

COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON

HELD:

Tuesday, May 26th, 2026

LOCATION:

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Maria McCool, RPR
Official Court Reporter

C O U N C I L M E M B E R S :

THOMAS SCHUSTER - PRESIDENT

PATRICK FLYNN, VICE PRESIDENT

MARK MCANDREW

JESSICA ROTHCHILD

SEAN MCANDREW

FRANK VOLDENBERG, CITY CLERK

KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

THOMAS GILBRIDE, ESQ., COUNCIL SOLICITOR

(Pledge of Allegiance.)

MR. SCHUSTER: Please remain standing for a moment of silent reflection for our service men and women throughout the world and for those who have passed away in our community. Roll call, please.

MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

DR. ROTHCHILD: Here.

MS. CARRERA: Mr. Sean McAndrew.

MR. SEAN MCANDREW: Present.

MS. CARRERA: Mr. Mark McAndrew.

MR. MARK MCANDREW: Present.

MS. CARRERA: Mr. Flynn.

MR. FLYNN: Here.

MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

MR. SCHUSTER: Present. Please Dispense with the reading of the minutes.

MR. VOLDENBERG: THIRD ORDER.

3.A. LACKAWANNA COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT EVALUATION REPORT RECEIVED MAY 21, 2026.

MR. SCHUSTER: Thank you. Are there any comments on any Third Order Items? If not, received and filed. Do any Council members

1 have any announcements at this time?

2 MR. VOLDENBERG: FORTH ORDER.

3 CITIZEN PARTICIPATION.

4 MR. SCHUSTER: Our first speaker
5 tonight is Joan Hodowanitz.

6 MS. HODOWANITZ: Joan Hodowanitz,
7 Scranton. First, I want to thank all the
8 residents of Scranton who paused and observed
9 Memorial Day on Monday and remembered our
10 honored dead. Even if you never served in the
11 military, many of us have relatives who did die
12 during a war.

13 Also, I want to thank everyone who
14 supported Swingin on Vine last Friday night.
15 It's the Library's major fundraiser. God was
16 good, made sure we had good weather before the
17 rains came. And it'll -- all the money that we
18 earned will go to a good cause. So thank you,
19 those of you who came out. I hope you had a
20 good time.

21 Now, I checked the city's website,
22 and I still don't see the union contract for
23 DPW posted. Are they still working on getting
24 that finalized?

25 MR. SCHUSTER: I imagine.

1 MS. HODOWANITZ: Well, I hope so
2 because, you know, I mean, it's a public
3 document. And it's how we spend our taxpayer
4 dollars. We would like to see, you know,
5 what's in it. Keep in mind that when the
6 administration produced their personnel
7 handbook a few years ago, if you look at the
8 various chapters, several of the chapters -- I
9 think 17 of 21 referred the reader to the union
10 contract.

11 So, you know, it's in everybody's
12 interest that they get that done and they post
13 that on the public website. I hope the audit
14 is continuing unabated. You realize that if we
15 were following the Home Rule Charter, it would
16 be due by May 31st. But, of course, we don't
17 follow the charter.

18 The RLE contract, not that I have
19 any issue with it, except that whoever prepared
20 the legislative cover sheet did not put down
21 the financial impact. You had to go into the
22 actual contract to find out that it was 7
23 million dollars and it's ARPA funds.

24 So it'd be nice that when whoever
25 prepares these cover sheets -- legislative

1 cover sheets pays a little attention to putting
2 the basic information. One of them should be
3 the financial cost.

4 And the third amendment to the 2026
5 budget, I mentioned this last week, and I'll
6 mention it again. Because it took so much time
7 for the DPW contract to be finalized, at least
8 in theory, we're having to go back and modify
9 this year's budget for their wages for DPW on
10 Parks and Recreation.

11 So they're going to take \$233,766.27
12 out of a \$600,000 contingency fund. That's 39
13 percent of the contingency fund whose primary
14 purpose is to, you know, provide funding in
15 emergencies, usually natural emergencies, snow
16 storms, floods, and so on and so forth.

17 My question is, when the
18 firefighters and police contracts run out at
19 the end of the year, how many years is it going
20 to take for those contracts to be finalized?
21 Are we going to have to be amending the 2027
22 budget, maybe the 2028 budget?

23 Remember, the last time they had
24 their contracts done, it took, what, 18 months
25 or so for those contracts. That is no way to

1 run a railroad. And if you think that \$233,000
2 is a lot of money for DPW and Parks and Rec,
3 the majority of municipal employees fall into
4 the police and fire departments.

5 So any wages that are -- have to be
6 adjusted for them is going probably well exceed
7 \$600,000. So let's see how we cross that.
8 And that is all I have for tonight. Thank you.

9 MR. SCHUSTER: Thank you. The next
10 speaker is Mike Mancini.

11 MR. MANCINI: Thank you, Council
12 President Schuster. Good evening, Council, and
13 the good people of Scranton. The best
14 representatives are those who listen
15 attentively and form their own questions,
16 concerns, and opinions.

17 Tonight, infrastructure, on the
18 question. While this administration plays
19 Jeopardy with right to knows and denies because
20 it's not their form of question, four and a
21 quarter of Council here weekly representing
22 Scranton.

23 I represent those having the same
24 following issues in this administration's
25 biggest critic. It looks like orange is the

1 new Scranton. Progress in an election year.

2 Poor planning always ends up with
3 poor results. Pumping the brakes on important
4 projects because it becomes costly and at times
5 a safety issue. Excellent -- an excellent
6 example would be the West Scranton -- I'm
7 sorry, West Lackawanna Avenue bridge. Those
8 sidewalks looked like that for decades. Draw
9 your own opinions.

10 Laziness and the lack of
11 determination have created our current
12 landscape. There may be four and a quarter in
13 front of me. However, there are 76,000 who see
14 the same thing daily. They look beyond the
15 orange.

16 To the good people of Scranton, on
17 the question. In your travels daily, do you
18 see a pothole, storm drain in the need of
19 repair or replacement, a pave cut, manhole
20 cover or railroad tracks in need of repair or
21 replacement?

22 If lucky, your travels would include
23 a newly paved road. Take notice to those newly
24 paved roads and witness the lack of tar to seal
25 the middle of the road. Since this

1 administration is behind an extra set of locked
2 doors and continues the lack of oversight, the
3 good people of Scranton will step up when in
4 need.

5 It's the very same fabric that
6 refuses to weather any element. While this
7 administration refuses to answer any form of
8 questions while placing your infrastructure in
9 jeopardy, we're about to change the game.

10 You see an unrepaired pothole,
11 horrible, deficient manhole cover, pave cut
12 that continues to be ignored, the dull stop
13 signs or street signs or the train track
14 crossings in need of replacement from decades
15 ago, grab something to write with, see
16 something, say something.

17 There are so many good people in
18 Scranton. We need to have each other's back.
19 I can attest to that more than once.
20 Change the game, e-mail your concerns or
21 questions about those issues that I described
22 to the following addresses.

23 Scranton311@scrantonpa.gov.
24 Ecipriani@scrantonpa.gov and any or all of the
25 four and a quarter Council members. Our

1 supermajority is proactive. They will ensure
2 that all questions and concerns regarding your
3 infrastructure are resolved promptly.

4 The games with the administration
5 continues to play are underwhelming. The good
6 people of Scranton see the same games daily.
7 They witness all the destructive caused by the
8 utilities, lack of oversight by third party
9 pave cut inspectors, and the laziness
10 compounded with the excuses by this
11 administration of lockdown.

12 To say that I dislike what the
13 utilities have done to every resident in
14 Scranton is an understatement. City has an
15 ordinance pertaining to pave cuts after newly
16 paved roads within a two year time span. If a
17 road is cut by a utility, they must replace the
18 whole block. You know one of these streets,
19 turn it into the 311 address, Eileen Cipriani
20 and any or all four and a quarter Council
21 members.

22 I will enter my request tonight in
23 person. Stafford Avenue was a newly paved
24 road, which includes an address for PA Water.
25 After this administration completed the

1 replacement at the expense of stretch -- a
2 utility, which I believe is PA Water made a cut
3 right in front of their own building. Four and
4 a quarter Council, on the question, which one
5 of you would investigate and ensure that this
6 road gets replaced? Thank you.

7 This administration and utility
8 companies want to play games with the good
9 people of Scranton. I will continue to
10 criticize, but bring awareness wherever,
11 whenever, because Mancini don't miss. Good
12 evening, four and a quarter Council, and the
13 good people of Scranton.

14 MR. SEAN MCANDREW: Frank -- Frank,
15 can you have them check on that Stafford Ave.,
16 pave cut?

17 MR. VOLDENBERG: I will, sir.

18 MR. SEAN MCANDREW: Thanks.

19 MR. SCHUSTER: Our next speaker is
20 Amanda Eisbacher.

21 MS. EISBACHER: Hello. I'm a really
22 peaceful person. I have a ninth grade
23 education. I grew up in foster care around
24 here. When I was in Lakeland in elementary, I
25 was a gifted kid. I had straight A's with my

1 mom.

2 We were removed from her, and my
3 life went downhill. Me and my three sisters
4 were all molested in foster care. There's some
5 type of traumatization within your system. It
6 is a system. In the meantime, while I've been
7 homeless, I've been staying down on Capouse
8 Ave.

9 Everybody likes to say stuff about
10 the people on Capouse Ave. A lot of them are
11 literally veterans that have been, you know,
12 they're not getting any help down there. I
13 don't ever see any help down there. Even the
14 people with drug problems, they -- they're
15 hurt.

16 My sister even, she has been on the
17 Suboxone program for 10 years. I went to Clean
18 Slate, asked them for a pamphlet about their
19 program. They told me I had to sign a HIPAA
20 release for that. And they have the prices
21 right there. It's illegal drug dealing, okay?

22 They get addicted in the streets,
23 and then you give them fines, and then you give
24 them your drugs with the government. I'm
25 sorry, not you personally. It's a big problem.

1 She was upstate for three and a half
2 years. Why couldn't they get her off them?
3 When I asked the woman this after I signed the
4 HIPAA, she told me that addiction is a lifelong
5 disease. There -- I believe that it's a mental
6 health issue.

7 There is no counseling there. So
8 Scranton Counseling has their hands on my
9 sister. And so doesn't this drug place, which
10 is just giving her a prescription, mind you,
11 they're not administering anything there. She
12 has to go pick up a prescription.

13 Why can't -- there's no counseling.
14 I don't know why so many people have to be
15 involved and get paid for that. Capouse is
16 literally a street of victims, you know, of the
17 system. Every single one of them have -- has
18 been through it. And I don't see how it has
19 helped anybody.

20 Even our old caseworker who -- for
21 Children and Youth, he was under investigation,
22 Brian Walker. There was some settlement. What
23 about the kids who were actually hurt during
24 any of that, you know, what did they get?

25 We're just going to be used for

1 numbers and money again. So I'm not leaving
2 here tonight until you figure out what you're
3 going to do with me. I don't have mental
4 health problems.

5 Well, maybe a little bit, but I
6 think it's understandable. While I'm down at
7 Capouse, I've been helping those people. I'm
8 filthy dirty right now because I have been
9 helping them. There is no help. I don't see
10 anybody down there from any of these programs.

11 There's nothing for them, even a
12 store. Most of them don't have cars. So where
13 are they spending their money? Convenient
14 stores -- their food stamps, I'm sorry. And
15 that's all getting sucked up because
16 everything's overpriced down there.

17 There was going to be a laundromat,
18 which everybody was excited about because most
19 of them have bugs. You can't get rid of the
20 bugs unless you wash clothes, you know. They
21 don't have a way to do any of that.

22 I don't know what happened with that
23 project. Everybody was excited. That was a
24 great thing, one of the best things I've seen
25 from the city.

1 So, I'd like to hear about that.
2 But again, I'm not leaving here until you
3 figure out what you're going to do with me. I
4 tried to call the FBI and talk to the DA about
5 all this stuff with the foster care system.
6 Nobody wants to hear it.

7 This is my family. Just as much as
8 you care about your family, my family -- I'm
9 the strongest one in it, mind you, and look at
10 me right now. I did my ancestry. And I have a
11 lot of nobility in there.

12 And I don't know if this was done to
13 my family on purpose. You know, my mom was set
14 up in some type of way because she got into
15 some trouble. But the guy who did it mainly,
16 he got less time than her. And I just really
17 can't understand, you know, what the property
18 transactions and all of that.

19 There's something going on within
20 your system -- some type of espionage,
21 something. I don't know. Again, I have a
22 ninth grade education. I don't even feel
23 comfortable being here or around any of you
24 people. I feel comfortable down on Capouse
25 because they're real.

1 I'm not saying anything bad. I
2 don't know you personally. It's just suits,
3 you know, and all that. What's -- it's not
4 real. So you have until whatever to figure out
5 if you're going to put me in jail.

6 I'd rather that than a mental place
7 because I'd rather be a criminal. That way
8 somebody can make their money off of me. Thank
9 you.

10 MR. SCHUSTER: Thank you. Next is
11 Les Spindler.

12 MR. SPINDLER: Council, Les
13 Spindler, city resident and homeowner. Okay,
14 here we go again. Pave cuts, 100 block of
15 South Main Avenue, talked about this every
16 week, still not taken care of.

17 Pave cuts which became potholes.
18 And they just filled in the potholes, but it's
19 still rough. Clearview Street and North Main,
20 spoke about that about a week and a half ago.
21 It was dug up. They said there was a water
22 main break earlier. They fixed it temporarily.
23 Now, about week and a half ago they fixed it,
24 but the road's a mess.

25 It's a disaster. Where's our pave

1 cut inspectors? They should be fired. They
2 don't do their job. That Clearview and North
3 Main is a mess. If you don't slow down, come
4 to almost a stop, you're going to get bounced
5 up and down in your car. It's ridiculous.

6 Pennoni should be fired. They don't
7 do their job. Euclid where they just made it
8 one way, driving on Friday going up, they
9 painted a pink and white arrow. And it says
10 one way. That's really going to stop people
11 from going the wrong way.

12 What a joke. Especially at night,
13 they're not going to see that arrow painted on
14 the ground, it's ridiculous. And I saw the
15 Mayor at the True Value ribbon cutting, and I
16 questioned her. I said, "Whose brilliant idea
17 was that to make that one way?" She goes the
18 engineers.

19 I said, "Oh, the same engineers that
20 said it's a good idea to put stop signs
21 downtown instead of traffic lights?"

22 I said, "John Pocius said you never replace
23 traffic lights with stop signs." She said,
24 "Well, we had to replace a lot of stuff that
25 John Pocius did." I said, "Yeah, right. Okay."

1 So she said to me -- she said, "Les,
2 do you agree with anything that we do?" I
3 said, "No, not really because you don't do
4 anything for the taxpayers. You didn't talk to
5 anybody about making Euclid one way there. You
6 didn't talk to the fire department. A fire
7 truck can't make that turn.

8 And Emiliani's, which is a business
9 there on Dorothy Street, they parked their
10 trucks on Dorothy. They can't make the turn on
11 Farr Street." It's ridiculous. So when it
12 comes to November, everybody vote for Paige for
13 Congress so we get her out of here.

14 Okay, Green Ridge Street Bridge,
15 last week they were doing something which had
16 totally nothing to do with the bridge. I don't
17 know if everybody's familiar with it. There's
18 a car wash right there. They were digging up
19 the blacktop that's in front of the car wash.
20 It's inside the curb, perfectly nothing to do
21 with the bridge.

22 Finally, today I saw progress.
23 They were paving Euclid -- not Euclid, Nay Aug
24 Avenue. They were paving the Nay Aug. And
25 they paved the one lane of Green Ridge going up

1 into the new bridge. So there's only one more
2 thing to do.

3 And that bridge should be open by
4 the end of this week if they don't drag their
5 feet again because there's one lane at the
6 other side of the bridge that has to be filled
7 in and paved. They could probably do that
8 tomorrow. That bridge should be open by the
9 end of the week, but I know it won't be because
10 they just drag their feet.

11 Speaking of dragging, the kratom
12 legislation, where does it stand?

13 MR. SCHUSTER: Still making some
14 progress.

15 MR. SPINDLER: You people all said
16 you don't want this to drag on when you tabled
17 it. Well, it's dragging on. So you're not
18 keeping your word. You're letting the Mayor
19 dictate to you. Just -- just get it out of
20 Eighth Order, vote on it, and get rid of it.

21 Lastly, the bridge at South Side by
22 the U of S complex softball and baseball
23 complex there, does anybody know what's going
24 on with that? The one lane's been blocked off
25 there for years. So if we can find out what's

1 going on with that.

2 MR. SCHUSTER: I believe the weight
3 limit on the bridge has been decreased. So
4 they put it to one lane to have less traffic on
5 the bridge due to the weight limit. We could
6 find out for -- but that's my recollection.

7 MR. SPINDLER: Are they going to do
8 anything to alleviate the problem?

9 MR. SCHUSTER: I believe that
10 they're waiting for East Elm Street prior to
11 that -- working on that bridge.

12 MR. SPINDLER: Well, that was one
13 lane by the University there. That was long
14 before they started the Elm Street project.
15 Thank you for your time.

16 MR. SCHUSTER: Thank you. Next is
17 Lenny Srebro.

18 MR. SREBRO: Good evening, Council,
19 Lenny Srebro, Keyser Valley. I'm here to
20 continue my quest for the pod removal that's
21 parked in front of my property for -- I double
22 checked 15 months right now.

23 It's not being used. There's no
24 construction going on. There's no moving going
25 on. Now, when I was here last time two weeks

1 ago, I believe, Tom, you told Mr. Voldenberg
2 to put in a claim for checking it out, you
3 know --

4 MR. MARK MCANDREW: That was me.
5 I'm going to report on it.

6 MR. SREBRO: Okay.

7 MR. MARK MCANDREW: You have four
8 more minutes, but I don't want to -- I'll
9 report on what I got back, and they're still
10 working on it.

11 MR. SREBRO: Okay. Well, here's
12 why, before I even came here in the beginning
13 six weeks ago to open up this claim, whatever
14 you want to call it for the pod removal --
15 believe me, I called code enforcement numerous
16 times, left a message. Nobody ever called me
17 back.

18 Today, trying again, finally got
19 somebody on the phone. They told me there was
20 no -- they didn't get any report from Council
21 about this pod. Now, he looked into it. He
22 seen the pod. He even said, boy, our aerial
23 view of your -- of your property there was in
24 March of last year. So that's 15 months.
25 Yeah, I could see the pod there.

1 I could see that it's -- it's not,
2 it's too far -- or too close to the
3 intersection. We'll have to send somebody out
4 to look at it. But we may have to go through
5 the police department. So I called the police
6 department.

7 How about did you get any kind of
8 report to come in and look at a pod? Police
9 Department got no report from nobody. So see,
10 here I am and nothing was done. So see, I took
11 it on myself. Thank God, I was able to talk to
12 a human being.

13 Now, this pod has been through the
14 flood two years ago and heavy rains. There's
15 debris piled up in it. Whatever is inside that
16 pod has to be filled with mold, biological
17 stuff, you know, things just happening. It's a
18 health hazard.

19 Now that the weather's getting
20 warmer, you know, why can't I get anything
21 checked out? It's so -- it's so illegal
22 sitting there. I tried talking to the owner.
23 I got bullshit stories one after another why
24 it's there.

25 And we're planning on down the line,

1 we're gonna, you know, remodel the kitchen or
2 what. Well, you know, for 15 months nothing
3 has been done. I did speak to somebody, a
4 construction company engineer that told me in
5 the -- the ordinance that I gave you, Tom,
6 didn't have it in it.

7 But he says when a structure is on
8 the street more than six months, it's
9 considered a permanent structure. And you
10 can't have a pod on the street. You know, so
11 everything is against this and nothing is
12 getting done.

13 So what I'm hoping for is next week
14 when I come here to say, what did we find out,
15 anything at all? I'm hoping somebody could
16 tell me something.

