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02 SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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08 Held:

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09 Thursday, May 26, 2005

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11 Time:

12 7:00 p.m.

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14 Location:

15 Council chambers

15 Scranton City Hall

16 340 North Washington Avenue

16 Scranton, Pennsylvania

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23 Lisa M. Graff, RPR

24 Court Reporter

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01 CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

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03 MR. GARY DIBILEO, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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05 MS. JANET E. EVANS, VICE-PRESIDENT

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07 MR. WILLIAM COURTRIGHT

08

09 MR. JOHN POCIUS

10

11 MR. ROBERT McTIERNAN

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13 MR. MARK WALSH, ESQUIRE, SOLICITOR

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15 MR. JAY SAUNDERS, CITY CLERK

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17 MR. NEIL COOLICAN, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

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01 MR. DIBILEO: Please stand for

02 the Pledge of Allegiance. Okay. Kay Garvey is unable

03 to be here tonight, and stepping in for Kay is

04 Cornealis Coolican, better known as Neil. We greatly

05 appreciate you being here tonight. If we can have a

06 roll call, please.

07 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McTiernan.

08 MR. McTIERNAN: Here.

09 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

10 MS. EVANS: Here.

11 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Pocius.

12 MR. POCIUS: Here.

13 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: Here.

15 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. DiBileo.

16 MR. DIBILEO: Here. Thank you.

17 And if we can please dispense with the reading of the

18 minutes, please, Mr. Walsh.

19 MR. WALSH: Third order. 3-A,

20 PETITION TO BAN TRUCK TRAFFIC IN THE 1100 BLOCK OF
21 WATSON STREET.

22 MR. DIBILEO: Are there any

23 comments on 3-A?

24 MR. POCIUS: Mr. President, I would

25 make a motion that we send this to the Department of
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01 Public Safety and also to the city engineer's office

02 for a review and a report back to Council.

03 MS. EVANS: Second.

04 MR. DIBILEO: Yeah, we have a

05 motion on the floor and a second. On the question?

06 You know, on the question, this situation has been a

07 concern of some of the residents in that neighborhood

08 for quite some time now, and I absolutely think that we

09 need to pass this on and hopefully get some kind of

10 resolution as quickly as possible from that

11 department. Any other questions? All those in favor,

12 signify by saying aye.

13 MR. McTIERNAN: Aye.

14 MS. EVANS: Aye.

15 MR. POCIUS: Aye.

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

17 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The

18 ayes have it and so moved.

19 MR. WALSH: 3-B, MINUTES OF THE

20 COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY,

21 APRIL 27, 2005.

22 MR. DIBILEO: Are there any

23 comments on 3-B? If not, received and filed.

24 MR. WALSH: 3-C, MINUTES OF THE

25 FIREMEN'S PENSION COMMISSION HELD WEDNESDAY,

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01 APRIL 27 2005.

02 MR. DIBILEO: Are there any

03 comments on 3-C? If not, received and filed.

04 MR. WALSH: 3-D, MINUTES OF THE

05 POLICE PENSION COMMISSION MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY,

06 APRIL 27, 2005.

07 MR. DIBILEO: Are there any

08 comments on 3-D? If not, received and filed.

09 MR. WALSH: 3-E, MINUTES OF THE

10 COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD HELD WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 2005.

11 MR. DIBILEO: Are there any

12 comments on 3-E? If not, received and filed.

13 MR. WALSH: 3-F, Clerk's notes.

14 MR. DIBILEO: Mr. Saunders,

15 please.

16 MR. SAUNDERS: Mr. President, I
17 only have a couple of things tonight, first being I
18 spoke with Bob Scopelliti about the statements that
19 were made last week at Council and asked
20 Councilman Courtright asked me to look into it about
21 the fees at the Nay Aug Park zoo complex, and
22 Mr. Scopeletti said that they're not charging any fees
23 up there, they have not charged any fees up there at
24 all.
25 The only thing that they do have
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01 up there is a donation box, and people may have been
02 confused with that, but they're not charging up there.
03 The other thing is Mr. Newcomb had
04 talked and Councilwoman Evans talked about Ross Street
05 and Green Ridge Street, the depression there, DPW has
06 started doing that work, hopefully it will be done
07 shortly. That's all I have, Mr. President.
08 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.
09 Mr. Saunders. And regarding the situation at Nay Aug
10 Wild Life Center, I actually spoke to the director up
11 there, Maggie Miller, I believe it is, Margie Miller,
12 and as you said, they have a suggested donation amount
13 of \$2 per adult and \$1 per child, and it is not a
14 mandatory fee.
15 Anyone that chooses not to pay the
16 donation is able to get into the Wild Life Center, and
17 she said that they desperately need donations to keep
18 up with the costs of the running the Wild Life Center.
19 She has taken money out of her own pocket, she has told
20 me.
21 And we had a nice conversation,
22 she's an animal lover like myself, and she said that
23 she'd be happy to come and speak to us about it, but
24 there's no mandatory fee at this time, so we were happy
25 about that.
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01 MR. SAUNDERS: That's all I have,
02 Mr. President.
03 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you very much.
04 MR. WALSH: Fourth order, citizen
05 participation.
06 MR. DIBILEO: Before I call up the
07 first speaker, I would just like to make mention of the
08 fact that this past week there was a very serious
09 incident involving a fatality, and it's my
10 understanding that there's an ongoing investigation
11 regarding the shooting incident in question, and this

12 is a very unfortunate incident that we don't want to
13 influence the investigation, so if anyone has
14 information regarding it, I would suggest that you get
15 in touch with the police department as soon as
16 possible, but in the meantime, it's probably in
17 everyone's best interest that we not discuss the
18 incident tonight here at the podium.

19 Also, as I have been of late, I
20 ask that speakers refrain from comments of a political
21 nature and please keep remarks to those involving
22 taxpayer concerns. And I'd greatly appreciate that.
23 And with that said, the first speaker is Rob Farrell.

24 MR. FARRELL: Good evening,
25 Honorable Council People. I'm here tonight to
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01 encourage support for a piece of legislation that the
02 law department sent down earlier this week. It wasn't
03 put on tonight's agenda, but hopefully with some
04 consideration it will be put on next week's agenda.
05 It has to do with a storm water
06 runoff problem that we experience citywide. We have
07 this problem on spots of Green Ridge, we have this
08 problem on Fisk Street, we've seen this problem in
09 South Side, it's a common problem whenever any surface
10 is rendered impervious and you have tremendous amounts
11 of storage water runoff, and what happens is the city,
12 as Mr. Pocius could attest, to the city has aging
13 infrastructure, particularly storm water
14 infrastructure, which is actually what collapsed we you
15 had the Pittston Avenue collapse.
16 We've experienced problems with
17 aging storm water infrastructure in Green Ridge and in
18 the South Side situation.

19 Anytime a surface is rendered
20 impervious, a parking lot is put in, that contributes
21 significantly to storm water runoff, particularly on
22 those aging systems and in our combined sewer system,
23 which is -- we've had problems with DEP and EPA on
24 that, because of the amount of water and sewage that
25 goes into a combined system.

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01 For that reason, we have suggested
02 a change to the zoning ordinance. The zoning ordinance
03 currently will allow for surface parking lots to be
04 created for institutional use, which would generally be
05 the larger surface parking lot, and it would allow that
06 type of parking lot to be created.
07 We feel that that needs to be

08 changed. The amendment that I have sent down would
09 render that type of surface parking lot for an
10 institutional use only permitted under what is called a
11 special exception.

12 A special exception is something
13 that allows and requires citizen participation,
14 neighbors to be notified and to be able to come forward
15 and say something about this, it would have to go
16 before the zoning hearing board and before the planning
17 commission, that way if there is a problem -- and you
18 don't always know that this will be a problem, it could
19 be a very small parking lot and it may be worthwhile,
20 it could be a very large parking lot that doesn't have
21 adequate drainage and it would a problem, and I think
22 that making it a special exception would allow people
23 an opportunity to come and object and say what they
24 feel is wrong with this and give the zoning hearing
25 board and the planning communication a chance to say
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01 that I think this is good or I think this is bad, and
02 I'd ask you to positively consider that amendment to
03 the zoning ordinance and consider it at your next
04 meeting. Thank you.

05 MS. EVANS: Well, I just want to
06 say I really appreciate this legislation. I know that
07 it particularly concerns Tree Stadium.

08 MR. FARRELL: It will affect the
09 Tree Stadium situation, but it's not designed to affect
10 Tree Stadium, it's designed to deal with a citywide
11 problem.

12 MS. EVANS: Well, as I understand
13 it as a citywide problem, but I also understand the
14 mayor's concern with Tree Stadium, and, you know, we
15 appreciate his jumping into the issue midstream like
16 this, and, you know, Council is very supportive of this
17 because I brought the issue up last week and I asked if
18 the councilmen would support legislation and a letter
19 supporting the residents of that area, and many of the
20 councilmen indicated that they wanted to take a trip
21 out to Green Ridge and actually observe the location
22 and the residences surrounding it, and I'm wondering if
23 any of the councilmen were able to do that this week.

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: I did.

25 MR. DIBILEO: I also did. I was
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01 there today.

02 MS. EVANS: And, John, you did, as
03 well?

04 MR. POCIUS: Absolutely.

05 MS. EVANS: And what is your
06 verdict?

07 MR. COURTRIGHT: I would be
08 willing to support your letter that you want to send.

09 MR. DIBILEO: And regarding me, I
10 actually saw the plan that Marywood University had for
11 this Tree Stadium, and I also would support, you know,
12 the fact that you brought this up last week and that we
13 were planning on dealing with it this week, and I don't
14 know exactly what you had planned to propose, but now
15 that I have seen the situation, I'm ready to take
16 action on it.

17 MS. EVANS: Mr. Pocius, anything
18 to add?

19 MR. POCIUS: Being that there's
20 not a motion --

21 MS. EVANS: Well, we withdrew it.

22 MR. POCIUS: I'll tell you my
23 thoughts, I think we're putting the cart before the
24 horse right here, but I'll tell you my thoughts is
25 right now the Council has no teeth at all to stop this
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01 project the way it sits right now, because as
02 Mr. Farrell has explained, there's nothing besides if
03 they comply with the Lackawanna County Soil Erosion, if
04 they disturb more than an acre and they get a permit
05 from the Department of Environmental Protection, if
06 they meet the Scranton Sewer Authority combine sewer
07 and storm water connection permit residences and meet
08 all the engineering reviews from the city engineer,
09 they're basically permitted there, correct me if I'm
10 wrong. They could do this without any other public
11 participation.

12 MR. FARRELL: That's correct.

13 MR. POCIUS: So, what I'm saying
14 is is that it seems that, and this is the first I heard
15 of this tonight, it seems like the only way where the
16 government can open the process up is by amending the
17 zoning ordinance and making them come in for a special
18 exception, which means if you are in that zone and you
19 comply with steps 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7, which means
20 you have recommendation from the planning commission
21 which has to be presented publicly and also then take
22 it to the zoning board based on that recommendation, it
23 opens up the process. It's done by zoning permit.
24 It gives the public and the
25 government an open review of the project, rather than

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01 the way it's set up now.

02 So, I looked at the site, and

03 being on Council so long and -- there was always

04 parking problems at Marywood, I really don't know.

05 Gary, did you know how many spots were on the site?

06 MR. DIBILEO: I think 65 is what

07 they have planned for.

08 MR. POCIUS: Okay. That would

09 take 65 cars off the street and kind of take congestion

10 out of the neighborhood.

11 I see the concerns of the

12 neighborhood, because it is a green spot right in the

13 city, but really to say, yeah, do I think it's right or

14 wrong, there is pros and cons basically with taking the

15 parking off the street from the students and putting it

16 in a controlled setting, and also there's concerns of

17 the neighborhood because it is a green space.

18 But not having seen the plans and

19 not knowing what kind of landscaping or any buffers or

20 anything like that, I can't -- as much as I could say

21 it would be probably the most popular thing to do, I

22 would say I could support your motion right now because

23 there's neighbors against it, but, again, there's

24 nothing -- it wouldn't have any teeth and the motion

25 would only be a motion and it wouldn't have any

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01 strength to it, so I don't think I could support it at

02 this time.

03 I would be more in favor of

04 supporting, like I said, I did not know about this

05 until evening, supporting the -- and once this

06 ordinance is introduced, then it could, correct me if

07 I'm wrong, Attorney Farrell, the project would come

08 under a pending ordinance revision and then it could

09 actually be held up until this thing went through the

10 system.

11 MR. FARRELL: It may come under

12 that doctrine, correct.

13 MR. POCIUS: It may come under

14 that doctrine, correct.

15 MR. POCIUS: It would make them,

16 yeah. So, we have a little more teeth that way. So,

17 really the motion to say, Marywood, don't do it, sounds

18 good, but it would not have any teeth, Mrs. Evans, so

19 that's where I'm at, you know?

20 And it would kind of be, you know,

21 if you want to play fair, I mean, there's no action

22 that Council could take to stop it. We don't have any
23 powers to stop it, because it's not under our
24 jurisdiction right now at all.

25 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.

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01 MR. POCIUS: I don't want to get
02 so long-winded.

03 MR. DIBILEO: Yeah. Let me say a
04 couple things, number one, I want to commend
05 Mrs. Evans --

06 MR. POCIUS: Sure.

07 MR. DIBILEO: -- for being the
08 first person to bring the concerns of the neighbors to
09 the attention of City Council, so I want to thank you
10 for that.

11 Secondly, the legislation that
12 would affect this parking lot in that neighborhood,
13 Rob, are you saying that that would then go before the
14 zoning board for public participation?

15 MR. FARRELL: I'm saying that if
16 that change were enacted, that if someone were going to
17 create a parking lot, a surface parking lot for an
18 institutional use on a parcel of land that was vacant
19 as of January 1, 1993, they could only get that with a
20 special exception, and the special exception would
21 require that they go before the zoning hearing board,
22 meet certain criteria, as well as go before the
23 planning commission for the planning commission's
24 recommendation.

25 MR. DIBILEO: So, this legislation
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01 that could be drafted, that's not on our agenda until
02 next week, could bring this situation before the zoning
03 board?

04 MR. FARRELL: If the legislation
05 is drafted, and you do have it, it's just not on
06 tonight's agenda.

07 MR. DIBILEO: Right.

08 MR. FARRELL: That's correct.

09 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. Good. Well,
10 I'm all for public participation with regards to, you
11 know, a parking lot be constructed that does affect
12 neighbors.

13 MS. EVANS: Bob, were you able to
14 get out there? Do you have any opinion on it? I know
15 it's sight unseen.

16 MR. McTIERNAN: It's sight unseen,
17 and I'm just hearing about most of this information

18 tonight, but it sounds like I will be in support of
19 that legislation to bring it before the governing
20 bodies for public hearing.

21 MR. POCIUS: Mr. McTiernan wasn't
22 here last week, remember, he was at his prom.

23 MS. EVANS: Okay. Well, it
24 certainly sounds as if this legislation is going to
25 have a unanimous support of Council, in addition to
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01 that, though, I would like to attach a letter
02 indicating that Council also supports the residents of
03 that area, and, you know, ask that each Council member
04 would sign that letter and the mayor, as well. I'd
05 like to present that letter to him for his signature.

06 And certainly the concerns that
07 you raised are paramount in this situation, but as a
08 resident of that area, I can tell you that Tree Stadium
09 is surrounded by, which I'm sure you're aware of, a
10 number of residential homes, and within those homes
11 reside quite a high number of senior citizens who walk
12 daily to and from mass at Saint Claire's Church.

13 We also have Saint Claire's School
14 located in close proximity, and I think that serves a
15 population of maybe K to 5 or 6, so we have very young
16 children traveling that area, as well as children who
17 reside in that neighborhood.

18 And what I have noticed as a
19 resident is that traffic there is quite busy from early
20 in the morning until late at night and that oftentimes
21 traffic signs, particularly stop signs, are ignored by
22 those traveling those streets coming and going from
23 Marywood University.

24 You know, this may seem
25 irrelevant, but I even had a dog, you know, my own pet
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01 killed several years ago by someone who ran a stop
02 sign.

03 It's a very, very dangerous
04 situation, and in addition to that, you know, as I
05 noted last week, Marywood University is a fine
06 institution, I think that's incontrovertible; however,
07 we're asking them to be a good neighbor.

08 And in light of the fact that they
09 make no contribution in lieu of taxes to the City of
10 Scranton, I think it behooves them to take into
11 consideration the Green Ridge residents, as well as the
12 problem that you have posed, as well, about surface
13 flooding and freezing and inclement weather conditions.

14 And so, I basically polled Council
15 tonight because I felt that it was crucial that this
16 Council support that legislation that you have drafted
17 and that we also send a letter accompanying that
18 legislation indicating, you know, our belief on the
19 situation, as well, because after all, government is
20 here to represent the people, the taxpayers, and I
21 think we should keep them uppermost in our mind in this
22 situation, as well.

23 But while I have you here, I'm so
24 glad to see you at Council, I do have a few questions
25 for you, and I can understand if you're not prepared to
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01 answer, and in that event I'd appreciate it if you
02 could research the issue and then send Council the
03 answers.

04 First of all, I was wondering with
05 regard to the sale of tax delinquent properties, I
06 understand that the administration hasn't conducted any
07 sales in a number of years, and I would like to know
08 when we can expect that to happen and, you know, when
09 these sales will be advertised, is that something
10 you're entertaining?

