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2	PENNSYLVANIA GAMING CONTROL BOARD
3	
4	PUBLIC INPUT HEARINGS
5	
6	OMNI WILLIAM PENN HOTEL
7	530 WILLIAM PENN PLACE
8	PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA
9	APRIL 19, 2006, 8:30 A.M.
10	
11	
12	BEFORE:
13	MARY DIGIACOMO COLINS
14	JEFFREY W. COY
15	TAD DECKER, CHAIRMAN
16	JOSEPH "CHIP" MARSHALL, III
17	KENNETH McCABE
18	SANFORD RIVERS
19	WILLIAM SIMMONS, PRESIDING OFFICER
20	
21	
22	LORRAINE K. TROUTMAN, RPR
23	REPORTER - NOTARY PUBLIC

1	WITNESSES	PAGE
2	John Unice	127
3	Gordon O. Seaman	131
4	Brandon Quinn	133
5	Rosina Vento	136
6	James Carter	139
7	Peter H. Zerega	142
8	Louise Sturgess	146
9	Kirk Rice	148
10	Dennis Popejas	151
11	Belinda Yeager	154
12	Charles J. Vukotich, Jr.	157
13	Eustace O. Uku, Esq.	160
14	Frank J. Valenta	162
15	Milton Raiford	164
16	Anthony F. Williams	168
17	Ally Jonathan G. Robison	171
18	Jonathan P. VanSickle	173
19	Lorie Stewart	176
20	Bradley "Jake" Young	179
21	Steven Paul	182
22	Patricia A. Weaver	188
23	Jim Malloy	192
24	Carol Wilson	196
25	Dorothy Falk	197

1		I N D E X	2
2	WITNESSES	PAGE	
3	Barbara McNeas	17	
4	Thomas Reinheimer	18	
5	Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr.	19	
6	Mark T. Fatia	25	
7	Marley Sweeney	32	
8	Lisa Shroeder	34	
9	Ethan Raup	41	
10	Joan Stein	43	
11	Ronald W. Crouch	60	
12	Michael Mooney	69	
13	Erin C. Molchany	70	
14	Kevin Joyce	77	
15	Edward Nassan	84	
16	Mary P. Joseph	89	
17	Gail McKenna	94	
18	Lynn DeLorenzo	97	
19	Edward Sam	99	
20	Marimba Milliones	106	
21	Jim Presken	114	
22	Joel Shapiro	116	
23	Edward Rohm	118	
24	John Scott	122	
25	Walter Harry Rush	124	

1	WITNESSES	PAGE	4
2	Etaíne Sphered	200	
3	Rev. Michele Ellison	201	
4	Ron Porter	204	
5	John Tourney	208	
6	Tim Hinkle	212	
7	Steve Ritvo	214	
8	Tim Hinkle	218	
9	Don Barden	221	
10	Albert B. Ratner	229	
11			
12			
13			
14			
15			
16			
17			
18			
19			
20			
21			
22			
23			
24			
25			

1           **PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER:** Good  
2 morning. I am Dale Miller, the Presiding  
3 Officer for the Pennsylvania Gaming Control  
4 Board Public Input Hearing.

5           Before we begin, I would like to make a  
6 few housekeeping remarks. Please turn off all  
7 cell phones, beepers and Blackberries so as not  
8 to disturb the speakers or others in the  
9 audience.

10          I want to remind everyone that, if you  
11 choose, you may make written comments to be  
12 included as part of the evidentiary record at  
13 these public input hearings.

14          These written comments are an  
15 alternative to live testimony and may be  
16 substituted at this hearing or at any of our  
17 other live hearings or may be downloaded from  
18 our website and mailed to the Board.

19          We will be accepting written comments  
20 through June 2nd, 2006 and until the evidentiary  
21 record is closed.

22          As you may have observed, there are a  
23 number of media representatives present for this  
24 hearing. The media has been furnished with a  
25 copy of our protocols and I ask that these

1 protocols be observed. No signs on sticks,  
2 poles or anything else which might affect the  
3 safety of others is permitted in the room.

4           At this time, I would like everyone to  
5 rise for the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

6 (All present complied.)

7           **PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER:** Thank you.

8           Good morning, once again. I am Dale  
9 Miller, your presiding officer for this  
10 Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board Public Input  
11 Hearing. The April 19th, 2006 Public Input  
12 Hearing of the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board  
13 at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, regarding Category  
14 II applicants will come to order.

15          This hearing is convened by the  
16 Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board pursuant to  
17 the Authority of Act 71 of 2004, and  
18 Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board regulation  
19 441.2.

20          The Board is present as a panel  
21 composed of the following members: Mary  
22 Collins, Kenneth McCabe, Sanford Rivers,  
23 Chairman Tad Decker, Chip Marshall, and Jeffrey  
24 Coy.

25          Ex-officio member Treasurer Bob Casey

1 is represented at this hearing by J. Terry  
2 Kostoff, Deputy State Treasurer for fiscal  
3 operations.

4           Our stenographer this morning is  
5 Lorraine Herman, and our clerk to the Board is  
6 Mickey Kane.

7           We want to thank, once again, the Omni  
8 William Penn Hotel for making this facility  
9 available for the hearing. Their cooperation  
10 and hard work has been essential in the bringing  
11 of this public hearing to Pittsburgh today and  
12 for the future hearings planned for May.

13          This is one of a statewide series of  
14 Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board Public Input  
15 Hearings designed to allow applicants for  
16 operator gaming licenses to simultaneously  
17 present their plans before the Gaming Control  
18 Board and the public.

19          These hearings will allow individual  
20 members of the public, community groups, elected  
21 officials and local government representatives  
22 to express their thoughts and share their  
23 concerns with the Board.

24          The hearing will continue throughout  
25 the day and will end no later than 6 p.m. or

1 until at the conclusion of the last scheduled  
2 speaker registered for today.

3           The rules and code of conduct for this  
4 public input hearing are posted inside and  
5 outside of the hearing and on the PGCB website.  
6 They will be strictly enforced and adhered to by  
7 all participants.

8           The Board expects, and it's my  
9 responsibility to insist, that courtesy prevail  
10 among all speakers, audience, presenters and  
11 speakers; therefore, audience outbursts are not  
12 permitted, and I respectfully ask your  
13 assistance in complying with this courtesy for  
14 each speaker.

15          Vocal expression from the audience  
16 complicate the task of assuring each speaker the  
17 use of the time for which he or she is prepared  
18 and will make the stenographer's job more  
19 difficult.

20          Much will be said here today, and each  
21 of us should expect that we are all interested  
22 in being able to hear it. Speakers will not be  
23 interrupted and will be permitted to speak no  
24 longer than their allotted time.

25          If I determine that an outburst is

1 disruptive to this hearing, I will call a  
2 recess, and we will resume the hearing upon  
3 restoration of order. Persons who refuse to  
4 acknowledge and obey the authority of the  
5 presiding officer may be asked to leave the room  
6 and the area.

7 The order of speakers today will be,  
8 first, spokespersons for community groups.  
9 Those community groups' spokespersons may speak  
10 for up to ten minutes. Members of the general  
11 public will follow and may speak for up to three  
12 minutes.

13 At the conclusion of the speakers, the  
14 applicants, if they choose, may speak for 15  
15 minutes – up to 15 minutes – on rebuttal or  
16 wrap-up.

17 Each speaker will begin his or her  
18 remarks by stating his or her name, the  
19 municipality and state within which he or she  
20 resides, and the name of the entity on whose  
21 behalf he or she will speak. All speakers will  
22 be sworn at one time at the conclusion of my  
23 remarks.

24 To assist us in the hearing, for the  
25 time limits of each speaker and to assist us in

1 having as many speakers heard in the time we  
2 have available, an electronic stoplight, right  
3 here, the timer, is located right in front of  
4 me.

5 The green light indicates the speaker's  
6 time has started. When the light turns yellow,  
7 30 seconds remain of the allotted time and the  
8 speaker should wrap up the presentation. When  
9 the light turns red, a beeping sound will begin,  
10 and the speaker is expected to stop and leave  
11 the microphone.

12 If anyone has any questions about this  
13 hearing or future hearings, please see a member  
14 of our staff stationed at the sign-up area at  
15 the rear of the hearing room. We welcome and  
16 need your full attention and cooperation  
17 throughout this hearing.

18 Finally, should it be necessary for any  
19 of you to converse with someone who is also  
20 attending this hearing, please have your  
21 conversations out in the hallway or in the outer  
22 room.

23 Thank you for your attention and  
24 cooperation. It is my pleasure to ask that  
25 those of you registered to speak today, please

1 rise and raise your right hand to be sworn.  
2 (Present registered speakers complied.)  
3 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: Do you and  
4 all of you swear or affirm that the testimony  
5 you are about to give shall be the truth, the  
6 whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help  
7 you God?

8 THE WITNESSES: I do.

9 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: Thank you.  
10 You may be seated.

11 The first speaker we have today is  
12 spokesperson for community group that will be  
13 Barbara McNees from the Greater Pittsburgh  
14 Chamber of Commerce. If you would step up to  
15 the microphone, please.

16 MS. McNEES: Thank you. I am Barbara  
17 McNees, President of the Greater Pittsburgh  
18 Chamber of Commerce. I am speaking on behalf of  
19 the chamber and its over 2,000 business members  
20 throughout southwestern Pennsylvania region.

21 We commend the Gaming Control Board for  
22 holding these series of public hearings across  
23 the Commonwealth as we prepare for the historic  
24 implementation of the gaming legislation.

25 My remarks today are focused on the

1 establishment of the casino in the City of  
2 Pittsburgh.

3 As the Board moves forward in this  
4 process of awarding a license for the  
5 Pittsburgh-based casino, it is important to  
6 consider both the complete proposals that the  
7 gaming operators are offering and how these  
8 proposals fit with other developments affecting  
9 the hospitality and tourism industry in the city  
10 and throughout our region.

11 We call upon the Board to consider the  
12 full proposals placed before it by the gaming  
13 operators.

14 There is no doubt that the due  
15 diligence that the Board will perform in regard  
16 to the applicants' financial capability, revenue  
17 projections and other financial considerations  
18 is critical to awarding a license to the most  
19 qualified applicant.

20 But we also ask you to balance the  
21 relative investment, beyond the establishment of  
22 the casino itself, that each of the gaming  
23 operators proposes to make impact on this  
24 community in the terms of economic development.

25 The establishment of the slots-based

1 casinos in our community comes at a time when  
2 the city is increasing, both real estate  
3 development and investment activity.

4 Efforts have been made to revitalize  
5 our business corridor through the Fifth and  
6 Forbes area. The downtown housing market has  
7 increased dramatically, with many hundreds of  
8 new facilities to come on line to house more  
9 population in the downtown area, to encourage  
10 more opportunities for a 24-hour city.

11 In the last several years, our  
12 convention center was dramatically expanded, our  
13 cultural district has continued to grow, a new  
14 stadium and a new ballpark were built on the  
15 north shore.

16 It is now time to replace the Mellon  
17 Arena. It was out of date, state-of-the-art  
18 building, being over 50 years old, and can no  
19 longer handle either the venues that are looking  
20 to come both internationally and nationally to  
21 present in Pittsburgh, but also the people that  
22 are already committed there in terms of the  
23 Penguins and the sports team. It has hampered  
24 our ability to really bring in more activity  
25 both in the convention and tourism industry.

1 available to us.

2 The commitment to the community of all  
3 of these teams has been phenomenal, and Mario  
4 Lemieux, of course as an owner, has done far  
5 more than just own a sports team.

6 The Board believes that it would be  
7 appropriate for the source of funds funding the  
8 new arena construction to include the State's  
9 proceeds from the soon-to-be-established gaming  
10 facility, in the City of Pittsburgh, and/or  
11 private funding provided directly by the  
12 licensed gaming operator, at any other  
13 appropriate location, and other private funding.

14 In conclusion, as we move forward in  
15 the licensing process, we ask two things: That  
16 you actively examine and review all aspects of  
17 the operators' proposals; and that your  
18 decision-making criteria specifically include an  
19 evaluation of the additional investments that  
20 each operator proposes to make, not just in the  
21 arena, but also in the surrounding community  
22 development that will have a serious impact on  
23 our city. Thank you.

24 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: Thank you,  
25 Ms. McNees, for those fine remarks.

1 A multi-purpose arena located in the  
2 City of Pittsburgh is very important to our  
3 regional competitiveness as we move forward with  
4 revitalization.

5 A modern arena would be a significant  
6 economic benefit to this region. It would  
7 provide, as I said, a much broader range of  
8 events that we would be able to offer in  
9 conjunction with the already new convention  
10 center and other facilities.

11 While the Chamber Board believes that  
12 the Mellon Arena should be replaced in the near  
13 future, it also believes that no tax dollars  
14 should be used to the construction of the  
15 multi-purpose arena.

16 The Board further believes that an  
17 anchor tenant for the arena is important; and  
18 that this anchor tenant should continue to be  
19 the Penguins.

20 The Board recognizes the leadership  
21 that all of our sports teams have brought to  
22 this community, to be a small market with three  
23 major league sports teams, has really provided  
24 us with an opportunity to market and focus on  
25 our region, that would otherwise not be

1 Our second speaker today is Thomas  
2 Reinheimer from the Duquesne Incline. If you  
3 would step to the podium, sir.

4 MR. REINHEIMER: Pardon?

5 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: If you would  
6 just step to the podium for your remarks.

7 MR. REINHEIMER: I guess I already  
8 have.

9 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: You already  
10 have.

11 MR. REINHEIMER: My name is Tom  
12 Reinheimer. I am from Mt. Washington. I am a  
13 resident of Mt. Washington, and I am employed by  
14 the society for the preservation of the Duquesne  
15 Incline, which is a non-profit organization  
16 which has maintained and operated the Duquesne  
17 Incline for the last 40 years.

18 I have never been a proponent of  
19 gambling in Pittsburgh; however, since it's  
20 already been concluded that we will get a  
21 gambling casino and a license for a gambling  
22 casino in Pittsburgh, I believe we should go for  
23 the best opportunity.

24 Since Harrah's -- the Mt. Washington  
25 Community Development Corporation invited the

1 group from Harrah's to come up and give us an  
2 idea of what was to be built at the south side  
3 area because we are directly above Mt.  
4 Washington, about 400 feet above Station Square.

5 And what I know or what I have found  
6 out about this opportunity is the following:  
7 They have 35 acres of undeveloped property,  
8 which requires no demolition. They propose the  
9 largest casino, which translates into a bigger  
10 return. There's plenty of room for expansion  
11 for the casino, for a hotel, for parking, again,  
12 with no demolition.

13 The access via Carson Street includes  
14 the Fort Pitt Bridge and it's the least  
15 intrusive on neighborhoods. To the front you  
16 have the Monongahela River, it's 400 feet to its  
17 nearest neighbor, Mt. Washington; and to the  
18 west is the west end, which doesn't enter into  
19 the Carson Street configuration at all; and to  
20 the east is south side, which, again, is about  
21 20 blocks away, but it's a five-minute bus ride  
22 for people who are in the city for purpose of  
23 entertainment.

24 One of the reasons I am speaking of  
25 amount of time that it would take to build this

1 collapsing, at their expense, and they continue  
2 to maintain that parking lot and allow us to use  
3 it.

4 In conclusion, what I would like to say  
5 is that in addition to being successful, the  
6 Forest City people and the Pittsburgh History  
7 and Landmarks' people have been very good  
8 neighbors.

9 Since we don't know a lot about what we  
10 are going to get, we have been promised a lot,  
11 but as we know, promises don't always come  
12 through.

13 What we know we are going to get is a  
14 casino. I believe that these people are good  
15 neighbors, and the casino will probably be what  
16 they claim it will be.

17 Thank you for your time.

18 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: Thank you,  
19 Mr. Reinheimer.

20 Our next scheduled speaker is Arthur P.  
21 Ziegler, Jr., representing the Pittsburgh  
22 History and Landmarks Foundation.

23 MR. ZIEGLER: Good morning and thank  
24 you. I am Arthur Ziegler, President of  
25 Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation and

1 casino is that the original intent for the  
2 casino was to bring tax relief for our property  
3 taxes.

4 And if we had to build a casino today,  
5 Harrah's group, from what I was told, they can  
6 break ground tomorrow without any demolition.

7 What I know about the group from  
8 Station Square is Station Square was originally  
9 built by the Pittsburgh and Landmarks  
10 Foundation, which is also in the business of  
11 preservation. And I might add that it is  
12 already Pittsburgh's premiere entertainment  
13 destination. It is already there. This would  
14 just be in addition to it.

15 Pittsburgh History and Landmarks  
16 Foundation from Station Square did the Duquesne  
17 Incline a big favor by allowing us to use the  
18 parking area, an area at the bottom of our  
19 incline for parking, and never charged us  
20 anything for it.

21 In 1964, they sold that property to the  
22 Forest City group. Since then they have not  
23 charged us for the use of this property either,  
24 and they have removed, demolished the old  
25 Lawrence Paint Company building, which was

1 a resident of Allegheny County.

2 Thirteen years ago, at our  
3 organization, we had a crucial decision to make.  
4 It was 1993, we had completed the development of  
5 the first phase of Station Square, which  
6 included restoring, reusing, adapting all five  
7 of the historic railroad buildings.

8 We had made Station Square a success,  
9 generating profits to help fund our historic  
10 preservation, neighborhood revitalization, and  
11 education programs, and we had taken a site that  
12 had formerly generated \$47,000 a year in real  
13 estate and zero in parking taxes, to one that  
14 had produced 4 million a year in real estate and  
15 parking taxes, 3,000 jobs and 143 businesses.

16 The next phase, as we saw it, was  
17 indeed a crucial one. It would be new  
18 construction, and we decided to sell and to sell  
19 to the right party.

20 We searched the nation for an  
21 experienced, well-financed developer with a  
22 transparency of public ownership and decided  
23 upon Forest City Enterprises of Cleveland, who  
24 were already at work in Pittsburgh.

25 We also felt that gaming might some day

1 come to Pittsburgh, and Station Square would be  
2 an appropriate site for that purpose, and with  
3 Forest City we selected Harrah's as a future  
partner.

4 We sold Station Square with the  
5 requirement that if gaming came within a set  
6 number of years, a further payment would come to  
7 our organization. That payment is \$25 million,  
8 and it would be added entirely to our  
9 philanthropic funds and used for neighborhood  
10 revitalization, historic preservation, building  
11 structures, landscapes and education in the  
12 schools.

13 We also, 13 years ago and yet today,  
14 wanted to ensure that people from our  
15 disadvantaged neighborhoods would find  
16 employment and be well-trained for that  
17 employment, so we all agreed that Manchester  
18 Bidwell Training Center would seek, recruit,  
19 employ and train the gaming employees to be  
20 employed, now projected by Harrah's to be 2,000  
21 at the start and 3,000 ultimately.

22 Now, it is easy to say that our  
23 organization benefits, but our benefit goes to  
24 all of the parties involved in revitalizing our  
25

1 just from around Pittsburgh, but from around the  
2 world, and they plan to have them stay and enjoy  
3 our city, to use the convention center, to use  
4 the Gateway Clipper, to use Carson Street, to  
5 use the cultural district, to use the ballparks  
6 and to use our historic neighborhoods.

7 Forest City/Harrah's will make by far  
8 the largest investment, a billion dollar project  
9 that includes a \$512 million casino complex,  
10 mixed-use residential community of 1250 homes,  
11 700 new hotel rooms, in addition to the 1,000  
12 that they already own here.

13 They fulfill the enabling legislation  
14 because they invest their own money. They ask  
15 for no tax assistance, and they deliver the  
16 highest revenue to the taxing agencies for  
17 property tax relief.

18 You heard the numbers yesterday on the  
19 gaming tax and the property tax. Add to that  
20 nearly a half billion, the enormous flow of  
21 parking taxes, wage taxes, income taxes, sales  
22 taxes, I think they are way ahead.

23 We looked at Harrah's treatment of  
24 employees. The average national wage for  
25 Harrah's is \$45,000. They pay full health

1 city to our historic assets.

2 Nevertheless, in the last year we had  
3 to ask ourselves, did we make the right decision  
4 in 1993 and '94? We've looked at all of the  
5 proposals intensively to see whether we did or  
6 didn't. We tried to be objective. And we feel  
7 in the end that we did select the right team. I  
8 want to tell you why.

9 First is their financial wherewithal.  
10 The evidence is in. Forest City, when we first  
11 got to know them, was a \$2.5 billion company.  
12 Today, as you saw in the presentation yesterday,  
13 is a \$9.4 billion company.

14 Harrah's, in this decade, has grown to  
15 be the largest gaming company in the world. The  
16 only one of the contenders to be listed on the  
17 SMP 500 in the Dow Jones Sustainability Index  
18 and able to issue investment-grade bonds to  
19 carry out its work.

20 It's a publically-held, transparent  
21 company, with minimum insider ownership. It  
22 broadens the market for the casino, again as you  
23 heard yesterday, with the 40-million-member  
24 loyalty program.

25 They plan to bring customers here not

1 benefits and they operate union.

2 It is not just a pledge to seek  
3 employees from our diverse neighborhoods. The  
4 mechanism is in place, it is the Bidwell Center,  
5 which has a track record of 30 years helping  
6 people in our neighborhoods.

7 And then, finally, there are the  
8 philanthropic community benefits. Landmarks  
9 will use its money for economic revitalization  
10 programs in historic neighborhoods, for the  
11 renewal of historic structures and landscapes  
12 and for educational programs that serve 12,000  
13 students and adults in our schools and in our  
14 city and county.

15 In addition, Forest City/Harrah's will  
16 establish a fund of not less than \$1 million a  
17 year, it will be granted the organizations  
18 working in disadvantaged neighborhoods and for  
19 general community welfare, and it will be  
20 operated as Franco Harris said yesterday, under  
21 his chairmanship and for all neighborhoods in  
22 the city.

23 We believe in the projections that  
24 Harrah's/Forest City has made. We also believe  
25 in the delivery potential on those projections.

1 These are two major publically-held companies  
2 that have been in business for decades, have  
3 risen to the crown of their industries, have the  
4 proven track record; and because they are  
5 publically-held, for their own interest and as  
6 public companies, they must do their best to  
7 forecast their markets as accurately as  
8 possible. Therefore, as we look at the total  
9 picture, the amount of investment, the tax  
10 revenues, the job numbers, recruitment and  
11 training, the delivery of a product and  
12 philanthropy, we feel that the Station Square  
13 proposal is unmatched.

14 Thank you very much.

15 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: Thank you,  
16 Mr. Ziegler.

17 The next speaker is scheduled to be  
18 Mark T. Fatla, the North Side Leadership  
19 Conference spokesperson.

20 MR. FATLA: Thank you.

21 Good morning. My name is Mark Fatla.  
22 I am a resident of the City of Pittsburgh, and I  
23 serve as executive director of the North Side  
24 Leadership Conference.

25 The conference is a non-profit

1 partnerships between community groups in a major  
2 institution.

3 We created the North Side Community  
4 Development Fund to spur business and economic  
5 development through better-than-market-rate  
6 loans. We are supported in our work by tax  
7 credit partnership with the H J Heinz Company,  
8 one of only a handful of such partnerships in  
9 Pennsylvania.

10 We have been selected as one of five  
11 fully-funded Main Streets Programs in the city  
12 and one of only five inaugural Elm Street  
13 Districts in the city under this new state  
14 community development program.

15 The conference is governed by a board  
16 composed of representatives of the various  
17 neighborhood organizations, along with  
18 representatives of several key stakeholder  
19 partners on the North Side.

20 The conference acts through decisions  
21 of the Board of Directors, ensuring a  
22 broad-based position representing the best  
23 interest of the North Side.

24 The wisdom of the conference's  
25 structure and the wisdom of past decision-making

1 community development corporation serving the 14  
2 neighborhoods and other stakeholders in the  
3 north side of Pittsburgh. Our service area  
4 includes 60,000 residents, as well as some of  
5 the region's primary institutions and  
6 attractions. The 14 neighborhoods of the north  
7 side constitute one-fifth of the entire City of  
8 Pittsburgh.

9 The conference provides a variety of  
10 services and programs to strengthen and grow the  
11 neighborhoods of the North Side. We develop new  
12 and rehabilitated housing, revitalize  
13 neighborhood business districts, and support the  
14 preservation and restoration of historic  
15 structures and districts.

16 We operate an employment program, which  
17 endeavors to provide North Siders with living  
18 wage jobs and careers with potential for  
19 advancement.

20 We are engaged in the restoration of  
21 the Allegheny Commons, the Urban Park at the  
22 center of Old Allegheny. We operate various  
23 Health and Welfare programs in cooperation with  
24 Allegheny General Hospital, under one of the  
25 oldest and most successful community benefits

1 may be found in part in our longevity. NSLC  
2 enters its 24th year of service to the  
3 communities on the North Side.

4 The staff and member organizations of  
5 the conference have diligently explored the  
6 issues of a new casino license and the merits of  
7 the three applicants. We requested and received  
8 presentations from all three applicants. We had  
9 opportunity to request their representatives and  
10 to review various materials to each applicant.

11 All applicants were responsive to our  
12 request and generous with their time, and on  
13 behalf of the North Side Leadership Conference I  
14 extend our thanks to them.

15 It is fair to say that the members of  
16 the conference responded favorably to proposed  
17 community benefits for each of the applicants.

18 For example, given the North Side's  
19 wonderful collection of historic districts, we  
20 have enjoyed a long and cooperative relationship  
21 with Pittsburgh History and Landmark Foundation.

22 After receiving all three  
23 presentations, the membership of NSLC concluded  
24 that it would not take an affirmative position  
25 for any applicant; however, one of the proposed

1 sites is most physically approximate to the  
2 neighborhoods of the North Side and, in fact, is  
3 the only proposed site located on the North  
4 Side.

5 Consequently, the North Side will  
6 directly bear certain impacts in the event that  
7 PITG Gaming is selected for the award of the  
8 license.

9 The North Side has had a long history  
10 of large scale projects that brings significant  
11 impacts to our North Side neighborhoods.

12 Visit us during a large sporting event,  
13 concert or fireworks display to experience the  
14 positives and negatives of living in close  
15 proximity to such developments and attractions.

16 We have had mixed results in that  
17 history, with some developers unconcerned with  
18 the consequences visited upon the neighborhoods  
19 by their actions and choices in development and  
20 operations.

21 Given its unique location and the  
22 corresponding impacts at the proposed site, the  
23 conference membership determined that it would  
24 meet further with the PITG organization to  
25 discuss the North Side's particular concerns

1 over their proposed development.

2 We are pleased to report that PITG and  
3 Mr. Don Barden have responded to our concerns as  
4 responsible corporate citizens. They have  
5 engaged in honest and respectful dialogue. They  
6 have respected our concerns and worries, even  
7 when they did not agree.

8 They invited an opportunity to define  
9 clear commitments to the North Side  
10 neighborhoods in the event that PITG was  
11 selected for the award of the license at the  
12 proposed site.

13 I am pleased to report that we have  
14 achieved a written letter of agreement between  
15 the North Side Leadership Conference and PITG  
16 Gaming, LLC, defining PITG's commitments in the  
17 event of being selected licensee.

18 This agreement fairly addresses the  
19 concerns expressed by our member organizations  
20 and does so in a spirit of cooperation and  
21 partnership.

22 The nature and progress of these  
23 discussions reflect, we believe, a sincere  
24 commitment on behalf of PITG and Mr. Barden to  
25 become a real part of and asset to Pittsburgh

1 and the North Side neighborhoods.

2 In the interest of time, I will not  
3 recite the terms but I will submit a copy of the  
4 letter of agreement and request that it be made  
5 part of the record and be incorporated in my  
6 remarks for the record.

7 I will add that in our conversations  
8 with Mr. Barden and his team, we have found them  
9 to be desirous of the true partnership with the  
10 community.

11 We found Mr. Barden to be a man of his  
12 word, and in the event PITG receives the  
13 license, we look forward to the opportunity to  
14 work with Mr. Barden and his team to strengthen  
15 the North Side and the Pittsburgh region.

16 Finally, on behalf of the North Side  
17 Leadership Conference, its member neighborhood  
18 organizations and partner stakeholders, I extend  
19 our thanks to the Board for the opportunity to  
20 offer our comments.

21 Thank you.

22 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: Thank you,  
23 Mr. Fatla.

24 And I not that if you do have an  
25 agreement that you want to enter as an exhibit,

1 if you would give it to our clerk, Mickey Kane,  
2 she will mark it and enter it into the record;  
3 and that goes for anyone else who has an exhibit  
4 that they want to make part of the record. It  
5 would go to our clerk to the Board, Mickey Kane.

6 Our next speaker is scheduled to be  
7 Marley Sweeney, who is representing Meals on  
8 Wheels Association of America.

9 MS. SWEENEY: Good morning. My name is  
10 Marley Sweeney, and I work for Meals on Wheels  
11 Association of America, the Chicago office.

12 I have come to Pittsburgh today to  
13 express to this Board the support that our  
14 association has for Harrah's Entertainment.

15 It might seem odd that a not-for-profit  
16 organization, whose focus is on senior hunger,  
17 would rise in for support for Harrah's. For us  
18 this is not true.

19 MOWA, as our association is called, has  
20 been a partner with Harrah's for almost five  
21 years. In that period of time they have saved  
22 countless lives. They have contributed their  
23 money, in excess of \$3 million, and have donated  
24 26 trucks to help transport food to hungry  
25 homebound seniors, their time, all of their

1 properties have committed thousands and  
2 thousands of volunteer hours to deliver meals  
3 and their support for our projects in support of  
4 our mission.

5 In short, this is a partnership that is  
6 genuine. Harrah's as an organization is an  
7 excellent corporate citizen. The employees of  
8 Harrah's, as individuals, are wonderful friends  
9 of our organization as well.

10 We also know that many other non-profit  
11 organizations that are partnering with Harrah's,  
12 and they tell us that they too are grateful to  
13 Harrah's for all that they do.

14 I stand before you today to tell you  
15 at Meals on Wheels Association of America are  
16 proud to partner with Harrah's and work and look  
17 forward to many more years of this partnership,  
18 because they are committed to ending senior  
19 hunger and have pledged to do something about  
20 it.

21 I flew across the country to testify  
22 today because I am a native of Pittsburgh. My  
23 family still lives here, and I asked to  
24 represent MOWA today because I wanted my fellow  
25 Pittsburghers to know that I love this city, and

1 501(c)(3) non-profit established in 1999 to  
2 create a master plan and vision for the rivers,  
3 and fortunately one that has stayed together to  
4 implement that master plan.

5 I am speaking this morning on behalf of  
6 55 board members, and my remarks are informed by  
7 over 180 public meetings that have been held  
8 throughout the region in which the public have  
9 poured out their hopes and dreams for the  
10 rivers.

11 The decision to locate a casino in  
12 Pittsburgh is one of the most important  
13 decisions of our day. It carries immense  
14 responsibility. You are in the unenviable  
15 position of figuring out which proposals meet  
16 projections and maximized revenue.

17 Two of the sites in Pittsburgh occupy  
18 prominent riverfront property. Both property  
19 owners have been leaders in the riverfront  
20 revitalization process, demonstrating in  
21 practice that what is good for business can be  
22 good for Pittsburgh and can enhance our  
23 riverfront environment.

24 There are benefits to our community  
25 that can accrue from a beautiful and

1 I only want the best for it.

2 I can tell you that having Harrah's in  
3 our city would be a good thing. They are  
4 partners with local charities in all of the  
5 cities in which there are properties. They are  
6 a corporation with a conscience.

7 I can tell you that because of them, on  
8 March 22nd, just a few weeks ago, we had almost  
9 600 mayors across the United States deliver  
10 meals to seven seniors because Harrah's  
11 supported our Marriage for Meals campaign with  
12 their time, their money and their volunteer  
13 efforts.

14 I am here today to thank them  
15 publically, and to ask that you grant the City  
16 of Pittsburgh the honor of having a wonderful  
17 company like Harrah's take up residency right  
18 here in our wonderful steel city.

19 Thank you very much for your time.  
20 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: Thank you.

21 Our next scheduled speaker is Lisa Shroeder,  
22 representing the Riverlife Task Force.

23 MS. SHROEDER: Good morning.

24 I am Lisa Shroeder, Executive Director  
25 of Riverlife. Riverlife Task Force is a

1 carefully-planned development on the rivers,  
2 benefits that will last beyond this year's  
3 revenue or next to create a legacy for our  
4 future.

5 In the words of David McCullough, who  
6 opened the first meeting of the Riverlife Task  
7 Force in 1999, "As you think of the Pittsburgh  
8 waterfront, built on its heroic past, the  
9 confluence of the hills and rivers, the port,  
10 the steel town that was known as 'Hell with a  
11 lid off'; and built as well on its spirit and  
12 vitality, do nothing but the best, nothing short  
13 term and nothing insipid, instead make this a  
14 place where you want to bring the people you  
15 love."

16 Since 1999, \$2.5 billion have been  
17 invested in downtown riverfront projects. Not  
18 only in the delivery of two new stadiums, the  
19 David L. Lawrence Convention Center and North  
20 Shore Park, but in the construction and rehab of  
21 commercial headquarters, offices, hotels,  
22 cultural institutions, bridge renovations, water  
23 landings and greenways.

24 Ninety million of that sum or 27% has  
25 been invested in infrastructure and green space,

1 with an undeniably catalytic effect.

2 Right now, three corporate headquarters  
3 are under development on riverfront sites, and  
4 four residential complexes are under  
5 construction delivering more than 800 new units  
6 on the rivers alone, a critical surge toward  
7 creating a new residential community downtown.

8 Waterfront property carries a premium,  
9 and waterfront development has been a key  
10 strategy to transform post-industrial  
11 American cities. Chicago, Chattanooga,  
12 Louisville, San Antonio and a score of other  
13 cities have proven that well-developed parks  
14 and publically-accessible riverfronts lure  
15 people back to the city, raise property values,  
16 attract visitors and provide the incentive to  
17 attract professional talent.

18 Pittsburgh is no exception. In fact,  
19 we are well on our way to having a seamlessly  
20 connected riverfront park system in one of the  
21 most spectacular settings in this country or any  
22 other.

23 Soon construction will begin to  
24 revitalize Point State Park as the center of a  
25 regional trail system that will link downtown to

1 the public. The north shore harbors sports  
2 fans, kayakers, rowers and children, while  
3 extending the downtown business district.

4 Property owners and developers are  
5 setting new standards for qualities and public  
6 access and the development of a casino should be  
7 no exception.

8 It is critical that a casino and  
9 related development maximize the potential of  
10 our riverfronts and set a new standard by  
11 setting the urban infrastructure from our  
12 neighborhoods and commercial districts to the  
13 rivers.

14 The design and construction of these  
15 complexes – from the concept, to the  
16 particulars, to the ambiance – can move the  
17 city forward or conversely can result in hasty  
18 mistakes.

19 As advocated by the gaming task force,  
20 we urge the Commission to enforce mandatory  
21 adherence to the design guidelines that have  
22 been accepted by the City of Pittsburgh as a  
23 basis for approving riverfront projects.

24 These guidelines address the way that  
25 buildings, open space and infrastructure can

1 the great Allegheny passage to Washington DC,  
2 opening our riverfronts to millions of new  
3 recreational users each year, as well as to  
4 conventioners, tourists, downtown workers and  
5 residents.

6 This momentum underway in Pittsburgh  
7 has been generated through effort, determination  
8 and civic pride. The Riverlife Task Force is  
9 honored to host a unique public/private  
10 partnership city that brings the city, county  
11 and PennDOT together with private property  
12 owners and developers.

13 Through the generous investors of  
14 Pittsburgh's foundations, corporations and  
15 businesses, we have been able to pursue  
16 coordinated investment strategies in many cases  
17 against market trends and against the odds. The  
18 results are evident.

19 In the convention center, we boast the  
20 largest green building in the world. The South  
21 Side Works development is attracting a young,  
22 professional population to a historic  
23 neighborhood.

24 A new riverfront gateway and 41-slip  
25 marina at Station Square provides docking for

1 connect the rivers and the park to the city  
2 fabric. They lay out standards for building  
3 bulk and transparencies for the arrangement of  
4 parking; for the selection of high-quality  
5 building materials; for the creation of links  
6 for pedestrians, bicycles, and multiple modes of  
7 transportation; for the preservation of view  
8 corridors and landscaping trails and water  
9 landings along the river's edge.

10 They advocate for LEED-rated design and  
11 construction to reverse our history and set an  
12 example for environmental responsibility. We  
13 urge the Commission to evaluate the proposals  
14 based on these standards and hold to these  
15 standards in the future for both temporary and  
16 permanent structures.

17 Honor the effort and the investment  
18 that has been put forward in this community.  
19 Ensure that the selected plan builds on the  
20 opportunity rather than creating a new  
21 liability.

22 As momentum builds to redefine  
23 Pittsburgh as a great place to live, work, study  
24 and play, it is good business to invest in our  
25 riverfront. Our rivers are a natural treasure

1 occupying the heart of the public domain. Honor  
2 that geography.

3 Seize this opportunity to reinforce a  
4 hard-won trend of momentum and economic  
5 activity. Make the rivers the front door of  
6 Pittsburgh. Make the rivers a place where you  
7 want to bring the people you love.

8 Thank you very much.

9 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: Next speaker  
10 is Ethan Raup, representing the Mt. Washington  
11 Community Development Corporation. Mr. Raup.

12 MR. RAUP: Good morning. Ethan Raup,  
13 Executive Director for the Mt. Washington  
14 Community Development Corporation. The MWDC is  
15 a 501(c)(3) non-profit.

16 We are a member-driven organization  
17 representing roughly 13,000 residents of  
18 the Mt. Washington and Duquesne Heights  
19 neighborhoods.

20 The MWDC Board has voted to remain  
21 neutral on the location of a casino in  
22 Pittsburgh. There are a range of opinions on  
23 gaming in general, and on a Pittsburgh location  
24 in particular.

25 Forest City has presented to us at our

1 monthly forum meeting in March, and we look  
2 forward to a similar presentation from the Isle  
3 of Capri next week.

4 MWDC has had a healthy working  
5 relationship with Forest City, and we expect  
6 that will continue regardless of this issue.

7 We look forward to whomever is selected  
8 to maximize positive impacts to our community  
9 and to minimize the negative impacts. The  
10 Station Square proposal would likely have the  
11 most direct impacts on Mt. Washington.

12 Some positive impacts might include  
13 additional tourist traffic on two inclines,  
14 increased foot traffic for business on Shiloh  
15 Street and increased restaurant patronage on  
16 Grandview Avenue.

17 It is also possible that the job  
18 creation and mixed-use development may help  
19 strengthen the real estate market in Mt.  
20 Washington.

21 The MWDC board and community have  
22 expressed concerns about gaming in general,  
23 which focus on human impacts, and whether gaming  
24 will truly bring any property tax relief.

25 Specific concerns regarding the Station

1 Square proposal include overflow parking in our  
2 residential areas, traffic congestion at the  
3 base of McArdle, Grandview Avenue, East Sycamore  
4 Street, Carson Street and the Smithfield Bridge,  
5 negative impacts on the image of our Scenic  
6 Byway park and increased crime.

7 The MWDC would also hope for some kind  
8 of guarantee that the promises made to  
9 communities during the bidding process by  
10 whomever is selected are kept after the license  
11 is granted and the casino and related projects  
12 are billed out.

13 Thank you very much for this  
14 opportunity to speak.

15 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: Thank you,  
16 Mr. Raup.

17 Our next scheduled speaker is Joan  
18 Stein from the Accessibility Development.

19 MS. STEIN: Good morning.

20 My name is Joan Stein. I am a resident  
21 of Allegheny County, and I am the President and  
22 CEO of Accessibility Development Associates  
23 Incorporated (ADA Incorporated).

24 We are a business located here in the  
25 golden triangle of Pittsburgh. We are a

1 Pittsburgh-based company that provides a wide  
2 range of Americans with Disabilities Act and  
3 other disability-related consulting services to  
4 governmental, civic, business and other  
5 publically- and privately-owned organizations  
6 across the United States.

7 We are also certified as a woman  
8 business enterprise by the Pennsylvania  
9 Department of General Services, Office of  
10 Minority Business.

11 Our mission is to assist organizations  
12 to identify and remove both the architectural  
13 and the attitudinal barriers that exist within  
14 those organizations that prevent individuals  
15 with disabilities from entering and fully  
16 participating.

17 My purpose here today in speaking  
18 before the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board is  
19 to talk about the importance of the full  
20 inclusion of individuals with disabilities into  
21 the fabric of our community and to make two  
22 points that are germane to this.

23 The Americans with Disabilities Act,  
24 ADA, is a civil rights law that was signed into  
25 law by former president George Bush, July 26th,

1 1990. It provides protection from  
2 discrimination to the fastest growing minority  
3 in this country.

4 It was intended to open opportunities  
5 for individuals with disabilities in employment,  
6 public education and services and private  
7 industry, including retail, entertainment,  
8 cultural events, including casinos.

9 Many people operate under the  
10 misconception that individuals with disabilities  
11 have no family, live alone and live on a fixed  
12 income. Basically that they have no life. So  
13 why would you want to market to them?

14 Well, let me give you some statistics  
15 to help you understand why the gaming industry  
16 should pay close attention to this market.  
17 People with disabilities represent the fastest  
18 growing minority in this country.

19 When the ADA was signed into law in  
20 1990, there were 43 million Americans with  
21 disabilities. According to the 2004 census,  
22 there were 54 million Americans with  
23 disabilities, roughly 17% of the population.

24 The large and growing market of people  
25 with disabilities has \$175 billion in

1 discretionary spending, according to the U.S.  
2 Department of Labor.

3 \$175 billion is almost two times the  
4 spending power of teens, and more than 17 times  
5 the spending power of tweens, 8-to-12-year-olds,  
6 two demographics sought after by businesses.

7 An open doors organization study  
8 estimated in 2003 that diners with disabilities  
9 would spend \$35 billion in restaurants that  
10 year. The study found that more than 75% of  
11 people with disabilities eat out at a restaurant  
12 at least once a week.

13 The New York Times reported that  
14 spending by travellers with disabilities exceeds  
15 \$13.6 billion annually. We want these people  
16 coming to Pittsburgh as a destination.

17 AARP says that 4 million Americans turn  
18 50 each year – I was one of them in 2005 – and  
19 that people aged 50 and older spent nearly \$400  
20 billion in 2003.

21 At age 50, adults are likely to  
22 experience age-related physical changes that may  
23 affect hearing, vision, cognition and mobility.  
24 While they may not think of themselves as having  
25 disabilities, people in this age group often

1 seek out businesses that accommodate those  
2 changes.

3 They can't spend their money if they  
4 can't get in or get around. Are you convinced  
5 yet? When the ADA was passed and the  
6 regulations for designing and building new  
7 facilities were put into place, everyone thought  
8 it was a done deal. Well, it wasn't.

9 Because it is a civil rights law, and  
10 not building code, many design and construction  
11 professionals are still having difficulty  
12 interpreting what the regulations really mean.  
13 Then they have to make sure that their plans  
14 comply with all of the building codes that the  
15 local and state officials are reviewing for,  
16 which do not include the ADA.

17 Owners and developers rely on them to  
18 design and construct facilities that, quote,  
19 comply with all applicable codes and  
20 regulations, end quote; but because the ADA is a  
21 complaint-driven law, the ADA requirements don't  
22 always get fully included, and lawsuits in  
23 federal court or complaints to the Department of  
24 Justice get filed by individual groups or people  
25 that are known as professional plaintiffs.

1 So my first strong recommendation is  
2 that every potential bidder and operator of a  
3 casino must ensure that their facilities are  
4 designed and constructed to be fully compliant  
5 with the Americans with Disabilities Act  
6 Accessibility Guidelines as a baseline. This  
7 must be a requirement. Nothing less.

8 The second point that I wish to discuss  
9 is the opportunity that the Isle of Capri's  
10 proposal offers individuals with disabilities  
11 and their families and friends in our region.

12 As we all know the Mellon arena, or for  
13 those of us who were born and raised here and  
14 graduated from it, the civic arena is old. It  
15 is the oldest arena in the National Hockey  
16 League.

17 What you may not know or ever thought  
18 about is that it is also sorely lacking in  
19 accessibility. Now, when the arena was built  
20 more than 40 years ago, accessibility  
21 regulations weren't on the books, and people  
22 with disabilities weren't even on the radar  
23 screen.

24 Trying to retrofit the arena to make  
25 it user-friendly to people with disabilities has

1 proven to be an arduous and costly task.

2 The Isle of Capri's upfront-commitment  
3 to totally fund a new arena with private money  
4 has a number of very important benefits.

5 It provides immediate and private  
6 funding for design and construction of an arena.  
7 It provides a venue that will produce tax  
8 revenues for the City of Pittsburgh, virtually  
9 365 days a year. This will not be an arena just  
10 for the Penguins, but for other events as well.

11 It will immediately put to rest the  
12 fear of the Penguins leaving town and Pittsburgh  
13 losing an important ambassador with a  
14 disability, and most importantly it will provide  
15 a user-friendly venue where my friends, family,  
16 co-workers and others with disabilities can  
17 enjoy hockey games, tractor pulls, concerts,  
18 Disney on Ice or any other events that will be  
19 lucky enough to get a date on the calendar.

20 They have already approached my  
21 organization to assist them in designing and  
22 constructing an entire development that will  
23 enable everyone the full opportunity to work  
24 there, spend their money there, enjoy themselves  
25 watching the Penguins win and contributing to

1 directly or indirectly finance the development  
2 construction of a new arena.

3 I will first speak about being a  
4 lawyer, as I am, the most boring topic, namely  
5 the law. It has been suggested by reported  
6 comments by elected officials, by third parties  
7 and has been raised, specifically, or at least  
8 has reportedly been raised specifically by the  
9 Forest City/Harrah's group as to whether or not  
10 the funding of the new arena is even legal or,  
11 if not legal, whether or not this Board can  
12 consider the funding of a new arena, when it  
13 makes its determination.

14 I will state first that the only  
15 provision that Forest City or Harrah's can rely  
16 upon to argue that it would be improper is  
17 Section 1313, which specifically deals with  
18 financial fitness requirements.

19 The Genesis of that provision, as many  
20 of you looked up your bios, have a wide history  
21 in gaming legislation. There are many ways to  
22 go about the issuance of a gaming license and  
23 many of those ways have been studied, and they  
24 have been the subject of numerous economic  
25 studies.

1 the City of Pittsburgh's entertainment tax, just  
2 like everyone else.

3 By the way, are you curious about my  
4 comment about the ambassador with the  
5 disability? Mario hasn't hidden his disability,  
6 nor his desire to keep his team here in  
7 Pittsburgh.

8 Thank you for your time and attention.

9 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: Thank you,  
10 Ms. Stein.

11 Our next speaker is scheduled to be  
12 Ronald W. Crouch representing the arena for  
13 Pittsburgh Incorporated.

14 Mr. Crouch.

15 MR. CROUCH: Good morning. My name is  
16 Ron Crouch. I am the Chairman of Arena for  
17 Pittsburgh, Inc. I am a resident of the  
18 Allegheny - County of Allegheny and have been  
19 for the last 47 years. I worked my entire adult  
20 life in downtown Pittsburgh.

21 The mission statement of Arena for  
22 Pittsburgh, as the name would suggest, is that  
23 we are strenuously pursuing that the issuance of  
24 the Category II gaming license for the City of  
25 Pittsburgh and County of Allegheny should either

1 I refer you specifically to the  
2 Expanding Slot Gaming in California Business  
3 Analysis. The concern is, is the best way to  
4 award a license by competitive bidding? By  
5 having a reverse auction, for example, where  
6 what you do is you go out and you see who wants  
7 to pay the largest license fee and who wants to  
8 provide the largest percentage tax revenue, that  
9 would be one way to go about the licensing  
10 process.

11 The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
12 disavowed that one. When the legislature passed  
13 its legislation, it chose to go through the  
14 process that we are now going through, where the  
15 licensing fee is set, where the percentage of  
16 revenue paid as tax is set, and the other  
17 considerations become predominant.

18 What the Isle of Capri is offering to  
19 do does not violate any of those principles. It  
20 is not providing additional dollars towards a  
21 licensing fee. It is not engaging in a  
22 competitive bidding or auctioning process, nor  
23 is it guaranteeing or promising any additional  
24 tax revenue to any body.

25 It is not violating the principles of

1 operational viability and, indeed, it would be  
2 the height of irony for this Board to consider  
3 that the construction of a new arena, which is  
4 going to host more than 100 events during the  
5 course of a year and draw more than 1.5 million  
6 people past the doors of its establishment, is  
7 somehow a danger to its economic viability, nor  
8 should it be considered a danger to economic  
9 viability or a detriment to its financial  
10 fitness requirements, because none of those come  
11 out of the operational dollars on an annual or  
12 budgetary basis.

13 Not only is it not a violation to fund  
14 and develop a new arena, this Board is required  
15 to consider it. The eligibility requirements  
16 that the Board is to consider, there are two  
17 mandatory requirements that are listed. There  
18 are then seven discretionary items that are  
19 listed, and those seven discretionary items list  
20 such things as the potential for new economic  
21 development and recreation, the degree to which  
22 an applicant represents a plan for the project  
23 which will likely lead to the creation of  
24 quality living, full-time jobs, permanent jobs  
25 for residents and mitigating the potential

1 adverse effects. The construction of a new  
2 arena does all of those things.

3 Once you go beyond the discretionary  
4 items, you would then turn to the legislative  
5 intent, and this Act doesn't lead back to the  
6 question. It specifically lists the legislative  
7 intent that this board is to consider, namely,  
8 significant source of new revenue to support  
9 property tax, relief wage tax reduction,  
10 economic development and other similar  
11 initiatives, broad economic opportunities to the  
12 citizens of the Commonwealth, not to the owner  
13 of the facility, further development of the  
14 tourism market, and the public interest and  
15 social effect that gaming must be taken into  
16 consideration by each and every decision or  
17 order of this Board.

18 So I put it to you that not only is the  
19 funding or development of a new arena not  
20 violative of the legislative process, but it is  
21 something that this Board is mandated by  
22 legislative intent and by the act to take into  
23 account.

24 Now, as for the need for the new arena,  
25 this organization, like the others, has remained

1 neutral, although it is becoming increasingly  
2 difficult to do so.

3 The speaker before me mentioned that it  
4 is the oldest arena in the National Hockey  
5 League. Well, it is much worse than that. And  
6 she mentioned that it is inaccessible and,  
7 actually, I would proffer it is a dangerous  
8 facility, as we experienced not too long ago  
9 when we had two power outages, and there was a  
10 concern for the need for evacuation.

11 You have jerry-rigged seats, the F  
12 balcony at the civic arena - of Mellon arena  
13 are seats that no elderly person, no person with  
14 any disability could ever get into, and to have  
15 to vacate that building in an emergency would be  
16 extraordinary and difficult.

17 It is not only the oldest in the NHL;  
18 if it was an NBA team, it would be the oldest in  
19 the NBA. It would not only be the oldest, but  
20 it would be the oldest by decades for both the  
21 NBA and the NHL, except for Madison Square  
22 Garden, which, of course, underwent a very  
23 substantial tens-of-million-dollar renovation in  
24 the eighties.

25 It is also the smallest. If you take

1 out the -- and if you take out the 3,000  
2 jerry-rigged seats, some of which have only  
3 partial visibility or obstructed views, it would  
4 not only be the smallest, but it would be the  
5 smallest by several thousand seats.

6 I have been a resident of the city for  
7 quite some time, as I've indicated, and I have  
8 watched our city go from being amongst the top  
9 20 in population. I have watched the county  
10 from becoming one of the largest in the  
11 metropolitan areas, to the most recent census  
12 data now lists the City of Pittsburgh at 48 with  
13 a population of only 327,000.

14 With the metropolitan area ranked 22 in  
15 the country, we are consistently losing 3 to 4%  
16 of our population per year. We consistently are  
17 losing businesses.

18 The residents are leaving the City of  
19 Pittsburgh by historical accident and by  
20 topography. The problem with the City of  
21 Pittsburgh is that we have a very small tax  
22 base. It is geographically very compact. So to  
23 generate tax revenue in a circumstance where we  
24 are losing population and a circumstance where  
25 we are losing businesses and where the existing

1 businesses can avoid city taxes, simply by  
2 moving their headquarters by three or four  
3 miles, it is quite a crisis. It is a death  
4 spiral.

5 The creation of a new arena is  
6 fundamental to reversing that spiral. Up until  
7 a couple weeks ago, people would ask me about  
8 the mission statement of Arena for Pittsburgh,  
9 and I would say that we are very much aligned  
10 with the philosophy of Chief Executive Dan  
11 Onorato; and that is that directly or indirectly  
12 this gaming license should fund the development  
13 of a new arena.

14 After yesterday, I don't think I can  
15 any longer say that. And I think if we analyze  
16 Chief Executive Onorato's comments, he perhaps  
17 unwittingly has endorsed the Isle of Capri plan.  
18 He said it is a done deal, no matter who wins,  
19 you have an arrangement now to build an arena  
20 with gaming money; and that is where you want to  
21 be.

22 Well, no, you don't. You have one of  
23 two possibilities. You have the Isle of Capri  
24 which is going to fund and put the new arena in  
25 place.

1 We are at a unique point in the history  
2 of this region. The county cannot afford a new  
3 arena. The state either cannot afford or will  
4 not fund a new arena. The only way this arena  
5 is going to be built is if within the next 12  
6 months we have a coalescence of gaming money and  
7 other private dollars.

8 Plan B only works if the Pittsburgh  
9 Penguins choose to incur an additional fee to  
10 stay in Pittsburgh. It is at a time when they  
11 are being solicited and sought for by numerous  
12 cities throughout the nation.

