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FOCUS GROUP

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Irvington Neighborhood Improvement Corporation
Irvington, New Jersey

"Urban Problems in Irvington"

PARTICIPANTS

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Senator Edward T. O'Connor, Jr.
Assemblyman Harry A. McEnroe
Mayor Michael G. Steele
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New Jersey State Library

SENATOR DICK LaROSSA (Chairman): I'd like to get started, if we could. Before we do, I have an opening statement.

I'm Senator LaRossa. I am the Chairman of the Urban Policy and Planning Committee. To my left is Senator Rice, a Senate member of the Committee. To my right is Senator O'Connor, also a member of the Committee. I have a prepared statement.

I'll be very brief with this, but I would request one thing: The microphones in front of you are not for amplification; they are for the purpose of recording our comments. One of the reasons is, we have seen that when you have these kinds of focus groups, a lot of very, very strong, salient testimony is lost in terms of trying to get it transcribed. A lot of the policy we want to try to develop, we want to develop off of the ideas that we have in these focus groups, as well as what we have from the community at large. So if you would -- at least on the first go-round -- when you speak, if you would please identify yourself before you speak so that the transcribers, when they go back and try to put this together, know who's name they are ascribing to whatever the comments are.

I'd like to welcome each of you here today for, again, this very important public meeting as part of the newly established New Jersey Senate Urban Policy and Planning Committee. I just want to take a minute on an overview of the goals of the Committee, and a few words on the process.

Our Senate President, in establishing the Committee, stated that over the last two years the Senate has taken its responsibility as a partner in the urban revitalization effort seriously. But we believe that in the years ahead of us a more aggressive, more targeted urban agenda will be needed. Among them, the development and support of key initiatives that will help our cities to balance their budgets, clean up abandoned

properties, repair aging and damaged schools, encourage tenant input into public housing decisions, and leverage economic development opportunities. We believe that the Senate will have in place the mechanism by which to ensure that such an agenda is developed with the formation of this new standing Committee.

We have a very distinct responsibility, and that is to seek solutions that are as unique in nature as the problems that face our urban communities. The Committee will travel into the urban areas to meet with those individuals and leaders who have the ideas that make sense for their communities. So we are here today to hear your ideas. We've requested staff to invite a cross section of elected officials, civic, religious, and community leaders, as well as other individuals who we know in total will make a substantial contribution to the identification and solution of the problems which are with us.

I stated it before, we are not looking for solutions that have been tried and failed, but creative and unique approaches. We want each of you to know that your ideas and thoughts are most welcome. I would ask you to make your comments as direct and succinct as possible within the constraints that we're going to be operating under. I want to emphasize that our session is one where we desire to bring light rather than heat to the problems. So the idea is to feel free to make your comments but, again, we want to be as open as is possible. As I said, the transcription idea is so that we don't lose the thoughts that are here.

In conclusion, I would like to add that as I see the urban situation not only in my district, which includes the City of Trenton, but studying the urban situation in New Jersey and elsewhere, I note that urban problems affect suburban areas. Although Webster defines urban as belonging to a city, I see in a State like New Jersey that we're almost one big city. The ripple effect of both the good and the bad in our

urban areas touches each of us. Therefore, we must jointly solve the problems regardless of where we live in New Jersey. It is an action oriented Committee. We intend to give the urban areas the support needed and facilitate your job and your city in a positive way.

Before we begin, again, I'd like to introduce the other members of our Committee, and if I may, see if they have any comments.

Senator Rice.

SENATOR RICE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I just want to -- excuse me -- on behalf of Assemblymen Harry McEnroe and Jimmy Zangari, my running mates -- just welcome my colleagues into the district, particularly, into the Township of Irvington. I just want to also -- some of the people here today we may not see tonight -- just say that we're very pleased to have you. All too often within our district our big urban city, the City of Newark, gets participation and we tend to find our way in there, and the people in the Townships of Irvington, South Orange, and Maplewood come to those meetings.

I think that your leadership and the leadership of the President speaks well to your concern about all the municipalities, whether they're small or large, rural, suburban, or urban. So on behalf of our constituency base, the leadership that is here, and others who may come, I just want to welcome you to the district.

SENATOR LaROSSA: Thank you, Senator.

Senator O'Connor.

SENATOR O'CONNOR: Good afternoon, everyone. Really I'm here to hear your ideas today, so I don't have any prepared comments. I'm from that fair county to your east, Hudson County. I'm a lifelong resident of Jersey City, so I'm very pleased to be on this Senate Urban Policy and Planning Committee. The emphasis is on hearing your ideas, your creative ideas, your new approaches, and I'm basically here to listen.

SENATOR LaROSSA: With that--

To the transcribers from OLS: Do you want them to go around and just introduce themselves before they speak the first go-around?

HEARING TRANSCRIBER: Sure.

SENATOR LaROSSA: Which way?

HEARING TRANSCRIBER: This way. (indicating direction)

SENATOR LaROSSA: Okay. If we could then start from that end, if you will introduce yourselves going around?

SENATOR RICE: Before you do that, would you, Mr. Chairman-- I just want to indicate to you in a letter -- I'm sending one to make sure -- that this meeting is informal. In other words, as we say in Newark, Irvington, and the district, just let your hair down. What's on your mind concerning our problems? We want to hear about them. So don't let the microphone make you feel that you've got to present yourself in a certain way. This is informal.

SENATOR LaROSSA: We don't want you to hold back.

MR. OUTERBRIDGE: Good afternoon. Tony Outerbridge, Director of the Irvington Neighborhood Improvement Corporation.

MR. WILLIAMS: Samuel Williams, Director of the Township of Irvington Police Department.

CHIEF DeLUCIA: Bernard DeLucia, Chief, Irvington Police Department.

FATHER GEIGER: Father Geiger, St. Leo's Church, Irvington.

ASSEMBLYMAN McENROE: Assemblyman Harry McEnroe, District 28.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT BLASI: Council President Anthony T. Blasi, Councilman At Large.

MAYOR STEELE: Michael G. Steele, Mayor of the Town of Irvington.

SENATOR LaROSSA: Hannah? You don't want to do it? You're not going to be saying anything?

MS. SHOSTACK: Hannah Shostack. I'm Aide to this Committee, from the Office of Legislative Services.

MR. GILLESPIE: Patrick Gillespie, Aide to the Senate Democrats.

MR. CALLAHAN: Jack Callahan, Senate Majority.

MR. MAZAUSKAS: Chris Mazauskas, Deputy Director, Office of Neighborhood Preservation.

MS. SILVA: Odete Silva, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, representing the Superintendent.

COUNCILMAN BEASLEY: Bilal Beasley, Vice President of Municipal Council.

MR. MALIK JONES: Malik Jones, Senior at Irvington High, representing the students.

MR. FARLEY: Mike Farley, from the Unified Vailsburg Services Organization.

MS. HARRIS: Sandra Harris, Irvington Health Officer.

MR. GRANT: Glenn Grant, Business Administrator, City of Newark.

SENATOR LaROSSA: I'm going to ask you to at least follow up on the first go-round, when we do -- one more time, just so we can make sure we've gotten them all. Not to repeat this again.

I'd like to start off with what has seemed to be successful before, and if we manage it, we want to hear your ideas, but I think we need a way to start it. Please feel free, and we'll try to acknowledge you from here.

The first question that we'd like to hear is, from any of you here, how do you see-- What do you define as urban? What is it? Anybody want to take a stab at that one?

MAYOR STEELE: First of all, let me take the opportunity, again, Senator LaRossa, Senator O'Connor, and Senator Rice, to invite you to the Township of Irvington. We have been called many things over the centuries and decades,

from Camp Town, to Gateway, to the suburbs. I like, however, our particular slogan which is, "The Community of Opportunity," at this point in time.

Irvington has also been considered, or has been called, an urban community with the trappings of suburbia, if you will. In some areas of the community we are, according to the census, some 61,000 people. However, my indicators tell me we're probably close to 71,000 with all the new, different ethnic groups moving into the community over the last 10 years. We're 2.87 square miles with that population, so there is a density factor there that certainly makes us urban in terms of living conditions -- folks living very close to each other. With that has come a greater deterioration in our housing stock, not keeping up with new housing being built, which we ourselves have looked at over the last several years and have tried to address.

It has been successful to an extent over the last couple of years in terms of getting the State, through DCA and other housing programs -- especially the Federal government -- to address that in terms of funding. My Deputy Director of Housing is here today, Chris Mazauskas; he'll further go into that. But we've had some of those problems. With density, of course, comes various social or living problems.

Irvington, at this point in time, is considered the salad bowl; that is, of course, anybody and everybody is living in Irvington. We have folks from, of course, eastern Europe, western Europe, South America, the Islands, Africa. We're very proud of that, because we've formed a United Nations Commission as a result of that, and many of our folks are working very closely together. We've identified many of the leaders within those ethnic verifications, and they work with us to bring about some concerns that they have raised. But with that setting comes the need for communication.

The government becomes very important, because everyone is looking at government to solve everybody's problems. Everyone believes that government should sweep the streets on a daily basis and provide their protection and look at you -- "When are you supposed to see a police officer?" -- at all hours. We know that's not realistic, but those are the things that we are put up against as a so-called urban community. But what happens there is, the importance of government, I think, becomes exemplified when we go out and try to communicate with people and explain to them exactly what our function really is.

I look upon government not as the care all or do all, but really that service that makes life -- living -- much better in many respects. So we've gotten back to the fact that we need community people to understand that the police on the streets are one thing, but community policing, where the community begins to take an interested role and get involved with us, becomes a lot more important.

