along with the expansion of the Room 405 concept, to, in those property cases -- burglary, stolen cars, retail thefts -- that you don't need the complainant there, and you don't need five officers that -- you know, the arresting officer, the arresting detective should suffice.

And in addition to all of those things, myself and Commissioner Nestel have set up, for want of a better term, a COMSTAT-like process for reviewing overtime. We are bringing commanders in on a regular basis, holding them accountable for the overtime within their individual units.

But we do need -- unfortunately, we do need the cooperation of the judges, we need the cooperation of the D.A. In the area of overtime there's enough fault -- there's enough fault and enough fingers to point in every direction of why

it's so high.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Commissioner, for years I've been saying now that we have a computerized system.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Yeah.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: I just can't understand why we have police officers like running from one courtroom to another who we're asking to be excused. I used to do the listing of court cases in the D.A.'s office many, many, many, many moons ago. And what I would attempt to do would be to put maybe 20 cases in one courtroom where Officers A and B, who work together, made arrests, so that you would have only two police officers assigned to that courtroom that day.

Do you see a problem in doing that? I mean, I just can't understand why we have to have so many police officers --

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Right.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: -- in a courtroom, when we could actually be having two assigned, for instance, to the same courtroom. It was twenty of their cases.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Yeah.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: In 405 or whatever. But I just don't understand why we can't improve that system.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Again, I think we need cooperation of the judges. Some judges, in a burst of open candor every once in a while, say, for example, the preliminary hearings have turned into almost open trials; we have four and five and six police officers there, unnecessarily. You only need one police officer -- you should -- at a preliminary hearing to establish the facts of should the case go forward or should it be thrown out. That's all you need. But we wind up having four or five.

But let me have Commissioner Nestel, who is much more intimate with the details.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER NESTEL: Tom Nestel, Deputy Police Commissioner.

Council President, we have been working closely in the last two months with the -- the Managing Director is overseeing this -- with the courts and with the District Attorney to both expand the Hearsay Rule and to look at the subpoenaing of officers. I spoke to Al

Toczydlowski in the D.A.'s Office as late as last night at a basketball game, and we are meeting to try to have an impact on the number of officers who are subpoenaed.

But I can tell you the Managing Director -- the Managing Director is also over conducting meetings with the courts, with the Police Department, and with the District Attorney to address this issue. And we can all do a better job.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: But you understand what I am saying?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER NESTEL: Yes.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Do you understand what I am suggesting? And I've been made that suggestion for, I think, as long as I've been here. I just think we waste so much policeman power by having 20 police officers in one courtroom, when, on any given day, we could have just two police officers in that courtroom. However, I'm glad to hear that you're working on that and, hopefully, we will come to some resolution.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER NESTEL: Council

President, just in this Courtroom 405, on the narcotics cases, the average number of officers subpoenaed on a preliminary hearing was four. In this courtroom, one officer is doing the testifying for that arrest, and that's what we're trying to expand to other courtrooms.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: That sounds very encouraging, and I'm very happy to hear that. Good for you.

I don't want to dominate this hearing; I do have several other questions.

The Chair recognizes Councilman Kenney.

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you, Commissioner and members of the staff.

We had a preliminary discussion the other day during the last hearing we had last week about this issue of Operation Sunrise and the effects or the appearance of effects on other neighborhoods throughout the City who are also experiencing the drug trade. I mean, I think it's safe to say there's probably a drug addict or a drug dealer at some point level on almost every street in the City.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Mm-hmm.

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: I mean, it's such a pervasive problem. In some areas, it's concentrated where there's violence and gun play and outright open dealing; and in other places, like where I live and in other some more stable neighborhoods, there's this continuing frustration of beeper bicycle delivery services. You see the junky standing on the corner, you know what he or she is waiting for, and it's only a matter before somebody with a bicycle comes riding up with a cell phone and a pager and makes the sale in front of your face.

My particular method of dealing with it is calling 911 and hoping that the convergence of a police car, the bike, and the buyer all come together at once, and it very rarely happens. But people are seeing it more and more and are frustrated and concerned about that particular neighborhood that they're living in, that maybe it's time to consider Washington Township or Delaware County because it's just getting to the point where it's getting bad, but it's not to the level of North Central or Kensington or other

areas where people are shooting each other on the street.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Yeah.

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: And I've talked to the captain in South, they do a tremendous job, they're extremely responsive, they're out there, they call you back, they let you know what happened and they're working hard. And I think you have enough people.

How do we get a handle on this thing? 'Cause it seems to be a very elusive part of the trade.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Well, let me just say, for those who are thinking of going out to Delaware County as a refuge --

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Well, I know, I agree.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: In the Southwest, about 80 percent of the people that we lock up are from Delaware County; they're coming in to buy the drugs.

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Oh, I know.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: In the East, they're coming in from Bucks County and Jersey and

places like that. So there is no, you know, running from the City to get away from the drugs. It's just -- that's not quite the case.

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: I think that's accurate that that's not the solution.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Right, exactly. I understand.

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: But it's the perception, and once they're gone, they may be unhappy where they're living, but they're out of here.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Yeah. You know, any way you look at it, over the last three years, in any part of the City -- and I hear you speak about specifically the South. Arrests seizures, money, cars, guns, everything is up, and up significantly, in the area.

The -- I mean, it's -- they're not staying in, in the system, whether they're -- and I don't think myself the user should stay in; they should be kind of forced to -- they should be given the option of going into rehab and then if not, then put in the system. But, certainly, the sellers, the ones who are plying the trade and

making the profit, should be kept in.

But, you know, I would invite anybody here to come in to our weekly COMPSTAT meeting. It's not just in the area of drugs, but in overall crime in the City, the frustration with time and time again being informed by a detective or the detective captain when he says, Okay, fine, we locked up this guy for the robbery, and I say, Well, how many priors does he have? and he'll say 24 or 28. I mean, that's not an uncommon response. And it's kind of maddening.

You know, we did a quick study for 1999 and 2000. We wanted to look at the people we've arrested with 25 or more prior arrests -- that's a huge number, so you really shouldn't have that many. We had 1,000 people that we arrested with more than 25 arrests. And on average, they had 30 arrests. We made over 36,000 -- they accounted for 36,000 arrests. So on arrange, they had 30 arrests. And so it's -- you're frustrated and I'm also frustrated.

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: I guess I wasn't looking for a magic answer, but I'm --

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Yeah.

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: It's just getting to the point where it's infecting every neighborhood in every way. And I think people are beginning to see it more and more. And it's not good when it's behind closed doors, but when it's starting to be seen on a regular basis, I think it just scares that middle-class, working-class homeowner out of the City.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Well, I mean, we can't go do it now because it would take, quite literally, all night, but I actually discussed this up in Villanova last night at a symposium I was invited up to. But, I mean, there is serious, serious talk now throughout the nation, particularly up in New York and in New Mexico and I guess under Bush in Washington, going -- declaring this War on Drugs as a bit of a failure and rethinking the -- what the nation and what the states should be doing in regards to drugs.

The one thing I'll tell you is if you look at last Sunday's New York Times, it looks like California passed a law without thinking about it and the implications of the law. As you're well aware, in California, if a person's

arrested -- in the latest initiative, if a person's arrested, a nonviolent drug offender, they're not going to go into jail; they go into rehab. The only problem is, there was no force or no hammer in the criminal justice system, there was no money set aside for rehab centers, for counselors. And so, it looks like, before it even got started, that program may be a big failure.

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: On another issue of crime reporting, one of the benefits that we had expected from the State allowing us to put registration stickers in the rear left lower part of our windshield was to cut down on the number of theft reports because of people cutting the plates.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Right.

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Has that had any effect, or is it too soon to tell?

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: It's actually too soon. And actually, we saw -- it's interesting. We saw a spike-up, and I've been wondering if this is like a going-out-of-business sale. Are people stealing right before the last ones go inside?

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Actually, in the 4th District, there was a report last week of three rear windshields being broken out with baseball bats and the plates stolen, along with the sticker from the --

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: We've only had one as of the last COMPSTAT. Now, I'm not aware of that one that --

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: It may be the same story.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: We are monitoring that very carefully, because we've said to PennDOT, you know, we'd like to see it done this way. Now, if there are huge downsides to this, then, you know, then we've got to go back and --

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: I don't think it's widespread; I'm just commenting on the irony of people trying to find any way possible to get the thing.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Yeah.

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: On the issue of recruitment, what have we been doing in an effort to recruit additional ethnic minorities

representative of what's living in the City as far as Asian minorities, Arab officers, people who speak the languages of the neighborhoods that are burgeoning in the City?

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Yeah. That's a very good question. And we have -- I believe it's next week -- the sergeant and his five officers coming in to give the command staff a presentation on what are some of the new initiatives, how they're going about the business.

I have personally gone over to two meetings in Chinatown and I've spoken to the Chinese press. I've had the Korean folks into my office, speaking to the Korean press, tell them when -- and trying to set up some systems so that when we do announce the next test, that we get as much participation by those and other racial minorities as possible, 'cause there's a real need for them.

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Are we dealing with the high schools at all?

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Oh, yeah. The high schools, that's kind of the traditional response. We need to do much a more focused one.

And so I'll actually give you a call after that presentation, or you're more than welcome to come to the presentation.

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Yeah, I'd appreciate it if you would let me know when it is.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Yeah, absolutely.

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

The Chair recognizes Councilwoman Brown.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Good afternoon, gentlemen.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Good afternoon, ma'am.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: A couple questions, one related to a follow-up on Madam President's question around the youth violence reduction program and the tremendous success you have experienced in the 24th and 25th Police Districts.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Mm-hmm.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Might you see that expanding to other districts, I'm sure in a very incremental fashion, or do you?

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: The answer is yes, but I'd rather hold that as a private discussion, only because there may be some implications for Washington and some other things. But the answer is yes. But let's be honest, it's labor-intensive and it's resource-intensive.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Yes.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: And so, you know, if there's going to be models, we'd be more than happy to volunteer be the models, if there is sufficient funding coming from outside of the City.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Okay. The 37 school crossing guards, who or how -- not who, but how is it determined where they end up?

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: The deployment, yeah.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: The deployment of those officers.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Yeah. I mean,

we have -- we've got --

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Numerous requests, right?

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Pardon?

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Far more many requests than --

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: We always have more requests: there are a thousand, and we'll be adding those additional ones.

It really is -- it's an assessment done by the district commanders in consultation with the various community leaders. But the final say in all of this really is it Chief of Patrol. There isn't enough to go around, and we make these hard choices and try to be as equitable as possible. But it's a difficult, you know, issue to deal with.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Is the School District at that table? In terms of the collective decision-making?

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: No, not that I'm aware of, no.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: On the major intersections that. . .

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: No.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Okay, the School Safety Initiative piece, let me see. In your testimony, you discussed the first phase of that, and if I heard you correctly, you're still at the information-gathering stage, which then lays the groundwork for strategy development, correct?

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Correct. And as I say, I fully expect that the first part of the year, up to December, is strictly information. But they got the information and got a lot of information, but there seems to be so many obvious needs that could have been addressed as they were going along.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Mm-hmm.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: They did, in fact, address those issues. And, you know, whether it was giving lectures at school assemblies on sexual assault, whether it was recommendation regarding physical security in and around the schools, a lot of changes and a lot of initiatives have taken place.

Suffice it to say, we haven't put this all in booklet fashion, but at the end of this

year, at the end of this school year, we will, as I say, make a report to the Mayor and to the School Board regarding our findings and then recommendations, particularly those that are cost-neutral.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: And we'll look forward to that report as well.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Yeah.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Does training right now -- the training of the NTAs -- are they still called NTAs?

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Yeah, but we don't train 'em. We train -- the NTAs -- and, you know, I referenced when I was speaking to Council President Verna that in the consultant's report, there were a lot of -- I mean, I thought it was a tremendous report and there were a lot of great recommendations. Some of them had some costs, but some of them had labor issues.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Oh, okay.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: And that's one of the labor issues, with the NTAs versus regular school security. Then even within the school security, you have regular employees versus

per-diems. Those things still all have to be ironed out.

We provided training, the Philadelphia Police Department, for just the school security, not the NTAs, back in last September. But it was because of scheduling -- I'm sorry, it really was just a one-day training. We are looking to do more of that training, much more elaborate -- five days or ten days, but we're working with the School Board on that issue.

There has been no requests to train NTAs. I think the School Board has got to make up its mind on how it wants its final police security package to look.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: To look like. That's a question we'll certainly follow up with then when the School District comes before us.

Two closing comments. One, to applaud your vision on the value that comes with the educating your police force and encouraging them to link up with the universities because that, indeed, make a better police officer.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Yes, ma'am.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: And secondly, I do

have to commend you on the initiatives you have undertaken internally to broaden the composition of your leadership. I think it's important that you do what you can to get women and people of color on line so that they move into leadership.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Yes.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: And I commend you on that 'cause I have paid attention to that over the past twelve months. And, of course, the ultimate dream is to one day see you flanked by a woman -- during testimony.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Thank you very much.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you.

Thank you, Madam President.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

The Chair recognizes -- Councilman Clarke is next. If you're busy, I could go to the next Councilperson.

COUNCILMAN CLARKE: No.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: All right. We'll wait for you.

COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you, Madam Chair.

2/14/01 - FY '02 OPERATING BUDGET

Good afternoon, gentlemen.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Good afternoon, Councilman.

COUNCILMAN CLARKE: First to Deputy Commissioner and the people that he's worked with, I would like to thank him and the individuals involved with the action up in the Upper Fairhill neighborhood. We're getting a lot of great reports back and people are feeling real good about what's going on, and hopefully we can duplicate that throughout the City. So I personally want to thank you today for what you've done and the briefing prior too. It has been very helpful to me.

I have a couple questions. With respects to the jurisdictional issue, Commissioner, I recall earlier on, you came in and had some concerns about what you saw, the PHA police, the PGW police, and the University police, the Temple police, the SEPTA police, and there was no level of coordination. And I think, as a result of that, you were given the title of Public Safety Officer --

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Right.

COUNCILMAN CLARKE: -- so you could have some -- and can you give me a status of where we are, 'cause I know one time in particular, we had talked about this Philadelphia Housing Authority police issue --

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Right.

COUNCILMAN CLARKE: -- where they would not come out of the development if they saw a crime across the street because they said that wasn't their jurisdiction, and the Philadelphia police were saying, Well, that's in the public in the housing development and I can't go there and that's their responsibility, which, you know, we all felt pretty much felt was ridiculous.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Right.

COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Can you give me an update on where we are with that?

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Yeah. Well, I mean, on the most formal level, they now, on a regular basis, attend COMPSTAT, even if we're covering a district that doesn't have any housing on it, although there isn't many, that wouldn't have a housing development in that particular district, that they are there, they're fully in

tune. Especially under Chief Zapelli (ph.) and with Carl Green, it's gotten a lot bigger push, the recognition that, you know, it's a kind of everybody's responsibility.

Commissioner Johnson also put together narcotics task forces because it had become clear to us that, I guess, because of this "it's not mine, it's your/it's not yours, it's mine," that some public housing was looked on as safe sanctuaries for drug dealers.

COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Right.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: That, you know, you couldn't deal out on the street, but if you were inside, you could do it.

COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Right.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: And so Commissioner Johnson put together a task force of Philadelphia police officers with housing police officers dealing with the issue of narcotics. It's been quite successful.

But the -- I think the biggest thing is the -- forcing the district commanders to work with their counterparts in housing on a regular basis regarding conditions in the housing and

regarding crime in and around the housing. And it comes up. We have -- for example, if we have the South Division up, we had them up last week, any housing developments that are on the maps there -- and we'll have Tasker Houses, and if we see a burglary there or an aggravated assault, we'll question not just the local commander, but the commander from housing in regards to what went on there and who made the complaint, was an arrest effected, what's going on. Those are what's happening so far.