11 MR. FARRELL: You should see by
12 next week's agenda a contract with Burkheimer
13 Outsourcing. Burkheimer is proposing to computerize
14 all of the city's delinquent tax books, which would get
15 those books up to the current status, and that will
16 enable the city to then from that point go forward and
17 have tax sales.

18 MS. EVANS: And did the city
19 refile any tax liens?

20 MR. FARRELL: Refile tax liens?

21 MS. EVANS: Uh-huh.

22 MR. FARRELL: I don't understand
23 the question.

24 MS. EVANS: I had been led to
25 understand that some of the tax liens, let's say, had
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01 expired because so much time has transpired.

02 MR. FARRELL: I'm not aware of any
03 tax liens expiring.

04 MS. EVANS: Also, can you please
05 obtain for me a copy of the agreement with the State
06 concerning the issue that faces us tonight in seventh
07 order, 7-C, concerning Workers' Comp. I'd like to see
08 a copy of that agreement and also a copy of the State's
09 agreement to allow the city to use the reserve fund to

10 conduct eight to ten buyouts.

11 MR. FARRELL: I'm not sure if that
12 is memorialized in an agreement, but I can certainly
13 look.

14 MS. EVANS: Okay. Any type of
15 correspondence from the State that indicates they are
16 aware of or they approve of, or more importantly, the
17 use of the reserve fund for buyouts.

18 Also, could you tell me when the
19 negotiations actually began with the state?

20 MR. FARRELL: For purposes of the
21 Worker's Comp. trust agreement?

22 MS. EVANS: Yes.

23 MR. FARRELL: I can't tell you
24 when it began. I can tell you that it was either
25 telephone conversations or correspondence between
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01 George Nerr of the Department of Labor and Industry who
02 was in charge of this subject and the business
03 administrator determining what would be an acceptable
04 amount of reserve and what would -- they would allow us
05 to post because we have to put a tremendous bond up for
06 bond insurance.

07 MS. EVANS: Well, then I can ask
08 Mr. Kresefski for that information.

09 MR. FARRELL: He know probably
10 know when it began. I wouldn't know when it began.

11 MS. EVANS: And I'm sure then he
12 could answer the question who took part in the
13 negotiations. Maybe you could tell me, though, why
14 Council wasn't notified when this negotiation began.

15 MR. FARRELL: The negotiation over
16 the Worker's Comp. trust agreement?

17 MS. EVANS: Uh-huh, and the
18 buyouts.

19 MR. FARRELL: Well, I can't tell
20 you about buyouts, because as I said, I'm not certain
21 that there is an type of memorialized agreement.
22 I can tell you that negotiating
23 with George Nerr on the Worker's Comp. trust agreement
24 would be strict -- that is within the purview of the
25 mayor to do under the Home Rule Charter, and for the
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01 mayor to negotiate that through Mr. Kresefski would be
02 perfectly proper.

03 MS. EVANS: But to use the reserve
04 fund, I understand, would need approval of the State.

05 MR. FARRELL: I'm not sure, as

06 I've said, that there is such an agreement.

07 MS. EVANS: Okay, and that I know

08 from prior discussions state law, state rule would

09 supersede the Home Rule Charter. So, I think that's

10 something, you know -- well, obviously I'll ask

11 Mr. Kresefski about that.

12 Can you tell me who is making the

13 call on the buyouts; in other words, who is deciding

14 who is bought out and who is being placed into the

15 indignity of a greeter's position?

16 MR. FARRELL: You're ahead of me

17 on the buyout positions. I really am not involved in

18 that.

19 MS. EVANS: Which attorney is in

20 charge of the buyouts?

21 MR. FARRELL: I really don't know

22 about the buyouts, only that there's an agreement, and

23 I just am not aware that there's an agreement, nor that

24 there has been any buyout program, so I really couldn't

25 speak to you about that.

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01 MS. EVANS: Well, I'm just -- I

02 learned about the situation from reading this morning's

03 edition of the Scranton Tribune, and I, too, wasn't

04 aware of any buyouts until having read the paper, but

05 I'm just wondering which one of our solicitors would be

06 involved in that, and if you could find out for me

07 and --

08 MR. FARRELL: The prior buyout

09 programs would have involved most likely Worker's Comp.

10 counsel on a particular case, evaluating the case and

11 determining if the case met a certain criteria for a

12 buyout and making offers and evaluating offers. That's

13 how it worked the last time there were buyouts.

14 MS. EVANS: When was the last time

15 there were buyouts?

16 MR. FARRELL: There were buyouts a

17 year or two ago.

18 MS. EVANS: Well, thank you,

19 that's news to me. I think that's more than

20 sufficient, and I thank you very much for your

21 information. And as I said, if you could please

22 forward those agreements to me or any correspondence

23 relating to use of the reserve fund for buyouts, and

24 also if you could ascertain the name of an attorney

25 representing the city who is involved in this process.

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01 MR. FARRELL: If there is an

02 agreement, I'd be happy to supply it to you.
03 MS. EVANS: Okay.
04 MR. DIBILEO: Rob, before you go,
05 I just want to say I appreciate you coming tonight.
06 That piece of legislation that we're talking about now,
07 the Worker's Comp. reserve fund, we're going to be
08 holding tonight, because I tried to put together a
09 public caucus meeting late notice and we weren't able
10 to do that, so we're going to hold it tonight.
11 Leonard Kresefski is coming next
12 week at 5:30, and I just want to personally invite you
13 to attend with him, if you can, so that we can get some
14 of our other questions answered on that.
15 MR. FARRELL: Okay. Thank you for
16 your time.
17 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.
18 MS. EVANS: Thank you.
19 MR. DIBILEO: Reverend Kathryn
20 Simmons.
21 MS. SIMMONS: Good evening,
22 Councilpersons.
23 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.
24 MS. SIMMONS: My name is Reverend
25 Kathryn Simmons, and I'm a Scranton resident. Peace
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01 onto each of you from My Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
02 Mr. DiBileo, the case that you
03 were talking about at the beginning has been settled,
04 okay? The announcement was made today at a news
05 conference. The district attorney and several other
06 persons involved were there, so --
07 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. Thank you.
08 MS. SIMMONS: My intent was not to
09 come here tonight and talk of futuristic visions. As a
10 matter of fact, my intent was not to come here for
11 quite a while, but the Lord has his own way of
12 directing me.
13 First let me say emphatically and
14 without any hesitation whatsoever that I support the
15 Scranton Fire Department, the Scranton Police
16 Department and their unions.
17 Are there errors made by
18 individual human beings over the years? Of course.
19 And I would be pretty stupid to stand here and say that
20 there's never been anything done wrong, but I will be
21 the first to speak out when these mistakes are made.
22 This past situation that occurred
23 up on Petersburg section, I understand from talking to

24 several officers that the officers who are involved in
25 this are in terrible, I don't even know what word I
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01 would use right now, I know that they're carrying a
02 heavy burden upon them.

03 So, I would ask you as Council

04 members to gather together and in the privacy of your
05 own time meet with them and let them know that you're
06 supportive of them and that you can pray with them.

07 Death is a terrible burden for anyone to carry, so I
08 hope you will do that.

09 MR. COURTRIGHT: Mrs. Simmons, I

10 spoke to one of the officers, reluctantly though,

11 because I didn't know how they would be feeling, so I

12 didn't speak to one, and I'm not going to say his name,

13 and he was happy for the call, and I took the liberty

14 of telling him that we all support him, because I

15 didn't think anybody would mind that, just didn't know

16 if it was proper at the present time to go because we

17 didn't know the particulars and didn't know how they

18 were feeling, but I think they're handling it the best

19 that could be expected.

20 MS. SIMMONS: Well, but prayer

21 always helps, as you know, President DiBileo.

22 MS. SIMMONS: Second, my political

23 believe is my own personal thought, and I say that this

24 evening because I received in the final last ten days

25 three letters, none of which anyone would want to
0027

01 receive in the mail. They are very graphic and

02 disgusting, but that is the way of today's world, I

03 guess.

04 They insulted my relationship with

05 police persons and fire persons, and even you,

06 Mr. DiBileo, but I am not going to honor these people

07 with any more representation on this podium this

08 evening.

09 I am, however, going to make this

10 statement to you, not one piece of hate mail, not one

11 phone call using filthy and threatening overtones will

12 stop me from doing my Lord's work.

13 One of the letters had a symbol on

14 it, and that's been sent to Harrisburg. The other two

15 letters, one was filed where it should be filed, and

16 the other I'm keeping just for future reference.

17 I have made sins in my life, we've

18 all committed sins in our life. I don't need someone

19 to send me a letter to tell me what I have and have not

20 done.

21 But to think that a letter with
22 that kind of wording in it would stop me from coming
23 here and saying what's on my mind and what is in my
24 heart will never happen.

25 I will come here, I will support
0028

01 the police and the firemen, and I will support the
02 unions, and if someone can find comfort in sending me a
03 letter, by all means, send it, it's your \$.37.

04 And if they want to make a phone
05 call, sooner or later the phone calls will get tiresome
06 and they will stop calling, but I'm not going to stop.
07 Thank you.

08 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Reverend
09 Simmons. You're always welcome, as is everyone. Sean
10 Bingham.

11 MR. BINGHAM: Good evening, ladies
12 and gentlemen. I'm Sean Bingham, city resident.

13 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening, Sean.

14 MR. BINGHAM: I'm here tonight on
15 two things. I'm a resident of the West Scranton side
16 of town, and I live in the 200 block of Decker Court
17 and a few weeks ago one of the Council people had
18 stated that they're double parking there and send a cop
19 car through.

20 My first thought was to come down
21 here and say, Don't send a cop car through, please,
22 send a paving truck through, because we about 90
23 potholes, okay?
24 I didn't do that, though. I don't
25 want to be ignorant, and I wouldn't do that. But what
0029

01 it comes down to is, I live behind the Sunoco Gas
02 Station, and unfortunately there's a thruway there.
03 When you come off Main Avenue, you come on the side,
04 take a right, because you can't take a left, but many
05 people take the left.

06 Now, in our alley with my three
07 children, there's probably about 14 other kids just in
08 the vicinity. Last year a little girl was hit by a car
09 there. I had spoken to Mr. DiBileo about, you know,
10 possible a speed bump. Maybe it will work, maybe it
11 won't.

12 But unfortunately we get all the
13 traffic from the Sunoco gas station. You know, you
14 don't want to shut somebody's business down, they
15 employ people, but in the same sense how much do we

16 have to live with?
17 Yeah, unfortunately there's very
18 rarely a spot you can park, and fortunately enough the
19 people let us park off the road there, so my apologies
20 if I ever blocked any traffic, I apologize, it's just
21 what happens.
22 No. 2, Wal-mart came in and they
23 bought out a whole entire block, okay, and they put
24 this big whole building with a drugstore there. Why in
25 God's name, I don't know, considering the fact that in
0030
01 a one mile radius we have four drug stores, two
02 Rite Aides within, like, a mile and a half of each
03 other, but that's not my problem.
04 My problem is in the 100 block of
05 Decker Court there used to be a big pertaining wall, a
06 big stone wall that, you know, if you're coming out of
07 Preston Place, you would hit the wall. Now, you hit a
08 median. Now you hit a median. The whole alley is
09 lines with medians.
10 So, what I did today is I went
11 down to the manager of the Walgreen's store and I had
12 asked him about it, and he took me in the back room and
13 he pulls out the plans for the building.
14 Okay. Mark Development Company
15 out of Kingston, PA were the people who were running
16 the job. Inside the plans on Page C-4, the drop-off,
17 the drop-off notes on Page C-4 of the plan states that
18 a temporary concrete, temporary, concrete median
19 barrier may be used by discretion of the engineer.
20 By your engineer is G., the letter
21 G., and Albert, was the engineer, okay? Of course I
22 had a tipoff to what is supposed to be there.
23 Now, as we go through the plans a
24 little more, on page C-5 in the top section it states
25 that after the temporary barrier, that's still there a
0031
01 year later, they will place an 8-foot cedar fence and a
02 type 2-S guiderail, okay?
03 What we have is an 8-foot fence,
04 chain link, with a barbed wire up on top of it. That's
05 what we have to look at.
06 No. 2, the barrier is now turned
07 into a canvas for a local spray-painting artist that we
08 have in the neighborhood.
09 Unfortunately there was a home
10 hundred beyond it, and coming out of Preston and Decker
11 Court that caught on fire during the construction of

12 Walgreen's or whatever.

13 Well, the property was sold for

14 \$10,000. Now it's just a big huge billboard for every

15 kid to sign his name on it.

16 I don't know how much longer we

17 have to live like that, but I know if certain people

18 had Walgreen's built in their neighborhood, this would

19 have been taken care of a long time ago. Just one more

20 second.

21 MR. DIBILEO: Sure.

22 MR. BINGHAM: On Page C-5, it

23 referred me to Page C-8, where it was the design of how

24 it should look, and, boy, it looked real nice on the

25 plan. It said there should be an 8-foot cedar fence

0032

01 detail which would be on top of the hill.

02 Outside of the fence there would

03 be beautiful landscaping. Boy, it looked good on

04 paper, and a guiderail.

05 Well, you know, as a resident in

06 the city, I've lived in Preston Place for 36 years and

07 I live in Decker Court for approximately three, maybe

08 four. Number one, it's an eyesore.

09 Do I have nay claim in the stake?

10 No. Somebody got paid to put a fence up. Somebody got

11 paid to put a guardrail in. It didn't get done, and

12 yet we as taxpayers, we as taxpayers, have to live like

13 that? I don't think I have to.

14 You probably won't see my face

15 down here again, because, you know, quite frankly, if

16 it gets done, it gets done.

17 I just want you to know that there

18 is a citizen in the City of Scranton who has noticed

19 it, and that's me. And if there's a chance that a

20 speed bump could be placed in the 200 of South Decker,

21 I would greatly appreciate that, too, and so would my

22 kids, because cars come flying through there.

23 And you what, I'm guilty of it,

24 too, myself. So, I'm not standing here acting like the

25 best, you know what I mean? Sometimes I forget.

0033

01 But, you know, if at all, you

02 know, I'm not a hard guy to get along with, and I know

03 you guys aren't either. And I'm sure Mrs. Evans, you

04 will look into the 200 block of South Decker Court.

05 MS. EVANS: Oh, I've had other

06 complaints very similar to yours about the speeding

07 going through there, and they've told me about the

08 numbers of children that reside there and, you know,
09 are outside in that area, and it's just a tragic
10 accident waiting to happen. So, this does need to be
11 taken care of.

12 MR. BINGHAM: God willing it won't
13 be mine.

14 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,
15 Mr. Bingham. Appreciate it. And Jay's not here,
16 Mark, maybe you can make a note for us that considering
17 the unusual traffic patterns of the 200 block of
18 South Decker Court, that we request that the DPW look
19 at that court for a speed bump or two.

20 I know it's not a common
21 occurrence that this occurs, but say, for example,
22 behind Smith's Restaurant in South Scranton, that's
23 also an unusual situation because people often try to
24 go through that court to beat the red light at the
25 corner, and I think three of them were put in there,
0034

01 and I think because of the Sunoco station right in
02 front of this court, so many people go through the
03 court and there are children living there, so let's
04 look into the possibility of having maybe two speed
05 bumps put in that court, please, and have them take a
06 look at it and have them respond to us as soon as they
07 can.

08 And regarding Mr. Bingham's other
09 concern regarding the guardrail that's supposed to be
10 constructed on the other block, possibly somebody can
11 look into that situation and respond to us on that,
12 also. I appreciate that. Thank you. Bob Bolus.

13 MS. EVANS: And, Jay, maybe I
14 guess it's Walgreen's that would be responsible for the
15 wall that's been --

16 MR. SAUNDERS: Yeah. I just
17 talked to Sean out there. He's going to give me a call
18 tomorrow.

19 MS. EVANS: Let's try to get in
20 contact with them, as well, to have them clean that up
21 and monitor that.

22 MR. SAUNDERS: Okay.

23 MR. DIBILEO: Go ahead, Mr. Bolus.

24 Sorry about that.

25 MR. BOLUS: Good evening, Council.

0035

01 Bob Bolus, Scranton. I mean, like, I'm impressed
02 tonight. I saw somebody from the administration
03 actually come before this Council. I hope it's a sign

04 of what's to come now, because after all, why would
05 they want to come here?
06 Well, the number one show is
07 Channel 61 in Northeastern Pennsylvania. In fact, I
08 think we're outrating Desperate Housewives now. We're
09 going to call our new show Desperate Mayors. One week
10 after the election, you can see what's happening.
11 You know, I watched an ad on
12 Channel 61 where the mayor just speaks, not asked
13 questions, he just goes on and has dialogue, and I have
14 an issue maybe a little with that that Mr. DiBileo or
15 other candidates should be allowed that time because
16 it's basically free political time, because he's not
17 being questioned by a body or any other, he's just
18 going on about what he thinks is right.
19 He speaks about his dad who was a
20 vet, which we all know in the past. Well, there are a
21 lot of vets in this area, and when I see someone
22 speaking about the vets, I have to ask myself a
23 question, if you respect the vets so much, why are you
24 challenging their ballots, their absentees at the Gino
25 Merli Center, why are you not attending festivities and
0036
01 things when our troops came home, why haven't you taken
02 care of the troops that worked for the city and saw
03 that they weren't paid when they were Iraq, why didn't
04 you show up at the luncheon for the Armed Service
05 Luncheon, yet during the parade he was standing on the
06 reviewing stand. And it just makes me wonder, like,
07 while all of a sudden someone wants to get patriotic.
08 When it came to, and Mrs. Evans
09 isn't here, and I wanted to ask her a question, and if
10 I may, I would like to move on and I'd like to come
11 back to it, if I may, please.
12 MR. DIBILEO: Sure. Go ahead.
13 MR. BOLUS: You know, there's a
14 lot of things here that -- well, I'll come back to that
15 because it's for her.
16 Okay. One word, the police cars,
17 they still didn't get here in the city.
18 MR. COURTRIGHT: They're here,
19 Mr. Bolus, I guess they're just not ready to be put on
20 the road. I don't know what the holdup is. I'll find
21 out, though.
22 MR. BOLUS: We'll probably see
23 them in November, not a problem.
24 MR. COURTRIGHT: Let's hope long
25 before that.

