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02 SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL

03 PUBLIC HEARING

03 (PUBLIC CAUCUS)

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05 IN RE: FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 141, 2005 - AMENDING FILE

06 OF COUNCIL NO. 68, 2004, ENTITLED, AN ORDINANCE

06 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE

07 OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO TAKE ALL

07 NECESSARY ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE

08 CONSOLIDATED SUBMISSION FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING

08 AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS TO BE FUNDED UNDER

09 THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)

09 PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP (HOME)

10 PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY SHELTER GRANT (ESG)

10 PROGRAM, BY REALLOCATING \$125,000.00 FROM

11 PROJECT NO. 99-100, COMPREHENSIVE HOUSING

11 REHABILITATION PROGRAM, TO A NEWLY CREATED

12 PROJECT ENTITLED ARTSPACE.

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14 Held:

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15 Thursday, July 21, 2005

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17 Time:

17 6:00 p.m.

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19 Location:

20 Council chambers

20 Scranton City Hall

21 340 North Washington Avenue

21 Scranton, Pennsylvania

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24 Lisa M. Graff, RPR

24 Court Reporter

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02 CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

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04 MR. GARY DIBILEO, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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07 MS. JANET EVANS, VICE-PRESIDENT

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10 MR. JOHN POCIUS (Arrived where noted.)

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13 MR. WILLIAM COURTRIGHT

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16 MARK WALSH, ESQUIRE, SOLICITOR

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18 MS. KAY GARVEY, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

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01 MR. DIBILEO: I'd like to call

02 this public caucus meeting into order. And we have now

03 three council members available, and I believe we're

04 going to be joined by the other two council members

05 shortly.

06 But this evening, the purpose of

07 this public caucus meeting is to hear about a program

08 that is actually on our agenda for this evening for our

09 regular meeting by the name of Artspace.

10 I'm going to quickly ask Kay if

11 she can take a roll call, please. I'm sorry.

12 MS. GARVEY: Mr. McTiernan.

13 MS. GARVEY: Mrs. Evans.

14 MS. EVANS: Here.

15 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Pocius.

16 Mr. Courtright.

17 MR. COURTRIGHT: Here.

18 MS. GARVEY: Mr. DiBileo.

19 MR. DIBILEO: Here. And we're
20 joined with us this evening by three individuals.
21 Andrea Mulrine is here, and Andrea is treasurer of
22 Scranton Tomorrow. Sally Bohlin is here, and she is
23 chairman of Artspace Scranton, and also on the
24 executive committee for Scranton Tomorrow is Paul
25 Colaiezzi, who is the executive director of
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01 Scranton Tomorrow.
02 And last week Mr. Courtright and I
03 got a little bit of a description of Artspace, but we
04 weren't able to really explain to the public what
05 Artspace really entails, so we thought that it would be
06 best if you could basically just fill us in again and
07 inform the public of all that's involved in Artspace.
08 So, take right over. I would like
09 to say that we have about 30 minutes allotted for our
10 meeting today, and we'll have to adjourn after that and
11 we'll have questions by some of the Council members, if
12 we do have some. So, whoever would like to start,
13 please, if you would.

14 MS. MULRINE: Okay. Gary, I'll
15 start. And for those of you who don't know me, I'm
16 Andrea Mulrine. Nice to see all of you this evening.
17 And I am treasurer of Scranton Tomorrow, and we are
18 here to talk about Artspace.
19 But I first just want to talk a
20 little bit about what Scranton Tomorrow is and who we
21 are, because that kind of feeds in with the purpose of
22 the project.
23 Scranton Tomorrow is a non-profit,
24 non-partisan community both leadership and development
25 organization.

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01 Scranton Tomorrow was really
02 formed when the City of Scranton became distressed. We
03 worked since 1992 on a whole variety of projects.
04 Since 1997, when we started our community visioning
05 phase, we worked on a whole host of projects that were
06 really driven by grass-roots volunteers.
07 One of those in particular we're
08 taking the benefit of right now, and that's TV 61.
09 TV 61 is a project that's a cooperative effort of both
10 Scranton Tomorrow and the Scranton Public Library, and
11 it was an initiative that came out of the efficient
12 government task force, and one of the most important
13 thing that TV 61 does is broadcast City Council
14 meetings. So, we are all a beneficiary of that.

15 Some of the other projects that
16 you may not be aware of that are Scranton Tomorrow
17 projects, First Night and City Pride and The Downtown
18 Scranton Renaissance. We've done an awful lot of work
19 with the vendors and the merchants in downtown to try
20 to promote downtown businesses.
21 We've worked with the city on a
22 bus project last year that took people around to see
23 the Christmas lights.
24 So, we've done an awful lot in
25 terms of community development, and we're working more
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01 now -- done an awful lot under grass roots, under that
02 initiative of grass-roots projects, and we're kind of
03 moving now into some bigger projects perhaps than what
04 we've worked on in the past, but we feel that they have
05 tremendous impact on the community, both from an
06 economic development perspective and a community
07 development perspective.
08 And that's really what Artspace is
09 all about. Artspace -- we're terming it Artspace,
10 because the company that we're working with from
11 Minnesota is actually -- that's the name of this
12 company is Artspace, but it's really an artist
13 live/work/play area.
14 So, it's a building that would be
15 taken and would be refurbished and utilized for the
16 purposes of art, for those people to live and work
17 hopefully in the downtown.
18 Now, there's a lot of different
19 buildings that are on the plate right now, and Paul
20 will talk more about that.
21 But in terms of -- it encompasses
22 a whole variety of initiatives. One of them is
23 housing, because it does provide housing for low to
24 moderate income people. It's not limited to that, but
25 there certainly is a component of that.
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01 It's small business, because it's
02 a way for artisans and artists to bring their work to
03 the public and a way for them to have a good work space
04 and also a way for them to hopefully be able to sell
05 their projects, as well.
06 And it also is a tourism driver,
07 because you've got now a different community living in
08 the downtown, so it's another flavor of what Scranton
09 has to offer.
10 And I know from my own

11 perspective, we worked on, and Sally was one of the
12 people who worked on marking the Millenium, and we
13 started at that point at the turn of this century on
14 initiatives that would bring together the cultural
15 areas in our city, and we found there was a lot going
16 on and they weren't always necessarily talking to each
17 other.

18 And we kind of started an awful
19 lot of projects that got groups working together and
20 started to promote the arts in ways that had not
21 necessarily been promoted in the past.
22 This project, as I said, it really
23 combines all of these aspects, and more than anything
24 drives economic development.

25 You know, I've said this many
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01 times in the past, and that's that if Scranton -- our
02 downtown is never going to be the downtown that it was
03 when my grandmother put on her Sunday-go-to-meeting
04 clothes and her gloves and her hat and went down
05 shopping at the Globe and the Dry.

06 That's not what downtowns are any
07 more. It will never be that kind of, you know, your
08 big department store shopping mecca.

09 Now, we're fortunate because we
10 have the Steamtown Mall, but we need people to be
11 outside of the mall, as well.

12 And one of the ways to do that is
13 to drive an arts community or cultural community, and
14 in this way you're going to bring in more of the
15 smaller shops, you'll bring in coffee shops.

16 Northern Lights is a tremendous
17 example of a very successful coffee shop in the
18 downtown, and it attracts a clientele that, you know,
19 perhaps isn't a shopping clientele, but they're there
20 for the services that are provided there.

21 So, that whole piece of economic
22 development is really important to this. So, it is an
23 art project as part of it, but that's not the main
24 thing.

25 The main thing is that it's
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01 economic development, it's tourism, it's housing, it's
02 a way to revitalize our downtown, which is at the heart
03 of what Scranton Tomorrow is trying do, and through
04 revitalizing our downtown, we believe that will spread
05 out into the neighbors, and what starts small as one
06 ripple in the water then keeps going out and expands

07 further and we have a whole revitalized, not just
08 Scranton, but Northeast Pennsylvania, as well.
09 So, that's kind of where Scranton
10 Tomorrow is coming from. That's why we feel that this
11 project is so very important. And I'm going to let
12 Sally talk about exactly what Artspace is and what the
13 company can do and that kind of perspective.
14 MS. BOHLIN: Thank you, Andrea. I
15 guess I really would like to begin a little bit off
16 that track by answering the question, Why artists? I
17 mean, Why artists?
18 And the answer is this, that
19 through the experience of Artspace in other cities,
20 Providence Rhode Island is a very dramatic example,
21 what has been discovered is that artists will live in
22 less expensive place, so it takes less money to get
23 this kind of space rehabed to the point where people
24 want to move in.
25 One of the reasons it's less
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01 expensive is because artists prefer things to be
02 stripped down. They don't care a lot about carpeting
03 and fancy fixtures and that sort of thing.
04 Also, the Artspace model puts a
05 person in the same space to live and work, so that's
06 also something that most folks don't elect to do.
07 So, this is something that can be
08 done relatively inexpensively, and in turn can be
09 offered back to the residents relatively inexpensively,
10 and these residents are going to be happy with it.
11 So, that's one of the reasons why
12 artists -- why we're looking at artists as potential
13 residents for Scranton.
14 Another reason is just what
15 Andrea has been talking about, the spill-over effect of
16 having this particular collection of people together.
17 They will -- many of them have
18 people into their work space and show and sell their
19 work. As a result of that, there will be more people
20 on the streets, as a result, and this is the history of
21 Artspace projects across the country. There are 18 of
22 them now that are working, and about another six or
23 seven in process across the United States.
24 Restaurants get built, I mean,
25 develop around them. Property values go up, and so the
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01 tax base and the tax income for the city increases in
02 that neighborhood. And this is their track record.

03 In some instances they've actually
04 attracted corporations to the neighborhood that
05 surrounds the Artspace project.
06 Police activity goes down because
07 the tenure of the neighborhood changes. Now, some of
08 the sites we're looking at, that's not an issue;
09 others, it's a bit of an issue.
10 And also they tend to partner
11 with -- well, they have classically gotten involved
12 with the education system and they're working with kids
13 who have problems -- particularly with kids who have
14 problems after school. This is another one of the side
15 benefits of this particular group of people.
16 And because of the financial model
17 that Artspace uses, and this is, I think, very
18 attractive for a couple of reasons, one is that once
19 the project is built, they don't come back to the city
20 for money, they don't come back to anybody for money,
21 they structure it in such a way that it goes on in
22 perpetuity.
23 At least, you know, that has been
24 their history so far with every project they've got.
25 They've been in business for 25 years, I guess.

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01 Secondly, they pay taxes, and
02 they're not interested in the KOZ or anything like
03 that. They want to be full-fledged citizens, so they
04 pay taxes.
05 And in return, they offer to their
06 residents a kind of rent stabilize situation, so that
07 unlike a for-profit developer, they will simply not
08 raise the rents when that becomes possible, because now
09 the neighborhood is getting gentrified, and as a result
10 of that, you have a stable community. It's not people
11 coming in and out. It's like, We're here to stay.
12 And they find that the residents
13 of their projects tend to participate in the community
14 in a lot of ways, specifically as well as artistically
15 and educationally.
16 So, a little bit more about
17 Artspace, as I've said and Andrea said, They're from
18 Minneapolis. They've been in business for 25 years.
19 They are not-for-profit organization. They have
20 18 projects up and running in the country now, and
21 their portfolio is about \$175 million.
22 So, we feel that that's a very,
23 very trustworthy track record, and we are very pleased
24 that they are excited about working here with us in

25 Scranton.

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01 And working with us here in

02 Scranton, we've been really at this for three years.

03 It's not just an idea that came off of the shelves

04 someplace.

05 In 2003, we had a committee of

06 artists and some government people, one or two, we had

07 some educators in the room, and we just -- and we were

08 part of Scranton Tomorrow's effort to figure out how

09 Scranton Tomorrow could help revitalize the economy

10 here.

11 And after about a year of looking

12 at sites ourselves and trying to understand how this

13 whole thing would work, we realized that we didn't have

14 the expertise in the room, so we started trying to look

15 around, and Artspace was identified.

16 One of our members found them on

17 the Internet, and then once you find something

18 appropriate, you know, all the information starts

19 coming at you and it seems just right.

20 So, we were able to get a grant

21 from The Pennsylvania Council On The Arts and some

22 local foundations to bring Artspace to town.

23 They concluded after two days that

24 they thought a project here could -- was feasible, but

25 there were no hard facts yet.

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01 So, then we went into the next

02 year -- then we spent the next period of time

03 continuing to look at sites, but they then did a formal

04 marketing study, and they were looking to find three

05 respondents for every one unit that would be built, and

06 we were talking about 25 units. Well, they got 173

07 respondents saying they would come here. And so, that

08 meant that theoretically we could build over 50.

09 Well, that remains to be seen,

10 whether that's the direction that we should go in, but

11 it was a very strong response.

12 And they were not just -- some

13 were individuals, some were couples, some were families

14 with children, and they were all up and down the age

15 scale.

16 So, that was kind of what we got

17 done by early '04. Here we are in '05, and we're at

18 the point where I'm going to hand it over to Paul, and

19 he's going to let you know what is cooking at the

20 moment.

21 MR. COLAIEZZI: Well, first thank
22 you very much for allowing us to come and give this
23 presentation and to bring you up to speed on where we
24 were are in the moment.
25 One, the first thing I want to
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01 point out is, this has been a partnership with the
02 community throughout the process.
03 When we came in for the
04 feasibility study, we had many partners, educational
05 institutions, local banks and other establishments.
06 When we did our market study again, we had a
07 collaboration of the community.
08 And, you know, at its core, this
09 is an economic development project for the community at
10 large. We believe that for reasons Andrea and Sally
11 had already stated, that this is going to have, you
12 know, a big spill-over effect, and this is a great
13 group to do it.
14 What we've done at Scranton
15 Tomorrow is we've taken the next step after the March
16 study and entered into a pre-development agreement
17 with Artspace.
18 And basically what that means is
19 we're looking to figure out now things like site
20 locations. We're building a site matrix, so we're out
21 looking at all different places in this city about, you
22 know, what will work, what won't.
23 We're talking now about somewhere
24 between 30 and 40 units, about 70 to 100,000 square
25 feet that we need to do this.
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01 Inclusive of that space, there
02 will be gallery space, there will be educational space,
03 there may be a black box theater, there may be some
04 retail. A lot would depend on what building or
05 buildings we wind up choosing, but the intent is to not
06 only have the work space for these artists, but also a
07 place where they can then show their wares, as well as
08 we can bring other people to there to make it, again, a
09 very big community building.
10 The other stuff that we're working
11 with as part of this pre-development agreement, the
12 deliverables, we're looking for a financial model, how
13 are we going to pay for the actual construction of this
14 facility?
15 And the basic model that's used by
16 Artspace is, and, again, this becomes, it's somewhat a

17 moving target depending on which building you chose,
18 but we will go for housing tax credits, we will use
19 historic tax credits, we will use, you know, they'll
20 take on traditional debt in this project, and as Sally
21 indicated, they will pay taxes on whatever they have.
22 So, you know, that's part of this pre-development, as
23 well as the ownership model.

24 Our market study shows that we've
25 got both artists at the low end of the scale and some
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01 at the higher end of the scale in terms of wages and
02 what they earn, and there may be a chance to condo out
03 a floor or two of the building and have those people
04 live there, as well, which we think, you know, may be a
05 great idea, because, again, that's more money getting
06 put back into the economy, that's people who want to
07 spend that money and can do that.

08 We'll do some selection of
09 development teams, conceptual design work, we'll do
10 some marketing, and the other big part of what will be
11 done in pre-development is, these decisions are made
12 with the community.

13 We put together a steering
14 committee of about 15 to 20 people. It is
15 representative of lots of folks, and this is not
16 Artspace coming in and saying, Hey, we want to do this
17 building or, hey, we want to do that building, this is
18 a community decision that says, If we're going to spend
19 this money and these community dollars, what is the
20 best place to spend it, where do we get the best bang
21 for our buck, how do we maximize this coming in?
22 As far as a time line, we've got a
23 very aggressive time line, and then we got sort of a
24 fall-back plan. The first aggressive time line is --
25 the tax credit application is due in April of '06.

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01 If we can get a site and consensus
02 on that site and we can bring it into site control,
03 then we can apply for these tax credits in April of
04 '06.

05 That being the case, and provided
06 we get a positive response, we would look to break
07 ground sometime in the fall of next year, and then,
08 again, this is sort of accelerated, but it would be
09 about a 12-month window, and we would anticipate having
10 people in this building in fall, early winter of '07.

11 You know, there are a lot of ifs
12 in that, because, again, we have not chosen the site,

13 and until you can chose the site and bring it under
14 site control, there certainly are a lot of questions
15 that go with that.
16 But, again, we believe that, you
17 know, at its core, this is good economic development.
18 We've seen it be successful in other cities. We've
19 seen some of the benefits of arts and culture in this
20 city already, and we think these are the right people
21 that will adopt and join us and, you know, I guess I'm
22 looking and we're looking for everyone here to just
23 consider that when you make your decision on the
24 legislation.

25 MS. MULRINE: And if I can add to
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01 that, one of the partners that we've been working with
02 on this project and asking for advice is the State of
03 Pennsylvania, and they're excited about this project.
04 There is nothing else like this
05 going on in the State of Pennsylvania right now, and
06 they feel that this can be a model for other
07 communities across the state.
08 I always love putting Scranton out
09 there first. So, again, it's good for us in many
10 different ways. And we are, as Paul said, we're
11 talking to a lot of different people. It's not just a
12 handful of people, but there's been an awful lot --
13 we've done our homework on this.
14 The marketing study, we did a
15 feasibility study and a marketing study that was
16 contracted by Scranton Tomorrow, and everything that's
17 come forth so far has been incredibly positive, so we
18 feel very strongly that the community will support
19 this, the artists community will support this, that
20 state government will help get this funded and built
21 and that it's a win/win for everyone all the way
22 around.

23 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you. Can you
24 tell us how the \$125,000 will be spent and used?

25 MR. COLAIEZZI: Yes. It's part
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01 of the pre-development money, the pre-development
02 services we talked about. And just so we're clear, the
03 price tag on the pre-development is \$425,000, so as
04 we're hoping the city will provide \$125, the county
05 will be a partner, and we're also applying for a first
06 industries grant to make up the difference of that.
07 It will be used as part of this
08 pre-development money, so the deliverables, as I see

09 it, will be we will have a site, we will have a site
10 under control, we will have a financial model, we will
11 have an ownership model, we will have basically a
12 project that is ready to go except for construction,
13 and that will be the next phase.

14 MR. DIBILEO: What could the
15 entire cost of the project turn out to be?

16 MS. BOHLIN: We figure somewhere
17 in the neighborhood of \$10 to \$12 million.

18 MR. COLAIEZZI: Depending, again,
19 on whether we're -- if we're renovating a building.
20 And, you know, that's obviously one of the big benefits
21 with renovating an existing building that's, you know,
22 being underutilized at the moment. That's great. We
23 can put it back on the tax rolls and everyone benefits
24 from that, but that adds to the construction costs, so
25 we're anticipating somewhere between a \$10 and
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01 \$12 million project.

02 MR. DIBILEO: Let me ask the other
03 Council members. Mrs. Evans, do you have any
04 questions?

05 MS. EVANS: Have you examined any
06 particular sites within Scranton?

07 MR. COLAIEZZI: We have looked
08 at --

09 MS. BOHLIN: Twenty. We looked at
10 20.

11 MR. COLAIEZZI: Yeah. We looked
12 at over 20 sites, and there's a possibility that this
13 could be new construction if there was a blighted piece
14 of property. And truthfully, all have pros and cons.
15 You know, some that are in the
16 middle of the downtown, which we love, some are sort of
17 on the outskirts, which, you know, but they're in
18 neighborhoods that we could very well envision
19 neighborhoods benefiting from this.

20 So, I think our philosophy has
21 been that wherever this Artspace facility goes, that a
22 neighborhood will benefit, as well as everybody else.
23 It just has this effect.

24 You know, as Sally referred to,
25 there are places like Paduca, Kentucky and, you know,
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01 that have just seen tremendous growth from having an
02 arts community based in a neighborhood or in a
03 downtown.

04 MS. EVANS: So now it's just a

05 matter of you feel you have 20 sites, all of which
06 possess pros and cons, but of those 20, one will be
07 your selection or you're still avidly seeking sites?
08 MR. COLAIEZZI: Well, I think we
09 are still seeking sites, and I think for any number of
10 reasons, one site we may have to take off because it's
11 occupied and the owner doesn't want to sell it or it's
12 not big enough to do what we would like it to do.

13 So, you know, we are not committed
14 to any site. We are looking at them all, and I'm sure
15 that the right site will sort of gravitate to the top,
16 and that's sort of the idea behind this pre-development
17 time is to really examine the sites and find out, you
18 know, what makes the most sense, not only from a
19 building perspective, but also from a community
20 perspective in terms of where can we have the most
21 impact.

22 MS. MULRINE: And Artspace has
23 been in already and they've gone through these sites
24 with us, so we've got the matrix that Paul's talking
25 about is in development now, so we're narrowing it
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01 down, but that doesn't mean that anything is off the
02 table, even though it may not be our first choice now.
03 And new sites can be added, as
04 well, but we're doing all of that with the guidance of
05 Artspace, as well.

06 MS. EVANS: Well, I know we don't
07 have a tremendous amount of abandoned properties in the
08 downtown --

09 MR. COLAIEZZI: Which is a good
10 thing.

11 MS. EVANS: That is, that is. So,
12 what particular buildings might peak their interest, do
13 you think?

14 MR. COLAIEZZI: Well, we've had a
15 couple sort of bubble up. And I'm not trying to be
16 coy, but I'm a little -- I don't want to say one
17 building is ahead of another one for fear that the
18 price of that building will go up beyond what we might
19 be able to afford.

20 I can tell you that we're looking
21 at buildings, for example, in South Scranton and that
22 we feel that, you know, one of the big pluses of that
23 might be that, you know, obviously there's an
24 opportunity to turn around a neighborhood.

25 MS. EVANS: That's what I was
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01 going to suggest. I personally would be hopeful of
02 seeing a location in that area, because I think that
03 could very well turn that neighborhood around.

04 In addition to that, I was also
05 thinking of some plans we had seen probably over a year
06 ago involving St. Petersburg Square, that project, that
07 might be another nice location.

08 MR. COLAIEZZI: That is a location
09 that is on our list. That would be probably new
10 construction and we would take down that stuff. So,
11 again, I think that either one of those locations
12 offers a tremendous upside for great reuse of
13 properties for a really creative way to start bringing
14 the neighborhood back, and a building that could anchor
15 a neighborhood and watch it grow out from within.

16 MS. EVANS: And that's probably
17 why, and I have absolutely no input here, but I have to
18 say I probably would be pulling for South Side, because
19 they do need just this type of infusion to help with
20 the problems they've been experiencing now for quite a
21 long time.

22 MS. BOHLIN: Well, I wouldn't
23 say -- I think we're duly noting what you're saying
24 truly, because one of the distinctive things about
25 Artspace, too, is they really want to hear the
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01 community. It's not a sort of inside deal. So, I
02 think we'll duly note what you said on that.

03 MS. EVANS: And it's located, as
04 you know, in close proximity to the downtown and there
05 so many other nice businesses and restaurants, etc.,
06 throughout South Side that they might enjoy, but I
07 think it really might be the keystone here for solving
08 a problem. That's all I have. Mr. Courtright.

09 MR. COURTRIGHT: No. I had met
10 with you three individuals before, and then I spoke
11 with Paul on the phone. The only question I did have,
12 and Paul had called me back and answered was, in the
13 future, would they be coming to the city for any more
14 money? And he said, possibly, if I'm correct, during
15 the construction phase you might be looking for an
16 additional grant, correct?

17 MR. COLAIEZZI: Yes. Because we
18 have not identified fully the funding model, I could
19 not sit here and say that we would not be coming back.
20 But as I tried to allude to, 60 to 70 percent of the
21 money is going to come from tax credits and historic
22 tax credits, and we will take on or Artspace will take

23 on a certain amount of debt, so, you know, there is a
24 model in place.

25 But what Sally had said is exactly

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01 true, during the construction phase we may or may not

02 be back, depending on, again, how things shake out.

03 But once the building is built, Artspace does not come

04 back. It goes on the tax rolls and they do not come

05 back to the city for money year after year after year.

06 Once the building is done, they

07 run it, they manage it and they don't come back every

08 year looking for additional funds.

09 MR. COURTRIGHT: And in the packet

10 that you had given us, when I met with you, I don't

11 have it with me, but I can get it for you, I believe

12 you gave us a list of some of the sites.

13 MR. COLAIEZZI: Yes. I have an

14 extra copy.

15 MS. EVANS: I think, too, though,

16 as Andrea mentioned, if the state is looking at

17 Scranton to become a model for the Commonwealth, then

18 we might assume that the state would be very willing to

19 invest in this project, as well.

20 I think Governor Rendell is very

21 interested in economic development and revitalization

22 of downtowns and surrounding areas and he's providing

23 quite a bit of grant and loan money for just those

24 purposes, so I would hope that you would actively

25 pursue any type of funding that you're able to obtain

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01 from the state and possibly the federal government, as

02 well.