17 MR. MARK MCANDREW: I will, in Fifth
18 Order. It's not -- it's not a great answer,
19 but we're getting there.

20 MR. SREBRO: Well, when I called
21 zoning, you know, they were interested in
22 knowing the whole story there. And I told
23 them. And he said we're going to send somebody
24 out to take a look at it. Now, I don't know if
25 somebody's going to come out, you know.

1 Okay, biggest thing now I'm worried
2 about, the biological thing of what's going to,
3 you know, bugs and all of that, debris piled
4 up. See you next week. Thank you.

5 MR. SCHUSTER: Thank you. Would
6 anyone else like to address Council?

7 MR. COYNE: Tom Coyne, Minooka.
8 First of all, I'd like to thank whoever took
9 care of it and made the -- put the arrows back
10 on the top of the Cedar Avenue hill out front
11 of Yankee Lunch.

12 They got out there and they put
13 through the straight right hand turn lane and
14 the left hand turn lane on that road. I don't
15 know why it was missing, but it's nice to see
16 it back up there because it causes less
17 confusion when you expect someone to make the
18 right hand turn and all of a sudden they're
19 going straight through the intersection.

20 Well, I don't understand how this
21 woman here could say anything about Capouse not
22 being taken care of and the homeless not being
23 taken care of. We've had well over two years
24 of the Unsheltered Task Force.

25 I'm sure they have diligently worked

1 to solve all of those issues. I'm sure the
2 Unsheltered Task Force probably did a Zoom
3 meeting from down there so they could actually
4 see the situation on hand, not in an office,
5 not in a home, not hidden away where no one in
6 the public could actually know what was
7 happening in those meetings.

8 The homeless in Scranton, not the
9 unsheltered, the homeless are not on Zoom.
10 They are not comforted by Zoom. Zoom does not
11 help them. Zoom does not inform them. And
12 Zoom does not tell the people how the city, the
13 county and I believe Wilkes Barre is on it as
14 well, how the region is actually taking steps
15 to help the people.

16 We know there's meetings. That's
17 great. We can always have meetings and no, no
18 action, sort of like Rubicon. Moving on,
19 street sweepers and paving, I know we're
20 looking to get a new street sweeper unit. But
21 about a year and a half ago it was mentioned
22 that Wilkes-Barre and other communities
23 actually have automated pothole fillers that
24 actually heat the pavement.

25 They dump the pavement out. They

1 actually have it equipped with hydraulic
2 rollers that go down to actually compact the
3 pavement patches. And they have hoses on them
4 so they can go along and seal them manually or
5 some of them are actually automatically.

6 Why are we getting a street sweeper
7 to clear the street so that we can see the
8 potholes better? We need more pothole
9 visibility, I guess. We have one street
10 sweeper. We certainly have a lot of potholes.
11 Why are we investing in a sweeper rather than a
12 solution?

13 Last week I talked about and went
14 over real quickly, because I was running out of
15 time, the gift card program. This was put
16 forward in July of 2024, had a total of
17 12 gift cards handed out. And since they're
18 doubling them, six households.

19 Originally when this came forth
20 before this body and was approved, we asked
21 questions like who would be handing them out?
22 How they would be handing out? What was the
23 criteria for them being handed out?

24 We were told that the inspectors
25 would be handing them out. Obviously six

1 households in two years is not doing the job.
2 When 200 becomes 75, there's a question on what
3 happened to those gift cards. Did they fall
4 into inspectors' pockets and to their families
5 and feed them?

6 We don't know what happened to the
7 \$5,000 worth of gift cards because it suddenly
8 become 75 and 1,875. That's why we ask these
9 tough questions up here when we look at and we
10 say we want accountability on a program.

11 We deserve to know where this money
12 is being spent and that it's not being spent to
13 take care of delivering a news article before a
14 political vote. We need it to take care of the
15 job it was put there for. And I hope it gets
16 addressed. Thank you and have a good night.

17 MR. SCHUSTER: Thank you. Would
18 anyone else like to address Council?

19 MR. LITTLE: Hello, Council, Rik
20 Little. I just watched a documentary from the
21 Lackawanna Historical Society on the history of
22 Scranton. And I thought I knew everything
23 because that's what I did when I first came to
24 Scranton.

25 I just read about the history at the

1 library and, you know, just trying to figure
2 out where things went wrong. And, you know,
3 Scranton, all American city in 18 and 1954.
4 That was also the last year that the trolley
5 car went down the street here.

6 I -- I -- I just see Scranton as
7 being cursed from the beginning, cursed because
8 the things that keep people alive was taken
9 out. And I'm looking at the data centers.
10 President Trump made an order that we shall
11 have data centers.

12 And if you read it, the idea is to
13 use American things, American lithium, American
14 chips, American cobalt and American silver and
15 the things that are needed to do it. But the
16 City of Scranton like many cities, it's a home
17 rule. It's ruled by judges.

18 The economy is based on you see --
19 you know, recovery and -- let me get my
20 thoughts -- water -- water is the thing.
21 Lakes Scranton was given to Pennsylvania Water
22 and Power in like 1850.

23 There's -- and then there was
24 another lake, lake -- Mountain Lake. That was
25 like 1911. There was a Robinson Brewery I know

1 on Cedar Avenue. And I think that's the same
2 people. Anyway, without water we're dead. And
3 Scranton is dead unless we get very, very
4 serious about this data center stuff.

5 And, you know, I see Governor
6 Shapiro, I'm against data centers. I mean, he
7 could make an executive order because the
8 whole -- the whole thing around data centers --
9 the people that run the world, they planned
10 this 50 years ago.

11 You look at Archibald right next to
12 the land in Archibald, there's all these woods
13 and everything. Right next to it is land owned
14 by Lockheed, I believe. And as I talked about
15 last week, you know, all the digging up the
16 streets here is the one company, Krieger, but
17 it's way beyond politics.

18 People have to come together, and
19 they have all these, you know, town meetings
20 and stuff, but the electric prices are doubling
21 and tripling. But without the water -- because
22 I've looked all over the country. I looked all
23 over the world, you know, in Alaska, in
24 California, things are drying up.

25 And I know having lived in Pike

1 County, you know, on land with a -- with a
2 well, you know, wells were being affected by
3 the shale -- this whole Green New Deal thing is
4 crazy, crazy. We need energy. The idea of the
5 data centers is to make America safe from
6 China.

7 But, you know, there has to be some
8 protections of the communities. There has to
9 be from Scranton, from every community around
10 here from Lackawanna County saying, no, no data
11 centers here. It has to happen because if they
12 get here, they're going to be obsolete in four
13 years. And without water we can't survive
14 here. So thank you.

15 MR. SCHUSTER: Thank you. Would
16 anyone else like to address Council?

17 MR. VOLDENBERG: FIFTH ORDER. 5-A.
18 MOTIONS.

19 MR. SCHUSTER: Dr. Rothchild, do you
20 have any motions or comments?

21 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes, I have a few.
22 First, just want to start off responding to
23 there was a woman who spoke about her
24 experience being homeless and staying on
25 Capouse Avenue. And I'm sorry for the

1 experiences that she's had.

2 And I appreciate her and people like
3 herself coming here and talking about the
4 challenges that they're facing due to lack of
5 housing. And if there's anything -- I'd like
6 to see if there's anything we could do.

7 But if you can leave your contact
8 information here. Okay, if you could also
9 leave your contact information, then we can try
10 to work together with you on --

11 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: (Inaudible.)

12 MR. SCHUSTER: Excuse me, we're
13 going to keep order tonight. Thank you.

14 DR. ROTHCHILD: So a couple of
15 complaints and other things that I wanted to
16 bring up tonight, I received an e-mail from
17 someone with a complaint about 505 Cayuga
18 Street in North Scranton.

19 There is a nuisance property there.
20 I think there's been multiple police calls in
21 the past. And so if we can have code
22 enforcement take a look at that property and
23 determine if it -- if it is determined to be a
24 nuisance property or I know they take a look at
25 how many police calls they've -- they've

1 received and other factors to determine if
2 there needs to be a condemnation issued or
3 other actionable force on their part.

4 MR. VOLDENBERG: I'll look into it,
5 Doctor.

6 DR. ROTHCHILD: Thank you. And
7 also received a complaint from the 1500 block
8 of Pine Street. They're looking for --
9 well, I'd like to see if code enforcement can
10 visit a property there. It's 1513 is the
11 house. There's a number of issues there as
12 well.

13 MR. VOLDENBERG: I'll take care of
14 it.

15 DR. ROTHCHILD: Thanks. And one
16 other thing too, I've seen a couple complaints
17 about. There's a pave cut along the 500 block
18 of Harrison Avenue. I travel Harrison Avenue
19 every day too. So it's -- it's very poorly
20 paved and oddly shaped and caving in. So if we
21 could get someone out there to inspect that
22 paved cut.

23 MR. VOLDENBERG: I will.

24 DR. ROTHCHILD: Thank you. And I
25 think one other thing over at Darcy Park and

1 the East Scranton Little League, there are --
2 there's like a flock of geese. And there's
3 some issues concerning them. And people are
4 requesting that people -- the public try to
5 avoid feeding the geese so that they can --
6 that they can move on away from that area.

7 So I just wanted to make that
8 announcement. But that's all that I have for
9 tonight. Thank you.

10 MR. SCHUSTER: Thank you. Mr. Sean
11 McAndrew, do you have any motions or comments?

12 MR. SEAN MCANDREW: Yeah, I have a
13 few. First, I'm going to read some of the
14 responses I got back from city administration
15 for my questions from last week. The first
16 question I asked was regarding the Fawnwood
17 Storm Project.

18 We were told that they actually are
19 going to make the changes and complete the pipe
20 the whole way from the road down to the -- both
21 neighbors' property out to the other road. But
22 we never got official word of that. That was
23 something that a resident who was affected by
24 this told me.

25 So we got the response that it is

1 correct that they are going to be completing it
2 the proper way. So I want to thank them for
3 doing the right thing and committing to their
4 word of doing the property correct.

5 I do -- Frank, if you can ask just
6 so we know where the money is coming from
7 because I know they said that they originally
8 couldn't afford it. Where would they be taking
9 the money from in the budget to cover the cost,
10 just so we know.

11 MR. VOLDENBERG: I'll ask that
12 question, sir.

13 MR. SEAN MCANDREW: Another question
14 that was sent down, this was from a resident.
15 It was regarding the West Scranton Skate Park
16 and Community Center over there around Jackson
17 Street.

18 I guess this resident has -- I think
19 they asked the Mayor directly at a meeting
20 once, asked if they could be named after two of
21 the mayors who used to live in the area. We
22 didn't even get a response. It wasn't even on
23 the -- on the list that -- of responses that
24 were sent back.

25 So, listen, if this was a question I

1 would ask and we didn't get a response, I'd be
2 okay with it. But it was a resident, a
3 taxpayer who took their time out of their day
4 to message me and ask to get an answer. If the
5 answer is no, that's fine.

6 If it's, you know, we'll look into
7 it, but to not acknowledge it to me is just
8 rude and disrespectful to the taxpayer. So,
9 Frank, can we please send that down and explain
10 again it's coming from a resident. So they
11 earn the right to ask the question. They
12 deserve an answer.

13 MR. VOLDENBERG: I will first thing.

14 MR. SEAN MCANDREW: Thank you. I
15 know we sent down to American Water regarding
16 the drains. They said they'd be looking into
17 it, I think. Can we ask the city if they have
18 any information and also a copy of the sales
19 agreement from when they sold the Sewer
20 Authority to American Water? Can we get a copy
21 of that?

22 MR. VOLDENBERG: I can get that
23 information.

24 MR. SEAN MCANDREW: Awesome. Then
25 I have two other requests from residents.

1 First one is a 400 Forest Court between Vine
2 and Mulberry. There's potholes galore back
3 there. They're just wondering if they can get
4 filled in and the road be taken care of.

5 And then Cherry Street by South
6 Irving, there's a huge -- along the whole --
7 the right hand side of the road it looks like
8 from the picture I got there's a big dip in the
9 road. And there's missing pavement. And it's
10 just if somebody has to swerve off, they're
11 gonna get stuck in there. So can we have
12 somebody go down and check that?

13 MR. VOLDENBERG: I made note of both
14 of them. I'll take care of it.

15 MR. SEAN MCANDREW: Thank you so
16 much. And finally, the homeless issue with the
17 Unsheltered Task Force. I mean, what is this
18 task force really accomplishing? It seems like
19 things are getting worse. I mean, we asked
20 where the money's going to make -- can we have
21 it broken down. What's the money, like, line
22 item?

23 Where is it going to and we're not
24 getting any responses. Or we're just, you
25 know, it's a little disheartening. How many

1 times have we sent money to nonprofits in the
2 area that are supposed to be helping and it
3 doesn't seem like they're helping.

4 Like, how much money did the mission
5 get last year and now, all of a sudden, they're
6 gone. You know, how much money is CIC getting,
7 and what are they actually, you know, doing?
8 It doesn't sound like -- sounds like a lot.

9 So I think we have to start
10 questioning of the money that we're giving out
11 in the city. We have to make sure we're
12 getting our return on that because it doesn't
13 seem like it's happening and people aren't
14 getting the help they need.

15 And, you know, this Unsheltered Task
16 Force, the idea of it is great. But there's so
17 many people on it. I think there's -- I think,
18 40 or 50 members. I don't think that's the
19 best -- best way to do this. I think we can
20 have a more intimate board with people who are
21 on the ground affected by it, who, you know,
22 are focused on making change.

23 So maybe we have to look into a
24 different structure or Council has to come up
25 with something to do their own committee or

1 something. But whatever's -- whatever's being
2 done or not being done is clearly not working.
3 So let's figure out something as a Council,
4 because it looks like the administration is not
5 doing it. So let's step up as a Council and
6 let's figure something out. So thank you very
7 much.

8 MR. SCHUSTER: Thank you. Mr. Mark
9 McAndrew, do you have any motions or comments?

10 MR. SEAN MCANDREW: I have a couple.
11 Ms. Eisbacher, I hope I'm not just -- is that
12 your name -- your pronunciation. Thank you
13 again for coming.

14 I know a few months ago you came and
15 spilled your heart out to all of us. And that
16 took great courage. And I totally sympathize
17 with you. And I highly recommended that you
18 had a seat at the Unsheltered Task Force
19 Committee.

20 Fell on deaf ears. I have no
21 control over that and I apologize. I wish I
22 could do more for you. And with regards -- and
23 now your poor sister is experiencing some
24 issues. And I sympathize and I feel sorry for
25 you.

1 And I feel sorry that you're not
2 getting the help that you need and deserve on
3 behalf of our city. And I agree, you know,
4 I've heard some -- the meetings that they have
5 and the updates, they're never very promising.

6 And I appreciate -- and that you
7 bring frontline -- and it's unfortunate,
8 frontline real world experience what's going on
9 out there. And I appreciate that, but I wish
10 you didn't have to. I wish you were at a
11 different place than being in the mix of that.

12 And the issues on Capouse, please,
13 Mr. Voldenberg, relay these concerns to the
14 task force. I hope something's done with that.
15 But in addition to that, these are -- some of
16 the stuff that's going on there is criminal.
17 And we want all of our -- all of our residents
18 to be, you know, safe.

19 The health, safety, and welfare of
20 our residents has always been my priority. It
21 still is, never going to change. So I think
22 you need to alert, of course, the task force
23 and put them at task. That's their job, at
24 least they claim that they are, and alert, you
25 know, every other entity that we can including

1 the police, of course.

2 And if we have to alert individually
3 these nonprofits that are members of the task
4 force, please do so, so everybody's aware.
5 It's unfortunate that we have to -- you have to
6 come in and -- and you know, it's very
7 courageous that you do to come in and --
8 because we don't get that information.

9 Obviously, that's not being reported
10 to us or updated to us with the task force,
11 like, oh, yes, we did accomplish something.
12 Capouse is in a better place, no. Thank you
13 for telling us and alerting us.

14 And I promise you that, you know,
15 we'll look into it and make sure that the
16 proper authorities, the proper departments, and
17 everybody's notified so we can correct this for
18 once or finally move the needle in the right
19 direction.

20 I feel that it's not, but that's
21 just my personal opinion. But please know that
22 I'll always continue to, you know -- you're
23 fighting. I'm going to continue to fight with
24 you.

25 Secondly -- secondly, the pod issue.

1 All right, so I brought this up years ago,
2 okay, because there's still a bunch throughout
3 the city and it's crazy. And I agree. So when
4 I brought it up years ago we -- the only
5 response I got back, well, there's a difference
6 between a storage container and a trailer and a
7 dumpster and I got a bunch of, you know, mixed
8 answers.

9 And I'm like, fine, okay, maybe pods
10 are something new and they were. They weren't
11 identified in zoning in the ordinance. We
12 agree to that, right? So, again, Mr. Srebro
13 comes and he brings it up a couple weeks ago.
14 And I made an inquiry. And I asked, what's
15 going on? What do we need to do?

16 And the response I got was File of
17 Council 107, 2015 which pertains to the
18 portable storage containers. All right,
19 call -- call them pods, potato, potato,
20 whatever. But -- but these -- these exist, and
21 they're unsightly.

22 They're providing public safety with
23 line of sight and now a public safety issue.
24 And Mr. Srebro is right. God knows what's
25 flying around inside them or what bacteria or

1 mold and, you know, it creates a perfect
2 environment that -- that moisture for all this
3 stuff to multiply and grow and impose, you
4 know, very -- very dangerous safety issues.

5 Look at what's going on with the
6 rodents and their droppings causing this whole
7 new virus. Who knows, right? So sitting on it
8 and saying, well, we don't have -- what I was
9 told was, the ordinance was tabled in two
10 (video interruption) 30 days in a yard, I
11 don't know, two weeks in front of a house.

12 We just add the word or amend it and
13 add the word pod so this can be enforced. I
14 don't want to go back and forth with legal --
15 with legal administration as to one word. It's
16 been a couple of weeks now.

17 So -- so let's put this one to bed.
18 So, Solicitor Gilbride, let's take another good
19 look at the legislation. But let's find the
20 easiest path to changing this immediately so
21 it's enforceable by our police department,
22 whether it's on the street or code enforcement
23 if it's in a yard. Could you please do that
24 for me?

25 ATTY. GILBRIDE: Yes, sir.

1 MR. MARK MCANDREW: Thank you. And
2 I don't want, you know, if we don't get
3 anything back or clarity from administration,
4 we have the -- we have the authority to do it
5 ourselves with legislation. And I'm prepared
6 to do that.

7 I'm not sure about my colleagues,
8 but if they're in agreement, we do it. All
9 right? All right, the gift cards. All right.
10 So Mr. Coyne has made some great points. I
11 remember when this happened. I remember
12 when -- when we approved it. I thought it was
13 a great idea rewarding people that really take
14 care of their properties, right?

15 People need to be -- need and should
16 be rewarded. And so that was the concept. And
17 so I look back at our legislation from July
18 16th of 2024, Seventh Order we voted on this
19 great idea. And the great idea was 200 gift
20 cards, \$25 each. That's \$5,000, right?

21 So Mr. Coyne brought up some great
22 points over the past couple weeks. Where they
23 at? How many we -- so we got some information
24 back that only some of the six -- 60 -- there's
25 60-some left out of 75. Well, no, there was

1 never 75 cards.

2 Our legislation in front of me says
3 we voted on 200. We might have gave two 25s
4 per a couple families, but for clarity's sake,
5 I mean, I have legislation in front of me that
6 says we voted on 200 cards. If something
7 changed, why didn't they tell us, right? They
8 told us they're going to hand out some more.

9 They should have all been handed out
10 by now, obviously, recognizing, rewarding the
11 great citizens that did what they'd normally do
12 anyways. But, I mean -- and I'm sure knowing
13 that these -- these incentives out there, they
14 probably did a little extra work.