0037

01 MR. BOLUS: Okay. You know,
02 people are coming here and the mayor has been to
03 neighborhoods and things are going on and they're
04 bouncing around now with the administration, and now I
05 see the path is now coming to the Council chambers.
06 I think it's just a little too
07 late for all this nonsense to start now, three and a
08 half years, you know, ignoring the neighborhoods,
09 having a deficit spending without accountability.
10 Now he's trying to do damage control one week after an
11 election.
12 You know, we have been here, we
13 know what goes on in this city. The track record is to
14 come here and tell us about yourself, and he hasn't
15 done that in three and a half years as the sixth
16 councilman.
17 So, when we see what is going on
18 with all this, I'll bring up an issue, a friend, and
19 I'll use a name, I'll call her Dolly for tonight, how
20 does that sound, okay?
21 She called me and asked me a
22 question. She wanted to know what Mr. Doherty meant by
23 the real people of Scranton that voted for him, and she
24 asked me, she goes, what am I, chopped liver?
25 I said, Excuse me? She goes,

0038

01 Yeah, what are we, chopped liver? I pay taxes, I vote.
02 Why is she and others like her classified by
03 Mr. Doherty?
04 So, I simply asked her, I said,
05 Send Mr. Doherty a letter or ask the Scranton Times to
06 put it in an editorial, what did he really mean by who
07 the real people are in the city.
08 Mr. Greco is challenging absentee
09 votes from the care facilities, he's trying to protect
10 them from being used. He gets paid more than the
11 president by Doherty, and the money comes from the same
12 people that are called taxpayers or seniors or people
13 in these care facilities. Now he wants to protect
14 them.
15 Where have they been, Mr. Mayor
16 and Mr. Greco, have been for the last three and a half
17 years when we've seen the deficit spending and
18 everything else toward our seniors?
19 I don't see them out there, so who
20 are we protecting? The KOZs, the non-profits, all of
21 those that want a free ride? Maybe they're the real

22 people. Maybe we aren't people at all in this city.

23 Maybe we're the ones that cracked a few eggs and got

24 scrambled, and maybe we went out with the garbage.

25 Well, Mrs. Evans isn't here, but

0039

01 I'm going to raise an issue, in the neighborhoods, and

02 someone can answer this, because I believe I heard it

03 and so did everybody else here, Dickson Avenue, the

04 complaints, if I'm not mistaken, Mr. Doherty is now

05 trying to take credit, he's doing this and his

06 administration is doing that with Dickson Avenue.

07 Well, I thought Janet Evans took

08 the lead on this, from what I heard here and members of

09 this Council. Flexible Foam, the problems up there.

10 You guys all came to the plate, but I don't recall

11 hearing the mayor or seeing him come here and read a

12 story in the paper that he was taking charge until the

13 other day.

14 You know, we have raised this and

15 other issues week after week at this Council, and this

16 Council, some members, have taken care of issues that

17 we have come here to address, and you have addressed

18 our concerns, and Mrs. Evans has done that.

19 It's the little things that I

20 believe are important. If a damn springs a leak, you

21 immediately plug it. You don't let it just continue to

22 fracture, as this administration has done.

23 If it wasn't for some members of

24 this Council, we'd have bigger and more major

25 catastrophes in this city. If this Council, some

0040

01 members, didn't give the mayor \$4 million, nobody would

02 have gotten a paycheck.

03 So, again, I ask, Chris Doherty,

04 where have you really been for three and a half years,

05 and I hope to see more of your administration here.

06 Thank you.

07 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you. Andy

08 Sbaraglia.

09 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,

10 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians, I'm going to

11 read a couple inserts, well, actually inserts taken

12 from the paper.

13 What it said was, This would mean

14 starting tonight six months more of television

15 criticism at Council meetings to defeat him in the

16 November rematch.

17 This has to do with the election,

18 but it says people come here so we're trying to defeat
19 him. And then there's another article, Week after week
20 speakers get up at City Council meetings and bash the
21 mayor or his policies.

22 The meetings are cable cast on
23 Scranton Today, Channel 61 for all to see. Sure, some
24 of their suggestions and opinions are goofy, that's
25 democracy.

0041

01 They are articles from the Times.

02 Gentlemen, I am not looking for a job in the city and I
03 have nobody home that wants a job in the city. My only
04 purpose of coming before this Council is for honest and
05 efficient government. That's all I'm interested in.

06 And most of the people that come

07 here are like me. I'm gray. I got maybe ten years

08 left. I told you before, I just want to coast out.

09 I don't want to have to fight for

10 my home or to make choices between medicine, food or
11 taxes. That's the only reason.

12 There's a lot of people that have

13 problems in the city. Thank God I'm not one of them,
14 but it could I have things continue like they are.

15 I never expected the County to do

16 what they did, and I don't know where we are in the
17 city. Maybe we're at a point where we're going to be

18 doing the same thing. It's hard to say. But the main

19 thing is that's the reason I speak.

20 Now, we have money invested all

21 over, but nobody ever says exactly how much interest

22 we're getting on them. I was told that, I think it was

23 one and a half percent for them CDs from the sale of
24 the golf course.

25 Now, gentlemen, one and a half

0042

01 percent doesn't sound right. I don't know if that's

02 the true amount. Was it one and a half percent on the

03 CDs?

04 MR. SAUNDERS: There was, I think,

05 four and a half different CDs and they're all different

06 amounts ranging from probably four and half to one and

07 a half, but I have to research that a little more.

08 MR. SBARAGLIA: I wish you would.

09 I wish you would get all of these figures. If you're

10 going to get the business administrator in here, let's

11 get him. We got \$18 million in that reserve fund.

12 What are we getting on it? Exactly how much money are

13 we getting on the reserve fund? How much money are we

14 getting on that money we got to pay off some of them
15 loans, I think, for A&C loans that we got up there in
16 DeNaples' bank, oh, I should say that, up in the bank
17 in Dunmore?

18 All these places, money is there.

19 What are we getting on them? We want the maximum
20 amount we can get. I don't know what you can do with
21 CDs, but there's got to be government securities
22 somewhere along that pays a lot more than what we are
23 getting on them CDs. And \$18 million is a lot of money
24 in that reserve fund.

25 Now, I know there's laws that

0043

01 state what this money can be invested in, I understand
02 that, but they got to be invested in more than we're
03 getting. And that's the whole purpose of coming before
04 you.

05 If we can generate income, as much
06 income as we can for this money we do have, it will
07 offset some of this money we're paying for the
08 borrowing, because we borrowed this money. We don't
09 have this money per se coming from the taxpayers. We
10 borrowed them. We were borrowed them for our
11 grandchildren, because in 20 years from now they're
12 going to have to pay.

13 I probably won't even get ten, so
14 like I always said, there's a line in Julius Cesar
15 where he said, An evil of a man's do lives all the way
16 after him, but the good is with his bones. And I think
17 that's what we're going to be here.

18 We're going to suffer from
19 decisions that were made, bad decisions I consider
20 financially. And if any of you ran a business and did
21 what they did in this city, you wouldn't be in
22 business. I thank you.

23 MR. COURTRIGHT: Les Spindler.

24 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,

25 Council, Les Spindler. Okay. First of all to
0044

01 Mr. DiBileo, I want to congratulate you on winning the
02 Republican nomination for mayor.

03 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.

04 MR. SPINDLER: Second of all,

05 Mr. Courtright, I want to thank you, those tires were
06 picked up on Euclid Avenue last Friday, and I also want
07 to thank you, Mrs. Evans, I know you looked into that,
08 also. Finally they're gone.

09 Okay. Last week I was very

10 disturbed to hear about the letter that Nancy Krake got
11 put on her desk. That was one of the most despicable
12 cowardly acts I ever heard of.
13 Nancy Krake is one of the nicest
14 and kindest people I've ever met. She should not have
15 to put up with that kind of intimidation.
16 This administration has tried to
17 intimidate people in the past to prevent them from
18 speaking. Now they stoop to a new low.
19 If they think letters are going to
20 keep anyone from speaking, they couldn't be more wrong.
21 Now I am more inspired to come here every week and
22 exercise my freedom of speech.
23 Oh, by the way, it's said in the
24 letter Nancy Krake lost, well, I guess you spoke too
25 soon. We'll see you in November.

0045

01 Moving on, there was an article in
02 the paper last Friday where Mayor Doherty had a quote
03 that, Veterans deserve respect, not exploitation.
04 Well, I think he's got a lot of
05 nerve talking about disrespecting the veterans, when he
06 didn't show up when the troops came home, didn't show
07 up to speak at a veterans dinner he was supposed to
08 speak at, and then last but not least, he didn't want
09 votes counted from the veterans center. He's talking
10 about disrespecting veterans? I think he should look
11 in the mirror.
12 Okay. Before the election the
13 police chief and fire chief who were hired by the mayor
14 sent memos down that the union members couldn't drive
15 for the election, which they've done in the past, yet,
16 Sara Hailstone, who's also hired by the mayor, was able
17 to work at one of the polls. Something is wrong
18 here.
19 There's a saying, There's
20 something rotten in Demark, I think there's something
21 rotten in Scranton.
22 Yesterday's paper, Southern Union
23 isn't bringing as many jobs as first thought. Well, so
24 much for Chris Doherty's downtown redevelopment. I
25 think it's taking a shot.

0046

01 People don't want to relocate here
02 from Texas, they're not going to hire as many people.
03 I can't imagine why people wouldn't want to relocate
04 here from Texas. Why wouldn't they want to live in the
05 city where crime is on the rise or pay the second

06 highest wage tax in the state? Why wouldn't they want
07 to move here where you have to have your front end
08 aligned every time you go down the street or move here
09 and pay an illegal pool fee? I can't imagine why
10 anybody wouldn't want to relocate here.

11 Before I left the house tonight
12 the mayor was on the news, he's against the recount
13 now. I wonder what he's afraid of. He said he doesn't
14 want to waste any more of the taxpayer's money.
15 Why didn't he think of that when
16 he was paying NDC \$60,000 a year. I think that was our
17 money.

18 MR. DIBILEO: Mr. Spindler, I'm
19 sorry, we have to refrain from discussing the election,
20 please.

21 MR. SPINDLER: Well, it's freedom
22 of speech, Mr. DiBileo, with all due respect. He said
23 he doesn't want to waste any of the taxpayers' money.
24 That's city business.

25 He didn't care about spending the
0047

01 taxpayers' money on all kinds of consultants. Where
02 was his concern about the taxpayers' money then when he
03 was spending thousands and thousands of dollars on
04 consultants we didn't need?

05 Thank you. I'd like to call up
06 Mrs. Xanthis now, if I may, because she needs to get
07 home soon for health reasons, okay?

08 MS. XANTHIS: As you know, I live
09 on Dickson Avenue. My friend Ann Marie was here last
10 week and spoke. On Friday night, the noise not only
11 got worse, it went on until 11:30, with strobe lights
12 on the forklifts, besides the prison-type lamps they
13 have flaming over there.

14 Saturday morning I wake up, it's
15 windy out, so the factory stays open until three. So I
16 thought, oh, that's good, they're going to close.
17 Around 2:30 I called the Ashley plant, I said, Do you
18 have a number for the Dickson Avenue plant? They said,
19 Oh, sure. Just give them a call, they'll help you out.

20 I called them up, I got the
21 secretary. I said, Ma'am, I live in Green Ridge and
22 those dust piles behind you are actually blowing over
23 here like small funnel clouds. She said, Well, I'll
24 see what I can do. Click goes the phone.

25 Five minutes later you see her and
0048

01 her boss scurrying out of the factory with the dust

02 going around them and driving off and ignoring me like
03 I don't even exist.
04 Well, to say the least, my
05 daughter ended up in the emergency room with an asthma
06 attack.
07 Saturday and Sunday it was
08 extremely windy. I did not rain enough ever for this
09 to stop. It went on all day.
10 Sunday on my mother's hospital bed
11 in the front room there was this much dust. I couldn't
12 believe it.
13 Sunday afternoon she started
14 having a breathing problem. I said, Well, we'll give
15 her another nebulizer treatment. Around two o'clock in
16 the afternoon, she couldn't breathe.
17 I called the ambulance, 911. They
18 got there. They said, This woman has to go to a
19 hospital. She got to Mercy Hospital, Mercy Hospital
20 said she had to go to the respiratory part, there's
21 something wrong with her lungs.
22 Got into the respiratory part, I
23 spoke to the doctor on call, he said, It's very
24 strange. It's like there's a type of sediment in her
25 lung, she cannot breathe this woman.
0049
01 She was in the hospital from
02 Sunday until this afternoon at four o'clock. My doctor
03 said he would give me a statement if I need it for
04 City Council to show that this is causing health
05 hazards now.
06 Tuesday morning at six o'clock I
07 collapsed, my children called an ambulance, sent me by
08 ambulance to Mercy Hospital. So, here we are, now
09 there's two in this family at Mercy Hospital.
10 My children couldn't go to school because they wanted
11 to go see what was wrong with me.
12 I get to Mercy Hospital, I'm in
13 emergency, they're doing tests after test. My blood --
14 my heart rate is very high. Well, you're going to be
15 admitted, we have to do more testing, so I was
16 admitted. I came out of there 2:30 this afternoon.
17 I was told that I have to go back
18 for more testing now. The only reason my doctor let me
19 go is I pleaded with him so I could come and speak to
20 Council.
21 These people, I don't believe they
22 cooperate, I believe they get worse when we speak here.
23 It's terrible. The only -- I'm sorry. Two years ago I

24 wanted to move from there, but my son wanted to
25 graduate from Scranton High School. This is why I'm
0050

01 there.

02 And now he tells me today he wants
03 to go into politics. Boy that's making me really
04 thrilled now. I just he knows it's very tough.
05 Anyway, the only thing I can say
06 is, please, the mounds of dirt over there, we can't
07 handle it. Somebody has to do something. The trucks,
08 the noise is unbearable. Please.

09 MS. EVANS: Mrs. Xanthis, I know
10 we've talked before and just now outside Council
11 chambers, and I do understand what's going on, and I'm
12 on top of this, and I am in frequent contact with
13 Mr. Fiorini, and he has been out there.

14 And I have -- I told you outside,
15 I have my teeth in this, and I'm not letting this go
16 until this situation is solved. That business has been
17 there for how many years?

18 MS. XANTHIS: I don't even know.
19 It's just gotten larger. When I went to the hospital
20 Tuesday, it looked bigger to me today. I mean, how is
21 it growing every other day?

22 MS. EVANS: Business is a good
23 thing, but not when it's destroying a neighborhood or
24 the health of a neighborhood. So, I promise you I'm
25 not letting go of this until this situation is solved.

0051

01 And Mr. Fiorini, as I said, he's
02 on top of it, and now finally the mayor is aware of it.
03 And I'm sure that he's very supportive of remedying
04 this situation for the taxpaying residents who live
05 there. So, believe me, something is going to be done
06 about it.

07 MS. XANTHIS: Well, my son, who
08 has made honor roll in school, he's on the Honor's
09 Society, last quarter didn't make it, and I blame the
10 noise. No one can study in my house. It just never
11 stops.

12 MS. EVANS: I understand. It's
13 the dirt, it's the noise, it's the lights. And we have
14 ordinances about all of these situations.

15 MS. XANTHIS: One smart man told
16 me we should all sleep in the back bedroom. I buy a
17 house to sleep in the back?

18 MS. EVANS: I just want you to
19 know, businesses are not more important than people.

20 You're more important.

21 MS. XANTHIS: Thank you very much.

22 I'm sorry I had to come up ahead, but I just don't feel
23 well. Thank you very much.

24 MS. EVANS: I know. Thank you for
25 coming.

0052

01 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,

02 Mrs. Xanthis, and thank you, Mrs. Evans, for working on
03 this as quickly as you can to help out the family.

04 Appreciate it.

05 MS. EVANS: It's more than one

06 family. It's the entire neighborhood. Dave Gervasi is
07 listed. You're after Dave and Mike Dudek, Erik. I'm
08 sorry.

09 MR. GERVASI: Good evening, ladies

10 and gentlemen. My name is Dave Gervasi, city resident
11 and a member of the Scranton Fire Department. May I
12 approach, Mrs. Evans? I have some answers for you.

13 Mrs. Evans, before I get to that,

14 there's a few comments I'd like to make first before I
15 get into that subject.

16 I noticed the other day, I believe

17 Mr. Bolus was just speaking about it, I think it was a
18 short ten-minute show called From The Mayor's Office
19 with the mayor speaking on certain things.

20 A couple, I'm just, it's just my

21 continuing effort to try and bring factual information
22 to things that are either said in the paper or said by
23 the mayor.

