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1 SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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5 Held:

6 Thursday, October 13, 2005

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9 Time:

10 7:00 p.m.

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13 Location:

14 Council Chambers

15 Scranton City Hall

16 340 North Washington Avenue

17 Scranton, Pennsylvania

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23 Lisa M. Graff, RPR

24 Court Reporter

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1 CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

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3 MR. GARY DIBILEO, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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5 MS. JANET E. EVANS, VICE-PRESIDENT

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7 MR. WILLIAM COURTRIGHT

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9 MR. JOHN POCIUS

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11 MR. ROBERT McTIERNAN

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13 MR. JAY SAUNDERS, CITY CLERK

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15 MS. KAY GARVEY, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

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1 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. Please stand for
2 the Pledge Of Allegiance. Please remain standing for a
3 short prayer. Thank you. And, Kay, if we can have a
4 roll call, please.

5 MS. GARVEY: Mr. McTiernan.

6 MR. McTIERNAN: Here.

7 MS. GARVEY: Mrs. Evans.

8 MS. EVANS: Here.

9 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Pocius.

10 MR. POCIUS: Here.

11 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Courtright.

12 MR. COURTRIGHT: Here.

13 MS. GARVEY: Mr. DiBileo.

14 MR. DIBILEO: Here.

15 I'd like to make mention of the fact that our City

16 Council solicitor Mark Walsh is unable to be with us

17 tonight as he's ill, I should have mentioned him in our
18 prayer, he's under the weather tonight, but I think he
19 should be fine shortly.

20 And if we could dispense with the
21 reading of the minutes, Mr. Saunders, please.

22 MR. SAUNDERS: Third order, 3-A,

23 MINUTES FROM THE MUNICIPAL PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD
24 ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2005.

25 MR. DIBILEO: Are there any comments on

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1 3-A? If not, received and filed.

2 MR. SAUNDERS: 3-B, PETITION FOR A
3 STREET LIGHT AT 1894 HENRY STREET.

4 MR. DIBILEO: Are there any comments on

5 3-B? If not, received and filed.

6 MR. POCIUS: Mr. President, I'll make a
7 motion that we send this petition down to MEM, I think
8 that's been our protocol, and I think also the city
9 engineer for an investigation to see if this light
10 should be installed.

11 MS. EVANS: Second.

12 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. We have a motion
13 on the floor and a second. On the question? All those

14 in favor, signify by saying aye.

15 MS. EVANS: Aye.

16 MR. MCTIERNAN: Aye

17 MR. POCIUS: Aye.

18 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

19 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

20 have it and so moved.

21 MR. SAUNDERS: 3-C , Clerk's notes.

22 Mr. President, the only thing I have tonight is that I

23 did receive a phone call from Sara Hailstone about the

24 billboards with the Summer in the City ads on them, the

25 total number on that was \$1765.

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1 So, that we will add to the \$45,000.

2 I'm not sure what the exact total is there, but it's

3 \$1765 is the total for the billboards. That's all I

4 have, Mr. President, and we will go into fourth order,

5 citizens participation.

6 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. We have a sign-in

7 sheet, and I have a little statement I'd like to read

8 before I call up the first speaker.

9 We welcome everyone here to our Council

10 meeting. I'd like to remind those that will speak to

11 please be mindful of our time constraints and that of
12 others by keeping your remarks to no more than five
13 minutes. Also, please keep your comments related to
14 city business matters.

15 In addition, given the fact that we are
16 within four weeks of an election, which has the
17 emotions of many running very high, I ask that speakers
18 please refrain from making remarks of a personal
19 nature, and also a political nature.

20 I will also ask -- I would have asked
21 our city solicitor -- City Council Solicitor Mark Walsh
22 to jump in and aid me when he feels comments become
23 inappropriate, and I guess I'm going to have to ask
24 Mr. Saunders if he will do that.

25 MR. SAUNDERS: I'd be happy to,

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1 Mr. President.

2 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. The heat's on you,

3 Jay. Lastly, I ask audience members to please refrain

4 from speaking when a speaker is at the podium, and we

5 are very appreciative of that.

6 And with that said, our first speaker

7 is Terry Osborne.

8 MR. SPINDLER: Mr. DiBileo, he told me

9 he had to go somewhere, he will be back.

10 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. We will go on to

11 the second speaker then, and that's Fay Franus.

12 MS. FRANUS: Fay Franus, Scranton,

13 Pennsylvania. Today on talk radio there was a

14 discussion about political -- about the budget and

15 things like that, and I wanted to clear some things up.

16 I wasn't able to call in, due to work, but I am free to

17 speak here, and this man called and said that about the

18 Mr. Doherty's political debt and that wasn't it very

19 convenient that all of a sudden Councilwoman Evans made

20 it a point in saying that the city's is in debt for

21 \$198 million or \$204 million, and I disagree with that

22 completely, and I would just like to ask Mrs. Evans,

23 when did you get this audit report?

24 MS. EVANS: The audit would have been

25 presented to us, I believe, early September. The

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1 following week, Mr. Rossi, who conducted the audit,

2 came before City Council in a public caucus, but the

3 week prior to that meeting with Mr. Rossi, I had

4 announced the Doherty long-term debt, and I have been

5 doing so since, because as I stated, that information,
6 that audit wasn't provided to us until that point in
7 time, and so as soon as that information was given to
8 me, I immediately announced that information to the
9 people of the city.

10 MS. FRANUS: As you should have done,
11 and we really appreciated that. It's good to know,
12 even though it's hard to listen to as far as how far we
13 are in debt, but it's up for the people to decide, and
14 I just think that that wasn't right that nobody got a
15 chance to say that on the radio.

16 Another factor is they made up a point
17 of saying that a big part of this debt was Mayor
18 Connor's responsibility, how much of this refinancing
19 was Mr. Connors', compared to the total amount now?

20 MS. EVANS: Well, I believe -- now, are
21 you talking about the principal or are you talking
22 about long-term debt, the long-term debt amassed by the
23 Connors administration?

24 MS. FRANUS: Yes.

25 MS. EVANS: That would have been

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1 approximately \$75 million over a 12-year period in

2 office, and I do remember will the Pennsylvania Economy
3 League, who was often at odds with Mr. Connors, having
4 stating that the fact that the City of Scranton had
5 only \$75 million in long-term debt was quite admirable,
6 because there were very few cities in the State of
7 Pennsylvania who could say the same thing, so they were
8 very complementary about those long-term debt figures,
9 and then when you compare that to the fact that in
10 three years, I'll use, because I like to stick with the
11 audit, in three years this administration has amassed a
12 total of \$198 million, plus what I missed on Page A-57,
13 I believe, of the audit, the debt service for
14 capitalized leases to the tune of \$6,026,004, when you
15 add that to the \$198 million, that's where you're
16 coming to the figure, the total figure, of \$204
17 million.

18 MS. FRANUS: And one other person made
19 an analogy of if you buy a house, who stops to think
20 about what you're going to be paying after the house is
21 paid for, like, they don't stop to think about the
22 interest, if the house costs \$100,000, they don't stop.
23 Well, it's going to really cost me \$170,000 with
24 interest. People do think about that, and if they
25 don't, they'd be foolish, just like people do -- even

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1 though a large part of this is interest, we, the
2 taxpayers, still have to pay this bill because of the
3 mayor's foolish spending.

4 MS. EVANS: Yes. And, in fact, I agree
5 with you completely, but a co-worker of mine today
6 stopped me in the hallway and said, This has really
7 gone out of control. I would like to have a new car, a
8 second car, but you know what, we don't go out and get
9 it because we can't pay for it, we can't afford it, so
10 where is this city going?

11 MS. FRANUS: Same thing.

12 MS. EVANS: Yes.

13 MS. FRANUS: But we're wiser knowing we
14 can't do it, but because he's doing, but we're paying
15 for what he's doing. So, it's like me buying a car and
16 having someone else pay for it, it would be nice,
17 wouldn't it?

18 MS. EVANS: Yes, it would, and, you
19 know, people might say, as was suggested to me earlier
20 this afternoon, well, I think the principal of the
21 debt, the principal number of the debt should be what
22 is solely considered, because after all, the city could

23 refinance at any time or the city could write a check

24 tomorrow and pay off its total long-term debt, but I

25 find that to be quite a ludicrous statement, because I

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1 don't know that this city or any other municipality is

2 in such a position that they could write a check for

3 \$121 million tomorrow, neither do I believe that

4 refinancing at this point in time is a prudent measure,

5 since interest rates are much higher now than they have

6 been at the time the \$72 million bond issue occurred,

7 and I don't believe that we're going to see any

8 increase or rather any improvement in interest rates in

9 the near future.

10 MS. FRANUS: I agree. And one more

11 thing, it would be nice if you had Mr. Rossi come in so

12 the people in the city would know that you're not

13 making up these figures and it's coming right from him,

14 from the audit report. That's very important.

15 MS. EVANS: That's true, but the audit,

16 I think, is also public information, and, so, anyone

17 who would like to peruse the audit or study it very

18 carefully has the opportunity do so. They're very

19 welcome to check my figures.

20 MS. FRANUS: Thank you very much.

21 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you. I'll go back

22 to Terry Osborne.

23 MR. OSBORNE: Thank you. My name is

24 Terry Osborne, I reside at 2644 Birney Avenue. I want

25 to make it perfectly clear this week, I'm here as a

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1 fire employee representative to the pension boards.

2 I know I was followed to the mic last

3 week by some people who made various allegations, and

4 to be honest with you, I had no intentions of coming

5 back tonight, but now I feel like I have to answer some

6 of those allegations.

7 So, again, I'm here authorized by the

8 firefighters to be here as their fire employee

9 representative. It does not have anything to do with

10 my position on the Composite Pension Board.

11 One other thing before I start, again,

12 as I said, I had no plans of being back here this week,

13 I want to thank the Council people. As most of you

14 know, I had a conversation with most of you people this

15 week. To me, that's how good government works.

16 You guys are elected officials, I have

17 something going on with our pension funds, and my
18 preference is, as I think you know off camera and all
19 that type stuff -- John, I know we had a long
20 conversation, I appreciate that, the rest of you guys,
21 Bob McTiernan took time out of his day on Columbus Day,
22 a holiday for us public employees who sacrifice the
23 rest of the year, but was willing to come down to meet
24 with me for approximately two hours, that's good
25 government, and that's the way I'd like things to go,
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1 but unfortunately I can tell you people followed me on
2 orders of other people here last week, so I feel like I
3 have to respond to the allegations made here.
4 I am not here to advocate for or
5 against any trust managers. What I did here last week
6 was talking about the performance under our previous
7 manager and the performance under our current manager.
8 I was followed to the mic to say I'm an
9 advocate for somebody. I'm not an advocate for
10 anybody. It's simply a factual report of investment
11 returns experienced by our pension board.
12 Some questioned my timing of coming
13 here based on the RFPs are currently out, they are,

14 that's factual, nothing to do with my timing of coming
15 here.

16 My timing is based on we received an
17 arbitration decision August 29, which the mayor, we now
18 have come to find out, appealed at the end of
19 September; hence, I am here in October asking for this
20 legislation that is needed to put a stop to this
21 packing of our pension board. It has nothing to do
22 with the current RFPs.

23 There was some statements made about
24 reducing the board numbers would allow some people to
25 higher their favorite son, we have always conducted a
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13

1 fair and open RFP process and have always hired the
2 best money managers because of that.

3 As I stated last week, it was the
4 mayor, then the finance chairperson, who set aside the
5 recommendations of our pension board, and, again, the
6 term used here last week was favorite son, well, we got
7 the mayor's adopted son to run our pension fund for the
8 last five years, and we're here to stop that from
9 happening again.

10 It is not going to be people who make

11 political contributions that is forced on our pension

12 board for the next five years, at least that's our

13 hope.

14 The next thing is the question on the

15 number of board members, we had nine board members

16 previously, the mayor put it up to 15, and at the time

17 he controlled eight of the fifteen votes. Everybody do

18 the math. If a single person controls eight out of

19 fifteen votes, why get the 15 people together? Let the

20 single person make the decision, which is what happened

21 five years ago. So, the number of representatives is

22 very important. And in all honesty, the state law

23 dictates that number, and that's what we'd like to go

24 back to.

25 As far as the comments made with the

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1 infusion of money, that they brought money, that money

2 went into the pension fund, I know John was on Council

3 back then, and I think he'd remember, the state had

4 ordered the City of Pennsylvania (sic) to put that

5 money into our fund, they were court ordered to do it.

6 This money was coming into our fund, as

7 far as us employees were concerned, by a court order.

8 Somebody coming forward and getting our pension fund,
9 you know, you do this and I'll give you that type
10 thing, and I can tell you as a president of the board
11 at that time, I was in conversation with a consortium
12 of banks who were looking at giving the money through
13 the Union Debt Act.

14 So, this idea you saved the city there
15 was no saving of the city, the city had to be given
16 that money, and that's when the rest of the state money
17 would have come in regardless.

18 Something else about our board
19 shouldn't be concerned with the fees paid, okay? The
20 fees get paid annually, and I'm talking up to \$800,000
21 a year. We pay those fees, then about a year later
22 about that figure is gathered together, then the money
23 goes back into the fund, so in fact there are real lost
24 earnings to our pension fund by these fees being paid
25 out.

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1 And, again, the statement was our board
2 shouldn't worry about that, the city and the mayor pays
3 that money. Well, I've never seen a city write a
4 check, taxpayers write checks, and I'm also here, I

5 guess, tonight as a taxpayer. I don't think I, as a
6 taxpayer, should be incumbered with these additional
7 fees.

8 Final the statements was, I loved it,
9 our healthy \$70 million pension fund is that way,
10 because what they talked about is all the money that
11 gets paid out, all that money gets paid out whether I
12 handle the investments; whoever handles the
13 investments.

14 I was not here to talk about last week
15 the beginning balance and the bottom balance. I am
16 going to use a chart. Excuse me crudeness on the
17 chart, but the chart, what we talked about here last
18 week is the underperformance of our last five years,
19 actually, it's a four-year chart, versus everybody else
20 out there.

21 So, this healthy pension fund, just so
22 that everybody knows, and believe me, we're working and
23 working to get it better, but the pension fund is
24 currently still underfunded. \$65,511,782. That's
25 directly from our administrator as of this afternoon.

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1 So, that is the figure that we are currently

2 underfunded.

3 So, again, quickly, if I could, I just

4 want to go over the chart, and I actually have

5 handouts, I apologize, I should have given them to the

6 Council people, and actually I made a whole bunch of

7 extras, if anybody's interested in seeing it, my

8 brother was good enough to run these off for me, but

9 here is what the chart says, and this, again, was done

10 by Public Finance Management, it's a group the mayor is

11 currently using in most of the arbitrations.

12 So, you know what, to be honest, I

13 don't know if I like their figures as an employee

14 because they come in against the employees, but they

15 are the mayor's accountants to a degree, and these are

16 their figures.

17 And quickly, I got the numbers up

18 there. In '01, the median lost 2.9 percent. On your

19 papers up there, I hope I gave you enough, that's

20 \$1.8 million. We were down 6.7. That's \$4.3 million.

21 Again, I don't know if they need extras.

22 In '02, the median was down 8.6. We

23 were down 10.9. Real dollars, 5.5 versus \$7 million.

24 In 2003, we did 22.2, the median did 21.9. We first

25 time we outperform the median.

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1 Let me footnote that, I came here in
2 2003 because the mayor had come up with a new favorite
3 son to take over our son and was looking to fire the
4 guy. The first year he outperformed, the mayor looked
5 to fewer hum that year but there was a contract he
6 couldn't fire him that year, but there was a contract,
7 he couldn't fire him. And, again, '04 is up there.
8 The bottom line, and I know it's hard
9 to read, we underperformed, according to Public Finance
10 Management, \$4,550,000 over the first four years of
11 this contract which the mayor is directly responsible
12 for.
13 Quickly, if I can, the article in the
14 paper, and I, don't take this the wrong way, Borys, but
15 sometimes I don't always believe the Scranton
16 newspaper, but I know Lynn had a conversation with the
17 mayor after our meeting, interesting, he said we're all
18 politics on our pension board.
19 I never knew of a political
20 contribution being made, and I hope to God there was
21 never one made from number anybody who ran our pension
22 fund while I was on this board, I hope there wasn't.

23 The mayor used the word pay to play,
24 his words, not mine. I happen to know in the City of
25 Philadelphia, because I get the Philadelphia Inquirer,
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1 the last people were just sentenced last week in the
2 City of Philadelphia because the city government of
3 Philadelphia, a grand jury indicted people for pay to
4 play. I hope there wasn't.

5 As a matter of fact, in my next life I
6 want to come here, I think we should ban political
7 contributions from anybody who does any kind of
8 business with the City of Scranton.

9 The second thing is, he says he added
10 people to this board, if I can have a minute, to
11 protect the taxpayers, okay?

12 Of the six people he added to this
13 board, I want to publicly thank Len Kresefski, Kathy
14 Ruane, and my chief, Tom Davis, they virtually come to
15 every meeting, unless there's a conflict. I want to
16 publicly thank them.

17 I'm not going to say the names of the
18 other people because I don't want to -- I don't think
19 it's right to say it publicly, but of the other three

20 people up through October of -- no, September, I guess

21 would have been our last meeting, one of the other

22 people came once, two of the other people have never

23 attended a board meeting this year.

24 So, out of the six, we have three very

25 dedicated, the other three out of 27 possible

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1 attendances, it's one.

2 I would also like to say the mayor is

3 on our board by virtue of office. In the first three

4 years and nine months, he has never once attended a

5 meeting.

6 And I'm going to be honest, the mayors

7 oftentimes vote proxy, but over the years it was nice

8 on occasion to see a mayor attend the board.

9 You know, if he's so concerned, and he

10 should be concerned, he's the mayor of this city, if

11 he's concerned that our pension board was wasting

12 taxpayers' money, I take that as an insult. If he's so

13 concerned with that, he's one floor down, our meetings

14 last approximately 15 minutes, maybe a half an hour.

15 MR. DIBILEO: Mr. Osborne, I'm going to

16 have to ask you if you can bring the rest back next

17 week, please.

18 MR. OSBORNE: Okay. The bottom line

19 is, you know, we're one floor up over three and a half

20 years, has never attended a meeting, yet reports that's

21 the reason we had to do it.

22 So, again, you know what, I guess more

23 important than anything tonight, and I truly mean this,

24 I want to thank each of you guys, and I may be biased a

25 little bit, but particularly Bobby to take time out of

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1 his day to meet with me for two hours. That's good

2 government, and I really appreciate your guy's time.

3 Thank you.

4 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you. Andy

5 Sbaraglia.

6 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia, citizen

7 of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians, that was a big

8 figure, \$65 million. Is that correct? Did I hear

9 right in the back?

10 MR. DIBILEO: What figure is that?

11 MR. SBARAGLIA: \$65 million

12 underfunded, was that right?

13 MS. EVANS: Yes.

14 MR. SBARAGLIA: Okay. Now, on our
15 compensation, we're underfunded there, too, right? I
16 believe we're only required to put up 80, but the
17 20 percent we're underfunded, is that right, on our
18 Compensation? I guess you wouldn't know.

19 MS. EVANS: Andy, I'll have to check it
20 for you.

21 MR. SBARAGLIA: Okay. When the
22 compensation came up, we got the state to say we can
23 stay 20 percent underfunded; is that correct?

24 MS. EVANS: Yes.

25 MR. SBARAGLIA: So, we're underfunded

21

1 on our compensation and we're underfunded on our
2 pension, which in turn eventually is going to add up to
3 the debt, because somewhere along the line we got to
4 pay off these little bills.

5 Okay. Okay. Let's get back to this
6 block grants. There is a little thing, and I asked
7 what we had to do at Boscov's, but obviously he -- I
8 will probably never will get an answer. When it comes
9 up to Boscov's, you don't get answers.

10 For some reason or another, they like

11 to keep all our dealings with Boscov's pretty well in
12 the dark, but I did ask why we're paying off that loan
13 under block grants. They don't give the figure, the
14 dollar amount, but they say Boscov's part of the loan
15 is \$170,000.

16 I would like to know exactly how much
17 he borrowed off of us under this 108 loans, I guess it
18 is. I asked this last week. I guess it's not
19 important enough to get an answer to.

20 MS. EVANS: No, Andy, I'll pursue it
21 for you.

22 MR. SBARAGLIA: Well, it's nice to know
23 how much Boscov's -- like I told you before, Boscov's
24 sold off his loans on the mall for \$40 million, he in
25 turn took out the loan on the old Scranton Dry and the
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1 Samter's Building, he got another \$10 million somewhere
2 along the line. Why is he able to get a this money on
3 top and we have to pay for it? Okay. Let's get on
4 here.

5 We got a little thing here under these
6 block grants, we are anticipating receiving an
7 additional \$30,000 of a program from our CDBG program,

8 this from previous year's activity is included with our
9 anticipated CDBG grant as a resource for 2006.

10 We also anticipated receiving the
11 proceed of a full-funded activity that was included in
12 our 2004 action plan. The proceeds of this activity,
13 which totals \$1 million will be reprogramed as
14 previously stated in that action plan.

15 We got a million dollars siting down
16 there in our block grants that we didn't use? It looks
17 like it.

18 MS. EVANS: Well, I -- is that -- where
19 is that article from, Andy?

20 MR. SBARAGLIA: Well, they didn't say
21 where it's coming from, they call it a float fund
22 activity, whatever that means.

23 MS. EVANS: Okay. From the Scranton
24 Times?

25 MR. SBARAGLIA: Well, yeah, it's your
.

23

1 --

2 MS. EVANS: No, I -- I'm sorry, I
3 haven't read the paper, so --

4 MR. SBARAGLIA: Well, it's really the

5 block grants that he -- you should -- well, you're
6 going to have to be discussing to either concur or
7 disagree.

8 MS. EVANS: Yes.

9 MR. DIBILEO: That's something we can
10 look into, Mr. Sbaraglia. I know that \$142,000 became
11 available through money received from --

12 MR. SBARAGLIA: Yeah, but also we got a
13 million somewhere. Now, is that plus? So, it's our
14 block grants is something like -- I'm going to run out
15 of time. Okay, let's go on.

16 Now, we're not going to find out, the
17 money that we're giving to over there to -- I think
18 it's the Salvation Army for people that are going to be
19 to -- cannot meet their increase in fossil fuel prices,
20 \$20,000, is that going to be a Scrantonians or they
21 would give it to anybody that comes before them and say
22 we need money for our heating no matter what?
23 Because it doesn't say this money is
24 going to be used for Scrantonians, it just says that
25 you're going to give them \$20,000 for our program.

24

1 MS. EVANS: I think we'll have to --

2 Mr. Sbaraglia, I think we'll have to address that to
3 OECD, but if you can return for a minute to your prior
4 question concerning a float fund; is that it?

5 MR. SBARAGLIA: Yes.

6 MS. EVANS: Okay. Can you give me
7 exactly what your question is and I'm going to look
8 into it for you this week? I do not have the
9 information concerning the CDBG allocations with me
10 this evening, it is at home, and I will investigate it
11 for you, if you'll just restate the question.

12 MR. SBARAGLIA: I would have to restate
13 it, but it's better if you just read it, maybe you'll,
14 you know, it's a little easier to understand when you
15 read something than somebody speaks it and maybe their
16 speech pattern is a little different to understand.
17 I'll give that to you.

18 MS. EVANS: Okay.

19 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Mr. Sbaraglia.
20 Ozzie Quinn.

21 MR. QUINN: Ozzie Quinn, Scranton
22 resident. Good evening, Mr. President, honorable
23 members of Council and staff, I was flabbergasted this
24 morning when I woke up and read the paper about the
25 \$204 million that we're in debt. It just -- being the

1 President of the Scranton Lackawanna County Taxpayers
2 Association, it just -- my mind is really all confused
3 because of the fact that we have a indebtness of this
4 amount of money, we have no way else that we have any
5 revenue coming in from outside, we voted -- we know
6 that councilman voted twice -- when Mayor Doherty was
7 councilman voted twice for property tax raises and once
8 to raise the garbage fee.

9 Now, I know there is no more money
10 coming in here and I know he didn't approach
11 non-profits for their contributions, and some of these
12 non-profits they are blocks and blocks and blocks.

13 Now, I want to get this over with very,
14 very -- emphasize this very, very much, okay, please
15 listen to me. No longer can this administration pay
16 off debt by borrowing, it just doesn't work. It's
17 tantamount to paying one of your credit card debts with
18 another credit card, and it never works. You're just
19 going deeper and deeper in the hole.

20 So, I don't know where this mayor is
21 coming from with the spending, and I don't know where
22 he's going to get money to meet his 2006 budget.

23 If you are to pass the EMS Tax, that's
24 the emergency municipal and service tax, if you're to
25 implement that, please use it to decrease taxes.

26

1 We know the city is losing population,
2 our children have left for better jobs in other
3 municipalities, we have a large amount of senior
4 citizens on Social Security, we have 44 percent of our
5 families are below \$25,000, people, we know the high
6 cost of fuel, we know the high cost of home, gas, we
7 know the high cost of medicine, et cetera, et cetera,
8 we also know that the Scranton School Board is in debt
9 \$131 million, and they are going to -- they just
10 presented last week a new plan for neighborhood
11 schools, and we also know that we got a 48.4 percent
12 tax increase this year by the county commissioners.
13 Now, how much can we take? We just
14 cannot take it. I was in Carbondale with the
15 Association on Tuesday, and the people there, women,
16 told us that they had to borrow to pay their taxes.
17 Now, that's insane. That's insane when you have to
18 borrow to pay your taxes.

19 Mr. Doherty has sold off the South Side

20 Complex, the Municipal Golf Course, and the Sewer

21 Authority owns the public works building. And, you

22 know, where are we going?

23 He's selling off our assets, he's got

24 us it debt \$204 million, and, you know, it's just got

25 to the point where the taxpayers are really very

.

27

1 concerned.

2 And we sent him a letter on

3 September 29, asking him in essence to keep

4 administrative flat in his 2006 budget.

5 I urged, also, to restrain by

6 effectively controlling the cost of managing city

7 government operations.

8 Lastly, I want to say it's time and

9 it's long overdue that the three taxing bodies in the

10 City of Scranton, and it's indicative here right now

11 because of the indebtedness, that they got to start

12 coordinating and collaborating their budgets together,

13 okay, so they can come up with ideas and creative ways

14 of getting revenue and bidding out things so that the

15 taxpayer is not left holding the bag with the county

16 going this way, the school going this way and the city

17 going this way and never the three shall meet.

18 We're very much concerned, and,

19 Mr. DiBileo, last week you corrected me about a figure

20 in the paper that I misspoke about, and you said that

21 was a short debt, not a long debt, I appreciate that,

22 okay? Now I ask you to correct Mrs. Evans for \$198

23 million, when it's \$204. I'm only be factitious.

24 So, please, please, when that budget

25 comes down to you, please look at it, cut that fat out,

.

28

1 and you know where that fat out is with lawyers and

2 with overpaid department heads and whatnot, okay?

3 Please cut that fat out. Think about the taxpayers.

4 Have some empathy for those people who are out there, I

5 know you do.

6 And what I'm trying to say, if when it

7 comes back, the budget comes down for review and he

8 vetoes it, I'm asking the councilmen who have also went

9 with the mayor on the vetoes before, please, let

10 politics aside this time, okay?

11 Please care about that old lady that's

12 living over there in the Hill Section or West Side

13 that's getting \$600 a month on Social Security and has

14 to be gasoline -- and has home fuel, medicines and
15 whatnot. Please, I urge you, okay? From the
16 taxpayers, it's time. This \$204 million is just -- it
17 flabbergasted me. Thank you very much.

18 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Mr. Quinn.

19 Bob Bolus.

20 MR. BOLUS: Good evening, Council.

21 Bob Bolus, Scranton.

22 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.

23 MR. BOLUS: One thing I'd like to see

24 in the future that anybody coming to the lectern here

25 would not only give their name, but tell us where

29

1 they're from. They don't have to give a street

2 address, but tell us what town you live in. I think

3 it'd be nice to know where everybody comes from.