15 So can we get to the bottom? And so
16 the legislation, like I mentioned, you can
17 refer to it. Send that to administration, say
18 was there 200 cards or not? We voted on it.
19 That administration was sent to us -- I mean,
20 that legislation was sent to us from
21 administration. Was it an error?

22 Was it not 200 cards? I don't know.
23 But it's out there. This question has been
24 posed more than once. Let's get the answer.
25 Let's get a straight answer. And if there was

1 200 and now there's not that many and only a
2 couple have been dispersed, that's a problem.
3 So, please reach out to administration for
4 clarification.

5 MR. VOLDENBERG: We sent it out last
6 week as one of our questions per President
7 Schuster's request.

8 MR. MARK MCANDREW: I'm sorry?

9 MR. VOLDENBERG: We sent it out last
10 week as one of our questions per President
11 Schuster's request along with all the samples.
12 And we did not receive a response. So we're
13 following up.

14 MR. MARK MCANDREW: Okay. Well,
15 thank you, President Schuster. I was absent
16 last week. It doesn't hurt to throw another --
17 send another e-mail. Obviously, that should
18 have been an easy question to answer within a
19 week.

20 MR. VOLDENBERG: That's correct.
21 We're awaiting their response.

22 MR. MARK MCANDREW: All right.
23 Well, let's give a friendly reminder.

24 MR. VOLDENBERG: I will.

25 MR. MARK MCANDREW: We need that

1 information. That is all I have. Thank you.

2 MR. SCHUSTER: Thank you. Mr.
3 Flynn, any motions or comments?

4 MR. FLYNN: I have a few. So I've
5 been dealing with some -- some bottlenecks in
6 the roads in Green Ridge again today, some of
7 the work being done, road closures. I've been
8 in contact with American Water, going to meet
9 with them tomorrow to try to figure out a plan
10 as to how to best get this work done because
11 it's important work.

12 And we're getting close to the
13 million restoration portion of the work. But
14 going to meet with them on site tomorrow to try
15 to figure out the best way forward to get this
16 done and not have such a severe impact on the
17 residents in that neighborhood. So I might be
18 reporting back on that next week.

19 Mr. Voldenberg, if we could reach
20 out to the administration on some of the
21 potholes on Dimmick in Green Ridge to go take a
22 look at that, DPW to maybe fill in some of
23 those potholes. I know I put that on the
24 paving list. Maybe it'll happen in the fall
25 paving.

1 But for now, can we go and take a
2 look at some of these -- there's some pretty
3 deep potholes on that street. If we can look
4 at those to see if they could get filled.

5 MR. VOLDENBERG: I will. That is
6 on the paving list. But I'll follow up and
7 have the potholes filled.

8 MR. FLYNN: Also, you know, last
9 week I brought up 1021 Richmond Street known as
10 the Castle House and where we stand on that.
11 We did not receive a response. So I know Mr.
12 Voldenberg will be circling back with the
13 administration to get a response on where we
14 stand with that.

15 It was an appeal to -- on the
16 demolition was upheld for it to be demolished
17 in 2023, so have been getting outreach from
18 neighbors there. I'm actually going to go meet
19 with one of the neighbors who lives directly
20 behind it tomorrow to see, you know, what it
21 looks like from his backyard.

22 So, if we could get a response
23 from -- from the administration on where we
24 stand on that.

25 MR. VOLDENBERG: I will, sir.

1 MR. FLYNN: As for the kratom
2 legislation and where we stand on that and, you
3 know, we were waiting on information from
4 another municipality in Pennsylvania who didn't
5 do necessarily what we did, something --
6 something a little bit different.

7 But they were in litigation over it.
8 So we're looking to get some more information
9 from them before we move forward. And we
10 received that information today. So soon as
11 Solicitor Gilbride and Solicitor Eskra meet
12 later this week, early next week to go over
13 that, we're going to be in a good place to move
14 forward on that.

15 So -- so that's why we sat on that.
16 And that was the hiccup. And we have received
17 that information from that other municipality.
18 As far as the individual who came tonight to
19 speak about the homeless issue and, you know,
20 as my colleague said, there's a great -- great
21 amount of courage that comes with sharing such
22 deep-seated personal trauma that one goes
23 through and to be able to openly talk about
24 that, takes a lot of -- a lot of courage.

25 So I commend you on that.

1 Personally for me, I have been talking about
2 this issue and what we need to do to address it
3 from the moment I came on Council. That comes
4 from my lived experience dealing with opioid
5 addiction for over 10 years of my life, being
6 in recovery for 11 and a half years now, and
7 understanding that I was always one -- one bad
8 move or one -- one misstep away from dealing
9 with homelessness myself.

10 And although I never did, just
11 understanding that so many different factors
12 could lead to that, right, whether that be
13 addiction, mental health issues, trauma or
14 just, you know, the unaffordability of living
15 at this point in time.

16 And what I've always believed and
17 always pushed for since the moment I came on
18 Council is a comprehensive suite of services
19 for individuals and always meeting them where
20 they're at. And that doesn't just mean
21 mentally where they're at, but also physically
22 where they're at, right?

23 Why can't homeless outreach actually
24 be homeless outreach? Why can't we have boots
25 on the ground in these areas where we know have

1 high concentrations of homeless individuals
2 like Capouse Avenue, like the area around
3 Redners and over there and actually send
4 individuals out there to meet, understand what
5 people are going through and help them find the
6 services they need to get onto a path of
7 self-sustainability.

8 Why is that so hard? We have so
9 many nonprofits, so many community partners
10 within our community that that should be the
11 bare minimum. We should not be placing band
12 aids on bullet wounds as I said time and time
13 again.

14 And some of the things that we're
15 doing like the cold blue shelters are
16 fantastic. But my belief is they are a stopgap
17 measure. How do we take the next step to
18 helping individuals get to that path of
19 self-sustainability where they could figure it
20 out for themselves after they get some services
21 like -- like your example tonight with your --
22 with your sister who goes to Clean Slate for
23 her Suboxone, right, and then has to go to
24 Scranton Counseling for her counseling
25 services.

1 How as an individual experiencing
2 homelessness, are you able to do that, right,
3 to get from West Side to the Clean Slate all
4 the way down to South Side to Scranton
5 Counseling Services. It's just another barrier
6 that is put up in the path to comprehensive
7 services, right?

8 And just expecting that all
9 individuals who are experiencing homelessness,
10 there are services available, just go here or
11 here or here, right? Well, that's not
12 necessarily realistic all the time.

13 What is more realistic in my mind
14 and in my estimation is meeting them where
15 they're at, going to Capouse Avenue, sending
16 community outreach and some -- some counselors
17 and individuals that could help with mental
18 health services, substance use disorder
19 services, maybe just resume building, job
20 training, whatever, to go meet individuals
21 where they're at to figure out a plan.

22 And then maybe say, you know, we
23 came here. We talked to you. Here's the plan.
24 If you're serious about it, come see me at this
25 place on Tuesday or whatever the case may be.

1 But to start that interaction with
2 individuals where they're at, I think, is the
3 only way that we're going to truly start to as
4 Mr. McAndrew said move the needle in the right
5 direction.

6 So I really hope that as a city we
7 could start, not necessarily being the owner of
8 that ourselves, but really start that process
9 of getting these entities together to form a
10 truly comprehensive plan of addressing this and
11 helping individuals get to that place where
12 their lives could be self-sustainable.

13 So that is my hope. And that is my
14 mission. And it has been since the moment I've
15 been on Council to do that and get a
16 comprehensive plan in place. And I, as well,
17 will not stop fighting for that. So that's all
18 I have tonight. Thank you.

19 MR. SCHUSTER: Thank you very much.

20 MR. MARK MCANDREW: President
21 Schuster, I forgot to mention one thing. Can
22 I?

23 MR. SCHUSTER: Go ahead.

24 MR. MARK MCANDREW: I apologize. So
25 this was brought to my attention, 923 West

1 Market. And there's a lot close to it 931.
2 There's a great deal of overgrowth since last
3 year that hasn't been addressed brought to my
4 attention.

5 So a couple of the neighbors are
6 saying, you know, I don't know if it's an
7 elderly person and that's -- that's
8 unfortunate, but we should be able to help them
9 if that's the case. And I think some of that's
10 done throughout the city, which is great.

11 But one of the other neighbors said
12 that they think -- they think that it was taken
13 over by the bank, right. God, that's
14 unfortunate. And God bless them if that
15 happened. But what remains is the blight and
16 the overgrowth.

17 And correct me if I'm wrong, but
18 I -- my understanding within the city is if a
19 bank takes over the property, it's their
20 responsibility, remember hearing this, to take
21 care of the growth or the blight part of it.
22 That property has to be maintained by them
23 until they sell it.

24 Okay, it's not a condemned property.
25 My understanding, a bank. So could you please,

1 you know, reach out to code enforcement,
2 confirm that to me and I can confirm that to
3 the residents that there is someone
4 responsible, and it is the bank. And they need
5 to alert them and find a way to alert the bank
6 that owns that property now.

7 Once again it's 923 West Market and
8 lot of 931 West Market. Thank you, President
9 Schuster. I went on a tangent, forgot.

10 MR. SCHUSTER: Thank you. A couple
11 things from last week, I did ask a few
12 questions. One of them was about the \$350,000
13 grant request for funding for Engine 10, some
14 of the design work and study.

15 The answer I got back because I
16 wanted an update on that was, the grant
17 application was not awarded. But the city is
18 going to continue to submit applications for
19 grants when they're available.

20 Second, it was brought up a couple
21 weeks in a row about some of the stormwater in
22 Keyser Valley, specifically in Fawnwood. And I
23 had asked about two easements that were secured
24 in the phase one of the project. So phase one
25 was 10 properties that was -- that was located

1 at the like Keyser creek area of Fawnwood.

2 The two easements were secured.

3 Last week I asked were they -- I didn't get an
4 official answer. But officially were the
5 easements secured and what was it funded
6 through? And the two easements were secured.

7 So officially we got the answer
8 back. They were secured. And the project is
9 being funded through the American Rescue Plan.
10 So that money was -- was through the ARPA
11 funding.

12 Tonight -- last week it was 5-C.
13 Tonight it's moved forward, the 12 month
14 extension with the terms and the backup
15 documentation for a contract. So it's a 12
16 month extension on a contract. And in that
17 backup documentation it said that there was no
18 cost associated with it, which there are.

19 I just asked for that cost. And the
20 cost that was associated was \$32,760. A few
21 weeks back we did ask for a request from Street
22 Cats and Dogs about, like, an update with some
23 of the progress on the things that they're
24 doing.

25 And they did. I received today --

1 send an extensive letter about some of the
2 things they're doing. I'm going to take some
3 time tonight to take a look at it, and I'll
4 report out next week. But I want to thank them
5 for communicating with us and some of the
6 things that they're doing to help us better
7 understand what it is that they're doing.

8 I think it's going to help greatly
9 when -- when -- from some of the stuff I read
10 right off the bat for Council to know what it
11 is and what services they're providing.

12 We've talked about homeless in
13 Scranton quite a bit over the last two years, I
14 would say. Some of my colleagues here, I agree
15 with what is being said. I work in mental
16 health. And I do believe with what Mr. Flynn
17 said.

18 There's ways to get evaluations,
19 meeting people where they're at. I think it's
20 a very easy suggestion. And it may go a long
21 way to meet people where they're at with drug
22 and alcohol screenings and mental health
23 screenings at our code blues and maybe some
24 other functions where people are located.

25 I believe Sean said today about

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1 nonprofits or we're using ourselves to get
2 funding for them, we should be evaluating how
3 effective are they. And if they're not
4 effective, we can move into someone else that
5 may be more effective than what we have right
6 now. I believe that's all I have for tonight.
7 Thank you.

8 MR. VOLDENBERG: 5-B. FOR
9 INTRODUCTION - AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF
10 THE COUNCIL NO. 102, 2025, AN ORDINANCE, AS
11 AMENDED, ENTITLED "APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE
12 EXPENSES OF THE CITY GOVERNMENT FOR THE PERIOD
13 COMMENCING ON THE FIRST DAY OF JANUARY, 2026 TO
14 AND INCLUDING DECEMBER 31, 2026 BY THE ADOPTION
15 OF THE GENERAL CITY OPERATING BUDGET FOR THE
16 YEAR 2026," (2026 OPERATING BUDGET) SO AS TO
17 TRANSFER AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED TWO HUNDRED
18 THIRTY-THREE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED SIXTY-SIX
19 DOLLARS AND TWENTY-SEVEN CENTS (\$233,766.27)
20 FROM THE NON-DEPARTMENTAL CONTINGENCY LINE ITEM
21 ACCOUNT 100-45000-000-910-000000 TO FUND RAISES
22 THAT WERE NOT IDENTIFIED IN THE 2026 OPERATING
23 BUDGET FOR CITY EMPLOYEES WHO ARE MEMBERS OF
24 LODGE NO. 2305, AFFILIATED WITH THE
25 INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MACHINISTS AND

1 AEROSPACE WORKERS, AFL-CIO UNION.

2 MR. SCHUSTER: At this time, I'll
3 entertain a motion that Item 5-B be introduced
4 into its proper committee.

5 MR. FLYNN: So moved.

6 DR. ROTHCHILD: Second.

7 MR. SCHUSTER: On the question?
8 All those in favor of introduction signify by
9 stating aye.

10 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

11 MR. SEAN MCANDREW: Aye.

12 MR. MARK MCANDREW: Aye.

13 MR. FLYNN: Aye.

14 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye. Opposed? The
15 ayes it and so moved.

16 MR. VOLDENBERG: 5-C. FOR
17 INTRODUCTION - A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE
18 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO
19 EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH RLE
20 ENTERPRISES TO PERFORM KEYSER VALLEY STORMWATER
21 IMPROVEMENTS CONTRACT 1.

22 MR. SCHUSTER: At this time, I'll
23 entertain a motion that Item 5-C be introduced
24 into its proper committee.

25 MR. MARK MCANDREW: So moved.

1 DR. ROTHCHILD: Second.

2 MR. SCHUSTER: On the question? On
3 the question, as Mr. Flynn just said, something
4 that he started right when he came onto
5 Council, this here is something that I started
6 in my first weeks on Council. I think within
7 the first month I took the flood coordinator
8 and the Mayor on a tour of Keyser Valley.

9 I showed them some of the trouble --
10 trouble spots in Keyser Valley. And as we've
11 been progressing over six years, I would have
12 liked to have seen it happen a little bit
13 faster. But maybe the wheels of government
14 move slow.

15 Some of these projects are being
16 completed. And I'm happy that this is on our
17 agenda tonight for introduction. And I'm happy
18 to vote in favor of it.

19 Anyone else on the question? All
20 those in favor of introduction signify by
21 stating aye.

22 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

23 MR. SEAN MCANDREW: Aye.

24 MR. MARK MCANDREW: Aye.

25 MR. FLYNN: Aye.

1 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye. Opposed? The
2 ayes have it and so moved.

3 MR. VOLDENBERG: SIXTH ORDER.

4 6-A. READING BY TITLE - FILE OF THE
5 COUNCIL NO. 17, 2026 - AN ORDINANCE -
6 INSTALLING A MULTI-WAY STOP AT THE INTERSECTION
7 OF GRANDVIEW STREET AND CAPOUSE AVENUE TO
8 IMPROVE TRAFFIC OPERATIONS AT THIS
9 INTERSECTION.

10 MR. SCHUSTER: You've heard reading
11 by title of Item 6-A. What is your pleasure?

12 MR. FLYNN: Mr. Chairman, I move
13 that Item 6-A pass reading by title.

14 MR. SEAN MCANDREW: Second.

15 MR. SCHUSTER: On the question? All
16 those in favor signify by stating aye.

17 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

18 MR. SEAN MCANDREW: Aye.

19 MR. MARK MCANDREW: Aye.

20 MR. FLYNN: Aye.

21 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye. Opposed? The
22 ayes it and so moved.

23 MR. VOLDENBERG: SEVENTH ORDER.

24 7-A. FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE
25 COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS - FOR ADOPTION - FILE

1 OF THE COUNCIL NO. 15, 2026 - CLOSING A PORTION
2 OF HOWLEY COURT TO PUBLIC TRANSIT BETWEEN
3 LINDEN STREET AND MULBERRY STREET BY PLACING
4 GATES AT EACH END.

5 MR. SCHUSTER: What is
6 recommendation for the Chairperson for the
7 Committee on Public Works?

8 MR. FLYNN: As Chairperson for the
9 Committee on Public Works, I recommend final
10 passage of Item 7-A.

11 MR. SEAN MCANDREW: Second.

12 MR. SCHUSTER: On the question?
13 Roll call, please.

14 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

15 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes.

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Sean McAndrew.

17 MR. SEAN MCANDREW: Yes.

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Mark McAndrew.

19 MR. MARK MCANDREW: Yes.

20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Flynn.

21 MR. FLYNN: Yes.

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

23 MR. SCHUSTER: Yes. I hereby
24 declare Item 7-A legally and lawfully adopted.

25 MR. VOLDENBERG: 7-B. FOR

1 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - FOR
2 ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 16, 2026 -
3 AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 91, 2025, AN
4 ORDINANCE, ENTITLED "APPROVING AND ACCEPTING
5 THE CITY OF SCRANTON CAPITAL BUDGET, WHICH
6 INCLUDES A CAPITAL RESERVE FUND SPENDING PLAN,
7 FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 PURSUANT TO SECTION
8 904 OF THE CITY'S HOME RULE CHARTER AND FILE OF
9 COUNCIL NO. 11 OF 2024," BY AMENDING CERTAIN
10 LINE ITEMS IN THE 2026 CAPITAL BUDGET AND THE
11 2026 CAPITAL RESERVE FUND SPENDING PLAN AND TO
12 ADD NEW LINE ITEMS IN THE 2026 CAPITAL BUDGET
13 AND THE 2026 CAPITAL RESERVE FUND SPENDING
14 PLAN.

15 MR. SCHUSTER: What is the
16 recommendation of the Chairperson for the
17 Committee on Finance?

18 DR. ROTHCHILD: As Chairperson for
19 the Committee on Finance, I recommend final
20 passage of Item 7-B.

21 MR. SEAN MCANDREW: Second.

22 MR. SCHUSTER: On the question?
23 Roll call, please.

24 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

25 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Sean McAndrew.

2 MR. SEAN MCANDREW: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Mark McAndrew.

4 MR. MARK MCANDREW: Yes.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Flynn.

6 MR. FLYNN: Yes.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

8 MR. SCHUSTER: Yes. I hereby
9 declare Item 7-B legally and lawfully adopted.

10 MR. VOLDENBERG: 7-C. FOR
11 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY
12 DEVELOPMENT - FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 51,
13 2026 - AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 124, 2021
14 "AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
15 CITY OFFICIALS FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO
16 EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH
17 BENEVATE, INC. D/B/A NEIGHBORLY SOFTWARE TO
18 MANAGE THE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY
19 DEVELOPMENT HOUSING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND
20 GRANT PROGRAMS." TO REFLECT NAME CHANGE TO
21 BENEVATE, LLC D/B/A NEIGHBORLY SOFTWARE AND
22 EXTENDING THE TERM TO ANNUAL INCREMENTS UNTIL
23 TERMINATED.

24 MR. SCHUSTER: What is the
25 recommendation for the Chairperson for the

1 Committee on Community Development?

2 MR. SEAN MCANDREW: As Chairperson
3 for the Committee on Community Development, I
4 recommend final passage of Item 7-C.

5 DR. ROTHCHILD: Second.

6 MR. SCHUSTER: On the question?
7 Earlier in Fifth Order, I did disclose that the
8 cost of this is \$32,760. Anyone else on the
9 question? Roll call, please.

10 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

11 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Sean McAndrew.

13 MR. SEAN MCANDREW: Yes.

14 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Mark McAndrew.

15 MR. MARK MCANDREW: Yes.

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Flynn.