13 When I announced the formation of our  
14 organization, the first city to publicize it was  
15 not the media in Pittsburgh, it was the media in  
16 Las Vegas.

17 The only way to ensure that we are  
18 going to have an arena, which is so vital to the  
19 economic development and the revitalization of  
20 the City of Pittsburgh and the County of  
21 Allegheny, is if this Board used the funding  
22 commitments of the Applicants as its major  
23 priority, and at this point the Isle of Capri is  
24 clearly the front runner.

25 Thank you.

1 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: Thank you,  
2 Mr. Crouch, for your comments.

3 The next speaker is Mike Mooney,  
4 spokesperson for Slots for Mario.

5 MR. MOONEY: Good morning. My name is  
6 Michael Mooney, and I represent over 36,000  
7 individuals who signed our petition at  
8 Slots for Mario.com.

9 A friend and I started  
10 Slots for Mario.com in June of 2004 when the  
11 slots legislation was originally passed.

12 Our intent at that time was to gather  
13 signatures in support of using the opportunity  
14 presented by the slots legislation to have a new  
15 multi-purpose arena built for Pittsburgh with no  
16 taxpayer money, and keep the Penguins here in  
17 Pittsburgh.

18 Since then, slots for Mario.com has  
19 become much more. We are a place where  
20 supporters can come and get news about the  
21 process, and how they can help accomplish our  
22 goal of getting a new arena and keeping the  
23 Penguins in Pittsburgh.

24 There is only one applicant that has  
25 met our objective, and that is the Isle of

1 Capri; that is why we support awarding the  
2 Pittsburgh area slots license to the Isle of  
3 Capri.

4 We believe it is the best option for  
5 Pittsburgh for many reasons. The Isle of Capri  
6 plan includes building of a new multi-purpose  
7 arena for the Greater Pittsburgh Region, with no  
8 taxpayer money.

9 The Isle of Capri plans to redevelop a  
10 long-neglected area of the city, which will help  
11 generate jobs, housing and a new entertainment  
12 destination.

13 The Isle of Capri also plans to ensure  
14 the future of the Pittsburgh Penguins here in  
15 Pittsburgh, where they belong. Respectfully, we  
16 ask that the Isle of Capri be awarded this  
17 stand-alone slots license.

18 The building of a new multi-purpose  
19 arena is essential for this region because our  
20 current arena, as many people already stated  
21 today, is over 40 years old. It is in a state  
22 that will no longer allow the people of  
23 Pittsburgh to enjoy events such as hockey,  
24 basketball, concerts, ice shows and circuses in  
25 the way other cities are able to.

1 The current condition of the 40-year  
2 old arena is very visible in the past few  
3 months. The start of a Pittsburgh Explosion  
4 basketball game was delayed because the roof was  
5 leaking, and the Penguins had a game interrupted  
6 twice during play due to power outages.

7 These hinder our city when we try to  
8 hold events such as these that by-pass  
9 Pittsburgh, harm our image and prevent us from  
10 obtaining additional revenue from these sources.

11 In addition, our current local economic  
12 situation does not allow an arena to be built  
13 any time soon using taxpayer money. This means  
14 that we need to find an alternative source of  
15 funding for building a new multi-purpose  
16 facility. The passing of gaming legislation has  
17 given us that opportunity.

18 This opportunity to have an arena built  
19 free of charge does not come along very often  
20 and probably will not again, and we must not  
21 allow this to pass us by.

22 The Isle of Capri and the Pittsburgh  
23 Penguins plan to team together with Nationwide  
24 Realty to invest a total of \$1 billion to  
25 redevelop a long-neglected area of Pittsburgh.

1 development around a Station-Square-based casino  
2 will generate income only for Forest City.

3 In fact, a representative for Forest  
4 City, Mr. Abe Naparstek, recently stated that  
5 the lower Hill District is in greater need of  
6 redevelopment than Station Square is.

7 A big part of the Isle of Capri's plan  
8 is the Penguins, and it's very clear that the  
9 team's fate is now directly tied to the issuance  
10 of the slots license.

11 Pittsburgh has a vested interest in  
12 keeping the Penguins here because they are a  
13 very important part of our local economy and  
14 tourism.

15 The Greater Pittsburgh Convention and  
16 Visitors Bureau recently estimated that the  
17 overall loss to the Pittsburgh economy due to  
18 the NHL lockout last season was a total of \$74  
19 million. This loss included over \$10 million in  
20 local tax revenue, and this \$74 million also  
21 includes revenue lost by many locally-owned  
22 businesses that will flourish if a new arena and  
23 casino were built together in the uptown  
24 neighborhood.

25 Our local economy cannot afford to lose

1 Nationwide Realty has already  
2 successfully developed the arena district in  
3 Columbus. Their plan for Pittsburgh is a very  
4 similar one and includes building a casino,  
5 multi-purpose arena, housing, new shopping  
6 district, and will create a new entertainment  
7 destination in Pittsburgh.

8 With the help of the Pittsburgh  
9 Penguins, this development will help draw people  
10 from around the country.

11 In addition to the \$1 billion of new  
12 development, they are planning to build a casino  
13 and new arena in the heart of Pittsburgh which  
14 will benefit many new locally-owned businesses  
15 in and around the new development.

16 This development will attract patrons  
17 and additional revenue to the downtown area that  
18 currently have no reason to venture into  
19 downtown.

20 Other proposed plans such as  
21 Cleveland-based Forest City's, will seclude the  
22 casino from the heart of the city and will only  
23 benefit one property owner, Forest City.

24 They own all of the land in and around  
25 the Station Square area; therefore, any

1 \$74 million on an annual basis. Almost 20% of  
2 our 36,000 signatures come from people outside  
3 of Pennsylvania, from as far away as Russia and  
4 Australia. The majority of these people visit  
5 Pittsburgh on an annual basis because of the  
6 Penguins. These tourism dollars will be lost  
7 forever if the Penguins leave.

8 A perfect example of this is that after  
9 a recent Penguins game, I had the pleasure of  
10 meeting two gentlemen from Montreal. They were  
11 in town for four days to see the Penguins play  
12 twice.

13 I asked them if they would come to  
14 Pittsburgh if the Penguins were not here. Their  
15 exact response to me was, we would not have  
16 heard of Pittsburgh if it wasn't for the  
17 Penguins.

18 I then asked them if they would come  
19 here if we had a slots casino, but no hockey  
20 team, and they said that Pittsburgh would never  
21 be a consideration without the Penguins because  
22 there are many other places for them to visit  
23 closer to their homes with casinos.

24 This sentiment has been reflected in  
25 the comments of our petitioners many times over.

1 They have emphatically stated that they would  
2 never come to Pittsburgh if the Penguins were to  
3 leave here.

4 I have invited -- I invite the esteemed  
5 board to look through our comments and verify  
6 that these comments are in.

7 All of this is evidence that Pittsburgh  
8 will not be a destination just because of a  
9 slots casino; however, the Penguins being in  
10 Pittsburgh with a new arena next to the casino  
11 will help draw people both to Pittsburgh and to  
12 the casino. This will allow the Isle of Capri  
13 casino to draw individuals in a way not possible  
14 for other casino applicants.

15 The Penguins also have an impact on the  
16 quality of life of area residents. Not only do  
17 they provide us with a sense of civic pride when  
18 they are contending for a Stanley Cup, but they  
19 also provide us with entertainment enjoyment  
20 during all hockey seasons. We enjoy sharing  
21 game nights with family and friends. We enjoy  
22 watching them on TV when we cannot see them in  
23 person.

24 I personally have very fond memories of  
25 going to see the Penguins with my father and my

1 brother when I was very young, of watching them  
2 win two Stanley Cups when I was a bit older with  
3 my friends, and now of taking my children to  
4 their first hockey games and watching the games  
5 on TV with them. Myself and over 36,000 other  
6 people who have signed our petition do not want  
7 to lose that.

8 As evidenced by Ken Sawyer's comments,  
9 the Penguins future in Pittsburgh has not been  
10 solved as Mayor O'Connor stated yesterday.

11 And to correct what County Executive  
12 Onorato stated, there is not a three-in-three  
13 chance of a new arena being funded by a  
14 successful slots applicant. In fact, Harrah's  
15 representative, Franco Harris, recently stated  
16 that they do not agree with Plan B as presented  
17 by Governor Rendell because they do not feel  
18 they should pay more for an arena than the  
19 Penguins.

20 As you can see, there are many reasons  
21 that the Isle of Capri's plan is the best for  
22 Pittsburgh. Their location will allow the  
23 individually-owned businesses and property  
24 owners in and around the arena to flourish.  
25 They will help build a new entertainment

1 district for Pittsburgh that will help draw  
2 people from around the country to the area and  
3 to the casino. They will build a multi-purpose  
4 arena for the Pittsburgh region with no taxpayer  
5 money, and the new arena will ensure the future  
6 of the Pittsburgh Penguins here in Pittsburgh  
7 and the \$74 million in annual economic impact  
8 that they generate.

9 I invite the PA Gaming Control Board to  
10 visit our website, Slots for Mario.com, to look  
11 through the comments left by those who have  
12 signed our petition or to look through the  
13 printouts of the signatures that were previously  
14 submitted to you.

15 I kindly ask that your decision be an  
16 endorsement for the Isle of Capri's application  
17 for a Pittsburgh slots parlor license.

18 Over 36,000 voices have spoke today,  
19 and we appreciate your consideration.

20 Thank you.

21 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: Thank you,  
22 Mr. Mooney. I note that you have an  
23 approximately four-inch stack of petitions with  
24 you. I ask that you give them to the Clerk and  
25 I ask that the Clerk collectively mark them as

1 Exhibit No. 1 for Slots for Mario for entering  
2 into this record of the public hearings. Thank  
3 you.

4 Our next speaker is Erin Molchany from  
5 the Pittsburgh Urban Magnet Project.

6 MS. MOLCHANY: Good morning, ladies and  
7 gentlemen. My name is Erin Molchany, and I am  
8 the Executive Director for Pittsburgh Urban  
9 Magnet Project, an organization more widely  
10 known as PUMP.

11 The Pittsburgh Urban Magnet Project is  
12 a non-profit membership organization that  
13 advances issues facing young and young-thinking  
14 people, in an attempt to make Pittsburgh a more  
15 dynamic, diverse and engaging place to live.

16 I am here today on behalf of PUMP's  
17 1700-plus members to let you know what young  
18 people think about the proposed casino in the  
19 City of Pittsburgh.

20 Just to give you background on who I  
21 represent, here are some statistics that will  
22 give you a snapshot of who a PUMP member is.  
23 More than 1700 members make up the PUMP  
24 constituency. Our members are artists,  
25 architects, attorneys, bankers, business owners,

1 designers, entrepreneurs, graduate students,  
2 musicians, photographers, professors, restaurant  
3 owners, et cetera, who work and play in the  
Pittsburgh region. Of those 1700-plus members,  
5 56% are women, 44% are men.

6 PUMP is an issues-driven organization  
7 that educates members in the community about  
8 issues facing our region and serves as a  
9 collective political voice of young people.

10 97% of PUMP members vote and the median  
11 age is between 25 and 39; however, members range  
12 in age from 19 to 70. There is no age  
13 requirement associated with membership.

14 To continue with our snapshot, 93% of  
15 our membership hold a Bachelor's degree, while  
16 39% a Master's and 9% PhD. Perhaps the most  
17 startling statistic regarding our membership is  
18 that 41% of PUMP members are not from  
19 Pittsburgh.

20 I am here testifying because PUMP  
21 members are interested in the issue of gaming  
22 and want to let you know how they foresee a  
23 Pittsburgh casino affecting them and the future  
24 of the city that they are choosing to invest in.

25 PUMP takes issues facing our region

1 PTIG gaming were all invited to present their  
2 development plan to our members and attendees,  
3 were given the opportunity to ask each presenter  
4 questions about their prospective proposals.

5 For those who didn't make it to the  
6 forum, we provide the links to each of the  
7 applicant's websites for members to read up on  
8 each proposal prior to taking the survey.

9 Following the forum, PUMP worked with  
10 Dr. Greg Crowley, Director of Research for the  
11 Coro Center for Civic Leadership, to develop a  
12 survey which was sent to PUMP's 1700 members via  
13 e-mail. We collected data over the course of  
14 two weeks in order to present PUMP's position on  
15 gaming in Pittsburgh at today's hearing.

16 The questions we asked, which I will  
17 get to in a moment, focused on how each proposal  
18 will affect economic development, possible  
19 transportation challenges, job opportunities for  
20 young people and youth retention.

21 Because of the population decline that  
22 Pittsburgh has seen over the past few years and  
23 the unfortunate problem of brain drain, PUMP  
24 strives to connect members with opportunities to  
25 creative solutions to help reverse this trend.

1 very seriously and makes every effort to  
2 educate, evaluate and communicate the thoughts  
3 and opinions of young people who oftentimes look  
4 at problems differently, and tend to seek out  
5 creative ways to solve them.

6 Because our membership is  
7 professionally diverse, we study problems from  
8 different perspectives and work collaboratively  
9 to address them. We survey our members yearly  
10 on which issues they would like PUMP to  
11 concentrate educational advocacy efforts on  
12 during the year.

13 Some regional issues that we focus on  
14 at PUMP include economic development – which as  
15 a new industry in southwestern PA, gaming falls  
16 under – municipal consolidation, transcription  
17 and education. These topics have all been  
18 identified by PUMP members as issues of vital  
19 importance to the future vitality of our region.

20 Before I present the results of PUMP's  
21 gaming survey, I want to talk a little bit about  
22 the process we use to collect this information.

23 On April 3rd, at the request of our  
24 members, PUMP hosted an educational forum on  
25 gaming. Harrah's/Forest City, Isle of Capri and

1 This survey clarifies their concerns  
2 and presents solutions to Pittsburgh's most  
3 challenging problems with the introduction of  
4 gaming into our local economy.

5 Our three-pronged approach to advancing  
6 issues facing young people, education,  
7 evaluation and communication helped form the  
8 basis of today's testimony.

9 PUMP's gaming survey proved to be  
10 widely popular among members. This survey was  
11 taken more than any other survey distributed by  
12 the organization in its history.

13 I would also like to state that PUMP's  
14 gaming survey was intended to be a measurement  
15 rather than an endorsement of gaming and its  
16 effect of Pittsburgh. The results, however,  
17 clearly show that one Pittsburgh casino proposal  
18 appeals more to PUMP members than the rest.

19 We begin with some basic demographic  
20 information. Where do you live? 54% of PUMP  
21 members identified themselves as City of  
22 Pittsburgh residents, while 46% claim to live  
23 outside of the city. We were surprised by this  
24 simple question, because this is a shift from  
25 previous years where an overwhelming majority of

1 PUMP members lived in the City of Pittsburgh.

2 69% of our members feel that gaming is  
3 good overall for Pennsylvania. We asked our  
4 members which of the following issues that PUMP  
5 focuses its education advocacy efforts on, will  
6 be most affected by gaming in Pennsylvania;  
7 Community development, economic development,  
8 transportation, jobs for young people. And  
9 attraction and attention of young people were  
10 identified.

11 69% of our members cited economic  
12 development as the number one issue that will be  
13 impacted by gaming. Community development and  
14 talent attraction and retention garnered 48% and  
15 34% respectively, to round up the top three  
16 issues that will yield opportunities and  
17 challenges with the introduction of gaming.

18 51% of members feel strongly that the  
19 Isle of Capri plan offers the best employment  
20 opportunities for young people, while PTIG  
21 Gaming and Harrah's were the weakest on the  
22 provision of job opportunities for young people.

23 62% of members felt strongly that the  
24 Isle of Capri plan offered the most opportunity  
25 to attract people through economic development.

1 Pittsburgh region.

2 While the results of this survey show  
3 that PUMP members feel that the Isle of Capri  
4 plan is most in line with the vision they have  
5 of Pittsburgh, that attracts and retains its  
6 youth by providing job opportunities and  
7 amenities for young people, the comments  
8 regarding what young people would like to see  
9 happen with additional gaming revenues other  
10 than the intended tax relief include a variety  
11 of suggestions.

12 Young people in Pittsburgh share the  
13 Mayor's vision of a clean and safe city.  
14 Through this survey, they indicated that  
15 non-earmarked revenues generated by gaming  
16 should pay for additional police to keep the  
17 venue and surrounding neighborhoods safe and  
18 community reinvestment projects in surrounding  
19 neighborhoods that will improve the conditions  
20 of our streets and preserve the historic  
21 buildings that give Pittsburgh its character.

22 Respondents also focused a majority of  
23 their comments on creating a thriving downtown  
24 with a blend of commercial and residential  
25 properties that complement each other, using

1 72% feel that the Isle of Capri provides the  
2 most in community development, and 58% felt that  
3 the Isle of Capri is most likely to follow  
4 through on the deliverables cited in their  
5 proposal.

6 60% of PUMP members feel that the Isle  
7 of Capri plan is the most effective in  
8 addressing the issues of youth retention. The  
9 Harrah's/Forest City development was cited as  
10 creating the most transportation challenges for  
11 Pittsburghers, while the Isle of Capri plan was  
12 identified as creating the least transportation  
13 problems.

14 Based on these results, when asked  
15 which plan as a whole do you feel provides the  
16 most benefits for the Pittsburgh region, 81% of  
17 PUMP members chose Isle of Capri.

18 76% of our membership identified the  
19 Isle of Capri entertainment complex is the site  
20 that they would most likely visit. Finally,  
21 when asked to remove all amenities, which we  
22 defined as community funding and arena  
23 condominiums and riverfront development, from  
24 the equation, 73% felt that the Isle of Capri  
25 presented a plan that would most benefit the

1 gaming revenue to improve the city's educational  
2 system and upgrades to Pittsburgh's public  
3 transit system.

4 All in all, capital improvements to the  
5 city's antiquated infrastructure were at the top  
6 of the wish list regarding what to do with  
7 additional revenue that each proposal is  
8 planning to utilize for community funds and  
9 arena and riverfront trail development.

10 It was also very clear from the results  
11 of the survey that the construction of a new  
12 multi-purpose arena is of paramount importance.

13 Young people view a new arena as an  
14 entertainment venue that will attract their peer  
15 group with marquis events and provide a  
16 long-term source of tax revenue for Pittsburgh.

17 In closing, I simply ask that you  
18 consider the thoughts and opinions of young and  
19 young-thinking people in Pittsburgh as you  
20 deliberate on which entity will be awarded the  
21 license.

22 While I am sure you are examining which  
23 proposal presents the most opportunities in job  
24 creation, tax relief, and deliverables that are  
25 consistent with Pennsylvania's gaming

1 legislation, I ask that you remember all of your  
2 audience.

3 While young people do not represent the  
4 average casino patrons, they do represent the  
5 future vitality of this region. I urge you to  
6 take our suggestions and concerns into  
7 consideration.

8 Thank you for your time.

9 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: Thank you.

10 Our next scheduled speaker is Kevin  
11 Joyce representing the WCPRA. Mr. Joyce.

12 MR. JOYCE: Good morning and welcome to  
13 Pittsburgh. It's an honor to have you here, and  
14 it's really a good opportunity, I think, to  
15 examine, you know, the effect on gaming.

16 I didn't prepare a long statement  
17 today. I really hope to --

18 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: Can you tell  
19 us what the WCPRA stands for?

20 MR. JOYCE: Okay. WCPRA stands for the  
21 Western Chapter of the Pennsylvania Restaurant  
22 Association, of which I am a Past Chairman of  
23 the Board and Past President.

24 I am current President of the  
25 Pennsylvania Restaurant Association. So I

1 areas where casinos open up and so much food  
2 service is added, that instead of it being a  
3 spur to the local economy, it's been a detriment  
4 to folks that are operating around a casino.

5 So I guess the first concern I want to  
6 put to you today is that during the time  
7 legislation was considering this legislation --  
8 and I'm sure you are all political appointees so  
9 you follow it pretty well.

10 You know the way it happened. It  
11 happened without debate. It happened in the  
12 middle of the night. Amendments weren't allowed  
13 to be run.

14 We had amendments that were suggested  
15 and supported by several legislators that would  
16 have limited the amount of square footage in  
17 these casinos -- I shouldn't even say casinos  
18 cause these aren't casinos. These are slots  
19 parlors. But limit the amount of square footage  
20 devoted to food service.

21 We know there has to be food service  
22 there. We know there has to be beverage service  
23 there, but does it have to be to such an extent  
24 that it's going to dramatically affect the other  
25 operators in the region?

1 represent 32,000 restaurants and licensees  
2 across the Commonwealth.

3 I am here today at the direction of a  
4 local chapter, as well as the Pennsylvania  
5 Restaurant Association.

6 I am going to speak about a couple  
7 issues, local issues, some local issues and some  
8 global issues.

9 It is no secret that our industry was  
10 not a big fan of gaming. Gaming has always been  
11 considered by the food and beverage industry as  
12 a potential threat, basically a threat because  
13 gaming takes disposable income. And we have  
14 seen in many regions where gaming has come into  
15 a region, especially local restaurants, seem to  
16 go away.

17 We have a history of Atlantic City  
18 where there were several hundred independent  
19 restaurants prior to the casinos taking over the  
20 boardwalk, and now you will find very few. I  
21 think, actually, less than a couple dozen  
22 independent separate restaurants in Atlantic  
23 City that aren't connected with a casino.

24 We have seen and heard of effects in  
25 Detroit, Michigan, and some of the southern

1 We would like to see some way there is  
2 synergy created where restaurants in this region  
3 can benefit from the addition of the casino.  
4 And, quite frankly, I don't know that it's been  
5 done right anywhere.

6 The legislators didn't allow amendments  
7 so the task really falls to you. We are looking  
8 to you for that protection.

9 We also think we need protection from  
10 unfair competition. We don't believe that it  
11 should be right for a casino to offer  
12 all-you-can eat buffets for 4.99 and sell their  
13 food below the cost of what it would be for a  
14 regular person that didn't have a gaming casino  
15 license to operate. We don't believe that  
16 drinks should be given away or sold below market  
17 prices.

18 So those are concerns that I  
19 think -- you need to think about square footage.  
20 You need to think about making sure that they  
21 don't unfairly compete. You need to think  
22 about, are they going to come in and take all of  
23 our employees? That is always a concern.  
24 Hopefully we can generate enough new-trained  
25 employees to support these new restaurants.

1 Every proposal I heard yesterday, the  
2 Isle of Capri talks about five restaurants; Don  
3 Barden talks about, I think, 11 or 12 and then  
4 additional areas. These are all concerns  
5 because in this area alone, we have had a number  
6 of publically-subsidized developments take old  
7 steel mills and turn them into food courts or  
8 restaurant havens and entertainment centers.

9 Every time we do this with public  
10 money, we are using public money to create  
11 private businesses to compete with people that  
12 are already here.

13 Pittsburgh is not getting any bigger,  
14 and unfortunately we are not growing in the  
15 right way. There are a lot of people that are  
16 putting a lot of hopes on economic development  
17 on the slots. Most of us in our industry think  
18 that is misplaced.

19 We are hoping that you guys get it  
20 right. We don't think they should be special.  
21 In New Jersey, they just passed a smoking ban.  
22 It affected everybody but casinos.

23 Now, these smoking bans are being  
24 passed everywhere under the guise of the health  
25 of the employees. Aren't those employees valued

1 super-highest in the nation. That is driving  
2 tenants away. A very difficult environment to  
3 operate.

4 I think Don was one of, maybe, 55  
5 customers last night, on a slow Tuesday night,  
6 after tax season with high prices of gas. It is  
7 a difficult environment.

8 We found last year, with the absence of  
9 the Penguins, just what it means to not have a  
10 team and it is devastating. Every home game or  
11 every event at the Civic arena fills downtown  
12 restaurants currently. If that goes away, we  
13 are in trouble.

14 We don't get half the concerts we could  
15 be getting in this region because we don't have  
16 an updated facility.

17 So the importance of keeping hockey in  
18 Pittsburgh, the importance of a new facility,  
19 it's critical. We just want to – you know,  
20 again, I don't know – our group didn't  
21 necessarily endorse Isle of Capri. We are  
22 endorsing the concept that we need to keep this  
23 team here. We need to keep this arena here.

24 Personally, it looks to me, to start  
25 construction in 90 days without having to tie up

1 as well? The point is, we want a level playing  
2 field. So that is the primary reason that I  
3 want to speak to you from the Pennsylvania  
4 Restaurant Association perspective.

5 From the Western Pennsylvania  
6 Restaurant Chapter perspective, I can't tell you  
7 how important this hockey team is to this  
8 region. I have a downtown restaurant. I have  
9 been operating the Carlton restaurant for 22  
10 years. Right across the street, fine dining  
11 restaurant, DiRona award-winning restaurant.

12 I think Don Barden was in my restaurant  
13 last night and said some nice things. I'm sorry  
14 I wasn't there to meet him. But the point is,  
15 we are not a great environment. It is a very  
16 difficult environment in downtown Pittsburgh.

17 These buildings are emptying. These  
18 structures around you, they are not what they  
19 used to be. Occupancy of these buildings,  
20 office occupancy is dramatically down, the  
21 lowest it has ever been in my 22 years of  
22 operation, in major part because of the city's  
23 financial woes. A major part because we now  
24 have 50% parking tax. It went from 31% to 50%.  
25 It went from the highest in the nation to the

1 critical income and interest payments is a  
2 pretty good deal for this region.

3 Another hat I wore a few years ago was  
4 chairman of a group called Citizens for a  
5 Positive Future; and that group was char – a  
6 lot of civic leaders on that group – was  
7 charged with trying to get over the hump to get  
8 the two stadiums and the convention center  
9 built, a very difficult time then. That issue  
10 divided our region.

11 The Mayor kind of stubbed his toe at  
12 one point, and they needed civic people to come  
13 forward and get involved.

14 I can tell you that we don't need  
15 another debate like that in Pittsburgh. We  
16 have – we are at a crossroads and we really  
17 need to think about moving forward. If we have  
18 an opportunity to get this arena done, put it  
19 off the table, that is a great opportunity.  
20 Development of that lower hill is a great  
21 opportunity. Downtown housing is a great  
22 opportunity.

23 So I think you have to look at all of  
24 the proposals. The Ratners have been operating  
25 in Pittsburgh since the early seventies. They

1 have done a lot of good things. There is no  
2 question. They are good citizens here.

3 I wish they were a little quicker on  
4 convention center hotel, because that is a front  
5 door - I sat on the design commission for the  
6 convention center. We envisioned a front door  
7 that has not yet been built.

8 It is hurting our ability to garner  
9 better conventions. It is not entirely their  
10 fault. The market is not there, and they want  
11 some public subsidies, I'm sure, to help along;  
12 but they are good corporate citizens.

13 Don Barden gave every indication that  
14 he is a corporate citizen as well in the areas  
15 that they are in.

16 But from our local standpoint, the  
17 threat of gaming is concerning to all of us in  
18 terms of what it is going to do to disposable  
19 income. Hopefully you will look at other  
20 markets and how that affected other markets and  
21 put the stop gaps in.

22 But if we were to have gaming, which is  
23 taking a chunk out of our ability to operate,  
24 and no Penguins, and no facility, that is a  
25 double whammy that we just can't afford.

1 MR. NASSAN: Good morning. My name is  
2 Edward Nassan and I am the president of Unite  
3 Here, that is the Union, Local 57, in  
4 Pittsburgh. I am also a member of the Gaming  
5 Task Force.

6 Unite Here represents thousands of  
7 hospitality workers in the Pittsburgh area, many  
8 of whom you had the chance to see yesterday with  
9 the red shirts like mine.

10 Unite Here also represents 100,000  
11 gaming workers across the country, in virtually  
12 every gaming market, big and small; everything  
13 from Las Vegas and Atlantic City to the racinos  
14 in West Virginia and New York.

15 We are particularly proud of the fact  
16 that we have created a quality standard of  
17 living for service-sector workers in the gaming  
18 industry; that means good jobs with good wages,  
19 health benefits and pension plans.

20 We live in a service economy now.  
21 Service jobs, like those in casinos, are their  
22 fastest growing sector of our economy. The fee  
23 service jobs are quality jobs where workers can  
24 buy homes and cars and send children to college  
25 and have middle-class standard of living, and

1 So I hope you look at this stuff very  
2 carefully. You know, you are all faces up  
3 there. I kind of - I was sitting here  
4 yesterday. I listened to all three proposals  
5 and I kind of felt bad. I have been on a lot of  
6 Commissions and Boards through the years. I am  
7 on the Governor's Travel and Tourism Advisory  
8 Commission, appointed by three different  
9 Governors.

10 I kind of feel bad for you sitting here  
11 for two days, and it is all one way. If any of  
12 you have any questions in the last 34 seconds, I  
13 will be happy to entertain it, because I feel  
14 bad. I feel like, you know, you are just  
15 getting it all one way, and there is no give and  
16 take.

17 But I appreciate the opportunity to be  
18 here, and I know you have a critical decision in  
19 front of you, and I wish you the best of luck.

20 Thanks very much.

21 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: Thank you,  
22 Mr. Joyce.

23 Our next speaker is Edward Nassan, from  
24 Unite Here, Local 57, Pittsburgh district. Is  
25 it Nassan? Mr. Nassan.

1 Pittsburgh will prosper; but if those jobs are  
2 typical service industry jobs with low wages and  
3 benefits that are unaffordable, then we are in  
4 trouble.

5 I know it was the intention of our  
6 state's political leaders to have good quality  
7 jobs in this new industry, but Unite Here has  
8 created a gaming industry and partnership with  
9 many gaming industry employers is a model for  
10 the casinos that are coming to Pittsburgh and  
11 Pennsylvania.

12 In our opinion, the creation of good  
13 quality service jobs is the most important  
14 economic benefit from casino gaming, and we hope  
15 the Board is vigilant on this issue.

16 There is no other way for Pittsburgh to  
17 guarantee good gaming jobs unless these jobs  
18 are unionized. Unite Here is the mechanism to  
19 ensure job quality in the casino that will be in  
20 Pittsburgh.

21 We are fortunate that we have two  
22 applicants for this Pittsburgh gaming license  
23 that have committed to good jobs for the people  
24 in this city, Harrah's and the Isle of Capri.

25 Most of Harrah's casino properties

1 around the country are unionized; and that  
2 company has an inevitable track record in  
3 partnering with Unite Here to create a middle  
4 class standard of living for its workers.

5 We are confident that the  
6 Harrah's/Forest City proposal would lead to good  
7 quality jobs in Pittsburgh.

8 Isle of Capri has cooperated with Unite  
9 Here on jobs in a number of different gaming  
10 markets; that company has done everything we  
11 have ever asked to do in terms of partnering  
12 with us to create quality jobs in its casinos;  
13 and we believe its proposal for Pittsburgh will  
14 lead to good jobs here.

15 Thank you for your time and thank you  
16 for keeping the issue of job quality front and  
17 center as you decide the gaming license  
18 throughout the state.

19 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: Thank you,  
20 sir.

21 Our next scheduled speaker is Mary P.  
22 Joseph, representing the Cystic Fibrosis  
23 Foundation. Is Ms. Joseph here?

24 MS. JOSEPH: Yes.

25 Good morning. My name is Mary Pat

1 commitment and the leadership of its management  
2 and ownership team.

3 Since the inception of the partnership  
4 between the Cystic Fibrosis Chapter and the  
5 Pittsburgh Penguins over 20 years ago, over \$3  
6 million has been raised which directly supports  
7 the research and vital patient care programs.

8 These dollars have been directly  
9 reinvested back into the Pittsburgh community in  
10 research studies and in the specialized care  
11 centers serving the medical needs of the local  
12 CF population.

13 The Penguins' team, including its  
14 players, owners and management, individual  
15 representatives, have an ongoing high regard for  
16 the less fortunate individuals in their  
17 community.

18 They have actively participated in  
19 countless dinners and special events to raise  
20 awareness and revenue for organizations like the  
21 CF Foundation who are fighting for their win, a  
22 cure and control for CF, and an end to the  
23 ravages of this disease.

24 Since the Penguins and CF partnership's  
25 inception over 20 years ago, the progress and

1 Joseph, and I am a resident of Allegheny County.

2 I am here today -- I serve as the  
3 Executive Director of the Western Pennsylvania  
4 Chapter of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

5 I specifically serve 30,000 children  
6 and adults challenged by cystic fibrosis.  
7 Cystic fibrosis is a life-shortening, genetic  
8 disease. People with CF suffer from chronic and  
9 life-threatening lung infections and have  
10 difficulty with digestion.

11 My purpose in attending today's hearing  
12 is to affirm our position as a steadfast partner  
13 with the Pittsburgh Penguins, and to testify  
14 that the team's economic impact with my  
15 organization and countless other community  
16 groups is vital and impactful on and off the  
17 ice.

18 The Pittsburgh Penguins have been a  
19 part of Pittsburgh for over 40 years. The team  
20 is loaded with young talent, ensuring a bright  
21 future for the region's avid hockey fans and  
22 long-term economic impact.

23 The historical partnership between the  
24 Pittsburgh Penguins and the Cystic Fibrosis  
25 Foundation extends over 20 years, thanks to the

1 research and medical breakthroughs have been  
2 significant and relevant. The median age of  
3 survival for an individual with CF in 1986 was  
4 18 years of age.

5 Today, the median age of survival is 35  
6 years, meaning half of those with CF will reach  
7 this milestone birthday and half will not.

8 Our partnership started at a time when  
9 the Penguins team had a barely-existing fan base  
10 and continued through the crest of popularity  
11 highlighted by the Mario years. Their  
12 partnership and support was never discarded,  
13 whether the team was enjoying a hugely  
14 successful season or a drought season.

15 They were there for us, even during the  
16 NHL walk-out strike, when a quick repositioning  
17 of their Penguins-At-Your-Service dinner became  
18 a Guess-Who-Is-At-Your-Service dinner. And with  
19 their support and assistance, over \$100,000 was  
20 raised without a team technically present.

21 The team and its leadership are  
22 committed to Pittsburgh and the surrounding  
23 region. The loss of the Pens to the nonprofit  
24 community in the leisure community cannot be  
25 minimized or devalued in the light of the strong

1 economic downfall their departure will create.

2 This gaming license award should be a  
3 part of maintaining this unique and impactful  
4 team, in light of my testimony and the obvious  
5 loss of jobs and the tax revenue.

6 The Isle of Capri in its plan  
7 represents the best interest of the Pittsburgh  
8 Penguins and community organizations such as  
9 mine.

10 The Isle's company culture is a really  
11 good fit for Pittsburgh and community  
12 organizations like mine. They share a  
13 commitment to the creation of Pittsburgh, and  
14 with their Pittsburgh First Foundation to commit  
15 over a million dollars locally, specifically in  
16 the Hill District community.

17 The Penguins have always put a face on  
18 our disease and helped immeasurably to raise  
19 dollars and awareness for our relatively unknown  
20 disease.

21 I do thank you today for your  
22 thoughtful consideration of the Isle of Capri  
23 plan, and the assurance of great partnership to  
24 continue with the Penguins and community  
25 organizations like mine.

1 Central Blood Bank is the sole provider  
2 of blood and blood products to over 40 local  
3 hospitals. I am here to speak to the need of  
4 this community to keep the Pittsburgh Penguins  
5 in Pittsburgh.

6 To that purpose, the Isle of Capri has  
7 put forth a viable plan to not only keep the  
8 Penguins here in Pittsburgh, but to revitalize  
9 the uptown area of Pittsburgh.

10 Central Blood Bank is a not-for-profit  
11 organization, looks to leaders and organizations  
12 in the community to support our mission of  
13 saving lives.

14 The Pittsburgh Penguins have continued  
15 to support our efforts for many years by  
16 bringing potential donors through our doors.  
17 Their generosity has been enormous.

18 During the year the NHL was on strike  
19 and the Penguins were unavailable to help us  
20 with our mission, we estimate the loss of 1,000  
21 units of blood collected, which equates to  
22 helping upwards of 3,000 lives.

23 There is no price that can be put on  
24 the lives touched by the Penguins' generosity  
25 through the blood bank and their other avenues

1 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: Thank you,  
2 Ms. Joseph.

3 I note that we have four more  
4 spokespersons for community groups who were not  
5 on our original list. That would be Gail  
6 McKenna, Lynn DeLorenzo, Edward Sam and Marimba  
7 Millions.

8 Have any of you not been sworn?

9 THE WITNESSES: [INDICATED]

10 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: Would you  
11 all please rise, and I will swear you in as a  
12 group.

13 THE WITNESSES: [COMPLIED]

14 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: Do you and  
15 all of you swear or affirm that the testimony  
16 you are about to give shall be the truth, the  
17 whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help  
18 you God?

19 THE WITNESSES: Yes.

20 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: Thank you  
21 very much. You may be seated.

22 Gail McKenna is the next speaker from  
23 the Central Blood Bank.

24 MS. MCKENNA: Good morning. I am here  
25 to represent Central Blood Bank.

1 of giving. Their philanthropy is far more  
2 reaching than Central Blood Bank.

3 They award scholarships, help  
4 disadvantaged and ill children, feed local needy  
5 families and more, all impacting the well-being  
6 financially, emotionally and spiritually of this  
7 community.

8 When evaluating what is best for  
9 Pittsburgh, I ask that you look at a much larger  
10 picture. The financial health of Pittsburgh  
11 should be a big factor in the Gaming Board's  
12 decision. The Pittsburgh Penguins presence in  
13 this city makes an ongoing and large  
14 contribution to this community's financial  
15 health.

16 As an ambassador of Central Blood  
17 Bank's mission of saving lives, I ask that you  
18 consider more than the financial well-being of  
19 this community and consider the impact your  
20 decision will have on the health of this  
21 community.

22 If the Penguins leave Pittsburgh, this  
23 community loses a philanthropic organization  
24 that cannot be replaced. The Penguin  
25 organization gives hope and health to those who

1 may not have either, without their  
2 organization's generosity.

3 The Isle of Capri is guaranteeing to  
4 build their complex, but they are also willing  
5 to build a new arena, revitalize a large area of  
6 Pittsburgh that deserves new life, and in all of  
7 that keep the Penguins here in Pittsburgh.

8 Please do not let one of Pittsburgh's  
9 greatest gifts leave this city. Keep the  
10 Pittsburgh Penguins in the city and award Isle  
11 of Capri the city's slot license.

12 Thank you.

13 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: Thank you  
14 for those remarks.

15 Our next speaker is Lynn DeLorenzo,  
16 representing the National Association of  
17 Industrial and Office Properties.

18 MS. DeLORENZO: Good morning. I will  
19 be brief this morning due to my voice or lack  
20 thereof, but please don't misinterpret our  
21 brevity for lack of concern at the real issue at  
22 hand.

23 I am here today representing NAIOP, the  
24 National Association of Industrial and Office  
25 Properties, the nation's leading professional

1 the business community, and the need for a  
2 multitude of retail, civic and entertainment  
3 amenities.

4 As this massive new facility is also  
5 incorporated into the city's social fabric, let  
6 us not miss the opportunity to create a true  
7 partnership with the region by providing a  
8 funding source free of taxpayer dollars for a  
9 new multi-purpose arena. Thank you.

10 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: Thank you  
11 very much.

12 Our next scheduled speaker is Edward  
13 Sam, representing the Pennsylvania  
14 Interscholastic Hockey League.

15 MR. SAM: Good morning. Thank you very  
16 much.

17 My name is Edward Sam. I am the  
18 Commissioner for the Pennsylvania  
19 Interscholastic Hockey League.

20 As Commissioner, I am the  
21 representative of the students who participate  
22 in hockey at the Pennsylvania Interscholastic  
23 Hockey League. The PIHL respectfully and  
24 sincerely listened to all of the presentations  
25 of the applicants for the slots license in

1 organization for developers, owners, investors  
2 and other professions engaged in the commercial  
3 real estate industry.

4 NAIOP Pittsburgh is comprised of over  
5 200 members locally and over 13,000 on a  
6 national level. Our members exert a positive  
7 impact in the area through substantial  
8 investments in the greater Pittsburgh region.

9 Many of our members are concerned about  
10 the viability of the City of Pittsburgh as we  
11 incorporate a new gaming facility into the  
12 existing commercial market.

13 We are not here today to testify for or  
14 against a specific location, but to underscore  
15 the importance of concluding funding for a new  
16 multi-purpose venue as part of the  
17 decision-making process in granting the gaming  
18 license.

19 Given the dynamics under way within the  
20 region, Pittsburgh is well on its way to  
21 competing as a world-class city; however, the  
22 viability of its success will be greatly  
23 attributable to several factors, including the  
24 availability of transportation systems, the  
25 integration of the licensee's development into

1 Pittsburgh, and has come to the conclusion that  
2 the applicant that will best serve the  
3 Pennsylvania Interscholastic Hockey League is  
4 the Isle of Capri.

5 The Isle of Capri is the only applicant  
6 formally committed to build a new multi-purpose  
7 arena that guarantees an NHL franchise will be a  
8 part of the region for an indefinite period of  
9 time.

10 In order to understand why it is  
11 important to have an NHL franchise in this  
12 region, I must provide you with some background  
13 information about the PIHL and the member  
14 associations.

15 At this time the PIHL is made up of  
16 over 80 Pennsylvania school districts from State  
17 College to Erie, to the southwestern most  
18 borders of Pennsylvania to Johnstown and on to  
19 Somerset.

20 There are over 180 teams that  
21 participate in the PIHL. These teams are made  
22 up of over 4,000 players. These teams are  
23 freshman teams, junior varsity teams and varsity  
24 teams.

25 The students are in sixth grade,

1 seventh grade, eighth, ninth, tenth, eleventh  
2 and twelfth. Like all interscholastic sports,  
3 the teams are classed into triple A, double A  
4 and single A.

5 The teams play from November through  
6 February, culminating with the varsity teams  
7 competing in the Penguins Cup Championship  
8 Series.

9 Our partners on the eastern side of the  
10 state participate in the championship series for  
11 the Flyers cup.

12 Once the Penguins Cup Champions and  
13 Flyers Cup Champions are determined, the winners  
14 of these three classes compete for the  
15 Pennsylvania State Championship.

16 The extreme growth of the PIHL can be  
17 tracked back to 1984 when the Pittsburgh  
18 Penguins drafted Mario Lemieux.

19 Prior to the drafting of Mario, the  
20 number of students participating in  
21 interscholastic hockey was less than 1,000.  
22 These players played their games on only six  
23 rinks.

24 Since Mario Lemieux was drafted, the  
25 numbers have ballooned to over 4,000 players

1 Pittsburgh Penguins are right here in this  
2 region. Without the Pittsburgh Penguins being  
3 here, this would not happen.

4 The drafting of Mario Lemieux and  
5 Sidney Crosby are not the only benefit that the  
6 4,000 players of the PIHL receive. Ice hockey  
7 is an expensive sport. The sincere  
8 understanding that the Pittsburgh Penguins have  
9 for community development has allowed their  
10 marketing staff and corporate sales staff to  
11 take the players of the PIHL under its wing.

12 In the last few years, the Pittsburgh  
13 Penguins have raised the credibility of  
14 interscholastic hockey to new levels. They have  
15 secured a sponsor for the Penguins Cup  
16 Championship series. With that sponsor, we are  
17 now able to reserve dates at Mellon Arena for  
18 the Penguins Cup finals and semifinals.

19 The attendance at those games at one  
20 time was under 1,000 people. It is now over  
21 10,000 people. This is all because of the  
22 Pittsburgh Penguins.

23 When you go to see the Penguins Cup  
24 semifinals or finals, you do not see a high  
25 school game at a professional venue. You see a

1 playing games on over 30 ice pads in this  
2 region.

3 Now we are seeing another burst in  
4 growth in interscholastic hockey. This is all  
5 because the Pittsburgh Penguins were fortunate  
6 enough to be able to draft Sidney Crosby.

7 More players are becoming a part of  
8 this sport. We must be prepared and we know we  
9 will get support for this from the Pittsburgh  
10 Penguins.

11 Through all of this, the players of  
12 interscholastic hockey are now being recognized.  
13 Many of these players that have played  
14 interscholastic hockey have moved on to  
15 participate in ice hockey at the college level,  
16 and now over 25 players are now playing some  
17 form of professional ice hockey as well.

18 R.J. Umberger, formerly of Plum School  
19 District, is participating with the Philadelphia  
20 Flyers; and Greg Malone, formerly of Upper St.  
21 Clair School District, is a member of the  
22 Pittsburgh Penguins.

23 This growth, recognition and acceptance  
24 of these players into the college and  
25 professional ranks comes from the fact that the

1 professional presentation at a professional  
2 venue played by interscholastic teams.

3 From the markings on the ice, the  
4 advertisements on the dasher boards, the  
5 presentation of the teams on the Jumbotron and  
6 all of the other electronic graphics within the  
7 arena, the Pittsburgh Penguins have become an  
8 integral part of the lives of the  
9 interscholastic players.

10 Last year and this year, with the help  
11 of the Pittsburgh Penguins, the Penguins Cup  
12 Championship series games are also on  
13 television. These games are on Video On  
14 Demand - I'm sorry. The state championship  
15 games this year are on Video On Demand, as well  
16 as digital cable. This is all because the  
17 Pittsburgh Penguins have stepped forward and  
18 made interscholastic hockey a part of their  
19 life. This cannot go away.

20 Without the Pittsburgh Penguins in this  
21 region, there would not be a Penguins Cup and  
22 there might not be a state championship as well.

23 Educationally, the Pittsburgh Penguins  
24 are involved with the lives of interscholastic  
25 hockey. The Pittsburgh Penguins award sizable

1 scholarships to deserving interscholastic hockey  
2 players to assist them with their future  
3 education.

4 There is a certain passion amongst  
5 interscholastic hockey players. There is a  
6 passion for the support, and there is a passion  
7 about the decisions that affect the sport.

8 You know, it is just not about those  
9 4,000 players. It is about the 8,000 parents.  
10 It is about the 16,000 grandparents, and it is  
11 all of them, and now the decision is really up  
12 to you.

13 As the Pennsylvania Gaming Control  
14 Board, you will make your decision. You will  
15 make your recommendation. You will act with  
16 integrity and ethics.

17 As members of this Board, you cannot  
18 let these kids down. Your decision is about  
19 their future. Please, please, do not let them  
20 down. Make the decision that will keep the  
21 Pittsburgh Penguins in this region for a long,  
22 long time.

23 The Pittsburgh Penguins are our  
24 partners. The Pittsburgh Penguins need to be  
25 here. The players of the PIHL need them. Don't

1 faced with the introduction of gaming to our  
2 region and quite possibly right in our front  
3 yard.

4 For the Hill District community, this  
5 is serious business. As a community, we have  
6 enacted an extensive and thorough process to  
7 ensure the measures of gaming on the Hill  
8 District and how those impacts can be balanced  
9 through reinvestment of the successful gaming  
10 applicant, city and state.

11 The community process is being driven  
12 by the Hill District Gaming Task Force. This  
13 task force is a consortium of residents,  
14 development agencies, faith-based groups, social  
15 services agencies, and our state representative.

16 Please forgive the laborious details,  
17 but if you would bear with me as I need to make  
18 it clear that we are not passive participants  
19 around this issue, nor will we be passive about  
20 what happens in or to our community on any  
21 level. So, again, please bear with me.

22 Over two months ago, the consortium  
23 began meeting to address the issue of gaming and  
24 the Hill District. Our initial meetings quickly  
25 informed us that we needed to organize our own

1 let those students down. Help them with their  
2 future on and off the ice.

3 Thank you very much. I appreciate it.  
4 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: Thank you,  
5 sir.

6 Our next speaker is Marimba Milliones,  
7 representing the Hill Community Development  
8 Association. When her testimony is completed,  
9 we will take our morning break. I ask you to  
10 remain in your seats for this testimony.

11 MS. MILLIONES: Good morning, ladies  
12 and gentlemen. My name is Marimba Milliones,  
13 and I am the Chairperson for the Hill Community  
14 Development Corporation. I am also a life-long  
15 resident of the Hill District community.

16 For over 20 years, the Hill District  
17 Development Corporation has served as the  
18 primary development agency in the Hill District  
19 community. We have faced numerous challenges  
20 with regard to getting the Hill District  
21 community redeveloped.

22 But today we are faced with the most  
23 important advancement in the Hill District since  
24 the 1960's, when ERA built the civic arena and  
25 displaced over 8,000 residents. Today we are

1 social impacts, residential concerns and  
2 economic development.

3 Committees were formed and ultimately  
4 these committees crafted documentation on their  
5 areas of concern.

6 Simultaneously, State Representative  
7 Jake Wheatley convened a series of meetings to  
8 ensure proper technical education and community  
9 engagement. Some of you were even present at  
10 the initial educational forum held on February  
11 19th. Following that meeting, another forum was  
12 convened on March 3rd, at which all three gaming  
13 applicants presented their case.

14 Following these forums, there were a  
15 series of residential community meetings.  
16 Remember, all of this is happening, whilst the  
17 task force committees are continuing to study  
18 and work through the impacts of gaming in the  
19 Hill District.

20 This was a cohesive, intelligent  
21 process, most of which was performed on a  
22 volunteer basis by Hill District stakeholders,  
23 not paid consultants. To this point, over 500  
24 man hours have been invested into this process.  
25 All of the gaming applicants are aware of this

1 process because, to an extent, they were all a  
2 part of it.

3 They are also very much aware that no  
4 formal endorsement of any gaming applicant has  
5 been made by the Greater Hill District  
6 community. So I stand here before you today  
7 deeply concerned that this process will be  
8 hijacked by PR campaign.

9 You see, I stand here as the child of  
10 two of the Hill District's and city's most  
11 committed activists, who insisted that I  
12 understand from a very young age that leadership  
13 is measured by service, not title, nor position.

14 So when I see "the service", also known  
15 as "the work" being diminished because of PR, I  
16 am left with no choice other than to address the  
17 matter.

18 Ultimately that matter is that the Hill  
19 District community has not received the  
20 guarantees it needs to embrace any plan, but I  
21 assure you we will, and you will continue to  
22 hear from us throughout this process, and as it  
23 culminates.

24 In the meantime, Board Members, we need  
25 your help. We need you to decipher what is real

1 and what is not. We need you to understand that  
2 the Hill District has clear expectations, and we  
3 respectfully ask that you support us in them.

4 We ask for greater investment to  
5 residential areas adjacent to gaming sites.  
6 Specifically, we require that the promise of \$1  
7 million of reinvestment be raised. The amount  
8 is inadequate to address the challenges that  
9 will arise as a result of gaming.

10 We expect significant reinvestment  
11 dollars to be allocated towards redevelopments  
12 of the Hill District, including sites above  
13 Crawford Street, and that those funds be  
14 committed to a community-based agency designated  
15 by the Hill Gaming Taskforce.

16 Hill District stakeholders should be  
17 included in any discussions on community  
18 identification, housing, parking, architecture,  
19 signage and development on the Mellon Arena site  
20 and Melody Tent sites.

21 We ask that you cultivate equal  
22 prosperity for all Pennsylvanians, by ensuring  
23 that each of the gaming applicants commit that  
24 30% of their employees be minorities of color;  
25 that that category would be in each – that 30%

1 would be in each category, entry level,  
2 supervisory, management and executive; and that  
3 30% of any jobs resulting from the creation of  
4 gaming, also adhere to this standard, such as  
5 construction and planning.

6 We ask that necessary funding be  
7 established to ensure that the infrastructure is  
8 in place to address the social impacts of  
9 gaming; and that the appropriate level of  
10 funding be in place to address gambling  
11 addiction.

12 Further, funds need to be in place for  
13 research design that examines the complexity of  
14 gaming. Research in this area would be a  
15 national model for which Pennsylvania could be  
16 proud.

17 And, lastly, we propose the  
18 establishment of a Community Improvement Fund to  
19 enhance the quality of life for the Hill  
20 District residents.

21 Again, Board Members, we need your  
22 help. We need your help to ensure that any  
23 commitments made by any applicant be tied to  
24 their application; and that the performance of  
25 these agreements be inextricably connected to

1 their renewal. The Hill District Gaming Task  
2 Force refers to this as a Community Benefits  
3 Agreement.

4 Further, I insist that the various  
5 persons and parties who have taken an interest  
6 in Lower Hill District get on board. We can use  
7 the help doing the work. Endorsing plans on  
8 behalf of the Hill District community in absence  
9 of the support of the Hill District community is  
10 unacceptable and at this point premature given  
11 that each applicant is still forming their  
12 overall reinvestment strategy.

13 While we agree with many of who you  
14 have heard from with regard to redeveloping the  
15 Hill District and are genuinely supportive of  
16 the broader community in this regard, we cannot  
17 allow individual and special interests to be  
18 superimposed on the Hill District community's  
19 agenda, which ultimately is to benefit the  
20 residents.

21 In closing, I say thank you. Thank you  
22 for providing a forum whereby the community can  
23 be intricately involved in shaping this new  
24 venture for our state.

25 I ask that you insist on integrity

1 throughout this process and that you demand that  
2 a mockery not be made of your process; that you  
3 do not allow this community process to be used  
4 to wield political power and influence, but  
5 rather that you truly hear the desires of the  
6 community, in this case, the Hill District  
7 community.

8 Again, my name is Marimba Millions. I  
9 am Chair of the Hill District Community  
10 Development Corporation, a lifelong Hill  
11 District resident, and co-chair of the Hill  
12 District Gaming Task Force.

13 I thank you.

14 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: Thank you  
15 very much.

16 At this time we are going to take our  
17 morning break for approximately 15 minutes.  
18 This hearing is in recess and will reconvene at  
19 8:42 (sic).

20 (Break.)

21 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: This hearing  
22 is reconvened. Please take your seats.

23 We have now completed the community  
24 group speakers. We will shortly begin with  
25 individual speakers, and I would ask that our

1 overstated that the arena needs to be replaced.