Over the years, because of the deterioration of properties in the community, we've had a problem of abandoned properties. We've seen some properties that 15 years ago were rehabable and could have been renovated, but, for whatever reason -- either the funding not being available, maybe the lack of foresight on the part of the town fathers not planning for the redevelopment of neighborhoods -- we've seen those properties deteriorate and actually, at some point in time, either burn down or being torn down by the town, costing even additional dollars. Sometimes the demolition is more than the rehab job would have cost, so we find ourselves putting the cart before the horse in some of those cases.

We're now looking at a major demolition program over the next maybe five years of some of those dilapidated buildings. We currently, right now, have decided to look at that situation and try to correct our neighborhoods. We have a

major foreclosure -- an auction -- taking place within the next probably 60 days, involving over 100 properties in Irvington. We hope that with that will come folks that are interested in rebuilding in Irvington and investors that are looking to rehab those buildings, not just keep them on the list of vacant properties. But those are a number of areas we've been concerned with.

Along the economic development area, one of the problems we've run into is that we found ourselves with a lot of, we believe, commercially enticing properties, but because of the fact that they were once gas stations, they no longer are attractive. The DEPE and, of course, Federal regulations have made those stations very, very unattractive, because you've got to literally sink money into the ground before you can actually revise the use of those buildings. So most folks have walked away from there, yet we're caught with the brunt of having to maintain those buildings and keep them clean. As of last night, at a community meeting, one such facility is now being used to store abandoned cars, and thus they're selling drugs out of those cars.

So those are some of the trappings that we have fallen into in Irvington. Of course, we try to aggressively deal with them once citizens' concerns are raised. But those are just some of the trappings that we have found that have a (indiscernible) to be attached with so-called urban. I believe that the solution is a combination of government and the people working together.

SENATOR LaROSSA: Mayor, I appreciate that. It kind of went to the second part of the question as well, but it is certainly all relevant to it, obviously.

Anyone else want to take a shot at how you perceive, or what you feel, constitutes urban?

Yes?

ASSEMBLYMAN McENROE: Thank you, Senator.

I join with my colleagues in government and the civic people who are here today in welcoming the Committee, particularly the influence of Senator Rice. We appreciate him being on this Committee, and your attention to these issues. Each of the members of the Committee represents one of the major focal points of urban needs in the State: Senator LaRossa, you being a person who represents the City of Trenton; and, of course, Jersey City, Senator O'Connor; and Senator Rice, not only the City of Newark, but with a real interest in Irvington.

We are seated today in certainly an urban community in the most densely populated State in the nation. We are undoubtedly an urban State, so certainly the attention of the Committee organized to address issues that affect our neighborhoods is pivotal and crucial to the redevelopment of a city like Irvington. The minute a community is densely populated, it is categorized as an urban community.

This, I submit, is not a tired town by anyone's definition. This is a community with a real substantial economic base. It has a strong industrial population of good companies and viable organizations. It has a workforce of people poised to participate in the American dream: earn a living, own a home, educate their children. There has been a sluggish economy throughout our nation over the past years, and that sluggishness is felt in the neighborhoods and in the entire vitality of a community such as Irvington.

I was raised within a mile of Springfield and in Irvington. I came here on a Route 94 bus from Vailsburg, Newark, to shop on Springfield Avenue. That's a while ago -- 50 years ago, let's say, in round figures. It still retains its vitality. There are still people who come to Irvington, to Springfield Avenue on Saturdays in the evenings to do their shopping, so this is not a town that is in bankruptcy. It is a

community that needs a helping hand, if that's the term we're using. It needs some effort to revitalize itself. It is not in worse shape, it is not in better shape, but I really submit that it is a typical community -- small city -- in an urban State that just is pleased with the attention that a Committee such as yours and an attentive Legislature, can provide. There are things that are needed here; enterprise zones are important. The neighboring communities of South Orange, Irvington -- in our own legislative district -- and Union -- the Township of Union in another county, another legislative district -- their future is tied very closely to the vitality of the Township of Irvington.

SENATOR LaROSSA: Is there an enterprise zone in Irvington or not?

ASSEMBLYMAN McENROE: No, there is not, but there is an effort made by, I believe, Senator Rice to bring that to fruition.

SENATOR RICE: If I may interject just for a moment, Harry. You may not be totally aware of this. Interestingly enough, at the end of the tour we're going down 18th Avenue -- this store is Newark, this store is Irvington, this store is Newark (indicating) enterprise zone comes over, they didn't incorporate it because of those reasons. We tried to get Newark incorporated in the last fight we had. They had other zones -- not Newark, but Irvington. They left Irvington out and said, "Well, we have to go into that process." I believe that we applied. I just wanted to indicate that it should be-- I even went as far as to try to be creative and say, "Well, why don't you just make Irvington an extension of Newark?" Okay? Because on the East Orange side, or South Orange end of my ward, I have the same situation. I'm caught with a ward (indiscernible) south and north. This side of my ward is East Orange, and they have got this store on a block that's in another city. And this side is Irvington, being another city. So we have those problems, I just wanted to mention that.

SENATOR O'CONNOR: I just want to jump in here for a second. I have the very same problem that Senator Rice just described, because Jersey City is an urban enterprise zone and has done very well with it. The City of Bayonne is not, and is right next to it. Bayonne is bordered on the other side by Elizabeth, which is an urban enterprise zone, so we share the same problem.

ASSEMBLYMAN MCENROE: Just to complete my remarks: The impact of property taxes in a community such as Irvington where, because of this sluggishness and the lack of employment opportunities for a good deal of the residential homeowners in the community -- that impact of property tax has a staggering influence on the vitality of the community. That's an issue we're concerned with. Certainly the incidents of crime on neighborhoods and their vitality is of great importance.

We cannot discuss Irvington or its future without discussing the importance of education. There, I commend the Mayor and the administration for the efforts they've made to tie in with the Board of Education the need for improving facilities. You'll witness that, I would hope, this afternoon. We're pleased to have you here.

Thank you.

SENATOR LaROSSA: Thank you, Assemblyman.

Yes, sir?

MR. GRANT: Good afternoon, Chairman LaRossa. I want to recognize the Committee, particularly my Senator, Ron Rice, for helping to bring this to Irvington. I think it's absolutely important that the Senate hear firsthand about the problems and the issues confronting the people who are in the trenches, if you will. In regard to your question, I think that the issue of urban municipality or suburban municipality has gotten blurred over the last 20 or 30 years, with urban sprawl, with regional malls-- The issue about Springfield Avenue even in Irvington, and even in Newark, is different

today than it was 30 years ago. I tend to look at problems now in terms of a region. When you really look at Newark, you have to look at Irvington; you have to look at East Orange; you have to look at the region to answer those questions.

I would say, Senator O'Connor, when you look at Jersey City, it's the same thing. Jersey City is the lead urban municipality, but it's the region that determines whether it's urban or suburban, or not. From our perspective, the City of Newark is the center of this urban region. I have said, in conversations with Senator Rice, that far too frequently the urban regions of this State get the problems without getting the solutions.

What I mean by that-- For example, if you take into consideration the low-income housing that supports this region, take away Irvington's Housing Authority, take away Newark's Housing Authority, take away East Orange's Housing Authority, and throw in the 18 or 19 other communities, they have less than 100 low-income housing units produced for rental purposes in this region.

Similarly, when you look at solid waste, the City of Newark serves as the host community for the resource recovery facility. Well, that accommodates every single community in this county but, again, it is located in Newark, and the corresponding problems associated with that are now visited upon Newark and the adjoining communities. Similarly, about homelessness: Homelessness is affected more dramatically than, I would say, in Irvington, East Orange, and Newark, because it's serving as the region center--

All of you know that municipalities are creatures of the State of New Jersey, and yet the State has arbitrarily allowed the urban centers to be burdened with these problems without the corresponding resources coming to support those. We can go on about the Court Complex; we can go on about State buildings. I know, Senator LaRossa, you're very much familiar

with that. We received \$3.2 million from the State, and that funding has remained the same for over the last 14 years. Clearly, we have more State buildings in Newark today than we had 14 years ago.

So this issue of urban versus rural or suburban is, to me, a question of urban region. It's defined more about density of population, the amount of low-income housing you have in your community, and the amount of industrial/commercial base that you have in your community. When you look at all of those, clearly Irvington is an urban region, clearly Newark is an urban region. But when you look at those other communities in that area, they don't meet that match. We think that we're supporting the region by getting the burdens, but not necessarily the benefits.

SENATOR LaROSSA: Thank you.

SENATOR RICE: Mr. Chairman, through you.

Glenn, I notice next to you, or at least near you, and I want to welcome her, Mayor Davenport, from the Township of Maplewood.

I think that the definition, unfortunately, has to include those borders. Characteristically, we look at Maplewood or South Orange and we say, "Well, it's suburban." But in some kinds of ways, it's really urban/suburban. I always tell people in Maplewood and South Orange, and the Mayor and Harry -- Assemblyman McEnroe -- will back me up here. I know that Senator LaRossa has the same problems down in the Trenton, Hamilton, and Princeton area. They say, "Well, how do you represent both?" I say, "Very easily. The problems are all the same."

The difference is that if you leave Maplewood and always challenge the people, even when I first got elected in South Orange -- the meetings I've been attending-- There is no way to come out of South Orange and Maplewood and get to my house -- where I'm situated -- without knowing what community

you're in. My streets are one way -- first residential. I live in a brick corner house with some grass and big trees. To get there you have to come into Newark, but you don't know you're in Newark. The point is, when we talk about the definition, we traditionally look at, as you said, those densely populated cities with all those kinds of problems. You say, industrial base. Well, South Orange has no industrial base, but it has the nonratable up there in Seton Hall, which kind of adds to this population.