17 MR. FLYNN: Yes.

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

19 MR. SCHUSTER: Yes. I hereby
20 declare Item 7-C legally and lawfully adopted.

21 MR. VOLDENBERG: 7-D. FOR
22 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY
23 DEVELOPMENT - FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 52,
24 2026 - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
25 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER

1 INTO A CONTRACT WITH BARRY ISETT & ASSOCIATES
2 TO PERFORM ENGINEERING AND DESIGN SERVICES FOR
3 FELLOWS PARK.

4 MR. SCHUSTER: What is the
5 recommendation of the Chairperson for the
6 Committee on Community Development?

7 MR. SEAN MCANDREW: As Chairperson
8 for the Committee on Community Development, I
9 recommend final passage of Item 7-D.

10 DR. ROTHCHILD: Second.

11 MR. SCHUSTER: On the question?
12 Last week I did ask about the fencing around
13 the park when it was put in.

14 MR. VOLDENBERG: That question was
15 submitted. But we did not receive the
16 response. I'll follow up in the morning.

17 MR. SCHUSTER: Thank you very much.
18 Anyone else on the question? Roll call,
19 please.

20 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

21 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes.

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Sean McAndrew.

23 MR. SEAN MCANDREW: Yes.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Mark McAndrew.

25 MR. MARK MCANDREW: Yes.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Flynn.

2 MR. FLYNN: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

4 MR. SCHUSTER: Yes. I hereby
5 declare Item 7-D legally and lawfully adopted.

6 MR. VOLDENBERG: 7-E. FOR
7 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY
8 DEVELOPMENT - FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 53,
9 2026 - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
10 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER
11 INTO A CONTRACT WITH BARRY ISETT & ASSOCIATES
12 TO PERFORM ENGINEERING AND DESIGN SERVICES FOR
13 GERRITY PARK.

14 MR. SCHUSTER: What is the
15 recommendation for the chairperson for the
16 Committee on Community Development?

17 MR. SEAN MCANDREW: As Chairperson
18 for the Committee on Community Development, I
19 recommend final passage of Item 7-E.

20 MR. FLYNN: Second.

21 MR. SCHUSTER: On the question?
22 Roll call, please.

23 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

24 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes.

25 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Sean McAndrew.

1 MR. SEAN MCANDREW: Yes.

2 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Mark McAndrew.

3 MR. MARK MCANDREW: Yes.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Flynn.

5 MR. FLYNN: Yes.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

7 MR. SCHUSTER: Yes. I hereby
8 declare Item 7-E legally and lawfully adopted.

9 MR. VOLDENBERG: EIGHTH ORDER.

10 8-A. FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 7,
11 2026.

12 MR. SCHUSTER: This ordinance amends
13 provisions to the zoning ordinance for the City
14 of Scranton related to data centers.

15 MR. VOLDENBERG: 8-B. FILE OF THE
16 COUNCIL NO. 8, 2026.

17 MR. SCHUSTER: And this ordinance
18 amends provisions to the zoning ordinance for
19 the City of Scranton related to data centers.
20 These ordinances have been tabled until a
21 public hearing can be held at a later date.

22 MR. VOLDENBERG: 8-C. FILE OF
23 COUNCIL NO. 12, 2026.

24 MR. SCHUSTER: This ordinance
25 regulates the sale and/or distribution of

1 kratom or chemically modified derivatives for
2 human consumption or ingestion by minors.

3 MR. VOLDENBERG: 8-D. FILE OF THE
4 COUNCIL NO. 13, 2026.

5 MR. SCHUSTER: And this ordinance
6 regulates the sale and/or distribution of
7 kratom or chemically modified derivatives for
8 human consumption or ingestion.

9 And these ordinances have been
10 tabled for additional input and information
11 currently in process with both the city and
12 Lackawanna County.

13 If there's no further business, I'll
14 entertain a motion to adjourn.

15 MR. SEAN MCANDREW: Motion to
16 adjourn.

17 MR. SCHUSTER: This meeting is
18 adjourned. Everyone have a good night.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I hereby certify that the proceedings and evidence are contained fully and accurately in the notes taken by me of the above-cause and that this copy is a correct transcript of the same to the best of my ability.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Maria McCool".

Maria McCool, RPR
Official Court Reporter

(The foregoing certificate of this transcript does not apply to any reproduction of the same by any means unless under the direct control and/or supervision of the certifying reporter.)

\$	67:9, 68:11, 68:16, 68:23, 69:4 2027 [1] - 6:21 2028 [1] - 6:22 21 [2] - 3:22, 5:9 2305 [1] - 58:24 25s [1] - 44:3 26th [1] - 1:7	8	10:4, 10:11, 10:25, 11:7, 33:14, 38:4, 42:15, 43:3, 44:17, 44:19, 44:21, 45:3, 46:20, 47:13, 47:23 administration's [1] - 7:24 adopted [5] - 62:24, 64:9, 65:20, 67:5, 68:8 ADOPTION [6] - 58:14, 61:25, 63:2, 64:12, 65:23, 67:8 aerial [1] - 21:22 AEROSPACE [1] - 59:1 affected [3] - 30:2, 33:23, 37:21 AFFILIATED [1] - 58:24 afford [1] - 34:8 AFL [1] - 59:1 AFL-CIO [1] - 59:1 agenda [1] - 60:17 ago [13] - 5:7, 9:15, 16:20, 16:23, 21:1, 21:13, 22:14, 25:21, 29:10, 38:14, 41:1, 41:4, 41:13 agree [5] - 18:2, 39:3, 41:3, 41:12, 56:14 agreement [2] - 35:19, 43:8 ahead [1] - 52:23 aids [1] - 50:12 Alaska [1] - 29:23 alcohol [1] - 56:22 alert [5] - 39:22, 39:24, 40:2, 54:5 alerting [1] - 40:13 alive [1] - 28:8 Allegiance [1] - 3:1 alleviate [1] - 20:8 almost [1] - 17:4 Amanda [1] - 11:20 amend [1] - 42:12 AMENDED [1] - 58:11 amending [1] - 6:21 AMENDING [4] - 58:9, 63:3, 63:9, 64:13 amendment [1] - 6:4 amends [2] - 68:12, 68:18 America [1] - 30:5 American [10] - 28:3, 28:13, 28:14, 35:15, 35:20, 46:8, 55:9 amount [1] - 48:21 AMOUNT [1] - 58:17 AN [5] - 58:9, 58:10,	58:17, 61:5, 63:3 ancestry [1] - 15:10 AND [24] - 3:21, 58:14, 58:19, 58:25, 59:18, 59:19, 61:7, 62:3, 63:4, 63:8, 63:10, 63:11, 63:13, 64:14, 64:16, 64:18, 64:19, 64:21, 65:24, 65:25, 66:2, 67:9, 67:10, 67:12 announcement [1] - 33:8 announcements [1] - 4:1 ANNUAL [1] - 64:22 answer [11] - 9:7, 23:18, 35:4, 35:5, 35:12, 44:24, 44:25, 45:18, 54:15, 55:4, 55:7 answers [1] - 41:8 Anyway [1] - 29:2 anyways [1] - 44:12 apologize [2] - 38:21, 52:24 appeal [1] - 47:15 application [1] - 54:17 applications [1] - 54:18 apply [1] - 70:22 appreciate [3] - 31:2, 39:6, 39:9 APPROPRIATE [4] - 59:18, 64:14, 65:25, 67:10 APPROPRIATING [1] - 58:11 approved [2] - 26:20, 43:12 APPROVING [1] - 63:4 Archibald [2] - 29:11, 29:12 ARE [1] - 58:23 area [6] - 33:6, 34:21, 37:2, 50:2, 55:1, 57:10 areas [1] - 49:25 ARPA [2] - 5:23, 55:10 arrow [2] - 17:9, 17:13 arrows [1] - 24:9 article [1] - 27:13 AS [2] - 58:10, 58:16 ASSISTANT [1] - 2:9 associated [2] - 55:18, 55:20 ASSOCIATES [2] - 66:1, 67:11 ASSOCIATION [1] - 58:25
1	1 [1] - 59:21 1,875 [1] - 27:8 10 [4] - 12:17, 49:5, 54:13, 54:25 100 [1] - 16:14 100-45000-000-910- 000000 [1] - 58:21 102 [1] - 58:10 1021 [1] - 47:9 107 [1] - 41:17 11 [2] - 49:6, 63:9 12 [4] - 26:17, 55:13, 55:15, 68:23 124 [1] - 64:13 13 [1] - 69:4 15 [4] - 20:22, 21:24, 23:2, 62:1 1500 [1] - 32:7 1513 [1] - 32:10 16 [1] - 63:2 16th [1] - 43:18 17 [2] - 5:9, 61:5 18 [2] - 6:24, 28:3 1850 [1] - 28:22 1911 [1] - 28:25 1954 [1] - 28:3	3	9	
2	200 [7] - 27:2, 43:19, 44:3, 44:6, 44:18, 44:22, 45:1 2015 [1] - 41:17 2021 [1] - 64:13 2023 [1] - 47:17 2024 [3] - 26:16, 43:18, 63:9 2025 [2] - 58:10, 63:3 2026 [23] - 1:7, 3:22, 6:4, 58:13, 58:14, 58:16, 58:22, 61:5, 62:1, 63:2, 63:7, 63:10, 63:11, 63:12, 63:13, 64:13, 65:24,	4	A	
	40 [2] - 37:18, 57:9 400 [1] - 36:1	A's [1] - 11:25 ability [1] - 70:7 able [4] - 22:11, 48:23, 51:2, 53:8 above-cause [1] - 70:5 absent [1] - 45:15 ACCEPTING [1] - 63:4 accomplish [1] - 40:11 accomplishing [1] - 36:18 ACCOUNT [1] - 58:21 accountability [1] - 27:10 accurately [1] - 70:4 acknowledge [1] - 35:7 action [1] - 25:18 actionable [1] - 32:3 actual [1] - 5:22 ADD [1] - 63:12 add [2] - 42:12, 42:13 addicted [1] - 12:22 addiction [3] - 13:4, 49:5, 49:13 addition [1] - 39:15 additional [1] - 69:10 address [6] - 10:19, 10:24, 24:6, 27:18, 30:16, 49:2 addressed [2] - 27:16, 53:3 addresses [1] - 9:22 addressing [1] - 52:10 adjourn [2] - 69:14, 69:16 adjourned [1] - 69:18 adjusted [1] - 7:6 administering [1] - 13:11 administration [19] - 5:6, 7:18, 9:1, 9:7,	5	8 [1] - 68:16 8-A [1] - 68:10 8-B [1] - 68:15 8-C [1] - 68:22 8-D [1] - 69:3
	5-A [1] - 30:17 5-B [2] - 58:8, 59:3 5-C [3] - 55:12, 59:16, 59:23 50 [3] - 29:10, 37:18, 57:9 500 [1] - 32:17 505 [1] - 31:17 51 [1] - 64:12 52 [1] - 65:23 53 [1] - 67:8	6	904 [1] - 63:8 91 [1] - 63:3 923 [2] - 52:25, 54:7 931 [2] - 53:1, 54:8	
	6-A [3] - 61:4, 61:11, 61:13 60 [1] - 43:24 60-some [1] - 43:25	7	10:4, 10:11, 10:25, 11:7, 33:14, 38:4, 42:15, 43:3, 44:17, 44:19, 44:21, 45:3, 46:20, 47:13, 47:23 administration's [1] - 7:24 adopted [5] - 62:24, 64:9, 65:20, 67:5, 68:8 ADOPTION [6] - 58:14, 61:25, 63:2, 64:12, 65:23, 67:8 aerial [1] - 21:22 AEROSPACE [1] - 59:1 affected [3] - 30:2, 33:23, 37:21 AFFILIATED [1] - 58:24 afford [1] - 34:8 AFL [1] - 59:1 AFL-CIO [1] - 59:1 agenda [1] - 60:17 ago [13] - 5:7, 9:15, 16:20, 16:23, 21:1, 21:13, 22:14, 25:21, 29:10, 38:14, 41:1, 41:4, 41:13 agree [5] - 18:2, 39:3, 41:3, 41:12, 56:14 agreement [2] - 35:19, 43:8 ahead [1] - 52:23 aids [1] - 50:12 Alaska [1] - 29:23 alcohol [1] - 56:22 alert [5] - 39:22, 39:24, 40:2, 54:5 alerting [1] - 40:13 alive [1] - 28:8 Allegiance [1] - 3:1 alleviate [1] - 20:8 almost [1] - 17:4 Amanda [1] - 11:20 amend [1] - 42:12 AMENDED [1] - 58:11 amending [1] - 6:21 AMENDING [4] - 58:9, 63:3, 63:9, 64:13 amendment [1] - 6:4 amends [2] - 68:12, 68:18 America [1] - 30:5 American [10] - 28:3, 28:13, 28:14, 35:15, 35:20, 46:8, 55:9 amount [1] - 48:21 AMOUNT [1] - 58:17 AN [5] - 58:9, 58:10,	
	7 [2] - 5:22, 68:10 7-A [3] - 61:24, 62:10, 62:24 7-B [3] - 62:25, 63:20, 64:9 7-C [3] - 64:10, 65:4, 65:20 7-D [3] - 65:21, 66:9, 67:5 7-E [3] - 67:6, 67:19, 68:8 75 [4] - 27:2, 27:8, 43:25, 44:1 76,000 [1] - 8:13			

AT [3] - 61:6, 61:8, 62:4
attention [3] - 6:1, 52:25, 53:4
attentively [1] - 7:15
attest [1] - 9:19
ATTY [1] - 42:25
audit [1] - 5:13
Aug [2] - 18:23, 18:24
authorities [1] - 40:16
authority [1] - 43:4
Authority [1] - 35:20
AUTHORIZING [4] - 59:17, 64:14, 65:24, 67:9
automated [1] - 25:23
automatically [1] - 26:5
available [2] - 51:10, 54:19
Ave [3] - 11:15, 12:8, 12:10
AVENUE [1] - 61:7
Avenue [11] - 8:7, 10:23, 16:15, 18:24, 24:10, 29:1, 30:25, 32:18, 50:2, 51:15
avoid [1] - 33:5
awaiting [1] - 45:21
awarded [1] - 54:17
aware [1] - 40:4
awareness [1] - 11:10
Awesome [1] - 35:24
aye [7] - 59:9, 60:21, 60:23, 60:24, 60:25, 61:1, 61:16
Aye [11] - 59:10, 59:11, 59:12, 59:13, 59:14, 60:22, 61:17, 61:18, 61:19, 61:20, 61:21
ayes [3] - 59:15, 61:2, 61:22

B

backup [2] - 55:14, 55:17
backyard [1] - 47:21
bacteria [1] - 41:25
bad [2] - 16:1, 49:7
band [1] - 50:11
bank [5] - 53:13, 53:19, 53:25, 54:4, 54:5
bare [1] - 50:11
Barre [2] - 25:13, 25:22
barrier [1] - 51:5
BARRY [2] - 66:1,

67:11
baseball [1] - 19:22
based [1] - 28:18
basic [1] - 6:2
bat [1] - 56:10
became [1] - 16:17
become [1] - 27:8
becomes [2] - 8:4, 27:2
bed [1] - 42:17
beginning [2] - 21:12, 28:7
behalf [1] - 39:3
behind [2] - 9:1, 47:20
belief [1] - 50:16
BENEVATE [2] - 64:17, 64:21
best [7] - 7:13, 14:24, 37:19, 46:10, 46:15, 70:6
better [3] - 26:8, 40:12, 56:6
BETWEEN [1] - 62:2
between [2] - 36:1, 41:6
beyond [2] - 8:14, 29:17
big [2] - 12:25, 36:8
biggest [2] - 7:25, 24:1
biological [2] - 22:16, 24:2
bit [4] - 14:5, 48:6, 56:13, 60:12
blacktop [1] - 18:19
bless [1] - 53:14
blight [2] - 53:15, 53:21
block [4] - 10:18, 16:14, 32:7, 32:17
blocked [1] - 19:24
blue [1] - 50:15
blues [1] - 56:23
board [1] - 37:20
body [1] - 26:20
boots [1] - 49:24
bottlenecks [1] - 46:5
bottom [1] - 44:15
bounced [1] - 17:4
boy [1] - 21:22
brakes [1] - 8:3
break [1] - 16:22
Brewery [1] - 28:25
Brian [1] - 13:22
bridge [11] - 8:7, 18:16, 18:21, 19:1, 19:3, 19:6, 19:8, 19:21, 20:3, 20:5, 20:11

Bridge [1] - 18:14
brilliant [1] - 17:16
bring [3] - 11:10, 31:16, 39:7
brings [1] - 41:13
broken [1] - 36:21
brought [7] - 41:1, 41:4, 43:21, 47:9, 52:25, 53:3, 54:20
BUDGET [6] - 58:15, 58:16, 58:23, 63:5, 63:10, 63:12
budget [5] - 6:5, 6:9, 6:22, 34:9
bugs [3] - 14:19, 14:20, 24:3
building [2] - 11:3, 51:19
bullet [1] - 50:12
bullshit [1] - 22:23
bunch [2] - 41:2, 41:7
business [2] - 18:8, 69:13
BY [9] - 58:14, 61:4, 61:24, 62:3, 63:1, 63:9, 64:11, 65:22, 67:7

C

California [1] - 29:24
CAPITAL [6] - 63:5, 63:6, 63:10, 63:11, 63:12, 63:13
Capouse [11] - 12:7, 12:10, 13:15, 14:7, 15:24, 24:21, 30:25, 39:12, 40:12, 50:2, 51:15
CAPOUSE [1] - 61:7
car [4] - 17:5, 18:18, 18:19, 28:5
card [1] - 26:15
cards [9] - 26:17, 27:3, 27:7, 43:9, 43:20, 44:1, 44:6, 44:18, 44:22
care [15] - 11:23, 12:4, 15:5, 15:8, 16:16, 24:9, 24:22, 24:23, 27:13, 27:14, 32:13, 36:4, 36:14, 43:14, 53:21
CARRERA [31] - 2:9, 3:8, 3:10, 3:12, 3:14, 3:16, 62:14, 62:16, 62:18, 62:20, 62:22, 63:24, 64:1, 64:3, 64:5, 64:7, 65:10, 65:12, 65:14, 65:16, 65:18, 66:20, 66:22, 66:24, 67:1, 67:3, 67:23, 67:25, 68:2, 68:4, 68:6
cars [1] - 14:12
case [2] - 51:25, 53:9
caseworker [1] - 13:20
Castle [1] - 47:10
Cats [1] - 55:22
caused [1] - 10:7
causes [1] - 24:16
causing [1] - 42:6
caving [1] - 32:20
Cayuga [1] - 31:17
Cedar [2] - 24:10, 29:1
center [1] - 29:4
Center [1] - 34:16
centers [8] - 28:9, 28:11, 29:6, 29:8, 30:5, 30:11, 68:14, 68:19
CENTS [1] - 58:19
CERTAIN [1] - 63:9
certainly [1] - 26:10
certificate [1] - 70:21
certify [1] - 70:3
certifying [1] - 70:24
Chairman [1] - 61:12
chairperson [1] - 67:15
Chairperson [9] - 62:6, 62:8, 63:16, 63:18, 64:25, 65:2, 66:5, 66:7, 67:17
challenges [1] - 31:4
CHAMBERS [1] - 1:12
Change [1] - 9:20
CHANGE [1] - 64:20
change [3] - 9:9, 37:22, 39:21
changed [1] - 44:7
changes [1] - 33:19
changing [1] - 42:20
chapters [2] - 5:8
CHARTER [1] - 63:8
Charter [1] - 5:15
charter [1] - 5:17
check [2] - 11:15, 36:12
checked [3] - 4:21, 20:22, 22:21
checking [1] - 21:2
chemically [2] - 69:1, 69:7
Cherry [1] - 36:5
Children [1] - 13:21
China [1] - 30:6
chips [1] - 28:14

