

Captioning Transcript of Budget Committee Meeting -
October 20, 2022

"Hollander, Bill"

Good afternoon this is the regular meeting of the Louisville Metro Council Budget Committee. Today is Thursday October 20th, 2022, it is 5:04 PM. This meeting is being held pursuant to KRS 61.826 and council rule 5A the committee chair, Bill Hollander also in chambers, the vice chair Kevin Kramer, council members Arthur, Piagentini, Triplett, Fowler, Armstrong, George President James and joining us virtually our council members Engel, Winkler and McCraney. We have 5 items of business today, and we'll take them in the order that is on the agenda. The first item is item one O-288-22 an ordinance amending ordinance number 037 series 2021 eight twenty two and ordinance amending ordinance number thirty seven series two thousand and twenty one relating to the fiscal year, 2021, 2022 capital budget in ordinance, number 84 series 2022, relating to the fiscal year 2022-2023 capital budget for the Louisville Jefferson County, Metro government by transferring 18,685 dollars and 17 cents to an existing project. Title D13 Nelson Hornbeck park improvements. Properly moved and seconded. I don't know is this councilman Fox's area? I don't see councilman Fox here to speak on this. It's pretty, it's pretty routine. I don't know if he asked, Miss Bell were you asked to speak on this I assume not.

"Bell, LaTonya"

I was not asked to speak on it from this one he's just moving money from one of his project. Okay, my name is Latonya Bell I'm sorry, I'm the council financial analyst district 13 is just having funds moved from one of their previous projects that's no longer needed to, uh, help support another project. The district 3 Nelson Hornbeck park improvements project and that's \$18,685.17 cents which has been moved.

"Hollander, Bill"

Thank you. Okay. Thank you. I do not see anyone as I said, this pretty routine. I don't see anyone else in the queue to speak. This is an ordinance that calls for a roll call vote. If you would call the roll please.

[vote taken]

"Brown, Marissa"

Mr. Chair, you have 11 yes votes.

"Hollander, Bill"

Thank you. This was approved and it will be on the consent calendar at our next meeting. Item. 2 is so O-289-22 an ordinance amending ordinance number 102 series 2016, relating to the fiscal year 2016-2017, capital budget and ordinance number 109 series 2018 relating to the fiscal year 201,819 capital budget an ordinance number 084 series 2022 relating to the fiscal year 2022-2023 capital budget for the local Jefferson County metro government by reallocating 14,596 dollars and 89 cents of funding to a new project titled D15 paving project is there a motion?

"Fowler, Cindi"

So moved.

"Triplett, Kevin"

Second.

"Hollander, Bill"

Properly moved and seconded. This is councilman Triplett's item and he gets points for being here to speak on it.

"Triplett, Fox"

Unlike councilman Fox. Thank you Mr. chair, colleagues this is you know, our budget analyst, Beth Stenberg and LaTonya Bell watch our money very carefully for us and thank goodness for them. This is money's unspent on projects over the last, several years that has not been returned to district 15 and, from various projects I think some of the money, if you saw some notes from what LaTonya earlier, did they sent those around, these were dollars that were spent to be spent in solid waste on trashcans. We spent some money at park that was unuse also at public works for his projects this money was unspent and returned to us, and it will be it will be spent on paving projects specifically and look for your support. Thank you.

"Hollander, Bill"

I don't see anyone else in the queue to speak about this. This is an ordinance also calling for a roll call vote. Please open the voting.

[vote taken]

"Brown, Marissa"

Mr. Chair you have 11 yes votes.

"Hollander, Bill"

This is also approved and we'll be on the consent calendar in our meeting next week. The third item is O-290-22 and ordinance, amending several sections of chapter 110 of the Louisville Jefferson County Metro code of ordinances regarding occupational license taxes, is there a motion to approve? With us today is Angela Dunn, who leads the Louisville metro revenue Commission, and has a short presentation about what these proposed changes to chapter 110 are.