I just want to sit up and be quiet because my Mayor from the City of Newark is coming, Mayor Sharpe James. I don't want to take away his time, because I know he's running, but I just wanted to indicate that I don't want the Committee -- and I know we're sensitive to it -- to not be included. I think that's the problem that government is starting to make. They'll look at Jersey City; they'll look at Newark; they'll look at Irvington, they'll look at East Orange, as though there are no borders. We can clean the problems up in Newark or Irvington, but they're going to be shifted right into those other baseline communities.

MR. GRANT: That's why it has to be region center.

SENATOR RICE: Mayor James.

SENATOR LaROSSA: I'd like to acknowledge Mayor James, who just joined us as well.

I appreciate you taking the time to join us today, Mayor.

If I may, let me just ask one other more pointed question. I want to go through a laundry list in a second. Is there a problem of psychology in terms of how the urbans are viewed, or how the urbans view themselves? Is that part of the problem?

When you talk about the sprawl, you talk about all of the problems, okay? It's something like a child. If you tell a kid long enough that, "You're no good, you're bad, and

you're evil," they are going to begin to believe it. So if the urbans have been told for a long time that, "You can't do; you can't succeed. You're bad; you're no good. You're draining the blood out of it," is part of the problem. Not just the problems, but the psychology that is associated with it all. That may go without saying, but I think it's something which is never addressed. Would anybody care to respond to that? That is something which is one of the reasons why we're trying to do what we're doing with this Committee -- the focus group, the tour -- to begin to start to change some of the psychology. Because no matter what the substantive part of the solution is, if you don't change this, nothing is going to work. Anyone care to--

Yes, sir?

COUNCILMAN BEASLEY: Yes. Councilman Beasley.

What it sounds like-- Again, I'd like to also welcome you, and I appreciate this type of focus group meeting, Senator LaRossa. Listening to you present that question, it almost sounds like when you say, "the fear of crime is greater than crime itself," in the sense of how people think, and what have you.

But I believe that. I have family who have maybe moved to different parts of New Jersey, but yet, begin to talk about how they enjoy the city life a little better -- the transportation needs, the cultural facilities, a number of things that we grew up enjoying. Perhaps what caused a number of people, some family, some friends to move, is to really maybe get away from the hustle, the bustle, and the stress that comes along with that. Quite naturally, when crime is growing, that relates to perhaps more unemployment and other problems that exist that cause people to have to try to survive.

But I think that the psychology question-- I think that would vary. I think that it's not so much that there is an urban problem as a mentality. It's just that the problems

that we seem to have, we're not being able to address for, maybe, lack of the type of resources that we need. There are a number of things that I think would help deal with some of those problems if they are considered to be psychological problems.

I would like to see a lot of life skills centers -- you know, that concept developed. Because perhaps, if you do hear that living in the city is bad--

People talk about Newark. Well, I grew up in Newark. I started school in Newark, played sports, and did a lot of things. I see the things that have happened in Newark over the years as being healthy and good for me. Irvington, being a community that is highly populated because we're less than three square miles-- Here we are in 1994, and some of the problems are hard for people to try to figure out what happened over the last 15 years.

Well, I think that when we analyze those problems and see that we don't have the type of recreation facilities and so forth that we need, when we see that not everybody is going to go to college, and we don't have the vocational centers that we had at one time -- or Newark used to have with Newark Tech, and we had a vo-tech -- and everybody's not going to college-- When you make people believe that if they're not going to college they're not going anywhere, you begin to get a generation of people that feel like they're outsiders. So I think there is a lot that we have to do beyond looking at the questions, but seeing if we can come up with some of these answers.

SENATOR LaROSSA: I think that your comments are--
Yes, sir?

MR. H. MICHAEL JONES: My name is Michael Jones. I'm with the City of East Orange. Thank you very much for inviting us today, Senator.

I think one of the biggest problems that people face in the psychology of dealing with urban problems is that many suburban residents just don't understand how those problems

affect them. I think that there was a flight from the cities. Many people felt that that was the way to escape some urban problems. I don't think that we have done a remarkably good job of explaining how the problems of the city impact on the State as a whole.

Clearly, the development of suburban and semirural corporate campuses, which deprive the State of needed agricultural land as a larger land-use policy, would not have happened had cities continued to thrive, and if we had not seen major corporations relocate offices from urban centers into suburban and rural communities.

The problems of education in the urban city are clearly going to pose significant labor force problems for New Jersey's economy over the next 25 years. I don't think that has been explained. I don't think people around the State understand how that will impact on them and the State's, economic future as a whole.

I think that escapist thinking is starting to disappear to some degree, especially in Washington. I think if you look at the Clinton administration's enterprise community and empowerment zone strategy to view urban problems holistically, and to try and understand how they relate to the larger issues of a metropolitan area, I think we can take some lessons about how we can begin to teach people how urban problems will affect them and their children's future.

SENATOR LaROSSA: Thank you. You phrased that quite well; metropolitan areas to sprawl. Part of what I was driving at-- Let's see if I can get some agreement on this one particular concept -- and you hit on it. The reason crime is on everybody's mind and seems to be such a big problem is not because it isn't, but because it's happening in people's backyards.

There is no better way to have a realization of a problem than to have someone else experience the problem firsthand. So if this were 10 years ago, 15 years ago, or 20

years ago, "Oh, it's all in the cities, all in the urban centers." Now, all of a sudden, it's happening in their backyards. There is a density population, yes, but after the population has become so depressed, has become so deprived, where is the next logical place for it to go? It has to go outside of the cities.

So you talk about a holistic approach. I think what we're beginning to see -- and part of when I go back to my psychology question, and I think you're absolutely right -- is that the impact on what is happening in the suburban areas is a direct result of what has not been happening in the urban areas. So the question is: Is it more expensive to do nothing, or is it more expensive to do something? It's an interesting question. But I think when I talk about the psychology of the problem, part of the psychology is it's always somebody else's problem. I think part of that psychology, part of that reality, has to be that awakening as well.

SENATOR RICE: Mr. Chairman?

SENATOR LaROSSA: Yes?

SENATOR RICE: I'd like to make a quick comment. You're right, there are psychological aspects of it, but there is also a definition problem that we need to know. When you said urban, years ago we said, "ghettos." But when I moved to Newark in 1955, nobody was talking about ghettos because it wasn't a ghetto. It was a big, center city, thriving on business -- diverse -- where every community looked like a suburban, tree-lined street. Then, when the buildings and things started to go, it became ghettos. So what happens is that East Orange-- I remember times -- and I know that Councilman Beasley can, because we grew up together; at least I can't define anybody else's age -- but East Orange wasn't called an urban center. In fact, those of us living in Newark referred to East Orange as a suburb, no different than South Orange, West Orange, and the same thing as Orange.

All of a sudden, ethnically the city changed in terms of its majority population. Eldridge became boarded-up, crime set in, so all of a sudden, psychologically, people want to isolate themselves, so that's an urban city now.

I can say this: I guarantee you that South Orange, New Jersey, would not be referred to as a suburb if Seton Hall became a big abandoned campus up there; boarded up and its center -- the village -- goes through what just happens. Having some difficulty, as nice as they look, starting to shift hands ethnically and people start to just lay stuff out on the sidewalk when they want and don't pick up garbage. What will happen is psychologically, the Millburns and (indiscernible), that's urban, when in reality it's not urban, it's a community.

So there is-- Maybe when we do legislation, maybe we have to start to give some new names to some of these old terms, so that people can feel a little bit better. I mean, Councilman Carrino and all those guys can shut up. We have one strip over in Newark which is a drug strip, and there is a park-- Go between us, and both sides are heavily drugged. Carrino being smart, when he and I first came on Council, he kept saying, "Oh, the drug problem on 6th Avenue, the drug problem on 6th Avenue." Well, what Carrino did was change the other side of the park to Villa Victoria Street; same drug problem, but I took the heat for it. So it is definitional, too, as well as psychological. That's what I'm saying.

SENATOR LaROSSA: Okay. Something else somebody said already-- If I could make a request of the Mayors who are here, Mayor James, Mayor Steele, and Mayor Davenport, in your communities, obviously, I'm sure you have a lot of-- Let me make a distinction. You've got municipal property which obviously, of necessity, doesn't pay taxes, but I'm sure you have county property. I'm sure you have State property, and I'm sure you have nonprofit property. If you have the information

readily available -- you would probably have it more readily than we would have it in the Legislature -- I'm very curious to know either a total dollar value or a percentage, broken down over the assessed value of the municipality as to how much the county that you're in owns that you get nothing for; how much the State owns that you get nothing for; and how much property perhaps nonprofits consume.

Because, again, that's a continuous drain on the resources. Again, before you can solve a problem, I think you have to identify it. That's an issue that we've heard and somebody broached before. We talk about the State not-paying-their-share pilot has been something that has been very--

MR. GRANT: It's been fixed at us for 14 years -- \$3.2 million.

SENATOR LaROSSA: Yes. Just to give you an example: I had done legislation last year to try to bring pilot up to 100 percent. One of the reasons is that in 1987 -- I'm sure this will sound very familiar, because of the elected officials here -- Trenton's total was \$5.8 million for all those-- That's the State capitol, so to say that it's only \$5.8 million was almost ludicrous. In 1991 with more buildings having gone up in renovation, the pilot money that the City of Trenton was getting was down to \$3.5 million. So even at full-funding, over that five-year span, the State probably cost its own capitol somewhere between \$30 million and \$40 million.