4 On the issues going on here in the

5 city, it was nice to see The Scranton Times today to

6 actually start printing some of the truth around town.

7 They only gave 37 percent credit to all the mayors that

8 sat here for putting us in debt over the numerous years

9 in the past, but what they did, they applauded Doherty

10 for 63 percent of the debt we have now in three and a

11 half years. So, I think that's a great deal to see
12 happen, and it's nice to see that things are starting
13 to come out .
14 And it's nice to see the reporters from
15 Channel 61 here, but they're with The Scranton Times,
16 to go on the show on 61 to get the message out and be
17 able to discuss and have dialogue in an open debate, in
18 an open forum, and it's nice to see that they're
19 respecting 61 for the power that 61 has to reach the
20 message to the people because of the limited news print
21 that they can give.

22 The unions, again, I brought this up, I
23 would like to know what union members that are here
24 that speak are from the city and have a responsibility
25 in the city, not just to members there, in fact, I'd
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30

1 like to see all the members show up here that live in
2 the City of Scranton that have something to complain
3 about.

4 Why they're not working, you know, we
5 have trucking companies, and, boy, let me tell you,
6 we'd like to leave our trucks there right in the
7 City of Scranton, never leave, but they go from one end

8 of the country to another and they have to. That's
9 where we go to go to earn a living.
10 And it's just really breaks my heart to
11 see some people have to go to make more money somewhere
12 else, and it's just the way of life, guys, and
13 Scranton's not going to give you a free ride.
14 You know, we get onto the Republican
15 Party, and I thought this was really great, I brought
16 it up once before, Concerned Republicans are rallying
17 around Chris Doherty, I think it's really great that we
18 turn around and see what their proclaimed leader,
19 Barbara Marinucci, as the courts even said, is leader
20 for life, but we have Castro and some other people out
21 there, they're leaders for life, also. They don't get
22 fired, they can't be replaced, but they can quote.
23 But it's nice to see that Lynn Shedlock
24 back on 6/12/01, and it was, A Mayor Candidate Comment
25 Wasn't Funny For Everyone, by Lynn Shedlock. It seemed
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31

1 funny at the time, but Councilman and Democrat Mayoral
2 Candidate Chris Doherty ended up apologizing for a
3 remark he made about Republicans in a recent edition of
4 The Times-Tribune's Saturday.

5 Mr. Doherty gave the remark as an
6 answer to the question posed to him in five questions,
7 a regular humor column.

8 In it respondents are asked to answer
9 five questions. The question asked to Mr. Doherty was,
10 Republicans aren't really very bright, are they? His
11 response, It's not a felony to be stupid.

12 And, gentlemen, Robert Bolus, the
13 Republican mayoral nominee to other speakers, we
14 chastised Mr. Doherty for the remark, it was offensive,
15 whether he thought it was tongue and cheek. And I'm
16 glad to see all you Republicans rallying around the
17 dictator, Barbara Marinucci, and her little clan in
18 this city, because as you all know, I just said
19 Republican Robert Bolus, okay? And that's what I am,
20 and I do not belong to Barbara Marinucci's clan.

21 MR. DIBILEO: Mr. Bolus, let me just
22 say what I said earlier, would people in the audience
23 please refrain from making comments while there's
24 somebody at the podium? And, Mr. Bolus, would you
25 please direct your comments to City Council, as opposed

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1 to the audience?

2 MR. BOLUS: Absolutely.

3 MR. DIBILEO: And regarding that

4 comment that you referred to of Mr. Doherty, I think he

5 ended up apologizing for that comment.

6 MR. BOLUS: Irrespective whether he

7 apologized or not, it was a thought that was in his

8 mind. I, as a Republican, took a personal offense to

9 it, and I have that right to feel what I feel like

10 about his comments, and that's a comment he's making.

11 I, as a Republican, and other

12 Republicans, should equally be offended, that's why I'm

13 glad I'm not part of this group right here, because

14 they don't represent all the true Republicans in the

15 City of Scranton.

16 And then we get down, How can we

17 believe a mayor, and I asked The Times last week, the

18 reporters, to answer my question as to whether

19 Mr. Doherty took money from his campaign or his

20 corporation for his campaign finances, and I asked that

21 question last week, and I didn't read it in The Times

22 this week, and my questions are to The Times to get us

23 that answer and tell us the truth, because how can we

24 believe a mayor that lied to the people?

25 He's not the sixth councilman. I hope

1 I keep my time here, Mr. DiBileo, for what I've been
2 losing while they've been interfering.

3 MR. DIBILEO: Finish your thought.

4 MR. BOLUS: He never put the golf
5 course money in trust, he created authorities to funnel
6 money without counsel approval, there's no bid
7 situation, and there was a statement young Doug will
8 speak about probably, but Doug had asked a question
9 from your debate, to how you work with things, and he
10 said he worked with the Council in the past, which was
11 Murphy, Gilhooley and Hazzouri, and now he can work
12 with Mr. McTiernan and Mr. Pocius, but the problem is
13 they were rubber stampers back then, and that's why he
14 could work with them, but for the last two years, this
15 Council majority has stopped the rubber stamping and
16 holds this deficit spending mayor accountable, and you
17 should be applauded to the people, not to the political
18 cronies that Mr. Doherty patronizes with no bids at a.

19 And one question I have, Mr. DiBileo --

20 MR. DIBILEO: Mr. Bolus, I am going to
21 have to ask you if you would bring the rest back next
22 week.

23 MR. BOLUS: Well, because I was
24 interrupted here for a moment, I'd like to finish just
25 one thought, Mr. DiBileo, and I'll be more than glad to

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1 sit down.

2 MR. DIBILEO: I mean, you can ask me a
3 question, but other than, I'm going to have to ask you
4 if you can bring it back next week.

5 MR. BOLUS: Okay. I can ask you a
6 question, Mr. DiBileo, on professional services, if
7 you're elected mayor, would you put them out for bid?

8 MR. DIBILEO: Yes.

9 MR. BOLUS: Thank you. Doug Miller.

10 MR. MILLER: Good evening, Council.

11 Doug Miller, Scranton. Last week I brought up an issue
12 about Stipp Court, how parts of it need to be paved,
13 well, I have the block for you, it would be the 700
14 block of Stipp Court.

15 MR. DIBILEO: 700. Thank you. Okay.

16 MR. MILLER: The next thing I have here
17 is the Harrison Avenue bridge, I don't know if you've
18 noticed, but as I go over it every day, I see a lot of
19 graffiti on there, so I think if we get somebody over

20 there to look at that and see if we can get that
21 removed, because it really doesn't look good, and, you
22 know, for people going into that neighborhood who have
23 to cross the bridge, it's not really a good first
24 impression to have to see that.

25 MR. DIBILEO: Jay, can you make a note

35

1 of that, please? Thank you.

2 MR. POCIUS: Mr. Miller, I'll call you

3 Mr., that structure is owned by the Department of

4 Transportation, PennDOT, so any comments to that would

5 have been to be directed up there, and there is a

6 rehabilitation project in the works for that structure,

7 so hopefully, it's a few years off, but hopefully

8 whatever parapets are put up would be coated with

9 anti-graffiti repellent or whatever. So, but for right

10 now, Jay, that should go to PennDOT, okay?

11 MR. DIBILEO: Thanks, Mr. Pocius.

12 MR. MILLER: Thank you.

13 MR. POCIUS: Thank you, Mr. Miller.

14 MR. MILLER: The last thing I have

15 tonight is regarding the mayoral debate yesterday, I

16 thought it went very well. The kids in the audience

17 behaved very well, and we were all very informed, and I
18 want to thank you, Mr. DiBileo, and Mr. Doherty for
19 talking time to come and answer questions. We
20 appreciate it.

21 I would also like to thank Channel 61
22 for taking time and to come and tape the debate, and I
23 would like to say that it will be shown on Sunday on
24 Adelpia Channel 10 at 10 o'clock a.m. And that's all
25 I have tonight. Thank you.

36

1 MS. EVANS: Mr. Miller, just a quick
2 comment, I thought you should know that I've received a
3 number of complementary e-mails concerning your
4 appearances here at City Council, and these e-mails are
5 coming from adult citizens of the City of Scranton,
6 they're very pleased to see someone of your age taking
7 such an active interest in our city, and I just thought
8 you might like to know that.

9 MR. MILLER: Thank you. Thank you.

10 MR. DIBILEO: Mr. Miller, I just want
11 to make a quick comment here that I think that you're a
12 good example of the young people that were in the
13 audience yesterday for that debate. I found it amazing

14 to think that ninth graders through twelfth graders
15 have such an interest in what's happening in our city
16 and really want to know what's happening with our city
17 government, and I just thought it was terrific, the
18 fact that they actually wanted that debate to occur
19 yesterday.

20 So, on behalf of me, I was happy to be
21 there, and thanks for wanting us there. Appreciate it.

22 MR. POCIUS: Mr. President, can I just
23 say something? I just, too, am impressed by young
24 Mr. Millers' protocol here. And I've said this before,
25 you must have wonderful parents, because values are

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1 instilled in children from their parents, and your
2 parents should be complimented, because your
3 professionalism you show at a young age at this podium,
4 I wish you nothing but the best in whatever you chose
5 to do in your career.

6 Maybe someday you'll be sitting up here
7 or some other elected office, because I think you'd do
8 a fine job. You have a nice even attitude about
9 yourself.

10 MR. DIBILEO: And the audience

11 yesterday was really filled with people just like Doug,
12 and that audience, believe it or not, didn't make one
13 peep during that debate, and everyone was paying
14 attention, and it was just amazing.
15 I was very, very impressed with the
16 whole production, and I want to thank you and everyone
17 that put it together. Appreciate it. Jim Stucker.

18 MR. STUCKER: Hi, Mr. DiBileo.

19 MR. DIBILEO: Hello, Mr. Stucker, how
20 are you?

21 MR. STUCKER: Hi, Courtright. On over
22 there where the junkyard is off of Keyser, there's a
23 railroad track there.

24 MR. DIBILEO: Where is it, Jim?

25 MR. STUCKER: Right on Parrot Avenue on
.

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1 Luzerne Street, straight up by the junkyard there.

2 MR. DIBILEO: All right, yes.

3 MR. STUCKER: We need a guy -- we need
4 a bell there. Somebody's going to get hit with the
5 train someday.

6 MR. DIBILEO: Yeah, that's a good point
7 you bring up, Jim, and that's something that's been

8 discussed before, and we're working on that. Thank
9 you.

10 MR. STUCKER: Yeah, I gave you a note
11 tonight.

12 MR. DIBILEO: I got that.

13 MR. STUCKER: And he wants to try to
14 get somebody down there to check it out. Somebody is
15 going to fall and get hurt on the road. The road's up
16 in the air, and he told me the sewage pipe is going to
17 break and he's going to have problems going in his
18 cellar, and he don't like that.

19 MR. COURTRIGHT: Jim, we sent a letter
20 out on that, on Locust Street.

21 MR. STUCKER: Yeah, for --

22 MR. COURTRIGHT: We're looking into
23 that. There's a problem there.

24 MR. STUCKER: Yeah, for my buddy Tom.

25 MR. DIBILEO: Yeah, the 1100 block of
.

39

1 West Locust, Jay, we need to look into that matter.

2 MR. STUCKER: He's going to sue
3 somebody. He's going to sue the city, he said.

4 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. All right. Well,

5 he won't have to. We'll take care of it, Jim.

6 MR. STUCKER: Okay. And what about

7 that sign we were supposed to get for the busses?

8 MR. DIBILEO: I think that's still in

9 the process. Jay, do you have anything?

10 MR. SAUNDERS: Yeah, we haven't heard

11 anything back on that, Jim.

12 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. We'll follow up on

13 that, Jim. Thanks a real lot. Appreciate it.

14 MR. STUCKER: Okay.

15 MR. DIBILEO: And you look sharp

16 tonight.

17 MR. STUCKER: Yeah. Okay. And you do,

18 too.

19 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you. Bill

20 Jackowitz.

21 MR. JACKOWITZ: Bill Jackowitz,

22 resident and taxpayer, registered independent voter.

23 Tonight I'd like to talk about crime, I think it's a

24 very interesting topic.

25 According to some residents of the

.

40

1 city, they believe that crime is down in the city.

2 They derive their conclusions based on an FBI crime
3 website.
4 How about we take a trip down memory
5 lane? A fatal shooting at the Pub Charles; a man
6 barricaded in his residents on Main Avenue, West Side,
7 subdued by the Scranton Police SWAT Team, shots fired;
8 an armed robbery in South Side; a few hours later, an
9 armed robbery in the Hill Section; 15 minutes later, a
10 fatal shooting in an apartment, Hill Section, one dead,
11 one seriously injured; a 14-year-old or 15-year-old boy
12 shooting from a window in the Hill Section, innocent
13 bystander injured while sitting in a parked car; a
14 severe assault and beating in Green Ridge; a beating in
15 West Scranton resulting in a death; a student brings a
16 gun to school, Mr. McTiernan, I salute you, serious
17 incident avoided; last month man barricade in residence
18 in West Scranton, approximately 30 shots fired, no
19 injuries or deaths; a shooting death 1400 block of
20 Cedar Avenue approximately one year from today, a man
21 shot down middle of street, 1400 block Cedar Avenue;
22 drive-by shootings, Charlie's Bar, South Side, no
23 longer in existence; other drive-by shootings, Prospect
24 Avenue, South Side; a shooting in alley either Hemlock
25 or Orchard Street, South Side, I believe the woman was

41

1 killed there, also, I can't remember the alley's or
2 court's name; pizza delivery man robbed in Hill
3 Section, beaten, gun stuck in his mouth, must be some
4 good pizza; a rape, Holy Cross church yard; off-duty
5 State Police Officer assaulted at public gathering,
6 West Scranton; 174 bags of heroin recovered in West
7 Scranton; domestic violence attacks occurring at a
8 regular basis; mailboxes being blown up; drug deals
9 occurring every day throughout the city in every part
10 of this city; tires being slashed, cars being spray
11 painted; windows being smashed, banks and convenient
12 stores being robbed on a regular basis, in today's
13 paper, for example; food market robbed, a thief broke
14 into a safe at Brunetti's Sure Save Supermarket at 441
15 North Main Avenue on Sunday taking about \$41,000; city
16 home burglarized, police are looking for someone would
17 broke into a West Scranton apartment Tuesday, took
18 prescription drugs, two diamond rings and a cell phone.
19 I don't know about anybody else, but it
20 sounds to me like there's a lot of crime in this city,
21 and it's not minor crime, it's serious crime. People
22 are dying, and it's about time -- it's about time that

23 somebody in the city recognizes it and starts doing

24 something about it.

25 I'm tired of hearing about Nay Aug

.

42

1 Park. Nay Aug Park is not going to solve these crime

2 problems.

3 But you know something, that web site

4 states crime is down, again, a web site. I ask the

5 lifelong residents of the City of Scranton, Do you ever

6 remember your city having incidents in crime like we're

7 having now?

8 MR. DIBILEO: Excuse me, Mr. Jackowitz.

9 I have to remind people in the audience to please

10 refrain from speaking while someone is at the podium.

11 Thank you.

12 MR. JACKOWITZ: I hope the citizens and

13 residents answer that question truthfully. For those

14 citizens that still believe that crime is down, I

15 invite you to leave your house doors and your windows

16 open, also leave your garage doors and the keys in your

17 car, take your dog out for a walk at 2 a.m. in the

18 morning.

19 The Scranton Police Department responds

20 to every one of these incidents. I salute the patrol
21 officers, detectives and special units of the police
22 department, I also salute the Scranton Fire Department.

23 It soon will be 2006, it is not 1966,
24 '76, '86 or '96. The strong survive, the weak do not.
25 The city is changing. The politicians and citizens

.

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1 must change their attitudes, also.

2 Look around you. How many lifelong
3 residents are still here? The above mentioned
4 incidents do not come from a web site, they are factual
5 and truthful documented by news coverage and official
6 police reports. Thank you for letting me speak.

7 MS. EVANS: Sir, your trip down memory
8 lane is very accurate, but I think what's sad to note
9 is that there are many crimes that go unreported, and
10 there are even other crimes that though reported to the
11 police, do not make the newspaper, and some of those,
12 to my knowledge, are very serious crimes that have
13 individuals in their neighborhoods very concerned, so
14 the numbers, I think, are even larger than what you've
15 proposed.

16 MR. JACKOWITZ: Excuse me, if I may

17 answer that. I did not have time to finish what I was
18 going to say, I was going to address that at some other
19 time.

20 MS. EVANS: I'm sorry.

21 MR. JACKOWITZ: I'll probably have to
22 come back next week, but right now I'm going home to
23 watch the St. Louis Cardinals win a baseball game.

24 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Mr. Jackowitz.

25 Mike Dudek.

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1 MR. DUDEK: My name is Mike Dudek, 608

2 Depot Street, Scranton, Pennsylvania. That's in the
3 Plot Section.

4 I want to point out that one of those
5 little crimes that wasn't in the paper did happen to me
6 two Sundays ago, my tires were slashed, all the
7 political stickers, except for one, were stripped off
8 of my truck, except for one, which was used to hold
9 this note, it was a DiBileo sticker, and the note that
10 this says was, Wrong Choice.

11 The city police came, I have the police
12 report on me, the tow truck came, they took my truck,
13 and I'm now the proud owner of four new tires. So,

14 things do happen, and it's just sad that it does happen

15 in this day and age. It's just sad commentary.

16 There are two little pieces of

17 housekeeping I'd like to address, the 300 block of Dix

18 Court, now, normally we don't talk about courts, but I

19 nearly bit my tongue off on a pothole going onto the

20 300 block of Dix Court off of Linden Street.

21 That's an important turn, because every

22 police vehicle in the city uses Dix Court. This is Dix

23 Court between Mulberry and Linden. If there is ever a

24 city street that needed a paving, this does.

25 I don't know how we don't have broken

.

45

1 shock absorbers on police cars. It is bad. I think

2 any policeman in this city will tell you it is bad.

3 And one even worse than that -- now, I

4 don't know if, Mrs. Evans, if you use the same credit

5 union I do, but you know where the Penn East Federal

6 Credit Union is down the street from the school?

7 MS. EVANS: Yes, I do.

8 MR. DUDEK: Okay. That credit union

9 sits at the intersection of Wren Court, W-R-E-N Court

10 and Spruce Street, Wren Court has to be used by people

11 in order to get into this parking lot.
12 There is a, I wouldn't call it a
13 pothole there, a crater is more like it, and all the
14 patching in the world isn't helping it.
15 This is something I think may have to
16 be looked at by an engineer or something to do
17 something, because this is a very busy credit union.
18 It's probably the most busy of the banking institutions
19 in this city because this is where we poor people go to
20 in order to do our banking, so I wanted to mention
21 those two pieces of housekeeping.
22 Third, I want to congratulate
23 Mrs. Evans, if every anybody ever earned the title of
24 solon of the year, it is Mrs. Evans for her exposing of
25 the city debt, the sticking to her guns, despite the
.

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1 pillaring that this woman took at the hands of The
2 Scranton Tribune editorially and in print and the
3 pillaring that she has taken at the hands of our state
4 senator, Senator Mellow, who still to this day only
5 thinks the debt is only \$6 million. No, it's
6 \$204 million.
7 You have performed a service for us

8 that has absolutely been a remarkable one in bringing
9 this forward, and I want to thank you for it.

10 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Dudek.

11 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Mr. Dudek.

12 Tony Marinucci.

13 MR. MARINUCCI: Good evening. My name

14 is Tony Marinucci, I'm a native of Scranton and have

15 been a resident here for 62 years. I'm a member of the

16 Scranton Recreation authority appointed by Mayor Jim

17 Connors. I have been active in the community my entire

18 adult life, and I am a voter and taxpayer, in other

19 words, I have a right to come here and speak.

20 But before I begin, I will make this

21 prediction, because my remarks will challenge the

22 member of the majority of this Council, I expect to be

23 gavelled down and called out of order by Mr. DiBileo,

24 because that's what happens to people who disagree with

25 him in this chamber.

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47

1 The man who claims to favor open

2 government in his political ads does not practice open

3 government here, I guess that's why his way of keeping

4 his personal politics out of Council meetings.

5 Let's take crime. Mr. DiBileo,
6 Mrs. Evans and Mr. Courtright claim that crime is
7 rampant in Scranton, yet when a speaker quoted FBI
8 crime statistics here last week to show that Scranton
9 is safe, Mr. DiBileo gaveled him down claiming hearsay.
10 Like a lot of Scrantonians, I watch the
11 proceedings of this Council each week on Channel 61,
12 and I am embarrassed for my city. Misrepresentations
13 are presented as truth, truth is turned inside out,
14 meetings drag on for hours, yet no real work is done.
15 Presenting hour after hour of comment is not the
16 mission of Council.
17 In this country we have representative
18 government, that means people are elected to represent
19 us. The majority members of this Council represent the
20 police union, the fire union and the clerical union,
21 their members from the union sit here week after week
22 to make sure that what they are told they do.
23 But perhaps the most outrageous example
24 of misrepresentation committed here has been your
25 misuse of the city audit, Mrs. Evans, to claim that
.
48

1 Scranton is in dire financial straits.

2 First you claim that city debt payments
3 have reached \$30 million a year by 2010. When it was
4 pointed out that you misread the audit, you blamed the
5 auditor for writing the audit report in a way that
6 caused you to misread it, it was their fault.
7 Next you claimed that Mayor Doherty has
8 put the city in debt to the tune of \$198 million. To
9 reach the sum, you take the bonds outstanding for the
10 city and the debt of all city authorities, even those
11 like Scranton Parking Authority and the Scranton Sewer
12 Authority that are paid for by the fees those
13 authorities collect, and then you add all the interest
14 to arrive at a figure that you figured would flatten
15 the people to death.
16 Mr. DiBileo likes to take credit for
17 the new high school that cost \$60 million, and was paid
18 for by how? By bonds.
19 By Mrs. Evans' reasoning and her
20 arithmetic, that would cost the taxpayers, what, \$150,
21 \$180 million.
22 They say that figures lie and liars
23 figure, your manipulation of an audit that by your own
24 admission you don't understand, Mrs. Evans, is a
25 perfect example of the old saying.

1 Well, Mrs. Evans, if you don't know how
2 to read an audit, what in heavens name are you doing as
3 Council's finance chair?

4 And if you don't know the difference
5 between principal and interest, what are you doing as
6 Council's finance chair? Do you --

7 MR. DIBILEO: Mr. Marinucci, you're
8 correct, I did just use the gavel, because I won't
9 allow you to use the word liar when referring to anyone
10 on this City Council, so please refrain from doing that
11 and go right ahead.

12 MR. MARINUCCI: Do you attend the
13 completion meeting scheduled by the accountants
14 whenever they do an audit to answer questions? If you
15 did not, why didn't you?

16 And you act as if the obligations
17 covered by the city's debt are somehow optional,
18 pensions, Workman's Comp., these are obligations that
19 any mayor of the city will have. Earlier mayors
20 ignored them. This mayor met them head on. The only
21 other option would be a tax increase.

22 And something else, Mrs. Evans, that I

23 think is relevant to your position as finance chair is
24 a statement of your personal finances, how many liens
25 are there on you and your husband, how many creditors
. .
50

1 are looking for money that you seem unable to pay?

2 This isn't a personal attack --

3 MR. DIBILEO: Prior to this meeting I

4 asked you -- I asked the audience to please refrain

5 from personal remarks of a personal nature, especially

6 those involving family members of anyone here or in the

7 audience, so if you would please --

8 MR. MARINUCCI: Mr. DiBileo, you let

9 Mr. Bolus rave on and shoot venom about my sister.

10 Mrs. Evans keeps claiming that she's a political

11 electee, and being a political electee, that's an open

12 book.

13 MR. DIBILEO: But her husband --

14 MR. MARINUCCI: Let me finish. You let

15 prior --

16 MR. DIBILEO: Her husband is not.

17 MR. MARINUCCI: Nor is my sister.

18 MR. DIBILEO: She's on a board, as are

19 you.

20 MR. MARINUCCI: She's not a political
21 electee. Just like the last -- a couple of weeks ago
22 you let them say that the Scranton Recreation Authority
23 was corrupt and my name was used, no gavel was sounded.

24 You were moot.

25 Now all of a sudden when I come up one

.

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1 time a year, you try to mum me. I don't think it's

2 fair. Let me continue. You let everybody else

3 continue, let me continue.

4 And something else, Mrs. Evans, that I

5 think is relevant, excuse me, I think people have a

6 right to know -- this isn't a personal attack, I think

7 people have a right to know how a person who lectures

8 the administration on finances handles their only

9 obligations.

10 And, Mr. DiBileo, you did nothing to

11 correct Mrs. Evans. As a businessman you ought to know

12 better, but you allow misinformation to be passed at

13 these meetings as long as it supports your political

14 agenda, and your political agenda is to upset the

15 Recovery Plan approved by 72 percent of the voters,

16 because that's what your union leaders here want.

17 They couldn't do it on their own, so
18 they're using you to do it for them. You won't say it,
19 but it's true. The only other option for covering the
20 city's obligation to pensions and workman's comp., is a
21 tax increase.

22 I will make another prediction, if you
23 get elected mayor, God forbid, the unions will get
24 everything they want, they will use the same statistics
25 that you called hearsay last week to prove that

.

52

1 Scranton is one of the safest cities in America, which
2 it is, by the way.

3 The last time I disagreed with
4 Mrs. Evans, a rock was thrown through the window of my
5 car. Maybe it was coincidence, maybe not. Seeing the
6 treatment of people who come to this City Council and
7 disagree with the majority, I know that it's risky
8 business.

9 When John Keeler came here to present
10 information that was against you, he was attacked and
11 intimidated by members of Council and by members of the
12 audience.

13 When Bob Scopelliti came here to

14 present the case for continued pool fees, you beat up
15 on him because he had the nerve to challenge you and
16 you wanted him to resign.

17 And John Pocius, who has a lot more
18 experience than all three of you in the majority is
19 punished and ignored because he speaks the truth, and
20 he sits here week after week and gets admonished.

21 When members of area building trade
22 unions come here to plea for the reintroduction of the
23 Community Redevelopment Purchase or the city's small
24 business loan portfolio, the majority ignored them.

25 The only union jobs they want to increase are in city

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1 hall. Carpenters, plumbers, electricians, brick

2 layers, they don't count.

3 The people of Scranton, I will say

4 this, Regardless of what you hear in these Council

5 meetings, Scranton has come a long way in the last four

6 years. Turn off the television and look around. The

7 parks haven't looked this good in 40 years.

8 No matter what Mr. DiBileo says, there

9 are a lot of new jobs in the city, a lot of streets

10 have been paved. If your street is one of them, you

11 know it. And you know that streets haven't been paved
12 for decades.

13 I think the majority members of this

14 Council need to start telling the truth to the people

15 of Scranton and stop trying to scare them. You're

16 elected to represent everyone, not just the people who

17 want to overrun the Recovery Plan.

18 Start leading and stop following those

19 who come here. All taxpayer payers elected you, not

20 just the union leaders who want one thing, all taxpayer

21 dollars they can get on hands.

22 And in conclusion, I want to inform the

23 cowardly scum who threw the rock through my window that

24 I now have a video camera around my property.

25 And if anyone has a problem with my

.

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1 statement, let them face me man to man, if they have

2 any rocks, that is. Thank you.

3 MS. EVANS: Mr. Marinucci --

4 Mr. Marinucci -- Mr. DiBileo, may I just interject

5 briefly?

6 MR. DIBILEO: Absolutely. Would

7 somebody ask Mr. Marinucci to return, if he wishes?

8 Mrs. Evans has a comment.

9 MS. EVANS: Well, just briefly. First

10 all to correct a few statements, I myself pointed out

11 the misread that I made of that audit, that was not

12 pointed out to me, and unfortunately there are not many

13 elected officials who will ever admit to making a

14 mistake, let alone concealing issues from the people of

15 this city and overspending and over borrowing, rather

16 the apologists excuse it away for them.

17 Secondly, I did attend the preliminary

18 audit discussion where Mr. Kresefski was present, as

19 well as Ms. Shedlock, I was also present at that exit

20 conference, which was conducted publicly.