03 But, I just, again, it sounds like

04 I'm really plugging for South Side here, but I'm very

05 interested in our neighborhoods. I think a great deal

06 has been accomplished in our downtown, and sometimes

07 unfortunately to the neglect of our neighborhoods.

08 And so, when I'm examining

09 allocations CDBG monies, for example, I must admit that

10 I'm very interested in making those awards to

11 neighborhoods, and also to neighborhood police patrols,

12 which I consider to be my top priority within the

13 neighborhoods actually.

14 But I realize that, you know,

15 buildings and residents go hand and hand with the

16 police force and make a great difference.

17 So, I guess my bottom line here to

18 you is this, that since neighborhoods are a tremendous

19 priority for me, I'm very likely to fund something that
20 is placed in a neighborhood that's going to turn that
21 neighborhood around, as opposed to putting even more
22 money into our downtown at this point.

23 (WHEREUPON, Mr. Pocius arrived.)

24 MS. MULRINE: Well, and I think
25 that that's a good point that you make. And the only
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01 thing that I would say on behalf of Scranton Tomorrow
02 is that we can't promise which building at this point
03 in time, so certainly we hear your concerns and we do
04 take them to heart.

05 As Sally said, it certainly is
06 part and parcel of the whole decision making process,
07 but we're just not at the point yet where a decision
08 can be made about that.

09 MS. EVANS: I know. I just
10 thought I'd put my two cents in.

11 MS. MULRINE: We're thrilled to
12 have those two cents.

13 MS. EVANS: I'm informing you of
14 my priorities, the order in which they fall when I'm
15 looking at awarding various funds that are accessible
16 to Council.

17 MR. DIBILEO: We're joined by
18 Councilman Pocius now. I don't know if, Mr. Pocius, if
19 you had any questions about the Artspace project. I
20 know you didn't have a chance to hear it.

21 MR. POCIUS: I looked over the
22 portfolio, and I guess in generalities I see what's
23 going on here, so I don't have any questions here at
24 this time, because I would not want to just jump in
25 with something that I just got here on. I'm sorry.
0030

01 MR. DIBILEO: Sure. No problem.

02 MR. POCIUS: I did call. I said
03 I'd be a little late. I was running behind schedule.
04 Thank you.

05 MR. DIBILEO: Well, we're right on
06 time timewise, and I want to thank Scranton Tomorrow
07 for finding this project for the City of Scranton. I
08 want to thank Paul and Sally and Andrea for providing
09 us the information we'll need to consider this
10 legislation and for informing the public so that they
11 understand the project.

12 MS. MULRINE: If I can just add
13 one thing to that, Gary, and that's just in order for
14 the project to move along with the aggressive time line

15 that we've talked about, and we really feel that we
16 want to see that aggressive time line met, we really do
17 need to have the legislation passed by Council by the
18 end of this month. That would be incredibly helpful.
19 That's not to say that if it
20 wasn't, that the project would completely stop, but it
21 would certainly be stalled for several months if we
22 weren't able to get it through.

23 MS. EVANS: Well, that's, you
24 know, very definitely -- in fact, that will be done,
25 because it was introduced last week, I believe, we're
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01 voting on it this evening, and the final vote could be
02 taken next week. That would be Thursday, July 28,
03 before Council's recess, which --

04 MS. MULRINE: That's perfect
05 timing as far as we're concerned. So, thank you very
06 much. We appreciate you taking the time to hear us.

07 MR. DIBILEO: No problem. I'll
08 give Scranton Tomorrow a little plug. Your golf
09 tournament is coming up this weekend, Saturday,
10 July 30, actually next Saturday, Saturday, July 30 at
11 the Pine Hills Country Club, so we wish you success
12 with that.

13 MS. MULRINE: Thank you very much.

14 MR. DIBILEO: And thank you again
15 for joining us tonight, and we appreciate it. And
16 we're going to adjourn and then come back for a public
17 hearing at 6:45, in about five minutes. Thank you.

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19 (HEARING WAS CONCLUDED.)

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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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LISA M. GRAFF, RPR
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING

04

05 IN RE: FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 142, 2005 - ESTABLISHING
05 A PERMANENT SIGN ON THE 1700 BLOCK OF
06 DICKSON AVENUE PROHIBITING TRUCK PARKING AND/OR
06 TRUCK IDLING BETWEEN 7:00 P.M. AND 7:00 A.M.

07

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09 Held:

09

10 Thursday, July 21, 2005

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12 Time:

12 6:45 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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21 Lisa M. Graff, RPR

21 Court Reporter

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01 CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

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03 MR. GARY DIBILEO, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

04

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06 MS. JANET EVANS, VICE-PRESIDENT

07

08

09 MR. JOHN POCIUS

10

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12 MR. WILLIAM COURTRIGHT

13

14

15 MARK WALSH, ESQUIRE, SOLICITOR

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18 MS. KAY GARVEY, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

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01 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you. We have

02 a public hearing to hold, but before we get into that,

03 we recently just this evening held a public caucus

04 meeting that was mistakenly advertised as a public

05 hearing, so that actually was not a public hearing;

06 however, it was advertised that way, and there was one

07 person that wanted to speak on that topic, and that's

08 Andy Sbaraglia, and we're going to give Andy an

09 opportunity to say a few words, if he'd like, on the

10 public caucus we just had on the Artspace legislation.

11 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,

12 Main Avenue, Scranton, citizen of Scranton. Fellow

13 Scrantonians, I have nothing against art, it's where

14 you're taking the money from. You're taking money from

15 the Emergency Shelter Program.

16 Now, why would you take money from

17 a program that benefits people that really need help

18 for an artist program?

19 Okay. That's \$125,000. Now, you

20 want to take another \$125,000 from the Home Rehab

21 Program. People that were flooded out need that

22 money.

23 You never went down there and

24 offered them that money, you never even told them that

25 money was available to them. That money -- them people

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01 that were flooded just recently did not get anything

02 from the government because they claimed the sewers

03 backed up.

04 Now, before you go taking money
05 and transferring it for artists, I suggest you go over
06 these two programs, the emergency shelter program and
07 the home rehab program and see if this money is better
08 used to the people in Scranton, instead of another
09 dream project.

10 That's what's wrong with this
11 city. We have too many dreamers and not a person
12 that's realistic. You've got to look at that.
13 Art, there's nothing wrong with
14 art, but they should combine with the Everhart Museum,
15 the people that really need something like that. There
16 is where the artists should be, up at that museum, up
17 at Nay Aug, and they should be able to get that with
18 money that can be drawn from the businesses, so far and
19 so on.

20 We've got a lot of businesses that
21 can contribute to art. We had one guy that once
22 gave -- I think it was a Mentise up there at the Hart
23 called Shrimp that they sold for good money.
24 But there is where the artists
25 should be. And before you think about anything that's
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01 going to drain the city for the next God knows how many
02 years, because this is all this is going to be is a
03 drain project. Anything with Scranton Tomorrow is a
04 drain project.

05 You're better off looking at the
06 Emergency Shelter Program and the Home Rehab Program
07 and making sure that the people that need that money
08 get it before you take it away from them. That's all.

09 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,
10 Mr. Sbaraglia. And, Mr. Sbaraglia, you bring up a good
11 point. Before next week, we will look into where
12 Sara Hailstone is coming up with this money and what
13 projects it's coming from. This decision was made by
14 her as far as where the \$125,000 would come from, so
15 we'll ask those questions. Thank you.

16 Now we have a public hearing to
17 hold. And the purpose of the public hearing is to hear
18 testimony and discuss the following:

19
20 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 142, 2005 - ESTABLISHING
21 A PERMANENT SIGN ON THE 1700 BLOCK OF
22 DICKSON AVENUE PROHIBITING TRUCK PARKING AND/OR
23 TRUCK IDLING BETWEEN 7:00 P.M. AND 7:00 A.M.

24 Let's have a roll call, please,
25 Kay, before we ask if there's any speakers.

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01 MS. GARVEY: Mr. McTiernan.

02 Mrs. Evans.

03 MS. EVANS: Here.

04 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Pocius.

05 MR. POCIUS: Here.

06 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Courtright.

07 MR. COURTRIGHT: Here.

08 MS. GARVEY: Mr. DiBileo.

09 MR. DIBILEO: Here.

10 Having read the purpose of the public hearing, there's

11 a sign-in sheet, and no one is signed in on the sign-in

12 sheet. Is there anyone that would like to speak

13 regarding that topic?

14 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: Good evening,

15 Council. Charlie Newcomb. I just want to talk real

16 quickly on this. I urge Council to pass this, but I

17 firmly believe that a better resolution will be to get

18 rid of this company, but unfortunately I think it's

19 easier said than done.

20 I'm speaking on behalf of my

21 grandmother who lives in the 1060 block of

22 Dickson Avenue, my Great Uncle, who is here this

23 evening, and my brother, they all agree that this is a

24 good idea, but my Great Uncle told me before, the best

25 solution is to get rid of these people because what

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01 they're doing to the neighborhood is a disgrace.

02 And I had the opportunity to drive

03 down the street today, and as I was coming down

04 Delaware Street, there was a huge cloud of dust.

05 So, I don't know if they're

06 following up on what the city said they were going to

07 do, but I think the situation is getting worse, but if

08 this is a step in the right direction, then I urge you

09 to do that. Thank you.

10 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,

11 Mr. Newcomb. Is there anyone else that like would to

12 speak on that topic?

13 MS. ROSSIE: Hi. My name is Ann

14 Marie Rosato, and I live at 602 Delaware Street, right

15 on the corner of Dickson and Delaware. And I do admit,

16 I'm late. I didn't know there was going to be a

17 hearing tonight earlier because I was absent from the

18 last two City Council meetings.

19 But if could I add my two cents, I

20 just want to say that if this is about making those

21 signs a permanent thing, you know, to not have any

22 traffic after seven and before 7 a.m., I do think that
23 while they're not 100 percent effective, I do think
24 they are deterring some of the really early traffic and
25 some of the really late traffic.

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01 Maybe the factory is more mindful
02 of the fact that they have to get their trucks out of
03 there, you know, before a certain time at night.
04 You know, so if, I mean, school is
05 going to be starting in a couple of weeks, and we would
06 really like our kids to be able to go to bed at a
07 reasonable hour.

08 We'd like them to have a good
09 night's sleep, we'd like to get up at a reasonable hour
10 in the morning, and that's just all we're asking for is
11 reasonableness on the part of the city. Maybe I'm not.

12 MR. COURTRIGHT: I think the signs
13 enable the police officers to enforce it then, being
14 that the signs are up there. If there's no signs, then
15 they wouldn't be able to enforce it. I think that's
16 the main purpose of the signs, is to give the officers
17 some power to enforce it.

18 MS. ROSATO: Exactly. And I think
19 that that's a good thing. I think that's a good
20 thing. I think if they have no power, eventually the
21 truck drivers and the people that run the factory are
22 going to know they have no power, and, you know, it's
23 just going to be -- and even know now a lot of people
24 don't pay attention to it and we still have trouble in
25 the morning. So, whatever we could do.

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01 MS. EVANS: That will be, like
02 Mr. Courtright said, an enforcement issue. But I think
03 this is just one of several measures that we've been
04 taking, and I'm willing to pursue any further measures
05 that must be taken to ensure your safety and your
06 health and your welfare in that neighborhood.

07 I do know, though, as you do, I
08 think, as well, that Mr. Fiorini is interested in
09 finding an alternate route for those trucks to travel,
10 and certainly that won't happen overnight --

11 MS. ROSATO: I would like to see
12 them stop completely, of course, yes, I would.

13 MS. EVANS: Right. So, in the
14 meantime, at least these are small steps working toward
15 the whole solution.

16 MS. ROSATO: Well, I think that if
17 at this point if you make a corporation get in the

18 habit of abiding by certain obligations to the
19 neighborhood in which it has moved, then, you know,
20 it's easier to get them to cooperate further down the
21 line.

22 I mean, I don't know, that's just
23 my experience. If you let a corporation run rampant
24 and they think that they can, they will, because let's
25 face it, they're more interested in their bottom line
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01 and their shareholders than they are in the place where
02 they live.

03 They only have to be there eight
04 hours a day. We have to be there 24 hours a day, seven
05 days a week, 365 days a year.

06 MS. EVANS: If I might ask you one
07 question, though, I had read that the company purchased
08 a water truck in order to wet down all of the property
09 in the hopes of eliminating or in some way at least
10 alleviating the problem with the dust migration, have
11 you seen that truck?

12 MS. ROSATO: I've seen, it, yes.

13 I'm not quite sure that it's doing what it's supposed
14 to be doing. You know, it doesn't look to me like they
15 actually water the whole lot. They sort of spray a
16 little bit of water in the front there where the trucks
17 come in and out. It doesn't look as though, like,
18 they're actually going in between all the rows and
19 watering. But, you know, maybe I don't see it. They
20 do have the blocks stacked pretty high now.

21 MS. EVANS: And I know I had
22 noticed about two or three weeks ago on a Friday as I
23 was traveling homeward, city trucks were on
24 Dickson Avenue cleaning the street and wetting down the
25 street, has that continued?

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01 MS. ROSATO: Again, you saw them.
02 I haven't seen them. It's possible that they're coming
03 at a time when -- I mean, I am at work, so it's
04 possible.

05 MS. EVANS: Yeah, this was in the
06 morning.

07 MS. ROSATO: I did read in the
08 paper that it says they're coming twice a week. I
09 haven't seen them twice a week, but, I mean, I can't
10 say that they have or they haven't really. I haven't
11 seen them.

12 MS. EVANS: Well, I'm glad the
13 city is doing it, however, I do also feel it's the

14 responsibility of Daron who is creating the problem to
15 get out there and do that.

16 MS. ROSATO: I hate to think that

17 I have to pay through my tax dollars to have the city
18 come and clean the street that the problem is caused by
19 the people that actually don't, like, pay the taxes to
20 the city.

21 MS. EVANS: The source of the
22 problem should be incurring the costs of the solution.

23 MS. ROSATO: Exactly. That's all

24 I have to say. Thank you.

25 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,

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01 Mrs. Rosato. Appreciate it. If there's no further
02 speakers on this topic, I'll call the public hearing to
03 a close, and we'll take just a couple-minute restroom
04 break and come back for our regular meeting.

05 (HEARING WAS CONCLUDED.)

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

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

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08 LISA M. GRAFF, RPR
08 OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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02 SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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08 Held:
08

09 Thursday, July 21, 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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0002

01 CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

02

03 MR. GARY DIBILEO, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

04

05 MS. JANET E. EVANS, VICE-PRESIDENT

06

07 MR. WILLIAM COURTRIGHT

08

09 MR. JOHN POCIUS

10

11 MR. ROBERT McTIERNAN (arrived where noted)

12

13 MR. MARK WALSH, ESQUIRE, SOLICITOR

14

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16 MS. KAY GARVEY, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

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01 MR. DIBILEO: Please stand for

02 the Pledge of Allegiance. Please remain standing for a

03 short prayer. Kay, if we can please have a roll call,

04 please.

05 MS. GARVEY: Mr. McTiernan.

06 Mrs. Evans.

07 MS. EVANS: Here.

08 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Pocius.

09 MR. POCIUS: Here.

10 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Courtright.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: Here.

12 MS. GARVEY: Mr. DiBileo.

13 MR. DIBILEO: Here.

14 Thank you, Kay. For the record, Mr. McTiernan, will

15 be joining us this evening, but he's going to be a

16 little bit late coming to the meeting tonight.

17 We have two matters to take care

18 of, and first I'd like to announce that we have some

19 important guests with us tonight, and they are from the

20 Troop 16 Boy Scout group on Hickory Street, and joining

21 us tonight are Jim Moran. Jim, do you want to stand

22 up? Paul Reed, Brian Caviston and Josh Wesolowski.

23 These young men from Troop 16 are

24 working on their communications badge. I think they're

25 here, they want to take Jay Saunders' job, who's still

0004

01 on vacation.

02 MS. EVANS: That sounds like a

03 good idea to me.

04 MR. DIBILEO: Thanks for joining

05 us, guys. Thanks for coming. Appreciate it. And also

06 we have a proclamation to give out this evening, and

07 there was a very heroic act recently in South Scranton,

08 and we had our own Deputy Glenn Capman found someone on

09 a roof of a burning building, and he located the victim

10 and saved the person's life literally, and this

11 proclamation that I'll read will basically explain
12 better about what actually happened, and I'd like to
13 invite all of our Council members up front, along with
14 Deputy Glenn Capman and his wife and baby to come
15 forward, please.

16 Glenn is with the Lackawanna
17 County Sheriff's Department, and this is his wife and
18 beautiful baby.

19 And the proclamation reads:

20 Whereas, the Council of the City of Scranton is
21 desirous of honoring Deputy Glenn Capman for his quick
22 response during a recent fire in the City of Scranton;
23 and whereas, Deputy Capman was driving in a
24 neighborhood of South Scranton when he noticed smoke;
25 and whereas, not knowing exactly where the smoke was
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01 coming from, Deputy Capman parked his car and located
02 the burning house on foot; and whereas, after seeing
03 someone on the roof of the burning house, Deputy Capman
04 grabbed a ladder from a neighboring home and worked to
05 rescue the victim from the fire; and whereas, Deputy
06 Capman's quick decision to react to this desire
07 situation until emergency personnel arrived showed much
08 bravery as he took the initiative to maintain a calming
09 force during what otherwise could have been a
10 catastrophic event; and whereas, Deputy Capman is a
11 resident of
12 South Scranton and is married to the former Janine
13 Chomko. They are the proud parents of an
14 eight-month-old son Nathan; and whereas, Glenn has been
15 a deputy with the Lackawanna County Sheriff's office
16 since 1998; and whereas, Scranton City Council is very
17 proud and grateful or Deputy Capman's unselfish act of
18 courage.

19 Now, therefore, be it resolved
20 that on Thursday, July 21, 2005, Scranton City Council
21 wishes to honor Deputy Glenn Capman for his bravery and
22 heroic actions during this life-threatening event.

23 Be it further resolved that this
24 proclamation be made a permanent part of the minutes of
25 this Council as lasting tribute to Deputy Glenn Capman.
0006

01 Congratulations, Glenn.

02 Congratulations again, Glenn, and

03 Mrs. Chomko and -- Mrs. Capman, I should say.

04 MS. EVANS: That's her maiden

05 name.

06 MR. DIBILEO: Yeah, your maiden

07 name is Chomko. And that's a good example of great
08 work for the Boy Scouts to be here and witness tonight,
09 and that's something that hopefully when they grow up
10 that they'll be able to handle themselves. So, thank
11 you very much and great job.

12 MR. CAPMAN: Thank you.

13 MR. DIBILEO: If we can dispense
14 with the reading of the minutes, Mr. Walsh, please.

15 MR. WALSH: Yes, Mr. President.

16 Third order, 3-A, MINUTES OF THE NON-UNIFORM PENSION
17 BOARD HELD WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22, 2005.

18 MR. DIBILEO: Are there any
19 comment on 3-A? If not, received and filed.

20 MR. WALSH: 3-B, CITY CONTROLLER'S
21 REPORT FOR THE MONTH ENDING JUNE 30, 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 CITY PLANNING COMMISSION HELD TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 2005.

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

03 MR. WALSH; 3-D, AGENDA FOR THE
04 MUNICIPAL PENSION FUND TO BE HELD WEDNESDAY,
05 JULY 27, 2005.

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

08 MR. WALSH: Fourth order. Citizen
09 participation.

10 MR. DIBILEO: Before I call up the
11 first speaker, I'd like to remind speakers to please
12 refrain from making comments of a personal nature,
13 please keep your remarks related to city business
14 matters and taxpayer concerns, please be mindful of our
15 time constraints and those of others by not exceeding
16 five minutes, and finally for the record, please list
17 your name and address.

18 And with that said our first
19 speaker is Andy Sbaraglia.

20 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,
21 Main Avenue, Scranton, PA. Fellow Scrantonians, I
22 guess Jay isn't there to give us the status on that
23 \$12 million SRA letter of credit.

24 MR. DIBILEO: Unfortunately he's
25 not able to be with us tonight, Mr. Sbaraglia.

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01 MR. SBARAGLIA: So, this will go
02 on and on until we find out. Okay. The second thing,

03 do you know who's paying for all them billboards with
04 the mayor's picture on saying Enjoy Scranton?

05 MR. DIBILEO: I do not. I don't
06 know if anyone else does.

07 MS. EVANS: I haven't seen -- I
08 mean, I could be wrong, my eyes aren't the best, but I
09 haven't seen any disclaimer on, you know, those or any
10 newspaper ads or any of the signs that are all over the
11 city.

12 MR. SBARAGLIA: So, we can assume
13 that probably the city is paying for them, being that
14 they do sort of push the city, even though they're
15 pushing the mayor more than the city.

16 MS. EVANS: I think it's a fairly
17 likely assumption, Mr. Sbaraglia.

18 MR. SBARAGLIA: Well, I found it
19 very, very troubling to think that we have all this
20 money to do this advertisement, but we couldn't let the
21 children swim.

22 Never in my life have I seen a
23 city that's going backwards instead of forward. We
24 have fireworks up at Nay Aug, we have bands up at
25 Nay Aug, the only thing we miss is the gladiator
0009

01 combats, but I guess that may come.

02 But this man is back to ancient
03 Rome. He's trying to entertain the people saying that
04 this is the way to go. The way to go is jobs and
05 taxes. It always has been.

06 The city is going backwards, not
07 because we don't have the money to spend, it's where
08 we're spending the money.

09 A greater effort should be made in
10 the tax -- wage tax, I guess, mainly, and income tax
11 that the city collects. Well, that's sort of there.
12 Because somewhere along the line debt after debt after
13 debt is going to be paid up.

14 I saw something in the paper, I
15 almost laughed at it, saying that we ended up in the
16 black by selling our DPW site and then leasing it back
17 and that that solved all of our financial problems. I
18 have never heard of anything like that. We're robbing
19 Peter to pay Paul and then claiming that we ended in
20 the black.

21 We didn't end in the black, we've
22 got to pay them loans off. Somewhere along the line
23 we've got to come up with money to pay off the loans.
24 Now, just recently, I said it I think maybe three weeks

25 ago --

0010

01 MR. DIBILEO: Excuse me,

02 Mr. Sbaraglia. I'd like to remind audience members to

03 please refrain from speaking while there's a speaker at

04 the podium, please. Thank you. Go ahead,

05 Mr. Sbaraglia.

06 MR. SBARAGLIA: Okay. Recently

07 there's been a tax reduction in the city of \$1.7

08 million, okay, plus all the KOZs. We all know that the

09 mall itself is on the tax rolls for under \$400,000.

10 When Boscov's sold the leases on

11 the mall, he got \$40 million. Jay isn't in here to

12 give us the figures of how much we got out of it, but I

13 can tell you it was a drop in the bucket.

14 This is the reason why we're going

15 nowhere. I mean, we probably never will. Somewhere

16 along the line you people have to come up there and get

17 a hold of the mayor or do it yourself.

18 They'll wonder why we have such a

19 reduction in our tax base. You should check in with

20 the wage and see if we're collecting more wage tax with

21 all these jobs this man said we have in here or we're

22 not making the money, we're losing it.

23 I know we lost a lot on the real

24 estate tax. You got to get at it, because I'll tell

25 you the truth, when the ball falls, which it will, it's

0011

01 going to make a heck of a thud to all of us. Okay. I

02 don't mind you waving. I wish I knew who you were

03 waving at, though. But that's okay.

04 MR. DIBILEO: I was just thinking

05 the only person allowed to speak is little

06 Nathan Capman who just walked out of the room, and I'm

07 waving at him, Andy. I'm sorry.

08 MR. SBARAGLIA: That's okay. He

09 can speak all he wants. He probably makes more sense

10 than all of us anyway.

11 But anyway, we've got to look at

12 that, but believe me, things are bad in this city.

13 They look good if you look at what the hype is. I

14 mean, you've got a Hilton that's going up for

15 bankruptcy, you've got the mall that's assessed at

16 under \$400,000, you've got Southern Union that really

17 is only going to be P & G probably at that building.

18 Not that I fault them, but believe

19 me, you're not going to get -- could I have an extra

20 second being that I got cut off?

21 MR. DIBILEO: Finish your thought,

22 Mr. Sbaraglia.

23 MR. SBARAGLIA: These people are

24 coming from Wilkes-Barre, they're not residents of

25 Scranton. All you're going to get out of them is ten
0012

01 bucks if you don't raise -- well, 15 maybe, if you

02 don't raise that other fee, the emergency service fee,

03 up, and that's what you're going to get, 20 people,

04 \$200. Believe me, look at what you're doing. Thank

05 you.

06 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you. Reverend

07 Kathryn Simmons.

08 MS. SIMMONS: Good evening,

09 Council. My name is Reverend Kathryn Simmons, and I'm

10 a Scranton resident.

11 After giving all honor and glory

12 to your family members. I come every so often and I

13 bring requests for the possibility of widening and

14 supporting and strengthening our police and fire

15 departments.