Again, we'll use urban for the lack of any other, because that's the end; that's where the State buildings are, that's where the county seats tend to be. It's where, obviously, the hospitals are -- many of which are nonprofit. The larger schools, which, again, are not-- What the problems are, I don't know. But I think before we solve them we have to identify some of the pieces of this puzzle firsthand. So if I could request that of you?

Mayor?

MAYOR DAVENPORT: Surely. Thank you, Senator LaRossa.

From Maplewood in particular, the county property is not of any matter; the State property we have somewhat; our nonprofits -- we find that we are dealing with that on an increasing basis. The neighboring community of South Orange, however, has a major problem with the University of Seton Hall. I mean, that's a large piece of land for which I feel that they -- speaking for them, which maybe I shouldn't -- do consider that a major problem.

But you're right, we view our nonprofit situation-- We are being approached each year more and more for a tax consideration so that could be-- The State is more of an impact and nothing from the county, but it could be for other communities. Maplewood is a little bit exceptional because we have so few ratables anyway.

SENATOR LaROSSA: Yes?

ASSEMBLYMAN McENROE: If I could, Senator, I want to just go back a little. We talked earlier about what defines an urban community. Where we are now, in Essex County, next to Hudson County, far from Mercer County at this moment geographically-- I think you've got to include -- and I would hope the Committee, in addition to defining what an urban community is, also adds to it, an older urban community. There is so much revenue provided in a State aid basis driven by formulas that concern themselves with population and density.

If you take a community with a population of 61,000, such as Irvington, and compare it with Middletown, in Monmouth County -- approximately 60,000 people -- you compare it with Woodbridge, in Middlesex County, or with Hamilton in your own district; large, pretty much urban. However, those three communities that I have identified are not at all visited by the traffic control problems that Irvington has because of its older community status; because it has a State highway right through the center of its town, because it has a considerable

amount of county roads requiring police, traffic control. That's not a budgetary concern in communities like Middletown or Woodbridge, or, for that matter, Hamilton.

There are circumstances. This community, Irvington, has a community hospital. How often is the Police Department in the City of Irvington required to visit the community hospital; in other words, taking them from direct police protection and involving themselves in other matters?

The infrastructure in a community like the City of Newark, in the Township of Irvington -- the City of East Orange -- the infrastructure is 100 years old; water mains break, police respond. These are circumstances where formulas don't recognize those additional requirements that older urban communities have.

I would hope, really, that-- All of us, I think, have paid some recognition of that, but this Committee could really take the lead in identifying those problems that are specifically of greater impact in older urban communities than they are in others.

Population is often a way of measuring the needs, but certainly it is intrinsically unfair to those older communities that have those special, specific problems. We are transportation centers. We are educational centers. The City of Newark, the Town of Irvington -- these communities are visited by considerably more people during the daytime than their population. But yet the three communities I mentioned, in each of those circumstances, the population pretty much leaves the community, earns their living somewhere else, and then returns in the evening when there is less impact on local services. There is a cost factor that should be recognized in older communities.

SENATOR LaROSSA: Yes, sir?

MR. GRANT: Senator LaRossa, if we were to talk about perception, it would seem to me that Newark has a mixed message there. In terms of perception, how many people know that

Newark has the seventh largest concentration of college students in the country? How many people know that we were able to generate 5000 units of housing in the eight-year period that the Mayor has been Mayor.

But the issue of perception of crime, of perception of urban decay, is something that you are constantly combating. What you continually have to do is to say, as Mayor James has said, "Cities have to be more than reservations for the poor. You've got to try to attract, in partnership with the State, those things that make a city whole." When City Councilman Beasley said, "People like the urban centers," they like them because they can come to the theater. They like them because they can enjoy a ball game. They like them because they can go to the museum. They like them because they can go to the Historic Art Center. Those are the kinds of things that the State has to work on, in partnership with the communities, in order to be effective.

I say that it is partly the State's fault because of its master planning over the last 20 years that many communities are in the situation that they are in today. The Master Plan-- Up until this year's Master Plan, 1990's Master Plan encouraged suburban and rural expansion at the expense of cities. That is the key question.

So if the State is now saying that in terms of quality management and reinventing government, "We're going to allocate our resources to maximize where the infrastructure is," they've got to do that in the urban centers. That has now been said in lip service, it is not now in reality, and then we throw on the issue of revenue.

As you recognized with Trenton, in 1982 the City of Newark used to get 51 percent of the State's growth revenue -- and that's domestic life insurance, municipal purpose tax, payment in lieu of-- In 1992, 10 years later, we get 13

percent of our budget. The percentage of our budget from the State revenue in general went from 32 percent to 24 percent in 10 years.

Let's talk about gross receipts. All of you know the \$67 million that was supposed to come back to municipalities is not coming back to municipalities now. Those are taxes that historically used to be taxes collected directly by the municipality, and shared by the taxpayers in that municipality. Now, collected by the State, when it's time to give them back out, the State holds part of it, so we have this tremendous disproportion in this partnership. So the partnership question that has to happen is: Is the State truly prepared to say, "We will encourage municipalities -- urban municipalities -- to serve as the regional centers"?

If Newark is going to be the regional center for the solid waste incinerator, then it should be the regional center for the Performing Arts Center, for the Meadowlands, for the other things that are positive in this community. It cannot just be the one side getting all the bad things in the community, and not getting the good things. That has historically been the partnership that the State has been asking municipalities to play. It is unfair, and they really have to come forward with the dollars to say, "Yes, we want to change the perception of your community by a true partnership."

SENATOR LaROSSA: Mike?

MR. FARLEY: Mike Farley from the Unified Vailsburg Services Organization.

Vailsburg is situated in Newark between East Orange, Irvington, South Orange, and Maplewood. I think that the question of what urban means in the positive sense is complete. A place that is urban in the context of schools, culture, and services, has everything. I think to acknowledge that, to treat infrastructure, to make sure that services and

support have the level of financial support that's required to fix, maintain, and improve those services, is extremely significant to the future.

In one simple example, suburban places don't support older people, because suburban places depend on cars. Places like the Vailsburg section of Newark, like Irvington, like Maplewood and South Orange, will support an older population, because these places are complete. Whether in terms of medical services, whether in terms of accessibility to shopping, or public transportation, as a policy issue for the future, I think that's simply one important question. I raise that only as an example of the real and potential value of urban places, of cities, and immediate suburbs of the urban or the metropolis. It requires immediate positive attention.

I think that the other question that you raised, Senator, about psychological barriers-- Clearly we have to recognize that there is a whole generation of individuals who have grown up in suburbs, who have no idea what a city is like. Part of the negative perception has to do with individuals in their late teens or 20s, or at this point, even in their 30s, who have never spent time in a place like Newark and have no perception that the people of Vailsburg are just like the people of Essex Fells, or the people of other farther reaching parts of the State. They haven't spent time there. The perception is entirely negative to something that's been left behind. That, I believe, is a problem, not one that is insurmountable, but one that has to be acknowledged as you move along the consideration of the Urban Policy and Planning Committee.

I'd like to thank particularly, Senator Rice, for asking that we participate in this forum. I think that, as his remarks have indicated, and as Mr. Grant has indicated on behalf of the city, the regional focus is essential. We, in Vailsburg, don't think that we can act in isolation with what

happens in Irvington, Maplewood, South Orange, and East Orange. If carjacking is a problem in Vailsburg, or car theft is a problem in Vailsburg, it's equally a problem in the surrounding communities. The only real solution is going to be a solution that we forge together.

SENATOR LaROSSA: Okay.

Yes?

MR. H. MICHAEL JONES: Senator, I just wanted to add one comment to the statements that were made regarding factoring the age of communities into State formulas. I think that public education is an area that was not specifically addressed in your comments, and there is the place where dollars will make a real significant difference for urban centers.

Newark has the second, I guess the largest, public school system in the State, and yet it has 40 buildings over 100 years old that continue to house students. Irvington has buildings that are 60 and 80 years old that house students. A township like Middletown has infrastructure that is less than 40 years old housing the same number of students.

The cost factors to operate a public education system here are not to be compared with the cost factors to operate public education systems in municipalities of comparable size. They simply don't have the operating and overhead costs that exist here in urban centers. That, I hope, is something the Committee will keep in mind as the larger discussion of funding for public education comes up in front of the Legislature again this year

MR. SMITH: (speaking off microphone) Senator, since Mike raised that issue about public education, I wanted to give him the opportunity-- Because I know he's kind of quiet, he may not get a chance to speak to this august body, but we do have a high school student who is part of the panel, since it kind of deals with the public education piece. Also, one of

our program persons from The Bridge, who deals with young people, and I think this is the opportune time for them to say some things dealing with urban young people and public schools.

Beverly, I'm going to put both of you on the spot. If you care to say something, I think this would be a good time -- since Mike raised the issue of public education -- to make some comments in that regard.

I'm sure that the Mayor, as a professional school business administrator, can tell you about school buildings up and down.

MS. CANADY: Well, recently we just found out at the School Board--

SENATOR LaROSSA: Your name, please, for the record.

MS. CANADY: Oh, I'm sorry. My name is Beverly Canady, and I'm from The Bridge.

SENATOR RICE: Could you tell them what The Bridge is?

MS. CANADY: The Bridge is a mental health, social services unit. Basically I am the site manager for the Irvington school-based program. The school-based program is funded by the State. We're a support system to the Irvington school district. At the present time, we work in the high schools and various elementary schools.

I would like to bring up one point before I go on: It is that today I was in Grove Street, and we asked a little boy to write a letter to President Clinton telling him what he would like to see changed. The young man said, "Well, there is no need for me to write it, because nothing will change." We said, "Well, what would you like to wish for?" He said, "Why should I wish, because it will not happen."

