

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

CITY OF JOHNSTOWN

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IN RE: COUNCIL WORKSHOP

* * * * *

BEFORE: SYLVIA KING, Mayor
Charles Arnone, Member
Samuel Barber, Member
Taylor Clark, Member
Michael Hamacek, Member
Nicholas Spinelli, Member
Lorraine Brandon-Taylor,
Member

HEARING: Sunday, June 7, 2026
3:33 p.m.

LOCATION: 1st Summit Arena
326 Napoleon Street
Johnstown, PA

WITNESSES: NONE

Reporter: Michael G. Sargent, CVR
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A P P E A R A N C E S

AIMEE L. WILLETT, ESQUIRE
160 South Montgomery Street
Suite 3
Hollidaysburg, PA 16648
Counsel for City of Johnstown

ALSO PRESENT:

CARM TRUSCELLO, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR
MICHAEL CAPRIOTTI, ASSISTANT CITY
MANAGER
ARTURO MARTYNUSKA, CITY MANAGER
FATHER MATTHEW BAUM

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	NONE	OFFERED

P R O C E E D I N G S

MAYOR:

This special meeting of
Johnstown City Council will now come to
order. At this time we ask that you
would stand for our invocation that
will be given to us by Father Matthew
Baum. Immediately following that will
be our Pledge of Allegiance.

FATHER BAUM:

Heavenly Father, our city
has struggled with so many things over
recent weeks and months. We ask you
watch over all of us as we gather here
today for this public meeting. Help us
to make sure all voices are heard.
Help us to make sure that we stay on
task and focus on those things that
need to be done. Help us to listen to
the public officials who share their
stories and share what they've been
doing. Help us to listen to the
residents who struggle with so many
worries and fears in their

1 neighborhoods. Help us to be open to
2 hear the ideas that are presented
3 today. And help us have the wisdom to
4 discern what we should do. We ask this
5 in all things through Christ our Lord.
6 Amen. Father and the Son of the Holy
7 Spirit.

8 ---

9 (WHEREUPON, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE WAS
10 RECITED.)

11 ---

12 MAYOR:

13 Roll, Jennifer, please.

14 MS. BURKHART:

15 Clark.

16 MR. CLARK:

17 Present.

18 MS. BURKHART:

19 Barber.

20 MR. BARBER:

21 Present.

22 MS. BURKHART:

23 Arnone.

24 MR. ARNONE:

25 Present.

1 MS. BURKHART:

2 King.

3 MAYOR:

4 Present.

5 MS. BURKHART:

6 Brandon-Taylor.

7 MS. BRANDON-TAYLOR:

8 Present.

9 MS. BURKHART:

10 Hamacek.

11 MR. HAMACEK:

12 Present.

13 MAYOR:

14 At this time we are going
15 to ask for our Chief of Police and our
16 public safety director/city manager to
17 please come forward with their
18 presentation.

19 OFFICER BRITTON:

20 Good afternoon,
21 everybody. If anybody doesn't know me,
22 my name is Mark Britton. I've been a
23 police officer for 36 years. I'm
24 starting my career in Somerset Borough
25 in Somerset County.

1 I started with the
2 Johnstown Police Department in June 9th
3 of 2009. During my tenure, I have been
4 a patrol officer with the City of
5 Johnstown. I have been a motorcycle
6 officer. I was a juvenile detective.
7 And ten years after that, I was a Major
8 Crimes detective in the Detective
9 Bureau.

10 February of 2025, I was
11 appointed Chief of Police for the City
12 of Johnstown by Mr. Martynuska. During
13 that time, we've implemented a lot of
14 different things within the department.
15 We are now finally fully staffed in our
16 department. We have done many, many
17 different things. Some changes to the
18 good.

19 A lot of things we work
20 with is the City Manager, the City
21 Counsel. One thing I can say before
22 going forward is this City Counsel and
23 this City Manager have been phenomenal
24 to the Johnstown Police Department.
25 The last month and a half with some of

1 the things that we've been going
2 through with the crimes that's been
3 happening in mostly Moxham/Kernville
4 area, they have been 100 percent
5 supportive of us. Whatever we needed,
6 we needed money, we needed equipment,
7 along with our constituents from the
8 senator's office and our representative
9 offices. Besides them putting on guns
10 and bulletproof vests to come out in
11 the street and help us, they have been
12 there for us and we are very
13 appreciative for that.

14 We've worked with our
15 outside agencies to get grant money to
16 get equipment that we need. Again, we
17 are fully staffed. Our officers are
18 getting trained on different things
19 that we have and we're going to
20 continue doing that and we're going to
21 continue doing it to make our streets
22 safe.

23 So what's been put out
24 there on social media, not only social
25 media, but what we have seen happening

1 in the city, since March 2nd, we've had
2 about 25 notable incidents up until the
3 end of May. A lot of them have been
4 reported as shots fired calls. We've
5 had some aggravated assaults with
6 firearms, with some stabbings that have
7 been put out there.

8 One of the things that I
9 want to explain to everybody when these
10 things are being put out there, when
11 you have, for example, shots, fires,
12 calls that go out, somebody calls in
13 and again, I'll just use Art for an
14 example. Art sitting on his porch, 600
15 block of Coleman Avenue, thinks he
16 hears what he thinks is a gunshot. But
17 he says to himself, well, that may be a
18 firework too. Maybe a firework, maybe
19 something else. Art's going to pick up
20 that phone, he's going to call the non-
21 emergency, he's going to call the 911
22 center. He's going to call and say,
23 hey listen, I think I heard fireworks
24 or maybe a shots fired call. Cambria
25 County 911 is going to dispatch that

1 call as a shots fired call.

2 And the reason they're
3 going to do that, two reasons. One,
4 because the complainant, Art, said I
5 think it may be shots fired. The
6 second, he's sending my officers into
7 that scene, the dispatch center send
8 those officers in the scene, they're
9 going to dispatch it as a shots fire
10 call. It may be fireworks, we don't
11 know, but they're going to send it as a
12 shots fired. Why? For the protection
13 of the officers going into that scene.
14 They want to be prepared to know that
15 their eyes are looking every way, doing
16 360 when they're driving over there to
17 make sure they're not going to an
18 ambush. They're not going into
19 somebody that's waiting in wait for
20 them, that's what they're going to
21 dispatch it.

22 And I'm not saying all
23 the times that we go over there, we
24 don't find anything. There are times
25 that we've gone over and found shell

1 casings, but there's times we go over
2 there, nothing found. We'll ask the
3 dispatch center. How many calls did
4 you receive for this? The dispatch
5 said one call. Okay. So we go over
6 and when our officers go over, they do
7 grid searches and if anybody knows what
8 the grid search is, just look like a
9 checkerboard. And that's what you do.
10 One line at a time, one line at a time,
11 one line at a time, one line at a time,
12 to see if they can find anything.

13 Out of the shots fired
14 calls that we've had, and I'm going to
15 go over with you, and tell you what we
16 found and what we didn't find. And I'm
17 not saying anybody here, if you --- if
18 you --- it's just like the old adage,
19 you see something, say something, call,
20 we'll come over, we'll look at it. But
21 we have had an uptick in other crime in
22 the city.

23 A couple of the calls
24 that we've had since March 2nd have
25 been related. I could tell you four of

1 them have been related that started at
2 the shooting up at Tulunes, up in
3 Geistown Borough. That's being
4 investigated by the Pennsylvania State
5 Police. And it happened to come down,
6 trickle down into the city. So we have
7 four incidents out of 24 notable
8 incidents in the city that have caused
9 an uproar and concern. And I don't
10 want to downplay it, that you shouldn't
11 be concerned for your --- for your area
12 where you live. I'm not saying that.
13 Just like the district attorney said
14 and wish she could be here today, but
15 she couldn't. Not to be vigilant, not
16 to watch your surroundings of what you
17 do.

18 But out of those 24
19 notable incidents --- I'm going to go
20 over them. I'm not going to get into
21 what the investigation is and where
22 we're at in it, but I can give you some
23 information.

24 So on March 2nd, we got
25 called for a shots fired call over in

1 the Oakhurst Home section, City of
2 Johnstown. During that arrest ---
3 during that an arrest was made. And
4 these are some of the things that a lot
5 of you people don't know and a lot of
6 people in the community don't know.
7 You hear these calls, but you don't
8 know what happens afterwards. Okay?
9 And we're going to look into maybe
10 changing that some ways. Okay? So
11 that was the first call that call came
12 in. An arrest was made in that, that
13 shots fired call. And also an eviction
14 process was started with the housing
15 authority to get the individual evicted
16 from housing.