16 I bring not only my own words,

17 because I don't have that much wisdom, but I bring

18 words of my Lord and Savior.

19 But for some reason I just don't

20 seem to be reaching to the heart of responsibility. I

21 hear that crime in this city is going down, but yet I'm

22 here to give testimony that the population right at

23 1371 North Washington is steadily growing.

24 I come here and say there are gang

25 problems, but people in supervisory capacities say, We

0013

01 don't have any gangs in the City of Scranton. They're

02 just some youths gathered together who just don't know

03 what to do with themselves.

04 Well, beating people in the head

05 and robbing people of their paycheck seems to me to be

06 going a little bit overboard.

07 They have said over and over

08 again, We don't need any more police. We don't need

09 larger neighborhood patrols. We already have answers

10 in placement, and yet night after night youth gangs are

11 on the run.

12 Two incidents in these past four

13 days involving youth gangs and physical encounters have

14 caused problems to the crime watches across the

15 street.

16 The other night baseball bats and

17 weapons were gathered at an incident not far from
18 here. Not one young person was I.D.'d or taken in for
19 further questioning, and not because there was a lack
20 of intention by the police, but because they were
21 called away to another call.
22 Well, when you have 30-some young
23 people who are ready to do war with each other, we need
24 some attention out here on the streets.

25 It is time that all across the
0014

01 city resident, parent, professional or even youth
02 itself need to come and ask why all of this is being
03 allowed to happen.
04 What is a gang? What do we do to
05 I.D. and help our children? What programs need to be
06 supported and/or added to help us?
07 On July 27, which is a Wednesday
08 at six o'clock p.m. at Northeastern Intermediate School
09 in the auditorium there will be a public forum talking
10 and questioning a panel is supposed to help us through
11 these neighborhood problems.

12 Some of the people that will be
13 there that evening supposedly have all the answers,
14 well, they don't. And, Mr. Courtright, I don't know if
15 you're aware of it or not, but they've pulled our gang
16 officers and put them back out in the street as
17 patrolmen.

18 You know, I'm a reverend and I'm
19 not supposed to use this language, but I'm going to
20 tell you something, What the hell is going on? Our
21 streets are flowing with blood, and I am one am not
22 going to mop up my child's blood because you have
23 decided, and when I say you, I mean all who are in
24 place, have decided that you are not going to take care
25 of our children.

0015

01 You better get out here on these
02 streets. Not one person from City Council has walked
03 through Midtown Complex to see what problems we have up
04 there.

05 The mayor has not come there, yet
06 knowing that a block and a half from City Hall our
07 streets are running rampant.
08 We had 18 children from Dunmore
09 come down here the other night to confront some
10 children from Midtown. We haven't heard from anybody.
11 It's all right if they beat each other in the head with
12 bats, as long as they're not our children.

13 Well, some night it's going to be
14 your child, and then what are you going to say to me?
15 You have a good night.
16 MR. COURTRIGHT: Excuse me,
17 Mrs. Simmons. I did ask about the gang officers, and
18 what I'm being told is that they put them back on the
19 street because they couldn't meet the manning clause
20 they would've had to pay overtime.
21 And, you know, I'm just a
22 messenger, but that's what I'm being told. And when
23 they don't have to pay the overtime any longer, then
24 they will bring them back. I don't like the answer any
25 more than you, but that's the answer. I'm sorry.

0016

01 MS. SIMMONS: I'm not the one that
02 has to be sorry, it's the parents.
03 MR. DIBILEO: Reverend Simmons, we
04 apologize about not being there ourselves. I know that
05 this City Council has talked numerous times about the
06 lack of police protection, and we don't see crime
07 decreasing either, unfortunately we don't have the
08 power to put more police back on the streets. We're
09 not part of the administration.
10 MS. SIMMONS: But you can speak
11 out.
12 MR. DIBILEO: Which we try to do.
13 MS. SIMMONS: Every night. Thank
14 you.

15 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.

16 Les Spindler.

17 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,
18 Council. Les Spindler of Bulwer Street, Scranton.

19 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.

20 MR. SPINDLER: First of all I want
21 to say, Mr. DiBileo, I think that's terrible that
22 somebody hired a private investigator to look into your
23 personal life. I think it's a cowardly act and it's an
24 act of a very, very desperate person, and I think we
25 all know who this person is.

0017

01 Secondly, last Monday I called DPW
02 and said I have a refrigerator to get rid of. They
03 said if I put it out where I put my garbage, a truck
04 will come and pick it up.
05 As of yesterday, they didn't come
06 yet. I called yesterday again, all I got was a
07 machine. No one got back to me. Can you look into
08 that to see if I can get that picked up so nothing

09 happens?

10 MR. DIBILEO: Kay, can you make a
11 note of that since Jay is not here? Thank you.

12 MR. SPINDLER: Thank you. Okay.

13 A few weeks ago I said a coworker of mine mentioned
14 about the railroad crossing on Luzerne Street to get
15 some trees trimmed there to make it more visible, and
16 as of today, she said that still hasn't been done. Can
17 we get that looked into, also? It's a real safety
18 hazard.

19 MR. DIBILEO: I'm sorry, Kay?

20 That was sent out? Can you do it again? Thank you.

21 MR. SPINDLER: And about this

22 traffic problem coming out of Euclid Avenue,
23 Mr. DiBileo, did you say PennDOT said that it wouldn't
24 be good to make no turn on red?

25 MR. DIBILEO: Well, they're saying
0018

01 that that's the only solution to the problem with
02 getting out of Euclid Avenue onto Main Avenue. They're
03 not recommending it so much as they're saying that
04 that's a --

05 MR. SPINDLER: I live there and I
06 use Euclid Avenue every day, and I think making that a
07 one way is a bad idea.

08 And I don't think making no turn
09 on red will back it up to the Expressway, because years
10 ago there was no turn on red and it never backed up to
11 the Expressway. That's just my opinion on that.

12 The other day there was a letter
13 to the editor from a Robert Donahue, and he accused
14 Mr. DiBileo and Mrs. Evans of making a political issue
15 of the pool fees.

16 Well, if Mr. Donahue knew what he
17 was talking about, I brought up the pool fee issue at
18 Nay Aug over a year ago saying that they're illegal and
19 there's two deeds to prove it.

20 And Mr. DiBileo and Mrs. Evans
21 backed up that issue when I brought it up over a year
22 ago, and this was brought up way, way before the
23 election ever took place. How he could say it's a
24 political issue, I find it hard to believe.

25 Lastly, I seen in the paper the
0019

01 other day where Mayor Doherty took credit the for
02 solving the Tree Stadium problem at Marywood. I think
03 the Times Tribune forgot about who brought this up at
04 first, and it was Mrs. Evans.

05 If it wasn't for Mrs. Evans,
06 the Tree Stadium would be a parking lot right now. And
07 our leap year mayor has nothing to do with it. Thank
08 you.

09 MS. EVANS: Mr. Spindler, I do
10 thank you for your comments, but I think the people who
11 really deserve the acknowledgement and the thanks here
12 are my neighbors who actually paid for their own signs,
13 put them in their yards, held meetings, and it was
14 because of the strength and courage of their voices
15 that that stadium will remain a green space, rather
16 than a parking lot. Thanks to their voices.
17 This was brought to my attention,
18 and all of these voices together brought it to the
19 attention of Mayor Doherty, who didn't know about it
20 prior to that.
21 And I do thank Mayor Doherty for
22 allowing this to remain a green space and working out a
23 situation, a viable situation, with Marywood
24 University.
25 So, I think we have quite a group
0020

01 effort to solve this particular problem, but, again,
02 most of all, the thanks go out to the people of the
03 neighborhood surrounding Tree Stadium who fought so
04 hard, who spoke so loudly that they did get the mayor's
05 ear at last.

06 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,
07 Mrs. Evans. Bob Bolus.

08 MR. BOLUS: Good evening, Council,
09 Bob Bolus. On the agenda under 7-B and C, with CRF, I
10 believe that should be tabled. I don't believe it
11 should be allowed to move forward until we have a clear
12 plan from the mayor where this money is going.
13 No. 1, I don't believe in selling
14 a good debt and then stopping people in the future from
15 having any use of the money to redevelop this community
16 and the business community. Once this is gone, it's
17 gone forever.
18 If the mayor wants to sell debts,
19 let him sell the bad debts to the people and bring the
20 money in. You don't give up a good debt, just like he
21 did with the golf course. He took something that made
22 money and gave us something that doesn't make money.
23 So, I would ask that that be tabled.
24 When we start looking around
25 what's going on, because if he does this, you're going
0021

01 to give him five more million dollars plus to squander
02 without telling us, and it's got to stop and stop here
03 now.
04 This guy is a deficit spender. He
05 plays outside the box. By his own comments, Nay Aug
06 was \$700,000 that he took from South Side, and all the
07 other money he spent without bids doing it his way, no
08 other way, creating authorities, creating a diversive
09 way to take our money without accountability, and it
10 stops, it stops here.
11 He's never collected money on the
12 former DPW complex that went to Bob Burke. We're still
13 getting a dollar a year rent or whatever that may be.
14 On the Market Street bridge, I
15 wonder why none of the councilmen were all present,
16 like all councilmen, not just one, but everybody that
17 was there. I only saw one or two pictures that were
18 there, and I think the press should have showed
19 everybody.
20 MS. EVANS: We were there.
21 MR. BOLUS: I was away and I just
22 caught part of it. You drive around Scranton, you see
23 signs all over the place that says, Thank you, Mayor
24 Doherty, for Nay Aug.
25 I didn't know Chris Doherty wrote
0022
01 a check for millions of dollars to do Nay Aug. I
02 thought it was we, the people, that are paying for all
03 this. I didn't know Chris did this.
04 We, the people, are paying for
05 Nay Aug for his frivolous spending. No one is against
06 Nay Aug, but we are against reckless spending that's
07 going to endanger this community.
08 And in a moment I'm going to tell
09 you a little more about how he played out of the box
10 and how he didn't really pay attention to detail.
11 This man plays out of the box.
12 I've raised issues about campaign funds that he took
13 from a corporation, yet nobody has raised the issue.
14 It's out of the box. It's his way
15 and he can spend it. If you watch Channel 61, it's a
16 program show, he's talking to Ray Hayes and he's
17 talking to Mr. Parker. Don't they talk to each other
18 before they go on TV? They need a TV show to find out
19 what's going on in the city?
20 And, Janet, I know I read an
21 article when I come back that you were criticized about
22 Southern Union, that you were against it, no, we're not

23 against Southern Union, I'm not, I know you're not and
24 I know other councilmen aren't, we just want to know
25 what's going on here. Are you going to maintain and
0023

01 live up to the KOZ status that you got as a free ride?
02 Doherty knew that wasn't coming
03 her during the campaign, yet he never said it, but they
04 had a picture, we're coming. That talk was on the
05 street way before the primary. So, you know, we don't
06 need any more smoke and mirrors.
07 And I'm going to raise an issue
08 here tonight, and I had raised this in the past on the
09 Hilton Hotel. When this city was about to subordinate
10 their claim, and subordination, so people understand,
11 the city was in first lien position.
12 The city took themselves out of
13 the first lien position. And if anyone goes into debt
14 and there's a foreclosure and someone is ahead of your
15 debt, you lose.

16 Well, there was a \$10 million debt
17 that I believe the city, and correct me if I'm wrong,
18 was on the hook for. When this hotel went into
19 mortgage foreclosure a couple weeks ago, the city had
20 ten days which to buy out the first position to protect
21 our interests.

22 The city didn't do that. And you
23 know what? It's gone forever. We have lost \$10
24 million on the Hilton Hotel, if I'm correct in what I'm
25 saying tonight, and Chris Doherty did nothing to
0024

01 protect our interests of \$10 million.
02 And I believe Council and people
03 are aware of it, I'm sure the solicitor can look into
04 it, but we're not going to see it now. Now we're out
05 \$10 million.

06 And this is a man who's putting
07 signs up all over the city at our expense saying bring
08 back the pride or restoring the pride. \$10 million,
09 the taxpayers here and out there are going to have to
10 pay. And you heard it here tonight.

11 And it's on 61. You won't read it
12 in the Scranton Times, because they're partners with
13 Chris Doherty. And that's the bottom line.

14 You know, the chief said there's
15 no gangs in one breath, and in the next breath he's
16 saying there are gangs. If there's more than two
17 people, we have a gang.

18 I mean, what is black and what is

19 white around here? If we have a gang problem, we need
20 the police department here to do what they need to do.
21 And I know that the mayor just
22 found out that in a leap year you visit the
23 neighborhoods every three and a half years or on the
24 fourth year you do it, so I guess that's why he's now
25 finding the neighborhoods in Scranton.

0025

01 And if I may, Mr. DiBileo, one
02 moment, I received a letter from Chris Doherty, it's
03 addressed to Mr. Robert bolus, and it came in the mail.
04 It's regarding the city, and he maybe thought I'm one
05 of the real people on his team, but in here he said
06 maybe Gary DiBileo doesn't want your vote, but I do.
07 This isn't political, but I'm a
08 republican, and, Mr. DiBileo, you have my vote. Thank
09 you.

10 MR. DIBILEO: Erik Johnson.

11 MR. JOHNSON: Good evening, City
12 Council and Lisa and staff.

13 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.

14 MR. JOHNSON: Erik Johnson, a

15 tax-paying resident and property owner of Scranton.

16 A number of people had come to me

17 and asked why I haven't been to Council meetings and
18 that they would like to see me there again.

19 Well, I've been through some

20 intensive harassment, such as letters, phone calls,

21 insults to me and my female companion at a date trying

22 to provoke a fight, and I was almost run over by a red

23 sports car in front of City Hall and witnessed by

24 Mr. Bob Fleese, the president of Keystone Rehab for

25 disabled children on North Washington Avenue.

0026

01 MR. DIBILEO: Excuse me one

02 second. I have to remind members of the audience to

03 please refrain from speaking when people are at the

04 podium. Thank you.

05 MR. JOHNSON: Okay. Keystone is

06 near City Hall. I did make a police report of the

07 incident, but Bob and I didn't get the full license

08 plate number.

09 My heart and prayers goes out to

10 the family of Scranton police captain and detective

11 Teddy Maus, who passed away from us last weekend. He

12 was in deed the real deal.

13 When he was serving us as a no

14 nonsense superb police officer and a very well-known

15 and well-liked gentleman and a friend of the countless
16 number of city and surrounding area residents.
17 His loss to us will be heartfelt
18 and never forgotten for his accomplishment as an
19 officer and a friend of us all.
20 Last time I seen him in Denny's,
21 he came to me and asked me about my son and how he was
22 doing as a policeman in Wilkes-Barre, and my daughter
23 who was a Marine almost a year ago.
24 We told each other that we would
25 pray for each other. Captain Teddy Maus, we all miss
0027
01 you as you were the real deal.
02 As for the police matters, anybody
03 who says or even thinks that crime is not increasing
04 here in Scranton is a dreamer. And if you want to put
05 it harshly, you're a liar, who just makes excuses to
06 neglect a number of one crisis problem here in
07 Scranton.
08 No, I'm not here to smear anybody.
09 I haven't done it before and I'm not doing it so now,
10 but I have to be truthful as I see it, and others
11 should, too.
12 Crime is the number one priority
13 in the city to be recognized and something needs to be
14 done about it before it's too late. We're being
15 invaded by criminals out of the state of New York and
16 New Jersey and our own Philadelphia.
17 we do not have gangs yet, but we
18 will soon, sooner than -- we will sooner than you
19 think. If we let this disease against our society
20 grow, our men and women in blue and they're doing a
21 great fair to all job.
22 Even an ACLU lawyer has given to
23 me a good recommendation of the Scranton city police.
24 When it comes to performance and treating all criminals
25 without prejudice, and I'm sure we all as Scranton
0028
01 residents share that same belief.
02 You cannot take any more that has
03 already been taken away from our police and firemen
04 throughout our city and the rest of the country's
05 police, which they are doing.
06 The police departments are getting
07 smaller from here in Scranton and all over the country,
08 or we will be in an unreversible crisis, when indeed an
09 utmost crisis occurs.
10 New York is not far from Scranton,

11 and it is the NYPD that is doing the bulk of the work
12 for homeland security. Look what's happening in
13 England, and let's not forget 9/11 in New York,
14 Washington and Pennsylvania. Thank you for letting me
15 speak.

16 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,

17 Mr. Johnson. Joseph Sawka.

18 MR. SAWKA: Good evening, Council.

19 Joe Sawka, resident of Scranton.

20 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.

21 MR. SAWKA: I have three issues

22 I've been kind of working. I've been talking to

23 Janet Evans on the phone, we had a good talk. She has

24 solved one problem for me, and I appreciate it, and I

25 thank you very much.

0029

01 MS. EVANS: You're welcome.

02 MR. SAWKA: I have a couple other

03 issues, and one is KOZ. I know I'm totally against it

04 as a person. The homes over there are very nice.

05 I live in the flood zone area. I

06 lost \$20,000 in the 1996 flood. I'm only one person.

07 Everybody that's been in the flood zone area has lost

08 money, thousands and thousands. Where is our KOZ? Why

09 can't they give it to us? Give us that little bit back

10 to us, that little bit of money that we can get to help

11 rebuild some more on my home that I own and hope it

12 doesn't get flooded again.

13 I don't make that decision. I'm

14 only one person right now trying to speak for many that

15 has been in the flood zone area, whether it's Albright

16 or the Plot Section.

17 I think they should work on it, I

18 think it should be done, and I'm hoping to hear from

19 somebody to let me know it is being worked on, and

20 maybe we'll get that, because I think we deserve it,

21 not everybody that comes in from out of town and

22 decides to build and they get that KOZ.

23 We live here all our life. I've

24 lived here all my life. The home I live in 20 years,

25 my in-laws lived there longer.

0030

01 They weren't given nothing by the

02 city. Now it's about time we get something back.

03 That's one issue I hope you can work on, and I hope

04 somebody can let me know one way or the other,

05 telephone, letter. I appreciate it, because I keep

06 everything. That's all I have on the KOZs right now.

07 I have another issue, and if you
08 don't mind, I'd like to bring some pictures up. I'll
09 give them to Ms. Evans, she can pass them out,
10 pertaining to an area for Shea's Demolition. The first
11 picture you see is my house.
12 Greenhouse.
13 The area there is terrible there,
14 junk all over the place. They're not doing nothing
15 about it. They got heavy equipment coming up and down
16 Barring Avenue. It took me ten years to try to get
17 that street paved the first time around.
18 They come in there. My house
19 shakes every time the equipment goes by the house. It
20 shouldn't be that way.
21 They just built that DPW over
22 there on Poplar Street, they have an access road and
23 could go out there. Why don't they take their heavy
24 equipment and their trucks out that way? It will save
25 that street to make it -- I'll probably be 6 foot under
0031
01 before it gets paved again.
02 We have the Farmers Market every
03 year, six months out of the year. They don't damage
04 the roads. He has a business down the road. A
05 tractor-trailer comes down there once in a while. It
06 doesn't make no problem.
07 But they come down there. Instead
08 of coming across the field, they come down. They
09 missed my car, I don't know how many times, and I was
10 hoping they'd hit it sometimes so then I'd go after
11 them. I think it's something that should be resolved
12 to get that area and get it cleared up.
13 In the wintertime when the trees
14 go down, it looks like a pigsty, and some of the
15 pictures show what I'm talking about, and I think
16 somehow, somewhere it should be taken care of.
17 I don't stop nobody having a
18 business, but, still, he doesn't even live in the area.
19 There's only four houses on that block, but there is
20 kids that play in the area, the market and everything
21 else.
22 The one picture you see the pile
23 of dirt with the dozer or whatever on there. You get a
24 good heavy rainstorm, a good downpour, that thing is
25 going down.
0032
01 And then you see drums and you see
02 tires and batteries and all this other kind of junk

03 that's there. It shouldn't be that way.
04 I can't prove it. I don't know
05 what my side of the street is. Someone told me where I
06 live it should be commercial on that street, but on the
07 other side it's commercial. We're residential. Why
08 don't they just do that, open that up, let them go out
09 that way?
10 I don't know who to go to
11 legally-wise without hiring attorneys and stuff. I
12 don't have the money for that. That's why I'm
13 presenting it all to you.
14 MS. EVANS: Mr. Sawka, I'm going
15 to speak with Mr. Fiorini about this and ask him if he
16 might go out there as soon as possible and take a look
17 at what we have just viewed in these photographs, all
18 of the debris and the tires and the vehicles and the
19 overturned oil drums, etc.
20 In addition to that, though, I
21 think you had mentioned to me by phone that DPW trucks
22 and equipment don't travel on your street, correct?
23 MR. SAWKA: The only time you see
24 the trucks there is with the garbage and stuff like
25 that. The DPW, since they have opened up their own
0033
01 area, that's their main street. They either go over
02 the bridge on Poplar Street or come around the other
03 way. I'm sure he can do the same thing.
04 MS. EVANS: Right. So, in other
05 words, Shea Construction can do exactly what the DPW is
06 doing --
07 MR. SAWKA: Yeah.
08 MS. EVANS: -- and thereby not
09 disturb your neighborhood.
10 MR. SAWKA: Well, I talked to the
11 people that own the Farmers Market. They said that
12 part of the lot they sold to them with the rights that
13 they could take their equipment down the dirt side.
14 They don't do that.
15 I had talked to the owner that
16 owns the business. He wants to know why I keep picking
17 on him. I'm not picking on him. I just want it
18 cleared up.
19 I have grandkids. I have 11
20 grandkids that some of them want to come down and play
21 in the field there. I don't want them to take a
22 chance. They'll come down there. And we put a stop
23 sign, sometimes they don't stop. I can't be there
24 24 hours a day taking pictures, but something has got

25 to be done about this.

0034

01 MS. EVANS: Oh, I agree with you.

02 So, I'm going to ask Mr. Fiorini, who is the head of

03 the department, if he would go down to Shea

04 Construction, as I said, as soon as possible, and then

05 he'll report back to me, but I'll ask him also to put

06 his findings and his recommendations to Shea in writing

07 and I'll provide you with a copy of that.

08 MR. SAWKA: I keep everything,

09 because this way if I have to come back again, I have

10 some other issues that I won't talk about tonight, but

11 the thing is, these are some of the personal things I

12 think about, and I think it should be able to help the

13 area I live in. And I appreciate your time.

14 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,

15 Mr. Sawka, appreciate it. And thank you, Mrs. Evans.

16 Would you like to give the photographs to Mr. Fiorini

17 or should I have Kay do that?

18 MS. EVANS: Okay. Kay,

19 let's let Mr. Fiorini take a look at those, but we need

20 them back and I'll return them to Mr. Sawka.

21 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,

22 Mrs. Evans. Bob Setta.

23 MR. SETTA: Bob Setta, 1229

24 Blucher Avenue. I had an opportunity today to have a

25 conversation with director of public works or the

0035

01 Director of Public Works George Parker, and I believe
02 the city engineer, I believe his name is Luciani.

03 To just give you some history on

04 this, because I kind of lost my temper with them a

05 little bit. I've been remodeling a house on

06 East Mountain, I'm sure my neighbors are thrilled I'm

07 kind of getting to the end of the road now.

08 For three months I've been going

09 down DPW to try to get them to fix a pipe that's under

10 a city court behind my property. I'm on a downhill

11 side. When that pipe blocks, all the water that comes

12 down the mountain goes right through my backyard and

13 right through my house. It flooded the basement

14 twice.

15 I hadn't made a big thing about it

16 in the past because I was still remodeling the house

17 and getting all these things done. This morning -- let

18 me say I've been there repeated times.

19 This morning about nine o'clock, a

20 couple DPW workers knocked on my door and there was a

21 backhoe and a dump truck out there, and I was thrilled
22 to death, I figured they're going to fix the pipe.
23 They came to the door. They had
24 received a call. The corner of my property is Blucher
25 and Brook, it's a corner property, and the cars that
0036
01 come down Brook Street would constantly drive across
02 the front of my property and makes a big mud mess and
03 puddles and everything else.
04 So, there was a stone, a big
05 boulder that was down on the front of my property, and
06 I moved it closer to the road, not on the pavement.
07 It's not on any pavement, but I moved it little closer
08 to the road.
09 And I had two triaxials, a
10 modified brought in and leveled the -- trying to make
11 the lot as nice as I can. They said they received a
12 call that there was a bolder in the middle of the
13 intersection.
14 When they went to remove it, they
15 obviously saw that that wasn't the case, and they
16 knocked on my door and asked me if the boulder was out
17 there. I said, No. The boulder has been in that
18 position for almost two years now, at least a year and
19 a half.
20 They said, Oh, well, we're going
21 to -- they want us to remove it. I said, Well, don't
22 remove it. I said, You can see all the work I'm trying
23 to do here, and this is the problem. That's why the
24 stone is there, and it's not on the paved surface.
25 A half hour later, the
0037
01 city engineer and the director of public works knocked
02 on my door. They said that boulder has to be removed.
03 So, I was starting to lose my
04 temper a little bit by that point and I said, I've been
05 calling you for three months because of this pipe
06 problem up the top of my property, that's a city court,
07 he acknowledged that that's their responsibility, the
08 drainage ditch is their responsibility, and I said I
09 haven't gotten anything.
10 I said, Now in the course of
11 45 minutes, I had a backhoe, a dump truck, the director
12 of public works and a city engineer at my house after
13 three months.
14 Then they informed me, Well, we
15 don't know nothing about that. I said, Well, three
16 months you don't know anything about it?