"Dunn, Angela"

Good afternoon, I will quickly walk through the proposed changes to our 110 ordinance that we do an annual review of our regulations and a corresponding in the ordinance that go along with those regulations and so these are a few updates that we would have identified for this year. The first one is that there are 2 additions to the one section 110 definition and one definition 1 is for racetrack extensions this is added as a result of the 2022 house spill 607 that granted, Louisville government, the authority to impose tax on racetrack extensions. The second, is a definition for the for a tax return prepare this is added to identify persons or entities that will be subject to the proposed electronic filing mandate that's in section 118 and we will, I'll go over that. and eighteen and we will I'll go over that. Section 110-03 item, 14 exempted activities this provides clarification of an exemption for historical racetracks. This exemption does exist under state law, but it was not specific, it's not currently specifically defined in our ordinance it's previously covered under a catch all provision that is drafted as LMCO 110315 in the proposal you have in front of you So the definition the section currently exists is 14, it's being bumped down as 15 exists is fourteen it's being bumped down as fifteen, 14 is a new 14 is being added to provide some clarification on historical racetracks. Section 110-10, b2 a claims for refund or credit this is replaced with language from KRS 6778 it aligns with the current practice and gives the tax payer, the benefit of an additional 6 months after conclusion of a federal tax audit to request a refund from us, which is consistent with KRS 67 refund from us which is consistent with sixty seven and then section 118, electronic filing, we currently have language in the ordinance regarding electronic filing. We're cleaning it up a little bit and adding some additional requirements to that. So, it's the new language will include, it'll be mandated for those filing 10 or more return, returns reports or statements. It removes specific federal form series, which is currently listed in the ordinance. So we're trying to move, like, specifically listing

the forms and the ordinance and moving that to our regulations where those instructions can be, can be found otherwise, and then specific filing and reporting instructions and as I just mentioned, will be provided in a manner prescribed by the revenue commission. We are adding in there that effective January 1st, 2024 so that would be a year from now, the requirement to electronically file tax returns will apply to tax return preparers. This aligns with the federal and state electronic filing requirements so the state and the federal already have electronic filing mandates out there on preparers for 10 or more returns and we do have some supporting data on why we are proposing this electronic filing mandate on tax preparers and I'll go through these very quickly but we were able to extract some information from our system. In 2022 over 26,000 of the 40,000 returns we received were filed via paper. Of those total 40,000 returns, 65% were identified as having some prepare help with those. 35% were prepared by individuals with no prepare help identified. Of the 65% of the returns that we're receiving from preparers the preparers are still predominantly submitting those returns via paper 7, almost over 70% of the returns submitted by preparers came in a paper format. We're currently sitting at about 35% participation in electronic filing, and we believe this mandate could help move that dial to where it would be at, about 73% of electronic filing returning, excuse me receiving returns electronically. And then this is just a brief summary of the various electronic filing methods we have partnered with multiple software providers that a lot of your large CPA firms use, in order to have our forms in their software, which is the modernized E file. There's also a bulk filing option and our online portal of emails, smaller preparers who maybe don't have a software package, can have an account and emails and then they can upload their return directly to our system through emails, so there are very various options for filing methods out there and then over the next year, we talk about this going into effect in 2024 we will continue to add software packages through the modernized E file continuing to expand the E filing options the preparers would have for doing business with us.

"Hollander, Bill"

Thank you very much and you did I know I introduce you my name and title, but if you'll give your name and titled.

"Dunn, Angela"

Absolutely. I'm sorry Angela Dunn, director of global metro revenue committee.

"Hollander, Bill"

Thank you very much. Let me just make a couple of comments about this and there are some regulations that accompany this that are now on, for public comment at the, through the revenue commission. I don't know that we've received any comments, to date.

"Dunn, Angela"

We have not to date.

"Hollander, Bill"

So and I particularly want to talk about the racetrack extension, just to make this clear. The general assembly this year. Gave us the authority to have occupational taxes levied at racetrack extensions, meaning a historical racing facility that does not have any training, so, but we have to do that by ordinance in order to take advantage of that new right by the general assembly. So that's what we're doing here. This will not apply to diversity gaming because there is training at Derby City Gaming, as I understand it, as long as that continues, this will not apply it will apply however, to the new facility downtown. So that's why that change is being recommended and just. Also one, other comment, just about the requirement for electronic filing by tax prepares this again, not individuals. This was discussed at the revenue commission, the chair of the revenue commission isn't accountant. In fact, there are several accountants on the on the revenue commission and this was thought it really is just a progressive thing that's being done at the federal state level and it obviously won't make the office considerably more efficient. So Councilman Piagentini.