17 On March 3rd, we got a
18 call for shots fired in the Moxham
19 section of Johnstown. Officers
20 responded on scene. We got one call
21 for that. No evidence was found within
22 a two block area. There were actually
23 people sitting out on their porch and
24 they didn't hear anything, they didn't
25 see anything. And we got one call and

1 that officers cleared.

2 On March the --- and
3 apologize. We had an aggravated
4 assault with a knife. And when we got
5 to the --- when we got to speak with
6 the individual who was stabbed in the
7 hand, it was a female. She used an
8 explicit word and told us to leave her
9 alone. She didn't want our help. So
10 we cleared that call. She went well,
11 she was transferred to the hospital,
12 but she refused to cooperate with the
13 police. We cannot force somebody to
14 tell us something if they don't want
15 to. But we did our due diligence on
16 that. So that was again one call that
17 came in with an assault with a knife.

18 The next one we had was
19 on 12th March. It was an assault with
20 a firearm. This was on Cooper Avenue,
21 400 block of Cooper Avenue. As it
22 stands right now, we have charges
23 pending approval with the district
24 attorney's office. So that case right
25 there, which was a firearm, a shooting,

1 that person is awaiting charges and a
2 warrant will be issued for their
3 arrest.

4 On 15th March, this
5 happened in Dale Borough. There was an
6 assault with a knife. A female stabbed
7 another individual. She was charged
8 and she was arrested and she'll be
9 prosecuted through the county system.

10 On March 21st, we got a
11 call for shots fired in the Moxham
12 section of Johnstown. During that time
13 officers, same thing, two block radius,
14 checked with individuals. One call
15 came in for this. There was one 10
16 millimeter shell casing that was
17 recovered. Only one. Nobody was hit.
18 No other calls, no property damage, no
19 vehicle damage, no one injured.

20 And I don't --- I want to
21 make sure that we're not saying that
22 just because nothing happened, we don't
23 care. But we do keep track of all this
24 and we do investigate everything that
25 comes in to the 911 center.

1 On the 23rd of March, we
2 got a call to the Chandler Avenue, 200
3 block of Chandler Avenue for shots,
4 fire call. Same thing, officers
5 respond to the scene, speak to
6 individuals. Nobody heard anything.
7 We got one call to the 911 center.
8 No evidence, no shell casings were
9 recovered.

10 On the 5th of April, a
11 shots fired call. One call came in.
12 Same additional, no property damage, no
13 injuries, one call, no evidence found.

14 On 17th of April, a shots
15 fired call. This happened --- occurred
16 in the Oakhurst home section of the
17 City of Johnstown. That individual,
18 there was an arrest made and that
19 individual was charged. Eviction
20 processes are underway to get him
21 removed from housing.

22 On the 24th of April,
23 aggravated assault with a firearm.
24 This is an ongoing investigation with
25 our Bureau of Criminal Investigation,

1 our detectives. There is a person of
2 interest in this case and we are again
3 investigating that.

4 On 26th of April a
5 homicide occurred in the Moxham section
6 of the City of Johnstown. That case is
7 still open. That case we have numerous
8 persons of interest. Our Detective
9 Bureau along with the Cambria County
10 Detective Bureau and the Department of
11 Attorney General's office is also
12 cooperating and helping us out with
13 that.

14 On the 27th of April,
15 assault with a firearm. We have a
16 person of interest on that one and we
17 are very, very close on charging on
18 that incident.

19 On the 5th of May there
20 was aggravated assault to Sheetz at
21 Haynes Street. This was a situation
22 involved an ex-boyfriend and a new
23 boyfriend where the individual that was
24 stabbed was nicked in the neck with a
25 Sawzall blade and that person was

1 arrested. The individual who did that
2 was arrested behind the YMCA and he was
3 charged and is pending prosecution
4 through the DA's office.

5 On the 14th of May, there
6 was a homicide that occurred in the 500
7 block of Somerset Street in the
8 Kernville section of Johnstown. During
9 that a 15 year old was charged and was
10 just arrested I believe last week. And
11 being that is a homicide, he is charged
12 as an adult.

13 I know there was a lot of
14 questions about that and I think the DA
15 kind of set that straight where a
16 homicide is a direct foul. Whether
17 you're 10 years of age, 15 years of
18 age, 17 years of age. When you are
19 charged --- when you're a homicide and
20 you're a juvenile, you are charged as
21 an adult.

22 There was a lot of
23 statements that were made on social
24 media about this and why he was put on
25 there. And the District attorney

1 explained that basically he committed a
2 homicide, he shot a guy. So he gets
3 charged as an adult. And just so you
4 know, people were questioning as well,
5 that shouldn't be the law. Well,
6 that's the way the law stands as right
7 now and we follow that.

8 And if anybody followed
9 New Kensington just made an arrest on a
10 16 year old for a homicide and that
11 homicide happened two years prior. The
12 kid was 14 years old when he killed
13 somebody. It's a shame, but we have to
14 do our job.

15 On the 17th of May, shots
16 fire called in the area of Cypress
17 Avenue. Nine shell casings were
18 located. We got two calls on that one.
19 No one was injured, no property damage.
20 Again, officers went over,
21 investigated, collected the evidence.
22 All shell casings were collected. They
23 were shipped down to the Greensburg
24 Pennsylvania State Police crime lab in
25 Greensburg where they'll be analyzed

1 and put into the national database for
2 comparisons for any other incidents
3 that may have happened here in
4 Johnstown or anywhere across the United
5 States.

6 On the 19th of May,
7 aggravated assault in the Moxham
8 section of Johnstown. Two individual
9 were charged and arrested for that and
10 are being prosecuted through the DA's
11 office.

12 A shot on February --- or
13 I'm sorry, on May 22nd, '26, there was
14 a shots fired and assault. An arrest
15 was made on that one and that one is
16 another one that stirred a whole bunch
17 of social media comments that were
18 unbelievable. And when you put these
19 --- some of these people who comment on
20 these social media posts or posts on
21 these social media sites don't
22 understand the actions that can be
23 caused and the hurt that they can cause
24 and the falsehoods that come out of it.
25 You know, I'm not going to get into

1 this incident and tell you what, but
2 some of the comments were that this
3 individual was defending himself. That
4 is so far from the truth of what
5 happened in that incident that he was
6 defending his family. That is not the
7 truth. That is not what happened. So
8 don't believe everything that you read
9 on social media.

10 You know, not all the
11 time can we come out and give you all
12 the information that you want? One of
13 the things that I --- in my interview
14 that I told Art and I told Mike and I
15 told the HR and I even tell the media,
16 I will tell you what I can, what I
17 can't tell you, I won't. But if news
18 comes forward or more information comes
19 forward that can be released, we will
20 do that.

21 Our job is to keep the
22 community informed of what's going on
23 and to sit back and say that we're
24 constantly hiding things. I was born
25 and raised in this town, the West End

1 section of Johnstown, Stackhouse
2 Street. I was a beam rat. If anybody
3 knows what that is. Okay. This is my
4 town. I'm very blessed to be here and
5 I'm very blessed to be in this
6 position. I will never hide anything
7 from anybody. And I don't believe one
8 person on this counsel or the mayor or
9 the manager or the assistant city
10 manager, anybody wants to hide anything
11 from anybody.

12 So there's times where we
13 can't tell you. But going forward and
14 going through this list, I guarantee
15 you half these people --- half of you
16 people in here didn't know we made
17 arrests on those. And that's something
18 we're going to work on to set you at
19 ease, that we are doing our job. We
20 are doing the things that we --- that
21 we said we're going to do.

22 On April 20th --- or, I'm
23 sorry, May 23rd, shots fired. 600
24 block of Park Avenue. Confirmed
25 fireworks. We talked to the

1 individual, he was doing pyrotechnics.
2 And the same day that we had the
3 shooting, the one day prior that I just
4 mentioned, we got another shots fired
5 call and the same thing was confirmed,
6 pyrotechnics. We spoke to the guy, he
7 had a drone up and it was confirmed
8 fireworks. So again, anytime that a
9 call comes in to shots fired call does
10 not necessarily mean it's a shots fired
11 call. So I think we can understand
12 that.

