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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

LOCATION:

Council Chambers  
Scranton City Hall  
340 North Washington Avenue  
Scranton, Pennsylvania

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

- MR. ROBERT MCGOFF, PRESIDENT  
(Not present)
- MS. JUDY GATELLI, VICE-PRESIDENT
- MS. JANET E. EVANS  
(Not present)
- MS. SHERRY FANUCCI
- MR. WILLIAM COURTRIGHT
- MS. KAY GARVEY, CITY CLERK
- MR. NEIL COOLICAN, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK
- MR. AMIL MINORA, SOLICITOR

1 (Pledge of Allegiance recited and moment of reflection  
observed.)

2

3 MS. GATELLI: Roll call.

4 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

5 (Mrs. Evans not present.)

6 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

7 MS. GATELLI: Here.

8 MR. COOLICAN: Ms. Fanucci.

9 MS. FANUCCI: Here.

10 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: Here.

12 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McGoff.

13 (Mr. McGoff not present.)

14 MS. GATELLI: Dispense with the  
15 reading of the minutes.

16 MS. GARVEY: THIRD ORDER. 3-A.

17 APPLICATIONS AND DECISIONS RENDERED BY THE  
18 ZONING HEARING BOARD MEETING HELD ON APRIL  
19 8, 2009.

20 MS. GATELLI: Are there any comments?  
21 If not, received and filed.

22 MS. GARVEY: 3-B. TAX COLLECTION  
23 COMPARISON REPORT RECEIVED IN THE SINGLE TAX  
24 OFFICE ON APRIL 13, 2009.

25 MS. GATELLI: Are there any comments?

1 If not, received and filed.

2 MS. GARVEY: 3-C. MINUTES OF THE  
3 FIREMEN'S PENSION COMMISSION MEETING HELD ON  
4 MARCH 25, 2009.

5 MS. GATELLI: Are there any comments?  
6 If not, received and filed.

7 MS. GARVEY: 3-D. MINUTES OF THE  
8 POLICE PENSION MEETING HELD ON MARCH 25,  
9 2009.

10 MS. GATELLI: Are any comments? If  
11 not, received and filed.

12 MS. GARVEY: 3-E. MINUTES OF THE  
13 COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD ON  
14 MARCH 25, 2009.

15 MS. GATELLI: Are there any  
16 comments? If not, received and filed.

17 MS. GARVEY: 3-F. MINUTES OF THE  
18 NON-UNIFORM MUNICIPAL PENSION BOARD MEETING  
19 HELD ON MARCH 25, 2009.

20 MS. GATELLI: Are there any comments?  
21 If not, received and filed.

22 MS. GARVEY: 3-G. AGENDA FOR THE  
23 NON-UNIFORM PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD ON  
24 APRIL 22, 2009.

25 MS. GATELLI: Are there any comments?

1 If not, received and filed.

2 MS. GARVEY: 3-H. CONTROLLER'S REPORT  
3 FOR THE MONTH ENDING MARCH 2009.

4 MS. GATELLI: Are there any comments?  
5 If not, received and filed.

6 MS. GARVEY: That's it to Third  
7 Order.

8 MS. GATELLI: Before we get onto  
9 citizens' participation I would just like to  
10 announce that Mr. McGoff was released from  
11 the hospital on Saturday and he is still  
12 recuperating, that's why he is absent this  
13 evening, and Mrs. Evans is out again. She  
14 hurt her back, so I would just like to have  
15 you keep them in your prayers and hope that  
16 they both get well soon.

17 I would also like to comment on the  
18 large fire that we had this afternoon. I  
19 heard about it at work today and we put the  
20 news on. It was a devastating fire with  
21 three houses involved. Thank God no one got  
22 hurt, and hats off to the firemen who did a  
23 wonderful job and I think that some of them  
24 were called in, Mr. Schreiber, weren't they?

25 MR. SCHREIBER: Some.

1 MS. GATELLI: And also we got some  
2 help from our neighboring communities who we  
3 also I understand help when they need us for  
4 their fires that are very large, so it's  
5 nice to have that relationship with the  
6 other communities that we help each other  
7 when need be and that's the way it should be  
8 and it's wonderful to see that type of  
9 cooperation.

10 This Wednesday and Thursday at St.  
11 Lucy's Church this West Side there is  
12 spaghetti dinner from 5 to 8, takeouts are  
13 from 3 to 5. West Scranton High School is  
14 having it's yearly play, the West Scranton  
15 Players, that will next Friday and Saturday,  
16 May 7 and 8 at 7:00 and Sunday, May 9, at  
17 2:00 and that's \$5.

18 We got a letter from Mr. Rankosky,  
19 the vice president of the West Scranton  
20 Neighborhood Association supporting the  
21 rehabilitation of Fellows Park in West Side.  
22 The city is putting forth the application  
23 for funding for this project and he said in  
24 his sorely needed upgrading the playground  
25 equipment and consider this letter in

1 support of the project for the neighborhood

2 children, and I thank Wally for sending that  
3 letter in.

4 The "No Parking" signs on Moosic  
5 Street, I got a letter back from Jeff  
6 Brazil, and he said that they did not remove  
7 the signs and he doesn't believe that the  
8 city has jurisdiction because that's a state  
9 road. So, Mrs. Garvey, if we can send that  
10 letter along to PennDOT maybe they can help  
11 us with that and he also said that he is  
12 going to patch the road near the Lackawanna  
13 Little League, but he plans on paving that  
14 this summer, so that road will be paved.

15 This Thursday there will be a  
16 meeting at the county to discuss the next  
17 step concerning the Single Tax Office. The  
18 meeting is going to take place in the  
19 commissioner's office and if Bob can't make  
20 it Mrs. Fanucci has offered to go in his  
21 place. And I think that's all I have.  
22 Anyone else?

23 MR. COURTRIGHT: Just one thing, I  
24 just would like it read this letter from the  
25 Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Excuse me, I've

1 got allergies bothering me today. "This

2 letter is to introduce Angie Tulovich as a  
3 volunteer of Northeastern, PA Chapter of the  
4 Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. She is  
5 collecting donations for "Our Great Strides  
6 Walk" taking place on Saturday, May 16,  
7 2007, 10:00 a.m. at the Kirby Park in  
8 Wilkes-Barre. Proceeds from this event will  
9 fund the CF foundation's efforts to assure  
10 development of the means to secure and  
11 control CF and to improve the quality of  
12 life with those with the disease.

13 CF is the number one genetic disease  
14 in the United States. During the past  
15 decade, the average life expectancy of  
16 someone with CF has increased from 14 years  
17 of age to 35 years of age, but we still lose  
18 too many children to this devastating  
19 disease. We are grateful to you and Angie  
20 and all other dedicated volunteers who so  
21 generously donate their time and efforts to  
22 help money for the CF foundation.

23 Thank you for consideration of this  
24 request and we help you are able to support  
25 Angie on her efforts on behalf of the 30,000

9

1 children and young adults battling CF."

2 And that's from Tiffany Granter,



3 director of special events. Thank you.

4 MS. GATELLI: Mrs. Fanucci,  
5 anything?

6 MS. FANUCCI: No, I have nothing.

7 MS. GATELLI: First speaker is  
8 Mr. Sbaraglia. Also, before he start today  
9 I would like to welcome a class from the  
10 University of Scranton who are with us this  
11 evening, they are up in the balcony. Thanks  
12 for being here.

13 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,  
14 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians,  
15 well, two meetings ago I heard that "W" word  
16 mentioned many times, and I'm appalled even  
17 though somebody did it anonymously, I'm  
18 still appalled that somebody would call  
19 another person by that name, but I'm even  
20 more appalled that when the police chief  
21 called his female employees that word and  
22 yous --the three of yous, women that are  
23 sitting there, didn't call for his firing is  
24 beyond me. That's more appalling. You  
25 don't stick up for each other. Apparently,

10

1 you don't want people being called that  
2 word.

3 I find it offensive and I'm sorry  
4 that you use it feel it is more offensive as  
5 me. If you did I guess this argument would  
6 never happen again, but it was done. It was  
7 done, so he took a slap on the wrist. I  
8 guess he is ball player and as long as he is  
9 on the team that's all they're going to get  
10 is slaps on the wrist.

11 I heard the debt mentioned. True,  
12 you are not responsible for most of that  
13 debt. Before you sat there the council  
14 borrowed, it was actually the first council  
15 after the mayor was elected, voted for a  
16 \$72 million loan. They also voted to sell  
17 the golf course. They also voted for that  
18 DPW site agreement and they also voted for  
19 the South Side Complex being sold and they  
20 were Councilman Pocius and Councilman  
21 Hazzouri. They sat there, I fought with  
22 them on it many times, but then they were  
23 given a pension. Was it for their voting  
24 record or was it they were just good old  
25 boys and they were team players and that's

11

1 the reason they got the pension? They went  
2 to Court and it was really something. Our  
3 local Court said you are not entitled to a

4 pension and they were quite explicit if you  
5 are sitting up there now you will not get a  
6 pension or maybe you will get a pension, but  
7 anyway, the Court said you would not get a  
8 pension.

9 And then it went on it was appealed  
10 and went on and it was thrown out there what  
11 amounted to they use the wrong colored paper  
12 when they submitted their argument, and this  
13 is the truth, so it was semantics, not the  
14 issue was never debated that they were or  
15 weren't, but they were -- I wish I could  
16 have remembered to keep that little piece of  
17 paper, it was only this big, but it was  
18 semantics. They should have did this, they  
19 said they should have submitted this in  
20 instead of that, and that's why they  
21 dismissed it and the merits were never even  
22 discussed. So that's the bad part about it.  
23 So now we got two councilmen that have  
24 pensions for the rest of their life and we  
25 are stuck. I don't know why they were

12

1 voted. I still don't know. Nobody could  
2 have been forced to sign that paper. You  
3 are all independent. No matter what, you

4 didn't have to do what was done and I'm not  
5 here to name names because there is no sense  
6 to it.

7 But these things are going on  
8 throughout the city. A lot of laws are  
9 being broken, overlooked, not utilized, but,  
10 you know, if a person walks around and  
11 should throw something on the sidewalk he  
12 could be arrested, but politicians could  
13 break any kind of law they want to and  
14 nothing is done. The district attorney  
15 closes his eyes up there and I don't know  
16 why.

17 The tax office is in disarray. Now,  
18 I didn't like -- I like Flynn, but I didn't  
19 like her telling Mr. Courtright it was none  
20 of his business. That to me was offensive.  
21 She should have never done that, if he was  
22 running for that office or not. She should  
23 have never been in the county, and the other  
24 comment that was made was it a forensic  
25 audit. Now, the man who said that is a

13

1 lawyer and a CPA. He knew it was a not a  
2 forensic audit, but why he let you believe  
3 it I don't know and this is a sad point.  
4 You cannot mislead the public on any issue

5 and expect to get away it. Not in today's  
6 day and age. Something is drastically wrong  
7 with the Single Tax Office and I hope they  
8 do something about it. Thank you.

9 MS. GATELLI: Mr. Quinn.

10 MR. QUINN: Ozzie Quinn, Taxpayers'  
11 Association. First, I would like to note  
12 that we had mayor interviews last week and  
13 they are going to be shown on ECTV, Channel  
14 61, Wednesday, tomorrow night, at 6:30 p.m.,  
15 Thursday, 10 a.m, and Friday, 2:30 p.m. If  
16 we can get more on it I'll try to get more  
17 on it. Appreciate it very much.

18 Secondly, you know, the Taxpayers'  
19 Association for the last year has been  
20 listening to this tax office thing, okay,  
21 and we would be very remiss if we didn't get  
22 involved, and0 the fact is that I'm going to  
23 give you a letter here, okay, from the  
24 Taxpayers' Association in my name where I'm  
25 requesting the District Attorney to do an

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1 investigation and if he doesn't do it then  
2 the Attorney General can do it, okay? And  
3 it's because of the fact that we cannot  
4 account for over \$2 million, it's

5                   disturbing, and the fact that the office is  
6                   commingling funds and using them for  
7                   whatever appear to be unauthorized  
8                   expenditures in our opinion, at the very  
9                   least malfeasance, so I'd appreciate if you  
10                  people support us and bring the -- ask the  
11                  District Attorney or the Attorney General to  
12                  come in and investigate. That's a lot of  
13                  money for a city our size of taxpayers  
14                  \$2 million. Thank you.

15                         Third, last thing, you know, I got  
16                         this flyer, and I'm sure mostly all of  
17                         Democrats in the City of Scranton got this  
18                         flyer and it's glossy, printed up flyer,  
19                         very expensive, and I looked at it and it's  
20                         from -- well, actually, it's crazy Chris  
21                         Doherty, and I looked up and it says, "Paid  
22                         for and authorized by the Pennsylvania  
23                         Democrat State Committee," and then  
24                         Harrisburg, PA. Is that an endorsement?

25                                 MS. GATELLI: Mr. Quinn, please

15

1                   refrain from talking about politics.

2                                 MR. QUINN: Oh, I can talk about  
3                                 whatever I want to.

4                                 MS. GATELLI: No, Attorney Minora  
5                                 said that you can't.

6 MR. MINORA: No, you can't advocate  
7 one side or another from that forum. You  
8 can go down to the courthouse and advocate  
9 anything you want, but not from that forum.

10 MR. QUINN: Well, I just want to let  
11 you know that I did call Harrisburg and they  
12 said they did not endorse Mr. Doherty, that  
13 is bulk male they paid for.

14 MR. MINORA: This is exactly what  
15 you are not supposed to talk about up there.

16 MR. QUINN: Gag rules are in order  
17 now that election is around.

18 MR. MINORA: The rules have always  
19 been the same, Mr. Quinn, you just don't  
20 always like them.

21 MR. QUINN: That's correct, not when  
22 they come from you. I'll tell you  
23 something --

24 MS. GATELLI: Please. Please.

25 MR. QUINN: I read the resolution

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1 today, resolutions on different park and  
2 murals everything, you know, somebody  
3 getting money. Well, you know, it's  
4 election time again, all right? I took the  
5 corner at Gibson Street and North Washington

6 Avenue and guess what the 1900 electric  
7 trolley rail is sticking up out of the road.  
8 Now, what are we doing here? Parks and yet.  
9 You know, you can't even fix roads? Come  
10 and. Let's go. This is terrible. You  
11 people should be ashamed of yourself.  
12 Mrs. Gatelli, Mrs. Fanucci, Mr. McGoff, you  
13 are just a waste of time up there. Thank  
14 you.

15 MS. GATELLI: Mr. Jackowitz.

16 MR. JACKOWITZ: Good evening,  
17 Council. Bill Jackowitz, an embarrassed  
18 South Scranton resident. All taxes have  
19 been paid in full, two parking tickets paid  
20 within 24 hours of issuance. Toastmasters  
21 International, rules: The person at the  
22 podium is a speaker. Everybody else are the  
23 listeners. We herd sheep, we drive cattle,  
24 we lead people. Lead meaning following or  
25 get out of my way.

17

1 Two week ago meeting -- two weeks  
2 ago the meeting was a total embarrassment  
3 for the City of Scranton or should I say it  
4 ws Tuesday night at the fights.

5 What did you do today for freedom.  
6 Today at the front he or she died. Today



7 what did you do? Next time you see a list  
8 of dead and wounded ask yourself, what have  
9 I done today for freedom? What can I do  
10 tomorrow that will save the lives of men and  
11 woman like this and help them win the war or  
12 provide for my safety? This statement  
13 applies to all military members, police  
14 officers and firefighters who risk their  
15 lives on a daily basis and some die and some  
16 are disabled for the remainder of their  
17 lives then they are forgotten by the same  
18 politicians who put them in harm's way.

19 If the City of Scranton continues on  
20 the path of distress that it has been on for  
21 the past 17 years there will no longer be a  
22 city of Scranton, but more importantly, the  
23 financial irresponsibility has lead this  
24 city right into unpayable debt. The public  
25 must become involved, we pay the bills. It

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1 is our safety that is in question. You  
2 never put money before the safety of your  
3 citizens. Just imagine a police officer or  
4 a firefighter responding to an emergency  
5 their shift ends, they turn their police  
6 cruiser or fire engine around and say, "Oh

7 well, my shift is over, next shift can  
8 respond to the fire, the robbery, or the  
9 shooting in South Scranton."

10 Sounds ridiculous, doesn't it? 21  
11 April, 2009, newspaper, mayor, "City on an  
12 upswing." I felt like I was at a city  
13 council meeting. The same rhetoric, no  
14 specifics or solutions. Everything that the  
15 mayor mentioned has been paid for by the  
16 taxpayers, public money, no private money.  
17 Kildare's restaurant was built with nonunion  
18 labor out of towners. We overpaid for the  
19 dog park, treehouse and bridge to no where.  
20 Boy Scouts camping out does not justify  
21 \$1 million taxpayers' dollars. It still  
22 leads it no where.

23 The 500-block of Lackawanna Avenue,  
24 taxpayers' money. Parking garage,  
25 taxpayers' money. Connell building and

19

1 garage, taxpayers' money. Hilton and  
2 Radison, taxpayers' money. In Scranton the  
3 mayor is proud of the fact that he has  
4 reduced public safety by reducing 23 police  
5 officers, eight firefighters and 48 fewer  
6 clerical workers. He failed to mention the  
7 50 plus Doherty supporters he hired and the

8 fact that the city payroll has increased not  
9 decreased since Doherty has been mayor.