17 Mr. Luciani said, I didn't know
18 nothing about that. I said, Yes, you did, because I
19 spoke to you three months ago with Charlie, the foreman
20 that they have down there, all I know his name is
21 Charlie. Mr. Luciani said, I wasn't listening. Well,
22 at least it was an honest answer, he wasn't listening.
23 So, they're talking about the
24 boulder. I said, Well, what could you do for me down
25 here on the corner to help alleviate this problem? I
0038

01 said, You can see I'm doing a lot of work here and I
02 don't want this to become a mess again.
03 He pretty much told me nothing,
04 that this is a right of way, and I'm sure -- and I
05 completely understand your property isn't -- the line
06 isn't the end of the pavement, there's an easement and
07 all of those things, but that's no different than
08 driving on the sidewalk. You wouldn't let anybody
09 drive on the sidewalk.

10 I said, What could we put here?
11 He said, You can put curbs there. So, I was like,
12 Okay. Well, if I put curbs there and the pipe
13 overflows, now it's going to be a pool in the front of
14 my yard.

15 So, I got off the subject. I
16 said, Look, whatever you want to do with this boulder,
17 we'll talk about that. I said, How about it's three
18 months, how about you come up and look at the pipe?
19 Absolutely. We haven't been here.
20 I didn't know anything about it. We walked up to the
21 top and I showed him where it's starting to wash away
22 part of the bank, because when the pipe comes over,
23 some does go to the road, comes down the hill and then
24 comes off the pavement and it's caving in the drainage
25 ditch.

0039

01 He looked at the pipe. Now, there
02 is only a half of a pipe. The bottom of it is missing.
03 That's how corroded it is. He looks in the pipe and
04 said, The pipe's not blocked now.
05 Okay. And he said, There's dirt
06 in there, and when the water comes, it will wash that
07 dirt out. So, I said, Well, how do you think the dirt
08 got in the pipe to begin with and every time it blocks
09 I have to go up and unblock it to avoid that problem?
10 All I was looking for was tell me
11 something that you'll do something to help me. I said,
12 Thanks for coming, and I was walking away from them.

13 And I turned and I said, I would like you to get me in
14 writing the three things you did say.
15 You said it was unreasonable that
16 the people should be driving off the pavement, but you
17 still want the rock removed, you said the drainage
18 ditch and the pipe are your responsibility, but you're
19 not going to fix either one of them.
20 So, obviously that happened today.
21 I didn't get it in writing yet. I'm sure it will be
22 very eloquently written quoting every quote that you
23 can possible imagine.
24 I just want somebody to come up
25 with a modicum of common sense to see a half a pipe
0040

01 definitely doesn't work, and the stone in the front, if
02 I have to put a curb in to stop the people, okay, I'll
03 put a curb in.

04 MR. DIBILEO: Mr. Setta, we could,
05 you know, try to intercede a little bit, if we can, and
06 ask Mr. Parker to be certain that what he's telling you
07 is correct, and, you know, because parts of your story
08 don't seem reasonable.

09 MR. SETTA: I'm only here because
10 I have exhausted my avenues to complain about it. I
11 went to DPW, then because of a rock in the front yard,
12 I got an engineer and the director of public works
13 there, nevermind somebody to just look at the pipe to
14 alleviate my water problem.
15 I mean, a water problem on East
16 Mountain is nothing new. And for three months I didn't
17 complain, because I know it is what it is. It's a hard
18 thing, but --

19 MR. DIBILEO: Kay, make a note for
20 me to contact Mr. Parker for Mr. Setta and I'll see if
21 I can talk to George a little bit just to make sure
22 everything is correct.

23 MR. SETTA: Thank you.

24 MR. DIBILEO: Okay, Mr. Setta.

25 Thank you. Dave Gervasi.

0041

01 MR. GERVASI: Good evening,
02 ladies and gentlemen. My name is Dave Gervasi, I'm a
03 taxpayer, citizen, homeowner and a member of the
04 Scranton firefighters.

05 I'm here tonight to talk about a
06 few discrepancies. Again, I'd first like to talk about
07 the Southern Union thing that's going on down there.
08 As I said last week, I don't have any qualms with

09 Southern Union, I think they're a great company,
10 they've done a lot for this area, especially their
11 subsidiaries, and I understand how things can happen
12 like they happen, things didn't happen like they were
13 supposed to, and I'm sure the leader of Southern Union,
14 who's a Scranton resident, probably wanted this to
15 happen and it was probably beyond his control that it
16 didn't happen the way it did.

17 The point I want to try to make is
18 this, On June 28 in the Wilkes-Barre Times Leader it
19 said, At the time of the company's announcement on
20 August 5, 2003, Mayor Chris Doherty said the city
21 provided an economic development package worth an
22 estimated \$1 million to Southern Union. That's what it
23 said in the paper. I don't know if they're correct or
24 not.

25 Then in the Sunday Times,
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01 The Scranton Sunday times on July 17 it said,
02 Other than the state administered KOEZ program, the
03 company didn't get any other incentives. Neither the
04 city nor its office of economic and community
05 development gave any money toward the Southern Union
06 project, said OECD Director Sara Hailstone.

07 Does anyone know which one is
08 right, the mayor or Ms. Hailstone? Was there a million
09 dollars given or wasn't there anything given?

10 MR. DIBILEO: Would anyone like to
11 comment on that? We'll have to check the records,
12 Mr. Gervasi.

13 MR. GERVASI: Now, the point I'm
14 trying to make, again, is not about Southern Union, the
15 point I'm trying to make is the mayor might have,
16 depending on who you talk to in the administration, but
17 according to him there was a million dollars given.

18 Now, if you look at the KOZ
19 guidelines, that means that you either have to put so
20 much money in your gross assets into capital
21 improvement or you need to put together a 20 percent
22 increase in your employees to meet that standard.

23 So, that means, according to the
24 paper, that if the amount of people that are coming
25 here right now, that means that all Southern Union has
0043

01 to do is hire four new positions; is that correct?

02 If they hire four \$7 an hour

03 maintenance workers, that would qualify them?

04 MR. DIBILEO: That's what I read

05 in the newspaper.

06 MR. GERVASI: So, that means if

07 it's true that the mayor gave \$1 million of our tax

08 dollars in an economic development package, we might

09 gain possibly four janitorial positions for the

10 million-dollar investment?

11 MS. EVANS: It's a possibility.

12 MR. GERVASI: That's what I

13 thought. And then I hear about all the touting of how

14 all this wonderful work OECD does, and I noticed in

15 that same article in the Sunday Times, the Scranton

16 Sunday Times, that the gentleman who owns Galucci

17 Music Studios, they were trying to move that building

18 to make way for Southern Union, and he stated in the

19 paper, if the paper is accurate, I quote, The city

20 wanted to get involved, but they were make everything

21 so complicated. So, SU and I worked together and got

22 it done. I just get flabbergasted sometimes at what

23 goes on. I mean, this is just amazing.

24 The other thing that really

25 disturbs me about this whole thing, and I think

0044

01 Mr. Bolus just touched on it before, I believe it was

02 two days before the primary election, There was a big

03 third page ad showing one of the gentlemen from

04 Southern Union and the mayor touting that we're coming

05 here because of the mayor's leadership abilities.

06 We knew the rumors a week or two

07 before that, but before the primary, he had to put a

08 big Page 3 article telling everybody that because of

09 his leadership skills, they're coming, and then we find

10 out a few days later that they weren't coming as

11 promised.

12 That's what disturbs me about this

13 mayor. And then we hear Mr. Connect The Dots On

14 Lackawanna Avenue, we hear that we're going to connect

15 all the dots and all these things are all going to tie

16 together, and then we find out that he knew that the

17 Hilton was in trouble in December, but he didn't bring

18 that out until after the May primary.

19 It seems like we had a little

20 pattern of deceit going on for his own political gain.

21 I hear people sitting here talking about gangs,

22 Mr. DiBileo, I believe you said a few months ago that

23 you read state statistics that said crime was up in the

24 city; is that correct?

25 MR. DIBILEO: Yes.

0045

01 MR. GERVASI: Yes. We heard
02 people, police officers, come up here and say crime is
03 up, we heard citizens come up here and say crime is up,
04 now in the paper, and I quote, in the Sunday Scranton
05 Times, Crime has hit an all-time high from what
06 neighbors have said, said Police Chief Dave Elliott.
07 Apparently the Mayor is the only
08 one in the city who believes that crime is down. Maybe
09 crime went down the week before the primary, and now
10 it's spiked again.

11 Just like labor relations with the
12 unions and with the city, all we want is a little
13 openness and a little fairness and a little truth, and
14 then maybe things wouldn't be the way they are now.
15 That's all I have to say. Thank you.

16 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you. I just
17 want to make a comment on Southern Union, if I can.
18 We've gotten letters here at City Council and there has
19 been a couple of speakers talking about the fact that
20 they feel that City Council is so-called bashing
21 Southern Union, and I, for one, and I know everyone up
22 here feels very strongly that we are happy, very happy,
23 that that Southern Union building is sitting on
24 Lackawanna Avenue.

25 What I'm hearing from citizens are
0046

01 concerns over the finances involved in the package and
02 how it affects taxpayers. I don't see anyone saying
03 they wish that Southern Union wasn't here.
04 I think everyone feels the way we
05 do about the fact that we're happy Southern Union is
06 here, and I think their only concern is about how the
07 finances and the tax free status affects them.
08 So, just for the record, I'm all
09 in favor of Southern Union. I bet everyone in this
10 room is, and let's not have people get the wrong
11 impression about how we feel about Southern Union and
12 Tom Karam, the CEO.

13 We're thrilled that Tom as a true
14 Scrantonian chose to bring the headquarters or tried to
15 bring the headquarters of Southern Union to Scranton,
16 his hometown, and I'm happy that he did so.

17 MS. EVANS: If I can just add a
18 quick addendum, residents have also told me their
19 concerns are financial, and that's why I posed the
20 questions that I did and made the comments that I did
21 on their behalf.

22 And of late, the concern that I've

23 encountered is this, if any of the floors of the
24 building are vacant, and it appears that will be the
25 case, and certainly because this is a splendid new
0047

01 building in a wonderful area housing a New York Stock
02 Exchange company, businesses will be drawn to relocate
03 to those floors, but people's concern is this, will it
04 be a company within the City of Scranton who is
05 currently paying taxes who will chose to relocate to a
06 KOZ location, and that type of move isn't appreciated
07 by the taxpayers.

08 They're looking for a new business
09 to come in, and that may be something, too, that
10 hopefully we'll know in the near future and keep our
11 eye on, hope that it will be indeed a new entry into
12 Scranton, rather than another rapping of the tax base.

13 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,

14 Mrs. Evans. J.B. Davis.

15 MR. DAVIS: I saw the citation
16 that you gave, and I'm wondering, whatever happened to
17 Mr. Morgan's citation?

18 MR. DIBILEO: Mr. Davis, yeah,
19 that's something that I've talked to Mr. Saunders about
20 before he took a little break from work. We're going
21 to be getting to Mr. Morgan's proclamation, and since
22 we originally talked about Mr. Morgan -- you're talking
23 about the crossing guard Mr. Morgan, who is how old?

24 MR. DAVIS: Seventy, eighty.

25 MR. DIBILEO: He was well into his
0048

01 eighties. It's been many years.

02 MR. DAVIS: Before he dies, let's
03 get it to him before he dies.

04 MR. DIBILEO: Absolutely. We're
05 going to get right on that, and there's another
06 crossing guard I think in his nineties that has spent
07 more years than Mr. Morgan. We want to recognize both
08 of them.

09 MR. DAVIS: Absolutely.

10 MR. DIBILEO: We're going to get
11 to that.

12 MR. DAVIS: It's going to happen,
13 you're saying?

14 MR. DIBILEO: Yes.

15 MR. DAVIS: No more spin.

16 MR. DIBILEO: No. We haven't
17 forgotten about them.

18 MR. DAVIS: We have a problem --

19 perhaps we have a problem as residents of the city
20 because we've been spun so many times. There's so many
21 words that have come out and said and done, and when we
22 look up, it's happening to us.

23 You said it wasn't going to
24 happen, they said it was going to happen, and it
25 happens. In other words, you were defenseless to stop
0049

01 what you wanted to stop.

02 When will this end? When will we
03 find that when we come here and speak to you about a
04 problem and you hear us and you congeal with us, you
05 say that that's a great idea, this is good, this just
06 happened, it's going to happen that way.

07 I know that the politics of this
08 city, as long as they're three votes against you, then
09 everything you do is going to be over-ridden as a veto.

10 It's hard to tell the kids that
11 this is the way politics should work. It's very hard
12 to explain to them that they should be here in the
13 audience and listen themselves because they don't see
14 it working for them. They don't see it working for
15 anyone.

16 We have communities that come here
17 day in and day out and not get or get perhaps some
18 results, positive results for the city. Positive
19 results for Tech/Central? It doesn't happen.

20 For five years, for twelve years,
21 right, Mr. Pocius, I've been trying to rebuild that
22 will playground up there at Tech/Central. Why? Now
23 there are gangs flooding the area.

24 Now you want to do something.
25 What, are you going to police the area? Policemen
0050

01 aren't going to do it. I'm telling you, the community
02 has to do it, and we have a group of men, we have a
03 group of 14 young men service veterans, prison
04 veterans, but they're all from the community, and what
05 we want to do is police the community ourselves.

06 We want to put the community back
07 together in a way that the community will be proud of.
08 We want our senior citizens to be able to walk the
09 streets, not be worried about getting hit over the head
10 and things like that.

11 Our kids can walk home safely, but
12 we still haven't gotten the lines. A kid told me the
13 other day, Mr. Davis, I heard you on television talking
14 about the lines on the street. You mean to tell me

15 they can't even bring a can of paint up here and paint
16 the lines?
17 I said, We're not on their wish
18 list right now, but maybe if you vote when you're able
19 to, maybe you will get on that wish list. That's
20 possible. Maybe that's what we need to do.
21 Maybe we need to go through a
22 whole voter registration all over again before this
23 election, and maybe we'll get that.
24 You know, you're much better than
25 Jay. I'm going to tell Jay, too, he was replaced by
0051
01 four Boy Scouts.
02 We allow Mrs. Simmons to come to
03 you and tell you of the crime in our area. We allow
04 it, but we do have a group of 14 that are policing the
05 area, and we're doing a pretty good job of it.
06 It's a nightly thing. It's not
07 made a lot of. We don't make a big thing about it, but
08 the area is being policed right now as I stand here.
09 And I want you to understand that
10 we do need things. We need a 501C3 so that we can
11 apply for federal funds to rebuild the area, to rebuild
12 that playground over there that belongs to the school
13 that they can't afford.
14 If you would give us a loan, I
15 don't want a grant, I want a loan of \$5,000, and we'll
16 pay you back in six months by running tournaments, by
17 running clinics, by running everything we possibly can
18 out of that place. But the money will be back here in
19 your treasury in six months. That, I give you my word.
20 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,
21 Mr. Davis.
22 MR. DAVIS: I have one more point
23 that I wanted to make.
24 MR. DIBILEO: Do you mind bringing
25 that back next week, Mr. Davis?
0052
01 MR. DAVIS: I just want to give
02 you the name of the group.
03 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. Go ahead.
04 MR. DAVIS: It's called BUBC,
05 Brother United For A Better Community. So, when you
06 hear the name again, know that it's us. And we care.
07 We really care about Scranton.
08 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,
09 Mr. Davis. Katie Amendalia.
10 MS. AMENDALIA: Good evening. My

11 name is Katie Amendalia. I live on 620 Taylor Ave.
12 I've been a Scrantonian for about a month now, so I'm
13 pretty proud of that.

14 MR. DIBILEO: Welcome to the area.

15 MS. AMENDALIA: I'll give you a
16 little bit of my background. I went to Marywood for
17 four years. I've recently graduated, and during my
18 time there, 2001 I started, I kind of saw Scranton as
19 quite different as it is now. It was kind of like a
20 quiet ghost town, I want to say, and now it's just
21 exciting and booming in my eyes, and a lot of my
22 friends.

23 I didn't even know who the mayor
24 was, you know, back then, but as I started my senior
25 year, I noticed who the mayor was and what was
0053

01 happening as I started to look for internships and
02 jobs. Even my family realized the growth when they
03 would come to visit me. I'm originally from South
04 Jersey.

05 So, as I was about to graduate, I
06 started networking and looking for jobs, and I realized
07 the growth of the economy, the parks being revitalized,
08 just the entertainment, the quality of life is a lot
09 better than at my home, my back home, and a lot of
10 other smaller cities, and I wanted to stay here.

11 I know a lot of important issues
12 have been brought up tonight, but I wanted to talk
13 about the positives. I just wanted to say that I'm
14 glad that I'm a Scrantonian and I'm really excited to
15 see what Doherty has planned for the next four years.
16 Thank you.

17 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

18 MR. DIBILEO: And we're happy
19 you're a Scrantonian, also, Katie. Thanks for coming
20 tonight. Dick Laske.

21 MR. LASKE: Good evening, ladies
22 and gentlemen. John, (UNTRANSCRIBABLE).

23 MR. POCIUS: Whatever.

24 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.

25 MR. LASKE: Whatever.

0054

01 (UNTRANSCRIBABLE.) And save your money, Baby. When we
02 go out, I'm not going to eat for three days for you,
03 I'll tell you now.

04 Okay. Now, on a more serious
05 note, I read this in the paper, because I got new
06 glasses. I had a boating accident and my other ones

07 are down in the bottom of Lackawanna State Park, if
08 anybody is interested. They're by the picnic area,
09 only out in the middle of the lake.
10 There was \$26,000 wasted. What
11 part of no don't some people understand? You are
12 throwing good money away. Surely we can spend money
13 more wisely.
14 Now, this decision was made by
15 Judge Mazzoni, and there's times when you just have to
16 pick up the marbles and go home when you lose. I mean,
17 this is ridiculous.
18 If they have this kind of money to
19 throw it away, put it in the mailbox at 1082. I need a
20 new a Jeep, okay? Thank you.
21 Now, the collection agency, this
22 is in my opinion, it's a waste. We have very capable
23 people in our tax office. This company is becoming
24 wealthy on the back of the taxpayers.
25 How about giving the senior
0055
01 citizens a break? We've been paying taxes for a long
02 time. Don't you people feel 25 percent is high? They
03 give us two pails of ashes for a pail of coal.
04 We're not actually getting
05 anything. These people are raping the 25 percent. And
06 when this gentleman and that lady spoke last week at
07 lunch, they talked a lot, but they really didn't say
08 anything. I could see through them like they had glass
09 sides.
10 Okay, John, I already thank you.
11 Now, these small children that Mr. Spindler was talking
12 about, maybe they didn't have the money to go in, but
13 if my figures are correct, ten years from now the
14 politicians will be wanting to woo them little
15 children, we need your vote. Suppose they don't forget
16 and they move to Syracuse?
17 We've got to keep somebody in this
18 town, you know what I mean? Or else let the last one
19 out put the light out. That's it.
20 Okay. And whoever started this
21 investigation of you, Mr. DiBileo, I'm just going to
22 say my opinion, whoever started this, it's so low that
23 they could crawl under a snake's belly with stilts on.
24 Thank you.
25 MR. DIBILEO: I just hope it's not
0056
01 my wife, Dick.
02 (WHEREUPON, Mr. McTiernan joined the meeting.)

03 MR. DIBILEO: Fred Budzinski.
04 MR. BUDZINSKI: Fred Budzinski,
05 226 Spruce Avenue. Good evening.
06 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.
07 MR. BUDZINSKI: Now, let's see.
08 On weekends a lot of tourists come into the city.
09 Sunday I was down on Wyoming Avenue sitting, there's a
10 couple came in from Jersey with three children. Well,
11 we got talking. Then they asked me if there was a
12 movie house in town. Well, I told them go down one
13 block, Penn Avenue and Lackawanna. I said, Go down
14 there, the cinema, a movie house.
15 Then when I was walking around, a
16 guy speaks up, he says, I noticed they got no benches
17 in town, but they got a lot of benches in the
18 Steamtown. I said, Oh, wait a minute. You want to sit
19 down? Go up one block and turn right, you'll found 37
20 benches at the courthouse, and if you got a picnic, you
21 can always eat at the picnic table. So, that was that.
22 Now, I was talking about these
23 women, these women that have the petition going, and
24 down the downtown senior center, one woman got 45 names
25 on that petition there, and that petition they got 196
0057
01 names on that and they're shooting for a thousand
02 names.
03 They figured by the time the week
04 before election, they'll have their thousand names on
05 that petition for benches. I don't know about this,
06 I'm for maybe a supermarket. Well, on that, I give
07 them good luck.
08 Now, on the Southern Union, that's
09 a lost cause. Anyway, on the Casey Hotel, for a few
10 million dollars, they could have modernized that hotel,
11 resurfaced the hotel, windows and everything and that
12 would be a gem of the city.
13 Well, that one they fouled up
14 right there. What the hell us here now? That's about
15 it. Take care.
16 MR. DIBILEO: Are you sure, Fred?
17 MS. EVANS: Thank you.
18 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,
19 Mr. Budzinski. That's it for the sign-in sheet. Are
20 there any other speakers?
21 MS. BELLES: Good evening,
22 Council. My name is Dierdre Belles, resident of
23 Dickson Avenue. The issue I'd like to raise here
24 tonight is regarding the land and building previously

25 owned by Eureka Printing and the purchase and
0058

01 acquisition of that land and building by

02 Daron Northeast.

03 It has recently come to my

04 attention that when properties are sold, which are

05 zoned for any type of industrial use, a phase one

06 environmental study must be done secondary to the

07 Clean Air Act in 1993.

08 Prior to the environmental

09 agitation we undergo now with Daron Northeast,

10 materials like diecast aluminum, zinc and steel were

11 being used, this study would allow us to know whether

12 these materials were disposed of properly, also,

13 whether or not the asbestos abatement had been done,

14 and also the underground burial of oil tanks utilized

15 by the railroads.

16 I see that Attorney Walsh has

17 stepped out right now, but I think this might be best

18 addressed to him as to, you know, whether or not this

19 study has been completed and what the findings were or

20 how we can obtain a copy of that study.

21 MS. EVANS: We'll pursue that for

22 you to see if the study was conducted and to try to

23 obtain it.

24 MS. BELLES: All of the

25 particulars to me, you know, at this present time are,

0059

01 you know, not 100 percent clear, so I was hoping that

02 Attorney Walsh could bring light to the subject matter

03 and tell us a little bit more about it. Okay. Thank

04 you. Bad timing.

05 MS. XANTHIS: Good evening. My

06 name is Yvonne Xanthis. I live at 1712 Dickson Avenue.

07 I'm here about the Daron situation again. We live

08 directly across the street from Daron.

09 I understand they paved and they

10 have their little water tank going around, but we still

11 have dust and dirt, and it's not just a little dust,

12 it's not just a little dirt, our pools have to be

13 vacuumed twice a day now.

14 The situation has gotten so bad

15 that we cannot breathe. My children and myself, we

16 have developed such lung problems, we have congestion,

17 our eyes are running, our nose is running at all times.

18 We go through at least, this is

19 not a joke, 20 boxes of tissues a week in this house.

20 It might seem like a joke to someone that doesn't live

21 there.

22 I would like someone to come down

23 and just stay there for 24 hours and see what we live

24 through. I have been told that we're imagining or

25 exaggerating this.

0060

01 I can assure you we're not. You

02 can feel this dust and you can hear the noise until

03 12:15 at night or later. We live with constant

04 cold-like symptoms, runny noses, burning eyes.

05 Why? We can't sit on our porches?

06 The pool is filled with this soot-like substance. I

07 have no clue what that is.

08 I wasn't here last week, I didn't

09 speak. My phone is unlisted, but I received an

10 unanimous call from someone who threatened me not to

11 come here again.

12 Also, at the supermarket parking

13 lot I was told not to speak again or they would take

14 care of me. I have no understanding why. I came ere

15 for the health and welfare of my neighborhood. That's

16 it. Thank you.

17 MS. WILLIAMS: Good evening, City

18 Council. Joanne Williams, Prescott Avenue.

19 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.

20 MS. WILLIAMS: I just wanted to

21 take this time to thank the mayor and the

22 administration for the fireworks display that was held

23 up at Nay Aug Park right before the week of the 4th of

24 July. It was nice to see people gathered to hear a

25 great band and see the fireworks.

0061

01 Also, I've been riding through

02 Nay Aug Park a few times during the week, and I've

03 counted cars by the swim complex. Over 300 cars are

04 there daily.

05 And I spoke to a family visiting

06 from New Jersey, and we got to talk. I asked them, I

07 said, How do you feel about the fee?

