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District of Columbia  
Board of Elections  
Office of the General Counsel

Board Meeting

One Judiciary Square  
441 Fourth St., NW  
Suite 280 N  
Washington, D.C. 20001

April 05, 2017

10:47 a.m. - 12:55 p.m.

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1                   A P P E A R A N C E S

2   MICHAEL BENNETT, Chair, Board of Elections

3   DIONNA LEWIS, Board of Elections

4   CECILY MONTGOMERY, Director, Office of Campaign

5    Finance, Board of Elections

6   KEN MCGHIE, General Counsel, Board of Elections

7   SYLVIA GOLDSBERRY-ADAMS, Elections Operations

8    Manager, Board of Elections

9   WILLIAM SANFORD, Office of Campaign Finance,

10   Board of Elections

11   MICHAEL SINDRAM

12   JOHN CHEEKS

13   AMY JENKINS, Movement for Black Power

14   MALIK SHABAZZ, Black Lawyers for Justice

15   ROUSSAN ETIENNE, JR., Maryland Sen. District

16    (Prince George's & Charles County)

17   SHARRIFF SHARI, Maryland Recovery Act, USCRIA

18   VALERIE BLACKMON, VLB Productions

19   MARK ANTHONY JOHNSON, SR., MOA

20   GERALD OWENS, D.C. Recovery Act, USCRIA

21   IMAN AKBAR, New Black Panther Party

22   RON BONFILIO

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Good morning. My  
3 apologies for being a few minutes late. A full  
4 house -- thank you, all, for coming. Let me get  
5 started.

6 The meeting is officially open. My name  
7 is Michael Bennett, and I am chair of the Board  
8 of Elections. To my far right is Cecily  
9 Montgomery, who is the Director of Office of  
10 Campaign Finance. To my immediate right is Mr.  
11 Ken McGhie, General Counsel of the Board of  
12 Elections. To my immediate left is --

13 MS. DIONNA LEWIS: Board member --

14 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: -- Dionna --

15 (Laughter)

16 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: -- Board Member  
17 Dionna Lewis.

18 MS. DIONNA LEWIS: Good morning.

19 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: And to her  
20 immediate left is one of our directors, Sylvia  
21 Goldsberry-Adams. And Marie (phonetic) is not  
22 officially a part of the podium.

1           Anyway, we've -- we've got a pretty  
2 packed agenda, and a lot of folks. My apologies  
3 for causing you to wait for 15 minutes, but I  
4 wanted to make sure that we were ready to go. So,  
5 with that, because we have such a packed agenda,  
6 when we do get to various items, I'm going to  
7 limit the speakers to 5 minutes. So, I -- I  
8 request that you be as efficient and -- and --  
9 and get to the substance of -- of your comments  
10 as we actually walk through things. So, thank you  
11 very much for -- for coming.

12           First, let me go through the general  
13 matters, and that is the adoption of the agenda.  
14 There are two board members, so we have to vote  
15 on that. Can I get a -- a motion?

16           MS. DIONNA LEWIS: I'd like to make a  
17 motion to adopt today's meeting agenda.

18           MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: I second the  
19 motion, and the agenda is hereby adopted.

20           Adoption of the meetings -- the minutes,  
21 rather, from the last meeting?

22           MS. DIONNA LEWIS: I'd like to make a

1 motion to adopt the meeting -- minutes from last  
2 month's meeting, Wednesday, March 01, 2017.

3 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: I second that, and  
4 so the March 01st minutes are adopted.

5 Any Board matters, Ms. Lewis?

6 MS. DIONNA LEWIS: No.

7 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: And I don't have  
8 any, and so public matters -- and that would be  
9 public matters that are separate -- And I know  
10 we're here, partly, for a -- a potential item  
11 going on the referendum -- going into the --  
12 going -- going as a referendum, but we're going  
13 to cover that in Mr. McGhie's portion.

14 Other than the referendum, are there any  
15 public matters that we need to address? Did we  
16 open up the line for Mr. Sindram?

17 MR. KENNETH MCGHIE: No. No, we just have  
18 to call him.

19 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Huh?

20 MR. KENNETH MCGHIE: We're just going to  
21 call him during the public matters.

22 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Well, we are there.



1 MR. KENNETH MCGHIE: Yeah. Mm-hmm.

2 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: So, can we call  
3 him?

4 MR. KENNETH MCGHIE: Oh, you want to call  
5 him now?

6 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Yeah.

7 MR. KENNETH MCGHIE: All right.

8 (Off-the-record discussion)

9 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: For those who don't  
10 attend -- And this is actually our first time, so  
11 whether you attend or not, there is a -- at least  
12 one individual that is handicapped, and we are  
13 trying to do a reasonable accommodation to see  
14 whether or not he has any -- any comments for the  
15 public in this part of the agenda.

16 (Off-the-record discussion)

17 MR. MICHAEL SINDRAM: Good morning.

18 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Good morning. Mr.  
19 Sindram, just to -- This is Michael Bennett. Just  
20 to -- Okay, we have a pretty packed agenda today,  
21 so we were limiting all of the comments to 5  
22 minutes. So, if you are able to do that, please

1 head out -- or start out with your comments.

2 MR. MICHAEL SINDRAM: Fair enough. I  
3 understand that you have a initiative for  
4 referendum on reparations.

5 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Yes, sir.

6 MR. MICHAEL SINDRAM: I'd like to have a  
7 copy of that sent to me. My address, if you're  
8 ready to copy, is 6645 --

9 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Mm-hmm.

10 MR. MICHAEL SINDRAM: -- Georgia Avenue,  
11 NW --

12 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Okay.

13 MR. MICHAEL SINDRAM: -- Apartment 306,  
14 Washington, D.C. --

15 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Mm-hmm.

16 MR. MICHAEL SINDRAM: -- 20012.

17 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Okay.

18 MR. MICHAEL SINDRAM: All right. I had  
19 occasion to bring to the attention of General  
20 Counsel Kenneth McGhie about the -- the failure  
21 to provide a written -- a -- a reasonable  
22 accommodation by phone, and I'm taken aback by

1 his profane, obscene, and abusive comments, a  
2 potty mouth, notwithstanding the -- the -- the  
3 threats, physical threats to do bodily harm. This  
4 is not good. You know, this is your General  
5 Counsel, and when I bring to his attention  
6 something that needs to be fixed, or the law  
7 followed, and for him to attack me is just not  
8 going to cut it. So, you know, Mr. McGhie there,  
9 listening, hopefully -- He's there in attendance,  
10 yeah?

11 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Yes.

12 MR. MICHAEL SINDRAM: Yeah. You've  
13 alienated an ally, and you need to -- You know,  
14 you need to do the right thing. And thus far, as  
15 -- as far as I'm concerned, you haven't.

16 Along those lines, I brought to your  
17 attention, Mr. Chair, along with other fellow  
18 commissioners, the issue of a full complement  
19 hearing regarding a grant rescission. Under Togo  
20 West -- right? -- there is a document, at the  
21 very end, before he bowed out, that indicated I  
22 was entitled to such, made a motion orally and in

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1 writing, but yet, for some inauspicious reason,  
2 it seems like Mr. McGann -- McGhie have lost all  
3 of that. They provide everything else up to that  
4 point, but not the -- the smoking gun, if you  
5 will, that -- that provides, you know, the -- the  
6 prior share for that full complement panoply of  
7 commissioners to hear the matter.

8           So, I've asked, repeatedly, and I will,  
9 again, renew my request of you for Togo West, to  
10 reach out, to have contact information, because  
11 it appears, now, inadvertent clerical error, that  
12 the record is not complete, and given that, you  
13 know, Mr. West's order is not available, it needs  
14 to be. So --

15           MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Mr. Sindram, just  
16 to -- just for the record, we've -- we've looked  
17 at this matter on a number of occasions, and I  
18 think that we've done all the things that we were  
19 required to do with regard to your issues. That  
20 said, I certainly hear it again, and we'll take  
21 that under advisement. So, thank you.

22           MR. MICHAEL SINDRAM: I -- You're

1 welcome, and I appreciate, you know, the efforts,  
2 but the problem is, again, that document, towards  
3 the tail end, before Mr. West departed, Chair --  
4 Prior Chair West -- And, again, that entitled me,  
5 granted me, a full complement hearing. Everything  
6 else, up to that point, you know, was no go, and  
7 without that document, there -- there cannot be a  
8 complete investigation, and obviously, the  
9 hearing hasn't taken place. It did with one  
10 member, Lori (phonetic), but the law provides, in  
11 an appeal, a timely filed appeal, which was done  
12 towards the tail end, a full complement hearing  
13 would take place. That would entail the former  
14 Chair, Togo West, and Lori, as well, which has  
15 yet to happen. So, with that document missing,  
16 you know, when you say you've done all you can  
17 do, I -- I don't see how that's possible, because  
18 the record is incomplete.

19 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: I -- I -- I hear  
20 you, but my position hasn't changed. So, do you  
21 have any other matters, Mr. Sindram?

22 MR. MICHAEL SINDRAM: Well, your --

1 Whether it's changed or not, we need to follow  
2 the law, Mr. Chair. With all due respect, it  
3 didn't change about a telephonic appearance. The  
4 law requires it, so it's changed. And I'm -- I'm  
5 tired of people in a state of denial --

6 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Mr. Sindram, do you  
7 have any other items?

8 MR. MICHAEL SINDRAM: You're interrupting  
9 me, and I'm speaking, sir.

10 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: And -- and -- and -  
11 - You -- Do you have any other items, Mr.  
12 Sindram?

13 MR. MICHAEL SINDRAM: Yeah, I would have  
14 to say, but not only would I have to say it, but  
15 my right to say it is Constitutionally  
16 guaranteed, and by you interrupting is not  
17 helpful. It's just adding insult to injury. I  
18 have brought to your attention and Campaign  
19 Finance -- hello, Ms. Montgomery --

20 MS. CECILY COLLIER-MONTGOMERY: Good  
21 morning.

22 MR. MICHAEL SINDRAM: -- issues that are

1 ripe for adjudication. Several council members  
2 have been unjustly enriched and failed to follow  
3 the law. The coffers have exceeded the \$20, I  
4 understand, earmarked when something must be  
5 reported, and that includes --

6 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Well --

7 MR. MICHAEL SINDRAM: -- but not limited  
8 to former Councilwoman LaRuby May --

9 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Where are we at?

10 MR. MICHAEL SINDRAM: -- former Council  
11 Chair --

12 (Off-mic speaking)

13 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Where are we?

14 (Off-mic speaking)

15 MR. MICHAEL SINDRAM: -- (off-mic  
16 speaking) --

17 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Mr. -- Mr. Sindram,  
18 you -- you -- you've exceeded your -- your --  
19 your 5 minutes. I'll -- I'll allow you to go on  
20 for another 30 seconds, sir.

21 MR. MICHAEL SINDRAM: -- Philip Heath  
22 Mendelson, the former Chair -- or, excuse me,

1 former Councilman Vincent Orange, and former  
2 Councilwoman Yvette Alexander. These matters  
3 need, you know, to be addressed, and I'm, you  
4 know, still awaiting, in the pursuit of right,  
5 reason, and fairness, my day in court, if you  
6 will.

7 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: All right, Mr.  
8 Sindram. Thank you. You -- That's -- We've gone  
9 to 6 minutes.

10 We're going to move on to the next item.  
11 Any other public matters?

12 (No audible response)

13 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Okay. Next, let's  
14 have the Executive Director's report. Ms. Adams?

15 MS. SYLVIA GOLDSBERRY-ADAMS: Good  
16 morning. I'm reading the report on behalf of Ms.  
17 Alice Miller, the Board's Executive Director.  
18 She's out today. The citywide biennial canvas of  
19 registered voters is underway. Our vendor mailed  
20 postcards to approximately 154,000 active voters  
21 who were eligible to vote --

22 (Off-mic speaking)



1 MS. SYLVIA GOLDSBERRY-ADAMS: -- but  
2 chose not to in the November 2016 Presidential  
3 General Election. As of March 31st, the Post  
4 Office has returned a total of 30,625 canvas  
5 cards back to the Board.

6 BOE submitted a budget enhancement  
7 request, beyond the baseline proposed FY18  
8 budget, and has been tentatively approved for  
9 \$215,000 to successfully conduct the FY18 mayoral  
10 primary and general elections. These specifically  
11 identified funds are for the purchase of the USPS  
12 Intelligent Mail barcode technology, for the  
13 hiring of temporary workers who served as ADA-  
14 compliant assistants, ward coordinators and  
15 interpreters, for the rental of 50 additional  
16 DS200 precinct scanners/tabulators and wireless  
17 modems, and for the rental of 50 additional  
18 ExpressVotes, or touchscreen, voting machines.

19 As you know, we also requested funding to  
20 upgrade or replace our voter registration system.  
21 The City Administrator's office is trying to  
22 identify funding for the system. The request has

1 been pending since earlier this year. We received  
2 an email last week from the City Administrator's  
3 office that they're indicating that they were  
4 trying to locate and identify capital funds for  
5 the project. The timing for this is critical and,  
6 quite frankly, the likelihood of this being  
7 successfully implemented through the procurement  
8 processes in time for the election cycle next  
9 year is questionable. That said, we will still  
10 need to continue to begin the upgrade to the  
11 current voter registration system.

12           The Government Accountability Office, or  
13 GAO, sent out a survey on voting equipment used,  
14 in an effort to track the various types of voting  
15 equipment used by nationwide and local  
16 jurisdictions and the method with which the  
17 elections offices acquire the equipment. The  
18 survey is 20 pages, about 60 questions. It's due  
19 April 07th, and we completed that survey on  
20 Monday, April 03rd.

21           And, finally, currently, there are three  
22 scheduled hearings before the Committee on a

1 judiciary between now and the end of April.  
2 Tomorrow, Director Miller will present testimony  
3 on the November 2016 General Elections After  
4 Action Report and comment on proposed  
5 legislation. The bill is entitled The Elections  
6 Modernization Amendment Act of 2017. This bill  
7 intends to increase the frequency with which the  
8 Board determines appropriately signed voting  
9 precincts and to permit duly registered voters to  
10 elect to receive a voter guide by electronic  
11 means. Currently, we have 189,000 registered  
12 voters with email addresses in our system. Three  
13 hundred four thousand one sixty have not provided  
14 email addresses.

15           Also, the Board's budget hearing and a  
16 hearing on changing the date of the 2018 primary  
17 election is also scheduled toward the end of this  
18 month.

19           That concludes my report.

20           MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Great. Thank you.  
21 Any questions, Ms. Lewis?

22           MS. DIONNA LEWIS: No, thank you.

1           MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Okay. Mr. McGhie,  
2 the General Counsel report.

3           MR. KENNETH MCGHIE: Okay. The first  
4 thing on my agenda is the initiative, and it's to  
5 make a proper subject matter determination on the  
6 District of Columbia Recovery Act of the Living  
7 Descendants of American Slaves.

8           Now, let me first start by explaining  
9 what it means to have a proper subject matter  
10 determination. I put this -- this poster board up  
11 here so everybody can take a look at it. And,  
12 basically, in the District of Columbia, you can  
13 have an initiative on any subject that you want  
14 to -- but it has to change or -- it has to amend  
15 the law or create a law, and it cannot violate  
16 one of -- of those eight prohibitions.