2 I am presently employed by the Duquesne  
3 Incline, in charge of operations. That  
4 organization is a non-profit organization that  
5 runs primarily on fares. Very little private  
6 subsidy. The city don't own us. We get no  
7 funding from anybody. We have been there  
8 for about 129 years. We maintain that  
9 without our hands out anybody or any free stuff  
10 or - whatever we get it is at a minimum.

11 I am in favor for the Forest  
12 City's - the license being awarded to Forest  
13 City for many reasons. I have dealt with them.  
14 They have been nothing but honorable and  
15 truthful, in any form.

16 Us being non-profit, we can't really  
17 do anything for those organizations, but over  
18 the years, they have never asked for anything  
19 in return. They have done nothing but help us  
20 in - and in that way help the community.

21 The incline was formed by an  
22 organization in Mt. Washington in the early  
23 sixties to keep it running. I am in charge of  
24 keeping it running for the next 40 years, which  
25 it has run 40 years.

1 usher begin moving those individual speakers to  
2 the front row.

3 We will go through the individual  
4 speakers. We will take our normal lunch break  
5 today and it may be abbreviated. At the end of  
6 that lunch break, when we return, the applicants  
7 should be prepared to present any rebuttal or  
8 closing comments they may wish to make to the  
9 Board; that will be at the conclusion of the  
10 luncheon recess.

11 I want to remind everyone that  
12 individual speakers are allowed three minutes to  
13 speak to the Board.

14 Our first speaker this morning as an  
15 individual is Mr. Jim Presken. I see you are at  
16 the podium. You may begin.

17 MR. PRESKEN: Good morning.

18 I feel for you Board members. It must  
19 be mind-numbing all of these statistics and  
20 numbers coming at you. You have a real job  
21 ahead of you.

22 It occurred to me, in all due respect  
23 for our previous speakers, I have to tell you,  
24 after the arena, I dreamed that I was involved  
25 in a facility as good. I think it is all being

1 With all of that in mind - I invite  
2 the Board members to maybe go visit each site.  
3 When you visually see everything, it may not be  
4 determined that's the right spot for that gaming  
5 license, it should be Forest Cities in my  
6 opinion.

7 Thank you for this opportunity.

8 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: Thank you.

9 I will note for the record, yesterday  
10 in the afternoon, we concluded a bit early, the  
11 Board, as a group, visited all of the proposed  
12 casino sites in Pittsburgh.

13 They collectively saw each site and  
14 spent some time there so that they could have  
15 the information necessary to make their very  
16 important decisions.

17 Our second speaker as an individual is  
18 Mr. Joel Shapiro.

19 MR. SHAPIRO: Good morning. Thank you  
20 for the opportunity to address this body.

21 My name is Joel Shapiro. I have lived  
22 in Pittsburgh almost all of my life. I work in  
23 the Uptown section of Pittsburgh.

24 In all of my years here, I witnessed  
25 the demise of the steel industry, the rise of

1 the healthcare industry and the growth of our  
2 Universities.

3 We have seen renaissance number one and  
4 renaissance number two, and at one time  
5 Pittsburgh was the third largest corporate  
6 headquarters in the country, of course, that's  
7 all changed now, and Pittsburgh struggles like  
8 never before.

9 When an opportunity like this comes to  
10 Pittsburgh, we are obligated to make the most of  
11 it. When Isle of Capri made their commitment to  
12 the Lower Hill and the Penguins, they  
13 demonstrated their understanding of and  
14 commitment to what is best for Pittsburgh.

15 There are already economic development  
16 engines on the South Side in Station Square and  
17 North Side on the North Shore.

18 These two areas are now self-sustained.  
19 The Lower Hill District and Uptown, this  
20 corridor between Downtown and Oakland, is in  
21 dire need of rejuvenation. It could well be our  
22 renaissance number three.

23 Many people, locals and visitors to  
24 Pittsburgh ask, what happens in Downtown  
25 Pittsburgh at night? Why is it so dead?

1 following reasons:

2 When a project of this magnitude is  
3 under review, it is very important to take into  
4 consideration egress to and from the casino.

5 When Mellon Arena – formerly known as  
6 Civic Arena – was built, the civil engineer's  
7 responsibilities included providing the highway  
8 infrastructure to allow high volumes of traffic  
9 to and from the arena and they did just that.

10 Today majors highways such as 579, 279,  
11 376, the Liberty Bridge and other local roadways  
12 surround the proposed Isle of Capri site and  
13 will allow the egress and heavy traffic to and  
14 from the casino in all directions.

15 The Station Square site, however, is  
16 located between a river and a mountain, with  
17 only a four-lane highway heading east and west  
18 to handle all of the traffic.

19 Forest City contends that this will not  
20 be an issue because the patrons from the casino  
21 will leave at different times, unlike a concert,  
22 when they all leave at once and this will reduce  
23 the traffic congestion.

24 Their assumptions are incorrect and  
25 their plan has a fatal flaw, it does not take

1 Imagine what would happen to our city  
2 if there is a convention at the convention  
3 center and there is a football stadium, a  
4 baseball park, a new hockey arena and a slots  
5 casino all within walking distance?

6 Isle of Capri's plan puts the last  
7 piece of Pittsburgh's growth and development  
8 puzzle in place.

9 Since Isle of Capri put forth their  
10 plan for the development of a new hockey arena,  
11 Governor Rendell and others have agreed it is a  
12 great idea and have asked others to come up with  
13 a similar plan. I would appeal to the Board to  
14 award Pittsburgh's gaming license to the  
15 originator of that plan, Isle of Capri.

16 Thank you.

17 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: Thank you,  
18 sir.

19 Our next speaker is Mr. Edward Rohm.

20 MR. ROHM: Hello, my name is Edward  
21 Rohm. Thank you for allowing me this  
22 opportunity to voice my opinion on the licensing  
23 of Pittsburgh's lone casino.

24 Out of all of the establishments, I  
25 support the Isle of Capri's proposal for the

1 into consideration an emergency evacuation, one  
2 that may be required by law.

3 The public's safety rests squarely in  
4 the hands of this Board so I felt compelled to  
5 present the Board with a true picture of the  
6 Station Square site and its lack of highway  
7 infrastructure with the latest satellite imagery  
8 available.

9 If all of the applicants were required  
10 to use the same occupants per vehicle in their  
11 calculations, it would have ensured that all of  
12 the traffic evaluations were both fair and  
13 accurate.

14 Instead, the site that is the most  
15 highway challenged, is using the highest  
16 occupants per vehicle, which allows more patrons  
17 to visit their casino and lowers the  
18 traffic-related problems of their site.

19 It is for this very reason that I am  
20 asking Harrah's/Forest City to throw out the 2.5  
21 occupants per vehicle they used in their traffic  
22 report, and submit a new one to this Board  
23 within 60 days using the combined average as  
24 submitted by the Isle of Capri and Majestic Star  
25 in their traffic reports.

1 Complying with my request would  
2 maintain continuity in all of the applications,  
3 and will ensure that the public's safety is not  
4 compromised.

5 If, however, Harrah's/Forest City  
6 refuses to comply with my request, then I must  
7 assume that securing a license is more important  
8 than public safety, and this Board should as  
9 well.

10 This brings me to my final point: The  
11 State's lack of foresight to set the  
12 requirements for occupants per vehicle may have  
13 opened up a Pandora's Box that has the potential  
14 for disaster.

15 If the public's safety is in any way  
16 compromised because applicants were allowed to  
17 use figures that may have enhanced their site's  
18 appearance and this Board selects them as the  
19 winner of a slots license, the State may face a  
20 mountain of litigation.

21 I now leave you with a couple of tried  
22 and true cliches. It has been said that the pen  
23 is mightier than a sword, and I hope that I have  
24 pierced you with my words; and if a picture is  
25 worth a thousand words, I sincerely hope I

1 situated in an area where there are a lot of  
2 parking exits to help alleviate traffic  
3 congestion.

4 Mario Lemieux and the Penguin  
5 organization have tried to come up with a plan  
6 for an arena. Even when they were told that  
7 money would not be available from the state or  
8 local governments to support this endeavor, they  
9 remained loyal to the cause knowing that it  
10 would benefit the entire area, as well as the  
11 team. It is a good plan and deserves serious  
12 consideration by the Board.

13 There are other sports teams in our  
14 region that have benefited from government  
15 support and remained in our region. I feel  
16 giving the license to the Isle of Capri would  
17 give the Penguins the support they need and  
18 deserve, and would keep this valuable source of  
19 revenue in our area as well.

20 Another important part of this plan is  
21 the redevelopment of the Hill District  
22 neighborhood. Not only will this provide a  
23 much-needed face-lift to this neighborhood, but  
24 with some new businesses popping up, hopefully  
25 it will include new jobs for the people in this

1 painted one worth \$290 million.

2 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: Thank you,  
3 sir.

4 Our next speaker is John Scott.

5 MR. SCOTT: I am John Scott –

6 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: Excuse me,  
7 Mr. Scott. I note for the record that Mr. Rohm  
8 submitted an exhibit, a video, and I ask the  
9 clerk to mark that as the next exhibit in order  
10 for the record.

11 MR. SCOTT: I am John Scott. I am from  
12 Allegheny County. I would like to thank you for  
13 allowing me to speak today.

14 I am a supporter of the Pittsburgh  
15 First initiative, also known as the Isle of  
16 Capri plan.

17 One of the important reasons I am for  
18 this plan is because of the new arena they will  
19 build. This will give the whole tri-state area  
20 an up-to-date building to use for events that  
21 range from children's shows, concerts, sporting  
22 events, including the Penguins, to an unlimited  
23 variety of entertainment.

24 Another good reason to build the casino  
25 in the Uptown area is that it is already

1 neighborhood as well.

2 I also believe that if the Isle of  
3 Capri should get the slot license, they would be  
4 training some of the interested Hill District  
5 residents for some of the casino jobs as well.  
6 This would be great for the neighborhood and our  
7 city as well.

8 Thank you.

9 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: Thank you,  
10 sir.

11 Our next speaker is Mr. Harry – excuse  
12 me, Walter Harry Rush. Would come to the  
13 podium, please.

14 MR. RUSH: My name is Walter Rush.

15 Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for the  
16 opportunity to testify on this important matter.

17 My name is Walter Rush, and I am a  
18 retired Pittsburgh firefighter. My wife and I  
19 live in the Hazelwood section of Pittsburgh.

20 I served for 27 years in the Pittsburgh  
21 Fire Department, and I have worked in both the  
22 Hill District and the South Side.

23 Because of my experience in both  
24 neighborhoods, I think it would be a mistake for  
25 the Gaming Board control to approve an

1 application that would locate a casino in the  
2 Hill District.

3 The Hill District is primarily  
4 residential, and the majority of the houses in  
5 that area are quite old. Locating a casino in  
6 this area would be a very poor mixing of  
7 residential and commercial.

8 It would increase the chances of these  
9 older, vulnerable houses getting slower response  
10 times. Because of the nature of their  
11 construction, a fire would be more destructive  
12 than in an area with newer homes.

13 The traffic patterns of the Hill  
14 District also make it a bad idea to locate a  
15 casino there. The increased traffic that a  
16 casino would bring would lead to congestion and  
17 frustration to both visitors and residents.

18 The roads in that area are simply not  
19 designed to handle the amount of people visiting  
20 a casino. This means that all emergency  
21 vehicles such as fire trucks and ambulances will  
22 have a hard time reaching residents.

23 Of course, these problems would only be  
24 worse when you consider that the Hill District  
25 plan also calls for a new hockey arena to be

1 that would be created by pitting commercial  
2 against residential needs in the Hill District.

3 In conclusion I hope the Gaming Board  
4 will consider how the casino proposal would  
5 overburden the Hill District's facilities and  
6 infrastructure.

7 I have over two decades of experience  
8 working in emergency response, and I firmly  
9 believe that mostly harm will come to the  
10 residential nature of the Hill by locating  
11 casinos there 24 hours a day. Thank you.

12 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: Thank you,  
13 sir.

14 Our next speaker is Mr. John Unice.

15 MR. UNICE: Good morning.

16 My name is John Unice. I am 32 years  
17 old. I work at a Downtown law firm with my  
18 wife. I live in Mt. Lebanon.

19 I grew up in western Pennsylvania. My  
20 family is here and I like many other people here  
21 have a vested interest in what happens to the  
22 casino license.

23 We have heard a lot about statistics on  
24 traffic studies, revenue, job projections; but I  
25 am here to tell you three main reasons,

1 built in the area along with the new casino.

2 This would increase traffic even  
3 further, which means the problems described  
4 above would only be increased. I couldn't think  
5 of a worse idea.

6 Station Square, on the other hand, is  
7 much better suited for a casino. It is not a  
8 residential area. So we will not have to  
9 contend with the problems posed by the Hill  
10 District.

11 It has a variety of existing  
12 restaurants, bars and clubs, which will be  
13 available to serve the new visitors coming to a  
14 casino.

15 As far as I am concerned, though, the  
16 best argument for Station Square is that it's  
17 emergency facilities are much better designed  
18 for response to commercial incidents than those  
19 in the Hill District.

20 They are already located to handle the  
21 commercial and tourist nature of Station Square.  
22 The traffic patterns in this area are also  
23 already geared for commercial activity.

24 I don't believe that there will be  
25 traffic problems at Station Square like those

1 undisputed reasons, why the Isle of Capri plan  
2 is a superior plan:

3 First, my father is interested in real  
4 estate and has gotten me interested in it as  
5 well. He has always told me the three most  
6 important words in real estate are location,  
7 location and location.

8 Only the Isle of Capri plan is near  
9 three major arteries of interstates. Only the  
10 Isle of Capri plan is in the golden triangle,  
11 the area that is now being redeveloped, the  
12 Fifth and Forbes corridor, and other efforts in  
13 Downtown.

14 Only the Isle of Capri plan has  
15 existing residential areas in Crawford Square,  
16 and above that would reconnect the Hill District  
17 to the central core of the city.

18 Only the Isle of Capri plan is already  
19 near existing hotels, this very hotel, the  
20 Double Tree Hotel, the Marriott City Center and  
21 others. And only the Isle of Capri plan is not  
22 hindered by close access to rivers and mountains  
23 like a few of the other plans are.

24 Second, only the Isle of Capri plan  
25 will guarantee the Penguins stay in this region.

1 As a young professional who has  
2 business in many different cities, I can't tell  
3 you how many times I get the question, So where  
4 is Pittsburgh? And, How are the mills doing?

5 Our image outside of this region is  
6 still tarnished by smoggy cities, dirt and  
7 grime. Losing the Pittsburgh Penguins would be  
8 the last thing that community needs, and only  
9 the Isle of Capri plan would guarantee that they  
10 stay here.

11 As you are well aware, if the Penguins  
12 are sold and Isle of Capri gets the license, the  
13 purchaser must keep the Penguins in the city.

14 The Isle of Capri plan is the only one  
15 that has stepped up, from day one, to fund \$290  
16 million for an arena, regardless of how well it  
17 performs in the market place, and only the Isle  
18 of Capri plan will put that money into escrow  
19 today.

20 That leads me to my third point,  
21 finalizing the arena that is needed for this  
22 community.

23 I have been a partial Penguins  
24 ticketholder for 10 years. If you sit in  
25 certain parts of that arena, you can't see the

1 Would you step to the podium, please.

2 MR. SEAMAN: Good morning. I am Gordan  
3 Seaman, and I reside in Allegheny County.

4 I am the General Manager of the  
5 Sheraton Station Square Hotel and have been in  
6 Pittsburgh since taking that position nearly  
7 seven years ago.

8 For the record, Station Square and my  
9 hotel are owned by Forest City, and I am an  
10 employee of Starwood Hotels and resorts, the  
11 hotel management company that owns the Sheraton  
12 brand and manages the property for Forest City.

13 Clearly there is little new that can be  
14 said or added to what you have already heard in  
15 these hearings. So today I wanted to talk from  
16 the perspective of Station Square, the  
17 destination, and what that area has meant to  
18 Pittsburghers as it has evolved into our city's  
19 most popular dining and entertainment venue.

20 The site attracts over two and a half  
21 million visitors a year. The hotel alone runs  
22 one of the city's highest occupancies and the  
23 highest occupancy on weekends, a further  
24 reminder that people from all over the drive-in,  
25 surrounding areas choose Station Square first

1 entire ice, you can't see the score board; it is  
2 indeed outdated.

3 I have been to the MCI Center, the  
4 Kiel Center, Madison Square Garden and many  
5 other arenas and the venue is indeed outdated.

6 Other applicants have either balked at  
7 putting any money towards an arena or say they  
8 will give some over a certain number of years.

9 Again, Isle of Capri has stepped up  
10 from the beginning, and has agreed to pay the  
11 full freight, and if Isle of Capri is not left  
12 to pay, who is going to pay part of it? That is  
13 my wife and other taxpayers.

14 In closing, I can stress that as a  
15 young professional, I am very proud to be from  
16 Pittsburgh, but I am frustrated by the city's  
17 image, at times, and think that the Isle of  
18 Capri plan will be the best plan to put  
19 Pittsburgh in the right direction, put it into a  
20 good light, and will also promote Pittsburgh  
21 moving into the 21st Century, instead of living  
22 in the 1970's.

23 Thank you.

24 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: Thank you.

25 Our next speaker is Gordon Seaman.

1 for their leisure pursuits.

2 This popularity has only increased as  
3 the folks at Forest City have renovated,  
4 expanded and generally improved Station Square.

5 Many of our city's icons are also based  
6 right there in Station Square, the two remaining  
7 inclines that climb Mt. Washington, and of  
8 course, the Gateway Clipper Fleet of riverboats  
9 is based there.

10 Thousands of people trust the safety,  
11 the overall ambiance and the accessibility of  
12 our site for their leisure pursuits.

13 The infrastructure is already there.  
14 The property is owned and ready for build. A  
15 first-class, full-service hotel is already in  
16 place, and will meet the demands of the gaming  
17 patrons who will visit our city. The promised  
18 expansion of 200 rooms will further enhance that  
19 ability.

20 Finally, I wanted to comment from a  
21 strictly personal point of view about the firms  
22 behind the Station Square bid.

23 First, Harrah's. As a graduate of the  
24 University of Nevada, Reno, I became familiar  
25 with this company way back when, when they built

1 their first hotel and casino in the early  
2 seventies.

3 It was known from the very beginning  
4 that this company was truly an organization of  
5 quality through and through. Indeed, they were  
6 the envy of the local hotel community and the  
7 casino of choice for whom to work.

8 Now some 35 years later, they hold the  
9 enviable reputation of being amongst the best  
10 managed, most widely respected casino operators  
11 in the world.

12 And now, Forest City: Seven years ago  
13 I had not heard of this company. I was hired by  
14 Starwood Hotels, but in my position of managing  
15 their hotel, I have observed this firm and its  
16 commitment to Pittsburgh from day one.

17 They operate with the highest integrity  
18 and have clearly demonstrated a commitment to  
19 quality in all of their projects.

20 Thank you.

21 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: Thank you.

22 Our next speaker is Mr. Brandon Quinn.

23 MR. QUINN: Hello. My name is Brandon  
24 Quinn, and I am a senior at Greensburg Central  
25 Catholic High School.

1 entertainment company, best for its guests, best  
2 for its team members, best for its communities,  
3 best for its investors. Not the biggest but the  
4 best. Let's face it, Pittsburgh isn't the best  
5 city out there as far as tourism is concerned.

6 Imagine the city of Pittsburgh as a  
7 human body. To the south is the South Side  
8 Complex, Station Square, which is a lively  
9 entertainment area which includes the incline  
10 and the ferries, which we can call the legs  
11 since it is always active and moving.

12 To the north is PNC Park, Heinz field,  
13 the convention center, the Andy Warhol Museum,  
14 the National Aviary, the Children's Museum and  
15 the Carnegie Science Center, which we can call  
16 the head.

17 What is missing? The middle of the  
18 body, including the heart. Yeah, there used to  
19 be the old Kaufman's store, the shopping areas,  
20 Heinz Hall and the Mellon Arena; but the heart  
21 of Pittsburgh is dead and needs to be  
22 revitalized.

23 If we continue to add more  
24 entertainment to the lower body or the upper  
25 body, then what does that do for the heart?

1 I hold a strong belief that to succeed  
2 well at any project, you must have morals in  
3 place that will benefit everyone. When people  
4 ask me, Why go to a small private school when  
5 you can attend a public school that is closer,  
6 free and bigger?

7 I tell them it is because of the morals  
8 to which GCC holds itself. My school's morals  
9 are to promote self-esteem, interpersonal skills  
10 and emotional and physical well-being; to  
11 develop critical analytical skills for  
12 independent thinking and cooperative learning;  
13 to provide a strong academic background for  
14 post-secondary education and a continued pursuit  
15 of knowledge; and these are only a few of the  
16 reasons why I attend.

17 These morals have built a strong  
18 foundation for my school and this can be backed  
19 up by the 94% of our students who go on to a  
20 four-year college.

21 The Isle of Capri also has morals in  
22 which I strongly believe in, and I truly believe  
23 these morals are a great foundation for the  
24 refurbishment of our city.

25 They are: To be the best gaming

1 Nothing.

2 The Isle of Capri is the best proposal  
3 for Pittsburgh. It is the only plan that can  
4 revitalize the heart of our city and reunite the  
5 entire area.

6 In the past, Pittsburgh was known for  
7 its steel mills. In the present, our city is  
8 known for our football champions, the Pittsburgh  
9 steelers, and I know the heart of Pittsburgh's  
10 future can be found in the Isle of Capri's  
11 proposal.

12 Thank you.

13 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: Thank you,  
14 sir.

15 The next speaker is Rosina Vento.

16 MS. VENTO: I am the property manager  
17 for Washington Plaza Apartments, a 400-unit  
18 luxury apartment community located in the Lower  
19 Hill.

20 The Isle of Capri plan is the only plan  
21 that takes into consideration the needs of the  
22 Pittsburgh residents. It is not a plan that  
23 just drops a casino into a location where the  
24 casino owners think they can make the most  
25 money. This plan is the best plan that has been

1 tested to handle the traffic flow from a casino  
2 and an arena.

3 This plan is the only plan that offers  
4 easy access from all of the highways coming into  
5 the city. The Station Square site already has  
6 too much traffic congestion. I cannot imagine a  
7 traffic nightmare by adding another attraction  
8 to this area.

9 This is not a problem that can be  
10 resolved as Station Square sits between a  
11 mountain and a river.

12 I would hope that the PITG Gaming did  
13 studies on traffic flow, taking into  
14 consideration traffic from a casino and when the  
15 stadium's letting out at the same time.

16 It already takes a few hours for all of  
17 the traffic to pull out of Heinz field. In  
18 addition this site - in addition, this site is  
19 limited, as you cannot get to it easily from all  
20 highways coming into the city.

21 Both the Station Square site and North  
22 Shore sites are areas that are already under  
23 development. The Isle of Capri plan is the only  
24 plan that is taking an area of Pittsburgh that  
25 has been neglected for many years and

1 Pittsburgh. The Isle of Capri plan is the only  
2 plan that will guarantee the development we have  
3 been waiting for for over 15 years and build a  
4 new arena with no strings attached.

5 This is not just about keeping the  
6 Penguins in Pittsburgh. This arena generates  
7 income from the city all year long by the other  
8 events that are at this arena.

9 What is going to happen if the plan  
10 does not go through? The Penguins leave and the  
11 new arena never gets developed. More loss of  
12 income to the city and eventually another vacant  
13 building in the Lower Hill.

14 Without the gaming license being award  
15 to the Isle of Capri, I cannot see the Lower  
16 Hill ever being developed.

17 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: Thank you.  
18 Our next speaker is James Carter.

19 MR. CARTER: My name is James Carter  
20 and I am the General Manager for ARAMARK  
21 Corporation in Mellon Arena. ARAMARK has  
22 provided concessions and retail services for the  
23 Pittsburgh Penguins since 1991, when the Pens  
24 won their first Stanley Cup. We have a 20-year  
25 contract in place.

1 redeveloping it.

2 There has been promises from the city  
3 to develop this area for at least the last 15  
4 years since Crawford Square was built.

5 The development is crucial for the  
6 existence of Washington Plaza Apartments. Our  
7 owner's invested \$2.5 million in Washington  
8 Plaza in 1991, during the construction of the  
9 Crawford Square development.

10 We are currently in another \$1.5  
11 million renovation, and hopes to compete with  
12 the new housing developments that are being  
13 built in Downtown, South Side and the Strip  
14 District. These areas are already seeing new  
15 retail and restaurants.

16 Washington Plaza cannot compete with  
17 these developments as there is very little  
18 retail in the Lower Hill. Each year, more and  
19 more buildings become abandoned and run down.  
20 The unsightly vacant land and abandoned  
21 buildings make it difficult for us to attract  
22 new residents. This is creating a conception of  
23 the area being unsafe to live.

24 It is a long time coming that the Lower  
25 Hill needs to be connected to Downtown

1 We also have been partners with the  
2 Steelers and the Pirates since the early  
3 seventies, about the time Three Rivers Stadium  
4 opened.

5 We have celebrated each time the  
6 Steelers win the Super Bowl, and we were there  
7 to celebrate when the Penguins won their second  
8 Stanley Cup against the Black Hawks in 1992.

9 We are long-standing partners with our  
10 teams, and we are long-standing members of the  
11 Pittsburgh Community.

12 We employ more than 1700 seasonal and  
13 full-time employees for the three major sports  
14 teams, and they are all Pittsburghers through  
15 and through. We care about what happens here  
16 and we are here for the long haul.

17 I am here on behalf of ARAMARK to say  
18 that we are fully in support of the Isle of  
19 Capri's license application.

20 We love the City of Pittsburgh and we  
21 love the Penguins, and Isle of Capri getting the  
22 gaming license is good for all of us. Everybody  
23 knows about the Penguins - excuse me.

24 Everybody knows that the Penguins want  
25 a new arena. I don't think there is any doubt

1 that they need one. It is 45 years old. It  
2 makes it very difficult for the Penguins to  
3 compete in the current economic environment.

4 The question is the same, one that  
5 communities always struggle with, Who is going  
6 to pay for the new arena? Who will come up with  
7 the \$290 million?

8 Here in Pittsburgh the answer can be  
9 very simple. If Isle of Capri gets the gaming  
10 license, they will fund the building of a new  
11 arena and then turn over ownership to the  
12 municipality.

13 That is not just a good thing that Isle  
14 of Capri is doing, it is a great act of civic  
15 partnership. I don't want to belabor the point.  
16 No one wants to lose the Penguins. It would be  
17 devastating to the hockey fans in Pittsburgh and  
18 it would put ARAMARK's employees out of work.  
19 It wouldn't be easy on the city's economy  
20 either.

21 But I am not here to talk about what  
22 might happen. I am here on behalf of ARAMARK  
23 corporation and our almost 300 employees to  
24 point out that we have before us a great  
25 opportunity.

1 controlled.

2 Yet, again, we tax-paying, concerned  
3 citizens have been disenfranchised. A  
4 questionable solution has been imposed on us.  
5 Therefore, my appeal, like so many that have  
6 come before you, is to temper your judgment with  
7 the question of appropriateness.

8 We must question, is it appropriate to  
9 allow these operations to be conducted with no  
10 recourse to the public through judicial or  
11 elected process?

12 On that we must take a stand. The only  
13 acceptable solution will be to make the  
14 operators responsible to the public for  
15 conformance and performance with the elements of  
16 their license, not to a board that itself has  
17 not oversight or appeal through the courts or  
18 the democratic process. Without voter and  
19 judicial review and accountability, none of the  
20 projects are appropriate.

21 Additional questions: Is it  
22 appropriate to build a gaming facility so close  
23 to three or four of our universities? Is it  
24 appropriate to authorize a facility that cannot  
25 be enhanced with infrastructure, to make

1 For the sake of the City of Pittsburgh,  
2 the Penguins and their legion of fans, we ask  
3 that you consider the Isle of Capri's proposal.  
4 Thank you for your time.

5 **PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER:** Thank you.

6 Our next speaker is Peter Zerega.

7 **MR. ZEREGA:** Good morning. My name is  
8 Pete Zerega. I am from McCandless Township,  
9 about 15 miles north, in Allegheny County.

10 My background is commercial lending and  
11 entrepreneurial business, and most recently  
12 community development work; but this  
13 presentation is not about me, it is about  
14 ensuring that the project that you approve is  
15 the most appropriate, based on the benefits that  
16 accrue to all of the persons.

17 We must first and foremostly ask that  
18 the organization that you give the license to  
19 build and Pittsburgh's slots casinos be required  
20 to take actions necessary to control the damage  
21 to lives and to families that will occur from  
22 gambling.

23 Past studies indicate that damage and  
24 dislocation will occur. Therefore the benefits  
25 must be maximized such as they can be and damage

1 accessible all of the traffic routes?

2 Is it appropriate to mortgage our  
3 children's future to build that infrastructure  
4 required to any of these locations for the  
5 primary benefit of the casino owners?

6 And yet there are some things that are  
7 appropriate. It is appropriate to require  
8 substantial contributions by the developers to  
9 infrastructures such as underground cables and  
10 utilities, improve and widen roadways, foot and  
11 bike trails, enhancements to already-funded but  
12 not-developed transit projects.

13 And as the Hill District has suggested,  
14 they must help fund psychological medical care  
15 for those who become addicted and the families  
16 that are impacted by gambling.

17 It is appropriate that you require the  
18 operators to fund educational, environmental and  
19 employment opportunities for the people  
20 impacted. Thank you.

21 **PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER:** Thank you.  
22 Your time is up and we thank you for your  
23 remarks.

24 Next speaker is Louise Sturgess.

25 **MR. STURGESS:** I am Louise Sturgess,

1 executive director of the Pittsburgh History and  
2 Landmarks Foundation and Mt. Lebanon resident  
3 and a fifth generation Pittsburgher, so I deeply  
care about this region.

5 From my point of view the real beauty  
6 of the Forest City/Harrah's proposal is that it  
7 includes a payment to the Pittsburgh History and  
8 Landmarks Foundation as a result of the sale of  
9 Station Square in 1994, it will benefit the  
10 entire Pittsburgh region over time. Indeed, all  
11 of Allegheny County and beyond.

12 This payment of \$25 million will  
13 augment Landmarks' endowment and therefore  
14 enable our nonprofit group to provide increased  
15 assistance to historic preservation projects and  
16 organizations throughout the Pittsburgh region  
17 and to support educational programs for people  
18 of all ages promoting community pride through an  
19 awareness of local history and architecture.

20 Let me tell you about our organization.  
21 Landmarks is a visionary, responsive, unselfish  
22 nationally-recognized group of 76 trustees, 21  
23 full- and part-time employees, more than 125  
24 volunteers and college interns and 2,277  
25 dues-paying members.

1 Areas in the handout highlighted in  
2 yellow show our organization is active now. We  
3 also list how we lead regional historic  
4 preservation efforts through loan and grant  
5 programs, easements, feasibility studies and  
6 much more.

7 Historic preservation facilitates the  
8 sensible development of distinctive, sustainable  
9 places with character that attract people.  
10 Historic preservation is an engine in this  
11 region for economic vitality, hometown pride and  
12 a growing tourism industry.

13 Renewal in historic areas brings new  
14 businesses, new jobs and new tax revenue. Let  
15 us accept the Forest City/Harrah's proposal  
16 because in addition to the increased tax revenue  
17 it will bring, it will bring historic  
18 preservation and economic development benefits  
19 throughout the entire region through Landmarks  
20 and its work with others.

21 This is an unmatched opportunity, a  
22 source of support that will enable historic  
23 preservation to be a catalyst for renewal for  
24 generations to come, well beyond the life of  
25 Landmarks' staff and trustees.

1 Add to those numbers about 12,000 more  
2 people who, on an annual basis, participate in  
3 our school programs, teach our workshops and  
4 tours, attend lectures, conferences or special  
5 events or read our publications.

6 Since its founding in 1964, Landmarks  
7 has earned, effectively-managed and grown its  
8 endowment and used its funds together with funds  
9 granted by others to leverage preservation and  
10 restoration activities.

11 For every project we take on, though,  
12 there are many more on the drawing board that  
13 are equally worthy. With an increased  
14 endowment, we will be able to do more for the  
15 entire Pittsburgh region, including the North  
16 Side in the Hill District where we have been  
17 active since 1964, working with grass-roots  
18 organizations, who best know the needs of their  
19 communities.

20 As the handout I have shows, we work  
21 with dozens of local, regional and state  
22 agencies to advance the cause of historic  
preservation because it promotes healthy  
community development and smart growth and  
25 respects the environment.

1 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: Ms.  
2 Sturgess, thank you. I note that during your  
3 presentation you did display a handout, and if  
4 you would like to have that marked as an  
5 exhibit, please submit it to the clerk, and I  
6 ask the clerk to mark it exhibit next in order.  
7 Thank you.

8 The next speaker is Kirk Rice.

9 MR. RICE: Good morning, ladies and  
10 gentlemen, members of the Pennsylvania Gaming  
11 Control Board, Chairman Decker.

12 My name is Kirk Rice, and I am a  
13 resident of the City of Pittsburgh.

14 Now, traffic, traffic, traffic. Come  
15 on, is there anybody here who has hasn't driven  
16 on a road in the City of Pittsburgh? Traffic?  
17 Give me a break.

18 You know, the three entities currently  
19 being considered for the awarding of this gaming  
20 license is, well, somewhat akin to the three  
21 tenors, that is to me.

22 You have the Isle of Capri and of  
23 course Forest City and the other guy. I don't  
24 get it, but I am confused about a few things.

25 All across the State of Pennsylvania

1 residents are arguing for the best proposals for  
2 cities that can generate the most property tax  
3 revenues. But here in Pittsburgh nobody cares  
4 which is the best proposal. It seems like they  
5 only care about the Penguins.

6 In case you guys don't understand what  
7 is going on let me paint you a brighter picture,  
8 here. This whole thing about this free arena is  
9 really about figuring out how to make the  
10 Penguins worth more money. Pure and simple.

11 They are selling the team, and it will  
12 be more valuable if they have this new arena.  
13 Well, the new arena is a moot point. The city  
14 and county leaders of this area, along with  
15 Governor Rendell has, well, made it a moot  
16 point. We are getting an arena.

17 While I have always suspected that, you  
18 know, this was behind their motives, their  
19 actions yesterday certainly reaffirmed that.  
20 They were told, again, by the leadership of the  
21 city in this county that their issues have been  
22 resolved. There is a plan for the City of  
23 Pittsburgh to get a new arena with or without  
24 the Isle of Capri; but yet, they rejected it.

25 So now they are holding this community

1 MR. POPEJAS: May it please this  
2 esteemed board, my name is Dennis Popejas. I am  
3 a resident of this city. I have been a resident  
4 for 10 years. I am not one of those evil  
5 suburbanites we hear so much about. And today I  
6 would like to address some issues with you.

7 About what has been discussed a lot  
8 today, but I think was neglected a lot  
9 yesterday, these are issues of local concern and  
10 I am talking about the one question that has  
11 plagued every local leader for decades.

12 The question is, how do you get anyone  
13 in Downtown after 5:00 on the weekday without  
14 the use of fireworks?

15 AUDIENCE: [LAUGHED]

16 MR. POPEJAS: Those are Pittsburgh  
17 residents. You can tell.

18 We have an opportunity to solve this  
19 problem with the Isle of Capri plan, in my  
20 belief. It is the only plan that is going to  
21 put all of its development in the heart of  
22 Downtown. It is the only applicant that has a  
23 tangible plan ready to go to redevelop the Hill  
24 District, a long-neglected part of the city.

25 Yesterday we heard testimony from all

1 and me, basically, hostage and I resent that;  
2 and the ransom is this gaming license. And I  
3 believe this is outrageous.

4 It would break my heart to find out  
5 that Mario was behind this, but I believe it's  
6 that billionaire guy out there in California,  
7 you know?

8 Folks, I have been a resident of the  
9 City of Pittsburgh all of my life, and it was  
10 this day a year ago that the current mayor, Bob  
11 O'Connor, during the Mayoral election coined the  
12 phrase, is it good for Pittsburgh?

13 I implore you, Members of the Board, to  
14 consider that phrase and that question before  
15 awarding this license. Is it good for  
16 Pittsburgh? Thank you.

17 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: Thank you,  
18 sir.

19 AUDIENCE: [APPLAUSE]

20 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: Our next  
21 speaker is Dennis - I will let you pronounce  
22 it, sir.

23 MR. POPEJAS: Popejas, sir.

24 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: Thank you  
25 very much.

1 of the applicants. We have heard from Harris  
2 for Forest City. We also heard from Forest City  
3 that their 3,000-slot-machine parlor will make  
4 Pittsburgh comparable to Spain as a destination  
5 spot.

6 Now, I have been a long-time resident  
7 and I love this city, but even I have a hard  
8 time believing that a family of four is going to  
9 choose Pittsburgh over Spain or any other  
10 location that may have slot parlors for them to  
11 play.

12 You also heard from Pit Gaming, and I  
13 do give Pit Gaming a lot of credit in this  
14 aspect where they did come out, albeit recently,  
15 at the last minute, they came out and gave the  
16 Hill District consideration and put development  
17 there.

18 The problem is they are trying to reach  
19 the bar that the Isle of Capri reached at the  
20 outset. The Isle of Capri has offered that from  
21 the beginning.

22 It is also important to note that the  
23 North Shore casino will be in the North Shore  
24 while the development for the Hill District will  
25 be all of the way across town. I will caution

1 this board to note that history has shown us  
2 that development does not cross railroad tracks  
3 and does not cross rivers.

4 The Isle of Capri plan has a plan in  
5 place right now to reconnect Pittsburgh and the  
6 Hill District. It is real. You can see – I  
7 invite you to look at it in the hallway. You  
8 can see it.

9 The Isle of Capri came to the city and  
10 formed its plans with us. Other applicants knew  
11 of the political climate, they knew the arena  
12 was needed, they knew the Hill District  
13 development was needed and neither Forest City  
14 or Pitt Gaming committed to such a project at  
15 the outset. We were ignored. I believe that  
16 shows what they think of their community.

17 Also of note, other local leaders  
18 declared victory with Plan B. Plan B mentions  
19 nothing of the Hill District. I invite you to  
20 visit the residents –

21 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: Thank you,  
22 sir. Unfortunately your time has expired.

23 MR. POPEJAS: Thank you.

24 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: Thank you  
25 for your comments.

1 beneficial for the Pittsburgh region.

2 Our membership indicated that the four  
3 top issues that PUMP focuses on that will be  
4 most affected by gaming is economic development,  
5 community development, youth attraction and  
6 retention and jobs for young people.

7 The first two will be covered by PUMP's  
8 economic development co-chair Steven Paul, later  
9 on this morning.

10 34% of our membership feels that  
11 attraction and retention of young people is the  
12 issue that will be most affected by gaming,  
13 while 24% felt that jobs for our demographic is  
14 the issue that will be most affected.

15 60% of those surveyed feel that the  
16 Pittsburgh First/Isle of Capri plan is the  
17 strongest application that will be most  
18 effective for youth retention – youth  
19 attraction and retention.

20 While 45% feel that Harrah's/Forest  
21 City is the weakest, and 46% feel that PITG  
22 Gaming/Majestic Star casinos is the weakest on  
23 that issue.

24 In addition, 51% of those surveyed feel  
25 Pittsburgh First/Isle of Capri will provide the

1 Our next speaker is Belinda Yeager and  
2 I ask that Ms. Yeager come to the front.

3 MS. YEAGER: Good morning. My name is  
4 Belinda Yeager, and I am here to speak to you  
5 today as the President of PUMP, the Pittsburgh  
6 Urban Magnet Project.

7 I believe you heard our Executive  
8 Director, Erin Molchany speak earlier this  
9 morning on behalf of our membership of over 1700  
10 young and young-thinking individuals in the  
11 Pittsburgh region. I am here to represent them  
12 as well.

13 PUMP held a forum on gaming a few weeks  
14 ago and all three applicants were kind enough to  
15 oblige us and present their plans to our  
16 membership.

17 Afterwards, we surveyed our membership,  
18 and we received the biggest response to this  
19 survey out of all of the surveys we have done.

20 It is sufficient to say that our  
21 membership takes the issue of gaming and these  
22 three applications very seriously.

23 Our survey indicates that 82% of our  
24 membership thinks that the Pittsburgh First/Isle  
25 of Capri plan, as a whole, will be the most

1 best employment opportunities for young people,  
2 while 33% felt that Harrah's/Forest City will be  
3 weakest, and 35% think that PITG Gaming/Majestic  
4 Star casinos would be the weakest.

5 We also asked our membership to remove  
6 all additional amenities from each proposal,  
7 the additional amenities being community  
8 funding, money for a new arena, condominiums,  
9 riverfront development, et cetera.

10 We asked them which did they feel  
11 provided the most benefit to the region removing  
12 those amenities, and 74% chose Pittsburgh  
13 First/Isle of Capri, 19% chose Harrah's/Forest  
14 City and 13% chose PITG Gaming/Majestic Star  
15 Casino.

16 In conclusion, we are prepared to  
17 supply as evidence a hard copy of the results of  
18 our survey for your review along with written  
19 comments in answer to the question in addition  
20 to property tax relief. How would you like to  
21 see tax revenues from gaming utilized?

22 I ask that you please take these into  
23 consideration when making your decision. Thank  
24 you.

25 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: Thank you.

1 Our next speaker is Charles Vukotich, Jr.  
2 MR. VUKOTICH: Thank you, Control Board  
3 for your public service. I am Chuck Vukotich, I  
4 am a Pittsburgh resident.

5 You will make a public policy decision  
6 that will affect the City of Pittsburgh and our  
7 entire region, and my remarks today look at some  
8 public policy issues and suggest that the Isle  
9 of Capri proposal is the best option on that  
10 basis.

11 I present myself as something of an  
12 expert on public policy, having a master's  
13 degree in public policy and management from the  
14 Heinz School at Carnegie Mellon, as a professor  
15 at the University of Pittsburgh teaching a  
16 course in public policy, having worked in  
17 management of the public sector for over 30  
18 years, and as a founder of the Pittsburgh  
19 SciTech Spectacular that promotes the science  
20 and technology of this region.

21 Point one is local approach. The Isle  
22 of Capri proposal was made in conjunction with  
23 Mario Lemieux, a Pittsburgher, who has been  
24 involved with this proposal since its inception,  
25 and has made the many connections with the

1 deserve to get the benefit of a new development.  
2 The Isle of Capri was designed to benefit the  
3 Hill from the outset. The others will benefit  
4 other areas of the community and any  
5 consideration for the Hill, again, was an  
6 afterthought based on public pressure to do the  
7 right thing.

8 Illustrative of my problem with some of  
9 the other proposals are Mr. Barden's remarks in  
10 his Monday news conference, complaining that the  
11 requirement to build an arena and provide funds  
12 for development were not in the original RFP.  
13 This illustrates a lack of foresight in not  
14 seeing the need and a lack of dedication to  
15 doing the right thing for the city and the  
16 region.

17 Pittsburgh needs a new arena and the  
18 Penguins. We compete with many other venues in  
19 this thing. I have worked to promote this  
20 region and know we are at a crossroads. We  
21 could become a Toledo, Ohio or we could become a  
22 major city, and your decision will affect that.  
23 Thank you all again for your service.

24 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: Thank you,  
25 sir.

1 people in our community.

2 Mr. Lemieux has a proven track record  
3 of doing the right thing for Pittsburgh. The  
4 other proposals are from outsiders, and the  
5 local connections that they have are purely  
6 after-the-fact.

7 Solutions that come from the outside  
8 without effectively communicating with the  
9 people from the beginning are doomed to failure.  
10 The we-are-here-to-tell-you-what-is-best-for-you  
11 approach doesn't work, and we have seen that in  
12 Iraq.

13 Point two is integration of planning.  
14 The Isle of Capri plan was designed from the  
15 outset to build an arena, keep the Penguins in  
16 Pittsburgh and integrate it with a casino and  
17 associated development.

18 The others, if they have an arena, have  
19 it as an add-on, after the fact, because public  
20 pressure is demanding this. The considerations  
21 of an arena and the Penguins were not an  
22 integral part of any other plan.

23 Point three is fairness. The people of  
24 the Hill District were negatively impacted by  
25 the construction of the Civic Arena. They

1 Our next speaker is Eustace Uku.

2 MR. UKU: Thank you very much, Chairman  
3 Decker and members of the Gaming Control Board.

4 My name is Eustace Uku. I am a  
5 resident of O'Hara Township. I am managing  
6 principal of the law firm of Uku & Uku, P.C and  
7 am President of Exico, Incorporated, a  
8 management and financial consulting firm based  
9 in Downtown Pittsburgh.

10 I have over 30 years of legal and  
11 management consulting experience, and I have  
12 also sat with Pennsylvania DCED as financial  
13 consultant for small business, including the  
14 minority financing programs, for over nine  
15 years.

16 Over the past decade my firm Exico has  
17 functioned as diversity consultant on projects  
18 valued at over \$2 billion. The entire focus of  
19 my comments today will be around the issue of  
20 diversity.

21 As I recall, there were three major  
22 areas of diversity that were touched upon by the  
23 legislation: Ownership, contracting and  
24 employment.

25 I would appeal to the Board to be very

1 mindful about these objectives while reviewing  
2 the applications of the different applicants  
3 because the legislation does not specify any  
4 kind of numeric goals. However, if you can't  
5 quantify it, you can't measure it, and you can't  
6 control it.

7 This is important from two  
8 perspectives: First, the award of the initial  
9 licenses, and then when they come back for  
10 license renewals, you need a baseline against  
11 which you can be able to measure the performance  
12 of this applicant with regard to their diversity  
13 records.

14 The ownership issue needs to be  
15 squarely addressed in terms of the equity  
16 participation of minorities and women in the  
17 ownership of the different ventures that we  
18 operate the successful casino.

19 And then from the second standpoint of  
20 contracting, I think it is also important,  
21 although I can understand the legal and  
22 constitutional concerns of the Board not  
23 specifying the goals.

24 I notice no statute or case law that I  
25 know about that prevents a private corporation

1 for large expansion purposes.

2 No properties to buy or no concern for  
3 churches or schools. No additional costs for  
4 utilities or infrastructure. The best location  
5 for ingress and egress, north, south, east,  
6 west, roads, bridges, tunnels, waterways,  
7 highways. They are all there right now.

8 Yes, the name Harrah's, I guess speaks  
9 for itself as casino operators. It's first and  
10 foremost and this you cannot deny.

11 From birth to retirement 10 years ago I  
12 worked and lived in greater Cleveland, Ohio. My  
13 occupation allowed me the privilege to hold  
14 non-paying board positions on 12  
15 community-action committees. Most of them  
16 supporting health and social service agencies.

17 United Way, Red Cross, Urban League,  
18 Nationality Services, Community Colleges and  
19 mental retardation to name a few.

20 Please believe me when I tell you, one  
21 of the most community-conscious corporations in  
22 Greater Cleveland has been, and is, Forest City  
23 Enterprises.

24 I sat on community action boards with  
25 not only Forest City Vice Presidents but also

1 from specifying aggressive minority and women  
2 business goals and using rationally neutral  
3 means to attain it.

4 Employment, again, is another area that  
5 needs to be specifically quantified.

6 The Board will be well-served and the  
7 Commonwealth will be well-served if these issues  
8 are all carefully evaluated before license is  
9 awarded throughout the Commonwealth.

10 Thank you.

11 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: Thank you,  
12 sir.

13 Our next speaker is Frank Valenta.

14 MR. VALENTA: My name is Frank Valenta.  
15 And I, for the last eight years, reside at  
16 1553 Grandview Avenue; that, of course, is  
17 Pittsburgh's premiere street up on Mt.  
18 Washington because of the most spectacular view.

19 Location. I guess that is what it is  
20 all about; and that is what we are here for. As  
21 far as I am concerned, and all of my neighbors,  
22 we feel that the best location is the station.

23 It's now Downtown Pittsburgh's place to  
24 go for shopping, eating and overall  
25 entertainment with all of the necessary space

1 with members of the Ratner family.

2 When Cleveland needed a new baseball,  
3 basketball and football sports complex  
4 facilities, Forest City was there with bells on.  
5 When Forest City gives you its word and  
6 commitment you can count on it.

7 I began by indicating that the best  
8 location is the station, and I think that is a  
9 good way to end it. The best location is the  
10 station.

11 Thank you very much.

12 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: Thank you,  
13 sir.

14 Our next speaker is Milton Raiford.

15 MR. RAIFORD: Good morning. My name is  
16 Milton Raiford. I am the head master of the  
17 Imani Christian academy. I was born and raised  
18 in Pittsburgh. I was in - in Homewood section  
19 of the City of Pittsburgh, a very poor  
20 neighborhood, mainly African American.

21 I am 50 years old now. I went to the  
22 University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. I  
23 graduated in three and a half years. I went on,  
24 got my law degree from Duquesne University here,  
25 and I am back in the neighborhood that I grew up

1 in; and I am actually saving some children from  
2 the ravishes of a poor public educational system  
3 and the crime that is in their neighborhood.

4 Not too long ago a young man by the  
5 name of Franco Harris came into our school  
6 without fanfare, without any cameras, without  
7 anybody begging him to come and he made a  
8 commitment to help me with these children,  
9 knowing that less than 1% of all African  
10 American males in the state of Pennsylvania  
11 graduate and go on to a four-year accredited  
12 college. I thought it was important.

13 He made a commitment to us. He brought  
14 his foundation's support with him. He helped us  
15 build our library, which is the first library in  
16 the whole section of East Hills that is  
17 benefiting not only the kids in my school, 191  
18 of them, but also the whole East Hills'  
19 residents.

20 He has made a commitment. He made a  
21 commitment to help me tackle this issue of teen  
22 obesity, particularly in African American kids  
23 with the high blood pressure thing, by  
24 introducing his own resources to make that  
25 happen.

1 Franco Harris is committed to walking  
2 it out. He was committed to doing this before  
3 Harrah's or Forest City ever got on the table.  
4 So he is going to continue to do this same thing  
5 that he has already been committed to do,  
6 without a pecuniary interest of himself.

7 He went down into the home where my  
8 father had a stroke, on his way to another  
9 business meeting and went down there and blessed  
10 my dad for no reason at all.

11 All I am saying is that you cannot  
12 change a leopard's spots. If a person is not  
13 committed before they got here, they are not  
14 going to be committed afterwards. And all I can  
15 say is that Mr. Franco Harris is committed.

16 So I am here on his behalf, and I  
17 believe this license should be given, because he  
18 has already proven that he has given his heart  
19 to something without his pocketbook being  
20 connected to it.

21 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: Thank you,  
22 sir.

23 Our next speaker is Anthony F.  
24 Williams.

25 MR. WILLIAMS: Hello. My name is

1 What I am talking about is commitment.  
2 I have sat here all morning. I have sat here  
3 some through yesterday, and I heard about all of  
4 these plans and things like that.

5 First of all, I don't see a whole lot  
6 of people that look like me talking about this;  
7 number two, I don't hear a lot of people talking  
8 about this from this particular point of view of  
9 being a Pittsburgher.

10 I used to be a District Attorney. I  
11 had my own law firm here and have fought all of  
12 my life along with my parents to bring some kind  
13 of equality and justice to this particular  
14 arena.

15 I am a minister now and so gambling is  
16 really not my thing because I know that is borne  
17 on the backs of people that really can't afford  
18 to do it and you don't win a lot.

19 But by listening to all of these plans,  
20 what I am confronted with and what I am  
21 concerned about, is the people that are running  
22 the plans are really the plan anyway. The  
23 people that are really committed, all of these  
24 plans are only going to be as good as the people  
25 that are committed to walking them out.

1 Anthony Williams, resident of Collier Township.  
2 The majority of my business background and  
3 hands-on experience is in the field of real  
4 estate finance.

5 For almost 20 years I have been  
6 involved with Pittsburgh banks and other lending  
7 and financial institutions, which I believe  
8 qualifies me to address the PA Gaming Control  
9 Board.

10 Among the three proposed neighborhood  
11 sites vying for the single casino license within  
12 the City of Pittsburgh limits, there are  
13 significant differences in terms of the past and  
14 present economic development stimuli.

15 In 1962, the world's first retractable  
16 roof facility, the Civic Arena, was completed  
17 for the Civic Light Opera audiences to enjoy  
18 music under the stars.

19 In the process, however, a neighborhood  
20 was destroyed, and the flight to suburbia was in  
21 high gear. The Uptown District neighborhood and  
22 corresponding main thoroughfare between Chatham  
23 Center and the 23 city blocks up Fifth Avenue to  
24 Carlow College in Oakland, suffered tremendously  
25 and has been decaying every since.

1 In 1972 the CLO moved out of the Civic  
2 Arena. Around the same time the newly-built  
3 home of the Pittsburgh Pirates and Steelers was  
drawing record crowds to North Side, since named  
4 Three Rivers Stadium.

5 The magic across the Allegheny River  
6 and the North Side, also known as the North  
7 Shore, continues briskly today, as we know.

8 After 35 years and billions of dollars  
9 in construction projects, the North Shore  
10 redevelopment is not only alive and well, it is  
11 exploding. Literally, hundreds of new business  
12 establishments and residences have relocated to  
13 the mecca of prosperity within the City of  
14 Pittsburgh limits.

15 The South Side neighborhood, across the  
16 Monongahela River, from the Downtown central  
17 business district, when I was a kid, in the  
18 mid-1960's, this was a clean, safe and vibrant  
19 business and residential district.

20 Today it is still clean and safe, but  
21 the word vibrant would be an understatement.  
22 The South Side of Pittsburgh is treasure, a  
23 beacon, a phenomenon. It is truly a  
24 neighborhood of continuous growth. What would  
25

1 It is a casino located – if a casino  
2 is located across the Downtown business across  
3 the river, it could very well be in the North  
4 Hills or the South Hills of Pittsburgh –

5 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: Sir, your  
6 time is up. We thank you for your remarks.

