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02 SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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08 Held:

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09 Monday, August 1, 2005

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11 Time:

12 12:00 p.m.

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14 Location:

15 Council chambers

15 Scranton City Hall

16 340 North Washington Avenue

16 Scranton, Pennsylvania

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23 Lisa M. Graff, RPR

24 Court Reporter

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01 CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

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03 MR. GARY DIBILEO, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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05 MS. JANET E. EVANS, VICE-PRESIDENT

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07 MR. WILLIAM COURTRIGHT

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09 MR. MARK WALSH, ESQUIRE, SOLICITOR

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11 MR. JAY SAUNDERS, CITY CLERK

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13 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, can we have a roll call, please?

04 MS. GARVEY: Mr. McTiernan.

05 Mrs. Evans.

06 MS. EVANS: Here.

07 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Pocius.

08 Mr. Courtright.

09 MR. COURTRIGHT: Here.

10 MS. GARVEY: Mr. DiBileo.

11 MR. DIBILEO: Here. For the

12 record, Kay, Mr. McTiernan was unable to attend today's

13 meeting due to a prior work commitment, as well as the

14 fact that his wife required emergency surgery over the

15 weekend, so we certainly hope that Mrs. McTiernan is

16 okay.

17 And Mr. Pocius was unable to make

18 today's meeting, as he was unable to rearrange his work

19 schedule. So, that's for the record. And now if we

20 can dispense with the reading of the minutes,

21 Mr. Walsh.

22 MR. WALSH: Yes, Mr. President.

23 Third order. 3-A, MINUTES OF THE COMPOSITE PENSION

24 BOARD MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22, 2005.

25 MR. DIBILEO: Are there any

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01 comments on 3-A? If not, received and filed.

02 MR. WALSH: 3-B, AGENDA FOR THE

03 ZONING HEARING BOARD MEETING TO BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY,

04 AUGUST 3, 2005.

05 MR. DIBILEO: Are there any

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

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

08 SCRANTON REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON

09 WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15, 2005.

10 MR. DIBILEO: Are there any

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

12 MR. WALSH: 3-D, SCRANTON

13 REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS OF AND

14 FOR THE FIVE MONTHS ENDED MAY 31, 2005.

15 MR. DIBILEO: Are there any

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

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

18 COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY,

19 JUNE 22, 2005.

20 MR. DIBILEO: Are there any

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

22 MR. WALSH: 3-F, MINUTES OF THE

23 SCRANTON POLICE PENSION COMMISSION MEETING HELDS

24 WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 2005.

25 MR. DIBILEO: Are there any

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01 comments on 3-F? If not, received and filed.

02 MR. WALSH: 3-G, Clerk's notes.

03 MR. DIBILEO: Mr. Saunders,

04 please, if you would.

05 MR. SAUNDERS: Mr. President, I

06 will be brief tonight. I have only a couple of

07 things. Robert Rossi and Company, which did the '04

08 audit for the City of Scranton, we gave them a little

09 bit of a short notice last week, we tried to bring them

10 in Thursday before our last meeting that was actually

11 cancelled, they could not be there and they -- with

12 vacations, there's a scheduling conflict there, but

13 within two weeks, they said, or after two weeks,

14 they'll be ready to sit down and talk to Council

15 again.

16 So, I know we wanted to get that  
17 in before our break, but that probably won't happen  
18 until the middle of August.

19 MR. DIBILEO: Okay.

20 MR. SAUNDERS: Councilman

21 Courtright asked us to look into an erosion problem at  
22 the corner of Marvin and Welles for Mrs. Tucker. That  
23 has been sent out, it's in the proper channels.

24 Hopefully that will be getting done soon.

25 The last thing I have is

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01 neighborhood housing and Director Hayes and  
02 Chief Elliot, their upcoming caucuses for September, I  
03 don't know the exact dates, I will have to discuss that  
04 with you guys for the upcoming months, but if you have  
05 anything else that we want to bring up for caucuses, we  
06 are starting the caucus schedule for September.

07 MR. DIBILEO: Okay.

08 MR. SAUNDERS: That's all I have,

09 Mr. President.

10 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. Thank you

11 very much, Mr. Saunders.

12 MR. WALSH: Fourth order, citizen

13 participation.

14 MR. DIBILEO: Prior to calling up

15 the first speaker on the sign-in sheet, I wanted to  
16 take this opportunity to make a statement, please, if I  
17 could.

18 The foreclosure of the Hilton

19 Hotel and Conference Center, you know, makes for a more  
20 potentially devastating financial blow to the City of  
21 Scranton than most people may realize, and the City of  
22 Scranton being the subordinate mortgagee on the  
23 financial aspect of that mortgage, the city is the  
24 second mortgage position, stands to lose \$3 million as  
25 a result of the hotel possibly not operating.

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01 You know, the City of Scranton

02 obviously can't afford to lose \$3 million by the Hilton  
03 foreclosing on its mortgage and a hotel not operating  
04 there in a positive fashion.

05 If you think of it, just think of

06 the extra police protection that can be afforded with  
07 that \$3 million in many areas of the city, especially,  
08 say, for example, lower South Scranton. \$3 million of  
09 extra police protection could really turn that whole  
10 neighborhood around, when you think of it.

11 You could think of it as the

12 number of streets that might be able to be paved with  
13 \$3 million, many, many more blocks of streets.  
14 But also not having a hotel there  
15 succeed actually will create a problem, a possible  
16 problem, with the parking garage that's just under  
17 construction set to be opened in October, and not  
18 having a hotel there could possibly jeopardize the bond  
19 payments to be made, because the hotel was going to use  
20 about 150 spaces in that parking garage, therefore,  
21 there's a potential that the bond payments may be in  
22 jeopardy on that new construction.  
23 I understand that there's also a  
24 potential lawsuit that's going to start at the end of  
25 September, September 27, and that lawsuit is going to  
0008  
01 be initiated by the company in the first mortgage  
02 position, which is a company called Spectrum, who  
03 actually foreclosed on the Hilton.  
04 And I understand parts of that  
05 lawsuit, and I'm not a lawyer, involves the parking  
06 situation that was not provided on the city's part, and  
07 also tax credits under a LERTA program, which never  
08 came to be.  
09 I don't have a lot of information  
10 on that, and we don't want to talk about that with the  
11 lawsuit pending, but we don't really need or want a  
12 negative domino effect occurring here between the  
13 Hilton Hotel and Conference Center moving over to the  
14 new parking garage, and, you know, actually going down  
15 into the fact that Southern Union is bringing  
16 90 percent less jobs than we originally have hoped  
17 for. We're thrilled that the building is there, but,  
18 you know, they are bringing 80 or 90 percent less jobs,  
19 so we don't want that kind of domino effect.  
20 But as a result of the Hilton's  
21 foreclosure, I would like to say that I think  
22 City Council as a whole really needs to work together  
23 with the mayor and the city administration, and I also  
24 would ask our solicitor, Mark Walsh, if he would work  
25 very closely with City Solicitor Rob Farrell over the  
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01 two months prior to that lawsuit commencing to help try  
02 to avoid and minimize this potentially devastating  
03 financial impact on the city.  
04 And I realize that we're also in  
05 the middle of an election here, but I think that that  
06 needs to be put completely on the back burner as far as  
07 city business goes and for the benefit of the City of

08 Scranton that City Council as a whole and our solicitor  
09 and Jay Saunders work closely with the mayor and the  
10 administration for the benefit of the city.

11 And with that said, I'd like to  
12 say that I believe that it's in the best interest of  
13 the city that City Council actually not take its  
14 traditional August break from business as a result of  
15 this occurring and we actually work through the month  
16 of August in conjunction with -- so during motions,  
17 I'll make a motion, and I'd like City Council to  
18 consider us actually not taking that traditional August  
19 break, working through the month of August closely  
20 with the administration and the mayor to help us try to  
21 avoid a minimize this financial impact that the closing  
22 of the Hilton would have on the city. Mrs. Evans.

23 MS. EVANS: I find this -- well,  
24 it's coming as a surprise to me, as it is to all of  
25 you, but I do think it's a very fine idea,  
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01 President DiBileo.

02 I note that Mr. Sbaraglia a few  
03 weeks back at one of our Council meetings questioned  
04 the city's position and all that is transpiring  
05 concerning the Hilton, his concern was for the  
06 furnishings that the city holds a lien on, and as a  
07 result, I went through the paperwork that was available  
08 to me at the time very carefully, and I noticed more  
09 than one red flag with regard to the legislation, and  
10 as a result, I had asked that everything, every piece  
11 of legislation that ever crossed Council's desk since  
12 the inception of this project be pulled for me, and I'm  
13 in the process of looking at all of that very  
14 carefully, because as I said, I had discovered  
15 discrepancies and questionable circumstances, so I'm  
16 hoping that we can certainly all take a look at this  
17 over the summer.

18 And if I might add one more thing,  
19 which just occurred to me, I have another concern. In  
20 our 2005 budget, I believe that the mayor anticipates  
21 an additional \$4 million, and Council, at least some  
22 members of Council, made it quite clear last December  
23 that there would be no more borrowing, no more money  
24 forthcoming, and that leaves us right now looking at  
25 this \$4 million shortfall for the 2005 budget.

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01 I think it was inappropriate to  
02 anticipate such a plug of a shortfall, because in the  
03 prior year, that would have been in the 2004 budget,

04 the mayor had arranged similar circumstances, in that  
05 he plugged in \$2 million for a sewer deal, a renewal, I  
06 believe, with American Water Services that never came  
07 to fruition, and that money then had to be covered.

08 And so, here we are in August, and

09 I think it is far more advantageous for all of us to be  
10 looking at the figures now and in the early fall and  
11 planning together, the mayor, Council, the  
12 administration on how that \$4 million will be covered  
13 for the 2005 budget, because as I said initially, I  
14 believe that Council made it very clear to the mayor,  
15 there will be no more borrowing. So, now I believe is  
16 the exact time at which we should get to work on this,  
17 so I'll support your motion, Mr. President.

18 MR. DIBILEO: Oh, thank you. And

19 I'll make that in fifth order.

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: Mr. President, if

21 I may briefly, because I know some people are probably  
22 on their lunch and want to speak, so I will be as fast  
23 as I possible could, I did not know Mr. DiBileo was  
24 going to bring this up, and I had an intention of  
25 bringing something similar up last week, because  
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01 Mr. Bolus, you know, used a figure of \$10 million, so I  
02 did a little research, and I'm not sure that it's 100  
03 percent correct, but it appeared to be \$3 million for  
04 the second mortgage, a million dollars for the  
05 property, and then I believe we're on the hook to the  
06 tune of \$9.8 million, the state is anyway, and state  
07 money comes from us, just like city money does, and in  
08 light of that, I didn't get to speak last week  
09 obviously, because we didn't have a meeting, and I  
10 asked Mr. Saunders -- I needed a copy, and I'll give a  
11 copy to each one of you and Mr. Pocius and  
12 Mr. McTiernan, the entered creditors agreement between  
13 the city and the Hilton, because there's a lot here to  
14 be digested, and I really hope that -- I think it's a  
15 crisis. I think we're in a crisis situation here right  
16 now, and so I have no problem, you know, coming to  
17 Council for the month of August if it could help bail  
18 this city out. So, when you make the motion, I  
19 certainly will support that. Thank you.

20 MS. EVANS: So, we're looking at

21 then, according to your figures, we're looking at  
22 approximately a \$7 million problem here then, that  
23 \$3 million, plus the \$4 million shortfall in the  
24 current budget.

25 MR. COURTRIGHT: The \$9.8 from the

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01 state is a little sketchy, but I'm pretty sure on the  
02 \$3 million in the second mortgage and the \$1 million  
03 for the property, so I need to get a little bit more  
04 information on that.

05 This is pretty lengthy and a  
06 little bit difficult to understand, so we might need  
07 some help from Mr. Walsh with this, but, yeah, I agree  
08 with Mr. DiBileo 100 percent. Thank you.

09 MR. DIBILEO: The \$3 million  
10 figure that I used is simply a very conservative  
11 number. As Mr. Courtright just explained, it could be  
12 much more than \$3 million, and so I use that  
13 conservatively as from the subordinate mortgagee  
14 position of \$3 million.

15 But I also want to apologize. We  
16 normally have a short brief meeting in Mr. Saunders'  
17 office before our Council meetings, we didn't have an  
18 opportunity to really do that today, that's why I'm  
19 bringing it up out here before the motions, that I  
20 intend to make that motion.

21 And I also want to say that as  
22 many people know, Mrs. Evans talked in detail about the  
23 foreclosure situation with the Hilton, and the fact  
24 that we are just beginning to get together information  
25 to help research this matter and work closely with the  
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01 administration.

02 Now, today's meeting actually is  
03 being held in place of last Thursday's meeting, which  
04 did not take place due to lack of a quorum. I'm going  
05 to recommend that we not meet this Thursday, three days  
06 from now that, wouldn't give the administration any  
07 time to forward to us any legislation to consider, so  
08 I'm going to recommend that we begin our August  
09 meetings next week, which would be Thursday,  
10 August 10, August 17, and normally even the first  
11 Thursday in September is a meeting that is normally not  
12 held until after Labor Day, so I think we should work  
13 right on through, and we'll be in touch with the  
14 administration.

15 Mr. Saunders, let them know of  
16 this development and that we want to work closely with  
17 them. And I appreciate that. And with that said, I'll  
18 get right to the speaker sign-in sheet, and the first  
19 speaker on the list is Reverend Cathryn Simmons.

20 MS. SIMMONS: Good afternoon. Let

21 me first begin by making a correction about a statement



22 that was made at the last Council meeting.  
23 Someone came forward and said that  
24 they allowed me to speak. I'm going to direct this to  
25 you, Councilwoman Evans, because maybe men don't  
0015  
01 understand, no one allows a woman to speak, they come  
02 forward and say what they have to say and then they go  
03 home, okay? No one allowed me to speak. I speak what  
04 I have to say, what the Lord tells me to say.  
05 They also made a statement that  
06 there are patrols of a men's group up through the  
07 Midtown Area and through that surrounding, there are no  
08 patrols at Midtown. There is one group that patrols  
09 Midtown, and that is Crime watch.  
10 Midtown is a private, privately  
11 owned area. Before anyone would patrol there, and not  
12 that we don't welcome help, because we do, but before  
13 anyone would be allowed to patrol there, they have to  
14 go through management. No one has come to management  
15 to ask anything. Thank you.  
16 I come here today to talk about  
17 crime watch, because I don't think that the  
18 administration understands what crime watch is and what  
19 it does.  
20 We not only patrol the streets,  
21 and I'm not talking just about our own areas, but we  
22 call each other, and when they need help over in  
23 another area, we go to their area and help them out,  
24 when another section of the city needs help, we go  
25 there, we cross and help each other.  
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01 We counsel families who are in  
02 those areas who are in trouble and need help, don't  
03 know where to go, and not just about criminal problems,  
04 but about anything that they need help for, okay?  
05 We also support our police and our  
06 fire department, and I think you know that. I don't  
07 think anybody is misunderstood about what I say when I  
08 come here.  
09 Before I go out each evening to do  
10 what it is that I do, I say the following, The light of  
11 God surrounds me, the love of God enfolds me, the power  
12 of God protects me, the presence of God watches over  
13 me. Wherever I am, God is.  
14 I come here today to say to you,  
15 the offices of crime watch do not run just by the grace  
16 of God, but he sends us places where we may be able to  
17 get some funding.

18 We don't ask for a lot, because  
19 all we do is run a telephone, run a copier, buy some  
20 paper, just enough to get an office and keep an office  
21 going.  
22 I don't believe in my heart that  
23 crime watch members should have to spend 70 percent of  
24 their time begging money from around the area. I think  
25 money should be allotted through administration, and  
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01 I'm not talking, I said, I'm not talking about a lot of  
02 money, I'm not talking about \$20,000 or ten or even  
03 five, but enough to keep the offices of West Side,  
04 Downtown and Florence Midtown open so we can continue  
05 on to do what we do.  
06 Whatever you give to us, we'll  
07 accept. Whatever is allotted to us, we take as a gift,  
08 but I don't believe anymore because of what we're  
09 involved in, and I will show you, I know I'm going  
10 overtime, but that's all right because this morning I  
11 have something important to show you, on Wednesday this  
12 is was done inside one of the buildings at Midtown  
13 Complex.  
14 On Saturday a gentleman who helped  
15 me out in a confrontation with gangs, his car was  
16 keyed, and NFO was etched into the hood of the car so  
17 that we would know who did this.  
18 I've tried since Thursday to find  
19 out if the young people who did this were arrested,  
20 were ID'd, were even cited. I get nothing.  
21 And when I tell you, I get no  
22 reply from no one. I made five phone calls before I  
23 came to Council today, Mr. Courtright, and not one  
24 person supposedly is in their office.  
25 Today would be a great day for the  
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01 criminals to be out, because there's nobody around. I  
02 went down to the District Attorney office, I was told  
03 in the D.A.'s office, there's no D.A.'s in there today,  
04 there's been a homicide in the city. Well, that's  
05 terrible, but does that mean the city shuts down?  
06 I want to know who did this. This  
07 is the first time that we would be able to actually get  
08 a hold of these young people and make them pay to have  
09 this redone. We're getting nowhere. I want to know  
10 why the administration is so discouraging to crime  
11 watch. Thank you.  
12 MS. EVANS: Reverend Simmons, we  
13 can make those phone calls for you and make sure that

14 someone does get back to you on this.