"Piagentini, Anthony"

Thank you Mr. Chair. First of all I think it's ridiculous this won't apply to Derby city Gaming. I mean, you know, they train one horse and we can't get occupational tax there versus you know what it truly is, right? Obviously, it doesn't apply to Churchill Downs and they've got still got their, revenue bond and they're actually racing there I mean, that I would get as far as the historic racing facility, but, but I, can't see how Derby city gaming is considered that, but it is what it is, it's the law. I do want to comment more broadly on the occupational tax process and I'm hoping that some of these changes will address this. So, I switched over to I'm self employed now, other than my job at Louisville Metro other than other than this. I am self employed in all of my other occupations and so I got with my account and I said, I've had an account and that's done my taxes for years and I said, look, I've never done the

whole prepaid right? Quarterly estimate thing. So educate me. So she sends me this email right? Links to federal state city. This is how you do it. Here's the dates. Okay, so I go in for the 1st quarter that I have now, I think, for the 1st year I'm exempt, but I just wanted to go ahead and get in the habit. So, I went in to do my first, quarterly payments, federal government website, put in some information really easy state government put in some information really easy I got to the city and I was, like, I have no idea how to do this it was about as confusing as it could get. I called my accountant, she basically said, well, the good news is the city doesn't require a quarterly estimated so she's like, you don't have to you can just pay at the end. So that's what I'm doing. So I would tell you that. I mean, I'm just one person, but I would be paying the city quarterly. We would be getting the revenue in the cash flow. If the process was simple, and at this point, I just told my account, and I said, look, if I don't have to legally just wait till I file my taxes next year and I'll just cut 1 big check and I'm putting it side. Right? So, I'm hoping that much of what you're talking about is going to improve it. Cause I tried to use emails, at least the current version of it and it was it was so confusing. I was, like, forget it. And, and let's just move on. And so the city will get, you know, the legal one payment a year that they're gonna get from me, which is next year but I'd be glad to pay quarterly because quite frankly, it's kind of annoying to have it just sitting there in an account. Um, but if the process isn't smooth, um, you know, I suspect that's a lot of why you're seeing, you know, even tax preparer. I know my tax parents submit everything electronically. Otherwise I'm sure they would love to do everything electronically, but the city needs to be more user friendly and I think my personal experience it was not and it has altered me to be just sending a manual check, many months after. I would normally have paid it and was glad to pay it as I'm doing with the federal and state regulatory bodies, so I just wanted to bring that up. I'm hoping we'll address that and I'm not this isn't necessarily the form of a question, but if you want to address, it feel free I'm just providing a recommendation that I'm sure there's a lot more people like myself who would be more than happy to submit a quarterly or do this, in a more seamless fashion but the current process is really crazy compared to what experience with the feds in the state. So thank you Mr. chair.

"Dunn, Angela"

I would just like to say that, you know, I'm, I'm sorry that your experience was not we would want it to be. I'm absolutely happy to speak with you, if you've got some specific, whatever

you ran into, we could take a look at it our online portal emails it is on our website you should be able to log in and, you know, get log in information to create an account. So, if there were some issues there, I'd, I'd love to know more about that so that we could address them. We can always, you know, also, customer service is always available if any, if an individual's ever having any issues with the website or the portal to please call our office and we can help walk through that, but we are also always, you know, we have system upgrades that we're looking to do in the future so, we are always looking for opportunities where we can continue to develop our system and make improvements and implement upgrades version upgrades that always help continue to keep that system working most efficiently for our taxpayers.

"Piagentini, Anthony"

If I could respond Mr. Chair? Glad to, right I did this once and again, all I'm saying is in one evening, I was able to figure out the IRS website and the States revenue commission website very easily and submitted. I don't even think I had to create an account. I think in both cases they have 2 processes 1 where you can create accounts and 1, where you can just pay and I just paid and you print out a receipt and now I've got, you know, all that documentation from my accountant. It would probably be more beneficial for you to just to talk to some of these accountants and others who do it on a more regular basis and get their experience because again, I'm doing this literally 4 times a year and I don't ever plan on doing any more than that so I'm gonna be a very low level user, but, I mean, with how many tax preparers people who are professionals in this doing this manually, I have to imagine that's not their preferred method either. So, I think if, you know, starting with your high-volume users, working down to your low volume users, if, you know, whatever procedures that can be improved, and I think it had to do with setting up the account. I think there was a process related, now, you said that, I think that was what it was, there was process setting up the count that was going to take more than just sitting there at my computer and I was like, how to heck with it. Right? Whereas again, I think the federal and state allows you to do it just based on your social security number and a few other key identifiers without creating an account. So, but thank you.