7 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you.

8 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: Our next  
9 speaker is Mr. Ally Robinson (sic).

10 Do you need some assistance,  
11 Mr. Robinson?

12 MR. ROBISON: Thank you. I am okay.

13 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: Can we give  
14 Mr. Robinson some assistance, please?

15 MR. ROBISON: Thank you.

16 I am Jonathan Robison of Pittsburgh,  
17 the Oakland neighborhood. I am speaking on  
18 behalf of the Allegheny County Transit Council,  
19 ACTC. The ACTC is the legislative mandated  
20 citizen advisory body to the Port Authority of  
21 Allegheny County. I am Chairperson of the  
22 long-range planning committee of the ACTC.

23 We urge that you require whoever you  
24 select for a casino in Pittsburgh have good  
25 public transportation.

1 be the effect of a new casino development on the  
2 City of Pittsburgh in each of the proposed sites  
3 described above?

4 Starting with the South Side  
5 development proposal, represented by Forest City  
6 Enterprises project: The neighborhood real  
7 estate values and corresponding revitalization  
8 efforts impact would be negligible.

9 Number two, we will examine North Shore  
10 proposal presented by PITG project. How do you  
11 calculate any increase in value to a \$350  
12 million Heinz field Steelers football stadium or  
13 a Carnegie Science Center Museum or a PNC Park  
14 Pirates baseball stadium?

15 In addition, we all know that a casino  
16 site across the river and outside the central  
17 business district would be a destination in and  
18 of itself, and have very little benefit to the  
19 depressed, Downtown, small business owner.

20 I want to say that I believe the  
21 projected slots revenue is at best exaggerated.

22 And skipping to my ending: I cannot  
23 stress enough the importance of such a change in  
24 attitude that would occur in the Hill District  
25 should the IOC receive the lone slots license.

1 The casino in Pittsburgh will be a  
2 major trip generator. Some people coming to the  
3 casino will prefer public transportation.  
4 Others will have to use public transportation.

5 Consider not only the people coming to  
6 the casino for entertainment but the people  
7 coming to other places of entertainment, to  
8 restaurants and bars. Consider the many  
9 employees of the casino and the associated  
10 businesses.

11 This proposed – I'm sorry. Consider  
12 traffic congestion. Consider air pollution.  
13 Consider our dependence on foreign sources of  
14 petroleum.

15 Failure to require good public  
16 transportation for any new major development is  
17 not only foolish but unpatriotic.

18 This proposed policy does not imply any  
19 preference among the three applicants.  
20 Allegheny County Transit Council certainly has  
21 no preference. All three proposed casino sites  
22 present problems and opportunities.

23 Station Square is served by the Port  
24 Authority South Hill's T Line, but there are  
25 questions about the capacity of the station and

1 the line, and about the proximity of the station  
2 to the actual casino site.

3 A North Shore site might be served by  
4 the plan North Shore extension of the T, and the  
5 casino operator might facilitate that extension.

6 The Mellon Arena site, now served by  
7 buses, which tend to run at capacity, might  
8 present an opportunity of great importance to  
9 the region.

10 For a century, there has been talk of  
11 some kind of public transit rail service  
12 connecting Downtown and Oakland. Could this be  
13 an opportunity to develop an east rapid-transit  
14 line with a stop at the casino?

15 Whatever you pick, please be certain  
16 that the site has good public transportation.  
17 Thank you.

18 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: Thank you,  
19 sir.

20 AUDIENCE: [APPLAUSE]

21 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: Our next  
22 speaker is Jonathan VanSickle.

23 MR. VANSICKLE: Hello. My name is  
24 Jonathan VanSickle. I am now a resident of  
25 Washington County, but I have been a

1 has been.

2 If I may, I would like to read a couple  
3 excerpts of letters to the editor. This one is  
4 from the Post Gazette from April 6th. The  
5 Pennsylvania Gaming Law states that a company  
6 cannot own a horse track and a slots license at  
7 the same time.

8 Harris applied for a Category I license  
9 in Chester Downs; and is therefore ineligible to  
10 apply for a Category II license in Pittsburgh.

11 To get around this, it's partner Forest  
12 City applied for the license and listed Harrah's  
13 as the casino operator. Why are Harrah's job  
14 and revenue projections higher than the  
15 projection estimates made by Pennsylvania and  
16 40% higher than the national leader? Why hasn't  
17 it come close to its projected revenue estimates  
18 in other casinos? If Harrah's truly cares about  
19 Pittsburgh, why hasn't it offered to provide the  
20 wherewithal to build an arena as a gift to the  
21 community?

22 Another letter from the Tribune Review,  
23 on the 31st, said the people of Pittsburgh need  
24 to make it clear to the slots committee and to  
25 Harrah's, that if a license in Pittsburgh is

1 southwestern Pennsylvania resident my entire  
2 life.

3 We can parade for Franco Harris, Smokey  
4 Robinson, the Pittsburgh Penguins, whoever out  
5 there to speak on the behalf of these parties,  
6 but the more important people are the residents  
7 of this area, the residents of southwestern  
8 Pennsylvania, the residents of Pittsburgh.  
9 These are the people who you should consider,  
10 and these people have voted and supported the  
11 Isle of Capri overwhelmingly.

12 On a KDKA-TV online call over 50%,  
13 nearly 56% of the people surveyed, support the  
14 Isle of Capri. The next highest number is no  
15 preference, and it was in the teens.

16 There have been numerous letters to the  
17 editors of the Post Gazette and the Tribune  
18 Review and most of them have been in favor of  
19 the Isle of Capri. The handful that have been  
20 in favor of other plans, usually have been tied  
21 to people whose personal profits are tied into  
22 those plans, such as the general manager of the  
23 Hard Rock Cafe, managers of hotels owned by  
24 Forest City and other people whose personal  
25 profits are tied into where the casino license

1 awarded to the plan that most local residents  
2 don't support, then we simply won't go.

3 Ladies and gentlemen of the Board, I  
4 ask you, to take the opinion of the people of  
5 this city into consideration. Think of what the  
6 people of this city really want. Overwhelmingly  
7 it has been Isle of Capri. Thank you.

8 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: Thank you,  
9 sir.

10 Our next speaker is Lorie Stewart.

11 MS. STEWART: Good morning. My name is  
12 Lorie Stewart. I am here to support the Isle of  
13 Capri Pittsburgh First plan for a stand-alone  
14 slots casino in the City of Pittsburgh.

15 I have wrestled with what I want to  
16 say, primarily because I don't know what you  
17 want to hear.

18 You have before you two very good, some  
19 may say outstanding proposals, and one that has  
20 been touted as a no-brainer, by many of our  
21 local elected officials and that is the Isle of  
22 Capri plan.

23 To put it into a sports context, they  
24 stepped up to the plate, like Bill Masaroski,  
25 and hit the home run that won the 1960 World

1 Series; they took the ball and ran 75 yards and  
2 won the 2006 Super Bowl; and they, like the  
3 phenomenal Mario Lemieux and the sensational,  
4 record-setting rookie, Sidney Crosby, raised the  
5 bar to another level.

6 All three have guaranteed economic  
7 development, but only one has guaranteed  
8 maintaining the existing jobs and businesses as  
9 well as create new jobs, develop the Hill  
10 District, Uptown area and reconnect that area to  
11 the city.

12 Included in this plan is over a billion  
13 dollars of economic development, but the crown  
14 jewel is a \$290 million gift, in the form of a  
15 state of the art multi-purpose facility for the  
16 region.

17 This facility will bring concerts back  
18 to the area that have not come here because  
19 Mellon Arena is outdated; but most important, it  
20 will keep its anchor tenant, the Pittsburgh  
21 Penguins, here where they belong.

22 It is like hitting the Power Ball, only  
23 better.

24 The multi-purpose facility will be  
25 built at no cost to the taxpayers.

1 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: Thank you  
2 for your remarks, ma'am.

3 The next speaker is Bradley Jake Young.

4 MR. YOUNG: Good morning. Is everyone  
5 happy?

6 My name is Jake Young. Aside from a  
7 few years away from college, the Pittsburgh area  
8 has been my home for nearly 50 years, with 23 of  
9 those as Franco Harris' neighbor on the North  
10 Side.

11 I have had the consummate Pittsburgh  
12 experience having shoveled stuff into a steel  
13 mill furnace, worked Downtown as a sales clerk  
14 at Kaufmann's and later as serving as the  
15 Membership and Development Director for the  
16 Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce.

17 Along the way I have patronized every  
18 major arts, cultural and sporting organization  
19 in town, served on a few boards, attended a  
20 World Series game, been to most local  
21 entertainment venues and as you can tell I like  
22 to eat out, often at Station Square. I tell you  
23 this as a way of saying that I champion what  
24 Pittsburgh has to offer.

25 Today I am here to talk to you about

1 I understand property relief is a vital  
2 part to determining who receives stand-alone  
3 slots licenses, they all have that in their  
4 proposals. They will all claim to do what is  
5 best, only the Isle of Capri pled to support and  
6 commitment from day one.

7 When prodded by the Governor, PITG  
8 Gaming agreed to put money toward a  
9 multi-purpose facility and then jumped on board  
10 to redevelop the Hill District. Forest  
11 City/Harrah's have by all accounts overstated  
12 profit margins and understated the traffic  
13 nightmares on the South Side. This leads to  
14 scepticism as to what they will do for the  
15 region.

16 I will skip forward. Yes, I am a  
17 hockey fan. And if this team leaves, I  
18 personally have no reason to come back to the  
19 City of Pittsburgh or to Allegheny County.

20 I heard Forest City claim that people  
21 from Spain will come to their casino. Well, I  
22 live in Westmoreland County, and I won't come to  
23 their casino. If I am not willing to go 30  
24 miles, why would anyone want to come thousands  
25 of miles?

1 what Pittsburgh will offer tomorrow and how I  
2 believe one company is poised to deliver the  
3 goods.

4 As I understand it, the criteria you  
5 are addressing and choosing a gaming license are  
6 finances, safety and public access. I believe  
7 that two other criteria should also be  
8 addressed, namely, commitment and quality.

9 The commitment I refer to is to the  
10 mission of lowering property taxes, the reason  
11 we voters approved of the referendum enabling  
12 slots gaming in the Commonwealth.

13 Equally important I feel is the quest  
14 for quality. Taking both of these into account,  
15 I feel that Harrah's Station Square offers the  
16 best plan for our city. Harrah's has the only  
17 Standard & Poor's bond rating considered to be  
18 investment grade, while Isle of Capri and  
19 majestic have only junk bond status.

20 Harrah's has proposed a fantastic  
21 addition to Station Square, a successful  
22 destination for 28 years. Most importantly,  
23 they plan the largest casino of the three  
24 proposals, likely generating the most gaming tax  
25 revenue, that we voters were promised as

1 property tax relief.

2 Coupled with that are the substantial  
3 number of high-paying jobs that will result. So  
4 significant is the projected income that  
5 Harrah's will generate for its employees that it  
6 will eclipse the payrolls of both Isle of Capri  
7 and the Penguins by nearly \$36,248,000.

8 It makes perfect sense not to go with  
9 the Isle of Capri or Majestic plans for  
10 financing a new Penguins arena. Those plans  
11 call for upwards of \$100 million publicly-held  
12 real estate and development costs, money and  
13 resources that could be better used elsewhere.

14 In addition, it appears that Majestic's  
15 plan calls for the diversion of state gaming  
16 revenues away from property tax relief, a  
17 violation of the voters' wishes. We have seen  
18 this sort of thing before, and it just ain't  
19 right.

20 Simply put, proposals that hinge on  
21 funding a new stadium for the Penguins are  
22 marketing tools that mask inadequate plans to  
23 generate revenue for property tax relief. It is  
24 a choice, frankly, that I believe our city would  
25 be better – if it is a choice, I believe our

1 to industry averages.

2 What is each applicant's track record  
3 for revenues and meeting their published  
4 projections in other states? Proposals that  
5 will ultimately require taxpayer investment to  
6 be completely realized are antithetical to  
7 gaming legislation's intent and should be duly  
8 regarded.

9 For example, will a public entity be  
10 required to bear the cost of demolition or  
11 infrastructure improvements? How will proposed  
12 housing be affordable without subsidy?

13 Each applicant is offered a community  
14 benefit beyond a slots casino. What actually  
15 are they promising in writing and how meaningful  
16 will each investment be when the rubber hits the  
17 road? How will the community's voice influence  
18 how those dollars get invested? What is the  
19 percentage of minority ownership?

20 Look at each applicant's capacity to  
21 deliver what they promise and the  
22 real-world-time-frames for return on investment,  
23 not just for the investors, of course, but for  
24 the taxpayers and for the communities with which  
25 they will be building.

1 city would be better off without the Penguins  
2 and their partners than without Harrah's.

3 I encourage the Board to honor the  
4 state's commitment to the voters and to quality  
5 by choosing Harrah's for the gaming license.

6 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: Thank you,  
7 sir.

8 Our next speaker is Steven Paul.

9 MR. PAUL: My name is Steven Paul. I  
10 live in Pittsburgh.

11 I am a Board Member of Pittsburgh Urban  
12 Magnet Project, and founder and co-chair of its  
13 economic development committee. I am also a  
14 principal of SPUR Consulting, a practice in  
15 community and economic development in the  
16 Pittsburgh region.

17 The driving purpose of gaming  
18 legislation is to build the tax coffers across  
19 Pennsylvania. This measure should be considered  
20 foremost along with community impact and  
21 applicant capacity to deliver what it proposes.

22 I beseech you to look beyond the  
23 surface and consider the farther-reaching  
24 implications of each proposal. Where do each  
25 applicant's revenue projections fall in relation

1 Ask yourself, What role size plays in  
2 delivering the highest value to taxpayers? Do  
3 applicant have site control for their promised  
4 development? Do they have a track record  
5 completing construction on time, on budget? And  
6 what relationship does profitability have to  
7 community investment? And can they demonstrate  
8 that their community development plans resonate  
9 with community needs.

10 Thank you very much for your thoughtful  
11 consideration.

12 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: Thank you,  
13 sir.

14 Our next speaker is Michael Lamb.

15 MR. LAMB: Good morning. My name is  
16 Michael Lamb. I reside at 1015 Grandview Avenue  
17 Mt. Washington in the City of Pittsburgh and in  
18 the interest of full disclosure, I am an  
19 attorney and act as counsel to the Mt.  
20 Washington Community Development Corporation,  
21 who you heard from earlier today. I am also the  
22 elected Prothonotary of Allegheny County.

23 Let me start by saying that I don't  
24 envy your position. The decision you make will  
25 have a dramatic affect, good or bad, on this

1 community; and, arguably, your decision is the  
2 most important public decision this community  
3 will face in the generation.

4 I appreciate the time you are taking,  
5 and I appreciate the time you've offered me.

6 I speak to you today as a resident of  
7 Mt. Washington concerned about the potential  
8 impact the Station Square casino will have on  
9 the surrounding communities, particularly with  
10 respect to parking and traffic.

11 The traffic issues are readily apparent  
12 today even when Station Square holds a small  
13 event. Station Square gaming acknowledges in  
14 their filing that most of their patrons will  
15 arrive by vehicle; and that the number one  
16 vehicular route of arrival to their facility is  
17 via the Smithfield Street Bridge and Carson  
18 Street; that's the problem.

19 The Smithfield Street Bridge is a  
20 historic structure that will not allow any  
21 alteration that will lessen congestion. Carson  
22 Street is bounded on one side by a railroad and  
23 a Mountain and on the other side by the loading  
24 docks of the freight house shops, another  
25 historic structure.

1 that adds up.

2 My concern about parking is that  
3 Station Square is not adequately planned for its  
4 parking needs. The casino itself and future  
5 development will take away hundreds of surface  
6 parking spaces.

7 Station Square counters that because  
8 they will be charging for parking, more people  
9 will carpool. I believe that because they are  
10 charging more, people will park for free on  
11 Mt. Washington and ride the incline.

12 The narrow streets of Mt. Washington  
13 will be awash in vehicles because of the lively  
14 restaurant business our community already  
15 supports, we are faced with significant parking  
16 issues as it stands.

17 A casino at Station Square will only  
18 make that worse, but that is my opinion and I am  
19 not an expert. I have read through the impact  
20 studies submitted by the applicants; and  
21 understandably, they are showing themselves in a  
22 light most favorable to their position.

23 But I am leery about some of the  
24 projections; that is why I join with so many  
25 others who have or will testify that what is

1 This infrastructure is grossly  
2 inadequate to handle the number of vehicles  
3 expected at this facility.

4 Traffic congestion for me and for the  
5 surrounding communities of Mt. Washington, the  
6 South Side and the burgeoning residential  
7 district on First Side, is a quality-of-life  
8 issue.

9 But it is more than that. Part of your  
10 mission is to determine which of these  
11 facilities can produce the most revenue. And I  
12 submit that the problems of traffic in and  
13 around Station Square are so severe, that it  
14 will have a negative impact on their bottom  
15 line.

16 The amount of money that someone spends  
17 in a casino depends on how much money they have  
18 and how much time they have to spend it. When  
19 most people go for a night out, they are on  
20 somewhat of a schedule. Maybe they have three  
21 hours or four before they have to be back home  
22 to relieve a baby-sitter or get to bed for work  
23 the next day. If an hour or more of that time  
24 is spent in traffic or looking for a place to  
25 park, that is an hour less of slots play and

1 needed, if you truly want to make an informed  
2 decision, is an independent study of traffic and  
3 parking at each of these three sites.

4 It is a proposal that I raised with  
5 each of the applicants at a forum recently.  
6 They all agreed that they would submit to such a  
7 study, if you asked.

8 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: Thank you,  
9 sir.

10 Unfortunately, sir, your time is up and  
11 I am asking you to return to your seat.

12 MR. LAMB: Thank you.

13 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: Thank you.  
14 Our next speaker is Patricia Weaver.

15 MS. WEAVER: Hello. I am Patricia  
16 Weaver. I am a CPA and Harvard MBA.

17 Like many Pennsylvanians I have been  
18 shocked at how the state is barreling ahead with  
19 the introduction of gambling with no apparent  
20 public consent or authority.

21 I am deeply concerned that our elected  
22 and appointed officials' financial interests in  
23 casinos and gambling creates conflicts in  
24 interest, which render those officials incapable  
25 of acting in the best interests of the citizens

of Pennsylvania.

The law, allowing 1% interest, has essentially made those in power on this issue middlemen. Middlemen capable of selling our quality of life to the highest bidder willing to pay 1%. One percent doesn't sound like that much but it is a major fortune. It is like hitting the jackpot.

The law is unconscionable. It sets those in power in a position to be bought at the expense of citizens. The law implies to get the job done, who needs to be paid off and what percentage is appropriate? It likely requires a line item for public companies under the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act.

This lack of impartial judgment by those in power places our state in great jeopardy. This problem demands extreme and timely measures before we reach the point of no return.

The private sector prohibits such dealings. It holds executives accountable for acting in the best interest of corporations and not benefiting at the expense of shareholders.

A parallel example is the Qwest phone

company's corporate executive Mark Weisberg, who was responsible for new business development. When new companies came to him and offered Qwest, some hard-to-come-by IPO stock, the executive asked for some for himself and his sister and his parents. He made millions "helping out" these companies. Just like Mark Weisberg, it appears our politicians may be helping the gambling industry in the same way.

The Qwest executive was indicted for allegedly secretly using his position, power and influence as the Qwest officer to personally profit and attempt to personally profit by seeking and obtaining valuable investment opportunities for himself and others at the expense and to the detriment and in a manner not authorized by or in the best interest of Qwest and its shareholders.

Why should conflicts of interest be permitted in Pennsylvania's public sector when it is not permitted in the private sector?

This is what we need to do: The public needs basic accountability and transparency. We need to know every elected official and appointed officials and their relatives'

financial stake in gaming-related businesses and properties.

We need to know who the gaming industry is paying on their payroll and consulting fees sharing and then sharing in the profits. And we need to know the present value of the projected future cash flows of these interests, based on the current state projections.

Second, all state action and activities involving implements in slots should be halted until the citizens of Pennsylvania have this financial information, and we need to know who is working for us, and who is working for the gambling interest.

Third, the people of Pennsylvania deserve to vote on whether or not they want gambling.

Fourth, we should disallow this 1% law. It is ridiculous. If the public officials want to hold 1% interest, then they should step down from public office.

Fifth, public officials in Pennsylvania need to be held to the same high standards of the federal government. If investment opportunities were obtained by elected officials

because of their power and position, these assets need to be relinquished to the state.

Sixth, we need to closely examine our state laws and structure, because it appears that our legal system is designed for public officials and attorneys by public officials and attorneys at the expense of our businesses, citizens and our state's long-term viability as a desirable place to live. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: Thank you, ma'am.

Our next speaker is Jim Malloy.

MR. MALLOY: Good morning. I thank you for the opportunity to speak to you this morning or, actually, this afternoon now. I don't envy you guys. You have a very difficult task in front of you.

My name is Jim Malloy. I am the president of the Fraternal Order of Police in Pittsburgh. I am here to ask for your support in changing the structure under which the fee is presented to the state.

We are presently working with Philadelphia as well as with the state FOP to amend the legislation that would allow 10% to be

1 given back to the municipality who receives a  
2 casino to use those funds to enhance and expand  
3 their police department.

4 Pittsburgh is under Act 47, and we also  
5 have an Oversight Board. Our government is  
6 actually controlled by the state, for the most  
7 part and who they appoint to run it.

8 We have 860 police officers. When you  
9 come right down to it, there is about 500 that  
10 are patrolmen. Those patrolmen are responsible  
11 to take care of the needs of Pittsburgh.

12 Every time Franco Harris runs down the  
13 field or Jerome Bettis or the crack of the bat  
14 happens in the North Side, we literally rape  
15 each one of the stations for manpower to see to  
16 it that the citizens who go to these games can  
17 get safely into and out of and are unmolested  
18 after the game; so that any fights that should  
19 occur after a Cleveland/Pittsburgh game can be  
20 handled by our police department.

21 I want you to understand something, we  
22 are undermanned. We don't have enough policemen  
23 to deal with this. There is an article in the  
24 paper this morning of 100 - to a \$269 million  
25 renovation to Downtown Pittsburgh.

1 time.

2 I brought with me copies of the letter  
3 to the Governor. I will leave them. Thank you  
4 very much.

5 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: Thank you,  
6 sir. And, again, if you do have something you  
7 do wish to mark as an exhibit, please give it to  
8 our clerk.

9 The next speaker is Carol Wilson.

10 MS. WILSON: Good afternoon my name is  
11 Carol Wilson. I am a small business owner  
12 located in Station Square for the last 14 years.

13 Station Square in the past 14 years has  
14 had its ups and downs. We are doing quite well  
15 with the renovations of Bessemer Court. Things  
16 are looking on the up and up.

17 Speaking on behalf of Harrah's  
18 Entertainment and Forest City, Harrah's is one  
19 of the largest and most successful gaming  
20 companies in the country and Forest City is one  
21 of the big names in real estate.

22 The location is, in my opinion, ideal.  
23 The riverfront is a beautiful location with the  
24 new docks that they put in last year, it is  
25 ideal for boat traffic, it's accessible by bus,

1 Sadly, when gambling comes to  
2 Pittsburgh it is also going to drag in every  
3 pervert, panhandler, hooker and junkie, dope  
4 dealers and thieves. We have to be prepared to  
5 deal with that.

6 We cannot do that. We don't want the  
7 citizens of Pittsburgh to be - let's say denied  
8 what they are paying taxes for; and that is  
9 police protection in their neighborhoods.

10 Every time this casino door will open,  
11 24 hours a day, it will require traffic control  
12 and security outside of their compound.

13 I am certain that whatever casino you  
14 pick is ultimately going to handle their own  
15 security needs, what arrives at their gate will  
16 be what we as police officers have to attend to.

17 I have drafted a letter to Governor  
18 Ridge asking that 10% of the fee, of the \$50  
19 million that will be paid of that fee, be given  
20 back to the City of Pittsburgh so that we can  
21 hire additional police officers and buy that  
22 technical equipment that we need to service, not  
23 only the casinos, but also the citizens of  
24 Pittsburgh.

25 I want to thank you very much for your

1 light rail, the bridges, the interstate and the  
2 marina this year should do very well.

3 As soon as the licensing is awarded,  
4 the ground can be broken and they own the  
5 property so there shouldn't be any holdup there.

6 Station Square could be completed in a  
7 year, which would benefit everyone. I thought  
8 that the gaming was designed to reduce property  
9 taxes for the Pennsylvania residents, not  
10 designed to save a hockey team.

11 I think most of the people or the  
12 politicians have lost sight of that being held  
13 hostage too quote the other man, saying that the  
14 Penguins would leave if they are not given the  
15 arena.

16 I think everyone knows now at this  
17 point that money will be - no matter who it is  
18 that gets the licensing, money will be there to  
19 help the Penguins.

20 We need to look at which of these  
21 facilities will be the greatest impact on our  
22 city workers and the economy in the long run.

23 Station Square already has a hotel up  
24 and running, there is a lot of restaurants and  
25 shops are already in place. The nightclubs are

1 very accessible and do quite well.

2 As for the traffic location. I have  
3 been coming in and out of Station Square for 14  
4 years now. Coming out Saturdays is probably  
5 your biggest traffic pattern and really there  
6 isn't any problem getting in and out.

7 Your job is to pick the best location.

8 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: Ma'am,  
9 unfortunately your time is up.

10 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

11 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: We thank you  
12 for your comments.

13 Our next speaker is Dorothy Falk.

14 MS. FALK: Good morning. My name is  
15 Dorothy Falk. I live in the borough of  
16 Thornburg here in Allegheny County.

17 I am concerned about the potential  
18 negative consequences of having a casino in the  
19 City of Pittsburgh, but I recognize the fact  
20 that the law has already been passed and that a  
21 Pittsburgh casino is inevitable. At this point,  
22 I can only hope that Pittsburgh will also be  
23 able to benefit from a casino's presence in the  
24 city.

25 One big reason that I felt compelled to

1 In other words, Allegheny County  
2 households will, in effect, be subsidizing  
3 Pennsylvania homeowners, which is interesting  
4 since Allegheny County households have an annual  
5 household income that is \$2,000 lower than that  
6 of the average Pennsylvanian household.

7 To plunder that much money from one  
8 group of people and give nothing back, would be  
9 unconscionable.

10 There is no doubt that the state of  
11 Pennsylvania will receive significant revenues  
12 from any of the three proposed casinos. I am  
13 asking that the Gaming Control Board look  
14 closely at the revenues that are being projected  
15 and to take into account other considerations as  
16 well.

17 The Isle of Capri and Majestic Star  
18 Casinos seem to have consistent and realistic  
19 revenue and employment projections. In Harrah's  
20 projection it seems so greatly exaggerated as to  
21 be implausible. Therefore, assuming that all  
22 three will generate comparable revenues, I ask  
23 that you choose a proposal that offers to give  
24 back the most to the City of Pittsburgh and to  
25 this region.

1 be here today was an interview that I saw on a  
2 local television newscast, in which someone from  
3 the Gaming Control Board commented that the  
4 Board's sole responsibility was to select a  
5 casino that will generate the most revenue for  
6 property tax relief in the State of  
7 Pennsylvania; and that the Board is not  
8 concerned about any benefits that the City of  
9 Pittsburgh might receive in return.

10 I found this statement to be callous  
11 and alarming, and I hope that it is not true.

12 Based on information contained in the  
13 Forest City proposal, 75% of the revenues  
14 generated by a casino will come from Allegheny  
15 County residents.

16 Even if we choose the most conservative  
17 estimate of approximately \$400 million in total  
18 annual casino revenues, this means every adult  
19 in the county needs to lose, on average, \$308  
20 each year for the good of the Commonwealth.

21 This also means that at least \$300  
22 million will come from the pockets of Allegheny  
23 County residents to be turned over to help lower  
24 the property taxes of homeowners across the  
25 entire state of Pennsylvania.

1 That proposal is put forth by the Isle  
2 of Capri. In addition to providing the city  
3 with immediate ownership of a brand new arena,  
4 free of charge, its proposal to develop the Hill  
5 District will help to rebuild a multi - I'm  
6 sorry - will help to rebuild a multi-purpose  
7 arena that was previously decimated in the name  
8 of progress.

9 In addition, this proposal is the only  
10 one that guarantees that the Pittsburgh Penguins  
11 will remain in the city. And as any of the  
12 250,000 people who converged downtown in the  
13 bitter cold on Tuesday, February 7th, to  
14 celebrate the Steelers' Super Bowl Championship  
15 can attest, sports matters both economically and  
16 emotionally.

17 These are three huge give-backs that  
18 the Isle of Capri is offering to this region  
19 which will not detract at all from the Gaming  
20 Control Board's stated purpose of ensuring large  
21 state revenues. The state wins and the region  
22 wins.

23 Thank you.

24 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: Thank you,  
25 ma'am.

1 Our next speaker is Elaine Sypherd.  
2 MS. SYPHERD: Good afternoon. My name  
3 is Elaine Sypherd.

4 My family and I own a restaurant in the  
5 Uptown area of the city. Needless to say, the  
6 hockey team helps support us. I am definitely  
7 interested in seeing the Isle of Capri plan come  
8 forward.

9 The politicians told the Penguins they  
10 could not help them financially to build an  
11 arena - I know you have heard this all  
12 before - so the Penguins went out and found a  
13 way to get it built, and when they come back  
14 they want to go to Plan B.

15 The Downtown and the Uptown areas of  
16 the city are dead, and the best way to bring  
17 life back to the city is to build a casino and a  
18 new arena in the heart of the city.

19 The Isle of Capri plan will complement  
20 the Mayor's plan to revitalize the Downtown  
21 area. Isn't it time that we paid some attention  
22 to the center city?

23 The North Shore is fixed. The South  
24 Side is fixed. Uptown needs to be fixed. Let's  
25 not fix what isn't broken.

1 this time, and I have been in Pittsburgh now for  
2 five years.

3 I have some recommendations and  
4 concerns today about the casino and sports  
5 building and housing development building here  
6 in Pittsburgh.

7 Number one, addictions intervention  
8 and prevention programs be instituted for all  
9 employees and their families through the  
10 internal Employee Assistance Programs of all  
11 businesses in the collaboration.

12 Two, a percentage of all proceeds not  
13 less than 10% be used for community addiction  
14 programming within the southwestern Pennsylvania  
15 region with priority given to the City of  
16 Pittsburgh.

17 Three, all collaborated and development  
18 efforts facilitate legislation for the  
19 curtailment of prostitution and pornography of  
20 adults and children, both high and low. I mean  
21 high-classed prostitutes as well as people on  
22 the street, hotel, street and entertainment  
23 venues, within the City of Pittsburgh and  
24 Allegheny County; and internet activity fines be  
25 raised from \$2500 to 25,000 in the State of

1 With the Plan B being discussed, there  
2 could be an offer that would come to the  
3 Penguins that they would find hard to refuse.  
4 And what good would an arena be if we had no one  
5 to play in it?

6 Why do we need all of these other plans  
7 when the Isle of Capri's offer stands head and  
8 shoulders above all of the other plans?

9 Thank you for your time.

10 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: Thank you,  
11 ma'am.

12 AUDIENCE: [APPLAUSE]

13 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: Our next  
14 speaker is the Reverend Michelle Ellison.

15 REV. ELLISON: Greetings.

16 My name is Reverend Michelle Ellison,  
17 and I have been in the field of public policy  
18 for 20 years. I got my masters in social work  
19 and public policy and administration from the  
20 State University of New York at \*\* Stony Brook,  
21 and I have been in the field.

22 I am a member of the Academy of  
23 Certified Social Workers and have been in the  
24 academy since 1994 - I mean, 1984.

25 I am a resident of the Hill District at

1 Pennsylvania to deter such activity.

2 Four, that low and moderate income  
3 housing be built or upgraded to complement  
4 upscale housing, and provision be made for all  
5 necessary recreational and green space for  
6 healthy living as determined by urban planners  
7 in conjunction with the Department of  
8 Environmental Protection, the federal and state  
9 Departments of Health and Human Services and  
10 collaboration with the National Institute of  
11 Pennsylvania that would be the Department of  
12 Public Welfare and collaboration with the  
13 National Institutes of Health.

14 And five, that a percentage of income  
15 generated from rental and owned properties be  
16 used for the education and medical wellness  
17 programs' budgeting within the City of  
18 Pittsburgh.

19 I have served as an advisor in the  
20 State of New York as well as in Washington, DC,  
21 and I have had some people here in Pittsburgh  
22 ask me for some advising as well, and so I  
23 present today.

24 I hope you will take my concerns and  
25 recommendations into consideration.

1 Thank you.  
 2 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: Thank you.  
 3 Our next speaker is Mr. Ron Porter, who  
 4 I note is the spokesperson for the Pittsburgh  
 5 Gaming Task Force. As such, he is a community  
 6 group entitled to 10 minutes.

7 MR. PORTER: Okay. Well, you will be  
 8 glad to know I will not use all 10 minutes.

9 My name is Ron Porter.

10 For the past 14 months I have served as  
 11 the co-chair of the Pittsburgh Gaming Task  
 12 Force.

13 During the past year our members have  
 14 labored to identify specific community  
 15 challenges and opportunities that could result  
 16 from the presence of a full-scale casino within  
 17 the city limits of Pittsburgh.

18 The following recommendations are being  
 19 submitted to be included in the public record  
 20 and detailed copies are submitted for your  
 21 review.

22 One, a casino operator should be  
 23 mandated to provide funding to support agencies  
 24 and institutions with the expertise to mitigate  
 25 the affects of gaming addiction. This includes

1 support for non-profit institutions with the  
 2 capacity to serve individuals within the  
 3 communities they reside.

4 The casino operator should provide  
 5 childcare services for their employees. Many of  
 6 the newly-employed workers may be joining the  
 7 workforce without the benefit to access of  
 8 24-hour childcare, and we think that the casino  
 9 operator should provide that service.

10 We encourage the successful casino  
 11 operator to institute a self-exclusion program  
 12 that encourages individuals to self-identify as  
 13 problem gamblers, and once identified these  
 14 individuals will not be admitted to the casino.

15 There should be a structured process  
 16 for preparing Pittsburgh's regional law  
 17 enforcement officials to address -

18 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: Sir, if I  
 19 could stop you for just a minute. I apologize.

20 I note that the Pittsburgh Gaming Task  
 21 Force spoke yesterday as a community group and  
 22 in fairness to community groups, individuals,  
 23 applicants and everyone else at these hearings,  
 24 I must limit your comments to three minutes.

25 MR. PORTER: That's fine. I am easy to

1 get along with.

2 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: Thank you  
 3 very much, sir.

4 MR. PORTER: You know, we have been  
 5 dealing with contentious stuff all along.

6 There should be a structured process  
 7 for preparing Pittsburgh regional law  
 8 enforcement agencies to address casino-related  
 9 crimes, cost associated with the research and  
 10 training should be borne by the operator.

11 The successful bidder should operate  
 12 under the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board's  
 13 responsible alcohol management program called  
 14 RAMP. This program helps the operator in  
 15 detecting signs of impairment and intoxication,  
 16 identifying underage individuals and detecting  
 17 false ID, and it helps to reduce alcohol-related  
 18 problems. The Department of Public Health  
 19 should launch efforts emphasizing the problems  
 20 and pitfalls associated with gaming.

21 The gaming industry will also be a  
 22 major source of employment. Once the casino  
 23 becomes operational, the casino hierarchy will  
 24 become a major community employer and economic  
 25 force, and a potential influencer of political

1 and economic development decisions; that is why  
 2 we have to hit them early on to get the  
 3 commitments.

4 The casino operator should provide  
 5 funding and other resources to assure the  
 6 recruitment program provides optimum opportunity  
 7 for historically-slanted populations to gain  
 8 access to full-time employment.

9 The casino operator, we recommend,  
 10 should make use of the Pittsburgh/Allegheny  
 11 County CareerLink system, and we also believe  
 12 that they should tap into the Pittsburgh  
 13 Partnership.

14 The casino hiring must reflect, at a  
 15 minimum, hiring guidelines that assure minority  
 16 candidates are hired in proportion to their  
 17 presence within the region, and mechanisms must  
 18 be put into place that continually monitors the  
 19 casino operator's commitment to equal employment  
 20 and inclusion, particularly within the  
 21 professional and management ranks.

22 Thank you very much.

23 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: Thank you,  
 24 sir.

25 At this time we are going to take our

1 luncheon break. We will take an abbreviated  
2 break today, and we will take a 35-minute recess  
3 for lunch.

4 This hearing is in recess and we will  
5 reconvene at 1:05.

6 I want to remind the applicants at the  
7 conclusion of the luncheon recess they will have  
8 up to a 15-minute period of rebuttal or final  
9 comment. Thank you very much and have a good  
10 lunch.

11 (Lunch.)

12 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: Ladies and  
13 gentlemen, please take your seats. This hearing  
14 is now reconvened.

15 We have one more individual speaker and  
16 Mr. John Tierney. Would you take to the podium,  
17 please.

18 Mr. Tierney, when did you arrive? Have  
19 you been sworn?

20 MR. TIERNEY: Pardon me?

21 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: Were you  
22 here earlier when we swor --

23 MR. TIERNEY: No.

24 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: Okay. I'd  
25 like you to please raise your right hand.

1 anything that is not an industry average should  
2 be ignored.

3 Item two: Focus on the absolutes, the  
4 concrete, if you will. Portions of Pittsburgh  
5 have less of a tax base than others. This city  
6 is in financial hardship to the state. Those  
7 are absolutes.

8 Most of you are not from here. Look at  
9 the proposed sites on any given Saturday night  
10 and determine which could generate additional  
11 taxes. I will save you a trip. It's not  
12 Station Square.

13 Look at sister cities and see how the  
14 development of a Civic Center improved the  
15 surrounding tax base; i.e., Columbus. We have a  
16 Civic Center, not a hockey arena. It is  
17 becoming a distressed, non-revenue-producing  
18 entity, in an area of a city that needs a  
19 catalyst. That is an absolute.

20 Another absolute is we have a  
21 long-term, paying, good citizen of the community  
22 that wants to stay as the anchor tenant of that  
23 Civic Center. And best of all, we have one,  
24 Isle of Capri, possibly two, the North Shore  
25 proposal that will address/assist all of the

1 MR. TIERNEY: [COMPLIED]

2 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: Do you swear  
3 or affirm that the testimony you are about to  
4 give shall be the truth, the whole truth and  
5 nothing but the truth so help you God?

6 MR. TIERNEY: Yes.

7 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: Thank you  
8 very much. You may begin.

9 MR. TIERNEY: My name is John Tierney.  
10 I apologize if this comes off condescending.

11 I have 20 years of experience in the  
12 development and construction industry. The  
13 project has been bounced between government  
14 agencies and the private sector. The government  
15 decision-making process is most often based on  
16 proven, conservative, concrete fundamentals and  
17 more speculative concepts are left for the  
18 private sector.

19 I would suggest a government approach  
20 be followed here. For example, any claim an  
21 applicant makes in their proposal, if they are  
22 not directly held accountable for, in writing,  
should be discounted as marketing.

23 Data used in generating projected  
24 revenue, number of employees, traffic studies

1 above at zero or reduced taxpayer expense. That  
2 is an absolute.

3 Each of you have the bonus of being an  
4 integral part of the development of a city that  
5 will have a positive, long-lasting effect years  
6 after this Board is developed. Your legacy, if  
7 you will.

8 Now, I am not naive enough to think  
9 that there are not outside influences attempting  
10 to sway your thinking. In most cases, it is  
11 their job to attempt to do so. This can clutter  
12 the decision-making process, making the choice  
13 difficult.

14 In summary, if the applicant cannot be  
15 held directly accountable for a claim, disregard  
16 it. Focus on the absolutes.

17 If you take only one thing away from  
18 the three minutes we spent together, I would ask  
19 it to be: Months from now, when you cast your  
20 vote, consider the quote from an unknown,  
21 "Difficult times do not build character, they  
22 reveal it."

23 Thank you.

24 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: Thank you,  
25 sir.

1 At this time we have concluded all of  
2 the registered speakers for today. The  
3 applicants will now have an opportunity, if they  
4 choose to exercise it, for up to 15 minutes of  
5 rebuttal or sum-up time.

6 The Isle of Capri will go first,  
7 followed by PITG and then Station Square.

8 MR. HINKLEY: Once again, good  
9 afternoon. My name is Tim Hinkley, and I am  
10 President of Isle of Capri casinos.

11 This is certainly a great opportunity  
12 and a great marketplace for a prize that is  
13 highly sought in an emotionally charged,  
14 sometimes, atmosphere.

15 I really want to take time to thank  
16 you. We have been through this process many,  
17 many times. We have observed it from all sorts  
18 of different angles, and I want to applaud the  
19 Gaming Board. It's been a thorough, open  
20 process. You've listened to all views. I know  
21 that you all have a very tough job, and it is  
22 very much appreciated.

23 I want to complement our fellow  
24 applicants. These are great companies. Going  
25 through the application process, all of the

1 Pennsylvania, Steve Rittvo, who is the head of  
2 the Innovation Group, who actually did all of  
3 the forecasted revenue projections for the  
4 entire State of Pennsylvania.

5 Steve is well-known in our industry.  
6 The Isle of Capri and many others have utilized  
7 Innovation Group Services over a period of time.

8 I would ask Steve to come up and  
9 address this particular issue on the revenue  
10 forecast for Pittsburgh.

11 MR. RITTVO: Thank you, Tim.

12 My name is Steve - I'd like to be  
13 sworn in, I guess.

14 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: Yes. Thank  
15 you very much.

16 MR. RITTVO: I did that yesterday.

17 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: Do you swear  
18 or affirm that the testimony you are about to  
19 give will be the truth, the whole truth and  
20 nothing but the truth, so help you God?

21 MR. RITTVO: I do.

22 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: Thank you  
23 very much.

24 MR. RITTVO: My name is Steve Rittvo.  
25 I am the President of Innovation Group. I am a

1 background checks, et cetera, these are  
2 upstanding, hardworking individuals, good  
3 business people. We compete with them on a  
4 regular basis. They all have creative projects.  
5 They are all community-oriented. I look forward  
6 to a continuing process. I love the  
7 competition.

8 I also want to take time to thank the  
9 people that we work with in Pittsburgh. The  
10 Pittsburgh First Group, everyone that we have  
11 met over the course of the last six to eight  
12 months have been outstanding.

13 This is a community that we want  
14 desperately to come into and be a part of as we  
15 have the other communities that we do business  
16 in. Pittsburgh is a great city, and it is  
17 something that, hopefully, at this time next  
18 year we will be able to show you part of what  
19 the Isle of Capri is made of.

20 There has been one area of disparity  
21 that has been somewhat contentious. Many people  
22 have brought it up. It has to do with the  
23 revenue forecasting for the Pittsburgh area.

24 What I wanted to do was bring out an  
25 expert, someone well-known to the State of

1 resident of Carbondale, Colorado.

2 I think there are two points that I  
3 would really like to make. The first is to try  
4 to give you just a little bit of background  
5 about our firm. We are the largest and most  
6 active firm performing gaming market assessments  
7 and gaming financial analysis in the U.S.

8 Over the last 14 years, I guess we have  
9 done 2000 projects or so of this type. And our  
10 clients really include national governments. We  
11 have worked for the government of Israel, Panama  
12 China, state governments, New Hampshire, New  
13 York, Washington the providence of Ontario.

14 We have worked for virtually every  
15 major commercial gaming operator and over 125  
16 native American clients. So we have a pretty  
17 broad cross-section of what goes on.

18 Wall Street and the banking community  
19 rely upon our analysis, basically, so far for  
20 over \$40 billion of projects that have been  
21 funded and probably another 15 to \$20 billion  
22 that are currently under development. Our work  
23 is known, accepted, and I think, really  
24 respected throughout the industry.

25 Now, as Tim stated, I think of

1 significance to this board is the work that we  
2 did in revenue forecasting for the Pennsylvania  
3 Senate.

4 This work was the basis of the  
5 legislation passed by the senate – actually by  
6 both houses of Pennsylvania, and it also was the  
7 basis for the distribution of the formula to  
8 place casinos throughout the state.

9 At the time of the passage of the  
10 legislation, our forecast for the entire state  
11 was really subject to a significant amount of  
12 scrutiny. We had independent economists, we had  
13 universities, we had state agencies, and we had  
14 the media looking at it.

15 That work stood up to all of the  
16 scrutiny that was placed before it, and I think  
17 was very well-accepted by all participants  
18 within the industry, and that were observers of  
19 the process that went through, the legislative  
20 process.

21 I think it is, again, significant to  
22 note that most of the applicants, almost  
23 virtually all of the applicants, before you in  
24 submitting applications around the state  
25 submitted gaming forecasts. Almost all of those

1 you have here, and, again, I think Mr. Hinkley  
2 said that very succinctly. You have, I think,  
3 three excellent operators. And given the  
4 similar nature and size of their projects, the  
5 projects are relatively very similar in size,  
6 they all will accommodate the market, but it's  
7 not clear to me given those factors, how one  
8 casino development will generate a significantly  
9 greater revenue than any of the others.

10 The revenue differential between  
11 projects really here may be determined by site  
12 access, vehicular, transit and pedestrian. And  
13 I think there are a number of people who have  
14 addressed those issues in detail, and I'm sure  
15 it is something that you will consider greatly  
16 as you go forward. Thank you very much.

17 MR. HINKLEY: Thank you, Steve.

18 You know, as I mentioned earlier in  
19 having listened to all of the applicants, there  
20 have been an awful lot of similarities. There's  
21 a lot of neat things that people have been  
22 proposing.

23 Last December we submitted a project  
24 that we believe is the best for the city, the  
25 county and the state. And based on the feedback

1 forecasts very closely matched the numbers that  
2 we did well over a year ago for the state  
3 legislature. So there has been a fair level of  
4 consistency.

5 There has been some discussion over the  
6 last two days relating to the size of the  
7 Pittsburgh market. Some numbers have ranged as  
8 high as 50% greater than the estimates that we  
9 developed.

10 Gaming forecasts, by their nature,  
11 really are not an exact science. We, by our  
12 nature, are probably slightly conservative. It  
13 is probably better to really underpromise and  
14 overdeliver. But in no market that we have ever  
15 worked in, you know, that we estimated a market,  
16 have we underestimated a market by 50% after it  
17 has been implemented.

18 We also acknowledge, quite candidly,  
19 that it is possible to have revenue forecasts  
20 for markets that may vary due to such things  
21 such as site consideration, you know, again, the  
22 attributes of the operators or other similar  
23 factors, but we have never seen a variation as  
24 great as presented here, either.

25 Given the quality of the operators that

1 from the competitors and the general public over  
2 the last couple days, we just want to validate  
3 that we feel our plan is still the best.

4 Our site has the best access, as  
5 determined by an independent study completed by  
6 the Pittsburgh Gaming Task Force.

7 Our plan will provide the maximum  
8 ability to generate the most tax revenues for  
9 the state and provide maximum property tax  
10 relief for the region because we have the best  
11 location from an access standpoint in the  
12 synergies of being located next to a brand-new  
13 multi-purpose arena and within a short walk from  
14 the convention center.

15 Our plan generates the most new  
16 property taxes. Our plan is the only plan that  
17 guarantees \$290 million in private funding for  
18 the construction of a new multi-purpose arena,  
19 within 90 days of being awarded a gaming  
20 license, and this is the only plan that commits  
21 the Penguins to stay in the City of Pittsburgh.

22 Our plan is the only plan that  
23 privately funds the arena, freeing up public  
24 funds for other vital needs of the city, county  
25 and region.

1 Our company has the only plan where the  
2 operator owns 100% of the casino, giving us the  
3 ability to pre-fund the construction of arena  
4 and share our profits with the community by the  
5 way of a \$1-million-per-year payment to the  
6 community development fund; plus, Isle of Capri  
7 along with the Penguins are committing all of  
8 their profits, all of their profits, from the  
9 redevelopment of the 28 acres to the community  
10 fund as well.

11 Our plan is the only plan with support  
12 from over 80 state and local legislatures and  
13 elected officials, plus the support of numerous  
14 business and community leaders, including those  
15 on the Pittsburgh First Board of Advisors, and  
16 as you've heard over the last couple days,  
17 overwhelming public support.

18 And our plan is the largest  
19 redevelopment project that will rebuild the  
20 Lower Hill District, reenergize and reconnect  
21 the neighborhood to Downtown, create a new  
22 vibrant entertainment destination for the  
23 region, and be a catalyst for the further  
24 revitalization of Downtown Pittsburgh.

25 We certainly appreciate the time, and

1 close to what we have projected.

2 Part of the criteria for selection for  
3 the applicants here is to identify the  
4 most-qualified, financially-capable applicant.

5 I think we demonstrated yesterday with  
6 our investment banker, here, that we have the  
7 finances. We have provided and committed  
8 financing.

9 We have the character and the integrity  
10 throughout other jurisdictions, and it's been  
11 attested to here locally that we possess those  
12 quantities and qualifications.

13 Another criteria is how the applicant  
14 will have the least negative impact on the  
15 community. Our proposal has two important  
16 components to it. One, is our casino will be on  
17 the North Shore; and we are proposing a \$350  
18 million development on the Lower Hill District  
19 which adds a lot of benefits, if you look at it  
20 objectively.

21 Where you are still going to experience  
22 an arena, which now is off the table by the way.  
23 It's going to be funded. There will be a  
24 multi-purpose arena, regardless of who gets this  
25 license, and that arena will be located where

1 as I said before, we appreciate the job you do.

2 Thank you very much.

3 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: Thank you.

4 Is PITG ready to proceed?

5 PITG: [NO RESPONSE]

6 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: You may  
7 begin. Have you been sworn? You were sworn  
8 yesterday, I believe?

9 MR. BARDEN: Yes, I was. Thank you.

10 PRESIDING OFFICER: I just remind you  
11 that you are under oath.

12 MR. BARDEN: Thank you.

13 Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman, members  
14 of the Board and staff, the Pennsylvania Gaming  
15 Control Board.

16 Let me just say that I agree with the  
17 Innovation's Group assessment. We tried to hire  
18 the Innovation Group, but Isle of Capri beat us  
19 to them so we got the next best forecast for our  
20 revenue. And our revenue projections and  
21 financial projections are very similar to Isle  
22 of Capri's.

23 We also believe that you should promise  
24 what is really realistic. So we kind of concur  
25 with their financial projections, which are very

1 the Sports and Exhibition Sports Authority will  
2 determine it to be located. Right now they are  
3 contemplating over by Fifth Avenue, just to the  
4 other side of the existing Mellon Arena. So our  
5 project, which we could start immediately  
6 constructing our permanent casino and also  
7 concurrently start developing the Lower Hill  
8 District.

9 Speaking of profits in the Lower Hill  
10 District, all of our profits will stay in the  
11 community because it will be the community that  
12 will be the principle developers as part of our  
13 proposal to own, operate and develop the  
14 mixed-use development we are planning there, the  
15 restaurants, the housing, the recreational  
16 activities and other activities in that section  
17 of town.

18 In speaking of reconnecting Downtown to  
19 the Hill District, we have accomplished that  
20 with our proposal, and we also still have a nice  
21 viable facility on the North Shore.

22 Today's and yesterday's hearing was  
23 designed to have each of the applicants present  
24 what they are going to do in their proposal.

25 Its designed to get public input for

1 the record. I want to kind of, just, you know,  
2 respond to some of the concerns I heard  
3 yesterday and today during the testimony, and  
4 some of it pertains to the criteria that I think  
5 you will be following.

6 I heard three fundamental concerns from  
7 community groups and individuals who spoke to  
8 you. First we heard that there are concerns  
9 about community reinvestment. The people of  
10 this community and its neighborhoods want to  
11 know how the addition of a casino is going to  
12 benefit them and rightly so.

13 You heard all about the benefits of our  
14 community reinvestment proposal just a few  
15 moments ago, as well as yesterday, and I did  
16 state that the profits will stay in the  
17 community.

18 So we know that the Hill Group will  
19 benefit from our proposal with the \$350  
20 mixed-use investment there. And we are also  
21 delighted this morning to hear our support – or  
22 the support of our proposal, if we are selected,  
23 from the North Side Leadership Conference.

24 Now, let me say how significant this  
25 is. They represent one-fifth of the population

1 of the City of Pittsburgh. They represent 15  
2 organizations. While they had one spokesperson  
3 here, they represent over 60,000 people. And in  
4 the interest of time, we did not bring a lot of  
5 people to testify and to tell our proposal. We  
6 brought our neighbors consisting of 60,000  
7 people, 15 organizations, to speak on our  
8 behalf; and that we have a written agreement in  
9 place for us to have an ongoing, working  
10 relationship.

11 So in the interest of time, we didn't  
12 have a lot of people here but we have substance,  
13 substantial substance, representing that part of  
14 the town that we are going to be building that  
15 casino in.

16 We also believe that we submitted  
17 details of our proposal in our own time frame,  
18 based upon the schedules that you've laid out,  
19 that you are not going to make a decision until  
20 you had an opportunity to review all of the  
21 proposals; that you are going to do that  
22 decision-making process sometime towards the end  
23 of the year.

24 So some people just learned of our  
25 substantial proposal and its details, \$1.1

1 billion that includes the Hillside District.

2 And I grant that you will be getting a  
3 lot of expressions of support for our proposal  
4 because it is the most reasonable, the fairest  
5 and the most least intrusive to the neighborhood  
6 in which we are building, and it's the most  
7 beneficial in terms of community reinvestment  
8 that we plan to do on the Lower Hill District.

9 We heard the concern expressed by Mayor  
10 O'Connor and County Executive Onorato about the  
11 need for a new multi-purpose arena. Not just  
12 for the Penguins, but for the entire region.