10 Scranton Sewer Authority, how many  
11 new jobs created by the mayor for the  
12 supporters. How about the 100 city employee  
13 forced into early retirement by Mayor  
14 Doherty? Each budget has been higher with  
15 the exception of 2009 budget. The debt has  
16 grown from 35 million to \$150 million  
17 short-term, 400 million long-term debt.  
18 More businesses have left the downtown than  
19 moved into downtown. Steamtown Mall has  
20 lost more tenants than they have gained.  
21 14 percent vacancy rate currently. How many  
22 conventions have been held in the Hilton?

23 People working in Scranton, not  
24 accurate. The Scranton metropolitan area  
25 has the highest unemployment rate in the

20

1 state, 8.7 percent currently. On a monthly  
2 basis I provide council with facts. The  
3 Scranton metropolitan area is the either the  
4 highest or second highest employment every  
5 month, low wages, high unemployment and  
6 misrepresentation by our elected officials  
7 and Chamber of Commerce. Tell the truth.

8 People can handle it.

9 Regular speakers such as myself, the  
10 ten of us, must sit in the audience week  
11 after week and listen to lies. Council  
12 members at least have the opportunity to  
13 interrupt and speak over the speakers using  
14 up to the speaker's time. Scranton ten do  
15 not have that opportunity. We are ruled out  
16 of order in violation of the council rules.  
17 I do not tell lies. If I cannot back it up,  
18 I will not say it.

19 As far as voting, yes, all the time  
20 shows me that you are not an independent  
21 thinker, have no leadership skills or  
22 ability to make your own decisions. You  
23 must rely upon someone else, the mayor or  
24 someone in the administration to tell you  
25 how to vote. The distressed city of

21

1 Scranton needs leaders not puppets or rubber  
2 stampers, otherwise we will remain a  
3 distressed city.

4 Where are the private investors that  
5 mayor Doherty speaks about? May I finish?

6 MS. GATELLI: Yes. Go ahead.

7 MR. JACKOWITZ: Mayor Doherty speaks  
8 about. By the way, where is the mayor

9                   besides being on television telling stories.  
10                   No private money is being invested in  
11                   Scranton. Alexander's Salon and Spa,  
12                   \$11,984.90 federal tax lien, but yet we gave  
13                   them a \$250,000 loan. This is not the first  
14                   tax lien against them.

15                   MS. GATELLI: Thank you.

16                   MR. JACKOWITZ: Medical school, state  
17                   project, not a city project.

18                   MS. GATELLI: Just for the record,  
19                   Alexander's is current on their loan with  
20                   the city as I did investigate that when I  
21                   saw the tax lien in the paper. Mr. Bolus.

22                   MR. BOLUS: Good evening, Council,  
23                   Bob Bolus, Scranton. Just a couple of quick  
24                   things I think tonight. One, I'm very  
25                   disappointed what's happening with the

22

1                   school for the deaf. It's been here, people  
2                   have to go there and actually see what these  
3                   people have accomplished and what they have  
4                   done and to see that it's being turntabled,  
5                   it's just very disappointing that we can't  
6                   get this stopped and really tell the  
7                   governor what we want to keep in our city  
8                   and to deprive these people of a facility

9                   like that, you know, I mean, it's just sad  
10                   that now we are abusing the deaf people in  
11                   the City of Scranton and we want to build a  
12                   medical school.

13                                 Then I'd like to know who is really  
14                   going to get the building when it goes? Is  
15                   it going to go to the medical school? Is it  
16                   going to go to Marywood? You know, who is  
17                   putting it up for grabs another tax free  
18                   facility, something else at our expense.

19                                 I would really like to know who is  
20                   really responsible for bringing the med  
21                   school here. Was it Mellow? Is it Doherty?  
22                   You know, is it the bishop? I don't know  
23                   who brought it here, but everybody seems to  
24                   want to take credit for it, and I really  
25                   like to know once and for all who is

23

1                   responsible for bringing it here. You know,  
2                   it's tax free. We are not getting the  
3                   benefit out of it. The taxpayers aren't,  
4                   maybe some businesses will do well, but I  
5                   don't think they are going to share their  
6                   profits with us or allow us to stay in their  
7                   vacation homes wherever they have them. I  
8                   know it's not the taxpayers and that's  
9                   what's wrong in the city.

10 I'm going to get into Genesis is  
11 what I gave you there. This Beatrice  
12 Heveran, she is an attorney, she was at some  
13 point, she was suspended at one point. She  
14 was cited for horse manure in the streams.  
15 She tried to tell the Food and Drug  
16 Administration what we should do with cows.  
17 You know, she even came down when she was  
18 suspended she had to go to the high court to  
19 get reinstated because she didn't keep up  
20 her credits, but yet she could tell us how  
21 to live in the city. She turned around, she  
22 put an application in where she wanted to  
23 work up at the zoo or the Genesis as a  
24 volunteer. I stopped up there not last  
25 Sunday, the Sunday before the zoo was closed

24

1 down, or the park was closed down or the  
2 farm or whatever we want to call it, and  
3 listened to little children hysterically  
4 crying because they couldn't feed the  
5 animals anymore. She want standing there,  
6 she didn't hear it. She does not even live  
7 in our city. She is a transplant from  
8 another area, she has no idea what  
9 Scrantonians are about, but ironically

10 enough she just recently married the dean of  
11 the medical school, that's her new husband,  
12 but on her application when she wasn't even  
13 married yet she put him down as a husband.  
14 As an attorney I think she should she know  
15 right from wrong, who is a husband who  
16 isn't.

17 I'd like to know what's going to  
18 happen with the old zoo now? Is it going to  
19 turn into a restaurant, an attraction, pay  
20 to see the empty zoo. You going to turn it  
21 into it a horse barn? Maybe she has  
22 something to do with the mayor. Maybe she  
23 wants to put a stable there. We kicked out  
24 the equestrians that we had here before and  
25 the city had them, the Haverites in the

25

1 park. And, you know, the other interesting  
2 park if your research Nay Aug you will find  
3 the roads in there are bridle paths so any  
4 one of us that feel like taking our horses  
5 you can go up and ride now because they  
6 can't stop us, especially the parks and  
7 recreation because that's what it was deeded  
8 for. That's what it's intent was.

9 MS. FANUCCI: Bob, you are not  
10 suggesting people do that though?



11 MR. BOLUS: Absolutely, I am.

12 MS. FANUCCI: Oh, you are then?

13 MR. BOLUS: Absolutely.

14 MS. FANUCCI: That's what you think  
15 you should do.

16 MR. BOLUS: It's out park.

17 MS. FANUCCI: I just wanted to  
18 clarify it. Okay.

19 MR. BOLUS: It's our park, Sherry.

20 MS. FANUCCI: Okay, I just wanted to

21 --

22 MR. BOLUS: I suggest people should  
23 ride horses up there, if you can't walk in  
24 the park -- we paid for it, we paid millions  
25 and we've kicked everything out of there so

26

1 let's go horseback riding.

2 MS. FANUCCI: Okay.

3 MR. BOLUS: Take your buggy up. Take  
4 your girlfriend for a nice ride in the buggy  
5 around the house paths. Put some romance in  
6 the city, do something.

7 You know, I'd like to know what the  
8 mayor has promised Beatrice to go through  
9 all of the efforts she did. You know, I  
10 think she should just stay in her own

11 community in Waverly, clean up the mess up  
12 there, maybe get the taxes reduced up there,  
13 you know, really start worrying about what's  
14 going on out there, but I would greatly  
15 appreciate it she keeps her nose out of  
16 Scranton. When the South Side complex was  
17 sold, when we had issues going on down here,  
18 how about her going for fees on nonprofits.  
19 She is an attorney, she a genius, she knows  
20 how to get the job done presumably, let here  
21 get fees on the medical school, the  
22 University, then she can maybe come and say  
23 I'm champion the cause of the taxpayers in  
24 Scranton. Other than that, stay out of  
25 Scranton, we really don't need her type.

27

1 MS. GATELLI: Thank you, Bob.

2 Mr. Miller.

3 MR. MILLER: Good evening, Council,  
4 Doug Miller, Scranton. I'd like to bring up  
5 Genesis as well, it's an issue we have heard  
6 the last few weeks. As we know, Margie left  
7 the facility recently, took her animals back  
8 to her facility in the Poconos and now it's  
9 safe to say that this Beatrice Heveran is  
10 getting ready to take over this facility and  
11 from what we heard, as I did say several

12 weeks back, that we had reason to believe  
13 there was a plan in place and we do and we  
14 have reason to believe that allegedly  
15 Mrs. Heveran is planning on putting in a  
16 restaurant, but according to --

17 MS. FANUCCI: That is totally  
18 inaccurate. I will tell you that's not  
19 true. You can say that you believe that,  
20 but that is not even close to reality.

21 MR. MILLER: Oh, I understand.

22 MS. FANUCCI: I just want to make you  
23 aware of that.

24 MR. MILLER: I don't think any of us  
25 know because if we did we would know by now,

28

1 so have reason to believe that we got it  
2 from a good source and regardless of whether  
3 you --

4 MS. FANUCCI: Who is your source,  
5 Doug?

6 MR. MILLER: Regardless of whether  
7 she is putting a restaurant in --

8 MS. FANUCCI: Can I ask you who your  
9 source is? I'd like to know.

10 MS. MILLER: That's my time now if  
11 you don't mind.

12 MS. FANUCCI: No. Okay, stop the  
13 clock. I'd like to know do you have a  
14 source.

15 MR. MILLER: But allegedly in the  
16 deed --

17 MS. FANUCCI: Thank you, Doug.

18 MS. MILLER: -- it states that a  
19 business is not allowed to go into that  
20 facility. And, yes, we do have reason to  
21 believe that a restaurant is going in there  
22 whether you want to believe it or not, if  
23 you know something else, please, fell free  
24 to let me know.

25 MS. FANUCCI: I know that you can't

29

1 put a restaurant up there.

2 MR. MILLER: And, you know, to see  
3 the students up there crying because they  
4 couldn't feed the animals in this  
5 administration and council could care less,  
6 but let me move on.

7 I want to talk about the School for  
8 the Deaf. You know, today we heard that  
9 Mellow is trying to come up with a plan to  
10 make this school just a day program rather  
11 than residential, but my question would be  
12 to these students from outside of the area

13 that are housed at this facility what's  
14 going to happen with them if this is what we  
15 do, make it a day program, are we going to  
16 kick them out? You know, I would like to  
17 ask council tonight to send a letter to  
18 Senator Mellow, the governor, Representative  
19 Murphy and anyone else involved to get a  
20 real answer of what the future is. We have  
21 heard a lot that the medical school wants to  
22 take it over for dormitories, Marywood wants  
23 to take it over, so if we could just get an  
24 answer once and for all what the future is  
25 so we know where we are at.

30

1 Tonight on the agenda we have grants  
2 for parks. As I have stated before, I think  
3 these grants would be better served in the  
4 neighborhoods, as I have said, curbs,  
5 sidewalks, and paved city streets, but yet  
6 we continue to ignore that, and so I would  
7 like to ask in the future that on our  
8 agendas we look into grants to invest in our  
9 neighborhoods.

10 Just recently, we heard of a few  
11 shootings over in South Side and this is  
12 just an example of the lack of police

13 protection we had the neighborhoods, lack of  
14 beat patrol, I believe we have one in each  
15 neighborhood and I would like to ask council  
16 if we could send a letter to the mayor, Ray  
17 Hayes, requesting that they assign more than  
18 one beat officer in our neighborhoods. You  
19 know, we all want to run around here and  
20 advocate that there is no crime in the city,  
21 well, whether you want to believe it or not  
22 there is crime. Some of us want to live in  
23 a fantasy world yet we ignore what's going  
24 on in the real world. Thank you.

25 MS. GATELLI: Lee Morgan.

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1 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.  
2 You know, I was going to bring some  
3 documents for you today, but I forgot them,  
4 I left at the last minute, but I will bring  
5 them for you next week. I'll just briefly  
6 touch on this issue and say that, you know,  
7 I think Andy said people hold public  
8 officials responsible, and I would like to  
9 say I wholeheartedly disagree with  
10 that. I don't think Scrantonians have ever  
11 held their politicians to any standard of  
12 responsibility for their actions and that's  
13 why this city is the way it is. Everybody

14 tries to pretend like they are representing  
15 somebody.

16 And with that said, I would like to  
17 say that council has passed in my opinion a  
18 series of laws that are illegal, and I would  
19 like to cite one of them today, the junk and  
20 abandoned vehicle law. Now, recently, I had  
21 the Scranton Police Department come to my  
22 property and remove a vehicle that I owned  
23 from my driveway. I proceeded to go to the  
24 first floor of this building and talk to the  
25 inspector who told me that the city's

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1 ordinance give them the authority to do what  
2 they wanted to do. So I didn't want to be  
3 disrespectful and argue with this woman and  
4 I just said, well, thank you, and now when I  
5 decide to proceed on I'll know who to look  
6 for.

7 From there I proceeded to the tower.  
8 The tower told me that he had a piece of  
9 paper from the state and that he could do as  
10 he pleased because this was all legal, and I  
11 told him the best course of action for him  
12 to take was to put my vehicle back on his  
13 rollback and put it back in my yard or my

14 driveway, and he told me he towed 500 of  
15 them and he is going to do what he wants to  
16 do. And, well, I told him I'm just a  
17 regular person, but I think you are  
18 seriously mistaken and it would benefit you  
19 to put it back.

20 So I went to talk to the officer who  
21 decided that it was a junked and illegal  
22 vehicle and he said he could do whatever he  
23 wanted to, too. Then, of course, I talked  
24 to Chief Klee a day later after I filed  
25 charges against the state and the tower, and

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1 he decided that lo and behold everybody made  
2 a mistake. The city paid to put the vehicle  
3 back in my driveway, everybody apologized,  
4 and I'm just saying that you know what,  
5 council needs to do it's job.

6 Now, that's the second instance.  
7 The first time the city came on my property  
8 and cut the top off my convertible, not the  
9 convertible top, the car cover I had on it  
10 and proceeded to tow my vehicle out of my  
11 yard. I went to the tower. He said, "Lee,  
12 look it, I'm only doing what they tell me to  
13 do. You want the car back in your yard,  
14 I'll go put it back in the yard." And he



15 did. He didn't charge me, he just put it on  
16 his rollback and put it back.

17 Then I proceed to follow the  
18 building appeals board which council cited  
19 was the avenue of approach for this. Well,  
20 I waited eight months for my hearing.  
21 Attorney Hickey and his assistant argued  
22 their side of the case and they lost because  
23 the building appeals board said they had no  
24 right to hear this case and they wanted  
25 nothing to do with it, and what I'm saying

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1 to this council is it's time to vacate that  
2 law because it will not stand up because  
3 it's not reasonable, and I think this city  
4 has been towing a lot of people's vehicles  
5 off their property in direct violation of  
6 law, and what I'm saying to this council is,  
7 when are you guys going to get it right? Do  
8 you have any understanding what private  
9 property laws are? Do you even care?

10 I know that -- you know, it's just  
11 so pathetic, okay, to sit up there and swear  
12 you are doing something for people when you  
13 are violating every single right they  
14 possess, and it's not just one day, it's

15 every day, and to present yourself as  
16 saviors of this city in any fashion  
17 whatsoever in my opinion is a crime. It  
18 really is. You manipulate the courts, you  
19 manipulate council, I mean, it's just -- and  
20 the sad part is we are getting ready to go  
21 into an election and I don't see how not  
22 just -- I'm not going to single out --  
23 Mrs. Gatelli, I'm not going to single you  
24 out. I'm not going to single you out, Mrs.  
25 Fanucci, because you are up for election,

35

1 all five of you do you do any research on  
2 anything you do? Do you or does just the  
3 mayor send it up to you and you say, well,  
4 okay. I mean, I heard Andy Sbaraglia talk  
5 about pensions here. They were illegal,  
6 too.

7 MS. GATELLI: Mr. Stucker?

8 MR. STUCKER: We got a lot of  
9 problems where people are parking their cars  
10 on the sidewalks again. I was over on Oak  
11 Street the other day with my buddy and some  
12 van is parked on the sidewalk. People can't  
13 walk on the sidewalk.

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: Okay, Jim. We'll  
15 take care of it for you.

16 MR. STUCKER: And the lights on  
17 Mulberry, all the red lights by -- over by  
18 the courthouse, there is a red light out  
19 there, the lights are out, the red ones are  
20 out.

21 MR. COURTRIGHT: Okay. We'll take  
22 care of it, Jim.

23 MR. STUCKER: And we had the cops up  
24 the other day at our building, I don't know  
25 for why. So I went today to see the fire

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1 and it's ashame. It's ashame. It's ashame  
2 that people -- had to be something, had to  
3 be cigarette, and I hope Janet Evans gets  
4 better. I give her flowers today.

5 MR. COURTRIGHT: That was nice, Jim.

6 MR. STUCKER: Yeah. Yeah. Yes. I  
7 hope McGoff and Janet gets better. Yep.  
8 Okay.

9 MR. COURTRIGHT: Okay, Jim.

10 MS. GATELLI: Thank you.

11 MR. STUCKER: What about that  
12 library, they said they were going to put it  
13 in South Side. There is nothing wrong with  
14 that library, there is nothing wrong with  
15 it. It's a nice place that library on --

16 where it is. That library there is nothing  
17 wrong with it. Why do they want to put a  
18 library in South Side? Why don't you make  
19 that place up there on -- up on Market  
20 Street there, that building they have that  
21 used to be the old school, why don't they  
22 make that for handicapped, for the deaf  
23 people, for the deaf people. If people  
24 can't hear, they should put them up there.  
25 There is nothing wrong with putting them up

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1 there.