15 MS. SIMMONS: But it shouldn't

16 have to be you; do you understand what I'm saying?

17 MS. EVANS: But we're to help you

18 when it's --

19 MS. SIMMONS: They promised us.

20 We've had four meetings in the past three months, and

21 we were promised each and every time that when

22 something happened and a policeman was called, if there

23 was no one there from crime watch, they would at least

24 contact the manager of the apartment complex and let

25 him know. It's never happened.

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01 MS. EVANS: Well, we'll step in

02 for you and make sure that this does happen.

03 MS. SIMMONS: Thank you, Reverend

04 Simmons. Before I call up the next speaker, I should

05 have mentioned prior to public participation that most

06 people obviously are aware of a horrifying incident

07 that occurred over the weekend in West Scranton, and it

08 is under investigation, that incident, so we would like

09 people not to, you know, discuss the incident during

10 public participation, and it certainly appears to be a

11 homicide, but we don't know that yet, and our sincerest

12 condolences go out to the Morrison family, many of who

13 I know, and it's just a terrible situation that is

14 under investigation, so we will let it be that for now.

15 Mr. McAndrew, Larry McAndrew.

16 MR. McANDREW: Good afternoon,

17 Larry McAndrew, Scranton taxpayer, Scranton resident.

18 MR. DIBILEO: Good afternoon.

19 MR. McANDREW: I'd like to begin

20 with saying that at the last Council meeting my anger

21 was shown, and I want -- I wish that Mr. McTiernan was

22 here so I could straighten out the words that I used

23 through my anger.

24 The words I used is that since I

25 belong to a taxpayers group that I and this taxpayers

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01 group will fight opposition against him. I wanted to

02 correct that. As people are well aware, a taxpayers

03 group is non-political and cannot participate in

04 anything like this, but I as an individual will

05 strongly, vigorously fight Mr. McTiernan if he so does

06 desire to take up that seat again.

07 After saying that, I would like to

08 know if we received any audits from these authorities,

09 other than the Scranton Redevelopment Authority.

10 My understanding, this was  
11 supposed to be done by the end of May. Here we are  
12 already in August, have we received anything?  
13 MR. DIBILEO: Let me ask  
14 Mr. Saunders if he can give us an update on the  
15 authorities' audit situation.  
16 MR. SAUNDERS: The  
17 Redevelopment Authority has sent their audit in, and  
18 the Rec authority, nothing. And that's it. That is  
19 it. They're the only ones that have sent it, and the  
20 City of Scranton audit, that's all we have.  
21 MR. DIBILEO: Okay.  
22 MR. McANDREW: Okay.  
23 MS. EVANS: Mr. McAndrew, we will  
24 schedule a caucus meeting, a public caucus meeting,  
25 with Mr. Rossi to discuss the findings for the 2004  
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01 independent audit, and what I did learn, however,  
02 during the presentation of the preliminary report is  
03 that the audits of the authorities are not essential to  
04 the preliminary report compiled and presented by the  
05 Rossi firm, and so after that caucus is conducted, at  
06 which time I intend to discuss this problem with him,  
07 because you may be aware that I've been very concerned  
08 the city annually passes its May 31 deadline for  
09 approval, according to the Home Rule Charter.  
10 MR. McANDREW: Yes, this is wrong.  
11 MS. EVANS: Yes, and so I would  
12 like to discuss with Mr. Rossi the possibility of his  
13 presenting that preliminary audit to Council next year  
14 in February or March, since -- or let's say at the end  
15 of the first business quarter, because those  
16 preliminary results are solely concerning city  
17 government.  
18 None of the information from any  
19 of the authorities are really contained therein, so  
20 there is no reason for us to be waiting this long.  
21 And even if that may require a bit  
22 of a change to his fee, I don't feel that it's going to  
23 be an insurmountable sum. It can be taken out of  
24 Council's budget to insure that for next year we're  
25 going to receive those figures well in advance and get  
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01 the city back on track according to the Home Rule  
02 Charter.  
03 MR. McANDREW: Very good. I you  
04 also want to talk about a few things that are right and  
05 wrong about this city, about this government that we

06 have here.

07 We have a mayor that's going  
08 around taking credit for the Market Street project, for  
09 putting a lock on a bar in South Side, for taking  
10 credit up at Nay Aug Park and so forth.

11 We, the people, are the ones that  
12 should be taking credit for this, not the mayor of the  
13 City of Scranton. We're the ones that are paying the  
14 taxes here in the City of Scranton.

15 We have KOZs all over this area,  
16 we have a big corporation that came into here getting a  
17 free ride for the next ten years. We, the people, the  
18 taxpayers, are the ones that are taken up the slack  
19 here. It's wrong. There is so many thing that is  
20 wrong here.

21 I could go on and on and on, but  
22 what is important is we have an election coming up  
23 shortly. President DiBileo, you must come out with  
24 your agenda of what you have coming up for the next  
25 four years, what are you going to take us, how you are  
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01 going to lead us. This is important. Thank you.

02 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,

03 Mr. McAndrew. Les Spindler.

04 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,  
05 Council, Les Spindler, Bullwer Street, Scranton.

06 MR. DIBILEO: Good afternoon, I  
07 should say.

08 MR. SPINDLER: Last week in the  
09 paper and on the news it was nice to see that the mayor  
10 is going to build a tree house for the handicap in  
11 Nay Aug Park, well, that's all well and good, it's very  
12 nice, I have nothing against the handicapped, but why  
13 can't we get benches downtown for the seniors?

14 People are trying for a long time,  
15 Fred has been trying for a long time to get branches.  
16 Why can't the mayor do that, instead ever of -- not  
17 instead of, but along with building the tree house?

18 Okay. Last meeting  
19 Charlie Newcomb was declared out of order for something  
20 he was asking, all Mr. Newcomb wanted to know was a  
21 company that's presently paying taxes in the city going  
22 to move into a KOZ building and not pay taxes. I think  
23 as taxpayers, we have a right to know that.

24 MS. EVANS: Well, Mr. Spindler,  
25 obviously that can occur, because it's already occurred  
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01 at the business incubator, a business that was

02 previously located at the James Avenue Complex  
03 relocated to a KOZ building, so it's, I think quite  
04 clear it can be done.

05 MR. SPINDLER: I understand it  
06 could happen, but that's not what I call downtown  
07 development. That doesn't help the city, it hurts the  
08 city. You're taking tax-paying companies and putting  
09 them in a building and they don't have to pay taxes?  
10 If that's the mayor's idea of downtown development, I  
11 think he better relook the situation.

12 MR. DIBILEO: Mr. Spindler, not to  
13 interrupt you, but I didn't think that Mr. Newcomb's  
14 comments of that nature was actually out of order, it  
15 was at the end of his talk, but actually I think if  
16 asking if a tax-paying company is going to be moving  
17 into a non-tax-paying location, especially one that  
18 does business with the city, I think is a legitimate  
19 question, but maybe this particular forum is not the  
20 place ask the question.

21 MR. SPINDLER: Well, I wish  
22 Mr. Pocius was here so he could okay it or deny it.  
23 Since he didn't deny it last week, I think it is true  
24 that they're going to move in.

25 Last week there was a letter to  
0025

01 the editor by a Mr. Robert Olivetti saying that the  
02 Council majority's -- the way they're looking at the  
03 Southern Union situation is to push their own political  
04 agenda, well, I totally disagree with that, since  
05 Mr. Courtright is part of the majority and he's not  
06 even up for election this year.

07 Let's talk about political  
08 agendas, last week Tony & Mary's Bar was shut down, and  
09 on the news, who was there putting the padlock on, but  
10 Mayor Doherty.

11 Mayor Doherty is not a police  
12 officer, he's not -- he has nothing to do with the  
13 police. The DA is the one that shut the building  
14 down. If anyone, it should have been the DA that put  
15 padlock on, not Mayor Doherty.

16 He was there for one reason and  
17 one reason only, to push his political agenda and get  
18 his face on the news.

19 Something else, I was disgusted  
20 two weekends ago going to the St. Joe's Picnic, that's  
21 a picnic that's put on to raise money for the  
22 physically and mentally challenged people at  
23 St. Joseph's.

24 As I was going over  
25 Washington Avenue, from the mayor's house all the way  
0026  
01 to the picnic, every house on that street had a  
02 Chris Doherty sign in front of it. They weren't there  
03 before the picnic, and they're not there after. Now  
04 talk about pushing political agendas.  
05 He used a picnic, as I said,  
06 that's for the mentally and physically challenged for  
07 his own political agenda.  
08 So, when the Scranton Times and  
09 Mr. Olivetti print things like this, I think they  
10 should look no further than Mayor Leap Year.  
11 MR. DIBILEO: Lee Morgan.  
12 MR. MORGAN: Good afternoon,  
13 Council.  
14 MR. DIBILEO: Good afternoon.  
15 MR. MORGAN: I think now maybe  
16 Council can see why it was so crucial that it started  
17 to use its powers of subpoena a very long time ago, and  
18 maybe next year when these audits aren't done on time,  
19 maybe the first of June, we'll actually use some of the  
20 power of Council and really do something here.  
21 Another thing I'd like to say is,  
22 you know, everybody knew what was going on with the  
23 Hilton Hotel, we knew that when we gave up our position  
24 on the loans, when we went from number one to number  
25 two. I mean, it was a blood bath. You can see they  
0027  
01 were losing their shirt. We were just watching it.  
02 Me, Andy, Mr. Bolus, a bunch of  
03 people came up here and talked about it before the deal  
04 went through. When Mr. Murphy was the head of Council,  
05 we discussed it.  
06 You know, I think people fail to  
07 realize really what's going on here. The city's being  
08 looted, there's no recovery plan, everybody that should  
09 be helping us is standing back watching as everything  
10 falls apart.  
11 Something has to happen here. We  
12 looked at Council to lead us somewhere. I think it's a  
13 good idea not to take an adjournment for the next  
14 month. I think it's important to come forward and  
15 speak about exactly what's going on.  
16 If we would use the power of  
17 subpoena, we could know the Scranton Redevelopment  
18 Authority's role has been in all of this. We can still  
19 use that power. We can still ask questions and get

20 answers.

21 And you know, it's not too late to  
22 get the important questions answered, because  
23 everything is in play now, and we're going to lose our  
24 shirt. And when push comes to shove, there's not going  
25 to be much left.

0028

01 And it's not going to be important  
02 whether we restored Nay Aug Park, because the KOZs were  
03 misappropriated. The money has been misspent, it's  
04 been misdirected.

05 We should have used that to create  
06 jobs and employment and make sure that we weren't  
07 taking care of a special interest. The interest we  
08 should have took care of was in the neighborhoods.  
09 We've looked the wrong way for a long time.

10 You know, I'm not going to pound  
11 the mayor, but now he's starting to think or maybe the  
12 administration, maybe not even him, that maybe now we  
13 should invest some money in the neighborhoods.

14 Look at the amount of properties  
15 for sale. We've discussed the gang people in the city.  
16 People inside the administration and other places think  
17 there is no gang problem.

18 Well, I don't know when they're  
19 going to wake up, but if Scranton becomes twice as bad  
20 as Wilkes-Barre, I don't know what we're going to say  
21 to some former developer to say, Come on into this  
22 gang-riddled community.

23 And, you know the other thing is,  
24 we're all hoping and praying that this train from  
25 Hoboken is going to lead to a resurrection of the city,  
0029

01 and that's not going to happen.  
02 Resurrection of the city is going  
03 to happen when we take control of the neighborhoods,  
04 invest money in the neighborhoods, where it should have  
05 went for the last 30 years, but it hasn't, it's all  
06 gone to special interests, all right?

07 And I'm going to say something  
08 here, this community reinvestment fund, there's  
09 absolutely no way this should go through Council today.  
10 It should be rejected. There's absolutely nothing of  
11 any purpose to the ordinary taxpayers of this city tied  
12 in these documents, absolutely not.

13 It's just another borrowing plan.  
14 We went through that with the Scranton Sewer Authority,  
15 we've gone through it over and over and over again.



16 It's time to go into a new direction, okay?  
17 That's what I think. Now, what  
18 Council thinks, is another thing. But you know, other  
19 Councils have made mistakes, and that's why we're  
20 standing here wondering what is going to happen at the  
21 Hilton, okay?  
22 The money that came to the city  
23 that they want to borrow against it, they want to  
24 reinvest, why? This fund is supposed to  
25 self-perpetuate itself. Why are we going to loot that?  
0030  
01 You know, we looted the Scranton  
02 Sewer Authority. We may take \$100, \$200 million to  
03 straighten that mess out. We don't know how much the  
04 authorities owe. We don't really know anything.  
05 What does Council know? Council  
06 asks questions and don't even get answers.  
07 Sara Hailstone sat here and said, Oh, yeah, information  
08 is coming. Did it come yet?  
09 What information has really come?  
10 Has the mayor come up here and expressed himself to the  
11 people? Not yet.  
12 And I think this, and I have no  
13 control over what Mr. Ozzie Quinn does, okay, but I'll  
14 say this, that organization needs to go, not just from  
15 a taxpayers organization, but it needs to evolve, it  
16 needs to push an agenda that's pro-city, pro-county,  
17 without any political underpinnings at all and worry  
18 about the people.  
19 And I think that that's where that  
20 can go. I really have a lot of faith in Mr. Quinn. And  
21 you know something, I have a lot of faith in this  
22 Council. Like I said before, and I'm not going to  
23 single out Mr. McTiernan or Mr. Pocius, because you  
24 know what, you're five councilmen, you're not  
25 politically motivated or you shouldn't be.  
0031  
01 The only agenda on your mind  
02 should be this city, the resurrection of this city and  
03 doing what's right for the city and the residents.  
04 Drive around this city now. When  
05 the school was going to be built, a lot of people were  
06 trying to sell their houses, there's more now, and  
07 watch what happened in Abington.  
08 And I know it has nothing to do  
09 with the city, but they forced an agreement through  
10 their school board, and go up there and see the amount  
11 of properties for sale. You know, how far can you

12 run? Thank you.

13 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,

14 Mr. Morgan. Erik Johnson.

15 MR. JOHNSON: Good afternoon,

16 City Council, Lisa and staff.

17 MR. DIBILEO: Good afternoon.

18 MR. JOHNSON: Erik Johnson,

19 taxpayer of Scranton, property owner. I have the right

20 to speak and attend City Council meetings, as last week

21 Thursday I was verbally insulted from a wealthy regular

22 citizen speaker that criticized me for not knowing the

23 name of a new Irish pub.

24 I do know the name of an Irish

25 band called McNamara, and I happen to be the only Sweed

0032

01 that was there, but let me tell you one thing, I don't

02 go to Irish bars to make trouble.

03 My agenda is mostly pro-police and

04 public safety every week. And I was called a horse's

05 A-S-S last week, and I don't need to take that.

06 Handicapped accessible tree house

07 at Nay Aug Park would be a great idea and a

08 compassionate concern for the handicap project,

09 regardless whose idea and where it was indicated.

10 It concerns a handicap that's

11 never been in a tree house or have had or now wish they

12 would experience in their lives.

13 Another big concern of us should

14 be the public safety of all citizens being in Scranton

15 and the surrounding areas, where we are being invaded

16 by criminals from New York, New Jersey and

17 Philadelphia.

18 Wait until the Hoboken and

19 Scranton excursion comes around, you'll find out

20 there's going to be more of this, which should be a

21 priority concern for our children now who will be

22 adults tomorrow. The word is gang.

23 It's a big problem now. Some say

24 it isn't a problem, but I think 100 to 150 youths ages

25 12 to 16 years old identified with a particular color

0033

01 who wearing saggy pants and are promoting graffiti or

02 write or design codes for their affiliation is

03 indeed a start of a cancer-growing gang problem.

04 A start of a gang problem of about

05 150, which is now unorganized and a small impact on our

06 city today, such as Bloods and Kings that are drawn

07 into this area from its drug trade and to form youth

08 gangs that mostly commit nuisance crimes and property  
09 damage is the start of a big problem. If left  
10 uncorrected now, it will be and reversible later.