13 Again, our proposal has addressed that;  
14 and now it assures the city that they can be  
15 confident that the Penguins can remain safely in  
16 Pittsburgh; so that issue really should be taken  
17 off the table and out of the equation, during  
18 the analysis process.

19 There is a great deal of concern about  
20 the question of traffic congestion. And a  
21 gentleman here, a couple people eloquently spoke  
22 about traffic. We heard several conflicting  
23 points of view on this question, and it has left  
24 us to wonder how you as a board, charged with  
25 weighing this information, can possibly arrive

1 at a decision that is based on reliable data,  
2 that you, the communities and neighborhoods,  
3 local officials and the people who have  
4 testified before can trust and support.

5 We believe quite strongly that this  
6 community cannot afford to take the issue of  
7 traffic and transportation lightly.

8 You heard a long list of people testify  
9 here yesterday and today of how the construction  
10 of the Civic Arena 50 years ago cut off the Hill  
11 District from Downtown. All of us in this  
12 process, including myself and other applicants,  
13 owe it to you and to people of this community to  
14 address the transportation question correctly  
15 and directly. It's our duty as companies who  
16 intend to be responsible members of this  
17 community.

18 So I would like to make a suggestion  
19 and an offer to this board. I propose that an  
20 independent traffic and transportation study be  
21 conducted that would evaluate all three  
22 proposals before you and provide you with an  
23 apples to apples comparison and let the chips  
24 fall where they may.

25 I will commit right now to cover

1 one-third of the cost of such a study, and would  
2 urge the other two applicants to kick in a  
3 similar amount; however, if they decide not to,  
4 we are willing to pay the full amount for an  
5 independent study.

6 But we don't want any of the  
7 consultants used by our team or by their team.  
8 We want to do this right. Let the Board select  
9 its own consultant, and let the evaluation be  
10 truly independent.

11 The only other requirement that I would  
12 ask is that the independent consultant have an  
13 excellent national reputation so that you can be  
14 confident in their abilities and their  
15 conclusions.

16 Let's settle this question of traffic  
17 with one objective unbiased, unfiltered,  
18 independent evidence that you and this community  
19 can take to the bank.

20 You have a really tough job to do and I  
21 applaud the thoroughness and meticulous way in  
22 which you are carrying out your charge.

23 You know better than anyone that this  
24 process is not a political campaign or a  
25 popularity contest. I have complete confidence

1 Enterprises.

2 It's new for me to appear before a  
3 gaming board. We are not a gaming company.  
4 There is no gaming ownership in the Station  
5 Square project.

6 I want to thank the Board for being  
7 here and the manner in which you have conducted  
8 these hearings. I know it is difficult to just  
9 sit there and not be able to say anything, and I  
10 know this is not the only place that you are  
11 sitting.

12 Unlike other people, I don't think your  
13 task is tough. I think you are going to have a  
14 good time doing it, and I wish you luck in the  
15 endeavor.

16 A number of people have said, There's  
17 going to be difficulty for you to decide the  
18 right people. You have three good proposals,  
19 and that is good news.

20 Don Barden and Bernie Goldstein are  
21 terrific people. They are self-made people.  
22 They are people that deserve to be considered  
23 and they have done good work wherever they have  
24 gone. So you have good choices to make, and I'm  
25 sure you will make the right choice.

1 in this process, and I am very proud to be  
2 included in playing a part in this process.

3 The people you have helping you in this  
4 process have the ability and the capability to  
5 assist you professionally and with integrity and  
6 character. So I have no question about the  
7 eventual outcome of being fair and above board.

8 Finally, I want to wish my colleagues  
9 and competitors with luck but not too much.

10 Thank you.

11 AUDIENCE: [LAUGHING]

12 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: Thank you  
13 very much, Mr. Barden.

14 Station Square may now have up to 15  
15 minutes for final comment.

16 MR. RATNER: Thank you.

17 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: As I did not  
18 preside yesterday, had you been sworn yesterday?

19 MR. RATNER: This morning.

20 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: You were  
21 sworn in this morning. Very good. I remind you  
22 that you are still under oath.

23 Thank you.

24 MR. RATNER: Thank you. I am Albert B.  
25 Ratner, Chairman of the Board of Forest City

1 What I want to discuss briefly is the  
2 history of Station Square because it is  
3 important in this, our revenue projections,  
4 transportation, operating history, diversity in  
5 local ownership and the plans for an arena.

6 We purchased Station Square 13 years  
7 ago from Arthur Zeigler. We purchased it when  
8 it was thought that there would be riverboat  
9 gaming, and we purchased it in a joint venture,  
10 in a competition with a number of other  
11 companies, and we were selected.

12 Part of our agreement was that until  
13 2008 we could not use two-thirds of the land for  
14 any purpose other than parking, because in the  
15 event that gaming were to come to the City of  
16 Pittsburgh, we were obligated to that foundation  
17 to seek out a permit and seek to put a casino on  
18 that land.

19 For the last 13 years we have done very  
20 little development, only one new project at  
21 Station Square, and our land has sat there and  
22 become the parking lot of Pittsburgh, and we've  
23 done this: We have paid 50% of our income in  
24 parking taxes to await the day that we could  
25 appear before you.

1 And the reason that this is important  
2 is because when people look at Station Square  
3 today and say you have traffic problems, to the  
4 extent that we have them is because we are  
5 event-driven.

6 We are where people park for the  
7 amphitheater, which will not be here. Where  
8 people park for the football game. They will  
9 only be in our place at the football game, if  
10 they are there for other things.

11 We do projects all over the country.  
12 New York, San Francisco, Hawaii. Nobody  
13 understands more importantly than we do the  
14 importance of parking, and I assure you that we  
15 know how to take care of customers and how to  
16 serve customers and so does Harrah's.

17 A number of people have commented about  
18 what their vision of this is. Thirteen years  
19 ago we were committed to build a world-class  
20 venue, and we are just as committed to that  
21 today; and that is the difference in what we are  
22 proposing.

23 A number of people say it doesn't  
24 matter who you pick, there is only so much  
25 volume in a given city, and all of your revenues

1 institution who will finance it, and they  
2 agreed. We stand by the figures that we have  
3 given you. They are the same figures we gave  
4 you the first day. We have not changed a thing  
5 in our application.

6 I want to show you two slides. You  
7 have seen them before, but they point out that  
8 in every market that Harrah's is in, save one,  
9 they are number one or two, of all of their  
10 competitors in the country.

11 To be one or two, it must mean that you  
12 are doing something different. It must mean  
13 something if you are the only gaming company  
14 that is an investment-grade gaming company, and  
15 it must mean something if you have 40 million  
16 people in the base of your rewards card.

17 In addition, look at the chart on page  
18 2. It's a very telling chart. It gives you the  
19 gross gaming revenue per adult per year. If you  
20 look at that chart, you can see that the  
21 projection for Pittsburgh is the second lowest  
22 on that list; that Kansas City, New Orleans,  
23 St. Louis, are doing more per person projected  
24 and Chicago is doing slightly less. These are  
25 not pie-in-the-sky figures. But more

1 will be the same. We don't believe it.

2 An analogy would be that the Pittsburgh  
3 Steelers and the Cleveland Browns are the same  
4 football teams. People in Pittsburgh may  
5 believe it, but nobody in Cleveland believes it.  
6 There is a real difference in the teams and how  
7 those teams perform.

8 That's why we are willing to build a  
9 casino with our money, at a cost with our first  
10 hotel of \$550 million, which is 35% more money  
11 than anyone else is willing to invest in a  
12 facility to bring people from within and without  
13 the region.

14 We are putting our money where our  
15 mouth is. It is our money. Harrah's is our  
16 operator. And, yes, we depended on Harrah's for  
17 the revenues.

18 And let me tell you the difference  
19 between their projections. They do their own.  
20 They don't hire somebody to tell them what  
21 everybody is going to do, and they do it  
22 scientifically.

23 After they did it, we then took  
24 Christiansen and went out and had them check it,  
25 and they agreed; and we went to our financial

1 importantly, if we are wrong, it is our money  
2 that is being lost.

3 It is our feeling that the difference  
4 in our revenue -- and you will check this out  
5 and you will make that decision. We believe  
6 that our revenue will return to the citizens of  
7 the Commonwealth \$100 million a year more in tax  
8 refunds than any other proposal.

9 We say it. We stand by it. It is your  
10 job to check it out to see if we are right. We  
11 are right. We believe it.

12 Let me talk a little bit about real  
13 operations. We are all good. We can all open  
14 and operate a casino. The question is, who can  
15 do it best through good and bad times?

16 The ownership of this property, as I  
17 said, has no casino partner. We have an  
18 operating partner, and that is Harrah's.

19 Forest City will own 75% of this  
20 business, and local Pittsburgh people will own  
21 25% of this business. There is a saying, that  
22 what happens in Las Vegas stays in Las Vegas.  
23 Be assured that the money that is made in  
24 Pittsburgh will stay in Pittsburgh.

25 Forest City has over \$100 billion

1 invested in Pennsylvania as we stand today.  
2 \$700 million of that is in Pittsburgh. We are  
3 talking about doing the LTV plan for Oakland in  
4 this city, which is another billion-dollar  
5 project. We are just starting in Bethlehem,  
6 Pennsylvania, another half a billion dollar  
7 project.

8 We are here. We are going to stay  
9 here. And the good news is that whether we get  
10 it or not we are going to be here.

11 I would like to point out that  
12 diversity to us means more than who you hire.  
13 It also means who your owners are.

14 We do not look at our minority owners  
15 as minorities, but as equal partners, and they  
16 have enormous accomplishments.

17 In addition, Mistrs Zappala and  
18 Lieberman have been involved in this community  
19 for a lifetime and have made tremendous  
20 contributions to this community.

21 They together with Franco Harris,  
22 Yvonne Cook and Glenn Mahone assure us of the  
23 fact that it will be Pittsburgh First. We are  
24 all for Pittsburgh First.

25 One difference between our proposal and

1 stand up to the plate and give an offer to the  
2 Browns that allowed them to stay in Cleveland.

3 It must be clear and understood,  
4 however, that the Penguins, while they are the  
5 principle in the arena deal, are not the  
6 principle in the gaming deal. They must make a  
7 commitment to stay in Cleveland - in  
8 Pittsburgh, with or without a casino license.

9 They have to answer some questions.  
10 Why should others be asked to put money into a  
11 Penguins arena if the Penguins themselves are  
12 not willing to do so? Why should others be  
13 forced to put money in, otherwise the Penguins  
14 will leave?

15 We haven't told the New Jersey Nets,  
16 and we are building an arena for the New Jersey  
17 Nets, and we understand the importance of sports  
18 teams, and we want the Penguins to stay, and we  
19 beseech the Penguins to stay. We think it is  
20 important that they stay; but the question  
21 becomes one: What does that have to do with  
22 giving money back to the residents of the  
23 Commonwealth? They can stay in Pittsburgh. All  
24 they have to do is say yes.

25 When the Penguins commit to stay in

1 others, is that you don't have to project how we  
2 will do. These people have been in this  
3 community for their lifetime. We have been here  
4 for 35 years. We have a record. Take a look at  
5 what that record is.

6 I would also like to point out, we  
7 aren't going anywhere else. This is where we  
8 are.

9 I would now like to mention the issue  
10 of the Pittsburgh Penguins, and I feel necessary  
11 to do that because it has taken up so much of  
12 our time and effort.

13 We commend the public officials for  
14 having the courage to find a way for the  
15 Penguins to stay and to give the most money to  
16 the citizens of the Commonwealth.

17 Now the Penguins don't have a one  
18 out-of-three chance of winning, they have a  
19 three-out-of-three chance of winning.

20 We stand 100 percent in favor of the  
21 plan that has been proposed by the government  
22 officials. We commend them for stepping forward  
23 ensuring the Pens that they can stay. And I can  
24 tell you, I am from Cleveland, where we lost the  
25 Browns because the political leadership wouldn't

1 Pittsburgh or sell to someone who does, when the  
2 Penguins commit to take part in paying for a  
3 part of an arena, when the Penguins decide that  
4 the gaming license should be given on merit and  
5 not on a threat, we together, with all of the  
6 citizens of Pittsburgh, will be there in  
7 assuring that they have their arena.

8 We believe our figures are right. They  
9 show the arena is not free. It will cost the  
10 individuals of this state, the city, the county  
11 and school systems, \$100 million a year to adopt  
12 their plan if our revenue figures are right;  
13 that's \$3 billion for an arena over 30 years.  
14 That will be the most expensive arena built  
15 anywhere in this world.

16 The Penguins, unlike the Steelers and  
17 Pirates, are not putting up one dime of their  
18 money into the arena, and they are using the  
19 arena so it may sell the hockey team at a higher  
20 price. It is their privilege but let's look at  
21 it the way it is.

22 The Penguins are not willing to accept  
23 another plan which guarantees that they can stay  
24 in Pittsburgh, and they are asking that we go  
25 \$100 million a year for them to stay. It is not

1 right.

2 Just one final comment. I have  
3 been – this is my 55th year with Forest City.  
4 It was a business started by my family and  
5 relatives.

6 We are committed to cities all over the  
7 country. We are building 10,000 housing units  
8 in Hawaii for our armed forces; Stapleton  
9 Airport, a \$4 billion project; \$8 billion  
10 project in Albuquerque. We are building a New  
11 York Times building, opening a Bloomingdale's  
12 store in San Francisco.

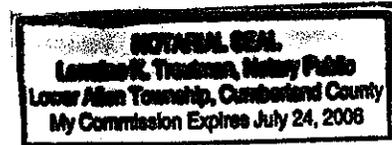
13 We understand what it takes to be  
14 successful. We understand what traffic is. We  
15 understand that when we tell you something, you  
16 can believe us.

17 We can be wrong. We were wrong when we  
18 built the hotel in Downtown Pittsburgh for the  
19 Convention Center, and our projections were all  
20 wrong, but we didn't walk away from it. We  
21 stayed there. We own it today.

22 We have lost money every year that we  
23 built that hotel, but we are there because we  
24 believe that Pittsburgh has a great future. We  
25 want to be a part of it.

1 I hereby certify that the proceedings  
2 and evidence are contained fully and accurately  
3 in the notes taken by me on the within  
4 proceedings and that this is a correct  
5 transcript of the same.

6  
7  
8  
9   
Lorraine K. Troutman, RPR  
Reporter - Notary Public



1 Thank you very much.

2 PRESIDING OFFICER MILLER: Thank you  
3 very much.

4 That concludes our speakers and  
5 presentations for these two days of public input  
6 hearings in Pittsburgh.

7 I want to thank everyone on behalf of  
8 the Board who attended and participated in these  
9 hearings, for their courtesy and cooperation.

10 I also want to thank our staff for long  
11 hours and hard work, which made these hearings  
12 possible.

13 I want to remind everyone that the  
14 Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board will return to  
15 Pittsburgh for a final hearing on May 10th.

16 That hearing will begin, as all our  
17 hearings, promptly at 8:30, and it will include  
18 a presentation by the Washington Trotting  
19 Association, Incorporated, the Meadows.

20 This hearing is in recess.  
21 (Hearing concluded at 1:48 p.m.)  
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[4] 24:16 61:24 62:11 110:6

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**\$175**  
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**\$300**  
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**11**  
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**114**  
[1] 2:21

**116**  
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[4] 4:6 58:5 81:3 163:14

**12,000**  
[2] 24:12 146:1

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**1250**  
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**15-minute**  
[1] 209:8

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**162**  
[1] 3:14

**164**  
[1] 3:15

**168**  
[1] 3:16

**17**  
[2] 2:3 46:4

**17%**  
[1] 45:23

**1700**  
[4] 68:23 71:12 140:12 154:9

**1700-plus**  
[2] 68:17 69:4

**171**  
[1] 3:17

**173**  
[1] 3:18

**176**  
[1] 3:19

**179**  
[1] 3:20

**18**  
[2] 2:4 92:4

**180**  
[2] 35:7 100:20

**182**  
[1] 3:21

**188**  
[1] 3:22

**19**  
[3] 1:9 2:5 69:12

**19%**  
[1] 156:13

**191**  
[1] 165:17

**192**  
[1] 3:23

**195**  
[1] 3:24

**1960**  
[1] 176:25

**1960's**  
[1] 106:24

**1962**  
[1] 168:15

**1964**  
[3] 18:21 146:6 146:17

**197**  
[1] 3:25

**1970's**  
[1] 130:22

**1972**  
[1] 169:1

**1984**  
[2] 101:17 202:24

**1986**

[1] 92:3

**1990**  
[2] 45:1 45:20

**1991**  
[2] 138:8 139:23

**1992**  
[1] 140:8

**1993**  
[2] 20:4 22:4

**1994**  
[2] 145:9 202:24

**1999**  
[3] 35:1 36:7 36:16

**19th**  
[2] 6:11 108:11

**1:05**  
[1] 209:5

**1:48**  
[1] 242:21

---

**2**

**2**  
[2] 4:6 235:18

**2,000**  
[2] 11:19 21:21

**2,277**  
[1] 145:24

**2.5**  
[4] 22:11 36:16 120:20 138:7

**20**  
[9] 17:21 56:9 90:25 91:5 91:  
25 106:16 168:5 202:18 210:11

**20%**  
[1] 64:1

**20-year**  
[1] 139:24

**200**  
[3] 4:2 98:5 132:18

**2000**  
[1] 216:9

**2003**  
[2] 46:8 46:20

**2004**  
[3] 6:17 45:21 59:10

**2005**  
[1] 46:18

**2006**  
[4] 1:9 5:20 6:11 177:2

**2008**  
[1] 232:13

**201**  
[1] 4:3

**204**  
[1] 4:4

**208**  
[1] 4:5

**21**  
[1] 145:22

**214**  
[1] 4:7

**218**  
[1] 4:8

**21st**  
[1] 130:21

**22**  
[3] 56:14 82:9 82:21

**221**  
[1] 4:9

**229**  
[1] 4:10

**22nd**  
[1] 34:8

**23**  
[2] 168:23 179:8

**24**  
[2] 127:11 194:11

**24%**

[1] 155:13  
**24-hour**  
[2] 13:10 206:8  
**24th**  
[1] 28:2  
**25**  
[2] 2:6 69:11 102:16  
[1] 236:21  
**25,000**  
[1] 203:25  
**250,000**  
[1] 200:12  
**26**  
[1] 32:24  
**26th**  
[1] 44:25  
**27**  
[1] 124:20  
**27%**  
[1] 36:24  
**279**  
[1] 119:10  
**28**  
[2] 180:22 221:9  
**2nd**  
[1] 5:20

**3**

**3**  
[1] 56:15  
**3,000**  
[4] 20:15 21:22 56:1 95:22  
**3,000-slot-machine**  
[1] 152:3  
**30**  
[7] 10:7 24:5 102:1 157:17  
160:10 178:23 240:13  
**30%**  
[1] 110:24 110:25 111:3  
**000**  
[1] 90:5  
**300**  
[1] 141:23  
**31%**  
[1] 82:24  
**31st**  
[1] 175:23  
**32**  
[2] 2:7 127:16  
**32,000**  
[1] 78:1  
**327,000**  
[1] 56:13  
**33%**  
[1] 156:2  
**34**  
[2] 2:8 86:12  
**34%**  
[2] 73:15 155:10  
**35**  
[5] 17:7 92:5 133:8 169:9  
238:4  
**35%**  
[2] 156:3 234:10  
**35-minute**  
[1] 209:2  
**36,000**  
[4] 59:6 64:2 66:5 67:18  
**365**  
[1] 49:9  
**376**  
[1] 119:11  
[1] 69:11  
**39%**  
[1] 69:16

**3rd**  
[2] 70:23 108:12

**4**

**4**  
[2] 20:14 46:17  
**4%**  
[1] 56:15  
**4,000**  
[4] 100:22 101:25 103:6 105:9  
**4.99**  
[1] 80:12  
**40**  
[8] 16:17 48:20 60:21 90:19  
95:2 115:24 115:25 235:15  
**40%**  
[1] 175:16  
**40-million-member**  
[1] 22:23  
**40-year**  
[1] 61:1  
**400**  
[2] 17:4 17:16  
**400-unit**  
[1] 136:17  
**41**  
[1] 2:9  
**41%**  
[1] 69:18  
**41-slip**  
[1] 38:24  
**43**  
[2] 2:10 45:20  
**44%**  
[1] 69:5  
**441.2**  
[1] 6:19  
**45**  
[1] 141:1  
**45%**  
[1] 155:20  
**46%**  
[2] 72:22 155:21  
**47**  
[2] 50:19 193:4  
**48**  
[1] 56:12  
**48%**  
[1] 73:14

**5**

**50**  
[8] 2:11 13:18 46:18 46:19  
46:21 164:21 179:8 228:10  
**50%**  
[6] 82:24 82:24 174:12 218:8  
218:16 232:23  
**500**  
[3] 22:17 108:23 193:9  
**501(c) (3)**  
[2] 35:1 41:15  
**51%**  
[2] 73:18 155:24  
**530**  
[1] 1:6  
**54**  
[1] 45:22  
**54%**  
[1] 72:20  
**55**  
[2] 35:6 83:4  
**55th**  
[1] 241:3  
**56%**  
[2] 69:5 174:13  
**57**

[2] 86:24 87:3  
**579**  
[1] 119:10  
**58%**  
[1] 74:2  
**59**  
[1] 2:12  
**5:00**  
[1] 151:13

**6**

**6**  
[1] 7:25  
**60**  
[1] 120:23  
**60%**  
[2] 74:6 155:15  
**60,000**  
[3] 26:4 226:3 226:6  
**600**  
[1] 34:9  
**62%**  
[1] 73:23  
**69%**  
[2] 73:2 73:11  
**6th**  
[1] 175:4

**7**

**70**  
[2] 2:13 69:12  
**700**  
[1] 23:11  
**71**  
[1] 6:17  
**72%**  
[1] 74:1  
**73%**  
[1] 74:24  
**74%**  
[1] 156:12  
**75**  
[1] 177:1  
**75%**  
[3] 46:10 198:13 236:19  
**76**  
[1] 145:22  
**76%**  
[1] 74:18  
**77**  
[1] 2:14  
**7th**  
[1] 200:13

**8**

**8,000**  
[2] 105:9 106:25  
**8-to-12-year-olds**  
[1] 46:5  
**80**  
[2] 100:16 221:12  
**800**  
[1] 37:5  
**81%**  
[1] 74:16  
**82%**  
[1] 154:23  
**84**  
[1] 2:15  
**860**  
[1] 193:8  
**89**  
[1] 2:16  
**8:30**  
[2] 1:9 242:17  
**8:42**

[1] 113:19

**9**

**9%**  
[1] 69:16  
**9.4**  
[1] 22:13  
**90**  
[2] 83:25 220:19  
**93%**  
[1] 69:14  
**94**  
[1] 2:17  
**94%**  
[1] 134:19  
**97**  
[1] 2:18  
**97%**  
[1] 69:10  
**99**  
[1] 2:19

**A**

**A.M.**  
[1] 1:9  
**AARP**  
[1] 46:17  
**Abandoned**  
[2] 138:19 138:20  
**Abbreviated**  
[2] 114:5 209:1  
**Abe**  
[1] 63:4  
**Abilities**  
[1] 229:14  
**Ability**  
[7] 13:24 85:8 85:23 132:19  
220:8 221:3 230:4  
**Able**  
[12] 8:22 14:8 22:18 38:15  
60:25 102:6 103:17 146:14  
161:11 197:23 214:18 231:9  
**Absence**  
[2] 83:8 112:8  
**Absolute**  
[3] 211:19 211:20 212:2  
**Absolutes**  
[3] 211:3 211:7 212:16  
**Academic**  
[1] 134:13  
**Academy**  
[3] 164:17 202:22 202:24  
**Accept**  
[2] 147:15 240:22  
**Acceptable**  
[1] 143:13  
**Acceptance**  
[1] 102:23  
**Accepted**  
[3] 39:22 216:23 217:17  
**Accepting**  
[1] 5:19  
**Access**  
[10] 17:13 39:6 128:22 137:4  
180:6 206:7 208:8 219:12 220:  
4 220:11  
**Accessibility**  
[6] 43:18 43:22 48:6 48:19  
48:20 132:11  
**Accessible**  
[4] 37:14 144:1 195:25 197:1  
**Accident**  
[1] 56:19  
**Accommodate**  
[2] 47:1 219:6  
**Accomplish**  
[1] 59:21

**Accomplished**  
[1] 224:19

**Accomplishments**  
[1] 237:16

**According**  
[2] 45:21 46:1

**ount**  
54:23 180:14 199:15

**Accountability**  
[2] 143:19 190:23

**Accountable**  
[3] 189:22 210:22 212:15

**Accounts**  
[1] 178:11

**Accredited**  
[1] 165:11

**Accrue**  
[2] 35:25 142:16

**Accurate**  
[1] 120:13

**Accurately**  
[2] 25:7 243:2

**Achieved**  
[1] 30:14

**Acknowledge**  
[2] 9:4 218:18

**Acknowledges**  
[1] 185:13

**Acres**  
[2] 17:7 221:9

**Act**  
[11] 6:17 44:2 44:23 48:5 54:5 54:22 105:15 141:14 184:19 189:15 193:4

**ACTC**  
[3] 171:19 171:19 171:22

**Acting**  
[2] 188:25 189:23

**Action**  
[3] 163:15 163:24 191:9

**ions**  
29:19 142:20 149:19

**Active**  
[4] 135:11 146:17 147:2 216:6

**Actively**  
[2] 15:16 91:18

**Activists**  
[1] 109:11

**Activities**  
[4] 146:10 191:9 224:16 224:16

**Activity**  
[6] 13:3 13:24 41:5 126:23 203:24 204:1

**Acts**  
[1] 27:20

**Actual**  
[1] 173:2

**ADA**  
[7] 43:23 44:24 45:19 47:5 47:16 47:20 47:21

**Adapting**  
[1] 20:6

**Add**  
[6] 18:11 23:19 31:7 135:23 146:1 158:19

**Add-on**  
[1] 158:19

**Added**  
[3] 21:9 79:2 131:14

**Addicted**  
[1] 144:15

**Addiction**  
[3] 111:11 203:13 205:25

**ictions**  
203:7

**Adding**

[1] 137:7

**Addition**  
[20] 18:14 19:5 23:11 24:15 61:11 62:11 80:3 137:18 137:18 147:16 155:24 156:19 170:15 180:21 181:14 200:2 200:9 225:11 235:17 237:17

**Additional**  
[17] 15:19 42:13 52:20 52:23 58:9 61:10 62:17 75:9 75:16 76:7 81:4 143:21 156:6 156:7 163:3 194:21 211:10

**Address**  
[14] 39:24 70:9 107:23 109:16 110:8 111:8 111:10 116:20 151:6 168:8 206:17 207:8 215:9 228:14

**Address/assist**  
[1] 211:25

**Addressed**  
[4] 161:15 180:8 219:14 227:13

**Addresses**  
[1] 30:18

**Addressing**  
[2] 74:8 180:5

**Adds**  
[2] 187:1 223:19

**Adequately**  
[1] 187:3

**Adhere**  
[1] 111:4

**Adhered**  
[1] 8:6

**Adherence**  
[1] 39:21

**Adjacent**  
[1] 110:5

**Administration**  
[1] 202:19

**Admitted**  
[1] 206:14

**Adopt**  
[1] 240:11

**Adult**  
[3] 50:19 198:18 235:19

**Adults**  
[4] 24:13 46:21 90:6 203:20

**Advance**  
[1] 146:22

**Advancement**  
[2] 26:19 106:23

**Advances**  
[1] 68:13

**Advancing**  
[1] 72:5

**Adverse**  
[1] 54:1

**Advertisements**  
[1] 104:4

**Advising**  
[1] 204:22

**Advisor**  
[1] 204:19

**Advisors**  
[1] 221:15

**Advisory**  
[2] 86:7 171:20

**Advocacy**  
[2] 70:11 73:5

**Advocate**  
[1] 40:10

**Advocated**  
[1] 39:19

**Affect**  
[8] 6:2 46:23 71:18 79:24 105:7 157:6 159:22 184:25

**Affected**

[6] 73:6 81:22 85:20 155:4 155:12 155:14

**Affecting**  
[2] 12:8 69:23

**Affects**  
[1] 205:25

**Affirm**  
[5] 11:4 90:12 94:15 210:3 215:18

**Afford**  
[6] 58:2 58:3 63:25 85:25 166:17 228:6

**Affordable**  
[1] 183:12

**African**  
[3] 164:20 165:9 165:22

**After-the-fact**  
[1] 158:6

**Afternoon**  
[6] 116:10 192:15 195:10 201:2 213:9 222:13

**Afterthought**  
[1] 159:6

**Afterwards**  
[2] 154:17 167:14

**Age**  
[10] 46:21 46:22 46:25 69:11 69:12 69:12 92:2 92:4 92:5 109:12

**Age-related**  
[1] 46:22

**Aged**  
[1] 46:19

**Agencies**  
[9] 23:16 107:14 107:15 146:22 163:16 205:23 207:8 210:14 217:13

**Agency**  
[2] 106:18 110:14

**Agenda**  
[1] 112:19

**Ages**  
[1] 145:18

**Aggressive**  
[1] 162:1

**Ago**  
[21] 20:2 21:14 34:8 48:20 55:8 57:7 84:3 91:5 91:25 107:22 131:7 133:12 150:10 154:14 163:11 165:4 218:2 225:15 228:10 232:7 233:19

**Agree**  
[4] 30:7 66:16 112:13 222:16

**Agreed**  
[7] 21:18 118:11 130:10 178:8 188:6 234:25 235:2

**Agreement**  
[7] 30:14 30:18 31:4 31:25 112:3 226:8 232:12

**Agreements**  
[1] 111:25

**Ahead**  
[3] 23:22 114:21 188:18

**Ain't**  
[1] 181:18

**Air**  
[1] 172:12

**Airport**  
[1] 241:9

**Akin**  
[1] 148:20

**Alarming**  
[1] 198:11

**Albeit**  
[1] 152:14

**Albert**  
[2] 4:10 230:24

**Albuquerque**

[1] 241:10

**Alcohol**  
[2] 207:13 207:17

**Alcohol-related**  
[1] 207:17

**Aligned**  
[1] 57:9

**Alive**  
[1] 169:11

**All-you-can**  
[1] 80:12

**Allegedly**  
[1] 190:11

**Allegheny**  
[27] 20:1 26:21 26:22 26:24 38:1 43:21 50:18 50:18 50:25 58:21 90:1 122:12 131:3 142:9 145:11 169:6 171:18 171:21 172:20 178:19 184:22 197:16 198:14 198:22 199:1 199:4 203:24

**Allegiance**  
[1] 6:5

**Alleviate**  
[1] 123:2

**Allocated**  
[1] 110:11

**Allotted**  
[2] 8:24 10:7

**Allow**  
[16] 7:15 7:19 19:2 60:22 61:12 61:21 65:12 66:22 80:6 112:17 113:3 119:8 119:13 143:9 185:20 192:25

**Allowed**  
[6] 79:12 103:9 114:12 121:16 163:13 239:2

**Allowing**  
[4] 18:17 118:21 122:13 189:2

**Allows**  
[1] 120:16

**Ally**  
[2] 3:17 171:9

**Almost**  
[9] 32:20 34:8 46:3 64:1 116:22 141:23 168:5 217:22 217:25

**Alone**  
[7] 37:6 45:11 60:17 81:5 131:21 176:13 178:2

**Already-funded**  
[1] 144:11

**Alteration**  
[1] 185:21

**Alternative**  
[2] 5:15 61:14

**Ambassador**  
[3] 49:13 50:4 96:16

**Ambiance**  
[2] 39:16 132:11

**Ambulances**  
[1] 125:21

**Amend**  
[1] 192:25

**Amendments**  
[3] 79:12 79:14 80:6

**Amenities**  
[6] 74:21 75:7 99:3 156:6 156:7 156:12

**America**  
[3] 32:8 32:11 33:15

**American**  
[5] 37:11 164:20 165:10 165:22 216:16

**Americans**  
[6] 44:2 44:23 45:20 45:22 46:17 48:5

**Amount**  
[10] 17:25 25:9 79:16 79:19

110:7 125:19 186:16 217:11  
229:3 229:4  
**Amphitheater**  
[1] 233:7  
**Analogy**  
[1] 234:2  
**Analysis**  
52:3 216:7 216:19 227:18  
**Analytical**  
[1] 134:11  
**Analyze**  
[1] 57:15  
**Anchor**  
[4] 14:17 14:18 177:20 211:22  
**Andy**  
[1] 135:13  
**Angles**  
[1] 213:18  
**Announced**  
[1] 58:13  
**Annual**  
[7] 53:11 64:1 64:5 67:7 146:  
2 198:18 199:4  
**Annually**  
[1] 46:15  
**Answer**  
[3] 141:8 156:19 239:9  
**Anthony**  
[3] 3:16 167:23 168:1  
**Antiquated**  
[1] 76:5  
**Antithetical**  
[1] 183:6  
**Antonio**  
[1] 37:12  
**Anyway**  
[1] 166:22  
**Apartment**  
[1] 136:18  
**Apartments**  
136:17 138:6  
**Apologize**  
[2] 206:19 210:10  
**Apparent**  
[2] 185:11 188:19  
**Appeal**  
[4] 118:13 143:5 143:17 160:  
25  
**Appeals**  
[1] 72:18  
**Appear**  
[2] 231:2 232:25  
**Appearance**  
[1] 121:18  
**Applaud**  
[2] 213:18 229:21  
**APPLAUSE**  
[3] 150:19 173:20 202:12  
**Apples**  
[2] 228:23 228:23  
**Applicable**  
[1] 47:19  
**Applicant**  
[21] 12:19 28:10 28:25 53:22  
59:24 66:14 100:2 100:5 107:  
10 109:4 111:23 112:11 151:  
22 161:12 182:21 183:13 184:  
3 210:21 212:14 223:4 223:13  
**Applicant's**  
[4] 71:7 182:25 183:2 183:20  
**Applicants**  
[36] 6:14 7:15 9:14 28:7 28:  
8 28:11 28:17 58:22 65:14 88:  
22 99:25 108:13 108:25 110:  
114:6 120:9 121:16 130:6  
153:10 154:14 161:2  
187:20 188:5 206:23  
209:6 213:3 213:24 217:22

217:23 219:19 223:3 224:23  
228:12 229:2  
**Applicants'**  
[1] 12:16  
**Application**  
[7] 67:16 111:24 125:1 140:  
19 155:17 213:25 235:5  
**Applications**  
[4] 121:2 154:22 161:2 217:24  
**Applied**  
[2] 175:8 175:12  
**Apply**  
[1] 175:10  
**Appoint**  
[1] 193:7  
**Appointed**  
[3] 86:8 188:22 190:25  
**Appointees**  
[1] 79:8  
**Appreciate**  
[7] 67:19 86:17 106:3 185:4  
185:5 221:25 222:1  
**Appreciated**  
[1] 213:22  
**Approach**  
[4] 72:5 157:21 158:11 210:19  
**Approached**  
[1] 49:20  
**Appropriate**  
[14] 15:7 15:13 21:2 111:9  
142:15 143:8 143:20 143:22  
143:24 144:2 144:7 144:7 144:  
17 189:13  
**Appropriateness**  
[1] 143:7  
**Approve**  
[2] 124:25 142:14  
**Approved**  
[1] 180:11  
**Approving**  
[1] 39:23  
**Approximate**  
[1] 29:1  
**April**  
[4] 1:9 6:11 70:23 175:4  
**ARAMARK**  
[4] 139:20 139:21 140:17 141:  
22  
**ARAMARK's**  
[1] 141:18  
**Architects**  
[1] 68:25  
**Architectural**  
[1] 44:12  
**Architecture**  
[2] 110:18 145:19  
**Arduous**  
[1] 49:1  
**Area**  
[54] 9:6 10:14 13:6 13:9 17:  
3 18:18 18:18 26:3 56:14 60:  
2 60:10 61:25 62:17 62:25 65:  
16 67:2 81:5 87:7 95:9 97:5  
98:7 111:14 122:19 122:25  
123:1 123:10 123:19 125:5  
125:6 125:12 125:18 126:1  
126:8 126:22 128:11 131:17  
135:9 136:5 137:8 137:24 138:  
3 138:23 149:14 162:4 174:7  
177:10 177:10 177:18 179:7  
201:5 201:21 211:18 214:20  
214:23  
**Areas**  
[18] 43:2 56:11 79:1 81:4 85:  
14 108:5 110:5 117:18 128:15  
131:25 135:19 137:22 138:14  
147:1 147:13 159:4 160:22  
201:15  
**Arena**

[143] 13:17 14:1 14:5 14:12  
14:15 14:17 15:8 15:21 48:12  
48:14 48:15 48:19 48:24 49:3  
49:6 49:9 50:12 50:16 50:21  
51:2 51:10 51:12 53:3 53:14  
54:2 54:19 54:24 55:4 55:12  
55:12 57:5 57:8 57:13 57:19  
57:24 58:3 58:4 58:4 58:18  
59:15 59:22 60:7 60:19 60:20  
61:2 61:12 61:18 62:2 62:5  
62:13 63:22 65:10 66:13 66:  
18 66:24 67:4 67:5 74:22 76:  
9 76:12 76:13 83:11 83:23 84:  
18 97:5 99:9 100:7 103:17  
104:7 106:24 110:19 114:24  
115:1 118:4 118:10 119:5 119:  
6 119:9 122:18 123:6 125:25  
129:16 129:21 129:25 130:7  
135:20 137:2 139:4 139:6 139:  
8 139:11 139:21 140:25 141:6  
141:11 149:8 149:12 149:13  
149:16 149:23 153:11 156:8  
158:15 158:18 158:21 158:25  
159:11 159:17 166:14 168:16  
169:2 173:6 175:20 177:19  
181:10 196:15 200:3 200:7  
201:11 201:18 202:4 211:16  
220:13 220:18 220:23 221:3  
223:22 223:24 223:25 224:4  
227:11 228:10 232:5 239:5  
239:11 239:16 240:3 240:7  
240:9 240:13 240:14 240:18  
240:19  
**Arenas**  
[1] 130:5  
**Arguably**  
[1] 185:1  
**Argue**  
[1] 51:16  
**Arguing**  
[1] 149:1  
**Argument**  
[1] 126:16  
**Arise**  
[1] 110:9  
**Armed**  
[1] 241:8  
**Arrangement**  
[2] 40:3 57:19  
**Arrival**  
[1] 185:16  
**Arrive**  
[3] 185:15 209:18 227:25  
**Arrives**  
[1] 194:15  
**Art**  
[2] 13:17 177:15  
**Arteries**  
[1] 128:9  
**Arthur**  
[4] 2:5 19:20 19:24 232:7  
**Article**  
[1] 193:23  
**Artists**  
[1] 68:24  
**Arts**  
[1] 179:18  
**Aside**  
[1] 179:6  
**Aspect**  
[1] 152:14  
**Aspects**  
[1] 15:16  
**Assessment**  
[1] 222:17  
**Assessments**  
[1] 216:6  
**Asset**  
[1] 30:25  
**Assets**  
[2] 22:1 192:2

**Assist**  
[6] 9:24 9:25 44:11 49:21  
105:2 230:5  
**Assistance**  
[7] 8:13 23:15 92:19 145:15  
171:10 171:14 203:10  
**Associated**  
[5] 69:13 158:17 172:9 207:9  
207:20  
**Associates**  
[1] 43:22  
**Association**  
[13] 32:8 32:11 32:14 32:19  
33:15 77:22 77:25 78:5 82:4  
97:16 97:24 106:8 242:19  
**Associations**  
[1] 100:14  
**Assume**  
[1] 121:7  
**Assuming**  
[1] 199:21  
**Assumptions**  
[1] 119:24  
**Assurance**  
[1] 93:23  
**Assure**  
[5] 109:21 208:5 208:15 233:  
14 237:22  
**Assured**  
[1] 236:23  
**Assures**  
[1] 227:14  
**Assuring**  
[2] 8:16 240:7  
**Atlantic**  
[3] 78:17 78:22 87:13  
**Atmosphere**  
[1] 213:14  
**Attached**  
[1] 139:4  
**Attain**  
[1] 162:3  
**Attempt**  
[3] 68:14 190:13 212:11  
**Attempting**  
[1] 212:9  
**Attend**  
[4] 134:5 134:16 146:4 194:16  
**Attendance**  
[1] 103:19  
**Attended**  
[2] 179:19 242:8  
**Attendees**  
[1] 71:2  
**Attending**  
[2] 10:20 90:11  
**Attention**  
[6] 10:16 10:23 45:16 50:8  
73:9 201:21  
**Attest**  
[1] 200:15  
**Attested**  
[1] 223:11  
**Attitude**  
[1] 170:24  
**Attitudinal**  
[1] 44:13  
**Attorney**  
[2] 166:10 184:19  
**Attorneys**  
[3] 68:25 192:6 192:7  
**Attract**  
[7] 37:16 37:17 62:16 73:25  
76:14 138:21 147:9  
**Attracting**  
[1] 38:21  
**Attraction**

[6] 73:9 73:14 137:7 155:5  
155:11 155:19  
**Attractions**  
[2] 26:6 29:15  
**Attracts**  
[2] 75:5 131:20  
**ributable**  
98:23  
**Attributes**  
[1] 218:22  
**Auction**  
[1] 52:5  
**Auctioning**  
[1] 52:22  
**Audience**  
[10] 5:9 8:10 8:11 8:15 77:2  
150:19 151:15 173:20 202:12  
230:11  
**Audiences**  
[1] 168:17  
**Augment**  
[1] 145:13  
**Australia**  
[1] 64:4  
**Authority**  
[6] 6:17 9:4 171:20 172:24  
188:20 224:1  
**Authorize**  
[1] 143:24  
**Authorized**  
[1] 190:17  
**Availability**  
[1] 98:24  
**Available**  
[6] 7:9 10:2 15:1 120:8 123:  
7 126:13  
**Avenue**  
[6] 42:16 43:3 162:16 168:23  
184:16 224:3  
**Avenues**  
95:25  
**rage**  
[6] 23:24 77:4 120:23 198:19  
199:6 211:1  
**Averages**  
[1] 183:1  
**Aviary**  
[1] 135:14  
**Avid**  
[1] 90:21  
**Avoid**  
[1] 57:1  
**Await**  
[1] 232:24  
**Award**  
[11] 29:7 30:11 52:4 82:11  
93:2 96:3 97:10 104:25 118:  
14 139:14 161:8  
**Award-winning**  
[1] 82:11  
**Awarded**  
[7] 60:16 76:20 115:12 162:9  
176:1 196:3 220:19  
**Awarding**  
[5] 12:4 12:18 60:1 148:19  
150:15  
**Aware**  
[3] 108:25 109:3 129:11  
**Awareness**  
[3] 91:20 93:19 145:19  
**Awash**  
[1] 187:13  
**Awful**  
[1] 219:20

**B**

**Baby-sitter**  
[1] 186:22

**Bachelor's**  
[1] 69:15  
**Backed**  
[1] 134:18  
**Background**  
[7] 68:20 100:12 134:13 142:  
10 168:2 214:1 216:4  
**Backs**  
[2] 166:17 200:17  
**Bad**  
[6] 86:5 86:10 86:14 125:14  
184:25 236:15  
**Balance**  
[1] 12:20  
**Balanced**  
[1] 107:8  
**Balcony**  
[1] 55:12  
**Balked**  
[1] 130:6  
**Ball**  
[2] 177:1 177:22  
**Ballooned**  
[1] 101:25  
**Ballpark**  
[1] 13:14  
**Ballparks**  
[1] 23:5  
**Ban**  
[1] 81:21  
**Bank**  
[6] 94:23 94:25 95:1 95:10  
96:2 229:19  
**Bank's**  
[1] 96:17  
**Banker**  
[1] 223:6  
**Bankers**  
[1] 68:25  
**Banking**  
[1] 216:18  
**Banks**  
[1] 168:6  
**Bans**  
[1] 81:23  
**Bar**  
[2] 152:19 177:5  
**Barbara**  
[3] 2:3 11:13 11:16  
**Barden**  
[13] 4:9 30:3 30:24 31:8 31:  
11 31:14 81:3 82:12 85:13  
222:9 222:12 230:13 231:20  
**Barden's**  
[1] 159:9  
**Barely-existing**  
[1] 92:9  
**Barreling**  
[1] 188:18  
**Barriers**  
[1] 44:13  
**Bars**  
[2] 126:12 172:8  
**Base**  
[6] 43:3 56:22 92:9 211:5  
211:15 235:16  
**Baseball**  
[3] 118:4 164:2 170:14  
**Based**  
[20] 12:5 12:25 27:22 40:14  
44:1 62:21 63:1 74:14 110:14  
132:5 132:9 142:15 159:6 160:  
8 191:7 198:12 210:15 219:25  
226:18 228:1  
**Baseline**  
[2] 48:6 161:10  
**Basic**  
[2] 72:19 190:23

**Basis**  
[11] 39:23 53:12 64:1 64:5  
72:8 108:22 146:2 157:10 214:  
4 217:4 217:7  
**Basketball**  
[3] 60:24 61:4 164:3  
**Bat**  
[1] 193:13  
**Beacon**  
[1] 169:24  
**Bear**  
[4] 29:6 107:17 107:21 183:10  
**Beat**  
[1] 222:18  
**Beautiful**  
[2] 35:25 195:23  
**Beauty**  
[1] 145:5  
**Became**  
[2] 92:17 132:24  
**Become**  
[10] 30:25 52:17 59:19 104:7  
138:19 144:15 159:21 159:21  
207:24 232:22  
**Becomes**  
[2] 207:23 239:21  
**Becoming**  
[4] 55:1 56:10 102:7 211:17  
**Bed**  
[1] 186:22  
**Beepers**  
[1] 5:7  
**Beeping**  
[1] 10:9  
**Began**  
[2] 107:23 164:7  
**Begging**  
[1] 165:7  
**Begin**  
[11] 5:5 9:17 10:9 37:23 72:  
19 113:24 114:1 114:16 210:8  
222:7 242:16  
**Beginning**  
[4] 130:10 133:3 152:21 158:9  
**Behalf**  
[17] 9:21 11:18 28:13 30:24  
31:16 35:5 68:16 112:8 140:  
17 141:22 154:9 167:16 171:  
18 174:5 195:17 226:8 242:7  
**Behind**  
[3] 132:22 149:18 150:5  
**Belabor**  
[1] 141:15  
**Belief**  
[2] 134:1 151:20  
**Believes**  
[5] 14:11 14:13 14:16 15:6  
234:5  
**Belinda**  
[3] 3:11 154:1 154:4  
**Bells**  
[1] 164:4  
**Belong**  
[2] 60:15 177:21  
**Below**  
[2] 80:13 80:16  
**Beneficial**  
[2] 155:1 227:7  
**Benefit**  
[24] 14:6 21:24 62:14 62:23  
74:25 80:3 88:14 103:5 112:  
19 123:10 134:3 144:5 145:9  
156:11 159:1 159:2 159:3 170:  
18 183:14 196:7 197:23 206:7  
225:12 225:19  
**Benefited**  
[1] 123:14  
**Benefiting**

[2] 165:17 189:24  
**Benefits**  
[18] 21:24 24:1 24:8 26:25  
28:17 35:24 36:2 49:4 74:16  
87:19 88:3 112:2 142:15 142:  
24 147:18 198:8 223:19 225:13  
**Bernie**  
[1] 231:20  
**Beseach**  
[2] 182:22 239:19  
**Bessemer**  
[1] 195:15  
**Best**  
[51] 16:23 25:6 27:22 34:1  
36:12 52:3 60:4 66:21 73:19  
86:19 93:7 96:8 100:2 117:14  
126:16 130:18 133:9 134:25  
135:1 135:1 135:2 135:3 135:  
4 135:4 136:2 136:25 146:18  
149:1 149:4 156:1 157:9 158:  
10 162:22 163:4 164:7 164:9  
170:21 178:5 180:16 188:25  
189:23 190:17 197:7 201:16  
211:23 219:24 220:3 220:4  
220:10 222:19 236:15  
**Bethlehem**  
[1] 237:5  
**Better**  
[10] 27:5 85:9 126:7 126:17  
177:23 181:13 181:25 182:1  
218:13 229:23  
**Better-than-market-rate**  
[1] 27:5  
**Bettis**  
[1] 193:13  
**Between**  
[13] 27:1 30:14 69:11 90:23  
91:4 117:20 119:16 137:10  
168:22 210:13 219:10 234:19  
237:25  
**Beverage**  
[2] 78:11 79:22  
**Beyond**  
[7] 12:21 36:2 54:3 145:11  
147:24 182:22 183:14  
**Bicycles**  
[1] 40:6  
**Bid**  
[1] 132:22  
**Bidder**  
[3] 48:2 189:5 207:11  
**Bidding**  
[3] 43:9 52:4 52:22  
**Bidwell**  
[2] 21:19 24:4  
**Big**  
[7] 18:17 63:7 78:10 87:12  
96:11 195:21 197:25  
**Bigger**  
[3] 17:9 81:13 134:6  
**Biggest**  
[3] 135:3 154:18 197:5  
**Bike**  
[1] 144:11  
**Bill**  
[1] 176:24  
**Billed**  
[1] 43:12  
**Billion**  
[23] 22:11 22:13 23:8 23:20  
36:16 45:25 46:3 46:9 46:15  
46:20 61:24 62:11 160:18 177:  
12 216:20 216:21 227:1 236:  
25 237:4 237:6 240:13 241:9  
241:9  
**Billion-dollar**  
[1] 237:4  
**Billionaire**  
[1] 150:6  
**Billions**

[1] 169:9  
**Bios**  
 [1] 51:20  
**Birth**  
 [1] 163:11  
**Birthday**  
 92:7  
 [5] 66:2 70:21 116:10 216:4  
 236:12  
**Bitter**  
 [1] 200:13  
**Black**  
 [1] 140:8  
**Blackberries**  
 [1] 5:7  
**Blank**  
 [1] 95:25  
**Blend**  
 [1] 75:24  
**Blessed**  
 [1] 167:9  
**Blocks**  
 [2] 17:21 168:23  
**Blood**  
 [11] 94:23 94:25 95:1 95:2  
 95:2 95:10 95:21 95:25 96:2  
 96:16 165:23  
**Bloomington's**  
 [1] 241:11  
**Board**  
 [98] 1:2 5:4 5:18 6:10 6:12  
 6:16 6:18 6:20 7:5 7:14 7:18  
 7:23 8:8 11:21 12:3 12:11 12:  
 15 14:11 14:16 14:20 15:6 27:  
 15 27:21 31:19 32:5 32:13 35:  
 6 41:20 42:21 44:18 51:11 53:  
 2 53:14 53:16 54:7 54:17 54:  
 21 58:21 65:5 67:9 77:23 88:  
 15 105:14 105:17 109:24 111:  
 21 112:6 114:9 114:13 114:18  
 116:11 118:13 120:4  
 120:5 120:22 121:8 121:18  
 123:12 124:25 127:3 130:1  
 143:16 146:12 148:11 150:13  
 151:2 153:1 157:2 160:3 160:  
 25 161:22 162:6 163:14 168:9  
 176:3 178:9 182:3 182:11 193:  
 5 198:3 198:7 199:13 212:6  
 213:19 217:1 221:15 222:14  
 222:15 227:24 228:19 229:8  
 230:7 230:25 231:3 231:6 242:  
 8 242:14  
**Board's**  
 [4] 96:11 198:4 200:20 207:12  
**Boards**  
 [4] 86:6 104:4 163:24 179:19  
**Boardwalk**  
 [1] 78:20  
**Boast**  
 [1] 38:19  
**Boat**  
 [1] 195:25  
**Bob**  
 [2] 6:25 150:10  
**Body**  
 [7] 52:24 116:20 135:7 135:  
 18 135:24 135:25 171:20  
**Bond**  
 [2] 180:17 180:19  
**Bonds**  
 [1] 22:18  
**Bonus**  
 [1] 212:3  
**Books**  
 [1] 48:21  
**Booksellers**  
 100:18  
**Boring**  
 [1] 51:4

**Born**  
 [2] 48:13 164:17  
**Borne**  
 [2] 166:16 207:10  
**Borough**  
 [1] 197:15  
**Bottom**  
 [2] 18:18 186:14  
**Bought**  
 [1] 189:10  
**Bounced**  
 [1] 210:13  
**Bounded**  
 [1] 185:22  
**Bowl**  
 [3] 140:6 177:2 200:14  
**Box**  
 [1] 121:13  
**Bradley**  
 [2] 3:20 179:3  
**Brain**  
 [1] 71:23  
**Brainer**  
 [1] 176:20  
**Brand**  
 [2] 131:12 200:3  
**Brand-new**  
 [1] 220:12  
**Brandon**  
 [3] 3:4 133:22 133:23  
**Break**  
 [10] 18:6 106:9 113:17 113:  
 20 114:4 114:6 148:17 150:4  
 209:1 209:2  
**Breakthroughs**  
 [1] 92:1  
**Brevity**  
 [1] 97:21  
**Bridge**  
 [6] 17:14 36:22 43:4 119:11  
 185:17 185:19  
**Bridges**  
 [2] 163:6 196:1  
**Brief**  
 [1] 97:19  
**Briefly**  
 [1] 232:1  
**Bright**  
 [1] 90:20  
**Brighter**  
 [1] 149:7  
**Bring**  
 [15] 13:24 18:2 22:25 36:14  
 41:7 42:24 125:16 147:17 147:  
 17 166:12 177:17 201:16 214:  
 24 226:4 234:12  
**Bringing**  
 [2] 7:10 95:16  
**Brings**  
 [4] 29:10 38:10 121:10 147:13  
**Briskly**  
 [1] 169:8  
**Broad**  
 [3] 27:22 54:11 216:17  
**Broad-based**  
 [1] 27:22  
**Broadens**  
 [1] 22:22  
**Broader**  
 [2] 14:7 112:16  
**Broken**  
 [2] 196:4 201:25  
**Brook**  
 [1] 202:20  
**Brother**  
 [1] 66:1  
**Brought**

