

Allegheny County Council

*County of Allegheny
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Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 24, 2009

4:00 PM

Conference Room I

Committee on Health & Human Services

***Joan Cleary, Chair; Jim Ellenbogen, Mike Finnerty, Nick Futules, Amanda Green,
Bob Macey, Chuck McCullough, and William Robinson - Members***

I. Call to Order

Summary: *The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.*

Invited Guests:

Stephen Zappala, District Attorney or Designee

Jim Flynn, County Manager or Designee

Dr. Bruce Dixon, Director, Health Department

Summary: *Invited Guests Present: Jim Flynn, County Manager; Dr. Bruce Dixon, Health Department Director; Dawn Botsford, Director of Administration, District Attorney's Office*

Council Staff Present: Jared Barker; Joe Catanese; Stephanie Buka

II. Roll Call

Roll Call: Present: Michael Finnerty, and William Robinson
Absent: Jim Ellenbogen, Nick Futules, Amanda Green, Bob Macey, Chuck McCullough, and Joan Cleary

III. Approval of Minutes

4956-09 Motion to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2009 Health & Human Services Committee Meeting.

Action: **A motion was made by Robinson, seconded by Finnerty, that this matter be Passed. The motion carried unanimously.**

IV. Agenda Items

Ordinances

4808-09 An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, amending and supplementing the Allegheny County Code of Ordinances, through the creation of a new Chapter 575, entitled "Elder Care," in order to create protections for the County's vulnerable elderly residents living in nursing home and other assisted living environments.

Sponsors: Rich Fitzgerald, District Attorney, Jim Ellenbogen, Michael Finnerty, Bob Macey and William Russell Robinson

Summary: *Ms. Botsford explained the purpose of the bill.*

In response to a question from Councilman Finnerty, Ms. Botsford stated that Pennsylvania's Credit Agency Reporting Act is already in effect, and this bill would require nursing homes and assisted living facilities to notify their residents of the credit security protections afforded them under this state law.

Ms. Botsford told the committee that the legislation would also protect nursing homes and assisted living facilities from individuals who knowingly mismanage residents'

assets.

Action: **A motion was made by Robinson, seconded by Finnerty, that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried unanimously.**

4890-09 A Ordinance of the Council of the County of Allegheny ratifying amendments to Allegheny County Health Department Rules and Regulations pursuant to Section 12011 of the Local Health Administration Law, 16 P.S. §12001 et seq.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Summary: *Dr. Dixon provided the committee with an explanation of the intent of the legislation. He added that the expenditure of Clean Air Fund monies is the most important aspect of the bill.*

Councilman Finnerty and Dr. Dixon agreed that there is a dichotomy that exists between the Home Rule Charter and the Local Health Administration Law.

Councilman Finnerty expressed his desire to see this bill split into two separate bills, and requested the bill be held in committee until further discussion takes place.

Action: **Held in Committee**

V. Adjournment

Summary: *The meeting adjourned at 4:16 p.m.*