11 Parents are frightened as kids are  
12 declared missing in this area. Yes, crime is  
13 increasing in the name of drugs in unsolved violent  
14 crimes.

15 Because of the decline of police  
16 personnel and cutbacks funding of every city in the  
17 U.S.A., these funds are being deversarated that once  
18 was there, while teacher salaries and benefits are  
19 climbing at an alarming rate because their union has  
20 more clout because they can strike, and the do unjustly  
21 at the expense of mostly elderly citizens who now have  
22 no children in public schools.

23 The police and firemen job is at  
24 far higher risk than a teacher's job, who now wants  
25 their class size downsized from 25 to 15. As teachers  
0034

01 from yesterday had sometimes as many as 28 and a lot  
02 less money and benefits.

03 Look at your local property tax  
04 bill which is itemized. That is divided in three parts  
05 mainly as a pie. Three-fourths of the pie goes to  
06 school and county taxes. Only one-fourth goes to the  
07 City of Scranton.

08 Just think, a measly one-fourth  
09 goes towards the city to pay for the upkeep wages and  
10 climbing health benefits for our police and firemen who  
11 work holidays, Christmas, weekends, all summer and risk  
12 their lives for us, while teachers who use the excuse  
13 of a four-year college degree for all summer off,  
14 Christmas, nuisance holidays, snow days, and weekends  
15 off are deverberating funds that once were there from  
16 our police and firemen and city employees and DPW  
17 workers.

18 Yes, \$3 million extra could be  
19 used for public safety, such as police and firemen and  
20 so on. Thank you for letting me speak.

21 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.

22 Julie Jones.

23 MS. JONES: Good afternoon. My  
24 name is Julie Jones, and I'm from upper South Side.  
25 This is my first time here.

0035

01 As it goes back to everybody, the  
02 way you were raised. I didn't come to any Council  
03 meetings because back when I was ten-months old, the

04 police department financially hit my mother when my  
05 father died, and she raised five children by herself.  
06 So, I guess growing up I had no  
07 interest in politics or I had no use for city  
08 officials, and this comes from when we were little.  
09 But you know what, everything I  
10 see going on at Council, at residence association  
11 meetings, you know, people come up here and speak, it's  
12 time for me to step up to the plate.  
13 I've never voted in the City of  
14 Scranton, I voted this time, because it's time for new  
15 faces to run this city. The old faces are doing  
16 nothing.  
17 I'd like to bring a little of the  
18 old back, if possible. I would you to take into  
19 consideration, there's not that many twelve o'clock  
20 meetings that I know of, I don't actually know how many  
21 are held at twelve noon, but years ago when you came to  
22 the city and you went to a doctor's appointment or you  
23 had business in the city, you got this stamped.  
24 Anybody that comes to these  
25 meetings, I feel, should get these stamped. I came  
0036  
01 last week, I made it as far as the step, was told the  
02 meeting was cancelled, it cost me \$2.25 at the parking  
03 garage.  
04 I don't think it's too much to ask  
05 for you to have a stamper and stamp these for us so we  
06 can park in that garage. They did it at the  
07 Mall at Steamtown when the price to park there was  
08 getting too high. You made a purchase at a store, they  
09 stamped it. That's one point.  
10 Does any of you know what's going  
11 on with the funding for Connell Park?  
12 MR. DIBILEO: For Connell Park?  
13 I'm not totally certain at this point. Does anyone --  
14 MS. JONES: Okay. Well, just food  
15 for thought, I hear it's all about parks and recreation  
16 and different things that are being built in the city,  
17 parks in the city, well, South Side has nothing. South  
18 Side doesn't even have a park for the kids to go to.  
19 Yeah, we have Connell Park, you  
20 might as just call it -- put it in the forestry  
21 division. There's nothing up there for the children to  
22 do.  
23 There's trees, there's garbage.  
24 The kid can't go up there. So, if you can look into  
25 that Connell Park funding, I would appreciate it. I

0037

01 think Representative Belardi is handling that, because  
02 he got funding for the park, because I requested him to  
03 do so.

04 I'm going to repeat somebody  
05 already said, Tony & Mary's that was a That A Boy for  
06 the mayor. It wasn't him that shut down that bar. It  
07 was the South Side Residents Association, in charge,  
08 Judy Gatelli. That's what shut down that bar.

09 So, it was very disappointing and  
10 -- I was very angry to see that on TV, for him to be  
11 locking that bar, when he had nothing to do with it.  
12 But once again, it's an election year, so he needs all  
13 those That A Boys he can get.

14 Just let me go back one step for  
15 the parking tickets, the only reason I feel they should  
16 be stamped, we have to come here -- we chose to come  
17 here. He thinks nothing of spending our money on signs  
18 all over the city, I think he could stamp a \$2, \$3  
19 parking ticket for us.

20 The South Side Residents  
21 Association right now is filling out grant forms for a  
22 skate park. I have no problem with that. The building  
23 is rather large. The building is being donated to the  
24 city, which is great.

25 It's going to house a skate park,

0038

01 probably indoor basketball hoops, video machines, a  
02 little bit of everything for the kids to hang out in.  
03 Who did that? We did it. Because no money was there.  
04 We're hoping we get this grant so we can get our kids  
05 off the street and someplace safe.

06 You know, in today's world  
07 everybody -- it's very hard to raise a child in the  
08 City of Scranton. You know, I went to the gang meeting  
09 last week at Tech, and I disagree with the D.A.'s  
10 office when they told us there were no gangs.

11 Open your door and look out at the  
12 city. There's gangs everywhere. Why do I know that?  
13 Because where I live. 24/7 they are around my house.  
14 They've stoned my dog so bad inside my fenced yard.  
15 Last week a girl came knocking at  
16 my door. In today's world you say to yourself, Jeez,  
17 should you answer it? Maybe somebody that's with her  
18 is at your back door waiting to come in and rob your  
19 house while she's at your front door.

20 But my husband was home, we  
21 assisted this young woman. She was raped in the woods

22 behind our house. Right now me and my family, we sit  
23 in our house. It's summer, doors locked, windows shut,  
24 air running 24/7. Why? Because where we live.  
25 Everybody says, Well, step up to  
0039  
01 these people. You know, them this is your property.  
02 Well, we did. And you know what happened? Our car got  
03 stolen out of our driveway and totally demolished. So,  
04 what are we to do?  
05 I called the Scranton Police one  
06 evening, told them drug deals were going down. Didn't  
07 see anybody. I called them again, told them that there  
08 were all computer printers behind our garage.  
09 They said, Okay. We'll be right  
10 over. I said to them, Well, they're probably left  
11 there because drugs are going to be dropped in place of  
12 them, brand new computer printers. Yeah, I could have  
13 kept them myself, but it wasn't mine to keep.  
14 What response did I get from the  
15 city police, We could use them in our office. No  
16 report was filed, nothing. That's the kind -- you  
17 know, I have nothing against the police department, but  
18 I want to say at least 80 percent of the time any of  
19 these people's comments fall on deaf ears.  
20 If you could look into the stop  
21 sign at Genet and Webster on the even side of the  
22 street, it's an accident waiting to happen.  
23 What it is is where the stop sign  
24 is, there's about another 5 foot to the corner where  
25 there's shrubbery, and you have to inch your way up.  
0040  
01 By that time, you know the end of your car is getting  
02 hit.  
03 Another thing, I'd like to thank  
04 Mr. Fiorini. At the South Side Residents Association,  
05 I had him look into 1711 Prospect Avenue. It was a  
06 hazard. There was kids in there drinking, candles were  
07 lit. If that house went down, the whole block was  
08 going to go down.  
09 Since then he has boarded up the  
10 house, and I really want to thank him for that, for his  
11 quick work.  
12 Another just quick thing, if you  
13 can look into a children at play sign in the 500 of  
14 Birch. The cars coming down Birch Street, when they  
15 come over that knoll, their tires aren't even on the  
16 street. A child is going to be hit in that block. I  
17 don't think it's too much to put up a sign.

18 As far as Tony & Mary's, that was  
19 very disgusting to us. I'd like to have you think  
20 about something or look into something, it's called one  
21 strike, you're out. And this has to do with the  
22 housing in the City of Scranton.  
23 If they have one offense against  
24 them, they're out. And I'm pertaining mainly to Valley  
25 View. I'm sure there's many good people that live in  
0041  
01 Valley View, I'm not knocking everybody that lives up  
02 there, but this rape that happened behind the house,  
03 they were from Valley View.  
04 We get so much foot traffic, we  
05 get gangs, we go out, they're sitting on our vehicles.  
06 You know, we can't approach these people like the  
07 people want us to, because they're going to come back  
08 and they're going to retaliate.  
09 They already got our dog, they got  
10 our car, they got all our Christmas decorations last  
11 year. Something has to be done.  
12 So, that one strike you're out, is  
13 very -- you should really look into that. And that  
14 could be done with whoever -- I guess Baker takes care  
15 of Valley View, because if they have one offense,  
16 they're out, and I think that would clear up a lot of  
17 the problems up at Valley View.  
18 You know, somebody bought  
19 Skyview, we haven't heard anything about Skyview like  
20 we used to. Hill Top, same thing. You don't hear  
21 anything about Hill Top.  
22 Something has to be done with  
23 Valley View. I hate to pinpoint a certain place in the  
24 city, well, when it affects my residence, I have to.  
25 And it's not me, I'm representing our whole block.  
0042  
01 We're the youngest ones on the block, so we take care  
02 of the block.  
03 And then also if you can make a  
04 note, Jay, that the 1700 of Genet, I would appreciate  
05 it every year in the winter that it gets snowplowed,  
06 because it never does. We do it ourselves, and that's  
07 a lot of work out there to do the whole street  
08 yourself.  
09 I called the city, you know what I  
10 get told, it's a deadend. Well, that doesn't mean  
11 nothing to me. I pay taxes. I can't park in front of  
12 my house because it's a bus stop, and to get to my  
13 parking spot or my driveway, it's a sheet of ice.

14 And it's so bad, you can ask DPW,  
15 they can't even stop to pick up our garbage, they slide  
16 straight through. So, if you can please do that.  
17 And I don't know about the paving  
18 list, but if the 700 of Genet or the 1700 of  
19 Gallagher Court could be touched, I'd appreciate it.  
20 We're there 15 years, and it has not been touched in  
21 those 15 years. I blew a tire last week right off my  
22 rim coming through the alley.  
23 I'd just appreciate something  
24 being done for that. Thank you for your time.  
25 MR. SAUNDERS: Julie, you said a  
0043  
01 children at play sign where?  
02 MS. JONES: The 500 of Birch.  
03 Right up from Tom & Jerry's, that hill that comes down.  
04 MR. SAUNDERS: And the paving of  
05 1700 of --  
06 MS. JONES: Genet and the 17 of  
07 Gallagher Court.  
08 MR. SAUNDERS: Thank you.  
09 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you. Julie,  
10 just quickly, first of all, we're happy that you're  
11 interested in following what's happening with the city  
12 through our meetings, and you bring up the parking  
13 ticket situation, that could be a great idea.  
14 I know I personally would think  
15 it's a good idea, because I pay my own parking tickets  
16 just to be here at the meetings. Sometimes I leave the  
17 parking garage after eleven o'clock at night and it's  
18 closed up, so I can just drive out at that point, but  
19 if it's before eleven, I pay my tickets. So, maybe  
20 that's something we can look into with the  
21 administration.  
22 Also, we're very interested in  
23 Connell Park receiving that grant money that  
24 Representative Belardi talked about, and we'll look  
25 into an update on that. J.B. Davis.  
0044  
01 MR. DAVIS: I start today by  
02 giving a tribute to four fallen African Americans.  
03 We've lost four of our leading young men. They're  
04 young, because they're younger than me, but they were  
05 young men in our community, one of which was  
06 Master Sergeant Ivy, another was Morris Jackson,  
07 another is Big Lou, and the fourth is William Foreman.  
08 Now, of the four that I've  
09 mentioned, three of them were not born here in



10 Scranton. Three of them were transplantees from  
11 different places, one from Baltimore, one from  
12 Mississippi, one from Florida, but they all came here  
13 and they all became a part of Scranton that we know of,  
14 and it became an asset to the black community also  
15 while they were here.

16 Be careful who you call  
17 dissidents, be careful who you call gang members,  
18 because you might be talking about someone who is  
19 actually going to be an asset to the community that  
20 might lead your child out of trouble, as opposed to  
21 into trouble.

22 You don't know because of the way  
23 they dress or the way they walk or the way they talk.  
24 Please give them a chance. Do not place them in a bad  
25 light before they have to be placed in a bad light.

0045

01 Okay. No. 2, I want to thank DPW  
02 and their fine young men they came and painted -- they  
03 did a beautiful job. And I talked to them personally,  
04 and we had a nice rapport and they told me how they  
05 couldn't do it because they didn't have enough manpower  
06 and things like that, but I'm saying to them now that  
07 the senior citizens in the Tech/Central area are now  
08 able to go from one point to another point without  
09 being afraid of being hit by cars because the lines are  
10 so defined, that even with their bad eyesight, they're  
11 a able to follow the road properly.

12 Okay. I thank Council for their  
13 work, everybody, everybody involved, I really do,  
14 because it was a joint effort of all of us going at the  
15 same problem at the same time. So we know it can be  
16 done. We know that perhaps we don't have the votes for  
17 this and the votes for that, but if we all go at the  
18 same problem, they hear us and they come out and they  
19 do something about it, and I'm very thankful of that.

20 And may Allah bless you, guide you  
21 and give you success in the future, because our kids  
22 are safer, our senior citizens are safer, and I know  
23 that for a fact.

24 The last point that I have is the  
25 quality of life in Tech/Central, and I keep using the

0046

01 term Tech/Central. I ran into Joe Cardamone, and he  
02 says, Jim Davis, you're still using Tech/Central,  
03 Tech/Central is an old figment of your imagination. I  
04 said, No, it isn't. It's real, it's alive, it's well.  
05 And we have a lot of kids that have proven.

06 People are still having children  
07 and the population is just blushing. The colors are  
08 amazing, the different ethnic groups that actually  
09 exist within the very small sector of Scranton and they  
10 do it peacefully.  
11 Yes, there are problems. Sure,  
12 there's going to be problems, but they're not negative  
13 problems, they're not problems that can't be solved by  
14 just sitting down and speaking.  
15 And the older people do help the  
16 younger people. That's our task. That's something  
17 that our parents left us. We have to look out for our  
18 kids. We're responsible for our community.  
19 Last but not least, Scranton  
20 Housing Authority, I don't know that you can ask them  
21 for a budget or a audit, but there seems to be a  
22 problem with the way they've hired people in the past  
23 and who they're hiring now.  
24 The fact that they have no  
25 minorities working for them during this period of time  
0047  
01 seems to be a problem for many people, because when  
02 they are cited for doing things that are wrong, it's  
03 usually by someone who doesn't know who they are or  
04 what they are or could care less about what they are.  
05 And that gives them a problem and  
06 that could cause friction and excite people. So, if  
07 you possible can, if we can get an audit on them, I  
08 would like to hear that. I'd like to find out where  
09 their money is going and why it's not being spent to  
10 hire people equally across the board.  
11 Thank you for your time. I hope  
12 that Allah blesses you and guides with whatever your  
13 success might be, your path may it be guided purposely.  
14 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Jim.  
15 MS. EVANS: And you also.  
16 MR. DAVIS: Excuse me?  
17 MS. EVANS: And I said you also.  
18 MR. DIBILEO: That came from down  
19 here, Jim. That was Mrs. Evans.  
20 MR. DAVIS: Okay.  
21 MS. EVANS: It was the voice of  
22 God, and she is a loving God.  
23 MR. DAVIS: A female voice of God.  
24 I've already been chastised by one female saying that I  
25 allowed them to speak, no, and it was wrong of me, and  
0048  
01 please forgive me, I don't want to anger all the women

02 in the world or anything like that.  
03 And I did speak perhaps in my  
04 exuberance in trying to say that our community is  
05 guarded, because I know people that are like myself who  
06 may not ask permission to walk through the area or  
07 check things out and make sure the kids are safe. That  
08 can be true. No, we don't have a man force or a guard  
09 force that does exactly that, and excuse me for my  
10 exuberance and excuse me for perhaps speaking in  
11 advance of what is going to happen in the future, but  
12 we do want our area to be safe for all people.

13 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Jim.

14 MR. DAVIS: Thank you.

15 MS. EVANS: I know that it sounded  
16 liked it was Chris Sledzinski upstairs in the balcony,  
17 but it was our own Mrs. Evans down here giving you  
18 those words of wisdom. Go ahead.