Ultimately, though, decisions have to be made within the Housing Authority. I actually have got no problem long-term merging the housing police with the Philadelphia police officers. But there are labor implications, there are all sorts of other issues that have to be addressed first.

COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Yeah, that was going to be my next question 'cause I knew there were some unofficial discussions about actually merging not the Philadelphia Housing Authority but also with other police departments in the City under one because there was some level of redundancy and a lack of coordination.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Yeah, mm-hmm.

COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Are we still looking at the possibility of doing that?

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Yeah. I mean, for example, if you look at the housing police, it really -- I think the figures, the last time I looked, it was about 350, but only about -- about 100 to 125 will be fully fledged, having gone through the Philadelphia Police Academy, are fully trained. Another group of, for argument's sake, about 100 are former Philly police officers, which, if you did merge, they couldn't come back.

COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Right.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: And there's another group of about 100 that really are just guards that man the tables in front of the housing developments when you first walk in. So those are issues that need to be dealt with just under policing.

Then, I guarantee you, I absolutely guarantee you, there will be civil service issues, there will be labor issues with the FOP and -- but ideally, and it would be my goal long term, to have that happen.

COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Do we have a time line when we could hopefully come to some resolution in one way or the another? I mean --

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Oh, they're the other parts, there's always another part. Then the other part is, I want to make sure I get the federal funding.

COUNCILMAN CLARKE: All right, that's -- I understand that.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Okay.

COUNCILMAN CLARKE: I understand they have a lot of --

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Yeah, I mean --

COUNCILMAN CLARKE: I mean, yeah, 'cause I agree -- I think we all agree that there's probably something that should happen, but I think if we set a deadline on whether or not it's going to happen, then we'll figure out a way to get it done or not get it done, but we --

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Yeah. Well, you know, we've had some, last year, some superficial discussions with the Mayor on a whole host of police issues. He and I have -- he is now -- he now does what I call one-on-one's where I get to

spend -- and I meet with him, obviously, in the cabinet meetings and we talk on the phone, but now we sit down for a good two hours, discussing police matters. And that and a lot of other in-depth issues will be coming up at those meetings, where he meets with the commissioners. And I guarantee you, that will come up, because he's keenly interested in making this place leaner, meaner, and much more efficient.

COUNCILMAN CLARKE: You know, I used to get those one-on-ones when I worked form him, but that's kind of hard to get now.

One last question.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Sure.

COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Last year, the Council -- and, again, I thank the members of Council -- we passed the gun verification bill that some people is claim illegal.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Yeah.

COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Councilman Ortiz and myself cosponsored it. And I understand that the Mayor, in fact, signed the bill.

Can you give me the status of the implementation phase, which is essentially the

police adding an addendum to the permit-to-carry form.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Yeah, it's -- I don't have Brad Richmond (ph.) here. You may have seen the article that was.

COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah. I could have written it myself.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Yeah. I'll have Brad get back to you on that. I know he (indiscernible) asked that and I forget exactly what the answer was, but I will have him get back to you on that.

COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

Councilman Ortiz, it's not your turn, but I don't know if you heard the Commissioner testifying, but there will be 37 additional school crossing guards.

COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Yes. That's good news.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: So I know that you would be very happy hearing that.

The Chair recognizes Councilman Nutter.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you, Madam Chair.

Good afternoon, Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Good afternoon, sir.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: And Deputy Commissioner Johnson and Deputy Commissioner Nestel, and you didn't want Deputy Commissioner Brennan up there?

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: He's right next to me.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Has he fallen out of favor or something? Was he a bad boy?

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: He's one of your constituents, I believe.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Yes, yes.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: He told me he wanted to sit in the back.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: He's very good.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: He'd be asking you questions.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: He may have a few requests.

Commissioner, I wanted to ask you just

a couple of quick questions about -- there was, I think it was last year, possibly a year before, a lot of discussion about videotaping of confessions.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Yes, sir.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: And can you tell us what, if anything, is going on with that particular initiative? I know there was a difference of opinion in the law enforcement community to some extent about that. And what -- what, if anything, are we doing?

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: It's been up and running now for probably about a year and a half.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: It's been quite successful in getting statements, including the killing of that off-duty police officer a couple of weeks ago.

My sense is we should be getting more of them, and that's an issue that we're dealing with internally. But, no, it's been quite, quite successful.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Very good, very good. Thank you.

I've read a couple stories and I've had some discussions, and there seems from time to time -- and maybe this is just kind of natural. There are -- you know, people think it's a big thing when there are issues back and forth, for instance, between the City Council and the Mayor's Office or the Administration. I mean, you know, the type of government that we have is set up to have a little bit of some, you know, natural back-and-forth.

Tell me a little bit about what's going on between the Philadelphia Police Department and the Police Advisory Commission. I've just been kind of watching and reading some of the stuff back and forth. Are things generally going well, are you guys kind of getting along out there? Or what's the latest?

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: I know there's -- I actually don't deal with them one-on-one. It's usually amongst the lawyers. Darren Waite (ph.), who's one of the lawyers who handles the discipline in labor issues for me and Karen Simms, who's my lawyer, she's from (indiscernible) the Law Department.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Right.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: They deal with the PAC. There have been a few contentious issues regarding. . . well, I think there's an overall disagreement regarding what they perceive as the failure of the Police Department to take their recommendations into consideration, because to have a rather narrow view of corrective action, they have got a view, like most civilians have a view, that if an officer does something wrong, then that officer should be punished.

From the day I got here, from the day I got here, I can remember coming before Council. My -- the way I operate, assuming this isn't an egregious case of police misconduct, corruption, or something like that, that my initial instinct to take corrective action is to use positive discipline. You don't hear the word, but it's positive discipline.

Positive discipline encompasses training, counseling, looking to straighten the officer out, looking to show them the right way. If that fails, then you go to negative discipline.

And so we have taken a lot of their

recommendations regarding -- that the officer may have done something wrong, some violation, some minor violations of rules and procedures. And we've taken action, we're trained them. That training is a form of discipline, it's positive discipline. Unfortunately, I think, the PAC just counts the number of days suspended, and so it's what you count is where you come up with the disagreements. That's one.

The second one is, there's been a pretty well-established practice that on serious case -- on all cases, but particularly on serious case, where there's an active investigation being conducted by Internal Affairs, that Internal Affairs will conduct its investigations for a whole variety of reasons: number one, they're trained; number two, there's the possibility of a criminal outcome in the investigation. And, you know, there is pretty established both State and federal law on how police investigations need to proceed -- things like -- and I'm not a lawyer, but I'm familiar with a lot of them. There's the (indiscernible) decision by the Supreme Court, the (indiscernible) decision here in Pennsylvania.

There's a certain way of going about if you violate any of those established rules or laws, you wind up screwing up the case and you wind up allowing an officer to go free.

There was a case -- and I don't remember all of the details, but the PAC, rather than wait for Internal Affairs to complete its investigation, I think, was looking to run a parallel investigation, and I think they ran into some problems with the union, where the union, I guess, just submitted written statements, the statements that they gave to Internal Affairs. And, I mean, that doesn't help anybody out, where we look like we're stepping on one another's toes.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Right.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Finally, finally, this is the biggest things that most people seem to miss in this town. You know, they're wondering why on certain cases, you're not taking disciplinary action. When you read the case, you'll hear terms like, "Well, I believe" and "I think." Well, it ain't good that you believe and you think; you need to know, there's got to be established facts.

And even when you do know, even when we have -- forget the PAC. Even when we have great Internal Affairs cases, even when we have science on our side, we'll have some mindless arbitrator, when I fine an officer 30 days or fire him, return that police officer with full pay -- and by the way, any overtime he would have made while he was fired, give him that also.

So it's a difficult enough process here, instituting and having discipline stick without bringing people up on discipline because somebody "thinks" or "I believe." We need to have facts.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Well, let me at least offer to you because of, you know, my long-standing involvement in that particular issue, and I plan to make the same offer to the Police Advisory Commission. If there's any way that I might be able to work through an informal fashion some level of, you know, what's the deal here, what do you really want, what are you trying to get at, and mediate some of these issues.

Because, ultimately, I think that -- I mean, one of the ways that a police-advisory-

commission kind of entity and the Police Department, the only way it really works is if there is a level of, you know, mutual trust, mutual cooperation, and an understanding of what everybody's role is.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Yeah.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: And to the extent that there can be somewhat a lessening of tension, animosity and just, you know, general disagreement, I think that the citizens ultimately benefit from it, and officers should benefit as well certainly in situations where not only have they been investigated by Internal Affairs but also by the Police Advisory Commission and found out that nothing happened, or that they've been cleared.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Yeah.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: I mean, in that instance, I think the officer gets the benefit of kind of a double clearance in a good, positive --

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: I would be glad, Councilman, to sit down with you and the PAC Commission and go over some of these cases.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay, thank you.

The next one is a little bit of -- we have a great effort going on in our Commerce Department. We got a response just the other day. I asked the question in another hearing about what efforts are being made by the City to retain our college student population.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Mm-hmm.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: You know, we're a great center for colleges and universities and a lot of people come here to get their education, and then, unfortunately, many of them leave. On the other hand, some of the students, while they're here -- at times we wish they weren't so enthusiastic about their activities while they're here with us, and the result, at least in many parts of my district is -- I mean there's -- you know, there's partying and then there is excess. And the parties, the music, the late-night activities -- and, I mean, not to disparage college students because some of this activity is conducted by citizens who are much older and who knew much better. But the point is, I guess, the issue of response to those issues.

Now, you know, in a place like the 19th

District -- you know, Wynnefield, Overbrook, and some other places -- they can be jumping at night and during the weekends with far more important and higher-priority cases. And, you know, college students shouting and screaming out their windows doesn't really compare to a man with a gun, you know, fires, burglaries, you know, crime-in-progress kind of activity.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Mm-hmm.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Over in the 5th, you know, and they have stuff, you know, going on as well, but the same kind of activity. And I guess I just want to ask, to the extent that any of the captains -- and I'm going to go into a captain discussion. To the extent that the 911 Center and the officers have, I guess, a heightened sensitivity about, you know, the nature of that kind of quality-of-life activity and what it does to people and how it drives them crazy and, yes, I'm glad, you know, that someone's not crashing through the window.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Right.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: But I got to tell you, 20 students or 20 young people at 2 o'clock

in the morning, you know, can cause you to almost commit a crime yourself. I mean, it will just drive you crazy. And, you know, sometimes the officers are like, you know, what, what are you calling me for, what are you bugging me about? I mean, they're just kids walking down the street.

And I wanted to raise that with you. There are some other issues we can talk about later with regard to underage drinking and some of that activity that's going on related to some of our colleges and universities as well, but I appreciate your attention to that.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Yes.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: I know that it's a part of their training, and it's probably good for some of the officers, but can you -- we haven't talked about this for a while here in Council, but can you tell us a little bit about the philosophy behind what seems to be regular pattern of captain rotation. And it seems at times it's about a two- or three-year thing.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Right.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: And other times, maybe pertinent to a particular -- or particular

to an officer, an even shorter period of time. Why do we -- we kind of get used to them, they kind of get to know all of the groups, they've met with them a few times, know the areas, the districts, sectors, and the next thing you know, they're gone and off to the side.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Yeah.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Most of them never say good-bye. And the new one doesn't say hello. It's just -- they just, like, disappear.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: The new ones, if they don't say hello, I'll shoot on sight. We've have had this discussion already.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Yes, we have.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Although he did speak to your Chief of Staff a few times.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Yes, he did, he did do that.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: You know, one of the very conscious decisions we made at the outset of this administration was to choose what I consider the most important actors in the Department -- or everybody thinks they're important, myself included. But, really the most

important people are the district commanders. They're more important than anybody else 'cause they're the ones that have to listen to me, to you, to the citizens and to everybody else. They catch all of the problems.

And so we went about the business of setting up incentives, including monetary incentives, for running those districts. They get new cars and a whole host of things to make those positions more desirable. We then did a (indiscernible) analysis where we rated all 24 districts in workload fashion and basically said 11 are B houses, entry-level houses, and 11 are A. And ideally, you come in as a new captain and you become in as executive officer, which is the second captain in an A house. You learn the tricks of the trade 'cause it's an extremely difficult position. And then you go in -- if you look like you're a good performer, you go into a B house and you usually spend about two years there, and then if you do a good job, you can move on to an A house.

I was the District Police Commander up in New York. The public doesn't like to hear

this, but the fact of the matter is, the shelf life of a good commander is about two to three years. After three years, even the most talented, even the most talented start to get jaded, overwhelmed, they run out of new ideas -- no matter how talented they are. And you're just better off, the community's better off with somebody new coming in, a new set of eyes coming in with new plans and new ideas.

When I did this study in New York, there were one or two places that had serious corruption problems. It was when we started to leave commanders in there more than three years and four years, and people would go, Why, why did you leave? Well, because they know it well, they've been doing a great job, but they get jaded, and they take their eye off the ball and they're not on top of things.

And it's just from personal experience, from professional experience, from speaking to hundreds of commanders over my career. Two or three years, I think, is a good time to -- you don't want them going and leaving before two years and you certainly don't want them leaving without

saying good-bye. But no more -- I don't think more than three years. I think it's asking an awful lot 'cause they have very, very demanding jobs.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay. Last question, Madam Chair.

Commissioner, in your testimony on Page 7, I'd raised the issue with our Personnel Director back at the -- I guess it was back at the Fiscal Stability hearing. Your part here talks about a college degree initiative. I had asked the Personnel Director about -- and her day for the Operating Budget will be coming up shortly, but I had asked her about any tuition reimbursement programs that the City has for the entire employee workforce here.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Right.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: I did mention to her that I was aware of the Police Department and the Fire Department having their own programs. First, you have two great people working on this -- Inspector Cooney and Captain Bloom, formerly of the 19th District.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: 19.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Another one you took away from me, working on this, and I know that they've done a tremendous amount of work. They have some other ideas. And, one, I would like to ask on the day that the Personnel Director is here, 'cause we're going to have a lot of discussion about that, if they might be available that day to have that discussion too.

I feel very, very strongly that given, quite frankly, the plethora of great institutions that we have in Philadelphia and in the Philadelphia area, anything that we can do to upgrade, for people who want to, the skills and talent and educational attainment levels for any of our employees is a good thing for the government and for the citizens that they serve, but especially for the Police Department and probably the Fire Department, two very critical life safety areas.

And I don't get the impression that maybe -- I'll rephrase it. I think that there is more that we could probably do to help all of the departments and agencies, but certainly one that actually has a good program in place and has

established relationships with schools and a number of schools and probably others would join in, and what I'd like to get is a better sense of what are some of the things that we can do to help the Department in this particular area?

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Mm-hmm.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: How do we encourage more officers, how do we provide maybe some either financial incentives or help underwrite some of these costs, similar to what the corporate community does for their employees.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Mm-hmm.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: You maintain a certain grade point average, you don't have to pay, or you get reimbursed at the end of the year, any of that kind of activity. I think that we get the benefit -- hopefully they stay with us for some time, but we get the benefit of helping these officers, if they want, to further education.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Thank you for that, and I couldn't agree with you more.

You know, a lot of police departments -- most notably New York and Chicago -- both departments require two-year college degrees

coming in. Because of the shortage of recruits, they have both now had to roll back those qualifications, and are now left open to the charge that somehow they're downgrading standards.

Given the economy the way it is, given the difficulty that police departments across the nation are having in recruiting people into the service, it's my strong feeling that we keep the standards that we have -- presently high school education. That once we get somebody in, then -- we already have improved the standards up at the academy itself, from 32 to 40 weeks, but that additionally we have -- we, the institution, or the body of power there has an obligation to train them both at the academy and then formal training through college.