17           So, if your initiative is contrary to the  
18 terms of the Home Rule Act, seeks to amend the  
19 Home Rule Act, would appropriate funds, would  
20 violate the U.S. Constitution, is not in  
21 compliance with the Office of Campaign Finance  
22 filing requirements, is not in the proper

1 legislative form, or would unlawfully  
2 discriminate or would negate or limit a budget  
3 act, it cannot be an initiative in the District  
4 of Columbia. So, when we have the proper subject  
5 matter determination hearing, which we're doing  
6 today -- You know, basically, we want testimony  
7 to why your initiative does not violate any one  
8 of those provisions.

9           We don't need testimony on the merits of  
10 the initiative, on whether it's a good  
11 initiative, it's a bad initiative, we want it, we  
12 don't want it, because if you -- if we do approve  
13 the initiative, you'll have a chance to solicit  
14 people and lobby people on -- and -- and give  
15 them the merits of your initiative on why they  
16 should be signing the petition, and if it gets --  
17 and you have enough -- enough signatures and it  
18 goes on the ballot, then you want to be lobbying  
19 people on why they want to vote for your  
20 initiative. And that's when you're going to want  
21 to tell them about the merits of the initiative  
22 and why it's a good initiative and why we want to

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1 have it.

2 But for now, for today's hearing, the  
3 only thing that we're concerned about is that  
4 your initiative does not violate one of those  
5 eight things. So, any testimony today should be  
6 limited to why the initiative does not violate  
7 the Constitution or why the initiative doesn't  
8 violate the Home Rule Act.

9 All right? With that said --

10 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: But for purposes of  
11 -- of kind of moving forward -- and I know we  
12 don't have a -- So, for right now, it's -- it's  
13 called the District of -- of Columbia Recovery  
14 Act for Living Descendants of -- of American  
15 Slaves. Is that correct?

16 MR. KENNETH MCGHIE: Yes.

17 MALE SPEAKER: Yes.

18 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Okay. Great. Thank  
19 you.

20 MR. KENNETH MCGHIE: All right. So, let  
21 me begin by having the proponent of the  
22 initiative come forward and take a seat at the

1 table. If you have legal counsel that would like  
2 to join you, they can come forward, as well.

3 (Off-the-record discussion)

4 MR. KENNETH MCGHIE: Okay, can we begin  
5 by having the proponent of the initiative state  
6 your full name and address for the record?

7 MR. JOHN CHEEKS: Good -- Good evening.  
8 My name is John Cheeks. I am the proposer and the  
9 agent of the D.C. Recovery Act for Living  
10 Descendants of American Slaves.

11 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Great. Thank you  
12 for coming, Mr. Cheeks.

13 MR. JOHN CHEEKS: We -- Is there anything  
14 else?

15 MR. KENNETH MCGHIE: Do you have counsel?

16 DR. AMY JENKINS: His counsel is Malik  
17 Zulu Shabazz. He'll be here in 2 minutes. He's on  
18 the elevator now --

19 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Okay.

20 DR. AMY JENKINS: -- but I am Ms.  
21 Jenkins, and -- and he'll be up.

22 MR. KENNETH MCGHIE: And your address is?

1 DR. AMY JENKINS: I'm sorry?

2 MR. KENNETH MCGHIE: Your -- Your  
3 address.

4 DR. AMY JENKINS: You mean my address as  
5 far as for the record?

6 MR. KENNETH MCGHIE: Yes.

7 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Yes.

8 DR. AMY JENKINS: Oh, 66 -- Do you want  
9 me to give a -- like, a physical address?

10 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Yes, please.

11 DR. AMY JENKINS: Oh, okay. 1501 K-a-n-t-  
12 o-n Street, and that's Baltimore, Maryland,  
13 21227.

14 MR. KENNETH MCGHIE: Okay.

15 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Okay.

16 MR. KENNETH MCGHIE: Great.

17 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Mr. McGhie, if the  
18 -- if the proponent of the -- of the proposed  
19 measure has met statutory clerical requirements  
20 with respect to his filing --

21 FEMALE SPEAKER: I can't hear.

22 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Say again?



1 FEMALE SPEAKER: I said couldn't hear  
2 you.

3 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Oh, I'm sorry. I  
4 was asking Mr. McGhie if the proponent of the --  
5 of the proposed measure has met the statutory and  
6 -- statutory clerical requirements with respect  
7 to his filing.

8 MR. KENNETH MCGHIE: Okay.

9 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Is that correct?

10 MR. KENNETH MCGHIE: Yes. Yes, the Office  
11 of Campaign Finance has notified me that Mr.  
12 Cheeks did meet all the filing requirements with  
13 the Office of Campaign Finance.

14 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Okay. Any comments  
15 from the opponents?

16 MR. KENNETH MCGHIE: Opponents of the --  
17 of the measure? Are there anybody that wants to  
18 testify against the measure?

19 (No audible response)

20 MR. KENNETH MCGHIE: All right. The --

21 MS. AMY JENKINS: Can we have your  
22 indulgence for one second?

1 (Off-mic speaking)

2 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Okay. We'll take a  
3 break in the session until we get everybody  
4 situated.

5 MALE SPEAKER: Excuse me.

6 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Oh, no problem.

7 MR. KENNETH MCGHIE: Okay, before I --  
8 before I continue, sir, can you state your name  
9 and address for the record?

10 MR. MALIK SHABAZZ: Yeah, my name is  
11 Malik Shabazz. My address is 1200 G Street, NW,  
12 Washington, D.C.

13 MR. KENNETH MCGHIE: And you are counsel  
14 for the -- the measure?

15 MR. MALIK SHABAZZ: I'm testifying --  
16 Yes, I'll --

17 (Off-mic speaking)

18 MR. MALIK SHABAZZ: I will stand in as  
19 counsel today. Yes.

20 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Okay. Great.

21 MR. KENNETH MCGHIE: All right. I said  
22 opponents of the measure -- The -- the Board only

1 received comments from one individual. That was  
2 from the Office of the Attorney General, and I  
3 would like to submit their comments for the  
4 record. The proposer was given a copy of the  
5 comments. It's dated March 08th, and just in  
6 short, the beginning paragraph says that: We  
7 conclude that it is not a proper subject matter  
8 for initiative, and the Office of the Attorney  
9 General states about three or four different  
10 reasons why, I guess the biggest reasoning being  
11 that it would violate the appropriations.

12 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Okay. Comments from  
13 the proponents?

14 MR. KENNETH MCGHIE: Okay. The proponent  
15 of the measure -- So, we will begin -- We'll --  
16 We'll have you last, but I've got a list of  
17 individuals that contacted my office that's  
18 indicated that they would like to speak. I was  
19 going to call you up three at a time, but I don't  
20 think we have enough chairs.

21 MR. JOHN CHEEKS: May I?

22 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Mm-hmm.

1 MR. JOHN CHEEKS: Should I move from the  
2 -- from the --

3 MR. KENNETH MCGHIE: Yes. Yes, for now.  
4 For now.

5 MR. JOHN CHEEKS: -- and allow the  
6 speakers -- Okay.

7 MR. KENNETH MCGHIE: Yeah, the speakers  
8 to come forward.

9 (Off-mic speaking)

10 MR. KENNETH MCGHIE: We will begin with  
11 Malik Shabazz, Dr. Amy Jenkins, and Charles  
12 Crews. Everybody will be limited to 5 minutes per  
13 person.

14 (Off-the-record discussion)

15 MALE SPEAKER: And the third person you  
16 need?

17 MR. KENNETH MCGHIE: Dr. Amy Jenkins,  
18 Charles Crews.

19 MALE SPEAKER: Charles Crews. Charles  
20 Crews.

21 MR. KENNETH MCGHIE: All right --

22 (Off-mic speaking)

1 MR. KENNETH MCGHIE: -- then -- then AJA  
2 G. Taylor.

3 MALE SPEAKER: AJA Taylor. AJA Taylor.

4 FEMALE SPEAKER: AJA.

5 MALE SPEAKER: AJA, excuse me.

6 MALE SPEAKER: AJA Taylor.

7 MALE SPEAKER: She's not here?

8 FEMALE SPEAKER: I don't see her.

9 MR. KENNETH MCGHIE: Roussan Etienne?  
10 Etienne?

11 MALE SPEAKER: Etienne.

12 MR. KENNETH MCGHIE: Etienne?

13 MALE SPEAKER: Mr. Etienne?

14 MALE SPEAKER: How's everybody doing?

15 FEMALE SPEAKER: Good, how are you?

16 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Good, thank you.

17 (Off-mic speaking)

18 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Sorry for the  
19 crowded space, but thank you.

20 MALE SPEAKER: May -- May I cross the --  
21 the bench?

22 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Yeah, please.

1 Please. Yeah, that's fine.

2 MALE SPEAKER: Sure. Sure.

3 MR. KENNETH MCGHIE: Okay. We'll begin  
4 with Mr. Shabazz.

5 MR. MALIK SHABAZZ: All right. Good --  
6 good morning, and thank you for hearing from me.  
7 I want to state my general support for the D.C.  
8 Recovery Act, as proposed by Mr. John Cheeks. I  
9 think it is absolutely necessary for the future  
10 survival of African Americans in the District. It  
11 is a very important measure for those who vote,  
12 and it is critical for our survival in this city.

13 The issues that we face right now in the  
14 District of Columbia: homelessness, despair.  
15 gentrification is running rampant in the city.  
16 The black population, or African American  
17 population was once 75%. It is now down to less  
18 than 50% and dwindling every day due to serious  
19 economic reasons, reasons of poverty, reasons of  
20 class, reasons of race, and many of these reasons  
21 are rooted in the enslavement of blacks, or  
22 African Americans, which has historically put us

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1 at a economic advantage. We cannot compete at  
2 this moment, and the city is being overrun with -  
3 - with overdevelopment, more well-to-do  
4 outsiders, whites, coming in, and this is one of  
5 the reasons why the Recovery Act we support,  
6 because it can address the root causes behind the  
7 -- the disparity and economic inequality in the  
8 District. This is my general support for this  
9 act.

10 Many other problems in the District -- We  
11 talk about crime. We talk about missing girls.  
12 Many of this is rooted in the social dysfunction  
13 of the black family, of the African American  
14 family in the District, and we have a body of  
15 evidence that we can show -- and Mr. Cheeks has  
16 done the research -- and we can show that many of  
17 these social problems, these family problems, the  
18 problems of missing girls in the District, can be  
19 tied to the social dysfunction of the enslavement  
20 and the -- and the discrimination against the  
21 population here in the District of Columbia,  
22 rooted in the slave trade here. And this is

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1 another reason why I support the D.C. Recovery  
2 Act.

3           The self-hatred we see, the crimes --  
4 When we come to the District of Columbia  
5 courthouses -- As an attorney, it is -- it's  
6 painful for me to see a litany, a line, of young  
7 black men, every day, coming to be arraigned,  
8 every day in that courthouse, lined up, almost  
9 like a similar slavery-type situation. Every day  
10 they're lined up. They're being arraigned,  
11 they're going to jail, and they're caught up in  
12 this system.

13           It's painful to us, painful to everybody  
14 in the District, I'm sure, painful to you, and  
15 I'm here to propose that many of these issues  
16 here -- yes, sir -- are rooted in self-hatred,  
17 rooted in the inequality in income, rooted in  
18 poverty, rooted in the social decay in the  
19 District. I'm here to argue that many of these  
20 problems that we currently face in the District  
21 are rooted in the enslavement and rooted in  
22 slavery and how we were captured and taught to



1 hate ourselves. Our family structure was  
2 destroyed, many of it today tied to slavery.

3           And that is why I support the D.C.  
4 Recovery Act, because it is here to address  
5 restitution. It is here to address reparations  
6 and give a real solution instead of Band-Aid  
7 solutions that we're applying now in the District  
8 of Columbia -- Band-Aid for a fund here, Band-Aid  
9 for a program here. These are, maybe, well-  
10 intentioned remedies, but they're not actual  
11 remedies.

12           How long is that, sir?

13           MALE SPEAKER: One minute.

14           MR. MALIK SHABAZZ: One minute. They're  
15 not remedies that I think can bring about a  
16 complete solution to the problem.

17           So, to conclude, we're facing a crisis in  
18 the District. There's a crisis in housing.  
19 There's a crisis in class. There's a crisis in  
20 the -- in the family. There's a social crisis.  
21 There's a cultural crisis. There's a self-hatred  
22 crisis. And however well-intentioned the D.C.

1 Council or the Mayor are in terms of remedying  
2 this, they have not been able to go to the root  
3 of the problem and the -- and the root of the  
4 injustices that were originally suffered, and the  
5 destruction, again, of our family and our  
6 community that leaves us, today, groping to find  
7 solutions to these problems that we must fight.  
8 So, that is -- that is my basic support for the  
9 D.C. Recovery Act, as proposed by the Honorable  
10 John Cheeks.

11 (Off-mic speaking)

12 MR. MALIK SHABAZZ: All right. Thank you.

13 MR. KENNETH MCGHIE: Ms. Jenkins?

14 DR. AMY JENKINS: We have 5 minutes?

15 MR. KENNETH MCGHIE: Yes.

16 DR. AMY JENKINS: Okay. The question  
17 presented was, how doesn't the D.C. Recovery Act  
18 violate the United States Constitution, okay? And  
19 what I find is that the Constitution -- the  
20 written design of the Constitution of the United  
21 States was intentionally designed for white  
22 owners of land, okay? The fundamental first

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1 amendments that were proposed by the Articles,  
2 they basically presented that with a property  
3 interest into the land of white owners -- okay? -  
4 - white landowners.

5           And as such, the exclusions that have  
6 been present have happened to Africans -- okay? -  
7 - descendants of African slaves -- I mean,  
8 descendants of Africa. All right? And the slave  
9 trade was a vicious cycle, all right? It  
10 prohibited our descendants from actually  
11 obtaining land. So, the Constitution itself was a  
12 document that was written with a property  
13 interest, not for African interests.

14           As such, there cannot be a violation of  
15 the United States Constitution if black people,  
16 African people, was not actually considered a  
17 person. We know this by the Three-Fifths  
18 Compromise.

19           (Applause)

20           DR. AMY JENKINS: We were not considered  
21 a person, a full person. So, to not be considered  
22 as a full person would not make us in violation

1 of the United States Constitution for a number of  
2 reasons. 1) The Constitution was written for  
3 white interests and property interests. Black  
4 people had no interests, okay? We were excluded  
5 because we were chattel, we were property, we  
6 were not a valid person, we were not a full  
7 person. Again, the example is the 3/5 of a  
8 person.

9           So, therefore, under that argument, we  
10 can say that we were not considered as a valid  
11 person in the United States Constitution that was  
12 afforded the protections under the United States  
13 Constitution. So, as such, we want the afforded  
14 availability of what the Constitution offers. At  
15 this point, we cannot say that we violate the  
16 Constitution, because it was never written for  
17 us.

18           So, what we're asking for, that the D.C.  
19 Recovery Act is very important for us to get --  
20 okay? -- because what it does is -- We're talking  
21 about redressability, repairing an injury that  
22 has been committed, repairing an injury that does

1 not afford us the protections under the United  
2 States Constitution. So, what we're asking for is  
3 that you make restitution. The D.C. Recovery Act  
4 provides restitution. It repairs the injuries for  
5 the lack of consideration for us to have an  
6 interest in that property. So, what we're asking:  
7 to be identified as a full person, entitled to  
8 what our white counterparts have been entitled  
9 to, which is the right to own land that has not  
10 been passed on to the living descendants of  
11 African slaves.