2 MR. COURTRIGHT: Okay, Jim. Thanks,  
3 Buddy.

4 MS. GATELLI: Mike Dudek.

5 MR. DUDEK: My name is Mike Dudek,  
6 608 Depot Street, Scranton, PA. That's  
7 where I live, it's in the Plot. I'm going  
8 to render the first 15 or so seconds of my  
9 time for us to meditate and to thank the  
10 Lord for the safe return of our firefighters  
11 and our police from that very devastating  
12 fire that they fought today very safely.

13 It seems about half the time I come  
14 up here to speak, it's usually in defense of  
15 our fire department and our police officers.  
16 I have been here fighting long and hard for

17 both the police and the fire to get what is  
18 their due, their need, their right in terms  
19 of proper compensation. I think I nearly  
20 put a hole low the roof of my living room  
21 when I opened up the very same glossy flyer  
22 that one ever the previous speakers showed  
23 up here and the mayor talking about he is  
24 going to be fighting to make Scranton a safe  
25 place again. Well, I would agree with the

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1 mayor on this, Scranton is not as safe as it  
2 was four years ago or maybe even six years  
3 ago or eight years ago, and when I think who  
4 was mayor four years ago and six years ago  
5 it was Chris Doherty, so I have to agree  
6 with him, the city is not as safe as it was  
7 four or six years ago because he has let it  
8 deteriorate to that point and how he could  
9 claim that is he going to be one to fix it  
10 heaven only knows, but I see some kind of an  
11 irony in the fact that this piece of  
12 literature came to my house.

13 As a matter of fire safety, I also  
14 have to wonder with all of the fire  
15 equipment and apparatus at work today I  
16 really would like to see a survey done to

17 see whether or not the city was sufficiently  
18 protected in other parts of the city had  
19 another emergency broken out. I know that  
20 we have an accordion effect, in other words,  
21 half the fire department from Throop will  
22 come in to cover, a half from Olyphant, a  
23 portion from Throop and Olyphant, there is a  
24 coordinated system working both north and  
25 south end to help protect our city and it's

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1 a wonderful arrangement, it really does  
2 help, but I do have to wonder, and I think  
3 that a survey ought to be taken for what  
4 happened today as to see whether or not  
5 there was adequate protection for all  
6 sections of the city once this fire had to  
7 be fought.

8 One thing I do want to point out,  
9 also, as to two things that looked to me  
10 like sink holes, I'd like the city to take a  
11 good look behind the Guild Studios. There  
12 is a crack in the pavement. When you look  
13 through the crack you can look 15 to 20 feet  
14 down inside of it. That should not be.  
15 Another one that worries me is on Boulevard  
16 Avenue. Now, over the years, over the last  
17 four years, and I was here twice before

18 about Boulevard Avenue, and twice before  
19 Councilman Courtright was able to take my  
20 concern and have it addressed. This is a  
21 third hole on Boulevard Avenue. It is north  
22 of the 81 Bypass and about 200 feet south of  
23 the Throop line on Boulevard Avenue. I was  
24 so concerned when I saw it I called 911  
25 about it, that night a Throop police officer

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1 called me, apparently 911 had Throop take a  
2 look at it because that sink hole was really  
3 very close to the Throop police office where  
4 the police are. He looked at it and he  
5 said, "You got a point and I'm going to call  
6 the city and tell them they should do  
7 something about it," and nothing has been  
8 done in the last two months since I reported  
9 that sink hole.

10 It is big enough to take the tire  
11 not off a car, but it will take a tire right  
12 off a fire truck. This hole is about 2 to  
13 3 feet long, almost a foot wide and probably  
14 20 feet deep. I would please take a good  
15 look at it. The last time I saw something  
16 this big was at the corner of Nay Aug Avenue  
17 and Albright Street and we all know what

18 happened had to be done over there. It was  
19 a huge project that had to be done over  
20 there to fill what was under there, so I'm  
21 really concerned that there may be some  
22 problems underneath Boulevard Avenue and I'd  
23 like those to be looked and addressed. The  
24 only thing that is across that sink hole is  
25 half of a sawhorse and that is not

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1 sufficient. Thank you.

2 MS. GATELLI: Ms. Gawel.

3 MS. GAWEL: Hi, Council. How are you  
4 tonight? Enjoying the nice weather? All  
5 right, I got to kind of go all over this.  
6 We kind of missed a week and my thoughts  
7 aren't quite -- I'm going to start with the  
8 high unemployment rate that was in the paper  
9 this morning. What does Austin Burke do for  
10 the city? I mean, I know he is supposed to  
11 be in charge of the Chamber of Commerce, but  
12 they don't ever seem to do much for the city  
13 as far as I can tell and what I have been  
14 told, and maybe it's time we get somebody  
15 new in there or something that, you know,  
16 with brighter ideas.

17 Onto some of the stuff that went on  
18 last week. I do agree with you, if people



19 have issues with you they should just come  
20 in and talk to you. You don't bite. You  
21 might snarl every once in awhile, but, you  
22 know, we are being cute over in the corner,  
23 too, but for the most part I learned you are  
24 not as mean as I thought you might be.

25 I'd like to know, I agree with some

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1 of the other speakers when they were talking  
2 about some of the foolish spending, I mean,  
3 I don't understand the purposes of murals  
4 and stuff like that when we have bigger  
5 issues to fix in the city. I mean, it's  
6 just -- it seems to me we could be patching  
7 the streets or paving the streets, you know,  
8 I know the mayor likes to get credit for a  
9 lot of streets, but usually the state has  
10 done them or the utilities have done them,  
11 not the city itself.

12 MS. FANUCCI: Can I just ask one  
13 question, you're referring to the art mural  
14 project.

15 MS. GATELLI: Yes.

16 MS. FANUCCI: Maybe when I read this  
17 to you, you will understand a little bit  
18 better about it, because I actually was

19 worried about what it was, but this is  
20 really for children and a park program, so I  
21 think you might actually change your mind a  
22 little bit, okay?

23 MS. GAWEL: Okay. Excellent.  
24 Believe it or not, not all of us go to the  
25 website. If I turn my computer on once a

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1 month you are lucky and it's usually just to  
2 delete the mail. I wouldn't even now to get  
3 there. I don't want to know. I stay away  
4 from it so I can form my own opinions on  
5 things.

6 And again, I agree with Mrs. Gatelli  
7 and I know we went through it with you last  
8 year I believe it was, leave the family out  
9 of it, leave the kids out it, they have  
10 nothing do with this. It is strictly adults  
11 to adults as far as I'm concerned, but I do  
12 have tell you one thing, Mrs. Fanucci, I  
13 have totally been accused of I will hug a  
14 mailbox. I'm a hugger. I just hug. So, I  
15 have been told by my significant other that  
16 I've been known to hug a mailbox.

17 And to be honest with you, I wasn't  
18 thrilled with the tax increase, but again,  
19 it wasn't as bad as what the school district

20 does or the county does, but the thing is we  
21 didn't get any services for it. We still  
22 have nothing to show for that 25 percent.  
23 We didn't even lower the deficit. So, I  
24 mean, that's the complaint behind it. What  
25 are we getting for our 25 percent tax hike?

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1 All right, that's that.

2 I noticed that, you know, all of a  
3 sudden we are coming up with, you know, what  
4 Dave Gervasi and some of other guys have  
5 said aren't true and, oh, gee, we have the  
6 facts all of a sudden and the figures, well,  
7 why didn't we have them not six months ago  
8 when Dave was talking about why is it at  
9 election time we now have the figures that  
10 we didn't have all of this time? I mean, it  
11 just sounds silly to me.

12 I would like to know how the mayor  
13 gets investment people in here because I  
14 don't see any new jobs. I mean, you know  
15 the people that come in are usually local  
16 and stuff like that. But, I mean, he is  
17 still running his business out of Maryland  
18 where he doesn't have to pay taxes or  
19 Delaware, I don't know remember which state

20 it is, but we all know it's out there and we  
21 know he doesn't really run it from Scranton.  
22 So how does he even justify trying to bring  
23 somebody in if he doesn't run his own  
24 business from here.

25 And I noticed the commissioners are

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1 backing him, but I figured that's because  
2 O'Brien wants Kanjorski's job and Doherty  
3 originally wanted Kanjorski's job, so they  
4 figure if they keep Doherty mayor then  
5 O'Brien has got a better shot I guess.

6 And like everybody else I saw the  
7 flyer stating that it's a safe and secure  
8 city, I live in South Side and it's not a  
9 safe and secure city. I've had what, four  
10 shootings in the last two and a half weeks,  
11 maybe more. I can't even keep track. You  
12 are there, Judy, you know, it's not a safe  
13 and secure city.

14 And as I was coming in tonight and I  
15 was coming over Jefferson getting ready to  
16 turn down Mulberry and I noticed the "Don't  
17 Walk" sign, there isn't one if you are  
18 coming from Jefferson and going across  
19 Mulberry. They have them both facing  
20 Mulberry, and don't have one facing

21 Jefferson. Right there by the big white  
22 house, you know --

23 MS. FANUCCI: So if you are facing  
24 Jefferson there is not on there?

25 MS. GAWEL: No, I mean, there is one

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1 there, but it's on the poles facing the  
2 wrong direction, okay? And that's it for  
3 tonight. Have a nice night.

4 MS. GATELLI: Mr. Spindler.

5 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening, Council.  
6 Les Spindler, taxpayer, city resident.  
7 First of all, I would like to say I saw  
8 Mrs. Evans last Friday and I don't know how  
9 she was moving around. She was in terrible  
10 pain, and I asked her about her mother and  
11 she said her mother is not doing well, so I  
12 help everyone will say a prayer for Mrs.  
13 Evans and her mother.

14 Now, on the wildlife center, shame  
15 on Chris Doherty. He brought the wildlife  
16 center in, he asked Mrs. Miller to bring it  
17 in six, seven years ago and now he throws  
18 her out because he doesn't need her now. I  
19 don't know what he is going to use the zoo  
20 for, but he never gave the \$50,000 a year

21 which was promised, that was another one of  
22 his lies, so it's ashame that that was a  
23 good teaching tool for students, the Cub  
24 Scouts used to go up there and Girl Scouts  
25 and now there is nothing.

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1 And shame on Mrs. Gatelli and  
2 Mrs. Fanucci. The way you two acted two  
3 weeks ago as elected officials you should be  
4 ashamed of yourself. The two of you looked  
5 like -- sounded like two desperate people  
6 and, Mrs. Fanucci, for what you said  
7 accusing some male for not having -- for  
8 lacking something, a -- I mean, that was  
9 totally uncalled for and you should resign.  
10 An elected official should not speak like  
11 that.

12 MS. FANUCCI: I said meatballs.

13 MR. SPINDLER: To talk about some  
14 things that were in the Doherty newsletter  
15 last week, "Students spend just not in  
16 downtown Scranton."

17 And it goes onto say that except for  
18 the mall that there is nothing to spend  
19 money on downtown contrary to what  
20 Mrs. Fanucci and Chris Doherty said. That  
21 comes right out of Chris Doherty's

22 newspaper.

23 Next thing, last Tuesday, "Scranton  
24 on the upswing." Well, painting this city  
25 as a growing city and headed toward a bright

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1 future. Headed toward a bright future,  
2 that's why Country Club Men's Shop is moving  
3 out after 26 years and their owner said it  
4 hasn't grown in the last 20 years. If it's  
5 on the upswing, why are we still a  
6 distressed city? Let's get rid of PEL, get  
7 rid of our distressed status if we are on  
8 the upswing.

9 It says, "We set out specific goals  
10 and we achieve them."

11 What did he achieve? He didn't  
12 achieve lowering our wage tax, he didn't do  
13 a thing with our unions. The roads are in  
14 horrendous shape, and I'd like to know what  
15 he has achieved. People are fleeing the  
16 city like crazy.

17 Next thing, he pointed to cost  
18 cutting measures, 23 few police officers,  
19 eight fewer firefighters and 48 fewer  
20 clerical staff, and this is a good thing?  
21 Cutting firefighters and police is a good

22 thing? What is wrong with this man? We are  
23 getting -- there was a huge fire today, I  
24 was born and raised a half block from that  
25 fire and cutting police and fire, we have

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1 shootings in South Side and he thinks  
2 cutting firemen and policemen are a good  
3 thing? Something is wrong with this  
4 picture.

5 Lastly, it says, "I am not closing  
6 any fire stations any time in the near  
7 future."

8 Well, last year he said he was  
9 closing them, he is quoted as saying that.  
10 I got a letter a few weeks ago saying he  
11 definitely wasn't closing engine companies,  
12 now, he is saying he is not closing any in  
13 the near future? Well, which is it? We  
14 can't believe anything that comes out of  
15 this man's mouth. Every time he opens his  
16 mouth he says something different. It's  
17 just unbelievable.

18 Next: Two weeks ago, Mrs. Gatelli,  
19 I asked about 4.2 million for the Goodwill,  
20 the North Scranton Junior High School, and  
21 Neil gave me a letter, you said the letter  
22 explains, this letter says nothing about



23 where the 4.2 million dollars went. It says  
24 about this repaired and this and that, but  
25 it doesn't answer my question where the 4.2

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1 million dollars that Governor Rendell gave  
2 to Chris Doherty. I would like to know  
3 where that 4.2 million dollars is. Maybe  
4 the FBI should be up here investing that.

5 MS. GATELLI: I'll ask for you.

6 MR. SPINDLER: I mean, the two  
7 corrupt judges only took \$2.6 million down  
8 there, this is 4.2 million, where is it?

9 MS. GATELLI: We'll find out for you,  
10 Mr. Spindler.

11 MR. SPINDLER: Well, I might have to  
12 put a call into the FBI and ask them that  
13 question, too.

14 MS. FANUCCI: You should. Good idea.

15 MR. SPINDLER: Okay. I brought this  
16 up last summer about the wood burning, well,  
17 the other night it was real hot, I opened my  
18 windows and the wood was burning again.

19 MS. GATELLI: Did you call the fire  
20 department and tell them?

21 MR. SPINDLER: No, I don't know who I  
22 should call.

23 MS. GATELLI: Call the fire  
24 inspector.

25 MR. SPINDLER: What's the fire

51

1 inspector's number?

2 MS. GATELLI: They have jurisdiction  
3 over that. We talked about that last year.

4 MR. SPINDLER: Could you get me a  
5 number to call?

6 MS. FANUCCI: Sure.

7 MR. SPINDLER: And, Mr. Courtright,  
8 you even said last year you were going to  
9 let the police officers know about that.  
10 Could I get a copy of that ordinance, Mrs.  
11 Gatelli?

12 MS. GATELLI: Yes, we have it  
13 somewhere.

14 MR. MINORA: The ordinances are all  
15 on-line.

16 MS. GATELLI: They are all on-line.

17 MR. SPINDLER: The gentleman that  
18 does this burning he said he has an  
19 ordinance and he put it in the one police  
20 officer's face the one day and said, "I'm  
21 allowed to burn, the chief said I could  
22 burn."

23 MS. GATELLI: No, not if it bothers

24 someone he can't.

25 MR. SPINDLER: We can't open our

52

1 windows. It was Saturday night it was  
2 burning. It's two blocks away from me.

3 MS. FANUCCI: That's terrible.

4 MR. SPINDLER: And we can't open our  
5 windows and we have the whole summer.

6 MS. GATELLI: They are not allowed to  
7 do that, Mr. Spindler.

8 MR. SPINDLER: I don't think so.  
9 Thank you.

10 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening. I  
11 don't know about anybody else, but I've  
12 about had it for summer, I'm ready for some  
13 snow.

14 MS. GATELLI: We can use some in  
15 here tonight.

16 MS. SCHUMACHER: I was going to  
17 continue with my lies, lies, lies, but I'm  
18 putting that off for a week or so, and I was  
19 also going to speak to the tremendous  
20 savings of the firemen's overtime account,  
21 but while I was out digging out dandelions,  
22 you know, I just started thinking about  
23 council and I start thinking about what Mrs.

24 Krake said awhile back about discrimination  
25 and, you know, she is absolutely right. I

53

1 don't know which is a bigger slap in the  
2 face to the taxpayers, we penalize to the  
3 hilt property taxowners who are delinquent,  
4 but we let business people owe us money for  
5 years and years and years and not pay such  
6 as the Ice Box. We don't really follow-up  
7 on the Single Tax Office, \$2 million just  
8 doesn't disappear.

9 And I attended that Scranton School  
10 Board meeting I believe it was a year ago  
11 March where they, oh, by the way, opened a  
12 drawer and found a bank statement that had  
13 \$12 million in it and, oh, lo and behold.  
14 Well, you know, the more I have been  
15 thinking about it I have a couple of friends  
16 who are not -- have not been as blessed  
17 financially as I have and once in awhile I  
18 buy things them because I belong to a  
19 discount store and they give me checks, and  
20 if I'm ahead at the end of the month I put  
21 the checks in a drawer and I never cash  
22 them. I hear, "Would you please cash, your  
23 are ruining by bank statement, I can't  
24 balance it," but aside from that I think

25

there must be a drawer down in the Single

54

1

Tax Office that has \$2 million worth of

2

checks in it that nobody has deposited yet.