And I've had these discussions, by the way, also with the Mayor. And he's also, you know, he leans favorably towards that. There's -- and I think -- I think everybody -- and I appreciate all of your help -- can help out.

The one downside is the labor policies. There's always -- in this town, there's always labor policy issues.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Right.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: And I'm not so sure how that shakes down.

We also have to be real careful -- there were some bad experiences, for example, in Boston regarding how Boston has handled their initiative to improve education, where they help out on the side of extra money. I'm not necessarily in favor of that because I'd rather go for the quality of the education.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Right.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: And pay up front, as opposed to leave it up to the officers to get his or her education, and then pay them some enormous fee that becomes a long-term cost, and you can get a degree, you know, on back of the match book cover, at "Clover State College," you know, and you submit --

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Right. Well, what I would ask -- this is the last thing -- is, one, if those officers can be available --

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Yes, sir.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: -- for whatever day the Personnel Director is going to be here.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Okay.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Because I am going to have a broader discussion about that.

And, second, between now and then, if they can put together any information in the form of, let's say, a proposal or a budget or something like that, that, obviously with your approval, that says, you know, if we -- if we had X-amount of dollars, we would be able to, you know, upgrade our program or provide, you know, additional funding support for x-number of officers, and it's something that you know, you would like to see in place, and then essentially, it's kind of left to us as the elected officials going through a budget process to see if we can support something like that.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Mm-hmm.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: But I'd at least need to know what it is and what it would do and how much it would take the Department farther.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Great. I appreciate that, sir.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

The Chair recognizes Councilman Ortiz.

COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Thank you, Madam Chair.

Commissioner, how are you doing.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Good afternoon, sir.

COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: We've had some very good times this year. Glad that the 37. Now, what's the timeline for the 37 crossing guards?

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: I believe it's in September. Yeah, they will be coming on board. We're allowed to hire them after July 1 within the budget. So they will be added on the streets in September, you know, the next school year.

COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: The problems that you and I spoke about in terms of what we have gotten in my office from different groups in the community, have they been resolved in terms of the crossing guards not getting the notices -- or people not getting the notice that the (indiscernible) are available?

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Yes. Chief

(indiscernible) took care of that. I spoke to him.

COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: And Operation Sunrise, I imagine you spoke about that while I was away.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Yes, sir.

COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: And what is the status of Operation Sunrise and --

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Well, the Operation Sunrise is in its fourth phase, which we knew all along would be the most difficult. And if Commissioner Johnson wants to jump in here, I'll have him --

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: In November, we went into Phase IV. And last week or a couple weeks ago, we extended it a couple blocks for the simple reason that in the 900 block of Indiana Avenue, we took down three major organizations. This gave us an opportunity to lock that area down and prevent other organizations from coming in.

So, right now, since we have all of the operations of the Bureau for the first time -- we have patrol, we have detectives, we have special operations, we have narcotics that's there. So

we're in Phase IV, and that's going from Fifth Street to Germantown Avenue -- actually to Broad Street, and from York Street to almost up to Allegheny Avenue.

COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Commissioner, how could we measure the effectiveness of Operation Sunrise in terms of the public? How do we present the picture and say this has worked? What is the picture that we can present that is different when Phase I began, and now that Phase IV is on, what can we say to the people is the difference that is out there? For the record.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Well, the perception and the visibility. We're not going towards an arrest in -- numbers are not important to us. And we constantly have community meetings and talk to the people in Phase I, II, II, and in Phase IV. And I think if you ride through the neighborhoods yourself, you can see a visible difference of these areas.

And in addition to that, we're being more proactive now than we've ever been. Normally, we've been reactive. I've been going to the different schools along with other, we go to

two or three different schools a week. We've also been going to the rehab community. In addition to that, we've been going to the prisons. So we're doing a lot of things now that we'd never done before. Instead of just being reactive to narcotics, we're being proactive to the narcotics.

But I was there from the very beginning of Operation Sunrise Phase I. I constantly ride through there on a continuous basis, and I know Commissioner Nestel on the way to work, Commissioner Norris on the way to work, just to look at the area themselves and see how the visible area.

Our important thing right now for us is the quality-of-life issues. Again, can people walk the streets, can children come out and play. And I believe from the people I've talked to, it's been a big improvement.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Yeah.

COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Do we have that detail in a report that gives us a picture of what happened during Phase I? How many of the big distribution centers were broken up during that first, second, third phase and fourth phase? Do

we have that written somewhere that you can give to this Council a report?

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Yes, I do. As a matter of fact, today I have -- and I'll give it to you right after the Council session is over. Just in the year 2000, we've tooken (sic.) down just in the East Division nine major organizations, but we have a detail synopsis of everything that's happened from the time we began until the present.

COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: In terms of economics of the drug distribution centers that we have impacted during the last -- these four phases, what have been the economic impact on the drug-dealing machinery that was in place?

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Say, for example, last year, again, this year, 2000, we've confiscated $56 million worth of narcotics and we've also gotten, like, close to 9 or $10 million in resources -- I mean, in currency.

When we went over there, we went over there not to the idea of just law enforcement, because we went in with a lot of City agencies also, and I think the City agencies have been very

helpful to us that do a whole lot of other things that's involved in Operation Sunrise.

What we're doing right now, at least we feel as though we've having a different approach, is that we're going after their resources, their accesses because we feel as though that -- and I think the Commissioner has already related to this. We make a lot of arrests over there, but if you arrest a person on Monday, especially if he's a buyer and he's addicted, in three days, he's going to be right back on the street and he's still going to be addicted, so that's why we started going to the rehab places.

In addition to that, one day -- and I hope I'm not saying the wrong thing, but if the judges would realize that we want no drug dealers in the neighborhoods than anybody else wants them, and for them to continue to arrest 'em and have 'em come out there, it's still detrimental to everyone.

The organizations that we arrest, we take federally. They don't come out. The ones that we take the sellers or the buyers, a lot of times they're arrested, and within one or two

days, they're right back out on the street.

COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: But do you have -- you said 56 million in terms of this current year?

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: That's correct.

COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Do you have a totality of the last four phases and how we can measure that in terms of monies that have been impacted in terms of drug-dealing in the City.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Yes, sir, I do. And I will give that report to you this week.

COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Is the 25th and 26th still the warehouse of heroin and cocaine, or has that been maintained as such? And when can we begin looking towards eliminating that label from that area?

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Well, the 25th, in my opinion, is probably a major place for heroin, and --

COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: But then in previous testimony here, that area has been described as "the warehouse" by you and other commissioners before you. And I want to know if that terminology of that area being the warehouse of

the heroin, and which is supposed to be the purest of any type of heroin in the country, whether that label has been -- has been somewhat damaged and maybe eliminated. Or is it still -- or is it stilt focus of delivery and distribution?

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Okay, in my opinion -- and I had a meeting with the D.A. -- it's still the focus point of heroin and narcotics coming into the City of Philadelphia, it's still coming to the East Division. As of last week, we still have the most purest heroin in the nation Philadelphia is still in Philadelphia.

COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Is still?

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Is still.

COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Do we have -- how -- I mean, because Operation Sunrise was a part of a plan to really begin attacking that sort of situation. And what I want to know is, do we -- can we foresee a point? And I know that we have to attack those points of origin that come in, and obviously, we have to attack the consumer part of the issue, but do you see a point within the next few years in which the East Division can begin to lose that label?

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Councilman, in my opinion, I don't think law enforcement will ever resolve this problem, and we will definitely not solve that by ourselves.

COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: I understand that.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Okay, I think the thing that law enforcement has done, especially over in the East Division, without the partnership of the community, the clergy, and everyone else involved in this, then we will never solve this problem. It's going more proactive right now but going through the schools with the education, going in there with the prevention, going in there with the treatment. Until all of these partnerships joins hands, we will continue to go in there and we will make numerous (indiscernible) arrests.

Just in the Sunrise area in 2 years, we made close to 24,000 drug arrests, and we've confiscated, I guess, well over 80 or $90 million worth of narcotics. We take off (indiscernible) maybe 12, $15 million in cash. Law enforcement is doing its part -- at least in my opinion, but everyone else -- one of the difference from Phase

I to Phase IV, what we decided to do when we had the planning of Phase IV, we actually sat down with the community more so than going in there by ourselves and said, Here's what we're going to do. We brought them to the table themselves. In Phase IV, this will give us an opportunity, with the City services coming, with the community being involved in it to set up Town Watches, to set up black captains, to get everybody involved in this.

But I think we've made a tremendous input into reducing the narcotics problem the East Division. But until everyone else gets involved in this, I think we will always have the problem. There's so much money involved in narcotics, it's that if we take away the (indiscernible) economy, there's going to have to be jobs, there's going to have to be other things coming into the area that the law enforcement doesn't have the authority to put there.

COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: The enormity of the problem we understand and we understand about the aspect of the points of departure of the drugs in Columbia and Bolivia and the other parts of the Far East and also the part of the consuming

society and the treatment center that we don't have. And New York is trying to change somewhat in that they're repealing -- I hope they're repealing -- the Rockefeller laws that created a whole series -- and going towards treatment.

Commissioner, in terms of the Special Victims Unit that we have been working on over the years, I'd like for the record -- to put on the record what have been the changes that have been brought about, the number of cases we -- that you have dealt and the units that -- the reforms that have been put into place. And when do you project that we could be moving the unit from the Frankford Arsenal to the new locale?

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Earlier in the testimony, we did reference all of that, including the hearings by your committee.

COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Okay.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: The due date for moving the location -- do you want to talk about that, Tom?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER NESTEL: Yes, Councilman, our special victims people are working very closely with the Capital Programs Office, and

as late as yesterday, actually visited a potential site to see if this would be to meet all of the needs of the department. The Capital Programs Office is very much involved in ensuring that this move does happen as quickly as possible.

COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Is the site that you are looking at large enough, that if we go into a collocation with other services of the City that they can be able to move into that?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER NESTEL: It is large enough, and part of the conversation yesterday was actually which spaces within that building would be allocated to which organizations and who needs to be on the bottom floor, who needs to be on the top, that type of conversation.

COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: So, again, you don't have a line, but maybe before August, September, October? Or is that too optimistic?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER NESTEL: I really do not have a date. I can tell you that it will happen as quickly as reasonably possible, but I don't have a projected date for you, but I can assure you that there are constant conversations, constant meetings, and actually looking at a

potential site yesterday.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: I can also add at my one-on-one with the Mayor last week that this issue came up to kind of stress the importance to the Mayor, and the Mayor is fully aware of it and actually directed the Chief of Staff to make sure that -- and she spoke to the real property, that, you know, this is a rush job.

COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Right.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: That this is a number-one priority.

COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Commissioner, I'd like to just put on the record that, really, I think the reforms that have been done in terms of -- the most difficult reforms usually are not adding more individuals to a problem, but really changing the culture --

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Yeah.

COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: -- of an institution. And the fact that the Department, yourself, and others were open to joining with us here and with the women's groups that came together, and they became active participants in the process of change and developing the way the

Department, or that section of the Department, would be organized and the investigation implemented, I don't think it's been done anywhere else in the country.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: It hasn't.

COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: And I think it's something that we have to say that this is really a very enormative type of situation in which we see advocates and activists coming together with the Police Department and City Council to really bring about a change in the culture.

And I -- it took -- it took some courage. I know that the resistance to change is large, but the change has been forthcoming -- maybe not as fast as we all expected it or as fast as the Inquirer would like.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Yeah.

COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: But I think it has been coming as quickly as we've been able to. I have to say, your cooperation in the process has been very good --

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Thank you.

COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: -- with myself and my committee, and I think we did something good.

We're not finished yet, though.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Right and I agree with you a hundred percent. It's --

COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Because we have to make sure that whatever we establish survives our tenure in public service.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Yeah.

COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: So that whenever those of us who are no longer around here -- you, myself and others -- those things can be maintained.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: I agree with you a hundred percent.

Thank you very much, sir.

COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Thank you, Madam Chair.

COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: You're welcome.

Councilman Rizzo?

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thank you, thank you, Madam Chair.

Gentlemen, I understand that -- if you've covered this already, I apologize, I had to leave the room momentarily 'cause there was a

event downstairs, and you'll appreciate why I left, referencing gun violence in the City of Philadelphia, so it's a very important event to attend.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: I thought you went down to detonate the bomb.

(Laughter.)

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: I'm going to throw you a bomb right now.

Could you just tell the members of Council here today about the realignment of the police districts.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Yeah.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Where that stands, the rationale for doing that, and when it will occur. I understand that there's getting to be some realignments of various police districts throughout the City of Philadelphia. And what impact that will have on members of Council and the public in general.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Yeah. We have, again, since the inception of this administration, looked to do a variety of things within the City. You change district boundaries with great

opposition, but you change them for two pretty basic reasons: One of them is if it improves dramatically police service to a specific area; and, two, to equal workload as much as possible.

We have done two others prior to -- the one you're talking about involves up in the Northwest the 14th, the 39th, and the 35th districts. The very first boundary change that we've made in this department since I've been here was on South Street. South Street was covered by basically four districts, and being a busy commercial and pedestrian corridor, when you've got more than one person responsible for something, you have nobody responsible for it. And so when things would go wrong, the commanders would engage, as most people do, in finger-pointing -- no, it was his side of the street; no, it was his side of the street.

And so we decided to change the boundaries for, in this case, the 3rd and the 6th Districts to move the boundaries north to Lombard Street so that just the 3rd District in South Philadelphia has total responsibility for the South Street corridor.

We looked in West Philadelphia at the 19th and the 16th District. The 19th District was one of the busiest. The 16th, which is right adjacent to it, was one of the least busy. And so we took, I believe it was, three or four sectors from the 19th and put them over to the 16th to try and equalize the workload. That has gone along -- it's been very, very successful. Again, you transfer the right amount of police officers from the 19th into the 16th and try and even the workload.

When we looked at the Northwest, you have the 35th, the 14th, and the 39th. The 14th is a busy district, but the 35th is extraordinary, the busiest in the City, and they needed at least 50 police officers. But even if we had the 50 police officers to give them, there was no place to put them -- the building itself, the plant itself was physically incapable of handling another body. And so we set up the task of looking over how we could redistrict those three districts and the 5th also.

We have taken, I believe, it's -- originally, it was five, but there was some

legitimate concern brought to our attention regarding one sector, and it seemed to make -- you know, just when we get involvement from the Council, members to cover that area, it seemed to make sense, and so we've taken four very busy sectors from the 35th and given them the 39th and the lower part of the 5th, again, to help equal the workload.

And my sense is -- that goes effective -- the 9-1-1 computer alterations have been done, and that will be effective March 1. March 1 that will go effective.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Commissioner, is there anything we're going to do to let the constituents know that now they are serviced by a different police district? If they were accustomed to visiting the district that they presently reside in, are we going to communicate, maybe a letter?

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: No, no, no, we will get out -- through the Division Inspector, we will make sure that the -- particularly the community groups involved and then the block watches and Town Watch and people of that nature

will know that in the future, don't call the 14th, for example, call the 15th or call the 39th. We'll make sure all of those notifications get out.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Great. I hope that works. It sounds like it's a sensible approach to alleviate the problem that existed. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Thank you.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thanks for explaining that.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: You're welcome.

Councilman Kenney.

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you very much. I just have three quick questions.

Do you have an opinion, and have your commanders expressed any concern or positive areas about the pilot livestock program in the 3rd, 4th, and 6th District where we confiscate vehicles driven by unlicensed or unregistered drivers.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Mm-hmm.

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: First of all, is it still going on in those three districts?