Now, he is in the fifth grade. If our fifth graders do not see any hope for tomorrow, then we do have a problem. We hope to educate him to have hope. So when you talk about education, I'm hoping that you are bringing innovative ideas to show the kids change can occur.

They get depressed because they're in a building that may be 100 years old. I'm just exaggerating, it may not be that old, but it's old and dilapidated. When they go to another school district and they see a campus that has a swimming pool, they see another campus where they can take photography and learn different things, then they come back to Irvington, and it's the same thing over and over again.

This young man will not see hope. That hurts me dearly, because he is supposed to be our future. We're all sitting here saying-- Well, you're talking about the numbers, you're saying how much money we spent. I would ask the Committee to go in and talk to some of the kids. We have the high school student, but talk to the elementary kids, because they'll be in high school in a couple of years, if they make it that far. If he doesn't see hope now, he may not ever see it.

If I'm not mistaken, Newark has a truancy problem, as well as Irvington. I work in Irvington and I live in Newark, so I see it both ways where it's potential-- Kids are hanging out on the street. Why? And where do you put them? You just can't throw money in, I agree with you. You're going to have to have a solid solution, because this putting money into the system and not having the way to challenge our kids-- Like they said, we don't have a technical school any more.

I tell my kids who steal cars, "You're talented. If you can steal a car, you can fix a car." But we look at the negative things. I see kids who sell drugs, and I say, "If you can sell a drug that can kill me, you can sell a business." But we don't look at the positive in a child, and I'm sorry we don't see that. Sometimes it is lip service. Yes, we want to make a difference, but are we down here actually in the trenches doing it?

I'm not going to talk any more. I'm going to let my young man -- because I work with him too -- talk about it. But I want you to know something: We're getting ready to lose our

Student Assistance Counselors -- a possibility -- and some of our Guidance Counselors are going to be switched around. That's more kids that are going to drop in the gap because we have a deficit somewhere. We work very closely with the school, and if we lose another kid--

I'll give you an example, and then I'll be quiet. I met a young girl. We went on a conference. She was 11 years old. She was performing sexual acts at the age of 11. We wouldn't have known that if she wasn't on a conference with us and we were spending three days with her. She was selected because a Student Assistance Counselor saw that she was important enough to care for. If we lose that Counselor, we've lost that kid, because you know, in the end, she'll end up having HIV, being a teen mom, or both. So when you think about public education, think about it seriously and see if you really want to make a difference. I'm talking about two elementary kids: one that's already sexually active, one that does not see any hope. Do you really believe they will be able to go to college and make it, or want to go? Or will they be out on the streets just waiting for an opportunity to say, "Oh, that car looked really good. I have nothing else to do. I want to have some fun, so I'll steal it."

MR. MALIK JONES: Malik Jones, senior at Irvington High.

I'd just like to thank the Mayor for inviting me here to speak.

One of the first things I want to talk about is communication; communication within our community and communication within the school. I feel the reason why we have so many problems within the schools is because of lack of communication. The reason why we have so many problems at jobs, at schools, churches, etc., is because of lack of communication. We must be able to talk with one another on a one-to-one basis.

Another thing I would like to bring to your attention is the mentality of the children here in these urban areas. The mentality of the children here is that school is not a place to go to learn now. School is a place to go maybe to sell drugs. School is a place to go to hang out. I remember the definition of school was to go to learn, to get an education. Well, now, in these urban areas, the mentality of children, even down to first and second grade, is to come to school and play around. They see school as an institute, as a place of holding them down, as a place where they're not even cared for. How can a child learn if he or she is in an environment where it is not felt that they are cared for?

I remember the time when I was in second grade, back in Berkeley Terrace. I could talk to my teachers about anything -- about what happened at home. Now, I guess the teachers just feel like, you can come in, let's get your paycheck, and let's go home.

What ever happened to the after-school programs? Now everyone is rushing to get home. It hurts me, and I really feel-- I really wish, and I prayed to God, that I would have gotten involved in the community more when I was younger, because maybe I could have saved a 10-year old from coming into school with guns. Maybe I could have saved some of the people my age from coming in, trying to sell drugs.

We all know what type of environment we're living in around this urban area, but now it's time to make a change. I feel that we can make a change with the young people. Let's start with the young people first. My mom always told me, "Charity starts at home." Well, let's start this change from the young folks, and let's go up. Maybe we can get these people -- the young people -- to come in, to help, and to maybe change their minds about selling drugs and stealing cars. We all know that's the major problem. We can't all stop the distribution of drugs and the stealing of cars, but maybe we

can get that one young person. Maybe we can focus his mind onto getting into education and to coming in, helping other students, rather than doing these things.

Another thing I want to bring your attention to is that the young people here in this urban area need a place where we can feel as though we're loved; we can feel as though we're important, not just a statistic. We can go to other places-- When I use the term, "We," I'm talking about children of different ethnic groups.

Maybe like you said, Senator, psychology does have something to do with the problem -- maybe a part of the problem -- because I've noticed that when other people come to schools and they teach and talk to the students, it makes a difference. It's a difference in the way they put over the information they want to get to the children.

My last and final statement: Let's make a change before it's too late, before it's another five-year-old coming into school with a gun, before it's another person in high school that is not really getting an education.

I'd like to hit on funding. You said something about funding. Well, let's get the money here to get new books. I'm a senior in Irvington High. I'm graduating and going to college, but I'm still learning out of 1986 books -- Spanish books, math books. I know that we have the funding to get us new books in the schools, but where is it?

I thank God for Mayor Steele. He's the first person that I can say that really wants to do things for young people, because everyone can get up and say, "Yes, let's do things for young people." But who's really going to take the chance? Who's really going to step out and do it, and mean what they're saying?

Thank you.

SENATOR LaROSSA: How do you follow that?

SENATOR RICE: Well, one way for you, Mr. Chairman, is that just on an education issue, I think, in making appropriate -- maybe hear some comments from Mayor Davenport (indiscernible)-- Assemblyman McEnroe and I are making sure that this Committee will appear--

When you're talking about the psychology of it and the perception of it-- That's one of the problems, perception. Youngsters, in rurals, slipping across the borders to other school systems because the perception is that the grass is greener on the other side when, in fact, it's not. But the economic impact is the same as-- Look at the State. The State measures education not only on performance, but on (indiscernible) when they aren't suburban-based. So maybe, Mayor, you may have some words on that.

MAYOR DAVENPORT: Yes, absolutely.

We in Maplewood -- with our joint community of South Orange -- have Columbia High School, which services both of our communities. Over the last three or four years, it has become increasingly apparent that our school system is inundated with students who do not live in either one of the two communities. This is as a result of closing of high schools in the City of Newark, the City of Irvington-- No, I guess Irvington didn't close theirs.

We took expensive initiatives to ascertain that everyone who attended our high school was a legal resident, because we have a tax responsibility to the residents of our community. But it is another example of how the borders of an urban community and a suburban community blur, and how problems that are apparent there become our problems. Fortunately, we have good working relationships, but there is a point where you have to draw the line.

Our school community has been severely impacted with the recent cutbacks from the State. We are, right this moment, wrestling with the school budget. It is a tremendous-- We

have lost over \$1 million in school aid, and this is very difficult to recoup in one short year, very frankly. If the suburban/urban community has these difficulties, Irvington, Newark, and East Orange, too, will have them.

There is no way in a community like Maplewood, an older community, one of the oldest, with very little ratable ability. We are fully developed. There is no alternative to us other than to raise taxes on an already very high tax. So these are all things that I think the Legislature could bear in mind. A lot of these programs make very good sense, but when you measure them and interpret them in the dollar to the household, it is almost an impossible situation.

SENATOR LaROSSA: How important is home rule versus-- You were talking about regionalization services, because this is a different focus, which is why you do focus groups. This is really raising some more issues. Obviously, when you have a municipality of some 60,000-plus people, with its police department; Newark with its several hundred thousand people; and Maplewood, obviously, three separate school districts, as you said, the lines begin to blur. If, in fact, the lines begin to blur, is there a practicality in terms of the artificial barrier of simply getting rid of it and finding some way so it is, in fact -- I want to say a regional basis -- but a practical standpoint as opposed to any substantive standpoint?

Chief, do you want to take a shot at that?

CHIEF DeLUCIA: Yes.

Chief Bernard DeLucia, Police Department. I do agree that there are many areas where you could regionalize. Fire departments are one great area. Essentially, a firefighter of whatever rank does the same job, no matter what town he's in and when he arrives on a fire scene. So there is a great potential for regionalization there.

Another area with great potential is the area of criminalistics and identification. You have many jurisdictions -- police jurisdictions -- within Essex County that could

really be regionalized and made into identification bureaus, much like the State Bureau of Identification, or the FBI. Certain technical services are best performed at the county level, where people face the same crime problems.

As far as police departments go, it would be very difficult to bring regionalization in, because most police chiefs and their hierarchy know their community, know it very well, have established ties in that community, and have a certain loyalty to that community. As you go out into the more suburban districts, like Essex Fells, and Roseland, I believe that that's acceptable to being regionalized. But as far as Irvington, East Orange, Newark, I think we would provide much better services by being the way we are.

SENATOR LaROSSA: Yes?