3

That is the only thing that makes sense, and

4

I believe that you people need to ask for an

5

investigation. You need to go to the

6

District Attorney and you need to ask him to

7

investigate this \$2 million debacle and

8

maybe do a fiscal inventory. Maybe they can

9

find the checks.

10

I also -- again, Mrs. Gatelli, maybe

11

during motions you can tell me again on the

12

Ice Box what's going on there or maybe

13

Mr. Minora can tell us what he has found

14

out. Also, it was reported two weeks ago in

15

the Times-Tribune that the tax office said

16

they were going to hire a controller, but

17

can they hire a controller and create a new

18

position without getting your approval and

19

can't this council put a cap on how much

20

they can continue charging this out-of-town

21

person to do a job between now and the time

22

they say -- until they hire a controller?

23

And then I'd like to know what

24

responsibility this council has to oversee

25

the authorities? You were the elected

55

1

people, the authorities are only appointed

2

people. For instance, did the Recreation

3

Authority approve bringing the Genesis

4

Wildlife Center to Nay Aug in the beginning

5

or did council approve that move or is that

6

something that the mayor did unilaterally?

7

Also, did the Rec Authority decide

8

to send the Genesis Wildlife Center packing

9

or did the mayor act unilaterally? Whose

10

park is Nay Aug? Is it the people's park or

11

is it Chris Doherty's private playground?

12

The audit, people have questioned

13

tonight on whether you read things that you

14

get, page 32 of the latest audit, that's

15

being for 2007, says that the city approves

16

the rates for the Scranton Sewer Authority

17

yet we had a 50 some percent increase and I

18

don't recall, and I have checked that, I

19

don't recall you approving it, so which is

20

incorrect and did any of you tell if that's

21

incorrect? Did any of you bother to

22

question the auditor and say, "We don't

23

approve."

24

I'd like to know why you don't

25

approve?

1 MS. GATELLI: We said that.

2 MS. FANUCCI: We did say that last  
3 week.

4 MS. GATELLI: We did say that,  
5 Mrs. Schumacher.

6 MS. SCHUMACHER: I've got more next  
7 time, lots.

8 MS. GATELLI: The lease agreement  
9 expired and that's why we don't have any  
10 control over the rates anymore and we said  
11 that.

12 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, then did you  
13 advise the auditor that his report was  
14 incorrect.

15 MS. GATELLI: No.

16 MS. SCHUMACHER: No.

17 MS. GATELLI: We'll have to do that,  
18 Mrs. Garvey, send that, please. Mr. McCloe.

19 MR. MCGOFF: Good evening. My name  
20 is Brett McCloe. I'm a homeowner and  
21 Scranton taxpayer. I don't have a lot to  
22 say today, but I just want to say to the  
23 folks who -- to those of who lost your homes  
24 in today's fire, terrible fires, I'm deeply  
25 sorry for your loss as well as I'm quite

1           sure the whole city is deeply sorry for your  
2           losses. And I also want to say to the  
3           firefighters and those officers that were  
4           there that you did a good job and that's why  
5           we need you there. And I also want to say  
6           to those who don't understand the importance  
7           of a well-staffed, well-equipped fire and  
8           police department, I want them to forget  
9           about the events of today, I want them to  
10          forget about the shootings in South Side, I  
11          want them to put on their rose-colored  
12          sunglasses, go grab a latte, go sit on the  
13          swings up the Nay Aug Park because this  
14          stuff is real and it might be a little bit  
15          too real for some of you who see something  
16          other.

17                        One of the things that constantly  
18                        keeps on going through my mind is how much  
19                        these people have lost, and a phrase from  
20                        the Bible always comes into my head, "There  
21                        before the grace of God go I," and I think  
22                        we all need to look at these folks and try  
23                        to do whatever we can to help them out.  
24                        Thank you very much.

25                                MS. GATELLI: Mr. Dobson.





1           that money all in one account for another 18  
2           months or whatever, it's really ashamed.  
3           That money needs to be sorted back out. We  
4           could have tax money reimbursed in  
5           somebody's deductions from Blakely Borough  
6           or something and it's -- there is no way  
7           attracting the money whereas Blakey Borough  
8           if an employer from Scranton did not turn  
9           over the tax money that was deducted, you  
10          would -- Blakely Borough can get on their  
11          backs and make them wise up. Here nothing  
12          is being done about it and that's where I  
13          kind of think the money might be missing.

14                         And on tonight's agenda, this free  
15          swim at Nay Aug Park, I mean, we are  
16          spending all kinds of money to paint murals  
17          and so forth, and that's a good thing, I  
18          mean, it's a small amount of change for what  
19          the city's budget is, but it would be nice  
20          to see a few free swim days at Nay Aug Park,  
21          two free swim days because there really  
22          isn't a free swim day, it's mostly done by  
23          Mr. Jackowitz, and last year I operated the  
24          camera solely to bring the money and stuff,  
25          if I hadn't done than we wouldn't have had

1 the money coming in, so that was a help, I  
2 didn't participate much during the actual  
3 events, but it would be nice to see  
4 something done with Nay Aug where we could  
5 get the kids back up there and let them swim  
6 because I walked back along the tracks and  
7 stuff on the D & L line and that step down  
8 is a pretty dangerous place to be swimming.  
9 I stay away from it. I looked over the edge  
10 from two feet away or three feet away, but I  
11 don't get anywhere near the step down, it's  
12 a long way down and so it would be awful  
13 nice if somewhere along the line at least  
14 some of the days we could let people in the  
15 park for free, not every day, but some days  
16 it would be just a wonderful thing.

17 And finally, I would like to  
18 compliment the firefighters this afternoon  
19 and urge the city to do whatever they can to  
20 settle the contracts. It's gone on too long  
21 and it's really ashamed because, you know,  
22 people have a right to change their minds  
23 and if they have the people involved with  
24 all of the disputes then just say so and who  
25 knows maybe they pick up a couple of extra

1 votes this fall and just I changed my mind.  
2 I got new information. I change my mind  
3 about things all the time, you know, so it  
4 would be nice to see politicians say the  
5 same thing, I just changed my mind, and it's  
6 not feasible and they are not going to do  
7 it. Thank you and have a good night.

8 MS. GATELLI: Mr. Newcomb.

9 MR. NEWCOMB: Good evening, Council.  
10 I'd just like to thank everybody that sent  
11 cards and can to the funeral for our  
12 family's recent loss. It was really  
13 appreciated. I'd just like to make a few  
14 comments. I have Republican signs, I have  
15 Democratic signs I put in my yard when I  
16 have to, I vote for the person who I think  
17 can do the job, not just what your party is,  
18 but I'm a very fiscal conservative person.

19 I am proud to say that I did not  
20 vote, I'm one of the 52 million people that  
21 did not vote for our current president of  
22 the United States because I believe he has  
23 spent more money than George Washington or  
24 George Bush in less than 100 days, that's my  
25 opinion.

1                   I just -- it was said, and I want to  
2                   give some union information here to some --  
3                   I'd like the people to know what they are  
4                   paying for and what the city is not getting  
5                   or what the city is getting. It was said  
6                   here about the unions they are working off  
7                   of their own contract. I have a little bit  
8                   of labor underneath up my experience, I just  
9                   want everybody out there to know that under  
10                  the labor law you do have to work underneath  
11                  the old contract, and I believe the fire  
12                  contract was from January 1st of 1996 to  
13                  December 31st of 2002, that's the one that  
14                  they were working under, so for those people  
15                  for seven and a half years inflation would  
16                  diminish your buying power which means you  
17                  worked under the old contract and you kept  
18                  everything as it was.

19                  And from my experience with people  
20                  that get longevity, the pay is 1 percent  
21                  every two years starting on the third year  
22                  of your employment. If you did not have  
23                  longevity pay a 30-year veteran would make  
24                  the same amount of money as a new hired  
25                  recruit. The police, the clerical and the

1                  fire and DPW also receive longevity and that

2 is common and part of pay scales in almost  
3 every other city and just so the taxpayers  
4 out there know that longevity was taken away  
5 in January of 2003 and the statistics that I  
6 have, and like I said, I'm very fiscal and I  
7 don't think we should be wasting money on  
8 things that we don't need, but it is a fact  
9 that our firefighters make an average of  
10 \$15,000 less than firefighters in the rest  
11 of the state and our policemen make about  
12 between \$12,000 and \$13,000 less. We do  
13 have some policemen that went to other  
14 places in Lackawanna County and started for  
15 like \$10,000 more than they make here.

16 And I believe the unions are still  
17 in litigation because they are claiming the  
18 city is in contempt of the Court for not  
19 following the Commonwealth's decision. If  
20 you -- I'm going to use \$40,000 as a base,  
21 if you received \$40,000 in 2002 plus your  
22 longevity and your own overtime your pay  
23 hasn't changed because even with the two of  
24 them together your base pay has never  
25 changed, it's never increased.

1 I want to get a little bit into the

2 city administration so people know about  
3 raises and what pay. Our business  
4 administrator under Mayor Connors was Brian  
5 Nixon, his salary was \$76,000 per year with  
6 health care and etcetera. Now, under Mayor  
7 Doherty it's Stu Renda. The position pays  
8 \$85,000 a year, a raise of \$9,000. Stu  
9 Renda received about -- receives about  
10 \$46,000 more than he made in his last  
11 position. I'm going to give you a six-year  
12 scenario. In a six-year scenario the raise  
13 cost the taxpayers \$54,000 which means for  
14 six years this position costs the taxpayers  
15 from under \$76,000, 456,000 and now with the  
16 new salary for a six-year salary it would be  
17 \$510,000 which is \$85,000. And I also  
18 believe that Mrs. Moran got a \$10,000 raise,  
19 so let's go to the six-year scenario that  
20 costs the taxpayers now \$60,000.

21 And one more thing here, a few years  
22 back we did give two raises to our police  
23 and fire chief, which I said I don't  
24 begrudge anybody raises, but I just want  
25 people to know how things work, and the way

65

1 our contracts read is also anybody in that  
2 rank would get half, so from what I

3 understand we have a five of them that are  
4 still alive and that cost an additional  
5 \$32,500 a year. Altogether, that is \$58,500  
6 per year which is \$26,000 because we gave  
7 two 13's and the additional ones for the  
8 retirees which is \$32,500. Over the  
9 course of six years it's a total of  
10 \$351,000. This is without their salaries,  
11 because their salaries are in the 60's, the  
12 cost is \$351,000 for two \$13,000 raises and  
13 also from what I understand the fire chief  
14 and the police chief also do receive  
15 longevity.

16 And one more thing if I could, if we  
17 are paying \$500,00 to \$700,000 in overtime,  
18 which is a lot of money, I think then we  
19 have to do is we have to look at we don't  
20 have enough people or bodies to do the work  
21 to cut down on the overtime. Thanks.

22 MS. GATELLI: Phyllis.

23 MS. HUMPHRIES: Good evening.

24 Patcha, salaam aleikum, shalom. Peace to  
25 all of the people here, Mrs. Evans and I

66

1 hope Mr. McGoff get healthy and come back  
2 here. Do you know a guy by the name of --



3 Mrs. Gatelli, do you know a man by the name  
4 of John that has a burgundy car that lives  
5 in South Side.

6 MS. GATELLI: No.

7 MS. HUMPHRIES: He goes, "Hey, my  
8 name is Johnny. Come on, come on, get in  
9 the car. Come on, come on, get in the car."

10 Well, Johnny, JB-1932, you are going  
11 to be arrested. That's number one. What  
12 happened is at the newspaper they had a  
13 beautiful picture there of Monsignor Quinn  
14 and Sister Adrian and congratulations to the  
15 both of them. The second and third picture  
16 was of me where they did an aerial shot at  
17 the courthouse, which was beautiful. I'm a  
18 survivor. I was at "Take Back the Night."  
19 It is so sad. I had such an enjoyable time  
20 with the University of Scranton kids, I  
21 never went to college, but my daughter went  
22 there, and I kind of marched and strolled,  
23 but then when I heard the stories, the  
24 stories should have been covered by the  
25 newspaper. Where is that newspaper man?

67

1 Could he stand up or is he gone? Well, he  
2 only puts what he puts.

3 They say Bishop Martino is the

4 dictator, but, no, I'm the dictator, I'd  
5 like to dictate and this is what I want to  
6 say. To all of the people in the United  
7 States, all of the people in the world, all  
8 of the people that are being abused, forced  
9 into sex when they don't want to, even  
10 including the Middle East, I feel sorry for  
11 you and we hope that you have freedom and  
12 democracy.

13 I'm fighting and University students  
14 that was around is fighting for democracy,  
15 so many of them were pushed underneath, the  
16 police didn't go forward with their rapes  
17 and their attacks and this is ashame. We  
18 need a lot of women on the streets,  
19 motorcycles, you name it. This is wrong.  
20 Mayor Doherty, you had a beautiful shot of  
21 the way the courthouse is, it was really  
22 beautiful, I will not deny it, but I think  
23 the story should have been covered. The  
24 story should have been covered, why they  
25 won't cover it is this and, number one,

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1 which I was not aware of, a crime is against  
2 the state and the city. They are trying to  
3 cover up the crime here. If you come here

4           you better have a lot of mace, take Judo and  
5           put lights all the way around you that you  
6           can flood everybody away that is going to  
7           hurt you.

8                         There is hole on the street on  
9           Wyoming Avenue where the Abe's Delicatessen  
10          was pulled down. They are going to have  
11          check that in which there is hole in the  
12          back of the Mulberry Towers.

13                        Now, the other thing I have to say  
14          is I got this on because remember that joke  
15          the butt, the bone is a curse and see what  
16          happened there. It's back with the swine  
17          they don't know where it originated the  
18          swine flu, so I'm like kind of like ready  
19          for anything. I even bought a bunch for you  
20          girls.

21                        But what I have to say is last  
22          weekend I mentioned something about Mulberry  
23          Tower and they were kind of upset. There is  
24          the good, the bad and the ugly in every  
25          place, but I'm putting my foot down. There

69

1           is elderly people there and people's places  
2           haven't been painted since I'm living there  
3           nine years. There is a lot of things, rugs  
4           20 years on the floor. There is a lot of

5 bad things and there is a lot of good  
6 things. I have to say there is also a lot  
7 of good things, it's just we got and now I  
8 got these bugs floating in my house and I'm  
9 waiting until they get a little bit bigger  
10 and I won't have to worry about the, this  
11 disability thing it will roll me from here  
12 all the way over to the city council. So  
13 much for the cockroaches. No, they are not  
14 cockroaches they are water bugs, but they  
15 got to check --

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: Phyllis, could you  
17 talk a little quieter?

18 MS. HUMPHRIES: You know what it is?

19 MR. COURTRIGHT: Could you talk a  
20 little quieter, please.

21 MS. HUMPHRIES: I think I'm talking  
22 louder because of that deaf school. I think  
23 we should try to keep this for these  
24 children, these animals got to come back,  
25 stop taking away from the children. It's

70

1 time that we do what we have to do and now  
2 one more thing that I want to wrap this up.  
3 About the World Trade Center I tried to  
4 figure it all out from Connors all the way

5 up they didn't do anything, and I'm not  
6 drunk, I don't drink and I don't do drugs,  
7 but you know what that really had to do  
8 with, not only about the watching terrorists  
9 it had to do with construction. That's why  
10 everybody sat back and let it happen and  
11 that's the truth because other people wrote  
12 it. It's about construction and jobs and  
13 it's a damn shame. God bless, I love ya and  
14 hasta la vista, baby.

15 MS. GATELLI: Is there any other  
16 speakers?

17 MR. COURTRIGHT: She said was there  
18 any other speakers?

19 MS. KRAKE: Good evening, Council.  
20 My name is Nancy Krake. I have three  
21 different topics, the first is there were  
22 campaign advertisements that came to my home  
23 in the past few days, they were for the  
24 mayor and they were pictures of his family  
25 and that part was very nice, but there was a

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1 part that I found very disagreeable. It  
2 seemed to me we were lead to believe that  
3 the statement paid for and authorized by the  
4 Pennsylvania Democratic State Committee,  
5 means perhaps to some folks that they have

6 endorsed the mayor. This is simply not  
7 true. The Democratic endorsed candidate is  
8 Gary DiBileo. Other people --

9 MS. MINORA: You're not --

10 MS. GATELLI: You're not allowed to  
11 talk about the candidates.

12 MS. KRAKE: Well, I'm not talking  
13 about them, I'm talking about a mailing.

14 MS. GATELLI: Mr. Minora, would you  
15 make a ruling?

16 MR. MINORA: Yeah, the same thing  
17 with Mr. Quinn, we weren't talking about  
18 campaign documents and who endorsed who, you  
19 got policy things you want to talk about  
20 before city council you are absolutely  
21 entitled to. Once you get to advocating a  
22 candidate one way or the other or suggesting  
23 an advocacy you have stepped outside of the  
24 bounds.

25 MS. KRAKE: And I beg to differ that

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1 I did not do that, but I respectfully abide  
2 by what you say.

3 MR. MINORA: Thank you.

4 MS. KRAKE: My point, which was  
5 simply the next sentence after I was stating

6 facts, is that Mr. Rendell, let's see if I  
7 can do this factually, has a very big stake  
8 in whoever is mayor of the city. That is  
9 because he holds us in distressed status and  
10 we have been keeping his friends, the  
11 Pennsylvania Economy League, the  
12 consultants, employed for 17 distressed  
13 years. Some things are false, some things  
14 are true, that is true.