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: It's still going on, yes, sir.

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: And would you have an opportunity to give us some numbers, say, within the last six months of what's been confiscated in those three districts? You can give it to the --

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: We'll have to get back to you.

What I can tell you is that that it is a very successful program, but of course, like everything else, there's an issue of capacity. You know, my only personal opinion, I'd love to do it citywide, but there isn't --

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: I guess my question is, how do your people report the time that the officer has to wait?

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Oh, okay.

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: And the response for the tow truck, that sort of thing.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER NESTEL: Councilman, that's all done right from the patrol car to Radio. When the vehicle is identified to be confiscated, Radio is notified. Radio makes

the notification to the tower. The officer notifies Radio when the tow truck arrives and when the tow truck actually removes the vehicle. So we are able to identify from beginning to end the total number of time and how much time is involved in each one of those segments.

From my recollection, I believe the average total time is 32 minutes.

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Does that seem to be too much time or --

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER NESTEL: No, that's very good.

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Okay.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER NESTEL: But the tow truck actually is expected to arrive within 20 minutes of them being notified. And when I'm talking about this 32 minutes, I'm talking about from time of stop to time of removal of the vehicle.

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: So there's no overall operational complaints from the line squad personnel and supervisors as far as having it disrupting their work day or disrupting their duties?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER NESTEL: The -- actually, in the normal vehicle investigation, they're spending 15 to 20 minutes. This is adding 12 to 17 minutes to that. And we're getting vehicles off the street that do not belong there.

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER NESTEL: And they are not unhappy in any way.

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you.

Second area, dealing with cars also, I know Councilwoman Verna has had a problem ongoing -- in past years with the issue of drag racing, but it's also a problem in other areas of the City, and a lot of the drag racers, I understand, like a lot of our drug buyers, come from areas outside of the City. Young men and women who work on vehicles very much like doing that kind of stuff and then taking them to a location and race them against each other.

Do we have the authority to confiscate or impound those vehicles when we stop them? And what's difference, I guess, between our ability or authority to impound a unregistered vehicle as opposed to another vehicle that's doing other

unlawful activities? 'Cause I believe --

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Well, on the unlawful activities, it's usually carrying contraband.

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Right.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: You know, that's the rationale.

On the license and registration, I mean, you can't drive -- you're not allowed to drive a car unregistered and uninsured, and so we just hook you up --

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: You're kidding?

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Pardon?

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: You're kidding me. That's not true, this is Philadelphia.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Oh, you're a cynic.

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: We have a different set of rules here.

(Laughter.)

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: But we actually looked into -- we had Fran (indiscernible) look into the issue of -- 'cause I would love to take those cars, and I spend a lot of nights down there

on Essington Avenue and all those places down in the 12th and --

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Here's -- I have a suggestion, and I don't know whether it's workable or not.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Yeah.

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: I think in the area of drag racing, you're going to have a good effect if you take the car. That's their pride and joy.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Oh, absolutely, it would be great.

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: And if they know that they're coming to an area that they could potentially lose -- I mean, you may have a hundred cars on a given night.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Yeah.

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: And you may be able to only cordon off 10 or 12 and book those, but those 10 or 12 people are not going to want to go through that possibility of losing that car again.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Yeah.

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: And I guess the question is, do we arrest people for drag racing or do we just ticket them?

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: We give them summonses. And the interesting part, the interesting part, much like the skaters outside, they pay their summonses. So this is like, when you pull him over and you figure, well, he's got an outstanding warrant for failure to pay, no, they actually pay 'em.

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: 'Cause my hope would be to -- we could get around the lack of authority to tow in a number of instances by simply saying we wanted to keep the car in a safe condition by taking it off the street so it's not stolen and it's not stripped.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Yeah.

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Same thing with the person who buys drugs in the City and is arrested for the purchase of drugs, that those cars need to be taken, for example, to a Parking Authority impoundment lot. Not to confiscate or own them, but simply to keep them safe.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Yeah.

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Therefore, the person, when they get out of jail, needs to come to the Parking Authority impoundment lot, pay the

tow fee, make sure that they have the registration, that there's no tickets, all of those kind of things. It's an extra added inconvenience for the perpetrator of any of these kind of nuisance crimes to kind of get their car off the street.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Yeah.

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: I mean, is there any way we could deal with that on the drag racing side and find some way to take --

(Unintelligible, parties talking over each other.)

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Yeah, I know, because I was getting so many complaints from Councilwoman Verna, I was out there personally in the 12th District. We did everything: we lined them up, we kept them for two or three hours as the (indiscernible). And actually, it's cooled off somewhat down there.

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: But the question, I guess, is --

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: But as the law is written out -- I'll check with the lawyers when I get back the law. As the law is written, when

we checked a few months ago, there was no ability to tow them. It would have been so much easier as far as I was concerned.

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: I mean, the only way we'd be told not to is if, in fact, someone challenged our ability to do it in court, wouldn't they? I mean, if a judge told us, Stop towing the cars, you don't have the authority to do it, I mean, it's not like you're taking someone's liberty; you're just moving their car to a location that's centralized and that they have to go back and pick it up at a certain time, you know --

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: No, but I think the law is pretty clear that, you know, if somebody -- in this case, it's speeding. The law says if somebody's caught speeding, they get arrested. There's no provisions within the law to confiscate.

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Does this offense not rise to the level of reckless endangerment? I mean, you're endangering the people around you, endangering yourself, you're endangering the other drivers and the spectators, and you're doing it a

in a wanton way. I mean, we need to crank up the offense.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: No, I remember even looking at that myself, could you lock them up criminally with -- that it was, in fact, not just speeding, that it was reckless. And the answer I got from the lawyers was, no, you can't, and the vehicle traffic law is quite explicit in this area.

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: So you need some assistance from Harrisburg to do that.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Yeah.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: I was going to suggest that. In fact, I believe -- Commissioner, didn't we talk to one of the State reps in that district?

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: That's correct.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: And ask him to look into how they can help --

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Yeah, yeah.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: -- to address this issue?

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: I'll talk to my lawyers, you know, when we get back. But we

haven't gotten as many complaints as --

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Spring is coming.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Spring hasn't arrived.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Oh, so it was the winter, okay.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Uh-huh.

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: It's not a winter activity.

I just have one more question, on gun permits. I know the story in the Daily News yesterday about the gun permit problem, and I know how you feel about illegal guns and gun play and gun problems.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Yeah.

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: If we turn these people down for various reasons, they get a lawyer and they go to Common Pleas Court or Commonwealth Court? Where do they wind up?

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Yeah, we can't even turn them down now.

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: We can't turn them down now?

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: No, unless they

-- you know, the only way we can turn them down is if they got a conviction for certain felonies, or they're certifiably nuts. You know, we have --

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: They have to be certifiably nuts, not just apparently.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: It's a quirk of the law that you can be nuts and admit yourself to the hospital and you get to keep your gun. It's only when the cops commit you that we could take the gun.

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: I see a number at the L&I Review Board, a number of these seemingly appeals to turndowns of, it says, "firearms permits," and they usually do them all in one day.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Yeah, we turn them down, and they're saying it's not for a good reason.

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: And the L&I Review Board reverses? Or the board -- which is the location that they go to appeal these, is what I'm -- I mean, when you turn someone down and they disagree --

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Right.

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: -- where do they

go?

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: (Confers off record with colleagues.)

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: It's the L&I Review Board. I mean, are they reversing the --

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER NESTEL: The L&I Review Board has that initial hearing and can reverse the decision of the Department.

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Do you know percentage of reversals the L&I Review Board does?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER NESTEL: Since the Commissioner has been having an attorney go with our people to represent them, it is much, much less than it was in the past. It does not happen that frequently.

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: So we could actually be turning more people down and be successful in keeping them from getting a gun?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER NESTEL: The -- our ability to turn them down has been greatly hampered by the State decision that the individual does not have to prove a reason to have it. We have to prove why they're not eligible to have

it. As in the past --

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: The burden's on you.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER NESTEL: Right. And it's very explicit as to what we can do that on. And it's mainly criminal record or mental problems. Other than that, the individual has the right to have a permit.

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: And the mental problems, you have to have your papers, in other words?

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Right, exactly. Now, we have been much more aggressive, though, and this is to the credit of the police officers out there, because they see there Brad Richmond, who is really aggressive in revoking these permits.

So, for example, up in the 35th District, we ran into a whole host of cases where drug dealers out on the corner, when the police would pull up, the guy would (indiscernible) I got a permit because the drug dealers are getting smart in hiring -- here's the permits. Well, we come up and now we're revoking those if it's clear

that you're a drug location body guard for body guards, we take 'em.

Now, Brad's been very aggressive in this whole area.

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Does the officer on the scene have the ability to take the permit and the gun at the time?

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: That's what they do, they take them -- they send them down to Brad and then the begins process of revoking them.

COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Okay, thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: You're welcome.

The Chair recognizes Councilman Rizzo.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thank you, Madam Chair.

Commissioner, you may be aware or you may not be aware, but recently, I got a letter and personally observed that there's significant speeding on the Kelly Drive, the Lincoln Drive, and it's 35-miles-an-hour posted. And I understand that our -- and forgive me for not knowing the proper terminology. I'll call it "a VAS car," speed-control devices since Philadelphia

police not permitted to use radar.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Right.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: And I find that that whole program has kind of fallen between the cracks. The officers that were trained in the use of the speed-control devices are no longer there, the systems don't work well. I just understand that there were requests for speed devices by various commanders and they were told the money's not in the budget.

Now, to help out, since I have a good relationship with the Pennsylvania State Police, the Park Unit and Pennsylvania State Police joined hands about a month ago, and the State Police used their radar car and our police officers issued the tickets, and the State police officer countersigned the tickets, which worked very well. I'd like to suggest that we maybe continue that because Captain Lacrosse (ph.) at Belmont indicated that he's certainly in a position to help with that on a sporadic basis, where it's not a big impact on their operation, but, you know, they'd been be willing to expand and work with the Philadelphia police, so maybe this -- I don't know

if the State police have ever involved themselves in the drag racing issue, but their power seemed to be, in that area, a little more so than we have.

But beside that, the problem -- could you just -- maybe, again, this is not something that's risen to your level, but maybe could you check to find out why we don't have this speed-control device and the officers trained in the use of it?

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: I will look into that you but, by the way, you hit on a good point. So, for example, the State police, which has always baffled me, have powers within Philadelphia that the Philadelphia police officers don't have. For example, a State police officer can go down to these tow-car places down in Southwest Philadelphia and go in and conduct an inspection, but a member of the Philadelphia's Auto Crime Unit can't go in and do the administrative review to see if there are any stolen cars there. We're in the process of trying to address those things.

We should have -- if this is what is referred to as a "Class A city," we should have

all of the powers that any other police agency has in the State in regards to what goes on in the City.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: I've asked that same question, and I'll be real candid: it's political. The use of radar is something that I'm sure they don't want all of the police departments -- and we got around that by using the VAS car, or whatever we call the units that we currently have.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Yeah.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: But, again, the State police are willing to work with us in doing the speed enforcement, and I understand that in a couple afternoons out on the Kelly and also the West River Drive, that joint effort was very, very effective, but I would like to say our units re-equipped, if that is the case, with the ability to enforce speeding.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: I will take a look at that.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thank you, Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER TIMONEY: Thank you.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thank you, Madam Chair.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: You're welcome.

Are there any other questions from members of the committee?

(No further questions.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: This committee will stand in recess until 3 o'clock this afternoon.

- - -

(Hearings before Committee of Whole re KOEZs held.)

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(Proceedings resume.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: This is the continued public hearing of the Committee of the Whole regarding Bill No. 01005. We have someone here from the Art Museum. If they would please approach the table.

(Witnesses come forward.)

COUNCILWOMAN VERNA: Good afternoon. Please identify yourself for the record and proceed with your testimony.

MS. D'HARNONCOURT: Good afternoon, Madam President. Happy Valentine's Day to you and the Councilmembers.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you, same to you.

MS. D'HARNONCOURT: I am Anne D'Harnoncourt, Director of the Philadelphia Museum of Art. I'm delighted to be here with my colleagues -- Gail Harrity, Chief Operating Officer at the Museum; and Cheryl McClenney-Brooker, our Director of External Affairs -- to testify on behalf the Art Museum for our Operating Budget for Fiscal 2002.

This is our 125th anniversary year. We are celebrating all yearlong with all of our audiences, with exhibitions of great artists associated with Philadelphia -- from Alice Neal, born near Philadelphia 101 years ago, a show that opens tomorrow and the weekend; Bob Venturi and his wife, Denise Scott Brown, the great architects, still alive and working in Philadelphia today; the great African-American Dox Thrash; and Thomas Eakins, the celebrated painter for the Pennsylvania Academy.

We're celebrating with gifts for our collection in any way we can. Details of our program and our mission are in the written testimony, which you have.

I would just like to emphasize a few short points. This is a very special year for the museum; you don't get to be 150 years young every year around the globe, and we want to make it very special for all of Philadelphia. And we hope that Council feels -- and pretty sure that you do -- as we feel that the City's long-standing support and partnership with the museum for operating and capital budgets over so many years is a good long-term investment in the well-being not only of the museum, but in this great city and its citizens we seek to serve. It's an investment in education, in quality of life, and in the ability of all of our visitors to come in contact with a great original work of art, an investment and economic benefit to the City.

We had 860,000 visitors last year, probably close to a million this year. And with projects such as the wonderful Van Gogh Portrait Exhibition, which just closed, and which I hope

brought many of you and your constituents to see the Dutch master face to face, we really do strive as hard as we can to provide enjoyment and new knowledge and new lifelong learning opportunities to people not only from everywhere in Philadelphia but from around the world who come to discover Philadelphia. And we want to do more.

And the 2.250 operating support, which is currently budgeted for the museum in Fiscal 2002 is really crucial to our operations. As you all know, that amount has remained flat for six years now, during a period when the cost of providing fundamental building services -- security, maintenance -- has risen to $5,830,000, which just leaves an increasing shortfall in the City's, you know, ongoing and staunch area of support, while we strive to provide more and more and better and better service in the areas of programs, of exhibitions, of reaching kids in Title I schools, of reaching kids in universities. We're a part of this high-tech world ourselves and are increasingly involved with reaching people by distance-learning across the Internet and in caring for our collections, which

we hold in public trust, particularly for the citizens of Philadelphia, but also for the world, which enjoys them.

And I just should say that the cost of mounting a great exhibition like the Van Gogh exhibition or like the projects we plan for this spring are steadily increasing, and they bring great economic and great social and great aesthetic benefit to the City and to the region, and we want to keep doing more.

And we recognize that the City has a multitude of needs, and we so very grateful to the Council, both individually and collectively, and to the Administration for its thoughtful support. And we hope that at the positive moment in the out-years, there will be opportunities for some in that support, which has been flat for so long, and which means so much to it, because as you invest in us, we invest in the City and in every kind of opportunity we can bring to all of the citizens and to everyone who needs to find out what a very great place Philadelphia is.

And this is a moment for us to celebrate, it's a moment that -- Valentine's Day

is a very auspicious occasion in which to be testifying. This is the city not only of brotherly love, but love of the arts and love of education, and we plan to play a very important part in that love and in that -- those exciting field in our next 125 years.

And we thank the Council for its support.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you. And we want to thank you for the magnificent work that you do. The Art Museum is certainly the jewel of our city, and I will make certain that the stenographer has your complete testimony so that it will be in the record.

MS. D'HARNONCOURT: Thank you so much.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

Are there any questions from members of the committee?

(No questions.)

(Councilwoman Tasco responds off-mic.)

MS. D'HARNONCOURT: Thank you. It's completely our pleasure. Come to the one that opens this weekend.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you

again.