12 (Off-mic speaking)

13 DR. AMY JENKINS: So, the D.C. Recovery  
14 Act completes us. This makes us whole.

15 We have inequitable -- We want equity,  
16 and as you know, equity is fairness. And with the  
17 -- with the state that the Constitution was  
18 written, it didn't provide equity. It provided a  
19 substantial division between white and black. It  
20 provided a substantial division between property  
21 interests. And what we're asking for is that we  
22 make that whole, we make it equitable and justice

1 and provide restitution -- all right? -- or what  
2 we would call reparations for the injuries and  
3 the occurrences that have been -- and the -- the  
4 injustice that has been committed against  
5 Africans in this country. We have a right to own  
6 land. We have a right to property. We have a  
7 right to some of the same pursuits of happiness  
8 as the Constitution was designed. Thank you.

9 (Applause)

10 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Thank you.

11 MALE SPEAKER: Encore.

12 (Off-mic speaking)

13 DR. ROUSSAN ETIENNE, JR.: First of all,  
14 it's a honor to be here. I'm going to give honor  
15 where honor is due, to my Lord and Savior, Jesus  
16 Christ. I want to give honor for all the people  
17 that came out that has a ear to hear, because a  
18 lot of times, people don't have the ear, and they  
19 don't show up. This proves that this is something  
20 that's dear to everybody's heart, and ...

21 John Cheeks called me. I'm Dr. Roussan  
22 Etienne, Jr. Some call me Rou, some call me

1 Chaplain Rou, some call me Coach Rou. I'm just  
2 Rou, everybody. John reached out to me, as a  
3 African Haitian American. My dad was a lawyer.  
4 I'm from Jacmal, Haiti. I reside in Prince  
5 George's County. And he sat with me. What caught  
6 my attention: a strong black man. Tears came out  
7 his eyes, and he said, "My ancestors have spoke  
8 to me, and I have to do this for His people."

9           For me, as a man of faith, the last few  
10 days, Holy Spirit -- we men of faith, Holy Spirit  
11 said, "I'm going to give you nine pages," but for  
12 the sake of time, I'm not going to be able to  
13 share all nine, but if you will allow it put in  
14 your records?

15           MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Sure.

16           DR. ROUSSAN ETIENNE, JR.: But I will go  
17 over one page. But I want to share a brief story.  
18 My dad, who was a lawyer -- I only met my dad  
19 seven times in my lifetime. When I did meet him,  
20 one thing he talked about was the "neg mawon."  
21 The neg mawon you would call -- in our time, we'd  
22 call them the field negros. In Africa, we called

1 them the bushmen. But here, in America, is where  
2 your African -- your -- your intelligent people -  
3 - We are an intelligent people. But what's been  
4 happening is, we have not been able to present  
5 ourselves as such. And what we need in this time  
6 and this season is for your Board -- is for --

7 I noticed you did not read what Mr.  
8 Racine -- He's a fellow Haitian American such as  
9 I am. And for the record, I want to let him know,  
10 I'm very disappointed, as another African Haitian  
11 American, that he's not taking the time out to  
12 talk to Mr. Cheeks to be able to even find out  
13 what this D.C. Recovery Act is all about. Doesn't  
14 affect the taxpayers. It's all about tariffs,  
15 where foreign countries, already -- such as  
16 France -- they already want to be a part. People  
17 worldwide understand the contributions that the  
18 African Haitian American --

19 One thing he said that grabbed my  
20 attention -- He didn't just say "African," but he  
21 said "Haitian." And for those of you that don't  
22 know your history -- And I don't want to say it



1 in a condescending way, but it's important that  
2 we know that Haiti was very -- Thank you so much.  
3 Haiti was very instrumental when you're speaking  
4 of equity, as you shared.

5           There's three "E's" in my last name. I  
6 was destined to be here today. Etienne:  
7 education, economics, and equity. Equity is very  
8 important, but the educating of our people and  
9 putting this where the people are informed and  
10 the people can understand what it's really about  
11 -- He actually put it in such a way that a 3-  
12 year-old can understand it.

13           (Off-mic speaking)

14           DR. ROUSSAN ETIENNE, JR.: If you've not  
15 read it, I challenge you, Board Members, Chair:  
16 Please take time to read it. You know bills go by  
17 all day, thousands -- People don't never read  
18 them. They just pass them on, sign off,  
19 especially when it's stuff for blacks --

20           (Off-mic speaking)

21           DR. ROUSSAN ETIENNE, JR.: -- African  
22 Americans. It don't even get through the red

1 tape. It's time for change.

2           But I want to share -- Like he said, his  
3 ancestors spoke to me. Never think the Holy  
4 Spirit -- Holy Spirit talk to me, and I'm not a  
5 writer, y'all, but He gave me nine pages. But I'm  
6 going to wrap it up in one minute.

7           Is justice found in the dealings among  
8 the inhabitants of the earth? And does equity  
9 reside in the decrees? And people rise in power  
10 over another to oppress, and the contention and  
11 strife are perpetual inheritance to the children  
12 of the oppressor, the children after them, and  
13 yet I shape each heart alike, and with individual  
14 form and intacity (phonetic), I have proposed for  
15 honor or dishonor. It is my pleasure to designate  
16 who can incite the pattern and reach my  
17 compassion from generation to generation. Yet, it  
18 is not mercy for the sake of mercy, nor truth for  
19 the truth alone, neither justice for the sake of  
20 justice, but for the glory of my holy name  
21 exalted.

22           Whoever -- However, the sons of the

1 afflicted have asked: Will recompense come to us?  
2 Who will avenge the age of the old cause? Who  
3 will avenge our age and our old cause? Who will  
4 avenge our cause?

5           And I really believe in change. Now is  
6 the time for change. Now is the time for the  
7 Recovery Act, and I just ask in -- in -- in  
8 grace, justice, and love that you all really  
9 consider this act. It will bring healing, it will  
10 bring restoration, to all the people of America,  
11 especially our African Haitian Americans. Thank  
12 you.

13           MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Thank you.

14           (Applause)

15           MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Thank you. We're  
16 going to have three more.

17           (Off-mic speaking)

18           MALE SPEAKER: Can I submit this?

19           MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Okay.

20           DR. ROUSSAN ETIENNE, JR.: Do -- do the  
21 Board members have any questions?

22           MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Any questions? I

1 don't -- I don't have any questions. Go ahead.

2 MS. DIONNA LEWIS: I -- I do, actually.  
3 Does -- do any of those who've presented thus far  
4 have any comments? I think you mentioned a little  
5 bit about the United States Constitution, but in  
6 terms of the challenges to the legality, the --  
7 the hindrances based -- because of the tariffs  
8 issue, the D.C. Home Rule Act issue with regards  
9 to not being able to appropriate funds -- How do  
10 we get around these legal hurdles to make this a  
11 proper subject matter?

12 DR. ROUSSAN ETIENNE, JR.: I would leave  
13 that up to legal counsel.

14 MS. DIONNA LEWIS: Okay.

15 DR. ROUSSAN ETIENNE, JR.: That's their  
16 area, and -- or -- or John Cheeks. We do have an  
17 answer for that, but --

18 MS. DIONNA LEWIS: Okay.

19 (Off-the-record discussion)

20 MR. KENNETH MCGHIE: Sharriff Shari?  
21 Sharriff? Valerie Blackmon?

22 MALE SPEAKER: Valerie Blackmon?

1 MR. KENNETH MCGHIE: Taalib Saber? Are  
2 you Taalib?

3 MR. SHARRIFF SHARI: No, I'm Sharriff.

4 MR. KENNETH MCGHIE: Okay. And you're Ms.  
5 Blackmon?

6 MS. VALERIE BLACKMON: Yes.

7 MR. KENNETH MCGHIE: All right, then.  
8 Mark Anthony Jones?

9 MALE SPEAKER: Jones, Sr.?

10 MALE SPEAKER: Yes, that's you.

11 MALE SPEAKER: Yes.

12 MR. KENNETH MCGHIE: Okay. So, it should  
13 be Johnson?

14 MR. MARK ANTHONY JOHNSON, SR.: Yes, sir,  
15 Johnson, Sr.

16 MR. KENNETH MCGHIE: Senior, okay.

17 MR. MARK ANTHONY JOHNSON, SR.: Yes, sir.  
18 Thank you.

19 (Off-mic speaking)

20 MR. KENNETH MCGHIE: Could all of you  
21 begin by just stating your full name and address  
22 for the records, beginning with Sharriff?

1 MR. SHARRIFF SHARI: Yeah, my name is  
2 Sharriff Shari, and my address is 526 Brumerham  
3 (phonetic) Court, NW, Washington, D.C.

4 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Thank you.

5 MR. MARK ANTHONY JOHNSON, SR.: Mark  
6 Anthony Johnson, Sr., 6507 Farmer Dr., fort  
7 Washington, Maryland, 20744-1017. Thank you.

8 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Thank you, sir.

9 MS. VALERIE BLACKMON: Valerie Blackmon,  
10 aka Nia 2x (phonetic), 1334 Talbert Terrace, SE,  
11 Washington, D.C.

12 MALE SPEAKER: Okay, thank you for  
13 coming.

14 MALE SPEAKER: (Off-mic speaking). Sir?  
15 (Off-mic speaking)

16 MR. SHARRIFF SHARI: My name is Sharriff  
17 Shari, and I'm here on behalf of --

18 (Coughing)

19 MR. SHARRIFF SHARI: -- I'm the -- I'm  
20 the president of Shari Care (phonetic). We speak  
21 for those who cannot speak for themselves. I'm  
22 here to speak on behalf of my ancestors.

1 All right. I do a -- I do a dramatization  
2 of a slave, and it came to me in a dream. My co-  
3 host, Kimett (phonetic), we went to the new  
4 museum. This is our history. It tells you, based  
5 on the Constitution, our history has been hidden  
6 for many, many years. In 2016, they decide to  
7 give us a new museum on the National Mall of  
8 Washington, D.C., and all these years, I didn't  
9 know that we were still enslaved in 1965 -- I was  
10 born in 1960 -- based on -- based on the history  
11 and the Constitutional writing, that we, African  
12 American descendants of slaves -- we were still  
13 slaves in 1965.

14 And so, today, each and every one of you  
15 that sits on this board, you have some form of  
16 African descendent, and we are asking you to not  
17 only pass this bill and this initiative, but you  
18 also support it. We are asking you to reach back  
19 to your ancestry. Each and every one of you have  
20 those in your home.

21 I had an opportunity to meet Dred Scott  
22 great-great granddaughter, and I also had a

1 opportunity to meet the chief justice grandson --  
2 great-great -- I mean, nephew, great-great  
3 nephew. And it's amazing to me that the  
4 Constitution, at that time, in 1950 -- I mean, in  
5 1856 or 1853 or something like that, stated we  
6 was 3/5 of a man, and that our ancestor, Brother  
7 Scott, was -- was said that he was -- be inferior  
8 to white people.

9           And with that decision, that decision  
10 also trickled down into the country, where each  
11 and every person of my color was denied rights,  
12 and those rules and laws that you have there has  
13 been the perpetuation of that decision. It's --  
14 it's a form of covering: We'll, we're going to  
15 put this in place to keep you from --

16           That's what they did with -- with -- in  
17 1964, Bill of Rights. You know, we had to fight  
18 for those rights. Brother Martin Luther King and  
19 Brother Malcolm X and many others before them --  
20 only thing they was asking for was for us to be  
21 treated as a human being, and here today, 2017,  
22 we're still asking for the same thing. We're



1 asking for an equal share of the pie, and there's  
2 117 nations feel the same way that I feel. We  
3 spoke at the United Nations, saying that the  
4 United States owe the African descendants  
5 reparations. And whatever those reparations may  
6 be is not just money. Let's understand that  
7 clearly. It's just not money, not money. It also  
8 is --

9 MALE SPEAKER: That's right.

10 MR. SHARRIFF SHARI: -- medicine. It also  
11 opportunity -- All these construction sites, not  
12 one of those construction sites are ran by a  
13 black person, owned by a black person, in the  
14 Washington, D.C., area.

15 (Off-mic speaking)

16 MR. SHARRIFF SHARI: That's amazing to  
17 me. How can this country evolve after 2, 300  
18 years, and black folks don't have anything of  
19 value? We don't have any Fortune 500 companies  
20 (off-mic speaking) on the stock market. Not one  
21 of yous can sit on this board and tell me not one  
22 of them.

1           It's amazing to me that we have been here  
2 just as long as our adversaries --

3           (Off-mic speaking)

4           MR. SHARRIFF SHARI: -- longer, and we  
5 have nothing. We don't have any banks. We don't  
6 own a bank. We have one bank -- one or two banks  
7 in -- in major cities, one or two. We've got  
8 Chevy Chase. Look at Bank of America. Look at  
9 Wells Fargo. They all over the country. You can't  
10 go to New York and find a bank.

11           It's unfortunate black folks still have  
12 to ask for -- for these things. We're asking for  
13 a fair share at the table, without strings being  
14 attached, without blindfolds.

15           What you have to do is go and look at  
16 that. Look at the African American Museum, and  
17 you will see that we have been denied. We have  
18 been denied our fair share here in America, when  
19 there's 117 nations say that they owe us that,  
20 and I believe that each and every one of has the  
21 right to fight for that. And Brother Karl Racine  
22 -- He's an insult to his people and to -- to the

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1 people of the District of Columbia.

2 (Off-mic speaking)

3 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Thank you.

4 (Applause)

5 MR. SHARRIFF SHARI: I thank you.

6 (Off-mic speaking)

7 MALE SPEAKER: Mr. Johnson?

8 MR. MARK ANTHONY JOHNSON, SR.: Mark  
9 Anthony Johnson, Sr. I just want to first thank  
10 my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, for having me  
11 here. I want to also thank Rue.

12 (Off-mic speaking)

13 MR. MARK ANTHONY JOHNSON, SR.: Oh, I  
14 appreciate Rue for meeting him in one day, and  
15 the next day, he introduced me to this wonderful  
16 journey for recovery. I prepared a speech, but I  
17 thought it was going to be 2 minutes, so it'll  
18 give somebody some extra time. Let me read it for  
19 you.

20 MALE SPEAKER: Could y'all please speak  
21 louder so we can hear you back here?

22 MR. MARK ANTHONY JOHNSON, SR.:

1 Greetings. Because we have 2 minutes -- but now I  
2 see 5 -- to get our message across to this  
3 wonderful audience, I ensured I wrote this speech  
4 and timed myself so that I won't get embarrassed  
5 and get thrown off the mic. I was born in  
6 Washington, D.C., in 1963 and moved to Prince  
7 George's County, Maryland, in 1964. My purpose  
8 for being here is that recovery helped me best  
9 understand what actually put me to sleep, and I  
10 needed to awaken to recover.

11           Many of you know about the movie Hidden  
12 Figures. I want to tell you about a live hidden  
13 figure. Horace and Dickey Fish Restaurant -- most  
14 people are familiar with that hidden figure, but  
15 everyone enjoyed the fish but didn't meet the  
16 family who discovered the fish. Horace is my  
17 grandpa. His firstborn child is my mother. I  
18 share pictures of Horace and my family. J.J.  
19 Carryout on Georgia Avenue -- J.J. is my dad. I'm  
20 his firstborn biological child. He duplicated  
21 Grandpa' recipe. We all enjoyed eating the fish,  
22 but we didn't enjoy knowing how to fish.

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1           Our figure -- our future goal in the  
2 recovery is to help all Americans see the value  
3 of recovery. We as the people have to challenge,  
4 claim, and make words accountable when it comes  
5 out of a person's mouth, whether -- This is how  
6 things are measured, whether a person is right or  
7 wrong. Thank you so much, Ms. Catherine Johnson.  
8 Another Johnson is coming. Let me be the first to  
9 eat these words.

10           I have something to sell the government  
11 for one dollar and a penny. You all agree that a  
12 dollar and penny is affordable? Yes or no?