[5] 14:21 165:13 195:2 214:  
 22 226:6  
**Browns**  
 [3] 234:3 238:25 239:2  
**Budget**  
 [1] 184:5  
**Budgetary**  
 [1] 53:12  
**Budgeting**  
 [1] 204:17  
**Buffets**  
 [1] 80:12  
**Build**  
 [26] 17:25 18:4 57:19 62:12  
 66:25 67:3 97:4 97:5 100:6  
 122:19 122:24 132:14 139:3  
 142:19 143:22 144:3 158:15  
 159:11 165:15 175:20 182:18  
 201:10 201:17 212:21 233:19  
 234:8  
**Building**  
 [26] 13:18 18:25 21:11 38:20  
 40:2 40:5 47:6 47:10 47:14  
 55:15 60:6 60:18 61:15 62:4  
 122:20 139:13 141:10 183:25  
 203:5 203:5 226:14 227:6 239:  
 16 241:7 241:10 241:11  
**Buildings**  
 [7] 20:7 39:25 75:21 82:17  
 82:19 138:19 138:21  
**Builds**  
 [2] 40:19 40:22  
**Built**  
 [27] 13:14 17:2 18:9 36:8 36:  
 11 48:19 58:5 59:15 61:12 61:  
 18 63:23 84:9 85:7 106:24  
 119:6 126:1 132:25 134:17  
 138:4 138:13 169:2 177:25  
 201:13 204:3 240:14 241:18  
 241:23  
**Bulk**  
 [1] 40:3  
**Bureau**  
 [1] 63:16  
**Burgeoning**  
 [1] 186:6  
**Burst**  
 [1] 102:3  
**Bus**  
 [2] 17:21 195:25  
**Buses**  
 [1] 173:7  
**Bush**  
 [1] 44:25  
**Business**  
 [39] 11:19 13:5 18:10 25:2  
 26:13 27:4 35:21 39:3 40:24  
 42:14 43:24 44:4 44:8 44:10  
 52:2 68:25 99:1 107:5 129:2  
 142:11 160:13 162:2 167:9  
 168:2 169:12 169:18 169:20  
 170:17 170:19 171:2 187:14  
 190:2 195:11 214:3 214:15  
 221:14 236:20 236:21 241:4  
**Businesses**  
 [18] 20:15 38:15 46:6 47:1  
 56:17 56:25 57:1 62:14 63:22  
 66:23 81:11 123:24 147:14  
 172:10 177:8 191:1 192:7 203:  
 11  
**Buy**  
 [3] 87:24 163:2 194:21  
**By-pass**  
 [1] 61:8  
**Byway**  
 [1] 43:6

**Cables**  
 [1] 144:9  
**Cafe**  
 [1] 174:23  
**Calculate**  
 [1] 170:11  
**Calculations**  
 [1] 120:11  
**Calendar**  
 [1] 49:19  
**California**  
 [2] 52:2 150:6  
**Callous**  
 [1] 198:10  
**Cameras**  
 [1] 165:6  
**Campaign**  
 [3] 34:11 109:8 229:24  
**Candidates**  
 [1] 208:16  
**Candidly**  
 [1] 218:18  
**Cannot**  
 [21] 58:2 58:3 63:25 65:22  
 92:24 96:24 104:19 105:17  
 112:16 137:6 137:19 138:16  
 139:15 143:24 163:10 167:11  
 170:22 175:6 194:6 212:14  
 228:6  
**Capability**  
 [2] 12:16 230:4  
**Capable**  
 [2] 189:4 223:4  
**Capacity**  
 [5] 172:25 173:7 182:21 183:  
 20 206:2  
**Capital**  
 [1] 76:4  
**Capri**  
 [103] 42:3 52:18 57:17 57:23  
 58:23 60:1 60:3 60:5 60:9 60:  
 13 60:16 61:22 65:12 70:25  
 73:19 73:24 74:1 74:3 74:7  
 74:11 74:17 74:19 74:24 75:3  
 81:2 83:21 88:24 89:8 93:6  
 93:22 95:6 97:3 97:11 100:4  
 100:5 117:11 118:9 118:15  
 119:12 120:24 122:16 123:16  
 124:3 128:1 128:8 128:10 128:  
 14 128:18 128:21 128:24 129:  
 9 129:12 129:14 129:18 130:9  
 130:11 130:18 134:21 136:2  
 136:20 137:23 139:1 139:15  
 140:21 141:9 141:14 148:22  
 149:24 151:19 152:19 152:20  
 153:4 153:9 154:25 155:16  
 155:25 156:13 157:9 157:22  
 158:14 159:2 174:11 174:14  
 174:19 176:7 176:13 176:22  
 178:5 180:18 181:6 181:9 199:  
 17 200:2 200:18 201:7 201:19  
 211:24 213:6 213:10 214:19  
 215:6 221:6 222:18  
**Capri's**  
 [12] 48:9 49:2 63:7 66:21 67:  
 16 118:6 118:25 136:10 140:  
 19 142:3 202:7 222:22  
**Carbondale**  
 [1] 216:1  
**Card**  
 [1] 235:16  
**Care**  
 [8] 91:7 91:10 140:15 144:14  
 145:4 149:5 193:11 233:15  
**CareerLink**  
 [1] 208:11  
**Careers**  
 [1] 26:18  
**Carefully**  
 [3] 36:1 86:2 162:8  
**Carefully-planned**

**C**

**Cable**  
 [1] 104:16

[1] 36:1  
**Cares**  
[2] 149:3 175:18  
**Carlow**  
[1] 168:24  
**Carlton**  
82:9  
**Carnegie**  
[3] 135:15 157:14 170:13  
**Carol**  
[3] 3:24 195:9 195:11  
**Carpool**  
[1] 187:9  
**Carries**  
[2] 35:13 37:8  
**Carry**  
[1] 22:19  
**Carrying**  
[1] 229:22  
**Cars**  
[1] 87:24  
**Carson**  
[6] 17:13 17:19 23:4 43:4  
185:17 185:21  
**Carter**  
[4] 3:6 139:18 139:19 139:19  
**Case**  
[4] 108:13 113:6 149:6 161:24  
**Cases**  
[2] 38:16 212:10  
**Casey**  
[1] 6:25  
**Cash**  
[1] 191:7  
**Casino**  
[136] 12:1 12:5 12:22 16:21  
16:22 17:9 17:11 18:1 18:2  
18:4 19:14 19:15 22:22 23:9  
28:6 35:11 39:6 39:8 41:21  
43:11 48:3 62:4 62:12 62:22  
1 63:23 64:19 65:9 65:10  
12 65:13 65:14 67:3 68:18  
123 72:17 77:4 78:23 79:4  
80:3 80:11 80:14 88:14 88:19  
88:25 116:12 118:5 118:23  
119:4 119:14 119:20 120:17  
122:24 124:5 125:1 125:5 125:  
15 125:16 125:20 126:1 126:7  
126:14 127:4 127:22 133:1  
133:7 133:10 136:23 136:24  
137:1 137:14 144:5 152:23  
156:15 158:16 161:18 163:9  
168:11 170:1 170:15 171:1  
171:1 171:24 172:1 172:3 172:  
6 172:9 172:21 173:2 173:5  
173:14 174:25 175:13 176:14  
178:21 178:23 180:23 183:14  
185:8 186:17 187:4 187:17  
193:2 194:10 194:13 197:18  
197:21 198:5 198:14 198:18  
201:17 203:4 205:16 205:22  
206:4 206:8 206:10 206:14  
207:8 207:22 207:23 208:4  
208:9 208:14 208:19 219:8  
221:2 223:16 224:6 225:11  
226:15 232:17 234:9 236:14  
236:17 239:8  
**Casino's**  
[1] 197:23  
**Casino-related**  
[1] 207:8  
**Casinos**  
[23] 13:1 45:8 64:23 78:19  
79:1 79:17 79:17 79:18 81:22  
87:21 88:10 89:12 127:11 142:  
19 155:22 156:4 175:18 188:  
23 194:23 199:12 199:18 213:  
10 217:8  
**Catalyst**  
[1] 212:19

[3] 147:23 211:19 221:23  
**Catalytic**  
[1] 37:1  
**Category**  
[6] 6:13 50:24 110:25 111:1  
175:8 175:10  
**Catholic**  
[1] 133:25  
**Caution**  
[1] 152:25  
**Celebrate**  
[2] 140:7 200:14  
**Celebrated**  
[1] 140:5  
**Cell**  
[1] 5:7  
**Census**  
[2] 45:21 56:11  
**Center**  
[28] 13:12 14:10 21:19 23:3  
24:4 26:22 36:19 37:24 38:19  
71:11 84:8 85:4 85:6 89:17  
118:3 128:20 130:3 130:4 135:  
13 135:15 168:23 170:13 201:  
22 211:14 211:16 211:23 220:  
14 241:19  
**Centers**  
[2] 81:8 91:11  
**Central**  
[10] 94:23 94:25 95:1 95:10  
96:2 96:16 128:17 133:24 169:  
17 170:16  
**Century**  
[2] 130:21 173:10  
**CEO**  
[1] 43:22  
**Certain**  
[6] 29:6 105:4 129:25 130:8  
173:15 194:13  
**Certainly**  
[4] 149:19 172:20 213:11 221:  
25  
**Certified**  
[2] 44:7 202:23  
**Certify**  
[1] 243:1  
**Cetera**  
[3] 69:3 156:9 214:1  
**CF**  
[7] 90:8 91:12 91:21 91:22  
91:24 92:3 92:6  
**Chair**  
[5] 113:9 113:11 155:8 182:  
12 205:11  
**Chairman**  
[9] 1:15 6:23 50:16 77:22 84:  
4 148:11 160:2 222:13 230:25  
**Chairmanship**  
[1] 24:21  
**Chairperson**  
[2] 106:13 171:21  
**Challenged**  
[2] 90:6 120:15  
**Challenges**  
[6] 71:19 73:17 74:10 106:19  
110:8 205:15  
**Challenging**  
[1] 72:3  
**Chamber**  
[5] 11:14 11:18 11:19 14:11  
179:16  
**Champion**  
[1] 179:23  
**Champions**  
[3] 101:12 101:13 136:8  
**Championship**  
[8] 101:7 101:10 101:15 103:  
16 104:12 104:14 104:22 200:  
14

**Chance**  
[4] 66:13 87:8 238:18 238:19  
**Chances**  
[1] 125:8  
**Change**  
[2] 167:12 170:23  
**Changed**  
[2] 117:7 235:4  
**Changes**  
[2] 46:22 47:2  
**Changing**  
[1] 192:21  
**Chapter**  
[5] 77:21 78:4 82:6 90:4 91:4  
**Char**  
[1] 84:5  
**Character**  
[5] 75:21 147:9 212:21 223:9  
230:6  
**Charge**  
[5] 61:19 115:3 115:23 200:4  
229:22  
**Charged**  
[5] 18:19 18:23 84:7 213:13  
227:24  
**Charging**  
[2] 187:8 187:10  
**Charities**  
[1] 34:4  
**Charles**  
[2] 3:12 157:1  
**Chart**  
[3] 235:17 235:18 235:20  
**Chatham**  
[1] 168:22  
**Chattanooga**  
[1] 37:11  
**Check**  
[3] 234:24 236:4 236:10  
**Checks**  
[1] 214:1  
**Chester**  
[1] 175:9  
**Chicago**  
[3] 32:11 37:11 235:24  
**Chief**  
[2] 57:10 57:16  
**Child**  
[1] 109:9  
**Childcare**  
[2] 206:5 206:8  
**Children**  
[8] 39:2 66:3 87:24 90:5 96:  
4 165:1 165:8 203:20  
**Children's**  
[3] 122:21 135:14 144:3  
**China**  
[1] 216:12  
**Chip**  
[2] 1:16 6:23  
**Chips**  
[1] 228:23  
**Choice**  
[6] 109:16 133:7 181:24 181:  
25 212:12 231:25  
**Choices**  
[2] 29:19 231:24  
**Choose**  
[8] 5:11 9:14 58:9 131:25  
152:9 198:16 199:23 213:4  
**Choosing**  
[3] 69:24 180:5 182:5  
**Chose**  
[5] 52:13 74:17 156:12 156:  
13 156:14  
**Christian**  
[1] 164:17

**Christiansen**  
[1] 234:24  
**Chronic**  
[1] 90:8  
**Chuck**  
[1] 157:3  
**Chunk**  
[1] 85:23  
**Churches**  
[1] 163:3  
**Circumstance**  
[2] 56:23 56:24  
**Circuses**  
[1] 60:24  
**Cited**  
[3] 73:11 74:4 74:9  
**Cities**  
[11] 34:5 37:11 37:13 58:12  
60:25 116:5 129:2 129:6 149:  
2 211:13 241:6  
**Citizen**  
[4] 33:7 85:14 171:20 211:21  
**Citizens**  
[16] 30:4 54:12 84:4 85:2 85:  
12 143:3 188:25 189:11 191:  
11 192:8 193:16 194:7 194:23  
236:6 238:16 240:6  
**City**  
[179] 12:1 12:9 13:2 13:10  
14:2 15:10 15:23 17:22 18:22  
19:6 20:23 21:3 22:1 22:10  
23:3 24:14 24:22 24:24 25:22  
26:7 27:11 27:13 33:25 34:3  
34:15 34:18 37:15 38:10 38:  
10 39:17 39:22 40:1 41:25 42:  
5 49:8 50:1 50:24 51:15 56:6  
56:8 56:12 56:16 56:20 57:1  
58:14 58:20 60:10 61:7 62:22  
62:23 63:2 63:4 68:19 69:24  
70:25 72:21 72:23 73:1 74:9  
75:13 78:17 78:23 87:13 88:  
24 89:6 96:13 97:9 97:10 98:  
10 98:21 107:10 115:6 115:13  
118:1 119:19 120:20 121:5  
124:7 128:17 128:20 129:13  
131:9 131:12 132:3 132:17  
133:12 134:24 135:5 135:6  
136:4 136:7 137:5 137:20 138:  
2 139:7 139:12 140:20 142:1  
148:13 148:16 148:23 149:13  
149:21 149:22 150:9 151:3  
151:24 152:2 152:2 152:7 153:  
9 153:13 155:21 156:2 156:14  
157:6 159:15 159:22 163:22  
163:25 164:4 164:5 164:19  
167:3 168:12 168:23 169:14  
170:2 170:5 174:24 175:12  
176:5 176:6 176:14 177:11  
178:19 178:20 180:16 181:24  
182:1 184:17 194:20 195:18  
195:20 196:22 197:19 197:24  
198:8 198:13 199:24 200:2  
200:11 201:5 201:16 201:17  
201:18 201:22 203:15 203:23  
204:17 205:17 211:5 211:18  
212:4 214:16 219:24 220:21  
220:24 226:1 227:14 230:25  
232:15 233:25 235:22 236:19  
236:25 237:4 240:10 241:3  
**City's**  
[12] 62:21 76:1 76:5 82:22  
97:11 99:5 109:10 115:12 130:  
16 131:18 131:22 132:5  
**City's'**  
[1] 141:19  
**City/Harrah's**  
[6] 23:7 24:15 51:9 145:6  
147:15 178:11  
**Civic**  
[21] 38:8 44:4 48:14 55:12  
65:17 71:11 83:11 84:6 84:12  
99:2 106:24 119:6 141:14 158:  
25 168:16 168:17 169:1 211:

14 211:16 211:23 228:10  
**Civil**  
[3] 44:24 47:9 119:6  
**Claim**  
[6] 19:16 72:22 178:4 178:20  
210:20 212:15  
**air**  
102:21  
**Clarifies**  
[1] 72:1  
**Class**  
[5] 87:25 89:4 98:21 132:15  
233:19  
**Classed**  
[2] 101:3 203:21  
**Classes**  
[1] 101:14  
**Clean**  
[3] 75:13 169:19 169:21  
**Clear**  
[8] 30:9 63:8 76:10 107:18  
110:2 175:24 219:7 239:3  
**Clearly**  
[4] 58:24 72:17 131:13 133:18  
**Clerk**  
[10] 7:5 32:1 32:5 67:24 67:  
25 122:9 148:5 148:6 179:13  
195:8  
**Cleveland**  
[10] 20:23 62:21 163:12 163:  
22 164:2 234:3 234:5 238:24  
239:2 239:7  
**Cleveland-based**  
[1] 62:21  
**Cleveland/Pittsburgh**  
[1] 193:19  
**Cliches**  
[1] 121:22  
**Clients**  
[2] 216:10 216:16  
**imate**  
153:11  
**umb**  
[1] 132:7  
**Clipper**  
[2] 23:4 132:8  
**CLO**  
[1] 169:1  
**Close**  
[6] 29:14 45:16 128:22 143:  
22 175:17 223:1  
**Closed**  
[1] 5:21  
**Closely**  
[3] 192:3 199:14 218:1  
**Closer**  
[2] 64:23 134:5  
**Closing**  
[4] 76:17 112:21 114:8 130:14  
**Clubs**  
[1] 126:12  
**Clutter**  
[1] 212:11  
**Co**  
[5] 49:16 113:11 155:8 182:  
12 205:11  
**Co-chair**  
[4] 113:11 155:8 182:12 205:  
11  
**Co-workers**  
[1] 49:16  
**Coalescence**  
[1] 58:6  
**Code**  
8:3 47:10  
**es**  
47:14 47:19  
**Coffers**

[1] 182:18  
**Cognition**  
[1] 46:23  
**Cohesive**  
[1] 108:20  
**Coined**  
[1] 150:11  
**Cold**  
[1] 200:13  
**COLINS**  
[1] 1:13  
**Collaborated**  
[1] 203:17  
**Collaboration**  
[3] 203:11 204:10 204:12  
**Collaboratively**  
[1] 70:8  
**Collapsing**  
[1] 19:1  
**Colleagues**  
[1] 230:8  
**Collect**  
[1] 70:22  
**Collected**  
[2] 71:13 95:21  
**Collection**  
[1] 28:19  
**Collective**  
[1] 69:9  
**Collectively**  
[2] 67:25 116:13  
**College**  
[9] 87:24 100:17 102:15 102:  
24 134:20 145:24 165:12 168:  
24 179:7  
**Colleges**  
[1] 163:18  
**Collier**  
[1] 168:1  
**Collins**  
[1] 6:22  
**Color**  
[1] 110:24  
**Colorado**  
[1] 216:1  
**Columbus**  
[2] 62:3 211:15  
**Combined**  
[1] 120:23  
**Coming**  
[12] 46:16 88:10 114:20 126:  
13 137:4 137:20 138:24 172:2  
172:5 172:7 197:3 197:4  
**Commend**  
[3] 11:21 238:13 238:22  
**Comment**  
[5] 50:4 132:20 209:9 230:15  
241:2  
**Commented**  
[2] 198:3 233:17  
**Comments**  
[20] 5:11 5:14 5:19 31:20 51:  
6 57:16 59:2 64:25 65:5 65:6  
66:8 67:11 75:7 75:23 114:8  
153:25 156:19 160:19 197:12  
206:24  
**Commerce**  
[3] 11:14 11:18 179:16  
**Commercial**  
[12] 36:21 39:12 75:24 98:2  
98:12 125:7 126:18 126:21  
126:23 127:1 142:10 216:15  
**Commission**  
[4] 39:20 40:13 85:5 86:8  
**Commissioner**  
[2] 99:18 99:20  
**Commissions**  
[1] 86:6

**Commit**  
[5] 93:14 110:23 228:25 239:  
25 240:2  
**Commitment**  
[20] 15:2 30:24 91:1 93:13  
117:11 117:14 133:16 133:18  
164:6 165:8 165:13 165:20  
165:21 166:1 178:6 180:8 180:  
9 182:4 208:19 239:7  
**Commitments**  
[5] 30:9 30:16 58:22 111:23  
208:3  
**Commits**  
[1] 220:20  
**Committed**  
[21] 13:22 33:1 33:18 88:23  
92:22 100:6 109:11 110:14  
153:14 166:23 166:25 167:1  
167:2 167:5 167:13 167:14  
167:15 223:7 233:19 233:20  
241:6  
**Committee**  
[3] 171:22 175:24 182:13  
**Committees**  
[4] 108:3 108:4 108:17 163:15  
**Committing**  
[1] 221:7  
**Commons**  
[1] 26:21  
**Commonwealth**  
[11] 11:23 52:11 54:12 78:2  
162:7 162:9 180:12 198:20  
236:7 238:16 239:23  
**Communicate**  
[1] 70:2  
**Communicating**  
[1] 158:8  
**Communication**  
[1] 72:7  
**Communities**  
[11] 28:3 43:9 135:2 141:5  
146:19 183:24 185:9 186:5  
206:3 214:15 228:2  
**Community**  
[138] 7:20 9:8 9:9 11:12 12:  
24 13:1 14:22 15:2 15:21 16:  
25 23:10 24:8 24:19 26:1 26:  
25 27:1 27:3 27:14 28:17 31:  
10 35:24 37:7 40:18 41:11 41:  
14 42:8 42:21 44:21 69:7 73:  
7 73:13 74:2 74:22 75:18 76:  
8 90:15 91:9 91:17 92:24 92:  
24 93:8 93:11 93:16 93:24 94:  
4 95:4 95:12 96:7 96:19 96:  
21 96:23 99:1 103:9 106:7  
106:13 106:15 106:19 106:21  
107:4 107:5 107:11 107:20  
108:8 108:15 109:6 109:19  
110:14 110:17 111:18 112:2  
112:8 112:9 112:16 112:22  
113:3 113:6 113:7 113:9 113:  
23 115:20 129:8 129:22 133:6  
136:18 140:11 142:12 145:18  
146:24 149:25 153:16 155:5  
156:7 158:1 159:4 163:15 163:  
18 163:24 175:21 182:15 182:  
20 183:13 184:7 184:8 184:9  
184:20 185:1 185:2 187:14  
203:13 205:5 205:14 206:21  
206:22 207:24 211:21 214:5  
214:13 216:18 221:4 221:6  
221:9 221:14 223:15 224:11  
224:11 225:7 225:9 225:10  
225:14 225:17 227:7 228:6  
228:13 228:17 229:18 237:18  
237:20 238:3  
**Community's**  
[3] 96:14 112:18 183:17  
**Community-action**  
[1] 163:15  
**Community-based**  
[1] 110:14

**Community-conscious**  
[1] 163:21  
**Community-oriented**  
[1] 214:5  
**Compact**  
[1] 56:22  
**Companies**  
[9] 25:1 25:6 189:14 190:3  
190:7 195:20 213:24 228:15  
232:11  
**Company**  
[22] 18:25 22:11 22:13 22:15  
22:21 27:7 34:17 44:1 89:2  
89:10 93:10 131:11 132:25  
133:4 133:13 135:1 175:5 180:  
2 221:1 231:3 235:13 235:14  
**Company's**  
[1] 190:1  
**Comparable**  
[2] 152:4 199:22  
**Comparison**  
[1] 228:23  
**Compelled**  
[2] 120:4 197:25  
**Compete**  
[8] 80:21 81:11 101:14 138:  
11 138:16 141:3 159:18 214:3  
**Competing**  
[2] 98:21 101:7  
**Competition**  
[3] 80:10 214:7 232:10  
**Competitive**  
[2] 52:4 52:22  
**Competitiveness**  
[1] 14:3  
**Competitors**  
[3] 220:1 230:9 235:10  
**Complaining**  
[1] 159:10  
**Complaint**  
[1] 47:21  
**Complaint-driven**  
[1] 47:21  
**Complaints**  
[1] 47:23  
**Complement**  
[4] 75:25 201:19 204:3 213:23  
**Complete**  
[2] 12:6 229:25  
**Completed**  
[6] 20:4 106:8 113:23 168:16  
196:6 220:5  
**Completely**  
[1] 183:6  
**Completing**  
[1] 184:5  
**Complex**  
[5] 23:9 74:19 97:4 135:8  
164:3  
**Complexes**  
[2] 37:4 39:15  
**Complexity**  
[1] 111:13  
**Compliant**  
[1] 48:4  
**Complicate**  
[1] 8:16  
**Complied**  
[4] 6:6 11:2 94:13 210:1  
**Comply**  
[3] 47:14 47:19 121:6  
**Complying**  
[2] 8:13 121:1  
**Components**  
[1] 223:16  
**Composed**  
[2] 6:21 27:16  
**Compound**

[1] 194:12  
**Comprised**  
 [1] 98:4  
**Compromised**  
 [2] 121:4 121:16  
**Concentrate**  
 [1] 70:11  
**Concept**  
 [2] 39:15 83:22  
**Conception**  
 [1] 138:22  
**Concepts**  
 [1] 210:17  
**Concern**  
 [11] 52:3 55:10 79:5 80:23  
 97:21 108:5 151:9 163:2 187:2  
 2 227:9 227:19  
**Concerned**  
 [11] 98:9 109:7 126:15 135:5  
 143:2 162:21 166:21 185:7  
 188:21 197:17 198:8  
**Concerning**  
 [1] 85:17  
**Concerns**  
 [18] 7:23 29:25 30:3 30:6 30:  
 19 42:22 42:25 72:1 77:6 80:  
 18 81:4 108:1 161:22 203:4  
 204:24 225:2 225:6 225:8  
**Concert**  
 [2] 29:13 119:21  
**Concerts**  
 [5] 49:17 60:24 83:14 122:21  
 177:17  
**Concessions**  
 [1] 139:22  
**Concluded**  
 [5] 16:20 28:23 116:10 213:1  
 242:21  
**Concludes**  
 [1] 242:4  
**Concluding**  
 [1] 98:15  
**Conclusion**  
 [10] 8:1 9:13 9:22 15:14 19:  
 4 100:1 114:9 127:3 156:16  
 209:7  
**Conclusions**  
 [1] 229:15  
**Concrete**  
 [2] 210:16 211:4  
**Concur**  
 [1] 222:24  
**Concurrently**  
 [1] 224:7  
**Condescending**  
 [1] 210:10  
**Condition**  
 [1] 61:1  
**Conditions**  
 [1] 75:19  
**Condominiums**  
 [2] 74:23 156:8  
**Conduct**  
 [1] 8:3  
**Conducted**  
 [3] 143:9 228:21 231:7  
**Conference**  
 [14] 25:19 25:24 25:25 26:9  
 27:15 27:20 28:5 28:13 28:16  
 29:23 30:15 31:17 159:10 225:  
 23  
**Conference's**  
 [1] 27:24  
**Conferences**  
 [1] 146:4  
**Confidence**  
 [1] 229:25  
**Confident**

[3] 89:5 227:15 229:14  
**Configuration**  
 [1] 17:19  
**Conflicting**  
 [1] 227:22  
**Conflicts**  
 [2] 188:23 190:19  
**Confluence**  
 [1] 36:9  
**Conformance**  
 [1] 143:15  
**Confronted**  
 [1] 166:20  
**Confused**  
 [1] 148:24  
**Congestion**  
 [9] 43:2 119:23 123:3 125:16  
 137:6 172:12 185:21 186:4  
 227:20  
**Conjunction**  
 [3] 14:9 157:22 204:7  
**Connect**  
 [2] 40:1 71:24  
**Connected**  
 [5] 37:20 78:23 111:25 138:  
 25 167:20  
**Connecting**  
 [1] 173:12  
**Connections**  
 [2] 157:25 158:5  
**Conscience**  
 [1] 34:6  
**Consent**  
 [1] 188:20  
**Consequences**  
 [2] 29:18 197:18  
**Consequently**  
 [1] 29:5  
**Conservative**  
 [3] 198:16 210:16 218:12  
**Consider**  
 [23] 12:6 12:11 51:12 53:2  
 53:15 53:16 54:7 76:18 96:18  
 96:19 125:24 127:4 142:3 150:  
 14 172:5 172:8 172:11 172:12  
 172:13 174:9 182:23 212:20  
 219:15  
**Consideration**  
 [17] 54:16 64:21 67:19 77:7  
 93:22 119:4 120:1 123:12 136:  
 21 137:14 152:16 156:23 159:  
 5 176:5 184:11 204:25 218:21  
**Considerations**  
 [4] 12:17 52:17 158:20 199:15  
**Considered**  
 [6] 53:8 78:11 148:19 180:17  
 182:19 231:22  
**Considering**  
 [1] 79:7  
**Consistency**  
 [1] 218:4  
**Consistent**  
 [2] 76:25 199:18  
**Consistently**  
 [2] 56:15 56:16  
**Consisting**  
 [1] 226:6  
**Consolidation**  
 [1] 70:16  
**Consortium**  
 [2] 107:13 107:22  
**Constituency**  
 [1] 68:24  
**Constitute**  
 [1] 26:7  
**Constitutional**  
 [1] 161:22  
**Construct**

[1] 47:18  
**Constructed**  
 [1] 48:4  
**Constructing**  
 [2] 49:22 224:6  
**Construction**  
 [25] 14:14 15:8 20:18 36:20  
 37:5 37:23 39:14 40:11 47:10  
 49:6 51:2 53:3 54:1 76:11 83:  
 25 111:5 125:11 138:8 158:25  
 169:10 184:5 210:12 220:18  
 221:3 228:9  
**Consultant**  
 [4] 160:13 160:17 229:9 229:  
 12  
**Consultants**  
 [2] 108:23 229:7  
**Consulting**  
 [5] 44:3 160:8 160:11 182:14  
 191:4  
**Consummate**  
 [1] 179:11  
**Contained**  
 [2] 198:12 243:2  
**Contemplating**  
 [1] 224:3  
**Contend**  
 [1] 126:9  
**Contenderes**  
 [1] 22:16  
**Contending**  
 [1] 65:18  
**Contends**  
 [1] 119:19  
**Contentious**  
 [2] 207:5 214:21  
**Contest**  
 [1] 229:25  
**Context**  
 [1] 176:23  
**Continually**  
 [1] 208:18  
**Continue**  
 [9] 7:24 14:18 19:1 42:6 69:  
 14 93:24 109:21 135:23 167:4  
**Continued**  
 [4] 13:13 92:10 95:14 134:14  
**Continues**  
 [1] 169:8  
**Continuing**  
 [2] 108:17 214:6  
**Continuity**  
 [1] 121:2  
**Continuous**  
 [1] 169:25  
**Contract**  
 [1] 139:25  
**Contracting**  
 [2] 160:23 161:20  
**Contributed**  
 [1] 32:22  
**Contributing**  
 [1] 49:25  
**Contribution**  
 [1] 96:14  
**Contributions**  
 [2] 144:8 237:20  
**Control**  
 [28] 1:2 5:3 6:10 6:12 6:16  
 6:18 7:14 7:17 11:21 44:18  
 67:9 91:22 105:13 124:25 142:  
 20 148:11 157:2 160:3 161:6  
 168:8 184:3 194:11 198:3 199:  
 13 200:20 207:12 222:15 242:  
 14  
**Controlled**  
 [2] 143:1 193:6  
**Convened**

[3] 6:15 108:7 108:12  
**Convention**  
 [15] 13:12 13:25 14:9 23:3  
 36:19 38:19 63:15 84:8 85:4  
 85:6 118:2 118:2 135:13 220:  
 14 241:19  
**Conventioners**  
 [1] 38:4  
**Conventions**  
 [1] 85:9  
**Converged**  
 [1] 200:12  
**Conversations**  
 [2] 10:21 31:7  
**Converse**  
 [1] 10:19  
**Conversely**  
 [1] 39:17  
**Convinced**  
 [1] 47:4  
**Cook**  
 [1] 237:22  
**Cooperated**  
 [1] 89:8  
**Cooperation**  
 [6] 7:9 10:16 10:24 26:23 30:  
 20 242:9  
**Cooperative**  
 [2] 28:20 134:12  
**Coordinated**  
 [1] 38:16  
**Copies**  
 [2] 195:2 205:20  
**Copy**  
 [3] 5:25 31:3 156:17  
**Core**  
 [1] 128:17  
**Coro**  
 [1] 71:11  
**Corporate**  
 [8] 30:4 33:7 37:2 85:12 85:  
 14 103:10 117:5 190:1  
**Corporation**  
 [12] 16:25 26:1 34:6 41:11  
 41:14 106:14 106:17 113:10  
 139:21 141:23 161:25 184:20  
**Corporations**  
 [3] 38:14 163:21 189:23  
**Correct**  
 [2] 66:11 243:4  
**Correctly**  
 [1] 228:14  
**Corresponding**  
 [3] 29:22 168:22 170:7  
**Corridor**  
 [3] 13:5 117:20 128:12  
**Corridors**  
 [1] 40:8  
**Corrupt**  
 [1] 189:15  
**Cost**  
 [7] 80:13 177:25 183:10 207:  
 9 229:1 234:9 240:9  
**Costly**  
 [1] 49:1  
**Costs**  
 [2] 163:3 181:12  
**Council**  
 [2] 171:18 172:20  
**Counsel**  
 [1] 184:19  
**Count**  
 [1] 164:6  
**Counters**  
 [1] 187:7  
**Countless**  
 [3] 32:22 90:15 91:19  
**Country**

[14] 33:21 37:21 45:3 45:18  
56:15 62:10 67:2 87:11 89:1  
117:6 195:20 233:11 235:10  
241:7  
**County**  
[36] 20:1 24:14 38:10 43:21  
51:18 50:25 56:9 58:2 58:20  
61:1 90:1 122:12 131:3 142:  
145:11 149:14 149:21 171:  
18 171:21 172:20 173:25 178:  
19 178:22 184:22 197:16 198:  
15 198:19 198:23 199:1 199:4  
203:24 208:11 219:25 220:24  
227:10 240:10  
**Couple**  
[8] 57:7 78:6 78:21 121:21  
175:2 220:2 221:16 227:21  
**Coupled**  
[1] 181:2  
**Courage**  
[1] 238:14  
**Course**  
[12] 15:4 53:5 55:22 71:13  
117:6 125:23 132:8 148:23  
157:16 162:16 183:23 214:11  
**Court**  
[2] 47:23 195:15  
**Courtesy**  
[3] 8:9 8:13 242:9  
**Courts**  
[2] 81:7 143:17  
**Cover**  
[1] 228:25  
**Covered**  
[1] 155:7  
**Coy**  
[2] 1:14 6:24  
**CPA**  
[1] 188:16  
**Crack**  
[1] 193:13  
**Cracked**  
108:4  
**Crawford**  
[4] 110:13 128:15 138:4 138:9  
**Create**  
[10] 35:2 36:3 62:6 81:10 89:  
3 89:12 93:1 99:6 177:9 221:  
21  
**Created**  
[5] 27:3 80:2 87:16 88:8 127:  
1  
**Creates**  
[1] 188:23  
**Creating**  
[6] 37:7 40:20 74:10 74:12  
75:23 138:22  
**Creation**  
[8] 40:5 42:18 53:23 57:5 76:  
24 88:12 93:13 111:3  
**Creative**  
[3] 70:5 71:25 214:4  
**Credibility**  
[1] 103:13  
**Credit**  
[2] 27:7 152:13  
**Crest**  
[1] 92:10  
**Crime**  
[2] 43:6 165:3  
**Crimes**  
[1] 207:9  
**Crisis**  
[1] 57:3  
**Criteria**  
[1] 15:18 180:4 180:7 223:2  
13 225:4  
**Critical**  
[7] 12:18 37:6 39:8 83:19 84:

1 86:18 134:11  
**Crosby**  
[3] 102:6 103:5 177:4  
**Cross**  
[3] 153:2 153:3 163:17  
**Cross-section**  
[1] 216:17  
**Crossroads**  
[2] 84:16 159:20  
**Crouch**  
[6] 2:11 50:12 50:14 50:15  
50:16 59:2  
**Crowds**  
[1] 169:4  
**Crowley**  
[1] 71:10  
**Crown**  
[2] 25:3 177:13  
**Crucial**  
[3] 20:3 20:17 138:5  
**Culminates**  
[1] 109:23  
**Culminating**  
[1] 101:6  
**Cultivate**  
[1] 110:21  
**Cultural**  
[5] 13:13 23:5 36:22 45:8  
179:18  
**Culture**  
[1] 93:10  
**Cup**  
[12] 65:18 101:7 101:11 101:  
12 101:13 103:15 103:18 103:  
23 104:11 104:21 139:24 140:8  
**Cups**  
[1] 66:2  
**Cure**  
[1] 91:22  
**Curious**  
[1] 50:3  
**Current**  
[7] 60:20 61:1 61:11 77:24  
141:3 150:10 191:8  
**Curtailment**  
[1] 203:19  
**Customers**  
[4] 22:25 83:5 233:15 233:16  
**Cut**  
[1] 228:10  
**Cystic**  
[6] 89:22 90:4 90:6 90:7 90:  
24 91:4

## D

**Dad**  
[1] 167:10  
**Dale**  
[2] 5:2 6:8  
**Damage**  
[3] 142:20 142:23 142:25  
**Dan**  
[1] 57:10  
**Danger**  
[2] 53:7 53:8  
**Dangerous**  
[1] 55:7  
**Dasher**  
[1] 104:4  
**Data**  
[4] 56:12 71:13 210:24 228:1  
**Date**  
[3] 13:17 49:19 122:20  
**Dates**  
[1] 103:17  
**David**  
[2] 36:5 36:19

**Days**  
[10] 49:9 64:11 83:25 86:11  
120:23 218:6 220:2 220:19  
221:16 242:5  
**DC**  
[2] 38:1 204:20  
**DCED**  
[1] 160:12  
**Dead**  
[3] 117:25 135:21 201:16  
**Deal**  
[8] 47:8 57:18 84:2 193:23  
194:5 227:19 239:5 239:6  
**Dealers**  
[1] 194:4  
**Dealing**  
[1] 207:5  
**Dealings**  
[1] 189:22  
**Deals**  
[1] 51:17  
**Dealt**  
[1] 115:13  
**Death**  
[1] 57:3  
**Debate**  
[2] 79:11 84:15  
**Decade**  
[2] 22:14 160:16  
**Decades**  
[4] 25:2 55:20 127:7 151:11  
**Decaying**  
[1] 168:25  
**December**  
[1] 219:23  
**Decide**  
[4] 89:17 229:3 231:17 240:3  
**Decided**  
[2] 20:18 20:22  
**Decimated**  
[1] 200:7  
**Decipher**  
[1] 109:25  
**Decision**  
[22] 20:3 22:3 35:11 54:16  
67:15 86:18 96:12 96:20 105:  
11 105:14 105:18 105:20 156:  
23 157:5 159:22 184:24 185:1  
185:2 188:2 226:19 228:1 236:  
5  
**Decision-making**  
[6] 15:18 27:25 98:17 210:15  
212:12 226:22  
**Decisions**  
[5] 27:20 35:13 105:7 116:16  
208:1  
**Decker**  
[4] 1:15 6:23 148:11 160:3  
**Declared**  
[1] 153:18  
**Decline**  
[1] 71:21  
**Dedication**  
[1] 159:14  
**Deeply**  
[3] 109:7 145:3 188:21  
**Define**  
[1] 30:8  
**Defined**  
[1] 74:22  
**Defining**  
[1] 30:16  
**Definitely**  
[1] 201:6  
**Degree**  
[4] 53:21 69:15 157:13 164:24  
**Delayed**  
[1] 61:4

**Deliberate**  
[1] 76:20  
**Delighted**  
[1] 225:21  
**Deliver**  
[6] 23:15 33:2 34:9 180:2  
182:21 183:21  
**Deliverables**  
[2] 74:4 76:24  
**Delivering**  
[2] 37:5 184:2  
**Delivery**  
[3] 24:25 25:11 36:18  
**DeLorenzo**  
[4] 2:18 94:6 97:15 97:18  
**Demand**  
[3] 104:14 104:15 113:1  
**Demanding**  
[1] 158:20  
**Demands**  
[2] 132:16 189:18  
**Demise**  
[1] 116:25  
**Democratic**  
[1] 143:18  
**Demographic**  
[2] 72:19 155:13  
**Demographics**  
[1] 46:6  
**Demolished**  
[1] 18:24  
**Demolition**  
[4] 17:8 17:12 18:6 183:10  
**Demonstrate**  
[1] 184:7  
**Demonstrated**  
[3] 117:13 133:18 223:5  
**Demonstrating**  
[1] 35:20  
**Denied**  
[1] 194:7  
**Dennis**  
[3] 3:10 150:21 151:2  
**Deny**  
[1] 163:10  
**Department**  
[9] 44:9 46:2 47:23 124:21  
193:3 193:20 204:7 204:11  
207:18  
**Departments**  
[1] 204:9  
**Departure**  
[1] 93:1  
**Depended**  
[1] 234:16  
**Dependence**  
[1] 172:13  
**Depressed**  
[1] 170:19  
**Deputy**  
[1] 7:2  
**Described**  
[2] 126:3 170:3  
**Deserve**  
[4] 123:18 159:1 191:16 231:  
22  
**Deserves**  
[2] 97:6 123:11  
**Deserving**  
[1] 105:1  
**Design**  
[8] 39:14 39:21 40:10 47:10  
47:18 49:6 85:5 111:13  
**Designated**  
[1] 110:14  
**Designed**  
[11] 7:15 48:4 125:19 126:17

158:14 159:2 192:5 196:8 196:  
10 224:23 224:25  
**Designers**  
[1] 69:1  
**Designing**  
[2] 47:6 49:21  
**Desirable**  
192:9  
**Desire**  
[1] 50:6  
**Desires**  
[1] 113:5  
**Desirous**  
[1] 31:9  
**Desperately**  
[1] 214:14  
**Destination**  
[10] 18:13 46:16 60:12 62:7  
65:8 131:17 152:4 170:17 180:  
22 221:22  
**Destroyed**  
[1] 168:20  
**Destructive**  
[1] 125:11  
**Detail**  
[1] 219:14  
**Detailed**  
[1] 205:20  
**Details**  
[3] 107:16 226:17 226:25  
**Detecting**  
[2] 207:15 207:16  
**Deter**  
[1] 204:1  
**Determination**  
[2] 38:7 51:13  
**Determine**  
[4] 8:25 186:10 211:10 224:2  
**Determined**  
[1] 29:23 101:13 116:4 204:6  
11 220:5  
**Determining**  
[1] 178:2  
**Detract**  
[1] 200:19  
**Detriment**  
[3] 53:9 79:3 190:16  
**Detroit**  
[1] 78:25  
**Devalued**  
[1] 92:25  
**Devastating**  
[2] 83:10 141:17  
**Develop**  
[9] 26:11 53:14 71:11 134:11  
138:3 173:13 177:9 200:4 224:  
13  
**Developed**  
[6] 37:13 62:2 139:11 139:16  
212:6 218:9  
**Developer**  
[1] 20:21  
**Developers**  
[7] 29:17 38:12 39:4 47:17  
98:1 144:8 224:12  
**Developing**  
[1] 224:7  
**Development**  
[109] 12:24 13:3 15:22 16:25  
20:4 26:1 27:4 27:5 27:14 29:  
19 30:1 36:1 37:3 37:9 38:21  
39:6 39:9 41:11 41:14 42:18  
43:18 43:22 49:22 51:1 53:21  
54:10 54:13 54:19 57:12 58:  
62:9 62:12 62:15 62:16 63:  
70:14 71:2 71:18 73:7 73:7  
74:12 73:13 73:25 74:2 74:9  
74:23 76:9 81:16 84:20 98:25  
103:9 106:7 106:14 106:17

106:18 107:14 108:2 110:19  
113:10 117:15 118:7 118:10  
137:23 138:5 138:9 139:2 142:  
12 146:24 147:8 147:18 151:  
21 152:16 152:24 153:2 153:  
13 155:4 155:5 155:8 156:9  
158:17 159:1 159:12 168:14  
170:1 170:5 172:16 177:7 177:  
13 179:15 181:12 182:13 182:  
15 184:4 184:8 184:20 187:5  
190:2 203:5 203:17 208:1 210:  
12 211:14 212:4 216:22 219:8  
221:6 223:18 224:14 232:20  
**Developments**  
[5] 12:8 29:15 81:6 138:12  
138:17  
**Devoted**  
[1] 79:20  
**Dialogue**  
[1] 30:5  
**Difference**  
[5] 233:21 234:6 234:18 236:  
3 237:25  
**Differences**  
[1] 168:13  
**Different**  
[9] 70:8 86:8 89:9 119:21  
129:2 161:2 161:17 213:18  
235:12  
**Differential**  
[1] 219:10  
**Differently**  
[1] 70:4  
**Difficult**  
[13] 8:19 55:2 55:16 82:16  
83:2 83:7 84:9 138:21 141:2  
192:16 212:13 212:21 231:8  
**Difficulty**  
[3] 47:11 90:10 231:17  
**Digestion**  
[1] 90:10  
**DiGIACOMO**  
[1] 1:13  
**Digital**  
[1] 104:16  
**Diligence**  
[1] 12:15  
**Diligently**  
[1] 28:5  
**Dime**  
[1] 240:17  
**Diminished**  
[1] 109:15  
**Diners**  
[1] 46:8  
**Dining**  
[2] 82:10 131:19  
**Dinner**  
[2] 92:17 92:18  
**Dinners**  
[1] 91:19  
**Dire**  
[1] 117:21  
**Direct**  
[1] 42:11  
**Direction**  
[2] 78:3 130:19  
**Directions**  
[1] 119:14  
**Directly**  
[11] 15:11 17:3 29:6 51:1 57:  
11 63:9 91:6 91:8 210:22 212:  
15 228:15  
**Director**  
[9] 25:23 34:24 41:13 68:8  
71:10 90:3 145:1 154:8 179:15  
**Directors**  
[1] 27:21  
**DiRona**

[1] 82:11  
**Dirt**  
[1] 129:6  
**Disabilities**  
[19] 44:2 44:15 44:20 44:23  
45:5 45:10 45:17 45:21 45:23  
45:25 46:8 46:11 46:14 46:25  
48:5 48:10 48:22 48:25 49:16  
**Disability**  
[5] 44:3 49:14 50:5 50:5 55:  
14  
**Disability-related**  
[1] 44:3  
**Disadvantaged**  
[3] 21:16 24:18 96:4  
**Disallow**  
[1] 191:18  
**Disaster**  
[1] 121:14  
**Disavowed**  
[1] 52:12  
**Discarded**  
[1] 92:12  
**Disclosure**  
[1] 184:18  
**Discounted**  
[1] 210:23  
**Discretionary**  
[4] 46:1 53:18 53:19 54:3  
**Discrimination**  
[1] 45:2  
**Discuss**  
[3] 29:25 48:8 232:1  
**Discussed**  
[2] 151:7 202:1  
**Discussion**  
[1] 218:5  
**Discussions**  
[2] 30:23 110:17  
**Disease**  
[4] 90:8 91:23 93:18 93:20  
**Disenfranchised**  
[1] 143:3  
**Dislocation**  
[1] 142:24  
**Disney**  
[1] 49:18  
**Disparity**  
[1] 214:20  
**Displaced**  
[1] 106:25  
**Display**  
[2] 29:13 148:3  
**Disposable**  
[2] 78:13 85:18  
**Disregard**  
[1] 212:15  
**Disruptive**  
[1] 9:1  
**Distance**  
[1] 118:5  
**Distinctive**  
[1] 147:8  
**Distressed**  
[1] 211:17  
**Distributed**  
[1] 72:11  
**Distribution**  
[1] 217:7  
**District**  
[79] 13:13 23:5 39:3 62:2 62:  
6 63:5 67:1 86:24 93:16 102:  
19 102:21 106:15 106:16 106:  
18 106:20 106:23 107:4 107:8  
107:12 107:24 108:19 108:22  
109:5 109:19 110:2 110:12  
110:16 111:20 112:1 112:6  
112:8 112:9 112:15 112:18

113:6 113:9 113:11 113:12  
117:19 123:21 124:4 124:22  
125:2 125:3 125:14 125:24  
126:10 126:19 127:2 128:16  
138:14 144:13 146:16 151:24  
152:16 152:24 153:6 153:12  
153:19 158:24 166:10 168:21  
169:18 169:20 170:17 170:24  
177:10 178:10 186:7 200:5  
202:25 221:20 223:18 224:8  
224:10 224:19 227:1 227:8  
228:11  
**District's**  
[2] 109:10 127:5  
**Districts**  
[6] 26:13 26:15 27:13 28:19  
39:12 100:16  
**Disturb**  
[1] 5:8  
**Diverse**  
[3] 24:3 68:15 70:7  
**Diversion**  
[1] 181:15  
**Diversity**  
[6] 160:17 160:20 160:22 161:  
12 232:4 237:12  
**Divided**  
[1] 84:10  
**Docking**  
[1] 38:25  
**Docks**  
[2] 185:24 195:24  
**Documentation**  
[1] 108:4  
**Dollar**  
[4] 23:8 55:23 237:4 237:6  
**Dollars**  
[13] 14:13 52:20 53:11 58:7  
64:6 91:8 93:15 93:19 99:8  
110:11 169:9 177:13 183:18  
**Domain**  
[1] 41:1  
**Don**  
[7] 4:9 30:3 81:2 82:12 83:4  
85:13 231:20  
**Donated**  
[1] 32:23  
**Done**  
[14] 15:4 47:8 57:18 80:5 84:  
18 85:1 89:10 115:19 154:19  
189:12 216:9 231:23 232:19  
232:23  
**Donors**  
[1] 95:16  
**Doomed**  
[1] 158:9  
**Door**  
[4] 41:5 85:5 85:6 194:10  
**Doors**  
[3] 46:7 53:6 95:16  
**Dope**  
[1] 194:3  
**Dorothy**  
[3] 3:25 197:13 197:15  
**Double**  
[3] 85:25 101:3 128:20  
**Doubt**  
[3] 12:14 140:25 199:10  
**Dow**  
[1] 22:17  
**Down**  
[10] 82:20 105:18 105:20 106:  
1 138:19 167:7 167:9 191:20  
193:9 193:12  
**Downfall**  
[1] 93:1  
**Downloaded**  
[1] 5:17  
**Downs**

[2] 175:9 195:14  
**Downtown**  
 [39] 13:6 13:9 36:17 37:7 37:25 38:4 39:3 50:20 62:17 62:19 75:23 82:8 82:16 83:11 84:21 117:20 117:24 127:17 128:138:13 138:25 151:13 151:160:9 162:23 169:17 170:171:2 173:12 179:13 193:25 200:12 201:15 201:20 221:21 221:24 224:18 228:11 241:18  
**Dozen**  
 [1] 78:21  
**Dozens**  
 [1] 146:21  
**Dr**  
 [1] 71:10  
**Draft**  
 [1] 102:6  
**Drafted**  
 [3] 101:18 101:24 194:17  
**Drafting**  
 [2] 101:19 103:4  
**Drag**  
 [1] 194:2  
**Drain**  
 [1] 71:23  
**Dramatic**  
 [1] 184:25  
**Dramatically**  
 [4] 13:7 13:12 79:24 82:20  
**Draw**  
 [5] 53:5 62:9 65:11 65:13 67:1  
**Drawing**  
 [2] 146:12 169:4  
**Dreamed**  
 [1] 114:24  
**Dreams**  
 [1] 35:9  
**Drinks**  
 [1] 80:16  
**Drive**  
 [1] 131:24  
**Drive-in**  
 [1] 131:24  
**Driven**  
 [6] 41:16 47:21 69:6 107:11 148:15 233:5  
**Driving**  
 [2] 83:1 182:17  
**Drops**  
 [1] 136:23  
**Drought**  
 [1] 92:14  
**Due**  
 [6] 12:14 61:6 63:17 97:19 114:22 218:20  
**Dues**  
 [1] 145:25  
**Dues-paying**  
 [1] 145:25  
**Duly**  
 [1] 183:7  
**Duquesne**  
 [7] 16:2 16:14 16:16 18:16 41:18 115:2 164:24  
**During**  
 [15] 29:12 43:9 53:4 61:6 65:20 70:12 79:6 92:15 95:18 138:8 148:2 150:11 205:13 225:3 227:17  
**Duty**  
 [1] 228:15  
**Dynamics**  
 [1] 68:15

[1] 98:19  
**E**  
**E-mail**  
 [1] 71:13  
**Early**  
 [6] 84:25 115:22 116:10 133:1 140:2 208:2  
**Earned**  
 [1] 146:7  
**Easements**  
 [1] 147:5  
**Easily**  
 [1] 137:19  
**East**  
 [7] 17:20 43:3 119:17 163:5 165:16 165:18 173:13  
**Eastern**  
 [1] 101:9  
**Easy**  
 [4] 21:23 137:4 141:19 206:25  
**Eat**  
 [3] 46:11 80:12 179:22  
**Eating**  
 [1] 162:24  
**Eclipse**  
 [1] 181:6  
**Economic**  
 [38] 12:24 14:6 24:9 27:4 41:4 51:24 53:7 53:8 53:20 54:10 54:11 58:19 61:11 67:7 70:14 71:18 73:7 73:11 73:25 81:16 88:14 90:14 90:22 93:1 108:2 117:15 141:3 147:11 147:18 155:4 155:8 168:14 177:6 177:13 182:13 182:15 207:24 208:1  
**Economically**  
 [1] 200:15  
**Economists**  
 [1] 217:12  
**Economy**  
 [9] 63:13 63:17 63:25 72:4 79:3 87:20 87:22 141:19 196:22  
**Edge**  
 [1] 40:9  
**Editor**  
 [1] 175:3  
**Editors**  
 [1] 174:17  
**Educate**  
 [1] 70:2  
**Educates**  
 [1] 69:7  
**Education**  
 [10] 20:11 21:12 45:6 70:17 72:6 73:5 105:3 108:8 134:14 204:16  
**Educational**  
 [8] 24:12 70:11 70:24 76:1 108:10 144:18 145:17 165:2  
**Educationally**  
 [1] 104:23  
**Edward**  
 [10] 2:15 2:19 2:23 86:23 87:2 94:6 99:12 99:17 118:19 118:20  
**Effect**  
 [7] 37:1 54:15 72:16 77:15 170:1 199:2 212:5  
**Effective**  
 [2] 74:7 155:18  
**Effectively**  
 [2] 146:7 158:8  
**Effectively-managed**  
 [1] 146:7  
**Effects**  
 [2] 54:1 78:24