Philadelphia Prisons is next.

(Witnesses come forward.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you very much for your patience. We do have a copy of your written testimony, which we will give to the stenographer, and it will be printed in full. If you could simply abbreviate, Mr. Costello, we would appreciate it.

MR. COSTELLO: Okay. Good afternoon, President Verna and members of City Council. I'll be very brief.

With me today is Mr. Dan Rakowski, our Director of Administrative Services; Ed Syzmanski, our Fiscal Officer. And thank you for the opportunity to testify and answer any questions you may have concerning our FY '02 Operating Budget. We have submitted more extensive written testimony, as you have stated, and I would just like to point out a few of the highlights for this year's budget.

The $145 million budget for FY '02 is based on the projected average daily population of 7,063. The General Fund Class 100 request of

$82.9 million will fund an average of 1989 full-time positions. The General Fund Class 200 will allow for the transfer of contracted maintenance services for the Curran Fromhold Correctional Facility from Public Property to the PPS, funding for the full implementation of expanded Behavioral Health Services with the prison health contract, full year costs of operating the Cambria Community Center. The FY '02 budget will also allow us to maintain our facilities in a safe secure, manner, provide adequate medical and mental health services, and now allow us to continue all of our inmate services programming.

It's important to note that absent the current population controls that we currently have, which are very critical to the Department, we would probably have to house an additional 1300 inmates. I need to point that out as a note for the Population Control Unit.

That basically concludes my testimony. And I'm here to answer any questions you may have, along with my colleagues. Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

Mr. Costello, you indicate in the Five-Year Plan that the prison system will add approximately 1,000 new beds. When will these new beds become operational? And can you tell us where the location will be for these new beds or the facility?

MR. COSTELLO: Yes, President Verna. The 1,000 new beds will consist of new facilities. One is a leased facility located at 17th and Cambria, which is a community treatment center for women. That is scheduled to open between April the 1st and April the 15th of this year. That is 232 beds.

The other project is also a female facility, located on grounds of the House of Corrections, which will have a total of 768 beds. And that is scheduled to open sometime early in FY '03.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: What are the staffing requirements for new beds?

MR. COSTELLO: The staffing requirements for the new community center is about 35 line staff and about 4 supervisory staff, along with program staff. Most of the staff that's

required to operate this facility will come from existing staff positions that we will be able to transfer and redeploy to operate that facility.

The staffing for the women's detention facility is -- consists of grant total of 232.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: I'm sorry, I'm a little --

MR. COSTELLO: 232 positions.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: I'm somewhat confused in that in light of the added capacity, how are you going to be able to reduce your position level from 2,236 in your adopted FY '01 budget to 2,202 in FY '02?

MR. COSTELLO: I'll let Mr. Szymanski answer that or --

MR. SYZMANSKI: My name is Edward Szymanski, Fiscal Officer for the Prisons.

We've reevaluated the staffing plans over the course of the last year, and based on the design of the facility, we felt that we could get by with the number of positions that are indicated in this Fiscal '02 budget.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Okay. Mr. Costello, you state in your testimony, on Page

2, that two transitional behavioral health units will be established. When will they be established and what will their locations be? Will they be staffed by City employees?

MR. COSTELLO: Yes, they will be staffed by City employees -- they will be staffed -- actually, the treatment staff will be the members of the of the PHS Corporation, which provides our medical services.

The two behavioral transition units are going to be located at PICC, the female unit. The female unit is going to be on A Unit at that facility, and the male unit will be on K Unit at that facility.

And we have already began transferring -- starting to transfer inmates to those -- to the A Unit, and we hope to start the operation on K Unit either this month or next month.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

Please explain how you plan on reducing your General Fund overtime in FY '02 by approximately $1.3 million in light of the negotiated pay raise that takes effect in FY '03, as well as a higher projected prison population.

MR. COSTELLO: Basically what we plan to do within the next fiscal year is to redeploy staff from certain facilities, such as the new community center. We'll have a physical plant that's more conducive to better staff deployment. There will be efficient savings from that operation. There will also be some -- there will be some savings for the new study center operation, which we plan to redeploy.

We have also expedited our hiring process for the system for correctional officers, and we feel that we can hire staff in a more timely manner and reduce significantly the number of -- the amount of overtime required from that initiative.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Why are you able to reduce roll call adjustment by $2.9 million in FY '02?

MR. COSTELLO: Okay, Edward?

MR. SYZMANSKI: That roll call adjustment item that you're see in there is -- let me check that line item. The 3 million bonus, the $1500 bonus showed up in that line. It wasn't actually roll call; it was the bonus. We ran out

of lines on the form and ended up putting the $3 million one-time bonus that the employees received last year on Line 10.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

The Chair recognizes Councilman Rizzo.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thank you, Madam Chair.

Commissioner, a few weeks ago, maybe just a week ago, we had a conversation with the Health Department, I believe, and Estelle Richman in reference to drug treatment in the prison system here in the City of Philadelphia. Could you describe what you presently do for inmates that come in that are addicted to drugs, have alcohol problems?

MR. COSTELLO: We have one of the best correctional drug -- substance-abuse treatment programs in the business currently, and I think we talked about this as far as the -- the name of the program is calls "Options."

And, you know, the services are made available to those who are amenable to substance-abuse treatment, to our program. And we have a number of those who are also court-ordered

for this type of treatment. They are screened and they are given the appropriate level of treatment based on their particular individual situation.

Right now, we probably have about 850 slots to provide drug treatment for those who are amenable to treatment, and it consists of many phases, including several therapeutic communities which we have throughout the prison system for more intense drug treatment to outpatient counseling, one-on-one, or group therapy.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Commissioner, there's some conversation that you just described this program that you have. Do you see a need for a methadone program in your system? Do you see a need for that?

MR. COSTELLO: We are looking at -- we are -- I see a need for it. I support the methadone detox program, and we are taking initial steps to implement that program.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Would that -- do you have the money to implement that?

MR. COSTELLO: Yes.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Do you have money to cover that.

MR. COSTELLO: Yes, we do. It is in the budget.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: For that?

MR. COSTELLO: For methadone detox, yes.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: It's in the budget presently?

MR. COSTELLO: I want to double-check with Timothy.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: How much?

MR. COSTELLO: I don't know exactly what it's -- have Mr. Savitz from the Health Department.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: I don't blame you for not knowing the number; I can't remember my phone number some days, so don't feel bad about that.

MR. SAVITZ: I'm Barry Savitz, Assistant Health Commissioner. We're in the process of planning the implementation a methadone detox program with the Philadelphia prison system under its leadership, along with the State Department of Health, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and the Food and Drug

Administration. The cost of that will be borne by Prison Health Services as a part of its contract.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Commissioner, is this an accepted treatment in Pennsylvania? Do we do methadone? I was led to believe that we don't do methadone in our state and federal institutions.

MR. SAVITZ: It is an accepted treatment modality within the Commonwealth. And in Philadelphia, we have 3100 methadone treatment slots. And elsewhere -- this would be the first one in the State. Based on Secretary Timoney's testimony this morning about the purity of heroin and the fact that heroin is high in quality and readily available, this indicates the need to place people who long-term use heroin on methadone so they do no present a risk to the public safety and do not transmit diseases.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Let me ask my question again. In correctional institutions in the State of Pennsylvania, is methadone used?

MR. SAVITZ: There is no licensed program at this time, although the Commonwealth is considering such a program and the Department of

Corrections. It is used in Rykers Island, in Washington, DC jails, and in other locations throughout the country.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: I'm asking about the State of Pennsylvania, sir. Is methadone used? Simple: yes, no? Is methadone used in the State of Pennsylvania's correctional facilities?

MR. SAVITZ: Not at this time, but it is planning to do so.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Federal facilities: yes, no?

MR. SAVITZ: Not to my knowledge in Pennsylvania. Or elsewhere in the country.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: What is our rush, then, to move in that direction?

MR. SAVITZ: Based upon the nature of the drug usage, which in heroin has dramatically increased over the last few years. We have to treat adequately the person based upon the specific drug, and heroin has made a resurgence in Philadelphia, as it has on the East Coast, over the last few years.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: And how much do you have budgeted to implement this program?

MR. SAVITZ: The cost of the methadone itself is relatively small. It's basically the use of existing staff to administer the methadone and to follow a detox schedule. We anticipate that the number of persons who would be served by this would be relatively few, somewhere in the order of 15 persons a movement.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Sir, again, the question: How much money is being budgeted for the methadone program?

MR. SAVITZ: The dosage is probably -- is --

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Would you tell me --

MR. SAVITZ: It's pennies. It's approximately a dollar a day.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Sir --

MR. SAVITZ: -- in terms of the medication.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Sir, I'd like to know, if you haven't already budgeted, could you turn to the page that has that information and tell me how much money you have budgeted for this program. I mean, this isn't a trick question, and you're trying to be tricky here.

MR. SAVITZ: No, Councilman, with respect, the money is part of the -- is included as part of the contractual relationship with Prison Health Services. The cost of the methadone per day, and it's usually a 21-day detox, is $1 per day.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: So you have no money in your budget for this program.

MR. SAVITZ: There is money in the budget for the program.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Would you please get back to us through the Chair to let us know?

MR. SAVITZ: Fine, I will get back to you with that information.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: I don't mean to be argumentative, but when we ask a question, I don't want to play musical chairs here either.

MR. SAVITZ: Okay.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: So there's a dollar amount that you've asked to implement this program and manage this program, and simply, this is what this is, the budget process here, and that's information that we need to know.

MR. SAVITZ: Fine, we'll get --

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

Councilman, go have any other questions?

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Sorry, Madam Chair, thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

The Chair recognizes Councilwoman Miller.

COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Thank you, Madam Chair.

Good afternoon, Commissioner.

MR. COSTELLO: Good afternoon, Councilwoman.

COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: I'd just like to get more detailed information regarding the employment vocational training program that's on Page 5 of your testimony. As a District Councilperson and just as one that's worked in human services all of my life, people coming out of prisons have constantly called to ask for help regarding finding employment, so I'd just like to know a little bit more about your employment placement rates and if you are, in fact, helping

people find employment, or what is the job development scheme, or just what happens to help inmates secure employment.

You have 44 trade categories that people are being trained in, and how is that being utilized once they leave prison because ex-offenders -- I mean, certainly you know better than I -- are very hard -- it's very hard for us to help ex-offenders find employment.

MR. COSTELLO: Yes, Councilman, we -- there are a couple of initiatives that we have concerning the employment initiatives for those being released and preparing them for jobs. The point person for the Department is Alan Appel, our Director of Inmate Service.

MR. APPEL: How are you, Councilwoman?

MR. COSTELLO: And he has coordinated recent activities concerning job employment for inmates.

Alan, can you give a summary.

MR. APPEL: Certainly. We have over the last six months created a group of job developers, shop trainers, and private employers. And we have been meeting regularly to work out a

process through which inmates who leave the prison system can get either additional job training or be placed in an appropriate job.

COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Do you have --

MR. APPEL: We also --

COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: I'm sorry. Is JEVS a part of that job development plan?

MR. APPEL: Yes, it is.

COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Okay. I'm sorry, I didn't mean to cut you off. You can continue.

MR. APPEL: We also have job developers that work with the inmates who are on our work release program to help them find and maintain jobs.

COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Okay, so how many people are released maybe just on the average? I don't need a specific count, but if you have 1,000 people -- if you have 1,000 vocational training slots, I'm sure that out of 7,000 prisons, I think you said you have here -- well, that's projected. Out of 6,000 prisoners. I guess my bottom line question is, how many people have you actually helped place in employment?

MR. APPEL: I do not have that number,

but we will certainly get back to you immediately.

COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Okay. So then when people that are being released from Philadelphia prisons call my office or whatever, then I know that there's a job placement counselor that we can in turn call to work with, to maybe work together as a team, to help them find employment, or as they're coming out of the door, do they already have a job or a high potential for a job?

MR. APPEL: We are not able to work with the whole inmate population.

COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Okay.

MR. APPEL: But only a small group of those. So the inmates who are on work release have work when they are released. Some of the inmates that go through our job training have work when they are released. But certainly not all.

COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Okay. And once a person leaves, then do they work with the Probation Department? Does it continue there just in terms of helping them locate and find employment or get maybe referred to some type of maybe PIC program or some other kind of workforce

development program to help them find employment? 'Cause what I'm finding are people just hanging out there on their own, trying to find employment. And I'm wondering if there are resources that are available or if there's something that's in the system that's designed to help these individuals so that, you know, they're not just right out there, and the next thing you know, they're committing a crime and coming right back to prison.

MR. APPEL: Right. There is help through the Adult Probation Office. There are community organizations such as the Pennsylvania Prison Society that have job developers that work specifically with inmates to have them released.

COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Okay. Do you know whether -- are they contracted to do that kind of a service, or is it something that they just want to do on their own?

MR. APPEL: That is something that they do with the monies that they get through the United Way and through some of the other provided funds that they receive through grants and whatnot.

COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Okay. One of the areas that we have found to be, you know, pretty open in terms of taking people that are ex-offenders are the trade unions. So if someone -- when you're doing your training, and maybe we can talk about this at some other time. When you're doing your training under the trade categories, maybe there's some kind of way that if you're going to have someone there on a long-term basis or maybe some of the training could be around skill development and academic development that would help people to qualify of life for some of the apprenticeship programs that could lead to higher-paying jobs, maybe long-term employment.

Are those the kinds of things that are taken into considers when you're designing your curriculums and designing your programs?

MR. APPEL: Well, we look at a number of things, but one of the challenges that we have is that the average length of stay is less than three months. So when we create a job-training program, we have to look at a very short program that can get someone ready to hold an entry-level job. We just don't have someone long enough to do

a much more involved training.

COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: All right. Thank you. Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

The Chair recognizes Councilman Nutter.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you, Madam Chair.

I actually had some questions in the same area. Did I hear you say that the average length of stay -- is this for all inmates, the 7,036 inmates? You said the average length of stay in our system is three months.

MR. COSTELLO: Less. It's 74.5 for last fiscal year men. For the juveniles, they are 142 days.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: 42?

MR. COSTELLO: 142 days is the average length of stay.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: So it's 74.5 for adults --

MR. APPEL: For men.

MR. COSTELLO: For the adult males. And for the direct file juveniles, they're averaging 140 -- they averaged 142.2 last fiscal

year. The females, the adult females, are at 54.4 average length of stay, days of average length of stay. And the juvenile females are 56 days as an average.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: What's the recidivism rate?

MR. COSTELLO: Well, Councilman, I'd love to answer that question. The problem is that we're still defining the word "recidivism." If we were to take a snapshot, which we did recently, of those have been in our system prior to their current incarceration, the recidivism rate would be about 78 percent. That means that they were in our system at least one other time, so 78 out of 100 have been through our system at least one other time.

We are currently now looking at a mechanism to measure recidivism, and the definition will probably change that rate significantly lower than just the 78.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Well, I know that Prisons Commissioner is, you know, a pretty powerful position. How are you going to change the definition of recidivism? I mean, isn't there

a definition? Are you working with Webster or something like that?

MR. COSTELLO: Well, the correctional dictionary would tell you that the rate of recidivism are those who have been convicted of a crime and have been subsequently convicted of a crime.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Right.

MR. COSTELLO: That's the rate.

The problem is trying to gather that data and also categorize that into various categories of recidivism. If someone -- did they -- are they a recidivist after being involved in a program, completing a program. Are they a recidivist because they did not participate in any program or the educational treatment or otherwise.

So I think there's different categories that we're trying to define to truly measure the rate of recidivism in this county.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay. Well, you gave us the average length of stay. That's the average length of leave?