13           MALE SPEAKER: Yes.

14           MR. MARK ANTHONY JOHNSON, SR.: You can  
15 borrow a dollar and a penny if someone sees a  
16 return on their investment. I heard and read a  
17 national speech that quoted: A new national pride  
18 would stir up our soul, lift our sights, and heal  
19 our divisions. Mothers and children trapped in  
20 poverty. We will follow two simple rules: Buy  
21 American, hire American.

22           If you were asked a question, "Who said

1 that?" on a piece of paper, how many listeners  
2 would get that answer right or wrong? Curious? In  
3 the same speech, this individual quoted: It is  
4 time to remember that old wisdom our soldiers  
5 would never forget, that whether we are black or  
6 brown or white, we all bleed the same red blood.  
7 You will never be ignored again. Can you guess  
8 who now?

9           Okay, here is another quote: The  
10 forgotten men and women of our country will be  
11 forgotten no longer. Everyone is listening to you  
12 now. America want great schools for their  
13 children, safe neighborhoods for their families,  
14 and good jobs for themselves, but we are  
15 transferring power from Washington, D.C., and  
16 giving it back to you, the American people. What  
17 truly matters is not which party controls our  
18 government but whether our government is  
19 controlled by you. January 20, 2017 will be  
20 remembered as the day the people became the  
21 rulers of this nation. Questions? Provide email  
22 to get updates or best -- to email

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1 mooreenterprise (phonetic) at gmail.com. Subject:  
2 Horace and Dickey Follow-up. Thank you very much.

3 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Thank you.

4 (Off-mic speaking)

5 (Applause)

6 MR. MARK ANTHONY JOHNSON, SR.: I've got  
7 a copy of the speech for y'all.

8 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Okay, great. Thank  
9 you.

10 MR. MARK ANTHONY JOHNSON, SR.: You're  
11 welcome, sir.

12 (Off-the-record discussion)

13 MR. KENNETH MCGHIE: Okay, ma'am?

14 MS. VALERIE BLACKMON: Good morning --

15 MALE SPEAKER: Morning.

16 MS. VALERIE BLACKMON: -- to all the  
17 members of the Board. Good morning to my brothers  
18 and sisters, my leaders, my teachers, my  
19 comrades. Again, my name is -- Or I'm known as  
20 Nia 2x, and I'm here to support the D.C. Recovery  
21 Act, because it is an act that begins to -- to  
22 deal with the process of a much overdue, needed

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1 healing of a people that have been 99.999  
2 completely destroyed from a system that has been  
3 well protected, and that system is racism, white  
4 supremacy.

5           It is a system that addresses this  
6 problem, because the Recovery Act is a solution.  
7 It is a solution at the end of the problem. It's  
8 a beginning solution, but the -- you have to look  
9 at the problem from 5 centuries being a crime.  
10 When you address crime 5 centuries ago and  
11 address crime today, a crime is a crime is a  
12 crime. Kidnapping innocent black men, women, and  
13 children is a crime.

14           MALE SPEAKER: Yes.

15           MS. VALERIE BLACKMON: And we were -- Our  
16 ancestors were innocent, not only kidnapped but  
17 robbed, raped, tortured, barbaric treatment on a  
18 daily basis, whether in chattel slavery, whether  
19 in segregation or in the Jim Crow era, even  
20 today, where we look at the police brutality,  
21 nationally, here, even in the District of  
22 Columbia. Some of the statements that were made



1 pertaining to employment, pertaining to the  
2 judicial system -- The problem that started 5  
3 centuries ago has perpetuated today, to lead us  
4 to begin to look at a healing through the D.C.  
5 Recovery Act for the District of Columbia  
6 citizens that are descendants of slaves.

7           In the beginning, there was no redress.  
8 The Church couldn't help the past. The government  
9 -- There -- there was nothing like this that you  
10 could begin the process to heal, to look at, and  
11 to have the D.C. Recovery Act placed on the  
12 ballot so the citizens who are able to look at it  
13 more serious. The damage, the crimes --

14           There is not any civil-minded personal  
15 country that looks at crimes and just completely  
16 ignore the crime. When 9-1-1 hit, all of the  
17 citizens of the world, especially here in  
18 America, noted that to be a crime and justifiably  
19 looked for President Bush, at the time, to do  
20 something in accordance to what had happened to  
21 innocent men, women, and children in the Pentagon  
22 and, of course, in New York City.

1           So, black people over 5 centuries of a  
2 well-documented crimes against humanity, crimes  
3 against civilized living. The D.C. Recovery Act  
4 begins the process to help solve, compensate, and  
5 begin to opens up the dialogue to begin to look  
6 at how to begin to solve the crimes.

7           As someone had mentioned, money is not  
8 alone. As Dr. Amy mentioned, land is part of the  
9 compensation. It has to get to a process -- We  
10 have to get to a process with the D.C. Recovery  
11 Act so that citizens can engage in this civil  
12 manner, because, again, in the past, you could  
13 not sit at a church, a government, a court. You  
14 were denied to even bring up the issue. So, this  
15 day and this act begins a civil approach to what  
16 has to be talked about and addressed in a civil  
17 manner by putting it on the ballot in D.C.,  
18 because we are really best to be civilized when  
19 you look at what has happened to a people who  
20 didn't have the affordability to have these  
21 serious, barbaric treatments of a innocent black  
22 man, woman, and child to be addressed.

1           So, please consider putting it on the  
2 ballot in the approach to something civilized.  
3 And I thank you for your time.

4           MALE SPEAKER: Thank you.

5           (Applause)

6           (Off-mic speaking)

7           MALE SPEAKER: Thank you.

8           MR. KENNETH MCGHIE: Do -- do the Board  
9 members have any questions of this panel?

10          MS. DIONNA LEWIS: No.

11          MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: No, no I don't.  
12 Thank you. Thank you very much.

13          MALE SPEAKER: Thank you.

14          MS. VALERIE BLACKMON: Thank you.

15          MALE SPEAKER: Thank you.

16          MR. KENNETH MCGHIE: Okay. Next panel  
17 will be Gerald Owens, Iman Akbar.

18          (Off-mic speaking)

19          MALE SPEAKER: Thank you, good morning.

20          MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Thank you. Good  
21 morning.

22          MR. KENNETH MCGHIE: And could you please

1 state your full name and address for the record,  
2 beginning with you, sir?

3 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Do we have one  
4 more?

5 MR. KENNETH MCGHIE: No.

6 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: No? This is it?

7 MR. KENNETH MCGHIE: No.

8 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Okay. Sorry.

9 MR. GERALD OWENS: Yes, my name is Gerald  
10 L. Owens, and my address is 511 Southwest, 1413  
11 Half Street SW.

12 MR. IMAN AKBAR: Yes, sir. My name is  
13 Iman Akbar Abdul-Karim Bilal. I am the National  
14 Minister of Justice, and I live at 1814 29th  
15 Street in Southeast Washington.

16 MR. KENNETH MCGHIE: Sir.

17 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Thank you.

18 MR. KENNETH MCGHIE: Okay, Mr. Owens?

19 MR. GERALD OWENS: Yes. I believe it was  
20 Shakespeare that said: What is in a name? A good  
21 name to man or woman, dear my lord, is the  
22 intimate jewel of one's soul. He who steals my

1 purse steals trash. 'Tis something, nothing.  
2 'Twas mine, 'tis his, have been the slave of  
3 thousands. But he that -- that filches from me my  
4 good name robs that which enriches him not but  
5 makes me poor indeed.

6           And we look at the D.C. Recovery Act, and  
7 we see that as more than just a reparation  
8 initiative. We see that it gives us our identity.  
9 For the first time, the original victims of  
10 identity theft have an opportunity to find out  
11 who they are.

12           MALE SPEAKER: That's right.

13           MR. GERALD OWENS: You are powerless when  
14 you don't know who you are.

15           (Off-mic speaking)

16           MR. GERALD OWENS: This is why the  
17 Kennedys taught him from a young age: You're a  
18 Kennedy. This is what's expected of you. We've  
19 been denied that as a people. We -- And, Mr.  
20 Racine, I read your rejection, and basically,  
21 sir, I've -- I'm offended and --

22           MALE SPEAKER: Disappointed, very

1 disappointed.

2 MR. GERALD OWENS: -- and -- and --  
3 Disappointed is the word, you know?

4 MALE SPEAKER: Very disappointed.

5 MR. GERALD OWENS: The thing that I say  
6 is, you know, how can a elected official attempt  
7 to usurp the democratic process by attempting to  
8 disavow and disallow valid and sound solutions  
9 before they are weighed and measured on their own  
10 merit --

11 FEMALE SPEAKER: That's right.

12 MR. GERALD OWENS: -- by the weight of  
13 the natural tribunal, including the stewards of  
14 the injured, damaged, and afflicted citizens? We  
15 know for sure that present-day remedies have been  
16 and continue to be absolute and complete failures  
17 to address centuries of unjust enrichment based  
18 on caste, class, and privilege. If this act was  
19 rejected by the populace, the proposer and all  
20 those in favor of it could live with the  
21 consequences, but to have the servant of the  
22 people --

1 MALE SPEAKER: The servant.

2 MR. GERALD OWENS: -- attempt to advance  
3 a baseless encroachment of due process hints at a  
4 fascist --

5 (Off-mic speaking)

6 MR. GERALD OWENS: -- mindset, unworthy  
7 to represent --

8 FEMALE SPEAKER: Mm-hmm. Come on.

9 MR. GERALD OWENS: -- the residents of  
10 Washington, D.C.

11 MALE SPEAKER: Indeed.

12 MALE SPEAKER: That's right.

13 FEMALE SPEAKER: All right.

14 MR. GERALD OWENS: From the inception of  
15 this act, its drafters asked for suggestions in  
16 order to tweak any portions of the bill thought  
17 to be ill conceived. Very few responses were  
18 advanced, but for a practitioner of law to  
19 attempt to toss the baby out with the bathwater,  
20 while offering no valid critique of its virtues,  
21 suggests agendas beyond the insightful, bordering  
22 on the obscene.

1 FEMALE SPEAKER: That's right.

2 MR. GERALD OWENS: And I would just --  
3 When we've gone around with Mr. Cheeks and we've  
4 talked to the public, we talk about the D.C.  
5 Recovery Act as being that rising tide that lifts  
6 our bones. Not only will it make us whole and  
7 restore our dignity to us, as descendants of  
8 African American slaves, but it also gives our  
9 white brothers and sisters the opportunity, for  
10 the first time, to deal with a real human being.

11 MALE SPEAKER: That's right.

12 MR. GERALD OWENS: Because they haven't  
13 seen us yet.

14 (Off-mic speaking)

15 MR. GERALD OWENS: They don't know who we  
16 are, because we don't know who we are.

17 MALE SPEAKER: That's right.

18 MR. GERALD OWENS: We want them -- We can  
19 be great here in America, but we've got to come  
20 together. This affords us -- thank you, sir --  
21 the opportunity to create that unity. That unity,  
22 I suggest, is what America has been crying for,



1 for 460 years. Mr. Cheeks toiled day and night,  
2 going through these injuries, in tears, breaking  
3 down, doing the research, seeing what -- going  
4 through the research of what the past has done to  
5 us and what this proposal has the opportunity to  
6 address in an equitable way.

7 Let's use our intelligence, and let's do  
8 the right thing and give the people of D.C. the  
9 opportunity to be the leaders. I'm not from D.C.  
10 I've been here 9 years, from Detroit and Toledo.

11 FEMALE SPEAKER: Yes.

12 MR. GERALD OWENS: But I -- I'm here, and  
13 I want this -- this great city to lead the  
14 nation, because you are the nation's leaders in  
15 Washington, D.C.

16 FEMALE SPEAKER: Absolutely.

17 MALE SPEAKER: Indeed.

18 MALE SPEAKER: Thank you.

19 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Thank you.

20 (Applause)

21 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Thank you.

22 MR. IMAN AKBAR: Thank you, D.C. Board of

1 Elections. We are happy to be here with you this  
2 morning in support of the Recovery Act, what I've  
3 reviewed to be a -- a brilliant work of, well,  
4 social political justice for the people. I am a  
5 student of Dr. Thurgood Marshall. I did have  
6 opportunity to work for him. Again, a student  
7 that comes out of the studies of Dr. Benjamin  
8 Banneker at -- the first black engineer and the  
9 Honorable Marion S. Barry. I built for you what  
10 you saw at 4th and Rhode Island there about 1980,  
11 a shopping center that contained a Zayres, and  
12 today a young man that's here -- Would -- Could  
13 you stand, Mr. Deandre (phonetic)? These are the  
14 clothes coming out of that same store. It's a  
15 Forman Mills today.

16           And we are in strong support and we are  
17 appealing to you, at the D.C. Board of Elections,  
18 to place on the ballot the Recovery Act, because  
19 we have to ask the question: How -- how would we  
20 respond to the Honorable Dr. Thurgood Marshall  
21 and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who changed the  
22 law through their actions and their interactions

1 with the public and with the political system? We  
2 have to ask: How do we look in the eyes of the  
3 Honorable Dr. Frederick Douglass, who said to  
4 organize against intolerance, to draw in with the  
5 peacemaker and go against the warmonger? He asked  
6 us to go against intolerance, but, again, he  
7 said: Organize against the opposition those who  
8 would oppose this. Dr. King and the blood of  
9 Malcolm X is on the bills and said that we would  
10 have a decent job, a -- a decent opportunity,  
11 perhaps even a decent car to drive in, but again,  
12 a decent place to park that car in front of.

13           And we want to appeal to you to look at  
14 the fine print in there. There's no devil hiding  
15 in the details of the Recovery Act, sir and  
16 ma'am, this morning. And we want to talk to you,  
17 again, about John Conyers, who worked on this and  
18 talked about reparations.

19           FEMALE SPEAKER: Yes.

20           MR. IMAN AKBAR: But this brings a  
21 facelift not only to reparations but to the  
22 Constitution itself, if you would enact it and

1 put a model here in D.C., because the world and  
2 other major cities are seeing: What is  
3 Washington, D.C., going to do?

4           Honorable Charlene Drew Jarvis says, for  
5 her money, this is still Chocolate City. We want  
6 to look around at this thing and take a look at,  
7 what do we have under Muriel Bowser? She told me  
8 in the -- in the campaign that she would support  
9 a black agenda if we would produce one, and I  
10 think most of this room is here in support of the  
11 Recovery Act, and we have been able to produce a  
12 black agenda.

13           And that's why we brought it to your  
14 board, in -- in the sight of justice and fairness  
15 to all of the parties involved, because my  
16 predecessor -- As you see, Thurgood Marshall came  
17 under Dr. Charles Hamilton Houston with the --  
18 for who would deny the first black attorney to  
19 try the first law? I witnessed Dr. Malik Zulu  
20 Shabazz to come to that same board, and the same  
21 opportunity to try a federal case and move his  
22 law up to another level.

1           And this is what I say to you in the  
2 spirit of Dr. Benjamin Banneker, who was a  
3 surveying engineer, which is some of the work  
4 that I do, and produced in the Denny's a facelift  
5 on Trinidad. When we built that store there, we  
6 produced 300 jobs in the black community. I never  
7 knew who worked for Denny's, but we found we  
8 produce 100 jobs in the black community when  
9 there is a Denny's Restaurant on the corner, and  
10 we're now building a high-rise, ready in action,  
11 at 16th and Franklin and Rhode Island, NE, and we  
12 are again appealing to you to see now: What can  
13 we do to now have as -- as citizens -- as a  
14 citizen working for the Recovery Act, we want to  
15 go in the spirit of Honorable Dr. Adam Clayton  
16 Powell, who was himself, really, the first black  
17 Congressman himself and see what -- He said: But  
18 we want what you have. We want to maintain our  
19 integrity.