21 As for the remainder of the comments

22 made by Mr. Marinucci, I won't dignify them with a

23 response. I really -- I don't intend to sink to that

24 level, but I will say, isn't it, regardless of the

25 remarks, isn't it a wonderful, wonderful opportunity

.

55

1 that people can come to this podium and speak their

2 minds no matter how misguided they may be?

3 MR. DIBILEO: You're absolutely right,

4 Mrs. Evans. The only criticism I have of Mr.

5 Marinucci, besides the fact that I think he referred to
6 somebody up here as a liar and he used -- and he
7 mentioned somebody's member of their family, is the
8 fact that as a member of the Scranton Recreation
9 Authority, I found it despicable that he would refer to
10 some youths in this city as riffraff, and I think
11 that's terrible. Mike Ferke.

12 MR. FERKE: Good evening, Council, and
13 thank you for allowing me to speak to you this evening
14 and exercising my Constitutional Right to free speech.
15 My name is Michael Ferke, I'm a citizen and taxpayer
16 and resident of the City of Scranton and chairman of
17 the Scranton's Firemen's Pension Commission.
18 I'm here this evening to speak in
19 regard to the repeal of File of Council No. 113 and 114
20 of 2004. As you may or may not know, File of Council
21 No. 113 and 114 of 2003 drafted by Mayor Chris Doherty
22 are approved by the former rubber stamp City Council
23 did in fact stack the Scranton firefighters' pension
24 commission and the Scranton cops' pension commission.
25 The original intent and purpose of the

.

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1 establishment of the cops' pension commission and all

2 the other commissions were to have commissions that
3 sole purpose were to administer the pension plans and
4 pension fund assets in a moral, ethical, professional
5 and businesslike manner.

6 In my opinion, this was done for so
7 many years without incident and political involvement.

8 In reality, the only need to stack the pension boards
9 was for the mayor and his political interest machine to
10 be in place so they could implement their desires when
11 the time was appropriate for the benefit of their
12 agenda, not the sole benefit of the taxpayer, pension
13 plan members or those receiving a pension.

14 In the City of Scranton there exists
15 the police pension commission, the non-uniform pension
16 commission, the firefighters pension commission and the
17 overall composite pension commission.

18 When this legislation was drafted,
19 being File 113 and 114 of 2003, why was the cop or the
20 non-uniform pension and police pension commissions left
21 out of this?

22 If the mayor was truly worried about
23 the taxpayer pension plan members and those receiving a
24 pension, he would have sponsored legislation affecting
25 all of the commissions, not just half the commissions.

1 Representatives of the firefighters
2 pension commission and the composite pension commission
3 raised more concerns over the selection process over
4 the last pension asset manager when Mayor Doherty was
5 City Council finance chairman.
6 As a matter of fact, two
7 representatives of the firefighters local and
8 firefighters pension commission were requested to meet
9 with Council at that time and were requested to agree
10 or endorse the Council's pension asset manager
11 proposal.
12 Myself and the other representative of
13 the firefighters pension commission and firefighters
14 local refused to agree or endorse the Council pension
15 asset manager's plan, to much, in our opinion, to the
16 Council's disbelief.
17 I believe that because of our
18 apprehension to fall in line and agree to the will of
19 Mr. Doherty and his cohorts at the time, the stacking
20 of the two commissions was undertaken to dilute the
21 concerns and ability of the pension plan members, its
22 retirees to successfully place forth their

23 recommendation as a commission to you people, the
24 City Council, on the selection of future pension asset
25 managers.

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1 I can only ask Council that the
2 Files of Council 113 and 114 of 2003 be repealed so
3 that the process and selection of a new pension asset
4 manager, regardless of whom that may be, can be
5 undertaken in an ethical, moral, professional and
6 fiduciary manner without strong-arm political dictation
7 and that the future of the pension plan members and its
8 retirees be respected. Your assistance with this just
9 and worthy request is appreciated. Thank you.

10 MR. DIBILEO: Joanne Williams.

11 MS. WILLIAMS: Good evening, Council.

12 Joanne Williams.

13 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.

14 MS. WILLIAMS: I'd like to start this
15 evening by it, and I wasn't going to do this tonight,
16 Mr. DiBileo, every time I come to this chambers, I am
17 had harassed, Mr. Newcomb is asking me where I -- how I
18 got my job at the Scranton School District, Mr. Lyman
19 steers daggers at me, and it goes -- and you're

20 wondering where the talking is coming from, it's coming

21 from back there.

22 I want to make this perfectly clear,

23 because you allowed this to happen with Mr. Bolus a few

24 years ago stating at this podium that both me and my

25 husband got our jobs through Mayor Chris Doherty. I

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1 didn't know Mayor Chris Doherty when I got my job, and

2 neither did my husband.

3 I can see why now when we ask -- people

4 say I would like to go down and speak, but we see what

5 the Pro-Doherty people go through, and you allow this.

6 You don't gavel -- know how to gavel that gavel when

7 it's time to gavel it. It's time -- it's high time

8 something was done. I don't know where your leadership

9 is.

10 Also, another thing, too, you talk

11 about personal insults and attacks, you allowed your

12 sister-in-law to come down her and attack me several

13 times or use my name several times that evening. Now,

14 do you call that appropriate, Mr. DiBileo?

15 MR. DIBILEO: Do you know why I did

16 that, Mrs. Williams?

17 MS. WILLIAMS: Why, Mr. DiBileo?

18 MR. DIBILEO: Because you used my son.

19 MS. WILLIAMS: You're a political

20 official.

21 MR. DIBILEO: My son is not.

22 MS. WILLIAMS: You're a political

23 official.

24 MR. DIBILEO: My son is not.

25 MS. WILLIAMS: Oh, but it was okay,

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1 Mr. DiBileo, when Chris Doherty's son stood here when

2 Scranton High School's basketball team and Darryl

3 Dawkins who stood here, the basketball player and ran

4 down the city, that we don't need Chris Doherty for

5 mayor, we need you, Mr. DiBileo, did you see that kid's

6 face that night?

7 MR. DIBILEO: No, I don't know his son.

8 MS. WILLIAMS: Well, oh, you said that

9 night Chris Doherty's son, our mayor's son, you said it

10 yourself. But you know what, the people aren't -- the

11 people are intelligent, they know what's going on here.

12 I've gotten letters, and I've got phone calls, it's not

13 going to stop me from coming here. And I am going to

14 continue.

15 MR. DIBILEO: Let me do this real

16 quick, before you even start I'll remind people to not

17 speak or have any comments at all while you're at the

18 podium.

19 MS. WILLIAMS: Well, I'm going to say

20 this, too, about my job, I was told that's slander,

21 okay, and people just better watch when they talk about

22 my job.

23 MR. DIBILEO: And I can only control

24 what happens in this room, not outside the room.

25 MS. WILLIAMS: Well, you need to

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1 control it a lot better in this room. You let people

2 get away and pick on a few Council members here and you

3 let it get away. How inappropriate.

4 I'm not the only one who says that. I

5 know several citizens and residents in this area who

6 cannot get over how you let this circus go on, because

7 it's a circus, but I'm going to continue with what I

8 was going to talk about tonight, but -- see, see what

9 I get, Mr. DiBileo.

10 They don't want -- you know what, they

11 do not want Doherty supporters here, you know what, but

12 you know what, we're coming, we're here.

13 MR. DIBILEO: Mrs. Williams, just for

14 the record, I allowed a speaker just before you,

15 Mr. Marinucci, to go well beyond five minutes, he

16 happened to be saying things that weren't very kind to

17 certain people up here, including --

18 MS. WILLIAMS: Well, we've had it from

19 Mr. Bolus.

20 MR. DIBILEO: -- referring to somebody

21 as a liar and refer to a family member.

22 MS. WILLIAMS: And you don't think

23 that's happened with somebody else here at this podium?

24 MR. DIBILEO: What do you think about

25 that?

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1 MS. WILLIAMS: What do I think about

2 that? I don't think that's nice, but I don't think

3 it's nice when you allow your political campaigners to

4 come up here and shoot their hats off and talk negative

5 about people, because they've done it, Mr. DiBileo, and

6 you've allowed it. And I am going to continue, okay?

7 MR. DIBILEO: I'll try to do better.

8 MS. WILLIAMS: Mr. DiBileo, let's just
9 let it go at that. My name is Joanne Williams. I'm
10 proud to be a homeowner and resident in the City of
11 Scranton, even prouder within the last four years due
12 to the accomplishments and leaderships of Mayor Chris
13 Doherty and his administration.
14 Mayor Chris Doherty has always been
15 committed to making our city the best it can be,
16 without raising our city taxes.
17 Let's start with our parks, people
18 don't want to hear about them, and I'm going to start
19 with this them. I'm going to get some time, Jay. See,
20 Mr. DiBileo, every time.

21 MR. DIBILEO: Please. I would ask
22 again. Mrs. Williams has the podium. Go right ahead,
23 Mrs. Williams.

24 MS. WILLIAMS: Mayor Doherty had a
25 vision for safe and productive parks throughout our

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1 city. Mayor Doherty turned that vision into a reality.
2 Nay Aug does not stand alone in the revitalization.
3 Along with Nay Aug are the following
4 parks that did not die because of Mayor Chris Doherty,

5 because he kept his promise.

6 These are the parks he helped restore,

7 Tripps Park, Connell Park, Cayuga Park, North Scranton

8 Little League, Weston Park, Lackawanna Little League,

9 Jackson and Dorothy Street playground, Carmen Field

10 Little League, Weston Park Little League, the Whittier

11 School Playground Revitalization, partnered with

12 the Scranton School District, Green Ridge Little League

13 and remember those parks reside in your neighborhoods,

14 and the residents take pride in the beauty and the

15 feeling of belonging in a neighborhood.

16 All you really need to do is ask

17 yourself the following questions, Is our city better

18 off than it was four years ago? See, Mr. DiBileo, what

19 I put up with?

20 MR. DIBILEO: I apologize. Please.

21 MS. WILLIAMS: Well, they should be

22 thrown out.

23 MR. DIBILEO: I don't know who said

24 that, but if anyone says it again, I'm going to have to

25 ask you to leave.

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1 MS. WILLIAMS: It's been a constant

2 thing every time I come to this podium.

3 MR. DIBILEO: Go right ahead. Even

4 though you're beyond your five minutes, go right ahead.

5 MS. WILLIAMS: Well, you know what, Mr.

6 DiBileo, you've let a lot of your supporters go beyond

7 the five minutes.

8 MR. DIBILEO: Go ahead.

9 MS. WILLIAMS: Okay, Mr. DiBileo.

10 Thank you.

11 MR. DIBILEO: You're welcome.

12 MS. WILLIAMS: Okay. And also I'd like

13 to ask the residents, Do you feel proud and positive

14 about your city? Let's not stop the proud and positive

15 impression that we are seeing in Scranton. We need to

16 keep Chris Doherty in the mayor's office four more

17 years. Thank you.

18 MR. DIBILEO: I apologize.

19 MS. WILLIAMS: Well, you know, start

20 throwing them out.

21 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Mrs. Williams.

22 Les Spindler.

23 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening, Council.

24 Les Spindler.

25 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.

1 MR. SPINDLER: It's amazing to see Tony
2 Marinucci here after almost four years. It's good to
3 see we have a leap year mayor, now we seem to have leap
4 year speakers with their cheering section.
5 I have a letter here that was given to
6 me by a high school student who wants to remain
7 anonymous, I'm going to read this letter, I would like
8 to keep anonymous. I am in eleventh grade Scranton
9 High School. I would like to say that Mayor Doherty
10 and Police Chief Elliott say there is no gang activity
11 in the City of Scranton, I've lived in Scranton for
12 17 years and I've incurred many gangs.
13 Off the top of my head I can think of
14 at least five gangs, The Bloods, The Crypts, the ADUBS,
15 JRB and The South Side Soldiers. These are some gangs
16 I've known for about for three years. I have been
17 attacked and harassed by these gang members. Thank you
18 for your time.
19 On the latest roundtable discussion on
20 Channel 61, which is hosted by someone, I'm not giving
21 their name, the topic was a recent Scranton Times
22 article which criticizes speakers at City Council for

23 being against Mayor Doherty.

24 Well, if you want an example of biased,

25 there's no better place to start than with the members

.

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1 of the panel of this roundtable.

2 First we have Borys and Lynn from The

3 Scranton Times. It's well known large sums of money

4 that the owners and editors of The Times have given to

5 their neighbor, Chris' campaign, so you know they're

6 not going to get a fair shake from Borys and Lynn.

7 But what is truly astounding is that

8 the moderator of the panel is a supporter and confirmed

9 contributor to Mr. Doherty's campaign. I have

10 documentation right here, Page 7 of Mr. Doherty's

11 June 6 campaign filing. It list the host's

12 contribution to the mayor.

13 We have this proof of bias, and then we

14 have to suffer the indignity of having him lead a

15 discussion, which is in large part focused on bias on

16 public proceedings.

17 Well, thank goodness for Dr. Jean

18 Harris, for without her, there would not have been an

19 objective voice at that table. I am going to forward

20 this to her and ask her to let us know if she had been
21 aware of this before the discussion. I'd ask that she
22 comment on the fact that the host concealed this from
23 the public and gave perception that he was fair and
24 objective.

25 The host shouldn't be leading a

.

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1 discussion on bias. You should see Dr. Harris -- if
2 Dr. Harris can get you a job teaching a course on bias
3 in the media. On your application, simply note that
4 you are well qualified the way you teach and lead by
5 example.

6 Also another topic was whether or not

7 City Council meetings have grown more unruly in the
8 past two years of the Doherty Administration. That's
9 really coward of Scranton Today, the Scranton Times and
10 Channel 61 for, look out, the public, they're onto us.

11 They're starting to see the rise in

12 crime and unprecedented debt that Mayor Doherty has
13 brought to the city, and worst of all, they're

14 mentioning it at City Council meetings on live TV, and

15 heaven forbid, we can't have that, because Mayor

16 Doherty may not get re-elected.

17 So, let's get The Times to run an
18 article where they say that the speakers are just too
19 uncivilized, then we'll schedule a roundtable condoning
20 the speakers appraising Mayor Doherty. And to top it
21 all off, we'll come back and the City Council reruns
22 and just keep showing the roundtable.
23 Well, this is just what's happened, and
24 it's so sad, it's pathetic. When the host was asked to
25 comment on whether the tone of the Council meetings has
. . .
68

1 grown unruly, he gave us his version of the history of
2 Channel 61.
3 Well, what was amazing was that he
4 forgot to mention what Channel 61 and a prior Council
5 did to Jimmy Connors when he was mayor.
6 If you want to talk unruly, it was an
7 ambush. Of course, the host would never mention this,
8 as the councilman leading the charge and encouraging
9 speakers to rant and rave was none other than this
10 candidate, Chris Doherty.
11 The host also forgot to mention the
12 road show atmosphere that Channel 61 created at LJC
13 when they had a public forum and decided to embarrass

14 Mayor Connors.

15 The Council was there, but the only one

16 given a microphone was Mayor Connors, and he was the

17 only one with the good manners and courage to speak and

18 carry on a dialogue with the public.

19 Mayor Doherty sat silent, as is his

20 pattern, and he refused to address the problems

21 directed at the voters.

22 With that in mind, let's remember the

23 first two years of the Doherty Administration. Mayor

24 Doherty wanted his recovery plan passed, but he didn't

25 want to public to fully learn about it, so he and the

.

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1 rubber stamp gang shut down the Council chambers saying

2 it had to be repainted.

3 Channel 61's response? Well, if you

4 move it to different locations, we won't be able to

5 televise these meetings, because we don't have the

6 right equipment.

7 Well, it's amazing how they were able

8 to find the right equipment necessary to televise the

9 ambush of Mayor Connors, which directly led to the

10 election of Mayor Doherty.

11 Sure enough, the people didn't learn
12 all the facts. The Recovery Plan passed, and as the
13 song goes, What do you get? Four years later and
14 deeper in debt.
15 When Channel 61 and The Times, if you
16 want to keep us quite, and if you want the public to
17 hear only your version of the fact, maybe it's time to
18 shut down the Council meetings again.
19 You could say it's time to repaint the
20 chambers again, or better yet, you can tell us it's
21 time to replace the stain glass windows. That would be
22 perfect. You can order new glass and see that it's
23 rose colored so that whoever looks at Mayor Doherty
24 will share your view that it's all right in the world,
25 as long as your candidate is mayor.
.
70

1 MR. DIBILEO: Mr. Spindler, can I --

2 MR. SPINDLER: I have one more -- two

3 more sentences. Both the Scranton Times and Channel 61

4 should be ashamed of themselves for what they've

5 become, for they each as media outlets favor freedom of

6 the press for their point of view, but not freedom of

7 speech from the citizens' point of view. Thank you.

8 MR. DIBILEO: Lee Morgan.

9 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.

10 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.

11 MR. MORGAN: The first thing I have is

12 basically two questions, the Scranton Lackawanna

13 Taxpayers Association has applied for three grants

14 through the Community Development Block Grants, and

15 once again, I'd like to ask this Council to reconsider

16 our applications and put them back into contention for

17 grant money.

18 And I didn't get a chance to talk to

19 Sara Hailstone, she hasn't returned my call, but I'm

20 trying to figure out how we were removed from

21 consideration, and I'm just asking this Council to move

22 beyond politics, because I've asked for grants for

23 three very important things, I brought them up last

24 week, and I'd like this counsel to reinsert them.

25 The other thing I have is, 5-D, we're

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1 going to give the North Scranton Junior High School

2 another \$350,000, is that what's going on? We're going

3 to take this money from other commitments and move it

4 there; is that?

5 MS. EVANS: As far as I understood,
6 Mr. Morgan, North Scranton, well, actually Goodwill in
7 terms of North Scranton Intermediate School, have been
8 promised several hundred thousand dollars a few years
9 ago.

10 MR. MORGAN: By the former Council.

11 MS. EVANS: Yes. And at that time the
12 state government did not provide funding, it was
13 withheld by the governor. As a result, the city funds
14 were withheld, but I believe that money has been in
15 place since that time, and we're merely now presenting
16 them with the funds that were promised and allocated
17 several years ago.

18 MR. MORGAN: Okay. Another thing I'd
19 like to say here from this podium is, you know, I
20 really have to say that I consider the residents and
21 voters in this community to be at fault for what's
22 happened in this city over the last five decades or
23 more.

24 You can see from the comments made from
25 this podium, and I'm not criticizing the comments, I'm

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1 just saying that we had one Doherty supporter whose

2 vehicle was vandalized and one DiBileo supporter whose
3 vehicle was vandalized, and I think what's important is
4 that people respect other people's political
5 ideologies, because it's important that everybody can
6 have their own viewpoints. And we shouldn't try to
7 step on them.

8 I think it's very petty and very
9 childish to do that, and I think what really has to
10 happen here is we have to hold this Council and the
11 next Council liable.

12 There's a candidate who's running for
13 Council now who's made a statement that this person
14 doesn't really care what the people in the community
15 think anymore, because this person is definitely
16 guaranteed a seat on Council after the next election.

17 I find that to be a very troubling
18 thing to be said by any political candidate, but stuff
19 like that continues to happen.

20 And when we look at -- Mr. Osborne got
21 up here and spoke about the pension funds in the city,
22 you know, I had stated from this podium before that I
23 thought our debt was closer to \$500 million than the
24 figure that we're discussing at this point, but if we
25 look at just where it is right now, we're at \$270

1 million, and there's various other things that haven't
2 been added in.

3 And I think once and for all we have to
4 get a very firm number, and whoever becomes the mayor
5 has to realize that we can't borrow our way to success,
6 an the next Council has to realize that we can't allow
7 borrowing to continue. The next Council has to realize
8 there's a lot of things that have to change.

9 In my own humble opinion, we've talked
10 about crime here, we've made a very serious error, we
11 removed beat patrolmen from the streets. We have to
12 have policemen, not in police cars, but policemen
13 walking the beats 24 hours a day.

14 And there's a reason for that. When
15 you drive around in a squad car, and I'm not a
16 policeman, but I'm just giving my own idea of what
17 takes place, when you're driving around a police car,
18 you don't see as much as you do if you're walking the
19 beat, okay?

20 Now, when I was a kid, the old time
21 police would be walking the beat, and if that curtain
22 was pulled or that light was on on that porch or

23 somebody was here, they knew who belonged where, where

24 they belonged, what was going on in their community.

25 We've lost all of that, all in the sake that we're

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1 going to supposedly save money. And what we've done

2 is, we've put our citizens at risk.

3 You know, you can't save money the way

4 we're talking about saving it. You know, you don't

5 take things from the residents to save money.

6 We've made a lot of financial errors,

7 and there's been so many that -- where would we begin?

8 But, you know, there has to be a solution found. This

9 Council has to do what it can do, the next Council has

10 to do what it can do, and whoever the mayor is, he's

11 got to be able to communicate with Council.

12 And you know what, I really would love

13 to see a mayor elected to city hall, even if Mr., you

14 know, Mr. Doherty is re-elected, whoever is elected, I

15 can't tell people who to vote for, but I would like to

16 see the mayor come here once a month and not agree with

17 anything that anybody says in the audience necessarily

18 or the residents, but really present his case, where

19 he's taking us, what he thinks, and what his objectives

20 are, but we don't have that.

21 We have too much political doublespeak,
22 and we need a very firm footing, and what we really
23 need is a leader. Thank you.

24 MS. EVANS: Mr. Morgan, just two quick
25 points. Early on in your presentation you alluded to a

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1 Council candidate making a particular statement, I just
2 wanted to clarify, I am not that candidate.

3 MR. MORGAN: Oh, absolutely.

4 MS. EVANS: I did not make such a
5 statement that I'm elected and so the people don't
6 matter to me anymore, because quite the opposite is
7 true.

8 MR. MORGAN: No, this person hasn't
9 been -- the election hasn't taken place, but this
10 person is just about basically guaranteed a seat.

11 MS. EVANS: Well, all three Council
12 candidates are, which is why I wanted to clarify that I
13 am not the individual of whom you're speaking.

14 Also, just one other matter I wanted to
15 correct, this Council, I understand your concern for
16 the next Council in terms of additional borrowing, but

17 in fact this currently seated Council is going to face
18 just that issue in about a month's time.

19 MR. MORGAN: Absolutely. I agree with
20 every statement you made.

21 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

22 MR. MORGAN: Thank you.

23 MR. DIBILEO: Mary Ann Wardell.

24 MS. WARDELL: Thank you.

25 MS. EVANS: Welcome back.

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1 MS. WARDELL: I say it's a pleasure to
2 be back. I have missed everybody, everybody, those I
3 agree with, and those I don't agree with, I have
4 missed. It's been a long haul.
5 I came here tonight -- by the way, my
6 name is Mary Ann Wardell, I reside on Depot Street in
7 Scranton. I came here tonight because it's getting
8 very close to the election, and it's ironic that
9 Mr. Marinucci was here earlier, I would like to speak
10 to you tonight about just what kind of an
11 administration we have and the things that they're
12 willing to do when someone disagrees with them.
13 I have been a regular Council watcher

14 and attendee of Council meetings for years. I have
15 come here years. I was here when the police were here,
16 I mean, I've been coming a long time, and I always
17 spoke my peace, and whether I agreed with
18 Councilpersons or not, I just said what I believed to
19 be true.

20 I was here -- the last time I was here
21 was last year sometime, and it's probably around
22 September or so, and the day after I was here, my boss
23 came into my office and he closed the door and he said,
24 I have to talk to you.

25 He said, You went to a Council meeting

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1 last night and you were criticizing the mayor. I said,
2 No, I didn't criticize the mayor, I criticized an
3 appointment that he was making to an authority because
4 I didn't feel that that person was the right person to
5 be on that authority.
6 Well, it doesn't matter. That was the
7 mayor's appointee, and you had no business going there.
8 I got a phone call today, and people don't think it's
9 right that you were at the City Council meeting
10 criticizing the mayor.

11 And I said, Well, I didn't go there as
12 an employee of anybody, I have gone there for years and
13 I went there just to say that I didn't agree with that.
14 You know, I don't know what you want me to do, what are
15 you telling me to do?
16 I'm telling you to be very careful,
17 because you know how politics are in this city, and you
18 just can't do this.
19 And I -- first of all, I was mad. I
20 was very angry, because I thought, This is
21 intimidation, I'm being intimidated, and I don't
22 understand why.
23 I said, Who told you this? Well, I
24 can't tell their name, they don't want you to know who
25 it was. But where did it come from? Well, it came
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1 from city hall.
2 Well, it came from city hall. It could
3 have been quite a few people, but, you know, once you
4 hear city hall, you have a general idea of who it might
5 be.
6 And I said, Well, are you threatening
7 my job? Now, Mary Ann, you know we wouldn't fire you

8 over something like this, but you certainly can get
9 yourself in hot water and you'll certainly get yourself
10 in a lot of trouble if you continue to criticize the
11 mayor.
12 I said, Well, my job is very important
13 to me and I love my job, and so, I said, Well, if
14 that's the case, I won't go to City Council meetings
15 anymore, but I have to tell you, to me, I can't believe
16 that anyone would stoop so low and let something that I
17 said bother them so much that they would have to call
18 my boss. And he said, Well, I understand that, but
19 you're probably better off not going.
20 So, I haven't been here, and then come
21 February, I had my accident, and I haven't been here,
22 but the week after he called me into his office, he
23 called me into his office again and he said, I told you
24 about going to City Council meetings and talking about
25 the mayor, I said, I didn't go to the City Council

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1 meeting last night.
2 He said, the president of the company,
3 the gentleman that built the Hilton, got a phone call
4 today from one of the investors, one of the investors

5 was speaking to someone in city government and they
6 kind of commented that, you know, it really wasn't good
7 politics for me to be down there criticizing the mayor
8 or talking about the mayor.

9 And I said, I haven't been there, I
10 don't know why you're telling me this again. He said,
11 Well, just for future reference, just so you know, it's
12 not a good idea. And again I asked him was I being
13 threatened with my job, and he said no. He said, I
14 can't do that, I can't threaten you with your job, I'm
15 just telling you for your own good to be very careful
16 what you say.

17 Now, whether this came from the mayor
18 or whether it came from someone that works for the
19 mayor or one of his directors to me, is immaterial. If
20 we have a city administration that is going to stoop so
21 low as to try to stop people from speaking their mind,
22 then I say there's a serious flaw in this
23 administration.

24 You know, we fought for the right to
25 come here and speak because the Council before this one

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80

1 tried to keep us from speaking, and I was one of the

2 ones that went to court and we were assured by a judge
3 that we had the right to come here and speak, but, you
4 know, when your livelihood is threatened or you feel
5 intimidated to such a point, I have to work, I mean,
6 we're a two-income family, we need that income, I
7 couldn't take a chance on losing my job.

8 And let's face it, if somebody want to
9 really fire you, they'll find a reason, it didn't have
10 to be me coming here to City Council and criticizing
11 the mayor.

12 But I feel that the time is right.
13 I've kept this quiet for a long time. There are a few
14 people that know about it, but I think now it's time
15 the more people that know about this, the better, so
16 that you people understand and those watching
17 understand exactly what kind of administration we're
18 dealing with. And I thank you. That's all I have to
19 say.

20 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.

21 MS. EVANS: Mrs. Wardell, as you know,
22 I'm one of those people who did know for a year, and I
23 kept that secret, too, and I thank you for coming
24 tonight. I had no idea that you would be here, but I
25 really thank you.

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1 MS. WARDELL: Thank you all for being

2 so good to me.

3 MR. DIBILEO: Mary Ann, it's wonderful

4 to have you here tonight. It's wonderful to see you're

5 doing so well after your accident in February, and just

6 very unfortunate that you would have had to go through

7 that experience, and I'm sorry that you had to go

8 through it, but we're happy that you're with us

9 tonight. Thank you.

10 MS. WARDELL: Thank you very much. I'm

11 happy to be here.

12 MR. DIBILEO: Erik Johnson.

13 MR. JOHNSON: Good evening, City

14 Council, Lisa and staff.

15 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.

16 MR. JOHNSON: And it's a pleasure

17 seeing Mrs. Wardell here, and she's very welcome here.

