

Allegheny County Council

*County of Allegheny
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Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 3, 2007

4:00 PM

4th Floor Gold Room

Committee on Public Safety

*Jim Burn, Chair; John DeFazio, Matt Drozd, Vince Gastgeb, William E. Lestitian,
Chuck Martoni, and William Robinson - Members*

I. Call to Order

Summary: *The meeting was called to order at 4:15 PM*

Invited Guests:

Jim Flynn, County Manager

Charles Moffatt, Superintendent, County Police or Designee

Mary Conturo, Executive Director, SEA

Summary: *Invited guests in attendance: Superintendent Moffatt and Ms. Conturo*

Recognized attendees: County Controller Mark Flaherty

Council staff in attendance: Jared Barker

II. Roll Call

Summary: *Council members Finnerty and Rea were in attendance but are not members of the Committee.*

Roll Call: Present: Matt Drozd, Jim Burn, Council Member Michael Finnerty, and Council Member Jan Rea
Absent: John DeFazio, Vince Gastgeb, William Lestitian, Chuck Martoni, and William Robinson

III. Approval of Minutes

3178-07 Motion to approve the Minutes of the April 5, 2007 Public Safety Committee Meeting.

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

IV. Agenda Items**Ordinance**

3090-07 An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing the acceptance of a donation of personal property from the Dayle Kendall.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Summary: *Superintendent Moffatt summarized the bill and the horse donation process. He explained that the ordinance authorizing the acceptance of a 5 year old palomino from Dayle Kendall for use by the Allegheny County Police. He said that this authorization is required prior to the County's acceptance of a gift of personal property under Article IV, Section 2.j. of the Home Rule Charter.*

He also said that the County Police have had the animal examined by a veterinarian, and the horse has been found to be in excellent health.

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

Discussion Topic:

Mary Conturo, Executive Director of the Sports and Exhibition Authority, will provide an update on the status of the Convention Center.

Summary: *The Chair summarized the topic and asked Ms. Conturo for a status update on the changes to the Convention Center work plan.*

Ms. Conturo explained that there were about 50 beams along the Center's expansion joint, 21 of those joints were retrofitted with seats, which left about 25 unseated. These are not exposed to outdoor weather conditions, and monitoring was recommended. As the SEA worked with the engineers and looked at the monitoring system, the idea was that it might be wiser to just retrofit all of the beam joints. Monitoring would have cost about \$100,000 all told for a 2 year period (including engineer review of data), then the SEA would've had to decide whether to continue. Retrofitting will run about \$300,000.

The Chair called Mr. Flaherty, who indicated that he would like to perform a construction audit for the Convention Center, because a thorough review of the construction process might not only to recoup money that may be owed, but also would improve everyone's peace of mind. Hiring a construction audit expert would cost roughly \$30,000 to \$40,000.

Ms. Rea indicated that she thinks this is important to the taxpayers; having an accurate accounting is also vital because SEA will also be handling the new arena construction. She said that she thinks the county will do everything they can to make sure that SEA has what they need before moving into this new project.

V. Adjournment

Summary: *The meeting adjourned at 4:45 PM*