COUNCILMAN BEASLEY: I was at a meeting not too long ago -- I work for Newark, Councilman Beasley-- I work for Newark Public Housing. I was at a meeting recently where Mayor James spoke to our senior citizens and its borders -- Elizabeth and Newark. It seems to be that the concept of border patrols -- them sharing and riding-- I think he put emphasis on Elizabeth police and Newark police riding together. I know that East Orange had a problem with their Bloomfield Avenue area, and there seems to be some joint cooperation there. It seems like if it's not regionalization, that there should be some cooperation in terms of how the borderline patrolmen take effect. I know 18th Avenue that borders the West Ward in Newark, has just recently, for Irvington, become a very big demand on how we're going to deal with that.

But more specifically, one of the things that I've talked to the Mayor about -- and I've talked to others -- and I believe that as legislators, that you might consider-- One of the biggest problems we have is that when we hire policemen, they're not required to live in the residency that long. Through the screening process, some of them use different

addresses and they sort of eliminate them on that. But then, even for those that qualify, after the first year of probation, they can move out.

In Irvington, only 16 percent of our policemen actually live here. With the new recruits it might bring it up to about 24 percent, but that's a serious problem. Whereas before, maybe policemen lived in the area and you knew that there was a policeman down the block. People were aware and they saw more, so you got more for your tax dollars. But we have a situation where, if only 16 percent of 180-some-odd policemen are living in other areas, they're living in areas where perhaps even their representatives are voting against urban initiatives. So we're not getting the type of dollars-- We're not getting the benefit of our dollars in terms of at least having them -- requiring them -- to live here at least five years. Some of them live here just long enough to get past the probation period. So that is a serious problem in relation to our public safety.

SENATOR LaROSSA: The one thing-- I, last year, introduced a bill to have people who work for New Jersey -- at least new hires -- be residents of New Jersey. We found out that it could, in fact, be a condition of employment, but once they're employed it can't be a condition to keep them there. Because what you're doing is-- I don't know what constitutional provision it violates, but as a condition of employment it's one thing, but you can't maintain it as a condition.

One of the ideas, and you brought that up, and I guess the Mayors might have -- or for you, Chief, as well: What about something like a residency benefit or a residency preference? The same way you have a veterans preference in terms of hiring. Would something like that-- Because, let's face it, the people who are working in the community -- the people who live in the community-- There has got to be a

vested interest in the community, which kind of goes back to what I said. I don't want people making decisions about New Jersey policy -- people who are living in another state. That doesn't make any sense to me. Now, the difficulty though is-- Would a residency preference, would that be of any benefit, an idea like that?

MAYOR STEELE: I'm going to ask my good friend, Mayor James, there -- hello there. I was at a meeting a couple of weeks ago, Mayor, and I believe your Business Administrator, Glenn Grant, talked about an initiative that you folks started, where I believe your police officers -- you encourage them to buy property -- buy residential property. If they do, they get an additional incentive, I think, on their mortgage or something. Is that true?

MAYOR JAMES: Well, we're trying everything. I don't know if anything will work or not. (laughter) I listen to the candidates running for Mayor, and they say we haven't done anything. So I'm all confused on what we've done and what we haven't done. But let me try to answer that on a global perspective. Yes, we've said first-time police officers, any one, we'll give them \$5000 as an incentive to stay in the city. But I think we need to go back to where we had residency.

Now, the courts have ruled that teachers and firepeople are not second-class citizens, so they have a right to live anywhere, and Mayor Dunn was the last one in Elizabeth to say, "I don't care about the rule. We're going to hold you to residency." The rule states that at the time of the application, you have to live in that municipality. So they move in prior to a year, take the exam, get the job, and they move out -- or they just move from where they had a post office address and two telephone bills or something else -- out. So we haven't won that. I think the real issue comes with, will the courts accept the fact that municipalities feel that if

their police, fire, and teachers live in their community, they would provide a greater service and maybe have greater levels of communication? But then, again, the courts have said -- forget what we say as politicians -- "That's discrimination, and it can't happen." The question will come, "Well, Newark, you have enough teachers to supply your system anyway."

So I want to go back to the earlier statement by my Business Administrator, who was doing all the talking for me, and the gentleman here. The real issue is that government has created ghettos -- the mere fact, created ghettos: black, poor, urban, senior citizens; high-rises are places to leave, etc., etc. The dream was to move to East Orange to an apartment, or buy a house in Montclair off the front page of The Star-Ledger.

We put, as Glenn said, Giants Stadium in the boondocks, and you spend more time in the parking lot going to Brendan Byrne Arena than you do at a basketball game. Everybody has been at that terrible situation where you drive up the one side and they say, "Hold it, go on the other side." You've got to drive all the way back on the other and they say, "Hold it. Go down by Pegasus." Then you get down by Pegasus. Then by the time you get flat feet walking to that ramp that goes over that trembling ramp, it is now 15 minutes, the first quarter is gone. Everyone who has been there has had that.

SENATOR LaROSSA: You and I must have talked to the same guy last week. (laughter)

MAYOR JAMES: But they didn't want to put it in Newark. They didn't want to put it in Newark, because it's black, it's urban. Brendan Byrne Arena should have been in Newark, tied to Penn Station, mass transportation. The train station should have been in Newark. Then we wouldn't have ghettos. Mabel wouldn't have to build gates -- I know she knew I was going to say that. (laughter)

MAYOR DAVENPORT: What took you that long? (laughter)

MAYOR JAMES: So what we need to do is recognize that urban spells all bad, and work to eliminate urban so we have regionalization. I am fighting in Newark. I call the city a renaissance. People look at me and say, "Are you crazy?" They don't like the word because they've been brainwashed that, "Urban means rats, roaches, and this fool Sharpe going around talking about a renaissance. Ain't no renaissance," and they want to make you smoke grass because they don't want the word renaissance.

This young man talks about the schools in Irvington. Now, you know I'm not popular, so don't let me try to be popular here. (laughter)

Before we blame the schools, before we blame the community, we've got to start with family. I get my kid up every morning, see that he's dressed every morning, drop him off at school, and this old man -- this mean father -- says, "You better not do drugs. You better not steal. You better not rob. You better do your work. You better bring homework home."

So in all due respect, I don't think the school and community can be what we're asking all too often in this ghetto we've created: That the school and the cop be the teacher, the surrogate, the mother. It can't happen. If you bring them into the world, you have to raise them. So I always go back and let's start at family. Then we've got to make sure -- young man, I agree with you -- that teachers teach. You're talking to a 30-year teacher. Teachers teach, administrators administrate, and we motivate the student. I don't care how-- I don't think I want the teacher to love me, I want him to teach me. They might not love me, but they have to teach me.

So I would hope, in congratulating this Committee -- and I was going to be quiet until Mayor Steele baited me into this-- In saluting the Committee, I want the Senators -- our

distinguished Senator, Ron Rice, whom we love and respect. We want to eliminate and eradicate urban communities in favor of -- what do you call that, annexing (referring to pronunciation) -- and get rid of them. Work to get rid of them, because now it's urban, suburban, and rural people saying, "We don't want to be part of those other two groups either." So we need to move. San Antonio was just a little old crippling city, and they took everybody around them and made it-- They got a new name, like they're a big area. Eliminate it.

So we need to do like New York City, where they had Hell's Kitchen -- that's Lincoln Center, Senator O'Connor -- they got rid of it. Go to Charleston, South Carolina. They had a bad area -- a bad ghetto area. They made a renaissance -- I think it's Renaissance Mall -- a renaissance area.

We need to get rid of it and create cities that work, that don't give us labels. When you say urban, you mean black. You say urban, it means roaches. You say urban, it means rats. You say urban, it means tall high-rises. No one wants to be a part of that. So let's eliminate them. Let's work to do that.

That's why we fought in Newark for an arts center. Well, you don't want to go see Bolero. No, but we know that we don't want to have all jails and methadone centers. So we figure if we have the arts center, it might bring some white folks back to Newark, and they might-- We want to eliminate that. When we wanted to build a movie theater in Newark, we called one of the leading builders in New Jersey (indiscernible). He said, "I can't build you a bombproof movie theater. Don't you know what's going to happen if you put a movie theater at Bergen and Springfield Avenue in Newark? They'll cut up the seats, bomb it, blow it up, shoot up each other, and it won't last four days." That man wouldn't chance it. Well, we'll have to excuse you.

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Finally we got a builder, built a Lowes theater. We own the movie theater -- people don't know -- Newark built its own movie theater. We own it. We have Lowes to manager it for us, fitted like them. We built a movie theater that looks like every other movie theater. It doesn't look like a ghetto movie theatre. On opening day, I ran in there and said, "Hold it, got to stop, can't open today." Why? "You forgot the chandelier over the popcorn like they've got in Secaucus." So we went out and stole a chandelier somewhere. Secaucus might not have one now, but we've got one over our popcorn. (laughter) See that's how they give you a momma and poppa type thing; ghetto means you can give them anything.

Let's eliminate urban communities and create regional cities. Let's improve education so this young man can be motivated, get up and out. But he's going to get mad at me; we're going to start with the family first, and then we're going to go to school and community. If anything, let's bring clergy into it. That young funeral I went to today, Hargroves (phonetic spelling), Ron Rice -- shot by somebody who looked like him. It won't always be more police, but more religion will never hurt us.

Thank you.

SENATOR LaROSSA: Thank you, Mayor. You touched on one other pertinent--

MR. H. MICHAEL JONES: Senator, you know it's important to point out that the State recently removed one of the very few incentives that did exist for municipal employees to buy property in the community in which they live. That occurred when the Council on Affordable Housing denied municipalities the right to state a local preference for affordable housing units that were developed in that community. Many municipal employees certainly met the income criteria that would have allowed them to buy a COAH unit. COAH has now prevented us from granting that preference.