CIC [1] - 37:6
CIO [1] - 59:1
Cipriani [1] - 10:19
circling [1] - 47:12
cities [1] - 28:16
CITIZEN [1] - 4:3
citizens [1] - 44:11
CITY [12] - 1:1, 2:8, 2:9, 58:12, 58:15, 58:23, 59:18, 63:5, 64:15, 65:25, 67:10
City [4] - 10:14, 28:16, 68:13, 68:19
city [17] - 14:25, 16:13, 25:12, 28:3, 33:14, 35:17, 37:11, 39:3, 41:3, 52:6, 53:10, 53:18, 54:17, 57:2, 57:4, 69:11
city's [1] - 4:21
CITY'S [1] - 63:8
claim [3] - 21:2, 21:13, 39:24
clarification [1] - 45:4
clarity [1] - 43:3
clarity's [1] - 44:4
Clean [3] - 12:17, 50:22, 51:3
clear [1] - 26:7
clearly [1] - 38:2
Clearview [2] - 16:19, 17:2
CLERK [2] - 2:8, 2:9
close [3] - 22:2, 46:12, 53:1
CLOSING [1] - 62:1
closures [1] - 46:7
clothes [1] - 14:20
cobalt [1] - 28:14
code [6] - 21:15, 31:21, 32:9, 42:22, 54:1, 56:23
cold [1] - 50:15
colleague [1] - 48:20
colleagues [2] - 43:7, 56:14
comfortable [2] - 15:23, 15:24
comforted [1] - 25:10
coming [4] - 31:3, 34:6, 35:10, 38:13
COMMENCING [1] - 58:13
commend [1] - 48:25
comments [5] - 3:24, 30:20, 33:11, 38:9, 46:3
COMMISSION [1] - 3:21
committee [3] - 37:25,

59:4, 59:24 COMMITTEE [5] - 61:25, 63:1, 64:11, 65:22, 67:7 Committee [11] - 38:19, 62:7, 62:9, 63:17, 63:19, 65:1, 65:3, 66:6, 66:8, 67:16, 67:18 committing [1] - 34:3 communicating [1] - 56:5 communities [2] - 25:22, 30:8 community [5] - 3:7, 30:9, 50:9, 50:10, 51:16 COMMUNITY [4] - 64:11, 64:18, 65:22, 67:7 Community [7] - 34:16, 65:1, 65:3, 66:6, 66:8, 67:16, 67:18 compact [1] - 26:2 companies [1] - 11:8 company [2] - 23:4, 29:16 complaint [2] - 31:17, 32:7 complaints [2] - 31:15, 32:16 complete [1] - 33:19 completed [2] - 10:25, 60:16 completing [1] - 34:1 complex [2] - 19:22, 19:23 compounded [1] - 10:10 comprehensive [4] - 49:18, 51:6, 52:10, 52:16 concentrations [1] - 50:1 concept [1] - 43:16 concerning [1] - 33:3 concerns [4] - 7:16, 9:20, 10:2, 39:13 condemnation [1] - 32:2 condemned [1] - 53:24 confirm [2] - 54:2 confusion [1] - 24:17 Congress [1] - 18:13 CONSIDERATION [5] - 61:24, 63:1, 64:11, 65:22, 67:7 considered [1] - 23:9	construction [2] - 20:24, 23:4 consumption [2] - 69:2, 69:8 contact [3] - 31:7, 31:9, 46:8 contained [1] - 70:4 container [1] - 41:6 containers [1] - 41:18 CONTINGENCY [1] - 58:20 contingency [2] - 6:12, 6:13 continue [5] - 11:9, 20:20, 40:22, 40:23, 54:18 continues [3] - 9:2, 9:12, 10:5 continuing [1] - 5:14 CONTRACT [5] - 59:19, 59:21, 64:16, 66:1, 67:11 contract [7] - 4:22, 5:10, 5:18, 5:22, 6:7, 55:15, 55:16 contracts [4] - 6:18, 6:20, 6:24, 6:25 control [2] - 38:21, 70:23 Convenient [1] - 14:13 coordinator [1] - 60:7 copy [3] - 35:18, 35:20, 70:5 correct [6] - 34:1, 34:4, 40:17, 45:20, 53:17, 70:6 cost [6] - 6:3, 34:9, 55:18, 55:19, 55:20, 65:8 costly [1] - 8:4 council [1] - 16:12 Council [24] - 3:25, 7:11, 7:12, 7:21, 9:25, 10:20, 11:4, 11:12, 20:18, 21:20, 24:6, 27:18, 27:19, 30:16, 37:24, 38:3, 38:5, 41:17, 49:3, 49:18, 52:15, 56:10, 60:5, 60:6 COUNCIL [13] - 1:1, 1:12, 2:10, 58:10, 61:5, 62:1, 63:2, 63:3, 63:9, 68:10, 68:16, 68:23, 69:4 counseling [3] - 13:7, 13:13, 50:24 Counseling [3] - 13:8, 50:24, 51:5	counselors [1] - 51:16 country [1] - 29:22 county [1] - 25:13 County [3] - 30:1, 30:10, 69:12 COUNTY [1] - 3:20 couple [11] - 31:14, 32:16, 38:10, 41:13, 42:16, 43:22, 44:4, 45:2, 53:5, 54:10, 54:20 courage [3] - 38:16, 48:21, 48:24 courageous [1] - 40:7 course [3] - 5:16, 39:22, 40:1 Court [3] - 1:24, 36:1, 70:11 COURT [1] - 62:2 cover [6] - 5:20, 5:25, 6:1, 8:20, 9:11, 34:9 COYNE [1] - 24:7 Coyne [3] - 24:7, 43:10, 43:21 crazy [3] - 30:4, 41:3 created [1] - 8:11 creates [1] - 42:1 creek [1] - 55:1 criminal [2] - 16:7, 39:16 criteria [1] - 26:23 critic [1] - 7:25 criticize [1] - 11:10 cross [1] - 7:7 crossings [1] - 9:14 curb [1] - 18:20 current [1] - 8:11 cursed [2] - 28:7 cut [9] - 8:19, 9:11, 10:9, 10:17, 11:2, 11:16, 17:1, 32:17, 32:22 cuts [3] - 10:15, 16:14, 16:17 cutting [1] - 17:15	DAY [1] - 58:13 days [1] - 42:10 dead [3] - 4:10, 29:2, 29:3 deaf [1] - 38:20 deal [1] - 53:2 Deal [1] - 30:3 dealing [5] - 12:21, 46:5, 49:4, 49:8, 57:4 debris [2] - 22:15, 24:3 decades [2] - 8:8, 9:14 DECEMBER [1] - 58:14 declare [5] - 62:24, 64:9, 65:20, 67:5, 68:8 decreased [1] - 20:3 deep [2] - 47:3, 48:22 deep-seated [1] - 48:22 deficient [1] - 9:11 delivering [1] - 27:13 demolished [1] - 47:16 demolition [1] - 47:16 denies [1] - 7:19 Department [1] - 22:9 department [4] - 18:6, 22:5, 22:6, 42:21 DEPARTMENTAL [1] - 58:20 departments [2] - 7:4, 40:16 derivatives [2] - 69:1, 69:7 described [1] - 9:21 deserve [3] - 27:11, 35:12, 39:2 design [1] - 54:14 DESIGN [2] - 66:2, 67:12 destructive [1] - 10:7 determination [1] - 8:11 determine [2] - 31:23, 32:1 determined [1] - 31:23 Development [6] - 65:1, 65:3, 66:6, 66:8, 67:16, 67:18 DEVELOPMENT [6] - 3:21, 64:12, 64:19, 65:23, 67:8 dictate [1] - 19:19 die [1] - 4:11 difference [1] - 41:5 different [4] - 37:24, 39:11, 48:6, 49:11	digging [2] - 18:18, 29:15 diligently [1] - 24:25 Dimmick [1] - 46:21 dip [1] - 36:8 direct [1] - 70:23 direction [2] - 40:19, 52:5 directly [3] - 34:19, 47:19, 57:5 dirty [1] - 14:8 disaster [1] - 16:25 disclose [1] - 65:7 disease [1] - 13:5 disheartening [1] - 36:25 dislike [1] - 10:12 disorder [1] - 51:18 Dispense [1] - 3:18 dispersed [1] - 45:2 disrespectful [1] - 35:8 distribution [2] - 68:25, 69:6 Doctor [1] - 32:5 document [1] - 5:3 documentary [1] - 27:20 documentation [2] - 55:15, 55:17 Dogs [1] - 55:22 DOLLARS [1] - 58:19 dollars [2] - 5:4, 5:23 done [14] - 5:12, 6:24, 10:13, 15:12, 22:10, 23:3, 23:12, 38:2, 39:14, 46:7, 46:10, 46:16, 53:10 doors [1] - 9:2 Dorothy [2] - 18:9, 18:10 double [1] - 20:21 doubling [2] - 26:18, 29:20 down [21] - 5:20, 12:7, 12:12, 12:13, 14:6, 14:10, 14:16, 15:24, 17:3, 17:5, 22:25, 25:3, 26:2, 28:5, 33:20, 34:14, 35:9, 35:15, 36:12, 36:21, 51:4 downhill [1] - 12:3 downtown [1] - 17:21 DPW [5] - 4:23, 6:7, 6:9, 7:2, 46:22 dr [5] - 62:14, 63:24, 65:10, 66:20, 67:23 Dr [2] - 3:8, 30:19 DR [19] - 3:9, 30:21,
D				
D/B/A [2] - 64:17, 64:21 DA [1] - 15:4 daily [3] - 8:14, 8:17, 10:6 dangerous [1] - 42:4 Darcy [1] - 32:25 data [9] - 28:9, 28:11, 29:4, 29:6, 29:8, 30:5, 30:10, 68:14, 68:19 date [1] - 68:21				

31:14, 32:6, 32:15, 32:24, 59:6, 59:10, 60:1, 60:22, 61:17, 62:15, 63:18, 63:25, 65:5, 65:11, 66:10, 66:21, 67:24 drag [3] - 19:4, 19:10, 19:16 dragging [2] - 19:11, 19:17 drain [1] - 8:18 drains [1] - 35:16 Draw [1] - 8:8 driving [1] - 17:8 droppings [1] - 42:6 drug [4] - 12:14, 12:21, 13:9, 56:21 drugs [1] - 12:24 drying [1] - 29:24 due [3] - 5:16, 20:5, 31:4 dug [1] - 16:21 dull [1] - 9:12 dump [1] - 25:25 dumpster [1] - 41:7 during [2] - 4:12, 13:23	38:11 EISBACHER [1] - 11:21 elderly [1] - 53:7 election [1] - 8:1 electric [1] - 29:20 element [1] - 9:6 elementary [1] - 11:24 Elm [2] - 20:10, 20:14 emergencies [2] - 6:15 Emiliani's [1] - 18:8 employees [1] - 7:3 EMPLOYEES [1] - 58:23 employment [1] - 57:23 END [1] - 62:4 end [3] - 6:19, 19:4, 19:9 ends [1] - 8:2 energy [1] - 30:4 enforceable [1] - 42:21 enforced [1] - 42:13 enforcement [5] - 21:15, 31:22, 32:9, 42:22, 54:1 Engine [1] - 54:13 engineer [1] - 23:4 ENGINEERING [2] - 66:2, 67:12 engineers [2] - 17:18, 17:19 ensure [2] - 10:1, 11:5 ENTER [4] - 59:19, 64:16, 65:25, 67:10 enter [1] - 10:22 ENTERPRISES [1] - 59:20 entertain [3] - 59:3, 59:23, 69:14 entities [1] - 52:9 ENTITLED [2] - 58:11, 63:4 entity [1] - 39:25 environment [1] - 42:2 equipped [1] - 26:1 error [1] - 44:21 Eskra [1] - 48:11 especially [1] - 17:12 espionage [1] - 15:20 ESQ [1] - 2:10 estimation [1] - 51:14 Euclid [4] - 17:7, 18:5, 18:23 evaluating [2] - 57:16, 58:2 EVALUATION [1] -	3:22 evaluations [2] - 56:18, 57:14 evening [3] - 7:12, 11:12, 20:18 evidence [1] - 70:4 example [2] - 8:6, 50:21 EXCEED [1] - 58:17 exceed [1] - 7:6 Excellent [1] - 8:5 excellent [1] - 8:5 except [1] - 5:19 excited [2] - 14:18, 14:23 Excuse [1] - 31:12 excuses [1] - 10:10 EXECUTE [4] - 59:19, 64:16, 65:25, 67:10 executive [1] - 29:7 exist [1] - 41:20 expect [1] - 24:17 expecting [1] - 51:8 expense [1] - 11:1 EXPENSES [1] - 58:12 experience [3] - 30:24, 39:8, 49:4 experiences [1] - 31:1 experiencing [3] - 38:23, 51:1, 51:9 explain [1] - 35:9 EXTENDING [1] - 64:22 extension [2] - 55:14, 55:16 extensive [1] - 56:1 extra [2] - 9:1, 44:14	33:16, 54:22, 55:1 FBI [1] - 15:4 feed [1] - 27:5 feeding [1] - 33:5 feet [2] - 19:5, 19:10 Fell [1] - 38:20 FELLOWS [1] - 66:3 fencing [1] - 66:12 few [7] - 5:7, 30:21, 33:13, 38:14, 46:4, 54:11, 55:20 Fifth [1] - 23:17 fifth [1] - 65:7 FIFTH [1] - 30:17 fight [1] - 40:23 fighting [2] - 40:23, 52:17 figure [10] - 14:2, 15:3, 16:4, 28:1, 38:3, 38:6, 46:9, 46:15, 50:19, 51:21 FILE [10] - 58:9, 61:4, 61:25, 63:2, 63:3, 63:8, 68:10, 68:15, 68:22, 69:3 file [1] - 41:16 filed [1] - 3:25 fill [1] - 46:22 filled [6] - 16:18, 19:6, 22:16, 36:4, 47:4, 47:7 fillers [1] - 25:23 filthy [1] - 14:8 final [5] - 62:9, 63:19, 65:4, 66:9, 67:19 finalized [3] - 4:24, 6:7, 6:20 finally [3] - 21:18, 36:16, 40:18 Finally [1] - 18:22 FINANCE [1] - 63:1 Finance [2] - 63:17, 63:19 financial [2] - 5:21, 6:3 fine [2] - 35:5, 41:9 finer [1] - 12:23 fire [3] - 7:4, 18:6 fired [2] - 17:1, 17:6 firefighters [1] - 6:18 first [6] - 4:4, 27:23, 33:15, 35:13, 60:6, 60:7 FIRST [1] - 58:13 First [5] - 4:7, 24:8, 30:22, 33:13, 36:1 FISCAL [1] - 63:7 fixed [2] - 16:22, 16:23 flock [1] - 33:2 flood [2] - 22:14, 60:7	floods [1] - 6:16 fly [1] - 41:25 FLYNN [17] - 2:3, 3:15, 46:4, 47:8, 48:1, 59:5, 59:13, 60:25, 61:12, 61:20, 62:8, 62:21, 64:6, 65:17, 67:2, 67:20, 68:5 flynn [5] - 62:20, 64:5, 65:16, 67:1, 68:4 Flynn [4] - 3:14, 46:3, 56:16, 60:3 focused [1] - 37:22 follow [3] - 5:17, 47:6, 66:16 following [4] - 5:15, 7:24, 9:22, 45:13 food [1] - 14:14 FOR [21] - 1:1, 58:8, 58:11, 58:12, 58:15, 58:23, 59:16, 61:24, 61:25, 62:25, 63:1, 63:7, 64:10, 64:12, 64:15, 65:21, 65:23, 66:2, 67:6, 67:8, 67:12 Force [5] - 24:24, 25:2, 36:17, 37:16, 38:18 force [7] - 32:3, 36:18, 39:14, 39:22, 40:4, 40:10, 57:8 foregoing [1] - 70:21 Forest [1] - 36:1 forgot [2] - 52:21, 54:9 form [4] - 7:15, 7:20, 9:7, 52:9 forth [3] - 6:16, 26:19, 42:14 FORTH [1] - 4:2 forward [5] - 26:16, 46:15, 48:9, 48:14, 55:13 foster [3] - 11:23, 12:4, 15:5 four [8] - 7:20, 8:12, 9:25, 10:20, 11:3, 11:12, 21:7, 30:12 FRANK [1] - 2:8 Frank [4] - 11:14, 34:5, 35:9 Friday [2] - 4:14, 17:8 friendly [1] - 45:23 FROM [1] - 58:20 front [8] - 8:13, 11:3, 18:19, 20:21, 24:10, 42:11, 44:2, 44:5 frontline [2] - 39:7, 39:8 fully [1] - 70:4
E	E	F	F	F
e-mail [3] - 9:20, 31:16, 45:17 EACH [1] - 62:4 early [1] - 48:12 earn [1] - 35:11 earned [1] - 4:18 ears [1] - 38:20 easements [4] - 54:23, 55:2, 55:5, 55:6 easiest [1] - 42:20 East [2] - 20:10, 33:1 easy [2] - 45:18, 56:20 Ecipriani@ scrantonpa.gov [1] - 9:24 ECONOMIC [2] - 64:18, 64:19 economy [1] - 28:18 education [3] - 11:23, 15:22, 57:20 effective [3] - 58:3, 58:4, 58:5 effectively [3] - 57:18, 57:20, 57:21 effectiveness [1] - 57:17 Eighth [1] - 19:20 EIGHTH [1] - 68:9 Eileen [1] - 10:19 Eisbacher [2] - 11:20,	38:11 EISBACHER [1] - 11:21 elderly [1] - 53:7 election [1] - 8:1 electric [1] - 29:20 element [1] - 9:6 elementary [1] - 11:24 Elm [2] - 20:10, 20:14 emergencies [2] - 6:15 Emiliani's [1] - 18:8 employees [1] - 7:3 EMPLOYEES [1] - 58:23 employment [1] - 57:23 END [1] - 62:4 end [3] - 6:19, 19:4, 19:9 ends [1] - 8:2 energy [1] - 30:4 enforceable [1] - 42:21 enforced [1] - 42:13 enforcement [5] - 21:15, 31:22, 32:9, 42:22, 54:1 Engine [1] - 54:13 engineer [1] - 23:4 ENGINEERING [2] - 66:2, 67:12 engineers [2] - 17:18, 17:19 ensure [2] - 10:1, 11:5 ENTER [4] - 59:19, 64:16, 65:25, 67:10 enter [1] - 10:22 ENTERPRISES [1] - 59:20 entertain [3] - 59:3, 59:23, 69:14 entities [1] - 52:9 ENTITLED [2] - 58:11, 63:4 entity [1] - 39:25 environment [1] - 42:2 equipped [1] - 26:1 error [1] - 44:21 Eskra [1] - 48:11 especially [1] - 17:12 espionage [1] - 15:20 ESQ [1] - 2:10 estimation [1] - 51:14 Euclid [4] - 17:7, 18:5, 18:23 evaluating [2] - 57:16, 58:2 EVALUATION [1] -	3:22 evaluations [2] - 56:18, 57:14 evening [3] - 7:12, 11:12, 20:18 evidence [1] - 70:4 example [2] - 8:6, 50:21 EXCEED [1] - 58:17 exceed [1] - 7:6 Excellent [1] - 8:5 excellent [1] - 8:5 except [1] - 5:19 excited [2] - 14:18, 14:23 Excuse [1] - 31:12 excuses [1] - 10:10 EXECUTE [4] - 59:19, 64:16, 65:25, 67:10 executive [1] - 29:7 exist [1] - 41:20 expect [1] - 24:17 expecting [1] - 51:8 expense [1] - 11:1 EXPENSES [1] - 58:12 experience [3] - 30:24, 39:8, 49:4 experiences [1] - 31:1 experiencing [3] - 38:23, 51:1, 51:9 explain [1] - 35:9 EXTENDING [1] - 64:22 extension [2] - 55:14, 55:16 extensive [1] - 56:1 extra [2] - 9:1, 44:14	33:16, 54:22, 55:1 FBI [1] - 15:4 feed [1] - 27:5 feeding [1] - 33:5 feet [2] - 19:5, 19:10 Fell [1] - 38:20 FELLOWS [1] - 66:3 fencing [1] - 66:12 few [7] - 5:7, 30:21, 33:13, 38:14, 46:4, 54:11, 55:20 Fifth [1] - 23:17 fifth [1] - 65:7 FIFTH [1] - 30:17 fight [1] - 40:23 fighting [2] - 40:23, 52:17 figure [10] - 14:2, 15:3, 16:4, 28:1, 38:3, 38:6, 46:9, 46:15, 50:19, 51:21 FILE [10] - 58:9, 61:4, 61:25, 63:2, 63:3, 63:8, 68:10, 68:15, 68:22, 69:3 file [1] - 41:16 filed [1] - 3:25 fill [1] - 46:22 filled [6] - 16:18, 19:6, 22:16, 36:4, 47:4, 47:7 fillers [1] - 25:23 filthy [1] - 14:8 final [5] - 62:9, 63:19, 65:4, 66:9, 67:19 finalized [3] - 4:24, 6:7, 6:20 finally [3] - 21:18, 36:16, 40:18 Finally [1] - 18:22 FINANCE [1] - 63:1 Finance [2] - 63:17, 63:19 financial [2] - 5:21, 6:3 fine [2] - 35:5, 41:9 finer [1] - 12:23 fire [3] - 7:4, 18:6 fired [2] - 17:1, 17:6 firefighters [1] - 6:18 first [6] - 4:4, 27:23, 33:15, 35:13, 60:6, 60:7 FIRST [1] - 58:13 First [5] - 4:7, 24:8, 30:22, 33:13, 36:1 FISCAL [1] - 63:7 fixed [2] - 16:22, 16:23 flock [1] - 33:2 flood [2] - 22:14, 60:7	floods [1] - 6:16 fly [1] - 41:25 FLYNN [17] - 2:3, 3:15, 46:4, 47:8, 48:1, 59:5, 59:13, 60:25, 61:12, 61:20, 62:8, 62:21, 64:6, 65:17, 67:2, 67:20, 68:5 flynn [5] - 62:20, 64:5, 65:16, 67:1, 68:4 Flynn [4] - 3:14, 46:3, 56:16, 60:3 focused [1] - 37:22 follow [3] - 5:17, 47:6, 66:16 following [4] - 5:15, 7:24, 9:22, 45:13 food [1] - 14:14 FOR [21] - 1:1, 58:8, 58:11, 58:12, 58:15, 58:23, 59:16, 61:24, 61:25, 62:25, 63:1, 63:7, 64:10, 64:12, 64:15, 65:21, 65:23, 66:2, 67:6, 67:8, 67:12 Force [5] - 24:24, 25:2, 36:17, 37:16, 38:18 force [7] - 32:3, 36:18, 39:14, 39:22, 40:4, 40:10, 57:8 foregoing [1] - 70:21 Forest [1] - 36:1 forgot [2] - 52:21, 54:9 form [4] - 7:15, 7:20, 9:7, 52:9 forth [3] - 6:16, 26:19, 42:14 FORTH [1] - 4:2 forward [5] - 26:16, 46:15, 48:9, 48:14, 55:13 foster [3] - 11:23, 12:4, 15:5 four [8] - 7:20, 8:12, 9:25, 10:20, 11:3, 11:12, 21:7, 30:12 FRANK [1] - 2:8 Frank [4] - 11:14, 34:5, 35:9 Friday [2] - 4:14, 17:8 friendly [1] - 45:23 FROM [1] - 58:20 front [8] - 8:13, 11:3, 18:19, 20:21, 24:10, 42:11, 44:2, 44:5 frontline [2] - 39:7, 39:8 fully [1] - 70:4