MR. COSTELLO: I don't know, Councilman.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: So we know how long people stay with us and we know that 78 percent of them come back to us, but we don't know from -- if somebody gets out today, we don't know how soon it will be before they make a return visit to our wonderful facilities?

MR. COSTELLO: Well, we have not measured that.

MR. APPEL: No.

MR. COSTELLO: And that's something that --

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: But there is a way to find that out though, right?

MR. COSTELLO: Sir?

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: There is a way to find that out, right?

MR. COSTELLO: Yes.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay. Now, is 78 percent high in your world, in the correctional world?

MR. COSTELLO: Yes, 78 percent is high.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: And what's a more acceptable number? Other than 0?

MR. COSTELLO: I would say that the

numbers vary, and other departments are very reluctant to report the statistics for this category, but I would say that a more acceptable rate would be closer to between 55 and 60.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: So based on that number, you're saying that in the criminal justice world, an acceptable rate is that half of the people that you have, you expect to see them back.

MR. COSTELLO: Well, it all depends on the definition. We would say that 50 percent is not --

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: What's our goal? I mean, we can't continue to run a system like that.

MR. COSTELLO: Pardon me, Councilman?

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: I guess I just asked what -- I mean, do we have a goal? Is there a number that -- I mean, you obviously, at 78, you said you think 55, 60 is better, and I would agree. I mean, is that the number that you're trying to get to? Are you trying to get to 40? How do other municipalities compare and what's going on in the rest of the State?

I mean, if you don't have a lot of that, you can certainly get back.

MR. COSTELLO: I will get back to you on that information Councilman.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay. I know Councilman Rizzo asked you some questions about drug treatment, and I'm not going to have a what-you-do-and-how-do-you-it debate. What I didn't want to know is, of the 7,063 inmates, which is your daily population, what number or what percentage of them have a drug-abuse or a substance-abuse problem?

MR. COSTELLO: Historically, the latest statistics would show about 80 percent have some type of substance-abuse problem --

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: 80 percent.

MR. COSTELLO: -- at the time of arrest. Yes.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: All right, so that gets us somewhere in the 1400, 1500 range?

MR. COSTELLO: 80 percent would be probably be in the --

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: 14, 1500 don't have --

MR. COSTELLO: 5600 would have some type of either drug or alcohol problem at the time

of their arrest.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay, 5600 have a problem. And how many drug-treatment slots are there?

MR. COSTELLO: Currently, we have for -- our Options slots are about 850 as of today.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: 850.

MR. COSTELLO: Yes, sir.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: All right. What do the other 4,000 or so people do?

MR. COSTELLO: Well, I would say, on a regular basis, we probably have about a 500-slot waiting list for those who are amenable to substance-abuse treatment through our programs for drug treatment or --

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: There's no requirement that because you have a substance-abuse problem and you happen to be in prison, that you have treatment?

MR. COSTELLO: There's no requirement. There are court-ordered Option placements, those who are court-ordered for drug treatment, and we provide them with it whether they want it or not, at least initially.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: What would happen if you started getting more court-ordered treatments? Suppose every person that was found to have a substance-abuse problem, the D.A. sought to ask the judge to order that the person to have drug treatment, which, I mean, would only kind of make sense, but we'll have that discussion subsequent. I mean, what would you do if. . .

MR. COSTELLO: Well, we obviously would not be able to carry out the order. On a regular basis, I would say we haven't really entertained that question because I think the most -- the average number of court-ordered drug treatments are actually very few compared to those who are voluntarily in the program.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: All right. So let me just make sure I understand what the situation is. You've got 7,000 inmates, 5600 of them have a substance-abuse problem, 800 of them can get treatment whether they like it or not, and 4800 people can go through the system for however long they are with us and never have any treatment.

MR. COSTELLO: Well, out of the 4800, though, only about 500 would be amenable to drug

treatment. If they're not amenable, if they're not willing to accept it and admit they have a problem, then we're not going to offer it to them.

MR. APPEL: And most of the --

(Unintelligible, parties talking over each other.)

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: . . . you're not going to give it to them anyway, right?

MR. COSTELLO: We could not physically. That's correct, sir.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay. Let's talk a little bit about the educational services. Sixteen hundred inmates go through some kind of educational or training program; is that correct?

MR. COSTELLO: That's correct.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Of the 7,000 inmates, how many of them have either a high school diploma or a GED?

MR. COSTELLO: We have that information, Councilman. We're just looking it up.

MR. APPEL: By their self-report, 2524 have a GED or a high school diploma, and then approximately 250 have beyond high school.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay. So I assume that -- what was that, 2525 and then another 250 --

MR. APPEL: Yes, and then another 250.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: All right, so 27, 2800 people have either a high school diploma, a GED, or some college training. Then assuming that most of those individuals don't seek any educational services while there they're in the system because, I mean, they pretty much have what we will offer.

MR. APPEL: That's true, Councilman. So that leaves --

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: So that leaves you with, what's that, 3200? 4200? 4200 people that have -- you have 28 with something, 42 without, right?

MR. APPEL: Yes, 4200.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: And out of the 4200, you're saying that 1600 participate in something?

MR. APPEL: That's true.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay, what do we do with the other 26?

MR. APPEL: The prison system is not -- doesn't have as its primary. . .

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Mission?

MR. APPEL: . . . mission to be a treatment program. And --

MR. COSTELLO: We just don't have the funding for it.

MR. APPEL: Right. And with the monies that we have, we do the best that we are able.

MR. COSTELLO: It's money that comes out of the School District, Councilman.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: I'm sorry, did you say it comes out of School District?

MR. COSTELLO: The School District funds teachers for our education program.

MR. APPEL: We also have a number of volunteers that do literacy training, and that's a large number of inmates that get involved. We also have our own prison staff to do GED prep with the aid of a computer-based program.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you.

This is my last question. Could you forward to the Chair more detailed information in

the area that Councilwoman Miller was asking about with regard to employment or the vocational training program, who provides the training, how many people. If you have any of that information -- do we track any of the folks who have gone through any of our programs? Do we know how many are actually still in jobs? Do we know any of the folks who have gone through the program, are they back in the system?

I know that's probably a part of your redefining recidivism exercise, but if you could get some information about that, I'd be very interested.

MR. COSTELLO: Certainly.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Any other questions from members of the committee?

The Chair recognizes Councilwoman Miller.

COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Thank you, Madam President.

I have two other short questions in regard to juveniles that are certified as adults under direct file. In your testimony on the

chart, it says that the Youth Study Center Security Unit will be closing and that the juveniles will then be transferred to the House of Corrections. Based on our average attendance, how many juveniles fit into this category?

MR. COSTELLO: Right now today, we have, I believe, a census of 103. Of the 102, there are a number that are housed at the Youth Study Center. The capacity there is about 37. The rest are housed at the House of Corrections. We have a special area at the House of Corrections where we house the remainder of the juveniles.

COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Okay, what makes their area different, the housing for the juveniles? What's the difference between that and the area for adults?

MR. COSTELLO: Well, we keep the certified juveniles who are committed as adults separate from the general adult population.

COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Mm-hmm.

MR. COSTELLO: So at all times, their programming is set up so they do not intermingle with the adult population.

COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Okay, do you

still have that young lady there?

MR. COSTELLO: Yes, we do.

COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Meriam White?

MR. COSTELLO: Yes.

COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Do you have any other females?

MR. COSTELLO: As of today, she is our only female, certified female, I believe. Let's see.

No, we have one other one besides Meriam White.

COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: You have one other now or you had one other?

MR. COSTELLO: We have one another one in addition to her.

COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Okay. How old is she?

MR. COSTELLO: I believe she's 16.

COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Are they still being housed in the infirmary?

MR. COSTELLO: She is being housed in the health service wing because of her age and some of the problems that she has and has had since her commitment. But we -- we are -- we

house the rest of the juvenile females in a separate trailer away from the complex.

COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Okay. Is this temporary or are there plans in the future to do or have any special wings built or whatnot for juvenile offenders?

MR. COSTELLO: We do not have any long-range plans for a separate building, but we do plan to eventually move those from the Youth Study Center to the House of Corrections, so there will be two areas that are separate and apart from the adult male population to house them long-term.

At this point, that would -- that would -- there is some indecision as far as when that's going to happen. We hope to do it probably when the community center opens up.

COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Okay.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: You're welcome.

The Chair recognizes Councilwoman Brown.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you, Madam President.

Good afternoon, gentlemen.

MR. APPEL: Good afternoon.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: I want to underscore and echo the questions raised by my colleagues around the entire notion and importance of educating inmates. And just note that I share -- I will not reiterate or restate the questions, but know that that's a concern that we all share, that when they are incarcerated, that we're doing the little or the most that we can to get them ready for re-entry into society.

My second is question related Meriam White. Is she still under your jurisdiction?

MR. COSTELLO: She is, Councilwoman.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: And could you discuss some of the measures that you've had to undertake given the very uniqueness of her circumstance and situation with regards to education and psychiatric care and security and those kinds of matters.

MR. COSTELLO: Yes, I would actually like to ask Pres Grooms (ph.) to come up just for a minute to discuss this case. He has been the actual point person for Meriam's housing since she

has been with us. So I would ask him to come up and then talk about some of the significant issues surrounding her particular incarceration with us.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you very much.

(Witness comes forward.)

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Good afternoon, Mr. Grooms.

MR. GROOMS: Good afternoon, Miss Brown. And certainly, it's nice to sit in this soft chair for a change. The chairs back there kind of hard and they're killing me.

(Laughter.)

MR. GROOMS: In regards to Miss Meriam White?

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Yes.

MR. GROOMS: Miss White has been in our custody for almost two years this coming August. She has been someone that we were not prepared to deal with when she first arrived.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Okay, I need to ask you to speak a little slower and speak into the mic.

MR. GROOMS: Okay. She was someone

that they were not prepared to deal with when she first arrived. But upon her arrival, we decided there was something that needed to be done for her in order to provide her with services and with education.

We had a conversation with the director of the school, Mr. Fran Simatowski (ph.), and we set up school for her, and we're providing 30 hours of school for her every week. That's Pennypack School, which is a part of the Philadelphia School Board. She is getting psychiatric care. She is on some types of medication.

Meriam, as you probably know, is a very unique person in terms of her mental capacity. She has developed in terms of a physical development over the years -- over the year. And we try to do whatever we can for her in terms of trying to make things as normal as possible.

My original intention with Meriam was to try to integrate her into the female population, juvenile population, but as we dealt with her and talked to her psychiatrists, we thought it would be best to keep her where she

currently is and try to integrate her with the juvenile population incrementally. And in doing that, currently, we have her staying with the other juveniles from 8 o'clock in the morning until about 5:30 in the evening. Originally, she was staying from 8 o'clock in the morning until 3 o'clock, until school was over.

We provide her with recreational activities on a regular basis. She gets regular visits from her stepmother. We have her being watched by one correctional officer on each shift. We originally started with one on 7 to 3, one on 3 to 11, and one on 11 to 7. But as time went on, we thought it would be in her best advantage certainly to have an officer assigned 16 hours a day rather than 24 hours a day, which is what we have right now.

But she's coming along, and we're trying to provide what we can for her. The warden of the detention has been providing her with things that a young person her age requires. She also gets tutoring and she gets speech therapy twice a week.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Okay, you've

listed a range of services that you're providing, and I would like to think you're not unaware of the criticism that has come, 'cause I sat on the other side in the courtroom, so because there's so many different aspects to the story, and one criticism was that there is no psychiatric care.

So elaborate on the services you're providing with regard to psychiatric care and when they started, so that I as a viewer and a member of this body has all of the information when it comes to standing up for young people.

MR. GROOMS: Okay. When Meriam initially came to the Philadelphia prison system back in August of 1999, she was -- we actually assigned a psychiatrist to see her. And he was seeing her on a regular basis about three times a week initially, because we were concerned about her doing harm to herself initially. So he was seeing her about three times a week, Dr. Oligian (ph.) was his name. And he saw her on a regular basis for about nine or ten months, until at which time, he decided to take another job somewhere else.

When he left, that certainly left a big

void. But the new contractors that are there, PHS, does have a psychiatrist available that sees her, I'm going to guess now, about once a week. But certainly he is available on an as-needed basis. And they have been very, very helpful in terms of stabilizing her and maintaining her mental stability.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Sure. That helps me. You've given a lot more information that I had not been privy to in other circles that I traveled and in other places where I've asked questions. And I'm sure you do a number of things as an institution to make sure that this side of the story is provided to those people who are certainly telling not what you present here today. So that -- is that not so?

MR. GROOMS: No one's asked me.

MR. COSTELLO: Meriam's certainly a unique case, and I think it's very important for the record to state the type of treatment she has received and the security and all of the efforts to protect her well-being, because she is, in fact, the youngest female inmate ever incarcerated in the system.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: In the State, that's right.

MR. COSTELLO: She was 11 years old when she came to us, she turned 12 in August, and she's been with us, as the Deputy Commissioner said, for the last year and a half, but we have treated her in a unique way other than, you know, what may have been reported.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Of course, given her unique circumstances.

MR. COSTELLO: Given her unique circumstances, yes.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Well, I thank you very, very much, gentlemen.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

Are there any other questions from the members of the committee?

(No further questions.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you very much.

MR. COSTELLO: Thank you, President Verna.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Good evening.

The Fire Commissioner. I know you've

been extremely patient. You've been sitting here all day, and we really appreciate it.

(Witnesses come forward.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Commissioner, we have a copy of your written testimony, which we will make available to the stenographer, and your testimony will be printed in the notes of testimony, and if you will just abbreviate, we'd appreciate it.

COMMISSIONER HAIRSTON: Okay.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Because, I will tell you, I think you do such a fabulous job that I never even prepared a question you ask.

COMMISSIONER HAIRSTON: Thank you so much.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: We're very proud of the job that you do and I personally want to thank you..

COMMISSIONER HAIRSTON: Thank you, I appreciate your remarks.

Good afternoon, everyone. I'm Fire Commissioner Harold Hairston. And with me is Deputy Commissioner Bill McNulty. To my right is our fiscal officer, Dave Beatrice, to my left. As

you can tell, I'm losing some of my voice, so I'm going to ask if Bill McNulty will kind of summarize our testimony and I'll try to save my voice for any questions any Councilpeople might have.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: I'll just summarize, Council President.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: In terms of our service enhancements and accomplishments, last year's fire death, at 51, was the second lowest in 50 years. Our Fire Prevention Division and our field fire fighting forces will have installed by the end of this fiscal year 170,000 smoke detectors since FY '92.

Once again, the structure fires have decreased from 2797 in Fiscal '99 to 2440 in Fiscal 2000.

Our firefighter injuries have decreased precipitously from 9926 days lost in Fiscal '92 to 1764 days lost in Fiscal 2000, for a decrease of 83 percent.

Last year, we responded to 182,000

medical incidents, which is nearly an 8 percent increase in activity over the previous year.

Our EMS revenue has increased from 3.9 million in Fiscal '92 to, we project, 15.1 million in Fiscal 2000, and projecting 15.5 million Fiscal '02.

The technology enhancements that we accomplished last year are in the budget testimony, and I won't bore you with going back over these, the biggest thing being the hand-held computers that are in the rescue squads that we believe have increased the -- helped to increase the revenue in the past year.

In conclusion, the amount of funding provided for our proposed budget should enable us to continue to provide the same high level of service to the citizens of our city that the citizens of our city have grown to expect. We would be remiss not to add here that in Fiscal 2000, the citizen survey showed that our citizens were more satisfied than ever with our services, with 83 percent reporting very or somewhat satisfied with fire protection and 86.3 percent similarly pleased with emergency services. We

were rated the highest major department in all previous surveys and improved significantly in this survey.

This completes our testimony.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

Are there any questions of the fire Commissioner?