08 Well, the dad said, this was his

09 words, it was cheap. A dollar to swim and three for

10 the slide, what a deal. We don't get that in Jersey.

11 They continued the day to say they were

12 going to walk through the park and see the zoo, and

13 they thought the park was great.

14 I took a walk down to the zoo, and

15 I found, his name is Brendan Kerber, he graduated from

16 Northeast Intermediate School and will be a freshman at

17 Scranton High School in September. He has volunteered
18 two years up there, and I think it's great that we have
19 kids that take the time and do that.

20 Mr. DiBileo, since you are so set
21 on children swimming free, am I correct, you're set on
22 that?

23 MR. DIBILEO: Yeah, I wanted the
24 neighborhood pools to be free, yes, I did.

25 MS. WILLIAMS: Okay.

0062

01 MR. DIBILEO: Just I can't
02 understand why, and correct me if I'm wrong, last year
03 when a playground was being built, you did not
04 volunteer an hour of your time.

05 MR. DIBILEO: Yes, I did.

06 MS. WILLIAMS: You did?

07 MR. DIBILEO: Yes, I did.

08 MS. WILLIAMS: I thought you
09 stated that you didn't?

10 MR. DIBILEO: There were two
11 playgrounds built.

12 MS. WILLIAMS: I'm talking Nay Aug
13 Park.

14 MR. DIBILEO: Well, I spent time
15 at one of the two playgrounds.

16 MS. WILLIAMS: I'm asking you
17 directly, was it Nay Aug Park?

18 MR. DIBILEO: I spent time at the
19 one closer to my home.

20 MS. WILLIAMS: Okay. Well, I
21 mean, I just find it hard to believe that you couldn't
22 spend, you know, some time at Nay Aug Park to help
23 volunteers build that playground.

24 Also, Mrs. Evans, I know she's
25 talking to Mr. Walsh now, had stated that she had to

0063

01 sign some kind of paper, I didn't know what that was
02 about. I don't know.

03 But, Mrs. Evans, I know she's
04 talking, maybe you can relay the message to her, that
05 you didn't only have to do physical work up there, you
06 could have hand the food out and water to people. She
07 was another one that didn't show, along with
08 Mr. Courtright.

09 Also I noticed this evening,
10 Mr. DiBileo, Mr. Gervasi asked you several questions
11 about Southern Union, and you didn't seem to have an
12 answer. Have you done any homework on Southern Union?

13 MR. DIBILEO: Yeah. I'm aware
14 that they got the KOZ status, and that could be part of
15 the million-dollar package that the mayor is referring
16 to.

17 MS. WILLIAMS: You seem not to
18 have answers, though, for him. The many questions he
19 asked, you didn't have an answer for.

20 MR. DIBILEO: What answers we
21 don't have, we get quickly.

22 MS. WILLIAMS: Okay. Also, I
23 watched when you spoke last week at the end of the
24 meeting. I found it appalling, any mayor, you know, to
25 say he lives in a mansion.

0064

01 I know, Mr. DiBileo, you live in
02 West Side up in Fawn Hill, am I correct?

03 MR. DIBILEO: Yes, I do.

04 MS. WILLIAMS: Okay. I can't
05 afford to live up there. Should I call your place a
06 mansion?

07 MR. DIBILEO: You can, if you
08 want.

09 MS. WILLIAMS: How inappropriate,
10 how very inappropriate. Just goes to show what you
11 are.

12 MR. DIBILEO: I can wait until the
13 applause stops, that's okay. Thank you, Mrs. Williams.

14 Any other speakers?

15 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: Good evening,
16 Council. Charlie Newcomb, Cameron Avenue in Scranton.
17 I agree with the speaker that came up here before, I,
18 myself, love Scranton, I don't want anybody to get that
19 wrong impression when I come up here that I don't love
20 Scranton, I just don't appreciate being lied to.

21 Another thing, too, that somebody
22 touched on this before that the fireworks up at Nay Aug
23 Park, I think it was \$10,000 for those fireworks up at
24 the park, and when Mayor Doherty was on Council, he
25 told me directly that it was only \$18,000 to run the

0065

01 city pools for the season. So, again, the priorities.
02 Also in the newspaper
03 Mayor Doherty was quoted that the Hilton spent too much
04 money, that's why they were broke. Now, think about
05 that statement. I think Mayor Doherty and the
06 City of Scranton is spending too much money, that's why
07 we're broke.
08 I have asked some questions at

09 this podium many, many times that have gone on deaf
10 ears, so I don't like to beat the horse, but I'll ask
11 them again, how much money have we paid for all this
12 summer in the city banners, all the other
13 advertisement, including the billboards, paper ads and
14 everything that's included with that.
15 And when am I going to get help
16 with a water problem that I've been asking here for
17 about two months? Do I have to wait before my house
18 gets flooded before somebody acknowledges my question?
19 I also saw some misprinted signs
20 up in the Hill Section thanking Mayor Doherty for
21 Nay Aug Park. I think us taxpayers paid the millions
22 of dollars for Nay Aug Park, not Mr. Doherty.
23 Last week this mayor vetoed
24 another piece of legislation. This, in my opinion, was
25 an example of this mayor and his supporters, and that
0066

01 includes you, Mr. McTiernan and Mr. Pocius, again, and
02 this is my opinion, that you are against the poor in
03 this community.
04 I would like to ask you and the
05 mayor, What do you say to the families that can't
06 afford lunch in schools? What do you say to the mother
07 who works two job and scrapes bottom? What do you say
08 to the mother that stopped me with four children who's
09 a widow and can't afford to send her kids to
10 Nay Aug Park?
11 I hope that I know what they'll
12 say to you come November. The bottom line is that this
13 mayor and his followers are above middle class on a
14 pedestal like the rest.
15 Mr. DiBileo, you said it best, the
16 mayor is used to his mansion lifestyle, and anybody
17 that lives in a house that used to be a convalescent
18 home, you tell me what it is.
19 Mr. Pocius, the last few weeks
20 when speakers are done here you've said a lot. First
21 and foremost, I'd like to correct you a couple weeks
22 ago when you said that Mrs. Shedlock was being attacked
23 at this podium. I never attacked Ms. Shedlock, I
24 attacked the newspaper.
25 I would also like to say that I
0067

01 don't believe anybody at this meeting ever criticized
02 Southern Union for coming to the city. I think it's
03 great that a company of that size is coming to the
04 city, but I think it's very unfortunate that they're

05 only bringing a handful of people.
06 What do you say to the other three
07 empty floors that could possibly have businesses put
08 on there that we currently have that business
09 downtown? What do you say to the little jewellers that
10 have been downtown forever that can't get a KOZ status?
11 What do you say to the restaurants that are downtown
12 and pay their taxes when they can't get a KOZ status?
13

14 They're going to suffer because
15 these three empty floors could be filled with this
16 business, and it'd be a KOZ ride and a free ride for
17 everybody.

18 While I'm on the top of Ceco
19 Associates, I'd like to ask Mr. Pocius a question,
20 there's a rumor around, and I'd like to resolve it
21 here, because it's a frustrating rumor for me, that do
22 you know if Ceco Associates is coming to the Southern
23 Union building?

24 MR. POCIUS: It's none of your
25 business.

0068

01 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: Well --

02 MR. POCIUS: For the following
03 reason, that's a private company and you have no right
04 to know what goes on inside a private company.

05 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: That's fine.

06 My comment on that then, if it's a private company is
07 they currently have a business in Scranton that they're
08 paying taxes on, so I don't think it's right, like
09 people said here before, that you -- a business in
10 Scranton is paying taxes and they're going to get a
11 free ride for ten years. It should be open to people
12 that are going to come from outside the area and get a
13 free ride. And this is my opinion --

14 MR. POCIUS: Well, it's wrong.

15 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: What's that?

16 MR. POCIUS: It's wrong.

17 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: It's wrong that
18 a business in the City of Scranton that's been paying
19 taxes --

20 MR. POCIUS: No, it's wrong that
21 you continually attack something that you have no right
22 to attack up here.

23 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: I just asked

24 you a question.

25 MR. POCIUS: No, no. You ask me a

0069

01 question on my business as a city councilman, that's
02 fine, you ask me a question on the private corporation
03 I work for, that's not your business.

04 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: Well, I it's a
05 conflict of interest if you as a councilman voted on
06 Southern Union, if you did, if your business is going
07 in their building.

08 MR. POCIUS: Charlie -- where is
09 he coming from, Mr. DiBileo? Do you think it's fair?

10 MR. DIBILEO: Mr. Newcomb,
11 Mr. Pocius doesn't have to answer at this point, you
12 know. I'll allow it if he'd like to. Thank you very
13 much.

14 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: It's only my
15 statements, and my statement again, if that's the case,
16 it's nice political feedback.

17 MR. POCIUS: See, that's the
18 problem here, Mr. President.

19 MR. DIBILEO: Mr. Newcomb, that
20 last comment was totally uncalled for.

21 MR. POCIUS: Thank you,
22 Mr. DiBileo.

23 MR. DIBILEO: And I would ask that
24 speakers please refrain from comments of a personal
25 nature or of an attacking nature.

0070

01 MR. POCIUS: Absolutely,
02 Mr. President. Because, I mean, it's not right. I
03 mean, if -- you own a business in the city, and I think
04 it off base if people ask you questions about your
05 business. Mr. Courtright owns a business in the city,
06 and I think it's off line if people ask him what he
07 does or plans to do with his business.

08 Mrs. Evans, you work for the
09 school district, and what happens in the school
10 district is the business over there.

11 I work for a private company
12 that's been in the city for 32 years, and I don't feel
13 I have to defend why we're here, what we're doing here.
14 We're here, we pay taxes, we've paid taxes for the past
15 32 years to the City of Scranton, and, you know, when
16 someone comes up and makes accusations like that, I
17 think it's totally, totally, totally wrong, and I think
18 it's off line. It has nothing to do with him.

19 MR. DIBILEO: Yeah. I thought the
20 last comment was over the edge there, Mr. Newcomb, and,
21 I mean, people have a right to ask us questions. We
22 don't have to respond, if we choose not to, and let's

23 leave it at that. Go right ahead, Mr. McAndrew.

24 MR. McANDREW: Good evening,

25 Council. Larry McAndrew, Scranton resident and
0071

01 Scranton taxpayer.

02 I want to first remind the

03 taxpayers of Lackawanna County and here in Scranton

04 that the next scheduled meeting of the Scranton

05 Lackawanna Taxpayers Association is scheduled for

06 August 4 at 7 p.m. right here at the City Council

07 chambers. Please attend. This is very important for

08 our community.

09 Now after saying that, Mr. Pocius,

10 I planned on not bashing your company tonight, and I

11 don't plan on saying anything about Southern Union. I,

12 too, welcome any kind of industry to come in here, but

13 the way they came in here, I don't think was the right

14 way to do it. A free ride? No.

15 And as far as this young lady that

16 was formerly from New Jersey wants to know what this

17 Mayor Doherty is planning to do for the next four

18 years? I'm still trying to figure out the damage that

19 he has done to us the last four years.

20 I want to talk a minute about

21 loyalty. Last week we had a vote here about the pool

22 fees, and the issue has been going back and forth, and

23 it might not seem like a lot of money, a dollar, but if

24 you're a single woman and you have two or three

25 children and you have so much money to work with, that

0072

01 dollar is very important.

02 And what you two gentleman did

03 last week is unforgiveable, especially Mr. McTiernan,

04 since you're a principal of a school, you deal with

05 children, you know where they're coming from.

06 And I don't want to criticize you

07 gentlemen. Mr. Pocius, you have to vacate your seat

08 come January, but I promise you, Mr. McTiernan, as a

09 member of a taxpayers' association group, we will fight

10 vigorously against you to keep that seat. I thank you.

11 MR. POCIUS: That's out of line.

12 I mean, come on. I mean, what are they going to say

13 next? I mean, really, I mean, that's totally

14 political. Mr. President, I mean, really. That was

15 totally political.

16 I mean, you can say things about

17 somebody, but to say you're going to work against a

18 candidate up here, a seated Council person, I think

19 that's totally out of line.

20 MR. DIBILEO: Next speaker.

21 Excuse me one second, Mrs. Yetkowskas. Mr. Walsh, any
22 opinion on that comment by Mr. Pocius regarding what
23 someone may or may not do in upcoming elections in the
24 future? Do you think they have a right to state their
25 opinion on what they plan on doing?

0073

01 MR. WALSH Initially the way our
02 rules were originally written is I think they were
03 confined to city business, then I believe there was an
04 opinion issued by the Court of Common Pleas of
05 Lackawanna County, Judge Mazzoni, wherein he allowed
06 for a wider interpretation of those rules to allow for
07 a lot more to be said, other than what was restricted
08 to the agenda. He enlarged what was able to be said.
09 I think what has to happen is
10 fighting words or things of those nature are not
11 protected by the First Amendment, but most other
12 statements are protected by the First Amendment.
13 You know, I guess, Mr. President,
14 in accordance with the rules, you just have to
15 unfortunately make the tough calls on those things when
16 the things come up and try to prevent people from doing
17 thing as a personal -- of a personal nature, which I
18 think you're trying to do.

19 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you very much,

20 Mr. Walsh. Go right ahead.

21 MS. YETKOWSKAS: Regina
22 Yetkowskas, Scranton resident. According to Council's
23 agenda for tonight, it will vote on Mr. Doherty's
24 request to sell Scranton's loans namely from the city,
25 the office of economic and community development to the
0074

01 community reinvestment fund incorporated to be called
02 CRF.

03 There are a total of 19 loans

04 Mr. Doherty intends to sell to CFR, according to the
05 table at the end of the loan report. It shows the
06 current market value of all the loans to be \$4,990,828.

07 I reviewed the paperwork the
08 administration submitted in its request for an
09 ordinance to proceed with the transaction. I also
10 reviewed the newspaper articles in favor of the
11 transaction and bring the following facts to Council's
12 attention.

13 Council should keep in mind that

14 in all newspaper articles and publicity on the loan

15 purchases, it was stated that CRF would pay \$.92 for
16 each dollar of loan the city would sell, but that was
17 not totally truthful, because according to the paper
18 submitted, the administration meant but did not tell
19 the people was that CRF would pay an average of
20 \$.92 cents for each dollar of loan it purchased.

21 That means CRF, while taking very
22 little risk on the listed loans, would make 8.12 cents
23 profit on each dollar of the loans or a total of
24 \$405,255 profit. That's a nice profit.

25 But there's more to the story. It
0075

01 is also what Scranton would lose on the loans. I note
02 that the percentage CRF would pay for the various loans
03 range from 69.55 percent on high-low realty loans to
04 92.62 percent for the 519 Linden Street company loan
05 and 92.39 percent for prescription center loan.

06 Why would the city accept
07 88.85 percent on the universal printing loan and 79.81
08 percent on the Eastern Mill Work Loan.

09 I believe this conduct must be
10 first explained to City Council before it acts on the
11 proposed ordinance.

12 Next, the city's paperwork, as I
13 said before, shows that the average percent CRF will
14 pay for the loans to be 91.88 percent or \$.92 on the
15 dollar.

16 Well, unless my calculator is
17 wrong, and I don't believe it to be so, CRF will be
18 paying not \$.92 on each dollar of loan, but 87.41 cents
19 on each dollar of loan.

20 This means CRF will not make a
21 profit of \$405,255 as inferred by the Doherty
22 administration which could be reasonable, instead CRF
23 will make a profit of 12.59 percent or \$628,345.

24 That's \$223,090 more than if the profit was 8.12
25 percent as claimed by the Doherty administration and
0076

01 the local newspaper.

02 This profit of \$628,345 for CRF is
03 the amount Scranton will actually lose on this
04 transaction. This loss is unreasonably high.

05 Finally, if CRF pays the
06 Doherty administration the correct average of 87.41
07 percent for the loans or \$462,482, this is a lot of
08 money to give to a mayor who spends big and openly, but
09 not to improve the quality of life of the people who
10 elected him.

11 The purpose of my presentation is
12 very simple, I suggest City Council should not pass the
13 ordinance requested by Mayor Doherty, unless and until
14 the following elements are met; No. 1, that
15 Mayor Doherty first publicly inform the people of the
16 accurate figures involved in this matter; No. 2, that
17 Mayor Doherty first fully explain why the percentages
18 to purchase the various loans are so vastly different
19 when the companies who made the loans are at the same
20 level of risk; No. 3, it is most important that
21 Mr. Doherty fully disclose in advance how he intends to
22 use the \$4,362,482 he will receive from the sale of the
23 loans.

24 The mayor should not be able to
25 utility \$4 million plus dollars on the parks, he should
0077

01 not have the right to pass any part of the money onto
02 the different authorities, he should publicly state how
03 he will use the money for the good and welfare of the
04 people's lives, and finally, Mr. Doherty should not be
05 able to use any of the money until each intended use is
06 first approved by City Council. May I continue, sir?

07 MR. DIBILEO: Are you near the end
08 of your thing?

09 MS. YETKOWSKAS: I have four
10 sentences more. It pertains to CRF.

11 MR. DIBILEO: Go ahead and finish
12 it up. Since it's in seventh order this evening, go
13 ahead.

14 MS. YETKOWSKAS: All right. Thank
15 you. All of this should be in the ordinance to protect
16 the people. If the mayor vetoes the ordinance, then so
17 be it. It's about time City Council took back some of
18 its rights and authority that now rests in the hands of
19 the municipal authorities.

20 The best place for City Council to
21 begin the turnaround is with \$4,362,482. Thank you.

22 MR. McTIERNAN: Mrs. Yetkowskas,
23 can I ask her a question? Maybe someone else can
24 answer it. Mr. President, a clarification.

25 Ms. Yetkowskas, you mentioned a 12 percent return on
0078

01 that investment by CRF, that's just a different slant
02 that I'm looking at, how long, based on the
03 calculations you had, how long are you calculating that
04 12 percent return to be realized over? That's a
05 different slant than I've seen portrayed.

06 MS. YETKOWSKAS: Yeah, I'll look

07 that that and I'll --

08 MR. McTIERNAN: Yeah, I'm just

09 wondering, because if the notes are varying from

10 maturity of the notes from five years through 30, I

11 think it's probably something to note that if you are

12 realizing a 12 percent profit over a ten-year period,

13 that's hardly 12 percent annually, and you can

14 certainly receive that in a savings account.

15 So, I thought maybe you would have

16 that at your hands how long we were going to realize or

17 actually or CRF would realize that 12 percent profit,

18 but if you don't have it -- does anybody else have an

19 idea? I don't. I'm just curious. That's an

20 interesting figure, and 12 percent over multiple years

21 probably divided by those years is not an unreasonable

22 profit. I'm just curious. Thank you.

23 MR. WALSH: Mr. President, may I

24 speak?

25 MR. DIBILEO: Yes, Mr. Walsh,

0079

01 sure.

02 MR. WALSH: You had asked me a

03 question earlier with respect to when you're going over

04 the line and not going over the line, and it seems as

05 if that's been a question that has been asked, written

06 about and talked about, but suffice it to say that the

07 opinion written by Judge Mazzoni I believe dealt with

08 whether or not you had to speak only as to agenda

09 issues, and I believe he interpreted our rules in a way

10 that said that you did not have to only stick to agenda

11 issues.

12 That being said, this may be the

13 only forum for somebody to vote or for somebody to

14 voice their displeasure or pleasure with a particular

15 vote, so as long as that voicing of the pleasure or

16 displeasure with a particular vote doesn't turn into an

17 attack, it's probably proper.

18 With respect to earlier comments,

19 and I'll reference Ceco and Associates, Mr. Pocius'

20 businesses, I don't think that's proper, because that's

21 a private business, and as long as it has no connection

22 with the City of Scranton, there's no reason for people

23 to delve into what a private business is doing if it

24 has no connection there.

25 Similarly, and I know since I've

0080

01 sat here as solicitor, they've delved into your

02 business, as well, Mr. DiBileo, and, again, as long as

03 it has no connection to city business or city
04 contracts, I don't see why that would be a proper
05 issue.
06 But, again, it's an issue that's
07 going to continually come up, because I think when
08 people exercise their First Amendment Right, you know,
09 they do it in a way that best allows them to express
10 their thoughts, and sometimes their expression of
11 thought, although it's not intentionally directed as an
12 attack, sometimes turns into one, so, you know, I give
13 you credit for trying to decipher what is and is not,
14 and I'll remain here if you have any questions of me as
15 to whether or not it is or isn't, but I wanted to be
16 more specific on my answer, because it is an issue I
17 think that's been discussed, written about and talked
18 about. Thank you.
19 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,
20 Mr. Walsh. And I think what you're basically saying is
21 that there is a very fine line between when you're
22 crossing over the line and when you're not.
23 I would say that one thing
24 Mr. McAndrew did during his comments that I'd ask him
25 not to do in the future, if he would, is he actually
0081
01 pointed at Mr. McTiernan during his comments, and
02 that's something that I don't think should occur.
03 MR. McANDREW: The reason I did
04 that, I wanted him to realize who I was addressing to.
05 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you. Thank
06 you. Go right ahead, Mrs. Stulgis.
07 MS. STULGIS: My name is Ann Marie
08 Stulgis, and I am a city resident. Mr. Courtright, I
09 wasn't here early enough, I was out in the hall. Two
10 weeks ago I mentioned that the city pulled the gang
11 unit and you were going to check on it, did you?
12 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yeah. And I
13 don't want to speak for the police chief, but in my
14 words what was told to me, and I believe -- was that
15 one of the questions in the letter that we forwarded to
16 you or no?
17 There was a series of questions
18 that you and he answered and I asked Jay to forward
19 them to you, did you ever get those answers?
20 MS. STULGIS: I did.
21 MR. COURTRIGHT: Do you remember
22 one of them or no? I don't remember. There were
23 several.
24 MS. STULGIS: I just wanted -- I

25 wanted everyone to know in fact I'm vindicated in that
0082

01 he did pull the gang unit.

02 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yeah, he did.

03 And, again, I'm not trying to speak for him, but my
04 understanding is that those two officers were put back
05 on the street, because in order to maintain the manning
06 clause, they would have had to start hiring overtime,
07 and so he didn't want to pay, I guess, overtime, so he
08 took those gentlemen out and put them on the street so
09 he wouldn't pay overtime.

10 My understanding, also, is that at

11 what time it's not necessary to pay overtime, he would
12 bring them back.

13 MS. STULGIS: I see.

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: If I'm incorrect,

15 I'm sure he'll tell me.

16 MS. STULGIS: We don't have a gang
17 unit, because in order to maintain the manning of nine
18 or ten officers on the road, we had to pull the gang
19 unit or pay overtime.

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: That's my

21 understanding. And if I'm wrong, I apologize, but I
22 believe that's what he conveyed to me.

23 MS. STULGIS: I just find it

24 interesting, because we all know what the crime is like
25 in the city, and the city can't afford to pay police
0083

01 officers overtime, maintain the gang unit for safety,
02 and yet we can afford \$10,000 for fireworks at the park
03 and we can afford to take a \$628,000 loss on
04 refinancing these loans, but public safety, keeping the
05 citizens safe, I guess that's a lot less important.

06 Also to clarify something,

07 arbitrations, as you all know, are over, so the truth
08 can come out. There are no computers in police cars.

09 I invite all of you to go look in police cars. There
10 may be one in the GR2 car, but it doesn't work.

11 They were removed after the

12 arbitrations were done because the unions kept saying
13 the computers didn't work, and the computers didn't
14 work, but they were there to look good. Now that
15 arbitrations are over, they're gone.

16 Also a little comment on an

17 ambulance, I happened to be on Ash Street the other
18 night, I believe it was last Friday evening, and fire
19 trucks, fire engines, which I never know ladders from
20 engines or whatever, all came down Ash Street and

21 turned out to the James Avenue Complex off Ash Street,
22 and two got there rather quickly, one was maybe a
23 minute behind, two minutes maybe, and then shortly
24 thereafter came an ambulance.

25 And I had pulled over to let the
0084

01 truck go by and then I was on my phone, and the
02 ambulance came down Ash Street, past the turn to the
03 James Avenue Complex, continued all the way up to where
04 Bunker Hill Street and Matthew Avenue are.

05 I thought that was odd. Made a
06 right on Matthew Avenue. A few minutes later, came
07 back out of Matthew Avenue, back down Ash Street, again
08 past the turn to the James Avenue Complex and now go up
09 Richter Avenue, go west on Gibson, and I didn't see
10 them again, and I was there another two or three
11 minutes.

12 I think that's an example of why
13 the current system with ambulances is not too good in
14 this city. Thank God no one was waiting for an
15 ambulance, because I was there a good five minutes and
16 there was no ambulance that ever got to the scene in
17 that five minutes after the trucks were on scene.

18 Now, last week I mentioned a
19 little bit about that Daron company out on Dickson
20 Avenue, and I think the impression was given that they
21 in fact make cinder blocks, and I got a call from a
22 gentleman who is somewhat of an expert in the field to
23 inform me that they do not make cinder block, they make
24 concrete or cement block.