19 MS. YETKOWSKAS: Regina  
20 Yetkowskas, Scranton resident and taxpayer. I am not  
21 the first person, nor will I be the last person to  
22 comment on the June 30 long letter to the editor from  
23 Kathleen Kearn, which the Scranton Times printed.

24 Ms. Kearn is a Scranton resident.

25 Ms. Kearn's letter give an excellent overview of  
0049

01 City Council's conduct and wrote accurate comments on  
02 the nature of the presentations citizens make at  
03 Council meetings which primarily and harshly criticize  
04 Mr. Doherty's job performance for almost four years in  
05 office.

06 Ms. Kearn correctly summarized  
07 most citizens conduct at the City Council podium when  
08 she said, and I quote, It seems that no matter what any  
09 citizen says, it is only applauded if it is against our  
10 mayor, for whom there seems to be a hate campaign in  
11 the works, end of quote.

12 As a senior citizen who attends  
13 Council meetings and speaks, I agree. It is a fact  
14 that there appears to be not only criticism, but also a  
15 hate campaign against Mr. Doherty from different areas  
16 of the city, from different organizations and citizens  
17 and from city employees.

18 These are the people who regularly  
19 appear and speak against Mr. Doherty and the job he's  
20 doing. Now that Ms. Kearn and I agree on the basic  
21 fact of the criticism and hate campaign against the  
22 mayor, Ms. Kearn's letter did not ask or even infer  
23 whether the people have valid reasons to criticize and

24 maybe even engage in a hate campaign against  
25 Mr. Doherty because of his job performance.

0050

01 I'll try to present facts from  
02 which Ms. Kearn can decide if the people had and have  
03 valid reasons for their presentations at this podium.  
04 Here are some factual incidents Ms. Kearn should  
05 consider, No. 1, Mr. Doherty sold the city golf course  
06 for less than its fair value and threw away an average  
07 net profit of \$150,000 a year for the city on land that  
08 increased in value each year for a current income of  
09 only \$50 to \$60,000, and Scranton no longer owns the  
10 land.

11 Mr. Doherty promised to put the  
12 money from the golf course sale into an irrevocable  
13 trust for the benefit of the people. To this day, no  
14 trust has been created. Does Ms. Kearn believe it is  
15 legitimate for the people to criticize Mr. Doherty for  
16 this conduct?

17 Perhaps Ms. Kearn could write  
18 another letter to the Scranton Times and tell the  
19 people what she would have done in this situation.  
20 No. 2, is it legitimate for  
21 citizens to criticize Mr. Doherty, when in his job  
22 performance he sold the highly utilized South Side  
23 Sports Complex out from under the people for less than  
24 its fair market value, only to plug a hole in his  
25 falsely constructed budget?

0051

01 No. 3, does Ms. Kearn object to  
02 the fact that citizens criticize Mr. Doherty because  
03 for three and one half years they tried to contact him  
04 or members of his administration concerning safety or  
05 hazardous condition in their neighborhoods or just to  
06 obtain general information and did not even receive the  
07 courtesy of a reply or a returned phone call?

08 The facts show the people then  
09 have no alternative it but to come to City Council to  
10 air their grievances and seek relief.

11 Based on these facts, would  
12 Ms. Kearn have done nothing, or would she have tried to  
13 obtain help with her grievances?

14 No. 4, the facts show that for  
15 three and one half years, the people asked Mr. Doherty  
16 and his administration to provide them with an  
17 accounting of how much money was spent on Nay Aug Park  
18 and its fish pond, what work was done for the money  
19 paid and to whom the money was paid.

20 The facts also show the people  
21 were stonewalled at all times because Mr. Doherty gave  
22 no information on this subject. Does Ms. Kearn believe  
23 under these facts that it is improper for the people to  
24 criticize Mr. Doherty for his continuous silence and  
25 stonewalling conduct?

0052

01 No. 5, would Ms. Kearn believe it  
02 is legitimate for Scrantonians of all types to voice  
03 their grievances to City Council and on Channel 61,  
04 when they receive no satisfaction or even empathy or  
05 even any communication from Mr. Doherty on their  
06 concerns or grievances?  
07 I believe that the 2005 primary  
08 election results show Mr. Doherty did not have a cake  
09 walk for re-election, he and the Scranton Times  
10 predicted, so now there is a partial transformation in  
11 the Doherty administration because the people send him  
12 a message, in that there should be some administration  
13 openness and communication for the people.

14 Now for the first time in four  
15 years, members of the administration appear before  
16 City Council to answer questions and try to show a  
17 friendly face. Obviously the new conduct is  
18 politically driven.

19 I'll stop here and continue next  
20 week with my questions on the comments of Ms. Kearn's  
21 letter to the editor, and in the next week, I will now  
22 continue to state factual incidents for Ms. Kearn to  
23 determine if the people act properly when they speak  
24 against Mr. Doherty. Thank you.

25 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you. And the  
0053

01 last person on the sign-sheet is Fred Budzinski.

02 MR. BUDZINSKI: Well, to start off  
03 on the tree house at Nay Aug Park.

04 MR. DIBILEO: Mr. Budzinski, just  
05 for record, if you can give your name and address.

06 MR. BUDZINSKI: Oh, I'm sorry. I  
07 apologize. Fred Budzinski, Jermyn Apartment.

08 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.

09 MR. BUDZINSKI: The tree house at  
10 Nay Aug Park, most of us seniors living in Scranton  
11 don't drive cars to drive up and sit in that tree  
12 house, most important than that than the tree house,  
13 are the benches in 100 block of Wyoming Avenue bus  
14 tops.

15 That petition going around is

16 mostly signed by senior citizens. They have over 275  
17 names on that petition. Now, last week I saw, not in  
18 the same day, I saw a woman and a man on crutches that  
19 were waiting for a bus.

20 And I walked up to them and I  
21 said, It would be nice for benches. Well, you could  
22 hear them about not having benches downtown.  
23 Now, it seems to us seniors, we  
24 have to take a back seat and not been seen, and come  
25 the first of a new year, these seniors, they're going  
0054

01 to receive a \$4 or \$5 increase in their Social  
02 Security, and while our career politicians in  
03 Harrisburg can negotiate their own raises and patting  
04 themselves on the back and congratulating each other on  
05 their \$18,000 raise, plus all those other fringe  
06 benefits. I consider this, and many seniors consider  
07 this, an insult.

08 I hear some of these people coming  
09 up here talking about the city having one newspaper and  
10 we don't get a balanced news, and the editorial page,  
11 when some of our citizens are writing to the  
12 Scranton Times, in this case, if one of the  
13 Times Leaders are listening, we have a lot of empty  
14 buildings up here and KOZ, and if you open an office  
15 up, you can probably get 13 years free rent.

16 Also, you can send a reporter down to the Council  
17 meetings and we'll get balanced news.

18 When I worked in Bethlehem, the  
19 Allentown Morning Call Paper had an office in Bethlehem  
20 and they would print the news of Bethlehem in their  
21 Bethlehem section. This is something to think about.

22 Thank you.

23 MR. BUDZINSKI: Thank you,

24 Mr. Budzinski.

25 MR. NARSAVITCH: Stan Narsavitch,  
0055

01 resident of Scranton, taxpayer, overtaxed taxpayer.  
02 Last Thursday when I come out of the house to check the  
03 mail in the mailbox, there were two patrolman walking  
04 up the street, and I walked and introduced myself, and  
05 they said that they were beat patrolman,  
06 Officer Conroy and Officer Phillips.

07 And I said, What is this something  
08 new? And he said, Well, your playground back here was  
09 almost demolished last night on Dorothy Street.

10 Now, what he said what it was

11 spray painted very badly and that they cleaned it up

12 and we were going to have beat people walking the beat  
13 every day, and in fact he said they were even going to  
14 add another car up here.

15 Along with that, I think it was  
16 Officer Conroy said that they have a program now where  
17 they're training more people in the city so that we can  
18 have more beat people. Are you aware of that,  
19 Mr. Courtright?

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: I think what  
21 they're trying to do is get back to the complement of  
22 CommD officers that they had before. I don't think  
23 there's a full complement just yet, but I guess they're  
24 training them.

25 MR. NARSAVITCH: The point I want  
0056

01 to make is, a lot of people refer to these gatherings  
02 or gangs or whatever you want to call them as 10 and 12  
03 and 13-year-old kids, but next year they're going to  
04 be 14 to 15, and the year after that they're going to  
05 be 16 and 17, and they won't be spray painting if  
06 nothing is done about this, and I don't see much being  
07 done.

08 They'll be doing bigger and better  
09 thing, for a better way to put it. And that's what I  
10 basically came here to say, but because Mr. Fiorini is  
11 here, I want to bring up another point.

12 Two weeks ago I came down to City  
13 Hall to check on a permit, went upstairs to the permit  
14 department and asked about a property at 435 North  
15 Webster Avenue.

16 A company bought that property and  
17 they're changing two apartments, it's a duplex up and  
18 down, and they're changing two apartments, two  
19 four-room apartments into multi-arrangements for  
20 students. There's a large sign on the front of the  
21 house that says student renting.

22 Now, the gentleman that my nephew  
23 and I met with was one of the partners in this company  
24 that bought it, and he told us that they were going to  
25 change those apartments into -- they planned on getting  
0057

01 seven or eight students in each one of those four room  
02 apartments.

03 Now, I don't know what the rules  
04 are on changing a four-room apartment into a  
05 multi-resident establishment, meant I don't know if  
06 there is any rules, however, the rent that my nephew  
07 was paying there before he got evicted was \$410 a

08 month.

09 This gentleman told him that he  
10 was going to get \$790 a month out of that apartment,  
11 plus the one upstairs.

12 When I came down here to find out  
13 about permits, there were no permits listed. They're  
14 doing multi-thousands of dollars worth of repairs.  
15 They're partitioning the rooms upstairs, and my nephew  
16 was just forced out, evicted Sunday, so they're going  
17 to start on the first floor, I would imagine.

18 Now, I don't know if they have  
19 permits now, I haven't checked in the two weeks, but  
20 also there's no fire escape on the second floor, and I  
21 think that that's kind of important if they're going to  
22 have students on the second, and it's a front door  
23 entrance into a -- the stairs go up to the second  
24 floor. If there's a fire in the front of the building,  
25 you're lost on the second floor.

0058

01 And besides that, there is also  
02 asbestos covering the heating pipes in the basement.  
03 Now, I would really like to see something done, where  
04 this job should be shut down or something put in order  
05 or whatever I could get done. Can I get some help?

06 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.

07 MS. EVANS: Yes. We can have

08 Mr. Fiorini look into all of this, if he hasn't  
09 already. He's here today.

10 MR. NARSAVITCH: That's why I'm  
11 speaking, because Mr. Fiorini is here. I wasn't going  
12 to.

13 MR. DIBILEO: That's something  
14 maybe he can help you with, Stan, and maybe he can look  
15 into that situation for you. Thank you.

16 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,  
17 citizen of Scranton, well, actually Main Avenue in  
18 Scranton. As you know, the best thing I heard was  
19 you're going to keep these meetings going.

20 Have you met with your fellow  
21 Councilman McTiernan about the free swimming up at  
22 Nay Aug? He said that he would go along with it if a  
23 few conditions were met, has anybody met with him?  
24 You heard him state that he was in favor of it under  
25 certain conditions.

0059

01 MR. DIBILEO: Yeah, I haven't  
02 spoken to him about that matter, I don't know if anyone  
03 else has.



04 MR. SBARAGLIA: Because we still  
05 have a month to go, and we don't need another public  
06 meeting, we already had one, so if you can get in touch  
07 with him, draw up what his objections are and get it up  
08 to the mayor, at least we can get a few weeks free for  
09 the kids.

10 MS. EVANS: Mr. Sbaraglia, though,  
11 was that concerning Nay Aug or the neighborhood pools?

12 MR. SBARAGLIA: The neighborhood  
13 pools.

14 MS. EVANS: Okay.

15 MR. SBARAGLIA: Exactly what  
16 you -- what he went against, okay?

17 MS. EVANS: Yes.

18 MR. SBARAGLIA: That letter of  
19 credit with the SRA, did Jay ever get any information  
20 on it?

21 MR. SAUNDERS: We've had this  
22 debate in our office over the last week discussing  
23 that. Can you restate the question that you're  
24 asking?

25 MR. SBARAGLIA: The SRA came out  
0060  
01 with an audit. Nowhere in that audit was the \$12  
02 million letter of credit stated, and I was wondering  
03 why it wasn't in the audit. The bond was in the audit,  
04 but not the letter of credit.

05 MR. SAUNDERS: What letter of  
06 credit?

07 MR. SBARAGLIA: The one we gave  
08 them when we mortgaged our parking meters.

09 MS. EVANS: It's for the parking  
10 garage.

11 MR. SAUNDERS: We actually had  
12 that confused with the lease back deal.

13 MR. SBARAGLIA: No, that's a  
14 different letter of creditor. You've got to keep these  
15 letter of credits in order.

16 MR. SAUNDERS: Yeah, I talked to  
17 Bill Shayne about that from the SRA, and he actually  
18 gave me the heads up on where that actually happened.  
19 I'm sorry I had that mixed up, but I will have that  
20 answer.

21 MR. SBARAGLIA: Okay. Thank God  
22 we got more meetings to go, we can find out about it.

23 MS. EVANS: I think it's with PNC  
24 Bank, Jay.

25 MR. SBARAGLIA: The South Side

0061

01 Complex, you know that Judge Walsh said it can go  
02 ahead. Now, I don't know, well, I don't think maybe  
03 any of you are old enough to remember when  
04 Mayor Walsh was in, he did sell one of our parks, he  
05 sold the Oxford Plot between Oxford Street and  
06 Luzerne Avenue, so he has a history of saying that  
07 parks can be sold. I just want that known.

08 Okay. Let's go to this

09 Lackawanna Avenue project, okay, that's coming up,  
10 too. That's \$200,000 that we're going to be obligated  
11 for. I guess it's going to come out of CommD funds if  
12 this thing goes through, something that I believe the  
13 state is giving them, like, \$600,000 or something, and  
14 we're supposed to come up with 20 percent of it. I  
15 guess you don't know much about --

16 MR. DIBILEO: That's the 500 block  
17 of Lackawanna Avenue project, Andy?

18 MR. SBARAGLIA: Right, with the  
19 state, I believe. The Department of Transportation and  
20 so forth. Anyway, that's in there, but we have to come  
21 up with, I think, 20 percent of the project. Where is  
22 that money coming from, being we really don't have it?

23 Well, let's get on to the

24 Artspace, is that a loan or a grant?

25 MS. EVANS: That's a grant.

0062

01 MR. SBARAGLIA: That means they do  
02 not have to pay it back.

03 MS. EVANS: That's correct.

04 MR. SBARAGLIA: But when they gave  
05 a letter to us stating, I received your dated letter  
06 July 25, 2005, they call it comprehensive housing  
07 rehabilitation loan program, why is it a loan program  
08 for the people and a grant for this art form?

09 MR. DIBILEO: We really can't  
10 answer that, to be honest with you.

11 MR. SBARAGLIA: Well, I suggest  
12 being that you're going to come back another week, hold  
13 it and find out, is this a loan or a grant so everybody  
14 knows that we do have money to give away, but we don't  
15 have money for the kids or we don't have money for the  
16 neighborhoods.

17 Grants we can't give to the people  
18 that were flooded, we were giving them loans.

19 Something is wrong with this.

20 MR. DIBILEO: We'll find that out  
21 for you, Mr. Sbaraglia.

22 MS. EVANS: I agree with you, but  
23 this, I believe, came from 2004 allocations for home  
24 investment and the home shelter programs and the funds  
25 had they never been used, why, I don't know, but they  
0063

01 were pulled from those accounts, OECD, Ms. Hailstone,  
02 and then designated into this new account, which would  
03 fund the predevelopment phase of Artspace.

04 MR. SBARAGLIA: I understand that,  
05 but it's coming out as a grant, when under the other  
06 funds to go to the people it was loan. Why should it  
07 come to the people as a loan and to Artspace as a  
08 grant? That's what I want to know.

09 MS. EVANS: Well, we'll find that  
10 out.

11 MR. SBARAGLIA: Because people  
12 deserve -- do you know how many floods we had since  
13 2004? That's a crime. That OECD should be -- should  
14 belong to the people of Scranton. That money -- most  
15 of that money should go there. That was quick. Thank  
16 you.

17 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,  
18 Mr. Sbaraglia.

19 MR. FIORINI: Good afternoon,  
20 Council.

21 MR. DIBILEO: Good afternoon.

22 MS. EVANS: Hello.

23 MR. FIORINI: My name is  
24 Bill Fiorini, director of permits, licenses and  
25 inspection.

0064

01 Last Council meeting that we had  
02 there was concerns about Daron Products and they read a  
03 materials safety data sheet.