The Chair recognizes Councilwoman Brown.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: I just have one, Madam President.

The Juvenile Fire Stoppers Program, you served 170 young people in the year 2000. Just tell me a little bit about that. And as always, I'm always interested in any linkage with the School District and what that linkage might be.

COMMISSIONER HAIRSTON: That program was actually started back in 1986, when I was in the Fire Prevention Division. And the reason we started it was because we had troubled youth and they were out setting fires, and in some cases, you were getting fire deaths in homes caused by the youth that were setting fires.

So what we've tried to do over the

years is to establish a program that really allows us, when we go to a scene, to make a determination as to whether or not a youth was involved in the fire setting and whether or not it's in school or whether it's in their home and whether or not they're actually on the street and set trash on fire or something like that.

If we're able to identify 'em, we try to interact with the parents and ask them to allow us to come in and give programs to the individuals involved. And in the cases where you have families, we try to get the family involved in the program.

Now, there are some cases that are very hard cases, as you might imagine, where you need to interact from a mental health perspective. And what we do with that is we get a person from the Health Department that's a mental health professional to help with that so that we make sure that we can give the proper treatment to that person. Most often, you don't have to take it quite that far.

But we interact with the School District when we have enough evidence to indicate

who actually set the fire in the school. And the idea of it is to try to get that behavior curbed before it becomes troubling to the point where they're actually going to set, you know, large properties on fire or something like that, because fire-setters really scare everybody.

When a person's very young, of course, it's a curiosity thing, and we try to work with the parents and make sure that we can curb that kind of behavior. When they get older, whether it's males or females -- and it's kind of odd that most people don't think girls set many fires, but they do. They don't set quite to the rate that boys do but it's the same kind of thing and certainly just as dangerous.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Sure.

COMMISSIONER HAIRSTON: And what we try to do is to keep people from having to be incarcerated over it. We try to curb the behavior rather than have that happen.

And we've been very good in terms of dealing with that program and we have had almost no recidivism. We probably had less than a half dozen cases where people have actually been repeat

offenders once we've able to identify them and then give them a viable program.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you very much.

COMMISSIONER HAIRSTON: Thank you.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you, Madam President.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair recognizes Councilman Rizzo.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thank you, Madam Chair.

Commissioner, it's good to see you and your associates.

COMMISSIONER HAIRSTON: Thank you.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Commissioner, yesterday I was fortunate to go to an event for a gentleman -- I think you know him -- Mr. Cal Rudman, who wrote a significant check to the American Heart Association to sponsor CPR training. And in the course of that conversation, I had a chance to brag a little bit on behalf of the Fire Department because the representative of the American Heart Association thought that they were going to pursue Philadelphia International

Airport to equip the airport with defibrillators.

You know, this is the kind of trend right now. This equipment has become very popular, and suburban municipalities are equipping the Police Department with defibrillation equipment. And I boast of the fact that we have one of the greatest response times for emergency medical services anywhere in the world.

And I'm wondering if you have any thoughts on defibrillators, and should our police department have them? Do we have a medic unit assigned to the airport?

COMMISSIONER HAIRSTON: Yes, we do. We do have a medic unit that is exclusively assigned to the airport.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: So I would assume that if a passenger or an employee of the airport had need for defibrillation, that our unit would be there within seconds -- minutes, and in some cases, even seconds.

Would you encourage -- and I know it's not fair to ask you to make a split decision, but would you consider a recommendation on equipping our police officers with defibrillators and/or the

airport or other municipal buildings, based on -- and I was, like, not as excited about it as I -- she was a little disappointed that I wasn't as responsive as I could be, based on the fact that the fine job that the Philadelphia Fire Department in responding to these cases.

So is this something that you would look at? And if you have an initial response, I'd appreciate hearing it. And it is very convenient, Commissioner, that you come to the budget hearing with laryngitis.

COMMISSIONER HAIRSTON: Hey, that's the way it goes.

Actually, this is something that I've given a lot of consideration to because this has been the kind of an idea that a number of people had, mostly manufacturers, in terms of trying to make available so that they can sell a lot of them.

But there's a program right now that it's my understanding that the Police Department is going to involve themselves in so that they can get defibrillators. Now, I don't know the exact number that they're going to have, but they're

going to have a substantial amount in their cars. And, as you know, in many of the cases, police are right on the scene. They see an incident because they're out there, and they see it when it happens.

There certainly will be some lives saved because of this. And as I'm sure you know, all of our units have defibrillators on them. The Medic Units, which are all run in a professional kind of way, not the big automatic kind but the ones that really give you a lot more information. But the other ones we have on our engines and ladders. And places that had these, they've actually recognized that there have been some lives saved.

But contrary to popular belief, only about 1.6 percent of the cases that we respond to actually deal with a medical emergency that deals with a case where you'd have to defibrillate somebody. So it's not as often as you would think, but it's highly publicized. And if you can save one or two lives by having these, then certainly, it's not a bad idea to have them.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: So the Police

Department is involved in a program at this point to equip their --

COMMISSIONER HAIRSTON: No, we were actually queried by someone who had decided to give, I think it's, $50 million nationwide to see whether or not we wanted any defibrillators, but we would just be being greedy 'cause we already have 'em. And the Police Department didn't have them, and through the Managing Director's Office, he then queried both the Police Department and the Fire Department, and we made a written recommendation to his office. And it was my understanding that the Police Department is going to get a certain amount of those units.

It was time-critical. In other words, you had to respond by a certain amount of time, you have to get the training by a certain amount of time, but they will be getting someone on board. And it's certainly not a bad idea because, as you know, the police are out there working very, very hard all the time, and they do see medical emergencies where, in fact, they can be used.

And they're relatively simple to use.

I mean, it's -- they're automatic and you don't have to be a genius in order to use them and they will save some lives.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: And the airport?

COMMISSIONER HAIRSTON: The airport, I think it's probably a very good idea because, as you know, we have a unit that's right out there. But what has to happen is, somebody's got to recognize that there's an emergency going on, then they have to dial 9-1-1, and then you have to be able to locate that person someplace in the airport. Now, no matter how familiar you were, it's not as good as having somebody in close proximity that could possibly take an action.

These defibrillators have been kind of a Godsend in places on the actual airplanes, and they've gone to that some time ago.

Now, in Las Vegas, they've done it in the casinos and they've had several saves, where it's -- you know, well, they've got that kind of action going on all night long, and --

(Unintelligible, parties talking over each other.)

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: If you lose ten

grand, you might need a defibrillator, right?

COMMISSIONER HAIRSTON: Yeah, that's right.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Well, it's good to hear that, obviously, you're well-versed on the issue, and then it's something that I think we need to consider.

My recommendation was that, when you mentioned it, that the airlines are already utilizing defibrillation equipment board their flights, and maybe the natural flow would be to the ground personnel that worked for the airlines to be the ones that would be trained in the utilization of that equipment.

So thank you for the background there, and I hope you get better.

COMMISSIONER HAIRSTON: Thank you.

MR. MCPHERSON: Councilman Nutter?

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you.

Commissioner, I have one question that's a yes- or no-question. Can you provide the appropriate personnel on the day and at the time that the Personnel Commissioner, Linda Seyda, is scheduled to testify? There will be some

discussion on that day of employee educational programs, tuition reimbursement programs, any programs that various departments or agencies have to help employees who might want to -- City employees who may want to upgrade their educational skills or educational attainment levels.

It's my understanding that the Fire Department does have such a program that operates within in the Department, and I'd like to have the people who know about this program at that particular hearing date. The Police Department is going to have some personnel there. And I'd like to be able to get direct testimony from those individuals about your program and how we might be able to expand these kinds of tuition reimbursement programs or other educational opportunities for our public employee workforce.

Could you have the appropriate personnel at that hearing?

COMMISSIONER HAIRSTON: Yes.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you. So I saved your voice.

MR. MCPHERSON: Any other questions?

(No further questions.)

COMMISSIONER HAIRSTON: Thank you.

MR. MCPHERSON: The Mayor's Office of Information Technology.

(Witnesses come forward.)

DR. BORTNICK: Good evening, Council President.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you for your patience.

We do have a copy of your testimony, which will be given to the stenographer, so if could you just abbreviate it, we'd appreciate it.

DR. BORTNICK: First let me introduce a number of individuals I've brought with me today, individuals who often don't get a chance to be seen here in Council but should be welcomed here along with myself.

I am Dr. Karl Bortnick, the Acting Chief Information Officer. And on the left I have with me James Cartwright, who is the Program Manager for Web Services. And on my right here, Edgar Barrios, the Chief Information Officer for Technology; Jack Jones, the Program Manager for Public Safety. Further behind me, in the white

shirt, is James Querry, who is here for geographic information were you to have a question in that area; and Sandy MacNamore (ph.), who is with me, who is who's the Budget Officer of the Department.

In terms of my testimony, to be very brief about it, the most important thing to recognize here in addition to the dollars that we're requesting a total of $13,188,469 in the General Fund and the $7,783,299 in Class 100 for the 138 full-time positions and the $5,059,444 in Class 200 for computer hardware maintenance and software licenses training and project management support and the $252,112 in Class 3 and 400 is for materials, supplies, and equipment.

This General Fund request represents $291,982 increase from Fiscal Year 2001's adopted budget obligation, and this budget request difference is due to wage increases and funding for four deputy CIOs.

From the Water Fund, we are requesting a total of $979,508: $625,183 in Class 100 for 12 full-time positions; $327,358 in Class 200 for hardware and software maintenance; and $26,967 in Class 3 and 400 for materials, supplies, and

equipment.

The City will implement technologies to address new initiatives particularly with respect to e-government and neighborhood transformation. The cluster of CIOs proposed within MOIS will support management and integration of technologies for public safety, social services, City services, and financial oversight, along with other significant aggregations of departments. MOIS will continue to enhance services and support for the City's central and department computer systems, expanding on our use of new technologies, the Internet, geographic information, data warehousing and network-based applications, and mobile computing.

In Fiscal 2001, MOIS implemented two e-government technology initiatives bids on line with the Procurement Department and expanded automated clearinghouse payments with the Revenue Department. These initiatives have been discussed in more detail in those departmental budget presentations.

In Fiscal Year 2001, MOIS also developed online assessment information with the

Board of Revision of Taxes. This application is available for use by City departments on CityNet today.

In Fiscal Year 2002, MOIS will continue planning and implementing efforts with departments for electronic government. For example, the Department of Licenses and Inspections is preparing business application improvements on line, and Commissioner Edward MacLaughlin will expand on this effort in his budget testimony.

The next paragraph discusses our efforts over the years in data warehousing, followed by something of significance in the next paragraph: In Fiscal Year 2001, MOIS received a $100,000 award for technology sponsored by the U.S. Conference of Mayors Urban Challenge Grants funded by the 3 Com Coporations. This grant will be used in Fiscal Year 2001 and 2002 to deploy technology (indiscernible) at recreation centers based on education computer sites. These centers will enable children and families to access CD-ROM and Internet-based education as well as gain access to 21st century technical skills training and desktop and networking tools.

The Council may have seen the newspaper article that appeared on February 5th describing the opening of the Kingsessing Rec Center most recently. That was a part of the effort of the grant.

In Fiscal Year 2002, MOIS will continue to support the process of system selection, implementation, and enhancement of City applications. And in Public Safety, for example, this objective focuses on the City's effort at reducing crime and improving the quality of life in our neighborhoods.

In Fiscal Year 2002, this budget will continue to support the updating of technologies associated with the City's technology infrastructure.

Madam President, this concludes my testimony, and I want to thank City Council for your ongoing support, and I will be glad to answer any of the questions that you may have.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you, Doctor.

I see you are requesting four new deputy chief information officers at $120,000

each, for a total of $480,000. What will be their respective functions?

DR. BORTNICK: Yes. The four individuals will be associated with each of the four secretaries -- Public Safety, Social Services, City Services, and Finally Oversight. In their roles, they will be responsible for supporting the secretaries' efforts to integrate services and the technologies associated with those services.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

On Page 7-19 of your detail, it indicates that you expect to be reimbursed $610,000 for citywide training; is that correct?

DR. BORTNICK: Yes.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: What is the total breakdown of these reimbursements?

DR. BORTNICK: If it would be -- if it would be acceptable to yourself, I'd like to provide you those details subsequent to this.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: If you will send it to me in writing, I will make certain that it's circulated.

DR. BORTNICK: Yes.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Have the affected departments' budgets been adjusted to include these charges?

DR. BORTNICK: Typically, yes. These are types of -- or levels of training that we have had in the past, and these are not uncommon costs.

PRESIDENT VERNA: Am I also correct that this represents an increase in your reimbursements of almost $135,000 over the FY '01 estimated obligations?

DR. BORTNICK: I believe that is correct. And what it represents or reflects is the coming of technology associated with the new e-mail system, Lotus Notes.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

The Chair recognizes Councilman Nutter.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you, Madam Chair.

Two items. One, Mr. Bortnick, I asked you about a situation the other day, and I wanted to thank you for the escalated response to that situation. And to the best of my knowledge, the matter has been resolved. So I appreciate the escalation.

Second, you just mentioned the implementation of Lotus Notes as the new CC Mail system; is that correct?

DR. BORTNICK: Yes. The CC Mail, as a software, has now reached end of its business life cycle. And the IBM Corporation's follow-on product which had been developed concurrently that is now the product for the City is Lotus Notes.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: And when will that implementation happen?

DR. BORTNICK: The implementation of Lotus Notes with respect to the infrastructure, the two pieces, hardware mail infrastructure, has already been implemented throughout the City. The software is being deployed, even as we speak, in various departments. A initial group of 3500 will be completed by mid-April and a total of approximately 6500 by June 30th.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay. Do you know when City Council is in that cycle?

DR. BORTNICK: I'll have to get back to you on the date of the roll-out for City Council because of the number of members and offices, and I'd be only glad to provide that to you, sir.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay, just one quick question. Your testimony makes mention of addressing new initiatives, particularly with respect to e-government and Neighborhood Transformation. What's the role of MOIS in Neighborhood Transformation?

DR. BORTNICK: The role in MOIS and Neighborhood Transformation is a support role in relation to four type of technological needs. One is the tracking of bond repurchasing; the second is in terms of the mapping of the --

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: I'm sorry, the tracking of what?

DR. BORTNICK: Bonds.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Bonds.

DR. BORTNICK: Monies expended to acquire and disposition properties.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay, you're talking about the bond financing.

DR. BORTNICK: Bond financing, mm-hmm. With the added characteristics that you have to keep track of the individual properties to which the money was assigned.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: So --

DR. BORTNICK: That's one.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: So through this system, you're saying that we will know what dollars from a particular bond offering, or in yesterday's language, maybe a particular "tranche" of bonds was spent for a particular property?

DR. BORTNICK: Yes. That's part of the requirement of the law in order to disposition the property over the 30-year period of the bond to know which property it's associated with.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay. Any other components?

DR. BORTNICK: Yes. There are other components.

A secondary component is work flow. The actual acquiring of a property, the passage of it through the various stages of City department and quasi-City departments necessary in order to create the availability of the property to be made available for economic development is part of this work flow.

A third component is the geographic information representation itself. So that there is a visual -- a visual record accessible through

the Internet of what the particular properties are and where they're located.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: You may have been able to help the Commerce Director this afternoon. He was on a search for some maps.

DR. BORTNICK: He was on a search for some maps, yes.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Yes, he was desperately looking for maps.

Okay, Mr. Bortnick, thank you very much.

DR. BORTNICK: Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

Are there any other questions from members of the committee?

The Chair recognizes Rizzo.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thank you, Madam Chair.

You made my day when you announced the fact that the upgrade would occur during our e-mail. It's interesting; just today, I sent an e-mail -- and I know that they refer to the U.S. mail as "snail mail"?