"Hollander, Bill"

I don't see anyone else in the queue. This is an ordinance that calls for a rollcall vote if you would open the meeting please.

"Brown, Marissa"

Mr. Chair you have 11 yes votes.

"Hollander, Bill"

Thank you very much. And this is also approved today. Will be on the consent calendar at our meeting next week. Okay. Thank you. Very much. Thank you Angela. The 4th item is resolution or R-155-22 a resolution to approve the plan for use of 3.5 Million dollars in bond funds for a community grocery. Is there a motion to approve?

"Arthur, Jecorey"

Motion Arthur.

"Hollander, Bill"

Properly moved and seconded and the resolution is before us. Councilman Arthur did you want to speak to this? We have someone in the audience who will speak

"Arthur, Jecorey"

I will and then I could pass the mic to T Gonzales and maybe someone else who might want to speak to it as well. So in 2020 the Metro Council set aside 3.5 Million to support our community grocery store and an underserved community. Thank you for that. The resolution today approves the location for that grocery store. Before redistricting Metro Council district 4 was the only Council district without a full service grocery store and since our westward expansion, we now have a Kroger at 28th and Dumesnil but there's still a large swath of the population within our district that does not have access to a full service grocery store within a reasonable distance to the housing. A neighborhood that applies to this is Smoketown, Smoketown is just southeast, the central business district and it's 1 of the very 1st communities established by black resilience, United States, environmental protection agency, identify as Smoketown as a food desert. And this means a significant number of residents live more than a mile from the nearest supermarket. This issue was exacerbated, considering that the University of Louisville state of food study found that 51% of households in Eastern downtown, aka Smoketown, lack vehicle access. The proposed site for this grocery store is on a vacant acre of land that used to be the Louisville slugger production factory on the corner of finger street and South Jackson shrimp the fact that there's grocery stores on vacant land is important because in the vision smoke town, report, smoke, town, residents, identified vacant lots as the top problem in the neighborhood, that same report also showed that a grocery store, that

residents needed, I believe, and hope you agree that this neighborhood is definitely underserved and deserves this funding and I'd like to pass the mic to T. Gonzales from the center for health equity to speak more to this.

"Gonzales, T."

Good afternoon my name is T. Gonzales as the director of the center for health equity, which is a part of our department of public health and wellness. Thank you, Councilman Arthur for that introduction. We're excited to support this project and move forward. I just wanted to bring to attention in your materials. You see a timeline there that's as a part of this, a letter of intent that we have been operating under the next steps after your approval of this resolution to the council. We'll move to complete a development agreement and from there, then move on to processes of, by May of next year you know, our developers will have site layout and design we'll move on from there to have they, they'll conduct a RFP for design services and so on and so forth. The eventual then, proposed as you see here in this letter of intent of a grand opening of the store happening in October of 2024. So, I just wanted to bring to your attention that timeline that's laid out there. But again once the council has approved this resolution, then the first next goal is to have a development agreement within 3 months of this time.

"Hollander, Bill"

Thank you just a couple of comments, first of all, T. I want to thank you and the team for working on this. I remember this very well. We approved this in the in the budget that we passed in June of 2020. We assigned this to public health and wellness, which was a little bit unusual and I know it's there's been a tremendous amount of work that's gone into this whole process and reviewing the RFP and getting to where we are here today. I don't see anyone else in the queue to speak to this. Is there any, Councilman Arthur, did you have anything else to say? No? Okay. All right I don't see anyone else on the queue. This is a resolution that we can approve on a voice vote. All in favor say aye. All right. Any opposed? The resolution is approved and will be on the consent calendar at our meeting next week. Thank you again. And the final item today is, item 5 O-307-22 an ordinance approving a 6 round of the American rescue plan, local fiscal recovery funding to various Louisville metro government departments to address the continued impact of covid-19 on the economy public health state and local governments, individuals and business.

"Arthur, Jecorey"
Second, Arthur.

"Hollander, Bill"
Properly moved and seconded the ordinances moves before us,
Councilwoman Fowler.