04 Before I get into that, prior to  
05 the late 1978, there were no material data sheets.  
06 Construction workers and people that work with products  
07 did not know the hazards of that products, and a lot of  
08 workers, as myself, ended up with lung diseases,  
09 cancer, and etc.

10 So, the federal government and  
11 OSHA came out that every product that's being  
12 manufactured had to have an MSDS sheet, all right? And  
13 that helps out, not only the worker working with the  
14 product, tells him what he has to wear for safety for  
15 it, it also if something happens to the worker or the  
16 person using that product, if they take them to the  
17 hospital, the doctors know how to treat him because

18 there's a data sheet on it.  
19 Also for firemen, if there's a  
20 fire and there's products in the building, they know  
21 what they have to do because they have the data sheet.  
22 Now, going back to Daron, it was  
23 stating, you know, the hazards of a product, but the  
24 only time there was a hazard with that product, which  
25 wasn't read here, is that these hazard components are  
0065  
01 not released under normal conditions of use, but may be  
02 released from the fire clay brick as airborne  
03 respiratory free crystallin silica particles when  
04 drying, sawing, dry grinding or otherwise material  
05 modifying the product, but that's the only time you can  
06 have a hazard.  
07 You have for Portland cement that  
08 we use for concrete blocks, Portland cement has three  
09 hazards, in the powder form it can give you bronchitis  
10 breathing in the dust. When you wet it and mix it, you  
11 can get third degree burns from a product.  
12 Now, when a product becomes a hard  
13 state and you cut it with a saw and not wet saw, you  
14 got dust, you breathe that in, it can cause you lung  
15 problems.  
16 I mean, it's the same thing with a  
17 cigarette, you have a filter, you have the paper and  
18 you have the tobacco. In that state, there's nothing  
19 wrong with that product, but the minute you light it,  
20 you can have problems with it.  
21 And so, too, with all types of  
22 products. In your home you have Formica, you may have  
23 Corian. When you work with that product, if you don't  
24 wear proper face gear and breathing apparatus, you can  
25 end up with lung cancer or bronchitis, tuberculosis  
0066  
01 from using the product.  
02 So, that's what the material data  
03 sheets were brought on for. And I would like to ask  
04 anyone from Council to come with me to Daron Products  
05 into their manufacturing plant and show you that it is  
06 safe. I've been in there, and it is really safe. So,  
07 just give me a call and make an appointment, we'll go  
08 in and take a look at it.  
09 MS. EVANS: Thank you.  
10 MR. FIORINI: That's all I have.  
11 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,  
12 Mr. Fiorini. If there's no future speakers -- are  
13 there anyone else?

14 MR. SAUNDERS: Mr. President,  
15 quickly on that Artspace, I just discussed that with  
16 Kevin Wilson, he said that, I do hope I explain this  
17 right, that with the comprehensive rehabilitation  
18 program, \$125,000, a person is given that money. If  
19 within five years the title doesn't switch hands, that  
20 they're forgiven of that \$125,000, so that is a loan --  
21 it starts off as a loan, and then after five years, the  
22 title doesn't switch hands, then it will be a grant,  
23 they don't end up paying the city back.

24 And the same case with Artspace,  
25 that it's falling under the same format, and they will  
0067

01 not have to pay that money back.

02 MR. DIBILEO: Maybe you can  
03 provide that to Mr. Sbaraglia. I know he's interested  
04 if that, Jay.

05 MR. SAUNDERS: Yes, I will.

06 MR. DIBILEO: He might even be  
07 able to speak with the person at OECD that you talked  
08 to. Thank you. Go right ahead. I'm sorry.

09 MS. LEIGHTON: I'm Mrs. Leighton  
10 from Scranton, and seeing I just got here late because  
11 I have no car, and I'm here because I ran into a  
12 problem last week. I live on 1717 Monroe Avenue  
13 directly behind Moses Taylor Hospital Parking lot, and  
14 for a couple of days there was signs posted and it said  
15 no parking 8/3, okay?

16 And we were all aware of it, that  
17 we weren't to park there then. On 7/28, which was  
18 Thursday, I was out for the day because we're moving,  
19 and I didn't get in until late that night.  
20 I went out the next morning to get  
21 my car, and it's gone, along with my mother-in-law's,  
22 who's 80-some-years-old, disabled, my husband's, who's  
23 disabled, my car.

24 I have ten prescriptions I'm on  
25 for my health, I'm not supposed to be walking in this  
0068

01 heat. My car is gone. So, I thought, well, I called  
02 down to City Hall. I spoke to a Mr. Masters, and I  
03 want you to understand, I was very upset, extremely  
04 upset. Three vehicles, gone.

05 And he took it as I was arguing  
06 with him. Hung up in my ear. I called him back. I  
07 said, Excuse me. Did you just hang up in my ear? He  
08 said, Yes, I did, and I'll do it again.

09 I said, Okay. He said, Legally he

10 said all we have to do is given you 24 hours' notice,  
11 he said that sign was posted -- the date on the sign  
12 was changed as of yesterday at twelve noon.  
13 And I said, Well, can you tell me  
14 if anybody else in the neighborhood has called, you  
15 know, has there been anybody else upset their cars are  
16 gone? Oh, yeah, we had calls from the hospitals and,  
17 you know, people.  
18 So, I got off the phone with him  
19 and I called Moses Taylor and I spoke to Roy Woods, who  
20 said, go ahead, use my name. I don't know if he's a  
21 police officer or security officer.  
22 He said, you know what,  
23 Mrs. Leighton, we had no idea this was going down  
24 either. We all thought 8/3, too. He said the reason  
25 that our workers didn't lose their cars is because the  
0069  
01 man that works in the garage called up and said, Guess  
02 what, they're down here towing the vehicles.  
03 Scranton Police gave them enough  
04 of time. One man, who was being treated at the  
05 hospital, got ticketed. I said, Okay. And, you know,  
06 what time would you say they were out there towing the  
07 vehicles. He said, About seven, maybe before. Not 24  
08 hours then, obviously, okay? Because I was out there  
09 at eleven.  
10 I proceeded to call down to  
11 Council, I thought, well, maybe -- I watch the meetings  
12 every week, I'm aware of what is going on in the city,  
13 you know, my mother-in-law has worked her whole life  
14 and still working and paying taxes and paying taxes on  
15 her home. My husband had a used appliance business,  
16 worked all his life.  
17 So, I watch the meetings and I'm  
18 aware of what is going or down here, so I asked to  
19 speak to Mr. DiBileo or Mrs. Evans, and neither one of  
20 you were in, and I understood that, but I left a  
21 message. I called all three news stations, were all  
22 behind me on this, and came to be four o'clock, I  
23 couldn't get anywhere anymore.  
24 So, I got up the next morning and  
25 I started all over again. Now, my husband paid to get  
0070  
01 the car and my mother-in-law, but that's money that we  
02 don't have to pay my rent now, thank you very much. I  
03 don't know how I'm going to move.  
04 So, I started the next morning, I  
05 thought, okay, you know, I was angry yesterday and I

06 was upset, maybe I'm going to calm down and try to get  
07 somewhere and be a decent human being, maybe I'll get  
08 somewhere.

09 I went around. I must have talked  
10 to 20 different people. I called DPW, I was told to  
11 call, I spoke to Neil in the office, and later in the  
12 day there was a different secretary, and every one of  
13 them sympathized with me.

14 I've even had remarks say, Well,  
15 welcome to Scranton. And I spoke to the Sergeant over  
16 at the police station, I said, you know, could you tell  
17 me, you know, who did this? I have no idea, Mrs.  
18 Leighton.

19 I said -- he question -- I said,  
20 You know, nobody. If you can go to the garage, why  
21 couldn't you just let one neighbor know, just one  
22 neighbor? I would have been more than happy to go door  
23 to door and let the neighbors know, but we didn't know.

24 MR. DIBILEO: When did the towing  
25 occur?

0071

01 MS. LEIGHTON: 728, but the sign  
02 for days said 8/3. This was posted as of noon, the day  
03 before.

04 MR. COURTRIGHT: Did you get any  
05 calls? I know --

06 MS. LEIGHTON: I spoke to you  
07 before I came, and I wasn't coming, but then I thought  
08 I better.

09 MR. COURTRIGHT: I know I spoke to  
10 you earlier today.

11 MS. LEIGHTON: Yes.

12 MR. COURTRIGHT: I didn't realize  
13 100 percent of what you're saying, when they towed your  
14 car, did anybody try to call your home?

15 MS. LEIGHTON: Nothing.

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: Because I know a  
17 lot of times they do that.

18 MS. LEIGHTON: And the reason I  
19 know this to be a fact is because I did before -- I  
20 thought, I'm not going to go on just what I'm, you  
21 know, just me.

22 I called the hospital, I spoke to  
23 an administrator, I spoke to the man over there who  
24 told me, they were as much, you know, in confusion.  
25 Scranton Police didn't know.

0072

01 MR. COURTRIGHT: See, a lot of

02 times the police will call you before they tow it.  
03 MR. LEIGHTON: Yeah, but  
04 understandably, not even the -- Sergeant Thomas didn't  
05 know about it either. He said, Ma'am, he said, I have  
06 no idea.  
07 MR. DIBILEO: Now, do you have  
08 your car back, Mrs. Leighton?  
09 MS. LEIGHTON: I don't have a car.  
10 I walked down here.  
11 MR. DIBILEO: Now, if it could be  
12 verified that you didn't get the proper notification,  
13 we've got to get your car back, and it shouldn't cost  
14 you ten cents.  
15 MS. LEIGHTON: You know, and I  
16 need to be able to have my mother-in-law and my husband  
17 reimbursed. They're on fixed incomes, you know? We  
18 have to live for the rest of the month.  
19 MR. DIBILEO: If you didn't get  
20 proper notification, that has to be rectified  
21 immediately.  
22 MS. LEIGHTON: You know, I'm here  
23 because, you know, I do know what goes on and I know  
24 who, you know, will give you the respect to listen to  
25 you, and that's just you guys up there.  
0073  
01 MR. DIBILEO: Well, let me ask  
02 Mr. Saunders, Jay, I need you to speak to Mrs. Leighton  
03 now outside the Council chambers, if you could, find  
04 out who you need to talk to to get her vehicle back to  
05 her, and she hasn't been notified apparently 24 hours  
06 in advance of her vehicle being towed. If that's the  
07 case, make sure she gets it back and doesn't pay  
08 anything.  
09 MS. EVANS: Also, as Mr. DiBileo  
10 indicated if that's the case, where we will obtain the  
11 reimbursement from, for her two other family members  
12 whose cars were towed. They've paid to have them  
13 released. But if this has all been conducted in an  
14 improper fashion, then they have to be reimbursed.  
15 MR. DIBILEO: Why don't you take a  
16 few minutes now and meet with her.  
17 MS. LEIGHTON: I do know there was  
18 a lot of car towed. My husband knows Morealle, he went  
19 to school with him, and he had questioned him, he said,  
20 they had piles of cars. They had -- the cars were in  
21 three different places, because that's how many  
22 vehicles were towed. They had to put them all around.  
23 I don't know where my car is at.



24 MR. DIBILEO: Maybe we can make  
25 arrangements to give you a ride home.  
0074

01 MS. LEIGHTON: I really appreciate  
02 everything that you've done for me. Thank you very  
03 much.

04 MR. DIBILEO: Maybe we'll get you  
05 a ride home, also.

06 MS. BRACH: Hi, my name is  
07 Arlene Brach, Scranton resident. I'm up here for one  
08 issue one and one issue only, it's to get our  
09 neighborhoods back.

10 I echo the complaints of many of  
11 the people today. We do not have adequate police  
12 protection, we have people coming in from out of town  
13 that are destroying our neighborhoods. People are  
14 afraid to sit on their porches, they are afraid to  
15 leave their homes for any period of time, fearing  
16 destruction of their property, theft, or in some cases,  
17 their land is stolen with illegal offenses.

18 So, I'm here to ask you somehow  
19 find the money. I know that would be EMS, if it was  
20 provided. If the EMS did bring in the money, that  
21 possibly 20 police officers could be put on the force,  
22 that would be their salaries, plus their pension  
23 benefits, plus other benefits.

24 And I'm a member of a taxpayers  
25 group, I'm not really asking for a tax, but we need the  
0075

01 protection. South Side, I was at the gang meeting at  
02 the Scranton Tech High School, and it saddened me. Two  
03 cars are not enough for South Side. We have  
04 North Scranton, South, West, and East Scranton.

05 They have two cars per shift  
06 allocated to each section of the city. If they have an  
07 extra car, they put it in Green Ridge, and South Side,  
08 as what I've witnessed last week and in our own  
09 neighborhood, two cars is not enough.

10 You have an accident -- we  
11 witnessed an accident on the way coming, a  
12 tractor-trailer accident, coming here to the meeting  
13 this morning, so there has to be a way that we protect  
14 our city.

15 We're worried about gangs, we're  
16 worried about drugs. If drugs aren't knocking at your  
17 door right now, they're going to be knocking at it  
18 tomorrow. So, we are not coloring -- or groups of  
19 people, we have groups of people in our own

20 neighborhood, and possibly next door to you that are  
21 possible targets for gangs or they're in a gang already  
22 or they're selling the drugs.  
23 So, that is why I'm here. I want  
24 my neighborhood back, I want people to be helpful as  
25 they were when I was growing up, and if there's any way  
0076  
01 we can find any kind of money.  
02 If we can put all this money in  
03 Nay Aug, if we can have the littered signs that say  
04 Mayor Doherty all over the place, we have money for the  
05 police department.  
06 I also ask, I know this is a union  
07 issue with the police department, that they have  
08 reserves, we need -- our police officers are under  
09 tremendous stress, we need the beat cop back so they  
10 feel the heartbeat of our neighborhood. They have to  
11 feel it. They have to witness what goes on there on a  
12 daily basis, and we don't have that.  
13 We would like to have that back.  
14 Reserve officers where they are educated by older  
15 officers that say, Hey, this could be going on. They  
16 tell us one thing, but they're at least objective  
17 enough to find out what is really going on in our  
18 neighborhood.  
19 And we've got to have the people  
20 who are the gossipers of our neighborhood, instead of  
21 being the first one out there when we call the fire  
22 department because we smell smoke, they should be out  
23 there making the same phone call.  
24 So, I'm here a little bit stressed  
25 because of what we're seeing in our neighborhood.  
0077  
01 Going with that meeting, I echo all these complaints of  
02 everyone who we feel as citizens of this community.  
03 And to make it this great community, we need  
04 protection. We need help. We desperately need help,  
05 and that's why I'm here. Thank you.  
06 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,  
07 Ms. Brach.  
08 MS. EVANS: Thank you.  
09 MR. GERVASI: Good afternoon,  
10 ladies and gentlemen. My name is Dave Gervasi, I'm a  
11 member of the fire department, taxpayer and homeowner  
12 and resident of the city.  
13 MR. DIBILEO: Good afternoon.  
14 MR. GERVASI: There's a lot of  
15 talk here today about crime, and I remember just a few

16 months ago before the election that the mayor was  
17 saying that crime was down, I remember other  
18 city officials saying that there are no gangs.  
19 Fantasy? Yeah, I think it is for political reasons.  
20 But I do want everyone to know  
21 that in the Scranton Times-SundayTimes July 17, they're  
22 all worrying about, they want to increase patrols and  
23 work done on gangs and drugs, I want to be perfectly  
24 clear that this is a quote, both Chief Elliott and  
25 Ray Hayes, the city's public safety director, said that  
0078

01 there are no plans to increase patrols.  
02 As a city, we are not currently in  
03 a position to hire more officers. I guess we're in a  
04 position to build tree houses, but we're not going to  
05 hire any more police officers.  
06 There's only one way you can  
07 rectify this, I don't want to be political and make a  
08 political statement.  
09 A few other things I wanted to  
10 mention, because it has been very frustrating, I know  
11 for a lot of our members in the fire department, the  
12 things that are going on in this campaign, and I'm  
13 going to try no to make this too political, but we're  
14 very cynical, and as things fall into place, it's very  
15 transparent and very obvious to us that the people are  
16 being lied to, and they're creating this imagery of  
17 this wonderful thing that's going on with this  
18 administration, and as far as I'm concerned, I've been  
19 calling it a facade for years, because it looks real  
20 pretty on the outside, but when you walk through the  
21 front door, there's nothing to back it up and you find  
22 out the things in the background.  
23 But I was really interested to see  
24 a gentleman who wrote in the mail bag this morning, and  
25 I love the timing of it, because knowing that the  
0079

01 Council meeting was today, the morning paper, they have  
02 this guy in there, and by the way, if anybody has  
03 noticed, it seems to be an orchestrated effort of the  
04 mayor and this administration to get people to write  
05 in, because just about every other day somebody is  
06 praising him in the mail bags. So, it seems obvious to  
07 me. Maybe it's just a coincidence, but it just seems  
08 obvious to me that they're orchestrating all these mail  
09 bag letters.  
10 But it was pretty cool today,  
11 because it says, I applaud Mayor Chris Doherty for

12 making the river a high priority of this  
13 administration. I hope The Times-Tribune will continue  
14 to monitor and report progress being made toward  
15 revitalizing the Lackawanna.