functions [1] - 56:24 fund [2] - 6:12, 6:13 FUND [4] - 58:21, 63:6, 63:11, 63:13 funded [2] - 55:5, 55:9 funding [6] - 6:14, 54:13, 55:11, 57:3, 57:25, 58:2 fundraiser [1] - 4:15 funds [1] - 5:23 FUNDS [1] - 58:11	ground [3] - 17:14, 37:21, 49:25 group [1] - 57:8 grow [1] - 42:3 growth [1] - 53:21 guess [2] - 26:9, 34:18 guy [1] - 15:15	HIPAA [2] - 12:19, 13:4 Historical [1] - 27:21 history [2] - 27:21, 27:25 Hodowanitz [2] - 4:5, 4:6 HODOWANITZ [2] - 4:6, 5:1 HOME [1] - 63:8 home [2] - 25:5, 28:16 Home [1] - 5:15 homeless [11] - 12:7, 24:22, 25:8, 25:9, 30:24, 36:16, 48:19, 49:23, 49:24, 50:1, 56:12 homelessness [3] - 49:9, 51:2, 51:9 homeowner [1] - 16:13 honored [1] - 4:10 hope [8] - 4:19, 5:1, 5:13, 27:15, 38:11, 39:14, 52:6, 52:13 hoping [2] - 23:13, 23:15 horrible [1] - 9:11 hoses [1] - 26:3 House [1] - 47:10 house [2] - 32:11, 42:11 households [2] - 26:18, 27:1 HOUSING [1] - 64:19 housing [2] - 31:5, 57:23 HOWLEY [1] - 62:2 huge [1] - 36:6 human [3] - 22:12, 69:2, 69:8 HUNDRED [2] - 58:17, 58:18 hurt [3] - 12:15, 13:23, 45:16 hydraulic [1] - 26:1	42:20 impact [2] - 5:21, 46:16 important [2] - 8:3, 46:11 impose [1] - 42:3 IMPROVE [1] - 61:8 IMPROVEMENTS [1] - 59:21 IN [3] - 58:22, 63:10, 63:12 inaudible [1] - 31:11 INC [1] - 64:17 incentives [1] - 44:13 include [1] - 8:22 includes [1] - 10:24 INCLUDES [1] - 63:6 including [1] - 39:25 INCLUDING [1] - 58:14 INCREMENTS [1] - 64:22 individual [2] - 48:18, 51:1 individually [1] - 40:2 individuals [9] - 49:19, 50:1, 50:4, 50:18, 51:9, 51:17, 51:20, 52:2, 52:11 inform [1] - 25:11 information [13] - 6:2, 31:8, 31:9, 35:18, 35:23, 40:8, 43:23, 46:1, 48:3, 48:8, 48:10, 48:17, 69:10 infrastructure [3] - 7:17, 9:8, 10:3 ingestion [2] - 69:2, 69:8 input [1] - 69:10 inquiry [1] - 41:14 inside [3] - 18:20, 22:15, 41:25 inspect [1] - 32:21 inspectors [3] - 10:9, 17:1, 26:24 inspectors' [1] - 27:4 INSTALLING [1] - 61:6 instead [1] - 17:21 interaction [1] - 52:1 interest [1] - 5:12 interested [1] - 23:21 INTERNATIONAL [1] - 58:25 interruption [1] - 42:10 intersection [2] - 22:3, 24:19 INTERSECTION [2] - 61:6, 61:9	intimate [1] - 37:20 INTO [4] - 59:19, 64:16, 66:1, 67:11 introduced [2] - 59:3, 59:23 INTRODUCTION [2] - 58:9, 59:17 introduction [3] - 59:8, 60:17, 60:20 investigate [1] - 11:5 investigation [1] - 13:21 investing [1] - 26:11 involved [1] - 13:15 Irving [1] - 36:6 ISETT [2] - 66:1, 67:11 issue [8] - 5:19, 8:5, 13:6, 36:16, 40:25, 41:23, 48:19, 49:2 issued [1] - 32:2 issues [9] - 7:24, 9:21, 25:1, 32:11, 33:3, 38:24, 39:12, 42:4, 49:13 it'd [1] - 5:24 it'll [2] - 4:17, 46:24 Item [14] - 59:3, 59:23, 61:11, 61:13, 62:10, 62:24, 63:20, 64:9, 65:4, 65:20, 66:9, 67:5, 67:19, 68:8 ITEM [1] - 58:20 item [1] - 36:22 Items [1] - 3:24 ITEMS [2] - 63:10, 63:12	
G	H	I	J	K	
gain [1] - 57:23 galore [1] - 36:2 game [2] - 9:9, 9:20 games [3] - 10:4, 10:6, 11:8 GATES [1] - 62:4 geese [2] - 33:2, 33:5 GENERAL [1] - 58:15 GERRITY [1] - 67:13 gift [6] - 26:15, 26:17, 27:3, 27:7, 43:9, 43:19 gifted [1] - 11:25 GILBRIDE [2] - 2:10, 42:25 Gilbride [2] - 42:18, 48:11 given [1] - 28:21 God [5] - 4:15, 22:11, 41:24, 53:13, 53:14 gonna [2] - 23:1, 36:11 government [2] - 12:24, 60:13 GOVERNMENT [1] - 58:12 Governor [1] - 29:5 grab [1] - 9:15 grade [2] - 11:22, 15:22 GRANDVIEW [1] - 61:7 grant [2] - 54:13, 54:16 GRANT [1] - 64:20 grants [1] - 54:19 great [15] - 14:24, 23:18, 25:17, 37:16, 38:16, 43:10, 43:13, 43:19, 43:21, 44:11, 48:20, 53:2, 53:10 greatly [1] - 56:8 Green [5] - 18:14, 18:25, 30:3, 46:6, 46:21 grew [1] - 11:23	half [5] - 13:1, 16:20, 16:23, 25:21, 49:6 hand [6] - 24:13, 24:14, 24:18, 25:4, 36:7, 44:8 handbook [1] - 5:7 handed [3] - 26:17, 26:23, 44:9 handing [3] - 26:21, 26:22, 26:25 hands [1] - 13:8 happy [2] - 60:16, 60:17 hard [1] - 50:8 Harrison [2] - 32:18 hazard [1] - 22:18 health [8] - 13:6, 14:4, 22:18, 39:19, 49:13, 51:18, 56:16, 56:22 hear [2] - 15:1, 15:6 heard [2] - 39:4, 61:10 hearing [2] - 53:20, 68:21 heart [1] - 38:15 heat [1] - 25:24 heavy [1] - 22:14 held [1] - 68:21 HELD [1] - 1:4 Hello [2] - 11:21, 27:19 help [15] - 12:12, 12:13, 14:9, 25:11, 25:15, 37:14, 39:2, 50:5, 51:17, 53:8, 56:6, 56:8, 57:3, 57:6, 57:19 helped [1] - 13:19 helping [8] - 14:7, 14:9, 37:2, 37:3, 50:18, 52:11, 57:18, 57:20 hereby [6] - 62:23, 64:8, 65:19, 67:4, 68:7, 70:3 herself [1] - 31:3 hiccup [1] - 48:16 hidden [1] - 25:5 high [1] - 50:1 highly [1] - 38:17 hill [1] - 24:10	idea [8] - 17:16, 17:20, 28:12, 30:4, 37:16, 43:13, 43:19 IDENTIFIED [1] - 58:22 identified [1] - 41:11 ignored [1] - 9:12 illegal [2] - 12:21, 22:21 imagine [1] - 4:25 immediately [1] -	intimate [1] - 37:20 INTO [4] - 59:19, 64:16, 66:1, 67:11 introduced [2] - 59:3, 59:23 INTRODUCTION [2] - 58:9, 59:17 introduction [3] - 59:8, 60:17, 60:20 investigate [1] - 11:5 investigation [1] - 13:21 investing [1] - 26:11 involved [1] - 13:15 Irving [1] - 36:6 ISETT [2] - 66:1, 67:11 issue [8] - 5:19, 8:5, 13:6, 36:16, 40:25, 41:23, 48:19, 49:2 issued [1] - 32:2 issues [9] - 7:24, 9:21, 25:1, 32:11, 33:3, 38:24, 39:12, 42:4, 49:13 it'd [1] - 5:24 it'll [2] - 4:17, 46:24 Item [14] - 59:3, 59:23, 61:11, 61:13, 62:10, 62:24, 63:20, 64:9, 65:4, 65:20, 66:9, 67:5, 67:19, 68:8 ITEM [1] - 58:20 item [1] - 36:22 Items [1] - 3:24 ITEMS [2] - 63:10, 63:12	JACKSON [1] - 34:16 jail [1] - 16:5 JANUARY [1] - 58:13 Jeopardy [1] - 7:19 jeopardy [1] - 9:9 JESSICA [1] - 2:5 Joan [2] - 4:5, 4:6 job [6] - 17:2, 17:7, 27:1, 27:15, 39:23, 51:19 John [2] - 17:22, 17:25 joke [1] - 17:12 judges [1] - 28:17 July [2] - 26:16, 43:17	KATHY [1] - 2:9 Keep [1] - 5:5 keep [2] - 28:8, 31:13

keeping ^[1] - 19:18 Keyser ^[5] - 20:19, 54:22, 55:1, 60:8, 60:10 KEYSER ^[1] - 59:20 kid ^[1] - 11:25 kids ^[1] - 13:23 kind ^[1] - 22:7 kitchen ^[1] - 23:1 knowing ^[2] - 23:22, 44:12 known ^[1] - 47:9 knows ^[3] - 7:19, 41:24, 42:7 kratom ^[4] - 19:11, 48:1, 69:1, 69:7 Krieger ^[1] - 29:16	legal ^[2] - 42:14, 42:15 legally ^[5] - 62:24, 64:9, 65:20, 67:5, 68:8 legislation ^[9] - 19:12, 42:19, 43:5, 43:17, 44:2, 44:5, 44:16, 44:20, 48:2 legislative ^[2] - 5:20, 5:25 Lenny ^[2] - 20:17, 20:19 Les ^[3] - 16:11, 16:12, 18:1 less ^[3] - 15:16, 20:4, 24:16 letter ^[1] - 56:1 letting ^[1] - 19:18 library ^[1] - 28:1 Library's ^[1] - 4:15 life ^[2] - 12:3, 49:5 lifelong ^[1] - 13:4 lights ^[2] - 17:21, 17:23 limit ^[2] - 20:3, 20:5 LINDEN ^[1] - 62:3 LINE ^[3] - 58:20, 63:10, 63:12 line ^[3] - 22:25, 36:22, 41:23 list ^[3] - 34:23, 46:24, 47:6 listen ^[2] - 7:14, 34:25 literally ^[2] - 12:11, 13:16 lithium ^[1] - 28:13 litigation ^[1] - 48:7 LITTLE ^[1] - 27:19 live ^[1] - 34:21 lived ^[2] - 29:25, 49:4 lives ^[2] - 47:19, 52:12 living ^[1] - 49:14 LLC ^[1] - 64:21 located ^[2] - 54:25, 56:24 LOCATION ^[1] - 1:10 lockdown ^[1] - 10:11 locked ^[1] - 9:1 Lockheed ^[1] - 29:14 LODGE ^[1] - 58:24 Look ^[1] - 42:5 look ^[21] - 5:7, 8:14, 15:9, 22:4, 22:8, 23:24, 27:9, 29:11, 31:22, 31:24, 32:4, 35:6, 37:23, 40:15, 42:19, 43:17, 46:22, 47:2, 47:3, 56:3, 57:1 looked ^[4] - 8:8,	21:21, 29:22 looking ^[5] - 25:20, 28:9, 32:8, 35:16, 48:8 looks ^[4] - 7:25, 36:7, 38:4, 47:21 lucky ^[1] - 8:22 Lunch ^[1] - 24:11	M	MACHINISTS ^[1] - 58:25 mail ^[3] - 9:20, 31:16, 45:17 Main ^[3] - 16:15, 16:19, 17:3 main ^[1] - 16:22 maintained ^[1] - 53:22 major ^[1] - 4:15 majority ^[1] - 7:3 MANAGE ^[1] - 64:18 Mancini ^[2] - 7:10, 11:11 MANCINI ^[1] - 7:11 manhole ^[2] - 8:19, 9:11 manually ^[1] - 26:4 March ^[1] - 21:24 Maria ^[2] - 1:24, 70:10 MARK ^[21] - 2:4, 3:13, 21:4, 21:7, 23:17, 43:1, 45:8, 45:14, 45:22, 45:25, 52:20, 52:24, 59:12, 59:25, 60:24, 61:19, 62:19, 64:4, 65:15, 66:25, 68:3 Mark ^[7] - 3:12, 38:8, 62:18, 64:3, 65:14, 66:24, 68:2 Market ^[3] - 53:1, 54:7, 54:8 MAY ^[1] - 3:22 Mayor ^[4] - 17:15, 19:18, 34:19, 60:8 MAYOR ^[4] - 59:18, 64:14, 65:24, 67:9 mayors ^[1] - 34:21 MCANDREW ^[46] - 2:4, 2:6, 3:11, 3:13, 11:14, 11:18, 21:4, 21:7, 23:17, 33:12, 34:13, 35:14, 35:24, 36:15, 38:10, 43:1, 45:8, 45:14, 45:22, 45:25, 52:20, 52:24, 59:11, 59:12, 59:25, 60:23, 60:24, 61:14, 61:18, 61:19, 62:11,	62:17, 62:19, 63:21, 64:2, 64:4, 65:2, 65:13, 65:15, 66:7, 66:23, 66:25, 67:17, 68:1, 68:3, 69:15 McAndrew ^[15] - 3:10, 3:12, 33:11, 38:9, 52:4, 62:16, 62:18, 64:1, 64:3, 65:12, 65:14, 66:22, 66:24, 67:25, 68:2 McCool ^[2] - 1:24, 70:10 mean ^[8] - 5:2, 29:6, 36:17, 36:19, 44:5, 44:12, 44:19, 49:20 meaningful ^[1] - 57:23 means ^[1] - 70:22 meantime ^[1] - 12:6 measure ^[1] - 50:17 meet ^[7] - 46:8, 46:14, 47:18, 48:11, 50:4, 51:20, 56:21 meeting ^[6] - 25:3, 34:19, 49:19, 51:14, 56:19, 69:17 meetings ^[5] - 25:7, 25:16, 25:17, 29:19, 39:4 members ^[5] - 3:25, 9:25, 10:21, 37:18, 40:3 MEMBERS ^[1] - 58:23 Memorial ^[1] - 4:9 men ^[1] - 3:5 mental ^[7] - 13:5, 14:3, 16:6, 49:13, 51:17, 56:15, 56:22 mentally ^[1] - 49:21 mention ^[2] - 6:6, 52:21 mentioned ^[3] - 6:5, 25:21, 44:16 mess ^[2] - 16:24, 17:3 message ^[2] - 21:16, 35:4 middle ^[1] - 8:25 might ^[3] - 44:3, 46:17, 57:3 Mike ^[1] - 7:10 military ^[1] - 4:11 million ^[2] - 5:23, 46:13 mind ^[4] - 5:5, 13:10, 15:9, 51:13 minimum ^[1] - 50:11 Minooka ^[1] - 24:7 minors ^[1] - 69:2 minutes ^[2] - 3:18, 21:8	miss ^[1] - 11:11 missing ^[2] - 24:15, 36:9 mission ^[2] - 37:4, 52:14 misstep ^[1] - 49:8 mix ^[1] - 39:11 mixed ^[1] - 41:7 modified ^[2] - 69:1, 69:7 modify ^[1] - 6:8 moisture ^[1] - 42:2 mold ^[2] - 22:16, 42:1 molested ^[1] - 12:4 mom ^[2] - 12:1, 15:13 moment ^[4] - 3:4, 49:3, 49:17, 52:14 Monday ^[1] - 4:9 money ^[14] - 4:17, 7:2, 14:1, 14:13, 16:8, 27:11, 34:6, 34:9, 36:21, 37:1, 37:4, 37:6, 37:10, 55:10 money's ^[1] - 36:20 month ^[3] - 55:13, 55:16, 60:7 months ^[6] - 6:24, 20:22, 21:24, 23:2, 23:8, 38:14 morning ^[1] - 66:16 Most ^[1] - 14:12 most ^[2] - 14:18, 57:9 motion ^[4] - 59:3, 59:23, 69:14, 69:15 MOTIONS ^[1] - 30:18 motions ^[4] - 30:20, 33:11, 38:9, 46:3 mountain ^[1] - 28:24 move ^[9] - 33:6, 40:18, 48:9, 48:13, 49:8, 52:4, 58:4, 60:14, 61:12 moved ^[6] - 55:13, 59:5, 59:15, 59:25, 61:2, 61:22 Moving ^[1] - 25:18 moving ^[1] - 20:24 MR ^[154] - 3:3, 3:11, 3:13, 3:15, 3:17, 3:19, 3:23, 4:2, 4:4, 4:25, 7:9, 7:11, 11:14, 11:17, 11:18, 11:19, 16:10, 16:12, 19:13, 19:15, 20:2, 20:7, 20:9, 20:12, 20:16, 20:18, 21:4, 21:6, 21:7, 21:11, 23:17, 23:20, 24:5, 24:7, 27:17, 27:19, 30:15, 30:17, 30:19,
L	lack ^[5] - 8:10, 8:24, 9:2, 10:8, 31:4 Lackawanna ^[4] - 8:7, 27:21, 30:10, 69:12 LACKAWANNA ^[1] - 3:20 lake ^[3] - 28:24 Lakeland ^[1] - 11:24 Lakes ^[1] - 28:21 LAND ^[1] - 3:21 land ^[3] - 29:12, 29:13, 30:1 landscape ^[1] - 8:12 lane ^[6] - 18:25, 19:5, 20:4, 20:13, 24:13, 24:14 lane's ^[1] - 19:24 Last ^[1] - 26:13 last ^[20] - 4:14, 6:5, 6:23, 18:15, 20:25, 21:24, 28:4, 29:15, 33:15, 37:5, 45:5, 45:9, 45:16, 47:8, 53:2, 54:11, 55:3, 55:12, 56:13, 66:12 lastly ^[1] - 19:21 laundromat ^[1] - 14:17 lawfully ^[5] - 62:24, 64:9, 65:20, 67:5, 68:8 laziness ^[1] - 10:9 Laziness ^[1] - 8:10 lead ^[1] - 49:12 League ^[1] - 33:1 least ^[2] - 6:7, 39:24 leave ^[2] - 31:7, 31:9 leaving ^[2] - 14:1, 15:2 left ^[3] - 21:16, 24:14, 43:25					