13 On May 26, an aggravated
14 assault with a knife, Coopersdale
15 Homes, where this individual was
16 stabbed --- and he was stabbed with a
17 bottle opener. So it came in as a
18 stabbing. Yeah, he was stabbed, but he
19 was stabbed with a bottle opener. And
20 I don't make light of that. So don't
21 --- I don't want that to be put on
22 social media that I made light of
23 somebody getting stabbed with a bottle
24 opener. But this person that was
25 stabbed, he was charged, he's the

1 victim, but he was charged because he
2 was beating the shit out of this kid
3 that was half his size. And the kid
4 was scared for his life, so he defended
5 himself. And that was confirmed not
6 only by witnesses, but that was
7 confirmed by video from the Housing
8 Authority. So an arrest was made in
9 that case.

10 On May 26, again, another
11 call for shots fired, confirmed
12 fireworks.

13 On the 27th of May, a
14 call for shots fired in the Moxham
15 section. One call, officers went over
16 again, two block checked area, spoke
17 with people out, nobody heard anything
18 else. Again, not saying it didn't
19 happen, but no evidence and nothing was
20 recovered.

21 On the 28th of May, an
22 assault with a firearm and a stabbing.
23 This is the one that occurred at the
24 Elks on Horner Street. At this time
25 it's being looked into between a

1 discussion between the detectives with
2 Johnstown and the District Attorney's
3 office. The person that was shot in
4 this case is the aggressor. But as of
5 this time is still being investigated
6 between the District Attorney's office
7 and BCI.

8 On the 29th of May, a
9 shots were fired call. An arrest was
10 made on that one.

11 And the last one was a
12 weapons possession, a domestic that
13 occurred in the Solomon Homes where
14 that individual was arrested and
15 charged and be prosecuted through the
16 District Attorney's office. And also
17 eviction process will be start to have
18 him removed from housing.

19 So out of all the ones
20 that you have seen on TV and all the
21 posters and things that AI posters that
22 were made, all that, that there were 19
23 shots fired. So just so you know, out
24 of all these --- all of these 15
25 arrests were made, three persons of

1 interest awaiting charges. We had six
2 fireworks calls. One person who
3 refused to cooperate in the stabbing of
4 her hand. And we had three cases where
5 three --- evidence was found and three
6 shots fired calls.

7 So whether or not that
8 makes you --- and I can understand if
9 it doesn't make you feel any better,
10 but we are looking in and we are
11 investigating everything that we can.

12 And all of these, a lot
13 of these cases here, these are
14 neighbors that can't get along with
15 each other. They're not related. The
16 first four, as I said, the ones that we
17 had from the start of the Tulunes that
18 went to Slammin' Sam's, that went to
19 the homicide, to the went to the drive
20 by shooting on Bond Street, I could
21 tell you those --- those are connected.
22 And the district attorney has come out
23 and said that we're seeing connection
24 between those.

25 All these other incidents

1 that we have spoke of, they're people
2 fighting with each other, neighbors
3 that can't get along, beating the shit
4 out of each other. Instead of
5 fighting, well, I'm just going to run
6 to my house and get a gun and just
7 start shooting at people. And the one
8 in Moxham was a guy that came down to
9 see what was going on and he got shot.
10 And to sit there and say he was
11 defending his family, he wasn't.

12 So be diligent of your
13 neighbors and everything that's going
14 on. But to say that there's a gang
15 violence in Johnstown, we feel that
16 there are some gangs in Johnstown.
17 We've dealt with it between 2015 and
18 2019. And in the early 1990s, we had
19 the Jamaicans in here with the drugs
20 that were running rapid. Our
21 relationship that we have between the
22 who's been here the longest, the
23 Attorney General's office has been here
24 for probably at least 10, 11 years.
25 And they came in to help us with the

1 drug problem and the violent crime.
2 They have an office set up. They're
3 there every single day. And as you
4 guys can see on TV, we're fixing the
5 drug problem. There is no --- there's
6 zero tolerance. Anybody you're caught
7 doing a criminal activity, you're
8 getting arrested and we're charging
9 you. If the district attorney's office
10 or the court system decides that they
11 want to dismiss them, that's on them.
12 We are going to make sure you break a
13 law in this town. You're getting
14 arrested.

15 And then we have the fact
16 that we have the Pennsylvania State
17 Police that we work great with,
18 especially with our crime lab. We have
19 a homicide or we have any incidents,
20 even when we locate shell casings, we
21 can call down to that crime lab in
22 Greensburg and they give us carte
23 blanche. And I am so happy for that
24 because they'll push our stuff forward.

25 There's five crime labs

1 in the state of Pennsylvania, and
2 Greensburg is one of the busiest, but
3 they'll always have room to get
4 Johnstown, and I'm very happy for that.
5 We have a relationship with the
6 Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearm and
7 Explosives. They came to us. There
8 was no call from the governor to hey
9 --- to the ATF and say, hey, can you go
10 in and help Johnstown? They came to us
11 and said, what can we do to help you?
12 We'll help you with all the firearms
13 that we already have in our evidence.
14 We'll help you with the firearms that
15 are out there that are lost and stolen.
16 They'll help us with anything they can.
17 They'll help us doing ballistics work
18 on the shell casings that we find.
19 These people are coming in and wanting
20 to help us.

21 The Safe Street --- FBI
22 Safe Streets Task Force, which I'm a
23 member of and I've been a member of for
24 about nine years now, their resource,
25 the federal resources, they open up to

1 us, is fantastic. So they're doing
2 everything they can. And to sit here
3 and say that --- you know, we're fully
4 staffed, we've finally been fully
5 staffed thanks to negotiations with the
6 city, with Art. We have guys now that
7 want to stay here. They're making good
8 money. They're doing good work.
9 They're doing more than good work.
10 They're working overtime. They're
11 doing special details. They're out
12 there wanting to make a difference.
13 And that's what we're doing. We're
14 going to keep doing it.

15 You know, my phone's
16 always open, 539-0889, Extension 300.
17 You have an issue. You want to talk to
18 me, I'll talk to you. I may not get
19 back to you that day, but I'll get back
20 to you. But we have all these entities
21 that are coming in. And with the help
22 of Senator Langerholc and Frank Burns
23 and Tim Rigby --- or Jim Rigby, they're
24 phenomenal. They're getting us what we
25 need. They're giving us --- giving us

1 the ability to get equipment that we
2 need, and they're helping us.

3 You know, Wayne came out
4 with us on a ride along when we did our
5 saturation patrols. And that's one
6 thing we're going to do. We're going
7 to keep doing that, you know, but to
8 say that --- to sit back and say that,
9 you know, we should have a state of
10 emergency, declare a state of
11 emergency, bring the National Guard in.

12 Listen, I've talked to
13 the deputy chief or the assistant chief
14 in Pittsburgh. I've talked to the
15 chief in Northern York. I've talked to
16 the chief in Lancaster. These are
17 other entities that they're having the
18 same issues that we are. We're not
19 just the only ones that are having that
20 issue. And the governor is the one
21 that has to declare a state of
22 emergency. Correct me if I'm wrong,
23 Jim and Wayne, I mean, and they're
24 going to come in here. You could have
25 a city that has --- Pittsburgh has 700

1 and some officers, and they're short
2 100 and some officers. State police
3 are short 400 troopers. Okay. So
4 those are in the same kind of
5 predicament that we are, but they're
6 willing to help us out.

7 But if somebody --- and
8 we said this before, myself and Mayor
9 King said this before, you want to
10 shoot somebody, you're going to shoot
11 them. You want to commit a crime,
12 you're going to commit a crime. You
13 could have 15 cruisers, 20 cruisers out
14 patrolling and people on foot patrol.
15 And as soon as that officer goes by,
16 well, that officer went by, I'm going
17 to commit my crime.

18 We are out there. We're
19 out there 24/7. I couldn't be more
20 proud of the guys that work for me and
21 the people in this community, again,
22 born and raised here. Since we put our
23 Crime Watch page up people are calling
24 in because --- I don't want to feel
25 like I'm speaking at you, but hopefully

1 I'm speaking forward. People are
2 coming forward. They're giving us
3 tips. They're coming to us and telling
4 us we've had two crimes, three crimes
5 already, major aggravated assault
6 crimes not listed on this page, that
7 because of the people calling in and
8 you can stay anonymous, have come in
9 and helped us. They're tired of it.
10 They want their community back. You
11 know, that's what we're going to do and
12 that's what we're going to keep doing.

13 But to have --- call for
14 a state of emergency, if they haven't
15 called a state of emergency in
16 Philadelphia or Pittsburgh or Lancaster
17 or Northern York, they're sure the hell
18 ain't going to call a state of
19 emergency here.