24 One of the statements he made on

25 his show was that the police and fire unions blocked
0053

01 the implementation of the recovery plan through

02 arbitration. That's not exactly correct.

03 How it works is you make a

04 recovery plan and then it's adopted, and then at that

05 point under Acc 111 law and even Act 47 law that you

06 now sit down and negotiate a contract within the

07 parameters of the recovery plan.

08 Well, there was no negotiations.

09 They sat down right at this table and they said, Here

10 is the recovery plan. I believe the words that

11 Mr. Hayes, our public safety director said was, That's

12 the way it is. So, they really didn't negotiate

13 anything. There was no starting point.

14 At that point you reach an

15 impasse. Once you have that impasse, the next step is

16 arbitration. So, we didn't block anything or we didn't
17 for the city into arbitration, they did. I want to
18 make that clear.

19 He also made a statement that they
20 want us to pay our health -- they want the city to pay
21 our health care and they have to have health care more
22 in line with taxpayers, and if they don't make changes
23 in their health care, our taxes will go up.

24 I can talk about that for 20
25 minutes how ridiculous that statement is. You know
0054

01 what, I'm not even going to get into that. I can
02 probably talk about that all next week.

03 I'll talk about that all and I'll
04 give you factual information, we're getting our taxes
05 raised. Another threat, I guess, and it's supposedly
06 because of us.

07 If you don't have implementation
08 of the recovery plan, then the unions will be running
09 city hall. Again, like I said last week, that's all
10 you read in the newspaper, that's all they say over and
11 over are the unions are running City Hall. Another --
12 And then he even took a shot at
13 you, Mrs. Evans, where he said, On City Council you'll
14 hear people like Janet Evens who complain about
15 revenues and she does nothing to come in and look and
16 see what's happening in our business administrator's
17 office.

18 I don't really ever heard you
19 complain about the business administrator's office.
20 As a matter of fact, I hear you praise the business
21 administrator's office, because every time you ask them
22 a question, you usually get an answer.

23 MS. EVANS: Yes.

24 MR. GERVASI: I think the problems
25 you have are with the authorities that are now
0055

01 circumventing all the oversight by Council and by
02 Mrs. Novembrino. I think that has been the crux of
03 your complaints.

04 Getting to the big one here, I
05 know you've been asking for weeks and weeks and weeks
06 about the Minooka foam plant.

07 MS. EVANS: Yes.

08 MR. GERVASI: Well, I did some
09 research, I talked to two of our guys that are on our
10 safety committee, and the mayor said in that show, and
11 listen to this carefully, the Minooka foam plant, this

12 is quote, the Minooka foam plant was a concern to us.
13 We told them that you have to move it. We worked with
14 them, we got that out.
15 We heard the concerns of the
16 people of the city and we went out and took care of it.
17 That's what the mayor told you on that show.
18 Now the facts. These are
19 documentations right from our inspector's office. On
20 December 8, I'm sorry, December 29 of 2004, our
21 inspectors responded to the scene on the 3200 block of
22 Pittston Avenue at the request of the Scranton Police
23 Department and mechanical inspector Joseph Fiorini.
24 The building is a warehouse
25 formerly occupied by Poly-Hi. The building is in
0056
01 disrepair with no fire protective devices whatsoever.
02 The building was condemned jointly by the fire
03 inspectors, the electrical inspectors and the
04 mechanical inspectors.
05 The building being leased to
06 Flexible Foam Products Incorporated for temporary
07 storage of discarded foam products. We informed the
08 owner that this is a violation of the code and all must
09 be immediately removed.
10 Now, that day, this is the same
11 inspector in our office, sent a memo to all the
12 assistant chiefs advising them of the potentially
13 dangerous situation at this location.
14 The same inspector spoke to a
15 gentleman, I'm not going to mention any names,
16 representing Flexible Foam, and informed him that the
17 product must be removed from the property. This is a
18 week later.
19 Again he spoke to them and said --
20 the person said to him that he might need months to
21 remove this product.
22 I informed him that must be
23 totally removed much sooner than that, and then he
24 stated he believed the owner is responsible. They're
25 blaming the owner of the building.
0057
01 I believe right around this same
02 type, I believe even Mr. Pocius got involved in this,
03 because that's right in his neighborhood.
04 On January 18, which is over a
05 month later, Chief Davis, our deputy chief and this
06 inspector met with Solicitor Rob Farrell to discuss the
07 proper procedures for issuing a citation against either

08 the owner or the company, and he informed me to prepare
09 written documentation notifying the parties prior to
10 issuing the citations.

11 So, so far the solicitor is doing
12 his job, the chief is doing his job and the inspectors
13 are doing their job and all the people from the
14 inspection office have already done their job.

15 Now, it gets better. Two days
16 later our inspectors were informed by Chief Davis to
17 suspend any further action concerning this property.

18 Why? We don't know. As a matter
19 of fact, one of our officials was told, I will
20 personally take care of this.

21 Jump up a month later, a fire
22 occurred at a processing plant in Archbald that's owned
23 by the same company and the products being stored there
24 were similar.

25 Injuries occurred and Lackawanna
0058

01 County EMA responded. At this point our people -- it
02 got back onto the front burner and they said, like,
03 nothing's happened in a month after the chief called
04 everybody off and suspended all actions on it.

05 A day later, a phone call was made
06 and they said that the stuff has to be removed again,
07 and nothing was done.

08 Two months later they contacted a
09 new person, a new contact person from the company, one
10 of our officials was told, told this person it's gone
11 on long enough, this is a danger to our community up
12 here, and this stuff has to be moved immediately.

13 And he said, quote, We have people
14 in our company friendly with the mayor and we're
15 waiting for him to get back to us.

16 A day later this person met with
17 Bill Fiorini, he's our code, the boss in our
18 inspections, and Bill Fiorini did his job, and he says,
19 I don't care what anyone said, he wants this to move
20 forward with the citation process, send a registered
21 letter informing both the owner and the tenant of our
22 intent to cite them and we're giving them 48 hours to
23 remove all the products on receipt of and then cite
24 them through Magistrate Russell.

25 Three inspectors signed a paper,
0059

01 posted it on the building and they had 48 hours to get
02 it done. That afternoon our public -- our
03 administrative captain was called into the mayor's

04 office and told by Mayor Doherty to go up and tell our
05 inspectors to lay off them for seven more days.

06 That same day under

07 Mr. Fiorini's direction, he says, Post the building and
08 send the letters and fax to Flexible Foam, and they
09 were still contact the owner of the building.

10 I believe that was the time when

11 our safety committee contacted you, Mr. Courtright.

12 Can you verify that the mayor told this person to hold
13 off for another seven days?

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: I wasn't there

15 when the mayor told him that, but I was told by this
16 individual, yes, that he was told to hold off.

17 MR. GERVASI: Thank you. And then

18 the fines were supposed to started the next day,

19 according to Mr. Fiorini, who did his job, just like

20 our inspectors did their job, and they were supposed to
21 be starting to get fined the next day.

22 Four days later after it takes

23 months to clean it out --

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: Mr. Gervasi, can

25 I interrupt you just for one second?

0060

01 MR. GERVASI: Sure.

02 MR. COURTRIGHT: I just want to

03 say that when all this transpired, and I did speak to
04 everybody I could possible speak to, that I immediately
05 saw Mr. Fiorini by coincidence on the steps as soon as

06 I left your administrative captain's office, and he

07 told me in no uncertain terms that no matter what, he

08 would start to fine these people. I believe he said

09 tomorrow morning, I'm not quite sure, but it was within
10 the allotted time, and he guaranteed me, no matter who

11 said what, that he would do that, so I've got to say

12 Mr. Fiorini did his job, and I hope that we don't point

13 any blame on him, because I think he did --

14 MR. GERVASI: No, no, no. Mr.

15 Fiorini did his job.

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: He did what he

17 was supposed to do.

18 MR. GERVASI: And our inspectors

19 all did their job.

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: So, I just don't

21 want anybody to think that he didn't do what he was

22 supposed to.

23 MR. GERVASI: Absolutely not.

24 They all did their job. May I just finish my thoughts?

25 MR. DIBILEO: Sure, go ahead.

0061

01 MR. GERVASI: Four days later,
02 when they said it might take a few months to remove
03 this stuff, four days later the stuff was gone. No
04 citations were issued.
05 And just one little note I'd like
06 to make is that the newspaper was made aware of this,
07 and they said, Unless the citation is issued, the Times
08 said, It's not newsworthy.
09 The Scranton Times was notified of
10 this decision and said if the citations weren't issued,
11 it wasn't newsworthy.
12 So, my question is, Not
13 newsworthy? If that building caught fire, we would
14 have to evacuate Minooka, firefighters' and the
15 neighbors' lives would have been put at risk and the
16 city would have been exposed to major lawsuits for
17 their negligence. If that's not newsworthy, I'm not
18 sure what is.
19 And what I would suggest to you,
20 Mrs. Evans, now that you have the facts, I would
21 suggest talking to the mayor and ask him why he delayed
22 it for seven days and I would ask you to talk to the
23 fire chief and ask him did he make that decision on his
24 own or did the mayor tell him to delay this for four
25 months.

0062

01 MS. EVANS: Well, as you know,
02 I've been asking these questions week after week after
03 week, and to date no answer from anyone. This is the
04 first answer I've received, and it's quite a detailed
05 response, but I think what is appalling here is that
06 someone higher up made a decision to put the Scranton
07 Fire Department and a huge area of Minooka at risk for
08 not just seven more days, but from December through
09 April, from December '04 to April of '05, and that's
10 probably the greatest travesty that I've heard of since
11 I've been here.
12 And, yes, I do want answers to
13 those questions. I would like to know where the buck
14 stops, who decided that everyone would be put at risk
15 like this and why?
16 MR. GERVASI: I think we can
17 imagine.
18 MR. DIBILEO: Mr. Walsh.
19 MR. WALSH: Yes. Mr. President,
20 just to let Mr. Gervasi know and, of course,
21 Councilwoman Evans, Chief Davis did take the time to

22 meet with me because the letter that went to him was a
23 letter that was signed in my name, and he did explain
24 the situation to me when we met, and I'd be more than
25 happy, Mrs. Evans, to meet with you and discuss with
0063

01 you what Chief Evans had spoken to me about, and, Dave,
02 if you'd like to do that, as well.

03 MS. EVANS: Well, we can discuss
04 it, and I thank you very much, but I want something in
05 writing, and he knows that. I want something in
06 writing as to who is responsible for all of this,
07 because this is an inexcusable, unforgivable situation
08 and somebody has got to take responsibility for it.

09 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.

10 MR. GERVASI: Thank you.

11 MR. DIBILEO: Mike Dudek.

12 MR. DUDEK: Mike Dudek,
13 608 Depot Street, Scranton, PA, and one of the unreal
14 taxpayers of the City of Scranton.

15 I live in the block, and low and
16 behold for the first time in my memory the sitting
17 mayor of the City of Scranton actually came to a
18 meeting of the Plot Neighborhood Association.

19 I mean, it was a wonderful sight
20 to behold, given the fact that his predecessor made
21 approximately 30 or 40 percent of those meetings.

22 It was really quite a remarkable
23 thing to see the mayor there. And a question of
24 substance came up, and I want to raise the issue here,
25 In the plot we have clogged storm drains and we also
0064

01 have clogged sewers, and I did find out from
02 Mr. Parker, who he admitted, and I didn't ask this
03 question with the intention of blaming anybody or
04 embarrassing anybody, but he did admit that the system
05 in the Plot is a very old system and that there is no
06 reliable map in existence showing every storm drain and
07 every sewer line in the Plot.

08 And the Plot does have a very,
09 very characteristic flooding problem because of storm
10 water and backing up sewer water, and some of the --
11 some of these drain have backup valves, some of them
12 don't, some of them are clogged, and what I'm asking
13 City Council to do is do me a favor, I asked the mayor
14 if he would please see to it that these things would be
15 cleaned out, and I'm going to quote the mayor,
16 Chris Doherty, he said, quote/unquote, Yes.

17 So, I like short concise answers,

18 because there's no wiggle room there, but I would also
19 ask City Council to please pursue this, because we have
20 people who have been flooded out with this kind of
21 water three times since November, not from river water,
22 but from this backup.

23 That's the first and the most
24 substantial thing that I wanted to raise today as far
25 as city business is concerned.

0065

01 Second of all at that same meeting
02 were two police officers who were there, you know, for
03 safety purposes. Neither of those two officers were
04 involved in the unfortunate situation that we had up in
05 Petersburg, but they were very shaken by it, and I'm
06 going to ask that Council to please make available to
07 any officer counseling who may want it, even if they
08 were not directly involved with the incident.

09 And, again, it's been pointed out,
10 the district attorney and the state police have put
11 this whole thing behind everybody. The officers acted
12 in proper procedure and within the perimeters of their
13 training, but it's just such a heartbreaking thing for
14 such young people to carry this burden.
15 They need our help. And I want to
16 ask the people, not just counselors, but people to come
17 around and just let our police know that we support
18 them, okay?

19 And I want to raise another point
20 raised by a previous speaker here, and the mayor opened
21 the door because of taxpayer money, when taxpayer money
22 is involved, it makes it very legitimate to speak from
23 this podium about the issue.

24 The mayor is opposed to a total
25 recount from the vote of the last election insofar as
0066

01 the City of Scranton is concerned for the office of
02 mayor.

03 Mr. DiBileo, I would ask you to
04 please pursue each and every vote in each and every
05 machine, because so many mistakes were made going in
06 one direction, that quite frankly as far as I'm
07 concerned, someone who has taught government for a
08 number of years, this election is beginning to smell a
09 little bit, and I don't like the stench that's coming
10 out of it. Thank you.

11 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you. Erik
12 Johnson.

13 MR. JOHNSON: Erik Johnson,

14 taxpayer. I want to apologize for the mix-up.

15 MR. DIBILEO: Oh, no problem,

16 Erik. The senior citizens center want to thank

17 Janet Evans and John Pocius for the support of their

18 center. You both have done a real great job supporting

19 it.

20 MS. EVANS: You're welcome.

21 MR. JOHNSON: Also, I received --

22 I, too, like Kathryn Simmons received a harassing

23 letter in the mail and have been receiving hangup calls

24 in the middle of the night and sometimes four o'clock

25 in the morning. I have it right here in my hand here,

0067

01 and it's disturbing.

02 I want to recommend city residents

03 for coming out last Saturday in support of our military

04 memorial parade. It wasn't as big as the St. Patrick's

05 Day parade, and it should be a more important event.

06 Congratulations, Gary DiBileo, on

07 your Republican Mayor Nomination. You certainly owe it

08 to the still unchanged registered Republican voters.

09 Come this November general election, voters for the

10 first time in a rare event will think for a day.

11 Then also should been a recount

12 our recanvas of the paper rolls for the sake of without

13 a question who were really the victors for the City

14 Council write-in votes, also if there were questions

15 about as many as five variations on single candidate's

16 name. If the variation was close to the correct name,

17 even misspelled, it should absolutely go to the

18 intended candidate and count it as such.

19 Ms. Medallis, as she said, the key

20 is the intent of the voter. If it wasn't so, then

21 every vote doesn't count, which would be unfair and

22 undemocratic, plus not everybody that votes spells

23 every candidate for office -- for election correctly.

24 Any nature of those votes should

25 never at any time become contested. There are a lot of

0068

01 poor spellers that vote. That shouldn't be -- that

02 shouldn't be mistakenly void.

03 Very true, mistakes can be made by

04 inexperienced election judges. The judges do the best

05 they can, but human errors are not impossible. My

06 opinion, you must walk the talk for the sake of the

07 voters' rights, political candidates' rights.

08 Every vote should count and never

09 any vote not count, unless it was done in an

10 unrealistic or ridiculous manner of nowhere near such a
11 candidate's name.

12 So, if there are any challenges,
13 let it be done. I noticed there is going to be a
14 debate with by Council about the agreement with the
15 state that would save the city \$2,500,000 in
16 Worker's Compensation.

17 Any of savings of that amount is a
18 plus and good for the city's taxpayer budget or can be
19 used for additional costs of public safety or crime
20 prevention.

21 On television it stated that the
22 shooting was solved and that Mr. Edward Nunn, who after
23 armed robbed a store and prior resident and then hid at
24 a resident area where Erin Dermody and her little
25 daughter were.

0069

01 As police tried to arrest a
02 criminal perpetrator, he, Mr. Nunn, turned what was a
03 weapon towards the police officer and shot his weapon
04 first before the officers rightfully returned fire back
05 in self defense.

06 Mr. Dunn is responsible for the
07 tragic death of Erin Dermody and should be charged with
08 involuntary manslaughter alone with the two armed
09 robberies.

10 Mr. Dunn initiating the shooting
11 first, shot at the officers first or even -- or point a
12 weapon at an officer, he or she has a right to protect
13 themselves by firing their weapon.
14 Our hearts and prayers go out to
15 the deaths of Erin Dermody and the comfort of her child
16 and also the police officers. Thank you for letting me
17 speak.

18 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,

19 Mr. Johnson. Dorothy Boyle.

20 MS. BOYLE: Good evening, city

21 council. Dorothy Boyle, Scranton taxpayer and also a
22 widow.

23 I came here tonight because I
24 thought it was appropriate. This Memorial Day is a
25 very special day to me.

0070

01 In 2002, a tree was planted up at
02 Weston Park and at Nay Aug Park in memory of my
03 husband, who John knows, was a dedicated city trash
04 garbage man.