15 I'd also like to say that the 48  
16 clerical jobs that the mayor claimed were  
17 savings simply were not. It caused an  
18 increase, \$800,000 plus in double pensions  
19 for at least the next 20 years, and he also  
20 took the clerk's salaries and used them in a  
21 budget to justify administrative jobs and  
22 raises.

23 I also have another statement about  
24 Mrs. Evans, just so you know. Ms. Evans is  
25 suffering serious back injuries involving

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1 her discs, and at the same time her mother  
2 remains hospitalized. I know Mrs. Gatelli  
3 mentioned that. Please keep her mom in your  
4 prayers. Mrs. Evans has worked tirelessly  
5 for the people for close to six years. If  
6 she could have been here I'm sure she would

7 have. She has never taken her  
8 responsibilities lightly nor has she taken  
9 the people of Scranton for granted. We know  
10 Mrs. Evans will be back as soon as possible  
11 and she has earned and deserved our support  
12 so I hope we keep her working for us. Thank  
13 you.

14 MS. KNIGHT: Good evening, Council.  
15 Gerry Knight, resident. I'm home sitting  
16 watching my TV watching you three smirk, but  
17 you three and the other thing that sits in  
18 the middle all holler at us out here when we  
19 smirk or snicker about something that you  
20 have done.

21 Now, I'm going to take up you,  
22 Mr. Courtright, in the last three years when  
23 have you received a diploma in taxes?

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: I haven't.

25 MS. KNIGHT: You haven't. Okay, but

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1 you have a business in karate.

2 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes, I do.

3 MS. KNIGHT: Yes, you do. Now, you  
4 have rules in your karate.

5 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes, I do.

6 MS. KNIGHT: Yes, you do. It's a



7 sir. You are a sir to your pupils, am I  
8 right or wrong?

9 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

10 MS. KNIGHT: To some degree.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

12 MS. KNIGHT: I know a little bit  
13 about karate.

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: Um-hum.

15 MS. KNIGHT: And you do want  
16 respect, you demand it in a way, the way you  
17 teach your class.

18 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

19 MS. KNIGHT: Oh, yes, you do. Okay,  
20 then why in God's name do you want to get  
21 into the tax office? Is it for the reason  
22 you don't want to do your business anymore  
23 or is it the \$80,000 a year job?

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: I wish it paid  
25 \$80,000 a year, it doesn't.

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1 MS. KNIGHT: Oh, it doesn't. No.  
2 How about 60 or 70.

3 MR. COURTRIGHT: Not even about 40.

4 MS. KNIGHT: I'm sorry, I hate to --

5 MR. COURTRIGHT: That's okay.

6 MS. KNIGHT: That --

7 MR. COURTRIGHT: Maybe if I win you

8 can give me a raise.

9 MS. KNIGHT: Well, I'll tell you  
10 something, I wish when you were sitting in  
11 that chair next to Mrs. Evans, to me I have  
12 lost a lot of respect for you,  
13 Mr. Courtright, because you are a sir and a  
14 gentleman sitting in that seat. Between  
15 these two you look like an idiot because she  
16 writes you notes, and talk about laughing,  
17 you have no right to laugh or giggle. You  
18 are supposed to be attentive and writing  
19 down what these people are asking your  
20 questions. Now, Sherry, I'm going to come  
21 to you because two weeks ago --

22 MR. COURTRIGHT: You are done with  
23 me?

24 MS. KNIGHT: And you because you  
25 talked about how the computer was so

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1 hassling you and putting heads up and  
2 chopping heads off.

3 MS. FANUCCI: What? You better  
4 clarify that because I can't answer what I  
5 don't understand. What are you talking  
6 about chopping heads off and putting heads  
7 on?

8 MS. KNIGHT: Well, you were all  
9 talking about the computer, that's why you  
10 had the cops come and we had to be all  
11 searched and --

12 MS. FANUCCI: About the computer?

13 MS. KNIGHT: Yeah, because you were  
14 seeing things on the computer that people h  
15 were saying about you and your family.

16 MS. FANUCCI: Oh, okay, now -- okay,  
17 I didn't understand. It was very difficult  
18 to follow.

19 MS. KNIGHT: Now I'm going to come  
20 down to your level, Sherry. I'm coming to  
21 your level.

22 MS. FANUCCI: Okay.

23 MS. KNIGHT: Okay? Right. You talk  
24 about the firemen and their percentage of  
25 what they are going to make, I don't know

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1 how to resolve that because I really didn't  
2 understand it, but I will tell you one  
3 thing, your job, his job and her job and the  
4 guy that is sitting in that corner is not  
5 worth your jobs over them.

6 MS. FANUCCI: I agree.

7 MS. KNIGHT: Oh, you do?

8 MS. FANUCCI: Absolutely. Over

9                   theirs? Absolutely.

10                   MS. KNIGHT: Oh, well, then --

11                   MS. FANUCCI: I don't think anybody  
12 would take their job --

13                   MS. KNIGHT: Well, then why in the  
14 heck don't you tell Doherty that he has to  
15 keep his men there. I come from New York  
16 City, damn it, and there is not even enough  
17 people in here -- over here to run this  
18 whole area. Like this gentleman said, I  
19 don't know where he is now, but you he said  
20 if there was a double fire like there was  
21 today you wouldn't have enough men.

22                   MS. FANUCCI: Well, you know, in New  
23 York now they are closing almost 20 I  
24 believe fire companies, so thank God we are  
25 not doing that so, yeah, I agree.

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1                   MS. KNIGHT: Oh, big deal, but you  
2 only have what, 100 guys?

3                   MS. FANUCCI: I'm not sure, was it a  
4 150 I believe? One fifty.

5                   MS. KNIGHT: Big deal, that's not  
6 enough. That's not enough.

7                   MS. GATELLI: Thank you.

8                   MS. KNIGHT: So between it all you

9 wanted to make --

10 MS. GATELLI: All right. Thank you.

11 MS. KNIGHT: No, no, I'm not done.

12 MS. GATELLI: You are done. Your  
13 time is up.

14 MS. KNIGHT: I'm not done.

15 MS. GATELLI: Your time is up. Thank  
16 you.

17 MS. KNIGHT: Between the both of you  
18 don't -- you couldn't make a pair of  
19 balls --

20 MS. GATELLI: You are out of order.

21 MS. KNIGHT: -- because the way you  
22 acted last week, two weeks ago.

23 MS. WILLIAMS: Good evening, City  
24 Council. Joanne Williams, homeowner and  
25 taxpayer. I'd like to ask anyone on the

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1 council if they can answer this question,  
2 that's okay, I'm used to it.

3 MS. GATELLI: We are used to it, too,  
4 Mrs. Williams. We are used to it, too.

5 MS. WILLIAMS: Who is responsible for  
6 placing the red and white yard signs that  
7 state "Tell Doherty not to close  
8 firehouses."

9 Does anybody know who is -- and no

10 one has spoken up to that to say that they  
11 have been putting the signs out?

12 MS. GATELLI: No.

13 MS. WILLIAMS: Well, these signs are  
14 nothing but a scare tactic to try to upset  
15 Scrantonians. The mayor has said he is not  
16 closing firehouses. As for a fact, I was  
17 informed that he is adding firemen -- a  
18 fireman to every shift. Whoever put these  
19 signs up they need to take them down. This  
20 is a false political statement. As in the  
21 last mayor race, the scare was Mayor Doherty  
22 was going to privatize DPW, never happened.  
23 He didn't privatize DPW so that was a scare  
24 tactic last time.

25 Moving on, I hear tonight, you know,

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1 people talking about Nay Aug Park,  
2 Mr. Quinn, Mr. Spindler, Mr. Jackowitz and  
3 they speak about Nay Aug Park and spending  
4 and I take it they are not happy about the  
5 spending at the park, but I recall a few  
6 years ago a playground was built up at Nay  
7 Aug by volunteers, and I don't recall not  
8 seeing any of you -- any of you there to  
9 volunteer to put up a playground for

10 children and then you come here and you say,  
11 "I don't like this about the park, I don't  
12 like that about the park," the park is  
13 absolutely beautiful. We have few speakers  
14 every week that come up to this podium and  
15 state these facts about the park, you know,  
16 if you go up there on any given day and talk  
17 to people they know what the park means to  
18 them.

19 At the last meeting two weeks ago I  
20 watched on 61 and I could not get over, and  
21 I respect firemen, I better say that because  
22 I was taught that as a young child and you  
23 are heroes, but I could not get over hearing  
24 Mr. Gervasi complain about a \$5 copay for  
25 prescriptions if I heard him correctly.

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1 Also, this longevity pay, 5,000 to  
2 \$7,000 longevity pay each year. All I could  
3 think about is people, I know people -- I  
4 know people that work full-time jobs and  
5 don't receive health care at all or  
6 longevity pay. We all need to think about  
7 what's going on here, and I respect you,  
8 but, you know, you chose to be a  
9 firefighter, thank God we have them, and in  
10 your job description it's to fight fires.

11                   Also, the mural at Nay Aug Park,  
12                   Mrs. Fanucci, you said they would be painted  
13                   by children so let's make that perfectly  
14                   clear here, you know, before we get it all  
15                   mixed up again, you know.

16                   MS. FANUCCI: Right. I will speak  
17                   about that.

18                   MS. WILLIAMS: Because, you know, we  
19                   spin and we turn things around here all of  
20                   the time and it's not -- it's not that nice.  
21                   Mr. Jackowitz spoke about his shirts that  
22                   they wear, so I think excuse for them now,  
23                   if the shirt fits -- - if your shirt fits  
24                   wear it, and you wear it very well. You  
25                   know, I'm tired it. I'm tired of the

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1                   negativity of people complaining about,  
2                   like, I don't know what they these people  
3                   would do if they really had a tragedy in  
4                   their life --

5                   MS. KNIGHT: I have.

6                   MS. WILLIAMS: Well, that's fine and  
7                   dandy, but when people get up here and want  
8                   to have prescriptions and pay not a penny,  
9                   let's get real. This city has come a long  
10                  way. The 500 block of Lackawanna County



11 avenue is beautiful, okay?

12 MS. GATELLI: Excuse me.

13 MS. WILLIAMS: Oh, it does. They  
14 don't bother me because this is every  
15 weekers Tuesday night netted club that does  
16 not like Mayor Chris Doherty and that's fine  
17 because you think these people represent the  
18 city and represent you people? They  
19 absolutely do not. They do not. And I  
20 don't know who the other man comes in with  
21 long hair and talks about his dogs, he told  
22 me he doesn't know who I'm speaking to, I  
23 speak to a lot of people in the city and  
24 they do like what is happening in this city.

25 I just want to close one thing real

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1 briefly, to all Scrantonians, just look back  
2 eight years ago and remember what our city  
3 looked like and where it was headed. Our  
4 city has made positive changes thanks to  
5 Sherry, Judy and Bob and Mayor Doherty.  
6 Let's not take another slide back. Let's  
7 keep moving forward. We need to keep you  
8 guys in office. Thank you.

9 MS. HUMPHRIES: I want to readdress  
10 on that. I represent the city, the elderly.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: Not now, Phyllis.

12 MS. GATELLI: Is there anyone else?

13 MR. JONES: Hi. Bob from Scranton.

14 I would just like to say that I have one of  
15 those little red signs in the front yard and  
16 I'd like to see the lady try to take it out  
17 of my yard. Thank you.

18 MS. GATELLI: Sir, what was your name  
19 last name?

20 MR. JONES: Jones.

21 MS. GATELLI: Jones?

22 MR. JONES: Yes, I'm a Jones' boy.

23 MS. ROYCE: I guess whatever  
24 everybody else has to say doesn't matter,  
25 she walked out of here. Hi, Bernadette

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1 Royce, West Scranton. I guess I'm going to  
2 have to go off record a little bit what I  
3 wrote since what she just had to say. The  
4 Scranton Fire Department and Scranton Police  
5 Department have, obviously, once again  
6 proven their value to the citizens of  
7 Scranton. Once again, off to do their jobs.  
8 Time is crucial in response. I would remind  
9 you again that you have three minutes to  
10 escape -- (Fire sirens going off.) -- once  
11 again off to do their jobs to escape a

12 structure fire.

13 Ms. Fanucci, the other week you  
14 accused people of scare tactics just as that  
15 woman did. Again, I have one of those signs  
16 in my yard and try to take it away. You  
17 have also said that the motives are strictly  
18 financial for Scranton fire department as  
19 that woman just did. That it is all  
20 financial. I don't work for Scranton Fire  
21 Department. I am not married to a  
22 firefighter.

23 MS. FANUCCI: You did though; right?

24 MS. ROYCE: No, I've never --

25 MS. FANUCCI: Oh, I thought you said

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1 were a -- -

2 MS. ROYCE: I am a retired  
3 firefighter.

4 MS. FANUCCI: Oh, okay.

5 MS. ROYCE: I was injured. I have  
6 never worked for Scranton Fire Department.

7 MS. FANUCCI: Okay, for Scranton.

8 MS. ROYCE: No, I have been accused  
9 on the blogs of having been a Scranton  
10 firefighter. I worked for a fire department  
11 in Florida.

12 MS. FANUCCI: We know you never

13 believe the blogs under any circumstances.

14 MS. ROYCE: What?

15 MS. FANUCCI: You never believe the  
16 blogs under any circumstances.

17 MS. ROYCE: No, but I worked in  
18 Florida, okay? I have never worked for  
19 Scranton so I do not take one dime from  
20 Scranton Fire Department, okay? So I have  
21 no financial reason to be here. None  
22 whatsoever. I am not married to a  
23 firefighter from Scranton, okay?

24 I come here and I tell you the same  
25 thing regarding fire safety. The poet

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1 George Santiano famously said, "Those who do  
2 not remember the past are condemned to  
3 repeat it."

4 About 100 years ago there was a man  
5 named Edward Kroker, a chief from FDNY. He  
6 also fight for increased fire safety in his  
7 city. People also accused him of merely  
8 having financial motives when he fought for  
9 fire safety. They stopped arguing on  
10 March 25, 1911. Have either or any of you  
11 ever heard of Triangle Shirtwaist Factory?  
12 It's very famous. It's in many of the

13 history books. On March 25, 1911, 142  
14 people died. Many of them were young  
15 teenage girls working in the factory. That  
16 day after that fire sprinkler laws were no  
17 longer fought against.

18 Firefighters have fought for the  
19 most of the fire safety laws in this  
20 country. The Iroquois fire 1903, 602 people  
21 died that day that's why you have panic  
22 doors. So when firefighters are fighting  
23 for fire safety, please do not say it is for  
24 financial reasons. They are fighting  
25 because we have learned what history shows

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1 us and we do not want a repeat of it.

2 As for FDNY you just said that they  
3 are closing 20 companies, off the top of my  
4 head I could have told you that FDNY had  
5 12,000 firefighters, they had 250 engines.  
6 I wasn't sure about trucks, okay, 156  
7 trucks. I just text paged the one guy from  
8 FDNY's union, so to say 20 companies as if  
9 you telling people it's a lot, yes, it is.  
10 It is a tremendous amount, but when you have  
11 250 engines and 156 truck companies, that is  
12 not equal to Scranton to close four  
13 companies in Scranton.

14 MS. FANUCCI: We are not closing  
15 them.

16 MS. ROYCE: The mayor will come May  
17 20.

18 MS. FANUCCI: I can guarantee that  
19 that's not accurate. He is not going to  
20 close the fire companies.

21 MS. ROYCE: He said he had to for  
22 the last eight years.

23 MS. FANUCCI: Looking into it and he  
24 looked into it for a long time which is what  
25 you do. This is part of the plan. PEL put

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1 that on the table a long time ago. That's  
2 why I wondered why this is such a big issue  
3 now. PEL said when the Recovery Plan went  
4 through that this is something they were  
5 looking into, but that didn't mean it was  
6 actually going to have to take place. So  
7 that's why I'm saying that that is not  
8 something now. And actually I don't believe  
9 that we would be able -- we can afford to do  
10 that under any circumstances because not  
11 only with the safety, but then the plan was  
12 to build super firehouses which right now  
13 they can't do because we can't afford it.

14                   So actually if you look at it, it's  
15                   not really -- it's not feasible to have it  
16                   because we can't afford financially to do  
17                   the ultimate plan which would be to build  
18                   the super firehouse.

19                   MS. ROYCE: I understand what you  
20                   are saying about not being able to afford to  
21                   build a new firehouse --

22                   MS. FANUCCI: Right.

23                   MS. ROYCE: However, most of us are  
24                   very jaded when the mayor has said  
25                   repeatedly that he is going to do, he is

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1                   going to do, he is going to do this, losses  
2                   his nomination and suddenly he pulls a 180.

3                   MS. FANUCCI: Well, this was before  
4                   that though. The meeting took place before  
5                   the nomination.

6                   MS. ROYCE: Right around that time.

7                   MS. FANUCCI: But that took place  
8                   before the nomination.

9                   MS. ROYCE: Right around that time.

10                   MS. FANUCCI: I understand.

11                   MS. ROYCE: Thank you very much.  
12                   Have a good evening.

13                   MR. ELLMAN: Hello, Council.

14                   MR. COURTRIGHT: Ron, before you even

15 start, I was at the Taurus Club and I talked  
16 to Laura and she said you weren't there, so  
17 I don't know. Maybe you're going to a  
18 different Taurus Club than I am.