20 You know, between '24 and
21 '25, when I took over, the city manager
22 asked me to do a crime statistics of
23 what --- where crime rate was. And it
24 did drop. It did drop. And then
25 social media goes and puts out there.

1 Well, we have all this. We have all
2 this. You're not --- you have to look
3 at the UCRS, which are Uniform Crime
4 Reporting System. That's what you have
5 to look for. You have a homicide say
6 in January and it's not closed, but
7 then you close it in May. Well now you
8 got to go back to January and change
9 it.

10 I'm not saying we don't
11 have our problems here. We do. But
12 we're doing everything we can to fix
13 them. And because we had this spurt of
14 a month and a half, yeah, they're
15 serious --- there's serious charges
16 here and people are getting charged.
17 Fifteen (15) people have been charged
18 out of 24 incidents because we have a
19 zero tolerance. We want to make you
20 --- we want to make this community safe
21 and all the other communities that we
22 do.

23 The Housing Authority,
24 you know, Mr. Arnone can explain about
25 that. The housing --- the vouchers,

1 you know, the Section 8 vouchers. If
2 any crime is committed, a misdemeanor
3 or above, we work with the Housing
4 Authority to get them evicted. We
5 can't control what the Housing
6 Authority does. I can't --- like my
7 office can't control what the Housing
8 Authority does. But we work with them.
9 We work with Mike Alberts, we work with
10 his management team. If somebody
11 commits a crime in the Housing
12 Authority and they want him evicted,
13 we'll have --- we'll go and we'll
14 testify at their hearings to have them
15 evicted and tell them what they were
16 charged with.

17 You know, again, I love
18 this town. I got married here. We got
19 to take our town back and we're going
20 to do that. We're going to do it. And
21 I promise you that the Johnstown Police
22 Department is going to do it. But all
23 these things that are being --- and I
24 know I'm going to get --- I'm going to
25 get slammed for it. I'm going to get

1 slammed for it and I'll lose sleep and
2 do whatever, but I'll still do my job.
3 But the negativity that is on social
4 media is causing a lot of these issues.
5 A lot of these issues.

6 I'm going to say one more
7 thing and then I'm going to be done.
8 Coming home from West Virginia today
9 where I went away with a weekend with
10 my beautiful wife, who'd probably
11 rather be sitting by a pool right now,
12 but love her to death. She's scrolling
13 through social media coming back on 68
14 and she come across a post from 20
15 after midnight this morning of a two
16 year old that overdosed. That said
17 overdosed. And keep in mind what I
18 told you about the shots fired call,
19 the story I gave you with the city
20 manager here.

21 So I immediately, I get
22 all the stats from the night, from all
23 the shifts that are out there. So I
24 immediately call the sergeant on duty
25 and Sergeant Dabs is here right now and

1 I asked him what is this, what's going
2 on? He said I don't have anything. He
3 come on at 0700 this morning. He
4 looked at the reports from last night,
5 calls up 911 and here it was reported
6 as an overdose because this family left
7 a prescription pill bottle out. They
8 forgot to put it away. And there's not
9 one of us sitting here that hasn't done
10 anything stupid that we wish we hadn't
11 done. But again, something like this.
12 So she called and said, hey, my two
13 year old I think may have taken one of
14 my pills or got into my pills.

15 Twenty (20) after 12:00,
16 it was posted on one of the websites
17 and the comments that were made, I'm
18 not even going to tell the first
19 comment was the F bomb and wish that
20 woman was dead. Hope she never gets
21 her kids back. And this after looking
22 it up. This is a good family. This is
23 a good family. Never issues with them
24 before, nothing. And now she's got to
25 deal with that situation because they

1 wanted to put it out on social media.
2 And the things that they were calling
3 her and the words that they were using
4 was, it was horrific. It was
5 absolutely horrific and there was no
6 reason for it.

7 You have to give us time.
8 And I'm not saying you, I'm not saying
9 you, give the police department time to
10 do an investigation. Give us some time
11 to at least get on scene and see what
12 we have. The Smokes and Skill on
13 Central Avenue, a week ago, there was a
14 shooting and a stabbing. Totally,
15 absolutely unfounded. But it was on
16 social media that there was a shooting
17 and stabbing. It was on there before
18 our guys even cleared the scene. But
19 don't give us time to investigate.
20 Let's put it out there on social media
21 so we can get everybody in Moxham all
22 worked up that there's a shooter on the
23 loose and shooting people.

24 And when we do have
25 something like that and we do arrive on

1 scene and we don't have somebody shot
2 or somebody stabbed, we immediately,
3 immediately call Conemaugh, call
4 Indiana Hospital, call Pittsburgh to
5 see, call Windber to see if anybody has
6 gone to any of those other hospitals.
7 Because sometimes they won't go to
8 Conemaugh, like, well, it's Johnstown.
9 We're not going to go there. We'll go
10 somewhere else. Nothing was found.
11 And the person that called had mental
12 health issues.

13 So --- but again, we went
14 in there, but it was already on social
15 media. So please understand, do not
16 believe everything that you see on
17 social media. Let us do our jobs, let
18 us do what we need to do and then we
19 will come out. Again, I'm going to
20 work on protocol and how we can start
21 releasing things. I'm going to work
22 with the city manager and my staff to
23 make sure that you guys feel safe, that
24 you can go back on sitting on your
25 porch and not having to worry about

1 things. Thank you.

2 MR. MARTYNUSKA:

3 Thank you, Mayor. Chief,
4 thank you very much. And I think you
5 encapsulated it very well that you
6 know, the responses that we've had
7 since what, March 2nd, I believe there
8 was a total of 24 and you made 13
9 arrests of those that were charged.
10 Five of those were not calls that would
11 result in any charges, whether it be
12 fireworks or the non-cooperative. But
13 you do also have three people of
14 interest who are out there.

15 Correct?

16 OFFICER BRITTON:

17 Correct.

18 MR. MARTYNUSKA:

19 So when this started ---
20 for those of you who don't know me, Art
21 Martynuska, City Manager. When this
22 uptick in some of these violent crimes
23 started, we obviously took that very
24 seriously from an administrative
25 standpoint and from city council. One

1 of the first things we did was brought
2 all of our department heads together to
3 determine what we needed to do to
4 assist the police to alleviate some of
5 the stressors that are on their
6 department that some of our other
7 departments could maybe take the lead
8 on.

9 One of the first things
10 we did was we employed what's called an
11 incident command system, which we
12 utilize quite frequently in emergency
13 services. I did it when I was with the
14 fire department for 20 years and again
15 when I was at EMA and 911. And it's a
16 nationwide system that we use to manage
17 incidents.

18 With that being said, we
19 divvied up some tasks. For example,
20 the fire chief is in charge of
21 operations. So if the police
22 department needs assistance at the
23 scene, the fire department is not going
24 to get involved in that law
25 enforcement. But if they need roads

1 blocked, if they need lighting, if they
2 need extra supplies, the fire
3 department has the expertise to go
4 ahead and do that.

5 Our codes department or
6 public works has been charged with what
7 I call a quick reactionary force. So
8 if somebody calls in that we have a
9 situation that needs addressed quickly,
10 a quick board up. We have a house that
11 we know is a nuisance property that we
12 need to get in and close that building
13 up. We've also marked a lot of
14 buildings for demolition,

15 In the last two and a
16 half weeks, myself and the assistant
17 manager have driven almost every street
18 in the city. We have a couple
19 neighborhoods that we have to finish up
20 this week and we've identified houses
21 and buildings that need to come down
22 and we've rated those buildings on a
23 scale from one to three. One being the
24 worst, which is going to need immediate
25 attention. Three being something that

1 may be more structurally sound, that
2 can wait a little bit until we have the
3 necessary funding in place to bring
4 those down.

5 But we're close to 400
6 structures already that we've
7 identified and again, some of those
8 need to come down sooner than later.
9 And we have brought at least one down
10 in the last couple weeks and more to
11 follow.

12 With that, we've also
13 secured some additional resources. You
14 were aware of the camera systems that
15 we had put in. We're looking to make
16 that a more permanent situation. We
17 have some funding coming in to do that.
18 Locations to be determined. We're also
19 looking at additional lighting. We've
20 been in conversations with FirstEnergy.
21 There's a program coming forward that
22 we're going to be able to replace all
23 the street lighting in the city.
24 There's a little over 2,200 street
25 lights in the city and we're going to

1 get those replaced with LEDs. as that
2 program moves forward.