31:12, 32:4, 32:13, 32:23, 33:10, 33:12, 34:11, 34:13, 35:13, 35:14, 35:22, 35:24, 36:13, 36:15, 38:8, 38:10, 43:1, 45:5, 45:8, 45:9, 45:14, 45:20, 45:22, 45:24, 45:25, 46:2, 46:4, 47:5, 47:8, 47:25, 48:1, 52:19, 52:20, 52:23, 52:24, 54:10, 58:8, 59:2, 59:5, 59:7, 59:11, 59:12, 59:13, 59:14, 59:16, 59:22, 59:25, 60:2, 60:23, 60:24, 60:25, 61:1, 61:3, 61:10, 61:12, 61:14, 61:15, 61:18, 61:19, 61:20, 61:21, 61:23, 62:5, 62:8, 62:11, 62:12, 62:17, 62:19, 62:21, 62:23, 62:25, 63:15, 63:21, 63:22, 64:2, 64:4, 64:6, 64:8, 64:10, 64:24, 65:2, 65:6, 65:13, 65:15, 65:17, 65:19, 65:21, 66:4, 66:7, 66:11, 66:14, 66:17, 66:23, 66:25, 67:2, 67:4, 67:6, 67:14, 67:17, 67:20, 67:21, 68:1, 68:3, 68:5, 68:7, 68:9, 68:12, 68:15, 68:17, 68:22, 68:24, 69:3, 69:5, 69:15, 69:17 MS [33] - 3:8, 3:10, 3:12, 3:14, 3:16, 4:6, 5:1, 11:21, 62:14, 62:16, 62:18, 62:20, 62:22, 63:24, 64:1, 64:3, 64:5, 64:7, 65:10, 65:12, 65:14, 65:16, 65:18, 66:20, 66:22, 66:24, 67:1, 67:3, 67:23, 67:25, 68:2, 68:4, 68:6 MULBERRY [1] - 62:3 Mulberry [1] - 36:2 MULTI [1] - 61:6 MULTI-WAY [1] - 61:6 multiple [1] - 31:20 multiply [1] - 42:3 municipal [1] - 7:3 municipality [2] - 48:4, 48:17 must [1] - 10:17	N NAME [1] - 64:20 name [1] - 38:12 named [1] - 34:20 natural [1] - 6:15 Nay [2] - 18:23, 18:24 necessarily [3] - 48:5, 51:12, 52:7 need [20] - 8:18, 8:20, 9:4, 9:14, 9:18, 26:8, 27:14, 30:4, 37:14, 39:2, 39:22, 41:15, 43:15, 45:25, 49:2, 50:6, 54:4, 57:15, 57:22 needed [1] - 28:15 needle [2] - 40:18, 52:4 needs [1] - 32:2 neighborhood [1] - 46:17 NEIGHBORLY [2] - 64:17, 64:21 neighbors [4] - 47:18, 47:19, 53:5, 53:11 neighbors' [1] - 33:21 never [7] - 4:10, 17:22, 33:22, 39:5, 39:21, 44:1, 49:10 new [5] - 8:1, 19:1, 25:20, 41:10, 42:7 NEW [1] - 63:12 New [1] - 30:3 newly [4] - 8:23, 10:15, 10:23 news [1] - 27:13 next [10] - 7:9, 11:19, 23:13, 24:4, 29:11, 29:13, 46:18, 48:12, 50:17, 56:4 Next [2] - 16:10, 20:16 nice [2] - 5:24, 24:15 night [4] - 4:14, 17:12, 27:16, 69:18 ninth [2] - 11:22, 15:22 NO [15] - 58:10, 58:24, 61:5, 62:1, 63:2, 63:3, 63:9, 64:12, 64:13, 65:23, 67:8, 68:10, 68:16, 68:23, 69:4 nobility [1] - 15:11 nobody [1] - 22:9 Nobody [2] - 15:6, 21:16 NON [1] - 58:20 NON- DEPARTMENTAL [1]	- 58:20 nonprofit [1] - 57:1 nonprofits [8] - 37:1, 40:3, 50:9, 57:10, 57:11, 57:14, 57:16, 58:1 normally [1] - 44:11 North [3] - 16:19, 17:2, 31:18 NOT [2] - 58:17, 58:22 note [1] - 36:13 notes [1] - 70:5 nothing [6] - 14:11, 18:16, 18:20, 22:10, 23:2, 23:11 notice [1] - 8:23 notified [1] - 40:17 November [1] - 18:12 nuisance [2] - 31:19, 31:24 number [1] - 32:11 numbers [1] - 14:1 numerous [1] - 21:15	O observed [1] - 4:8 obsolete [1] - 30:12 Obviously [1] - 45:17 obviously [3] - 26:25, 40:9, 44:10 oddly [1] - 32:20 OF [23] - 1:1, 58:9, 58:12, 58:13, 58:15, 58:23, 58:25, 61:4, 61:7, 62:1, 62:2, 63:2, 63:3, 63:5, 63:8, 63:9, 64:15, 64:18, 68:10, 68:15, 68:22, 69:3 OFFICE [1] - 64:18 office [1] - 25:4 official [2] - 33:22, 55:4 Official [2] - 1:24, 70:11 officially [2] - 55:4, 55:7 OFFICIALS [4] - 59:18, 64:15, 65:25, 67:10 old [1] - 13:20 ON [6] - 58:13, 61:25, 63:1, 64:11, 65:22, 67:7 once [5] - 9:19, 34:20, 40:18, 44:24, 54:7 one [37] - 6:2, 10:18, 11:4, 13:17, 14:24, 15:9, 17:8, 17:10, 17:17, 18:5, 18:25, 19:1, 19:5, 19:24, 20:4, 20:12, 22:23, 25:5, 26:9, 29:16, 32:15, 32:25, 36:1, 42:15, 42:17, 45:6, 45:10, 47:19, 48:22, 49:7, 49:8, 52:21, 53:11, 54:24 One [1] - 54:12 open [3] - 19:3, 19:8, 21:13 openly [1] - 48:23 OPERATING [3] - 58:15, 58:16, 58:22 OPERATIONS [1] - 61:8 opinion [1] - 40:21 opinions [2] - 7:16, 8:9 opioid [1] - 49:4 Opposed [2] - 59:14, 61:21 opposed [1] - 61:1 orange [2] - 7:25, 8:15 order [5] - 19:20, 28:10, 29:7, 31:13, 65:7 ORDER [6] - 3:19, 4:2, 30:17, 61:3, 61:23, 68:9 Order [3] - 3:24, 23:18, 43:18 ordinance [10] - 10:15, 23:5, 41:11, 42:9, 68:12, 68:13, 68:17, 68:18, 68:24, 69:5 ORDINANCE [4] - 58:9, 58:10, 61:5, 63:4 ordinances [2] - 68:20, 69:9 originally [2] - 26:19, 34:7 OTHER [4] - 59:18, 64:14, 65:24, 67:9 ourselves [3] - 43:5, 52:8, 58:1 outreach [4] - 47:17, 49:23, 49:24, 51:16 overgrowth [2] - 53:2, 53:16 overpriced [1] - 14:16 oversight [2] - 9:2, 10:8 own [4] - 7:15, 8:9, 11:3, 37:25 owned [1] - 29:13 owner [2] - 22:22,	52:7 owns [1] - 54:6 P PA [2] - 10:24, 11:2 paid [1] - 13:15 Paige [1] - 18:12 painted [2] - 17:9, 17:13 pamphlet [1] - 12:18 Park [2] - 32:25, 34:15 PARK [2] - 66:3, 67:13 park [1] - 66:13 parked [2] - 18:9, 20:21 Parks [2] - 6:10, 7:2 part [2] - 32:3, 53:21 PARTICIPATION [1] - 4:3 partners [1] - 50:9 party [1] - 10:8 pass [1] - 61:13 passage [5] - 62:10, 63:20, 65:4, 66:9, 67:19 passed [1] - 3:6 past [2] - 31:21, 43:22 patches [1] - 26:3 path [4] - 42:20, 50:6, 50:18, 51:6 PATRICK [1] - 2:3 paused [1] - 4:8 pave [7] - 8:19, 9:11, 10:9, 10:15, 11:16, 16:25, 32:17 Pave [2] - 16:14, 16:17 paved [8] - 8:23, 8:24, 10:16, 10:23, 18:25, 19:7, 32:20, 32:22 pavement [4] - 25:24, 25:25, 26:3, 36:9 paving [6] - 18:23, 18:24, 25:19, 46:24, 46:25, 47:6 pays [1] - 6:1 peaceful [1] - 11:22 Pennoni [1] - 17:6 Pennsylvania [2] - 28:21, 48:4 people [35] - 7:13, 8:16, 9:3, 9:17, 10:6, 11:9, 11:13, 12:10, 12:14, 13:14, 14:7, 15:24, 17:10, 19:15, 25:12, 25:15, 28:8, 29:2, 29:9, 31:2, 33:3, 33:4, 37:13, 37:17, 37:20, 43:13, 50:5, 56:19, 56:21,
--	---	---	--	--

56:24, 57:7, 57:9, 57:15, 57:18, 57:20 People [2] - 29:18, 43:15 per [3] - 44:4, 45:6, 45:10 percent [1] - 6:13 perfect [1] - 42:1 perfectly [1] - 18:20 PERFORM [3] - 59:20, 66:2, 67:12 PERIOD [1] - 58:12 permanent [1] - 23:9 person [3] - 10:23, 11:22, 53:7 personal [2] - 40:21, 48:22 personally [3] - 12:25, 16:2, 49:1 personnel [1] - 5:6 pertaining [1] - 10:15 pertains [1] - 41:17 phase [2] - 54:24 phone [1] - 21:19 physically [1] - 49:21 pick [1] - 13:12 picture [1] - 36:8 Pike [1] - 29:25 piled [2] - 22:15, 24:3 Pine [1] - 32:8 pink [1] - 17:9 pipe [1] - 33:19 place [8] - 13:9, 16:6, 39:11, 40:12, 48:13, 51:25, 52:11, 52:16 PLACING [1] - 62:3 placing [2] - 9:8, 50:11 Plan [1] - 55:9 PLAN [3] - 63:6, 63:11, 63:14 plan [5] - 46:9, 51:21, 51:23, 52:10, 52:16 planned [1] - 29:9 PLANNING [1] - 3:20 planning [2] - 8:2, 22:25 play [2] - 10:5, 11:8 plays [1] - 7:18 pleasure [1] - 61:11 Pledge [1] - 3:1 Pocius [2] - 17:22, 17:25 pockets [1] - 27:4 pod [11] - 20:20, 21:14, 21:21, 21:22, 21:25, 22:8, 22:13, 22:16, 23:10, 40:25, 42:13 pods [2] - 41:9, 41:19 point [1] - 49:15 points [2] - 43:10, 43:22 Police [1] - 22:8 police [8] - 6:18, 7:4, 22:5, 31:20, 31:25, 40:1, 42:21 political [1] - 27:14 politics [1] - 29:17 Poor [1] - 8:2 poor [2] - 8:3, 38:23 poorly [1] - 32:19 portable [1] - 41:18 portion [1] - 46:13 PORTION [1] - 62:1 posed [1] - 44:24 post [1] - 5:12 posted [1] - 4:23 potato [2] - 41:19 pothole [4] - 8:18, 9:10, 25:23, 26:8 potholes [9] - 16:17, 16:18, 26:8, 26:10, 36:2, 46:21, 46:23, 47:3, 47:7 Power [1] - 28:22 prepared [2] - 5:19, 43:5 prepares [1] - 5:25 prescription [2] - 13:10, 13:12 present [3] - 3:11, 3:13, 3:17 President [7] - 7:12, 28:10, 45:6, 45:10, 45:15, 52:20, 54:8 PRESIDENT [2] - 2:2, 2:3 pretty [1] - 47:2 prices [2] - 12:20, 29:20 primary [1] - 6:13 priority [1] - 39:20 proactive [1] - 10:1 problem [3] - 12:25, 20:8, 45:2 problems [2] - 12:14, 14:4 proceedings [1] - 70:3 process [2] - 52:8, 69:11 produced [1] - 5:6 program [4] - 12:17, 12:19, 26:15, 27:10 PROGRAMS [1] - 64:20 programs [2] - 14:10, 57:4 progress [4] - 8:1, 18:22, 19:14, 55:23 progressing [1] - 60:11 Project [1] - 33:17 project [4] - 14:23, 20:14, 54:24, 55:8 projects [2] - 8:4, 60:15 promise [1] - 40:14 promising [1] - 39:5 promptly [1] - 10:3 pronunciation [1] - 38:12 proper [5] - 34:2, 40:16, 59:4, 59:24 properties [2] - 43:14, 54:25 property [13] - 15:17, 20:21, 21:23, 31:19, 31:22, 31:24, 32:10, 33:21, 34:4, 53:19, 53:22, 53:24, 54:6 protections [1] - 30:8 provide [1] - 6:14 providing [2] - 41:22, 56:11 provisions [2] - 68:13, 68:18 PUBLIC [2] - 61:25, 62:2 public [7] - 5:2, 5:13, 25:6, 33:4, 41:22, 41:23, 68:21 Public [2] - 62:7, 62:9 pumping [1] - 8:3 purpose [2] - 6:14, 15:13 PURSUANT [1] - 63:7 pushed [1] - 49:17 put [14] - 5:20, 16:5, 17:20, 20:4, 21:2, 24:9, 24:12, 26:15, 27:15, 39:23, 42:17, 46:23, 51:6, 66:13 putting [1] - 6:1	quite [1] - 56:13 R railroad [2] - 7:1, 8:20 rains [2] - 4:17, 22:14 RAISES [1] - 58:21 rather [3] - 16:6, 16:7, 26:11 reach [3] - 45:3, 46:19, 54:1 read [4] - 27:25, 28:12, 33:13, 56:9 reader [1] - 5:9 READING [1] - 61:4 reading [3] - 3:18, 61:10, 61:13 real [4] - 15:25, 16:4, 26:14, 39:8 realistic [2] - 51:12, 51:13 realize [1] - 5:14 really [8] - 11:21, 15:16, 17:10, 18:3, 36:18, 43:13, 52:6, 52:8 Rec [1] - 7:2 receive [3] - 45:12, 47:11, 66:15 RECEIVED [1] - 3:22 received [7] - 3:25, 31:16, 32:1, 32:7, 48:10, 48:16, 55:25 recognizing [1] - 44:10 recollection [1] - 20:6 recommend [5] - 62:9, 63:19, 65:4, 66:9, 67:19 recommendation [5] - 62:6, 63:16, 64:25, 66:5, 67:15 recommended [1] - 38:17 recovery [2] - 28:19, 49:6 Recreation [1] - 6:10 Redners [1] - 50:3 refer [1] - 44:17 referred [1] - 5:9 REFLECT [1] - 64:20 reflection [1] - 3:4 refuses [2] - 9:6, 9:7 regarding [4] - 10:2, 33:16, 34:15, 35:15 regards [1] - 38:22 region [1] - 25:14 regulates [2] - 68:25, 69:6 related [2] - 68:14, 68:19 relatives [1] - 4:11 relay [1] - 39:13 release [1] - 12:20 remain [1] - 3:3 remains [1] - 53:15 Remember [1] - 6:23 remember [3] - 43:11, 53:20 remembered [1] - 4:9 reminder [1] - 45:23 remodel [1] - 23:1 removal [2] - 20:20, 21:14 removed [1] - 12:2 repair [2] - 8:19, 8:20 replace [3] - 10:17, 17:22, 17:24 replaced [1] - 11:6 replacement [4] - 8:19, 8:21, 9:14, 11:1 report [6] - 21:5, 21:9, 21:20, 22:8, 22:9, 56:4 REPORT [1] - 3:22 reported [1] - 40:9 Reporter [2] - 1:24, 70:11 reporter [1] - 70:24 reporting [1] - 46:18 represent [1] - 7:23 representatives [1] - 7:14 representing [1] - 7:21 reproduction [1] - 70:22 request [5] - 10:22, 45:7, 45:11, 54:13, 55:21 requesting [1] - 33:4 requests [1] - 35:25 Rescue [1] - 55:9 RESERVE [3] - 63:6, 63:11, 63:13 resident [7] - 10:13, 16:13, 33:23, 34:14, 34:18, 35:2, 35:10 residents [6] - 4:8, 35:25, 39:17, 39:20, 46:17, 54:3 RESOLUTION [5] - 59:17, 64:12, 64:13, 65:23, 67:8 resolved [1] - 10:3 responding [1] - 30:22 response [11] - 33:25, 34:22, 35:1, 41:5,
18:22, 19:14, 55:23 progressing [1] - 60:11 Project [1] - 33:17 project [4] - 14:23, 20:14, 54:24, 55:8 projects [2] - 8:4, 60:15 promise [1] - 40:14 promising [1] - 39:5 promptly [1] - 10:3 pronunciation [1] - 38:12 proper [5] - 34:2, 40:16, 59:4, 59:24 properties [2] - 43:14, 54:25 property [13] - 15:17, 20:21, 21:23, 31:19, 31:22, 31:24, 32:10, 33:21, 34:4, 53:19, 53:22, 53:24, 54:6 protections [1] - 30:8 provide [1] - 6:14 providing [2] - 41:22, 56:11 provisions [2] - 68:13, 68:18 PUBLIC [2] - 61:25, 62:2 public [7] - 5:2, 5:13, 25:6, 33:4, 41:22, 41:23, 68:21 Public [2] - 62:7, 62:9 pumping [1] - 8:3 purpose [2] - 6:14, 15:13 PURSUANT [1] - 63:7 pushed [1] - 49:17 put [14] - 5:20, 16:5, 17:20, 20:4, 21:2, 24:9, 24:12, 26:15, 27:15, 39:23, 42:17, 46:23, 51:6, 66:13 putting [1] - 6:1	Q quarter [6] - 7:21, 8:12, 9:25, 10:20, 11:4, 11:12 quest [1] - 20:20 questioned [1] - 17:16 questioning [1] - 37:10 questions [10] - 7:15, 9:8, 9:21, 10:2, 26:21, 27:9, 33:15, 45:6, 45:10, 54:12 quickly [1] - 26:14