MAYOR JAMES: The Mount Laurel rule has probably been the biggest thing to give a shot in the arm, to say, "Stop sending all the poor people to East Orange, Newark, Trenton, and every place else where you've got to give them welfare the day they move." They haven't been in Newark one hour, and now we have to give them everything they want.

When they stopped-- I used to tell Mayor Priore -- we had a bet -- when black folks stopped in Parsippany, they had a plan, they'd give them bus fare to Newark. They'd say, "Sharpe looks like you, you'll be more comfortable." They would give them bus fare, and sure enough, they'd come to Newark. Then we were obligated to give them welfare. We need to stop that. Mount Laurel said, "Stop putting all the poor folks in six communities." Spread it out. Spread the poverty out.

Then we took those RCA dollars, thanks to Councilman Rice, and now we've built 1000 units of housing using that RCA regional (indiscernible). We need bold things like that, Senator, if we are going to eliminate this whole ghetto-- Like Ron Rice said, "They're ghettos. You clean it up nice. They used to be ghettos, now they're urban." So let's get rid of it. That's what we need to do.

MR. H. MICHAEL JONES: Senator, I sat on Governor Florio's Task Force of Regionalization a year and a half ago. One of the things, I think that-- One of the areas in which this area could benefit from some regionalization is in the delivery of other public services, other than the public safety services.

You look at a map of Essex County. We've got municipal boundary lines drawn seemingly at random in some places. I mean, you cross the street, you're changing from municipality to municipality. As a result, we end up with: On Fourteenth Street in East Orange, we've got a Newark sanitation

truck and an East Orange sanitation truck driving down the same street. One is picking up one side, the other is picking up the other side.

As contracting -- I'm trying to lead to something specific-- In contracting right now, it is very difficult for two municipalities to jointly contract for one municipal service to be delivered in two municipalities. It would make sense, on Fourteenth Street, if Newark had put that job out to bid and East Orange put that job out to bid, for us to sit down, look at the map, and say, "Okay, you guys take these few streets. We'll take these few streets. You pay for that one out of your contract. We'll pay for this one out of ours." To really look, as the private sector would look, at the delivery of those services, not with the artificial boundary lines of municipalities placed on the map in order to maximize the economies of scale from that kind of contracting. I think that is one very specific thing that can be done.

But I also think the State has not done a very good job of recognizing the same economies of scale from regionalization from within its own administrative systems either. AFDC, DYFS, and all the rest of the social service mishmosh, haven't looked at the same sort of benefits from consolidation and coordination that regionalization amongst municipal efforts would also help.

SENATOR LaROSSA: Mayor, may I ask a question of you? You mentioned the RCAs a second ago. You have the selling community and you have the burden of the low-income housing that is there, obviously based on the amount of taxes -- or the lack of taxes -- because the population living there tends to be a lower-income population. Therefore, in turn, it doesn't have the ability to help underwrite the cost of the municipality. Would something that kept the selling community out for, say, a five-year period or a ten-year period, equalize the payout? They don't just pay once and walk away from it. I

think part of the problem is-- I think it always seems to be an us against them mentality. I think the whole regionalization-- People tend to get away from the us against them mentality, but barring that, as a more, maybe, long-term approach -- with whatever the fine print is -- to have the communities who are doing the selling -- have them make up the difference over a four- or five-year period. Do you think that would have an impact -- a negative impact -- having the housing built there -- would have a negative economic impact, or would it level the playing field? We're toying with this as an idea, but how do you see that as an idea?

MAYOR STEELE: I'm sorry, I got distracted. I didn't hear all of the question.

SENATOR LaROSSA: Okay.

MAYOR JAMES: I really don't like the home-- I wasn't clear on the homestead part of it.

SENATOR LaROSSA: Well, my thought about it is this: The RCAs -- if I'm a selling community and you're going to take 1000 low-income units--

MAYOR JAMES: We have more than anyone else.

SENATOR LaROSSA: Okay. So now I'm going to come in, and it looks like a cash cow. I'm going to give you-- But now I give you the money to build 500 new units. I wash my hands of them; I walk away.

MAYOR JAMES: But I think-- They took us to court. Slocum took Newark to court. He took the issue that you cannot give away 50 percent. That's the law written in Mount Laurel; you could give away up to 50 percent. First of all, you have an arbitrary number saying, "Well, Maplewood, you've got to have 1200 low-income units in Maplewood." Well, that was arbitrary, but they said, "You can give up to 50 percent away if you can find a receiving town." Well, we went shopping to get all the 50s sent away. In fact, I'm going to get the last one, I think, from Denville, next week.

However, the number was always an arbitrary number in the first place. So the towns were at least a little happy that they could give up 50 percent, especially places like say-- We were trading with where our watershed is, Milford. They always thought people from Newark were going to move up there anyway, so they were quick to give away theirs. So I didn't see it as a harm, because at least they had to have 50 percent of whatever that quota was. So South Orange had to have 50 percent -- anyone -- at least 50 percent had to be built there, and then they could help other urban communities, which was the only available dollars at a time when the Federal dollars -- UDAC, CDBG -- everything was being cut back.

The only thing that fueled that renaissance for housing in the City of Newark was that RCA regional contribution. So I saw it as a double-edged, win-win. We got dollars in an urban community that we desperately needed. We were fighting other cities to get it, but that town did have to reach 50 percent quota for low-income housing, because who could say in the first place that that quota was a right number in the first place?

It worked. Mount Laurel has changed the face of this State.

MAYOR STEELE: We would have certainly benefited from that situation, except that whoever our forefathers were in Irvington, they built us up so densely that we, quite frankly, didn't have the space -- the locations -- because Irvington, like you said, is a very densely populated area. We had an opportunity to reap several million dollars in the last five or six years, but just didn't have the locales.

SENATOR LaROSSA: One other area I really want to explore, just very briefly touched on a moment ago. We've talked about the schools. We've talked about government. We've talked about the community and so on, but what has been

conspicuous -- at least by its absence, even though we have a member here -- is what the relationship has been with the churches as it relates to the communities as well.

I don't know if it was in Passaic or one of the other towns, they were saying-- No, I'm sorry, it was Trenton. It was Reverend Hunter. He said that the churches have to be someplace that people frequent more than an hour and a half on Sunday; that there has to be a way-- If it's going to be a community, it has to be an entire community. It can't just be the police. It can't just be the police in the town, it has to be the entire community.

We have three towns here. I don't know if that's fair, we only have one member of the clergy. What is the relationship? How does the religious, or the church community at large, work or--

MAYOR JAMES: We have the best nonprofit probably. Monsignor Linder, who-- They call the Mayor names, but they call him the prince. So Monsignor Linder and New Community, they've won every award you can name -- The MacArthur Award -- award after award. The key though-- I listened to him with Janet Reno, last week in Trenton, when they came on a crime bill. He was part of the panel. What you really need to do is, by providing funds for the nonprofit, who can build faster-- They create the day care centers and they create the community centers. Then they get more children coming into church to sing, to worship the Lord, to sing in a choir, but now they also have a place for them -- day care. They have a place for them -- recreation center. It becomes a surrogate family.

So I think we need to assist the nonprofit and the church to become more than just religion, but an extension of the community. That's what New Community is all about. New Community has everything. Monsignor Linder always tells the best of all. The New Community's Pathmark sells porgy fish, and that's the only Pathmark in America that sells porgy fish.

Why? Because in the Newark community, where the Pathmark is located, on South Orange Avenue and Bergen Street, the people want porgy fish. So that's the only Pathmark in America that sells porgy fish.

I would like to see the church-- Now the issue comes in -- here's the fight, and Mayor Davenport and others-- The rule is now: Nonprofit cannot get assistance without going through--

MAYOR DAVENPORT: The community.

MAYOR JAMES: --City Hall.

MAYOR DAVENPORT: The city, that's right.

MAYOR JAMES: We're worried that if they could get it without going through City Hall, we'd never be able to know what they're doing; might be a duplication of services, can't control them.

On the other hand, what better group to go out and get money? Monsignor Linder is going to get more than anybody else. If you send 12 politicians to Washington, they call us names. You send 12 priests down there, I mean they come home with all the money, and bingo included. The nonprofit group has become the latest item to get funding that everybody would like to get. So somehow we need to work out a relationship so that the nonprofit and the city can work even closer together with State and Federal help.

The Archdiocese never abandoned the City of Newark. They kept Seton Hall Law School there. The Archdiocese put \$100 million into St. Michael's Hospital expansion. The Archdiocese is building a \$13 million new headquarters on Clifton Avenue, and the Archdiocese-- If you go into the worst neighborhood in Newark, Blessed Sacrament keeps an area strong, or you go up to Queen of Angels, in the heart of the central ward. So the church has become a very critical role to urban community survival, and I think we need to find more ways to

assist them in funding so they can continue to do the great good of adding beyond religion, church and community-type activities.

SENATOR RICE: Mr. Chairman, through you. A minister can say some words, but we have to be cognizant of what takes place. For example, the Archdiocese, because of their national and international organization's structure and their wealth as an institution, their support system -- which happens to be pretty much everybody you can think of that's Catholic, most of the politicians and other folk who control the revenue scheme -- naturally are going to operate to help. Religious-wise, the Mormons, which operate the Chubb Corporation, the same thing. The Jewish community, where there's a lot of wealth, the same thing.

The African American ministries -- and that's where the problem is-- The African American ministry collectively is 250 strong in Newark, for example. If they went to Trenton to BCA, they may get enough money to rehab a three-family building, and they may not get it, because we don't have-- I can't say we don't have national revenue, but they don't come in with the same type of support system. Locally, if the State would come in and mandate the relationship to some degree -- not a minister per se, to help structure a group, but the group as a group probably wants something like the North Jersey black churches, which teach them how to do some things.