**Effort**  
 [4] 38:7 40:17 70:1 238:12  
**Efforts**  
 [10] 13:4 34:13 70:11 73:5 95:15 128:12 147:4 170:8 203:18 207:19  
**Egress**  
 [3] 119:4 119:13 163:5  
**Eight**  
 [2] 162:15 214:11  
**Eighth**  
 [1] 101:1  
**Eighties**  
 [1] 55:24  
**Either**  
 [8] 13:19 18:23 50:25 58:3 97:1 130:6 141:20 218:24  
**Elaine**  
 [3] 4:2 201:1 201:3  
**Elderly**  
 [1] 55:13  
**Elected**  
 [9] 7:20 51:6 143:11 176:21 184:22 188:21 190:24 191:25 221:13  
**Election**  
 [1] 150:11  
**Electronic**  
 [2] 10:2 104:6  
**Elements**  
 [1] 143:15  
**Eleventh**  
 [1] 101:1  
**Eligibility**  
 [1] 53:15  
**Ellison**  
 [4] 4:3 202:14 202:15 202:16  
**Elm**  
 [1] 27:12  
**Eloquently**  
 [1] 227:21  
**Elsewhere**  
 [1] 181:13  
**Embrace**  
 [1] 109:20  
**Emergency**  
 [5] 55:15 120:1 125:20 126:17 127:8  
**Emotional**  
 [1] 134:10  
**Emotionally**  
 [3] 96:6 200:16 213:13  
**Emphasizing**  
 [1] 207:19  
**Emphatically**  
 [1] 65:1  
**Employ**  
 [1] 21:20  
**Employed**  
 [3] 16:13 21:21 115:2  
**Employee**  
 [3] 131:10 140:12 203:10  
**Employees**  
 [18] 21:20 23:24 24:3 33:7 80:23 80:25 81:25 81:25 110:24 140:13 141:18 141:23 145:23 172:9 181:5 203:9 206:5 210:25  
**Employer**  
 [1] 207:24  
**Employers**  
 [1] 88:9  
**Employment**  
 [13] 21:17 21:18 26:16 45:5 73:19 144:19 156:1 160:24 162:4 199:19 207:22 208:8 208:19  
**Emptying**

[1] 82:17  
**Enable**  
 [3] 49:23 145:14 147:22  
**Enabling**  
 [2] 23:13 180:11  
**Enacted**  
 [1] 107:6  
**Encourage**  
 [3] 13:9 182:3 206:10  
**Encourages**  
 [1] 206:12  
**End**  
 [8] 7:25 17:18 22:7 47:20 91:22 114:5 164:9 226:22  
**Endeavor**  
 [2] 123:8 231:15  
**Endeavors**  
 [1] 26:17  
**Ending**  
 [2] 33:18 170:22  
**Endorse**  
 [1] 83:21  
**Endorsed**  
 [1] 57:17  
**Endorsement**  
 [3] 67:16 72:15 109:4  
**Endorsing**  
 [2] 83:22 112:7  
**Endowment**  
 [3] 145:13 146:8 146:14  
**Enforce**  
 [1] 39:20  
**Enforced**  
 [1] 8:6  
**Enforcement**  
 [2] 206:17 207:8  
**Engaged**  
 [3] 26:20 30:5 98:2  
**Engagement**  
 [1] 108:9  
**Engaging**  
 [2] 52:21 68:15  
**Engine**  
 [1] 147:10  
**Engineer's**  
 [1] 119:6  
**Engines**  
 [1] 117:16  
**Enhance**  
 [4] 35:22 111:19 132:18 193:2  
**Enhanced**  
 [2] 121:17 143:25  
**Enhancements**  
 [1] 144:11  
**Enjoy**  
 [7] 23:2 49:17 49:24 60:23 65:20 65:21 168:17  
**Enjoyed**  
 [1] 28:20  
**Enjoying**  
 [1] 92:13  
**Enjoyment**  
 [1] 65:19  
**Enormous**  
 [3] 23:20 95:17 237:16  
**Ensure**  
 [12] 21:15 40:19 48:3 58:17 60:13 67:5 88:19 107:7 108:8 111:7 111:22 121:3  
**Ensured**  
 [1] 120:11  
**Ensuring**  
 [6] 27:21 90:20 110:22 142:14 200:20 238:23  
**Enter**  
 [3] 17:18 31:25 32:2  
**Entering**

[2] 44:15 68:1  
**Enterprise**  
 [1] 44:8  
**Enterprises**  
 [4] 20:23 163:23 170:6 231:1  
**Enters**  
 [2] 28:2  
**Entertain**  
 [1] 86:13  
**Entertainment**  
 [25] 17:23 18:12 32:14 45:7  
 50:1 60:11 62:6 65:19 66:25  
 74:19 76:14 81:8 99:2 122:23  
 131:19 135:1 135:9 135:24  
 162:25 172:6 172:7 179:21  
 195:18 203:22 221:22  
**Entire**  
 [16] 26:7 49:22 50:19 123:10  
 130:1 136:5 145:10 146:15  
 147:19 157:7 160:18 174:1  
 198:25 215:4 217:10 227:12  
**Entirely**  
 [2] 21:9 85:9  
**Entities**  
 [1] 148:18  
**Entitled**  
 [1] 205:6  
**Entity**  
 [4] 9:20 76:20 183:9 211:18  
**Entrepreneurial**  
 [1] 142:11  
**Entrepreneurs**  
 [1] 69:1  
**Entry**  
 [1] 111:1  
**Enviably**  
 [1] 133:9  
**Environment**  
 [7] 35:23 82:15 82:16 83:2  
 83:7 141:3 146:25  
**Environmental**  
 [4] 40:12 144:18 204:8  
**Envisioned**  
 [1] 85:6  
**Envy**  
 [3] 133:6 184:24 192:15  
**Equal**  
 [3] 110:21 208:19 237:15  
**Equality**  
 [1] 166:13  
**Equally**  
 [2] 146:13 180:13  
**Equates**  
 [1] 95:21  
**Equation**  
 [2] 74:24 227:17  
**Equipment**  
 [1] 194:22  
**Equity**  
 [1] 161:15  
**ERA**  
 [1] 106:24  
**Erie**  
 [1] 100:17  
**Erin**  
 [4] 2:13 68:4 68:7 154:8  
**Escrow**  
 [1] 129:18  
**Especially**  
 [1] 78:15  
**Esq**  
 [1] 3:13  
**Essential**  
 [2] 7:10 60:19  
**Essentially**  
 [1] 189:3  
**Establish**  
 [1] 24:16

**Established**  
 [2] 35:1 111:7  
**Establishment**  
 [5] 12:1 12:21 12:25 53:6  
 111:18  
**Establishments**  
 [2] 118:24 169:13  
**Estate**  
 [11] 13:2 20:13 20:14 42:19  
 98:3 128:4 128:6 168:4 170:7  
 181:12 195:21  
**Esteem**  
 [1] 134:9  
**Esteemed**  
 [2] 65:4 151:2  
**Estimate**  
 [2] 95:20 198:17  
**Estimated**  
 [3] 46:8 63:16 218:15  
**Estimates**  
 [3] 175:15 175:17 218:8  
**Et**  
 [3] 69:3 156:9 214:1  
**Ethan**  
 [3] 2:9 41:10 41:12  
**Ethics**  
 [1] 105:16  
**Eustace**  
 [3] 3:13 160:1 160:4  
**Evacuation**  
 [2] 55:10 120:1  
**Evaluate**  
 [3] 40:13 70:2 228:21  
**Evaluated**  
 [1] 162:8  
**Evaluating**  
 [1] 96:8  
**Evaluation**  
 [3] 15:19 72:7 229:9  
**Evaluations**  
 [1] 120:12  
**Event**  
 [9] 29:6 29:12 30:10 30:17  
 31:12 83:11 185:13 232:15  
 233:5  
**Event-driven**  
 [1] 233:5  
**Events**  
 [13] 14:8 45:8 49:10 49:18  
 53:4 60:23 61:8 76:15 91:19  
 122:20 122:22 139:8 146:5  
**Eventual**  
 [1] 230:7  
**Eventually**  
 [1] 139:12  
**Everywhere**  
 [1] 81:24  
**Evidence**  
 [5] 22:10 65:7 156:17 229:18  
 243:2  
**Evidenced**  
 [1] 66:8  
**Evident**  
 [1] 38:18  
**Evidentiary**  
 [2] 5:12 5:20  
**Evil**  
 [1] 151:4  
**Evolved**  
 [1] 131:18  
**Ex-officio**  
 [1] 6:25  
**Exact**  
 [2] 64:15 218:11  
**Exaggerated**  
 [2] 170:21 199:20  
**Examine**

[4] 15:16 77:15 170:9 192:3  
**Examines**  
 [1] 111:13  
**Examining**  
 [1] 76:22  
**Example**  
 [7] 28:18 40:12 52:5 64:8  
 183:9 189:25 210:20  
**Exceeds**  
 [1] 46:14  
**Excellent**  
 [3] 33:7 219:3 229:13  
**Except**  
 [1] 55:21  
**Exception**  
 [2] 37:18 39:7  
**Excerpts**  
 [1] 175:3  
**Excess**  
 [1] 32:23  
**Exclusion**  
 [1] 206:11  
**Excuse**  
 [3] 122:6 124:11 140:23  
**Executive**  
 [15] 25:23 34:24 41:13 57:10  
 57:16 66:11 68:8 90:3 111:2  
 145:1 154:7 190:1 190:5 190:  
 10 227:10  
**Executives**  
 [1] 189:22  
**Exercise**  
 [1] 213:4  
**Exert**  
 [1] 98:6  
**Exhibit**  
 [8] 31:25 32:3 68:1 122:8  
 122:9 148:5 148:6 195:7  
**Exhibition**  
 [1] 224:1  
**Exico**  
 [2] 160:7 160:16  
**Exist**  
 [1] 44:13  
**Existence**  
 [1] 138:6  
**Existing**  
 [7] 56:25 98:12 126:11 128:  
 15 128:19 177:8 224:4  
**Exits**  
 [1] 123:2  
**Expand**  
 [1] 193:2  
**Expanded**  
 [2] 13:12 132:4  
**Expanding**  
 [1] 52:2  
**Expansion**  
 [3] 17:10 132:18 163:1  
**Expect**  
 [3] 8:21 42:5 110:10  
**Expectations**  
 [1] 110:2  
**Expected**  
 [2] 10:10 186:3  
**Expects**  
 [1] 8:8  
**Expense**  
 [6] 19:1 189:11 189:24 190:  
 16 192:7 212:1  
**Expensive**  
 [2] 103:7 240:14  
**Experience**  
 [9] 29:13 46:22 124:23 127:7  
 160:11 168:3 179:12 210:11  
 223:21  
**Experienced**  
 [2] 20:21 55:8

**Expert**  
 [3] 157:12 187:19 214:25  
**Expertise**  
 [1] 205:24  
**Expired**  
 [1] 153:22  
**Exploding**  
 [1] 169:12  
**Explored**  
 [1] 28:5  
**Explosion**  
 [1] 61:3  
**Express**  
 [2] 7:22 32:13  
**Expressed**  
 [3] 30:19 42:22 227:9  
**Expression**  
 [1] 8:15  
**Expressions**  
 [1] 227:3  
**Extend**  
 [2] 28:14 31:18  
**Extending**  
 [1] 39:3  
**Extends**  
 [1] 90:25  
**Extension**  
 [2] 173:4 173:5  
**Extensive**  
 [1] 107:6  
**Extent**  
 [3] 79:23 109:1 233:4  
**Extraordinary**  
 [1] 55:16  
**Extreme**  
 [2] 101:16 189:18

## F

**Fabric**  
 [3] 40:2 44:21 99:5  
**Face**  
 [4] 93:17 121:19 135:4 185:3  
**Face-lift**  
 [1] 123:23  
**Faced**  
 [4] 106:19 106:22 107:1 187:  
 15  
**Faces**  
 [1] 86:2  
**Facilitate**  
 [2] 173:5 203:18  
**Facilitates**  
 [1] 147:7  
**Facilities**  
 [10] 13:8 14:10 47:7 47:18  
 48:3 126:17 127:5 164:4 186:  
 11 196:21  
**Facility**  
 [22] 7:8 15:10 54:13 55:8 61:  
 16 83:16 83:18 85:24 98:11  
 99:4 114:25 143:22 143:24  
 168:16 177:15 177:17 177:24  
 178:9 185:16 186:3 224:21  
 234:12  
**Facing**  
 [4] 68:13 69:8 69:25 72:6  
**Fact**  
 [10] 29:2 37:18 63:3 66:14  
 87:15 102:25 158:6 158:19  
 197:19 237:23  
**Factor**  
 [1] 96:11  
**Factors**  
 [3] 98:23 218:23 219:7  
**Failure**  
 [2] 158:9 172:15  
**Fair**

[4] 28:15 120:12 218:3 230:7  
**Fairest**  
[1] 227:4  
**Fairly**  
[1] 30:18  
**Fairness**  
158:23 206:22  
**th-based**  
[1] 107:14  
**Falk**  
[4] 3:25 197:13 197:14 197:15  
**Fall**  
[2] 182:25 228:24  
**Falls**  
[2] 70:15 80:7  
**False**  
[1] 207:17  
**Familiar**  
[1] 132:24  
**Families**  
[5] 48:11 96:5 142:21 144:15 203:9  
**Family**  
[9] 33:23 45:11 49:15 65:21 127:20 152:8 164:1 201:4 241:4  
**Fan**  
[3] 78:10 92:9 178:17  
**Fanfare**  
[1] 165:6  
**Fans**  
[4] 39:2 90:21 141:17 142:2  
**Fantastic**  
[1] 180:20  
**Far**  
[8] 15:4 23:7 64:3 96:1 126:15 135:5 162:21 216:19  
**Fares**  
[1] 115:5  
**Farther-reaching**  
182:23  
**test**  
[3] 45:2 45:17 87:22  
**Fatal**  
[1] 119:25  
**Fate**  
[1] 63:9  
**Father**  
[3] 65:25 128:3 167:8  
**Fatla**  
[5] 2:6 25:18 25:20 25:21 31:23  
**Fault**  
[1] 85:10  
**Favor**  
[5] 18:17 115:11 174:18 174:20 238:20  
**Favorable**  
[1] 187:22  
**Favorably**  
[1] 28:16  
**Fear**  
[1] 49:12  
**Feasibility**  
[1] 147:5  
**February**  
[3] 101:6 108:10 200:13  
**Federal**  
[3] 47:23 191:24 204:8  
**Fee**  
[8] 52:7 52:15 52:21 58:9 87:22 192:21 194:18 194:19  
**Feed**  
[1] 96:4  
**edback**  
219:25  
**Fees**

[1] 191:4  
**Feet**  
[2] 17:4 17:16  
**Fellow**  
[2] 33:24 213:23  
**Felt**  
[9] 20:25 73:23 74:2 74:24 86:5 120:4 155:13 156:2 197:25  
**Ferries**  
[1] 135:10  
**Few**  
[16] 5:6 34:8 61:2 71:22 78:20 84:3 103:12 128:23 134:15 137:16 148:24 154:13 163:19 179:7 179:19 225:14  
**Fibrosis**  
[6] 89:22 90:4 90:6 90:7 90:24 91:4  
**Field**  
[8] 82:2 135:12 137:17 168:3 170:12 193:13 202:17 202:21  
**Fifth**  
[7] 13:5 128:12 145:3 168:23 191:22 224:3 225:25  
**Fighting**  
[1] 91:21  
**Fights**  
[1] 193:18  
**Figures**  
[6] 121:17 235:2 235:3 235:25 240:8 240:12  
**Figuring**  
[2] 35:15 149:9  
**Filed**  
[1] 47:24  
**Filing**  
[1] 185:14  
**Fills**  
[1] 83:11  
**Final**  
[5] 121:10 209:8 230:15 241:2 242:15  
**Finalizing**  
[1] 129:21  
**Finally**  
[6] 10:18 24:7 31:16 74:20 132:20 230:8  
**Finals**  
[2] 103:18 103:24  
**Finance**  
[3] 51:1 168:4 235:1  
**Financed**  
[1] 20:21  
**Finances**  
[2] 180:6 223:7  
**Financial**  
[20] 12:16 12:17 22:9 51:18 53:9 82:23 96:10 96:14 96:18 160:8 160:12 168:7 188:22 191:1 191:12 211:6 216:7 222:21 222:25 234:25  
**Financially**  
[3] 96:6 201:10 223:4  
**Financially-capable**  
[1] 223:4  
**Financing**  
[3] 160:14 181:10 223:8  
**Fine**  
[3] 15:25 82:10 206:25  
**Fines**  
[1] 203:24  
**Fire**  
[3] 124:21 125:11 125:21  
**Firefighter**  
[1] 124:18  
**Fireworks**  
[2] 29:13 151:14

**Firm**  
[8] 127:17 133:15 160:6 160:8 160:16 166:11 216:5 216:6  
**Firmly**  
[1] 127:8  
**Firms**  
[1] 132:21  
**First**  
[39] 9:8 11:11 20:5 22:9 22:10 36:6 48:1 51:3 51:14 58:14 66:4 79:5 93:14 114:14 122:15 128:3 131:25 132:15 132:23 133:1 139:24 142:17 155:7 161:8 163:9 165:15 166:5 168:15 176:13 186:7 213:6 214:10 216:3 221:15 225:8 234:9 235:4 237:23 237:24  
**First-class**  
[1] 132:15  
**First/Isle**  
[4] 154:24 155:16 155:25 156:13  
**Fiscal**  
[1] 7:2  
**Fit**  
[2] 12:8 93:11  
**Fitness**  
[2] 51:18 53:10  
**Five**  
[8] 17:21 20:6 27:10 27:12 32:20 81:2 203:2 204:14  
**Five-minute**  
[1] 17:21  
**Fix**  
[1] 201:25  
**Fixed**  
[4] 45:11 201:23 201:24 201:24  
**Flag**  
[1] 6:5  
**Flaw**  
[1] 119:25  
**Fleet**  
[1] 132:8  
**Flew**  
[1] 33:21  
**Flight**  
[1] 168:20  
**Flourish**  
[2] 63:22 66:24  
**Flow**  
[3] 23:20 137:1 137:13  
**Flows**  
[1] 191:7  
**Flyers**  
[3] 101:11 101:13 102:20  
**Focus**  
[7] 14:24 32:16 42:23 70:13 160:18 211:3 212:16  
**Focused**  
[3] 11:25 71:17 75:22  
**Focuses**  
[2] 73:5 155:3  
**Folks**  
[3] 79:4 132:3 150:8  
**Follow**  
[3] 9:11 74:3 79:9  
**Followed**  
[2] 210:20 213:7  
**Following**  
[9] 6:21 17:6 71:9 73:4 108:11 108:14 119:1 205:18 225:5  
**Fond**  
[1] 65:24  
**Food**  
[7] 32:24 78:11 79:1 79:20 79:21 80:13 81:7  
**Foolish**

[1] 172:17  
**Foot**  
[2] 42:14 144:10  
**Footage**  
[3] 79:16 79:19 80:19  
**Football**  
[7] 118:3 136:8 164:3 170:12 233:8 233:9 234:4  
**FOP**  
[1] 192:24  
**Forbes**  
[2] 13:6 128:12  
**Force**  
[16] 34:22 34:25 36:7 38:8 39:19 87:5 107:12 107:13 108:17 112:2 113:12 205:5 205:12 206:21 207:25 220:6  
**Forced**  
[1] 239:13  
**Forces**  
[1] 241:8  
**Forecast**  
[4] 25:7 215:10 217:10 222:19  
**Forecasted**  
[1] 215:3  
**Forecasting**  
[2] 214:23 217:2  
**Forecasts**  
[4] 217:25 218:1 218:10 218:19  
**Foreign**  
[2] 172:13 189:14  
**Foremost**  
[2] 163:10 182:20  
**Foremostly**  
[1] 142:17  
**Foresee**  
[1] 69:22  
**Foresight**  
[2] 121:11 159:13  
**Forest**  
[46] 18:22 19:6 20:23 21:3 22:10 23:7 24:15 41:25 42:5 51:9 51:15 62:21 62:23 63:2 63:3 115:11 115:12 116:5 119:19 131:9 131:12 132:3 133:12 145:6 147:15 148:23 152:2 152:2 153:13 163:22 163:25 164:4 164:5 167:3 170:5 174:24 175:11 178:10 178:20 195:18 195:20 198:13 230:25 236:19 236:25 241:3  
**Forever**  
[1] 64:7  
**Forgive**  
[1] 107:16  
**Form**  
[4] 72:7 102:17 115:15 177:14  
**Formal**  
[1] 109:4  
**Formally**  
[1] 100:6  
**Formation**  
[1] 58:13  
**Formed**  
[3] 108:3 115:21 153:10  
**Former**  
[1] 44:25  
**Formerly**  
[4] 20:12 102:18 102:20 119:5  
**Forming**  
[1] 112:11  
**Formula**  
[1] 217:7  
**Fort**  
[1] 17:14  
**Forth**  
[3] 95:7 118:9 200:1

**Fortunate**  
[3] 88:21 91:16 102:5

**Fortunately**  
[1] 35:3

**Fortune**  
[1] 189:7

**um**  
42:1 70:24 71:6 71:9 108:  
10 108:11 112:22 154:13 188:5

**Forums**  
[1] 108:14

**Forward**  
[17] 12:3 14:3 15:14 31:13  
33:17 39:17 40:18 42:2 42:7  
84:13 84:17 104:17 178:16  
201:8 214:5 219:16 238:22

**Fought**  
[1] 166:11

**Foundation**  
[15] 18:10 18:16 19:22 19:25  
28:21 89:23 90:4 90:25 91:21  
93:14 134:18 134:23 145:2  
145:8 232:16

**Foundation's**  
[1] 165:14

**Foundations**  
[1] 38:14

**Founder**  
[2] 157:18 182:12

**Founding**  
[1] 146:6

**Four**  
[12] 37:4 57:2 64:11 94:3  
119:17 134:20 143:23 152:8  
155:2 165:11 186:21 204:2

**Four-inch**  
[1] 67:23

**Four-lane**  
[1] 119:17

**Four-year**  
134:20 165:11

**irth**  
191:18

**Frame**  
[1] 226:17

**Frames**  
[1] 183:22

**Franchise**  
[2] 100:7 100:11

**Francisco**  
[2] 233:12 241:12

**Franco**  
[9] 24:20 66:15 165:5 167:1  
167:15 174:3 179:9 193:12  
237:21

**Frank**  
[3] 3:14 162:13 162:14

**Frankly**  
[2] 80:4 181:24

**Fraternal**  
[1] 192:19

**Free**  
[8] 61:19 99:8 115:9 134:6  
149:8 187:10 200:4 240:9

**Freeing**  
[1] 220:23

**Freight**  
[2] 130:11 185:24

**Freshman**  
[1] 100:23

**Friend**  
[1] 59:9

**Friendly**  
[1] 49:15

**riends**  
33:8 48:11 49:15 65:21

**Front**

[12] 10:3 17:15 41:5 58:24  
85:4 85:6 86:19 89:16 107:2  
114:2 154:2 192:17

**Frustrated**  
[1] 130:16

**Frustration**  
[1] 125:17

**Fulfill**  
[1] 23:13

**Full**  
[11] 10:16 12:12 23:25 44:19  
49:23 130:11 132:15 145:23  
184:18 205:16 229:4

**Full-scale**  
[1] 205:16

**Full-service**  
[1] 132:15

**Full-time**  
[3] 53:24 140:13 208:8

**Fully**  
[6] 27:11 44:15 47:22 48:4  
140:18 243:2

**Fully-funded**  
[1] 27:11

**Functioned**  
[1] 160:17

**Fund**  
[16] 20:9 24:16 27:4 49:3 53:  
13 57:12 57:24 58:4 111:18  
129:15 141:10 144:14 144:18  
221:3 221:6 221:10

**Fundamental**  
[2] 57:6 225:6

**Fundamentals**  
[1] 210:16

**Funded**  
[5] 27:11 66:13 144:11 216:  
21 223:23

**Funding**  
[20] 15:7 15:11 15:13 49:6  
51:10 51:12 54:19 58:21 61:  
15 74:22 98:15 99:8 111:6  
111:10 115:7 156:8 181:21  
205:23 208:5 220:17

**Funds**  
[11] 15:7 21:10 76:8 110:13  
111:12 146:8 146:8 159:11  
193:2 220:23 220:24

**Furnace**  
[1] 179:13

**Furnished**  
[1] 5:24

**Future**  
[22] 7:12 10:13 14:13 21:3  
36:4 40:15 60:14 66:9 67:5  
69:23 70:19 77:5 84:5 90:21  
105:2 105:19 106:2 136:10  
144:3 187:4 191:7 241:24

## G

**Gail**  
[3] 2:17 94:5 94:22

**Gain**  
[1] 208:7

**Gamblers**  
[1] 206:13

**Gambling**  
[13] 16:19 16:21 16:21 111:  
10 142:22 144:16 166:15 188:  
19 188:23 190:9 191:14 191:  
17 194:1

**Game**  
[11] 61:4 61:5 64:9 65:21 83:  
10 103:25 179:20 193:18 193:  
19 233:8 233:9

**Games**  
[10] 49:17 66:4 66:4 101:22  
102:1 103:19 104:12 104:13  
104:15 193:16

**Gaming**

[167] 1:2 5:3 6:10 6:12 6:16  
6:18 7:14 7:16 7:17 11:21 11:  
24 12:7 12:12 12:22 15:9 15:  
12 20:25 21:6 21:20 22:15 23:  
19 29:7 30:16 39:19 41:23 42:  
22 42:23 44:18 45:15 50:24  
51:21 51:22 52:2 54:15 57:12  
57:20 58:6 61:16 67:9 69:21  
70:15 70:21 70:25 71:1 71:15  
72:4 72:9 72:14 72:15 73:2  
73:6 73:13 73:17 73:21 75:9  
75:15 76:1 76:25 77:15 78:10  
78:10 78:13 78:14 80:14 85:  
17 85:22 87:4 87:11 87:12 87:  
17 88:8 88:9 88:14 88:17 88:  
22 89:9 89:17 93:2 96:11 98:  
11 98:17 105:13 107:1 107:7  
107:9 107:12 107:23 108:12  
108:18 108:25 109:4 110:5  
110:9 110:15 110:23 111:4  
111:9 111:14 112:1 113:12  
116:4 118:14 124:25 127:3  
132:16 134:25 137:12 139:14  
140:22 141:9 143:22 148:10  
148:19 150:2 152:12 152:13  
153:14 154:13 154:21 155:4  
155:12 156:21 160:3 168:8  
175:5 178:8 180:5 180:12 180:  
24 181:15 182:5 182:17 183:7  
185:13 191:1 191:3 195:19  
196:8 198:3 199:13 200:19  
205:5 205:11 205:25 206:20  
207:20 207:21 213:19 216:6  
216:7 216:15 217:25 218:10  
220:6 220:19 222:14 231:3  
231:3 231:4 232:9 232:15 235:  
13 235:14 235:19 239:6 240:4  
242:14

**Gaming-related**  
[1] 191:1

**Gaming/Majestic**  
[3] 155:22 156:3 156:14

**Gaps**  
[1] 85:21

**Garden**  
[2] 55:22 130:4

**Garner**  
[1] 85:8

**Garnered**  
[1] 73:14

**Gas**  
[1] 83:6

**Gate**  
[1] 194:15

**Gateway**  
[3] 23:4 38:24 132:8

**Gather**  
[1] 59:12

**Gazette**  
[2] 174:17 175:4

**GCC**  
[1] 134:8

**Gear**  
[1] 168:21

**Geared**  
[1] 126:23

**General**  
[10] 9:10 24:19 26:24 41:23  
42:22 44:9 131:4 139:20 174:  
22 220:1

**Generally**  
[1] 132:4

**Generate**  
[13] 56:23 60:11 63:2 67:8  
80:24 149:2 181:5 181:23 198:  
5 199:22 211:10 219:8 220:8

**Generated**  
[5] 20:12 38:7 75:15 198:14  
204:15

**Generates**  
[2] 139:6 220:15

**Generating**

[3] 20:9 180:24 210:24

**Generation**  
[2] 145:3 185:3

**Generations**  
[1] 147:24

**Generator**  
[1] 172:2

**Generosity**  
[3] 95:17 95:24 97:2

**Generous**  
[2] 28:12 38:13

**Genesis**  
[1] 51:19

**Genetic**  
[1] 90:7

**Gentleman**  
[1] 227:21

**Gentlemen**  
[7] 64:10 68:7 106:12 124:15  
148:10 176:3 209:13

**Genuine**  
[1] 33:6

**Genuinely**  
[1] 112:15

**Geographically**  
[1] 56:22

**Geography**  
[1] 41:2

**George**  
[1] 44:25

**Germane**  
[1] 44:22

**Gift**  
[2] 175:20 177:14

**Gifts**  
[1] 97:9

**Give-backs**  
[1] 200:17

**Given**  
[20] 28:18 29:21 61:17 71:3  
80:16 98:19 112:10 167:17  
167:18 193:1 194:19 196:14  
203:15 211:9 218:25 219:3  
219:7 233:25 235:3 240:4

**Glad**  
[1] 205:8

**Glenn**  
[1] 237:22

**Global**  
[1] 78:8

**Goal**  
[1] 59:22

**Goals**  
[3] 161:4 161:23 162:2

**God**  
[4] 11:7 94:18 210:5 215:20

**Golden**  
[2] 43:25 128:10

**Goldstein**  
[1] 231:20

**Goods**  
[1] 180:3

**Gordan**  
[1] 131:2

**Gordon**  
[2] 3:3 130:25

**Governed**  
[1] 27:15

**Government**  
[9] 7:21 123:14 191:24 193:5  
210:13 210:14 210:19 216:11  
238:21

**Governmental**  
[1] 44:4

**Governments**  
[3] 123:8 216:10 216:12

**Governor**

[6] 66:17 118:11 149:15 178:7 194:17 195:3  
**Governor's**  
 [1] 86:7  
**Governors**  
 [1] 86:9  
**Grade**  
 [2] 22:18 100:25 101:1 180:18 235:14  
**Graduate**  
 [3] 69:1 132:23 165:11  
**Graduated**  
 [2] 48:14 164:23  
**Grandparents**  
 [1] 105:10  
**Grandview**  
 [4] 42:16 43:3 162:16 184:16  
**Grant**  
 [3] 34:15 147:4 227:2  
**Granted**  
 [3] 24:17 43:11 146:9  
**Granting**  
 [1] 98:17  
**Graphics**  
 [1] 104:6  
**Grass**  
 [1] 146:17  
**Grass-roots**  
 [1] 146:17  
**Grateful**  
 [1] 33:12  
**Great**  
 [21] 38:1 40:23 82:15 84:19 84:20 84:21 93:23 118:12 124:6 134:23 141:14 141:24 173:8 189:17 213:11 213:12 213:24 214:16 218:24 227:19 241:24  
**Greater**  
 [13] 11:13 11:17 60:7 63:5 63:15 98:8 109:5 110:4 163:163:22 179:16 218:8 219:9  
**Latest**  
 [2] 97:9 196:21  
**Greatly**  
 [3] 98:22 199:20 219:15  
**Green**  
 [4] 10:5 36:25 38:20 204:5  
**Greensburg**  
 [1] 133:24  
**Greenways**  
 [1] 36:23  
**Greetings**  
 [1] 202:15  
**Greg**  
 [2] 71:10 102:20  
**Grew**  
 [2] 127:19 164:25  
**Grime**  
 [1] 129:7  
**Gross**  
 [1] 235:19  
**Grossly**  
 [1] 186:1  
**Ground**  
 [2] 18:6 196:4  
**Group**  
 [27] 11:12 17:1 18:5 18:7 18:22 46:25 51:9 76:15 83:20 84:4 84:5 84:6 94:12 113:24 116:11 145:14 145:22 199:8 205:6 206:21 214:10 215:2 215:7 215:25 222:17 222:18 225:18  
**Groups**  
 [9] 7:20 9:8 27:1 47:24 90:16 94:4 107:14 206:22 225:7  
**Guys**  
 [1] 9:9  
**Grow**

[2] 13:13 26:10  
**Growing**  
 [6] 45:2 45:18 45:24 81:14 87:22 147:12  
**Grown**  
 [2] 22:14 146:7  
**Growth**  
 [7] 101:16 102:4 102:23 117:1 118:7 146:24 169:25  
**Guarantee**  
 [5] 43:8 88:17 128:25 129:9 139:2  
**Guaranteed**  
 [2] 177:6 177:7  
**Guaranteeing**  
 [2] 52:23 97:3  
**Guarantees**  
 [5] 100:7 109:20 200:10 220:17 240:23  
**Guess**  
 [7] 16:7 79:5 92:18 162:19 163:8 215:13 216:8  
**Guess-Who-Is-At-Your-Service**  
 [1] 92:18  
**Guests**  
 [1] 135:1  
**Guidelines**  
 [4] 39:21 39:24 48:6 208:15  
**Guise**  
 [1] 81:24  
**Guy**  
 [2] 148:23 150:6  
**Guys**  
 [3] 81:19 149:6 192:16

**H**

**Half**  
 [7] 23:20 83:14 92:6 92:7 131:20 164:23 237:6  
**Hall**  
 [1] 135:20  
**Hallway**  
 [2] 10:21 153:7  
**Halbed**  
 [1] 191:10  
**Hampered**  
 [1] 13:23  
**Hampshire**  
 [1] 216:12  
**Hand**  
 [4] 11:1 97:22 126:6 209:25  
**Handful**  
 [2] 27:8 174:19  
**Handle**  
 [7] 13:19 119:18 125:19 126:20 137:1 186:2 194:14  
**Handled**  
 [1] 193:20  
**Handout**  
 [3] 146:20 147:1 148:3  
**Hands**  
 [3] 115:9 120:4 163:3  
**Hands-on**  
 [1] 163:3  
**Happy**  
 [2] 86:13 179:5  
**Harbors**  
 [1] 39:1  
**Hard**  
 [8] 7:10 41:4 125:22 152:7 156:17 174:23 202:3 242:11  
**Hard-to-come-by**  
 [1] 190:4  
**Hard-won**  
 [1] 41:4  
**Hardship**  
 [1] 211:6

**Hardworking**  
 [1] 214:2  
**Harm**  
 [2] 61:9 127:9  
**Harrah's**  
 [45] 16:24 17:1 18:5 21:3 21:21 22:14 23:23 23:25 32:14 32:17 32:20 33:6 33:8 33:11 33:13 33:16 34:2 34:10 34:17 51:15 66:14 73:21 88:24 88:25 132:23 163:8 167:3 175:12 175:13 175:18 175:25 180:15 180:16 180:20 181:5 182:2 182:5 195:17 195:18 199:19 233:16 234:15 234:16 235:8 236:18  
**Harrah's/Forest**  
 [9] 24:24 70:25 74:9 89:6 120:20 121:5 155:20 156:2 156:13  
**Harris**  
 [10] 24:20 66:15 152:1 165:5 167:1 167:15 174:3 175:8 193:12 237:21  
**Harris'**  
 [1] 179:9  
**Harry**  
 [3] 2:25 124:11 124:12  
**Harvard**  
 [1] 188:16  
**Hasty**  
 [1] 39:17  
**Hat**  
 [1] 84:3  
**Haul**  
 [1] 140:16  
**Havens**  
 [1] 81:8  
**Hawaii**  
 [2] 233:12 241:8  
**Hawks**  
 [1] 140:8  
**Hazelwood**  
 [1] 124:19  
**Head**  
 [4] 135:16 164:16 202:7 215:1  
**Heading**  
 [1] 119:17  
**Headquarters**  
 [4] 36:21 37:2 57:2 117:6  
**Health**  
 [12] 23:25 26:23 81:24 87:19 96:10 96:15 96:20 96:25 163:16 204:9 204:13 207:18  
**Healthcare**  
 [1] 117:1  
**Healthy**  
 [3] 42:4 146:23 204:6  
**Hear**  
 [7] 8:22 109:22 113:5 151:5 166:7 176:17 225:21  
**Heard**  
 [27] 10:1 22:23 23:18 64:16 78:24 81:1 112:14 127:23 131:14 133:13 151:25 152:1 152:2 152:12 154:7 166:3 178:20 184:21 201:11 221:16 225:2 225:6 225:8 225:13 227:9 227:22 228:8  
**Hearing**  
 [31] 5:4 5:16 5:24 6:11 6:12 6:15 7:1 7:9 7:11 7:24 8:4 8:5 9:1 9:2 9:24 10:13 10:15 10:17 10:20 46:23 71:15 90:11 113:18 113:21 209:4 209:13 224:22 242:15 242:16 242:20 242:21  
**Hearings**  
 [16] 1:4 5:13 5:17 7:12 7:15 7:19 10:13 11:22 68:2 131:15

206:23 231:8 242:6 242:9 242:11 242:17  
**Heart**  
 [12] 41:1 62:13 62:22 135:18 135:20 135:25 136:4 136:9 150:4 151:21 167:18 201:18  
**Heavy**  
 [1] 119:13  
**Height**  
 [1] 53:2  
**Heights**  
 [1] 41:18  
**Heinz**  
 [6] 27:7 135:12 135:20 137:17 157:14 170:12  
**Held**  
 [11] 22:20 25:1 25:5 35:7 108:10 154:13 181:11 191:23 196:12 210:22 212:15  
**Hello**  
 [5] 118:20 133:23 167:25 173:23 188:15  
**Help**  
 [36] 11:6 20:9 32:24 42:18 45:15 59:21 60:10 62:8 62:9 65:11 66:25 67:1 71:25 85:11 94:17 95:19 96:3 104:10 106:1 109:25 111:22 111:22 112:7 115:19 115:20 123:2 144:14 165:8 165:21 196:19 198:23 200:5 200:6 201:10 210:5 215:20  
**Helped**  
 [3] 72:7 93:18 165:14  
**Helping**  
 [5] 24:5 95:22 190:7 190:9 230:3  
**Helps**  
 [3] 201:6 207:14 207:17  
**Hereby**  
 [1] 243:1  
**Herman**  
 [1] 7:5  
**Heroic**  
 [1] 36:8  
**Hidden**  
 [1] 50:5  
**Hierarchy**  
 [1] 207:23  
**High**  
 [13] 40:4 83:6 91:15 103:24 119:8 133:25 165:23 168:21 181:3 191:23 203:20 203:21 218:8  
**High-classed**  
 [1] 203:21  
**High-paying**  
 [1] 181:3  
**High-quality**  
 [1] 40:4  
**Higher**  
 [3] 175:14 175:16 240:19  
**Highest**  
 [10] 23:16 82:25 83:1 120:15 131:22 131:23 133:17 174:14 184:2 189:5  
**Highlighted**  
 [2] 92:11 147:1  
**Highly**  
 [1] 213:13  
**Highway**  
 [4] 119:7 119:17 120:6 120:15  
**Highways**  
 [4] 119:10 137:4 137:20 163:7  
**Hi-jacked**  
 [1] 109:8  
**Hill**  
 [78] 63:5 84:20 93:16 106:7 106:13 106:15 106:16 106:18

106:20 106:23 107:4 107:7  
 107:12 107:24 108:19 108:22  
 109:5 109:10 109:18 110:2  
 110:12 110:15 110:16 111:19  
 112:1 112:6 112:8 112:9 112:  
 15 112:18 113:6 113:9 113:10  
 113:11 117:12 117:19 123:21  
 124:4 124:22 125:2 125:3 125:  
 125:24 126:9 126:19 127:2  
 127:5 127:10 128:16 136:19  
 138:18 138:25 139:13 139:16  
 144:13 146:16 151:23 152:16  
 152:24 153:6 153:12 153:19  
 158:24 159:3 159:5 170:24  
 177:9 178:10 200:4 202:25  
 221:20 223:18 224:7 224:9  
 224:19 225:18 227:8 228:10  
**Hill's**  
 [1] 172:24  
**Hills**  
 [4] 36:9 165:16 171:4 171:4  
**Hills'**  
 [1] 165:18  
**Hillside**  
 [1] 227:1  
**Himself**  
 [3] 167:6 190:5 190:15  
**Hinder**  
 [1] 61:7  
**Hindered**  
 [1] 128:22  
**Hinge**  
 [1] 181:20  
**Hinkle**  
 [2] 4:6 4:8  
**Hinkley**  
 [4] 213:8 213:9 219:1 219:17  
**Hire**  
 [4] 194:21 222:17 234:20 237:  
 12  
**Hired**  
 133:13 208:16  
**ing**  
 208:14 208:15  
**Historic**  
 [22] 11:23 20:7 20:9 21:11  
 22:1 23:6 24:10 24:11 26:14  
 28:19 38:22 75:20 145:15 146:  
 22 147:3 147:7 147:10 147:13  
 147:17 147:22 185:20 185:25  
**Historical**  
 [2] 56:19 90:23  
**Historically-slated**  
 [1] 208:7  
**History**  
 [18] 18:15 19:6 19:22 19:25  
 28:21 29:9 29:17 40:11 51:20  
 58:1 72:12 78:17 145:1 145:7  
 145:19 153:1 232:2 232:4  
**Hit**  
 [2] 176:25 208:2  
**Hits**  
 [1] 183:16  
**Hitting**  
 [2] 177:22 189:8  
**Hockey**  
 [36] 48:15 49:17 55:4 60:23  
 64:19 65:20 66:4 82:7 83:17  
 90:21 99:14 99:19 99:22 99:  
 23 100:3 101:21 102:4 102:12  
 102:14 102:15 102:17 103:6  
 103:14 104:18 104:25 105:1  
 105:5 118:4 118:10 125:25  
 141:17 178:17 196:10 201:6  
 211:16 240:19  
**Hold**  
 [7] 40:14 61:8 69:15 133:8  
 163:13 191:20  
**ding**  
 [2] 11:22 149:25  
**Holds**

[3] 134:8 185:12 189:22  
**Holdup**  
 [1] 196:5  
**Home**  
 [6] 83:10 167:7 169:3 176:25  
 179:8 186:21  
**Homebound**  
 [1] 32:25  
**Homeowners**  
 [2] 198:24 199:3  
**Homes**  
 [4] 23:10 64:23 87:24 125:12  
**Hometown**  
 [1] 147:11  
**Homewood**  
 [1] 164:18  
**Honest**  
 [1] 30:5  
**Honor**  
 [5] 34:16 40:17 41:1 77:13  
 182:3  
**Honorable**  
 [1] 115:14  
**Honored**  
 [1] 38:9  
**Hooker**  
 [1] 194:3  
**Hope**  
 [12] 43:7 77:17 86:1 88:14  
 96:25 121:23 121:25 127:3  
 137:12 197:22 198:11 204:24  
**Hopefully**  
 [4] 80:24 85:19 123:24 214:17  
**Hopes**  
 [3] 35:9 81:16 138:11  
**Hoping**  
 [1] 81:19  
**Horse**  
 [1] 175:6  
**Hospital**  
 [1] 26:24  
**Hospitality**  
 [2] 12:9 87:7  
**Hospitals**  
 [1] 95:3  
**Host**  
 [2] 38:9 53:4  
**Hostage**  
 [2] 150:1 196:13  
**Hosted**  
 [1] 70:24  
**Hotel**  
 [20] 1:6 7:8 17:11 23:11 85:  
 4 128:19 128:20 131:5 131:9  
 131:11 131:21 132:15 133:1  
 133:6 133:15 196:23 203:22  
 234:10 241:18 241:23  
**Hotels**  
 [5] 36:21 128:19 131:10 133:  
 14 174:23  
**Hour**  
 [2] 186:23 186:25  
**Hours**  
 [7] 33:2 108:24 127:11 137:  
 16 186:21 194:11 242:11  
**House**  
 [2] 13:8 185:24  
**Household**  
 [2] 199:5 199:6  
**Households**  
 [2] 199:2 199:4  
**Housekeeping**  
 [1] 5:6  
**Houses**  
 [3] 125:4 125:9 217:6  
**Housing**  
 [13] 13:6 26:12 60:11 62:5  
 84:21 110:18 138:12 183:12

203:5 204:3 204:4 224:15 241:  
 7  
**Huge**  
 [1] 200:17  
**Hugely**  
 [1] 92:13  
**Human**  
 [3] 42:23 135:7 204:9  
**Hump**  
 [1] 84:7  
**Hundred**  
 [1] 78:18  
**Hundreds**  
 [3] 13:7 169:12 187:5  
**Hunger**  
 [2] 32:16 33:19  
**Hungry**  
 [1] 32:24  
**Hurting**  
 [1] 85:8

## I

**Ice**  
 [10] 49:18 60:24 90:17 102:1  
 102:15 102:17 103:6 104:3  
 106:2 130:1  
**Icons**  
 [1] 132:5  
**ID**  
 [1] 207:17  
**Idea**  
 [4] 17:2 118:12 125:14 126:5  
**Ideal**  
 [2] 195:22 195:25  
**Identification**  
 [1] 110:18  
**Identified**  
 [6] 70:18 72:21 73:10 74:12  
 74:18 206:13  
**Identify**  
 [4] 44:12 205:14 206:12 223:3  
**Identifying**  
 [1] 207:16  
**Ignored**  
 [2] 153:15 211:2  
**II**  
 [3] 6:14 50:24 175:10  
**III**  
 [1] 1:16  
**Ill**  
 [1] 96:4  
**Illustrates**  
 [1] 159:13  
**Illustrative**  
 [1] 159:8  
**Image**  
 [4] 43:5 61:9 129:5 130:17  
**Imagery**  
 [1] 120:7  
**Imagine**  
 [3] 118:1 135:6 137:6  
**Imani**  
 [1] 164:17  
**Immeasurably**  
 [1] 93:18  
**Immediate**  
 [2] 49:5 200:3  
**Immediately**  
 [2] 49:11 224:5  
**Immense**  
 [1] 35:13  
**Impact**  
 [15] 12:23 15:22 65:15 67:7  
 90:14 90:22 96:19 98:7 170:8  
 182:20 185:8 186:14 187:19  
 196:21 223:14  
**Impacted**

[4] 73:13 144:16 144:20 158:  
 24  
**Impactful**  
 [2] 90:16 93:3  
**Impacting**  
 [1] 96:5  
**Impacts**  
 [13] 29:6 29:11 29:22 42:8  
 42:9 42:11 42:12 42:23 43:5  
 107:8 108:1 108:18 111:8  
**Impairment**  
 [1] 207:15  
**Impartial**  
 [1] 189:16  
**Implausible**  
 [1] 199:21  
**Implement**  
 [1] 35:4  
**Implementation**  
 [1] 11:24  
**Implemented**  
 [1] 218:17  
**Implements**  
 [1] 191:10  
**Implications**  
 [1] 182:24  
**Implies**  
 [1] 189:11  
**Implore**  
 [1] 150:13  
**Imply**  
 [1] 172:18  
**Importance**  
 [10] 44:19 70:19 76:12 83:17  
 83:18 98:15 170:23 173:8 233:  
 14 239:17  
**Important**  
 [30] 12:5 14:2 14:17 35:12  
 49:4 49:13 63:13 82:7 88:13  
 100:11 106:23 116:16 119:3  
 121:7 122:17 123:20 124:16  
 128:6 152:22 161:7 161:20  
 165:12 174:6 177:19 180:13  
 185:2 223:15 232:3 233:1 239:  
 20  
**Importantly**  
 [4] 49:14 180:22 233:13 236:1  
**Imposed**  
 [1] 143:4  
**Improper**  
 [1] 51:16  
**Improve**  
 [3] 75:19 76:1 144:10  
**Improved**  
 [2] 132:4 211:14  
**Improvement**  
 [1] 111:18  
**Improvements**  
 [2] 76:4 183:11  
**Inaccessible**  
 [1] 55:6  
**Inadequate**  
 [3] 110:8 181:22 186:2  
**Inaugural**  
 [1] 27:12  
**Inc**  
 [1] 50:17  
**Incapable**  
 [1] 188:24  
**Incentive**  
 [1] 37:16  
**Inception**  
 [3] 91:3 91:25 157:24  
**Incidents**  
 [1] 126:18  
**Incline**  
 [9] 16:2 16:15 16:17 18:17  
 18:19 115:3 115:21 135:9 187:

11  
**Inclines**  
[2] 42:13 132:7  
**Include**  
[10] 15:8 15:18 42:12 43:1  
47:16 70:14 75:10 123:25 216:  
242:17  
**Included**  
[9] 5:12 20:6 47:22 63:19  
110:17 119:7 177:12 205:19  
230:2  
**Includes**  
[10] 17:13 23:9 26:4 60:6 62:  
4 63:21 135:9 145:7 205:25  
227:1  
**Including**  
[11] 45:7 45:8 91:13 98:23  
110:12 122:22 135:18 146:15  
160:13 221:14 228:12  
**Inclusion**  
[2] 44:20 208:20  
**Income**  
[13] 23:21 45:12 63:2 78:13  
84:1 85:19 139:7 139:12 181:  
4 199:5 204:2 204:14 232:23  
**Incorporate**  
[1] 98:11  
**Incorporated**  
[7] 31:5 43:23 43:23 50:13  
99:5 160:7 242:19  
**Incorrect**  
[1] 119:24  
**Increase**  
[3] 125:8 126:2 170:11  
**Increased**  
[10] 13:7 42:14 42:15 43:6  
125:15 126:4 132:2 145:14  
146:13 147:16  
**Increasing**  
[1] 13:2  
**Increasingly**  
55:1  
**ur**  
[1] 58:9  
**Indeed**  
[6] 20:17 53:1 130:2 130:5  
133:5 145:10  
**Indefinite**  
[1] 100:8  
**Independent**  
[11] 78:18 78:22 134:12 188:  
2 217:12 220:5 228:20 229:5  
229:10 229:12 229:18  
**Index**  
[1] 22:17  
**Indicate**  
[1] 142:23  
**Indicated**  
[4] 56:7 75:14 94:9 155:2  
**Indicates**  
[2] 10:5 154:23  
**Indicating**  
[1] 164:7  
**Indication**  
[1] 85:13  
**Indicted**  
[1] 190:10  
**Indirectly**  
[2] 51:1 57:11  
**Individual**  
[12] 7:19 47:24 91:14 92:3  
112:17 113:25 114:1 114:3  
114:12 114:15 116:17 209:15  
**Individually**  
[1] 66:23  
**Individually-owned**  
66:23  
**Individuals**  
[18] 33:8 44:14 44:20 45:5

45:10 48:10 59:7 65:13 91:16  
154:10 206:2 206:12 206:14  
206:22 207:16 214:2 225:7  
240:10  
**Industrial**  
[3] 37:10 97:17 97:24  
**Industries**  
[1] 25:3  
**Industry**  
[26] 12:9 13:25 45:7 45:15  
70:15 78:9 78:11 81:17 87:18  
88:2 88:7 88:8 88:9 98:3 116:  
25 117:1 147:12 183:1 190:9  
191:3 207:21 210:12 211:1  
215:5 216:24 217:18  
**Ineligible**  
[1] 175:9  
**Inevitable**  
[2] 89:2 197:21  
**Inextricably**  
[1] 111:25  
**Infections**  
[1] 90:9  
**Influence**  
[3] 113:4 183:17 190:12  
**Influencer**  
[1] 207:25  
**Influences**  
[1] 212:9  
**Information**  
[7] 70:22 72:20 100:13 116:  
15 191:12 198:12 227:25  
**Informed**  
[3] 35:6 107:25 188:1  
**Infrastructure**  
[14] 36:25 39:11 39:25 76:5  
111:7 119:8 120:7 127:6 132:  
13 143:25 144:3 163:4 183:11  
186:1  
**Infrastructures**  
[1] 144:9  
**Ingress**  
[1] 163:5  
**Initial**  
[3] 107:24 108:10 161:8  
**Initiative**  
[1] 122:15  
**Initiatives**  
[1] 54:11  
**Innovation**  
[4] 215:2 215:7 215:25 222:18  
**Innovation's**  
[1] 222:17  
**Input**  
[9] 1:4 5:4 5:13 6:10 6:11 7:  
14 8:4 224:25 242:5  
**Inside**  
[1] 8:4  
**Insider**  
[1] 22:21  
**Insipid**  
[1] 36:13  
**Insist**  
[3] 8:9 112:4 112:25  
**Insisted**  
[1] 109:11  
**Instead**  
[4] 36:13 79:2 120:14 130:21  
**Institute**  
[2] 204:10 206:11  
**Instituted**  
[1] 203:8  
**Institutes**  
[1] 204:13  
**Institution**  
[2] 27:2 235:1  
**Institutions**  
[5] 26:5 36:22 168:7 205:24