16 Pretty interesting, since I was  
17 made aware last week that in 19, I believe '88 or '89,  
18 the zoo closed, and everybody thought it was for  
19 financial reasons, apparently the zoo closed because  
20 the zoo wasn't hooked up to our sewer system and the  
21 city didn't want to spend the money to hook it up to  
22 the sewer system or do pumping stations or things like  
23 that. That's why the Zoo actually closed.

24 Well, it came to my attention that  
25 all of the, I'm sorry to say this, fecal material and  
0080

01 urine and waste products from that zoo from sometimes  
02 sick animals that are being rehabilitated up there are  
03 running down out of an open pipe to the Davis Trail  
04 next to the new playground where we have kids playing,  
05 and eventually into Roaring Brook, raw sewage from the  
06 zoo.

07 I didn't believe it, and I started  
08 reading some things on certain websites, and apparently  
09 I saw the pictures with own two eyes.

10 Now, my concern is they -- did  
11 they know about it? Did they know this wasn't hooked  
12 up to a sewer system? Well, apparently there was work  
13 done on this pipe last year when they opened the zoo,  
14 and city workers actually put planks over the Davis  
15 Trail so people wouldn't step in this fecal material.

16 So, it's kind of funny how one of  
17 the mayor's supporters says that he applauds the mayor  
18 for, you know, making the river a top priority, when in  
19 the same respect we have raw sewage running next to a  
20 playground across the Davis Trail and into Roaring  
21 Brook. It's kind of funny.

22 I also liked, because I love to  
23 beat up on the newspaper, because they're very easy to  
24 do, because every week it just gives us more material,  
25 it seems that Random Notes, as a matter of fact, I even  
0081

01 see Borys here today, because there is no one named  
02 Rodderick Random, that's just kind of a fake name, I  
03 guess they're using Random Notes now for political  
04 editorials that are favorable to the mayor, and that  
05 was kind of interesting. What's next?

06 And the other thing that's been  
07 bothering a lot of my members, and one of my good

08 friends Paul, he's a Scranton fireman, and he kind of  
09 sent me this Email, and it was kind of interesting that  
10 we have all these signs around the city going, Thank  
11 You Mayor Doherty For Restoring Nay Aug, Thank You  
12 Mayor Doherty for this and that, and he had a good idea  
13 here, he said, Maybe we should have some signs made up  
14 that says, Thank you Mayor Doherty for charging our  
15 kids to swim; thank you Mayor Doherty for spending the  
16 \$700,000 deposit from the South Side Complex and not  
17 escrowing it like it was supposed to be; thank you  
18 Mayor Doherty for not putting the golf course money  
19 where it was supposed to be; thank you for increasing  
20 the city's payroll of non-union people with giant  
21 raises to the tune of \$3.3 million so far, instead of  
22 giving the people tax relief; thank you for letting  
23 certain administrative members live outside the city,  
24 when everyone else has to live here; thank you for not  
25 letting the fire department do emergency medical  
0082

01 responses to save lives; thank you for paying  
02 \$1.5 million for the old Casey parcel that could have  
03 been the city's for free; thank you for all the no-bid  
04 contracts that you gave to campaign contributors; thank  
05 you for letting us pay twice for the new DPW facility;  
06 thank you for giving the park to the SRA, but not the  
07 bills; thank you for losing our pothole filling  
08 machine; thank you for not installing computers in the  
09 police cars; thank you for violating contracts; thank  
10 you for circumventing our system of government by  
11 directing our tax dollars to authorities so that he can  
12 do with the money which he pleases. It goes on and  
13 on, and I will finish next week. Thank you,  
14 Mr. DiBileo.

15 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.

16 MS. KRAKE: Good afternoon,  
17 Council. My name is Nancy Krake, and I'm a Scranton  
18 resident, and I would like to say thank you to Council  
19 for being here through the month of August.  
20 Obviously we need your help very  
21 much. Very apparent by all the speakers that are here  
22 tonight -- or this afternoon that enlightened us and  
23 the way you helped several of them, and I think even  
24 the mayor's appreciating it, because Cathryn Simmons  
25 was called out of the, meeting I don't know if you  
0083

01 noticed, by a Scranton police officer, and I witnessed  
02 her in the hallway showing her pictures to him.  
03 So, once again, they must have

04 been watching on their television sets, like Ray Hayes  
05 did.  
06 This afternoon I'd like to talk  
07 about 7-B and 7-C that are on the agenda, and that's  
08 the Office of Economic and Community Development or  
09 OECD, currently is responsible for the loans, the  
10 community reinvestment fund wants to purchase.  
11 The office of OECD under this  
12 administration has received over a half a million  
13 dollars in salary increases and new jobs. They have  
14 also outsourced several of the programs previously  
15 provided in-house.  
16 With all the praise heaped upon  
17 the administrator's of OECD, mostly by public relations  
18 firm of Gibbons, it would seem they would be able to do  
19 the work that was done by this office in the past, but,  
20 no, they just get lots more money for lots less work.  
21 If this passes, they will have  
22 even less responsibilities. Very typical of how this  
23 administration has squandered our tax dollars.  
24 Another trademark of this  
25 administration and its mayor are one-time revenue  
0084  
01 sources. After criticizing Mayor Connors for  
02 considering the selling of assets, this mayor has  
03 become the king of selling off the City of Scranton.  
04 Here again he's taking our most  
05 secure loans and selling them off to a company that  
06 just fell into our lap. No one knows who contacted  
07 them originally. This just seems a little suspicious.  
08 Also, the mayor has never  
09 indicated what he would do with his money. If his past  
10 practices are any indication, you might just as well  
11 start calling this the City of Nay Aug.  
12 Once again, I feel the worse part  
13 of selling our loans is the selling off of the asset of  
14 our revolving loan program. We are eliminating the  
15 ability of businesses to access these funds in the  
16 future.  
17 This administration seems to make  
18 a habit of enacting policies that benefit a few at the  
19 expense of everyone else. Thank you.  
20 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you. Thank  
21 you. If there's no further speakers.  
22 MR. WALSH: 5-A, Motions.  
23 MR. DIBILEO: Yes, Mrs. Evans, do  
24 you have any motions or comments today?  
25 MS. EVANS: Yes. Thank you.

0085

01 Mr. Saunders, in light of the fact that Council will  
02 not recess for the month of August, if you would please  
03 schedule that public caucus with Mr. Rossi as soon as  
04 possible in the month of August.

05 Also, if you would contact

06 Mrs. Moran of human resources, please. I'm still  
07 waiting for the information on the individual  
08 Workers' Comp. cases that was requested the evening of  
09 our public caucus.

10 She indicated she had that

11 information with her at that time, Council could have  
12 it immediately following the meeting, nevertheless  
13 we've yet to receive it, and until such time that we  
14 do, I feel I cannot vote on that issue concerning  
15 Workers' Comp., and so it's to their advantage to  
16 forward that information ASAP. Also --

17 MR. DIBILEO: Mrs. Evans, can I

18 excuse me for one second?

19 MS. EVANS: Sure. Also,

20 Mr. Saunders, keeping you busy, I would like to  
21 schedule a caucus with the D.A.'s office and the heads  
22 of all of the Scranton neighborhoods.

23 I do understand there was a

24 meeting which addressed the identification and control  
25 of gang violence within the City of Scranton; however,  
0086

01 I am not certain that the attendance at that meeting

02 was such that the information has been suitably

03 disseminated to our people.

04 I have heard it mentioned that it

05 possibly may be broadcast on Channel 61, but, again, I

06 don't know that the viewership of such meetings can

07 adequately address the problems that we're

08 experiencing, so I would ask that they would come for a

09 public meeting prior to Council's meeting that will be

10 televised as part of that meeting, and that will also

11 enable Council to let the D.A.'s office know that we

12 are very anxious to work hand and hand with them,

13 anything that Council can do to alleviate and solve the

14 problem of gang violence throughout our neighborhoods,

15 Council will certainly take action.

16 Also, I attended a meeting at the

17 South Scranton Neighborhood Association last week, and

18 the members were, of course, celebrating the closing of

19 a nuisance bar, and I think it's very important that

20 the credit goes where it deserves.

21 First of all, and probably most

22 important, the residents of South Side who will testify  
23 at a hearing to be conducted at a future date,  
24 testified to the problems that they have experienced  
25 firsthand, they are to be commended and admired by each  
0087

01 a every one of us, because it's not often that people  
02 have the encourage to take a stand and do what is right  
03 in order to solve a problem, it's a lot easier just to  
04 sit at home and hope that the other guy is going to do  
05 it.

06 Also, I would like to thank the  
07 South Scranton Residents Association, their president,  
08 Mrs. Gatelli, and all of their officers who have worked  
09 tirelessly over the last few years on this issue use,  
10 and very importantly, the D.A.'s office, particularly  
11 emphasis goes to Assistant D.A. Gene Talerico  
12 Patti Lafferty from the Community Justice Program.

13 It's gratifying to know that we  
14 have one government office that isn't burying its head  
15 in the sand over this issue. They've actually picked  
16 their heads up and they recognized a problem, an  
17 ongoing problem over the last, let's say, three, four  
18 years, and they did something about it.

19 I also want to thank the  
20 Community Justice Program in South Side, and especially  
21 Mr. Ben Leo, who devotes so much of his time to that  
22 program. He is certainly to be admired, and I think  
23 maybe even City Council might get a tiny tip of the hat  
24 here, because Council since it took office in 2004, has  
25 made crime one of its priorities. It hasn't been a  
0088

01 political issue, it's been a priority.  
02 Why? Because it's the people's  
03 priority, and Council responds to the people. Council  
04 is the voice of the people, and we go out to those  
05 neighborhood meetings and we listen to what you have to  
06 say.

07 And I believe we're shining a  
08 spotlight on crime in this city each time Council  
09 brought in the neighborhoods, and on more than one  
10 occasion Council brought in the South Side Neighborhood  
11 Association, in conjunction with the District  
12 Attorney's Office and the Community Justice Program for  
13 the discussion of just these issues.

14 So, I think the more people who  
15 work together on a problem, the more rapidly and the  
16 more easily it's going to be solved.

17 I'd also like to let the residents



18 of Park Gardens know that I received the letter they  
19 forwarded to me a few weeks ago, and immediately I  
20 contacted representatives of the Housing Authority to  
21 investigate the situation delineated in the letter, and  
22 I also provided the Housing Authority with copies of  
23 that letter so that they can fully investigate the  
24 issues and concerns that you have raised.

25 Jay, I also need a letter to  
0089

01 Mr. Baker about problems the residents are experiencing  
02 at Genet Street and South Webster Avenue.

03 We had a speaker earlier today,  
04 she's still with us, Mrs. Jones, who spoke very  
05 formidably at that neighborhood meeting about the  
06 intolerable conditions under which she and her  
07 neighbors are being forced to live, and they're  
08 taxpayers of Scranton, and this is nothing against the  
09 Valley View Housing Development, it's not everyone,  
10 it's a handful of people, but the situation has got to  
11 be addressed, and she touched on it earlier, the one  
12 strike you're out policy.

13 I would like Mr. Baker, please, to  
14 investigate that, follow-up on that. It's also my  
15 understanding that once, whether it's an arrest or  
16 conviction has been made that, that individual is no  
17 longer eligible for any type of public housing  
18 funding.

19 In addition to that, there have  
20 been reports that an improper number of tenants can be  
21 residing within certain units, that is, you know,  
22 perhaps significant others, family members who are not  
23 on the original lease or contract, so they need to look  
24 into those situations, as well, because perhaps in some  
25 cases that might, you know, provide a little background  
0090

01 or explanation as to the problems that are going on  
02 there.

03 And in addition to that,  
04 Mrs. Jones also stated that they are using, some of the  
05 residents of Valley View now, are using the paths of  
06 Connell Park to come and go from the backs of their  
07 properties, sometimes trespassing on neighbor's  
08 properties, and as a result, you know, there's a great  
09 deal of damage occurring, and the neighbors are  
10 frightened, and they had to ask that our Parks and Rec.  
11 Department could look into Connell Park and possibly  
12 closing down any pathway by which the Valley View  
13 residents are utilizing a shortcut from their residence

14 down farther into South Side.  
15 So, if we would also send a  
16 letter, please, Jay, to Mr. Scopelliti to take a look  
17 at Connell Park and the complaints of the residents of  
18 Genet street and South Webster Avenue.  
19 He can speak with them, as well.  
20 I'm sure perhaps Mrs. Jones and some of her neighbors  
21 would be more than happy to show him exactly what  
22 they're talking about.  
23 I would also ask that these  
24 photos, and I'm going to circulate them for my  
25 colleagues to see, these photos of Parker Street and  
0091  
01 the flooding that occurs on Parker Street be forwarded  
02 to Mr. Parker.  
03 We did have a caucus where  
04 Mr. Parker addressed possible solutions, let's say,  
05 interim solutions while the flood project is ongoing,  
06 and some of those had been the installation of a flap  
07 gate on a pipe, also the city purchasing industrial  
08 pumps that are tailor made to solve this problem.  
09 So, along with sending these  
10 pictures to Mr. Parker, I'd also like a letter to  
11 Mr. Parker asking if he has researched the pumps, what  
12 the cost will be, because I think the city has to look  
13 at allocating money for such a purpose.  
14 It's obviously a very serious  
15 problem, the flooding is quite high, the manhole covers  
16 are actually coming off from the water pressure  
17 underneath.  
18 I know they are clearing clogged  
19 catch basins over there, but that's certainly very --  
20 we appreciate it, but it's certainly very far from a  
21 complete solution.  
22 And this is something that I don't  
23 think we can afford to ignore any longer. And if you  
24 can impress, please, in that letter upon Mr. Parker  
25 that I'm looking to address this and solve this as soon  
0092  
01 as possible.  
02 And I also have a list of requests  
03 for the week of July 28. Please know that your  
04 requests were submitted last week to all of the proper  
05 departments. They are numerous, they're running -- in  
06 fact they're ever increasing. They're running weekly  
07 well over 20, as Kay knows, and sometimes 25 and 30.  
08 And I think just to point out a  
09 couple here that appear to be safety hazards that need

10 to be addressed immediately, at the corner of  
11 Marvin Street and North Main Avenue, the weeds and  
12 bushes have grown so dense that as a vehicle may come  
13 down Marvin Street and attempt to make a left-hand turn  
14 onto Main Avenue toward Dickson City, visibility is  
15 null and void until you pull yourself halfway out into  
16 the oncoming lane.

17 So, before we have an accident or  
18 a tragedy at that corner, I'm hoping DPW will take care  
19 of that. Also at 918 Monroe, the water ponding in  
20 front there, this is my third request for these  
21 residents, and a third request here on the flooding and  
22 water ponding in the 200 of North Cameron.  
23 And I have another problem here  
24 with Linde Construction. I know there have been issues  
25 raised by myself and others this summer, so I have to  
0093

01 say it's not really surprising to hear this anecdote,  
02 but I'm sure Linde is going to want to address this,  
03 Spring Street and North Main Avenue, after tearing up  
04 the street for utility repairs,  
05 Linde Construction never paved the street, and it's not  
06 something that occurred this summer, but I believe  
07 perhaps a year ago, and the residents are still waiting  
08 for that to happen.

09 So, we need to get in touch with  
10 them very quickly and make sure that this summer they  
11 fulfill the requirements of that job.

12 And at 3209 North Main Avenue,  
13 more photos. The residents there are asking that a  
14 curb be installed. And, again, these are photos of the  
15 debilitating effects on their home and property when  
16 vehicular accidents occur and cars land in their front  
17 yard or actually on the structure itself.

18 And this has been something that's  
19 been going on for about two to three years now, and  
20 they've made many requests of the city for their  
21 assistance, and nothing has been done, and in the  
22 meantime the property damage continues. I'm just very  
23 grateful that the residents themselves were never hurt.

24 MR. DIBILEO: What address is  
25 that?

0094

01 MS. EVANS: 3209. Yes, it's near  
02 Schiff's. 3209 North Main. And there is a very large  
03 pothole, similar to the one on Ross Avenue and  
04 Green Ridge Street that we finally had filled. This is  
05 at 1507 Gardener Avenue.

