

# **Allegheny County Council**

*County of Allegheny  
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## **Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, May 9, 2006**

**5:00 PM**

**Conference Room I**

## **Committee on Health & Human Services**

*Mike Finnerty, Chair; Joan Cleary, Susan Caldwell, Brenda Frazier, William Robinson, and Jan Rea - Members*

**I. Call to Order**

**Summary:** *The meeting was called to order at 5:12 PM*

**Invited Guests:**

**Jim Flynn, County Manager or Designee**

**Dr. Bruce Dixon, Director, Health Department or Designee**

**Mike Wojcik, County Solicitor or Designee**

**Henry Miller, Health Department Solicitor**

**Renee Cox, Executive Director of Prevention Point Pittsburgh**

**Summary:** *Invited Guests Present: Derek Uber for Mr. Flynn; Bob Borgoyne for Mr. Wojcik; Mr. Dixon; and Renee Cox*

*Council Staff Present: John Mascio, Jared Barker, and Stephanie Buka*

**II. Roll Call**

**Summary:** *Non Committee Council Members Present: Mr. Burn and Mr. Drozd*

**Roll Call:** Present: Joan Cleary, Susan Caldwell, Brenda Frazier, William Robinson, and Michael Finnerty  
Absent: Jan Rea

**III. Approval of Minutes**

**2534-06** Motion to approve the minutes of the April 19, 2006 and April 20, 2006 Health & Human Services Committee Meetings.

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

**IV. Agenda Items**

**Ordinance**

**2567-06** An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, permitting the use of certain County owned property by Prevention Point Pittsburgh.

**Sponsors:** Chief Executive

**Summary:** *Mr. Dixon provided a summary of the bill. He said that the bill would approve the use of certain Allegheny County land, buildings and facilities controlled by the Allegheny County Health Department for the distribution and storage of materials deemed necessary as approved by the Director of the Allegheny County Health Department to Prevention Point Pittsburgh for the needle exchange program.*

*He further explained that on April 7, 2002, Prevention Point Pittsburgh, a private non-profit organization, began operating from the Health Department's Oakland facility, as authorized by the Board of Health's Needle Exchange Advisory Committee.*

*Prevention Point Pittsburgh provides clean injection equipment and related services to injection drug users and desires to continue using the Allegheny County Health Department's Oakland facility to help prevent the spread of hepatitis, HIV and other communicable diseases through their needle exchange program. The exchange itself is open for three hours each Sunday, and Prevention Point Pittsburgh's materials are stored in the Health Department facility.*

*He said that the Home Rule Charter of Allegheny County requires that Allegheny County Council approve the use of Allegheny County land, buildings or facilities by others and upon passage, this Bill would permit Prevention Point Pittsburgh to continue using the Allegheny County Health Department's Oakland facility on a temporary and intermittent basis.*

*Ms. Cleary asked how the program was working. Mr. Dixon said that the program was working well. Ms. Cox also said that she was pleased with the operation of the program.*

*Mr. Finnerty asked Mr. Borgoyne for his legal opinion on the bill. Mr. Borgoyne said that the ordinance was necessary in order to allow others to use county facilities. Mr. Dixon said under state law he has the authority to rule on the appropriateness of the project from a medical standpoint, and he deemed the project appropriate.*

*Mr. Burn asked Mr. Borgoyne if he had any concerns regarding liability. Mr. Borgoyne said he did not have any concerns regarding this since nothing that the Health Department does makes the county liable under state tort claims. He said liability was very limited.*

*Ms. Caldwell asked Renee Cox how they obtain prescriptions for needles. She said they are shipped from Washington. Ms. Caldwell asked if it was legal for them to ship needles. Ms. Cox said that it was. Ms. Caldwell asked Mr. Borgoyne if he thought that was legal. Mr. Borgoyne said that shipping needles was not a violation of state law.*

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

**V.      Adjournment**

**Summary:**      *The meeting adjourned at 5:25 PM*