19 MR. ELLMAN: I told you, you didn't  
20 look --

21 MR. COURTRIGHT: I told Laura you  
22 told me to look on the floor and I looked  
23 and you weren't there.

24 MR. ELLMAN: Or else you weren't in  
25 the bathroom.

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1 MR. COURTRIGHT: I went there, also.

2 MR. ELLMAN: If Mr. Doherty goes in  
3 that bathroom tomorrow he is lucky those  
4 walls can't talk because he wouldn't like to  
5 hear. Well, before I get started I am going  
6 to tell a little story real quick, many  
7 years ago, about 25 probably, I come home in  
8 a bad mood and I said something to my wife  
9 and she took one of those dollar frying pans  
10 from the dollar, the little Teflon pans and  
11 she beat me to death. We had a trailer that  
12 was 14 by 80 and I covered almost every inch  
13 of it trying to get away from her, and I hid  
14 behind the bar, this is the honest to God's



15 truth now and I was holding this door knob  
16 and she is sliding the pan in there and I  
17 was all bloody and everything, and I prayed  
18 to God to give me some relief from this  
19 woman.

20 Now, this is the truth and she quit  
21 a couple of seconds and I wondered what  
22 happened to her, and I looked around the  
23 corner and she is looking out the window,  
24 and finally I looked out the window with her  
25 and there is her preacher from the church

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1 she went to, the Southern Baptist Church,  
2 named Paul Sanders, he had 5,000 members and  
3 he knew me. I mean, like the troublemaker  
4 or something, 5,000 people and he knew me.  
5 He is coming up the walkway of our trailer  
6 with two girls and I swear to God I quit  
7 smoking, drinking, carousing, anything if  
8 she would leave me alone and here come the  
9 preacher. So I'm standing there he come in  
10 the door and I told him I want to join his  
11 church.

12 Where I'm going with all of this, a  
13 lady told me the other day, she said, I  
14 prayed to God to give me some relief from  
15 this mayor and I was thinking of that

16 myself. I said, it's just time he listened  
17 to his own advice, to Mr. Connors, four  
18 years and four years nothing has been  
19 accomplished. Last year the boys were  
20 joking you can ruin your car driving up in  
21 the park for the car show on the city  
22 streets.

23 You know, I have an ear in  
24 Harrisburg that told me the mayor took the  
25 mayors for that bus ride around town and

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1 showed them a couple of things here and  
2 there, we were the laughing stock of  
3 Harrisburg. They know what's going on.  
4 They are mayors for crying out loud.

5 They know what the city is like.  
6 This nonsense he printed in the paper it's  
7 irresponsible print, house values are up. I  
8 paid \$350 like a year and a half ago for an  
9 appraisal on my house. I got the booklet  
10 comparing me to other property and  
11 everything and then it was down an actual  
12 decline plus the city decline it was down  
13 like a quarter from what it was. Three or  
14 four years before that it was appraised at  
15 over \$100,000 and then they appraised it a

16 91, now it's probably in the 70's. I talk  
17 to real estate people, they are not selling  
18 nothing. There is people that the family  
19 members tie they don't have a penny in the  
20 house to sell for whatever it brings. The  
21 article in the paper, this very paper that  
22 he is bragging how greats things are on the  
23 city where the tree fell on the house in  
24 Clarks Summit, the lady had dropped her  
25 price in half in two or three years, and

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1 Scranton would be like there is not a nice  
2 neighborhood in Scranton that would rate to  
3 anything up there in Clarks Summit price  
4 wise.

5 You know, the city is a mess. It's  
6 time for somebody new. There is a statement  
7 in the paper, I think it's a very foolish  
8 statement, it's bragging I think it said he  
9 has got 28 less policemen and eight less  
10 firemen. That's ashame. You are in the  
11 right neighborhood? You drive by Jackson  
12 and Main at night you ought to give family  
13 plans to those poor people that have to live  
14 around that neighborhood with what stands on  
15 the corner. It is bad. I tell you I talked  
16 to this cab driver he tells me all of the

17 time things that are happening that aren't  
18 in the papers.

19 The city has got to a drug problem  
20 and they have got a terrible problem with  
21 gangs and there is no sense hiding it. It  
22 needs to be addressed, you know. It's just  
23 like all of this bragging about 10,000  
24 people have been hired and KOZ. We need  
25 taxpayers, we don't need more KOZ's. I was

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1 over at Redner's today watching them work  
2 across the street. That's not going to help  
3 nothing. How is that going to help any of  
4 us pay our taxes, you know, we need some  
5 taxpayers in the city and we need a new  
6 mayor that's going to bring something in  
7 here besides a bunch of foolish promises.  
8 Thank you.

9 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Hello, Jude.

10 MS. GATELLI: Hi, Chrissy.

11 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Hello, Bill.

12 MR. COURTRIGHT: Hi, Chris.

13 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Billy, I got a note  
14 here, I'm going to go nice and slow. I'm  
15 going to talk easy tonight. I get too  
16 nervous --

17 MR. COURTRIGHT: Take your time,  
18 Chris. Go ahead.

19 MR. SLEDENZSKI: I get nervous too  
20 much. Billy, these firehouses, Billy, I  
21 don't want to see any one of them closing  
22 down. Engine 9 and Engine 4 I want to keep  
23 them open because there are fires. I want  
24 to keep them open in the city. What's going  
25 to happen, Bill. These fires, Bill, they

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1 bust their humps every single day for us,  
2 Bill, for the citizens of the City of  
3 Scranton. They are going to fight for us.  
4 No one else. Thank you.

5 MR. COURTRIGHT: Thank you.

6 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: Good evening,  
7 Council. I was determined that I would  
8 never come to this podium again, but I just  
9 have to say after the last few weeks I came  
10 out of hibernation.

11 First, let me say that I still have  
12 the water problem in my neighborhood and I  
13 still have lakefront property on North  
14 Cameron Avenue is anybody is interested in  
15 coming over and going for a boat ride.

16 MS. GATELLI: The catch basin didn't  
17 help at all?

18 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: No, the catch  
19 basin there is so much water coming down the  
20 mountain, we've contacted Senator Mellow,  
21 Senator Casey, Representative Shimkus and  
22 now Representative Murphy and they all  
23 points to the city's problem. I mean, I  
24 think I forwarded you information from  
25 Representative Murphy who said that there is

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1 nothing they can do about it, so I don't  
2 know what else we are supposed to do but sit  
3 there and watch the neighborhood  
4 deteriorate.

5 I don't have any personal interest  
6 in the fire department with the exception  
7 that I'm fortunate enough since the last  
8 time I stood at this podium to have two  
9 wonderful children and that's what comes  
10 first to me and when I do some numbers, and  
11 I'm respectfully just giving you the  
12 numbers, they just don't add up to me.

13 From what I was told, there is four  
14 shifts for the fire department. Currently  
15 we have it's not 150 firemen it's 142. So  
16 if you add four firemen like they said they  
17 want to do that brings you to 146 if they

18 add the four. Currently, you are paying  
19 \$700,000 in overtime. \$700,000 in overtime  
20 -- without overtime comes out to 162 fire  
21 fighters, so to be able to run this city  
22 without any overtime for the fire department  
23 comes out to 162 firefighters. So, correct  
24 me if I'm wrong, but two things are going to  
25 happen here, either you got to hire people

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1 or you got to fire people. There is no  
2 other solution for it, and four isn't going  
3 to do it because to get to 162 how are you  
4 going to do it with 146? That just doesn't  
5 make sense to me.

6 Also, if you want to look back in  
7 1992 Recovery Plan the state and the city  
8 and DCED cut the amount of firefighters from  
9 200 to 150. In that plan, they mandated  
10 that the City of Scranton put in \$500,000  
11 for overtime, so in order to get rid of that  
12 \$500,000 in overtime you got to decrease the  
13 fire department -- or, I'm sorry, you got to  
14 increase the fire department to 162 so it's  
15 basic math. So maybe the firehouses aren't  
16 going to close, but I don't know how you are  
17 going to cut the numbers. I hope the  
18 firehouses don't close, I really do, but if

19 they do close I won't be resident of  
20 Scranton anymore because it scares me.

21 The big elephant in the room that  
22 nobody likes to talk about, and I got these  
23 numbers out of the budget, the fire  
24 department's budget in 2002 was \$13,709,910;  
25 2008 was \$13,984,482, an increase of

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1 \$270,000 or 1 percent. The city budget  
2 \$56,597,640; 2008, \$84,558,874. That's  
3 \$28 million and an increase of 46 percent,  
4 so I asked how is this the fire department's  
5 problem that the city has the financial  
6 difficulties that they do when their budget  
7 nearly stayed the same for six years.

8 And, you know, and I respect  
9 everybody that comes to this podium, and I  
10 might not agree with everybody that comes to  
11 this podium, but to give the impression that  
12 firemen are trying to be greedy because they  
13 have to be a \$5 copay I just think is  
14 completely unacceptable. I don't think  
15 anybody asks these firemen -- that wants to  
16 trade jobs with these firemen. I don't  
17 think any one of us would want to do what  
18 they did today. If we did we would be over



19                   there doing it, and somebody stated before  
20                   that they make about \$15,000 less than any  
21                   other firefighter in the state, so don't --  
22                   I'm not saying you guys are, but don't  
23                   criticize these people for wanting to do a  
24                   job that's going to save you and me and my  
25                   family and everybody else, but just stop

99

1                   blaming the fire department for the  
2                   financial problems of this city because when  
3                   you look at these numbers it's not -- it's  
4                   not their fault and please show me a plan  
5                   that's going to tell me how you are going to  
6                   be able to not pay overtime and increase the  
7                   amount of firefighters.

8                   MS. FANUCCI: I can only tell you  
9                   what came down from the ruling, it's going  
10                  to three shifts which is the difference.  
11                  Your numbers are talking about four shifts  
12                  or four by four shifts. We are actually  
13                  doing three, so that would be a difference,  
14                  also, and that's what they are saying when  
15                  they are saying they are adding a man on  
16                  every vehicle, now when you get a call two  
17                  people are on vehicle.

18                  MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: Okay.

19                  MS. FANUCCI: Okay? And this will

20 actually bring three people on and I believe  
21 with the manning and the shifts that it  
22 would change the numbers, and I want to make  
23 is clear, blaming them is not accurate.  
24 Nobody is blaming them. The difference in  
25 the figures that I was cited last week -- or

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1 two weeks ago, I'm sorry, was the health  
2 care and the amount of health care. That to  
3 me is probably one of the biggest -- the  
4 biggest issues we have. The health care had  
5 to stay the same with the contract we were  
6 under. We had to pay for the same amount  
7 for health care regardless of how much our  
8 costs were going up, so that was the  
9 difference there.

10 Also, I do want to tell you with the  
11 health care costs, now when they got the new  
12 ruling I believe five years they are covered  
13 for health care after five -- oh, no, I'm  
14 sorry, that was the cops. I'm sorry, that  
15 was the policeman, I'm sorry. They have no  
16 health care now afterwards, and I believe  
17 that might be the fight that we are seeing  
18 now because they were -- before that they  
19 had health care for life and so did their

20 spouse or whoever they chose, so that might  
21 be -- that was actually what I was more  
22 referring to. The shifts, I could go on  
23 forever, I'm sorry, I wanted to tell you  
24 that the three shifts I believe is what they  
25 are claiming will cut some costs.

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1 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: So is there three  
2 shifts of 162 people or will it just be 142  
3 and then they will just not work --

4 MS. FANUCCI: I will -- actually we  
5 will find that out for you next week.

6 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: Yeah, because the  
7 numbers --

8 MS. FANUCCI: Let's do that because  
9 the numbers --

10 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: Seriously, the  
11 numbers don't add up, that's what I'm  
12 saying. If you are paying \$500,000 overtime  
13 then you would really have to -- if you  
14 increase it by 20 --

15 MS. FANUCCI: Remember, overtime is  
16 time and a half sometimes, so you are paying  
17 a lot more where now with the new -- it  
18 wouldn't be -- you maybe wouldn't be paying  
19 time and a half or double time or holiday  
20 pay, so that might be a savings, too.

21 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: I would  
22 appreciate if you could get the numbers. I  
23 don't know if I will be here again, but --

24 MS. FANUCCI: We are hoping  
25 Mr. Renda comes in with some figures and

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1 that might clear things up.

2 MR. SCHREIBER: Good evening,  
3 Council. My name is Dave Schreiber,  
4 president of the firefighters. I had no  
5 intentions of speaking tonight, but what I  
6 just heard this conversation it's just  
7 loaded with falsehoods. Again, the thing  
8 about health care for life, absolute  
9 fallacy. It was years ago. It was until  
10 you hit Medicare age. That has been gone  
11 since 1993.

12 MS. FANUCCI: But the people who got  
13 on board still got it now, we have to be  
14 accurate. Even though it's not on for the  
15 new hires, it was not gone for the people  
16 who are hired before that time.

17 MR. SCHREIBER: The people --

18 MS. FANUCCI: Am I correct?

19 MR. SCHREIBER: The people that  
20 still were promised that, some of which

21 don't even --

22 MR. FANUCCI: Still have it though,  
23 they still had it. It didn't get taken away  
24 from the whole department, it was only for  
25 the new hires.

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1 MR. SCHREIBER: It did not --

2 MS. FANUCCI: It did right not,  
3 right, which was two months ago.

4 MR. SCHREIBER: That's gone, so to  
5 say that's what we have. But the other  
6 inaccuracy, you were talking about double  
7 time pay, holiday pay, we have none of that.

8 MS. FANUCCI: Not now. I'm talking  
9 about --

10 MR. SCHREIBER: We never had it.

11 MS. FANUCCI: In your old contract  
12 you did not have time and a half pay?

13 MR. SCHREIBER: We have time and a  
14 half pay for overtime.

15 MS. FANUCCI: Well, that's exactly  
16 what I just said.

17 MR. SCHREIBER: You stated double  
18 pay. There is no such thing as double pay.  
19 Right now there is a compliment of 142  
20 firefighters today.

21 MS. FANUCCI: Right.

22 MR. SCHREIBER: If we go to a  
23 three-shift system and you divide in the  
24 amount of people and how many people need to  
25 be off to average that shift down to a

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1 48-hour schedule you do not have enough  
2 personnel to staff the city.

3 And as far as what's on record as  
4 far as fire station closures, engine company  
5 closures, truck company closures, whatever  
6 you want to say they are, it's very  
7 well-documented what this administration and  
8 this mayor and director of public safety has  
9 stated over six, seven years, and I believe  
10 it was last year Mayor Doherty after one of  
11 the Court decisions, and it was -- and I'm  
12 just paraphrasing, but I believe the exact  
13 quote was, "Make no mistake about it, there  
14 will be reductions in the fire department."

15 So it wasn't a study being done,  
16 every intention along the way was to have  
17 those cuts made. Now, here we are in  
18 election season and now we are not going to  
19 do it in the short-term.

20 MS. FANUCCI: But now we have a plan,  
21 so why aren't we active with the plan?

22 MR. SCHREIBER: Where is the plan,  
23 may I ask?

24 MS. FANUCCI: We don't. We know that  
25 firehouses are not closing. We know there

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1 are going to be more people on per a truck  
2 that arrives. You are actually going to  
3 have another extra guy there, so now you  
4 know this is -- what we are dealing with.  
5 Whether or not it's right or wrong --

6 MR. SCHREIBER: How did you get to  
7 that?

8 MS. FANUCCI: This is what we're  
9 dealing with right now.

10 MR. SCHREIBER: How do you get to  
11 that point with the 142 people and you are  
12 doing away with overtime and you are not  
13 going to have any other type of recall at  
14 all, you physically can't get that many  
15 slots out 142 personnel. It's not doable.

16 MS. KNIGHT: It's not feasible,  
17 period.

18 MS. FANUCCI: There's your cheering  
19 section.

20 MR. SCHREIBER: I don't have a  
21 cheerleader section.

22 MS. FANUCCI: But you do, you got

23 somebody yelling out in the back. What I'm  
24 saying is --

25 MR. SCHREIBER: I'm discussing a very

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1 serious --

2 MS. FANUCCI: And I agree, and we  
3 said this from day one, I think it would be  
4 good to have someone come and discuss  
5 actually what the plan is and what is going  
6 on.

7 MR. SCHREIBER: And I would --

8 MS. FANUCCI: We have been hearing  
9 rumors and innuendoes for four years since  
10 I've been sitting here.

11 MR. SCHREIBER: There is no rumors.

12 MS. FANUCCI: The whole thing has  
13 been nothing about rumors and innuendoes.

14 MR. SCHREIBER: Not from --

15 MS. FANUCCI: One week we're going to  
16 settle them, now we are not settling, we  
17 have a contract, we don't have a contract.  
18 That's what's been going on for four years.

19 MR. SCHREIBER: Excuse me for a  
20 second though?

21 MS. FANUCCI: Right?

22 MR. SCHREIBER: I come very



23 infrequently to this and I speak on facts.

24 MS. FANUCCI: Right.

25 MR. SCHREIBER: And I am telling you

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1 when you do the math it doesn't work out, I  
2 am -- I'm absolutely certain of what's been  
3 on record.

4 MS. FANUCCI: Well, let's find out  
5 how they plan on making it work.

6 MR. SCHREIBER: Let me finish,  
7 please, innuendo and rumor, it is not rumor.  
8 When I look at a headline and/or I see a TV  
9 interview with the mayor or Ray Hayes here  
10 saying, "Make no mistake about it, there are  
11 going to be reductions in the fire service,"  
12 that equates to what, a reduction in the  
13 apparatus that's out there. It's not like  
14 there is people just hanging around. If you  
15 cut three people, it equates to a piece of  
16 equipment.