18 It is not the lack of attention to

19 television that has made politicians not to serve, to

20 guide or direct in the solution of problems or to give

21 someone guide and information on what's happening, but

22 there is a lack of attention to the poor and less elite

23 average people like the elderly, low-income working,

24 low-income young, such as single mothers or fathers.

25 Families and the elderly with fixed

.

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1 incomes that are in and will in huge numbers lose their

2 homes that they worked so hard in the past, only to

3 lose them to the more elite who reap huge profits from

4 such misfortunes of the unelite who can no longer

5 afford their homes that they have for years of hard

6 work and low wages in their struggle of having able to

7 have a home of their own.

8 It's a failure that television and

9 politicians share with the average citizen of accident

10 of Scranton that is shared with the wealthy elite

11 people in Scranton or elsewhere.

12 Since the battle for the mayor is in a

13 dead heat, the next two weeks are very crucial to put

14 forward a platform of a program that would require if

15 there were positive improvements made and what they

16 would do to improve situations that need improvement

17 that the mainstream citizens want done, and the

18 opposite to this program, let it be know what wasn't

19 done and what needs to be done and what are you going

20 to do to improve and how with the contemporary
21 happenings being done as of now, and if you can conduct
22 a platform without a lot of negativism and mudslinging
23 an concentrate on a more positive program of the
24 crucial two-weeks program for the Scranton mayor.

25 The what should have dones and should

.

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1 not have dones.

2 No offense, the Republican nominee

3 should have endorsed the Republican Party. The

4 Republican Party shouldn't have tried to expel the

5 Republican nominee from general election.

6 A negative campaign will not help any

7 of the two candidates, and biggest of all, you have

8 three weeks to compile a physical and personal

9 communication with the unelite citizens of Scranton.

10 There are more unelite voters than the

11 elite voters who are being highly recognized by their

12 profession. For several weeks I had been harassed

13 unjustly, most noticeably, a certain city employee who

14 works as a building inspector, but not Mr. Fiorini, not

15 him, near or on city hall property witnessed by others.

16 I've been told a label has been placed

17 on my back because of my presentation at City Council

18 meetings an innuendos of defamation of character.

19 The bottom line, what goes around will

20 come around back in a legal losing way. I know why

21 they're doing this so.

22 Tips for the elderly of fixed income

23 and as well as the wealthy citizens, beware of identity

24 theft, insurance scams, charity funds fraud, avoid cash

25 gives. It's best to pay by credit card or checks.

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1 Check out the charity company or organization before

2 giving. Be careful of solicitations from companies

3 with names similar of well-known charities.

4 And I forgot to say, I'm Erik Johnson,

5 taxpayer here in Scranton. Thank you for letting me

6 speak.

7 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Erik. Walter

8 Mills.

9 MR. MILLS: Good evening, everybody.

10 Forgive me, this is the first I ever spoke here. My

11 name is Walter Mills, I am a resident of the City of

12 Scranton.

13 I'm here tonight basically looking for

14 answers. Mr. Courtright, Mr. Pocius, please interject,
15 because I know you guys kind of deal with this a little
16 bit.

17 Approximately two and a half years ago

18 I took the written police exam, I passed it. As a

19 matter of fact, I was one of the few who passed it.

20 Next came the strength and agility and the oral test, I

21 passed them, also. I had my background check done,

22 everything was fine.

23 When the next group of patrolmen were

24 hired, I heard nothing from nobody, and during this

25 time, I had been in touch with City Hall, the human
.

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1 resource department on an average of two times a month.

2 When they answered the phone, they knew

3 my voice. I didn't have to tell them who I was. When

4 I didn't get hired, I didn't hear anything, I called,

5 no one had any information.

6 I finally reached someone in the Police

7 Chief Elliott's office. I was told, Your name's not on

8 the list. I wanted to know why. I was told, The

9 reason your name was dropped, we sent a patrolman out

10 to your address on file, you don't live there anymore,

11 which I didn't, I had moved.
12 I had changed my address with the Civil
13 Service, with the city, and with the U.S. Postal
14 Service. I received mail from the Civil Service
15 Commission. My neighbors were called when they did my
16 background check, so obviously everyone knew where I
17 lived.
18 It took me five months of going to
19 Civil Service Commission Service meetings to get my
20 name placed back on the list. I was assured that it
21 wasn't just lip service, so to speak, that my name was
22 going back on the list, everything was aboveboard.
23 That was in August.
24 I finally got my letter from the Civil
25 Service saying, Hey, you know what, your name is back
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1 on the list. We're sorry. They accepted the fact that
2 they made a mistake.
3 In September I received another letter
4 saying there is no list, it has been invalidated, the
5 mayor or the chief of police is who they blamed it on,
6 doesn't want that list anymore, and it was within their
7 right to get rid of that list. I went to the meeting

8 last night.

9 MR. COURTRIGHT: How long was the list

10 in existence, do you know?

11 MR. MILLS: I believe it was -- well,

12 the list would have been in existence from the time the

13 test was taken or from the time the physical agility

14 test was taken?

15 MR. COURTRIGHT: From the time they

16 placed the names on the list. Usually -- because the

17 only reason I ask is usually what happens is they could

18 -- the list is good for three years --

19 MR. MILLS: Right

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: -- and they could call

21 for a new testing after two. I'm sorry. It's good for

22 two years, and they could extend it out for a third

23 year, so you're within that time frame.

24 MR. MILLS: Okay. Well, it would have

25 been about two years, two and a half years. Now, last

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1 night at the Civil Service meetings I was told six

2 months.

3 MR. COURTRIGHT: Maybe they changed the

4 rules.

5 MR. MILLS: I don't know. And as far
6 as getting any information out of anyone, forget it,
7 it's not happening. I've called every office in this
8 building, and with rare exceptions, I get real
9 information.

10 Like I said, the first real information
11 I got from anyone as far as my name being off the list
12 was Chief Elliott's office.

13 MR. COURTRIGHT: Did you speak to the
14 solicitor for the Civil Service Commission?

15 MR. MILLS: Solicitor Kelly?

16 Absolutely.

17 MR. COURTRIGHT: And he can't answer
18 your question?

19 MR. MILLS: Yeah. Pretty much you get
20 the shrug of the shoulders and, you know, we'd like to
21 help, but there's really nothing we can do. We follow
22 the rules, you're stuck with the rules.

23 MR. COURTRIGHT: Did they give you a
24 reason why they did away with the list, was there not
25 enough people on it or -- what's the reason they did

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1 away with the list before it expired?

2 MR. MILLS: No reason was given. When
3 I was asked, I was told it's the mayor's prerogative to
4 do whatever he wants with that list.
5 Now, my big question here is, I didn't
6 really want to push the whole thing with the mayor's
7 office and with the -- I know there's an election going
8 on, I'm not here to bash anybody, I'm not here to
9 support anybody, I'm here to try to get to the bottom
10 of this, I'm here to try to find answers from anyone
11 who's willing to help, because I've called everyone
12 here, everyone I know, and no one is willing to, you
13 know, they don't want to commit, is basically what it
14 is.

15 I know that under Article 3, Section
16 312, City Council has a right to an invoke an
17 investigation into something that doesn't look right.
18 Now, am I incorrect on that?

19 MR. COURTRIGHT: How about if I do this
20 before we do anything legal, if you don't mind.

21 MR. MILLS: No, no, go right ahead.

22 MR. COURTRIGHT: I would ask
23 Mr. Saunders to ask the Civil Service Commission, their
24 attorney and the city's attorney, to forward me all
25 information concerning this gentleman, and what was

1 your name again, sir, Walter?

2 MR. MILLS: Walter Mills.

3 MR. COURTRIGHT: Walter Mills. Jay, if

4 we can get his name, his address and his phone number

5 and ask them to forward all that information to me, and

6 then when they do, I'll make it available to everybody

7 here on this board here and see if we can't figure out

8 what happened with you.

9 MR. MILLS: That's great. And like I

10 explained to the people on the Civil Service

11 Commission, I'm not looked to be hired when I was

12 supposed to be hired, because when they hired the

13 officers, my name was number one the list at that time,

14 and then when the list was put out originally, I was

15 not number one on the list.

16 These people earned their job, just

17 like I would have earned mine. I don't want anyone to

18 lose their job, I'm not looking to remove someone who

19 does a fine job now.

20 And from everything I've heard, these

21 people that were appointed are great, so I don't want

22 to take anything away from them, but I wasn't looking

23 -- I was willing to wait for the appointment, and the
24 appointment never came.

25 As a matter of fact, the only thing i

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1 got was, like I said, a letter telling me, Tough luck.

2 See you later.

3 MR. COURTRIGHT: All right, we'll ask

4 for that information, and hopefully we'll get it

5 A.S.A.P. Jay, can we ask them to rush that? I know

6 they don't meet, only on a monthly basis, so can we

7 maybe call the solicitor and ask him, and then we'll

8 send it in writing, also?

9 MR. SAUNDERS: Yeah, I'll call --

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: But I'd like to get is

11 as soon as possible, and if we can help you, fine.

12 MR. MILLS: But I mean, that's really

13 all I ask. I mean --

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: If we can't get any

15 help that way, then maybe we'll take the other route,

16 but I prefer to try to do it this way, if you don't

17 mind.

18 MR. MILLS: That's fantastic. Like I

19 said, I've sent a number of e-mails, I've made phone

20 calls, they're not returned, they're not answered.

21 MR. DIBILEO: Are you saying,

22 Mr. Mills, that you were next-in-line-type-of-thing?

23 MR. MILLS: According to the list, yes.

24 I mean, like I said, I called at least twice a month

25 every month, so, I mean, I was pretty well informed.

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91

1 For them to tell me that we don't have

2 your new address, when I knew very well they did, it

3 kind of stuck in my craw, but, you know, mistakes

4 happen, maybe somebody got the wrong paper. I was

5 willing to accept that excuse, but after the letter, I

6 have a real hard time accepting it.

7 MR. COURTRIGHT: The only thing that

8 bothers me, is unless they changed the rules, maybe we

9 can get a set of the Civil Service rules, it used to

10 be, to the best of my knowledge, two years and then

11 they had the right to extend it out for three years,

12 the list.

13 MR. MILLS: Okay.

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: Now you're telling me

15 six months.

16 MR. MILLS: Well, that's what I was

17 told last night. I was told the list is over six
18 months' old, and the mayor has the right to change it
19 any time he wishes.

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: Okay. Maybe they
21 changed the rules, but can we also get a copy of the
22 rules, if possible? We will try to do our best for
23 you.

24 MR. MILLS: All right. And I also -- I
25 was looking for information on the test given, when it
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1 was given, were there any grants used to take that
2 test, because as far as I was told when I spoke to the
3 gentleman giving the test at the time, he was told
4 grants were used to pay him, that they were going to be
5 used sequentially, they'd be picking the names
6 sequentially, they weren't using the rule of three, and
7 then when I received the letter from the Civil Service,
8 I was told they will be using the rule of three, and my
9 name wasn't on the list anyway, so it didn't make a
10 difference.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: All right. So,
12 obviously there's a problem here, and I'll do my very
13 best to try to --

14 MR. MILLS: That's all I ask.

15 MR. COURTRIGHT: All right. And

16 hopefully we can get that information as soon as

17 possible. Would you leave your name and address and

18 everything with Kay, please? Thank you.

19 MR. MILLS; Thank you.

20 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you. Hal Donahue.

21 MR. DONAHUE: Mr. President, I brought

22 back the statistics you asked. I'll give them to her,

23 you can review them.

24 MR. DIBILEO: Okay.

25 MR. DONAHUE: I also found Pennsylvania

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1 state statistics through September of 2005 that seem to

2 indicate, also, that crime is significantly down from

3 four years ago.

4 MR. DIBILEO: Now, when you say -- what

5 city, City of Scranton?

6 MR. DONAHUE: City of Scranton. That's

7 what the State Police statistics show or seem to show.

8 And, also, that emotional shopping list of crimes isn't

9 a whole lot different than when I was a cop 30-some

10 years ago, that's why we value our policemen. I those

11 statistics, every one of them has a story like that.

12 And it's -- only the number can tell what the

13 performance is.

14 And I just want to say, thank you for

15 not gaveling me down. A former cop, a retired Air

16 Force lieutenant colonel, I spoke in Greece before town

17 councils controlled by the parties, never got gaveled.

18 I had to come home and do that. Thanks.

19 MR. COURTRIGHT: Mr. President, can I

20 make a statement?

21 MR. DIBILEO: Sure.

22 MR. COURTRIGHT: I checked about the

23 FBI, because I know you said the FBI, the FBI did not

24 put out until yesterday the statistics for 2004.

25 The FBI does not give statistics specific to the City

.

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1 of Scranton.

2 I also went and checked with the comm

3 center. In 2003, we were at 60,000-some, it rose again

4 in 2004, and in 2005, we are on mark to rise again.

5 So, the incidents have risen.

6 Also, when the FBI or, I believe, the

7 State Police when they take statistics, if we had ten

8 windows broken on Prospect Avenue, they count that as
9 one incident, so I didn't see your thing, I'm going to
10 take a look at it, but according to the FBI, yesterday
11 was the first day that the UCR statistics were given
12 out for the year before.

13 MR. DONAHUE: They do composite
14 statistics, and if you recall when I was being
15 interrupted, I said they were the 2002.

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: Okay.

17 MR. DONAHUE: Because the 2003 may be
18 coming out now, because they take all those raw
19 statistics and break them down and compare them, and
20 what's in there actually is an analysis done and what
21 the methodology was.

22 MR. COURTRIGHT: This is the FBI?

23 MR. DONAHUE: The site. It uses FBI --

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: It's not the FBI,

25 because the FBI --

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95

1 MR. DONAHUE: The composite figure is
2 FBI data.

3 MR. COURTRIGHT: The FBI's telling me
4 they do not do anything specific to the City of

5 Scranton, the do regions.

6 MR. DONAHUE: No. That's why I said,

7 it was the region, which includes Hazelton and

8 Wilkes-Barre.

9 MR. COURTRIGHT: Right. I got

10 statistics for Scranton, which shows that they're

11 rising every year.

12 MR. DONAHUE: Also in there are state

13 statistics in there for Scranton that show it's up and

14 down, but the trend is down and they're significantly

15 lower than 2001. So, compare the two, and I'm happy to

16 come back, if you'd like me to.

17 MR. COURTRIGHT: I've got 2003 here,

18 I've got 2004 here, and I got the figures what we're at

19 today for 2005, and all three years were rising.

20 MR. DONAHUE: What you have there is

21 2001 through 2005. That's exactly --

22 MR. COURTRIGHT: That's not fair.

23 That's not fair.

24 MR. DONAHUE: No, it's not. What I

25 gave you there were the State Police statistics for the

.

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1 City of Scranton for 2001 through September of 2005, so

2 --

3 MR. COURTRIGHT: And I will certainly

4 look at them. Thank you.

5 MR. DONAHUE: Please look at them. If

6 you want me to come back, I'll be happy to.

7 MR. COURTRIGHT: Okay. Thanks.

8 MR. DONAHUE: Thanks.

9 MR. DIBILEO: Mr. Donahue, if you don't

10 mind, can I respond? In anticipation of you possibly

11 coming back again this evening, because I had been on

12 the internet, also, as you said last week, and I had

13 been familiar with some statistics here that I brought

14 with me for the first time since I've looked at this

15 quite a while ago, but, you know, perhaps you don't

16 understand my concerns.

17 You know, when I speak of crime, I do

18 so in relation to crime as it relates to a near

19 20 percent reduction in police protection.

20 I'm not trying to say we have the worse

21 crime rate in the state, what I'm trying to say is that

22 our crime statistics, which I'll go over in a second

23 here, don't justify a decrease in police of that

24 magnitude, and our current crime stats according to our

25 own state police, Pennsylvania State Police, for the

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1 year 2004, because there are no 2005 numbers yet on

2 this --

3 MR. DONAHUE: On that one, okay. The

4 site I have in there has.

5 MR. DIBILEO: The calendar year 2004,

6 and these are the crimes that it refers to.

7 MR. DONAHUE: Are they reported or

8 arrests or --

9 MR. COURTRIGHT: Those would be

10 statistics that come directly -- Scranton reports to

11 the State Police.

12 MR. DONAHUE: But it depends whether

13 it's arrests, reports.

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: Reported.

15 MR. DONAHUE: And why don't you look at

16 it and we'll talk about it again. I'll be more than

17 happy to.

18 MR. DIBILEO: Let me just say this,

19 it's involving criminal homicide, sex-related offenses,

20 robbery, assaults, property offenses, arson, drug

21 violations, and other alcohol crimes, so eight

22 categories.

23 Now, for the year 2004, the numbers for
24 those eight categories of crime is up 6.1 percent.

25 Now, I'm not saying it's double, I'm not saying it's up
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1 50 percent or 25, or even 10, it's up 6.1 percent, but
2 the fact is that doesn't justify a reduction of almost
3 20 percent reduction in our police, because when you
4 think about it, and every one of these eight
5 statistics, not one of them is lower from the prior
6 year. One of those eight categories is the same, and
7 that is sex-related offenses, 167.

8 There are for the year 2004, 6,085
9 incidents of those eight categories, compared to 5,736
10 the year before.

11 MR. DOHANUE: May I say something?

12 MR. DIBILEO: Yes.

13 MR. DONAHUE: There's 20-some
14 categories of reportable crime. I'm not saying you
15 cherry picked, but just by taking those categories, you
16 definitely limited -- there's part one, which I believe
17 is crimes against person, and then there's another part
18 two which I think encompasses crimes against property,
19 and you've kind of -- both of those are mixed up.

20 So, what I'm saying is if you look at
21 it -- and when you say, like, homicides are up, the one
22 year I looked, homicides appeared to be up something
23 like 300 percent because we had a really good year one
24 year and no one got murdered, and the next year we had
25 three murdered.

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1 MR. DIBILEO: Well, I'm using numbers,
2 I'm not using percents.

3 MR. DONAHUE: Oh, I thought you said
4 percent. I'm sorry.

5 MR. DIBILEO: A percent of all eight
6 categories of the totals; in other words, criminal
7 homicide went from two to three, so I'm not saying that
8 crime is up 50 percent, I'm saying 6,085 compared to
9 5,736 of those eight categories, and they're the only
10 eight categories on the sheet in this area that is an
11 increase of 6.1 percent.

12 What I'm saying is that I'm concerned
13 about the decrease in police, and you should be, too,
14 because, let me say this, you know, with a decrease
15 like that in police protection, do you think crime is
16 more likely to go up in the future or down?

17 MR. DONAHUE: It depends how the --
18 first of all, the policemen, as I understand it, and
19 you may correct me, that decrease in police were the
20 federally funded ones that knew they were going to go
21 if they didn't -- if the funding wasn't continued,
22 correct?

23 MR. DIBILEO: Yes, that's right.

24 MR. DONAHUE: So, they were
25 essentially, I hate to say this, because we had

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1 something, I think it was Title 10 back when I was on
2 the police department, and we had something like that
3 back then, and they were essentially gravy, they helped
4 us do what we had to do. And, yes, they would have
5 been nice to have, but the city couldn't afford them.

6 MR. DIBILEO: Well, the city could
7 afford half the costs, because that was the proximate
8 cost that the city used for all those officers.

9 So, the bottom line is, the city could
10 have kept half the officers by keeping half the costs,
11 but the problem is, I'll say the mayor --

12 MR. DONAHUE: But I believe that's a
13 contract negotiation thing, but I can't speak for the

14 administration, I really can't. I have no idea.

15 MR. DIBILEO: The mayor let them all

16 go, not just half, he let them all go.

17 MR. COURTRIGHT: I would just like to

18 say one last thing, we can bring numbers up and you can

19 maybe --

20 MR. DONAHUE: We can bat them back and

21 forth, yeah.

22 MR. COURTRIGHT: What I go by

23 personally, I go by what people tell me how they feel

24 in this city, and my -- personally what I hear from

25 people, and I don't want to bring my family in, but my

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1 own family member, is that they don't feel as safe as

2 they used to. And --

3 MR. DONAHUE: As they used to, when?

4 MR. COURTRIGHT: Well, I mean, as they

5 used to four years ago basically, or not four years

6 ago, but I'll say a year ago or two years ago when we

7 had the officers that we had.

8 When they see the patrol officer on

9 foot, the people in the East Mountain, they had

10 purchased or somebody had gave them a motorcycle, a

11 dirt bike to patrol the mountain, I can't tell you how
12 many calls I got about that bike.
13 And by the way, Jay, can we find out
14 where that bike actually resides, that was asked to me
15 the other day, what happened to the bike, where did it
16 go.

17 I can't tell you how many calls I got,
18 especially from one neighborhood, right, because
19 they're drinking, kids up there and whatnot, but
20 because I have a little bit of an association with
21 police, as you well know, I get it all the time. I get
22 it all the time.

23 MR. DONAHUE: And Mr. DiBileo and I
24 have actually had conversations about how do you
25 properly deploy police, and there are issues that

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1 should be talked about.

2 MR. COURTRIGHT: I just think the
3 numbers, we can do numbers all day long here.

4 MR. DONAHUE: But the question is you
5 feel safer. But when you have people coming up, for
6 example that gentleman, no disrespect to him at all,
7 saying there's been this, there's been this, there's

8 been this, there certainly has, and if you keep saying
9 it over and over again, people will be frightened to go
10 out.

11 The simple fact, though, is --

12 MR. COURTRIGHT: I think they're
13 already frightened, that's what I think.

14 MR. DONAHUE: But is it because people
15 are saying it over and over? I'll walk out of my
16 house, and quite honestly, I forget and leave my doors
17 unlocked, which I shouldn't say on T.V.

18 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yeah, don't say that.

19 MR. DONAHUE: Do you understand what
20 I'm saying? And you know where I live, it's not a real
21 nice neighborhood.

22 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yeah, I know where you
23 live, I know you very well.

24 MR. DIBILEO: And Mr. Donahue, what I'm
25 saying is, even if crime was down 20 percent, which

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1 it's not obviously, and I have the full faith in our
2 state police, that still wouldn't justify a 20 percent
3 reduction in police. I would say they're doing a great
4 job, but all of them didn't have to be let go.

5 And just a side note on these two
6 sheets of paper, one for the end of '03 and one for the
7 end of '04, our population, which is listed on both
8 sheets, is down 2,186 people, and that's a decrease of
9 2.85 percent of our population. Not to say that
10 because of crime, that's just a side note. Two
11 concerns.

12 MR. DONAHUE: But my own personal
13 opinion, I think that those numbers are probably wag or
14 they're a guesstimate, because what I see happening in
15 the city is a lot of people moving in.

16 I see -- I -- literally on the Hill,
17 South Side, I actually see people moving in, and I find
18 it encouraging, but that's different views, and maybe
19 it's where we live.

20 MR. DIBILEO: The problem is you don't
21 see them when they're gone, you only see who's here.

22 MR. DONAHUE: No, I see who's gone. I
23 usually miss them.

24 MR. DIBILEO: More left than came in,
25 according to this report.

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1 MR. DONAHUE: I think our problem is

2 deaths more than anything else. I don't think they go

3 very far.

4 MR. DIBILEO: Well, that certainly

5 doesn't help.

6 MS. EVANS: Well, I would agree that

7 deaths are certainly an integral part of the population

8 declining, because we do have a senior citizen

9 population of, I believe, close to 60 percent, however,

10 as I travel through the streets, and I've noted this on

11 other occasions throughout South Side, and now even

12 through Green Ridge, it's just hard to believe that

13 five senior citizens would have died, you know, within

14 the same time period and their homes are up for sale.

15 There are many, many homes up for sale,

16 and my certain is, as you were saying before, I think

17 you, if I heard you correctly, and I'm paraphrasing

18 now, that the more you say something, the more people

19 believe it or the more frightened they'll become, yes?

20 MR. DONAHUE: If that's all they hear,

21 correct.

22 MS. EVANS: Now, on the other hand,

23 though, you know, I've talked to a number of people

24 involved in crime, not the perpetrator, but the

25 victims.

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1 MR. DONAHUE: And it's ugly, I admit

2 it.

3 MS. EVANS: It is.

4 MR. DONAHUE: And like I said, now you

5 know why we respect policemen.

6 MS. EVANS: And I just have to wonder,

7 you know, how many more parents are going to have to

8 get a call in the wee hours of the morning that their

9 son has been beaten, and that's not only in Green

10 Ridge, that was also in Downtown Scranton, and how many

11 more of my colleagues, I hope none, have to tell me

12 that their car was set on fire in their driveway

13 causing, you know, residual burns to their home and a

14 neighbor's home, and to this day it's not solved and

15 never reported in the paper, they are afraid, they are

16 very afraid to leave their house vacant, to leave

17 anyone alone in that house, and these aren't, you know,

18 these aren't imaginary fears, these are very real.

19 MR. DONAHUE: But what you're telling

20 me is nothing I haven't seen before or heard before.

21 Actually usually back in the old day, back in my day it

22 was dynamite

23 MS. EVANS: Well, the only thing I'd
24 say is back in -- I'm not as old as you, and not that
25 you're old, Mr. Donahue, you're not --
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1 MR. DONAHUE: I moved back here so I'd
2 be called Sonny once a week.

3 MS. EVANS: Okay. Sonny, I do
4 remember, though, as a youngster that we didn't have to
5 lock our doors and no one locked their car doors
6 either, and neighbors took care of neighbors and
7 everyone knew everyone else, and unfortunately -- and I
8 don't think it's limited to the City of Scranton by any
9 means, but it certainly isn't that way anymore, but the
10 sad part to me is, like you, who unfortunately gave his
11 address, I think, throughout most of my life I didn't
12 lock anything up either, but I do now, even if it, and
13 you'll, I shouldn't be saying this next to my boss,
14 even if it makes me late for work, I make sure all the
15 doors are tightly locked and windows are closed.

16 MR. DONAHUE: But I put to you that's
17 because we're smarter. I essentially put to you that's
18 -- what I'm trying to say is, times haven't changed
19 that much. Until the second coming, you're probably

20 going to have all those things you're talking about.

21 You can put a policeman in every house

22 and you wouldn't eliminate crime and you wouldn't

23 eliminate those things.

24 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Mr. Donahue.

25 Appreciate it.

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1 MS. EVANS: Okay. The only last thing

2 was, though, I hope I'm smarter, but on the other hand,

3 like I said, I didn't fail to do those things

4 throughout my adulthood because I was ill-informed or,

5 you know, a stupid woman, there wasn't any need for it,

6 and now there is.

7 MR. DONAHUE: Having been a policeman

8 back then, I would disagree.

9 MR. DIBILEO: Well, maybe we're smarter

10 towards crime than we used to be. I don't know about

11 smarter in general.

12 Last thing on this topic, and I'm going

13 to shut up, there's also a population figure for

14 Lackawanna County here, and I just calculated, in a

15 fairness, Lackawanna County population is also down 1

16 percent, 1.01.

17 So, according -- I know death has a lot
18 to do with it, but I doubt that less people are dying
19 county-wide than in the City of Scranton, so it's
20 probably similar.

21 MS. EVANS: And I think, too, much of
22 it revolves around the fact that our children are gone.
23 Many, many people's children not residing in the area
24 any longer because there were no jobs for them, just
25 minimum wage jobs, not family-sustaining jobs, no jobs

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1 that provided the opportunity for a good lifestyle and
2 promotion, so they had to leave this city and seek that
3 in other municipalities, and that's, I think, a very
4 large piece of this population puzzle.

5 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Mrs. Evans.

6 John Keeler.

7 MR. KEELER: John Keeler, Orchard
8 Street, Scranton, Pennsylvania. I just want to commend
9 you, that this discourse with Hal Donahue, in my
10 opinion, it was a very worthwhile discourse there.