25 He then gave me a great deal of
0085

01 information on the risks of the manufacture of concrete
02 and cement block, and also told me where to go to get
03 the papers that Daron is required to file by the
04 federal government.

05 I have those papers right here. I
06 downloaded them from the Internet. I will be happy to
07 give anyone the website. These papers are filed by,
08 and I will read them to you, it's called the
09 Material Safety Data Sheet.

10 The manufacturer's name is
11 Daron Northeast Architectural Masonry Products. The
12 hazardous component is crystallin quartz silica.

13 It is not water soluble. Its
14 appearance is granular or powder. Its route of entry
15 into the human body is by inhalation.

16 Dust and dust particles can result

17 in acute and chronic conditions. The acute short-term
18 conditions from exposure to this dust can cause minor
19 irritation of the eye, nose and skin.

20 Extensive inhalation of dust
21 particles may result in lung disease known as
22 silicosis. Silicosis is a form of disabling pulmonary
23 fibrosis which can be progressive and may lead to
24 death.

25 Is it a carcinogen? The answer
0086

01 is, Yes. In the sixth annual report on carcinogens by
02 the national toxicology program, it was concluded that
03 respirable crystallin silica may reasonably be
04 anticipated to be a carcinogen.

05 Signs and symptoms of exposure,
06 symptoms of excessive exposure are, irritation of the
07 eye, nose and/or throat, shortness of breath and sputum
08 production.

09 Medical conditions generally
10 aggravated by the exposure are, pre-existing pulmonary
11 and/or respiratory lung diseases, including but not
12 limited to emphysema, asthma or bronchitis.

13 Lung scarring produced by
14 excessive inhalation may lead to a progressive massive
15 fibrosis of the lung which may increase or aggravate
16 existing pulmonary conditions.

17 It increases susceptibility to
18 pulmonary tuberculosis. Progressive massive fibrosis
19 may be accompanied by heart enlargement, heart failure
20 and pulmonary failure.

21 Now, this is from Daron's website.

22 It is a form they're forced to fill out by the federal
23 government. Those symptoms sound horribly familiar to
24 me, and I'm sure they sound very familiar to all of
25 you, because these are the symptoms that the people

0087
01 living down there are suffering from.

02 I don't know what can be done, but
03 something has to be done soon, because the city is
04 going to be responsible if these people have any
05 lasting effects, and I think this is -- well, it's
06 obvious it's a life-threatening situation and there are
07 elderly people down there who are even more sensitive
08 to this.

09 I certainly hope that bringing
10 this out can get somebody in there to do something
11 before somebody suffers consequences that can't be
12 corrected. Thank you.

13 MR. LYMAN: Raymond Lyman. I
14 wasn't going to speak tonight, but I just have one
15 thing. Now, on Ash Street behind John Adams there's a
16 job incubator building down behind -- you know where
17 the Topps building is, the business, a block down the
18 street -- you're just going this way. You know where
19 Topps is, Janet, right? You know that street.

20 MS. EVANS: Yes.

21 MR. LYMAN: Now, there's a job
22 incubator business there and there's one business in
23 there, and there's enough room for other businesses
24 there. Now, my question is, Why doesn't the city not
25 put money into that business -- incubator business to
0088

01 bring other businesses there?

02 Now, you put a KOZ for this

03 incubator business and you can put other businesses
04 down there in the Pine Brook section and bring jobs.

05 Now, I'm going to call

06 Ozzie Quinn and this tax association, because I was a
07 member of the original tax association and we fought
08 hard against City Council, and this was not

09 Kevin Murphy, but the former City Council, the county
10 commissioner, and we fought against the

11 Sewer Authority, the county commissioners, and one

12 thing I have a gripe against this tax association, this
13 one guy said -- they said we were behind them, and we
14 weren't behind those taxing bodies, we fought against
15 them.

16 And in the end, we got tired of it

17 because a lot of the people were elderly that were with
18 us, some got sick and they died. And we didn't have
19 that many people that were behind -- at first we had a
20 lot of people behind us, but now -- at that time we had
21 Jimmy Connors, who was helping us, but this mayor, he
22 don't want to help people.

23 But this job incubator, I'm coming

24 here, because I want to see the City Council here
25 help. Now, I'm giving a challenge, and I want to see
0089

01 you, Gary, to do something. I know this mayor won't do
02 nothing. He's good for nothing, in my opinion.

03 MR. DIBILEO: Ray.

04 MR. LYMAN: I don't care what you
05 say, Pocius.

06 MR. DIBILEO: Ray.

07 MR. LYMAN: I thought that was

08 Pocius that hit that.

09 MR. DIBILEO: Ray, Ray, you're
10 pointing and your comments --
11 MR. LYMAN: Oh, oh, I didn't mean
12 to point. I'm just a pointer, Gary. Gary, I'm a
13 pointer, that's what I do.
14 MR. DIBILEO: Your comments are
15 over the line.
16 MR. LYMAN: I don't mean, I just
17 do that, I'm a pointer.
18 MR. DIBILEO: Your comments are
19 over the line, also, so we appreciate your being here.
20 Thank you.
21 MR. LYMAN: You know what I mean?
22 Because it is the truth. He don't put money towards
23 good projects, Gary. It is the truth.
24 MR. DIBILEO: Okay.
25 MR. LYMAN: He puts projects to
0090
01 useless projects, and this is a good project. And you
02 know that is true. KOZs, that's a bad idea. This
03 incubator -- and, Janet, come down there tomorrow and
04 I'll show it to you.
05 MS. EVANS: I'll come down,
06 Mr. Lyman, but I'm not going to be able to make it
07 tomorrow, I --
08 MR. LYMAN: Come down Saturday or
09 Monday --
10 MS. EVANS: Well, actually I'm
11 committed right through Tuesday.
12 MR. LYMAN: Well, then Wednesday,
13 Thursday.
14 MS. EVANS: I'll be done.
15 MR. LYMAN: Mr. DiBileo, you're
16 invited.
17 MR. DIBILEO: Okay.
18 MR. LYMAN: Mr. Courtright,
19 Mr. Pocius, Mr. McTiernan, you're all invited, and I'll
20 show it to you. I'm going to call Ozzie Quinn and
21 them, because this has to be done.
22 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Ray.
23 Appreciate it.
24 MR. LYMAN: Because money should
25 be towards this. If we can get some business in there
0091
01 and get some Scranton people to get jobs in there,
02 maybe Mr. Pocius can get some of the big shots in
03 there.
04 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you. Thank

05 you, Ray. Thank you. Are there any other speakers?
06 MR. LYMAN: I'm not against you,
07 Mr. Pocius.
08 MR. DIBILEO: Are there any other
09 speakers?
10 MS. KRAKE: Good evening, Council.
11 My name is Nancy Krake.
12 MS. EVANS: Good evening.
13 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.
14 MS. KRAKE: Yesterday I attended a
15 presentation given by the Pennsylvania Department of
16 Community and Economic Development and the consulting
17 firms of Keystone Municipal Services and
18 Public Financial Management, Incorporated.
19 They were addressing the citizens
20 and workers of Easton, Pennsylvania. A new program
21 developed by the state called the
22 Early Intervention Program was introduced to the
23 audience.
24 It was offered to these this town
25 as an alternative to the Act 47 distressed status. The
0092
01 spin these people, being the state and the consultants,
02 put on the finances of the City of Easton was well
03 rehearsed; in fact, to no one's great surprise,
04 apparently the workers are mostly to blame for years of
05 fiscal mismanagement. Never mentioned was the lack of
06 economic development experienced by most Pennsylvania
07 cities.
08 The state did say, however, they
09 hoped their intervention program would bring coffee
10 shops to the downtown. Sound familiar? In fact, I
11 believe the rest of the story will also be
12 frighteningly familiar to Scrantonians.
13 The consultants and the state
14 blatantly lied about circumstances in Scranton during
15 their presentation. They also misled the citizens of
16 Easton on their previous experience when questioned
17 about that.
18 For the most part, they gave no
19 specifics on their research of Easton's finances.
20 While promising an individualized economic plan,
21 substitute recovery plan here for Scranton, they used
22 the state standard model for a third-class city.
23 Really, we wouldn't want them to
24 put themselves out and create a specific model for each
25 city. After all, taxpayers are getting a bargain with
0093

01 their \$75 an hour rate. Bob Sabatini from Keystone
02 Municipal Service actually bragged about this rate.
03 The audience was left with the
04 impression that through blindly following their yet
05 unrevealed recommendations, after maybe five years,
06 ten, or even 15 years, Easton might survive on their
07 own.
08 After the consultants finished
09 speaking, several workers and citizens of Easton gave
10 outstanding suggestions on how to raise renew, which
11 all of which were promptly dismissed, which is also
12 very familiar to this city.
13 Imagine that, the people who lived
14 in a city all their lives and will continue to live
15 there after the consultants move on actually may know
16 what's best for their own town, just like Scranton.
17 The Pennsylvania Economy League
18 were also consultants, developed a plan that would
19 never affect them negatively in their personal lives.
20 They do not live here, and I'm assuming they never
21 will, especially if we don't lower the wage tax.
22 By the way, the consulting firm of
23 public financial management, or PFM, who I mentioned
24 earlier, were at Easton and were actually hired by
25 Easton, are also a consulting firm paid by the
0094

01 City of Scranton.
02 In fact, there was two resolutions
03 past when the previous rubber stamp council was seated.
04 The first was Resolution 195 signed by Kevin Murphy in
05 2003. That called for a five-year budgetary planning
06 forecast study interactive, which I doubt anyone has
07 ever interacted with. That cost was \$25,000.
08 Resolution 210 shortly
09 thereafter -- excuse me, that was in July, this one was
10 in September of 2003, authorized the mayor and other
11 appropriate city officials to enter into a contract
12 with Public Financial Management for consulting
13 professional services and expert testimony on behalf of
14 the city in the police and fire contract negotiations.
15 That cost over \$40,000.
16 During cross examination when
17 figures were supplied, they were asked where they got
18 these figures from, they said the city gave them to
19 them. Could they verify them? They were told, No,
20 they could not. Once again, nice work if you can get
21 it. So, that was over \$65,000.
22 You know, why do we need the

23 consultants Public Financial Management? Are they
24 consulting for the Pennsylvania Economy League
25 consultants who are consulting for the added middle
0095
01 management staff allegedly hired for their expertise
02 and awarded high salaries and raises for doing such a
03 great job?
04 It's a vicious cycle, consultants
05 feeding off consultants feeding off taxpayers at the
06 state and municipal levels. Thank you.
07 MR. ANCHERANI: Good evening,
08 Council. I am Nelson Ancherani, resident and taxpayer
09 in the City of Scranton. I'm also a member of the FOP.
10 A number of weeks ago I came
11 before council and asked a councilperson if he would go
12 to the mayor about giving our returning soldiers who
13 are city employees \$200 for every month that they spend
14 on active duty in the war in Iraq. This would be an
15 appreciation for their courageous service in the
16 defense of our country.
17 I will not ask any particular
18 councilperson to ask the mayor for this, since I don't
19 want to hurt anyone's feelings. I would just ask if
20 there are any councilpersons who may be in good
21 standing with the mayor to ask him to address this
22 issue.
23 We were told that the reason they
24 couldn't give that bonus to them previously was because
25 where the money would come from in the budget was
0096
01 already closed for last year. Okay, well, then what
02 about this year's budget, this year's overtime budget
03 for the police department?
04 I'm sure that the police overtime
05 budget is nowhere close to being used up. Besides, if
06 the overtime budget is not used up by the end of the
07 year, money goes back into the fund.
08 That money can be put to go use
09 and transferred to a special account to pay these brave
10 soldiers. The money could also come from the
11 contingency fund.
12 Transfers have been made before.
13 The amount will not even be \$20,000 total for all the
14 returnees. Even with the bonus, their pay while they
15 were in Iraq won't even be close to what they would
16 have made if they weren't called to active duty.
17 \$20,000 is 40 percent of what we
18 gave to the Genesis Wildlife Center this year. Failure

19 by the administration to give these brave soldiers this
20 bonus will show every one of the citizens of this city
21 who is favored by this administration. As of now, it
22 looks as if the animals are favored over these brave
23 soldiers.

24 I'm just wondering what excuse the
25 administration will come up with this time for not
0097

01 paying them. We already know that this administration
02 does not like the police, fire or clerical unions. The
03 mayor is not labor friendly. He's trying to break our
04 unions and he is willing to spend a lot of taxpayer's
05 money to do it.

06 The mayor is now appealing the
07 Lackawanna County Court decision in the strategic
08 implementation team SIT clerks arbitration. It looks
09 as though to him that two arbitrators and a county
10 judge are wrong and he is right.

11 He is in for a rude awakening when
12 Commonwealth Court sides with Lackawanna County Court
13 and upholds Judge Mazzoni's decision.

14 Not only is the \$500,000 award
15 climbing, but that money will be wasted because no one
16 is doing the work for that money. The clerks have not
17 been hired, according to the arbitrator and the judge,
18 and their salaries are going into the black hole of
19 wasted taxpayers' money, along with the approximately
20 \$750,000 in legal fees that the city has paid to
21 various attorneys to fight the unions.

22 I'm a taxpayer, and I'm appalled,
23 as every taxpayer should be. The mayor spends our, the
24 taxpayers' money, like the money grows on trees.

25 We taxpayers are going to get hit,
0098

01 and hit hard, when the decision comes down. We are not
02 rich, we are going to be paying for the work of the
03 clerks when no work was performed by them. This is
04 truly, truly sad.

05 The mayor will not feel the impact
06 like us little taxpayers will. He has money and won't
07 feel the hurt like we will.

08 Also by the city appealing the SIT
09 decision, the city delays putting the clerks back to
10 work. This results in less police being on the
11 streets, because they will be spending time running
12 into the building doing reports on the outdated
13 computer equipment that the police department has or
14 doesn't have.

15 One of the city's arguments for
16 not hiring the SIT clerks is because we have the
17 technology of computers in the cars. Patrol officers
18 now have to go into police headquarters after every
19 call on reportable incidents, because the computers
20 that were in the cars do not work or just aren't in the
21 cars.

22 Patrol officers have to stand in
23 line to use one -- to get to use one of the few
24 computers available to them. It is like they're in
25 Gerrity's, Please take a number.

0099

01 This also results in police
02 officers doing specialized work to be put back in
03 uniform because we are shorthanded, because the SIT
04 clerks weren't rehired.

05 Because of this, the city will
06 again blame the unions for not having the manpower
07 where they're needed.

08 So I say, before the city
09 administration blames the union, they should take a
10 good look in the mirror. That mirror is not telling
11 them that they're the fairest of all.

12 If this administration was fair,
13 employee morale would not be where it is today,
14 nowhere to be found, not in this city anyway.

15 So, that leaves me with a question
16 for the mayor, Show me where you are labor friendly to
17 either to union or non-union workers.

18 If the mayor was labor friendly,
19 we'd have a contract by now. We would have sat down
20 and talked to each other, and at least morale would not
21 be in the basement of the new police building. Thank
22 you.

23 MR. DIBILEO: If there's no
24 further speakers.

25 MR. WALSH: 5-A, motions.

0100

01 MR. DIBILEO: Mr. McTiernan, any
02 motions or comments this evening?

03 MR. McTIERNAN: Nothing at this
04 time, Mr. President. Thank you.

05 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.

06 Mrs. Evans, motions or comments?

07 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Good

08 evening. And first, best wishes go out to

09 Richard Novembrino for a very speedy recovery. He was
10 injured over at St. Ann's Monastery early in the

11 morning of the opening day, and we hope on Council that
12 he's doing well.

13 I also ask for your prayers for a

14 Mr. Philip DeCantis, who passed away, and for members
15 of his family that he leaves behind.

16 And because of the revelations

17 that were stated earlier concerning Daron U.S.A., I

18 would like our attorney to look into it, please. I'd

19 like to contact the Department of Health and ask that

20 inspectors might come in, and if we could possibly

21 track down the original -- there has to be a paper

22 trail here from Eureka was sold to Daron, and if there

23 were any, let's say, meetings before the planning

24 commission or the zoning board, etc.

25 In other words, I'm looking for

0101

01 any paperwork that would reveal the products being made

02 there, their components, etc.

03 Kay, I'd like a letter sent to

04 Ms. Hailstone at OECD requesting responses to the

05 following questions regarding the Hilton Hotel and

06 Conference Center, I'm requesting an accounting from

07 OECD as to the status of the 108 loan for the

08 Hilton Hotel; No. 1, who has been making the payments;

09 No. 2, if payments were not made, were they taken from

10 CDBG allocations, and No. 3, if so, what is the exact

11 dollar amount that was taken from CDBG?

12 And next, I'd like to remind

13 everyone that completed CDBG applications must be

14 submitted to OECD by August 8, 2005, to be considered

15 for funding.

16 Mr. Courtright, Mr. DiBileo, and

17 myself can be contacted through City Council's office

18 or by Email if you would like to obtain an application.

19 And of course you can also visit the office of OECD.

20 Last Friday I had the great

21 pleasure of attending the opening of the Market Street

22 Bridge, and I've never seen a more beautiful site in

23 our city.

24 I want to publicly compliment all

25 those who were responsible for this project. First of

0102

01 all, the North Scranton Neighborhood Association, the

02 former and current officers and all active members;

03 next, Mr. John Pocius and Ceco, whose meticulous design

04 and work produced the greatest improvement in the

05 North Scranton and Green Ridge area that I have seen;

06 next, the Connors administration.

07 Mr. Pocius, I think, told me on
08 that Friday that it was he who first approached
09 Mayor Connors maybe back in 1990 about possible
10 state funding for such a project; is that correct?
11 MR. POCIUS: Well, it was under
12 the Connors administration, but my first contact was
13 with Harry Lindsay, who was the chairman of the
14 Lackawanna County Regional -- executive director,
15 whatever his title was, but that position also gave him
16 a position on the local MPO, which is the
17 Municipal Planning Organization, which sets the highway
18 funds, and these projects were languishing. They were
19 on there, Market Street, Lackawanna,
20 West Lackawanna, Rockwell, and so on; however, there
21 was no funding in place.
22 And so, we approached the
23 administration right in these chambers here about
24 setting up the matching funds to get the thing started.
25 That's where it all started back then, and then these
0103
01 projects were put on, they were able to be advanced up
02 to et the design started.
03 You all know the problems with the
04 sanctions and all that kind of -- held the designs up.
05 But I want to thank you for your kind words. It was a
06 beautiful project. To show you that that project did
07 not have to be done in Harrisburg or Philadelphia, but
08 it was done by people who work in Scranton, live in
09 Lackawanna and Luzerne counties and all through the
10 northeast and are allowed to work here because of the
11 type the firm we have and we'd like to keep.
12 I always say that we like to keep
13 young professionals here in Northeastern Pennsylvania
14 and allow them the opportunities that they wouldn't
15 have had to gone out of town elsewhere.
16 So, if I seem sometimes a little
17 bit on edge because of accusations about my company,
18 it's because of the commitment we've made to this
19 community. We could be anywhere outside of Scranton.
20 We have been here 32 years.
21 MS. EVANS: And the fact that you
22 keep --
23 MR. POCIUS: You saw it, Janet.
24 It was a beautiful project.
25 MS. EVANS: Oh, it's magnificent.
0104
01 MR. POCIUS: The excitement at that
02 groundbreaking was immense. I mean, it was immense. I

03 mean, the people were happy. I mean, I owe Dick Laske
04 a major lunch over it.
05 MS. EVANS: Yes, I was going to
06 ask you.
07 MR. POCIUS: I'll take him to the
08 Taurus Club one day and I'll feed him enough
09 cheeseburgers he will never -- you'll be fine or
10 whatever he wants. I just want to thank you for your
11 comments, because they're well-taken. I know you mean
12 them sincerely.
13 MS. EVANS: I do. And I also
14 wanted to thank you, though, for those many years ago
15 getting the ball rolling on this.
16 As one resident of that area, it's
17 something that I know I suffered with that bridge
18 through a lifetime, and today it really is a thing of
19 beauty, something to be proud of.
20 And, again, I think, you know, we
21 originated this during the Connors administration, and
22 then I want to thank the Doherty administration for
23 finishing this fantastic project.
24 And the State of Pennsylvania
25 should be thanked, as well, for releasing the funds for
0105
01 this project, because I think I do remember back in the
02 late '90s, it would have been, if I'm not mistaken,
03 Mayor Doherty who advised the state to sanction us, and
04 when that occurred, the funds for that bridge were
05 stopped, were withheld, they weren't taken away, they
06 were withheld, and then of course they were finally
07 released, and we have this beautiful finished product.
08 I wish it had occurred back in
09 maybe 2000 or 2001, but it's better late than never,
10 and it's very well appreciated.
11 But most of all, I want to thank
12 the taxpayers, because it's your local, state and
13 federal taxes that made that project a reality.
14 And I also, while I'm on the topic
15 of wonderful projects happening in Scranton, I also
16 received a letter from a disgruntled resident of
17 East Mountain, and I've been stopped over the last week
18 at some outings and over at St. Ann's by city residents
19 who were concerned about the Easement Mountain
20 project.
21 They're very annoyed that the
22 mayor is claiming credit for this project and for the
23 new roads, and they requested that I give credit
24 publicly to all of the people who were involved in

25 this, and they asked me to start with former
0106

01 Councilman Brian Reap, who fought diligently for this
02 project.

03 They told me that years ago he

04 went door to door with the road plans and asked each

05 resident to review them, let them know when the

06 neighborhood meetings were being held so that they

07 could understand these plans and pose any questions or

08 concerns they might have.

09 Next I want to thank the

10 East Mountain Residents Association, again, former and

11 current officers and all their active members, because

12 they were very responsible for making this project a

13 reality.

14 And I understand further from

15 these individuals, we need to thank Senator Mellow and

16 Congressman Sherwood for providing support and funding

17 to this project.

18 And, again, I want to thank

19 Mr. Pocius and Ceco for their diligence and their very

20 meticulous work. And finally, again, to the taxpayers

21 of Scranton, whose local, state and federal tax dollars

22 paid for this project.

23 You know, it was discussed

24 earlier, but it's something, too, that I've seen, our

25 city is littered with signs recognizing and thanking

0107

01 the mayor for these projects and others, like Nay Aug

02 and Weston Field, and I don't know who pays for all

03 these signs and the ads in the Scranton Times and the

04 banners and the billboards, and I really do hope it's

05 not us, but as I mentioned earlier, I don't see any

06 disclaimers, so I fear it really may be us, the

07 taxpayers, but you know what, I think if there were any

08 signs or banners or ads to be run, they should say,

09 Thank you taxpayers of Scranton for the Market Street

10 Bridge, and thank you taxpayers for the East Mountain

11 project, and thank you taxpayers for Nay Aug Park and

12 Weston Field, because, you know, it's every penny of

13 your tax dollars that built all of this.

14 These are community efforts, and

15 no one person is responsible, unless, of course, you

16 can say you went out there and you built it with your

17 own two hands and you wrote that check from your own

18 personal checking account, then you can stand there and

19 say, This is my project, but otherwise, that's just not

20 true. It belongs to all of us. It's everybody's

21 project.

22 Mr. Courtright, I need your help
23 quickly with just a few citizen questions and
24 complaints. I'm just going to read excerpts, and if
25 care to respond or else you can find the answer for us,
0108

01 please.

02 MR. COURTRIGHT: Sure.

03 MS. EVANS: This regards the CommD
04 officers, why aren't they rehiring the officers that
05 were laid off? They were not let go or fired for
06 misconduct or not doing their job; in fact, I know that
07 one was given an accommodation for a great job while
08 working in the South Scranton section of town.

09 The paper stated it was an issue
10 of money. Also, two were let go because of test scores
11 and being on the list. The chief also said publicly
12 test scores are not required for CommD.
13 Two officers were on the list and
14 removed. Now they have enough money and are putting
15 officers on, yet some officers have not been paid the
16 six months' back pay yet that they are owed. You never
17 hear about that.

18 Do you know anything about what
19 this person is describing to me?

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yeah, it's a
21 little bit complicated, I think. I don't know if the
22 two officers they're talking about are two that I'm
23 aware of. I don't think they'd mind me mentioning
24 their name, there was a Mike Marino and a Jason Todd,
25 who I don't think anybody will deny were two of the
0109

01 best officers this city ever had.

02 What I'm being told is is that
03 they did not get a score that was needed to stay on the
04 job and they were replaced by people that did.

05 At one time, and this here is a
06 little touchy, at one time I don't believe that you
07 needed to be on a list to be a CommD officer, but I
08 think they developed a list for CommD officers now, so
09 now there is a list that you're taken off of.

10 MS. EVANS: And the list is based
11 on test scores?

12 MR. COURTRIGHT: I believe so,
13 both written and oral, and we can verify that with the
14 police officer. As far as the back pay that they're
15 owed, I have no idea. I have no knowledge of that at
16 all.