3 In addition to making the
4 streets safer at night, it's also going
5 to reduce our energy consumption by
6 about 40 percent which will reduce our
7 electric bill in the city by about
8 \$150,000. So that's a win/win.

9 So we sat down with
10 council. Those were quick things that
11 we could do. low hanging fruit. We
12 also put in a call down system.
13 Currently the call down system at
14 Cambria is out of service. They are
15 putting a new one in place. But until
16 that happens, we put our own call down
17 system. For example, the barricaded
18 suspect that we had on Bedford Street a
19 couple weeks ago, we have a list of
20 childcare facilities, daycare schools
21 that our staff will go through and
22 divvy that up and they'll start calling
23 down to those facilities to let people
24 know that we have a situation that,
25 that they should go into some type of

1 protective mode, whatever their
2 internal operations call for and that
3 will let them know when that situation
4 is alleviated and the streets are
5 rendered safe again from that type of
6 situation.

7 So we also looked at long
8 term and short term goals. And
9 whenever we put together a plan, one of
10 the things that we have to do is those
11 goals have to be achievable. Is it
12 something that we're going to be able
13 to do not only because we have the
14 personnel, but because we have the
15 bandwidth, the staffing and most
16 importantly, the funding to get it
17 done. So some of the programs we came
18 up with were to talk about community
19 safety. Council has worked very
20 diligently in morphing some of these
21 programs with us. And we know that
22 it's not possible to control every
23 situation that is out there. But there
24 are things that we can do to provide
25 alternatives. That's what we're here

1 to talk about today. And I won't take
2 a long time because I know there's
3 folks that need to get to the
4 microphone.

5 And these are no
6 particular order. Again, some of these
7 require some more logistics, some more
8 funding, some more legalities that have
9 to be exercised. These are things that
10 other communities have done with some
11 success and we hope to emulate some of
12 these --- some of these here in the
13 city.

14 The first one is a
15 firearms buyback program. The city had
16 done this in years past where firearms
17 are purchased. People could come in.
18 It's done with really, no questions
19 asked. The firearms are turned in,
20 they're secured by the police
21 department, they're kept for a required
22 length of time, and after that length
23 of time passes, those firearms are
24 destroyed. Our hope there is to
25 obviously make the community safer, get

1 the guns off the street so they're not
2 used for any future crimes, decrease
3 the risk of accidental shootings and or
4 suicides.

5 And again, everybody's
6 responsible. As the chief said,
7 everybody's responsible for their own
8 actions. But we also understand that a
9 lot of time those actions are played
10 upon by circumstances. If we can
11 change those circumstances or make
12 alternatives to those circumstances to
13 allow people to choose another path,
14 that's what we want to do. We want to
15 give them an opportunity to go in a
16 different direction from where they
17 might not go if we weren't able to
18 influence those decisions. And a lot
19 of our folks who are out there,
20 especially our younger folks, don't
21 have those influences that we can bring
22 upon them to give them that direction.

23 Another one of the
24 incentives. And again, these are in no
25 particular order. We've had some

1 success in a few of our neighborhoods
2 with a neighborhood parking sticker
3 program. And one of the thought
4 process was this, in talking to the
5 chief and council, is to identify
6 vehicles that are city residents and a
7 street --- a parking sticker system
8 would be good for the whole city. They
9 would be color coded based on the
10 neighborhood that you live in. But
11 because you live in Moxham, doesn't
12 mean that you can't park in the West
13 End.

14 This will help us
15 identify transient vehicles. And we
16 have had on occasion where bad actors
17 have used stolen vehicles or vehicles
18 that aren't from the city, committed
19 some type of offense and left that
20 vehicle then abandoned along a roadway.
21 With a parking sticker program, it
22 would give another tool in our toolbox
23 to police officers as they're driving
24 by that they see a sticker on the rear
25 view mirror or on the windshield of the

1 car, whatever the case might be,
2 they'll know that it's a city vehicle
3 and not an out of city vehicle.
4 Doesn't mean they're not going to be
5 still diligent to that, but they can
6 take one more step out of the program.
7 So we're looking at taking that.

8 There would also be a
9 situation where if you had somebody
10 visiting you from out of town, that you
11 could get a guest pass or visitors
12 badge that they could use on their
13 vehicles while they're parking,
14 visiting whoever they may be. We do
15 have a lot of abandoned vehicles.
16 We've been identifying those as you
17 know from previous conversations. We
18 have an initiative started to remove
19 banned vehicles, starting with the ones
20 that are on the streets and then going
21 on to private property with the right
22 notifications that need to be done. So
23 we're looking at that.

24 Another one, and we've
25 combined some of these initiatives from

1 our first, because they do overlap, is
2 what we call a Violence Reduction Task
3 Force and a youth leadership program.
4 This task force would be made up of a
5 number of different organizations, not
6 the least of which is the Johnstown
7 Police, the District Attorney's Office,
8 the Attorney General's Office, the
9 Sheriff's Office, the school district,
10 Bishop McCourt, the United Neighborhood
11 Groups, faith leaders, mental health
12 providers, community health providers,
13 social service groups for adults and
14 children, and obviously representatives
15 from our youth.

16 We have had a couple
17 interactions already with some of our
18 youth leadership in the Greater
19 Johnstown School District. And we had
20 some pretty good results and some good
21 input from those young men and women
22 and we hope to get that word out and
23 make that program even bigger.

24 We're also looking at
25 bringing in what we call influencers

1 into the fray. People who have seen
2 some of these problems already, you
3 know, have experienced some of these
4 problems. They just got older, but
5 they can they can relate to the youth
6 of our community and say, look, here's
7 the path you're going down. May not be
8 what you want to do, but here's some
9 alternatives that you can find that are
10 out there.

11 The other thing with this
12 task force, it would avoid duplication
13 of service. One of the things that
14 we've been able to find out, you know,
15 in our research and looking around,
16 there's a lot of very similar programs
17 that are going on right now in the
18 community. We need to corral those
19 resources and we need to make those
20 resources better. We need to make them
21 more succinct and more pinpoint to get
22 to our youth.

23 Another one of our
24 initiatives is what we call community
25 safe walks program. These would be

1 regularly scheduled and maybe even non-
2 scheduled walks and talk programs
3 through the neighborhood, which would
4 be inclusive of elected officials,
5 inclusive of appointed officials, law
6 enforcement, fire department, public
7 works, where we would get out to each
8 one of the neighborhoods, have a
9 scheduled walk. People want to come
10 out and talk to us, air their problems.
11 They will talk to us privately. We
12 hope that we give a better sense of
13 community ownership and develop those
14 relationships that we might not have
15 with our staff, namely the police
16 department, but all of us with our
17 neighborhood folks. So we're just not
18 names, you know, in a directory. And
19 people know who they can talk to and,
20 you know, come to if they have
21 problems.

22 We're also looking at the
23 possibility of some block parties, some
24 youth fairs that we could run into the
25 neighborhoods and also bring in some of

1 our county and state elected officials,
2 you know, just to be able to identify
3 what resources are available to people.
4 One of the things that we find out
5 quite frequently when somebody comes to
6 city hall, they don't know that we have
7 a program and that's a communications
8 gap. And we're working --- as the
9 chief said, we're working to make that
10 better. They don't know that we have
11 these programs that they can avail
12 themselves of. And we need to make
13 that --- we need to make them know that
14 those things are out there for them.
15 Because a lot of chances are they don't
16 recognize that there's programs already
17 out there in the community that they
18 can turn to.

19 Our next one, we
20 combined, it's our code enforcement,
21 neighborhood revitalization and
22 economic development. We've already
23 turned up some of the heat with codes.
24 As you know, we're moving to do code
25 sweeps throughout the city. One of the

1 difficulties we have with that is once
2 we do a sweep, what do we do then?
3 Because we have a jammed court system
4 through nobody's fault. But getting
5 those things through the court
6 sometimes can take a little bit of
7 time. So we're looking at ways to find
8 other initiatives.

9 One of the programs that
10 we're looking at is a program that the
11 City of Pittsburgh does. It's called a
12 clean and lien initiative where we will
13 actually go onto that property with
14 proper notice if it's legal to do that,
15 clean that property and then lien that
16 property.

17 One of the things that we
18 need to recognize is once we take that
19 violation away by either cleaning it,
20 cutting the grass, that violation goes
21 away until it may occur again.