11 It seems to me that some are going to
12 be actually disappointed that crime hasn't gone down.
13 It just seems like they're waiting for Clint Eastwood

14 to ride in and rescue everybody from an overabundance
15 of crime that really doesn't exist.
16 And I've had calls from folk in my
17 neighborhood asking me to keep it up regarding how save
18 South Scranton is. It's certainly a matter of, like
19 Mr. Courtright alluded to, how a person feels.
20 I'd also, like if at all possible to
21 take the chart home with me that was here before
22 illustrating the pension funds and we, like, maybe can
23 use it as an ad, because it certainly illustrates that
24 since Mayor Doherty has been the new management firm of
25 the pension since that's been in effect, the increases

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1 have been phenomenal.
2 22 percent in '03, almost 10 percent in
3 '04, which are statistical -- probably within the realm
4 of the standard deviation of both numbers that makes
5 them dead heats, so I think it's proof positive that
6 even though it is a \$5 million, if these rates of return
7 continue at the present rate, that will be wiped out in
8 a short matter, not to mention the fact that the first
9 two years were directly related to the stock market.
10 We all know what happened in 2001,

11 which caused the market to plummet, which had a
12 negative investment on every investment in the country,
13 not only the pension funds that were invested.

14 As far as the bond issues are
15 concerned, with all due respect, the amount of
16 misinformation that's being cast is just almost hard to
17 take.

18 The 2001 bond issue was much smaller in
19 size than the one in 2003, yet the fees were higher in
20 2001 than in 2003.

21 At the time, Mayor Connors blamed the
22 high underwriter fee on the city's poor financial
23 condition which forced it to float unrated or so-called
24 junk bonds.

25 Out of the 2003 issue, which, by the
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1 way, is Triple A rated, which somehow seems to be
2 missed in all this discourse, that is the first time in
3 the history of Scranton in 2003 that the city had a
4 bond rating, let alone a Triple A rating.

5 \$72.3 million issued. \$30 and a half million was
6 direct refinance of previous obligations.

7 Now, if the average homeowner in the

8 City of Scranton with a \$50,000 mortgage at seven
9 percent, 30-year term, refinanced that mortgage at
10 borrowing \$70,000, which would be \$20,000 more for
11 30 years at the average rate which is contained in that
12 bond issue of 4.41 percent, they would have a \$20,000
13 capital appreciate, money in their hands, to provide
14 improvements, and their payment would be less than a
15 \$20 increase.

16 Now, to describe how the proceeds of
17 that \$72.3 million were used, \$10 million of it went to
18 pension, \$10 million, \$13 million went to fund the
19 city's self insurance, Workman's Comp. Fund.

20 So, out of the \$72.3 million, \$53.4
21 million was really money that was kept here, either
22 through refinance of existing issues or money of the
23 \$10 million that went into pension and \$13 million that
24 went into the Workman's Comp.

25 So, Mayor Doherty did not, by any
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1 stretch of the imagination, issue \$200 million in debt.

2 The issues related to the authorities

3 are self-liquidating, meaning that the authority's

4 revenue, which comes from the parking garages and the

5 sewer treatment plant and the rate payers, which are
6 all Scrantonians, and the Sewer Authority, that revenue
7 source decreases the principal and interest due on
8 those issues.

9 And there are escrow accounts, also,
10 set aside through the proceeds of that issue in 2003 to
11 liquidate previous bond issue.

12 So, the taxpayers will not ever have a
13 burden as a result of those bonds, ever, because
14 there's mechanisms in place, meaning collateral, et
15 cetera, to prevent that from happening.

16 Number two, I just wanted to mention
17 that I'm a really excited about the possibility of a
18 mayoral election coming up here.

19 I've been active in Scranton all my
20 life in politics, and I have a great deal of respect
21 for Gary DiBileo, I've known him all of our lives. His
22 Uncle Milty and I have been friends all through high
23 school and grade school, but I just don't think it's
24 the right time for a change. The city is better off
25 today than it was four years ago, that's what I told

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1 you in May, and I'll say it now, I think you would be a

2 good mayor, but not now. I think the city is in the
3 right direction, and it has been in the right
4 direction.

5 As far as homes being sold, I've told
6 you that the real estate transfer tax has gone from 1.7
7 to \$3 million in three years. Now, somebody here said
8 that's because people are moving out, no, that's only
9 half the story, because buyer and seller pay the real
10 estate transfer tax.

11 So, the city is moving. And Mr.
12 Courtright alluded to, and I mentioned feelings about
13 how people -- perception with crime, well, in my
14 opinion, and it shows up on some balance sheets under
15 the term goodwill, but the single largest most
16 significant accomplishment of Mayor Doherty has been
17 the feeling of pride, resurgence and goodwill that this
18 city has right now. That's never been there before.

19 Thank you very much.

20 MS. EVANS: Mr. Keeler, may I ask you a
21 question, please?

22 MR. KEELER: Sure.

23 MS. EVANS: What's your position on
24 additional borrowing? The mayor, I believe, has gone
25 on record as stating that he intends to borrow, and

1 this is approximate now, let's say four or \$5 million
2 within the next two months, and, you know, that of
3 course would be after the election, regardless of the
4 outcome, and, again, that's only the principal amount.
5 I know there are people that don't want
6 to hear that interest factors into anything, but I
7 think we all know it does, so that's probably going to
8 be more like six to \$7 million, but what would your
9 position be for the city in terms of the mayor's
10 proposal to borrow more money?

11 MR. KEELER: Well, first of all, I
12 think it's prudent to include the interest, because the
13 interest is what you repay. You don't only repay
14 principal. So, it is a good idea to lump in the
15 interest, no question.

16 Now, as far as future borrowings, with
17 a Triple A bond rating, because what you really -- I
18 watched that audit proceedings here that was on
19 television with Rossi, and he pointed out point blank
20 that the cash flow had actually improved as a result of
21 the \$73 million financing in '03. That's because of
22 the Triple A bond rating.

23 MR. DIBILEO: Can you answer Mrs.

24 Evans' question, Mr. Keeler?

25 MR. KEELER: I don't know if I could

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1 support -- well, I am answering it. I don't know if I

2 could support the five or six or \$7 million without

3 knowing what it was for, number one; number two, if the

4 rating was such and the rate was, yeah, I would.

5 The Tax Code allows municipalities to

6 borrow on a tax-free basis, and most municipalities,

7 including the federal government, take advantage of

8 that, and they can arbitrage the proceeds for some

9 issues, not all, but some.

10 MS. EVANS: I believe that the

11 borrowing would be to balance a budget, and I think we

12 do know, though, that the interest rates right now are

13 rather high, so that refinancing is most likely out of

14 the question. So, again, this would be --

15 MR. KEELER: Well, it wouldn't be

16 unusual --

17 MS. EVANS: -- for the purpose of

18 balancing a budget.

19 MR. KEELER: Well, it wouldn't be

20 unusual in my experience, which is considerable in this
21 regard, it would not be unusual for a municipality to
22 borrow tax anticipation to balance a budget because
23 they can arbitrage the proceeds; meaning, they would be
24 able to take and invest the \$5 million in an investment
25 that would yield higher than the debt would cost.

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1 So, that is a very prudent example of current financial
2 thinking, because it avoids a tax increase.

3 Because the bottom line here is in a
4 municipality, the taxes have not gone up, the sanctions
5 been lifted, the city is in very sound footing.

6 MS. EVANS: What sanctions were lifted?

7 MR. KEELER: The sanctions imposed
8 under the recovery -- PEL were lifted.

9 MS. EVANS: We're no longer distressed?

10 MR. KEELER: Yeah, we're distressed.

11 MS. EVANS: I think with \$204 million
12 worth of debt, we surely are distressed.

13 MR. KEELER: Let me just say this, as
14 long as we're carrying this on, there would not be a
15 Triple A bond rating, that would -- you would not be
16 able to get insurance or a Triple A bond rating if this

17 city was not on sound financial ground, that would not
18 happen.

19 MS. EVANS: Well, Mr. Keeler, though, I
20 agree that that's a beneficial item to have in your
21 possession, or rather to have in a municipality's
22 possession, but I believe the significant factors in
23 obtaining that bond rating were in fact the \$3 million
24 surplus gifted to the Doherty Administration by the
25 Connors Administration, in conjunction with the \$1

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1 million paid to purchase that rating.

2 MR. KEELER: Well, no, no. The \$1
3 million --

4 MR. DIBILEO: We're going to have to
5 move on, I'm sorry.

6 MR. KEELER: Let me just -- quickly,
7 please. That \$1 million was not paid to buy the
8 rating, it was for the insurance.

9 MS. EVANS: It was for the insurance
10 that would provide for that bond rating, which is the
11 same thing really.

12 MR. KEELER: My employer has been
13 contacted by DiBileo supporters and my job has been

14 threatened, letters have been sent. I was silence for

15 --

16 MR. DIBILEO: Mr. Keeler, please.

17 MR. KEELER: Yes, I was.

18 MR. DIBILEO: Let's not get into

19 politics, please.

20 MR. KEELER: Well, wait a minute

21 now.

22 MR. DIBILEO: I'm not in a position to

23 fire anybody, okay, so, I don't know what you're

24 talking about.

25 MR. KEELER: Well, let me say, I

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1 haven't been fired, and that did happen. Thank you

2 very much.

3 MS. EVANS: Mr. Keeler, if I can just

4 jump back for one question on the financial, but why

5 then, because I know that you have financial expertise

6 and you've been in this field for a very long time, not

7 that I'm saying you're old either, I just mean I

8 respect your experience --

9 MR. KEELER: Thank you.

10 MS. EVANS: -- why would the city then

11 last year have to become involved in a lease back
12 agreement using the DPW as, well, anywhere from
13 collateral to turning over title to a DPW which isn't
14 even paid for yet, that was done on borrowed money, and
15 now that is in the hands of the Scranton Sewer
16 Authority, why was the city not able to go out and
17 obtain these loans as enumerated for me just a moment
18 ago?

19 MR. KEELER: Well, probably because of
20 TEFRA. I mean, I ask you, what is TEFRA.

21 MS. EVANS: I'm asking you.

22 MR. KEELER: Well, TEFRA is a tax code
23 that prohibits the tax free status of a municipality
24 issuing more than \$10 million a year in a calendar year
25 of debt. That's probably why.

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1 Now, as a finance chairman of
2 City Council, I would recommended strongly that you
3 learn what TEFRA is. Thank you very much.

4 MS. EVANS: Oh, I will. And I guess

5 Mr. Doherty probably should have had the amount of
6 money he was looking for to \$10 million, then he
7 wouldn't have had to have sold off our DPW.

8 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.

9 MR. KEELER: That's not right, that's

10 not right, because the issue itself has nothing to do

11 with --

12 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you. You brought

13 up your employer, does your employer do business with

14 the City of Scranton?

15 MR. KEELER: I don't know.

16 MR. DIBILEO: You don't know? Okay.

17 Thank you very much.

18 MR. KEELER: Thank you.

19 MR. DIBILEO: Appreciate it. Pedro

20 Gonzalez.

21 MR. GONZALEZ: Good evening, City

22 Council, all the members of this fine city that we have

23 here. I'm a first-time speaker. My name is Pedro

24 Gonzalez, South Side, I won't give the address.

25 I'm a first time speaker, again. I am

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1 pretty much the founder of The Scranton Latin Alliance.

2 I am one of the representatives of the brand new

3 organization started in Scranton just the other day,

4 it's been in the works for a couple of months.

5 We had our first meeting October 11,
6 just this past Tuesday. Great turnout. My purpose
7 here tonight is to thank a lot of leaders of the city,
8 the people of the city for the support, the phone
9 calls, and to create Latin awareness in the city, the
10 programs that are available for the Latin people, the
11 different educational program. Definitely education is
12 our big key, recreation, our children, the crime in the
13 city.

14 I'm in the here to speak on all that,
15 I'm just here to speak on some of the topics that we
16 will be getting involved in, and I want to thank you
17 all again for the acceptance. The Chamber of Commerce
18 accepted us in, the OECD, and hopefully the Council.

19 This is why I'm here.

20 I'm so proud to live in the city. I
21 know there's other people that come up here and
22 complain or not complain, and that's what being an
23 American is all about, that's correct?

24 MS. EVANS: Yes.

25 MR. GONZALEZ: Freedom of choice,
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1 freedom of will, freedom of speech, and that's what God

2 gave us most of all is our choice, freedom to choose
3 whatever we want to do in life.
4 And I want to say thank you again to
5 all of you, and hopefully in the future we can all keep
6 the lines of communication open together, be it
7 Spanish, American, Black, White, it does not matter.
8 And tonight I'm not exactly sure, but I
9 think I am the first Latino American to stand up here
10 at this podium. Tonight I make history, and in the
11 future I hope there will be more Latino speakers, more
12 Latino employees in the city, children growing up in
13 our school systems, our children being born, thank you,
14 the children that are being born in this city that will
15 be born Scrantonians.
16 There is a big future, positive future,
17 coming to this city, whether some people want to accept
18 it or not, but it is positive, no matter how you look
19 at it.
20 And once again, our office, in case
21 anyone who's willing or want to contact us is 319 South
22 Main Avenue. We have a grocery store office set up,
23 temporary for now.
24 We are in the process of securing a
25 building with adequate space for our needs, and I just

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1 I can't wait to see what comes about, regardless of what

2 mayor comes to be.

3 I'm not here to choose or to pick a

4 side, I'm just here to help in some shape or form my

5 people, the Latin people, and create awareness.

6 Again, my name is Pedro Gonzalez,

7 Scranton Latin Alliance, and I thank you for letting me

8 express myself. Goodnight.

9 MR. DIBILEO: Mr. Gonzalez, thank you

10 for being here. You may indeed have made -- may have

11 made history, and if you did, we're thrilled about it.

12 I want to congratulate you on the

13 origination of your organization. You are a concerned

14 citizen and community oriented, because I have seen you

15 at the last three or four South Scranton Neighborhood

16 Association meetings, and I know that you are, so I

17 want to wish lots of luck.

18 MR. GONZALEZ: Thank you so much.

19 Thank you so much. And as the founder of the Scranton

20 Latin Alliance, again, I want to thank each of you

21 guys, all the officials in the city for the support

22 that we have received, and it's such a positive feeling

23 for all of us, and I stand here proud to be a Latino

24 American. Thank you again.

25 MR. DIBILEO: That's it for the sign-in

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1 sheet. Phyllis, did I pass you by?

2 MS. HUMPHREY: Yes.

3 MR. DIBILEO: Do you want to come up

4 now, Phyllis? Sorry for missing you there. I saw you

5 out in the audience and I noticed you were --

6 MS. HUMPHREY: I'd rather be at the end

7 anyway with giving us hope.

8 MR. DIBILEO: Phyllis, can I ask you

9 once again, though, can we keep it to city business,

10 please?

11 MS. HUMPHREY: I am keeping it to city

12 business. This is about the flags and about the --

13 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. And whatever is

14 not, we'll talk about after the meeting.

15 MS. HUMPHREY: Okay. May the peace of

16 Jesus Christ, peace, freedom (UNTRANSCRIBABLE), and for

17 the Irish, in heaven there is no beer, that's why

18 everybody's drinking it here in the City of Scranton.

19 I came -- I hear all the heartbreak

20 here, and I wanted to bring my heartbreak, but I felt I
21 would keep it to me and get the proper people to help
22 me.

23 I'm dealing with a grandchild that I
24 don't know where it is a year and a half that was born,
25 I'm not ashamed to say it, and I know my whole family

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1 is out there, I'm dealing with a son that's
2 incarcerated where two people took me to an area and
3 told me that they were going to tap into the computers
4 and pull my son down, which this one person, Ed Koss,
5 has a -- is filing a lawsuit against the police
6 department, which I believe this man should be jailed.

7 MR. DIBILEO: Phyllis, I'm going to
8 have to stop you there, sorry. Can you stay after the
9 meeting and we'll talk more and see if we can help you?

10 MS. HUMPHREY: No. Listen, I want to
11 -- the meeting, it's here that I'm here, I want to know
12 about the podium, are they going to have this podium
13 that I asked for that we'd be able to speak, that it
14 wouldn't be at the Council meeting? I think that would
15 be very nice. That's number one.

16 Number two, I asked about if they would

17 find out about that land where the chapel is to be
18 built with the church.
19 Number three, because of our military
20 men and the men that have died in this area, I know
21 they're taking God out of here, the Blessed Mother out
22 of there and doing the whole nine yards and they're
23 forgetting about the center of creation of the Lord
24 Jesus Christ, who is all of our personal Savior.
25 This building was built by a lot of

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1 Catholic, Christians, Lutherans, everyone. This
2 building right here, that's historical.
3 What I wanted to ask is, Christmas is
4 coming up, and I really thought it would be nice in our
5 town if we had a crib placed by the park there around
6 the corner in honor of our military, because our
7 Veterans, number one, they're fighting for peace,
8 they're dying. The Veterans here, that is one thing.
9 The other thing is Mulberry -- where I
10 live, over here, they have this, like, the Veterans are
11 living there and the poor people and the elderly that
12 payed taxes, lost their homes and all, and there used
13 to be a real big television and it disappeared because

14 there was something the matter with it, I was wondering
15 if somebody out there would take up a collection and
16 get a nice television for Mulberry Tower for the
17 elderly and the Veterans, I think it would be nice.

18 MR. DIBILEO: Now, regarding your
19 couple of questions, we don't have the authority to
20 decide about the Christmas decorations or the podium
21 for additional speakers, but the mayor's office may be
22 able to be in that position, so we'd have to really run
23 it by --

24 MS. HUMPHREY: Especially with those
25 servicemen that died, like, the families could go over
.
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1 and look at that and, you know, know that Jesus is with
2 them, infant, Baby Jesus. This is important.
3 There's one more thing that I wanted to
4 ask, it had to do when Mayor McNulty came in he put
5 these big long planter, they look like crematory that
6 you can put people in, like, die and want to put ashes
7 in that, excuse me for saying it, but really -- and I
8 know he had good intentions, I don't want to knock him
9 down, but, like, I am disabled and there's Veterans and
10 elderly disabled, and I get to the point, and I'm

11 57 years old, that I have to actually sit on the ground

12 because there isn't the proper places.

13 I think it would be so nice if they,

14 like, put some chairs around the -- like, the elderly,

15 even when they come and visit from outside the area

16 that they could sit, I would like to see that done.

17 MR. DIBILEO: Yeah, we're talking about

18 that actually with benches and that type of thing.

19 MS. HUMPHREY: And I'm going to close

20 with this:

21 Hail Mary, full of Grace, the Lord is

22 with thee. Blessed are thou amongst women and blessed

23 is the fruit of thy womb Jesus. Holy Mary, mother of

24 God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our

25 death. Amen.

.

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1 St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in

2 battle, be our safeguard against the wickedness and

3 snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, and we humbly

4 pray, and do though, O Prince of the Heavenly Host,

5 cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits that roam

6 through this world seeking to ruin us souls.

7 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.

8 MS. HUMPHREY: And may I ask all the

9 angels to place themselves around and protect our town.

10 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you so much. Thank

11 you very, very much. Thank you.

12 MR. NEWCOMB, SR.: That was a tough

13 long evening. A few weeks ago I was here talking about

14 -- Mr. Pocius brought it up last week, I think I seen

15 the replay at a meeting, I wasn't here.

16 MR. DIBILEO: Name and address, please.

17 MR. NEWCOMB, SR.: I'm sorry. Charles

18 Newcomb, Scranton. About over on Grant Avenue I

19 brought up about that lid, and I think I called it a

20 sewer lid or something, but the proper word Mr. Pocius

21 mentioned, it was something to do with where they flush

22 the mines or something and that was sticking out on

23 top, I mean, regardless of who's job it is to fix it,

24 it's still jagged, because it's going to slice, like I

25 told you, somebody hit that on a bicycle and they

.

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1 really went for a ride. You did see it yourself, I

2 believe, you said, right, when you took a ride over

3 that way?

4 MR. POCIUS: I was at my mother's, and

5 I did take a ride back to Grant Avenue, I was close,

6 and I identified it. Jay, did we get any information

7 on that yet?

8 MR. SAUNDERS: We didn't get anything

9 back on it, but it was sent out.

10 MR. NEWCOMB, SR.: Okay. Just to, you

11 know, keep up on that, because as you've seen yourself,

12 it is pretty jagged.

13 MR. POCIUS: We had one one time,

14 Mr. Newcomb, a block over from me, the 28 -- it was

15 another one of those, it took forever to get it cut out

16 of there. I mean, it was just -- I don't know who has

17 jurisdiction. I mean, they have to find out if it's

18 still needed and everything else, so I think -- you're

19 looking into it, right, Jay, through the Public Works?

20 MR. NEWCOMB, SR.: That's what it looks

21 like, it just needs to be cut off on the top or

22 something. That's all. Okay. Thank you.

23 You know, I don't have a degree in

24 accounting or anything else, but, you know, Mr. Keeler

25 was up here before, and I'm sure he does have a degree

.

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1 in something with finance, no matter which way you spin

2 this, in the newspaper this morning said \$204 million,
3 whether it's this, well, it won't be this year, but
4 whether it's two years down the road, four years down
5 the road, a tax increase is coming. Somebody has got
6 to pay it back. There's no magic key that says we're
7 going to pay it back.

8 And, Mrs. Evans, I just have to ask you
9 a question, because I know Mr. Kresefski, who we pay,
10 like, \$85,000 a year made this reference in the
11 newspaper, but I have to ask you, if you borrowed
12 \$75,000 on your home to buy a home and you took out a
13 30-year mortgage, and over the 30-year, if you made
14 30 years of payments, over the 30 years you were paying
15 back \$202,000, when you take out the mortgage, are you
16 in debt \$202,000, or are you in debt the original \$76?

17 MS. EVANS: I'm in debt \$202,000,
18 unless, of course, I am able to refinance, which I
19 would not do today, because I would in effect be
20 increasing my interest payment, or if I were able to
21 just write out a check of that amount, but I can't, and
22 I don't know too many other people in Scranton who can.
23 I'm sure there are some, but I can't count myself among
24 them.

25 MR. NEWCOMB, SR.: Yeah, or the other

1 way would be, like, if you sold the home, you know, to
2 buy another one or something. But the bottom line is
3 no matter which way you look at it, and Mr. Kresefski
4 said it's like buying a home for \$250 and saying you
5 owe \$500, you do owe \$500, because if you stretch it
6 out for 30 years, you do owe \$500.

7 So, just for the people out there, you
8 know, all these people come up here with their degrees
9 and their fancy talk, but in layman's terms, we owe
10 \$204 million, it's as simple as that, and somebody has
11 to pay it back, and down the road, the only way to do
12 it is going to be with a increase or, again, try to
13 whip the city employees into coming up with it.

14 I have a question for Mr. DiBileo, but
15 he's not here, so maybe somebody up there can answer
16 this question, We received in the mail a few weeks ago,
17 it was addressed to my son, who no longer lives at my
18 address, my younger son, it was a pamphlet from
19 Mr. Doherty's campaign from his son who graduated
20 Scranton High, I believe, like, this year, and my
21 question is, is all of, I think they went back to the
22 year 2000, are all of those graduates, is that all

23 public knowledge, like, of all their addresses? Where
24 would they get the addresses for something like that?

25 MS. EVANS: I can't imagine. I mean,

.

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1 the only response I can give -- maybe Mr. -- I'm sure

2 Mr. McTiernan knows much more than I, but as a

3 candidate myself, I don't have access to those records.

4 MR. NEWCOMB, SR.: I was just curious

5 to see, like, where you can, you know, who would have

6 the records and give that -- that campaign people over

7 there all the addresses of these children, because my

8 son graduated in 2003, so, you know, he got it saying

9 it was from Mr. Doherty's son, buy my question would

10 be, you know, who in the city, whether it was on City

11 Council or somewhere else in this building would have

12 the authority to have a list of all those names of

13 those graduates.

14 And I see Mr. DiBileo is back,

15 Mr. DiBileo, I have a question, the Republican

16 Committee, did they ever invite you to speak in front

17 of them and ask them you what your platform was for

18 your election?

19 MR. DIBILEO: No.

20 MR. NEWCOMB, SR.; Not at all? But they
21 endorsed Mr. Doherty. Well, I do have to say other
22 than with this Republican Committee, they do not speak
23 for the real Republicans. You know, only a few
24 dictators that were here, you know, speak for
25 themselves, and all I can say is -- if you are a

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1 Republican leader or a Democratic leader or whatever
2 you are and you're a Republican leader and you have the
3 opposition's sign in your front yard, that's almost
4 like a Benedict Arnold. That is like you working for
5 Wal-Mart and giving K-Mart their secrets or Macy
6 telling Gimbel everything.
7 And that's just what I was concerned
8 about was those things, and about if somebody could
9 find out for me, I would appreciate if that question
10 could be answered on, you know, how could somebody
11 obtain those addresses of all those graduates from
12 Scranton High over the course of all those years. I
13 mean, I don't think it's in the back of the yearbooks.
14 You know, you're not going to put your name and address
15 in there.
16 I mean, who would just have access to

17 giving somebody going back, like, five years worth of
18 graduates from the school? You know, I appreciate if
19 somebody can look into that, because I just hope it
20 wasn't nobody that's an elected city official that done
21 that, because that's, I believe, a little bit
22 underhanded to do that, because there's a lot of people
23 that might not even want -- aren't even concerned with
24 things like that coming to their house, I know I'm not,
25 and mine went from the table to the garbage, but I was
.

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1 just curious to find out and who would have the
2 knowledge to do so. Thank you.

3 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: Good evening,
4 Council. Charlie Newcomb, Scranton. First let me say
5 that I'm so glad that I was the center of attention. I
6 assume I was the center of attention for Mrs. Williams
7 when she was referring to Mr. Newcomb up here.
8 I honestly didn't hear her comments,
9 because I use her five minutes to take a bathroom
10 break, if I need one, but I just have to say that the
11 actions that these people are coming forward every week
12 with, they call this a circus, I think since I've been
13 at this podium, and I am only speaking for myself,

14 because that's really all that I speak for, I think I
15 control myself pretty good at this podium.
16 As tough as it is, I think I control
17 myself very well. If you want to come to this podium
18 and make false accusations, go right ahead, I can care
19 less, because it's not going to stop me from coming
20 here, but I think this sends a strong message, along
21 with her and Mr. Marinucci, their actions at this
22 podium, what this election is truly about, it's about
23 diversity, and it's diversity among people.
24 Either you support somebody or you
25 don't support somebody. There is no middle ground in

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1 this election, and it shouldn't have to be that way.
2 You should be able to state your opinion and respect
3 everybody for doing so.
4 And I think the more that they come to
5 this podium, it sends a very strong message to people
6 sitting at home, and they do consider this a circus,
7 but it's not from the people that have been coming to
8 these meetings for over ten years. Take that as you
9 wish.
10 We all -- you spoke before about a

11 young gentleman that came here and his name is Doug, I
12 think it was Miller, I believe, was his name, and I
13 look up to that young gentleman, as well, because I
14 started coming to these meetings when I was a couple
15 years older than him, and he was attacked out in the
16 hall by this woman.

17 Now, you tell me how that's respectable
18 for people that don't agree with people to be attacked
19 like that out in the hallway. You tell me what kind of
20 character this portrays by the people that support this
21 mayor. It has to be stopped. It's completely wrong
22 and it has to be stopped, and I just pray every day
23 that it's stopped come three weeks from now.

24 To go back for three and a half years,
25 I'll take you to something else that the mayor also
.

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1 said, and this has been brought up over and over and
2 over again, but this is exactly what he said,
3 Mr. Doherty thanked his colleagues for their support
4 saying that even as his title changes, his being
5 different to his colleagues will not.
6 As mayor, he said, he will be the sixth
7 councilman. People ask me if Council and I will work

8 together, Mr. Doherty said, I cannot make the seat
9 better without the help of five councilmen. What
10 happened?
11 He stated before that he worked with
12 Council the first two years when he was in office. He
13 was never at this meeting, but supposedly behind closed
14 doors he worked with this Council, or not this Council,
15 but with Council for two years, so I guess he
16 acknowledges that he doesn't work with you, is that
17 what that means by that statement? That's how I
18 portray it.

19 It was stated over and over and over
20 here again tonight about crime. Some people say we
21 have crime, some people say we don't have crime. To be
22 honest with you, I don't care what the numbers say,
23 this is what I care about, I'm not a police officer,
24 I'm a citizen with a memory, and this is what I
25 remember, and nobody told me this, I thought of those

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1 on my own, because I remember them.