17 But I certainly don't think that
18 those two gentlemen were released because of the job
19 they did. They did an excellent job. Towards the end
20 of their stay with the city, they were over in
21 West Scranton, and in my opinion, almost
22 single-handedly did away with what I consider, maybe
23 some don't, what I consider a gang over there.
24 So, they were good guys, they
25 worked hard, and I don't believe it had anything at all
0110

01 to do with the quality of work they did. I think they
02 did top-notch work.
03 MS. EVANS: Can you find out,
04 though, about the six months' back pay that's referred
05 to, please?

06 MR. COURTRIGHT: I'll call down
07 there and see if they can. I don't know if they're
08 going to release that to me. Maybe that's a personal
09 issue. I don't know.

10 MS. EVANS: Okay. And then just
11 one more thing, this is a different Email, it says a
12 few weeks ago Mr. Hayes addressed Council concerning
13 the controversial police union manning clause and tried
14 to justify the numbers by pointing out the additional
15 officers on the street during the three shift.

16 One of the patrols he claims was
17 not counted in the number nine was the prisoner
18 transport vehicle and the officer assigned. Certainly
19 this police person is a qualified individual to have on
20 the streets and would be an asset.
21 It's come to my attention that the
22 police department has recently reassigned the officer
23 on wagon duty to sit at the processing center with the
24 sheriffs on Friday and Saturday, instead of allowing
25 this vehicle and manpower to be on the streets.

0111
01 I'm going skip the next statement,
02 because it's provocative, this new assignment takes an
03 able-bodied police officer and vehicle off the street
04 and essentially makes them sit and wait to transport.
05 I would ask that Council look into
06 this safety issue, as it concerns me that our city
07 isn't following policies that are in the best interests
08 of our citizens. Is that assessment accurate?

09 MR. COURTRIGHT: Well, that's
10 something Mrs. Stulgis had brought up, I believe, last
11 week, but I spoke to the police chief briefly out in
12 front of City Hall, and for lack of a better word, I'll

13 call it a pilot program, they're not permanently down
14 there. Whether they will be or not, I do not know.
15 And the other thing is, I believe
16 they filed a grievance, so I don't know that I would
17 get any other kind of answer if there was a grievance
18 filed, but I believe the union might have filed a
19 grievance on that particular thing there.
20 But it's a pilot program. She
21 asked was there a contract with the city and the
22 county. There is no contract. There is nothing at all
23 in writing, it's just a verbal agreement between the
24 City of Scranton and I believe the sheriff's
25 department.

0112

01 MS. EVANS: Okay. Well, thank
02 you. And I hope that clears the issues up as best as
03 possible currently for the individuals who wrote me.
04 Kay, I'd also like to schedule a
05 public caucus with Mr. Rossi to review Council's
06 independent audit of 2004, and if possible, for next
07 week.
08 And I just wanted to read an Email
09 concerning school resource officers and an invitation
10 to Council, and I don't know if you all received it,
11 but in the event that you didn't, I think it's
12 important that, oh, Mr. McTiernan is not here, that you
13 listen.
14 I'm writing to you on behalf of
15 the school resource officers of the Scranton Police
16 Department. Since July 11, they have been conducting
17 their great summer camp. GREAT stands for
18 Gang Resistance Education and Training.
19 On behalf of myself, all the
20 school resource officers and the children attending the
21 summer program, we would like to invite you and your
22 fellow members of Council to our graduation ceremony
23 this Friday, July 22 at 6 p.m.
24 The graduation will be conducted
25 at Scranton High School, and following the graduation,
0113

01 we will be holding a dinner for all to attend.
02 So, I'm hoping that some members
03 of Council will be able to attend that graduation, and
04 I know I'm certainly going to try.
05 I also have a list of requests
06 from citizens for the week of July 21, and I've already
07 given that to Kay. Some of them do require immediate
08 attention.

09 And finally, I'd like to encourage
10 all the faithful to attend the remaining five days of
11 the Saint Ann's Solemn Novena. It's a beautiful,
12 calming and comforting experience that's attended by
13 tens of thousands of individuals annually, and it was a
14 very -- and it was a volunteer activity that was very
15 dear to my father, Carl Tomko. I've stepped in since
16 his death last year, and I can never fill his shoes,
17 but I really hope that I'm going to see some of you
18 there between now and Tuesday.
19 And also, I hope to see others of
20 you over at the annual Saint Joe's Festival, which is
21 conducted at Marywood College this weekend. That, too,
22 is a most worthy cause. And that is all I have. Thank
23 you, Mr. President.
24 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,
25 Mrs. Evans. And you mentioned the East Market Street
0114
01 bridge, and it is beautiful. It really is. And,
02 Mr. Pocius, your company did a great job. Everyone
03 did. No more clanking as you go overhear. You know,
04 you don't need to wear earplugs as you go over the
05 bridge.
06 MS. EVANS: Or wonder if you're
07 going to make it over without your car falling into the
08 river.
09 MR. DIBILEO: Yeah, true. It
10 should be safe to get to the other side now. And
11 talking about the bridge, I think this coming Monday,
12 July 25, there's actually going to be a party at the
13 bridge, from what I understand, and everyone is
14 welcome. So, come on out and have a good time.
15 I guess it's right on the bridge
16 itself. And as much as I would like to attend, I'm not
17 going to be able to be there, so if you guys go, say
18 hello to everybody for me.
19 MS. EVANS: Well, I will. I think
20 I would love to attend since I don't live far from
21 there, and I would be happy. I'm sure Mr. Courtright
22 would, everyone would, to respect you there, as well.
23 MR. DIBILEO: Yeah, thank you.
24 You can represent me there. Appreciate that.
25 MS. EVANS: You're welcome.
0115
01 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.
02 Mr. Pocius, any motions or comments?
03 MR. POCIUS: Yes. I had an
04 opportunity to -- actually it was last night and it was

05 kind of off the record, but I did run into
06 Sara Hailstone, and I had made the request, and you so
07 graciously all backed me to do those sidewalks in the
08 400 block of Linden Street, and the two line items or
09 the two accounts are pretty much depleted, and she said
10 it would take an amendment to put more money in to fund
11 not only the construction, but the designer's contract
12 would have to be somewhat supplemented.
13 And I said, Well, I would still
14 like to see it done. And I just said, Well, I'm not
15 speaking for Council, but they unanimously supported me
16 on my motion.
17 So, she said she would try to get
18 the amending legislations down for September, so
19 hopefully these could be, you know, designed and
20 everything and maybe next year be built and finish that
21 block off. So, I said, Please, try to get it done and
22 send it down.
23 I'd like to make a motion, maybe
24 it's does not even need a motion, but you made a
25 suggestion before on a caucus meeting, and maybe it's
0116
01 time, because we hear so much about this manning and
02 everything else, that maybe we -- let's, like, I
03 remember there was an old song by Aretha Franklin,
04 Who's zooming who, do you remember that song? Maybe
05 I'm a little too old, but I think that was actually an
06 eighties song, so it's not that old, but maybe we ask
07 Chief Elliot and Director Hayes to actually come to a
08 public caucus and discuss this manning issue. Let's
09 get it out in the open.
10 If there's anything to hide, let's
11 get it out. If there's anything not to hide, but I
12 think we've heard so many conflicting statements, maybe
13 it wouldn't work for now, maybe in September sometime,
14 give them some time to think about it. Do I need a
15 motion?
16 MS. EVANS: Oh, I think you can
17 just ask for that. We agree.
18 MR. POCIUS: Is that okay, Mr.
19 President?
20 MR. DIBILEO: Absolutely.
21 MR. POCIUS: Okay. So, maybe
22 we can send an invitation out for September sometime.
23 MR. DIBILEO: Yeah. Let's ask Kay
24 if she can take care of that or have Jay Saunders
25 invite those individuals.
0117

01 MR. POCIUS: To a caucus, a public
02 caucus, and let's discuss this manning and shifting
03 issue and get it out of the way, and we can ask our
04 questions and point it as they are and see where we go
05 with it.

06 MR. DIBILEO: Good idea.

07 MR. POCIUS: Every week we hear
08 it, and I'm confused. I mean, other than that, I think
09 that's all I have. I just want to talk about
10 Linden Street, it came up at the meeting, I wrote down
11 to bring the chief in. And that's it. Thank you.

12 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. Thank you,
13 Mr. Pocius. Oh, wait a minute. Wait a minute. How
14 can I forget this? Boy, oh, boy, I'm losing it. I
15 guess too much is on my mind.
16 I'm going to expand on what
17 Mrs. Evans said here, I received this information, it
18 was actually faxed to me by one of the committee
19 members, and I'm going to go into a little more detail
20 on St. Joe's. I don't normally do this, but it's such
21 a great cause, I think we should do it.

22 MS. EVANS: Yes, it is.

23 MR. POCIUS: St. Joseph's Center's
24 annual summer festival, the theme is Family and Friends
25 Working Together. It's going to run on Friday,
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01 July 22, Saturday, July 23, both of those nights will
02 be from 4 to 11 p.m., and on Sunday, the 24th, it's
03 going to run on 1 p.m. to 9 p.m.
04 The location for those of you who
05 don't know is Marywood University. It's behind the
06 McGowan building at the corner of North Washington and
07 University Avenues.
08 And they got some special booths
09 they wanted me to point out to look forward to the,
10 Mad Hater, The Bounce House and the sliding board, and
11 there will be crafts, raffles, a kiddie corner, trick
12 trays and a great gift certificate giveaway.
13 So, please, support St. Joseph's
14 Center. It is family and friends working together for
15 the benefit of people that really need it, so children
16 and -- if you have ever been there, it's a marvelous
17 thing. So, please support it.

18 MS. EVANS: Oh, I've been going
19 every year since I'm about ten years old and working at
20 it.

21 MR. POCIUS: I know my wife
22 informed me we're going to spend a night up there.

23 MS. EVANS: Remember when it was
24 on the actual grounds of the hospital?

25 MR. POCIUS: Oh, yes, you were,
0119

01 like, all over the place. That's it. Let's end on a
02 high note, right?

03 MR. DIBILEO: Great cause, and
04 that starts tomorrow evening July 22. Mr. Courtright,
05 any motions or comments?

06 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yeah. First I'd
07 just like to say, you know, Mrs. Evans brought up about
08 Mayor Connors, and I've heard him blamed for everything
09 that comes down the road, he gets the blame for it.
10 So, I'm glad finally now we're going to give him a
11 little credit for the East Market Street bridge. I
12 think he gets blamed for things he had nothing to do
13 with. So, I thank Mayor Connors, too, for getting that
14 started.

15 And I'd like to make a motion,
16 and, Mr. McTiernan, I apologize, I spoke to everybody
17 earlier but you didn't happen to be here, I asked if I
18 would have support for this, I'd like to make a motion
19 that this Council send a letter to Mr. Karam and
20 Southern Union stating that this Council is absolutely
21 in favor of Southern Union coming here and actually are
22 thrilled for them to come here and we look forward to
23 working with them now and we look forward to working
24 with them in the future.

25 And before we vote on the motion,
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01 I'd like to say the reason being is there has been
02 people come to the podium and talk about
03 Southern Union, and I wouldn't want it to be
04 misunderstood that this Council is against
05 Southern Union.

06 I think, and I hope I'm not
07 stepping over my bounds, but I think everyone here is
08 very pleased with Southern Union coming here and we
09 greatly appreciate a Mr. Karam for doing that for us.

10 Are some people a little less
11 please because we didn't get the amount of jobs that we
12 thought we were going to get? I'm sure that's the
13 case, but we're going to be looking positive and say
14 hopefully we'll get them in the future.

15 And the other thing, and I think
16 Mrs. Evans said this last week or the week before, and
17 if I'm wrong, please correct me, I do not believe that
18 Council has any say whatsoever in whether or not

19 Southern Union keeps their KOZ status. And if I'm
20 incorrect, I'll stand corrected. So, I don't think we
21 have anything at all to do with that. I do that in the
22 form of a motion, the letter.

23 MS. EVANS: Second.

24 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. We have a
25 motion on the floor and a second. On the question?
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01 MS. EVANS: Yes. I just want to
02 add that we might send a copy of that to
03 Southern Union's attorney, and, you know, just adding
04 little touches to what Mr. Courtright said, that we
05 welcome our warmest welcome and our best wishes for a
06 long and lasting future in the City of Scranton. And
07 if City Council can in any way assist Southern Union,
08 provide input or aid them in obtaining more employment
09 positions within their corporation locally, please
10 contact us at any point in time, we'd be more than
11 pleased to help.

12 And like Mr. Courtright was
13 saying, it seemed that, you know, there was a concerted
14 effort on the part of some people to make it appear
15 that City Council is very critical of Southern Union,
16 and frankly that's preposterous.
17 And, you know, I think what we
18 might have been looking at there is this, you know,
19 let's create this perception Council is against
20 Southern Union, and as we know, sometimes a perception
21 becomes a reality, and some people would love nothing
22 more than to have that reality out there on the street
23 during an election year, but that is absolutely not the
24 truth.

25 And as I said, you know, this was
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01 a group effort. This is a story of a community effort.
02 Three governing body approved that KOEZ, and this
03 wonderful corporation agreed to come to the city, and
04 the taxpayers agreed, the hard-worrying taxpayers
05 agreed, to make the sacrifice to pay for that KOZ
06 through their taxes, so there's a lot of people to
07 thank.

08 Another joint effort. And
09 everyone is thrilled that they're here. So, let's just
10 clear that up once and for all before the ball starts
11 rolling. And I'm sorry, it already started to roll. I
12 want it to stop right here. Thank you.

13 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,

14 Mrs. Evans. And on the question, I'll just say exactly

15 what I said earlier, I'm thrilled that Southern Union
16 is here. I want to thank Tom Karam for coming back to
17 his hometown.
18 I think this is really a great
19 story about a hometown boy, man, gentleman, who made it
20 big somewhere else and is coming home to help the town
21 he grew up in and the town he was born in, and you
22 can't say enough about that.
23 His family is just the same way,
24 and his dad, I think, was the former police chief,
25 Mr. Karam, Frank Karam, and so, his whole family is
0123
01 just so community-oriented, and I'm glad that Tom found
02 a way to come back and help his hometown. If there's no
03 further questions --
04 MR. POCIUS: Just very briefly. I
05 was happening to be surfing through the channels just
06 the other night, and I came across this station, this
07 program on the public broadcasting station, and it
08 caught my attention because it was Scranton about
09 20-some years ago, and it was a documentary made, and
10 what I'm just going to get at is, it had
11 Mayor McNulty on and a whole -- and at that time the
12 Radisson was in ruins, the train station was ready to
13 be torn down, Steamtown National Park was a yard full
14 of weeds and debris and junk, and it was the vision of
15 some people at the time who, you know, Austin Burke
16 spoke in it. It was marvelous.
17 I mean, George Lowry, our former
18 zoo director, was in there about different things, and
19 Mayor McNulty and -- God, everybody looked so young. I
20 mean, really, it was.
21 But what I'm trying to get at is
22 projects, big-ticket projects, they're successes behind
23 hindsight is 20/20. We can look back and say, Yeah,
24 they were great.
25 When you're moving ahead and
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01 you're legislators or you're developers or you're
02 elected officials, mayors, controllers, representatives
03 whatever, you know, looking into the future is somewhat
04 clouded, it's not so very clear.
05 So, what I'm saying is you've got
06 to make decisions that you feel are the right
07 decisions, and, you know, I'm just trying to speak to
08 this Southern Union thing, there was a commitment made
09 by a lot of people.
10 Now, maybe our children,

11 grandchildren, other people's grandchildren will see
12 whether these decisions were correct 20 years down the
13 road, and I hope they are, but it can't hurt for
14 trying. And these are the type of projects you have to
15 go with. So, that's my comments, is good luck to them.
16 And to answer that KOZ question, I
17 mean, once the buildings are put on the list, it's up
18 for the people to qualify. It takes three taxing
19 bodies to do it, and it's a state initiative program,
20 and we only can help it or hurt it by what we do at our
21 level, and it is for development. So, that's it.
22 But I support Mr. Courtright's motion, that's what I'm
23 trying to get at here.

24 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you. I saw
25 that documentary.

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01 MR. POCIUS: Did you see it?

02 MR. DIBILEO: That was really
03 great, 1984, it was made, and, you know, I don't think
04 anybody will argue that Scranton's number one resource
05 is its people, and by far that's what we have going for
06 us more than anything that we have in this town.

07 And people like Tom Karam and all
08 these gentlemen that are on our walls here from
09 Mayor Connors and Wenzel and Hickey and Peters and
10 Walsh and Schmidt right down the line, so our people
11 are, I think, what makes us different than anyone
12 else.

13 Hey, we have our challenges, but
14 we're always going to be able to rise above our
15 challenges. If there's no further questions, all those
16 in favor, signify by saying aye.

17 MR. McTIERNAN: Aye.

18 MS. EVANS: Aye.

19 MR. POCIUS: Aye.

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

21 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? A

22 5-0 vote, motion carries.

23 MR. COURTRIGHT: Mr. Walsh, if I

24 may, I don't know if you can find this out or if you
25 just need to talk to Attorney Farrell, it seems in the
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01 last year or so, and maybe throughout the city, but I
02 know in West Scranton, we're having a lot of cases, for
03 lack of a better word, I'll call it panhandling, and I
04 haven't been able to find an ordinance stating how a
05 police officer, you know, could arrest a person on
06 panhandling, and if there is one, if you can find that

07 for me, I'd appreciate it, and if there isn't, if
08 someone, whether it be yourself or Mr. Farrell, someone
09 could draw up the legislation so that we can stop it,
10 because in the West Scranton area, I know in the last
11 several months we've had an awful lot of it or a large
12 amount of it, especially near the
13 Main Avenue/Jackson Street area. So, if you can find
14 that out for me, I'd appreciate that.

15 And, Kay, if you can pass this on
16 to Jay for me, some months ago a gentleman from
17 Johnson Controls came in and gave us a presentation on
18 taking over the controls for the heating and cooling in
19 this building, and I don't know if I threw it out or I
20 lost it or what, but the information that they gave me
21 I no longer have, and I was just curious when they gave
22 us that information, was there a costs in what it would
23 cost to replace the entire heating system in this
24 building and the building next door or that wasn't in
25 there or not?

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01 I just can't find it. Maybe Jay
02 might have it in the back. If he can look into that
03 for me, I'd appreciate it. Thank you.
04 Teddy Maus, you know, I had a lot
05 of occasion to deal with Teddy Maus over the years, and
06 sometimes we saw eye to eye and sometimes we didn't,
07 but him and I were pretty good friends and his brother
08 Jerry, and I just want to send my condolences again to
09 the family. He was good man and he served this city
10 well.

11 I'm going to give you more to do
12 tonight, Kay, than Jan did. You know, I think I know
13 the answer to this, but I'm not going to speak unless
14 I'm sure, on more than one occasion we've been told
15 that, you know, the reason we don't need the SIT clerks
16 is the fact that we have computers in the police cars
17 and -- I'm going to tell you, I've scene firsthand many
18 of them don't work, and now we're being told that, and
19 I'd like an answer as of today's date, how many
20 computers we have in police cars, if we have any, and
21 of the ones that are in there, and, again, as of
22 today's date, not yesterday, not tomorrow, today I'd
23 like to know, if we do have any in any of these cars,
24 do they work, you know?

25 So, just so we can justify that

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01 statement that that's why we don't need the SIT
02 clerks.

03 One more thing, I don't want to
04 beat this to death, but I have to agree with
05 Mr. Pocius about his company, you know, when you get
06 into a person's personal where they work, I don't agree
07 with that, you know.
08 And Mr. Newcomb has every right to
09 speak his mind, and I don't know whether he crossed the
10 line or didn't cross the line, and I guess it's a tough
11 call to make, so I'm glad he's sitting there and I'm
12 not, but I don't -- I just don't think it's necessary
13 to attack his company.
14 They do employ people in this area
15 and they do do a good job, and maybe on occasion I
16 didn't vote for that company, but it has absolutely
17 nothing to do with the quality of the people or the
18 work that they do. So, I'd just like to say that, and
19 that's all I have, Mr. President. Thank you.
20 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,
21 Mr. Courtright. I have to apologize to
22 Mayor McNulty, because I just named the last five or
23 six mayors up on the wall, and Mayor McNulty is not up
24 on that wall.
25 MS. EVANS: Do you think we can
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01 get a plaque?
02 MR. DIBILEO: We're still trying
03 to get a picture of him.
04 MS. EVANS: Well, he doesn't want
05 a picture, does he? That's what I had heard, he didn't
06 care to have his photograph taken, but why could we not
07 purchase a plaque with his name, and, you know, the
08 years that he served as the mayor of Scranton and hang
09 that where it appropriately belongs in this historical
10 line of Scranton's mayors?
11 MR. DIBILEO: Great idea. I think
12 I'll make a motion that we ask Mayor McNulty his
13 opinion on what he'd like us to put up on that wall,
14 other than nothing in his honor.
15 MS. EVANS: Well, he doesn't get
16 nothing, because we are historically incorrect. He's
17 going up there.
18 MR. DIBILEO: Right. He's got to
19 get up there. And that was a motion.
20 MR. COURTRIGHT: I'll second it.
21 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. Motion on
22 the floor and a second. On the question?
23 All those in favor, signify by saying aye.
24 MR. McTIERNAN: Aye.

25 MS. EVANS: Aye.

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01 MR. POCIUS: Aye.

02 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

03 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The

04 ayes have it and so moved.

05 Mr. Courtright mentioned Teddy

06 Maus, and he was just a great individual who worked so

07 many years for the city, and I think Teddy's a good

08 example of the fact that Scranton is a city of great

09 people as I mentioned before, a great example of that.

10 And condolences to his family, and we're absolutely

11 going to miss him, and we thank him for all his

12 dedicated years of service to the city.

13 We've been discussing

14 Worker's Compensation somewhat recently, and some

15 legislation regarding Worker's Compensation that is

16 going to be coming before us.

17 As everyone knows, you know, our

18 Worker's Compensation costs have been really spiraling

19 out of control for a number of years now. It almost

20 seems like the money we put into our

21 Worker's Compensation program has been similar to

22 putting money into a black hole, and we've been

23 recently approved by the Bureau of Worker's

24 Compensation Self Insurance Division to be -- we're

25 allowed to be funded to a 75 percent level, as opposed

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01 to 100 percent level, which is going to help us to the

02 tune, help the city to the tune of not having to come

03 up with about two and a half million dollars or so to

04 have in that reserve fund to pay claims.

05 There's talk of doing buyouts of

06 certain claims from that reserve fund. I had concerns

07 about -- I had concerns about the practice of using the

08 reserve fund for buyouts, and I wrote to the chief of

09 the Worker's Compensation Self Insurance Division,

10 Mr. George Nerr, and he responded to my letter and my

11 concerns, but he had a couple of concerns of his own in

12 his letter back to me.

13 Regarding the buyouts to be funded

14 by the reserve fund, he says here, The city should be

15 careful on the amount of assets it allocates from the

16 reserve account for this purpose of making buyouts.

17 If the settlement payments deplete

18 the asset value of the account to below that of the

19 revised minimum funding level we have recently agreed

20 to, which is 75 percent of the actuarially determined

21 outstanding liability amount, the city must deposit
22 funds back into the account to correct the deficit.
23 Failure of the city to correct
24 search a deficit would jeopardize its continuation as
25 an authorized self insured employer.

0132

01 He also made a point in his letter
02 that says here, According to the bureau's health and
03 safety division, the City of Scranton has not applied
04 for approval of a workplace safety committee under the
05 bureau's certification program.
06 Perhaps the city should consider
07 creating and implementing such a committee. Studies
08 have consistently shown that employers participating in
09 the commonwealth's workplace safety committee
10 certification program have 24 to 28 percent lower
11 average claims costs when compared to employers who are
12 eligible but do not participate in the program.

13 And it goes on to say information
14 about the program including an application can be found
15 at a particular website, and he also lists a phone
16 number for any questions regarding arranging for a free
17 safety committee member training and required topics.

18 So, I just think that that is
19 something that we have to look into. We need 24 to
20 28 percent lower claims costs, if we can possibly
21 achieve that, and I think that that's something that
22 should be incorporated into this upcoming legislation
23 regarding the fact that we're allowed for 75 percent
24 funding level.

25 But one other thing regarding

0133

01 Worker's Compensation that I think the administration
02 should explore is this, the bottom line is that the
03 City of Scranton is still financially distressed, and
04 our Worker's Comp. costs, as I said, are spiraling
05 pretty much out of control, but because we're
06 distressed, I think we have to possibly explore the
07 possibility of having our Worker's Compensation fund --
08 there's something called the, and I want to apologize
09 to the Boy Scouts over here, I think they're pretty
10 dying at this point. Doing a good job, guys.

11 MR. POCIUS: It's like a 20-mile
12 hike, right?

13 MR. DIBILEO: Wow.

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: They're earning
15 that badge, aren't they?

