

Allegheny County Council

*County of Allegheny
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Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

5:00 PM

Conference Room 1

Special Committee on Government Reform

Rich Fitzgerald, Chair -- Committee of the Whole

REVISED

Roll Call: Present: Jim Burn, Joan Cleary, Matt Drozd, Brenda Frazier, and Chair Rich Fitzgerald
Absent: Susan Caldwell, John DeFazio, Dave Fawcett, Michael Finnerty, Vince Gastgeb, Chuck Martoni, Jan Rea, and William Robinson

I. Call to Order

Summary: *The meeting was called to order at 5:06.*

Invited Guests:

Jim Flynn, County Manager or Designee
Abdulrezak Shakir, Acting Medical Examiner

Summary: *Dr. Shakir, Mr. Uber.*

II. Roll Call

Summary: *President Fitzgerald, and Council Memebrrs Drozd, Frazier, Burn and Cleary.*

Staff Present: Mr. Barker.

Roll Call: Present: Jim Burn, Joan Cleary, Matt Drozd, Brenda Frazier, and Chair Rich Fitzgerald
Absent: Susan Caldwell, John DeFazio, Dave Fawcett, Michael Finnerty, Vince Gastgeb, Chuck Martoni, Jan Rea, and William Robinson

III. Agenda Items

Ordinance

2586-06

An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania amending Article 201, Section 5-201.05 of the Administrative Code to further define the powers, functions and duties of the Medical Examiner.

Sponsors: Jim Burn, Joan Cleary, William Russell Robinson, Rich Fitzgerald and Matt Drozd

Summary: *The Chair read the bill's title and deferred to Mr. Burn.*

Mr. Burn noted that the bill makes a single addition to the duties of the Medical Examiner, allowing for the donations of organs by the Medical Examiner when a decedent is unidentifiable and/or the next of kin cannot be located. This was not included in the duties of the Medical Examiner when the office was created, although it was a duty that was conferred on the Coroner by state law.

Dr. Shakir noted that, although he does not specifically remember an instance in which this power would actually have been exercised, it is a good option to have available, so long as it is exercised judiciously.

The Chair asked if this bill in any way would circumvent or alter the will of the voters who authorized the creation of the Medical Examiner, and Dr. Shakir and Mr. Uber each answered that it would not.

Ms. Cleary indicated that she does think it could be a useful power to have, but does not think that it would be invoked all that often.

The Chair released the bill to the full Council.

Action: **Released from the Committee**

Enactment No: 35-06-OR

2790-06

An Ordinance of the Allegheny County Council amending and supplementing the Allegheny County Code of Ordinances, Division 4, entitled "Finances," by creating a new Chapter 280, entitled "Housing Choice Voucher Program" and a new §280-1 in order to establish a mechanism for recovering taxes owed by landlords participating in the program.

Sponsors: Jim Burn

Summary: *The Chair read the bill's title and deferred to Mr. Burn.*

Mr. Burn indicated that there are still remaining legal issues to explore regarding the interaction between County government and the authorities, and asked that the bill be held pending more research.

The Chair held the bill.

Action: **Held in Committee**

IV. Adjournment

Summary: *The meeting adjourned at 5:15.*