06 And before like Mrs. Jones,  
07 somebody else blows a tire on that one, hopefully we're  
08 going to get that done, maybe even by next week. And  
09 that's all. Thank you.

10 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you very much,  
11 Mrs. Evans. And these photographs that you provided us  
12 of Parker Street are quite revealing. I didn't realize  
13 the deepness of the water when this actually occurs.  
14 So, Jay, if we can get Mr. Parker on that right away,  
15 I'd appreciate that.

16 Mr. Courtright, any motions or  
17 comments?

18 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes, Mr.  
19 President. Some months back I asked that people that  
20 did have concerns, would they first contact, you know,  
21 the appropriate department, rather than calling us  
22 first, and as you can see, you know, what Mrs. Evans  
23 has read off here today as far as concerns and what you  
24 don't see, what we do behind the scenes, there's a  
25 tremendous amount, and so I ask, you know, call the  
0095

01 appropriate department first.  
02 And just the other day an  
03 individual called me, I said, Well, did you talk to  
04 anybody, other than me? And they said, yeah, that they  
05 did and they weren't treated very kindly.  
06 So, I still recommend that you  
07 call the appropriate department, and then if the  
08 individual doesn't treat you respectfully, get their  
09 name and number in the department and we'll try to get  
10 that squared away for you, because everybody should be  
11 treated with respect.  
12 I don't know when it was brought  
13 up about the computers in the cars, but I did a real  
14 quick check on my own, not a scientific check, I went  
15 down and actually looked at what I could see, and I  
16 found only one computer in a police car.  
17 And, again, I didn't get to see  
18 every one of them, but I found only one, and I believe  
19 it was a GR car, and there's nobody there at the time,  
20 so I could not ask whether that computer works or not.  
21 So, to the best of my knowledge, so far we've got one  
22 computer in the car.  
23 But I found out, I said Scranton  
24 is not for lack of rumors, we have tons of rumors here  
25 in Scranton, more than you can possible imagine, but  
0096

01 the latest rumor I've heard is that the county is

02 possibly going to bail Scranton out and maybe help us  
03 get some computers in the vehicles.  
04 I called over to Mr. Dubas, who I  
05 have to say any time I ever asked that gentleman for  
06 anything, he has been great, left him a message. He  
07 called me back. I haven't gotten back to him yet, so  
08 maybe the county is going to bail us out and help us  
09 get some computers in our police cars.  
10 I wanted to say this last week and  
11 I didn't get an opportunity, obviously because we  
12 didn't have a meeting, but, you know, my condolences to  
13 the family of Mary Monday, passed away.  
14 And I hope -- I know this isn't  
15 quite appropriate, but someone that watches Council all  
16 the time, his birthday is coming up. I'd just like to  
17 say happy birthday to him, Phillip Cutler.  
18 An issue, Jay, can I add onto  
19 Jan's list here, if I may, I drove down the street the  
20 other day just to check and see if anything has  
21 happened as far as repairing it, Dale Avenue off of  
22 Keyser Avenue, this is well over two years now, nothing  
23 has been done as far as I can see.  
24 You know, and, yeah, we're in a  
25 heat wave, but the winter will be here again. The road  
0097  
01 is just unbelievably bad, and if they don't do  
02 something now, we're going to go through the same thing  
03 this winter, which it's a road that the school travels  
04 every single day, if Mr. Parker could update us on  
05 that, from what I can see, nothing has been done. If  
06 it has, can he let me know? I mean, these people have  
07 waited long enough.  
08 I know there's not no 100 houses  
09 on the street, maybe ten or so, but they deserve to  
10 have this problem taken care of, and I think they've  
11 waited long enough. I'm pretty much getting sick of it  
12 myself. Let's see if we can get something done here.  
13 One last item, you know, as you go  
14 through the City of Scranton, more and more each day  
15 I'm seeing signs, and so I didn't say much in the  
16 beginning, but people are starting to ask me, Who is  
17 paying for these signs?  
18 We've got banners going across the  
19 street, we've got signs in windows of store, we've got  
20 billboards, we've got Restoring The Pride signs that  
21 seem to follow the picnics wherever they go, so I'd  
22 just like to know, Jay, who's paying for all of these  
23 signs, because that's the question that is being asked

24 of me.

25 And one thing I know during

0098

01 campaign time, those billboards cost a lot of money,

02 because I really couldn't afford many them, so if we

03 can get an idea of who is paying for all of these and

04 who's paying to have them put up? I mean, I think

05 we're getting a little out of hand here.

06 MS. EVANS: Mr. Courtright, I

07 believe nothing has run through the -- in other words,

08 no invoices, no paid bills were run through the

09 controller's office, so I would suggest that you

10 channel those questions into OECD or perhaps the

11 Redevelopment Authority, maybe they're paying the bills

12 for all of this.

13 Or, you know, they're could be

14 another answer, I don't know, but since there's no

15 disclaimer on any of the advertisements, it's going to

16 be almost a treasure hunt, I think, to try to come to

17 the final department that's footing the bill for all of

18 these things.

19 And they're, you know, they're

20 nice things, but I think we have priorities again. You

21 know, you have to prioritize your needs when you only

22 have so much money and you're a distressed city, you

23 only have, you know, "X" amount of dollars, and you're

24 experiencing a shortfall on top of being distressed,

25 certainly it's not the most pragmatic thing to do.

0099

01 And I think most of us who live in

02 the city are very well aware of all the amenities the

03 city has to offer, and we'll find our way to them, just

04 as we have for, you know, the last 40, 30, 20 years.

05 MR. COURTRIGHT: I can understand

06 a few, but, I mean, we're being inundated with these

07 things now, and somebody is putting them up, so we've

08 got manpower there, you know, putting them up, and I

09 just I think we're at a considerable amount of money

10 right now, so if we can get an answer to that.

11 I want all of them combined, all

12 of these Restoring The Pride and all these going across

13 the roads, and all the billboards and all the ones that

14 are going in businesses. There's little ones now,

15 smaller ones of the big ones, and they're cloning

16 themselves, I don't know here, but let's get an idea

17 what's going on here.

18 MS. EVANS: The ads in the

19 newspaper.

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yeah, add that  
21 one in there, too. I think we're into a large amount  
22 of money here.

23 MR. SAUNDERS: Councilmen, I  
24 believe, and we will do this again, we've sent two  
25 requests down the mayo's office asking for that similar  
0100

01 question that Mr. DiBileo had asked prior to this  
02 meeting, correct?

03 MR. DIBILEO: Yes, that's right,  
04 Jay, I was actually with this topic coming up now, and  
05 I don't know want to cut anybody short here.

06 MR. COURTRIGHT: Go ahead. I'm  
07 finished.

08 MR. DIBILEO: But I wanted to ask  
09 if there was any response from the mayor --

10 MR. SAUNDERS: No, there hasn't  
11 been.

12 MR. DIBILEO: -- on my second  
13 request.

14 MR. SAUNDERS: Two requests, no  
15 response.

16 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. And that's  
17 the congratulatory large advertisement that the mayor  
18 was congratulating the Scranton Times on their new  
19 morning newspaper, and I just didn't think it was  
20 appropriate that the taxpayers pay for that type of  
21 advertisement. It didn't have a disclaimer that said  
22 paid for by any particular political campaign, but  
23 that's what it seemed to be.

24 It should be more or less a  
25 personal type of expense, and now that Mr. Courtright  
0101

01 has mentioned, you know, who's paying for a lot of  
02 these other advertisements we see, it's a good  
03 question, because I've had the same concerns.  
04 I had it over the ad I just talked  
05 about, I've had it over, you know, all these  
06 advertisements telling us to have a good time this  
07 summer. That's basically what it's telling us, have a  
08 good time this summer, large billboards with the  
09 mayor's picture on it, so it is a good question, you  
10 know, who's paying for some of these ads, which, to be  
11 honest, seem to be a lot of self-promotion of  
12 Mr. Doherty.

13 And, you know, if it's the  
14 taxpayers, we're spending our own money to be told to  
15 have a good time this summer. And let's hope we are

16 having a good time this summer, but -- was that it?

17 MR. COURTRIGHT: That's it.

18 MS. EVANS: But could I pose one

19 question, please? Mr. Courtright, I understood

20 previously that the gang unit within the police

21 department, some of those members had been taken off in

22 order to be deployed for other projects, or I shouldn't

23 say projects, but other situations or assignments, and

24 then I believe I heard that they have been returned to

25 their original assignment on the gang unit, is that

0102

01 abdomen?

02 MR. COURTRIGHT: I think last I

03 heard, and I haven't checked on it in a few days, the

04 last I heard there was one back and one still out on

05 the street.

06 MS. EVANS: One back and one still

07 on the street.

08 MR. COURTRIGHT: That's the last I

09 heard, yes. So, we had two, and now -- and, again,

10 maybe this week it changed again, but the last I had

11 known there's one back in the job and one on the street

12 MS. EVANS: And what I had heard

13 with regard to the return of their original assignment

14 on the gang unit, which of course is a very important

15 assignment, was that the administration felt they had

16 to be returned due to the contract, and, you know, they

17 didn't want to violate any of the terms so that, you

18 know, they were going to place them back. Did you hear

19 anything about that or is that valid?

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: That, I don't

21 know. I don't know what reason they had put him back.

22 I was hoping, because it's obvious that we need them

23 back there, but that, I haven't heard at all, to be

24 honest with you.

25 MS. EVANS: Okay. I was just

0103

01 wondering if you had, only because it just seems

02 curious that, you know, at times the administration

03 wants to abide by the contract, and then at other times

04 it blatantly violates contract, thereby causing

05 arbitrations, which are appealed time after time after

06 time, which again is another huge waste of taxpayer

07 money, but, you know, as I said, my point bottom line

08 was why are we picking and choosing when we're going to

09 abide by a contract.

10 The contract is, you know, that's

11 concrete, and to break that at any time, is nothing



12 short of foolhardy. You know what you're in for.  
13 You want to change language? You  
14 sit down with someone, the two parties sit down and  
15 they agree to maybe a memorandum of understanding or  
16 whatever, until such time as a contract expires, and  
17 then the language can be negotiated and changed.  
18 But to try to violate what is in  
19 black and white, it's almost like saying, You can  
20 change the Ten Commandments. You can't. And we're  
21 paying a very stiff price for all of that. So that's  
22 why, you know, when I'm hearing different versions on  
23 deployment, and we take them off, and then we have to  
24 return them because that is improper to do, according  
25 to the terms, then why did we violate the terms with  
0104

01 SIT clerks? How much money do you think has been  
02 wasted on that?

03 MR. COURTRIGHT: I'm guessing  
04 about \$500,000 so far and growing.

05 MS. EVANS: Yeah, and mounting  
06 each day. It's a small wonder why we're still  
07 distressed, and a small wonder why there's shortfalls  
08 every year, because this type of mismanagement just  
09 almost seems to perpetrate itself over and over and  
10 over again.

11 So, hopefully, I guess I'm tying  
12 this back into where Mr. DiBileo started today, with  
13 these meetings, and trying to get our house in order  
14 early this year, because our house right now is in need  
15 of a full cleaning with a very big broom. It's such a  
16 big job, it can't wait 'til December.

17 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,  
18 Mrs. Evans. Did you have anything else,  
19 Mr. Courtright?

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: No.

21 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. I don't want  
22 this to come across as sounding, you know, sarcastic or  
23 anything, but just before we leave that topic of have a  
24 good time this summer, one way we could have had a  
25 better time this summer or children could have had a  
0105

01 better time this summer is if they had free swimming,  
02 and that would have been a much better time for a lot  
03 of kids in the city.

04 I'd like to get back to what I  
05 talk about at the very beginning of the meeting, as I  
06 explained in detail earlier, that I want to thank my  
07 fellow Council members that are here in attendance for

08 their willingness to work through a period which is  
09 traditionally taken as a break from business during the  
10 month of August, and, you know, budget season is really  
11 just on the horizon, but actually it seems like budget  
12 season is just year-round any longer, you can't really  
13 get away from it, and before you know, it we're going  
14 to be presented with a budget, and considering that the  
15 Hilton was foreclosed upon, that could have a drastic  
16 effect on what we get presented to us November 15,  
17 which, you know, is something that we have to start  
18 worrying about and be concerned about now.

19 And regarding the budget finances  
20 and taxpayer dollars, I think that we need to set aside  
21 politics and do what's right for the City of Scranton  
22 and the residents of Scranton, and I'm going to make a  
23 motion that we not adjourn for the month of August, and  
24 that we work through our traditional break from  
25 business, and I'll make that in the form of a motion.

0106

01 MS. EVANS: Second.

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

05 MS. EVANS: Aye.

06 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

07 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Motion carries  
08 by unanimous vote. Thank you.

09 And also I mentioned the Spectrum  
10 Company, who's the first mortgagee on the Hilton, and  
11 the fact that there could be a lawsuit coming up near  
12 the end of September, in an effort to try to avoid what  
13 could occur from that lawsuit, I'd like to actually ask  
14 if Spectrum representatives would be willing to sit  
15 down with City Council, not publicly, because the  
16 lawsuit, I believe, has been started, but if they'd sit  
17 down with us, the administration, all of us together,  
18 maybe we can try to work out what might otherwise come  
19 of a bad effect from that upcoming lawsuit, so I'd like  
20 to put that out to Spectrum, Mr. Saunders, see if  
21 they'd be willing to sit down with us to try to talk  
22 things out at this point.

23 MS. EVANS: And if I might, and  
24 you don't object, either one of you, if we can also  
25 send a letter to Mayor Doherty and ask him if he would  
0107

01 join us in this private conference.

02 MR. COURTRIGHT: I agree

03 absolutely, because as Mr. DiBileo said, let's put the

04 politics aside, let's work hand and hand, Mr. Walsh,  
05 Mr. Farrell and the mayor and ourselves all, five of  
06 us, and let's get this mess cleared up, if we could.  
07 Because I think it's a crisis, I really do.  
08 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you very much.  
09 And let's see if we can get a response from Spectrum,  
10 get together with them, if they're willing to, as soon  
11 as possible.  
12 This afternoon at the podium a  
13 number of speakers actually gave concerns about crime  
14 and gangs and that type of thing, and I could just say  
15 it was Ms. Simmons, Ms. Jones, Ms. Brach, just to name  
16 a few, so there's a lot of talk just today about crime  
17 and concerns about neighborhood safety, and we've been  
18 hearing that not only today, but we've been hearing it  
19 over the last couple of years, you know, we hear more  
20 and more about these concerns about our safety in our  
21 neighborhood, and you've heard this Council talk about  
22 these concerns, you've heard this Council, at least the  
23 majority, talk about the fact that, you know, we need  
24 an upgrade in our public safety, we just do.  
25 I think Mr. Courtright said, You  
0108  
01 can't put a price tag on the public's safety, and  
02 that's so absolutely true, you can't put a price tag on  
03 the public safety.  
04 So, I do agree with the speakers  
05 tonight that, and I don't think anybody will agree with  
06 Mayor Doherty when he says that crime is down.  
07 I mean, just look around, and we  
08 talked to neighbors and we talked to people in all  
09 different neighborhoods, not only our own, but not one  
10 person has ever said to me, Well, I think it's safer  
11 today than it has been in the past, I think that crime  
12 is down, I think there's less to be concerned about.  
13 Just look at what happened this  
14 weekend. And, again, that's just something under  
15 investigation, but it just is something that is  
16 tremendously scary, and you just don't think that  
17 something like that, if what it appears to be, could  
18 actually happen in your neighborhood, and that was what  
19 is a great neighborhood in Scranton.  
20 So, we just have to do whatever it  
21 takes to adjust our priorities and give an upgrade to  
22 the public safety with extra police protection, and  
23 it's a deterrent, because if the bad guys know that a  
24 neighborhood is being patrolled more so than it was in  
25 the past, the bad guys are just going to go somewhere,

0109

01 else. We want them to go somewhere else, and we don't  
02 want people to be afraid.  
03 But with that said, I'd also like  
04 to make a motion for upcoming legislation on today's  
05 agenda, that I'll make a motion that Mr. Courtright be  
06 the chairman of the committee on community development  
07 for today.

08 MS. EVANS: Second.

09 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. We have a  
10 motion on the floor and a second. On the question?  
11 All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

12 MS. EVANS: Aye.

13 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

14 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Motion carries  
15 unanimous. And that's all I have under 5th order.

16 MR. WALSH: Fifth order. 5-B, FOR

17 INTRODUCTION - AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL  
18 NO. 135, 2005, AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED SALE OF TAX  
19 DELINQUENT PROPERTY AT 659 WALES STREET NEAR LEGGETT'S  
20 CREEK, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, TO PENNSYLVANIA AMERICAN  
21 WATER COMPANY (PAWC), 100 NORTH PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE,  
22 WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA, 18701, FOR THE SUM OF  
23 \$4,000.00 IN ORDER TO REFLECT THE CORRECT ADDRESS WHICH  
24 IS 600 BLOCK OF WALES STREET BY LEGGETT'S CREEK.