20           FEMALE SPEAKER: Right.

21           MR. IMAN AKBAR: We want our self-  
22 respect. Are we asking too much? Is anyone here

1 against a black contractor, a black man, woman,  
2 and child having that decent job and then  
3 guarantee what's calls guaranteed minority set  
4 aside? It's not talking about a -- a -- a woman  
5 coming out of Indonesia or a man that walks out  
6 of Norway and say we have minorities on the job.

7 (Off-mic speaking)

8 (Simultaneous speaking)

9 MR. IMAN AKBAR: But it initiates with  
10 the law what -- power to the people. There was a  
11 black contractor there that needed a job that was  
12 denied justice in hiring, and he lost his life  
13 trying to get black men benefits in the jobs in  
14 Memphis on a garbage truck -- you understand --  
15 to get a black woman a seat on that bus and to  
16 guarantee a black man would be able to drive that  
17 bus.

18 And in that systematic discrimination, we  
19 have to, again, go against the design what Dr.  
20 Frederick Douglass told us, and he told you,  
21 black woman, the most important thing that I  
22 could tell you, out of all that I could tell you,

1 is that you would organize yourself against your  
2 exclusion, black man, woman, and child, from your  
3 participation in your own government. I thank you  
4 for sharing the time. Please support the Recovery  
5 Act. Thank you. I (off-mic speaking).

6 (Applause)

7 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Thank you. Thank  
8 you, both. Any -- any questions?

9 MR. KENNETH MCGHIE: Any questions of  
10 this panel?

11 MS. DIONNA LEWIS: No, thank you.

12 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: No, thank you very  
13 much.

14 MR. IMAN AKBAR: Okay, thank you. Thank  
15 you so much for your time, Board of Elections.

16 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Thank you.

17 (Off-mic speaking)

18 MR. KENNETH MCGHIE: Okay, Mr. Cheeks,  
19 you and your -- Mr. Cheeks? And your counsel?

20 (Off-mic speaking)

21 MR. KENNETH MCGHIE: You will have the  
22 last word.

1 MR. JOHN CHEEKS: Wow.

2 (Laughter)

3 MR. JOHN CHEEKS: I guess the best is not  
4 the last.

5 (Off-mic speaking)

6 MR. JOHN CHEEKS: Good morning to you  
7 all. My name is John Cheeks. I'm the Executive  
8 Director of USCRIA, known as United States  
9 Citizens Recovery Initiative Alliance. Our  
10 affiliate, D.C. Recovery Act, our baby, the  
11 prize, is what we are proposing to you to cure  
12 known injuries to living descendants of American  
13 slaves, who are of Haitian descent and African  
14 American descent.

15 Haiti played a -- a very serious role in  
16 slavery in this country, the French channel that  
17 transferred slaves from Haiti to the southern  
18 coast of this country, for many of you who don't  
19 know that. Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi,  
20 Alabama, Georgia -- all of them have Haitian  
21 lineage of slaves today. And, of course, the  
22 African -- the Atlantic slave trade coast came

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1 from Africa to the southeastern and northeastern  
2 parts of this country.

3 This initiative act does not violate  
4 anything on that board, such as the D.C. Home  
5 Rule Act, such as -- It won't even violate the --  
6 It -- it won't even amend the Home Rule Act. It  
7 will not appropriate funds from the District.

8 MALE SPEAKER: At all.

9 (Off-mic speaking)

10 MR. JOHN CHEEKS: At all. Taxpayers will  
11 not pay one penny for this.

12 (Off-mic speaking)

13 MR. JOHN CHEEKS: But the actors --  
14 criminal, known, and some who are still hiding,  
15 unknown -- will have to pay into a IGO trust fund  
16 or a NGO trust fund, which our elected council  
17 members will not control, but they will oversee.

18 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: What does IGO and  
19 NGO stand for?

20 MR. JOHN CHEEKS: IGO is international  
21 non-government organization. It will be a private  
22 corporation dispersing payments to our people --

1 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Mm-hmm.

2 MR. JOHN CHEEKS: -- who reside in the  
3 District and vote in the District of Columbia,  
4 pending that they pass a test, a DNA and a  
5 genetics numerical test, and you have to be --  
6 Right now, the -- the -- the -- the law is set at  
7 40% of Haitian or -- or -- excuse me, West Indian  
8 or African American blood. We have to look at  
9 everything, of how the interracial marriages and  
10 -- and unions have been taking place. We're --  
11 we're going to have to lower that, readjust it to  
12 35%. It was 40%, but we have to readjust it to  
13 35, with a conscious of the ones who are still  
14 there and may not receive but are in need.

15 MS. DIONNA LEWIS: Mr. Cheeks --

16 MR. JOHN CHEEKS: To --

17 MS. DIONNA LEWIS: Mr. Cheeks, I'm sorry,  
18 you said 35%? What was that in reference to?

19 MR. JOHN CHEEKS: Singular or combination  
20 Haitian or African blood, West Indian or African  
21 bloodlines.

22 MS. DIONNA LEWIS: So, that's the amount

1 your --

2 MR. JOHN CHEEKS: That's the amount your  
3 DNA should register at --

4 MS. DIONNA LEWIS: Okay.

5 MR. JOHN CHEEKS: -- singular or  
6 combined, it doesn't matter.

7 (Off-mic speaking)

8 MR. JOHN CHEEKS: And, of course, you --  
9 you will -- you will be given a -- a notice that  
10 you have met the requirements to -- to file a  
11 claim under the Recovery Act.

12 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: So the -- so the  
13 IGO is the international, and -- and what is the  
14 -- And you said there was another?

15 (Off-mic speaking)

16 MR. JOHN CHEEKS: That the INGO  
17 corporation will be set by trustees from Haiti --

18 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Oh, it was INGO.

19 MR. JOHN CHEEKS: International non-  
20 government organization, a private trust  
21 corporation.

22 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Got it. Okay.

1           MR. JOHN CHEEKS: I believe you all would  
2 call them settlement agents and identity re-  
3 payers, okay? So, we -- they would be functioning  
4 under that, paying off benefits to people, as  
5 well as an NGO that's here locally in the  
6 District, and each ward will have its own  
7 chairman of that ward to make sure that money  
8 gets disbursed to the wards where --

9           MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Okay.

10          MR. JOHN CHEEKS: -- black Americans who  
11 are descendants of slaves live and vote. You have  
12 to have a voting precedence here in the District  
13 and living in order to qualify. In the District,  
14 we're only asking --

15          MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Now, I may have  
16 stopped you from going through your list, and I  
17 apologize if I did that.

18          MR. JOHN CHEEKS: Yes, you did, but it's  
19 okay.

20          MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Well, my apologies.

21          MR. JOHN CHEEKS: You're -- you're only  
22 asking -- We're only asking for a temporary act

1 to be administered here, temporary, 251 years.  
2 We're not asking for a perpetual act, forever,  
3 although some might argue that this is a  
4 perpetual agenda.

5 MALE SPEAKER: Yes.

6 MR. JOHN CHEEKS: But 251 years is what  
7 we are asking the District of Columbia to  
8 safeguard for us while we absorb and pay out and  
9 disperse benefits -- money, home ownership,  
10 business rights, judicial protections -- to our  
11 descendants of -- of American slaves. And I don't  
12 see where that should -- where that could be a  
13 problem for anyone.

14 And, also, looking forward at the  
15 Constitution, this document enhances the  
16 Constitution of America. This is a question of  
17 national security for this country. This is not a  
18 question of -- of -- of, well, give me the money  
19 and I still hate the country. Here's the money.  
20 You are totally embraced by the country. Forgive  
21 us. Forgive the acts. Let's move forward. That's  
22 what this initiative measure is all about. And

1 for anyone to try to spin it or skew it like it's  
2 going to violate the Constitution -- The  
3 Constitution of this country has violated us  
4 multiple times.

5 (Off-mic speaking)

6 MR. JOHN CHEEKS: From -- from -- Let's -  
7 - Let's -- Let's take it from its highest order:  
8 military service, government service --

9 (Off-mic speaking)

10 MR. JOHN CHEEKS: -- public service. So,  
11 we can't use that -- that -- that -- that -- that  
12 -- that description of non-interests to apply to  
13 this. This is it. Any elected official who is  
14 against this law -- excuse me, this initiative  
15 act will find him or herself not sitting on those  
16 seats down there. This is the wave of this  
17 country, from the President of the United States  
18 of America on down. He has a copy, too.

19 (Off-mic speaking)

20 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: It's on his desk.  
21 And trust me, he's not saying it does not have  
22 subject matter. He would never say that. For a

1 son of Haiti to say it doesn't have subject  
2 matter -- I find it appalling. Haiti fought for  
3 its independence from slavery.

4 (Off-mic speaking)

5 MR. JOHN CHEEKS: They fought, they died,  
6 they gave blood, and they ran the French out.  
7 That was a wonderful thing.

8 (Off-mic speaking)

9 MR. JOHN CHEEKS: This Recovery Act  
10 repairs our identity. This Recovery Act also  
11 gives settlement resolutions. It'll be mandatory  
12 that every black American who's a descendent of a  
13 slave in the District owns a home.

14 (Off-mic speaking)

15 MR. JOHN CHEEKS: Your credit score does  
16 not matter. Your credit score is the work of your  
17 ancestors.

18 (Off-mic speaking)

19 MR. JOHN CHEEKS: If you want to apply it  
20 to business, if you want to apply it to run for  
21 office -- Let's say you were born in the  
22 District, and you're living in California, and

1 you want to make a difference. Guess what? This  
2 Recovery Act will fund you to run for office in  
3 California. It's a holistic approach to a common  
4 and known injury. And excuse me if I've went  
5 over.

6 (Off-mic speaking)

7 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: No, you're fine.  
8 You're fine. Okay. Any -- I have a -- One of the  
9 things I -- I guess I have a question about, not  
10 with regard to the recipients, but what -- what -  
11 - what kind of -- of support have you had  
12 relative to ensuring that you've been able to  
13 meet the -- the requirements of the statute?

14 MR. JOHN CHEEKS: I've had several. I  
15 have a -- I have a lawsuit right now that's in  
16 court. Again --

17 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: I meant support  
18 relative to people in -- you know, lawyers and  
19 that kind of --

20 MR. JOHN CHEEKS: Oh, you're not speaking  
21 of financial.

22 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: No. No. No, I'm



1 saying --

2 MR. JOHN CHEEKS: Oh, you're speaking of  
3 -- of --

4 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: -- in terms -- in  
5 terms of -- just -- just -- No, I'm talking about  
6 in terms of -- of -- of legal support, just to  
7 ensure that the initiative meets the -- the  
8 minimum requirements of the law.

9 MR. JOHN CHEEKS: Well, we're -- we're  
10 currently looking -- reviewing this right now.

11 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Okay.

12 MR. JOHN CHEEKS: Of course, with this  
13 Recovery Act, it has so many different types of -  
14 - of -- of -- of injuries and vehicles that we  
15 can use to -- to -- to actually present to your -  
16 - your -- your -- your cabinet and your -- your  
17 Board of Electors here.

18 MALE SPEAKER: In all fairness, sir,  
19 we've -- we've only received the -- the -- the  
20 denial, maybe it was a week ago?

21 MR. JOHN CHEEKS: No, 3 days -- 3 or 4  
22 days ago.

1 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: From -- from the --  
2 the -- a -- a -- a copy of the document --

3 MR. JOHN CHEEKS: Yes, 3 --

4 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: -- (off-mic  
5 speaking)?

6 MR. JOHN CHEEKS: -- or 4 days ago. We  
7 just got it.

8 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Okay.

9 DR. ROUSSAN ETIENNE: And there's two  
10 copies. There's one legislature, and then there's  
11 one that's supposed to be --

12 MR. JOHN CHEEKS: From -- from your  
13 department and also from the Attorney General of  
14 D.C.'s department.

15 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Okay.

16 MR. JOHN CHEEKS: That was emailed to me,  
17 I think, maybe, March 30th, I believe, March  
18 31st.

19 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Okay.

20 MR. JOHN CHEEKS: That's when -- that's  
21 when I received it.

22 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Okay.

1 MS. DIONNA LEWIS: Actually, I have  
2 several questions. So, it sounds like you haven't  
3 yet really had the opportunity, from a legal  
4 standpoint or legal analysis standpoint, to  
5 really go through the various eight provisions  
6 that we have for the statutory requirements to  
7 make it a proper subject matter.

8 (Off-mic speaking)

9 MS. DIONNA LEWIS: Is that -- Is that --

10 (Off-mic speaking)

11 MS. DIONNA LEWIS: -- my understanding?

12 And is that what's actual?

13 MR. JOHN CHEEKS: The -- the only version  
14 I see that we would have to correct here, the  
15 only amount of this -- this act we would have to  
16 correct, is the legislative version. Right now,  
17 you may not like the way the text is written,  
18 okay? But the text can be reorganized and -- and  
19 reshaped, matter of fact, within the next 2 days.

20 (Off-mic speaking)

21 MS. DIONNA LEWIS: I -- I guess because  
22 my question -- And I'm actually a civil rights

1 lawyer by trade, and so --

2 MR. JOHN CHEEKS: Okay. Right.

3 MS. DIONNA LEWIS: -- you know, I'm  
4 actually sitting here looking at the various  
5 provisions, and the -- the things that stand out  
6 to me in -- in reading -- You know, our general  
7 counsel's position, as well as Mr. -- Attorney  
8 General Racine's position -- There are five  
9 provisions that I'd -- I'd be interested in  
10 hearing a little bit from you about and, you  
11 know, perhaps you need to supplement, regarding  
12 how there is no violation of those.

13 And so, just for your notes, that's one,  
14 which is, it's contrary to the terms of the Home  
15 Rule Act. Two seeks to amend the Home Rule Act.  
16 Three would appropriate funds. Four would violate  
17 the U.S. Constitution, and seven would unlawfully  
18 discriminate.

19 Now, I appreciate the spirit and the  
20 intent of this. I genuinely do, and I think, you  
21 know, I'm not the only one in this room or on  
22 this panel that does. But, you know, what -- what

1 needs to be understood is, from our perspective,  
2 we're pretty limited in what we can do here, and  
3 so we have to make sure that all the T's are  
4 dotted and all the -- all the I's are dotted and  
5 all the T's are crossed before we can actually  
6 make a determination to say it is or is not  
7 improper.

8           Now, if we were to say it's not improper,  
9 that certainly doesn't speak to the merits of the  
10 claim, by any means, and I just want everyone in  
11 this room to be aware of that and to know that we  
12 recognize that. But remember, we are very, very  
13 limited -- right? -- because as the chairman  
14 mentioned in the beginning of this, this isn't us  
15 looking at the merits of this claim, right? This  
16 is, really, us looking and assessing, through  
17 these eight provisions that we have to comply  
18 with in order to make the determination to put it  
19 on the ballot, are there proper provisions in  
20 place to -- to allow us to hurdle whatever  
21 potential obstacles that may come from either one  
22 of these sections. And I think the five that I

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1 mentioned to you are the ones that I think would  
2 be the most concerning.

3 MALE SPEAKER: Can you go over the five?

4 MS. DIONNA LEWIS: Absolutely. One is  
5 contrary to the terms of the Home Rule Act. Two  
6 seeks to amend the Home Rule Act. Three would  
7 appropriate funds. Four would violate the U.S.  
8 Constitution, and seven would unlawfully  
9 discriminate.