41:16, 45:12, 45:21, 47:11, 47:13, 47:22, 66:16 responses [3] - 33:14, 34:23, 36:24 responsibility [1] - 53:20 responsible [1] - 54:4 restoration [1] - 46:13 results [1] - 8:3 resume [1] - 51:19 return [1] - 37:12 rewarded [1] - 43:16 rewarding [2] - 43:13, 44:10 ribbon [1] - 17:15 Richmont [1] - 47:9 rid [2] - 14:19, 19:20 Ridge [4] - 18:14, 18:25, 46:6, 46:21 ridiculous [3] - 17:5, 17:14, 18:11 Rik [1] - 27:19 RLE [2] - 5:18, 59:19 road [12] - 8:23, 8:25, 10:17, 10:24, 11:6, 24:14, 33:20, 33:21, 36:4, 36:7, 36:9, 46:7 road's [1] - 16:24 roads [3] - 8:24, 10:16, 46:6 Robinson [1] - 28:25 rodents [1] - 42:6 roll [2] - 3:7, 67:22 Roll [4] - 62:13, 63:23, 65:9, 66:18 rollers [1] - 26:2 ROTHCHILD [20] - 2:5, 3:9, 30:21, 31:14, 32:6, 32:15, 32:24, 59:6, 59:10, 60:1, 60:22, 61:17, 62:15, 63:18, 63:25, 65:5, 65:11, 66:10, 66:21, 67:24 Rothchild [7] - 3:8, 30:19, 62:14, 63:24, 65:10, 66:20, 67:23 rough [1] - 16:19 row [1] - 54:21 RPR [2] - 1:24, 70:10 Rubicon [1] - 25:18 rude [1] - 35:8 Rule [1] - 5:15 rule [1] - 28:17 RULE [1] - 63:8 ruled [1] - 28:17 run [3] - 6:18, 7:1, 29:9	running [1] - 26:14 S safe [2] - 30:5, 39:18 safety [5] - 8:5, 39:19, 41:22, 41:23, 42:4 sake [1] - 44:4 sale [2] - 68:25, 69:6 sales [1] - 35:18 samples [1] - 45:11 sat [1] - 48:15 saw [2] - 17:14, 18:22 SCHUSTER [53] - 2:2, 3:3, 3:17, 3:23, 4:4, 4:25, 7:9, 11:19, 16:10, 19:13, 20:2, 20:9, 20:16, 24:5, 27:17, 30:15, 30:19, 31:12, 33:10, 38:8, 46:2, 52:19, 52:23, 54:10, 59:2, 59:7, 59:14, 59:22, 60:2, 61:1, 61:10, 61:15, 61:21, 62:5, 62:12, 62:23, 63:15, 63:22, 64:8, 64:24, 65:6, 65:19, 66:4, 66:11, 66:17, 67:4, 67:14, 67:21, 68:7, 68:17, 68:24, 69:5, 69:17 SCHUSTER [1] - 68:12 Schuster [10] - 3:16, 7:12, 45:15, 52:21, 54:9, 62:22, 64:7, 65:18, 67:3, 68:6 Schuster's [2] - 45:7, 45:11 Scranton [31] - 4:7, 4:8, 7:13, 7:22, 8:1, 8:6, 8:16, 9:3, 9:18, 10:6, 10:14, 11:9, 11:13, 13:8, 25:8, 27:22, 27:24, 28:3, 28:6, 28:16, 28:21, 29:3, 30:9, 31:18, 33:1, 34:15, 50:24, 51:4, 56:13, 68:14, 68:19 SCRANTON [3] - 1:1, 63:5, 64:15 Scranton311@scrantonpa.gov [1] - 9:23 screenings [2] - 56:22, 56:23 seal [2] - 8:24, 26:4 SEAN [25] - 2:6, 3:11, 11:14, 11:18, 33:12, 34:13, 35:14, 35:24,	36:15, 38:10, 59:11, 60:23, 61:14, 61:18, 62:11, 62:17, 63:21, 64:2, 65:2, 65:13, 66:7, 66:23, 67:17, 68:1, 69:15 Sean [8] - 3:10, 33:10, 56:25, 62:16, 64:1, 65:12, 66:22, 67:25 seat [1] - 38:18 seated [1] - 48:22 Second [7] - 54:20, 59:6, 60:1, 61:14, 63:21, 65:5, 66:10 second [2] - 62:11, 67:20 Secondly [1] - 40:25 secondly [1] - 40:25 SECTION [1] - 63:7 secured [5] - 54:23, 55:2, 55:5, 55:6, 55:8 See [1] - 24:4 see [27] - 4:22, 5:4, 7:7, 8:13, 8:18, 9:10, 9:15, 10:6, 12:13, 13:18, 14:9, 17:13, 21:25, 22:1, 22:9, 22:10, 24:15, 25:4, 26:7, 28:6, 28:18, 29:5, 31:6, 32:9, 47:4, 47:20, 51:24 seem [2] - 37:3, 37:13 self [3] - 50:7, 50:19, 52:12 self-sustainability [2] - 50:7, 50:19 self-sustainable [1] - 52:12 sell [1] - 53:23 send [7] - 22:3, 23:23, 35:9, 44:17, 45:17, 50:3, 56:1 sending [1] - 51:15 sent [8] - 34:14, 34:24, 35:15, 37:1, 44:19, 44:20, 45:5, 45:9 serious [2] - 29:4, 51:24 served [1] - 4:10 service [1] - 3:5 services [11] - 49:18, 50:6, 50:20, 50:25, 51:7, 51:10, 51:18, 51:19, 56:11, 57:2, 57:22 SERVICES [2] - 66:2, 67:12 Services [1] - 51:5 set [2] - 9:1, 15:13	settlement [1] - 13:22 SEVEN [2] - 58:18, 58:19 Seventh [1] - 43:18 SEVENTH [1] - 61:23 several [1] - 5:8 severe [1] - 46:16 Sewer [1] - 35:19 shale [1] - 30:3 shall [1] - 28:10 shaped [1] - 32:20 Shapiro [1] - 29:6 sharing [1] - 48:21 sheet [1] - 5:20 sheets [2] - 5:25, 6:1 shelters [1] - 50:15 showed [1] - 60:9 side [2] - 19:6, 36:7 Side [3] - 19:21, 51:3, 51:4 sidewalks [1] - 8:8 sight [1] - 41:23 sign [1] - 12:19 signed [1] - 13:3 signify [3] - 59:8, 60:20, 61:16 signs [4] - 9:13, 17:20, 17:23 silent [1] - 3:4 silver [1] - 28:14 single [1] - 13:17 sister [4] - 12:16, 13:9, 38:23, 50:22 sisters [1] - 12:3 site [1] - 46:14 sitting [3] - 22:22, 42:7, 57:11 situation [1] - 25:4 SIX [1] - 58:18 six [6] - 21:13, 23:8, 26:18, 26:25, 43:24, 60:11 SIXTH [1] - 61:3 SIXTY [1] - 58:18 SIXTY-SIX [1] - 58:18 Skate [1] - 34:15 Slate [3] - 12:18, 50:22, 51:3 slow [2] - 17:3, 60:14 snow [1] - 6:15 SO [1] - 58:16 Society [1] - 27:21 softball [1] - 19:22 SOFTWARE [2] - 64:17, 64:21 sold [1] - 35:19 SOLICITOR [1] - 2:10 Solicitor [3] - 42:18, 48:11	solution [1] - 26:12 solve [1] - 25:1 someone [5] - 24:17, 31:17, 32:21, 54:3, 58:4 something's [1] - 39:14 soon [1] - 48:10 sorry [7] - 8:7, 12:25, 14:14, 30:25, 38:24, 39:1, 45:8 sort [1] - 25:18 sound [1] - 37:8 sounds [1] - 37:8 South [4] - 16:15, 19:21, 36:5, 51:4 span [1] - 10:16 speaker [3] - 4:4, 7:10, 11:19 Speaking [1] - 19:11 specifically [1] - 54:22 spend [1] - 5:3 SPENDING [3] - 63:6, 63:11, 63:13 spending [1] - 14:13 spent [2] - 27:12 spilled [1] - 38:15 Spindler [2] - 16:11, 16:13 SPINDLER [4] - 16:12, 19:15, 20:7, 20:12 spots [1] - 60:10 Srebro [4] - 20:17, 20:19, 41:12, 41:24 SREBRO [4] - 20:18, 21:6, 21:11, 23:20 Stafford [2] - 10:23, 11:15 stamps [1] - 14:14 stand [5] - 19:12, 47:10, 47:14, 47:24, 48:2 standing [1] - 3:4 start [6] - 30:22, 37:9, 52:1, 52:3, 52:7, 52:8 started [3] - 20:14, 60:4, 60:5 stating [3] - 59:9, 60:21, 61:16 staying [2] - 12:7, 30:24 step [3] - 9:3, 38:5, 50:17 steps [1] - 25:14 still [7] - 4:22, 4:23, 16:16, 16:19, 21:9, 39:21, 41:2 Still [1] - 19:13 STOP [1] - 61:6
---	--	--	---	---

stop [6] - 9:12, 17:4, 17:10, 17:20, 17:23, 52:17 stopgap [1] - 50:16 storage [2] - 41:6, 41:18 store [1] - 14:12 stores [1] - 14:14 stories [1] - 22:23 Storm [1] - 33:17 storm [1] - 8:18 storms [1] - 6:16 stormwater [1] - 54:21 STORMWATER [1] - 59:20 story [1] - 23:22 straight [4] - 11:25, 24:13, 24:19, 44:25 STREET [3] - 61:7, 62:3 street [12] - 9:13, 13:16, 23:8, 23:10, 25:19, 25:20, 26:6, 26:7, 26:9, 28:5, 42:22, 47:3 Street [12] - 16:19, 18:9, 18:11, 18:14, 20:10, 20:14, 31:18, 32:8, 34:17, 36:5, 47:9, 55:21 streets [3] - 10:18, 12:22, 29:16 stretch [1] - 11:1 strongest [1] - 15:9 structure [3] - 23:7, 23:9, 37:24 stuck [1] - 36:11 study [1] - 54:14 stuff [9] - 12:9, 15:5, 17:24, 22:17, 29:4, 29:20, 39:16, 42:3, 56:9 SUBDIVISION [1] - 3:21 submit [1] - 54:18 submitted [1] - 66:15 Suboxone [2] - 12:17, 50:23 substance [1] - 51:18 succeed [1] - 57:22 sucked [1] - 14:15 sudden [2] - 24:18, 37:5 suddenly [1] - 27:7 suggestion [1] - 56:20 suite [1] - 49:18 suits [1] - 16:2 supermajority [1] - 10:1 supervision [1] -	70:23 supported [1] - 4:14 supposed [1] - 37:2 survive [1] - 30:13 sustainability [2] - 50:7, 50:19 sustainable [1] - 52:12 sweeper [4] - 25:20, 26:6, 26:10, 26:11 sweepers [1] - 25:19 swerve [1] - 36:10 Swingin [1] - 4:14 sympathize [2] - 38:16, 38:24 system [5] - 12:5, 12:6, 13:17, 15:5, 15:20	THIRTY [1] - 58:18 THIRTY-THREE [1] - 58:18 THIS [1] - 61:8 THOMAS [2] - 2:2, 2:10 thoughts [1] - 28:20 THOUSAND [1] - 58:18 three [2] - 12:3, 13:1 THREE [1] - 58:18 throughout [3] - 3:5, 41:2, 53:10 throw [1] - 45:16 TITLE [1] - 61:4 title [2] - 61:11, 61:13 TO [19] - 58:13, 58:16, 58:17, 58:21, 59:18, 59:20, 61:7, 62:2, 63:7, 63:11, 64:15, 64:17, 64:20, 64:22, 65:25, 66:2, 67:10, 67:12 today [6] - 18:22, 21:18, 46:6, 48:10, 55:25, 56:25 together [3] - 29:18, 31:10, 52:9 Tom [3] - 21:1, 23:5, 24:7 tomorrow [4] - 19:8, 46:9, 46:14, 47:20 tonight [14] - 4:5, 7:8, 10:22, 14:2, 31:13, 31:16, 33:9, 48:18, 50:21, 52:18, 55:12, 56:3, 58:6, 60:17 Tonight [2] - 7:17, 55:13 took [7] - 6:6, 6:24, 22:10, 24:8, 35:3, 38:16, 60:7 top [1] - 24:10 total [1] - 26:16 totally [2] - 18:16, 38:16 tough [1] - 27:9 tour [1] - 60:8 town [1] - 29:19 track [1] - 9:13 tracks [1] - 8:20 traffic [3] - 17:21, 17:23, 20:4 TRAFFIC [1] - 61:8 trailer [1] - 41:6 train [1] - 9:13 training [2] - 51:20, 57:19 transactions [1] - 15:18	transcript [2] - 70:6, 70:21 TRANSFER [1] - 58:17 TRANSIT [1] - 62:2 trauma [2] - 48:22, 49:13 traumatization [1] - 12:5 travel [1] - 32:18 travels [2] - 8:17, 8:22 tried [2] - 15:4, 22:22 tripling [1] - 29:21 trolley [1] - 28:4 trouble [3] - 15:15, 60:9, 60:10 truck [1] - 18:7 trucks [1] - 18:10 True [1] - 17:15 truly [2] - 52:3, 52:10 Trump [1] - 28:10 try [4] - 31:9, 33:4, 46:9, 46:14 trying [2] - 21:18, 28:1 Tuesday [2] - 1:7, 51:25 turn [6] - 10:19, 18:7, 18:10, 24:13, 24:14, 24:18 TWENTY [1] - 58:19 TWENTY-SEVEN [1] - 58:19 two [14] - 10:16, 20:25, 22:14, 24:23, 27:1, 34:20, 35:25, 42:9, 42:11, 44:3, 54:23, 55:2, 55:6, 56:13 TWO [1] - 58:17 type [3] - 12:5, 15:14, 15:20	unit [1] - 25:20 University [1] - 20:13 unless [3] - 14:20, 29:3, 70:23 unrepaired [1] - 9:10 Unsheltered [5] - 24:24, 25:2, 36:17, 37:15, 38:18 unsheltered [1] - 25:9 unsightly [1] - 41:21 UNTIL [1] - 64:22 up [31] - 8:2, 9:3, 11:23, 13:12, 14:15, 15:14, 16:21, 17:5, 17:8, 18:18, 18:25, 21:13, 22:15, 24:4, 24:16, 27:9, 29:15, 29:24, 31:16, 37:24, 38:5, 41:1, 41:4, 41:13, 43:21, 45:13, 47:6, 47:9, 51:6, 54:20, 66:16 update [2] - 54:16, 55:22 updated [1] - 40:10 updates [1] - 39:5 upheld [1] - 47:16 upstate [1] - 13:1 utilities [2] - 10:8, 10:13 utility [3] - 10:17, 11:2, 11:7
				V
				Valley [4] - 20:19, 54:22, 60:8, 60:10 VALLEY [1] - 59:20 Value [1] - 17:15 various [1] - 5:8 veterans [1] - 12:11 VICE [1] - 2:3 victims [1] - 13:16 video [1] - 42:10 view [1] - 21:23 Vine [2] - 4:14, 36:1 virus [1] - 42:7 visibility [1] - 26:9 visit [1] - 32:10 Voldenberg [4] - 21:1, 39:13, 46:19, 47:12 VOLDENBERG [31] - 2:8, 3:19, 4:2, 11:17, 30:17, 32:4, 32:13, 32:23, 34:11, 35:13, 35:22, 36:13, 45:5, 45:9, 45:20, 45:24, 47:5, 47:25, 58:8, 59:16, 61:3, 61:23, 62:25, 64:10, 65:21,

66:14, 67:6, 68:9, 68:15, 68:22, 69:3 vote ^[4] - 18:12, 19:20, 27:14, 60:18 voted ^[4] - 43:18, 44:3, 44:6, 44:18	Wilkes ^[2] - 25:13, 25:22 Wilkes-Barre ^[1] - 25:22 wish ^[3] - 38:21, 39:9, 39:10 WITH ^[5] - 58:24, 59:19, 64:16, 66:1, 67:11 witness ^[2] - 8:24, 10:7 WOMAN ^[1] - 31:11 woman ^[3] - 13:3, 24:21, 30:23 women ^[1] - 3:5 wondering ^[1] - 36:3 woods ^[1] - 29:12 word ^[6] - 19:18, 33:22, 34:4, 42:12, 42:13, 42:15 WORKERS ^[1] - 59:1 WORKS ^[1] - 61:25 Works ^[2] - 62:7, 62:9 world ^[4] - 3:5, 29:9, 29:23, 39:8 worried ^[1] - 24:1 worse ^[1] - 36:19 worth ^[1] - 27:7 wounds ^[1] - 50:12 write ^[1] - 9:15
W	Y
wages ^[2] - 6:9, 7:5 waiting ^[2] - 20:10, 48:3 Walker ^[1] - 13:22 wants ^[1] - 15:6 war ^[1] - 4:12 warmer ^[1] - 22:20 wash ^[3] - 14:20, 18:18, 18:19 watched ^[1] - 27:20 water ^[6] - 16:21, 28:20, 29:2, 29:21, 30:13 Water ^[6] - 10:24, 11:2, 28:21, 35:15, 35:20, 46:8 WAY ^[1] - 61:6 ways ^[1] - 56:18 weather ^[2] - 4:16, 9:6 weather's ^[1] - 22:19 website ^[2] - 4:21, 5:13 week ^[25] - 6:5, 16:16, 16:20, 16:23, 18:15, 19:4, 19:9, 23:13, 24:4, 26:13, 29:15, 33:15, 45:6, 45:10, 45:16, 45:19, 46:18, 47:9, 48:12, 54:11, 55:3, 55:12, 56:4, 66:12 weekly ^[1] - 7:21 weeks ^[9] - 20:25, 21:13, 41:13, 42:11, 42:16, 43:22, 54:21, 55:21, 60:6 weight ^[2] - 20:2, 20:5 welfare ^[1] - 39:19 wells ^[1] - 30:2 WERE ^[1] - 58:22 West ^[7] - 8:6, 8:7, 34:15, 51:3, 52:25, 54:7, 54:8 whatever's ^[2] - 38:1 wheels ^[1] - 60:13 WHICH ^[1] - 63:5 white ^[1] - 17:9 WHO ^[1] - 58:23 whole ^[8] - 10:18, 23:22, 29:8, 30:3, 33:20, 36:6, 42:6	Yankee ^[1] - 24:11 yard ^[2] - 42:10, 42:23 year ^[8] - 6:19, 8:1, 10:16, 21:24, 25:21, 28:4, 37:5, 53:3 YEAR ^[2] - 58:16, 63:7 year's ^[1] - 6:9 years ^[16] - 5:7, 6:19, 12:17, 13:2, 19:25, 22:14, 24:23, 27:1, 29:10, 30:13, 41:1, 41:4, 49:5, 49:6, 56:13, 60:11 Youth ^[1] - 13:21
Z	Z
	zoning ^[4] - 23:21, 41:11, 68:13, 68:18 Zoom ^[6] - 25:2, 25:9, 25:10, 25:11, 25:12