2 The murder in Green Ridge of a Marywood

3 College student who was murdered by her neighbor; the

4 murder in Green Ridge of Sanderson Avenue and Green

5 Ridge Street over a drug deal gone bad; the murder in
6 West Scranton this past summer on North Sumner Avenue;
7 the incident in Green Ridge where a boy was left to
8 practically die, almost by the mayor's house, very
9 close; the riot in West Scranton where a state trooper
10 was jumped; last weekend that I go to almost every day
11 was robbed, and they were taken \$41,000; a young boy
12 robbed in the Hill Section last evening delivering
13 pizza; a supermarket in Green Ridge attempted robbery.
14 Anybody else remember this? I know I
15 do. I don't care what the numbers say, this is what I
16 remember. Do you feel safe more than you were four
17 years ago? To be honest with you, I don't. You know
18 why, because I don't see that beat cop walking in front
19 of my house anymore or driving his bike.
20 That's what I used to see when I lived
21 in Green Ridge years ago, I used to see that police
22 officer and I used to talk to him, and you felt
23 comfortable to take a walk at ten o'clock at night.
24 You can't do it now. Some people can, some people
25 can't.

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1 That's what I remember. I don't care

2 what the statistics say or anybody that tells me,
3 that's the stuff that stands out in my mind, and that's
4 the stuff when people say they're scared, that's what
5 they're talking about.

6 Mrs. Evans, were you ever told from the
7 mayor or anybody in his administration that you were
8 wrong about the \$198 million in debt, the figure that
9 you came up with?

10 MS. EVANS: No, I was not.

11 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: So, you were only
12 told by the people that come to this podium that you
13 were wrong? You did not get anything from Mr.
14 Kresefski or the mayor saying that you were wrong; is
15 that correct?

16 MS. EVANS: That is correct.

17 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: So, I don't
18 understand if you are wrong, why the mayor or
19 Mr. Kresefski don't tell you otherwise. I think that
20 sends a big, big message to people. I think you're
21 correct.

22 As stated here before, there's a
23 so-called group that is supposed to represent the
24 Republican Committee in the City of Scranton. I'm a
25 proud Republican, and I just want to make it very clear

1 that these people do not speak for me or a lot of

2 Republicans that I know in this city.

3 And the last thing I have, I've been

4 asking over and over and over again for help, and we

5 know what the weather has been like the last couple of

6 days, and you should really come over and see what it

7 looks like in front of my house, is anything being done

8 on the problem that I've been asking and beating like a

9 dead horse since April, is anything being done yet?

10 MR. DIBILEO: Mr. Saunders.

11 MR. SAUNDERS: Charlie, let me rest

12 assured that this office has put out numerous requests

13 with your problem and a couple other problems on

14 Cameron.

15 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: Yeah, I believe

16 there are six of them. I have them.

17 MR. SAUNDERS: Yeah. We sent out six

18 letters, no response.

19 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: So, Mr. Walsh isn't

20 here, but maybe I can ask you, what do I do from now if

21 you guys can't get me a response, where should I go,

22 what should I do?

23 I made calls to Mr. Parker, never got a
24 response, I made calls to the mayor office, never got a
25 response, where do I go from here? I can't get
.

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1 assistance from anybody. And it's not your fault, it's

2 --

3 MR. COURTRIGHT: How about that

4 Action 16, call --

5 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: That might work.

6 MS. EVANS: I was just going to say

7 that, Sherman -- yes, let him come and interview you

8 and let's see the street on television and maybe that

9 will be enough to move the administration to do its

10 job.

11 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: Maybe I should ask

12 for a sign to put in front of my house.

13 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Mr. Newcomb.

14 MR. NEWCOMB: Thank you

15 MR. LYMAN: Raymond Lyman, taxpayer. I

16 wasn't going to speak tonight, but I had to come up

17 here because Mrs. Williams said some remarks that

18 wasn't true.

19 Now, Gary, I don't want you to be angry

20 or nothing, but Mrs. Williams said back here that I was
21 fighting with her, and I wasn't fighting with her, and
22 then outside she started fighting with me. And I have
23 eyewitnesses saw her fight with me, the second time she
24 fought with me out here.

25 Now, something has to be done with this

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1 woman, because I am going to have her arrested for
2 slander.

3 MR. DIBILEO: All right.

4 MR. LYMAN: Now, something must be done
5 with this woman.

6 MR. DIBILEO: Just, you know, don't
7 bother with each other and everything will be okay.

8 MR. LYMAN: I didn't bother with her
9 today, she just come out and she started fighting with
10 me.

11 MR. DIBILEO: All right.

12 MR. LYMAN: And I'm not the only one
13 she did it with. Something must be done with this
14 woman, she's crazy.

15 MR. DIBILEO: All right. Let's -- you
16 can't say that now. We'll talk after the meeting.

17 Thank you, Ray.

18 MR. LYMAN: She called me crazy.

19 MR. DIBILEO: Ray, okay. Thank you.

20 All right.

21 MR. LYMAN: Now, the second thing I

22 have, like I told you out before the meeting, The Times

23 Leader reporter wants to do the meetings here. Now, I

24 think that would be good to have a times leader

25 reporter here, but they want to ask you in a formal

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1 request to come here.

2 MR. DIBILEO: It's a free country. CNN

3 can come in, if they want to.

4 MR. LYMAN: Well, they want to come

5 down here, so you've got to ask them.

6 MR. DIBILEO: All right. Tell them

7 it's okay.

8 MR. LYMAN: Because I think it's about

9 time we get The Times Leader to come here, because we

10 can't trust The Scranton Times.

11 MR. DIBILEO: All right. Thanks, Ray.

12 MR. LYMAN: They don't print the truth,

13 they always, like -- I wrote letters to Mr. Kelly,

14 because I was tired of them calling us a bunch of
15 idiots and morons.

16 MR. DIBILEO: All right. I'm glad
17 you're feeling better. Thanks for coming.

18 MR. LYMAN: I know, but I wrote to them
19 --

20 MR. DIBILEO: All right.

21 MR. LYMAN: -- then times, ten letters,
22 and they never print, like you said. Now I get a
23 chance to talk to Mr. Kelly here --

24 MR. DIBILEO: He's not here.

25 MR. LYMAN: Well, one of the reporters
.

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1 here, I get a hold of them now.

2 MR. DIBILEO: After the meeting we'll
3 talk to you. Thanks, Ray. Appreciate it. Thank you.

4 MR. LYMAN: And now I got something
5 else, since that other guy spoke for 26 minutes, the
6 catch basin on Phelps Street and Lourdes Court, I want
7 that fixed.

8 Since it was raining these last couple
9 of days, it over floods. I want that fixed once and
10 for all. It's going for almost five years now.

11 I went to the Sewer Authority, I went
12 to this Council meeting for years, and nothing has been
13 done. I want that fixed.

14 MR. DIBILEO: We're going to help you
15 try to get that fixed, Ray, all right?

16 MR. LYMAN: Well, you keep saying that,
17 you keep saying that, and nothing's been done.

18 MR. DIBILEO: All right. Thank you.

19 MR. LYMAN: So, I want some action
20 done.

21 MR. DIBILEO: All right.

22 MR. LYMAN: People are being flooded.

23 Mrs. Evans, I want you to go down there and look at it.

24 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. All right, Ray,

25 thanks. Next speaker please.

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1 MR. LYMAN: Because now it's getting

2 cracked open, the hole is this big now.

3 MR. DIBILEO: Ray, okay, all right.

4 MR. NARSAVITCH: Good evening, Council.

5 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.

6 MR. NARSAVITCH: My name is Stan

7 Narsavitch, I'm an overcharged taxpayer in the City of

8 Scranton. I, too, want to talk about this letter that
9 went out about you Chris Doherty, Jr.
10 I have one here that went to our
11 granddaughter, she graduated from West Side High School
12 in 2001. I also would like to know where they got her
13 address. I would like to answer a couple of things
14 that are in this letter.

15 Chris Doherty, Jr., says, I'm writing
16 to ask for your support to support my dad for
17 re-election as the mayor of Scranton.

18 By the time my granddaughter got
19 finished with her education and had loans galore to pay
20 back, there was no way she could stay in the City of
21 Scranton and face her responsibilities and pay her
22 loans back, she had to leave this area. She relocated
23 in Connecticut, and thank God she got a very good
24 paying job.

25 To stay here and try and pay loans back

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1 at \$6 an hour is out of the question. That's where a
2 lot of our population is going, not just senior
3 citizens passing away, it's our kids moving away, and
4 because of that, we don't have the pleasure of seeing

5 our children or grandchildren that often. I, too, am
6 interested. Here is the letter that she got.
7 The other thing is, all this talk about
8 crime, if we don't have a crime problem, why are these
9 being circulated by the neighborhood crime watches? Am
10 I missing something or what?
11 I was in a building on South Main
12 Avenue last week and a gentleman from the crime watch
13 came in, and he asked to post some of these in the
14 window, and I asked him what was the reason behind
15 this, and he said the neighborhood crime watches are
16 going to go community by community passing these out to
17 the houses and asked them to post them in their
18 windows.
19 In all the while I've been in Scranton,
20 I was never asked to post a crime watch, police crime
21 watch, notice in my window. I will must be missing
22 something, maybe somebody can help me out, but if we
23 don't have a problem, it's beyond me.
24 It was good to see Mrs. Wardell here
25 after all this time. I just met her this evening. I

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I wish I had known her earlier, but it's nice to know her

2 now.

3 Thank you, Mrs. Evans, Mr. DiBileo and

4 Mr. Courtright for the job that you do for us taxpayers

5 that are down at the bottom of the heap getting hit

6 with all this stuff that slides downhill. Thank you

7 very much.

8 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.

9 MR. O'SHEA: Good evening, Council. My

10 name is Pat O'Shea, I'm the principal mentioned in

11 Item No. 7-A on tonight's agenda, and I'd like to speak

12 about what happened last week.

13 The item was put on hold for two items

14 that were mentioned, which I disagree that it being

15 fallacious, number one was saying that it was an

16 inappropriate amount of money, and if anybody knows the

17 way the thing works, it's not I that made that

18 determination.

19 I paid for the assessment, but it was

20 not for me or to me, it was for the city, and I only

21 knew of that amount after I was informed about it by

22 the city what to make my offer for.

23 Another mention was made in a letter

24 that was received which put everything on hold, that

25 there was an agreement in the works. There is no such

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1 agreement.

2 But in that letter it also says that

3 amount is inadequate. It wouldn't be if I were to

4 enter into a joint agreement with the other party to

5 buy that property, and I don't know that I want to

6 belabor this any, I don't want to make this an exercise

7 in futility, but I don't know if it's appropriate for

8 me to say anything at the time that that item is in

9 question, in which case I'll hold nay further comment,

10 unless it needs some kind of clarification. Am I

11 allowed to speak when that item comes up?

12 MR. DIBILEO: Let me ask now if anyone

13 has any questions regarding 7 --

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: I asked for it to be

15 put on hold due to the letter that we received, and I

16 was under the impression that something was going to be

17 worked out amongst the parties and it didn't need to go

18 through here, and so I asked that it would be put on

19 hold for one week. Evidently nothing's happened, so

20 it's back on the agenda now and we will be voting on

21 it.

22 Well, I was not party to that quoted

23 agreement, although I got a letter, which I thought in
24 effect was a threat to me, that if I participated in
25 the joint purchase, everything would go away, and if
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1 the price is not adequate, how does it become adequate
2 if the other party has a chance to have some --

3 MR. COURTRIGHT: That part I was not
4 aware of. We just received the letter from some
5 attorney, you know, asking -- as far as what you had
6 received, I have no knowledge of that whatsoever.

7 I did -- you're saying that you were
8 being threatened, I know nothing about that. I just --

9 MR. O'SHEA: May I approach?

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: Sure.

11 MR. DIBILEO: Sure.

12 MR. O'SHEA: This one I got and says in
13 the letter that if I agree to be a joint participant,
14 then they won't go any further.

15 MR. COURTRIGHT: Jay, did we get this
16 second letter? I don't know if I got this second
17 letter. The first letter, I got. I don't believe I
18 got the second one.

19 MR. SAUNDERS: No.

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: We did not receive the

21 second letter, just the first one.

22 MR. POCIUS: Mr. O'Shea, in my comments

23 last week, the hour was late, Mr. Courtright made the

24 motion to table, it was late, there wasn't a lot of

25 time for debate, but my comments were basically that

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1 the \$2,000 that's mentioned in, you know, being an

2 inadequate price was totally -- the word inadequate was

3 incorrect. There's a process for this. I've been here

4 a time.

5 You put in the price, the appraised

6 price that's looked in there from the appraisal, which

7 is fine. The system is in place after this sale goes

8 through Council, you have due diligence to bring a deed

9 back, so on and so forth, your attorney has to publish

10 this in the Lackawanna Jurist, and this sale has to be

11 approved by Common Pleas Court, it goes before a judge.

12 At that time, anyone can come in, an

13 affected party, to bid against you for the property,

14 they can make an offer.

15 So, I went along with the tabling,

16 because the hour was late, one week wasn't going to

17 hurt, but I'm totally in agreement that the way the
18 process was done was correct, legal, and we should take
19 a vote on this tonight and move this on, my feelings.

20 MR. O'SHEA: Thank you.

21 MR. POCIUS: It was late, Bill had a
22 concern, and I said, Okay, let's not belabor it, debate
23 it, let's just move it on, so I believe that you are
24 totally correct in everything you followed in your
25 process, you followed the direction for tax delinquent
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1 sales, and this should be acted on and voted for.

2 MR. O'SHEA: Thank you.

3 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.

4 MR. POCIUS: That's just my opinion; is
5 that agreeable?

6 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yeah, that's fine.

7 We're going to vote on it tonight here.

8 MR. COSLETT (phonetic): Good, City
9 Council.

10 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.

11 MR. COSLETT: David Coslett (phonetic),
12 city resident and taxpayer. I am commenting on Mr.
13 O'Shea's comments.

14 First of all, he did not state he's a
15 non-resident, which you always ask for in the
16 beginning.

17 MR. POCIUS: He's has standing, sir,
18 because he's a property owner and a taxpayer, he has
19 standing. The courts have ruled --

20 MR. COSLETT: He does not live within
21 the city.

22 MR. POCIUS: It's in the ordinance that
23 he lives in Moscow, Pennsylvania.

24 MR. COSLETT: Okay. But I'm just
25 saying he didn't let the public know this.

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1 MR. POCIUS: Well, I'm not defending
2 the thing, but the bottom line is it says right here he
3 lives in Mt. Cobb, that's in the ordinance. He stated
4 that at the first meeting at the public record that he
5 was not a resident, but he had standing.
6 Attorney Walsh is not here, but
7 everyone knows, the courts have proven that standing
8 means a taxpayer, property owner, someone has standing,
9 pays the taxes to contribute to the city, so that's
10 where we're at.

11 MR. COSLETT: Okay. Fine. Let's start
12 at the beginning with just a brief story. Mr. O'Shea
13 and I have been friends for approximately 15 years, 10
14 to 15 years, his property is adjacent to mine, and
15 early on for 25 years, I have taken care of this vacant
16 property, and I -- we had the agreement that if it ever
17 came about to purchase the property, that we would
18 discuss it and we would purchase it together to
19 naturally safeguard our properties on either side and
20 have access from the court to the rear of properties.
21 Subsequently he's told me about a month
22 ago he's selling his property, and I said, well, that's
23 fine, therefore, I'm going to have to purchase the
24 vacant property behind you to protect myself, and he
25 said nothing to me, nothing, well, let's go down and
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1 let's buy it together before something happens.
2 So, then I learned he went down to the
3 city himself and put a bid in on the property behind my
4 back, which I would never do to him or to anyone else.
5 So, this is why I need to bring this up, because he has
6 not stated that, that we were in agreement to do this
7 together. Now he's in agreement with himself to

8 purchase this vacant lot.

9 So, whatever, you know, comes down
10 tonight, it will go to court, of course, and whatever
11 happens in court, that's final, but I just want you to
12 know that I would not have gone behind his back to
13 purchase the property.

14 I came upfront and discussed it as a
15 man, as a neighbor. I had a key to his house, in fact,
16 that's how much he trusted me. Now I have no trust in
17 him. Thank you.

18 MR. DIBILEO: It should be noted that
19 had Mr. O'Shea's dealings with the city did not involve
20 City Council, so we're not exactly sure how the
21 legislation came to be, but just for the record, we're
22 not involved in any negotiations.

23 MR. DAVIS: Assalaam Alaikum. My name
24 is Jim Davis. I've been blessed three times tonight.
25 First of all I see Mrs. Wardell, who I asked -- in my

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1 prayers about I asked about her. She's a precursor to
2 Janet Evans. She's the one who first came here and
3 asked people about the finances of the city. And when
4 you came along we said, Ut-oh, we have a reincarnation

5 of Mary Ann Wardell. I'm very pleased about that.
6 Second of all, I met a young man who's
7 a Latin American, but a black Latin American who wants
8 to do something in this community. My dreams have come
9 true. I can stop coming, really, but what I want to do
10 is I want to unify with this young man, I want to make
11 sure he gets all the help he needs to go on with what
12 he's doing, because what he's doing is very honorable.
13 He's worried about his kids and their education, and
14 that's our primary goal, too.

15 Number three, the young man that just
16 spoke here is an person that works at Gerrity's, a very
17 honorable person. I didn't know he was going to be
18 here today, but he talks to me every time I go to
19 Gerrity's and get my groceries and things like that.
20 He's just a very honorable person, very mild mannered,
21 and I never -- I didn't know why he was here, but he
22 surprised me.

23 But that's a blessing in three ways,
24 because this City Council has opened up to the city a
25 place where you cannot only air your grievances, but

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I hope that they can be heard and understood, and perhaps

2 even corrected.

3 I thank you for being here. I'm very

4 pleased to be here this evening, what can I tell you?

5 I wish you the best in your elections, and et cetera,

6 et cetera, et cetera.

7 Mr. Tierney, I apologize for, I don't

8 know why, but I'm apologizing for being perhaps rude to

9 you last time when I was at the podium.

10 I realize that your position at the

11 school is very important to a lot of people, but it's

12 more important to my kids, and the only reason why I

13 attacked is because the kids come and tell me I should.

14 And so, that's something that you're going to have to

15 deal with at the school level.

16 And I'm hoping that we will be at the

17 next meeting that you called for the students or for

18 the parents or for the community, and we definitely

19 want to take a stronger, harsher look at what our kids

20 are being taught. They're most important to us, and I

21 know that they're important to you, because you

22 wouldn't have that job. So, I thank you. Peace and

23 blessings of Allah be with you.

24 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Mr. Davis.

25 MR. ANCHERANI: Good evening, Council.

1 Nelson Ancherani, resident and taxpayer of the City of
2 Scranton. I'm also a member of the FOP.
3 A couple of months ago a Councilperson
4 in response to a question by me about paying a \$200
5 bonus for every month our city employee soldiers spent
6 in Iraq wanted to know what line item in the budget the
7 money would come from, and by the way, I am asking the
8 mayor again to pay these soldiers. There's no excuse
9 not to, and the ball is in his court.
10 Because of this Councilperson's
11 persistence about the line item in the budget, I was
12 motivated to go through the city budgets and see what I
13 could find. I used Mayor Connors' 2001 budget a
14 starting point. The reason being, that Mayor Connors
15 left incoming Mayor Doherty with a \$3 million surplus,
16 and I also used Mayor Connors' last budget to get to a
17 point of comparison.
18 It should be noted that Mayor Connors
19 wasn't trying to break the police and fire unions, as
20 is the case with this administration. The present
21 administration is blaming the unions for its fiscal
22 problems, instead of looking at themselves, but that

23 makes sense if you want to shift the focus from
24 yourself, blame someone else and hope that you can get
25 people to believe you.

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1 Remember, the Connors Administration

2 left a \$3 million surplus at the end of 2001, when they
3 left office. The Connors Administration's 2001 budget
4 totalled \$55,793,043, and I am going to round off these
5 figures.

6 The Connors Administration wrote a 2002

7 budget that totalled \$56,597,641. That was an increase
8 of \$807,261, and this was a budget that Mayor Doherty
9 would have inherited as he was to take office in 2002,
10 but the Doherty Administration later amended the 2002
11 budget, and this totalled \$58,197,641. This was an
12 increase over 2001 of \$2,407,297.

13 The Doherty Administration's 2003

14 budget totalled \$56,321,546. That's an increase over
15 2001 of \$531,203.

16 Again in 2004, the administration's

17 2004 budget totalled \$60,949,592, an increase over 2001
18 of \$5,159,248.

19 The Doherty Administration's 2005

20 budget totalled \$65,825,588, an increase over 2001 of
21 \$10,035,245, and that's a 16.5 increase in four years
22 in the budgets.

23 Totalling up the increases cumulatively
24 it comes out to \$18,132,993. That's what the city will
25 collect and spend over and above 2001. And I got this

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1 information from the Scranton city budgets.

2 We know that \$3.4 million will be spent
3 by the end of 2005 on new hires and raises in city hall
4 since 2002, when the present mayor took office.

5 There are also numerous Nay Aug
6 expenditures, consultants, a million dollars for the
7 Triple A bond rating, labor attorneys and many, many m
8 ore expenditures that are too numerous to mention.

9 This is amazing. Just think about
10 this, Connors left a \$3 million surplus, and it has
11 been said that the city will have a \$4 million deficit
12 at the end of the year.

13 All along we have been saying that this
14 is a \$7 million spread, but we were wrong. When we
15 throw in the \$18,132,993 that was budgeted and being
16 collected and spent by the city over the 2001 Connors'

17 budget through 2005, along with the \$3 million surplus
18 and the \$4 million deficit that we're supposed to have
19 this year, it's actually a \$25 million spread.

20 We forgot to add those increases
21 previously, so where did that \$25 million go? As a
22 taxpayer and every other taxpayer in the City of
23 Scranton, we have a right to know. The information I
24 just gave out came from the budgets, it's in black and
25 white.

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1 Okay. It leads me to a question, How
2 could the city be distressed? \$25 million was
3 available to the city in four years, and what did they
4 spend that money on?
5 Granted, city taxes were not raised by
6 Mayor Doherty in four years, but we borrowed \$80
7 million plus dollars. I can come up with \$50 million
8 accounted for from the \$72 million bond that was
9 borrowed, but I don't know where \$22 million went.
10 When it comes time to pay that money
11 back, and that time will come, the remaining taxpayers
12 will be hemorrhaging from their pocket books.
13 Don't forget that the city population

14 is decreasing. Our debt will be \$204 million, to be
15 paid back in 28 years. Less population means less
16 taxpayers.

17 We as taxpayers are going to get hit
18 and hit hard. We thought a 48 percent increase by the
19 county was bad, but paying back \$204 million will
20 really shock the heck out of us.

21 And I'm going to end with this, I'm a
22 city police officer, I have been since 1976, this is my
23 30th year with the city, there is more crime now in and
24 a different kind of crime.

25 Also, I work with juvenile, I've been

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1 there for ten years, I spent 20 years in patrol. I've
2 seen the amount and seriousness of the crimes increase
3 over the years. I don't need statistics and data to
4 tell me that crime has increased in this city. I've
5 lived with it.

6 And as for Mr. Donahue, I've been here

7 30 years, I just don't remember him. Thank you.

8 MR. DIBILEO: Mr. Ancherani, I think

9 Mr. Donahue was a police officer in another city, not
10 in Scranton.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: No. He was in
12 Scranton, but it was a long time ago. He might have
13 been a provisional, I don't know.

14 MS. STULGIS: I'm Ann Marie Stulgis,
15 and I'm a resident of Scranton. I have two things I'd
16 like to address this evening, one is a building that
17 was built at Madison Avenue and Vine Street, it was
18 built as a girls dormitory for Lackawanna College,
19 since that in fact is my neighborhood, I was distressed
20 to learn that in fact it's not a girls dormitory for
21 Lackawanna College, but it is in fact transitional
22 housing for males with problems from the inner city,
23 including drug addiction and many other problems.

24 That is not how it was presented to
25 zoning, that is not what the neighbors were told. Now,
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1 that's a very serious thing, and if they didn't have
2 anything to hide, I question why they hid it from the
3 neighborhood. And they did hide it.

4 The attorney involved in this said that
5 he didn't believe that that's exactly what it was and
6 that in fact it might be a website marketing tool.

7 I checked the website, and it's very

8 clearly transitional housing for those dealing with
9 substance abuse, and it lists other problems, also.
10 I find it ironic that that very same
11 attorney happens to be the attorney that had the
12 Dohertydeceit.com website shut down because someone
13 felt they were -- their name was mentioned, so
14 consequently they were in fear of bodily injury because
15 their name was mentioned on a website.
16 Well, I'll tell you what, if they can
17 get a website done for that, because someone's name was
18 mentioned, perhaps after the hatchet job that The
19 Scranton Times did on Mrs. Evans and myself, perhaps
20 the Pennsylvania State Police will close down
21 The Scranton times, because I don't know about you, but
22 after that tirade last week with the gentleman from
23 Dunmore when he went on his rave about me, I was quite
24 intimidated and in fear myself, so perhaps maybe
25 they'll do that.

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1 Second, I want to address the health
2 care committee for the City of Scranton. You're all
3 familiar with health care, but I'd like to run by you a
4 little bit of history on the health care committee,

5 because I have a very important question.

6 The health care committee was started a

7 long time ago in response to an arbitration filed by

8 the firemen, which the other city unions joined in.

9 The purpose of it was that the

10 employees felt health care costs for the city were out

11 of control and that no one was watching, and so we took

12 them to arbitration to force them to save money on

13 health care, and we won, and the arbitrator set up a

14 health care committee, and on that health care

15 committee there were representatives equal in number

16 for the city and for each union.

17 Each member of the health care

18 committee has an equal vote, no one being superior to

19 the other. Anything that is done pertaining to health

20 care must be done with everyone; in other words, if our

21 lawyer, because the union's lawyer is part of the

22 committee, if our lawyer were to do any correspondence,

23 he would have to forward it to all members of health

24 care committee, everyone has to be aware of what's

25 going on.

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1 Seeing that, perhaps one of you can do

2 what I haven't been able to do and find out why for
3 every single month since shortly after this mayor took
4 office, the City has paid Attorney Carl Greco thousands
5 of dollars billed on a monthly basis for health care
6 committee.

7 Attorney Greco is no part of the health
8 care committee, nor have we had health care committee
9 meetings, but perhaps three since this mayor's in
10 office because he disbanded and we haven't been able to
11 have one, and yet Attorney Greco continues every single
12 month thousands of dollars in legal bills for health
13 care committee. He's not part of the health care
14 committee.

15 Perhaps -- I've tried to find out. I
16 have the bills, the vouchers, I don't have the bills.
17 I can't find out what he has been billing for, and he
18 certainly has done any work that the health care
19 committee is aware of, yet we as taxpayers have
20 continued to pay him. So, if you could perhaps find
21 that out for us.

22 And I did speak with our union
23 attorney, and he backed up what I said, Attorney Greco
24 has had and done no work for the health care committee.

25 MS. EVANS: Can I obtain copies of

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1 those vouchers, please?

2 MS. STULGIS: Absolutely, absolutely.

3 I will get you one of each one.

4 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

5 MS. STULGIS: I appreciate it if you

6 people can find out, because we're spending -- we spent

7 -- minimum figure is \$4 million on attorneys under this

8 administration, \$4 million, and they haven't won a

9 lawsuit.

10 MR. GERVASI: Good evening, ladies and

11 gentlemen. My name is Dave Gervasi, firefighter and

12 resident of the City of Scranton.

13 A few comments on some of the speakers.

14 First before I say anything, I just want to let

15 everyone know, if you haven't seen him, Mr. Fiorini was

16 in the building the last couple of days, he looks

17 terrific.

18 MS. EVANS: He was?

19 MR. DIBILEO: That's great.

20 MR. GERVASI: He looks great, too.

21 MR. DIBILEO: That's wonderful.

22 MS. EVANS: Oh, that's wonderful.

23 MR. GERVASI: And my heart goes out to
24 the family of Mrs. Grace Schimelfenig. I know her
25 children, her daughter very well. Correct me if I'm

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1 wrong, I think she was the first Councilwoman in the
2 city's history --

3 MS. EVANS: Yes.

4 MR. GERVASI: -- to sit up there.

5 MS. EVANS: She was. I did get a bit
6 of a history lesson when I was visiting the funeral
7 home this week, and that was other women prior to
8 Mrs. Schimelfenig had run for the office, but had never
9 won the seat. She was the very first and the top vote
10 getter, and certainly one of my idols.