22 Give you a good example
23 of some of the initiatives that have
24 already gone on. The dumpster program
25 that we just finished up for the month

1 of April. Last year the citizens and
2 the residents contributed very greatly
3 to cleaning up the city. Last year we
4 did 16 dumpsters that we hauled out of
5 the city. This year we did 34. So
6 that program is expanding and we hope
7 to even expand it more, using our own
8 internal resources to sweep the streets
9 with our garbage truck and pick up a
10 lot more trash and garbage is out
11 there.

12 We're also working with
13 our community development group to
14 remodel, fix up homes and make those
15 habitable for folks that are out
16 there. They're in the process of
17 identifying structures. That funding
18 stream is going to be coming through as
19 we move forward.

20 We're also looking at
21 neighborhood revitalization, what we
22 need to do for better infrastructure.
23 I already mentioned about the lighting.
24 We're also looking about sidewalks.
25 And you've heard already about our

1 camera initiative that we're putting
2 forward to go out there.

3 We have a new KOZ program
4 that was brought into Cambria County.
5 We're also looking at a federal
6 Opportunity Zone program. We just had
7 a meeting about that on Friday that
8 will allow developers to come in. I
9 won't get into all the details of the
10 KOZs, but if you're a developer or
11 contractor or even a private owner that
12 wants to take advantage of that KOZ
13 program, please reach out to us because
14 there's some pretty good tax advantages
15 that are out there for people who do
16 that type of development. And it's
17 well worth having that conversation to
18 see what be out there.

19 We're also looking at
20 workforce development, working with our
21 schools, our secondary, our secondary
22 schools, our post-secondary schools, a
23 train and gain program, as we like to
24 call it, where we could do educational
25 incentives for post-secondary education

1 or college and vocational training.
2 We're looking at how we can make that
3 maybe more affordable for young people
4 who want to take advantage of that
5 program to get into higher level or
6 vocational training that we could do.
7 We're talking to the state Department
8 of Labor with some possible initiatives
9 on that level.

10 Another program that
11 we're looking at is what we call our
12 youth Opportunity program. This goes
13 back to one of the other ones that I
14 mentioned to you, where we make
15 available program programs for
16 employment for the youth during the
17 summer. We can bring them in. One of
18 the things that we have with the city,
19 as you're well aware of, we have a lot
20 of vacant lots that need to be tended
21 to. And if we can do some type of
22 program where we can bring our youth in
23 with summer jobs to take care of those
24 lots, again, another win/win. They can
25 do that for income. We also tie them

1 in with mentors, with apprenticeships
2 to, to some of the labor unions that
3 are out there to move them on to better
4 careers, moving on and keeping them in
5 the area.

6 We're looking at that one
7 again, the community, the youth
8 program, the training program. We need
9 help from the public. One of the notes
10 that I had that I wanted to make
11 mention earlier was we need folks to
12 identify children and youth who are at
13 risks. So, you know, reach out and
14 say, look, I have a young person here
15 that needs some help, that needs some
16 direction. What kind of program can we
17 get them into? You know, and then
18 we'll try and identify them. We'll
19 hook them up with somebody who can do
20 some counseling for them and point them
21 in the right direction, that this
22 program may be better for this person
23 because of their circumstances versus
24 this program. But the problem is we
25 need to know. We can't operate in a

1 vacuum. So if we recognize that youth
2 out there who are at risk, please let
3 us know that, you know, and we'll do
4 what we need to do to intercept that
5 bad behavior before it starts and make
6 sure they get pointed in the right
7 path.

8 One of the nice things
9 about that program, as those folks get
10 older, they can pass it on to the next
11 generation. A pay it forward type of
12 program, if you want to call it that.

13 And the last one that
14 we'll have is a recreation and safe
15 space program. And this is going to be
16 enhancement of our programs. Working
17 with our recreation folks, our
18 recreation director, and some of the
19 other groups that are out there that
20 take care of some of our programs, not
21 only to enhance but to invigorate and
22 expand our recreational activities for
23 the youth.

24 We identified peak times,
25 peak times of the year, peak times of

1 the day even when we need to have these
2 programs available for youth to get out
3 there, to open up different
4 opportunities for them and possibly
5 even work with them on some type of
6 technological programs that we can move
7 forward while creating safe spaces for
8 them to learn some trades.

9 But again, these are all
10 initiatives. There's more out there
11 that we're looking at. We're looking
12 at other cities. One of the ones, and
13 Mike and I had this conversation last
14 night. We were at the office, 10
15 o'clock, we were at the office last
16 night, and we were looking at some of
17 the programs that Youngstown, Ohio
18 does, and they have some pretty
19 successful programs out there.

20 We're also in
21 conversations with the folks in
22 Philadelphia and some other areas of
23 the state to see what's going on.
24 They're finding some success and
25 there's nothing saying that we can't

1 emulate those programs that are
2 happening, but we are moving forward,
3 forward in a proactive manner. Again,
4 there's a lot of logistics. There's a
5 lot of things that we need to do from a
6 legal standpoint. There's a lot of
7 things that we need to do from a
8 funding standpoint. But we'll pluck
9 whatever we can pluck and move the
10 program forward. But with that said,
11 I'll turn it back over. Mayor.

12 MAYOR:

13 Thank you, Mr.
14 Martynuska. At this time, we will have
15 public comment. When we call you up,
16 would you please come to the podium?
17 You have three minutes and you will be
18 timed. State your name, your address,
19 and please spell your name for the
20 stenographer. And then you will have
21 three minutes after that to make your
22 comments.

23 At this time, we're
24 calling Trish Fyock.

25 MS. FYOCK:

1 My name is Trish Fyock.
2 That's T-R-I-S-H F-Y-O-C-K and I live
3 in the City of Johnstown. I've been a
4 proud resident of this city for 23
5 years, and I love this city like you.
6 And I just want to say that I commend
7 you all for doing this. This is what
8 we need. This is part of the healing
9 because there is so much
10 miscommunication. And this just feels
11 healing to me to just be here to hear
12 all of the great things that are
13 planned for this city. It's so
14 encouraging.

15 And the young people that
16 are our future. And you sharing the
17 real data of what's happening really
18 clears so much up. And I hope that it
19 can happen more on a regular basis that
20 the people get to really hear what's
21 happening.

22 You know, my husband and
23 I sold real estate and we worked up in
24 Richland a couple years ago, and we
25 actually had people in our office that

1 were afraid to come into the city. We
2 were shocked, my husband and I, but
3 they were actually afraid. They were
4 agents that really didn't want to come
5 down in the city because there is such
6 a picture somehow. It's like it's all
7 of the negative things are what people
8 hear and they don't hear the positive
9 things.

10 And I tell everybody I
11 lived on my street --- we've lived on
12 our street for 23 years. The only
13 problem we ever had is some people left
14 the car doors open and people got in
15 their cars and took change and some
16 things. But we've never had any bad
17 crime. And I love our street. We have
18 great neighbors. You know, everyone
19 pretty much gets along. And there's so
20 many streets like that. So many places
21 in the city that are like that and
22 they're so great. We've never had
23 problems. And that is just not being
24 seen. And we somehow have to really
25 work hard on changing our image because

1 it's just so tarnished. And it's very
2 sad because it's a great place to live.

3 So I just want to say
4 thank you. I commend you. I hope you
5 do this again. I hope that our
6 communication can be more open. So
7 that's all I have to say.

8 Oh, one other thing.
9 Please, everybody visit the Cat Cafe
10 because it's a great addition to our
11 city and I hope everybody supports it.
12 And so that's it. Thank you.

13 MAYOR:

14 Thank you, Ms. Fyock.

15 Next we will have Mr.
16 Eugene Dell Jr., please.

17 MR. DELL:

18 Hello.

19 MAYOR:

20 Mr. Dell. Mr. Dell, is
21 your last name spelled D-E-L-L?

22 MR. DELL:

23 I'm sorry, I can't hear
24 you.

25 MAYOR:

1 D-E-L-L. That is the
2 spelling of your last name.

3 MR. DELL:

4 I'm just getting an echo
5 once you speak into them.

6 MAYOR:

7 Okay. All right. That's
8 okay. That's right. That's all right.
9 Go ahead.

10 MR. DELL:

11 My hearing is not real.

12 MAYOR:

13 Well, all right. It's
14 okay.

15 MR. DELL:

16 My name is Eugene Dell.
17 Oh, okay. I passed out cards to you
18 before. My government knows what I am
19 thinking. This would be great used for
20 public use. You know, it'd be
21 deteriorating of crime. They could
22 tell what you were thinking. I know
23 this is very large and you know, this
24 is just Johnstown, but, you know,
25 should be used everywhere. So it would

1 be great for crime prevention.