17 MS. FANUCCI: Yeah.

18 MR. SCHREIBER: I mean, there is no  
19 rumor, no innuendo about that. It's  
20 absolutely fact, so we have years of these  
21 statements. You tell me --

22 MS. FANUCCI: You are right,  
23 especially it was in the Recovery Plan so

24 it's not -- it was in the Recovery Plan.

25 MR. SCHREIBER: Well, you tell me

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1 where we are going with this thing when that  
2 statement has been made time in and time  
3 out, make no mistake about it, there will be  
4 reductions in the fire department. I sat in  
5 on a meeting when I was told Engine 4 and  
6 Engine 9 will be closed as a matter of fact.  
7 No real discussion about it. That's what's  
8 going to happen.

9 MR. COURTRIGHT: Mr. Schreiber, can I  
10 interrupt you want one second, who told you  
11 that?

12 MS. FANUCCI: I know who you said.

13 MR. COURTRIGHT: Who was the one that  
14 told you that.

15 MR. SCHREIBER: I was here once  
16 before and I spoke on that issue. I was in  
17 the --

18 MS. FANUCCI: He said that it was --

19 MR. SCHREIBER: Ray Hayes, Stu Renda  
20 and the fire chief.

21 MS. FANUCCI: That's why I think it  
22 would be great if we had this out and  
23 cleared up because this is -- and nobody

24 wants to see it. I certainly don't want to  
25 see a reduction in firehouses, I don't want

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1 to see a reduction in firefighters, none of  
2 us want to see that. We have been on the  
3 record saying that over and over again. Has  
4 there been any negotiations, has there been  
5 any other sitting down at the table at all  
6 since this was handed down from the courts?

7 MR. SCHREIBER: Nothing. No.

8 MS. FANUCCI: Was there any reach out  
9 on either side?

10 MR. SCHREIBER: Not to this point.

11 MS. FANUCCI: Not to this point.

12 MR. SCHREIBER: No.

13 MS. FANUCCI: Okay. That's sad.

14 Thank you.

15 MS. GATELLI: Thank you.

16 MR. ANCHERANI: Good evening. Nelson  
17 Ancherani, First Amendment Rights. So much  
18 to say and so little time to say it. Two  
19 weeks ago Ms. Fanucci went onto say she was  
20 going to take off where I left off. Well,  
21 she did, she got the last word in, so I will  
22 do what I can to offer rebuttal.

23 First, Ms. Fanucci said the fire  
24 department gets \$500,000 a year in overtime.

25

Correct. For 152 members it averages out to

110

1

\$3,289 per member a year.

2

MS. FANUCCI: It was seven I said.

3

MR. NELSON: She thought she had a

4

gotcha yet, but she either wasn't in a cover

5

or didn't know it that 50 fire personnel --

6

I have to get this in in five minutes.

7

MS. FANUCCI: Go ahead.

8

MR. ANCHERANI: So you can say your

9

last word later, 50 fire personnel were

10

given up for that overtime and PEL agree.

11

Just like the slimes, she forget to mention

12

that the DPW has budgeted \$385,099 for this

13

year for 102 members. It averages out to

14

\$3,775 per member. That's \$487 more per

15

year for a DPW worker than fire department

16

worker, but then I'm sure she knew that.

17

She talked about longevity. She

18

went right to the rank of deputy chief in

19

the fire department, second highest paid in

20

the department, \$42,500 she said after the

21

chief who gets \$61,000. Why didn't you take

22

the base pay at approximately \$37,800 and

23

say that.

24

She forgot to say that there are 21

25 departments, 21 departments listed in the

111

1 budget and 17 of those departments have  
2 longevity amounts in their budgets. In  
3 fact, the newly created public safety office  
4 in 2009 has \$10,842 budgeted for longevity  
5 for this year. Never before was there  
6 longevity in that office since it was  
7 created in 2002.

8 She also didn't state that the  
9 longevity has been eliminated from the  
10 police department for anyone hired after  
11 2003. 41 police officers who did not get  
12 longevity, 41 officers who had it taken off  
13 of them who were getting it. You also  
14 forgot to say that longevity is capped at 10  
15 percent in the police department. We gave  
16 the rest of that up in negotiations, another  
17 give away.

18 Ms. Fanucci said last week, and I'll  
19 quote from her council minutes, "I am  
20 presenting exactly what I received as facts  
21 and that is what I'm going to do. The  
22 actual overtime costs, and I'm going to do  
23 this again for 2007, was \$621,649.38.  
24 Overtime in 2008, \$712,350."

25 Wrong. Overtime budgeted for 2007

1 was \$955,000 and for 2008 it was \$1,069,300  
2 and that's for a total of 17 departments out  
3 of 21 at city hall.

4 "I don't care --" okay. "And I will  
5 look into the camera any time I want to look  
6 into the camera because I'm speaking to  
7 everyone out there, not just the people in  
8 this room. This is about the taxpayers and  
9 it's their money. It's their money. Not  
10 just the ten people who come here."

11 I don't care if you look into the  
12 camera. You are the one who called this the  
13 Jerry Springer show.

14 MS. FANUCCI: You're the one that  
15 said it.

16 MR. ANCHERANI: You said it. This  
17 is about -- no, you said it. You called it  
18 the Jerry Springer show back then.

19 MS. FANUCCI: No, I'm saying you were  
20 the one that made the comment I was looking  
21 in the camera.

22 MR. ANCHERANI: You did.

23 MS. FANUCCI: No, I did say it was  
24 the Jerry Spring show.

25 MR. ANCHERANI: You voted for a

1                   20 percent tax increase.

2                   MS. FANUCCI: Yes, I did.

3                   MR. ANCHERANI: Did you forgot that  
4                   the taxpayers and their children and their  
5                   grandchildren will be paying back  
6                   approximately 300 million in long-term debt?

7                   I wanted to address more issues, but  
8                   I have to address something, "On the  
9                   website, which I love, that actually people  
10                  come up here and defend this, that all of  
11                  the union leaders get up and talk about like  
12                  it's a good thing. Every one of you on the  
13                  website talking about my family. You are  
14                  the only one, Nancy did, Ancherani quotes  
15                  it."

16                  Then Mrs. Gatelli said, "There is a  
17                  police officer who comes here and defends  
18                  the website."

19                  Must be me. What website? Do you  
20                  mean the Doherty Deceit website? I read it  
21                  because I get my news there. They scoop the  
22                  slimes. I challenge Mrs. Gatelli and  
23                  Mrs. Fanucci to produce where on that  
24                  website Doherty deceit where I called them  
25                  or their family's names. Not my style. So

1 the challenge is out there. I will not  
2 forget that those same two called council  
3 speakers' names when we were waved and  
4 wanted to come in here a couple of years  
5 ago. In the paper, we were called names by  
6 those two council members. Thank you.

7 MS. GATELLI: Anyone else? Mrs.  
8 Garvey.

9 MS. GARVEY: 5-A. Motions.

10 MS. FANUCCI: First thing I want to  
11 speak about is the art mural program. This  
12 program is a lot different than I think the  
13 concept is out there. This happened last  
14 year, also. It's a program for children  
15 that can enroll to state parks, it's in  
16 Weston Field, Weston Park, Connell Park,  
17 Novembrino and Pennridge Complex.

18 The children go, it's an arts in the  
19 park program so the kids can come, stay the  
20 day. They have, you know, snack, they have  
21 -- it's a free program. The murals that  
22 they do are the bonus and of what you get  
23 from the program. It teaches them art, it  
24 teaches them respect for the art, but it is  
25 exactly what a lot of speakers come here



1 every week and ask for, it's a free program  
2 in the parks for children to help them  
3 learn, you know, different things about art.  
4 It's from K-12 and there is about 30  
5 children at each site, so they usually put  
6 it in the paper or advertise it in all  
7 different ways, but it has to do with --  
8 Scranton School District is part of it.  
9 Also, a lot of community places, the Boys  
10 and Girls Club, and the participants are not  
11 just -- it's a workshop. It's -- I'm trying  
12 to read it all fast, I'm sorry, it's about  
13 four pages long.

14 It's age specific and it introduces  
15 children to visual arts and plan and design  
16 and implementation of a long creative  
17 portrait murals as designed for Weston Field  
18 and all along the parks, so it's more to  
19 teach them about how to be part of their own  
20 communities and makes them feel they like  
21 they are part of something.

22 Let's see here, I just want to tell  
23 you the the Recreational Department did this  
24 in 2007, also. The children were able to  
25 pick out a craft or a project and they would

1           enjoy with the facilitator of the program,  
2           so there is also like three people I believe  
3           in each complex to help the children along.

4                       As I said, the Boys and Girls Club,  
5           the State School for the Deaf, Ronald  
6           McDonald House, Children's Advocacy  
7           Alliance, Luzerne County Children and Youth  
8           Services, and many other groups reserved  
9           this space, this art space, this is what  
10          they wanted so they also are involved in  
11          this program, so that's what it is. It's  
12          not just about framing murals, it's a  
13          children program which I think is a very  
14          well-needed for all of us.

15                      Obviously, I'm also want, we have  
16          one thing on the agenda about Fellows Park,  
17          and people have gotten up and spoke about  
18          this. This is for improvements to the park,  
19          we are passing legislation so that the park  
20          can have everything from sidewalks to new  
21          paving cutouts, more green space, benches,  
22          trash receptacles. It's to make this  
23          accessible for families and more of a play  
24          area. They are doing a safe surface so that  
25          the children don't get hurt, so we are also

1 passing it, well, hopefully passing it,  
2 that's on the agenda tonight so I wanted to  
3 speak about that. The monies we received  
4 from CDBG had already gone out to this park  
5 before to help preserve a monument that was  
6 there, they did some lighting on the  
7 monument. Also, did some sidewalks around  
8 the monument, also. So this actually is  
9 just going on with something that was  
10 already done for them.

11 (Several fire engines went by.)  
12 Usually, the Scranton Times sends us things  
13 on the phone to tell us where the fires are  
14 and we haven't received anything yet, so  
15 hopefully it's not anything big going on in  
16 the city.

17 I do want to speak on some of the  
18 things that were said tonight.  
19 Mr. Ancherani, I know that you did speak  
20 about me looking into the camera. The only  
21 reason I rebutted and said something because  
22 I was replying to what you had said. A lot  
23 of times here I know that it's hard, but  
24 when people say something it's not right for  
25 us to just sit here and listen and not say

1 something back. I mean, you were upset for  
2 some reason that I looked into the camera.  
3 I'm going to look into the camera, but now  
4 all of a sudden you are not, but two weeks  
5 ago it seemed to bother you.

6 It seems that when facts are  
7 presented on another side it doesn't go over  
8 as well. I don't understand how here's a  
9 budget and here is something that the  
10 administration has sent, but yet they are  
11 wrong. They are always wrong, but then if  
12 they weren't wrong wouldn't people come up  
13 and say, "My paycheck is not accurate," or  
14 "my overtime pay is not accurate" or "my  
15 copay was not accurate."

16 So the numbers have to come from  
17 somewhere. That is why I wanted the  
18 administration to come here. Whether or not  
19 you agree or disagree is not the issue. The  
20 issue is that we need to find out the hard  
21 facts and the hard numbers, that is the  
22 issue. If this is not so contentious it  
23 certainly would not be going on this long.

24 My belief is that, you know, I know  
25 it's easier to say, "Well, she is against

1 firemen or against policemen," but that is

2 totally inaccurate. It has nothing to do  
3 with being against anyone. It has to do  
4 with what we are working with, what we have  
5 to do to get over this. Every speaker that  
6 comes up, I'm not going to say everyone, but  
7 many speakers come up and say, "We want to  
8 get out of distressed status. We don't want  
9 to be here anymore."

10 I don't want to be here anymore  
11 either and to imply that a mayor or that a  
12 governor still wants you to be here in  
13 distressed status is almost ludicrous  
14 because at some point you would be able to  
15 take that and say, "This was an  
16 accomplishment for me."

17 So to say that somebody doesn't want  
18 to accomplish this would be absolutely the  
19 opposite of what you would want as a leader  
20 in the community or a leader in the  
21 governor's office or a leader in any way. I  
22 would love not to have to pay PEL. I think  
23 everybody in the state would love not to  
24 have to pay PEL anything. Unfortunately,  
25 they are very busy in Pennsylvania because

1 we are not the only ones. In fact,

2 recently, I know that they have actually --  
3 other people have claimed distressed city.  
4 Now, we have had it and we don't even know--  
5 we are not even sure that this is something  
6 that after all of this has come to help us  
7 expect for I believe when we do get more  
8 grant money and things of that nature.

9 But, yeah, this is all in the  
10 recovery plan, so to say that things  
11 shouldn't change as time goes on is a  
12 little, you know, absurd. I know that we've  
13 had one speaker get up facts, facts and more  
14 facts, you know, that's great, but  
15 everything changes. When you are home and  
16 you say, "I have to put a new roof on my  
17 house," but then your water heater goes you  
18 have to decide after you get the bill for  
19 the water heater and the bill for the roof  
20 what's going to be your best bet. It's not  
21 any different in your city. It's not any  
22 different for us much. We'd love to have  
23 all of the money in the world. I would love  
24 to give everyone everything they want.  
25 Everybody. I would love to. And I think

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1 that the administration wouldn't be against  
2 that, too. I mean, if you had all the money

3 why not give it to your employees, you would  
4 love to.

5 It's not a fact of believing that  
6 one is not doing their job, I said that from  
7 day one. There is no way that our policemen  
8 and our firefighters aren't going to do what  
9 their job entails. Does that mean we  
10 shouldn't make it easier? No, we should  
11 make it easier, but this has not made it any  
12 easier. Coming here week after week with  
13 this battle and this being the battle ground  
14 has not done anything and my belief is if  
15 you put that much effort into finally  
16 sitting down at a table can you imagine how  
17 long this would have lasted?

18 There is no way that what has taken  
19 place here week after week has not shown why  
20 we have not come to an agreement. No way.  
21 We are not coming to an agreement, I said  
22 that from day one, and I will stand by that.  
23 There is no way we will come to an agreement  
24 until we end up in Court just like we did  
25 last time. Why? Because there's a lot at

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1 stake on both sides, and that's what it's  
2 about.

3                   And I know that the realistic  
4                   argument is not a very pretty picture, but  
5                   it is the realistic part of it. The union  
6                   had a lot to lose here, they put a lot of  
7                   money in this and invested a lot of time.  
8                   The administration has done the same. To  
9                   say that one person should back down or  
10                  another should back down at this stage of  
11                  the game will never happen. It will not  
12                  happen.

13                  That is why this election again  
14                  becomes just like the last, the battle  
15                  ground. And I think that when you see the  
16                  people out there they know they know why  
17                  it's the battle ground. They know why the  
18                  signs went up earlier and why we had to have  
19                  this happen. Why? Because it depends on  
20                  them. It depends on them, because if it  
21                  didn't depend on them we wouldn't have  
22                  people coming up every single week and  
23                  speaking on this to make sure that they get  
24                  their point across to the public, so they  
25                  know that that's their audience and that

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1                  should be their audience they are the people  
2                  who have to pay the bills, they are the  
3                  people that need protection, they are the



4 people who when the fire alarm goes off want  
5 them at their house, but in the same token,  
6 in the same token they are also the people  
7 who voted for the Recovery Plan, so it is  
8 both a double-edged sword, and I said it  
9 from day one.

10 I am sorry that my figures didn't  
11 add up, Mr. Ancherani. I certainly would  
12 love to make sure, but I have to say every  
13 week the figures that come out of here don't  
14 add up here either so it goes both sides,  
15 but I would love to get the administration  
16 again and have Stu -- we had problems, I  
17 felt bad especially with missing two of our  
18 council people wanting to have the  
19 administration come and talk about these  
20 numbers, I think it's a good thing to have  
21 them both here with us. In the event that  
22 Mrs. Evans is still not well next week I  
23 would hope that we can go Mr. Renda to come  
24 in and straighten this out because we know  
25 that the unions have had a lot of

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1 opportunities to speak and I believe it's  
2 his turn to just give us the hard numbers  
3 and then that's all there is. We don't have

4 to worry about he said, she said, he said,  
5 he said, we can worry about what's actual  
6 and factual, and that is all I have. Thank  
7 you.

8 MS. GATELLI: Thank you.  
9 Mr. Courtright.

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: I only have a few  
11 things. Kay, if you could send something to  
12 Mr. Brazil for me, I think everybody knows I  
13 have always been a fan of these crosswalks  
14 signs, and they have them down at Trinity  
15 Church on the 300 block of --

16 MS. GATELLI: Guess who got them?

17 MR. COURTRIGHT: You did, but the  
18 problem is there is no crosswalk there, all  
19 right? So they need to put some kind of a  
20 crosswalk or lines so people know where to  
21 cross, they have the signs but they have no  
22 crosswalk, so it doesn't make much sense so  
23 if they could paint some kind of lines there  
24 for that church.

25 MS. GATELLI: The one on west got

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1 smashed today by a truck.