11 MR. GERVASI: She was the pioneer.

12 Comments on some of the speakers, Mr. Marinucci was up
13 here before and he said there's misinformation going
14 around, and frankly his presentation was fraught with
15 misinformation, especially the part where he said if
16 Mr. DiBileo wins the elections, unions will get
17 everything they want, I believe that's what he quoted,
18 unions will get everything they want.

19 I think I mentioned this about three

20 weeks ago at this podium, that Mr. Marinucci should
21 study Act 47, that it doesn't matter if Mr. Doherty or
22 Mr. DiBileo is the mayor, that under the law, we will
23 negotiate a contract or arbitrate or go to court and
24 settle a contract under the law, and it will be under
25 the parameters of the Recovery Plan, the financial

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1 parameters of the Recovery Plan.

2 If Mr. DiBileo or Mr. Doherty tries to
3 give us anything that the state will not approve, it
4 will not happen. So, lies? Let's talk about lies.
5 Mr. Keeler said that the one year in
6 that chart that Mr. Osborne had up here, that there was
7 a great return of 20 percent. What he failed to
8 mention was the four years that this company was here,
9 and I believe Mr. Osborne had the chart up that said
10 that we lost on the average -- the average median
11 return for those four years was 13 percent, the city
12 did 9 percent, with a loss of \$4.5 million. I think he
13 said the word phenomenal. I think losing \$4.5 million
14 isn't exactly phenomenal.

15 Mr. Ancherani speaks every week about

16 the line item in the budget to pay our service people

17 that went to Iraq, just so Mr. Ancherani is aware, the
18 line item in the budget is the actual line item that
19 pays these people normally. The city didn't have to
20 pay them certain amounts of money in that budget
21 because of the offset of what they got when they were
22 in being paid by the government while they were
23 servicing in Iraq, so it's not like you have to find
24 the money to give them a bonus or something for what
25 they've done, the money was already there and it was

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1 already set for their salaries within the budget for
2 their salaries.

3 One comment I'd like to make, which I
4 found very, very interesting, and I want to actually
5 pat on the back for the first time in a long time one
6 of our reporters, Borys Krawczeniuk, I hope I'm
7 pronouncing that correctly, I thought the article about
8 the city's long-term debt of \$2.4 million was fairly
9 accurate, and I didn't see much spin in there and I
10 thought it was a pretty good article.

11 Just a correction, it's not \$2.4
12 million, I think the speaker after me is going to
13 explain, it's a little higher than that, too.

14 But what really got me was yesterday an
15 e-mail was sent from Mayor Chris Doherty to his web
16 group, I guess, people he sends out on a web group, and
17 this article came out today saying that there was \$2.4
18 million.

19 I'd like to read it exactly as it was,
20 and I'll give anybody a copy to see that it's actual.

21 It says, Our campaign has launched a new commercial.

22 We are asking voters to ignore the steady stream of
23 misinformation put out by Janet Evans and Gary DiBileo.

24 This information is not only wrong, it's reckless.

25 Mr. DiBileo is airing crime commercials

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1 with the intention of scaring our citizens. Mrs. Evans
2 continues to use the \$198 million figure as the city's
3 projected long-term debt, when we have shown her time
4 and time again that her math is wrong. Check out our
5 new Don't Take the Bait commercial at ChrisDoherty.com.

6 It's funny he should put that out

7 yesterday, and the article in his favorite newspaper

8 comes out today and verifies almost what you were

9 saying.

10 But the one truthfully part about this,

11 Mrs. Evans, is that you were wrong, it wasn't \$198
12 million, according to our records, it is \$204 million.
13 But believe it or not, it's \$210 million. I believe
14 Mrs. Krake is going to straighten everyone out on that
15 number after I speak.
16 So, apparently the mayor wants his
17 campaign followers to believe that it was lies and
18 misinformation, because if you want the commercial that
19 he tells us to watch, they actually call you guys
20 liars. I believe he called you, Mr. DiBileo, a liar
21 because of this so-called misinformation.
22 Well, apparently he didn't believe our
23 clerical union president Mrs. Krake, apparently he
24 doesn't believe the finance chairman of Council,
25 Mrs. Evans, apparently he doesn't believe the
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1 President of Council, Mr. DiBileo, apparently he
2 doesn't believe the city's own independent auditors on
3 their figures, and apparently he doesn't believe the
4 cherished newspaper, his cherished newspaper,
5 The Scranton Times. I guess only he's right. This is
6 what the misinformation and deceit is all about in this
7 campaign.

8 Now, other things were said about, and
9 I'm going to do this as quickly as I possibly can,
10 other things were said about the financial condition of
11 the city, let me take you back, because I haven't read
12 this in over a year, the 2002 budget, this is the year
13 before Chris Doherty became the mayor said, According
14 to the Financially Distressed Municipalities Act,
15 Act 47, there are four factors that are considered in
16 determining whether the conditions that led to the
17 distressed city status are no longer present.
18 One factor is whether current deficits
19 have been eliminated. The City of Scranton's general
20 fund deficit has been eliminated. Another factor is
21 whether the city has operated for a period of at least
22 one year with a positive current operating fund balance.
23 The City of Scranton has a positive
24 fund balance for the past two years; meaning, 1999 and
25 2000, and 2001. The other two factors are monthly

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1 reports submitted by the Pennsylvania Economy League to
2 the State Department of Community and Economic
3 Development showing that termination of the distressed
4 status is appropriate and the debt issued to cover the

5 deficit has been retired. There is no indication in
6 the financial documents reviewed that these have not
7 occurred.

8 That's 2001. And we came here, we were
9 told it was misinformation, we're liars. I'll tell you
10 who the liars are, the liars are when he took office in
11 2002, he said the city's financial condition is dead on
12 arrival, I think he said, then he created the
13 Recovery Plan and he said because we're broke, and then
14 for a year after that when we went to arbitration, when
15 he refused to negotiate with us under Act 111 and
16 Act 47, he said he had his people in this room in
17 arbitration saying that the city is broke. As a
18 matter of fact, he paid a financial firm \$40,000 to say
19 that the city was indeed broke.

20 At the same time, he told the
21 Pittsburgh Post Gazette that we're in the black for the
22 last couple of years and things are going great because
23 we have a Recovery Plan.

24 And let me just remind everyone, now
25 we're \$210 million in debt, when we were -- should have

.

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1 been -- when it was appropriate to get out of

2 distressed status in 2001. What happened?

3 I'll tell you what happened, and,

4 Mr. DiBileo, I saw a tape of a debate where you said if

5 things keep going on you'll have to raise taxes, you'll

6 not have to raise taxes, you know why, because if you

7 raise revenue without hurting the taxpayers in this

8 town, the 36 examples we supplied to the city for the

9 last three years, and if you eliminate all of the

10 consultants and lawyers and everything else, you won't

11 have to raise taxes, you'll be able to lower taxes.

12 Mr. Doherty created all this problem, not us. We

13 received zero. Thank you.

14 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.

15 MS. KRAKE: Good evening, Council. My

16 name is Nancy Krake, and I am a city resident.

17 Mr. DiBileo, I know Mr. Gervasi just mentioned that

18 commercial, and actually I was shocked to see that ad

19 that made references to you lying, and I was wondering

20 what exactly they were talking about.

21 MR. DIBILEO: Well, it's sort of a

22 touchy subject, Mrs. Krake. I actually considered

23 addressing it this evening. Mr. Gervasi mentioned it,

24 you're mentioning it now, and in case I was going to

25 mention it, I made a couple of notes for myself, and

1 I'll guess I'll talk a little bit about it.
2 I've held two different elected public
3 offices, I've been a school director and I've been now
4 a City Councilman, I've also been in business for
5 22 years, and I'm a father and a husband, and while
6 it's proper for someone to question an elected
7 official's record, because you're open to that, anyone,
8 an opponent, a member of the public could question an
9 elected official's record, I pride myself on the fact
10 that I have never lied, never lied, and I think it's
11 despicable and outrageous that Chris Doherty actually
12 airing a television commercial that is saying that I'm
13 a liar.
14 I think this is an all-time political
15 low on behalf of Mr. Doherty, and I'm being told over
16 the last couple of days that possibly in the history of
17 Scranton, no political candidate has ever referred to
18 another candidate as being a liar, nobody could
19 remember it ever happening.
20 And while it's obvious that I have
21 differences on Mr. Doherty's record, you know, I am
22 challenging him on his record, doing it with humor, I'm

23 actually saying that he's broken promises, but I've
24 never called him a liar, and never will call him a
25 liar, I make that promise to him.

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1 But I do challenge Mr. Doherty to do
2 something right now, and that is to declare what
3 exactly it is that I am lying about. I'd like to
4 publicly challenge him on that, and if not, if he can't
5 -- if he can't prove that I'm lying about something,
6 that he do the honorable thing and immediately pull
7 that television advertisement.

8 So, I ask him publicly to tell me where
9 I'm lying, and if not, throw the ad out, do the
10 honorable thing.

11 MS. KRAKE: I have the utmost respect
12 for you, Mr. DiBileo, and your openness and your
13 accessibility to all the citizens of Scranton, and if
14 that gentleman downstairs does not take up that
15 challenge, it just shows how extremely desperate he is,
16 and it's extremely sad.

17 MR. DIBILEO: Let me just say, it's not
18 in his words, but it's his commercial, another person
19 is saying it, and that's his commercial calling me a

20 liar, and I've built a reputation, I think, on honesty
21 and trustworthiness over my lifetime, and I think it's
22 hideous that he's referring to me as a liar.
23 MS. KRAKE: It's absolutely the way he
24 operates and the way he sends people here each week. I
25 always thought that The Scranton Times was a scandal

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1 sheet, only this time the scandal is true.
2 Today's paper tells us there's \$204
3 million in debt, which is absolutely scandalous. Mayor
4 Doherty, who based on The Times' article apparently
5 feels that this debt is fabulous.
6 Actually, the total is \$210 million for
7 long-term debt. The Times left out the \$6 million in
8 the mayor's 2005 budget, which was not the one that the
9 majority of this Council voted for or had presented
10 originally.
11 Mr. Doherty claims he inherited
12 37 percent of the debt from the Connors Administration,
13 it's more like 30 percent, since
14 \$10 million was due to the ASCO pension disaster that
15 Terry Osborne described earlier, that's another
16 \$4.5 million lost per his chart.

17 The previous administration's debt was
18 so low that, believe it or not, the Pennsylvania
19 Economy League actually complimented Mayor Connors,
20 they said it was the lowest long-term debt in the
21 state.

22 Now, after we were on the verge of
23 solvency and renaissance in 2001, Mayor Doherty has
24 brought us to the brink of financial disaster in only
25 three and a half years.

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1 He's managed to mortgage our future and
2 strip our everyday cost of living funds so they will
3 continue on a downward spiral to feed his long-term
4 debt.

5 And I'm sorry, Mr. Keeler, but we are
6 paying more now in bond payments than we were in 2001.

7 MS. KRAKE: May I have more time,

8 Mr. DiBileo, since --

9 MR. DIBILEO: I took up a little of
10 your time. Why don't you just take another few
11 seconds, if you could.

12 MS. KRAKE: Okay. I actually would
13 like to know how the mayor's going to pay for another

14 four more years of the same. That just threw me off, I

15 never got double bonged before, pardon me.

16 By his same mode of operation, I mean

17 hiring more friends, more consultants, more lawyers,

18 more administrative positions and raises.

19 I think we all know the answer to who's

20 going to pay. Once again, it's the real taxpayers, the

21 people who can't leave and who don't want to leave

22 Scranton.

23 But everyone is sick and tired of the

24 same old borrow and spend, and they see nothing but

25 increase debt hanging over their futures, and you know

.

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1 given four more years, that this mayor will be more

2 than happy to raise your taxes. He'll say you've given

3 him a mandate to raise taxes just by voting him in

4 again. He's very big on the mandate-thing.

5 I don't think people have fallen for

6 his ads, which paint a pretty picture of our town. In

7 fact, everyone knows he's using red ink to paint this

8 picture. I don't know how much longer I can take,

9 Mr. DiBileo. I do have a little bit more, but --

10 MR. DIBILEO: If you don't mind coming

11 back next week, Mrs. Krake.

12 MS. KRAKE: No. That's fine, that's

13 fine.

14 MR. DIBILEO: Appreciate it.

15 MS. KRAKE: Thank you.

16 MR. DIBILEO: If there's no further

17 speakers.

18 MR. SAUNDERS: Fifth order. 5-A,

19 Motions.

20 MR. DIBILEO: Mr. McTiernan, any

21 motions or comments?

22 MR. McTIERNAN: Just a request maybe

23 with all the statistics that have been floating around,

24 maybe if Jay could iron out, Mr. Saunders, could iron

25 out the real numbers for all the crime statistics from

.

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1 the State Police website, that would be helpful for

2 next week. And that's all, Mr. President. Thank you.

3 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you. Mrs. Evans,

4 motions or comments?

5 MS. EVANS: First, I would like to wish

6 all of those members of the Jewish faith a happy

7 Yom Kippur, which was celebrated earlier this week, and

8 I also wanted to commend Governor Rendell for his
9 attendance at the funeral services of all of the
10 Pennsylvania Soldiers who've lost their lives in Iraq.
11 That is a truly admirable action by our governor.
12 I'll begin with this week's list of
13 citizens' requests and complaints. A letter to
14 Mr. Baker, Scranton Housing Authority, was Mr. Sallusti
15 and/or his firm hired by the Scranton Housing Authority
16 either recently or at any time since January 2002, and
17 what is the dollar amount which was paid or will be
18 paid to Mr. Sallusti and/or his firm?
19 A letter to Mr. Parker, What is the
20 procedure for leaf pick-up during the fall of 2005?
21 Countless residents complain that the practice of
22 raking leafs into the street by curbside was a failure
23 and overwhelmingly request the return to bagged leafs.
24 If you do intend to continue 2004
25 policies, what measures have you implemented to ensure

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1 that leafs will be picked up on every street throughout
2 the city prior to the onset of snowfalls?
3 Also, a resident requested that
4 The Lookout receives a bit of attention.

5 Mr. Courtright, are we responsible for The Lookout?

6 MR. COURTRIGHT: I personally am not.

7 MS. EVANS: I know you know all about

8 it up there, but -- I know, it's an old joke.

9 MR. COURTRIGHT: It is. It's the

10 city's, but there was an individual that was doing a

11 lot on his own, I think they had a plaque up there

12 about him, but, yeah, it is the city's responsibility.

13 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Well, a

14 resident requested that the trees that are obstructing

15 some of the view would be trimmed, and I think a stone

16 has fallen out of the wall, if we can get that back in,

17 but he did have some very interesting and I think

18 productive suggestions, as well, that a map should be

19 erected which would identify all of various building

20 within the observer's view, and also that a movable

21 standing binocular would be installed in order to

22 facilitate better observation.

23 Also, the residents of East Mountain

24 have concerns about catch basins on East Mountain Road,

25 they'd like them clear of leafs and debris.

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1 A letter to Mr. Parker, residents

2 complain about Lavelle Court. What was the cost of
3 this job and can this be corrected satisfactorily?
4 The stop sign at the corner of
5 Genet Street and South Webster Avenue has not been
6 moved and a resident made that request during a summer
7 meeting of City Council.
8 Also, 539 Birch Street, residents
9 request a Children At Play sign. Pave or fill large
10 potholes in the alleyway behind the 600 block of Palm
11 Street in South Scranton, this is the second request.
12 Also, a report from Ms. Hailstone
13 concerning the benches to be placed in the 100 block of
14 Wyoming Avenue, when will this occur?
15 Maybe Mr. Pocius can answer this one,
16 the Expressway that travels right next to the
17 University of Scranton's athletic field, the soccer
18 field, is that the state's responsibility?
19 MR. POCIUS: Absolutely, yes. That's a
20 state highway.
21 MS. EVANS: Okay. I've received a
22 number of complaints about the catch basins in that
23 area of the Expressway that are clogged to the top with
24 dirt and weeds, and residents would like to see that
25 cleaned up because they're anticipating problems with

1 icing and poor snow removal conditions over the winter,
2 and I do have a number of others that I have included
3 because of speakers' complaints this evening, which I
4 will give to you. Thank you, Kay.

5 On the other hand, there are some very
6 positive things happening over in the Pine Brook
7 Neighborhood Association. This is their new
8 newsletter, and it, well, actually this October 1, 2005
9 edition includes such topics as Election Day, their
10 next meeting, which is Monday, October 17, laws that
11 should be enforced, neighborhood events like a
12 Halloween party that's scheduled for October 30 at two,
13 complete with a Halloween coloring contest, and much,
14 much more. So, I do applaud this wonderful group of
15 residents and the progress that they're creating on
16 their own.

17 Next, and Jay's not here, so, Kay, I'm
18 going to ask you -- oh, he is? Are you sleeping?
19 There you are. I wouldn't blame you if you were.

20 Next, I would like to do a walk through
21 of the Casey Garage with any other interested Council
22 members. I want to be satisfied that the traveling

23 public will be safe, particularly since I've heard

24 there may be some problems with the work.

25 Also, Jay, please schedule Mr.

.

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1 Wintermantle for next week, I wish to pose some

2 questions about the Casey Garage A.S.A.P.

3 And I am going to make a -- I actually

4 two motions to make tonight, first in regard to a

5 matter that was discussed very early on this evening,

6 that being the membership of the composite pension

7 board that is not in compliance with state regulations

8 which has suffered a stacking of the deck, I think it's

9 imperative that it return to its original status before

10 any decision is made on the renewal of their current

11 firm or the hiring of a new entity; therefore, I move

12 to repeal File of Council 113 and 114 of 2003 in order

13 to provide for good fiscal management of our composite

14 pension.

15 MR. COURTRIGHT: I'll second it.

16 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. We have a motion

17 on the floor and a second. On the question?

18 MR. COURTRIGHT: On the question,

19 Mr. President, evidently we had some legislation

20 prepared, and I didn't get an opportunity to see it, I
21 actually didn't know it was prepared until about four
22 o'clock yesterday, and I'm guessing that's the reason
23 it didn't appear on the --

24 MS. EVANS: Oh, so it will appear next

25 week?

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1 MR. COURTRIGHT: I don't know. In
2 conversations with Kay and then -- I guess Kay was
3 talking to Mr. DiBileo, I knew we had asked Mr. Walsh,
4 I didn't know he was going to get it done that quickly,
5 and I did not know until yesterday at four o'clock that
6 he had done it, so I said I would like to see something
7 before I voted on it, and then I believe a similar
8 situation for Mr. DiBileo, and I think that's why it
9 didn't appear.

10 I have no problem voting on it, I just
11 didn't want to vote on legislation I hadn't read, so I
12 hadn't found out until I said yesterday at four
13 o'clock, and I still haven't seen it, and that's my
14 fault. I could have seen it today, I just didn't get
15 over here to take a look at it, because I had found out
16 Mr. DiBileo took it off the agenda.

17 So, that's my reasoning for seconding
18 your motion tonight. I'm not against the process, I
19 just wanted to read the legislation before I voted on
20 it.

21 MR. DIBILEO: I do have a question, it
22 would be a question for Mr. Walsh, in that, the
23 legislation that Mr. Courtright's referring to would
24 actually be doing the assume thing, that we would be
25 voting on next week, if you wish to have it on the
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1 agenda.

2 MS. EVANS: Have you seen that
3 legislation; in other words, to verify that that in
4 fact is the content?

5 MR. DIBILEO: Well, that's what was
6 read to me. I haven't seen it.

7 MS. EVANS: Oh, so you are aware of the
8 statements contained therein?

9 MR. DIBILEO: Yes, I believe so. And,
10 Mr. Saunders, if I could ask you, doesn't that cover
11 Mrs. Evans' --

12 MR. SAUNDERS: Yes. The legislation
13 that was drafted by Mr. Walsh does cover all the

14 concerns that Mrs. Evans has.

15 MS. EVANS: Then I will withdraw my

16 motion and wait until --

17 MR. COURTRIGHT: And I'll withdraw my

18 second.

19 MS. EVANS: -- next Thursday, and I do

20 expect that that legislation is going to be coinciding

21 with my motion this evening.

22 Last week I commented on this mayor's

23 2005 capital budget, I stated the Home Rule Charter

24 requires, and I mean requires, that every entry in this

25 mayor's 2005 capital budget must be in compliance with

.

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1 every element in Section 904.

2 Section 904 makes no exception if an

3 entry is labelled as funded or unfunded, or if an entry

4 is on this mayor's wish list. Section 904 still

5 applies and must be followed. The same Section 904

6 applies in the same manner to this mayor's 2006 capital

7 budget.

8 I said this mayor's 2005 capital budget

9 violated the Home Rule Charter because he did not

10 include appropriate supporting information as to the

11 necessity for his listed improvements, whether funded
12 or unfunded, nor did estate the method of financing for
13 each project and the recommended time schedule for each
14 project.

15 I said the 2005 capital budget does not
16 set forth the estimated annual cost of operating and
17 maintaining the facilities to be constructed or
18 acquired.

19 In view of the fact that the mayor's
20 2005 budget was so deficient in every one of its line
21 items, I submit there was a serious question as to
22 whether the 2005 budget was a valid one as presented.

23 The same Section 904 and the same
24 question as to its validity applies to this mayor's
25 2006 capital budget given to Council recently.

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1 Now, permit me, please, to digress for
2 a moment. In a recent newspaper article, the city
3 solicitor questioned why I voted in favor of the 2005
4 capital budget, if it was illegal.
5 I take his statement to imply that so
6 long as this mayor got away with violating the Home
7 Rule Charter with his 2005 budget, then he can violate

8 the law indefinitely.
9 Irrespective of my assumption, I can
10 only say two wrongs on anything do not make all right.
11 I see the wrong for what it is and shall not stand by
12 and permit the second wrong to occur. This claimed
13 2006 budget is a disgrace. It's an affront and an
14 insult to every Scrantonian.
15 In its present form, this mayor's
16 claimed 2006 capital budget does not now merit comment
17 on any of its entries, either on the revenue or
18 expenditure side, because as it was submitted to
19 Council, I, for one, cannot inquire into the necessity
20 or validity of any entry or the estimated cost of
21 maintaining the construction, and most important, I
22 cannot determine for myself if it is good for the
23 people, not just to add construction in Central City on
24 more borrowed money.
25 I view this mayor's claimed capital

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1 budget for 2006 to be another attempt by him to bypass
2 City Council and diminish its oversight authority.
3 Therefore, I make the following motion,
4 first, that Mr. Wash prepare and send or deliver a

5 letter to mayor with copies to the city solicitor and
6 other appropriate administration persons no later than
7 Tuesday, October 18.

8 In the letter Mr. Walsh should inform
9 the mayor his 2006 capital budget is not valid as
10 presented, require the mayor or his designee to comply
11 with the Home Rule Charter by Tuesday, November 1,
12 otherwise, Council will begin a lawsuit to seek a court
13 order which holds the 2006 capital budget invalid.
14 The lawsuit should also request the
15 court to order the mayor to comply with Section 904 of
16 the Home Rule Charter; secondly, that Mr. Walsh also
17 begin to prepare the necessary papers to file the
18 lawsuit on November 1, if the mayor does not comply
19 with Section 904 on or about that date. I so move.

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: I'll second it.

21 MR. DIBILEO: Motion on the floor and a
22 second. On the question?

23 MR. COURTRIGHT: On the question, Mr.

24 President, I firmly believe that the administration
25 will supply us and Mrs. Evans with the information that

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1 we need to be in accordance with the Home Rule Charter

2 and that it won't be necessary for the lawsuit to take
3 place, I believe that she is doing it as a precaution,
4 so, therefore, I second the motion, because I do
5 believe that they'll supply us with the information.
6 Why they haven't in the past, I don't know, but I think
7 it needs to be done and it's in the Home Rule Charter,
8 and so I support motion.

9 MS. EVANS: Thank you. I just want to
10 add, I certainly hope that's the case, as well,
11 however, there cannot be any compromise on this
12 important issue, because if Council allows the mayor to
13 continue to violate the Home Rule Charter Section 904,
14 it will tell all the people and set a precedent that
15 Council has no objection when the mayor violates the
16 Home Rule Charter or any other law, for that matter,
17 nor does it have an objection if the mayor continues to
18 make Council ineffective by removing an essential part
19 of its authority. This mayor's illegal conduct is not
20 good for the people.

21 MR. DIBILEO: If there's no further
22 questions, all those in favor, signify by saying aye.

23 MS. EVANS: Aye.

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

25 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed?

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1 MR. POCIUS: No.

2 MR. McTIERNAN: No.

3 MR. DIBILEO: By a 3-2 vote, motion

4 passes.

5 MS. EVANS: As for me, I shall not be a

6 party to this mayor's continued open and knowing

7 violation of the law until each line item in his

8 claimed 2006 budget first complies with every required

9 element in Section 904 of Scranton's Home Rule Charter.

10 Also, let my honorable colleagues also

11 be counted whether they condone this mayor's continued

12 violation of Scranton's Home Rule Charter and his

13 trivializing of City Council or not.

14 Now, one last thing, regardless of how

15 many mayoral supporters and apologists attack me, I

16 promise you, I will not be silenced. I will continue

17 to tell the truth.

18 And frankly, I'm flattered that one

19 lone woman has caused so much activity just by asking

20 questions and telling the truth. That's it.

21 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Mrs. Evans.

22 Mr. Pocius, motions or comments?

23 MR. POCIUS: Yes, Mr. President, and I

24 will be very brief. Just one little thing here, when I

25 was a -- some of you may remember, do you remember the

.

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1 newscaster John Perry, what did he open the news with

2 every night? It's now eleven o'clock, do you know

3 where your children are? I think there's some people

4 at home saying, Do you know where are fathers and

5 husbands and wives are, okay? So, I think, Michael,

6 you remember what I'm saying. Enough of that, it's

7 getting lat.

8 I have one motion, I am not going to

9 make the motion on the loans tonight, Mr. Walsh

10 provided me with an opinion, he's not here, it's too

11 late to debate the facts whether it's right or wrong,

12 we're just going to go on.

13 My motion is, and I hate to use this

14 term, but let's just say both -- players from both

15 teams tonight questioned the debt, so very simply, I am

16 going to make a motion that we ask Mr. Rossi or his

17 designee to come back to a Council caucus and good over

18 that, just the debt numbers, to see where we're all at

19 with that. That's my motion, to bring him back to

20 discuss the debt numbers.

21 MR. MCTIERNAN: Second.

22 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. We have a motion

23 on the floor and a second. On the question? All those

24 in favor, signify by saying aye.

25 MS. EVANS: Aye.

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1 MR. MCTIERNAN: Aye

2 MR. POCIUS: Aye.

3 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

4 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? 5-0 vote,

5 motion carries.

6 MR. POCIUS: Is there any reason we

7 couldn't do that as soon as possible, Jay, or

8 Mr. President just to --

9 MS. EVANS: The only -- I understand

10 what Mr. Pocius is saying, however, I had already asked

11 for Mr. Wintermantle next week, you know, and this is a

12 matter of urgency, because the garage supposedly will

13 open this month, so these questions have to be answered

14 quickly.

15 MR. SAUNDERS: So, for next week we'll

16 see Mr. Wintermantle, and then the following week we'll

17 see Mr. Rossi?

18 MR. POCIUS: Like, we can't even be

19 sure Mr. Rossi is available next week, so try to get a

20 date as soon as you can. That's my --

21 MR. DIBILEO: Yeah.

22 MR. SAUNDERS: I'll call Mr. Rossi.

23 MR. POCIUS: Maybe do an open caucus

24 again so we can have it heard, you know, the whole nine

25 yards, we'll come a little earlier just so he can do

.

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1 it, okay, and we'll get it reported accurately.