16 MR. DIBILEO: They haven't even

17 asked for a bathroom break. Doing good.
18 But part of our self insurance
19 with the state is something called the guarantee fund,
20 and the guarantee fund guarantees that
21 Worker's Compensation claims will be paid, period.
22 But what we may want to do is look
23 into the possibility of turning our claims over to the
24 state because we're distressed, and this precedent has
25 been set by Dickson City, and that's why I say this.
0134

01 But if we turn around and turn our
02 claims over to the state for payment and making sure
03 every payment is made by the guarantee fund, we might
04 be able then to turn around and buy a standard policy
05 from the state at unity or at what's called the state
06 rate, not having to factor in bad claims experience,
07 Dickson City did this.
08 If we are able to possibly do
09 that, that would save the city \$1 to \$2 million, and
10 probably closer to \$2 million. I don't have the exact
11 figures, but this would be part of what we would have
12 to explore.

13 But I think that it's something
14 that the administration should do. I'd be happy to
15 help them do that, if they would need assistance, but
16 as long as we're contemplating legislation regarding
17 Worker's Compensation, I think we have to get a
18 workplace safety committee in place, have lower claims,
19 hopefully of 24 to 28 percent, and then just explore
20 the possibility of saving up to \$2 million and turning
21 our claims over to the state and buying a policy from
22 the state, as opposed to being self-insured at a much
23 lower rate than we're currently paying and save
24 \$2 million.

25 Just a few other comments real
0135

01 quick. There's a petition signed by residents in the
02 500 and 600 blocks of Race Street and the 2100 block of
03 Brown Avenue and the 2100 block of Brown Avenue, make
04 that 2100 block of Brown, 2100 block of Comegys, and
05 that petition is involving problems over in that
06 neighborhood by a company over there that the city has
07 declared their activities as violations by the zoning
08 officer.

09 These violations are zoning
10 violations, noise violations, quality of life issues,
11 environmental issues, and I just want to ask the
12 administration to please see to it that the enforcement

13 of these violations are acted upon, because we often
14 say, Well, okay, that's a violation, but the
15 enforcement of the violations in making sure that the
16 violations are corrected I think is something that we
17 need to improve on. So, I hope that that is followed
18 up on by the administration for those neighbors in that
19 part of town.

20 I have a -- Jay wasn't here this
21 week, so I wasn't able to talk to him about some of
22 these things, I'll mention them tonight and turn them
23 over to Kay.

24 We also have a petition signed by
25 neighbors in the Fellows Street and Eynon Street area,
0136

01 and they are requesting that the corner of
02 South 9th Avenue and Eynon Street be looked at for a
03 possible stop sign, so I'll turn that over to Jay.

04 There's also a request for a
05 traffic signal device at the corner of Mulberry Street
06 and Wheeler Avenue. There's a resident of the 300
07 block of Wheeler Avenue talking about some serious
08 accidents that occur at that intersection. I'll turn
09 that over to Jay.

10 We often talk about the railroad
11 crossing on Luzerne Street and the fact that the
12 initial hearing was going to be June 24, well, now
13 that's scheduled for Thursday, September 1.

14 We only have one meeting left
15 until we break for August, so we won't be meeting after
16 next week prior to this meeting, and that's going to be
17 Thursday, September 1 at the Scranton State Office
18 Building on Lackawanna Avenue in Scranton.

19 There's going to be a
20 National Night Out on August the 2, Tuesday, August 2,
21 and that is put together by the Scranton Police
22 Department, the Scranton Police Department, as well as
23 other law enforcement and community service agencies
24 will provide displays of their programs for the
25 residents to see and experience.

0137

01 Its purpose is to educate citizens
02 as to the services available to them, as well as build
03 community confidence and pride.

04 There will also be refreshments
05 and entertainment by Old Friends, an auction and
06 fireworks provided to all in attendance at no cost.
07 And that will take place at the Tripp Park Complex.
08 There's going to be actually a parade that day starting

09 from John Marshall School beginning at 5:30, Tuesday,
10 August 2.

11 The parade will end up over at

12 Tripp Park Complex for the National Night Out, so

13 everyone is welcome to attend that.

14 There's a resident that has

15 concerns who lives in the Stafford Meadow Brook area.

16 There's going to be a public hearing that will be held.

17 There's going to be shops up at Montage Mountain in

18 Moosic, and some of the water runoff will end up coming

19 down into the Stafford Meadow Brook, and this

20 particular resident is asking us to represent the city

21 in some way in having concerns about the fact that that

22 Meadow Brook, Stafford Meadow Brook, is already very

23 heavily funded by storm water runoff.

24 There's going to be a

25 Department of Environmental Protection hearing to be

0138

01 held August 11 at seven o'clock in the Moosic Borough

02 building regarding that. I'd like to mention that.

03 Almost lastly there's a fundraiser

04 for Gene Scarfo, a gentleman that I actually graduated

05 from high school with who now lives in

06 North Scranton. It's going to be held July 30, which

07 is a Saturday, from two to six o'clock at Post 25 on

08 Rockwell Avenue in Scranton.

09 I'm going to give photographs to

10 Jay of water problems on the 1200 block of Eynon

11 Street, specifically at 1212 Eynon Street.

12 And the last thing I have is the

13 South Scranton Neighborhood Association is holding a

14 meeting next Tuesday night, July 26, and Mr. Fiorini

15 has been requested to attend that meeting. He probably

16 is going there for sure, and I think they do have the

17 CDBG applications that we talked about for that

18 neighborhood. That's all I have. Thank you.

19 Mr. Walsh.

20 MR. WALSH: Fifth order. 5-B, FOR

21 INTRODUCTION - AN ORDINANCE - VACATING A PORTION OF THE

22 RIGHT-OF-WAY KNOWN AS ANNICK COURT BEGINNING AT THE

23 INTERSECTION OF ANNICK AND CONTINENTAL ROAD (A.K.A.

24 BALD MOUNTAIN ROAD) AND PROCEEDING NORTHEASTERLY FOR A

25 DISTANCE OF 228.27 FEET.

0139

01 MR. DIBILEO: At this time I'll

02 entertain a motion that Item 5-B be introduced into its

03 proper committee.

04 MR. POCIUS: So moved.

05 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

06 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

07 MR. POCIUS: Just on the question,

08 Mr. Walsh, you're going to have to send this ordinance

09 to the City Planning Commission, the Lackawanna County

10 Regional Planning Commission, and we will need a public

11 hearing on it, and you and Jay can put your heads

12 together and work out a schedule on this, okay?

13 MR. WALSH: Yes. I think we have

14 to get it back from them before we set the public

15 hearing.

16 MR. POCIUS: Absolutely. So,

17 we'll just -- if you can work on it, okay?

18 MR. WALSH: Thank you.

19 MR. DIBILEO: If there's no

20 further questions, all those in favor of introduction,

21 signify by saying aye.

22 MR. McTIERNAN: Aye.

23 MS. EVANS: Aye.

24 MR. POCIUS: Aye.

25 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

0140

01 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The

02 ayes have it and so moved.

03 MR. WALSH: 5-C, FOR INTRODUCTION

04 - A RESOLUTION - APPOINTING DAVID M. CARDEN, 248 WILBUR

05 STREET, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18508, AS A MEMBER OF

06 THE ZONING HEARING BOARD OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON

07 EFFECTIVE JULY 2, 2005. MR. CARDEN'S TERM WILL EXPIRE

08 ON JULY 1, 2008. MR. CARDEN WILL REPLACE

09 GERALD T. LANGAN, WHOSE TERM ON THE ZONING HEARING

10 BOARD EXPIRED ON JULY 1, 2005.

11 MR. DIBILEO: At this time I'll

12 entertain a motion that Item 5-C be introduced into its

13 proper committee.

14 MR. POCIUS: So moved.

15 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

16 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

17 MR. POCIUS: Mr. President, I

18 guess you saw this letter that Mr. Langan did resign

19 officially, so thank him for his service on the board.

20 MS. EVANS: Yes, I'd like

21 to thank him, too. I feel he did an excellent job.

22 I'm sorry to see that he's resigned, but I'd also like

23 to welcome aboard Mr. Dave Carden, who is very anxious

24 to serve, and I know he's going to do an equally good

25 job.

0141

01 MR. POCIUS: Yeah, we had
02 appointed Mr. Carden earlier on. He was an alternate
03 years ago, and I think he was frustrated by -- you're
04 like on the sidelines, you don't get in the game a lot.
05 I wish him well, too. He's a nice young man. Teacher,
06 isn't he?
07 MS. EVANS: Yes, over at
08 West Intermediate.
09 MS. EVANS: In fact, yes. I
10 forgot to tell you that. Mr. Carden, the last time I
11 spoke with him, has said that he knows your mother very
12 well. She's a great lady.
13 MR. POCIUS: Yes, she is.
14 MS. EVANS: And she runs that
15 school single-handedly.
16 MR. DIBILEO: I, too, would like
17 to thank Mr. Langan, Jerry Langan, for his service on
18 the zoning board. He apparently did not want to
19 continue his service, because we got no notification
20 that he wanted to do so, and then we finally received a
21 letter that he was going to resign from the board, so
22 thank you, Jerry Langan.
23 If there's no further questions,
24 all those in favor of introduction, signify by saying
25 aye.

0142

01 MR. McTIERNAN: Aye.
02 MS. EVANS: Aye.
03 MR. POCIUS: Aye.
04 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.
05 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The
06 ayes have it and so moved.
07 MR. WALSH: 5-D, FOR INTRODUCTION
08 - A RESOLUTION - RE-APPOINTMENT OF HELEN COOK,
09 526 DEPOT STREET, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18509, AS A
10 MEMBER OF THE ZONING HEARING BOARD OF THE CITY OF
11 SCRANTON EFFECTIVE JULY 2, 2005. HELEN COOK'S ORIGINAL
12 TERM EXPIRED JULY 1, 2005, AND HER NEW TERM WILL EXPIRE
13 ON JULY 1, 2010.
14 MR. DIBILEO: At this time I'll
15 entertain a motion that Item 5-D be introduced into its
16 proper committee.
17 MR. POCIUS: So moved.
18 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.
19 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?
20 MS. EVANS: Yes. I'd just like to
21 say I'm very please that Mrs. Cook is being
22 re-appointed. I think she does a spectacular job. She

23 goes out and inspects each and every one of the
24 properties that are listed on the agenda, the monthly
25 agenda of the zoning board, she knows those properties
0143

01 inside out and upside down. She really is to be
02 admired for the diligence and the hard work she puts
03 into her position.

04 MR. COURTRIGHT: Ditto.

05 MR. DIBILEO: Yeah, she's an
06 outstanding zoning board member. She takes her work
07 very seriously and does a great job on zoning.

08 MS. EVANS: Gentlemen, see, it
09 takes a woman.

10 MR. DIBILEO: You've got a good
11 point there.

12 MS. EVANS: But a lot of men are
13 just as good.

14 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,
15 Mrs. Evans. We appreciate that. If there's no further
16 questions, all those in favor of introduction, signify
17 by saying aye.

18 MR. McTIERNAN: Aye.

19 MS. EVANS: Aye.

20 MR. POCIUS: Aye.

21 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

22 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The
23 ayes have it and so moved.

24 MR. WALSH: Sixth order. 6-A,

25 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 141, 2005 - AN
0144

01 ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 68, 2004,
02 ENTITLED, AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
03 APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO TAKE
04 ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE CONSOLIDATED
05 SUBMISSION FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
06 PROGRAMS TO BE FUNDED UNDER THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
07 BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP
08 (HOME) PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY SHELTER GRANT (ESG)
09 PROGRAM, BY REALLOCATING \$125,000.00 FROM PROJECT
10 NO. 99-100, COMPREHENSIVE HOUSING REHABILITATION
11 PROGRAM, TO A NEWLY CREATED PROJECT ENTITLED ARTSPACE.

12 MR. DIBILEO: You've heard reading
13 by title of Item 6-A, what is your pleasure?

14 MR. POCIUS: Mr. President, I move
15 that 6-A pass reading by title.

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

17 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

18 MR. POCIUS: Just on the question,

19 there was a comment from the audience, one of the
20 speakers, it might have been Mr. Sbaraglia talked about
21 the \$125,000.

22 If you look at the first number in
23 that OECD account, that's been laying there, I think,
24 since 1999. I think the first number is the year.

25 They're not going to transfer funds out of an active
0145

01 project. They couldn't if these funds were committed,
02 so these are basically -- I think it says reprogramming
03 inactive funds that if we don't do something with them,
04 we'll get pushed back to -- HUD will just take them
05 back.

06 So, this is -- and I think in the
07 body of the ordinance it says for economic development
08 this is eligible, so from what I know, it's a good
09 project.

10 I missed the caucus because I just
11 got so late running up here today, but that's where the
12 \$125,000. It's not money we're taking away from
13 anybody that needs it right now.

14 MS. EVANS: Well, I can tell you,
15 Mr. Pocius, it was an excellent presentation. It's a
16 very, very worthy project, but I'd still like to know
17 if the 2005 allocations have been awarded or when they
18 will be awarded to Sloan Little League, to the
19 Hill Neighborhood Association, to neighborhood police
20 patrols.

21 And since, you know, it seems we
22 can find -- not we, but rather OECD can find funding
23 very quickly for worthy projects, I think that they
24 should be able to find the answers to our questions
25 about allocations.

0146

01 So, I know that it was only
02 recently that the letter went out to Ms. Hailstone
03 asking these questions, and I know the letter, though,
04 about the Hill Neighborhood went out a few weeks ago,
05 but if she could please just give us a response by next
06 week, we're on recess throughout August, and, you know,
07 I really don't want to wait six to eight weeks for a
08 simple answer. So, if she can please just provide that
09 before next week's meeting and the final vote on this
10 particular issue.

11 MR. DIBILEO: Okay.

12 MR. POCIUS: You know, those two
13 specific projects, I mean, really, just so the public
14 knows, nobody gives -- they don't get a check.

15 MS. EVANS: Right.

16 MR. POCIUS: So, maybe there's
17 some issue that has to be taken on the two
18 organizations that they, for the \$5,000, present a
19 project, work with OECD, you know, to get what you're
20 trying to do. You know, you need dirt for the
21 infield, you want to put fencing it or something, come
22 up with a project, see how they can best bid it or
23 whatever they want to do and get it done or buy
24 materials and let them install it. I'm just saying,
25 I know that the Hill project is on a rehab of a
0147

01 building, so maybe the first step is, I don't know what
02 the first step is, so maybe there's got to be
03 communications back and forth.

04 MS. EVANS: Well, then I hope that
05 that happens.

06 MR. POCIUS: I hope it gets
07 worked.

08 MS. EVANS: I hope that happens.
09 I know over at Sloan they're working on a softball
10 field, so that's what I think they'd like the money
11 for, so hopefully, you know, everybody can work
12 together and get their projects done and have them
13 funded before the year is out.

14 MR. POCIUS: Yeah, there's no cash
15 that changes hands.

16 MS. EVANS: I know, I know.

17 MR. POCIUS: Nobody gives them a
18 check or that this goes ion their account.

19 MS. EVANS: And I know that some
20 organizations actually think that's what happens, and I
21 have to say, no, this is going to go out for bids or
22 proposals or whatever, that the service will be
23 provided and the city will pay, but I just hope we can
24 get moving on this, because like I said, thus far they
25 reported to me that nothing has moved, so maybe we can
0148

01 get those two forces together.

02 MR. POCIUS: Absolutely.

03 MR. DIBILEO: Yeah, that could be
04 the problem. I do know that the Hill Neighborhood
05 Association has said numerous times, We haven't gotten
06 our money, and maybe it's just a matter of the OECD
07 office not offering the information that, Hey, just go
08 head and do your work and we're going to, you know,
09 reimburse you for it or pay for it or whatever. Give
10 us the bills. So, let's just communicate a little bit

11 better, and that could be part of the problem.

12 But I think that as far as

13 Artspace goes, seems to be a wonderful project. I'm

14 behind it 100 percent, but we probably do have an

15 obligation to have Ms. Hailstone tell us for sure that,

16 you know, no particular project is going to be

17 suffering as a result. It doesn't look that way, as

18 Mr. Pocius said, 1999, so let's ask her if she could,

19 Kay, to respond to us before next week so it doesn't

20 have to wait until September.

21 If there's no further questions,

22 all those in favor, signify by saying aye.

23 MR. McTIERNAN: Aye.

24 MS. EVANS: Aye.

25 MR. POCIUS: Aye.

0149

01 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

02 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The

03 ayes have it and so moved.

04 MR. WALSH: 6-B, READING BY TITLE

05 - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 142, 2005 - AN ORDINANCE -

06 ESTABLISHING A PERMANENT SIGN ON THE 1700 BLOCK OF

07 DICKSON AVENUE PROHIBITING TRUCK PARKING AND/OR TRUCK

08 IDLING BETWEEN 7:00 P.M. AND 7:00 A.M.

09 MR. DIBILEO: You've heard reading

10 by title of Item 6-B. What is your pleasure?

11 MR. POCIUS: Mr. President, I move

12 that Item 6-B pass reading by title.

13 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

14 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

15 All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

16 MR. McTIERNAN: Aye.

17 MR. POCIUS: Aye.

18 MS. EVANS: Aye.

19 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

20 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The

21 ayes have it and so moved.

22 MR. POCIUS: Mr. President, why

23 would it hurt if I made a motion to suspend rules and

24 move this seventh order this evening and take card of

25 it right now and make it the mayor signs it tomorrow,

0150

01 it's enforceable.

02 I'll make a motion we suspend

03 rules to allow 6-B to go into seventh order for further

04 consideration this evening.

05 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. We have a

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

07 All those 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 MR. WALSH: Which committee would
15 that be?
16 MR. POCIUS: I think it's public
17 safety, that it's written on the side of the ordinance.
18 MR. McTIERNAN: Public safety.
19 MR. WALSH: Okay. Seventh order.
20 7-A, FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY
21 DEVELOPMENT - FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 138,
22 2005 - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY
23 OFFICIALS TO DESIGNATE AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED
24 \$17,500.00 FROM ACCOUNT NO. 94-400, REPAYMENT OF URBAN
25 DEVELOPMENT ACTION GRANTS (UDAG), FOR PUBLIC FACILITY
0151
01 IMPROVEMENTS AT WESTON PARK TEENER LEAGUE.
02 MR. DIBILEO: What's the
03 recommendation of the chairperson for the committee on
04 community development?
05 MR. McTIERNAN: As the chairperson
06 for the committee on community development, I recommend
07 final passage of Item 7-A.
08 MR. POCIUS: Seconded.
09 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?
10 Roll call please, Kay.
11 MS. GARVEY: Mr. McTiernan.
12 MR. McTIERNAN: Yes.
13 MS. GARVEY: Ms. Evans.
14 MS. EVANS: Yes.
15 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Pocius.
16 MR. POCIUS: Yes.
17 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Courtright.
18 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.
19 MS. GARVEY: Mr. DiBileo.
20 MR. DIBILEO: Yes. I hereby
21 declare Item 7-A legally and lawfully adopted.
22 MR. WALSH: 7-B, FOR
23 CONSIDERATION --
24 MS. EVANS: Attorney Walsh, before
25 you would read this, I have some concerns, so I'm going
0152
01 to -- or rather maybe you should clear this up,
02 Attorney Walsh, can I make a motion to table this

03 before you read it, would that be most appropriate or
04 for you to read it?

05 MR. WALSH: Well, both ways you
06 can actually do it. Generally it's read and then it's
07 tabled, because it's presented before the body, but
08 because we read it three times, it's essentially before
09 the body because it has been introduced through fifth
10 and sixth orders.

11 If you would like to make a motion
12 to table it, you can do it now, if you'd like, or after
13 its read, so either way.

14 MS. EVANS: Well, I'm going to
15 make a motion to table actually 7-B, and 7-C.

16 MR. DIBILEO: Okay.

17 MS. EVANS: And, you know, if
18 someone will second it, I'll explain on the question
19 what my concerns are.

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: Okay. I'll
21 second it so I can hear your concerns.

22 MS. EVANS: Okay.

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

25 MS. EVANS: Yes. First of all, I
0153

01 want to know if any of the loan that are to be sold to
02 CRF are old 108 loans, and if so, does the city have
03 any obligation to repay the state and federal
04 government, and if we do, we can't use that
05 approximately \$5 million that we would obtain from such
06 sale entirely for loans, because we'd be using that
07 money in effect to pay back the state and federal
08 government for this Section 108 loan, and, also, does
09 OECD have a UDAG repayment account?

10 My second objection is this, most
11 of the loans -- well, actually all of the loans, with
12 the exception of one, is without recourse. There is
13 one loan, however, to Eastern Millwork, LTD, that is
14 with recourse.

15 And generally speaking when you
16 say, you know, something is with recourse, that means
17 that simply put, the city could be responsible for the
18 payments if that company defaulted, even though CRF has
19 that loan.

20 So, I would like to know with
21 relation to just this one particular loan,
22 Eastern Millwork Limited, why is it stated with
23 recourse in the loan agreement; and number two, it also
24 suggests within the explanation of that particular loan

25 that the city may want to purchase that loan at the end
0154

01 of a 12-month period, so I'd like to know, Why does the
02 city want to buy it back at the end of 12 months?

03 If it's selling it in July, why

04 would we want to buy it back next July? So, you know,
05 I have those reasons.

06 I might add to that, as well, that

07 the mayor still has not indicated any particular use

08 for the approximate \$5 million, there's, as I said, no

09 answer, and that's almost like giving a drug addict an

10 immediate fix. You know, but where is the long-term

11 course of action that's the cure?

12 So, in other words if you take --

13 what happens if, you know, you get this \$5 million and

14 you loan it all out in one year? What do you do for

15 the other businesses who come along?

16 This, you know, I don't think this

17 money was meant to be collected or used in one big

18 bang. I think those payments were designed, this

19 revolving program, was designed to provide for future

20 years, future administrations, future businesses,

21 rather than one big bang project or maybe a one-time

22 project.

23 But, you know, even if you want to

24 set that concern aside, I really have to have an answer

25 to, you now, if indeed any one of these can be a

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01 section 108 loan, which leaves us responsible then for

02 repayment to two government bodies, and why we have

03 Eastern Millwork Limited being sold with recourse, so,

04 you know, if I can get the actions to those questions,

05 then I can entertain these two resolutions.

06 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. If there's no

07 future questions. They seem like reasonable questions.

08 All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

09 MS. EVANS: Aye.

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

11 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed?

12 MR. McTIERNAN: No.

13 MR. POCIUS: No.

14 MR. DIBILEO: By 3 to 2 vote,

15 motion to hold 7-B and 7-C passes.

16 MR. WALSH: 7-D, FOR CONSIDERATION

17 BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - FOR

18 ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 157, 2005 - AUTHORIZING THE

19 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE

20 AND ENTER INTO A REIMBURSEMENT AGREEMENT NO. 048764

21 WITH THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, DEPARTMENT OF
22 TRANSPORTATION FOR THE 500 BLOCK OF LACKAWANNA AVENUE
23 HOMETOWN STREETS PROJECT.

24 MR. DIBILEO: What's the
25 recommendation of the chairperson for the committee on
0156

01 community development?

02 MR. McTIERNAN: As the chairperson
03 for the committee on community development, I recommend
04 final passage of Item 7-D.

05 MR. POCIUS: Seconded.

06 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

07 Roll call please, Kay.

08 MS. GARVEY: Mr. McTiernan.

09 MR. McTIERNAN: Yes.

10 MS. GARVEY: Ms. Evans.

11 MS. EVANS: Yes.

12 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Pocius.

13 MR. POCIUS: Yes.

14 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Courtright.

15 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

16 MS. GARVEY: Mr. DiBileo.

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

19 MR. WALSH: 7-E, FOR CONSIDERATION

20 BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY - FOR ADOPTION -

21 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 142, 2005 - ESTABLISHING A

22 PERMANENT SIGN ON THE 1700 BLOCK OF DICKSON AVENUE

23 PROHIBITING TRUCK PARKING AND/OR TRUCK IDLING BETWEEN

24 7:00 P.M. AND 7:00 A.M.

25 MR. DIBILEO: Would anyone in the
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01 audience like to make remarks on 7-E, formerly 6-B?

02 Okay. If that's the case, what's

03 the recommendation of the chairperson for the committee

04 on public safety?

05 MR. COURTRIGHT: As chairperson

06 for the committee on public safety, I recommend final

07 passage of Item 7-E.

08 MR. POCIUS: Seconded.

09 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

10 Roll call please, Kay.

11 MS. GARVEY: Mr. McTiernan.

12 MR. McTIERNAN: Yes.

13 MS. GARVEY: Ms. Evans.

14 MS. EVANS: Yes.

15 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Pocius.

16 MR. POCIUS: Yes.

17 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Courtright.
18 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.
19 MS. GARVEY: Mr. DiBileo.
20 MR. DIBILEO: Yes. I hereby
21 declare Item 7-E legally and lawfully adopted.
22 Seeing no further business on the
23 agenda, I want to congratulate Boy Scouts Jim Moran,
24 Paul Reed, Josh Wesolowski and Ryan Caviston for being
25 so patient and courteous. You did a good job, and I'll
0158

01 entertain a motion we adjourn.
02 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.
03 MR. POCIUS: Seconded.
04 MR. DIBILEO: We're adjourned.
05 (MEETING WAS ADJOURNED.)

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

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

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08 LISA M. GRAFF, RPR

08 OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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