10 DR. ROUSSAN ETIENNE: May -- may I ask a  
11 very --

12 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Yes.

13 DR. ROUSSAN ETIENNE: -- transparent  
14 question real --

15 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Sure. Sure.

16 DR. ROUSSAN ETIENNE: -- quickly? Has  
17 everyone here read the Recovery Act?

18 MS. DIONNA LEWIS: Yes.

19 DR. ROUSSAN ETIENNE: In both forms?

20 MS. DIONNA LEWIS: When you say --

21 MR. JOHN CHEEKS: No, it's only one form.

22 MS. DIONNA LEWIS: Yeah.

1 (Off-mic speaking)

2 DR. ROUSSAN ETIENNE: Okay, and Mr.  
3 Racine read it, as well?

4 MS. DIONNA LEWIS: I can't --

5 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: I -- I don't know.

6 MS. DIONNA LEWIS: -- speak --

7 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: I would assume so.

8 DR. ROUSSAN ETIENNE: Can I ask that? Can  
9 we put that --

10 (Off-mic speaking)

11 DR. ROUSSAN ETIENNE: I -- I'd like to  
12 know if he --

13 MR. JOHN CHEEKS: We have to send a  
14 letter to him --

15 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Yes.

16 MR. JOHN CHEEKS: -- directly or contact  
17 his office.

18 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Let me -- let me --  
19 let me --

20 (Off-mic speaking)

21 DR. ROUSSAN ETIENNE: I mean, I want it  
22 on record that we're asking now. This is what

1 this is all about.

2 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Sure.

3 (Off-mic speaking)

4 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Let -- let me --  
5 let me --

6 (Off-mic speaking)

7 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Yeah. Let me --  
8 This is really impressive, I mean, one, that --  
9 that all of you would show up, and that there is  
10 a -- It's just an incredible spirit that you have  
11 focused on this -- on this issue. So -- And it's  
12 moving, to me, and -- and it's -- it's to, I'm  
13 sure, everybody here. I mean, it -- it -- it  
14 sends goosebumps through me.

15 (Off-mic speaking)

16 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: And so, as Dionna  
17 said, we -- we are -- you know, there are some  
18 restrictions that we have, but what I'd like to  
19 see happen is, I'd like for you to have a chance  
20 to put some energy and some focus into ensuring  
21 that your -- that the initiative meets the  
22 requirements of the law that give us an



1 opportunity to -- to -- to -- to make a -- to --  
2 to make a reasonable decision. But -- but you  
3 need a reasonable opportunity to --

4 (Off-mic speaking)

5 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: -- to try and  
6 understand what the law requires and to -- to --  
7 to even put your own legal opinion together  
8 relative to why you believe we should decide what  
9 we decide.

10 MALE SPEAKER: Yes, sir.

11 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: And so, I really  
12 don't want to make a decision on it at this  
13 point.

14 MALE SPEAKER: Yes, sir.

15 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: What I'd like to do  
16 is to give you guys a chance to take a look at  
17 Mr. Racine's opinion, take a look at the law, and  
18 come back with a legal opinion to us that will  
19 allow us to work with you relative to, you know,  
20 how best you might meet the requirements of the  
21 law. This is a -- I mean, so -- so I -- I really  
22 don't -- It is important to -- to -- to -- to me

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1 and to the other two Board members -- Mike Gill  
2 happens not to be here unless he's in the  
3 hallway. He said he'd be here late. But it is  
4 important to us, in -- in this role, to make sure  
5 that we give the citizens of the District of --  
6 of Columbia the opportunity to -- for their voice  
7 to be heard on not just elections but also  
8 initiatives.

9 MS. DIONNA LEWIS: Mm-hmm.

10 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: So, we would -- we  
11 really would -- would like for you to be able to  
12 meet the requirements of the law to give the  
13 citizens of the District of Columbia an -- an  
14 opportunity to be heard on the matter.

15 However, we do have to make sure that you  
16 meet the requirements of the law.

17 MALE SPEAKER: We -- we --

18 MALE SPEAKER: Excuse me. Excuse me.

19 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Okay, wait, wait.  
20 Please, let me -- let me --

21 (Off-mic speaking)

22 DR. ROUSSAN ETIENNE: We met that

1 requirement. Her instructions was, one, we  
2 already spoke in with that one once, so we need  
3 the clarity. We met that.

4 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Yeah. Thank you,  
5 but let -- let me --

6 (Off-mic speaking)

7 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Let me get with --  
8 with Mr. Cheeks here. So --

9 MR. JOHN CHEEKS: Chairman, I -- I  
10 respect your verbal opinion, but -- but we're  
11 past the believing stage. We know that the people  
12 of the District of Columbia need this initiative  
13 act, and we're not in violation of any --

14 MALE SPEAKER: That's correct.

15 MR. JOHN CHEEKS: -- four -- from one  
16 through four, we don't violate -- We're -- It's  
17 not contrary to the terms of the Home Rule Act.

18 MALE SPEAKER: That's correct.

19 MR. JOHN CHEEKS: Seeks to amend the Home  
20 Rule Act -- no.

21 (Off-mic speaking)

22 MR. JOHN CHEEKS: Will appropriate funds

1 -- no. Would violate the U.S. Constitution -- no.  
2 No. It does not violate the U.S. Constitution. It  
3 enhances the U.S. Constitution. Article 13,  
4 Article 14 -- We can go on and on and on.

5 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Mr. Cheeks, I'm not  
6 -- I'm -- I'm not -- I'm not -- I'm not arguing  
7 those points with you at this point. What I'm  
8 trying to do is give you an opportunity to give  
9 us a legal opinion --

10 MR. JOHN CHEEKS: Thank you. Absolutely.

11 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: -- that will  
12 support the things that you're saying. That's --  
13 that's all I'm trying to do. That's all I'm  
14 trying to do.

15 MR. JOHN CHEEKS: My -- my -- my posture  
16 is -- is one of protecting this act --

17 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: I appreciate that.

18 MR. JOHN CHEEKS: -- to deliver to the  
19 people. So, don't --

20 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Yeah. I mean, I'm  
21 trying to give you a gift here.

22 MR. JOHN CHEEKS: I -- I understand.

1 (Off-mic speaking)

2 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: I'm trying to give  
3 you a gift.

4 (Off-mic speaking)

5 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: If you don't want  
6 it, I'm --

7 (Off-mic speaking)

8 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Some -- some --  
9 Some -- I want to give you an opportunity --

10 (Off-mic speaking)

11 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: And I will, but I  
12 want to give you an opportunity to -- to put  
13 forth the reasons why, in legal opinion --

14 (Off-mic speaking)

15 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: -- why this  
16 initiative meets the requirements of the law.  
17 That's -- that's what I'm trying to do, to give  
18 you an -- an opportunity to actually do that. And  
19 so, we'll give you the -- the -- How much time do  
20 we need to give them?

21 FEMALE SPEAKER: Thirty days.

22 MALE SPEAKER: How much time do they

1 want?

2 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: I mean, we'll --  
3 Well, I mean, I'll give you 30 days. I'll -- I'll  
4 give you --

5 (Off-mic speaking)

6 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: So --

7 (Off-mic speaking)

8 MALE SPEAKER: Thank you, I appreciate  
9 what you're saying.

10 (Off-mic speaking)

11 MR. MALIK SHABAZZ: Let me say this.

12 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Yes, sir.

13 MR. MALIK SHABAZZ: Number one, Mr.  
14 Chairman, I appreciate the chance to respond and  
15 you giving us, basically, a continuance in the  
16 action. That is appreciated, number one. I have  
17 to confer with Mr. Cheeks.

18 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Okay.

19 MR. MALIK SHABAZZ: Because I would  
20 advise a little more than 30 days.

21 (Off-mic speaking)

22 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Okay.

1 (Off-mic speaking)

2 MR. MALIK SHABAZZ: Well, slow down for a  
3 second. Slow down. If it's 90, if it's right --  
4 We want to be in a position here to not only  
5 respond to Mr. Racine or respond to these very  
6 important questions -- because we want to win  
7 here. The goal here is for us to win.

8 (Off-mic speaking)

9 MR. MALIK SHABAZZ: I mean, great  
10 testimony, but we want to win, and we have a  
11 serious objective here. So, what I'm trying to  
12 figure out: Is there a chance here to amend the  
13 Recovery Act instead of just defending? I know  
14 you're asking us to legally defend what has been  
15 submitted.

16 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: The answer is --  
17 The answer is yes to both.

18 MR. MALIK SHABAZZ: Okay.

19 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: If you'd like -- I  
20 mean, that's -- that's one of the reasons why I'd  
21 like for you to -- to put together a legal  
22 opinion --

1 MR. MALIK SHABAZZ: Right. All right.

2 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: -- because what  
3 it'll actually give you an opportunity to do, to  
4 take a look at the initiative --

5 MR. MALIK SHABAZZ: Yes.

6 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: -- and make some  
7 assessment as to what you need to do with the  
8 initiative for it to comply with the law. I mean,  
9 that's really -- So, as you do your legal  
10 opinion, you know -- Because you can -- you can  
11 bring the initiative back. I mean -- So -- amend  
12 it, sorry.

13 MR. KENNETH MCGHIE: Let me clarify one  
14 thing.

15 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Okay.

16 MR. KENNETH MCGHIE: If -- if you amend  
17 the initiative, it will be a new initiative, and  
18 you'd have to go through the process all over  
19 again, and it would go back to the Office of the  
20 Attorney General to comment on whatever new  
21 provisions you put in there or took out.

22 MR. MALIK SHABAZZ: I have to defer to



1 Mr. Cheeks.

2 (Off-mic speaking)

3 MR. KENNETH MCGHIE: I'll just say one  
4 more thing. Mr. Shabazz is right. There is no  
5 rush, because if you -- if this initiative  
6 passes, you get the signatures, it goes on the  
7 next citywide election, which is in 2018.

8 MALE SPEAKER: Yes.

9 MR. KENNETH MCGHIE: So, you have all the  
10 time --

11 MALE SPEAKER: We've got time.

12 MR. KENNETH MCGHIE: -- in the world to  
13 get it right.

14 MR. MALIK SHABAZZ: What's the start  
15 time? Along the -- like the ability to --

16 MALE SPEAKER: Signatures.

17 MR. MALIK SHABAZZ: -- gather signatures?

18 (Off-mic speaking)

19 MR. KENNETH MCGHIE: Once it's -- Once  
20 it's -- Yeah, once it's approved by the Board --  
21 Once the initiative is approved by the Board,  
22 then we -- then we have what we call -- we

1 formulate the short title and summary statement,  
2 which is just what's going to appear on the  
3 ballot and what's going to be on the petition  
4 sheet. And then, after you collect all the  
5 signatures -- you have 180 days to collect the  
6 signatures -- Then, if you collect the  
7 signatures, you get enough signatures, it will be  
8 on the next citywide election, which is 2018.

9 MR. JOHN CHEEKS: And how many signatures  
10 -- registrants --

11 MR. KENNETH MCGHIE: It's -- it's -- it's  
12 5% of the registered voters in the District of  
13 Columbia.

14 (Off-mic speaking)

15 MR. JOHN CHEEKS: How many registered  
16 voters do we have now?

17 MR. KENNETH MCGHIE: That, I don't know.

18 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Do you know,  
19 Sylvia, how many registered voters we have?

20 MS. SYLVIA ADAMS: I think it's about  
21 400,000.

22 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: So, about 30,000

1 signatures.

2 (Off-mic speaking)

3 MR. KENNETH MCGHIE: You -- you need  
4 about 30,000 signatures.

5 MS. SYLVIA ADAMS: Four hundred and  
6 seventy-three thousand as of March 13.

7 (Off-mic speaking)

8 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: So -- so, let me --  
9 let me -- let me -- let me -- May -- I'm -- I'm  
10 not your counsel, but I've got to hear this  
11 matter at some point. The Board and I -- the --  
12 the -- the Board -- I mean, I would -- I mean, I  
13 would recommend that -- that you -- that you guys  
14 want to get this right. Okay? Even if you have to  
15 redo the initiative and do it -- and provide it  
16 again -- One, you do have time, and -- and I  
17 would suggest that you want to get this right,  
18 okay? I -- So, I would recommend that you provide  
19 a legal opinion on it.

20 MALE SPEAKER: Yes, sir.

21 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: If indeed you end  
22 up -- if, through that, you -- you -- you -- I

1 believe you have to amend and do a new  
2 initiative, you -- Like, you have time to do it,  
3 but I think that, rather than -- you know, rather  
4 than -- I mean, one of the things that you said,  
5 Counsel, that you want to win, and so what I'm  
6 suggesting to you is that you take the time that  
7 you need, obviously within the constraints that  
8 we have -- and there's a fair amount of time  
9 between now and the 2018 election -- to actually  
10 ensure that you've met the requirements of the  
11 law and that you're able to move forward  
12 accordingly. So, I'm -- I'm just -- My suggestion  
13 -- I can't tell you what you have to do, and I  
14 will hear whatever's put -- you know, and we'll  
15 make a decision on whatever is put before us.

16 MS. DIONNA LEWIS: And then, also, just  
17 let me just say a -- a couple other things,  
18 because what we're looking at is this, right? We  
19 hear the testimony, but we're looking at this.

20 MALE SPEAKER: Yes.

21 MS. DIONNA LEWIS: And we need to make  
22 sure that what we're looking at in writing

1 answers these questions that we have to -- for  
2 these various criteria. And so, a legal opinion  
3 would be helpful, particularly one that addresses  
4 the concerns raised by the Attorney General of  
5 the District of Columbia, because, ultimately, if  
6 the District of -- of Columbia can't do it, then  
7 we are restricted in what we can put on the  
8 ballot.

9           And so, you know, while I hear you, and  
10 you're saying, "No, it doesn't violate this, it  
11 doesn't violate that, these are the things I've  
12 thought through," we need to make sure that we  
13 have that reflected in writing, you know, whether  
14 it's a -- a supplement to -- to this or, you  
15 know, if you choose to amend, or if it's a  
16 separate legal opinion that you're providing to  
17 us -- But, basically, you need to walk us  
18 through. It's a very complicated matter, as  
19 everyone in this room, I'm sure, can agree to.

20           MR. JOHN CHEEKS: We can do that.

21           MS. DIONNA LEWIS: Right. It's --

22           MR. JOHN CHEEKS: We can do that.

1 MS. DIONNA LEWIS: It's very complicated.  
2 And so, we need to just make sure that we can  
3 walk through the steps and -- and really make  
4 sure that we've fleshed out the concerns that  
5 could possibly be raised for us to, you know,  
6 make a determination one way or another, because  
7 we need to have our support -- When this -- When  
8 matters are presented to this board, we need to  
9 make sure we have our support, what -- that we  
10 can actually stand on in terms of our decision-  
11 making.

12 MR. JOHN CHEEKS: May -- May I ask the  
13 Board member a question here?

14 MS. DIONNA LEWIS: Absolutely.

15 MR. JOHN CHEEKS: With this Recovery Act,  
16 we're -- we're not -- we're not taking funds from  
17 the District government. We're asking the  
18 District government to protect the years of this  
19 temporary act, which is 251 years. It's not a  
20 perpetual act; it's not a permanent act. It's a  
21 temporary act for 251 years that's needed right  
22 now. So, it would not put anyone in harm, it

1 wouldn't put anyone in danger, because it -- it  
2 would be ran by a private NGO and INGO trust  
3 corporation.