DR. BORTNICK: Yes.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: And e-mail is supposedly the speedy of the two. But it takes hours to send an e-mail. I sent an e-mail at 10 o'clock, and the person got it at 5:18 this evening.

DR. BORTNICK: Well, it goes to the post office associated associated with Council in this building. That post office holds it for a period of time, looking for the server to which it needs to go next. And it gets handed off.

If the person that you're sending to -- is the person outside the City or inside the City?

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Outside.

DR. BORTNICK: Okay, it goes through -- within probably half hour to 45 minutes, it's now exited the City's fire wall and gets transmitted to another of other systems to which e-mail transits in order to get to the next person.

So within the City system, there are a series of hand-offs and they may take a certain time. If any one of the CC Mail post offices is under stress or having a problem, your mail could be held up.

One of the reasons to leave CC Mail is to get beyond a system of e-mail that has exactly what you described: a series way stations and hand-offs that are themselves not necessarily speedy. And then subsequently, on the outside, you are subject to whatever series of servers that it must go through in order to be delivered.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: That's the old system.

DR. BORTNICK: That's the old system.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: The new system -- I want to hear about push the button on the new system.

DR. BORTNICK: Right.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Today? Same day, same hour, same minute?

DR. BORTNICK: Sure.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Sure to all of that?

DR. BORTNICK: Less than five minutes.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: In other words --

DR. BORTNICK: It's a completely different.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: A new architecture?

If I sent in an e-mail from here to someplace in California, they'll get it within minutes?

DR. BORTNICK: Let's let the Chief Technology Officer Describe it in a second.

MR. BARRIOS: Well, Councilman, that could never be guaranteed. And the reason is because we have no control over the Internet. However, within the City of Philadelphia, we will see drastic improvements in delivery and performance and our liability.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Well, we certainly use e-mail internally a lot, but we're starting to communicate because people put their e-mail address on letters, and I try to use the technology.

One thing that I would say like you to try to do is that right now, the system that we have, you can't get -- outside the system, you can't get a return receipt to know that the person received your communication. I would hope on this new system that we are able to do that.

MR. BARRIOS: The way that the Internet functions is within a specific -- the way that it functions, you cannot carry that out.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: No?

MR. BARRIOS: Because, you know, what we need to do is to interchange mail with different systems, whether you go to Exchange, or whatever it is. So there's a protocol that has to be carried out, and that protocol does not have that capability.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: So no -- and, again, you can tell I don't know what I'm trying to discuss here, being very basic.

MR. BARRIOS: Right.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Are you telling me that none of the technologies -- AOL or any of the Internet services today -- if I sent a message to the Connecticut, to the Department of State there, that none of these technologies will allow me to know that they have read my mail.

MR. BARRIOS: That is right, sir.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: No technology?

MR. BARRIOS: Correct.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Okay, fair enough.

MR. BARRIOS: And the reason is because the way that the protocol functions, it's just their best effort to deliver. And that's it,

today.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Okay. Because today our voice mail, you can go out and the voice mail will tell you that you played my voice mail, which is a very nice feature.

The other question that I have: Earlier today, we discussed here in Council -- and I'm sure you're aware -- oh, by the way, before I go there, you described these four new positions but I didn't hear any of them that will be taking care of City Council. Are any of those four people going to look at -- I know that we have to depend heavily on a consultant, which the President is kind enough to keep our computers running because we basically gave up, with no disrespect, on the in-house services and we have our own contractor. You're aware of that. The Kimmel Group, I believe it's called?

DR. BORTNICK: Yes. We utilize a combination of both City employees and various provider in addition to the Kimmel Group. For example, we have another one, ACS, for desktop support. And desktop support is really, in a large organization like the City of Philadelphia,

a significant challenge.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: What is this desk -- I'm not familiar with this desktop.

DR. BORTNICK: For desktop support. There are 5,000 computers in the City under desktop support through a company call ACS.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: What do they do?

DR. BORTNICK: They provide at-site installation of software, remediation of problems, repair, similar to what the Kimmel Group does on behalf of the Council.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: So if we can't get -- and they do a fine job for us, the Kimmel Group.

DR. BORTNICK: Yes.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: But you're telling me that beyond the consultant that works for City Council, if we needed support, we could get it through this group?

DR. BORTNICK: Sure, surely.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Well, that's a secret -- to me at least. I'm not aware of that.

DR. BORTNICK: It's a Citywide procurement requirements contract.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Is it secret to the President also? I'll be honest, we gave up on using your people.

DR. BORTNICK: We only had two people stationed here full-time at the time earlier.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: And that's basically why I think we gave up because we were light-years behind some senior in high school in a classroom. And I never saw anything so bad when -- and the President straightened it out by getting some support. I don't mean to be disrespectful.

DR. BORTNICK: Right, I understand.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: But you're a new guy here, and hopefully, it will get better. But it really -- people really -- I can't even describe how bad our technology was, and it's getting better and we're not there, within City Council.

So to answer the question, one of these new employees that are going to make 120K a year, is one of them going to be focused on our Council?

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Of course not.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Of course not, yeah.

DR. BORTNICK: The solution to how to address the Council that I've considered as one of the four was not -- was in -- not specifically in the AABC area. In other words, City Council attends the meetings that are chaired by the Secretary, Gussie Clark, which is the Agencies Boards and Commissions Meeting, is to --

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: I'm sorry, Doctor, would you mind repeating what you just said.

DR. BORTNICK: Yes. You have a Council representative that attends the meetings that are headed by the Secretary for Agencies, Authorities, Boards and Commissions. Are you aware?

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: No.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: This is all news to us. Again, coming here and telling us about this big plan for City government may (inaudible).

DR. BORTNICK: I wasn't leaving Council. Have a solution for that. A fifth --

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: No.

DR. BORTNICK: A fifth -- a fifth cluster CIO programmed already within the context of my existing budget was envisioned by me to

address the agencies in another cluster, the AABC agencies, which included City Council among them, along with the Museum, the Library, and other agencies.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Is that in place, Doctor?

DR. BORTNICK: Yes. The person is already on board, and he works in the library.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: So you do have a plan?

DR. BORTNICK: Yes.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: That includes Council, because I would suggest that that be really a firm situation before the end of this budget process because -- I -- I'm not speaking for other members, but I'm speaking for this member, that we really need support because there's times when our computers are down for days. It's just a nightmare to try to work in an environment where you can't get any response to get problems resolved.

DR. BORTNICK: I will respond directly to you in writing in relation to what the plan is specifically with the agencies, boards, and

commissions, and this particular resource currently in place and responsible for a great deal of success within the existing technologies.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Well, I would hope that the legislative branch of government would be treated as well as the Art Museum and other agencies of government.

DR. BORTNICK: Yes, certainly.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: To the meat of the question that I have here. Today, we had a conversation earlier in reference to a vision of a customer service operation that would be a person calling City Hall and a representative being able to help with the water bill, the tax bill, the -- you name it, constituent requests for City services. We were told that the technology limits us from heading in that direction, and I heard earlier you discussed the fact that part of your responsibility will be to bring these departments together.

DR. BORTNICK: Yes.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: How long of a process would that take, where we would have the ability with both telecommunications and

technology to be able to have a person call City government and go to a representative that has expertise in the water bills -- push 3 for Water, 4 for Board of Revision of Taxes -- where one person would be able to handle the majority of contact with City government, where there would be a boiler room with a group of Water Department representatives, a customer service operation like you see in a major utility company, where there are hundreds of people -- an airline. I mean, you see -- when the news media shows you a picture of a reservation center, you see 50, 60, 70, 80 people. Obviously they're doing one task: booking flights.

Could you envision the day where a room of representatives would be able to deal with the majority of the services that are telephoned to City government?

DR. BORTNICK: The answer is yes. And do you want me to describe what that looks like?

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Yes.

DR. BORTNICK: In a 12- to 18-month period, which is typical of what I've seen in Houston and in Atlanta, taking technologies that

already exist that we are -- we have. For example, with Pinnacle, as the ACD technology, you could get the "Push 1, Push 2, Push 3." And indeed, a number of departments have already begun to use a common technology for telephone services. I use it, Water Revenue uses it, Revenue uses it, and some other departments. That's one level.

I will describe it further in terms of data processing component to you in writing if you would like me to.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Well, what I've already experienced is that in one organization, that there are representatives that have greater skill levels to deal with different issues. As a matter of fact, a utility company has the ability now to identify the phone number that's calling, know that customer, transmit that call to a representative, if it's an industrial customer, it goes to an industrial representative that knows the tariffs and the rules.

DR. BORTNICK: Yes.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: That if that phone number is associated with a residential gas or

electric customer, it goes to a representative that's cross-trained in both services, both gas and electric. If it's a representative that's solely -- if it's a customer soley an electric customer, it goes to a more entry-level employee that knows how to deal with that level of customer need.

So I see a lot of technology out there, and then I seat Streets Department with a customer service group, I see this department with a customer service group, I see another department with a customer service group. And I'm wondering, are we ever -- forget the labor issues. Will we ever be able to have the technology that could bring all of that together and we could have a customer service operation that serves the citizens of Philadelphia and be able to answer 80 percent, 90 percent of their need for services from the City?

Fill a pothole. We have 10 people that work 7 o'clock in the morning to 7 o'clock at night in a small group that's in the Streets Department that answer calls. I can imagine it being hopefully more efficient if we could pull

all that together.

DR. BORTNICK: I believe you will get the answers to this. Also in the testimonies from the departments, you will see in the future -- for example, Public Property -- in terms of their efforts underway.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Doctor, we're rebuilding a municipal switchboard, from what I understand.

DR. BORTNICK: Yes.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: We're rebuilding a dinosaur. We're spending thousands and thousands of dollars on a manual switchboard where operators answer a telephone. You call other big cities, Chicago, they don't do it this way there, and I'm not suggesting we do away with telephone operators, but I'm just saying we're light-years behind utilizing technology than other major cities.

DR. BORTNICK: If it would be acceptable to the Councilman, I would appreciate the opportunity to develop a paper that I would share with him on these technologies, whether they be telephone, in conjunction with the Property

Department, as well as the databases for work orders and this type of thing.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thank you, Doctor.

DR. BORTNICK: Thank you.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Good luck to all of you. And don't forget to include us in the --

DR. BORTNICK: You're always on my mind.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: At least me.

COUNCILWOMAN VERNA: The Chair recognizes Councilman Nutter.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you, Madam Chair.

Mr. Bortnick, I only heard bits and pieces of one of the responses to questions raised by Councilman Rizzo, and I got a little lost in some of your response about the Secretary of Boards, Authorities and Commissions and something about City Council. And then I thought there was some other issue about who provides computer services to us. And then there was some discussion about the help desk. I mean, it all just some kind of started running together, and I lost track of some of the components of it.

Could you unwind it a little bit, and in a short version, tell me what you were trying to say.

DR. BORTNICK: Yes. There were actually three questions that were posed.

In relation to the City Council support, a number of years ago, the Council determined that it was best served by having the purchasing of its PC's within its own budget and also its support through a contractor. The City of Philadelphia has other departments also that purchase desktop support through contracts.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Right. And in our situation, I mean, I recall that we used to call the help desk -- I forget what the number is, it might be 8260 or 8200 or something like that. And now we have the Kimmel Group which, as I understand it, interacts or interfaces with MOIS, but they are dedicated to City Council. They work with us, they serve us, and then whatever the nature of the relationship is between them and MOIS, that kind of takes place however it takes place.

But it was my impression in previous

years that one of the problems was MOIS, for whatever reason, may have found it somewhat difficult to have regular dedicated people to city Council because you have to serve the entire City government and a whole lot of people. And quite honestly, we're -- in comparison to some other places, we're actually a relatively small place. That's the present case, right?

DR. BORTNICK: Yes. The present case is that a person makes call to 8213 and we dispatch the Kimmel Group for supporting to Council.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Right, or we can call them directly.

DR. BORTNICK: Or you call them directly.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: It's 1916, I think.

What was the things about boards, commissions and agencies, the Secretary?

DR. BORTNICK: There is actually a fifth cluster of departments called Agencies, Authorities, Boards and Commissions.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Right.

DR. BORTNICK: And the City Council

participates in that cluster under the Secretary, Augusta Clark.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: What do you mean "participates"?

DR. BORTNICK: Attends meetings that are held by that secretary and works with the other members of --

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Regarding computer stuff?

DR. BORTNICK: Computer stuff is one of the topics that I discussed with them at a previous meeting that was held some time ago.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Okay. I mean, there are meetings all over the government so, you know, I don't know about every meeting. Who goes on behalf of Council?

DR. BORTNICK: I will have to get back to you with the exact name of the person. I don't want to misstate the name. It's a young man with dark hair and glasses.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: A young man with what?

DR. BORTNICK: Dark hair and glasses, I believe out of the President's office.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: A young man with dark hair and glasses. Charlie McPherson, do you qualify under that category?

(Laughter.)

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: All right, we will conduct an intensive search for that person, believe me, and we will find them.

DR. BORTNICK: Right. We're just in the process of forming these clusters.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Clusters.

DR. BORTNICK: Yes.

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: (Off-mic., inaudible.)

DR. BORTNICK: "Portfolios," we used to call them.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: I mean, my experience has been -- I mean, with all due respect to the -- to MOIS, I have enjoyed a great response. I mean, I didn't have any problem with the help line making the decision to go to an outside vendor. That's certainly within the President's purview.

DR. BORTNICK: Sure.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: And that decision

having been made, I mean, I've had very good experience and success with the Kimmel Group. They're always responsive, they've solved every problem that I've presented to them. And some days, I make up some problems just to kind of keep them on their toes.

Thank you very much.

DR. BORTNICK: Thank you very much. I appreciate that compliment.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you, Mr. Bortnick.

Madam President I'm done.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

Thank you, gentlemen.

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Madam President, do you know who this -- what was that, glasses, dark hair?

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: No, I certainly don't know who it is. We have never been informed of anything, and I guess we won't be in the future, but that's okay.

Thank you, gentlemen.

The last department is the Records Department.

(Witnesses come forward.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Good evening.

MS. DECKER: Good evening.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: And thank you so much for waiting.

MS. DECKER: Sure. This will be very quick.

My name is Joan Decker, Commissioner of the Records Department. I have with me today Jean Reedy, Administrative Services Director; and Larry Bay, a supervisor in the Mapping and Coding Unit.

Just a couple of comments. In the past year, the Records Department collected $95.8 million. We recorded 194,000 documents, and we made 50,000 copies of traffic accident reports available to the public.

I'd be happy to answer any questions you may have.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Has your backlog been eliminated?

MS. DECKER: Our backlog has been eliminated. It is now three years. We return documents to our customers between three to five days, depending upon our incoming volume.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Wonderful, that's wonderful.

MS. DECKER: The staff is to be commended. They're all working very hard and we're very proud of them.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: We commend you all. That's wonderful.

MS. DECKER: Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: 'Cause we used to sit here and hear nothing but complaints many years ago about the backlog and how long people had to wait. So we certainly commend all of you for doing such a wonderful job.

MS. DECKER: Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Are there any questions of the Commissioner?

COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thank you, Commissioner.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you and have a happy Valentine's Day.

MS. DECKER: Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: This committee will stand in recess until Friday, February the 16th, at 9 a.m..

2/14/01 - FY '02 OPERATING BUDGET

(Adjourned 6:15 p.m.)

C E R T I F I C A T E

WE HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing proceedings of the Council of the City of Philadelphia of Wednesday, February 14, 2001, were reported fully and accurately by us, and that this is a correct transcript of same.

RE: COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
BILL NO. 010005

_____,
DEBRA WHITEHEAD,
Registered Professional Reporter

_____,
JOSEPHINE CARDILLO,
Registered Professional Reporter