05 I had asked -- he had worked for

06 the parks before, and I had asked his fellow workers he
07 called his brother, his union brothers, what parks did
08 my husband like? And he said, Well, I thought it would
09 be Nay Aug. He said, No, I loved Weston Park. He
10 loved Weston Park. So, I purchased two trees over
11 \$200, had the trees planted by the mulberry bush.
12 One day I got a call saying the
13 tree was damaged at Weston Park. I went up to see the
14 tree, the tree had one branch missing.
15 This is a beautiful dogwood tree.
16 And if Mr. Pocius knows my house, I live on Morris
17 Avenue, and I have a beautiful dogwood tree there, and
18 that's why I planted it there.
19 Anyway, last year my sister-in-law
20 and I, which was his sister, Mary Alice, we went up, we
21 went to plant around the tree. The tree was gone. The
22 post was there, his name plate was gone, which was very
23 disturbing to me.
24 How could a person, vandals, do
25 this to a dedicated worker, who someone risked their
0071
01 lives every day on the street.
02 As Mr. Dudek said, my husband came
03 home with numerous stories about his DPW workers, times
04 he was pinned between a fence and a pole.
05 I can't believe -- and the way
06 people pass these DPW drivers, it scares me. And thank
07 God, I really have to say, my husband died on
08 Good Friday on a good day, but thank God. I look at
09 these DPW workers and I pray.
10 And we mentioned the firemen, we
11 mentioned the policemen, the DPW workers, they also
12 work for the city. They also go to doctors, they go to
13 dentists, they go to numerous businesses, and,
14 Mr. DiBileo, I have business with you, and we support
15 you as trash garbage men.
16 The thing is, they need
17 recognition. They're not low class people. Maybe they
18 didn't graduate high school, but they're there. In the
19 middle of the night when you hear the wind blowing and
20 the sleet, to hear a phone ringing for your husband to
21 go out and to attend to these matters, it's
22 frightening.
23 Because you know what, just like a
24 policeman or a fireman, they may not come home. And
25 how many members of the DPW have been killed in the
0072
01 past few years? How many members of police or firemen

02 have been killed on their line of duty? Hardly any in
03 the past few years.
04 So, you know what, let's give them
05 a little bit of credit, because we also pay for our
06 services, to which we attend.
07 Now, Nay Aug. Nay Aug is a big
08 issue in Scranton. Well, this is my first time here,
09 so you can tell I'm a little nervous, but I would like
10 to approach the Council. This is a -- of course my
11 picture is terrible.
12 As I said before, my husband was
13 very proud of Nay Aug. No particular mayor, he worked
14 for Connors, he worked for Gene Peters, he worked for
15 all of them, so I'm not singling out any certain mayor,
16 but he was proud of the City of Scranton, he was proud
17 of the parks that he took great care in taking care of,
18 and he died of leukemia, only sick three weeks. But
19 you know what, his hat and his city things went in his
20 casket with him because he was a dedicated person.
21 When I became ill, he worked
22 overtime. This man carried me from wheelchair to bed,
23 and it was very hard to watch my husband die in three
24 weeks.
25 And, Mr. Pocius, my husband was
0073
01 laid out, City Council had a few moments of silence for
02 my husband, and I want to thank you personally for
03 that.
04 And to the people in the city,
05 take time. Remember when you pass a truck or you say
06 anything negative about a DPW worker, they're here.
07 They're plowing your streets.
08 They're picking up your trash. But they might forget
09 about it one day, but they will be there.
10 And you know what, everybody who has
11 somebody thank God that you have your wives or your
12 husbands or your children because you never know when
13 they're going to be gone.
14 Another thing I would like to ask
15 you guys as former West Side people, do you know where
16 the unknown park in the City of Scranton is in
17 West Side? It's the forgotten park. It's called
18 Powderly Park. Right, John?
19 There is a historical marker. I
20 have approached different people in West Side and
21 asked, Can we have a bench there? You know, it's
22 really frightening when you see things going on in this
23 city, especially what happened in Petersburg.

24 When I turned the channel on, I
25 thought I was watching New York. And when I heard
0074
01 Scranton, I thought, Oh, no. It's frightening.
02 And you know what, if we can just
03 get a park -- I see Mr. Courtright by his building
04 there's a park bench. People walk Main Avenue. Let's
05 get back to walking. Give us pride in West Side.
06 You guys are all from West Side
07 originally. So, let's see what we can do. Thank you.
08 MS. EVANS: Thank you.
09 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,
10 Mrs. O'Boyle. We're very sorry about the tree missing
11 at Weston Park that was dedicated to your husband. Be
12 sure that you get your things here.
13 And, you know, you're absolutely
14 right, the Department of Public Works workers don't get
15 the recognition that they deserve.
16 You know, we often talk about
17 firemen and policemen as heros, and DPW workers are
18 often unrecognized for the quality of work they do, and
19 it is a dangerous job, and they do a great job, and we
20 want to recognize them the way they should be.
21 So, we thank all the DPW workers for all they do, as
22 your husband. Thank you very much.
23 And the clerical workers, too.
24 They also don't get recognized, clerical and DPW. So,
25 we appreciate all they do for us. Fred Budzinski.
0075
01 MR. BUDZINSKI: Fred Budzinski,
02 Jermyn Apartments. I congratulate Mr. DiBileo for
03 your Republican victory. Some of them votes came out
04 of Jermyn Apartments. Congratulations.
05 MR. DIBILEO: Appreciate that,
06 Mr. Budzinski.
07 MR. BUDZINKSI: In the 200 block
08 of Wyoming Avenue, half of the lights are burned out.
09 Mr. Walsh, who is responsible for the lights in the
10 city?
11 MR. SAUNDERS: The 200 block of --
12 MR. BUDZINSKI: Wyoming Avenue.
13 It's dark. It's dark there. It's real dark.
14 MR. SAUNDERS: That's MEM that's
15 in control of that. If you call me tomorrow -- today I
16 just went through this for the first time, and I think
17 other people have gone through it, streetlight out,
18 it's Slout, it's a website that if you give me the
19 locations of those lights --

20 MR. BUDZINSKI: It's on the
21 left-hand side going down, and there's also bricks, you
22 know they had the cement and the bricks.
23 The you go down the lower end, the
24 bricks keep rising up, you know what I mean? It could
25 be a dangerous situation.

0076

01 MR. SAUNDERS: What block is it?

02 MR. BUDZINSKI: The 200 block of
03 Wyoming Avenue.

04 MR. BUDZINSKI: And the bricks
05 keep rising up. You know, some seniors could stumble
06 up over that.

07 MR. WALSH: If you have the exact
08 location, you should just give that to Jay and he can
09 check that out.

10 MR. SAUNDERS: The 200 of Wyoming
11 is good enough.

12 MR. BUDZINSKI: The 100 block.

13 Off Lackawanna, 100 block and then the 200 block.

14 MR. SAUNDERS: I'll take it from
15 there.

16 MR. BUDZINSKI: Okay. I've been
17 doing some research at the library, and the population
18 dropped in Scranton. I think it was 1980,
19 80,000; 1990, 76,000, I don't want to bore you on this
20 one, and 2000, 73,000, and then the census taken five
21 years ago, I would assume that the population should be
22 \$71,000, \$72,000.

23 And once we were -- we used to be
24 the third largest city. Followed us up, now we're down
25 to seventh. And the next census, who knows. We may
0077

01 drop down to tenth with Harrisburg and Bethlehem,
02 they're in the 60,000 populations, unless we get things
03 turned around in this town.

04 Now, we have this Southern Union
05 corporation. Well, I welcome them to come into
06 Scranton. Now, I read in the paper where instead of 75
07 to 100 population, there would probably be about, you
08 know, 75 to 100 working, I mean, and it'd be down to
09 about 50.

10 Well, anyway this corporation has
11 been around for about 50, 60, 70 years, and they're in
12 the Wall Street Journal and they're -- it starts about
13 23, and it's a good stock, so it's a good corporation.
14 But I feel in time downtown, I think they will turn
15 around and probably in time hire 150 to 200 people.

16 Now, getting around to this super
17 grocery store. I have a lot of people on my back
18 about that grocery store to keep pushing it, keep
19 pushing it. Now, I go to Gerrity's
20 three, four times a week because I can only carry so
21 much, and I usually go to the Keyser Valley Gerrity's
22 in Keyser Valley.
23 Anyway, I was going to go down to
24 Redner's on the bus, but the Greyhound bus was late a
25 half an hour, so then I cancelled that out, so I went
0078
01 to Gerrity's on South Main Avenue.
02 Now, Gerrity's for seniors,
03 there's a fellow by the name of Dave, and he came up to
04 me and said, Hey, I'll give you a ride. I work for
05 Gerrity's. I'm here to give the seniors a ride.
06 So, he gave me a ride right to the
07 Jermyn and carried the groceries in the Jermyn. And
08 like I said before with the -- to get become to the
09 24,000 families in downtown Scranton, if Ma Gerrity
10 gets the word, get around to getting that store down
11 there, I think she'll do very good. Thank you for
12 listening to me.
13 MS. EVANS: Thank you.
14 MR. DIBILEO: Thanks,
15 Mr. Budzinski. Fred, how about Redman's, is that
16 any -- is Redman's convenient for you, Redman's
17 Supermarket? Is that out of the way for you?
18 MR. BUDZINSKI: Gerrity's, I go
19 to Gerrity's. My loyalty is at Gerrity's.
20 MR. DIBILEO: Oh, okay. Two good
21 establishments. That's it for the sign-in sheet. Are
22 there any other speakers?
23 MR. DAVIS: My name is Jim Davis
24 from Scranton. I have a question right off the bat.
25 On our agenda, Section 5, B and C, I have a question
0079
01 with a problem with the usage of the word eligible
02 project, do you have something in your backup file that
03 describes what the eligible project might be for
04 \$250,000?
05 MR. DIBILEO: If there's nothing
06 back there, we can get that information for you,
07 Mr. Davis.
08 MR. DAVIS: Oh, okay. All right.
09 We'll go back to that then.
10 MR. SAUNDERS: Mr. DiBileo,
11 eligible project, they're creating jobs for low to

12 moderate income people, that is one of the things.

13 There's a whole slew of things that qualify them, but

14 both these things fall under into that category.

15 MR. DAVIS: They're developing

16 jobs?

17 MR. SAUNDERS: Yeah. The city

18 will give you a loan, if that is what is going to

19 happen. They will bring in jobs there that will employ

20 low to moderate families.

21 MR. DIBILEO: Jay, if there's a

22 definition in writing, why don't you get that for

23 Mr. Davis so that he can take a look at that, okay?

24 MR. DAVIS: I would like very much

25 to introduce an idea to you. Summer is coming, and

0080

01 I've checked out the CETA program, I've talked about

02 the CETA program prior to this point in time. We are

03 now in May. June is next month.

04 I went down today to the

05 Career Links, which is the last place that I had any

06 success with last year, they are not going to -- they

07 do not know of any funding coming done the pike as far

08 as a summer program is concerned. They had enough

09 money last year to hire 50 kids.

10 Now, Career Link works with the

11 kids that are still in school. The county works with

12 those that are out of school. They can be 18 years and

13 older, but those that are unemployed. They have

14 positions for them, from what I understand.

15 So, if you are 18 and older, the

16 place to go for employment is SLHDA or the county at

17 the present time. If you are under and you are still

18 in high school and desire to work the summer and

19 through the year, go and talk to Career Link,

20 Mr. Smith there, and you have to ask him for the youth

21 program. But they're not sure they're going to be

22 funded. Labor and Industry is who funds them.

23 And they won't know that until

24 June 15. So, if they can get a program up and running,

25 it won't be until June 15, that they'll have any

0081

01 knowledge of this or any way of funding it.

02 Okay. Number two, yesterday I

03 went to the Sewer Authority, and nobody seems to bring

04 this up at all, but we've changed over from one company

05 to another company to handle our sewer, and everybody's

06 affected about the sewer. I don't care how rich you

07 are or how poor you are, you're affected by what goes

08 into the sewer.
09 Someone came here earlier tonight
10 and talked about the sewer backing up, well, that will
11 affect everyone. And we have a group of men down there
12 that are really working hard.
13 I sat there and I listened to
14 their caucus, and there's a lot of money that's being
15 spent, a gigantic amount. We're talking about millions
16 of dollars, and they're being very responsible with it,
17 they're being very careful with it, from what I've
18 heard.
19 I think we've moved in the right
20 way, is what I'm saying. I think the fact of taking it
21 away from American Anglican, was that the name of the
22 company, and putting it back in the hands of those that
23 are natives and people of Scranton was a smart move, as
24 far as I'm concerned at this point in time right now.
25 Now, I don't know what is going to happen tomorrow, of
0082
01 course.
02 The last thing I want to speak
03 about is this Act 20 that the police are being put
04 through, I've got a report back from that that they're
05 teaching profiling. Would you please, Mr. Courtright,
06 check that out for me? Maybe my information was wrong.
07 It came from an NAACP investigator.
08 MR. COURTRIGHT: You're saying
09 they're teaching them how to profile?
10 MR. DAVIS: Profiling, yes sir.
11 MR. COURTRIGHT: Not to my
12 knowledge. I'll check into it. I would imagine they
13 can't do that. That's covered by MOPEC. They create
14 the rules. I would doubt very seriously they could do
15 that, but I'll check it for you.
16 MR. DAVIS: Okay. Because it
17 seems as though within the last two months, we've had a
18 rash of arrests of our African American youth in
19 Scranton.
20 MR. COURTRIGHT: Well, I can
21 assure you the Scranton Police Department is not
22 profiling people.
23 MR. DAVIS: Okay. All right. You
24 heard that, right? Okay. Scranton is still Scranton.
25 Scranton is the same as any other city in the United
0083
01 States. If profiling is being taught, it just should
02 be stopped. I'm not saying it's right or wrong, but
03 I'm saying it should be stopped.

04 MR. COURTRIGHT: I'm saying that I
05 do not believe it is being taught.
06 MR. DAVIS: All right. If you
07 don't believe it, they're telling me it's happening.
08 All right. Please check it out.
09 MR. COURTRIGHT: I most certainly
10 will check it out.
11 MR. DAVIS: Thank you very much.
12 MR. COURTRIGHT: You're welcome.
13 MR. DAVIS: Thank you.
14 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,
15 Mr. Davis.
16 MR. MORGAN: Good evening,
17 Council. My name is Lee Morgan. The first thing I
18 have here is that I agree with this gentleman here who
19 is talking about a shopping mart or a food store in
20 downtown Scranton, when I was a child, I believe it was
21 the A & P was in downtown and 4-5000 and 3131 were two
22 cab companies that were close by and it was definitely
23 a magnet to the downtown.
24 And since we have mass transit, I
25 imagine that we can get, I don't want to single out
0084
01 seniors, but I think that we can get just about every
02 senior citizen in town to get on the bus and come to
03 Scranton and buy a bag of groceries and take it back
04 home and it would be great for foot traffic and allow
05 people to get out, use our mass transit, and it would
06 be a plus.
07 My one other thing here is, you
08 know, there was a lady who spoke at this podium here
09 about a problem she's having with asthma attacks, and
10 that's a very serious issue and it can lead to death,
11 as I found out myself last year.
12 And I would like to ask this
13 Council, the city controller and the mayor to get on
14 one page together and move legislation through this
15 Council with agreement of possibly the Scranton Housing
16 Authority to move this lady out of her house in an
17 emergency situation or find somewhere else to put her.
18 You know, there definitely is a
19 problem there. We haven't definitely found out what's
20 triggering that problem. We aren't aware of any
21 neighbors who may be having a problem, but we are aware
22 that this lady has come here a few times and spoken
23 about that.
24 You know, it might take time to
25 study it, but I really don't think we have time to wait

0085

01 for somebody to die before we decide that we should
02 move forward as rapidly as possible.

03 Evidently somebody gave the
04 permits necessary for this business to be located
05 there, but evidently something is wrong there, and we
06 do have a statement from a doctor saying there is a
07 problem.

08 And as everybody says, let's not
09 play politics, or possibly in this situation, let's
10 play politics and let's do what's right and let's try
11 to move something.

12 And I believe that it can be done
13 here, and I think it would be a very positive thing.
14 We're not asking this Council to do something in every
15 situation. This is an isolated situation, and it's a
16 very, very serious situation, and I would just hope
17 that Council would use whatever powers it has in its
18 discretion, and, you know, let's open a line of
19 communication to the mayor and let's really -- I'm not
20 saying to berate the mayor, but let's get him involved.
21 Let's get Mrs. Novembrino involved, let's get all local
22 government involved and let's find a solution for
23 this.

24 And the other thing I'd like to
25 say is, I didn't have an opportunity to come last week,
0086

01 but I really appreciate everybody who's voted.
02 And a lot of people went out and
03 changed their registration to make sure that there
04 would be two people in this race, in this next
05 election.

06 And I know there was a concerted
07 effort, personally I know that, to have people change
08 their registration to make sure that this would
09 happen.

10 We didn't want the same thing to
11 happen that happened last time when Mr. Bolus ran, and
12 the day before the election the courts ruled that he
13 wasn't a viable candidate, and we didn't want a
14 situation where issues weren't going to be debated
15 because somebody didn't feel there was a legitimate
16 candidate. And now we have two candidates running in
17 this race, and I'd like to thank everybody who ran.
18 For years people have said that,
19 you know, if you ever get tired of going to Council, do
20 the people ever get tired of going there, you're
21 wasting your time.