25 MR. DIBILEO: At this time I'll

0110

01 entertain a motion that Item 5-B be introduced into its  
02 proper committee.

03 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

04 MR. DIBILEO: Do we have a second?

05 MS. EVANS: No.

06 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. There's no  
07 second on 5-B, and, therefore, Mr. Walsh, correct me if  
08 I'm wrong, 5-B would just die at this point.

09 MR. WALSH: Failed to be  
10 introduced.

11 Sixth order --

12 MS. EVANS: Just one second,  
13 though, if I might be permitted to explain briefly my  
14 refusal to provide the second, residents of  
15 Wales Street had come before Council on noting first a  
16 major error that the utility company had made by  
17 identifying their property as the property they wanted  
18 to take over, and then when that mistake was rectified,  
19 it turned out they were looking for the adjacent  
20 property, and the residents have expressed their  
21 absolute opposition to this purchase by this utility

22 company.

23 I don't work for a utility

24 company, I work for the people of this city, and if the

25 people in one house or five houses in that area tell

0111

01 me, Don't do this to my home and to my neighborhood,

02 then it's my job to cast my vote to represent them, and

03 that's why I'm not seconding this.

04 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. So, 5-B does

05 die for lack of a second.

06 MR. WALSH: Sixth order. There is

07 no sixth order business this afternoon. Seventh order.

08 7-A, FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY

09 DEVELOPMENT - FOR ADOPTION -FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 141,

10 2005 - AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 68, 2004, ENTITLED,

11 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER

12 APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO TAKE

13 ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE CONSOLIDATED

14 SUBMISSION FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

15 PROGRAMS TO BE FUNDED UNDER THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

16 BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP

17 (HOME) PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY SHELTER GRANT (ESG)

18 PROGRAM, BY REALLOCATING \$125,000.00 FROM PROJECT NO.

19 99-100, COMPREHENSIVE HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAM,

20 TO A NEWLY CREATED PROJECT ENTITLED ARTSPACE.

21 MR. DIBILEO: What's the

22 recommendation of the chairperson for the committee on

23 community development?

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: As temporary

25 chair for the committee on community development, I

0112

01 recommend final passage of Item 7-A.

02 MS. EVANS: Second.

03 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

04 Just on the question, I want to recognize and

05 acknowledge an organization that everyone knows, and

06 that's Scranton Tomorrow.

07 Scranton Tomorrow is totally

08 responsible for putting this legislation in front of us

09 today. Artspace seems to be something that's going to

10 be terrific for the community.

11 And Scranton Tomorrow does a lot

12 of things behind the scenes, and they don't really get

13 the proper credit for it, so I just want to recognize

14 them for this terrific project for seeking it out,

15 putting it in front of us.

16 They had a great golf tournament,

17 by the way, this Saturday, I happened to stop by, and

18 it was a full slate for the golf tournament, and they  
19 are terrific people that care a lot about our  
20 community, and they've done other projects like the  
21 lighting of the Scranton Electric City Sign, and they  
22 didn't get enough credit for that.

23 You know, we saw billboards not  
24 with their name on it or pictures on it, but pictures  
25 of other people, and they just deserve a lot of credit  
0113

01 for things like that, and I just want to recognize  
02 Scranton Tomorrow for this project.

03 MS. EVANS: If I might, on the  
04 question, also, this, I agree, is a worthwhile project.  
05 I've stated before, I hope it finds its way into a  
06 neighborhood in need of revitalization, as opposed to  
07 the downtown, but equally as important, in the future I  
08 recognize that housing is an area that has been sorely  
09 neglected in terms of financial funding by this  
10 administration.

11 I've met with many of the  
12 executive directors of the local non-profit agencies  
13 who provide shelter for the homeless, who are looking  
14 for living space for low to moderate income  
15 individuals.

16 We're fast becoming a town of  
17 vagrants or homeless individuals, and those obviously  
18 underprivileged individuals who have great difficulty  
19 locating housing, and that certainly isn't an area that  
20 you should be turning a deaf ear or a blind eye to.

21 And so, inasmuch as I will  
22 allocate these funds today, I have to caution Artspace,  
23 that in the future should they return to Council  
24 looking for additional funding, that I cannot approve,  
25 unless I am very sure that the other projects,

0114  
01 particularly the projects involving housing, from which  
02 this money has been taken from the fiscal year 2004,  
03 are also funded, because I don't believe in pouring all  
04 of your resources into one place. There's so many  
05 endeavors throughout our neighborhoods that are crying  
06 for attention and have been neglected, and I think we  
07 have to be very aware and very sure that we're  
08 addressing all of the needs, not just some.

09 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,  
10 Mrs. Evans. If there's no further questions, roll  
11 call, please, Kay.

12 MS. GARVEY: Mr. McTiernan.  
13 Ms. Evans.

14 MS. EVANS: Yes.

15 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Pocius.

16 Mr. Courtright.

17 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

18 MS. GARVEY: Mr. DiBileo.

19 MR. DIBILEO: Yes. I hereby

20 declare Item 7-A legally and lawfully adopted.

21 MR. WALSH: 7-B, FOR CONSIDERATION

22 BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - FOR

23 ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 155, 2005 - AUTHORIZING THE

24 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE

25 AND ENTER INTO A QUALIFIED SELLER AGREEMENT (QSA) WITH

0115

01 COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT FUND, INC. (CRF) WHICH AGREEMENT

02 WOULD QUALIFY THE CITY TO SELL OUTSTANDING LOANS FROM

03 THE CITY OF SCRANTON, OFFICE OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY

04 DEVELOPMENT.

05 MR. DIBILEO: What's the

06 recommendation of the chairperson for the committee on

07 community development?

08 MR. COURTRIGHT: As temporary

09 chair for the committee on community development, I

10 recommend final passage of Item 7-B.

11 MS. EVANS: Second.

12 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

13 MS. EVANS: Yes. This particular

14 piece of legislation and the one that follows, those

15 would be specifically Item 7-B and C on this agenda,

16 both pertaining to an agreement with CRF whereby the

17 city sells its most secured loans to this non-profit

18 agency for a one-time lump sum payment of approximately

19 \$5 million I've had a number of questions on, and since

20 last City Council meeting was conducted, I did receive

21 two very suitable answers to three of my questions,

22 however, the last question, which was by far the most

23 important question, how will this money be used, I

24 would like to know now, I would like to know from the

25 initiation of the project; in other words, from step

0116

01 one, rather than at the tail end, at the eleventh hour

02 coming in and showing us something, so that in fact

03 your backs are up against the wall and you have no

04 choice but to vote for something, because you have had

05 no time to investigate it, to question it, or even to

06 speak with any of the individuals involved.

07 So, actually the answer I got to

08 that question, how does the mayor intend to use this

09 money, the answer was a none answer, they cited

10 guidelines, they cited regulations, and in addition to  
11 that, I also received as part of the answer, we have  
12 not, and I'm quoting here, we have not committed to  
13 assisting any business since we first introduced this  
14 deal on June 2, 2005.  
15 I ask, therefore, what's the  
16 rush? If you don't have anyone knocking on your door  
17 for this money, why is it imperative that this happen  
18 immediately?  
19 And as I said, there have been  
20 such contradictions and stories, and first we were told  
21 this money, you know, will help neighborhoods because  
22 we are not going to have to fund the commercial  
23 industrial revolving loan program by using CDBG funds,  
24 and that sounded like a fine idea, until I learned that  
25 we didn't even use CDBG funds to fund the revolving  
0117  
01 loan program in 2005. Why? It was already completely  
02 funded.  
03 Now as part of the  
04 non-answer/answer, I'm hearing, we need the money to  
05 fund the revolving loan program. So, which is it?  
06 Either it's funded or it's not funded. But you can't  
07 talk out of both sides of your mouth about this.  
08 But I think right now since I  
09 think along with crime, one of tonight's biggest  
10 issues, I should say today, I'm sorry, our biggest  
11 issue has been finances, and as finance chair, I'm  
12 going to go back to the question I posed a minute ago,  
13 what is the rush?  
14 Why should we take a hit of  
15 7 and a half percent of \$5 million or \$5.2 million, if  
16 no one is knocking on our door for a loan?  
17 Now, 7 and a half percent comes  
18 out to approximately \$350,000. With that amount of  
19 money, you can actually present loans or grant loans to  
20 at least two businesses.  
21 The maximum amount that can be  
22 given out under this revolving loan program, if I'm to  
23 understand correctly, is \$250,000.  
24 So, that's why I'm saying you can  
25 give at least two loans, possibly several more. Now,  
0118  
01 why would you incur that loss just so for some unknown  
02 reason you want to get \$5 million in one big bang  
03 today?  
04 And I don't hear any concern for  
05 future businesses, any concern to help existing



06 businesses in the future.  
07 It's what I see right now, instant  
08 gratification. So, what happens to all of those  
09 businesses that need help from now, five years from  
10 now, two, fifteen?  
11 Money is not going to be there,  
12 because the payments are no longer coming in, the  
13 payments aren't coming in because you just sold the  
14 whole program for \$5 million, which you get right now.  
15 And you know what, even if there  
16 aren't plans and you put that in the bank account,  
17 what's the interest rate you're going to draw on that  
18 account, maybe 3 percent?  
19 So, how much money are you still  
20 losing in a distressed city with a shortfall? Why am I  
21 looking at losing more money?  
22 Ladies and gentlemen, I'm not in  
23 the business of make money for CRF, I'm in the business  
24 of protecting the city's money, protecting your money.  
25 And, you know what, maybe some  
0119  
01 people think, this city budget and city finances and  
02 all the projects, it's a big monopoly game, Boardwalk,  
03 you know, this street, that property, this, that, they  
04 act as if it's all play money. Where is the real money  
05 in anyone of these deals?  
06 So, I am not going to approve of  
07 this deal. If it turns out that there are real plans  
08 for this money, good plans, useful plans that will  
09 provide jobs by bringing in new businesses or give a  
10 helping hand to an existing one, and I'm not talking  
11 about, you know, one or two jobs at minimum wage, let's  
12 start looking at family-sustaining jobs.  
13 If we see that coming, what I  
14 think you should also know is, there's still a future  
15 availability to do this deal, it's not over with  
16 today.  
17 It can be renegotiated six months  
18 from now, one year from now, three months from now.  
19 And, again, something comes up, you show me what that  
20 is, and the people of this city and City Council deem  
21 that a worthy project, the road to walk, then I'll be  
22 very willing to go ahead with this deal.  
23 But for now, I don't care to lose  
24 the money, and I don't care to be an experiment with  
25 CRF, because I don't know any other neighboring cities,  
0120  
01 Wilkes-Barre, Hazleton, Nanticoke, you name it, no one

02 else is using CRF. Why not? Let's see how it turns  
03 out elsewhere first. And that's all.

04 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,

05 Mrs. Evans. Just on the question, I see arguments for  
06 both sides of this legislation. You know, I'm against  
07 selling of our best loans to the tune of what would end  
08 up costing \$350,000, as Mrs. Evans said.

09 I'm against not getting a clearer  
10 indication of where this money might be planned for,  
11 although I guess I could understand that they may not  
12 have any idea at this point, but I am in favor of  
13 providing opportunities for economic development, as I  
14 know all of you are.

15 So, if there's no further  
16 questions, can we have a roll call, please, Kay?

17 MS. GARVEY: Mr. McTiernan.

18 Ms. Evans.

19 MS. EVANS: No.

20 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Pocius.

21 Mr. Courtright.

22 MR. COURTRIGHT: No.

23 MS. GARVEY: Mr. DiBileo.

24 MR. DIBILEO: Yes. By a 2-1 vote,

25 I hereby declare that Item 7-B does not become legally  
0121

01 and lawfully adopted.

02 MR. WALSH: 7-C, FOR CONSIDERATION

03 BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - FOR  
04 ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 156, 2005 - AUTHORIZING THE  
05 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE  
06 AND ENTER INTO A LOAN PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH COMMUNITY  
07 REINVESTMENT FUND, INC. (CRF) FOR THE PURCHASE OF  
08 FOURTEEN LOANS MADE BY THE CITY OF SCRANTON, OFFICE OF  
09 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.

10 MR. DIBILEO: What's the

11 recommendation of the chairperson for the committee on  
12 community development?

13 MR. COURTRIGHT: As temporary  
14 chair for the committee on community development, I  
15 recommend final passage of Item 7-C.

16 MS. EVANS: Second.

17 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

18 This legislation is basically the same legislation as  
19 we just discussed, and I don't know if anyone has  
20 anything further. And if not, roll call, please, Kay.

21 MS. GARVEY: Mr. McTiernan.

22 Ms. Evans.

23 MS. EVANS: No.

24 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Pocius.

25 Mr. Courtright.

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01 MR. COURTRIGHT: No.

02 MS. GARVEY: Mr. DiBileo.

03 MR. DIBILEO: Yes. I hereby

04 declare that Item 7-C is not legally and lawfully

05 adopted.

06 MR. WALSH: 7-D, FOR CONSIDERATION

07 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION

08 NO. 158, 2005 - APPOINTING DAVID M. CARDEN, 248 WILBUR

09 STREET, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18508, AS A MEMBER OF

10 THE ZONING HEARING BOARD OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON

11 EFFECTIVE JULY 2, 2005. MR. CARDEN'S TERM WILL EXPIRE

12 ON JULY 1, 2008. MR. CARDEN WILL REPLACE GERALD T.

13 LANGAN, WHOSE TERM ON THE ZONING HEARING BOARD EXPIRED

14 ON JULY 1, 2005.

15 MR. DIBILEO: As chairperson for

16 the committee on rules, I recommend final passage of

17 Item 7-D.

18 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

19 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

20 MS. EVANS: Once again, I'd like

21 thank you Mr. Jerry Langan for his dedicated service.

22 It was a privilege to have him serve on the zoning

23 board. I'm very sorry to see him go.

24 I also welcome Mr. Carden, and I

25 have no doubt that he will do an outstanding job in

0123

01 that new capacity, and we welcome him aboard.

02 MR. COURTRIGHT: I'd like to echo

03 Mrs. Evans' statement on both Mr. Langan and

04 Mr. Carden.

05 MR. DIBILEO: And I also would,

06 too, like to thank Mr. Langan, who's a very community

07 minded individual, thank him for his service this past

08 year on the zoning board. Roll call, please, Kay.

09 MS. GARVEY: Mr. McTiernan.

10 Ms. Evans.

11 MS. EVANS: Yes.

12 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Pocius.

13 Mr. Courtright.

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

15 MS. GARVEY: Mr. DiBileo.

16 MR. DIBILEO: Yes. I hereby

17 declare Item 7-D legally and lawfully adopted.

18 MR. WALSH: 7-E, FOR CONSIDERATION

19 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION

20 NO. 159, 2005 - RE-APPOINTMENT OF HELEN COOK,  
21 526 DEPOT STREET, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18509, AS A  
22 MEMBER OF THE ZONING HEARING BOARD OF THE CITY OF  
23 SCRANTON EFFECTIVE JULY 2, 2005. HELEN COOK'S ORIGINAL  
24 TERM EXPIRED JULY 1, 2005, AND HER NEW TERM WILL EXPIRE  
25 ON JULY 1, 2010.

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

04 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

05 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

06 MS. EVANS: Again, how fortunate  
07 we are to have Mrs. Cook agree to continue to serve  
08 this city.

09 As a former dispatcher, there is  
10 no one who knows the streets of Scranton and their  
11 structures any better.

12 MR. COURTRIGHT: Once again, I  
13 echo that statement.

14 MR. DIBILEO: Yeah, I agree, she  
15 does a wonderful job, and, you know, that's how women  
16 are.

17 MS. EVANS: Absolutely. Or most  
18 of us anyway.

19 MR. DIBILEO: Right. Kay, can we  
20 have a roll call, please?

21 MS. GARVEY: Mr. McTiernan.

22 Ms. Evans.

23 MS. EVANS: Yes.

24 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Pocius.

25 Mr. Courtright.

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01 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

02 MS. GARVEY: Mr. DiBileo.

03 MR. DIBILEO: Yes. I hereby

04 declare Item 7-E legally and lawfully adopted.

05 And see no further business on the agenda, I'll

06 entertain a motion that we adjourn.

07 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

08 MS. EVANS: Second.

09 MR. DIBILEO: We're adjourned.

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11 (MEETING WAS ADJOURNED.)

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CERTIFICATE

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

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LISA M. GRAFF, RPR  
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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