"Fowler, Cindi"
Thank you Mr. Chair. So I found this last new business, because I thought it was so very important to the women of this community, especially those west of at I-65 where you cannot birth a baby maybe unless you're on the way to the hospital, or you decide to do that at home, maybe not by choice, but that's not the way we want our birth and experiences as women. So, the reality is that West of I-65 for years we have not been able to enjoy that type of service and it is the height of disparity and inequity in my mind and not only mine, many others here on the Council, we can, no longer ignore the high mortality rate for women of color, during and after childbirth and we must address this if at all possible. We have been told during our committee the arc committee, the healthy neighborhoods, that it did not qualify, but I believe we plan to get a lawyer to look at that a little closer. I can't imagine why it would don't qualify this is a huge disparity and I think that that is what we have tried to do with this money and in so many instances. So I just I can't take no for an answer without further looking into it. I appreciate all of those that stood beside me during my press conference earlier today, and we have U of L health here and I don't expect them to give a presentation, but I wanted them to be here in case. There was any questions from the committee to them concerning, or anything to do with this proposal. So, I appreciate your support, and I know that it's probably not going to get voted out today because we don't have the answers we need.

"Hollander, Bill"
Okay, thank you. Is there any other discussion and I don't see anyone else in the queue? Triplett sorry. Councilman Triplett sorry.

"Triplett, Kevin"
Chime in a little bit late here. Thank you Chair and colleagues have you know, when you think about a pregnancy, a 9 month, period, and you think about the perfect pregnancy, that doesn't always occur. Quite often there are complications sometimes there are emergencies, if you live in Philadelphia or Valley station, beyond tailor Boulevard and an emergency complication

situation occurs this, this is a matter of life for, for that woman and these families and those babies. This is not, this is not a want and in with regards to planning and budgeting there we often. Found ourselves when we think okay, here's a need and here's a want this is a need. This is a great a glaring need. It's a critical need that's needed in this part of the town and I hope that you'll give it your consideration because we have a wonderful partner with U of L. They're gracious enough to match our dollars and to meet us halfway and to see this thing happen. It's the need is great and we look for your support on this and to addressing the critical needs of health care for babies birthing and the women and families of this entity. Thank you.

"Hollander, Bill"
Councilwoman Armstrong.

"Chambers Armstrong, Cassie"
Thank you, Mr. Chair and just to stay for the record. I'm still waiting on an ethics opinion about whether, or not, I can vote on this due to my employment at the University of Louisville. So I'm going to ask a question just while we have U of L Health I want to ask just broadly about maternal and infant health and what we see, and not anything specifically, um, about this proposal or about this ordinance. But I know that we have pretty horrific maternal mortality and quality rates in Kentucky, and in the city of Louisville and that the racial disparities in those are pretty shocking, due to some other work that we've done on council. And I'm wondering if you could just lay those out for us. What we see in terms of those disparities and just what the state of infinite maternal health is in our city right now and also talk to me a little bit about what we have seen as a result of covid in terms of trends in maternal and infant health, because I imagine everything I've seen about the additional burdens on women, the decline in women's health, the decline in women's socioeconomic status tied to covid additional childcare burdens, all of these things that that would certainly be impactful on women's health based on what we know about the social determinants of health. And so I'm hoping you could speak to that for me. Thank you.

"Francis, Sean"
Okay, hear me now? Okay, good evening. My name is Sean Francis, and I am the chair of the department at the University of Louisville. I just want to put out that I am not a maternal fetal medicine doctor so I do euro gynecology, which is OBGYN surgery, so I'm not going to tell you that this is that material fetal medicine is my forte. However, I can tell you that as far

as, infant, maternal mortality the United States in whole is really in an embarrassing situation. We terribly as far as the maternal mortality. As far as, uh, compared to other, first world nations, more specifically, Kentucky, is probably up there near number 1 or 2, and some of the worst maternal mortality in the country, just to give you some numbers, we measure maternal mortality in terms of deaths for 100,000 the average in the U. S. is somewhere between 17 and 20 for 100,000 in Kentucky, we're at 40 or 100,000. We know that this is disproportionately affects mothers of color we know that 50% of those are due to drugs and other problems, and some over 90% are preventable so here we have a situation where we could affect, potentially, this maternal mortality numbers then I think it would be a unique opportunity to do, so as far as and the effects of Covid, I think we all have seen, that all over the globe, Covid has magnified the disparities and it's done the same with maternal mortality. There are more women dying and again what we call first world country then you know, places around the world that are that struggle to have any type of health care. So the picture is the same and then some worse within Kentucky. I don't know if I've answered most of your questions. Thank you.