22 And I'll tell you the same thing
23 I've told everybody else, big things are coming here.
24 We are involved. We care.
25 We are spinning an agenda of
0087
01 empowerment for the people of this city and people who
02 live outside this city, and I think the message is
03 coming through. Look what is happening in Dunmore,
04 look's what happened in Throop. The people are being
05 empowered. We're paying attention.
06 And what I have to say to
07 everybody is, Please get everyone you can to register
08 to vote, become as informed as you possibly can on the
09 issues and vote and let's surprise everybody and become
10 involved.
11 You know, it easy to talk about
12 what's going on in other countries, how we're setting
13 the Iraqis free and we're doing this and we're doing
14 that.
15 I think over the course of a long
16 history in this city, it's been special interests that
17 has been served here, but now the people are coming
18 front and center and we're demanding change.
19 And we're at the gates of City
20 Hall and we are not going to retreat. We are not here
21 to pound anybody into the ground, we're not here to
22 play politics, okay?
23 It's a shame when you're a senior
24 citizen and you work a part time or a full-time job to
25 pay your taxes. We want legitimate things done by
0088
01 government, we want prudent spending and we want to end
02 tax anticipation notes and we want to be able to fund
03 our government and do the things that have to be done.
04 You know, we appreciate all the
05 people that served on this Council. I don't feel that
06 any one person on this Council is against the
07 taxpayers.
08 You all have a diverse opinion and
09 you voice that opinion, but what we want in the end is
10 we want what is right.
11 And the last thing I have is, you
12 know, we still want a playground program in this city,
13 and we would appreciate the Council taking that into
14 consideration.
15 And I think that a major thing
16 that has to be expressed in this election is why the
17 City of Scranton doesn't have an ALS unit that's run by

18 the city. I think we need two of them.
19 I think that we need to get
20 involved. I think that a lot of issues have to be
21 discussed, and I would like to ask the League of Women
22 Voters to come up with new questions and let's hear
23 some questions without giving people time to study the
24 question and let's hear what they have to say cold.
25 Thank you.

0089

01 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,

02 Mr. Morgan.

03 MR. NEVEROSKI: Ladies and

04 gentlemen. Bob Neveroski. We printed a Hill Ink in

05 April, I believe, and I'm a victim of -- four people

06 dropped out of the hill, they said what we had printed

07 was political, but we've been printing it for, like,

08 eight years, and the Hill Neighborhood Association

09 endorses no candidate. What I do in my personal life

10 is my business, but as an organization, we endorse

11 nobody.

12 Ozzie Quinn and I sat down and we

13 come up with a letter that Ozzie was instrumental in a

14 lot of things at Nay Aug, and I'd like to read the

15 letter in its entirety. If I can't, then I'll just sit

16 down.

17 MR. DIBILEO: Go ahead, Bob.

18 MR. NEVEROSKI: All right.

19 May 26, 2005, HNA member to key and gorge and

20 Davis Trail revival.

21 According to prior local news

22 stories that were printed in the Scranton Times and the

23 former expired Scranton Tribune, Bob Ozzie Quinn, a

24 member of longstanding of the Hill Neighborhood

25 Association was instrumental in having the Nay Aug

0090

01 Gorge designated as a national natural landmark by the

02 U.S. Department of Interiors National Park Service;

03 however, he has never been acknowledged by such by

04 Mayor Doherty or anybody for his efforts.

05 A fatal drowning in 1986 promoted

06 public outcry for safety measures at the gorge. And

07 for public information, the boy who died was

08 Chris Phillips' brother at that time.

09 Mr. Quinn at that period of time

10 served on Scranton's Planning Commission. A couple of

11 standout public comments at the time of the drowning

12 were to blow up the gorge or to fill in the gorge with

13 boulders dropped by the way of a helicopter.

14 There have been 50-plus drowning
15 facilities in the gorge according to research. Instead
16 a study team working with geologist Dr. Brian Redman
17 and Environmentalist Ronald Neehur prompted Mr. Quinn
18 of the idea to develop a tourist attraction,
19 educational tool and safe sanctuary for nature lovers.
20 After a couple of years of study,
21 the team -- by the team, the gorge was designated a
22 national natural landmark.

23 The gorge, its waterfall and the
24 Davis Trail are part of a 35 acre site formed by the
25 Roaring Brook, a tributary of the Lackawanna River.

0091

01 Mr. Quinn is quoted in one news
02 story saying, I think it's a good focal point for
03 Nay Aug to bring in tourists, adding that the tracks
04 carrying trains from Steamtown National site pass only
05 150 yards away from the gorge.
06 Subsequently Mr. Quinn said that
07 on June 7, 2004, he sent a letter to Steamtown National
08 Park with a copy to Mayor Chris Doherty and
09 subsequently to the Scranton Times and Tribune about
10 the gorge's potential as it relates to Steamtown and
11 the general public.

12 Mr. Quinn's reasoning was being
13 that the gorge, a national natural landmark and
14 Steamtown Park are both under the auspices of the
15 National Park Service.

16 Mr. Quinn said he did not receive
17 any return comments from either Steamtown or
18 Mayor Doherty. HNA has a copy of Mr. Quinn's letter in
19 its office files.

20 The gorge site displays geological
21 features of the Appalachian range, furthermore,
22 the team study with the natural history selection
23 indicates that the Nay Aug falls is an area which
24 preserved in its natural state provides insight into the
25 evolution of land forms, as well as the interdependence

0092

01 of man and nature.

02 Numerous outcrops along the gorge
03 serve shelter for Native American populations. Many of
04 the shelters still exist and provide us insight into
05 the cultural chronology of Lackawanna County.

06 The gorge's development into a
07 tourist attraction was stressed during the early stages
08 of the former Lackawanna Valley Heritage Park known as
09 the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority.

10 An ongoing study funded by the
11 Heritage Valley Authority was aimed at restoring the
12 Davis Trail, a 2.8 mile path that initially began at
13 the Everhart Museum, winding its way through the park
14 and encompassing the gorge; however, the trail has
15 since been abbreviated by Mayor Doherty.
16 The balanced ecosystem makes for
17 an extremely valuable educational tool when approaching
18 the natural and life scientist.
19 A failed trip to such an area will
20 provide excellence examples of geology, physical
21 geography, biology and ecology.
22 Mr. Quinn told HNA that the
23 initial study by the team in the 1980s, indicates a
24 significance of the gorge and the Davis Trail; however,
25 Mayor Doherty has failed to acknowledge the study
0093

01 team's work regarding the gorge's designation as a
02 natural landmark and the Davis Trail within Nay Aug
03 Park. Congratulations to
04 Mr. Quinn for his public service to our community.
05 Furthermore, the HNA would be remiss if it did not
06 mention the fact that Mr. Quinn in his capacity as a
07 grant writing has been instrumental with writing
08 several private, state and local grants for HNA
09 membership, especially benefiting elderly and low to
10 moderate income residents through the Hill boundaries.
11 Mr. Quinn was instrumental in
12 getting this on -- he was the guy that got this a
13 national landmark. I think Mr. Quinn should receive
14 accommodation from the city for this. Thank you.
15 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.

16 Mr. Neveroski, I was actually aware that Mr. Quinn had
17 a lot to do with the designation that the gorge
18 received, and I'd like to publicly thank him for all
19 that he did to make that an occurrence, and we might
20 possibly be able to recognize him with a proclamation
21 right here at City Council.

22 MR. NEVEROSKI: Would you like a
23 copy of this?

24 MR. DIBILEO: Yes, please. And
25 we'll poll the Council at next week's Council meeting
0094

01 and see if there's enough support to have that done.
02 Thank you very much.

03 MS. KRAKE: Good evening, Council.

04 My name is Nancy Krake.

05 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.

06 MS. KRAKE: Before I start my
07 speech, I notice there's a little bit of this theme
08 this evening that this administration cares a lot for
09 businesses and not as much for the citizens.
10 And Mr. B from the Jermyn
11 Apartments is always asking about a grocery store
12 downtown, and I was wondering if there are any KOZs
13 left or if we can find out about that, maybe that would
14 entice a business, and that might be a good use for a
15 KOZ for a change.
16 This week the mayor put his views
17 forth on the public access TV channel. They are quite
18 opposite of what is happening in the city. The mayor
19 feels the cost of union workers is the reason he ran a
20 \$4 million deficit. It is not the reason. It is the
21 cumulative costs of administrative salaries,
22 administration job creations, pension gifts, consultant
23 fees and redundant payroll fees, actually \$1600 per
24 pay. These little things add up.
25 The mayor says health care for
0095
01 city workers costs too much, so when health care costs
02 go up, he implements the following plan, No. 1, fire
03 the health care consultants that have saved the city
04 millions of dollars; No. 2, fire the auditors who could
05 potentially recoop big monies from Blue Cross for the
06 city; No. 3, give your administration salary hikes to
07 cover any raises in health care co-pay.
08 The mayor has started going to
09 neighborhood meetings, that's nice. He has five months
10 to make up for the three and a half years he's been
11 ignoring the neighborhoods.
12 I think he even started watching
13 the Council meetings after the primary election. All
14 the items Mrs. Evans brings up become his little
15 crusades. I think you really are a good teacher,
16 Mrs. Evans.
17 The mayor and his administration
18 truly believe they are the only people to bring
19 business to the downtown or the only people capable, I
20 should say.
21 The truth is much revitalization
22 took place before him and it will continue long after
23 he's gone, that is as long as there are people working
24 and living in the city.
25 We lost nearly 3,000 residents
0096
01 since he took office, and another four more years of

02 this administration and we'll have lost nearly
03 10 percent of our population.
04 The odd thing is, I think the
05 mayor and his administration don't mind if people are
06 leaving. They seem to be saying if you can't afford to
07 stay, get out.
08 The mayor still feels his recovery
09 plan will be the answer to our financial woes. He
10 tells us how he and Councilman Gilhooley worked
11 diligently with the Pennsylvania Economy League to come
12 up with this recovery plan.
13 This is the plan which allows
14 unlimited management rights. We've seen how
15 disastrous they are. Cuts to clerical, cuts to police
16 officers and eventually firehouses will close.
17 And they don't give these savings back to
18 the people as tax relief, no, they just pass the monies
19 onto themselves as raises and jobs. Those are
20 management rights.
21 This is the plan that has no way
22 to raise revenue for the city, something we need in
23 view of the way this administration likes to spend.
24 This is the plan that abuses the distressed city act,
25 Act 47. It abuses it in just about every way
0097
01 imaginable.
02 At this point we don't need to
03 just fire the Pennsylvania Economy League, we need an
04 exorcism to get rid of them.
05 Of course, a new mayor and
06 administration would greatly help to lift us from
07 distressed status and give the city back to the people
08 who live here, in fact, government is about and for
09 people.
10 Mr. Davis gave an excellent quote
11 at the podium here one evening and that was, You must
12 love the people you serve. Taking that one step
13 further, you must love all the people you serve, and I
14 believe the people of Scranton will elect as their next
15 mayor the person that fits that description. Thank
16 you.
17 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,
18 Mrs. Krake. Are there any other speakers?
19 MR. McANDREW: Good evening,
20 Council, Larry McAndrew. I'll try to be brief with my
21 statements. Again, we the people here in Scranton have
22 spoken here tonight. We had a variety of subjects and
23 a variety of topics, and I compliment and I encourage

24 more citizen involvement. Congratulations,
25 Mr. DiBileo.

0098

01 MR. DIBLEO: Thank you.

02 MR. McANDREW: I think it's going

03 to be a hot summer here in Scranton with this election

04 approaching. I am confident, I am confident.

05 I want to thank Channel 61. I

06 think they played a big part in getting our message

07 across. We didn't stand a chance ten weeks ago. Now

08 look at us.

09 Mayor Doherty, you had a third

10 person in this last primary election that took votes

11 away from this campaign. It's down to two people now.

12 Let's see what happens. Let's see how these citizens

13 of Scranton react now.

14 Enough on that. I want to thank

15 the people of Scranton that came out to our memorial

16 veterans parade this past Saturday. Your support was

17 well welcome.

18 But, you know, veterans need more

19 than just one day of thanks and support. Every day of

20 the year they should be thanked for our freedom, for

21 our independence. So, go out of your way if you know

22 somebody and thank them for this.

23 On Tuesday evening the Chamber of

24 Commerce here in Scranton had their dinner and they put

25 on a new board president. This person is in charge of

0099

01 the Lackawanna College. I don't need to say his name,

02 I believe everybody is familiar with this person.

03 We know what he did for

04 Central High School and for Lackawanna College. His

05 vision and my vision are the same. He believes in

06 technology. Technology will bring younger people back,

07 it will create better jobs, it will sport this

08 community.

09 I also want to comment about an

10 editorial letter that was written in the Scranton

11 Tribune this morning. I believe the person named was

12 Miss Carol Thomas. I don't know this person, but I

13 want to bring up two issues, one, she brought up about

14 Mayor Doherty and his positive attitude and how he

15 doesn't work with this City Council.

16 I feel that Mayor Doherty hasn't

17 spoken or will not work with this City Council when he

18 uses a solicitor by the name of Carl Greco.

19 Carl Greco is his ears and his voice. He has been in

20 the last three or four years for that mayor.
21 It has cost the taxpayers over
22 \$400,000 by having this solicitor represent
23 Mayor Doherty. This is not right.
24 The other issue I want to bring up
25 about that editorial is, remember a date. The date is
0100
01 December 31, 2010, and I hope Ms. Thomas writes down
02 that date and remembers that date and I hope the
03 City of Scranton residents and taxpayers remember that
04 date, also. That is the end of KOZ. That's the end of
05 free rides, the end of free real estate and the end of
06 Mayor Doherty's way of bringing this city together. It
07 is smoke and mirrors. It's not the way to go. Thank
08 you very much.
09 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.
10 MS. HARRISON: Ann Marie Harrison,
11 city taxpayer and also a city employee. As what I
12 discussed to you the last two weeks, I'm here again
13 because the day after Council I did receive a letter
14 from the chief of police, and it basically what it says
15 here is, I received a request for a copy of the
16 internal investigation that was conducted by
17 Lieutenant Namiotka concerning Thomas Bell.
18 Upon completion of the
19 investigation, the information was forwarded directly
20 to me. After reviewing the report, it was sent to the
21 office of Lisa Moran, the human resource director.
22 Any disciplinary action concerning
23 this matter will come out of the human resource
24 department. The chief's office is not in possession of
25 this document.
0101
01 Due to the fact that I do not
02 handle clerical employees' discipline, the documents
03 was forwarded to the human resources.
04 So, of course, I wrote him a
05 letter back and I basically what I told him is let me
06 rephrase my question per your letter which I received
07 hand-delivered from your secretary.
08 I would like a copy of the printed
09 reports stating who was in my incident reports, dates
10 and times which Lieutenant Namiotka printed for the
11 internal investigation.
12 I am not only referring to
13 Thomas Bell and the information technology department,
14 I am also referring to certain police officers.
15 Who oversees the Department of

16 Records for the Scranton Police Department? Who
17 oversees the entire Scranton Police Department? I
18 believe that would not be the department of human
19 resources.
20 So, of course today I get a letter
21 from Lisa Moran, and this really puzzles me. I got it
22 at twenty to four today, which I'm very happy so I can
23 share it with you tonight.
24 It says, Dear, Ann Marie, in
25 response to a request regarding the internal
0102
01 investigation of fellow employee Thomas Bell, the city
02 is inability to provide you the information requested.
03 The internal investigation is a
04 personnel matter which is both confidential and not
05 public record under the Right To Know Act.
06 The City of Scranton takes
07 seriously the confidentiality of all employees'
08 personnel records. This policy protects you and all of
09 the city employees.
10 Well, here's a man who went into
11 my -- the state police computers, persuaded a clerical
12 worker to go into my incident reports. Not only did it
13 have a certain incident that I wouldn't like to share
14 with the whole City of Scranton and the information
15 technology department, certain police officers that had
16 no right to be in my reports, so on and so forth, but I
17 had no protection.
18 I took -- that cost me time from
19 work. I don't want to sound like a broken record, but
20 it was just an awful thing that happened in my life.
21 It was an embarrassment to come into work and
22 everything.
23 Where was my protection when this
24 was going on for a year with people going into my
25 reports? How did they feel when I was walking into
0103
01 work with embarrassment from people talking about me?
02 I didn't get any help at all from this administration
03 whatsoever.
04 What happened, I used to work in
05 the police department with a fellow union member who
06 took a lot of abuse from this administration, and God
07 rest her soul and God bless her family, she committed
08 suicide.
09 That could have been me. I had to
10 seek professional help to talk about coming back to
11 work because of the embarrassment.

12 This lady left her daughter
13 motherless. I have two children. That could have been
14 me. This really strikes -- this really hurts me. And
15 as long as I -- well, let's put it this way, I'm better
16 now and I'm stronger, and as long as I walk on this
17 earth, I am not going to be quiet. I am going to take
18 this as far as I possibly can until I receive the
19 justice I deserve.
20 He's talking about -- he is most
21 likely going to have litigation on his hands. I went
22 to them and this could have been resolved in one
23 meeting, but unfortunately this is the games right here
24 that I have to go through. That's all I have to say
25 this week. Thank you.

