

# **Allegheny County Council**

*County of Allegheny  
436 Grant Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
Phone (412) 350-6495  
Fax (412) 350-6499*



## **Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, May 23, 2006**

**5:00 PM**

**Conference Room 1**

### **Committee on Economic Development & Housing**

***Brenda Frazier, Chair; Jim Burn, Joan Cleary, John DeFazio, Matt Drozd, Dave Fawcett, Mike Finnerty, Bob Macey, and Jan Rea - Members***

**I. Call to Order**

**Summary:** *The meeting was called to order at 5:15.*

**Invited Guests:**

**Jim Flynn, County Manager or Designee**

**Dennis Davin, Director, Economic Development or Designee**

**Noelle Conover**

**Jen Daily**

**Kristen Napoleon**

**Summary:** *Non Committee Members Present: Gastgeb*

*Ex-Officio Member Present: Fitzgerald*

*Staff Present: Barker, Liptak*

*Invited Guests Present: Darnell Moses, Noelle Conover (Matt's Media) and Kristen Napoleon (Mt. Lebanon Jr. Women's Club)*

**Roll Call:** Present: Chair Brenda Frazier, Joan Cleary, Matt Drozd, Michael Finnerty, and Bob Macey  
Absent: Jim Burn, John DeFazio, Dave Fawcett, and Jan Rea

**II. Roll Call**

**Roll Call:** Present: Chair Brenda Frazier, Jim Burn, Joan Cleary, Matt Drozd, John DeFazio, Dave Fawcett, Michael Finnerty, Bob Macey, and Jan Rea

**III. Approval of Minutes**

**2597-06** Motion to approve the Minutes of the April 27, 2006 Economic Development & Housing Committee Meeting.

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

**IV. Agenda Items**

**Ordinance**

**2486-06** An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, establishing a policy of providing for an allocation for children's care or services when the County provides hospital funding through a direct appropriation, a subsidy or deferment of taxes, a bond project, or appropriate grant funded project.

**Sponsors:** Vince Gastgeb

**Summary:** *The Chair summarized the bill, then deferred to Mr. Gastgeb.*

*Mr. Gastgeb gave more detail on the bill, noting that it is similar to the public art set-aside previously enacted by Council in that it would set aside a flat amount of money*

*to be used by affected hospitals' foundations to improve children's care.*

*Mr. Moses noted that he had met with Council Member Gastgeb several weeks ago, and this does sound like a great project. The Department of Economic Development has begun talking with the hospitals and public finance experts to see how to go about accomplishing the goal. A few of the hospitals have indicated that any increased cost could cause them to go to other authorities to have their capital bonds issued. Also, because there are fairly strict controls on what proceeds from tax-exempt bond issues can be used for, there's really no way to determine whether the funds raised can be used in the manner contemplated by the bill until you actually know for sure what the hospital's foundation wants to buy.*

*Ms. Conover provided the Committee with a brief summary of how Matt's Media goes about providing resources to improve the quality of life for children at Childrens Hospital of Pittsburgh.*

*Ms. Napoleon described the success of fundraising activities for Matt's Media in the Mt. Lebanon community.*

*Mr. Drozd asked to be added as a cosponsor for the bill, and suggested that it might make more sense to approach foundations for matching gifts for these sorts of purchases.*

*Mr. Finnerty asked to be added as a cosponsor, and indicated that he felt that there should be a way of reaching the goal, whether through the method proposed in the bill or otherwise.*

*Ms. Cleary asked how hospitals going to other authorities would hurt the County, and Mr. Moses noted that the Department is partially funded through the fees attached to these bond issues. In response to a question from Mr. Macey, Mr. Moses indicated that he does not foresee any significant backlash against the program.*

*The Chair indicated that she felt that the concept is wonderful, if there is a way to make it work within the confines of the County's authority, and that it would be desirable to bring in representatives from various hospitals and others with relevant expertise to assist the Committee in evaluating the bill. Mr. Gastgeb expressed agreement, and the bill was held.*

**Action:** Held in Committee

**V. Adjournment**

**Summary:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 PM