"Chambers Armstrong, Cassie"

Yes, that was very helpful and I don't remember the numbers exactly, but I also remember seeing that statistic about 90% of maternal mortality deaths, being preventable and 1 year in Kentucky I think it was around 80 women that we lost in childbirth and to birth related complications and over 70 of those were preventable. And so, that's 70 people and if we look out at the chairs in this audience and imagine the women that could, and should still be with us today, I think that's impactful and that's not even getting to the women who have bad birth outcomes, and the babies that have bad birth outcomes because they don't have access to health care, or to quite frankly appropriate prenatal care all of those things we know that help lead to better outcomes. So I appreciate you all be in here and thanks for answering my questions. Thank you Mr. Chair.

"Hollander, Bill"

Councilman Piagentini.

"Piagentini, Anthony"

Thank you. Mr. chair. While U of L is here, just out of curiosity are you fully staffed? Your medical personnel nurses, doctors and, I mean, 100% staffed.

"Akins, Pamela"

My name is Pam Akins I'm the chief nursing officer and just about like everyone else no, I would not say we are not 100 staff, we were hiring every day.

"Piagentini, Anthony"

Since you're nursing, how many nurses would you say you could hire today?

If they just magically appeared in Louisville.

"Akins, Pamela"

That we get hired? I take 30, 40 if I could for sure.

"Piagentini, Anthony"

Okay. And there's been a pretty, pretty, there's been an increasing phenomenon and I'm sure you have always been impacted by this as well. You can correct me if I'm wrong of hospital systems using traveling nurses and paying, you know, in some cases 300% of what they're going rate might be in a local market, if they would hire them locally in order to fill the gap in workforce is that correct? Okay. Great. Thank you so much. The reason I'm bringing all this up colleagues I'm not going to debate the merits of this particular, this particular ordinance necessarily because I would be blown away if anybody in this room would say they aren't for solutions to this problem so let's just assume everybody is for solutions to the problem. The reality is we have 58 Million dollars of our money left and on Monday, we've appreciated everybody's patience, but on Monday morning, we expect a councilman Winkler and I have been you know, start sharing or spearheading that committee to submit our, our proposal for the remaining dollars only section of the 58 Million is going to work force, but it's going to a healthcare workforce solution. It is hands down, I think what people are briefed on it the best most comprehensive workforce related program, idea, solution, whatever you want to call it that was dreamed up during the months that we've been looking at solutions to our workforce crisis and focusing on health care, uh, because of the projections look pretty grim. In other words, there there will come a day without taking significant action that we can build all the hospitals on the planet Earth, but there won't be human beings called nurses and doctors to staff them. I think somebody pointed out, for example, across the state of Kentucky there are, and it's not just 1 or 2 but many, many counties that do not have OBGYNs do not have endocrinologists in the state that has the highest diabetes rate in the country, or one of the highest. So, this is that's going to eat up the vast majority of the 58 Million. There are other projects that are proposed in there that you will see on Monday,

this will be a simple question of what does this council with 14 votes want to fund with the additional 58 Million so I'm not, you know, necessarily for or against this proposal or any other. It's just a question of we need 14 I'm gonna be adamantly for the workforce development portion of it, because that's what we were holding back on it and we haven't done anything yet to address that but outside of that, the other, uh, the remaining section of it, it will simply be a question of the remaining proposals that we will submit on Monday, if this is how the, if this is how the council wants to spend, I think it's 10 Million dollars, then what do we want to take out of some of these other proposals? Right? So I mean, this is the end of the of the debate, and it's really just going to come down to, uh, what do 14 members of council agree that the priorities are for the other 58 Million but I did want to give the heads up that the vast majority of that 58 Million is going to be dedicated to a program. be dedicated to a program I think once everybody sees, it will be completely convinced that that it must be funded in order to number 1, address, you know, again, workforce was one of the streams that we haven't done anything about to address that and then specifically around healthcare workforce, being such a critical area one of the, you know, sort of, pillars, industry pillars of the community. So it fits very, very nicely with the overall strategy. So, and may help, be part and parcel of helping some of this problem so, uh, but, yeah, it'll be, what do we do with the remaining balance we have some recommendations that were compiled from a series of conversations and recommendations with council members of community members and others, and it'll just come and so I just wanted to get everybody up to speed on, sort of, where we are with the process and looking forward to having that final discussion and vote. Thank you very much Mr. Chair.