In our culture, folks will come together and they attend these meetings, and I'm sure a lot of other people would have said, "Well, look, now you criticized Monsignor Linder and his faith for all their dollars, but they're building buildings." Well, we can too, if we want to learn. But before you can bring them together, one minister slips out and cuts his own deal, and another one slips out, because some are serious and some are not. But it's the organization that's locked into some greater things, etc. So we have to be

cognizant of that, because in our urban communities one of those-- Reverend Hunter, by the way, receives the most. He was my bishop from down there, but his church was made into a memorial right across from public housing. Okay? So he understands when you're talking to the right person. How do we turn it around that-- I've always said, and the young man mentioned it, that we start down here. When we did this whole welfare thing, the ministers should have been more involved because we want reform, but the question then becomes, "Well, if you're going to have this family go to work, then what about day care?"

Every church institution can really -- in our community -- basically be a day care center. Now we may have to help them convert the basements and the space that they have available to meet codes, but then we have this "separation of state." I just want to mention that. I want to mention also that when you talk about the ministry, we do point to the Archdiocese because they can get the dollars. You look at DCA: The great deficit creator in the State in DCA is New Community. But yet if they go tomorrow, they can get what they want. Another organization that's nonprofit in our community, UVS Hope, for example, if they ran a deficit they wouldn't get a dime out of that place. But they're doing great things in terms of housing and community. So maybe the ministry can speak, but I want to let you know that all of our ministry collectively can do a lot. We have the Assembly of God now, which has really been described as (indiscernible). We try to form religious coalitions that come in and (indiscernible) things like that. But for some reason they want to build, and can build, but we in government have to give them a break, and let the labor organizations (indiscernible).

MAYOR JAMES: Mayor Davenport.

MAYOR DAVENPORT: I just wanted to point out everything that Mayor James said is absolutely correct about the New Community Corporation, but you should be aware also

that in smaller communities, such as Maplewood, the churches have filled a gap that we haven't always been able to afford. We have one particular church which supports a great senior citizen community in their nutrition program. They, at times, have run into problems moneywise. They weren't able to get enough funding.

The Interfaith Hospitality Network -- which is a combination of churches -- what they do is provide housing for the homeless, and each church takes the responsibility for a week. Those are the areas that the churches fill in the smaller communities. The alarming thing is that each and every year we see an increase in the need for the services provided by these churches, and this is something that I think the State should address. They have difficulty getting any kind of funding whatsoever. Habitat for Humanity: They do great projects in the City of Newark. They have a great big blitz coming up the end of this month. They go out, dollar for dollar, and raise their money voluntarily. But these things that are filling a need, don't necessarily get a great deal of support, and the need for them is increasing at an alarming rate.

SENATOR LaROSSA: We're going to--

SENATOR RICE: Father?

SENATOR LaROSSA: I'm sorry. Father?

FATHER GEIGER: I presume that this meeting is geared to identifying the problems in our community, and it seem to me that one of the major problems is crime. I think that we cannot conquer crime unless we get to the mind. What is in the mind is eventually found in action.

Some time ago I was down on a street in Irvington, Grace Street, bringing Communion to an old lady. I came out and I spoke to a group of boys. I said to them, "How can we stop crime in Irvington? How can we stop these young men

stealing cars?" One of them said to me, "Oh, they're just making up for what happened 400 years ago." So there is a lot of wrong thinking.

I'd like to sort of comment on what this young man said. Communication is very important, but what we have to communicate is moral values; lofty moral values. What is right, what is wrong, the joy of doing the right thing, learning discipline, self-discipline, self-control. We have to communicate this to young people. So I would like to see some kind of opportunity in Irvington to communicate high moral values to young people, to help them see that this is the way to happiness in life; to conquer self and live for one another, to have profound respect for one another, and to live in this world. I don't know how it can be done, but I would like to speak to some of these people.

About three weeks ago, we were robbed at St. Leo's rectory. They took most of my camera equipment, my VCR, and I'd like to have an opportunity to speak to somebody like this. What goes on in your mind? What do you think about? Do you have no respect for anybody else, respect for the private property of another person? You're just thinking of yourself. All, me first, instead of what can I do for another person. The joy of giving instead of receiving. There's a desire for self-gratification in America that has to be conquered by unselfishness; thinking of another, with profound respect for the other person. But I'd like to see some way in which I could communicate. As you said, the word "communicate" is very important. How can I communicate my lofty moral values to some of these people and make them think, because actions follow thought?

SENATOR LaROSSA: The lack of respect, very simply, is usually the lack of self-respect. That is the basis of the lack of respect toward others. That's just an observation based on America.

MAYOR STEELE: There may have been a point in time in my life where I may have believed in the separation of church and state, but I certainly, at this point in time -- having been Mayor for four years -- don't believe that. Listening to Father Geiger from St. Leo's-- You know, we've been in the process of talking to our clergy,;in fact, they're forming an Association of Urban Clergy. Many of them are getting involved, at this point in time, in becoming nonprofits. To look at the redevelopment efforts that are going to take place here in Irvington, we don't really have that luxury of having our clergy involved in that area at this point. But certainly with the opportunities coming forth the next couple of years, they're looking at that and I encourage that.

In the last four years, including this year, we will have a total of 36 new police officers on our force in Irvington. Last night I was at a community meeting talking to some citizens, and one parent got up and said to me, "You know, Mayor, that's phenomenal; that's great. It's an average of nine additional cops a year. But you know what, Mayor? We shouldn't be having to come to you to put police on the streets to beat up our kids, to harass our kids, or to move our kids off the street. We've got to get back to that basic parental authority."

But absent of that and until we, of course, reach that level, I've also had some other thinking, that rather than perhaps that task as a police officer's-- I talked to some ministers back around Christmastime, and we talked about the possibility of a task force of ministers hitting those same corners with a different approach. So I think that all these social issues that we're involving ourselves in right now -- that we're confronting -- no, government can do it alone. We shouldn't be worried about boundaries or areas of restraint. whatever it takes, I think we all must come together and do that. If it's funding or additional support from the State, if

we can justify it, I think the justifications need to be there. We need to have that reception. But I think a lot of things in urban areas we have a tendency, I believe -- my philosophy -- that we've been in the trenches for so long that mostly we can find the talent and take care of some of the problems, but sometimes it becomes a resource problem.

For the last 10 years-- One of the reasons why we're in the process right now of doing a major auction, we have some of those-- Out of a 100-and-some properties -- I have 113 properties right now, that we're going to auction next month-- Of those properties, about 55 or 56 are vacant lots that once were suitable structures for rehabilitation, because we didn't have, over the last 15 years, suitable demolition money coming from DCA. We get our portion of money based on our formula or whatever, and we can tear down our 2.3 or our 4.5 houses. But we really needed that money, rather than demolition. We needed that money back then to help rehab. So some things have kind of created their own problems, but right now, we're in the process of trying to rebuild certain neighborhoods in Irvington.

Mayor James and I have talked about some of our border concerns. We both agree that certain areas, as goes Newark, there goes Irvington along our borders. But we may not necessarily have all the resources, so we need the State at that point in time to come in and help us. So we've been sitting down with regions talking about our border concerns. You know, Maplewood crisscrosses Irvington; we crisscross Maplewood, Union, South Orange, in some cases, and also two-thirds of the City of Newark. So we have certain situations where we have to react with each other -- interact -- and it's been on a very positive basis by sitting down and identifying those problems. I welcome the police overlapping up on the borders of Maplewood. I welcome Newark overlapping. I welcome the Union police overlapping us. In some cases where

our cities -- as this gentleman here said -- are designed, there is no way you can get from one part of Hillside to Union without going through Irvington. So we have to--

MR. SMITH: Senator, I think the Mayor's concluding remarks were most appropriate, so we can keep our schedule for the tour.

SENATOR LaROSSA: That's why you have a good Chief of Staff, Mayor.

MR. SMITH: Let me just take care of some quick logistical stuff: Mayors, Senators, and Assemblymen would you leave now and get on the bus? Those who are going on the tour, let them get to the bus first. If there are seats remaining, you can fill in the rest of the seats. We do have an additional van for body that wants to go on the tour, and certainly, you are welcome. But let's let our elected officials get seated.

SENATOR LaROSSA: Just so you know, what we had asked to do is not just have the focus group. But, again, it's not often that we have the opportunity out of the Senate to come to the community and actually see the community as well. I think that's a very, very important part of what we're doing here. If I could ask you to do me one favor, not now, but in the immediate future? If there is some rule, regulation, law, bill, whatever it is, something that makes you absolutely crazy, that is an obstacle, we-- Everybody needs more money -- we all know that -- but maybe something we can realistically do is give you a tool, and maybe one of the tools is to get something out of your way. What can we get out of your way?

MAYOR STEELE: If I could also just interject, this tour is scheduled-- It's about 3:15. This tour is scheduled from now till 4:30. At 4:30 we plan to meet at, I believe, Spain in America and, of course, you're all welcome for dinner at Spain in America. That should take us into the evening session, which is our public session.

SENATOR LaROSSA: Okay.

Chief?

CHIEF DeLUCIA: Senator, I would be remiss if I didn't say this, and this is going to sound like a set-up, but Senator Rice is here. There is one thing. We have to push that boot camp idea. There is a certain amount of criminal element that we're not going to reach through family, we're not going to reach through education. We do need a place to incarcerate car thieves.

SENATOR LaROSSA: Okay. Thank you all very, very much for your time.

(FOCUS GROUP CONCLUDED)