2 MR. COURTRIGHT: I saw that. It  
3 might have been Mr. Spindler brought it up  
4 about these, what do you call those things,

5 firepits where they burn in the summertime,  
6 we have a fire inspector that's also a  
7 police officer, his name is Marty Monahan,  
8 he happens to be a friend of mine, so maybe  
9 I will call him and ask him what we need to  
10 do in a case of Mr. Spindler wants to make a  
11 complaint about those -- I call them  
12 firepits, I don't know what else you call  
13 them.

14 And I'm not going to ask to send  
15 another letter to Mr. Brazil, Kay, because I  
16 saw something that happened this week, and  
17 I'm always complaining about Forest Glen  
18 Drive where you go by the driving range  
19 where the roads is so bad. Going up or  
20 going down people always trying to avoid how  
21 bad it is and naturally they have to go into  
22 the other side. Well, somebody was coming  
23 down and somebody going up the same time on  
24 the turn and the person coming down was  
25 trying to avoid the hole, so the person

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1 going up had to go off the road. I just  
2 really think something bad is going to  
3 happen there, a head-on, so if they can get  
4 up there and do something about that I would

5 appreciate it. And I offered before if they  
6 are not familiar with that road I will show  
7 them. It's going to be -- we are going to  
8 have a tragedy there. And that's all, Mrs.  
9 Gatelli. Thank you.

10 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. I just have  
11 a few requests of Mrs. Garvey. They brought  
12 up some issues and I'd like some  
13 information. I'd like to know who voted to  
14 borrow \$72 million, who voted to sell the  
15 golf course, who voted to sell the DPW site  
16 and who voted to sell the South Side  
17 Complex, please.

18 I would like to thank everyone that  
19 helped at our cleanup last weekend in South  
20 Scranton, especially Steve Zayac who  
21 volunteered and had his trucks there from  
22 1-800-JUNK. Barb Tierney, the D.A.'s,  
23 community service workers, Steve Kocius, Mr.  
24 Volienti from the Nativity confirmation  
25 class, and all of the other workers that

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1 helped us. It went very well.

2 I'd like a status of the Ice Box.  
3 Do you have any information, Mr. Minora?

4 MR. MINORA: I do. I spoke to  
5 Mr. Greco twice and the last conversation he

6 had with me was that he did not believe the  
7 prerequisites triggering payment had  
8 occurred yet. There was one other thing he  
9 needed to look at, hadn't gotten back to me  
10 on that, but that was his recollection, two  
11 or three prerequisites in the agreement that  
12 had to occur which triggered payment. All  
13 of them hadn't occurred, at least that's  
14 what he felt, and there was one portion of  
15 it that he wanted to look to and he was  
16 going to get back to me. We had a  
17 conversation, I don't know a full answer,  
18 but that's as much as I know now.

19 MS. GATELLI: Does he know if we are  
20 entitled to the money if we are entitled to  
21 it in one lump sum?

22 MR. MINORA: I believe that's how  
23 the agreement reads. I actually didn't  
24 specifically ask him that. I didn't read it  
25 for that purpose, but my recollection is

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1 that how it reads.

2 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Just for  
3 the record, people were talking about the  
4 arts program and not paving city streets.  
5 For your information, I did report on

6 April 13 that we are paving city streets.  
7 Funds have been allocated. The following  
8 streets will be paved: 2200, 2300,  
9 2400 blocks of Amelia Avenue; the 400, 500  
10 and 600 of Race Street; Shawnee over from  
11 Race to Bates; 400 and 500 of Depot; 1,000  
12 of Hemlock; 800 and 900 of Adams; Vine  
13 Street between Penn and Mulberry behind the  
14 Veteran's Hospital; the 100 of Spruce; the  
15 11 and 12 of Swetland; the 600 of Muncy; the  
16 300 of Filmore; and the 500 of North Sumner.

17 Also, when the stimulus money comes,  
18 there will be a good chunk of that will be  
19 allocated for paving which is very sorely  
20 needed. I would like to also find out,  
21 Mrs. Garvey, if we can, if Jefferson Avenue  
22 is a state road because that is really in  
23 deplorable condition. If it's a state road  
24 we will write a letter if they would please  
25 pave it.

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1 We got a letter from John McGovern  
2 concerning the nonresident earned income tax  
3 the 888 and the 266 accounts that were being  
4 held at the tax office and we also received  
5 a check for \$1,052,393 that was due the City  
6 of Scranton from those funds. And as I

7                   stated before, there will be a meeting on  
8                   Thursday concerning what is going to be the  
9                   status of the tax office and we will bring  
10                  you in the information concerning that are  
11                  the next week's meeting.

12                   I also want to bring up again I  
13                   received another complaint from Mr. Lomma  
14                   over in South Scranton and I don't know if  
15                   he received our answer that we sent to  
16                   Congressman Kanjorski concerning the  
17                   railroad cars that are on that site. If  
18                   anyone goes by there they have been moved  
19                   back near the street, the doors of the  
20                   railroad cars are open, the homeless are  
21                   living in there, they are all full of  
22                   graffiti, and the railroad doesn't seem to  
23                   want to do anything about it, so we did send  
24                   it to Congressman Kanjorski. Please send  
25                   that letter to Mr. Lomma and maybe we can

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1                   call Congressman Kanjorski's office and  
2                   setup a meeting after 3:00 that I can  
3                   attend. It is an ongoing problem, it's  
4                   deplorable that that's being allowed in a  
5                   neighborhood area.

6                   Also, I would like Attorney Minora,

7 I received a letter from Dan Penetar  
8 concerning the various things that we would  
9 like to see changed in the zoning ordinance.  
10 Mr. Penetar has also stated and had  
11 Mr. Wallace contact me concerning the  
12 clothing containers that are being strewn  
13 about the area from I think it's called  
14 Planet Clothing, and there is a way we would  
15 like to address that, also, similar to how  
16 we address vending machines outside of  
17 businesses, so I'd like to send this letter  
18 back to Mr. Penetar and have Attorney Minora  
19 and Attorney Penetar work on an ordinance so  
20 we could have a public hearing and possibly  
21 change these important issues in the zoning  
22 ordinance that need correction at this time.

23 And the only thing I have to say  
24 about the firehouse situation is that the  
25 agreement that I was made aware of didn't

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1 close any firehouses, didn't close any  
2 engine companies and didn't layoff any  
3 firemen. Now, that was the plan that I was  
4 told about. If there was something else  
5 that was going to happen I was not privy to  
6 those conversations, but that is the plan  
7 that I had heard about and certainly would



8 approve a plan of that nature. Being from  
9 the neighborhoods, we don't want to close  
10 the firehouses, and we have fought long and  
11 hard for many years to keep them open, so  
12 that is the status of the neighborhoods and  
13 I don't know if any one of them that has  
14 contacted me that is not in favor of keeping  
15 their firehouse open, and that's all I have.  
16 Mrs. Garvey?

17 MS. GARVEY: FIFTH ORDER. 5-B. FOR  
18 INTRODUCTION - AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE  
19 OF COUNCIL NO. 49, 2008, AN ORDINANCE  
20 "ENTITLED GENERAL CITY OPERATING BUDGET  
21 2009" BY TRANSFERRING \$25,000.00 FROM  
22 ACCOUNT NO. 01.401.13090.4299 (NON  
23 DEPARTMENTAL OPERATING EXPENSES-CONTINGENCY)  
24 TO ACCOUNT NO. 01.040.00040.4190 (BUSINESS  
25 ADMINISTRATION UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE) TO

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1 PROVIDE FUNDING TO COVER QUARTERLY PAYMENTS  
2 TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY.

3 MS. GATELLI: At this time I'll  
4 entertain a motion that Item 5-B be  
5 introduced into it's proper committee.

6 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

7 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

8 MS. GATELLI: On the question. All  
9 those in favor. Aye.

10 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

12 MS. GATELLI: Opposed? The ayes have  
13 it and so moved.

14 MS. GARVEY: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
15 AN ORDINANCE - CREATING AND ESTABLISHING  
16 SPECIAL CITY ACCOUNT NO. 02.229592 ENTITLED  
17 "BILLY BARRETT PARK GRANTS" FOR THE RECEIPT  
18 AND DISBURSEMENT OF GRANT FUNDS FROM VARIOUS  
19 SOURCES INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO  
20 LACKAWANNA ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION AND  
21 OUTDOOR RECREATION PARTNERSHIP ("LECOR"),  
22 DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY  
23 DEVELOPMENT ("DCED") AND BOUNDLESS  
24 PLAYGROUND FOR RENOVATION/REHABILITATION OF  
25 BILLY BARRETT PARK.

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1 MS. GATELLI: At this time I'll  
2 entertain a motion that 5-C be introduced.

3 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

4 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

5 MS. GATELLI: On the question. All  
6 those in favor? Aye.

7 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

8 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

9 MS. GATELLI: Opposed? The ayes  
10 have it and so moved.

11 MS. GARVEY: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
12 AN ORDINANCE - CREATING AND ESTABLISHING  
13 SPECIAL CITY ACCOUNT NO. 02.229591 ENTITLED  
14 "JIMMY CONNORS PARK GRANTS" FOR THE RECEIPT  
15 AND DISBURSEMENT OF GRANT FUNDS FROM VARIOUS  
16 SOURCES, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO,  
17 LACKAWANNA ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION AND  
18 OUTDOOR RECREATION PARTNERSHIP ("LECOR"),  
19 DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY  
20 DEVELOPMENT ("DCED") AND BOUNDLESS  
21 PLAYGROUND FOR CONNORS PARK.

22 MS. GATELLI: At this time I'll  
23 entertain a motion that Item 5-D be  
24 introduced into it's proper committee.

25 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

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1 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

2 MS. GATELLI: On the question. All  
3 those in favor. Aye.

4 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

5 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

6 MS. GATELLI: Opposed? The ayes have  
7 it so moved.

8 MS. GARVEY: 5-E. FOR INTRODUCTION -

9 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND  
10 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO ACCEPT  
11 AND DISBURSE GRANT FUNDS THROUGH LACKAWANNA  
12 COUNTY FOR A LACKAWANNA ENVIRONMENTAL  
13 CONSERVATION AND OUTDOOR RECREATION  
14 PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM ("LECOR") GRANT IN THE  
15 AMOUNT OF \$22,500.00; AND EXECUTE THE GRANT  
16 AGREEMENT RELATED THERETO FOR  
17 RENOVATION/REHABILITATION OF THE BILLY  
18 BARRETT PARK, 2927 COLLIERY AVENUE AND  
19 MCDONOUGH STREET, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA.

20 MS. GATELLI: At this time I'll  
21 entertain a motion that Item 5-E be  
22 introduced.

23 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

24 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

25 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All

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1 those in favor. Aye.

2 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

3 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

4 MS. GATELLI: The ayes have it and so  
5 moved.

6 MS. GARVEY: 5-F. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
7 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND  
8 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO ACCEPT  
9 AND DISBURSE GRANT FUNDS THROUGH LACKAWANNA

10 COUNTY FOR A LACKAWANNA ENVIRONMENTAL  
11 CONSERVATION AND OUTDOOR RECREATION  
12 PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM ("LECOR") GRANT IN THE  
13 AMOUNT OF \$22,500.00; AND EXECUTE THE GRANT  
14 AGREEMENT RELATED THERETO FOR CONNORS PARK  
15 LOCATED AT 515 ORCHARD STREET, SCRANTON,  
16 PENNSYLVANIA.

17 MS. GATELLI: At this time I'll  
18 entertain a motion that Item 5-F be  
19 introduced.

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

21 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

22 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All  
23 those in favor. Aye.

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

25 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

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1 MS. GATELLI: Opposed? The ayes have  
2 it and so moved.

3 MS. GARVEY: 5-G. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
4 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND  
5 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE  
6 AND APPLY FOR A GRANT THROUGH THE PA  
7 DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL  
8 RESOURCES (DCNR) IN THE AMOUNT OF  
9 \$50,000.00; IF THE APPLICATION IS

10                   SUCCESSFUL, ACCEPTING AND DISBURSING THE  
11                   GRANT FUNDS FOR THE RESTORATION/RENOVATION  
12                   OF FELLOW'S PARK IN THE CITY OF SCRANTON.

13                   MS. GATELLI: At this time I'll  
14                   entertain a motion that Item 5-G be  
15                   introduced.

16                   MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

17                   MS. FANUCCI: Second.

18                   MS. GATELLI: On the question? I  
19                   would just like to state again that  
20                   Mr. Rankosky of the West Scranton  
21                   Neighborhood Association sent a letter of  
22                   approval for this piece of legislation. All  
23                   those in favor? Aye.

24                   MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

25                   MS. FANUCCI: AYE.

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1                   MS. GATELLI: Opposed? The ayes have  
2                   it and so moved.

3                   MS. GARVEY: 5-H. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
4                   A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND  
5                   OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE  
6                   AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE SEGAL  
7                   COMPANY TO SERVE AS THE NATIONAL HEALTHCARE  
8                   CONSULTANT TO THE CITY OF SCRANTON THROUGH  
9                   THE HEALTHCARE COST CONTAINMENT COMMITTEE  
10                  AND TO RATIFY ANY AND ALL SERVICES PERFORMED

11 BY THE SEGAL COMPANY SINCE APRIL 1, 2009.

12 MS. GATELLI: At this time I'll  
13 entertain a motion that Item 5-H be  
14 introduced.

15 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

16 MS. FANUCCI: Second.

17 MS. GATELLI: On the question. All  
18 those in favor. Aye.

19 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

20 MS. FANUCCI: Aye.

21 MS. GATELLI: Opposed? The ayes have  
22 it and so moved.

23 MS. GARVEY: SIXTH ORDER. NO  
24 BUSINESS AT THIS TIME. SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A.  
25 FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON

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1 FINANCE - FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF COUNCIL NO.  
2 62, 2009 - CREATING AND ESTABLISHING SPECIAL  
3 CITY ACCOUNT NO. 02.229590 ENTITLED  
4 "A.R.T.S. ENGAGE! GRANT" FOR THE RECEIPT AND  
5 DISBURSEMENT OF GRANT FUNDS FROM LACKAWANNA  
6 COUNTY CHILDREN AND YOUTH SERVICES AND  
7 DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND CULTURE FOR THE  
8 DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION CITY OF  
9 SCRANTON POOL MURALS PROGRAM.

10 MS. GATELLI: As Chair for the

11 Committee on Finance, I recommend final  
12 passage of Item 7-A.

13 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

14 MS. GATELLI: On the question? Roll  
15 call.

16 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans. Mrs.  
17 Gatelli.

18 MS. GATELLI: Yes.

19 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Fanucci.

20 MS. FANUCCI: Yes.

21 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

22 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

23 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McGoff.

24 MS. GATELLI: I hereby declare 7-A  
25 legally and lawfully adopted.

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1 MS. GARVEY: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION  
2 BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - FOR ADOPTION -  
3 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 63, 2009 - AUTHORIZING  
4 THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF  
5 THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO ACCEPT AND DISBURSE  
6 GRANT FUNDS FROM LACKAWANNA COUNTY CHILDREN  
7 AND YOUTH SERVICES AND DEPARTMENT OF ARTS  
8 AND CULTURE A.R.T.S. ENGAGE! GRANT IN THE  
9 AMOUNT OF \$34,100.00 FOR THE CITY OF  
10 SCRANTON DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
11 POOL MURALS PROGRAM.



12 MS. GATELLI: As Chair for the  
13 Committee on Finance, I recommend final  
14 passage of Item 7-B.

15 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

16 MS. GATELLI: On the question? Roll  
17 call.

18 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans. Mrs.  
19 Gatelli.

20 MS. GATELLI: Yes.

21 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Fanucci.

22 MS. FANUCCI: Yes.

23 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

25 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McGoff.

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1 MS. GATELLI: I hereby declare 7-B  
2 legally and lawfully adopted.

3 MS. GARVEY: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION  
4 BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
5 FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 117, 2009 -  
6 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE  
7 CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A  
8 COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF  
9 SCRANTON, DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
10 ("ORGANIZATION") AND THE LACKAWANNA COUNTY  
11 DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND CULTURE ("ARTS AND

12 CULTURE") AND LACKAWANNA COUNTY CHILDREN AND  
13 YOUTH SERVICES ("LCCYS") IN FURTHERANCE OF  
14 THE MISSION OF THE ARTS ENGAGE! PROGRAM.

15 MS. GATELLI: What is the  
16 recommendation of the Chair for the  
17 Committee on Community Development.

18 MS. FANUCCI: As Chairperson for the  
19 Committee on Community Development, I  
20 recommend final passage of Item 7-C.

21 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

22 MS. GATELLI: On the question? Roll  
23 call.

24 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans. Mrs.  
25 Gatelli.

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1 MS. GATELLI: Yes.

2 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Fanucci.

3 MS. FANUCCI: Yes.

4 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

5 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

6 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McGoff.

7 MS. GATELLI: I hereby declare 7-C  
8 legally and lawfully adopted.

9 I'd like to thank the students from  
10 the University, I hope you had a very  
11 interesting experience. I'm sure you will  
12 have a lot to talk about in class tomorrow

13 and if you have any reports we would like to  
14 read them. Thank you very much for your  
15 coming and taking part in our government.

16 May I have a motion to adjourn.

17 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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5 I hereby certify that the proceedings and  
6 evidence are contained fully and accurately in the  
7 notes of testimony taken by me at the hearing of the  
8 above-captioned matter and that the foregoing is a true  
9 and correct transcript of the same to the best of my  
10 ability.

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CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR  
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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