"Hollander, Bill"
Councilwoman Fowler.

"Fowler, Cindi"

I understand what you are speaking about with this workforce development we're talking about lives here and it's real, and it is not going away and it's not getting better and half of our city does not have a close birthing center to their needs. I mean, they're, they're having to drive 40, 45 minutes and that's without traffic to get to a place to have a baby, and it's just so wrong in my mind that I cannot believe that we're having this discussion about workforce developing, being more important than birthing children safely and preventing deaths of the mother and the child and, um, you know, but that that's, you know, I

understand where you're coming from and you know but I just I really think that this is something that has been going on for far too long and it is time to address it when we have the money to do so. Thank you.

"Piagentini, Anthony"

So just to be clear. There are many hospitals with birthing centers across this a state that when a woman drives up to it, there's nobody to do anything for them. So instead they schedule C sections and that, as that has an incredible actually increase in, in a patient and child risk, it's happening all over the state right now. And that's the scenario that we're going to be. And if we don't address the health, the health care work, this is healthcare workforce to be clear. I'm not doing workforce force manufacturing cars. This is specifically a healthcare workforce issue. So first of all, I would argue that the, the workforce issue we're talking about is going to help addressing specifically what you're talking about we're talking about putting more nurses on the ground more doctors, specialists, etc., that's what we're focusing on, related to this, and there's equity components you know, again. So it's not a matter of, you know, saying, generically workforce is more important than women delivering babies, nobody's making that distinction. And I will tell you that the remaining dollars we have exceed what you're talking about here. So it's not a question of, what you'll see Monday is it's not going to be a question of doing the workforce in this it's the other projects that are in there and whether or not, this is gonna be prioritized over them. But to be clear, some of the other projects relate to things like, housing, the homeless. So, I mean, so it's, it's not as though there's gonna be programs in here that don't themselves, including the workforce program go to addressing things that are life and death decisions and again, Cindi counseling excuse me I didn't mean to be so cloak rule in the middle of a conversation in the middle of a debate, but the I don't disagree in the slightest with what you're talking about, but it's but that's the reality we need to get 14 votes on what we feel the last priorities with the 58 Million dollars and I did want to be clear that that the workforce program we're talking about is focused exclusively on healthcare workforce, which, in many areas in this state in this state you have OBGYNs that do that come into the county for on Tuesdays and Thursdays and weird scenarios like that, because it's, it's not just driving 45 minutes. They have to drive hours and we're trying to rectify that in the city, which will then hopefully impact the state as well. So that, that facility, or any other is staffed, with

competent, professional, medical professionals. So thank you very much.

"Kramer, Kevin"

I had clicked in a moment ago and then council continued clicked in and now council and founders clicked back in and I certainly don't want to stop the conversation that's taking place here. I think both of you are making, excellent points as councilman valid pointed out, I don't think we're going to reach a resolution on this today. There are lots of questions. I don't think anybody disagrees, that healthcare, especially in terms of women's health, especially around maternity. It is. Very, very important, you know, Councilman Piagentini has mentioned a couple times now you know, that we're getting towards the end of the ARP there was the process established early on when we first started talking about this where ideas went through different work groups. I'm not opposed to carrying on conversation about this in a work group, but if we just simply open it up at the end to anybody, and everybody who feels like there's something that needs to be done with the money that's available all of the work that we've done to try and keep this well, organized and targeted is just going to I fear come apart. So I'm gonna I'm gonna hold on a second cause again I don't want to. I, I really don't think it's fair to interject between 1 or 2, but, I do want to make a motion to table as soon as it might be appropriate.

"Fowler, Cindi"

Excellent. Thank you. Mr. Chair. So, you know, just to reminder that this was in our work group if you recall, right and it's just a matter of interpretation. It was in healthy neighborhoods work group. Yep. But I just I agree. I mean, I know we're not doing anything with this today, but, just, the last thing I'm going to say is we talked early on about doing bold things with this money, Councilwoman McCraney bold. And if we can't figure out how to get 10 Million dollars for the women on the West side of our I-65, who are still of child bearing age, shame on us. That's all.

"Hollander, Bill"

Councilman Kramer?

"Kramer, Kevin"

Motion to table.

"Hollander, Bill"

Probably moved and seconded all in favor say, aye. Opposed? All right the ordinance is table. Thank you very much for the discussion today without objection, we're adjourned.