2 Okay. That's it for motions. A couple

3 of real quick comments, okay? A lot was talked about

4 this -- the pension issue, however, the one thing that

5 was really not stated was it is our responsibility, the

6 governing body; meaning, the mayor and Council to pick.

7 I mean, we're going to get a

8 recommendation from the pension boards, but ultimately

9 the legislation is passed by Council for the hiring, so

10 we've never given up the right here on this body, that

11 is our responsibility based on what happens. Hopefully

12 everything will work out fine and the recommendations

13 of the pension board will be followed and so on and so

14 forth, but if not, we have the final say up here.

15 That's it.

16 The 300 block of Dix Court was brought

17 up. I was told, I don't know if it was by Mr. Parker

18 or the mayor, that once the vehicles moved down to the

19 new police headquarters, that will be a top priority to

20 pave Dix Court. It's too hard with the amount of

21 parked traffic in the court to do it right now. That

22 is scheduled to be done.

23 Point taken, I might have spoken too

24 soon, Spruce Street Complex is a state highway,

25 however, on a lot of state highways, I don't know the

.

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1 jurisdiction of this one, the municipality is required

2 to maintain the drainage. That may be or problem on

3 the Spruce Street.

4 You brought up East Mountain Road catch

5 basins, well, they're all brand new catch basins from

6 the bottom of East Mountain Road all the way up to the

7 firehouse where it becomes Mountain Lake Road.

8 That referral should be given to

9 PennDOT inspector, because while it's under

10 construction, the contractor has complete jurisdiction

11 over control of the work inside the right of way, so if

12 there is anything, that's a contract issue, it's not a

13 city issue at this point in time.

14 That's that one. Jay, whatever

15 happened to the meeting we voted on to bring Director

16 Hayes and Superintendent Elliott in on the police

17 manning and the shift stuff?

18 MR. SAUNDERS: We had cancelled that

19 months ago, and I --

20 MR. POCIUS: I was only asked by Chief

21 Elliott in the alley this week when was he -- when we

22 were going to be coming back, so I mean, that's all. I

23 think it should be scheduled. We did it by motion.

24 MR. SAUNDERS: What happened is, we did

25 cancel that because we had somebody else, a conflict at

.

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1 that time, and I just never put it back on notes of

2 interest, and I will.

3 MR. POCIUS: Okay. I'm trying to be

4 quick and brief, because I'll tell you, I'm tired. I

5 was on the road two days this week, and I spent more

6 time in the car alone, and it's just -- I'm very tired

7 right now.

8 One more -- two more things, I think it
9 would be very fitting of this Council if we sent a,
10 like we did -- and I was out of town on Tuesday night
11 and could not attend the wake service, but I think it
12 would be nice if we sent a very nice letter out to the
13 family saying how much we appreciate what she did for
14 the city, and I think it would only be fitting.
15 She was a -- I used to enjoy my
16 conversations when I saw her up at Allied, I workout up
17 there, she was a patient doing some therapy, it was
18 very, very pleasant to spend some time with her, and
19 she was a wonderful person, and she will be missed, and
20 a great mother and family person, which I think starts
21 first, I've said that before.
22 And last but not least, Nelson, will
23 you call me by name? I'm not -- it doesn't say certain
24 Councilperson, it says Mr. Pocius. I'm not offended.
25 Fine. That's fine, okay?

.

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1 Like I told you out in the hallway the
2 one night, there's nothing personal here. This is
3 strictly business, and, you know, I've known you a long
4 time, just say Mr. Pocius or John or whatever. I'm not

5 going to get offended. That's it for me.

6 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. Thank you,

7 Mr. Pocius. And I think that's a wonderful idea about

8 the family of Grace Schimelfenig passing along --

9 MR. POCIUS: Her son John is a neighbor

10 of mine back in Minooka, and, you know, Mari, the

11 daughter, I don't exactly know where she lives, but I

12 think Jay could find the address and we can send a nice

13 letter out.

14 MR. DIBILEO: Yeah, passing along our

15 condolences in writing.

16 MR. SAUNDERS: Yeah.

17 MR. DIBILEO: Yeah. And that's a great

18 idea. And I, too, missed the opportunity to say I was

19 sorry, so let's definitely do that.

20 And let's also try to reschedule

21 Safety Director Hayes, Public Safety Director Hayes, as

22 Mr. Pocius said, let's get them in line, along with the

23 other couple caucus meetings we talked about.

24 MR. POCIUS: I mean, we did do it by

25 motion and we all agreed, so -- I don't even want to

.

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1 talk anymore.

2 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Mr. Pocius.

3 Mr. Courtright, motions or comments?

4 MR. COURTRIGHT: Just one comment and a

5 brief letter I want to read. I can't remember, it's

6 been a long night, I can't remember which speaker it

7 was, but whoever it was, I can't disagree more, I've

8 watched Mrs. Evans here for two years act as finance

9 chair, and I can't imagine anybody putting more time

10 into that position than she has.

11 I think she studies every issue, she

12 has the facts, she has the figures. I think she's done

13 an excellent job, so the comments the speaker

14 previously made about Mrs. Evans, I could not disagree

15 more. I think she's doing an excellent job. I haven't

16 paid that close attention in the past to Council to see

17 too many other finance chairs, but I've seen a few, and

18 I think she's one of the best, if not the best.

19 MS. EVANS: Mr. Courtright, thank you

20 very much, and it means even more to me coming from a

21 man of honor and respect like.

22 MR. COURTRIGHT: I just believe it's

23 the truth, and that's why I said it.

24 MR. DIBILEO: Let me echo your

25 comments, too. I want to acknowledge and recognize all

1 the work that Mrs. Evans does as finance chairman, and
2 she takes nothing lightly, and she takes everything
3 seriously because she understand her obligations to the
4 public, and you're doing a great job.

5 MS. EVANS: Thank you, President
6 DiBileo.

7 MR. COURTRIGHT: And if I could, again,
8 the hour is late, I didn't realize, as they say, I
9 guess I opened a can of worms, I had gotten two calls
10 about people trying to get into Park Gardens while I
11 was away, I brought up last week, and I've gotten calls
12 and accusations and allegations made that I really
13 don't care to be involved in.

14 I'm not on the Housing Authority, I
15 know I'm City Council, and I'm just going to read the
16 letter that I asked to be sent out to Mr. Baker so that
17 the two original people that called me can hear it,
18 because I haven't heard back from them, and if you'll
19 bear with me, I'll read it very quickly.

20 Dear Mr. Baker, At Scranton City

21 Council's meeting held on Thursday, October 6, 2005, it
22 was requested that a letter be sent to you regarding

23 Park Gardens.

24 Citizens have been asking what the

25 criteria is for getting an apartment in Park Gardens.

.

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1 City Council has received complaints from people that

2 have been on a list for approximately the last three

3 years and can't get into Park Gardens.

4 Also, some people are complaining they

5 know of people on the list for as little of a few

6 months that have gotten in.

7 We would like to ask if we may please

8 have a current list of all applicants sent to our

9 office at your earliest convenience.

10 Regarding another concern, residents of

11 Park Gardens have asked if it might be possible to have

12 handicapped parking spaces installed in front of

13 buildings in which handicapped individuals reside.

14 Some say they must park great distances

15 from their apartments because spaces are always taken.

16 We would appreciate it if you can look into this

17 request of the residents to see if this can be done.

18 We thank you in advance for your consideration. And it

19 went out by Jay's name, but by my request.

20 So, if they're able to -- I don't know
21 if they're able to supply me with that list if that's
22 public knowledge or not. If it is and they send it to
23 us, I'll leave that on file here and counsel for anyone
24 that would like to look at it. And that's all I have,
25 Mr. President. Thank you.

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1 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you,
2 Mr. Courtright. And I was requested by three
3 organizations to mention fundraisers that are coming up
4 this weekend, one is the third annual Jim Hughes
5 Benefit. Jim Hughes, many people know Jim, especially
6 in North Scranton, he is a gentleman that is a true
7 north sider. He helps cleaning up with the
8 Providence Square, he gets out with his broom and a
9 shovel and his garbage bags and he helps a lot of
10 people up in that area and he's a great guy, and this
11 Saturday, October 15, Saturday, October 15, seven to
12 ten, Holy Rosary Center on West Market Street, there's
13 entertainment by DJ Mike Walton, food and beverages.
14 Tickets are available at the door, ten-dollar minute
15 donation. Call 342-5833, 342-5833, and proceeds
16 benefit American Heart Association and American Red

17 Cross for victims of Hurricane Katrina.
18 Second, St. John's Byzantine Catholic
19 Church at Broadway and Fourth Avenue in Scranton is
20 having its annual halupkie and kielbasi dinner this
21 Sunday, October 16. Adults are \$8, children \$4, and
22 they're serving from noon to 4 p.m. Takeouts
23 available. There's a phone number here, 346-1835. And
24 a portion of their proceeds will be donated to a fellow
25 parish family affected by Hurricane Katrina.

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1 And lastly is a fundraiser for
2 Leanne Lapinski, Leanne Lapinski, she is a victim of
3 scleroderma and Raynaud's Disease this Saturday,
4 October 15 at the Tripp Park Complex, Saturday,
5 October 15, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Events will include
6 men's baseball tournaments, food, music, raffles,
7 50/50s, bake sales and lots of fun. Admission is only
8 \$5 for adults, \$2 for children under 12, and the price
9 includes soda and hot dog or hamburger.

10 And if interested in putting a mens
11 team together to play baseball, call 961-2623,
12 961-2623.

13 And I hope everyone of the Jewish faith

14 had a very happy Yom Kippur. And that's all I have.

15 MS. EVANS: Mr. DiBileo, if I may, one

16 other motion that I had forgotten, I think because of

17 the time, as well, I move that a letter be sent to

18 Ms. Hailstone tomorrow asking her to attend a caucus

19 meeting of Scranton City Council as soon as possible

20 concerning the construction of the garages,

21 specifically the Medallion Garage, and should I not

22 receive a reply within one week's time, that would be

23 Thursday, October 20, then I would fully intend to

24 direct Mr. Walsh to exercise our power of subpoena that

25 was already voted and approved by this Council majority

.

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1 several week ago, at which time, as part of that

2 motion, the documents were subpoenaed. I so move.

3 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

4 MR. DIBILEO: On the question? Just on

5 the question, I have -- would you like to have her here

6 with Jim Wintermantle or separate?

7 MS. EVANS: These are two entirely

8 different issues, so I believe they should be separate.

9 I really don't believe that Mr. Wintermantle is going

10 to be able to shed much light on the questions that I

11 intend to pose to Ms. Hailstone.

12 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. If there's no

13 further questions --

14 MR. MCTIERNAN: Mr. DiBileo --

15 MR. DIBILEO: Yes.

16 MR. MCTIERNAN: -- or Mrs. Evans, is

17 the motion to send the letter?

18 MS. EVANS: Yes. And if I receive no

19 reply to the letter, then I will district Mr. Walsh,

20 our solicitor, to immediately exercise the power of

21 subpoena that was provided during a prior motion that

22 was approved by Council.

23 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. If there's no

24 further questions, all those in favor, signify by

25 saying aye.

.

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1 MS. EVANS: Aye.

2 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

3 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed?

4 MR. MCTIERNAN: No.

5 MR. POCIUS: No.

6 MR. DIBILEO: By a 3-2 vote, motion

7 carries.

8 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

9 MR. DIBILEO: And if there's nothing

10 further with motions or comments, we'll go into the

11 agenda.

12 MR. SAUNDERS: 5-B, FOR INTRODUCTION -

13 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 82, 2004,

14 AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED GENERAL CITY OPERATING BUDGET

15 2005 BY TRANSFERRING \$11,000.00 FROM ACCOUNT

16 NO. 01.401.13090.4299 (CONTINGENCY) TO ACCOUNT

17 NO. 01.080.00083.4340 (DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

18 BUREAU OF HIGHWAYS CONSTRUCTION/PAVING MATERIALS) TO

19 PROVIDE FUNDING FOR PAVING PARKING LOT AT NEW POLICE

20 HEADQUARTERS.

21 MR. DIBILEO: At this time I'll

22 entertain a motion that Item 5-B be introduced into

23 it's proper committee.

24 MR. POCIUS: So moved.

25 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

.

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1 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

2 All those in favor of introduction, signify by saying

3 aye.

4 MS. EVANS: Aye.

5 MR. MCTIERNAN: Aye

6 MR. POCIUS: Aye.

7 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

8 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

9 have it and so moved.

10 MR. SAUNDERS: 5-C, FOR INTRODUCTION -

11 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 68, 2004,

12 ENTITLED, AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER

13 APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO TAKE

14 ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE CONSOLIDATED

15 SUBMISSION FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

16 PROGRAMS TO BE FUNDED UNDER THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

17 BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP

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

19 PROGRAM, BY ADDING PROJECT NO. 05-161, REHABILITATION

20 OF THE FORMER NORTH SCRANTON JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

21 BUILDING, PROJECT NO. 05-152, RECONSTRUCTION OF JACKSON

22 STREET PLAYGROUND - PHASE II, AND PROJECT NO. 05-226,

23 PROVIDENCE SQUARE - PHASE II.

24 MR. DIBILEO: At this time I'll

25 entertain a motion that Item 5-C be introduced into

.

200

1 it's proper committee.

2 MR. POCIUS: So moved.

3 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

4 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

5 All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

6 MS. EVANS: Aye.

7 MR. MCTIERNAN: Aye

8 MR. POCIUS: Aye.

9 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

10 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

11 have it and so moved.

12 MR. SAUNDERS: 5-D, FOR INTRODUCTION -

13 - AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 68, 2004,

14 ENTITLED, AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER

15 APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO TAKE

16 ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE CONSOLIDATED

17 SUBMISSION FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

18 PROGRAMS TO BE FUNDED UNDER THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

19 BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP

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

21 PROGRAM, BY TRANSFERRING \$350,000.00 FROM PROJECT NO.

22 02-150, COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL REVOLVING LOAN FUND, TO

23 PROJECT NO. 05-161, REHABILITATION OF THE FORMER NORTH

24 SCRANTON JUNIOR HIGH.

25 MR. DIBILEO: At this time I'll

201

1 entertain a motion that Item 5-D be introduced into

2 it's proper committee.

3 MR. POCIUS: So moved.

4 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

5 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

6 All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

7 MS. EVANS: Aye.

8 MR. MCTIERNAN: Aye

9 MR. POCIUS: Aye.

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

11 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

12 have it and so moved.

13 MR. SAUNDERS: 5-E, FOR INTRODUCTION -

14 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 68, 2004,

15 ENTITLED, AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER

16 APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO TAKE

17 ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE CONSOLIDATED

18 SUBMISSION FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

19 PROGRAMS TO BE FUNDED UNDER THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

20 BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP

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

22 PROGRAM, BY ACKNOWLEDGING THE RECEIPT OF UNANTICIPATED

23 PROGRAM INCOME OF \$142,870.16 FROM PROJECT NO. 97-07,
24 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LOANS AND ALLOCATING THESE FUNDS
25 TO ELIGIBLE PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES.

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1 MR. DIBILEO: At this time I'll
2 entertain a motion that Item 5-E be introduced into
3 it's proper committee.

4 MR. POCIUS: So moved.

5 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

6 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

7 MR. POCIUS: Just on the question
8 briefly, this money -- the only program, \$14,000 and
9 some odd dollars, but MIDAS paid back the whole
10 principal on the loan which freed up this funding, and
11 it's going to, just for the public, United Neighborhood
12 Center's Transitional Housing, reconstruction of
13 Jackson Street playground Phase II, and, also, this is
14 where the money from Providence Square was coming from,
15 \$75,000.

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: Mr. President, on the
17 question, Jay, when did they pay this up?

18 MR. POCIUS: It's in the ordinance.

19 Bill, it was September, I swore I saw it.

20 MR. SAUNDERS: I didn't notice.

21 MR. POCIUS: It just said, The entire

22 principal balance due to city under this loan during

23 the program year 2005. They got the whole payment in,

24 rather than just the partial.

25 MR. COURTRIGHT: If you could just find

.

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1 out for me when we got that notification, I am curious.

2 MR. SAUNDERS: Yep.

3 MR. POCIUS: Yeah. I thought there was

4 a date.

5 MR. DIBILEO: Okay, if there's not

6 further questions, all those in favor, signify by

7 saying aye.

8 MS. EVANS: Aye.

9 MR. MCTIERNAN: Aye

10 MR. POCIUS: Aye.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

12 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

13 have it and so moved.

14 MR. SAUNDERS: 5-F, FOR INTRODUCTION -

15 AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER

16 APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO TAKE

17 ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE CONSOLIDATED
18 SUBMISSION FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
19 PROGRAMS TO BE FUNDED UNDER THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
20 BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP
21 (HOME) PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY SHELTER GRANT (ESG)
22 PROGRAM.

23 MR. DIBILEO: At this time I'll
24 entertain a motion that Item 5-F be introduced into
25 it's proper committee.

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1 MR. POCIUS: So moved.

2 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

3 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

4 All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

5 MS. EVANS: Aye.

6 MR. MCTIERNAN: Aye

7 MR. POCIUS: Aye.

8 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

9 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

10 have it and so moved.

11 MR. POCIUS: Mr. President, with your

12 indulgence, Mr. Saunders informed we need a motion for

13 a public hearing on this issue here, and I move that we

14 hold a public hearing on Thursday, October 20, 2005.

15 Jay, will this work at 6 p.m., with the other meetings

16 we have, because it's somewhat lengthy? It's going to

17 have to be, correct?

18 MR. SAUNDERS: Yeah, the CDBG usually

19 is traditionally a lengthy public hearing, so, I mean,

20 next week we're going to have Jim Wintermantle in, so

21 --

22 MR. POCIUS: Maybe we'd have to get him

23 in earlier, but I think we have to hold this at least

24 at six, right?

25 MR. SAUNDERS: Yeah.

.

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1 MR. POCIUS: Okay. I'll make it for

2 six o'clock. I'll complete my motion by saying at six

3 o'clock.

4 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

5 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. Motion on the

6 floor and a second. On the question? Perhaps we can

7 have Mr. Wintermantle come in at 5:30 --

8 MR. POCIUS: And if we're all here, we

9 can just start, right?

10 MR. DIBILEO: Yeah, or even possibly

11 earlier. Let's talk between five and 5:30.

12 Okay. If there's no further questions,

13 all those in favor, signify by saying aye.

14 MS. EVANS: Aye.

15 MR. MCTIERNAN: Aye

16 MR. POCIUS: Aye.

17 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

18 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

19 have it and so moved.

20 MR. SAUNDERS: 5-G, FOR INTRODUCTION -

21 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER

22 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A

23 GRANT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF SCRANTON AND THE

24 NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE, UNITED STATES

25 DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, PERTAINING TO STREAM BANK

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1 STABILIZATION AT END OF CULVERT UNDER NEWTON ROAD ON

2 KUJAWSKI PROPERTY.

3 MR. DIBILEO: At this time I'll

4 entertain a motion that Item 5-G be introduced into

5 it's proper committee.

6 MR. POCIUS: So moved.

7 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

8 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

9 All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

10 MS. EVANS: Aye.

11 MR. MCTIERNAN: Aye

12 MR. POCIUS: Aye.

13 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

14 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

15 have it and so moved.

16 MR. SAUNDERS: 5-H, FOR INTRODUCTION -

17 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER

18 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A

19 SUBORDINATE AGREEMENT WITH ASTIMA, INC. IN ORDER TO

20 ALLOW FOR THE BORROWER TO REFINANCE ITS DEBT.

21 MR. DIBILEO: At this time I'll

22 entertain a motion that Item 5-H be introduced into

23 it's proper committee.

24 MR. POCIUS: So moved.

25 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

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1 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

2 All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

3 MS. EVANS: Aye.

4 MR. MCTIERNAN: Aye

5 MR. POCIUS: Aye.

6 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

7 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

8 have it and so moved.

9 MR. SAUNDERS: Sixth order. 6-A,

10 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 150, 2005 - AN

11 ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 82, 2004, AN

12 ORDINANCE ENTITLED GENERAL CITY OPERATION BUDGET 2005

13 BY TRANSFERRING \$10,000.00 FROM ACCOUNT NO.

14 01.401.13090.4299 (CONTINGENCY) TO ACCOUNT NO.

15 01.100.00000.4330 (CHEMICAL SUPPLIES) TO PROVIDE

16 FUNDING FOR POOL CHEMICALS.

17 MR. DIBILEO: You've heard reading by

18 title of Item 6-A, what is your pleasure?

19 MR. POCIUS: Mr. President, I move that

20 6-A pass reading by title.

21 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

22 MR. DIBILEO: On the question? All

23 those in favor, signify by saying aye.

24 MS. EVANS: Aye.

25 MR. MCTIERNAN: Aye

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1 MR. POCIUS: Aye.

2 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

3 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

4 have it and so moved.

5 MR. SAUNDERS: Seventh order. 7-A ,

6 FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - FOR

7 ADOPTION - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 147, 2005, SALE OF TAX

8 DELINQUENT PROPERTY AT REAR 817-819 QUINCY AVENUE,

9 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, TO PATRICK J. AND WINIFRED M.

10 O'SHEA, R.R. 2, BOX 2200, MOUNT COBB, PA 18436, FOR THE

11 SUM OF \$2,000.00.

12 MR. DIBILEO: What is the

13 recommendation of the chairperson for the committee on

14 finance?

15 MS. EVANS: As chair for the committee

16 on finance, I recommend final passage of Item 7-A.

17 MR. POCIUS: Seconded.

18 MR. DIBILEO: On the question? Roll

19 call, please, Kay.

20 MS. GARVEY: Mr. McTiernan.

21 MR. McTIERNAN: Yes.

22 MS. GARVEY: Mrs. Evans.

23 MS. EVANS: Yes.

24 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Pocius.

25 MR. POCIUS: Yes.

1 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Courtright.

2 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

3 MS. GARVEY: Mr. DiBileo.

4 MR. DIBILEO: Yes. I hereby declare

5 Item 7-A legally and lawfully adopted.

6 MR. SAUNDERS: 7-B, FOR CONSIDERATION

7 BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF

8 COUNCIL NO. 148, 2005 - AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL

9 NO. 82, 2004, AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED GENERAL CITY

10 OPERATING BUDGET 2005 BY TRANSFERRING \$35,000.00 FROM

11 ACCOUNT NO. 01.401.13090.4299 (CONTINGENCY) TO ACCOUNT

12 NO. 01.020.00000.4201 (CITY COUNCIL PROFESSIONAL

13 SERVICES) TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR AUDIT FEES.

14 MR. DIBILEO: What is the

15 recommendation of the chairperson for the committee on

16 finance?

17 MS. EVANS: As chair for the committee

18 on finance, I recommend final passage of Item 7-B.

19 MR. POCIUS: Seconded.

20 MR. DIBILEO: On the question? Roll

21 call, please, Kay.

22 MS. GARVEY: Mr. McTiernan.

23 MR. McTIERNAN: Yes.

24 MS. GARVEY: Mrs. Evans.

25 MS. EVANS: Yes.

.

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1 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Pocius.

2 MR. POCIUS: Yes.

3 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Courtright.

4 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

5 MS. GARVEY: Mr. DiBileo.

6 MR. DIBILEO: Yes. I hereby declare

7 Item 7-B legally and lawfully adopted.

8 MR. SAUNDERS: 7-C, FOR CONSIDERATION

9 BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - FOR

10 ADOPTION - FILE OF Council NO. 149, 2005 - ESTABLISHING

11 REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION TO

12 COMPLY WITH VISITABILITY GUIDELINES AS SET FORTH HEREIN

13 TO ALLOW FOR ACCESSIBILITY AND OCCUPANCY FOR DISABLED

14 PERSONS.

15 MR. DIBILEO: What's the recommendation

16 of the chairperson for the committee on community

17 development?

18 MR. MCTIERNAN: I recommend final

19 passage of Item 7-C.

20 MR. POCIUS: Seconded.

21 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

22 Just on the question, I think that this legislation is

23 a major step for the disabled community. This

24 ordinance allows for the disabled and elderly to have

25 all new one, two or three family homes that are built

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1 using public funds to be built with a zero step

2 entrance and wide doors to allow for wheelchair

3 accessibility.

4 As you may remember, Keith Williams,

5 who is a terrific spokesman for the disabled came to

6 speak to us in a caucus meeting, now, was that a public

7 caucus meeting or was that --

8 MR. POCIUS: That was a while ago.

9 MR. DIBILEO: It was in the back. It's

10 been a while, and he explained the whole situation to

11 us. He's actually been looking for this for quite some

12 time, and I would venture to say that a lot of disabled

13 individuals and maybe elderly would be looking for this

14 legislation, and I just think it's a great thing that

15 people are going to have more accessibility, the

16 disabled and seniors.

17 And just to read the statement of
18 intent on the legislation, The provisions of this
19 ordinance are specifically enacted to further the
20 policy of the City of Scranton to provide that new
21 single family duplexes and triplexes which are
22 constructed with public funds as herein described be
23 provided with minimal design features to provide
24 accessibility and usability for the physically disabled
25 person.

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1 MR. DIBILEO: If there's no further
2 questions, roll call, please, Kay.

3 MS. GARVEY: Mr. McTiernan.

4 MR. McTIERNAN: Yes.

5 MS. GARVEY: Mrs. Evans.

6 MS. EVANS: Yes.

7 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Pocius.

8 MR. POCIUS: Yes.

9 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Courtright.

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

11 MS. GARVEY: Mr. DiBileo.

12 MR. DIBILEO: Yes. I hereby declare

13 Item 7-C legally and lawfully adopted.

14 MR. SAUNDERS: 7-D, FOR CONSIDERATION
15 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION
16 NO. 167, 2005 - APPOINTMENT OF MARIO SAVINELLI, 500
17 NORTH CAMERON AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA 18504, TO
18 THE BOARD OF THE SCRANTON HOUSING AUTHORITY, EFFECTIVE
19 SEPTEMBER 27, 2005. MR. SAVINELLI WILL BE REPLACING
20 JAMES FRYE, WHOSE TERM EXPIRED ON SEPTEMBER 27, 2005.
21 MR. SAVINELLI'S TERM WILL EXPIRE ON SEPTEMBER 27, 2010.
22 MR. DIBILEO: As chairperson for the
23 committee on rules, I recommend final passage of
24 Item 7-D.

25 MR. POCIUS: Seconded.

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1 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

2 MR. COURTRIGHT: On the question,

3 Mr. President, I don't know Mr. Frye very well, but I
4 understand that he's done an outstanding job while he's
5 been on the board.

6 I do know Mr. Savinelli fairly well,
7 and I'm sure he'll get on there and he'll do the right
8 thing, he'll do a great job.

9 MR. DIBILEO: Thanks. And I would just
10 like to add quickly that I actually asked if this could

11 be held last week so I could have an opportunity to
12 thank Jim Frye for all of his dedicated service to the
13 City of Scranton on the Housing Authority, and I had
14 that opportunity, and I'm glad I did, and he did a
15 great job, and I also want to wish Mario Savinelli, who
16 I know well, lots of lucky. I think he'll do a
17 wonderful job as a new member of the Housing Authority
18 Board.

19 If there's no further questions, roll
20 call please, Kay.

21 MS. GARVEY: Mr. McTiernan.

22 MR. McTIERNAN: Yes.

23 MS. GARVEY: Mrs. Evans.

24 MS. EVANS: Yes.

25 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Pocius.

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1 MR. POCIUS: Yes.

2 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Courtright.

3 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

4 MS. GARVEY: Mr. DiBileo.

5 MR. DIBILEO: Yes. I hereby declare

6 Item 7-D legally and lawfully adopted. And seeing no

7 further business on the agenda, I'll entertain a motion

8 we adjourn.

9 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

10 MR. POCIUS: Seconded.

11 MR. DIBILEO: We're adjourned.

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14 (MEETING WAS ADJOURNED.)

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1 C E R T I F I C A T E

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3 I hereby certify that the proceedings and

4 evidence are contained fully and accurately in the

5 notes taken by me on the hearing of the above cause and

6 that this copy is a correct transcript of the same

7 to the best of my ability.

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LISA M. GRAFF, RPR

11 Official Court Reporter

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