2 And also the judiciary
3 system was something like this. You
4 know, in a way it's a joke compared to,
5 you know, having a truth teller and be
6 able to eliminate a lot of the garbage
7 in the court system. You know, my
8 lawyer could beat your lawyer and so
9 forth, you know. So, you know, I
10 informed almost all you people. You
11 know, I know you to see you. But
12 that's all I wanted to say is, you
13 know, it should be out for public use
14 and it would help deteriorate crime.

15 MAYOR:

16 Thank you, Mr. Dell.

17 MR. DELL:

18 Thank you.

19 MAYOR:

20 Okay.

21 Mr. Brian Vuletich,
22 please, please spell your name.

23 MR. VULETICH:

24 Brian Vuletich, B-R-I-A-N
25 V-U-L-E-T-I-C-H. And I live on Walnut

1 Street, Lincoln Lee. Anything else?

2 Anyhow, the reason that
3 I'm here, I have a little bit of a
4 background. I have retired, so I
5 didn't even think I should even be
6 here. But I, like the other people,
7 love Johnstown. I lived here basically
8 all my life. And I see some great
9 things and I see some bad things. The
10 first thing is we have the greatest
11 police force around. So let's commend
12 the police force for what they're
13 doing.

14 My expertise going back a
15 number of years is twofold that I'd
16 like to talk about. First, I was the
17 past chairman of Johnstown Housing
18 Authority Board of Directors. I am
19 asking that we address the housing
20 issue in Johnstown. I'm not
21 necessarily saying it has to be HUD.
22 HUD's part of it, but we also have a
23 landlord group as well.

24 Everybody says, oh, it's
25 fine, it's fine. Something's happening

1 here, that people are coming from
2 Philadelphia, New York, New Jersey.
3 Why? What are --- what is our
4 attraction here? I mean, I know it's a
5 beautiful city, but they're surely not
6 dealing --- if you looked and you
7 Google Philadelphia, on the Tribune
8 Democrat, five stories pop up in the
9 last month, but this one was stopped on
10 219. This one was here, this one was
11 there.

12 We've got to address the
13 housing situation. I don't think today
14 is the proper --- but I'd like to see
15 us have a second meeting on the housing
16 where we could look at it. When I was
17 chairman of the Housing Authority, we
18 had 345 Section 8 vouchers. Today I
19 read in the paper there's 969 and
20 there's 1,600 people on the waiting
21 list. That is just phenomenal to me.
22 Something has to be done there.

23 We've got the police
24 force doing their job. Now what can we
25 do with the housing situation? I think

1 that we need to at least look at better
2 background checks. We got to look at
3 things that we. For example, for when
4 I was there, I wanted him to do ---.

5 MAYOR:

6 Mr. Vuletich, you have 30
7 seconds.

8 MR. VULETICH:

9 Thirty (30) seconds?

10 MAYOR:

11 Yes, sir.

12 MR. VULETICH:

13 Oh, okay. I didn't know
14 I was on a time lap. Okay. Well,
15 anyhow, then that's my point. I think
16 we can all work together, but I think
17 part of the crux --- and I'm going to
18 finish with this. I just started
19 substitute teaching in Johnstown and
20 the Philadelphia, New York, New Jersey
21 is incredible over at Johnstown, and
22 those teachers should be commended for
23 everything they've done. But thank you
24 for the opportunity. Appreciate it.

25 MAYOR:

1 Thank you, Mr. Vuletich.
2 At this time we will call Mr. Anthony,
3 sorry, is it Cromer?

4 MR. CROMER:

5 Cromer (corrects
6 pronunciation).

7 MAYOR:

8 Cromer, please.

9 MR. KRAMER:

10 Anthony James Cromer.
11 310 Conway Court, Prospect Community.

12 MAYOR:

13 Spell your last name,
14 please.

15 MR. CROMER:

16 C-R-O-M-E-R.

17 MAYOR:

18 Thank you.

19 MR. CROMER:

20 As y'all know, I'm the
21 victim in the Moxham shooting last year
22 on May 7th. Ever since then, I've been
23 dealing with like non sleep, no sleep
24 at all. I've been contacting Britton
25 about, you know, getting this stuff

1 with the shootings, asking him, what's
2 the problem? You know, we all asking
3 each other questions. They can't stop
4 this on their own. You know, I'm
5 saying a lot of people all on social
6 media do it every day. Blame it on
7 Britton. Blame it on Britton. He's
8 one man. Blaming it on you, Mayor
9 King. You're one woman. You can't ---
10 like he said, you can't just stop the
11 crime.

12 Like we --- if we don't
13 work together and we don't all just
14 come together, then it's going to blow
15 up, it's going to get worse. And if a
16 lot of people notice, in the '90s,
17 there's a cop episode on Cops where
18 people bring in from Pittsburgh,
19 bringing it to Johnstown. So it don't
20 matter if it's from Philadelphia. I'm
21 from Philadelphia. I've been here
22 since I was 28 years old and I'm 42 and
23 I could sit in my house and just think,
24 oh, I'm just a victim of a shooting. I
25 ain't got to care about nothing. But

1 I've been sitting here trying to fight
2 against these shootings and putting it
3 on social media and fighting for the
4 longest.

5 And a lot of people here
6 know me. They'll tell you I'm fighting
7 this on social media. It's starting to
8 bother me. I lose sleep. Not just
9 because I got shot. I could care less.
10 I don't have the haunting, the
11 flashbacks, I don't care. I'm on a
12 mission to stop these shootings here.

13 It's different people
14 here that's causing these shootings.
15 It don't matter where you from,
16 somebody could come out their door that
17 was born in Johnstown and shoot
18 somebody. I seen it done.

19 I spent every single day
20 on social media out here. I spent
21 every single day working with ---
22 trying to work with people, trying to
23 get it right along done where I could
24 go around and point some faces out, get
25 some stuff done to get some people

1 aware, get some people --- I had worked
2 with the warden at the prison. He
3 wants me to start gun violence classes
4 up there.

5 So I asked --- I've been
6 begging y'all for the last few meetings
7 to, like, work with me, work with me.
8 I got some big stars that want to come
9 to Johnstown, but they scared. They
10 like, no, all of these shootings, we
11 can't even --- we don't even want to
12 come here.

13 I'm not sitting here
14 getting upset over my shooting. I
15 could care less. It's bothering me
16 seeing these shootings every day.
17 Every week is always something. It
18 made people not want to watch the news.
19 I ask people every day, did you see the
20 news for this or that? You know to see
21 the city council had a good meeting,
22 and you know what the outcome was.
23 Some new development coming and stuff.
24 They don't even want to watch it
25 because it's nothing but shooting.

1 They all know that.

2 Y'all know that ---.

3 MAYOR:

4 You have 30 seconds.

5 MR. CROMER:

6 Yes, ma'am. The people
7 is crying out. And I'm willing to be
8 that middleman for the people. I have
9 nothing against none of y'all. I want
10 all this stuff with back and forth to
11 stop. Let's network together. If
12 everybody believe in God, let's believe
13 in God together and work.

14 MAYOR:

15 Thank you. Mr. Joseph
16 Warfield --- Warhol, I'm sorry.

17 MR. WARHUL:

18 My name is Joe Warhol. I
19 live over in Moxham, 44 Clover Street,
20 W-A-R-H-U-L. My whole reason for being
21 here is, as you all know by now, that
22 violence has reached over onto my
23 property. I mean, the chief of police
24 actually is chasing a crack dealer
25 through my yard. We've had bullets hit

1 the house.

2 I wish I could provide
3 some kind of answers. I'm a
4 construction worker. I'm more likely
5 to fix your concrete than to fix your
6 violence problem. I do know that
7 social media at Johnstown has become
8 crap, you all from the media included.
9 When it's blamed on the blacks or
10 Philly with a hard R, take it down off
11 your damn pages because it's
12 disgusting. And I can't believe I've
13 had to stand here and tell you that.
14 There's enough goofy pages in town to
15 attack everybody. I mean, this week,
16 the villains of Johnstown are Sam
17 Barber, Sylvia King, and Rachel Allen,
18 like kids are getting up a gang. It's
19 goofy on revitalized Johnstown. You
20 should watch, my wife showed me some
21 videos this week that we're a clown
22 show.