0104

01 MR. ANCHERANI: Good evening,
02 Council. I'm Nelson Ancherani, I'm a citizen, resident
03 and a taxpayer, and also the financial secretary for
04 the Fraternal Order of Police.
05 On the mayor's ten-minute show the
06 union are again getting the blame. This time for
07 allegedly costing the city millions in health care
08 costs.
09 I'm not going to go into it, but
10 Mrs. Krake answered that, how they fired the health
11 care consultant and the auditor.
12 So, again, I'm going to ask the
13 mayor, show me. Show me and the citizens of this city
14 where the figures are that support that. You show me
15 the figures, I might believe that.
16 He can send all the smoke signals
17 he wants. Until we get the figures, we're not
18 going to believe it.
19 Also I want to congratulate
20 Mrs. Evans and Mr. DiBileo. And I just want you to
21 remember that when you treat people with respect and
22 dignity, you'll get that back four fold. It will come
23 back to you and everybody else. Thank you.
24 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you. Are
25 there any other speakers?

0105

01 MR. FIORINI: Good evening,
02 Council. My name is William Fiorini, I'm the director
03 of permits, licensing and inspections. Before I get
04 started, can I approach Council?
05 MR. DIBILEO: Sure.
06 MR. FIORINI: I'm here tonight to
07 address a problem that Councilman Janet Evans brought

08 to me about a week ago, and I have talked to the mayor
09 about the situation. Mayor Doherty has some concerns
10 about this, and he wants me to get this situation
11 rectified.

12 I spent almost a half a day going
13 over ways into that property down there. I'll go over
14 that with you. But Tuesday night from 9 p.m. to
15 11 p.m., Mike Wallace and myself spent the night there
16 doing sound levels.

17 They do use a forklift. They
18 operate until eleven o'clock at night, they operate a
19 second shift. The forklift, there's only one, and they
20 run about every 15 to 20 minutes. They pick up pallets
21 of block and bring it out to the yard and deposit them
22 and then they return back.

23 The decibel level at the fence
24 line was 50 decibels, 54 decibels, which is acceptable.
25 We even stood next to the homes, and the decibel level
0106

01 was still the same.

02 But in that 15 to 20 minute period
03 on the street, vehicle traffic, and I counted the cars,
04 there was about 20 to 25 vehicles traveling up Dickson
05 and going up Delaware.

06 I think the reason they do that is
07 to bypass the light on Green Ridge Street to go up and
08 over Sanderson. The decibel reading of those vehicles
09 were from 68 to 78 on the vehicles.

10 So, I didn't see any noise
11 problems there at that time, but prior to this, I had a
12 meeting with the management of Daron Products, and we
13 know there's a dust problem there.

14 They're going to have a \$70,000
15 paving program, but they're not going to pave the whole
16 area, it's just going to be the routes that the trucks
17 will take in there.

18 The other situation that I have is
19 that vehicles are parking on the street waiting to get
20 in there in the morning. As the woman said tonight,
21 you know, that can't be tolerated.

22 I have a short-term solution, you
23 know, with the dust, with the vehicle. I think -- I
24 have to talk to Mr. Lewis, who is the manager, and ask
25 him to have the streets cleaned every day either, you
0107

01 know, hire a company or hire the city. We have a water
02 truck, we can wash the street down.

03 The other thing I have to talk to

04 them about is the fencing is to put plastic slats in
05 the fencing to stop the dust from blowing out.
06 Also where they have the aggregate
07 that they use to manufacture the block and brick
08 pavers, they're going to have to cover or build a silo
09 there for the aggregate so that the wind does not carry
10 across. And Tuesday night when I was there there was a
11 good wind coming across there.
12 The arial photo that I gave you,
13 there are several problems to Daron U.S.A. They're
14 coming off of 81 and coming down Green Ridge Street and
15 making a right-hand turn onto Dickson Avenue to go into
16 the plant.
17 On their map here you see Nay Aug
18 Avenue, which is in blue. That is a route that
19 possibly could be taken, but there's two factors. If
20 they're coming down Green Ridge Street, there's a
21 viaduct on Green Ridge Street, which I don't think the
22 trailers will make underneath because of their stacks.
23 Now, if you go down Nay Aug Avenue
24 and you come up East Market Street, you also have
25 another viaduct. And you can see that as you continue
0108
01 up, there's Mylard Avenue, which would go directly into
02 the plant.
03 There the area that I have
04 depicted on here is an orange off of Green Ridge
05 Street, and that used to be Gardner Avenue. And then
06 behind and in front of the Green Ridge Shopping Center
07 there's an abandoned railroad bed, which in turn would
08 come up into the backside of Daron.
09 But that's a long-term solution,
10 because they would have to try to acquire that railroad
11 bed then have the railroad company to try to get two
12 rail crossings put in there, and then the traffic would
13 have to come off of 81 the other way down West Market
14 Street to Main Avenue, over Main Avenue down
15 Green Ridge and down this other route that I just
16 stated. So, I'm going to continue on this to come up
17 with a solution.
18 MS. EVANS: Mr. Fiorini, do you
19 think it might be possible or maybe you could discuss
20 this with them, if you haven't already, that they might
21 want to purchase or make an offer to purchase some of
22 the houses that are most devastated by the business?
23 I know that, you know, having
24 spoken with the one individual, for example, she had
25 noted that during our conversation, that if they want

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01 to continue to remain and to continue their current
02 practices, then she'd be interested in being bought
03 out.

04 MR. FIORINI: Okay. I mean, I'm
05 open for any suggestion and help on this, because as
06 you can see here, there is no physical way to change
07 the traffic of the vehicles.

08 MS. EVANS: Right.

09 MR. COURTRIGHT: Bill, are they --
10 Daron, are they willing to build these silos in the
11 near future?

12 MR. FIORINI: I haven't talked to
13 them. This is my evaluation going down spending a day
14 down there riding around going over these streets to
15 see if there's another way to get in there.

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: Because the dust
17 seems to be the number one problem, right?

18 MR. FIORINI: Yes.

19 MR. COURTRIGHT: And I would think
20 as much, if not more, from the aggregate, like you
21 said, that they have stored there, as opposed -- I
22 understand the trucks make dust, but the aggregates
23 stored there, I think if they can, like, take your
24 suggestion, I think that would be a great step.

25 MR. FIORINI: Right. What happens
0110

01 is with the aggregate, the wind when it's windy blows
02 it because it's just piled there. There is no barrier
03 around it whatsoever.

04 With the forklifts because of the
05 exhaust system blows out of the bottom, and as they're
06 traveling over the dirt, that's blowing dust up, okay?
07 They have modified those forklifts for sound.

08 And the other suggestion I have
09 for short-term solution is that we put signs on the
10 street, no truck traffic between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. on
11 the street, both on Dickson and the other street there,
12 Delaware.

13 MS. EVANS: I think that's a very
14 good idea, but my concern with that is we've placed
15 such signs in other locations, which have been
16 consistently ignored by truck traffic, whether it's
17 Park Gardens, whether it's Railroad Avenue.

18 You know, through the years these
19 signs have been posted, and as I said, consistently
20 ignored, and then we're told it's a problem of
21 enforcement, and of course the police at this point in

22 time are really overextended, overworked in terms of
23 what they're --

24 MR. FIORINI: I understand that.

25 I mean, if I was a police officer just sitting there in
0111

01 those two hours, I could have made a lot of money with
02 people going through the stops signs. I mean, they
03 just buzz right through them.

04 MS. EVANS: No, I agree, but the
05 point is, you know, like I said, we're told then it's
06 an enforcement issue and then the police aren't able to
07 satisfactorily comply with that because they're being,
08 you know, called out elsewhere.

09 MR. FIORINI: I think, you know, I
10 make this aware to Daron, maybe they can send letters
11 to their suppliers and customers that come there, send
12 out a letter to them that, you know, we don't open
13 until seven and do not park your vehicles on the
14 street.

15 MS. EVANS: After 7 p.m.

16 MR. FIORINI: Right, until that
17 time. I mean, that's what I can --

18 MS. EVANS: Well, it's worth a
19 try.

20 MR. FIORINI: I mean, it's a tough
21 situation here that we have. I mean, basically you
22 know, the 12 years that I've been here, I think six
23 years when it was an abandoned building, the structure
24 there, I was called there several times with fires, you
25 know, vagrants and even robbery.

0112

01 We had people in there cutting
02 copper wire out and loading it in trucks and taking it
03 out and selling it. I mean, this has been a far
04 improvement from what was there before.
05 The future plans, which I approved
06 drawings for them, on the corner of Electric Street and
07 Dickson Avenue, they are going to put three retail
08 shops with its own parking and buffer area, and then
09 the other part of it that they have torn down, they're
10 going to put office space there and rent offices. So,
11 I mean, they are trying.

12 MS. EVANS: Right. And that
13 sounds very nice for that section of Green Ridge,
14 but --

15 MR. FIORINI: But we have to
16 address the situation at hand.

17 MS. EVANS: The fact remains these

18 people are suffering in this area. And, you know, I
19 understand and believe you that the decibels are
20 acceptable, but I have to think to myself, too, after
21 ten o'clock at night and at five o'clock in the morning
22 with trucks coming and going and a forklift operating,
23 I can easily see how if I lived right across the street
24 from this business, I'm not going to be able to sleep
25 at night and I'm going to be awakened.

0113

01 You know, I think if anyone were
02 asked this, there would be very few people, maybe
03 children can sleep through that, but --
04 MR. FIORINI: But you don't hear
05 it. I mean, we really don't even hear the forklifts.
06 I mean, the only way at first that I was alerted that
07 there was forklifts there was the lights reflecting off
08 the block, and I just turned, I said, Mike, there's a
09 forklift. I mean, I didn't even know they were
10 operating the forklifts down there at night.

11 MS. EVANS: Well, I think it's,
12 too, not just the forklifts, but from what the
13 residents have told me, there are trucks coming and
14 going.

15 MR. FIORINI: Well, I haven't
16 seen the trucks, but, again, you know, I'm going to
17 have to have another meeting which I'll try to get set
18 up for early next week with Mr. Lewis and address these
19 problems with him that we have to solve them.

20 MS. EVANS: Yes.

21 MR. FIORINI: And maybe he would
22 be acceptable to the company purchasing one or two of
23 those homes there.

24 MS. EVANS: And I don't mean to
25 speak for any of the residents, you know, I'm only
0114

01 speaking here in general and for the one individual who
02 mentioned it to me, so it's not that --

03 MR. FIORINI: These are concerns
04 that we have to address.

05 MS. EVANS: Right.

06 MR. FIORINI: I mean, I can't see
07 why business and the neighborhood can't work together
08 there, but if we address these problems and work on
09 them, I think they can live together there.

10 MS. EVANS: Well, that's the
11 optimal situation, I agree, but in the meantime, you
12 know, it's blatant here that the residents are
13 suffering great abuse at their hands. You know, I just

14 don't believe city government, you know, you as a
15 professional can allow this to go on anymore for these
16 people.

17 MR. FIORINI: Well, I mean, I've
18 only known about this in the past two weeks on this and
19 I've been addressing it and I will continue to address
20 it until we get it solved.

21 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

22 MR. FIORINI: Thank you.

23 MR. COURTRIGHT: Thank you, Bill.

24 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,
25 Mr. Fiorini.

0115

01 MS. EVANS: Oh, before you go,
02 Mr. Fiorini, I'll meet you over here, I have a
03 couple --

04 MR. FIORINI: Oh, you got some
05 more?

06 MS. EVANS: Yeah.

07 MR. FIORINI: Okay.

08 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. If there's no
09 further speakers.

10 MR. WALSH: 5-A, Motions.

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

13 MR. McTIERNAN: I do. Mrs. Boyle
14 handed me a fund-raiser document she'd like me to let
15 the public know about.

16 There will be a benefit for the
17 Sekelski family for Sandy, Mrs. Sekelski, I assume,
18 who's been diagnosed with cancer.

19 The fund-raiser will be held
20 Sunday, May 29, from 2 to 6 p.m. at the Disabled
21 American Veterans Club located at 516 Storrs Street in
22 Dickson City. The admission is \$10. And if you are
23 looking for more information on that event, the
24 telephone number is Erika at 489-2083 for a benefit for
25 a local citizen who has been stricken with cancer. And

0116

01 that's all, Mr. President. Thank you.

02 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,

03 Mr. McTiernan, appreciate that. Mrs. Evans, any
04 motions or comments?

05 MS. EVANS: Thank you. First I'd
06 like to ask for your prayers for Mrs. Alice Coleman who
07 passed away unexpectedly this week and her family, and
08 also I ask for your prayers for two very fine men,
09 friends of my late father who are quite ill, Father

10 Berard Tierney and Father Cashen Yuhas.
11 Now down to some business issues,
12 there are quite a number of residents who would like
13 some firsthand information about Southern Union.
14 Apparently the number of jobs has declined and the
15 building appears to have notable vacancies, and these
16 individuals are wondering when did the administration
17 become aware of this situation, you know, was it just
18 this week or prior to this week; therefore, I move that
19 Solicitor Walsh send letters to the mayor,
20 Attorney Farrell, Ms. Hailstone, asking them to attend
21 a caucus meeting to explain the new position of
22 Southern Union in Scranton.
23 Also, Mr. Karam should receive a
24 letter inviting him to appear at the caucus, as well,
25 to present Southern Union's situation.

0117

01 MR. McTIERNAN: I'll second that.

02 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

03 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. We have a
04 motion on the floor and a second. On the question?

05 MR. DIBILEO: We have a motion on
06 the floor and a second. On the question? All those
07 in favor, signify by saying aye.

08 MR. McTIERNAN: Aye.

09 MS. EVANS: Aye.

10 MR. POCIUS: Aye.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

12 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The
13 ayes have it and so moved.

14 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Also,
15 under seventh order tonight I'm going to ask, as
16 Mr. DiBileo indicated earlier, I'm going to ask that we
17 table the final vote on 7-C.

18 After three years, the newspaper
19 reports that the forced retirements of the Doherty
20 administration caused increases in Workers' Comp.
21 costs, and in fact, the article says former
22 Mayor Jim Connors floated a \$4.1 million bond issue in
23 2001 that was used to buy out 53 claims with the hope
24 that it would lower annual expenses, but a spike in new
25 claims following a retirement waive in the first year

0118

01 of the Doherty administration obliterated any savings.

02 Further, according to the article,

03 Mr. Kresefski now states that a portion of the reserve
04 fund can be used for Workers' Comp. buyouts. And,
05 again, I quote, While the city cannot use the millions

06 it has in reserve for annual operating expenses,
07 Mr. Kresefski said a portion can be used to buy out
08 claims. He said the city is reviewing the cases of
09 five to ten individuals for possible settlement.
10 Now, about a year ago I proposed
11 this as a solution, and in fact I sent a letter asking
12 the mayor and Mr. Kresefski to petition the state to
13 use the reserve fund for buyouts.
14 Why did they wait so long? This
15 wasted time actually equals lost money, money that
16 could have been saved. This state deal could very well
17 be the right thing to do and could very well receive
18 the unanimous support of City Council in its approval,
19 however, before I can vote on this I want the following
20 items, first a copy of the original notification from
21 the state, and I did ask this of Attorney Farrell
22 earlier this evening, the original notification that
23 grants this agreement and allows for use of the reserve
24 fund for Workers' Comp. buyouts; secondly, I wish to
25 know who makes the call on buyouts, and I'd also like
0119

01 to know who is paying the attorney to fight those who
02 were offered the greeters position; third, I would
03 like -- I agree with Mr. DiBileo, I like the idea of a
04 public caucus, we need to open the books here for all
05 the people of Scranton, but in addition to our business
06 administrator, I would like to see if possible
07 Mrs. Novembrino or a designated representative of her
08 office, because after all, it is the city controller
09 who will sign off on all of these payments.
10 So, certainly that office deserves
11 and needs to be a part of this process, in addition,
12 PMA who monitors Workers. Comp and coordinates the
13 payments, and the Noles Associates or the local agent
14 who works with the ask excess policy or self-insured
15 retention policy, and anyone else who works on these
16 city Workers' Comp. issues.

17 MR. COURTRIGHT: Mrs. Evans, could
18 I just jump in, I was going to wait until seventh order
19 when we had this, but being Mrs. Evans bought it up
20 now, if I could just jump in here for a second.

21 MS. EVANS: Be my guest.

22 MR. COURTRIGHT: I have some
23 things, because I think we were all pretty busy with
24 the election and I was a little laxed in getting these
25 things done, but I'm going to ask if in addition to
0120

01 what Mrs. Evans said, Jay, maybe if we can get a couple

02 questions answered for myself for next week.
03 I'd like to have a list of all the
04 current Workman Comp. claims that are open. Now, I
05 know I've seen one of the previous administrations, so
06 I'm sure they can do that.
07 I'd like it to include the date of
08 loss, the amount paid for the medical and the
09 indemnity, and I see where, you know, and, again, it's
10 the newspaper saying five to ten people for buyouts,
11 I'd also like the names of those five to ten people and
12 the date of their injuries, if I can have that.
13 And Mrs. Evans pretty much covered
14 everything else I was going to do, so if we can have
15 that information for next week, I think that would be
16 real helpful.
17 MS. EVANS: Yeah, maybe in terms
18 of a spreadsheet. And also I'll add to that, one
19 insurance company had the excess policy in 2004, and
20 what is the dollar amount of the self-insured retention
21 policy?
22 I think we have to be extra
23 careful in our handling of this reserve fund money,
24 because after all, this is the taxpayers' money and
25 people have a right to know the logic and rationale of
0121
01 which individuals are selected for buyout and what the
02 savings will be and where those savings, where that
03 money will go.
04 Therefore, before the deal is
05 finalized, it's imperative that City Council and the
06 people know fully what the administration is doing,
07 because we have to protect taxpayers' money.
08 Next, this was brought up twice
09 before, I believe this evening, but I'm just going to
10 add to it quickly, I, too, have been informed that yet
11 another threatening letter was sent to a firefighter's
12 wife after the election.
13 And I remember last week
14 Mrs. Krake spoke to a letter that she had received,
15 further, I was also told by the individual that two
16 bullet holes went through the windows of this
17 firefighter's home. The letter was turned over to
18 Scranton's public safety director, and I urge anyone
19 who has received a threatening letter or suffered any
20 type of vandalism or abuse to see either Ray Hayes or
21 the state police so these letters can be checked for
22 fingerprints and any instances of vandalism or abuse
23 can be documented.

