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MEETING NAME

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Agency: City Council

Date: 04-25-2024

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Headlines

What are the key discussions, votes or outcomes from this meeting that you think everybody should know? Highlight up to four—think of these as the one-sentence previews or headlines for the rest of your notes.

- Leslie informs SEPTA has 30,000 cameras for virtual surveillance system. The cameras, including the new tech ones, are not reliable. She talks about watching over certain “hotspots” including Broad and Allegheny, 52nd and Market stops.
- Leslie acknowledges there is a lack of outreach to communities regarding the SEPTA Bus Revolution.
- Councilmember asks Leslie about the SEPTA budget that went into SEPTA police overtime. Leslie responded she is not fully aware of this matter but will follow up.
- Councilmember shares feedback from seniors in his community, stating a need for a sit down area for the bus stop near the senior facilities.

Observations & Follow-Up Questions

Did you experience any challenges while recording audio for this meeting? What are you left wondering? What observations or learnings are you taking away from this meeting? What do you feel, think or predict?

- Some officials speaking were not identified by name on screen caption or introduced their name and position. It was difficult to tell who was representing what party.

- Is there evidence or independent studies supporting the claim that hiring 60 more SEPTA police officers correlated to 40% down in crime? What is the breakdown of reports on this? How much did it cost SEPTA to hire more SEPTA police officers?
 - Why did different officials have different percentages (35% 40% 45%) for percentage decrease of crime? Where is the paper evidence supporting these statistics?
 - Is paying SEPTA police overtime, unreliable surveillance cameras, and faregates the best use of SEPTA's budget?
 - What new effective implementations can SEPTA take to address safety concerns after the sexual assault 2022 incident on the blue line?
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Timestamps

[00:00am]: Meeting Start Time [10:15am]

[00:04:30]: Leslie S. Richards states SEPTA has a 240 million dollars or more deficit starting July this year.

[00:07:00]: Leslie S. Richards lists that 60 new transit police officers were hired and contributed to the first quarter of 40% down in crime, SEPTA is cleaner, and affordable with no fare price hikes since the pandemic.

[00:10:30]: Kenyatta Johnson City Council President District 2 asks Leslie how to target SEPTA areas of Broad and Allegheny, 52nd and Market.

[00:12:14]: Leslie responds that there have been over 30,000 cameras in the SEPTA virtual surveillance system, and talks about watching over certain "hotspots."

[00:21:21]: Leslie discusses concerns about the open drug market in Kensington.

[00:39:11]: Working Families representative Nicolas O'Rourke wants to hear more about the creative initiatives that SEPTA is taking to make communities feel more safe and welcomed, such as through art.

[00:40:16] Leslie talks about storytelling kiosks, specifically the one on 13th street. She is proud of the collaboration with Mural Arts.

[00:46:11] Nina Ahmed asks what initiatives have changed since the 2022 sexual assault on the blue line.

[00:48:11] Leslie says SEPTA ridership was down 20% before the pandemic. Bus Revolution is about providing more frequent and more reliable ridership.

[00:54:48] Councilwoman asks why SEPTA is changing bus routes and causing confusion.

[1:10:00] Councilmember Jeffrey Young of the 5th District asks what stops are removed and what stops are allowed to continue when there is no traffic control, specifically at 26th and Ridge where there are many senior residents.

[1:21:00] Leslie talks about increasing community engagement and feedback on different routes because of the discrepancy of information being provided concerning SEPTA.

[1:36:00] Leslie is concentrating on route 36 first for trolley, talks about needing a trolley maintenance facility.

[1:51:00] A councilman asks Leslie about SEPTA's budget paying for SEPTA police overtime. Leslie responds she does not fully know and will follow up.

[2:05:00] A council member asks SEPTA if they get 500 new shelters every year.

[2:10:00] SEPTA responds that the 500 shelters is just one time and unhoused people often refused service and shelter.

[2:23:00] SEPTA custodial staff is invited up to speak on cleaning processes and conditions.

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