23 But needless to say
24 there's plenty we could do about some
25 of this violence. We know that there's

1 certain areas of violence where it
2 happens. I've reached out to all of
3 you. Four of you got back to me. It
4 would have been a nicer number to know
5 that something's being done. And I'm
6 sure there is. I know the chief's
7 doing things. I know the mayor's doing
8 things. I know you're working hard.

9 But it's little things.
10 Cars parked on sidewalks all over
11 Moxham. Start ticketing them. I see
12 street cleaners, police officers ride
13 by them and not ticket them. I see
14 yards that I have to continue to call
15 that need cut and recut and recut. I
16 shouldn't have to keep recalling. You
17 all know grass grows as a high every
18 week just like I do. There's no reason
19 for a citizen to be that involved in
20 it.

21 If you start getting the
22 little things, you'll be able to stop
23 some of these big things. You are
24 allowing it to spiral into something
25 bigger. When an area looks like hell,

1 people are going to act like they're in
2 hell. And that's what's going on
3 around a lot of town. It needs cleaned
4 up. You need to figure out a way to
5 start enforcing all the little crimes.
6 People don't speed through Ferndale, my
7 wife tells me, because they pull you
8 over if you're going over 25 miles an
9 hour consistently. So you learn from
10 learned behavior not to do it.

11 So when officers, any of
12 you start seeing code violations, yard
13 violations, people illegally feeding
14 cats, it seems small. These are all
15 rules and laws. And when you just keep
16 getting giving that inch, eventually
17 you're going to have people shooting
18 each other in the streets and acting
19 fool. I just really wish you would
20 start everything, treat everything as
21 it's a capital crime and start really
22 cracking down on stuff. It would make
23 my neighborhood a hell of a lot safer.
24 Thank you.

25 MAYOR:

1 Thank you, Mr. Warhul.
2 Dustin Greene, please.

3 MR. GREENE:

4 Dustin Green, D-U-S-T-I-N
5 G-R-E-E-N-E, 312 Chestnut Street.
6 Before my remarks, I want to let
7 everybody know it's ironic that it's
8 4:39 p.m. I have officially missed the
9 last bus out of here to go to any
10 neighborhood in this district. It's
11 part of my speech. Woodvale, actually
12 no bus to get there after this meeting
13 you have to walk 39 minutes. Moxham,
14 4:38 p.m. I missed the bus, plus an 11
15 minute walk. West End 4:39 p.m. and
16 it's an 8 minute walk past that bus
17 stop. If you want to know why people
18 can't be here, that might be one of the
19 reasons.

20 The gentleman who spoke
21 about the Housing Authority, I suggest
22 that, you --- him and the rest of the
23 audience in the public attend the
24 Housing Authority meetings. Nobody's
25 ever there. I was just there last

1 month. They're on summer vacation, so
2 you can't join until September.

3 I'm here because I
4 believe Johnstown's public safety
5 conversation needs to become bigger
6 than police response alone. Violence
7 is real and it must be addressed. But
8 violence often is the final symptom of
9 pressure that has been building for a
10 long time. I want to be clear. I'm
11 not saying poverty causes violence.
12 I'm not saying a lack of transportation
13 causes violence. And I'm not saying
14 struggling people are dangerous. What
15 I'm saying is this, when people have no
16 money, no reliable way to get around,
17 unstable housing, limited access to
18 healthcare, and few places to go, every
19 conflict becomes heavier.

20 Chief of Police. These
21 are neighbors that can't get along.
22 That's what you said. This is where
23 joy comes in. When I say joy, I mean
24 Johnstown, opportunities and you, also
25 youth. Because public safety has to be

1 built around people, not just the
2 problems.

3 Our local survey that we
4 hosted in my venue showed that people
5 still do not know --- or know what
6 brings them joy. They named family,
7 friends, family, music, art, nature,
8 pets, helping others, warm meals and
9 quiet time. These are not luxuries.
10 These are basic human needs.

11 I ask these questions.
12 If someone cannot get to work,
13 counseling, court, a safe family
14 member's house, a youth program or
15 positive community event, how is that
16 helping? If people cannot have a safe
17 place to go, no mentor, no job, no
18 opportunity, no reason to feel proud of
19 where they be long, that is an issue.
20 If residents do not feel heard,
21 informed, or included in decisions that
22 are affecting their neighborhoods. I
23 feel that's an issue as well. I just
24 experienced it this week at the public
25 safety meeting.

1 Transport ---

2 transparency matters, and you know my
3 views on transparency. I'm asking the
4 city to consider a joy matrix for
5 public safety. What I said earlier,
6 Johnstown opportunities and you, your
7 future, your voice, your safety, your
8 dignity, and your way forward.

9 For every neighborhood
10 affected by violence, we should be
11 asking, where are the job pathways?
12 Where are the opportunities? How do
13 people get there? What housing, food,
14 health and transportation pressures
15 exist? What positive places are
16 available? What public information is
17 being shared and are residents being
18 heard?

19 Public safety is not just
20 what's happening after a shooting.
21 Public safety is a ride to work, a
22 position at a job, and a way to get
23 there.

24 MAYOR:

25 Dustin, you have 30

1 seconds.

2 MR. GREENE:

3 A safe community, a safe
4 space which was mentioned in your
5 remarks, Art, a warm meal,
6 transportation to a government process,
7 a neighbor that feels seen, and a city
8 where people have something to look
9 forward to. That's a big one.
10 Johnstown needs enforcement, yes, but
11 also Johnstown needs trust ---

12 MAYOR:

13 Thank you, Destin, for
14 your remarks.

15 MR. GREENE:

16 --- an opportunity and
17 dignity. 143 as always.

18 MAYOR:

19 Thank you. At this time,
20 I would just like to thank and
21 acknowledge Representative Rigby,
22 Commissioner Scott Hunt and Senator
23 Langerholc, I know was here, but had to
24 leave. I would like to acknowledge
25 your presence and say thank you for

1 being here and thank you for being with
2 us. It really does show your concern
3 and care for the city. So thank you
4 very much.

5 I would like to invite
6 everyone to our next City Council
7 meeting, which will be Wednesday, June
8 10th at 6:00 p.m. at our city Council
9 chambers. And also I would like to
10 inform you about an event that is going
11 to take place on Thursday, June 18, in
12 Moxham at 536 Grove Avenue, Christ
13 Center Community Church. Right out
14 front --- right out front of the church
15 is going to be a resource street fair.
16 And the reason why I'm really talking
17 about this is because this is one of
18 the initiatives that we've been talking
19 about.

20 A lot of our issues have
21 to do with our young people. And it
22 seems like at the age of 13, up to 30,
23 where we have an issue with young
24 people. So a lot of us have been
25 talking to people, meeting with people.

1 How can we help? How can we be a part
2 of the solution? What can we come up
3 with? And we started talking to our
4 barbers and our hairstylists, and guess
5 what? A lot of the young people go to
6 the barbershop or they go to get their
7 hair cut and they have an opportunity
8 to interact with those people.

9 So on the 18th, the
10 barbers will be there, the hairstylists
11 will be there, and we are going to give
12 free haircuts right on --- right on the
13 street, right on Grove Avenue. We're
14 going to have the barber chair set up.
15 And if ages 13 to 30, you can come get
16 a free haircut. We'll have free food.
17 And also there'll be nonprofit
18 organizations that'll be there that
19 have the resources that people could
20 utilize.

21 People talk about what we
22 don't have, but we have a lot of
23 resources in this community. If you
24 can --- the one girl, I like what she
25 said, she said, if you can Google

1 everything else, you can Google what
2 you need and you'll find the resource
3 that will pop up. So the community
4 resource fair will be there. Job
5 training, job availability. The Bureau
6 of Vital Statistics will be there as
7 well. And all this will take place on
8 Thursday, June 18th. We are doing our
9 best to make more partnerships so that
10 we can be able to expand the services
11 that are needed in our community. And
12 we just ask that you would just work
13 with us.

14 At this time, we will
15 adjourn the meeting. We thank you for
16 your participation. Thank you for
17 coming. God bless.

18
19
20 * * * * *

21 MEETING CONCLUDED AT 4:46 P.M.

22 * * * * *
23
24
25

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify, as the stenographic reporter, that the foregoing proceedings were taken stenographically by me, and thereafter reduced to typewriting by me or under my direction; and that this transcript is a true and accurate record to the best of my ability.
Dated the 7th day of July, 2026



Michael G. Sargent
Certified Verbatim

Reporter