24 And tonight I'm asking, as well,
25 for your assistance with our soldiers who are being
0122
01 deployed to Iraq in June, and there is an organization,
02 The Family Readiness Group, who is planning a trip to
03 Camp Shelbie to give family members the opportunity to
04 attend deployment ceremonies for our soldiers and spend
05 some time with them before they depart from Iraq.
06 They plan to leave Scranton on
07 June 20, and travel to Kingsport, Tennessee, where they
08 will spend the night and then continue to Camp Shelbie,
09 Mississippi.
10 And on Wednesday and Thursday, the
11 22nd and 23rd, there will be festivities for the
12 soldiers and families, including a picnic and parade.
13 And we've also been told that soldiers who have family
14 in attendance will be granted free time to spend the
15 night with their families, and they will depart on
16 Friday, June 24.
17 The cost of the trip per person
18 will vary depending on the number of travelers who
19 agree to go. And at this time the Family Readiness
20 Group has 33 people who have expressed interest in the
21 trip.
22 On May 30, they will make a
23 decision as to whether or not they can proceed with
24 this trip, and they'll base their decision on the
25 number of individuals committed to the trip and the
0123
01 financial feasibility based on the number.
02 If the cost of the trip is too
03 expensive, they say they'll cancel their plans to go to
04 the Camp Shelbie for one last time to see their family
05 members, and certainly I don't think we want their
06 decision to be to cancel, so the Family Readiness Group
07 or FRG seeks support in any way that you may offer, and
08 they would especially appreciate your support of those
09 soldiers, their loved ones.
10 So, you can contact them at these
11 phone numbers for more information. During the
12 daytime, 587-6710, 587-6710, or evenings, 343-4265.
13 Also, donations may be sent to,
14 and next week I'm going to get this information on the
15 air for you, to HHC1-109INMFRG Care of Kusick, 1 Cross
16 Drive, Scranton, PA 18505.
17 And finally, Jay, how many times,
18 am I waking you up there, Buddy, how many times would
19 you say you have contacted Mr. Kresefski on behalf of

20 City Council, this City Council?

21 MR. SAUNDERS: By letter and
22 phone?

23 MS. EVANS: Letter, phone, in
24 person.

25 MR. SAUNDERS: Oh, many, many
0124

01 times. I can't even put a number on that. I mean,
02 we've talked to him on so many different issues during
03 the budget, during -- I mean, I can't even put a number
04 on that.

05 MS. EVANS: That's pretty much
06 what I thought, countless times, and Mr. Kresefski
07 always gives us a prompt response, does he not?

08 MR. SAUNDERS: Yes, he does.

09 MS. EVANS: And who is
10 Mr. Kresefski's boss?

11 MR. SAUNDERS: The mayor.

12 MS. EVANS: Okay. So, our BA does
13 very fine work, but ultimately he takes his marching
14 orders from his boss, the mayor, and maybe this is why
15 Council has received incorrect information on more than
16 one occasion about city finances.

17 So, why, Mr. Doherty, would I take
18 a day off from my job to visit the BA and the
19 accountants, the five accountants you've hired who
20 merely carry out your orders?

21 I prefer to examine the
22 information I receive from Mr. Kresefski with
23 independent professionals and then I draw accurate
24 conclusions, which I then pass along to the people of
25 Scranton. That's all I have. Thank you.

0125

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

04 MR. POCIUS: Nothing at this time,
05 Mr. DiBileo.

06 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,
07 Mr. Pocius. Mr. Courtright, any motions or comments?

08 MR. COURTRIGHT: Just a couple. A
09 little bit of good news hopefully, the people from the
10 Weston Park Teener League, I got some information today
11 that is very possible that we might be receiving your
12 money, so hopefully by next week I'll have a definite
13 answer that your money will be coming through, so it's
14 a little bit of hope there.

15 Also, I asked several weeks ago

16 for Jay to find out for me about the hole on Pittston
17 Avenue, about the \$400,000 and some dollars, evidently
18 Sara Hailstone, right, she needs to speak with
19 Mr. Parker, and he was on vacation today and tomorrow,
20 so when she speaks with him, we should have our answer,
21 correct?

22 MR. SAUNDERS: Yeah. They're
23 checking to see if the Army Corps signed off on the
24 job. They don't know where the payment is going to
25 come from, and then they'll have the final --
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01 MR. COURTRIGHT: I guess begging
02 helped me, right, I begged last week.

03 MR. SAUNDERS: Begging definitely
04 helped.

05 MR. COURTRIGHT: My wife said I
06 shouldn't beg. She yelled at me for that. Did this
07 situation get taken care of down at Weston Field? I
08 don't even want to bring it up what it is again.

09 MR. SAUNDERS: No. You know what,
10 we sent the letter out. I haven't heard back.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: This is a small
12 request. Come on. Give us a break here, will you?
13 And we've got a grant, the city has got a grant for
14 24 hours of police per week, so we'll have 24 hours
15 more of a police officer per week in the near future.
16 I guess in coordination with the district attorney's
17 office; wasn't it, Jay?

18 MR. SAUNDERS: Yes.

19 MR. COURTRIGHT: So, a little bit
20 of good news there. That's all I have, Mr. President.

21 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,
22 Mr. Courtright. Appreciate that. I have a couple of
23 quick things. This week I became aware of a situation
24 from Monday's school board meeting that there are
25 concerns of neighbors and parents of Whittier school of
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01 the poor condition of the surface of the playground
02 there. Apparently children and students that go to
03 school at Whittier are falling down and tripping on the
04 very uneven surface.

05 And I visited there today, and it
06 is -- it desperately needs resurfacing, there's no
07 question about it, but I also became aware of the same
08 situation occurring in and being the case at a host of
09 Scranton schools. Armstrong School, Marshall School,
10 Lincoln Jackson, besides Whittier, so this is actually
11 during throughout the whole city.

12 Now, students primarily use these
13 playgrounds during school hours, but once school is out
14 and during the summer, obviously they are community
15 playgrounds, because neighbors from all over the area
16 could use the playgrounds, so I'd like to see
17 City Council look into the possibility of the city and
18 the school district joining forces to correct this
19 problem and considering that all children and all
20 adults use these playgrounds, so I'd like to see
21 City Council form a committee to work with the school
22 board to help determine the feasibility of financing
23 this work and determining which school need the
24 resurfacing of their playgrounds.

25 Now, I know that we have a couple
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01 of members of City Council that have close ties to the
02 school, the school board, and I'd actually like to ask
03 Mr. McTiernan if he'd possibly be willing to serve on a
04 committee.

05 MR. McTIERNAN: Sure, I would. I
06 happened to have a conversation with the mayor
07 regarding this, and he indicated that with some our
08 equipment, that we could possibly cooperate with the
09 school district, even though it's school district
10 property, and that hopefully there could be an
11 agreement worked out where some of the materials might
12 be purchased by the district, but I wasn't prepared to
13 speak on it, because I didn't have the details.

14 But he did indicate that using
15 some city equipment, and possibly the majority of
16 rebenching of some of those areas could be done
17 in-house with the cooperation with the school district.
18 But, again, I didn't speak with the superintendent, so
19 I was hesitant to bring it up publicly.

20 MR. DIBILEO: That's good. That's
21 the type of cooperation that I think we need, and I
22 know that, you know, Whittier School is one location,
23 but there's obviously more locations throughout the
24 city.

25 So, before we go into this
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01 blindly, perhaps we can have a committee of three
02 members of City Council look at the various playgrounds
03 throughout the city and then come up with a solution
04 of how we can cooperate together and, you know, have
05 the playgrounds resurfaced hopefully. Mrs. Evans,
06 would you be willing to be on that committee?

07 MS. EVANS: Oh, certainly. No

08 problem. Thanks.

09 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you. How
10 about Mr. Courtright, would you mind?

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: Sure, no problem.

12 I'd be happy to.

13 MR. DIBILEO: Terrific. I think a
14 three-person committee would be sufficient of looking
15 into the problem and hopefully working with the school
16 board and helping with this situation.

17 MR. WALSH: Perhaps,

18 Mr. President, we should only have two present at the
19 same time, though, with respect to the committee,
20 instead of having a quorum. That's the only concern
21 that I might have. Having three, but then only having
22 two present and one alternate, in the event that one of
23 the other two can't be there.

24 MS. EVANS: Right. That's fine.

25 And that way we're always covered.

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01 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. That will
02 work. And perhaps we can do this rather quickly, so
03 the summer is coming upon us, and that will be probably
04 a good time to get this work done.

05 Beyond that, I just was asked to
06 mention a couple of benefits, and there was a dedicated
07 employee of the Sewer Authority, the Scranton Sewer
08 Authority, that died suddenly several months ago, and
09 he left behind a young wife and young children, and his
10 name was Jack Mullen, a terrific guy who worked at the
11 Sewer Authority.

12 And tomorrow evening, May 27,
13 there's going to be a benefit at the Tripp Park
14 Community Center from six o'clock to ten o'clock to
15 help benefit Jack's family.

16 And there's going to be a live
17 band, Scranton Globetrotters, food and drinks. So, if
18 everyone would go out to the Tripp Park Community
19 Center tomorrow evening from six to ten to help benefit
20 Jack Mullen's family, that will be greatly appreciated.

21 I know I plan on attending.

22 Also, I was going to mention in my
23 prayer this evening that a dear friend of mine was
24 recently diagnosed with colon problems, and I guess
25 word got back to her that I was going to mention her

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01 name in my prayer, and she contacted me and asked me
02 instead of doing that, instead of naming her by name,
03 that I relay a message to the citizens of Scranton on

04 her behalf.
05 And she asked me to say the
06 following, That a strong reminder from a fellow
07 resident go out to fellow Scrantonians, Do not wait for
08 symptoms of colon problems to occur. Please schedule a
09 colonoscopy as soon as possible, speak with your
10 physician, and he or she will support your concerns.
11 And the 20-minute test that's
12 administered is without pain and there's no
13 uncomfortableness afterwards. And she has signed it,
14 God Bless you all. And she's a dear friend of mine,
15 and I wish her the best with this problem and hopefully
16 she's going to get the best of care, as will everyone.
17 Hopefully we'll have that situation and condition
18 checked.
19 Lastly, congratulations go out to
20 a young man who earned his Eagle Scout, he's a
21 Boy Scout who earned the Eagle designation,
22 Michael Pehanick, and that is quite an honor, and I
23 think that that should not go unrecognized. So,
24 congratulations to Michael Pehanick. And that's all I
25 have.

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01 MR. WALSH: Fifth order. 5-B, FOR
02 INTRODUCTION - A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
03 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS FOR THE CITY OF
04 SCRANTON TO ENTER INTO A LOAN AGREEMENT AND MAKE A LOAN
05 FROM THE COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL REVOLVING LOAN PROGRAM,
06 PROJECT NO. 03-150 IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED
07 \$250,000.00 TO PREFERRED PRODUCE & FOOD SERVICE, INC.
08 TO ASSIST AN ELIGIBLE PROJECT.

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

12 MR. POCIUS: So moved.

13 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

14 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

15 All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

16 MR. McTIERNAN: Aye.

17 MS. EVANS: Aye.

18 MR. POCIUS: Aye.

19 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

20 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The

21 ayes have it and so moved.

22 MR. WALSH: 5-C, FOR INTRODUCTION

23 - A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER

24 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO

25 ENTER INTO A LOAN AGREEMENT AND MAKE A LOAN FROM THE

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01 COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL REVOLVING LOAN PROGRAM,
02 PROJECT NO. 03-150 IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED
03 \$250,000.00 TO 321 DEVELOPMENT L.P. TO ASSIST AN
04 ELIGIBLE PROJECT.

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

08 MR. POCIUS: So moved.

09 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

10 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

11 All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

12 MR. McTIERNAN: Aye.

13 MS. EVANS: Aye.

14 MR. POCIUS: Aye.

15 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

16 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The
17 ayes have it and so moved.

18 MR. WALSH: Sixth order.

19 6-A, READING BY TITLE - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 133, 2005 -
20 AN ORDINANCE - ESTABLISHING THIRTY (30) MINUTE PARKING
21 AT CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE CORNER OF ASH STREET AND
22 PRESCOTT AVENUE, KNOWN AS PETERSBURG CORNERS,
23 SPECIFICALLY ALONG ASH STREET FROM
24 FARBER COURT TO THE INTERSECTION OF PRESCOTT AVENUE
25 ALONG THE SOUTHERLY SIDE OF ASH STREET, AND ALONG

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01 PRESCOTT AVENUE FROM THE INTERSECTION OF ASH STREET TO
02 AND INCLUDING 953 PRESCOTT AVENUE ON THE WESTERLY SIDE
03 OF PRESCOTT AVENUE ONLY.

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

06 MR. POCIUS: Mr. President, I move
07 that Item 6-A pass reading by title.

08 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

09 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

10 MR. POCIUS: Just on the question,

11 Mr. Saunders just asked me, Mr. Walsh, do we need a
12 public hearing on this?

13 MR. WALSH: I think it's
14 advisable.

15 MR. POCIUS: I'll make a motion
16 after we pass it by title.

17 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. If there's no
18 further questions, all those in favor, signify by
19 saying aye.

20 MR. McTIERNAN: Aye.

21 MR. POCIUS: Aye.

22 MS. EVANS: Aye.
23 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.
24 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The
25 ayes have it and so moved.
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01 MR. POCIUS: Mr. President, with
02 your indulgence, I'll make a motion that we hold a
03 public hearing on Item 6-A, and we schedule that for
04 Thursday, June 2 at 6:45 p.m. in Scranton Council
05 chambers and authorize Mr. Saunders to place the proper
06 ad.
07 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.
08 MR. DIBILEO: We have a motion on
09 the floor and a second. On the question?
10 MR. POCIUS: On the question, I
11 don't see any reason not to put this back on next week
12 for final passage.
13 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. If there's no
14 further questions, all those in favor, signify by
15 saying aye.
16 MR. McTIERNAN: Aye.
17 MS. EVANS: Aye.
18 MR. POCIUS: Aye.
19 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.
20 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The
21 ayes have it and so moved.
22 MR. WALSH: Seventh order.
23 7-A, FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE -
24 FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 132, 2005 -
25 AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF CITY OWNED PROPERTY BY
0136
01 SEALED BIDS TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER, PROPERTY LOCATED AT
02 REAR 1217 BLAIR AVENUE, AND RECORDED AT RECORD BOOK
03 1071, PG. 333.
04 MR. DIBILEO: What's the
05 recommendation of the chairperson for the committee on
06 finance?
07 MS. EVANS: As chairperson for the
08 committee on finance, I recommend final passage of
09 Item 7-A.
10 MR. POCIUS: Seconded.
11 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?
12 Roll call, please, Kay.
13 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McTiernan.
14 MR. McTIERNAN: Yes.
15 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.
16 MS. EVANS: Yes.
17 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Pocius.

18 MR. POCIUS: Yes.
19 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.
20 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.
21 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. DiBileo.
22 MR. DIBILEO: Yes. I hereby
23 declare Item 7-A legally and lawfully adopted.
24 MR. WALSH: 7-B, FOR CONSIDERATION
25 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION
0137
01 NO. 141, 2005 - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
02 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A
03 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE COMMONWEALTH OF
04 PENNSYLVANIA, DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS
05 AFFAIRS REGARDING THE USE, MAINTENANCE AND SCHEDULING
06 OF THE LEACH RANGE FOR THE SCRANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT.
07 MR. DIBILEO: As chairman for the
08 committee on rules, I recommend final passage of Item
09 7-B.
10 MR. POCIUS: Seconded.
11 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?
12 Roll call, please.
13 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McTiernan.
14 MR. McTIERNAN: Yes.
15 MR. COOLICAN: Ms. Evans.
16 MS. EVANS: Yes.
17 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Pocius.
18 MR. POCIUS: Yes.
19 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.
20 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.
21 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. DiBileo.
22 MR. DIBILEO: Yes. I hereby
23 declare Item 7-B legally and lawfully adopted.
24 MR. WALSH: We're holding
25 7-C.
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01 MS. EVANS: Can I move to table
02 before you read it?
03 MR. POCIUS: Seconded.
04 MR. DIBILEO: We have a motion on
05 the floor and a second to table 7-C. On the question?
06 All those in favor, signify by saying aye.
07 MR. McTIERNAN: Aye.
08 MS. EVANS: Aye.
09 MR. POCIUS: Aye.
10 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.
11 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The
12 ayes have it and so moved. Seeing no further business
13 on the agenda, I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

15 MR. POCIUS: Seconded.

16 MR. DIBILEO: We're adjourned.

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19 (MEETING WAS ADJOURNED.)

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

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02

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

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08 _____
08 LISA M. GRAFF, RPR

08 OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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