4 MS. DIONNA LEWIS: Mm-hmm. Mr. Cheeks, if  
5 I may? You made me think of something that I saw  
6 in here. This chart right here, what I think  
7 would also be helpful -- right? Because you're  
8 saying that it doesn't take funds from the  
9 District. We need -- I think it would be helpful,  
10 rather, not we need -- for --

11 MR. JOHN CHEEKS: It's in there.

12 MS. DIONNA LEWIS: -- for us --

13 MR. JOHN CHEEKS: It's in -- it's in  
14 there.

15 (Off-mic speaking)

16 MS. DIONNA LEWIS: -- to -- to see how  
17 you came up with these calculations. When I was  
18 looking through this, I didn't actually see that.  
19 And so, if you had explanations, how you came up  
20 with -- it looks like it's about \$22,000, maybe,  
21 per person or per child. It's not clear. But if  
22 we had, kind of, a -- a breakdown of the data --

1 MR. JOHN CHEEKS: Yes. Yes.

2 MS. DIONNA LEWIS: -- for calculating  
3 that, as well as the source of funds -- I think  
4 you have lists in here of sources of funds --

5 MR. JOHN CHEEKS: Yes.

6 MS. DIONNA LEWIS: -- but if you could  
7 actually work the nuances out as to how these  
8 sources of funds, you know, are not actually  
9 taking funds from the District of Columbia, I  
10 think that would be very helpful for us to see,  
11 as well.

12 MR. JOHN CHEEKS: Well, you're -- you're  
13 looking at the -- the section that goes into  
14 early emergency relief payoffs for child support  
15 payers and senior citizens.

16 MS. DIONNA LEWIS: Okay.

17 MR. JOHN CHEEKS: That goes -- As you  
18 know, child support was a direct injury to the  
19 black American population from slavery. A slave  
20 woman could only hold her child for maybe 16  
21 months --

22 MS. DIONNA LEWIS: Mm-hmm.



1           MR. JOHN CHEEKS:  -- but after that, the  
2 child was sold.  And if the father of the child  
3 kind of reacted in a negative way, he could be  
4 sold or killed or murdered --

5           MS. DIONNA LEWIS:  Mm-hmm.

6           MR. JOHN CHEEKS:  -- or -- I'm sorry, or  
7 maimed.  So, we want to pay any black American who  
8 paid into our child support system in the  
9 District, from 1984, from the time that Clinton  
10 was in office, calling every black American man a  
11 deadbeat father -- Some of you might remember  
12 that.

13                           (Off-mic speaking)

14           MR. JOHN CHEEKS:  Okay?  Child support  
15 will not be a felony anymore.  It'll be paid  
16 through bonds, through a group of hedge funders  
17 who supported slavery who are still in existence  
18 today --

19                           (Chorus of "Mm-hmms")

20           MR. JOHN CHEEKS:  -- selling business  
21 bonds for our contractors to build buildings,  
22 okay?

1 MS. DIONNA LEWIS: Well, let me clarify -  
2 -

3 MR. JOHN CHEEKS: And matter of fact, the  
4 same bonds for funding the road repair in the  
5 District of Columbia.

6 MS. DIONNA LEWIS: Let me clarify --

7 MR. JOHN CHEEKS: We have to go with  
8 them.

9 MS. DIONNA LEWIS: Okay. Let me clarify  
10 my comment, then. So, the source of money --  
11 right? -- and the money that you are proposing  
12 that be distributed, it would be helpful if we  
13 saw the calculations associated with that.

14 MR. JOHN CHEEKS: Not a problem. I -- I  
15 can absolutely do that.

16 MS. DIONNA LEWIS: That's all I was  
17 really saying.

18 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Yeah. I mean, the -  
19 - the -- the point that -- that, I think -- that  
20 Ms. -- Ms. Lewis is -- is making -- and -- and  
21 I'm trying to support all that -- is that -- is,  
22 you want to close all the open holes where the

1 questions are as much as you possibly can.

2 (Off-mic speaking)

3 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: I mean, that's --  
4 that's -- that's -- that's what we're asking --

5 MR. JOHN CHEEKS: Yes.

6 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: -- today. And so --

7 MR. JOHN CHEEKS: Yes.

8 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: -- I -- I think I -  
9 - and I -- I -- I want to move on, Mr. Cheeks, so  
10 I can let you have some other -- so -- because I  
11 had a couple other people who -- who raised their  
12 hands, and -- and I'd -- I'd like to hear from  
13 them if they have something that they have  
14 something that they'd like to say.

15 MALE SPEAKER: Sir --

16 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Is that -- Are you  
17 -- Are you -- There's a gentleman at -- at the  
18 door.

19 MR. RON BONFILIO: Yeah, Ron Bonfilio. I  
20 just have one question. I have some concerns  
21 about four or five --

22 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Can -- can -- can

1 you give your full name and address for the  
2 record, please, sir?

3 MR. RON BONFILIO: Oh. Ron Bonfilio, 1110  
4 6th Street, NW, Washington, D.C.

5 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Okay. Could you  
6 hear that, sir?

7 MALE SPEAKER: No.

8 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Could you --

9 (Off-mic speaking)

10 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Could you come up a  
11 little -- Sorry.

12 FEMALE SPEAKER: Do you want to have a  
13 seat -- have a chair?

14 (Off-mic speaking)

15 MR. RON BONFILIO: No, I'm going to be  
16 very quick.

17 FEMALE SPEAKER: Okay.

18 (Off-mic speaking)

19 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Okay.

20 MR. RON BONFILIO: Ron Bonfilio, 1110 6th  
21 Street, NW, Washington, D.C.

22 MALE SPEAKER: Could you spell your last

1 name for the record?

2 MR. RON BONFILIO: B as in bravo, o, n as  
3 in Nancy, f as in Frank, i, l, i, o.

4 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Thank you very  
5 much.

6 (Off-mic speaking)

7 MR. RON BONFILIO: You have concerns  
8 about these, and it looks like the burden of  
9 proof is over here to, A) prove that it doesn't  
10 amend the Home Rule Act. What I'm suggesting, if  
11 you haven't done it already or in the letter that  
12 you're giving, you think it hasn't met this, one  
13 of these four or five of these. You think it  
14 hasn't met it.

15 MS. DIONNA LEWIS: We're not making a  
16 determination --

17 MR. RON BONFILIO: No, no, but --

18 MS. DIONNA LEWIS: -- at this time.

19 MR. RON BONFILIO: Okay. If there is any  
20 concern that this is not met, it would be nice if  
21 Mr. Cheeks and everybody else had the reason why  
22 you thought it was not met.

1 (Off-mic speaking)

2 MR. RON BONFILIO: Because he can be --  
3 go scrounging around for an answer --

4 (Off-mic speaking)

5 MR. RON BONFILIO: -- when you're saying,  
6 "Well --" To -- to me -- I've read it a little  
7 bit. This is about, we're appropriating funds.  
8 Well, now we're clear: you saying -- you're  
9 saying -- It seems to be saying that funds are  
10 going to be coming from the D.C. Government, and  
11 it's clear from the -- the actual initiative,  
12 that's not the case at all. So, that actually has  
13 already been met, in a way, but I -- I want to  
14 keep it short. If somebody, whether it's the  
15 Attorney General or somebody, says, "We feel this  
16 was not met because of this," and --

17 MALE SPEAKER: Right. That's all we ask.

18 MR. RON BONFILIO: -- address it --  
19 That's all I'm suggesting.

20 (Off-mic speaking)

21 MS. DIONNA LEWIS: If -- I do think the -  
22 - those --

1 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Well, the --

2 MS. DIONNA LEWIS: -- are the -- are  
3 addressed in the documents that were provided to  
4 Mr. Cheeks.

5 MR. RON BONFILIO: Yeah, I think I saw  
6 that --

7 MALE SPEAKER: Yes, I am. I am. But --  
8 but -- but --

9 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Yeah. And can I --  
10 can I --

11 (Off-mic speaking)

12 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: -- can I -- can I  
13 bring this back? Because we -- because we really  
14 need to -- you know, I -- I -- I feel like we're  
15 getting a little bit out of control here, and we  
16 had a panel for --for people come up to testify.  
17 Mr. Cheeks, do you want to wrap up, or your -- or  
18 your attorney?

19 MR. JOHN CHEEKS: I'll go first, and,  
20 hopefully, the attorney should --

21 (Off-mic speaking)

22 MR. JOHN CHEEKS: Back to your proper

1 subject matter determination board.

2 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Mm-hmm.

3 MR. JOHN CHEEKS: Number seven -- We can  
4 wipe out seven and we can wipe out four, and we  
5 can wipe out three. They don't apply. We are not  
6 discriminating. Non-descendants can use the  
7 Recovery Act, as well, for Internal Revenue  
8 purposes, such as violating our tax code, owing  
9 two or three million dollars. They can claim  
10 immunity by requesting a descendant of an  
11 American slave to use 5% of whatever they owe the  
12 IRS and be abolished from having tax issues in  
13 this country or in this city. So, it won't  
14 discriminate. It'll bring people together, you  
15 know.

16 We don't need 501c3s to -- to be non-  
17 profits anymore. All of the descendants of  
18 American slaves, for 251 years, who reside in the  
19 city from there on will have that non-profit  
20 status to help non-descendants through tax  
21 issues. So, this'll -- this -- this act -- you  
22 have to go to Section -- I think it's Section 5.

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1 Now, our faith-based organizations who  
2 participated in slavery will have to address  
3 this, maybe not with cash but probably education,  
4 probably housing, or land that they own, building  
5 new homes for descendants of slaves, without it  
6 being public housing. It will be community  
7 housing.

8           So, it's going to eliminate a lot of  
9 dysfunctional affirmative action programs that --  
10 and -- and build people. That's what it's doing  
11 now, it's just building a -- a -- a -- a  
12 population of people who have not ever been built  
13 before. And that's where we are at -- at this  
14 point in time.

15           MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Yes, sir?

16           MR. MALIK SHABAZZ: I want to -- I want  
17 to, again, reiterate that I think, you know, what  
18 Mr. Cheeks is doing, and the movement around what  
19 he's doing, is -- is extremely important, and I  
20 testified earlier is -- to me, it's very relevant  
21 to current problems in the District. I appreciate  
22 you not reaching a conclusion at this time.

1 (Off-mic speaking)

2 MR. MALIK SHABAZZ: Despite the  
3 testimony, I appreciate you not reaching or  
4 trying to reach a conclusion at this time. I will  
5 say, if we could have a -- a -- another hearing  
6 set in 90 days, that would give us a chance to  
7 not only offer legal proffer of memos to what has  
8 been submitted, but also, in discussion with Mr.  
9 Cheeks, to, perhaps, refile it, seeing now that  
10 we have better information coming from the other  
11 side, so that when we come here that, you know,  
12 either we'll be in more of a range to achieve a  
13 victory or -- no disrespect to you -- we  
14 something that is -- that will stick on appeal if  
15 you know what I mean.

16 (Off-mic speaking)

17 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Yeah. Let -- let me  
18 -- Yeah, let me -- let me -- and I'll -- I'll ask  
19 my general counsel. Let me give you as -- as I  
20 said -- as a remedy.

21 MR. MALIK SHABAZZ: Mm-hmm.

22 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Let me give you 30

1 days to come back to -- to decide if you want to  
2 -- to refile the initiative in another form, or  
3 if you'd like to -- for us to give you additional  
4 time for a legal opinion on the current  
5 initiative.

6 MR. MALIK SHABAZZ: That's fine.

7 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Does that make  
8 sense?

9 MR. MALIK SHABAZZ: That's fine.

10 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: And then -- So,  
11 we'll -- So, we'll hold anything, so within 30  
12 days, let -- let us know what you want to do. If  
13 you want to issue -- If you want to provide a  
14 legal opinion that supports your current  
15 initiative based on the statutory requirements,  
16 we'll give you additional time for that. If you  
17 want to refile your initiative, then that's fine,  
18 too, but let us know either way. If you want to  
19 refile, then we'll need you to withdraw this one,  
20 and then you'll refile, okay? If you want to --  
21 to provide a -- a -- a more substantive legal  
22 opinion, then that's fine, too, and we'll give

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1 you additional time beyond that 30 days to file a  
2 legal opinion that supports this initiative.

3 MR. MALIK SHABAZZ: That's perfectly  
4 fine.

5 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Okay.

6 (Off-mic speaking)

7 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: I am -- I am -- I  
8 am -- I -- I am -- I am going to -- to --

9 (Off-mic speaking)

10 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: I appreciate all  
11 the comments, and I'm -- this -- this -- this  
12 young lady, if you would approach, and I'll give  
13 you a few minutes to --

14 (Off-mic speaking)

15 MS. JEANETTE POLLARD: I'll need 2 or 3.

16 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: -- to -- 30 seconds  
17 to give your opinion.

18 MS. JEANETTE POLLARD: My name is  
19 Jeanette Pollard. My address is 11006 Spearsville  
20 (phonetic) Road, Wheaton, Maryland, 20902.

21 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Yes, ma'am.

22 MS. JEANETTE POLLARD: Would we be able

1 to get a written statement from Attorney Racine  
2 saying that he read the document in its entirety?

3 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: I can't --

4 (Off-mic speaking)

5 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: I mean, I can't --

6 (Off-mic speaking)

7 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: I mean, I can't

8 comment for --

9 MS. JEANETTE POLLARD: The reason why I'm  
10 asking is --

11 MR. MALIK SHABAZZ: Can I say something?

12 MS. JEANETTE POLLARD: And the reason why  
13 I'm asking this is because I have a document that  
14 it was asked his opinion. He didn't know the  
15 answer to it, and a non-attorney had to provide  
16 the answer to him, which was about something that  
17 he should know about.

18 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: I appreciate your  
19 concern, but I -- I -- I -- I have to say, I'm  
20 not able to have a conversation about --

21 MS. JEANETTE POLLARD: Well, I mean --

22 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: -- Mr. Racine.

1 That's --

2 MS. JEANETTE POLLARD: -- if he's -- if  
3 he's the attorney general, he should know --

4 MR. MALIK SHABAZZ: Can I say something  
5 on this?

6 MS. JEANETTE POLLARD: -- basic --

7 MR. MALIK SHABAZZ: Can I say something  
8 on this?

9 (Off-mic speaking)

10 MALE SPEAKER: Yes.

11 MR. MALIK SHABAZZ: I appreciate the --  
12 The question's an important question, but it  
13 appears for me, reading the letter -- I don't  
14 know if Mr. Racine drafted this letter. I know he  
15 -- I do other litigation against Mr. Racine. He  
16 has plenty of attorneys. But whoever -- either  
17 him or under his command -- produced this  
18 document, they read the Act. It's clear that they  
19 read the Act, and they read enough of the Act to  
20 give us enough to respond to. So.

21 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Thank you. I -- I  
22 am -- I'm going to -- to conclude this portion of

1 our meeting.

2 (Off-mic speaking)

3 MALE SPEAKER: Thank you.

4 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Thank you very much  
5 for your time.

6 (Applause)

7 (Off-mic speaking)

8 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Thank you. And --

9 (Off-mic speaking)

10 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Yes, sir?

11 MR. ODUNO TARIQ: If it's okay, since  
12 this is the 161st birth of Booker T. Washington  
13 and Robert Smalls -- Listen, please.

14 MALE SPEAKER: Yes, sir.

15 (Off-mic speaking)

16 MR. ODUNO TARIQ: I was addressing the  
17 chairman.

18 MALE SPEAKER: Sorry.

19 MR. ODUNO TARIQ: May I just mention,  
20 just in 30 seconds?

21 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: If you may -- If  
22 you -- If you indicate your name and address.

1 MR. ODUNO TARIQ: Oh, my name is Oduno A.  
2 Tariq. My address is 1520 128th Street, SE, here  
3 in the District of Columbia.

4 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Yes, sir.

5 MR. ODUNO TARIQ: I was just only  
6 mentioning that because this is the 161st birth  
7 of the Honorable Booker Taliaferro Washington on  
8 this day -- It's also the birth of Robert Smalls.  
9 Those of you who want to know about that later,  
10 Google it or do your own research, which the  
11 Honorable Chairman and others have asked us to do  
12 in a systematic way. Other than that, you're not  
13 in the dance. Thank you.

14 (Laughter)

15 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Thank you. We're  
16 going to --

17 (Off-mic speaking)

18 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: We're -- We -- We --  
19 -- We -- We are going to --

20 MR. DALE MASEER: This panel is -- Great  
21 work.

22 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Yes, sir.



1           MR. DALE MASEER: All right. My name is  
2 Dale Maseer, 8653 16th Street, Silver Spring,  
3 Maryland, 20910. This work is so vital in terms  
4 of statutory law says that we have a opportunity  
5 to be restored and made whole.

6           I would just suggest to the attorneys and  
7 to Brother Cheeks here that -- You keep  
8 mentioning that they have to meet statutory  
9 requirement, and statutory means being in  
10 business or being in commerce. So, I'm suggesting  
11 that the brothers make sure that they give the --  
12 get the legal technical meaning spelled out in  
13 your follow-up of what the legal meaning of the  
14 term "person" is, because that is a corporation,  
15 and -- and so that you also give those of us who  
16 are we the people, independent and autonomous, an  
17 avenue to be First Amendment money makers,  
18 meaning to operate and go forward without a  
19 business license, as you see people all over this  
20 country making First Amendment money in Times  
21 Square, in D.C., in Miami. That would keep us  
22 from being of diminished status, an artificial

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1 person, a legal fictional character, an ians  
2 leegus (phonetic) a dead person, a nom du jour.

3           So, if we have a First Amendment right to  
4 make money, unlimited, under Waddell v. Martin,  
5 well, we have uncontrollable and unlimited power  
6 as an independent, autonomous person, then please  
7 provide them the legal technical meaning of the  
8 term "person" as it relates to the Constitution,  
9 not the English dictionary but the law  
10 dictionary, what the legal technical meaning of  
11 the word -- I'm sorry, the term "act" means, and  
12 we'll get into Home Rule and Congressional  
13 oversight if they decide to destroy this. And --

14           MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Thank you. Thank  
15 you.

16           MR. DALE MASEER: -- that's it.

17           MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Thank you, sir.

18           MALE SPEAKER: All right.

19           MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Alrighty.

20           (Off-mic speaking)

21           MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Thank you.

22           MALE SPEAKER: Will you all have a

1 comprehensive relationship --

2 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Sir -- Sir, we're  
3 going to --

4 (Off-mic speaking)

5 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Hold on one second.  
6 We're going to -- To the -- to the court  
7 reporter, we're going to suspend the meeting for  
8 about 2 minutes, until all those who'd like to  
9 leave, leave, and then we'll -- we'll pick --  
10 we'll pick back up and finish the meeting.

11 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
12 went off the record and then came back on.)

13 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Back on the record.  
14 We've got two more items on the agenda, and the  
15 next item --

16 MR. KENNETH MCGHIE: Is final rulemaking?

17 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: -- is -- Yeah.  
18 You're -- you -- you're still on the agenda --

19 MR. KENNETH MCGHIE: Yeah. Okay, final  
20 rulemaking --

21 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: -- Mr. McGhie.

22 MR. KENNETH MCGHIE: -- to amend --

1           MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: I'm -- I'm sorry,  
2 can we -- can we move out -- If -- if you're  
3 going to stay, that's fine. If you're not, that's  
4 -- that's -- that's okay, too. But we want -- we  
5 -- we have to finish up the meeting.

6           MR. KENNETH MCGHIE: Okay. Final  
7 rulemaking to amend Chapter 1, Organization of  
8 the Board of Elections --

9           (Off-mic speaking)

10          MR. KENNETH MCGHIE: The Board submitted  
11 this for public comments to the D.C. Register and  
12 nobody commented, so at this time, I'm asking for  
13 the Board to adopt final rulemaking. This was to  
14 have a universal leave policy in the Board of  
15 Elections for the Executive Director, General  
16 Counsel, the Director of Campaign Finance.

17          MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Okay, can I get a  
18 motion?

19          MS. DIONNA LEWIS: Yeah, I'd like to move  
20 to adopt the final rulemaking to amend Chapter 1  
21 as final.

22          MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Second. Both in

1 favor, so, passed.

2 MR. KENNETH MCGHIE: Okay, the next thing  
3 is emergency and proposed rulemaking to amend  
4 Chapters 30, 34, 38, and 41. This is the Office  
5 of Campaign Finance and their regulations, so  
6 I'll defer to Mr. Sanford to explain what this  
7 regulation will do.

8 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Okay.

9 MR. WILLIAM SANFORD: Good afternoon, Mr.  
10 Chairman and distinguished Board Member Lewis.  
11 These regulations, beginning in Chapter 30, bring  
12 the regulations in compliance with the statutory  
13 changes that have occurred that were passed by  
14 the Council of the District of Columbia.

15 Chapter 30 section will limit the amount  
16 of the contributions that might be received by  
17 political action committees permanently to  
18 \$5,000. Previously, political action committees  
19 could receive unlimited amounts during non-  
20 election years, and they were restricted to  
21 \$5,000 during election years. So, the -- this  
22 would revise that or amend it to restrict the

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1 amount of contributions to \$5,000 at all times  
2 under Chapter 30.

3           In addition, it would amend it to --  
4 Chapter 30, again -- to include two additional  
5 filing dates for committees, for political action  
6 committees, which would include April 10th and  
7 October 10th in addition to the January and July  
8 filing reports, and that would be under Chapter  
9 30, Subsection 3017.3.

10           The revisions under Chapter 34 are  
11 revisions which we had presented some time ago,  
12 and they would actually change the provisions of  
13 the regulations that currently require business  
14 contributors to identify all affiliated entities.  
15 These revisions would only require business  
16 contributors to identify those affiliated  
17 entities who are also making contributions to  
18 political campaigns. And another provision change  
19 in Chapter 34 would also repeal that -- that  
20 provision that required the business contributors  
21 to identify all their affiliated entities.

22           And, finally, under Chapter 30 -- Well,

1 (off-mic speaking). In addition, under Chapter  
2 38, the treasurers of legal defense funds would  
3 be required to maintain records of all their  
4 business contributors who made contributions in  
5 excess of \$50 or more by keeping the -- by  
6 maintaining the name, address, and amount of the  
7 contribution, in addition to itemizing all the  
8 bundled contributions that occur during the  
9 contributions that are being made to legal  
10 defense funds.

11 And finally, under Chapter -- in Chapter  
12 41, this would require the designation of  
13 exploratory committees to -- by those committees  
14 that had converted to principal campaign  
15 committees to be designated as connected  
16 organizations or affiliated committees. Under the  
17 current regulations, they are allowed to convert  
18 an exploratory committee to a principal campaign,  
19 but it is not a requirement.

20 And so, what we have discovered is that  
21 on occasion, there are two functioning or active  
22 committees, and this would require that they --

1 that the committees who then convert from  
2 exploratory to principal campaign committees also  
3 identify the exploratory committees as connected  
4 committees and that they are required to convert.  
5 And that would eliminate the -- the dual  
6 committees functioning at the same time. And  
7 those are summaries of our regulations.

8 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Great.

9 MR. KENNETH MCGHIE: Okay. At this point,  
10 I'd request that the Board entertain a motion to  
11 adopt this as proposed rulemaking.

12 MS. DIONNA LEWIS: I'd like to make a  
13 motion to adopt this as proposed rulemaking to  
14 amend Chapters 30, 34, 38, and 41.

15 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: I second, and,  
16 therefore, it is, therefore, adopted.

17 MR. KENNETH MCGHIE: Okay. The only other  
18 thing I have is litigation status update. Both  
19 those cases, D.C. BOE v. Carter, 1 and 2, and  
20 Worthy are petitions for enforcement. The Carter  
21 1 is to enforce a fine of \$1,800. Carter 2 is to  
22 enforce a fine of \$1,750, and Worthy is to



1 enforce a fine of \$2,000. And we filed those in  
2 court, and it's just pending in court, the -- the  
3 usual course for a petition for enforcement.

4 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Okay.

5 MR. KENNETH MCGHIE: And that would  
6 conclude my litigation status update.

7 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: All right. Thank  
8 you. Any questions?

9 MS. DIONNA LEWIS: Nope.

10 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: All right. I think  
11 we're rounding out.

12 MS. CECILY COLLIER-MONTGOMERY: Yes.

13 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Ms. Montgomery?

14 MS. CECILY COLLIER-MONTGOMERY: Yes. Good  
15 afternoon. The first thing I would like to report  
16 is that on March the 21st, 2017, the Council of  
17 the District of Columbia introduced Bill 22-0192,  
18 the Fair Elections Act of 2017, and the Act was  
19 referred to the Committee on the judiciary and  
20 public safety for further action.

21 The bill will significantly reform  
22 campaign finance attempt in the District of

1 Columbia by providing public financing. And,  
2 basically, it will provide public financing to  
3 participating candidates, either through the  
4 allocation of a lump sum or through matching  
5 payments. And that -- once it's introduced, I  
6 should also indicate that that is a voluntary  
7 program, that candidates will have to opt into  
8 the program in order to participate and will have  
9 to meet certain threshold requirements that are  
10 prescribed by the statute.

11           During the month of March -- March 17,  
12 2017, was the deadline for the filing of the  
13 Summary Financial Statement by our Advisory  
14 Neighborhood Commission candidates. We had 450  
15 required filers. Four hundred and two candidates  
16 timely filed. We had 48 failures to file, and  
17 those 48 failures to file were referred to the  
18 Office of the General Counsel for the initiation  
19 of the informal hearing process. Four hundred of  
20 the timely filers electronically filed their  
21 reports with the Office of Campaign Finance.

22           I will not read the names of the

1 candidates who failed to file and who have been  
2 referred to the General Counsel into the record,  
3 because there are 48 -- 48 of those candidates,  
4 but their names will be posted at our web site  
5 with our stats that have -- are being submitted  
6 to the Board for public viewing.

7 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: And those'll be  
8 posted when?

9 MS. CECILY COLLIER-MONTGOMERY: At the  
10 end of the day.

11 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: End of the day,  
12 okay.

13 MS. CECILY COLLIER-MONTGOMERY: Also  
14 during the month of March, we had new candidates  
15 and committees who registered with the office to  
16 participate in the 2018 election cycle. Gayle  
17 Carley/Carley for Ward 5 Council registered on  
18 March the 03rd, 2017. Justin Green, Sr., Justin  
19 Green At-Large (City Council), registered on  
20 March the 06th, 2017.

21 We also held three entrance conferences  
22 for new candidates and treasurers. The

1 participants on March 03, 2017, were Alpha Bah,  
2 Candidate, Bah for Mayor; Nia Duggins -- Duggins,  
3 Treasurer, Bah for Mayor; Michael C. Malinics,  
4 Jr., Chairman, Bah for Mayor; Rosalind C. Cohen,  
5 Assistant Treasurer, Committee to Elect Lori  
6 Parker for D.C. Council; Lori Parker, Candidate,  
7 Committee to Elect Lori Parker for D.C. Council;  
8 Kathryn Tilley, Treasurer, Brianne for D.C. 2018.

9           The participants of the entrance  
10 conference conducted on March 13, 2017, were  
11 Milos Doroslovacki, Treasurer, Committee to Elect  
12 Lori Parker.

13           On March 22, 2017, the participants were  
14 Anthony Stevens, Treasurer, D.C. Young Democrats;  
15 Anthony Roberson, Treasurer, Carley for Ward 5  
16 Council; Victor Carl Honey, Treasurer, 2017  
17 Committee to Recall Mayor Muriel Bowser; Gayle  
18 Hall Carley, Candidate Carley for Ward 5 Council.

19           In our Reports Analysis and Audit  
20 Division during the month of -- of March 2017,  
21 the audit branch conducted 15 desk reviews of  
22 reports of receipts and expenditures, which we

1 filed with the office.

2           Also in the audit branch, we have several  
3 ongoing audits. The first is Vince Gray 2016. The  
4 audit letter was issued on March 01, 2017. That  
5 is the full field audit of a newly elected  
6 official, and I would report that our -- our  
7 stats are going to be revised, because even  
8 though we're showing Brandon Todd for Ward 4 as  
9 an ongoing, full-field audit, basically, we did  
10 issue the audit report on March the 30th, 2017.  
11 It was a non-compliance audit, and it has been  
12 referred to the Office of Campaign Finance  
13 General Counsel for further action as, maybe,  
14 deemed appropriate. The audit has been posted at  
15 our website for public review.

16           With our periodic, random audits of  
17 candidates in the 2016 election, Re-Elect Vincent  
18 Orange 2016, and that periodic random audit is of  
19 the January 31st, 2016, and the March 10, 2016,  
20 reports of receipts and expenditures. Also, we  
21 have ongoing periodic random audits of the  
22 January 31, 2017, report of receipts and

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1 expenditures, which was filed by our political  
2 action committees, and those random audits  
3 include the D.C. Dental PAC, the D.C. Democratic  
4 State Committee, the Ward Three Democrats, Ward 8  
5 Matters, and the SEIU Local 500. And, again, our  
6 report will be revised to show that we did, in  
7 fact, issue an audit report during the month of  
8 March 2017. I would ask the General Counsel to  
9 give the report with respect to the legal matters  
10 in the office.

11 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Okay, thank you.

12 MR. WILLIAM SANFORD: Thank you very  
13 much. My name is William Sanford, General Counsel  
14 for the Office of Campaign Finance.

15 During the month of March 2017, the  
16 Office of the General Counsel received 48  
17 referrals related to candidates for Advisory  
18 Neighborhood Commission who failed to file their  
19 Summary Financial Reports for the extended due  
20 date of March 17th. The Office of -- of General  
21 Counsel also received one referral from the  
22 Reports Analysis and Audit Division based upon

1 failure to timely respond to a request for  
2 additional information.

3           The Office of the General Counsel  
4 conducted four informal hearings and issued one  
5 order in which a fine of \$2,850 was imposed. The  
6 Office of the General Counsel also transmitted 12  
7 petitions for enforcement to the Office of the  
8 General Counsel for the Board of Elections, and  
9 those are listed on your documents that have been  
10 provided to you, and that will be posted at our  
11 website by the end of the day, identifying those  
12 individuals or those committees, those whose  
13 petitions have been referred.

14           During the month of March, the Office --  
15 2017, the Office of the General Counsel carried  
16 three open investigations. There were no new  
17 investigations initiated during that month, and  
18 during the month of March 2017, there were no  
19 requests for interpretative opinions, and no show  
20 cause proceedings were conducted. That should  
21 conclude my report.

22           MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Thank you, Mr.

1 Sanford. Anything else, Ms. Montgomery?

2 MS. CECILY COLLIER-MONTGOMERY: No, that  
3 concludes my report.

4 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Okay. Any  
5 questions, Ms. Lewis?

6 MS. DIONNA LEWIS: No, thank you.

7 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: All right. That  
8 concludes the campaign finance report. Public  
9 questions regarding reports of the Board of  
10 Elections and Office of Campaign Finance?

11 (No audible response)

12 MR. MICHAEL BENNETT: Seeing no public  
13 persons to ask questions, the meeting is  
14 adjourned.

15 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter was  
16 concluded.)