206:1  
**Integral**  
[3] 104:8 158:22 212:4  
**Integrate**  
[1] 158:16  
**Integration**  
[2] 98:25 158:13  
**Integrity**  
[5] 105:16 112:25 133:17 223:  
9 230:5  
**Intelligent**  
[1] 108:20  
**Intend**  
[1] 228:16  
**Intended**  
[3] 45:4 72:14 75:10  
**Intensively**  
[1] 22:5  
**Intent**  
[6] 18:1 54:5 54:7 54:22 59:  
12 183:7  
**Intention**  
[1] 88:5  
**Interest**  
[20] 25:5 27:23 31:2 54:14  
63:11 84:1 93:7 112:5 127:21  
167:6 184:18 188:24 189:2  
189:23 190:17 190:19 191:14  
191:20 226:4 226:11  
**Interested**  
[6] 8:21 69:21 124:4 128:3  
128:4 201:7  
**Interesting**  
[1] 199:3  
**Interests**  
[4] 112:17 188:22 188:25 191:  
7  
**Internal**  
[1] 203:10  
**Internationally**  
[1] 13:20  
**Internet**  
[1] 203:24  
**Interns**  
[1] 145:24  
**Interpersonal**  
[1] 134:9  
**Interpreting**  
[1] 47:12  
**Interrupted**  
[2] 8:23 61:5  
**Interscholastic**  
[16] 99:14 99:19 99:22 100:3  
101:2 101:21 102:4 102:12  
102:14 103:14 104:2 104:9  
104:18 104:24 105:1 105:5  
**Interstate**  
[1] 196:1  
**Interstates**  
[1] 128:9  
**Intervention**  
[1] 203:7  
**Interview**  
[1] 198:1  
**Intoxication**  
[1] 207:15  
**Intricately**  
[1] 112:23  
**Introducing**  
[1] 165:24  
**Introduction**  
[4] 72:3 73:17 107:1 188:19  
**Intrusive**  
[2] 17:15 227:5  
**Invest**  
[5] 23:14 40:24 61:24 69:24  
234:11  
**Invested**

[3] 36:17 36:25 108:24 138:7  
183:18 237:1  
**Investment**  
[18] 12:21 13:3 22:18 23:8  
25:9 38:16 40:17 110:4 180:  
18 183:5 183:16 183:22 184:7  
190:14 191:24 223:6 225:20  
235:14  
**Investment-grade**  
[2] 22:18 235:14  
**Investments**  
[2] 15:19 98:8  
**Investors**  
[4] 38:13 98:1 135:3 183:23  
**Invite**  
[5] 65:4 67:9 116:1 153:7  
153:19  
**Invited**  
[4] 16:25 30:8 65:4 71:1  
**Involved**  
[8] 21:25 84:13 104:24 112:  
23 114:24 157:24 168:6 237:18  
**Involving**  
[1] 191:10  
**IOC**  
[1] 170:25  
**IPO**  
[1] 190:4  
**Iraq**  
[1] 158:12  
**Irony**  
[1] 53:2  
**Isle**  
[111] 42:2 48:9 49:2 52:18  
57:17 57:23 58:23 59:25 60:2  
60:5 60:9 60:13 60:16 61:22  
63:7 65:12 66:21 67:16 70:25  
73:19 73:24 74:1 74:3 74:6  
74:11 74:17 74:19 74:24 75:3  
81:2 83:21 88:24 89:8 93:6  
93:22 95:6 97:3 97:10 100:4  
100:5 117:11 118:6 118:9 118:  
15 118:25 119:12 120:24 122:  
15 123:16 124:2 128:1 128:8  
128:10 128:14 128:18 128:21  
128:24 129:9 129:12 129:14  
129:17 130:9 130:11 130:17  
134:21 136:2 136:10 136:20  
137:23 139:1 139:15 140:18  
140:21 141:9 141:13 142:3  
148:22 149:24 151:19 152:19  
152:20 153:4 153:9 157:8 157:  
21 158:14 159:2 174:11 174:  
14 174:19 176:7 176:12 176:  
21 178:5 180:18 181:6 181:9  
199:17 200:1 200:18 201:7  
201:19 202:7 211:24 213:6  
213:10 214:19 215:6 221:6  
222:18 222:21  
**Isle's**  
[1] 93:10  
**Israel**  
[1] 216:11  
**Issuance**  
[3] 50:23 51:22 63:9  
**Issue**  
[24] 22:18 42:6 69:21 73:12  
84:9 88:15 89:16 97:21 107:  
19 107:23 119:20 154:21 155:  
12 155:14 155:23 160:19 161:  
14 165:21 186:8 189:3 215:9  
227:16 228:6 238:9  
**Issues**  
[25] 28:6 68:13 69:6 69:8 69:  
25 70:10 70:13 70:18 72:6 73:  
4 73:16 74:8 78:7 78:7 78:7  
78:8 149:21 151:6 151:9 155:  
3 157:8 162:7 185:11 187:16  
219:14  
**Issues-driven**  
[1] 69:6  
**Item**

[2] 189:14 211:3  
**Items**  
[3] 53:18 53:19 54:4  
**Itself**  
[6] 12:22 134:8 143:16 163:9  
170:18 187:4

**J**

**Jackpot**  
[1] 189:8  
**Jake**  
[4] 3:20 108:7 179:3 179:6  
**James**  
[3] 3:6 139:18 139:19  
**Jeffrey**  
[2] 1:14 6:23  
**Jeopardy**  
[1] 189:18  
**Jerome**  
[1] 193:13  
**Jerry**  
[2] 55:11 56:2  
**Jerry-rigged**  
[2] 55:11 56:2  
**Jersey**  
[3] 81:21 239:15 239:16  
**Jewel**  
[1] 177:14  
**Jim**  
[5] 2:21 3:23 114:15 192:12  
192:18  
**Joan**  
[3] 2:10 43:17 43:20  
**Job**  
[19] 8:18 25:10 42:17 71:19  
73:22 75:6 76:23 88:19 89:16  
114:20 127:24 175:13 189:12  
197:7 212:11 213:21 222:1  
229:20 236:10  
**Jobs**  
[1] 20:15 26:18 53:24 53:24  
[1] 73:8 87:18 87:21 87:23  
[1] 23 88:1 88:2 88:7 88:13  
88:17 88:17 88:23 89:7 89:9  
89:12 89:14 93:5 111:3 123:  
25 124:5 147:14 155:6 155:13  
177:8 177:9 181:3  
**Joel**  
[3] 2:22 116:18 116:21  
**John**  
[10] 2:24 3:2 4:5 122:4 122:  
5 122:11 127:14 127:16 209:  
16 210:9  
**Johnstown**  
[1] 100:18  
**Join**  
[1] 187:24  
**Joining**  
[1] 206:6  
**Joint**  
[1] 232:9  
**Jonathan**  
[5] 3:17 3:18 171:16 173:22  
173:24  
**Jones**  
[1] 22:17  
**Joseph**  
[7] 1:16 2:16 89:22 89:23 89:  
24 90:1 94:2  
**Joyce**  
[6] 2:14 77:11 77:11 77:12  
77:20 86:22  
**Jr**  
[4] 2:5 3:12 19:21 157:1  
**Judgment**  
[1] 143:6 189:16  
**Judicial**  
[2] 143:10 143:19  
**July**

[1] 44:25  
**Jumbotron**  
[1] 104:5  
**Jumped**  
[1] 178:9  
**June**  
[2] 5:20 59:10  
**Junior**  
[1] 100:23  
**Junk**  
[1] 180:19  
**Junkie**  
[1] 194:3  
**Jurisdictions**  
[1] 223:10  
**Justice**  
[2] 47:24 166:13

**K**

**Kane**  
[3] 7:6 32:1 32:5  
**Kansas**  
[1] 235:22  
**Kaufman's**  
[1] 135:19  
**Kaufmann's**  
[1] 179:14  
**Kayakers**  
[1] 39:2  
**KDKA-TV**  
[1] 174:12  
**Keep**  
[15] 50:6 59:16 75:16 83:22  
83:23 95:4 95:7 97:7 97:9  
105:20 115:23 123:18 129:13  
158:15 177:20  
**Keeping**  
[6] 59:22 63:12 83:17 89:16  
115:24 139:5  
**Ken**  
[1] 66:8  
**Kenneth**  
[2] 1:17 6:22  
**Kept**  
[1] 43:10  
**Kevin**  
[2] 2:14 77:10  
**Key**  
[2] 27:18 37:9  
**Kick**  
[1] 229:2  
**Kid**  
[1] 169:18  
**Kids**  
[3] 105:18 165:17 165:22  
**Kiel**  
[1] 130:4  
**Kind**  
[11] 43:7 84:11 86:3 86:5 86:  
10 154:14 161:4 166:12 173:  
11 222:24 225:1  
**Kindly**  
[1] 67:15  
**Kirk**  
[3] 3:9 148:8 148:12  
**Knowing**  
[2] 123:9 165:9  
**Knowledge**  
[1] 134:15  
**Known**  
[13] 36:10 47:25 68:10 109:  
14 119:5 122:15 133:3 136:6  
136:8 169:7 214:25 215:5 216:  
23  
**Knows**  
[3] 140:23 140:24 196:16  
**Kostoff**

[1] 7:2  
**L**  
**Labor**  
[1] 46:2  
**Labored**  
[1] 205:14  
**Laborious**  
[1] 107:16  
**Lack**  
[7] 97:19 97:21 120:6 121:11  
159:13 159:14 189:16  
**Lacking**  
[1] 48:18  
**Ladies**  
[6] 68:6 106:11 124:15 148:9  
176:3 209:12  
**Laid**  
[1] 226:18  
**Lamb**  
[4] 184:14 184:15 184:16 188:  
12  
**Land**  
[5] 62:24 138:20 232:13 232:  
18 232:21  
**Landings**  
[2] 36:23 40:9  
**Landmark**  
[1] 28:21  
**Landmarks**  
[10] 18:9 18:15 19:22 19:25  
24:8 145:2 145:8 145:21 146:  
6 147:19  
**Landmarks'**  
[3] 19:7 145:13 147:25  
**Landscapes**  
[2] 21:12 24:11  
**Landscaping**  
[1] 40:8  
**Lane**  
[1] 119:17  
**Large**  
[7] 29:10 29:12 45:24 96:13  
97:5 163:1 200:20  
**Larger**  
[1] 96:9  
**Largest**  
[12] 17:9 22:15 23:8 38:20  
52:7 52:8 56:10 117:5 180:23  
195:19 216:5 221:18  
**Las**  
[4] 58:16 87:13 236:22 236:22  
**Last**  
[27] 8:1 13:11 16:17 22:2 36:  
2 50:19 63:18 82:13 83:5 83:  
8 86:12 103:12 104:10 118:6  
129:8 138:3 152:15 162:15  
195:12 195:24 214:11 216:8  
218:6 219:23 220:2 221:16  
232:19  
**Lasting**  
[1] 212:5  
**Lastly**  
[1] 111:17  
**Latest**  
[1] 120:7  
**LAUGHED**  
[1] 151:15  
**LAUGHING**  
[1] 230:11  
**Launch**  
[1] 207:19  
**Law**  
[20] 44:24 44:25 45:19 47:9  
47:21 51:5 120:2 127:17 160:  
6 161:24 164:24 166:11 175:5  
189:2 189:9 189:11 191:18  
197:20 206:16 207:7  
**Lawrence**

[2] 18:25 36:19  
**Laws**  
[1] 192:4  
**Lawsuits**  
[1] 47:22  
**Lawyer**  
[1] 51:4  
**Lay**  
[1] 40:2  
**Lead**  
[6] 53:23 54:5 89:6 89:14  
125:16 147:3  
**Leader**  
[2] 151:11 175:16  
**Leaders**  
[7] 35:19 84:6 88:6 95:11  
149:14 153:17 221:14  
**Leadership**  
[13] 14:20 25:18 25:24 28:13  
30:15 31:17 71:11 91:1 92:21  
109:12 149:20 225:23 238:25  
**Leading**  
[1] 97:25  
**Leads**  
[2] 129:20 178:13  
**League**  
[8] 14:23 48:16 55:5 99:14  
99:19 99:23 100:3 163:17  
**Leaking**  
[1] 61:5  
**Learned**  
[1] 226:24  
**Learning**  
[1] 134:12  
**Least**  
[8] 17:14 46:12 51:7 74:12  
138:3 198:21 223:14 227:5  
**Leave**  
[13] 9:5 10:10 64:7 65:3 96:  
22 97:9 119:21 119:22 121:21  
139:10 195:3 196:14 239:14  
**Leaves**  
[1] 178:17  
**Leaving**  
[2] 49:12 56:18  
**Lebanon**  
[2] 127:18 145:2  
**Lectures**  
[1] 146:4  
**LEED-rated**  
[1] 40:10  
**Leery**  
[1] 187:23  
**Left**  
[5] 67:11 109:16 130:11 210:  
17 227:23  
**Legacy**  
[2] 36:3 212:6  
**Legal**  
[5] 51:10 51:11 160:10 161:  
21 192:5  
**Legion**  
[1] 142:2  
**Legislation**  
[17] 11:24 23:13 51:21 52:13  
59:11 59:14 61:16 77:1 79:7  
79:7 160:23 161:3 182:18 192:  
25 203:18 217:5 217:10  
**Legislation's**  
[1] 183:7  
**Legislative**  
[6] 54:4 54:6 54:20 54:22  
171:19 217:19  
**Legislators**  
[2] 79:15 80:6  
**Legislature**  
[2] 52:12 218:3  
**Legislatures**

[1] 221:12  
**Legs**  
 [1] 135:10  
**Leisure**  
 [3] 92:24 132:1 132:12  
**Lemieux**  
 [1] 15:4 101:18 101:24 103:4  
 [4] 157:23 158:2 177:3  
**Lending**  
 [2] 142:10 168:6  
**Leopard's**  
 [1] 167:12  
**Less**  
 [10] 24:16 48:7 78:21 91:16  
 101:21 165:9 186:25 203:13  
 211:5 235:24  
**Lessen**  
 [1] 185:21  
**Letter**  
 [5] 30:14 31:4 175:22 194:17  
 195:2  
**Letters**  
 [2] 174:16 175:3  
**Letting**  
 [1] 137:15  
**Level**  
 [8] 82:1 98:6 102:15 107:21  
 111:1 111:9 177:5 218:3  
**Levels**  
 [1] 103:14  
**Leverage**  
 [1] 146:9  
**Liability**  
 [1] 40:21  
**Liberty**  
 [1] 119:11  
**Library**  
 [2] 165:15 165:15  
**License**  
 [60] 12:4 12:18 16:21 28:6  
 [8] 30:11 31:13 43:10 50:24  
 [2] 52:4 52:7 57:12 60:2  
 [1] 63:10 67:17 76:21 80:  
 15 88:22 89:17 93:2 97:11 98:  
 18 99:25 115:12 116:5 118:14  
 121:7 121:19 123:16 124:3  
 127:22 129:12 139:14 140:19  
 140:22 141:10 142:18 143:16  
 148:20 150:2 150:15 161:10  
 162:8 167:17 168:11 170:25  
 174:25 175:6 175:8 175:10  
 175:12 175:25 180:5 182:5  
 220:20 223:25 239:8 240:4  
**Licensed**  
 [1] 15:12  
**Licensee**  
 [1] 30:17  
**Licensee's**  
 [1] 98:25  
**Licensees**  
 [1] 78:1  
**Licenses**  
 [3] 7:16 161:9 178:3  
**Licensing**  
 [7] 15:15 52:9 52:15 52:21  
 118:22 196:3 196:18  
**Lid**  
 [1] 36:11  
**Lieberman**  
 [1] 237:18  
**Life**  
 [17] 45:12 50:20 65:16 90:7  
 90:9 97:6 104:19 106:14 111:  
 19 116:22 147:24 150:9 166:  
 12 174:2 186:7 189:5 201:17  
**Life-long**  
 [1] 106:14  
**Life-shortening**  
 [1] 90:7

**Life-threatening**  
 [1] 90:9  
**Lifelong**  
 [1] 113:10  
**Lifetime**  
 [2] 237:19 238:3  
**Light**  
 [9] 10:5 10:6 10:9 92:25 93:  
 4 130:20 168:17 187:22 196:1  
**Lightly**  
 [1] 228:7  
**Likely**  
 [7] 42:10 46:21 53:23 74:3  
 74:20 180:24 189:13  
**Limit**  
 [2] 79:19 206:24  
**Limited**  
 [2] 79:16 137:19  
**Limits**  
 [4] 9:25 168:12 169:15 205:17  
**Line**  
 [7] 13:8 75:4 172:24 173:1  
 173:14 186:15 189:14  
**Link**  
 [1] 37:25  
**Links**  
 [2] 40:5 71:6  
**Liquor**  
 [1] 207:12  
**Lisa**  
 [3] 2:8 34:21 34:24  
**List**  
 [6] 53:19 76:6 94:5 147:3  
 228:8 235:22  
**Listed**  
 [4] 22:16 53:17 53:19 175:12  
**Listened**  
 [4] 86:4 99:24 213:20 219:19  
**Listening**  
 [1] 166:19  
**Lists**  
 [2] 54:6 56:12  
**Literally**  
 [2] 169:12 193:14  
**Litigation**  
 [1] 121:20  
**Live**  
 [16] 5:15 5:17 40:23 45:11  
 45:11 68:15 72:20 72:22 87:  
 20 124:19 127:18 138:23 178:  
 22 182:10 192:9 197:15  
**Lived**  
 [3] 73:1 116:21 163:12  
**Lively**  
 [2] 135:8 187:13  
**Lives**  
 [9] 32:22 33:23 95:13 95:22  
 95:24 96:17 104:8 104:24 142:  
 21  
**Living**  
 [8] 26:17 29:14 53:24 87:17  
 87:25 89:4 130:21 204:6  
**LLC**  
 [1] 30:16  
**Loaded**  
 [1] 90:20  
**Loading**  
 [1] 185:23  
**Loan**  
 [1] 147:4  
**Loans**  
 [1] 27:6  
**Local**  
 [37] 7:21 34:4 47:15 61:11  
 63:13 63:20 63:25 72:4 78:4  
 78:7 78:7 78:15 79:3 85:16  
 86:24 87:3 91:11 95:2 96:4  
 119:11 123:8 133:6 145:19

146:21 151:9 151:11 153:17  
 157:21 158:5 176:1 176:21  
 179:20 198:2 221:12 228:3  
 232:5 236:20  
**Locally**  
 [5] 62:14 63:21 93:15 98:5  
 223:11  
**Locally-owned**  
 [2] 62:14 63:21  
**Locals**  
 [1] 117:23  
**Locate**  
 [3] 35:11 125:1 125:14  
**Located**  
 [13] 10:3 14:1 29:3 43:24  
 119:16 126:20 136:18 171:1  
 171:2 195:12 220:12 223:25  
 224:2  
**Locating**  
 [2] 125:5 127:10  
**Location**  
 [21] 15:13 29:21 41:21 41:23  
 66:22 98:14 128:6 128:7 128:  
 7 136:23 152:10 162:19 162:  
 22 163:4 164:8 164:9 195:22  
 195:23 197:2 197:7 220:11  
**Locations**  
 [1] 144:4  
**Lockout**  
 [1] 63:18  
**Lone**  
 [2] 118:23 170:25  
**Long-lasting**  
 [1] 212:5  
**Long-neglected**  
 [3] 60:10 61:25 151:24  
**Long-range**  
 [1] 171:22  
**Long-standing**  
 [2] 140:9 140:10  
**Long-term**  
 [4] 76:16 90:22 192:8 211:21  
**Long-time**  
 [1] 152:6  
**Longevity**  
 [1] 28:1  
**Look**  
 [30] 25:8 31:13 33:16 42:1  
 42:7 65:5 67:10 67:12 70:3  
 84:23 85:19 86:1 96:9 153:7  
 157:7 166:6 182:22 183:20  
 196:20 199:13 211:8 211:13  
 214:5 223:19 233:2 235:17  
 235:20 237:14 238:4 240:20  
**Looked**  
 [3] 22:4 23:23 51:20  
**Looking**  
 [5] 13:19 80:7 186:24 195:16  
 217:14  
**Looks**  
 [2] 83:24 95:11  
**Lorie**  
 [3] 3:19 176:10 176:12  
**Lorraine**  
 [3] 1:22 7:5 243:9  
**Lose**  
 [4] 63:25 66:7 141:16 198:19  
**Loses**  
 [1] 96:23  
**Losing**  
 [6] 49:13 56:15 56:17 56:24  
 56:25 129:7  
**Loss**  
 [6] 63:17 63:19 92:23 93:5  
 95:20 139:11  
**Lost**  
 [6] 63:21 64:6 196:12 236:2  
 238:24 241:22  
**Louis**

[1] 235:23  
**Louise**  
 [3] 3:8 144:24 144:25  
**Louisville**  
 [1] 37:12  
**Love**  
 [7] 33:25 36:15 41:7 140:20  
 140:21 152:7 214:6  
**Low**  
 [3] 88:2 203:20 204:2  
**Lower**  
 [18] 63:5 84:20 112:6 117:12  
 117:19 135:24 136:18 138:18  
 138:24 139:13 139:15 198:23  
 199:5 221:20 223:18 224:7  
 224:9 227:8  
**Lowering**  
 [1] 180:10  
**Lowers**  
 [1] 120:17  
**Lowest**  
 [2] 82:21 235:21  
**Loyal**  
 [1] 123:9  
**Loyalty**  
 [1] 22:24  
**LTV**  
 [1] 237:3  
**Luck**  
 [3] 86:19 230:9 231:14  
**Lucky**  
 [1] 49:19  
**Lunch**  
 [5] 114:4 114:6 209:3 209:10  
 209:11  
**Luncheon**  
 [3] 114:10 209:1 209:7  
**Lung**  
 [1] 90:9  
**Lure**  
 [1] 37:14  
**Luxury**  
 [1] 136:18  
**Lynn**  
 [3] 2:18 94:6 97:15

**M**

**Ma'am**  
 [5] 179:2 192:11 197:8 200:  
 25 202:11  
**Madison**  
 [2] 55:21 130:4  
**Magic**  
 [1] 169:6  
**Magnet**  
 [5] 68:5 68:9 68:11 154:6  
 182:12  
**Magnitude**  
 [1] 119:2  
**Mahone**  
 [1] 237:22  
**Mail**  
 [1] 71:13  
**Mailed**  
 [1] 5:18  
**Main**  
 [3] 27:11 127:25 168:22  
**Maintain**  
 [3] 19:2 115:8 121:2  
**Maintained**  
 [1] 16:16  
**Maintaining**  
 [2] 93:3 177:8  
**Majestic**  
 [4] 120:24 180:19 181:9 199:  
 17  
**Majestic's**

[1] 181:14  
**Major**  
 [17] 14:23 25:1 27:1 58:22  
 82:22 82:23 128:9 140:13 159:  
 22 160:21 172:2 172:16 179:  
 18 189:7 207:22 207:24 216:15  
**Priority**  
 [1] 64:4 72:25 75:22 125:4  
 [1] 5:2  
**Majors**  
 [1] 119:10  
**Males**  
 [1] 165:10  
**Malloy**  
 [4] 3:23 192:12 192:13 192:18  
**Malone**  
 [1] 102:20  
**Man**  
 [4] 31:11 108:24 165:4 196:13  
**Managed**  
 [2] 133:10 146:7  
**Management**  
 [10] 91:1 91:14 111:2 131:11  
 157:13 157:17 160:8 160:11  
 207:13 208:21  
**Manager**  
 [4] 131:4 136:16 139:20 174:  
 22  
**Managers**  
 [1] 174:23  
**Manages**  
 [1] 131:12  
**Managing**  
 [2] 133:14 160:5  
**Manchester**  
 [1] 21:18  
**Mandated**  
 [3] 54:21 171:19 205:23  
**Mandatory**  
 [2] 39:20 53:17  
**anner**  
 [1] 190:16 231:7  
**mpower**  
 [1] 193:15  
**March**  
 [3] 34:8 42:1 108:12  
**Margins**  
 [1] 178:12  
**Marimba**  
 [5] 2:20 94:6 106:6 106:12  
 113:8  
**Marina**  
 [2] 38:25 196:2  
**Mario**  
 [13] 15:3 50:5 59:4 68:1 92:  
 11 101:18 101:19 101:24 103:  
 4 123:4 150:5 157:23 177:3  
**Mario.com**  
 [4] 59:8 59:10 59:18 67:10  
**Mark**  
 [10] 2:6 25:18 25:21 32:2 67:  
 25 122:9 148:6 190:1 190:7  
 195:7  
**Marked**  
 [1] 148:4  
**Market**  
 [23] 13:6 14:22 14:24 22:22  
 27:5 38:17 42:19 45:13 45:16  
 45:24 54:14 80:16 85:10 87:  
 12 98:12 129:17 216:6 218:7  
 218:14 218:15 218:16 219:6  
 235:8  
**Marketing**  
 [3] 103:10 181:22 210:23  
**Marketplace**  
 [1] 213:12  
**kets**  
 [1] 25:7 85:20 85:20 89:10  
 218:20

**Markings**  
 [1] 104:3  
**Marley**  
 [3] 2:7 32:7 32:10  
**Marquis**  
 [1] 76:15  
**Marriage**  
 [1] 34:11  
**Marriott**  
 [1] 128:20  
**Marshall**  
 [2] 1:16 6:23  
**Mary**  
 [5] 1:13 2:16 6:21 89:21 89:  
 25  
**Masaroski**  
 [1] 176:24  
**Mask**  
 [1] 181:22  
**Massive**  
 [1] 99:4  
**Master**  
 [3] 35:2 35:4 164:16  
**Master's**  
 [2] 69:16 157:12  
**Masters**  
 [1] 202:18  
**Matched**  
 [1] 218:1  
**Materials**  
 [2] 28:10 40:5  
**Matter**  
 [6] 57:18 109:17 109:18 124:  
 16 196:17 233:24  
**Matters**  
 [1] 200:15  
**Maximize**  
 [2] 39:9 42:8  
**Maximized**  
 [2] 35:16 142:25  
**Maximum**  
 [2] 220:7 220:9  
**Mayor**  
 [4] 66:10 84:11 150:10 227:9  
**Mayor's**  
 [2] 75:13 201:20  
**Mayoral**  
 [1] 150:11  
**Mayors**  
 [1] 34:9  
**MBA**  
 [1] 188:16  
**McArdle**  
 [1] 43:3  
**McCabe**  
 [2] 1:17 6:22  
**McCandless**  
 [1] 142:8  
**McCullough**  
 [1] 36:5  
**MCI**  
 [1] 130:3  
**McKenna**  
 [4] 2:17 94:6 94:22 94:24  
**McNees**  
 [5] 2:3 11:13 11:16 11:17 15:  
 25  
**Meadows**  
 [1] 242:19  
**Meals**  
 [6] 32:7 32:10 33:2 33:15 34:  
 10 34:11  
**Mean**  
 [6] 47:12 202:24 203:20 235:  
 11 235:12 235:15  
**Meaning**  
 [1] 92:6

**Meaningful**  
 [1] 183:15  
**Means**  
 [10] 61:13 83:9 87:18 125:20  
 126:3 162:3 198:18 198:21  
 237:12 237:13  
**Meant**  
 [1] 131:17  
**Meantime**  
 [1] 109:24  
**Measure**  
 [3] 161:5 161:11 182:19  
**Measured**  
 [1] 109:13  
**Measurement**  
 [1] 72:14  
**Measures**  
 [2] 107:7 189:19  
**Mecca**  
 [1] 169:14  
**Mechanism**  
 [2] 24:4 88:18  
**Mechanisms**  
 [1] 208:17  
**Media**  
 [5] 5:23 5:24 58:15 58:15  
 217:14  
**Median**  
 [3] 69:10 92:2 92:5  
**Medical**  
 [4] 91:11 92:1 144:14 204:16  
**Meet**  
 [4] 29:24 35:15 82:14 132:16  
**Meeting**  
 [7] 36:6 42:1 64:10 107:23  
 108:11 167:9 183:3  
**Meetings**  
 [4] 35:7 107:24 108:7 108:15  
**Mellon**  
 [13] 13:16 14:12 48:12 55:12  
 103:17 110:19 119:5 135:20  
 139:21 157:14 173:6 177:19  
 224:4  
**Melody**  
 [1] 110:20  
**Member**  
 [12] 6:25 10:13 28:4 30:19  
 31:17 41:16 68:22 87:4 100:  
 13 102:21 182:11 202:22  
**Member-driven**  
 [1] 41:16  
**Members**  
 [52] 6:21 7:20 9:10 11:19 28:  
 15 35:6 68:17 68:23 68:24 69:  
 4 69:7 69:10 69:11 69:18 69:  
 21 70:9 70:18 70:24 71:2 71:  
 7 71:12 71:24 72:10 72:18 72:  
 21 73:1 73:2 73:4 73:11 73:  
 18 73:23 74:6 74:17 75:3 98:  
 5 98:6 98:9 105:17 109:24  
 111:21 114:18 116:2 135:2  
 140:10 145:25 148:10 150:13  
 160:3 164:1 205:13 222:13  
 228:16  
**Membership**  
 [17] 28:23 29:23 68:12 69:13  
 69:15 69:17 70:6 74:18 154:9  
 154:16 154:17 154:21 154:24  
 155:2 155:10 156:5 179:15  
**Memories**  
 [1] 65:24  
**Men**  
 [1] 69:5  
**Mental**  
 [1] 163:19  
**Mention**  
 [1] 238:9  
**Mentioned**  
 [3] 55:3 55:6 219:18

**Mentions**  
 [1] 153:18  
**Merit**  
 [1] 240:4  
**Merits**  
 [1] 28:6  
**Met**  
 [2] 59:25 214:11  
**Meticulous**  
 [1] 229:21  
**Metropolitan**  
 [2] 56:11 56:14  
**Michael**  
 [4] 2:12 59:6 184:14 184:16  
**Michele**  
 [1] 4:3  
**Michelle**  
 [2] 202:14 202:16  
**Michigan**  
 [1] 78:25  
**Mickey**  
 [3] 7:6 32:1 32:5  
**Microphone**  
 [2] 10:11 11:15  
**Mid-1960's**  
 [1] 169:19  
**Middle**  
 [4] 79:12 87:25 89:3 135:17  
**Middle-class**  
 [1] 87:25  
**Middlemen**  
 [2] 189:4 189:4  
**Might**  
 [11] 6:2 18:11 20:25 32:15  
 42:12 104:22 141:22 173:3  
 173:5 173:7 198:9  
**Mightier**  
 [1] 121:23  
**Mike**  
 [1] 59:3  
**Miles**  
 [4] 57:3 142:9 178:24 178:25  
**Milestone**  
 [1] 92:7  
**Mill**  
 [1] 179:13  
**Miller**  
 [91] 5:1 5:2 6:7 6:9 11:3 11:  
 9 15:24 16:5 16:9 19:18 25:  
 15 31:22 34:20 41:9 43:15 50:  
 9 59:1 67:21 77:9 77:18 86:  
 21 89:19 94:1 94:10 94:14 94:  
 20 97:13 99:10 106:4 113:14  
 113:21 116:8 118:17 122:2  
 122:6 124:9 127:12 130:24  
 133:21 136:13 139:17 142:5  
 144:21 148:1 150:17 150:20  
 150:24 153:21 153:24 156:25  
 159:24 162:11 164:12 167:21  
 171:5 171:8 171:13 173:18  
 173:21 176:8 179:1 182:6 184:  
 12 188:8 188:13 192:10 195:5  
 197:8 197:11 200:24 202:10  
 202:13 205:2 206:18 207:2  
 208:23 209:12 209:21 209:24  
 210:2 210:7 212:24 215:14  
 215:17 215:22 222:3 222:6  
 230:12 230:17 230:20 242:2  
**Million**  
 [41] 20:14 21:8 23:9 24:16  
 32:23 36:24 45:20 45:22 46:  
 17 53:5 55:23 63:19 63:19 63:  
 20 64:1 67:7 91:6 93:15 110:  
 7 122:1 129:16 131:21 138:7  
 138:11 141:7 145:12 170:12  
 177:14 181:11 193:24 194:19  
 198:17 198:22 220:17 223:18  
 234:10 235:15 236:7 237:2  
 240:11 240:25  
**Millions**

[6] 2:20 94:7 106:6 106:11  
106:12 113:8  
**Millions**  
[2] 38:2 190:6  
**Mills**  
[3] 81:7 129:4 136:7  
**ilton**  
3:15 164:14 164:16  
**mind**  
[2] 114:19 116:1  
**Mind-numbing**  
[1] 114:19  
**Mindful**  
[1] 161:1  
**Mine**  
[4] 87:9 93:9 93:12 93:25  
**Minimize**  
[1] 42:9  
**Minimized**  
[1] 92:25  
**Minimum**  
[3] 22:21 115:10 208:15  
**Minister**  
[1] 166:15  
**Minorities**  
[3] 110:24 161:16 237:15  
**Minority**  
[8] 44:10 45:2 45:18 160:14  
162:1 183:19 208:15 237:14  
**Minute**  
[3] 17:21 152:15 206:19  
**Minutes**  
[12] 9:10 9:12 9:15 9:15 113:  
17 114:12 205:6 205:8 206:24  
212:18 213:4 230:15  
**Misconception**  
[1] 45:10  
**Misinterpret**  
[1] 97:20  
**Misplaced**  
81:18  
s  
[1] 99:6  
**Missing**  
[1] 135:17  
**Mission**  
[9] 33:4 44:11 50:21 57:8 95:  
12 95:20 96:17 180:10 186:10  
**Mistake**  
[1] 124:24  
**Mistakes**  
[1] 39:18  
**Misters**  
[1] 237:17  
**Mitigate**  
[1] 205:24  
**Mitigating**  
[1] 53:25  
**Mixed**  
[5] 23:10 29:16 42:18 224:14  
225:20  
**Mixed-use**  
[4] 23:10 42:18 224:14 225:20  
**Mixing**  
[1] 125:6  
**Mobility**  
[1] 46:23  
**Mockery**  
[1] 113:2  
**Model**  
[2] 88:9 111:15  
**Moderate**  
[1] 204:2  
**Modern**  
14:5  
**les**  
[1] 40:6

**Molchany**  
[5] 2:13 68:4 68:6 68:7 154:8  
**Moment**  
[1] 71:17  
**Moments**  
[1] 225:15  
**Momentum**  
[3] 38:6 40:22 41:4  
**Monday**  
[1] 159:10  
**Money**  
[40] 29:14 24:9 32:23 34:12  
47:3 49:3 49:24 57:20 58:6  
59:16 60:8 61:13 67:5 81:10  
81:10 123:7 129:18 130:7 136:  
25 149:10 156:8 178:8 181:12  
186:16 186:17 196:17 196:18  
199:7 234:9 234:10 234:14  
234:15 236:1 236:23 238:15  
239:10 239:13 239:22 240:18  
241:22  
**Monitors**  
[1] 208:18  
**Monongahela**  
[2] 17:16 169:17  
**Monthly**  
[1] 42:1  
**Months**  
[6] 58:6 61:3 107:22 205:10  
212:19 214:12  
**Montreal**  
[1] 64:10  
**Mooney**  
[5] 2:12 59:3 59:5 59:6 67:22  
**Moot**  
[2] 149:13 149:15  
**Morals**  
[6] 134:2 134:7 134:8 134:17  
134:21 134:23  
**Morning**  
[45] 5:2 6:8 7:4 19:23 25:21  
32:9 34:23 35:5 41:12 43:19  
50:15 59:5 68:6 77:12 87:1  
89:25 94:24 97:18 97:19 99:  
15 106:9 106:11 113:17 114:  
14 114:17 116:19 127:15 131:  
2 142:7 148:9 154:3 154:9  
155:9 164:15 166:2 176:11  
179:4 184:15 192:13 192:14  
193:24 197:14 225:21 230:19  
230:21  
**Mortgage**  
[1] 144:2  
**Most**  
[77] 12:18 26:25 29:1 35:12  
37:21 42:11 49:14 51:4 56:11  
69:16 72:2 73:6 73:24 74:2  
74:3 74:7 74:10 74:16 74:20  
74:25 75:4 76:23 81:17 88:13  
88:25 100:17 106:22 108:21  
109:10 117:10 120:14 128:5  
131:19 133:10 136:24 142:11  
142:15 149:2 154:25 155:4  
155:12 155:14 155:17 156:11  
162:18 163:15 163:21 174:18  
176:1 177:19 179:20 180:22  
180:24 185:2 185:14 186:11  
186:19 187:22 193:6 195:19  
196:11 198:5 198:16 199:24  
210:15 211:8 212:10 216:5  
217:22 220:8 220:15 223:4  
227:4 227:5 227:6 238:15 240:  
14  
**Most-qualified**  
[1] 223:4  
**Mostly**  
[1] 127:9  
**Motives**  
[1] 149:18  
**Mountain**  
[4] 119:16 121:20 137:11 185:  
23

**Mountains**  
[1] 128:22  
**Mouth**  
[1] 234:15  
**Move**  
[3] 14:3 15:14 39:16  
**Moved**  
[2] 102:14 169:1  
**Moves**  
[1] 12:3  
**Moving**  
[5] 57:2 84:17 114:1 130:21  
135:11  
**MOW**  
[1] 32:19  
**MOWA**  
[1] 33:24  
**Mt**  
[21] 16:12 16:13 16:24 17:3  
17:17 41:10 41:13 41:18 42:  
11 42:19 115:22 127:18 132:7  
145:2 162:17 184:17 184:19  
185:7 186:5 187:11 187:12  
**Much-needed**  
[1] 123:23  
**Multi**  
[21] 14:1 14:15 59:15 60:6  
60:18 61:15 62:5 67:3 76:12  
98:16 99:9 100:6 177:15 177:  
24 178:9 200:5 200:6 220:13  
220:18 223:24 227:11  
**Multi-purpose**  
[20] 14:1 14:15 59:15 60:6  
60:18 61:15 62:5 67:3 76:12  
98:16 99:9 100:6 177:15 177:  
24 178:9 200:6 220:13 220:18  
223:24 227:11  
**Multiple**  
[1] 40:6  
**Multitude**  
[1] 99:2  
**Municipal**  
[1] 70:16  
**Municipality**  
[3] 9:19 141:12 193:1  
**Museum**  
[3] 135:13 135:14 170:13  
**Music**  
[1] 168:18  
**Musicians**  
[1] 69:2  
**Must**  
[24] 25:6 48:3 48:7 54:15 61:  
20 100:12 102:8 114:18 121:6  
129:13 134:2 142:17 142:25  
143:8 143:12 144:14 206:24  
208:14 208:17 235:11 235:12  
235:15 239:3 239:6  
**MWCDC**  
[5] 41:14 41:20 42:4 42:21  
43:7

**N**

**NAIOP**  
[2] 97:23 98:4  
**Naive**  
[1] 212:8  
**Name**  
[49] 9:18 9:20 16:11 25:21  
32:9 43:20 50:15 50:22 59:5  
68:7 87:1 89:25 99:17 106:12  
113:8 116:21 118:20 124:14  
124:17 127:16 133:23 139:19  
142:7 148:12 151:2 154:3 160:  
4 162:14 163:8 163:19 164:15  
165:5 167:25 173:23 176:11  
179:6 182:9 184:15 192:18  
195:10 197:14 200:7 201:2  
202:16 205:9 210:9 213:9 215:  
12 215:24

**Named**  
[1] 169:4  
**Namely**  
[3] 51:4 54:7 180:8  
**Names**  
[1] 195:21  
**Naparstek**  
[1] 63:4  
**Narrow**  
[1] 187:12  
**Nassan**  
[6] 2:15 86:23 86:25 86:25  
87:1 87:2  
**Nation**  
[4] 20:20 58:12 82:25 83:1  
**Nation's**  
[1] 97:25  
**National**  
[13] 23:24 48:15 55:4 97:16  
97:24 98:6 111:15 135:14 175:  
16 204:10 204:13 216:10 229:  
13  
**Nationality**  
[1] 163:18  
**Nationally**  
[2] 13:20 145:22  
**Nationally-recognized**  
[1] 145:22  
**Nationwide**  
[2] 61:23 62:1  
**Native**  
[2] 33:22 216:16  
**Natural**  
[1] 40:25  
**Nature**  
[7] 30:22 125:10 126:21 127:  
10 218:10 218:12 219:4  
**NBA**  
[3] 55:18 55:19 55:21  
**Near**  
[3] 14:12 128:8 128:19  
**Nearest**  
[1] 17:17  
**Nearly**  
[6] 23:20 46:19 131:6 174:13  
179:8 181:7  
**Neat**  
[1] 219:21  
**Necessarily**  
[1] 83:21  
**Necessary**  
[7] 10:18 111:6 116:15 142:  
20 162:25 204:5 238:10  
**Need**  
[43] 10:16 54:24 55:10 61:14  
63:5 80:9 80:19 80:20 80:21  
83:22 83:23 84:14 84:17 95:3  
99:1 105:24 105:25 107:17  
109:24 109:25 110:1 111:12  
111:21 111:22 117:21 123:17  
141:1 159:14 161:10 171:10  
175:23 190:22 190:24 191:3  
191:6 191:12 191:23 192:2  
192:3 194:22 196:20 202:6  
227:11  
**Needed**  
[8] 84:12 107:25 123:23 129:  
21 153:12 153:13 164:2 188:1  
**Needless**  
[1] 201:5  
**Needs**  
[22] 91:11 109:20 115:1 127:  
2 129:8 135:21 136:21 138:25  
146:18 159:17 161:14 162:5  
184:9 187:4 189:12 190:23  
193:11 194:15 198:19 201:24  
211:18 220:24  
**Needy**  
[1] 96:4

**Negative**  
[5] 42:9 43:5 186:14 197:18 223:14

**Negatively**  
[1] 158:24

**Negatives**  
29:14

**ected**  
[4] 60:10 137:25 151:8 151:24

**Negligible**  
[1] 170:8

**Neighbor**  
[2] 17:17 179:9

**Neighborhood**  
[23] 20:10 21:10 26:13 27:17 31:17 38:23 63:24 123:22 123:23 124:1 124:6 164:20 164:25 165:3 168:10 168:19 168:21 169:16 169:25 170:6 171:17 221:21 227:5

**Neighborhoods**  
[24] 17:15 21:16 23:6 24:3 24:6 24:10 24:18 24:21 26:2 26:6 26:11 29:2 29:11 29:18 30:10 31:1 39:12 41:19 75:17 75:19 124:24 194:9 225:10 228:2

**Neighbors**  
[4] 19:8 19:15 162:21 226:6

**Nets**  
[2] 239:15 239:17

**Neutral**  
[3] 41:21 55:1 162:2

**Nevada**  
[1] 132:24

**Never**  
[9] 16:18 18:19 64:20 65:2 92:12 115:18 117:8 139:11 218:23

**Nevertheless**  
[1] 22:2

[4] 13:8 13:13 13:14 14:9 15:8 20:17 23:11 26:11 27:13 28:6 36:18 37:5 37:7 38:2 38:24 39:5 39:10 40:20 46:13 47:6 49:3 51:2 51:10 51:12 53:3 53:14 53:20 54:1 54:8 54:19 54:24 57:5 57:13 57:24 58:2 58:4 59:14 59:22 60:6 60:11 60:18 61:15 62:5 62:6 62:11 62:13 62:14 62:15 63:22 65:10 66:13 66:25 67:5 70:15 76:11 76:13 80:25 81:21 83:18 87:14 88:7 97:5 97:6 98:11 98:15 99:4 99:9 100:6 103:14 112:23 118:4 118:10 120:22 122:18 123:24 123:25 125:25 126:1 126:13 131:13 138:12 138:14 138:22 139:4 139:11 140:25 141:6 141:10 147:13 147:14 147:14 149:12 149:13 149:23 156:8 159:1 159:17 164:2 169:12 170:1 172:16 177:9 181:10 181:21 190:2 190:3 195:24 200:3 201:18 202:20 204:20 216:12 216:12 220:15 220:18 221:21 227:11 231:2 232:20 233:12 235:22 239:15 239:16 241:10

**New-trained**  
[1] 80:24

**Newer**  
[1] 125:12

**Newly**  
[1] 169:2

**Newly-built**  
[1] 169:2

**ly-employed**  
206:6

**News**  
[4] 59:20 159:10 231:19 237:9

**Newscast**  
[1] 198:2

**Next**  
[60] 19:20 20:16 25:17 32:6 34:21 36:3 41:9 42:3 43:17 50:11 58:5 59:3 65:10 68:4 77:10 86:23 89:21 94:22 97:15 99:12 106:6 115:24 118:19 122:4 122:9 124:11 127:14 130:25 133:22 136:15 139:18 142:6 144:24 148:6 148:8 150:20 154:1 157:1 160:1 162:13 164:14 167:23 171:8 173:21 174:14 176:10 179:3 182:8 184:14 186:23 188:14 192:12 195:9 197:13 201:1 202:13 205:3 214:17 220:12 222:19

**NHL**  
[7] 55:17 55:21 63:18 92:16 95:18 100:7 100:11

**Nice**  
[2] 82:13 224:20

**Night**  
[7] 79:12 82:13 83:5 83:5 117:25 186:19 211:9

**Nightclubs**  
[1] 196:25

**Nightmare**  
[1] 137:7

**Nightmares**  
[1] 178:13

**Nights**  
[1] 65:21

**Nine**  
[1] 160:14

**Ninety**  
[1] 36:24

**Ninth**  
[1] 101:1

**No-brainer**  
[1] 176:20

**Nobody**  
[3] 149:3 233:12 234:5

**Non**  
[11] 16:15 25:25 33:10 35:1 41:15 68:12 115:4 115:16 163:14 206:1 211:17

**Non-earmarked**  
[1] 75:15

**Non-paying**  
[1] 163:14

**Non-profit**  
[9] 16:15 25:25 33:10 35:1 41:15 68:12 115:4 115:16 206:1

**Non-revenue-producing**  
[1] 211:17

**None**  
[2] 53:10 143:19

**Nonprofit**  
[2] 92:23 145:14

**Normal**  
[1] 114:4

**North**  
[50] 13:15 25:18 25:23 26:3 26:6 26:11 26:17 27:3 27:19 27:23 28:3 28:13 28:18 29:2 29:3 29:5 29:9 29:11 29:25 30:9 30:15 31:1 31:15 31:16 36:19 39:1 117:17 117:17 135:12 137:21 142:9 146:15 152:23 152:23 163:5 169:4 169:7 169:7 169:10 170:9 171:3 173:3 173:4 179:9 193:14 201:23 211:24 223:17 224:21 225:23

**Not-developed**  
[1] 144:12

**Not-for-profit**  
[2] 32:15 95:10

**Notary**

[2] 1:23 243:9

**Note**  
[11] 67:22 94:3 116:9 122:7 148:2 152:22 153:1 153:17 205:4 206:20 217:22

**Notes**  
[1] 243:3

**Nothing**  
[13] 11:6 36:12 36:12 36:13 48:7 94:17 115:14 115:19 136:1 153:19 199:8 210:5 215:20

**Notice**  
[1] 161:24

**November**  
[1] 101:5

**NSLC**  
[2] 28:1 28:23

**Number**  
[25] 5:23 21:7 49:4 73:12 81:5 89:9 101:20 117:3 117:4 117:22 130:8 166:7 170:9 174:14 181:3 185:15 186:2 203:7 210:25 219:13 231:16 232:10 233:17 233:23 235:9

**Numbers**  
[7] 23:18 25:10 101:25 114:20 146:1 218:1 218:7

**Numbering**  
[1] 114:19

**Numeric**  
[1] 161:4

**Numerous**  
[5] 51:24 58:11 106:19 174:16 221:13



**O'Connor**  
[3] 66:10 150:11 227:10

**O'Hara**  
[1] 160:5

**Oakland**  
[5] 117:20 168:24 171:17 173:12 237:3

**Oath**  
[2] 222:11 230:22

**Obesity**  
[1] 165:22

**Obey**  
[1] 9:4

**Objective**  
[3] 22:6 59:25 229:17

**Objectively**  
[1] 223:20

**Objectives**  
[1] 161:1

**Obligated**  
[2] 117:10 232:16

**Oblige**  
[1] 154:15

**Observed**  
[4] 5:22 6:1 133:15 213:17

**Observers**  
[1] 217:18

**Obstructed**  
[1] 56:3

**Obtained**  
[1] 191:25

**Obtaining**  
[2] 61:10 190:14

**Obvious**  
[1] 93:4

**Occupancies**  
[1] 131:22

**Occupancy**  
[3] 82:19 82:20 131:23

**Occupants**  
[4] 120:10 120:16 120:21 121:12

**Occupation**  
[1] 163:13

**Occupy**  
[1] 35:17

**Occupying**  
[1] 41:1

**Occur**  
[4] 142:21 142:24 170:24 193:19

**Occurred**  
[1] 114:22

**Odd**  
[1] 32:15

**Odds**  
[1] 38:17

**Off'**  
[1] 36:11

**Offer**  
[9] 14:8 31:20 80:11 179:24 180:1 202:2 202:7 228:19 239:1

**Offered**  
[6] 73:24 152:20 175:19 183:13 185:5 190:3

**Offering**  
[3] 12:7 52:18 200:18

**Offers**  
[5] 48:10 73:19 137:3 180:15 199:23

**Office**  
[6] 32:11 44:9 82:20 97:17 97:24 191:21

**Officer**  
[95] 1:19 5:1 5:3 6:7 6:9 9:5 11:3 11:9 15:24 16:5 16:9 19:18 25:15 31:22 34:20 41:9 43:15 50:9 59:1 67:21 77:9 77:18 86:21 89:19 94:1 94:10 94:14 94:20 97:13 99:10 106:4 113:14 113:21 116:8 118:17 122:2 122:6 124:9 127:12 130:24 133:21 136:13 139:17 142:5 144:21 148:1 150:17 150:20 150:24 153:21 153:24 156:25 159:24 162:11 164:12 167:21 171:5 171:8 171:13 173:18 173:21 176:8 179:1 182:6 184:12 188:8 188:13 190:12 192:10 195:5 197:8 197:11 200:24 202:10 202:13 205:2 206:18 207:2 208:23 209:12 209:21 209:24 210:2 210:7 212:24 215:14 215:17 215:22 222:3 222:6 222:10 230:12 230:17 230:20 242:2

**Officers**  
[3] 193:8 194:16 194:21

**Offices**  
[1] 36:21

**Official**  
[1] 190:24

**Officials**  
[16] 7:21 47:15 51:6 176:21 188:24 190:25 191:19 191:22 191:25 192:6 192:6 206:17 221:13 228:3 238:13 238:22

**Officials'**  
[1] 188:22

**Often**  
[4] 46:25 61:19 179:22 210:15

**Ofentimes**  
[1] 70:3

**Ohio**  
[2] 159:21 163:12

**Old**  
[12] 13:18 18:24 26:22 48:14 60:21 61:2 81:6 125:5 127:17 135:19 141:1 164:21

**Older**  
[3] 46:19 66:2 125:9

**Oldest**

[7] 26:25 48:15 55:4 55:17  
55:18 55:19 55:20  
**Omni**  
[2] 1:6 7:7  
**Once**  
[9] 6:8 7:7 46:12 54:3 101:  
119:22 206:13 207:22 213:8  
[83] 7:13 9:22 17:24 20:13  
20:17 22:16 26:24 27:8 27:10  
27:12 28:25 35:3 35:12 37:20  
46:18 52:9 52:12 56:10 57:22  
59:24 62:4 62:23 72:17 73:12  
83:4 84:12 86:11 86:15 97:8  
103:19 117:3 117:4 120:1 120:  
22 122:1 122:17 129:14 129:  
15 131:22 133:16 141:1 141:4  
141:16 151:4 151:10 157:21  
163:20 175:3 176:19 177:7  
178:6 180:2 185:15 185:22  
189:6 193:15 195:18 195:20  
197:25 199:7 200:10 202:4  
203:7 205:22 209:15 211:23  
212:17 214:20 219:7 223:16  
225:25 226:2 229:1 229:17  
232:20 235:8 235:9 235:11  
237:25 238:17 239:21 240:17  
241:2  
**One-fifth**  
[2] 26:7 225:25  
**One-third**  
[1] 229:1  
**Ongoing**  
[3] 91:15 96:13 226:9  
**Online**  
[1] 174:12  
**Onorato**  
[3] 57:11 66:12 227:10  
**Ontario**  
[1] 216:13  
**Open**  
[7] 39:25 45:4 46:7 79:1 194:  
213:19 236:13  
**med**  
[3] 36:6 121:13 140:4  
**Opening**  
[2] 38:2 241:11  
**Opera**  
[1] 168:17  
**Operate**  
[12] 24:1 26:16 26:22 45:9  
80:15 83:3 85:23 133:17 161:  
18 207:11 224:13 236:14  
**Operated**  
[2] 16:16 24:20  
**Operating**  
[5] 79:4 82:9 84:24 232:4  
236:18  
**Operation**  
[1] 82:22  
**Operational**  
[3] 53:1 53:11 207:23  
**Operations**  
[5] 7:3 29:20 115:3 143:9  
236:13  
**Operator**  
[17] 7:16 15:12 15:20 48:2  
173:5 175:13 205:22 206:4  
206:9 206:11 207:10 207:14  
208:4 208:9 216:15 221:2 234:  
16  
**Operator's**  
[1] 208:19  
**Operators**  
[11] 12:7 12:13 12:23 79:25  
133:10 143:14 144:18 163:9  
218:22 218:25 219:3  
**Operators'**  
15:17  
**Opinion**  
[6] 88:12 116:6 118:22 176:4

187:18 195:22  
**Opinions**  
[3] 41:22 70:3 76:18  
**Opportunities**  
[16] 13:10 45:4 54:11 71:19  
71:24 73:16 73:20 73:22 75:6  
76:23 144:19 156:1 172:22  
190:15 191:25 205:15  
**Opportunity**  
[39] 14:24 16:23 17:6 28:9  
30:8 31:13 31:19 40:20 41:3  
43:14 48:9 49:23 59:13 61:17  
61:18 71:3 73:24 77:14 84:18  
84:19 84:21 84:22 86:17 99:6  
116:7 116:20 117:9 118:22  
124:16 141:25 147:21 151:18  
173:8 173:13 192:14 208:6  
213:3 213:11 226:20  
**Optimum**  
[1] 208:6  
**Option**  
[2] 60:4 157:9  
**Order**  
[9] 6:14 9:3 9:7 54:17 71:14  
100:10 122:9 148:6 192:19  
**Organization**  
[31] 16:15 20:3 21:8 21:24  
29:24 32:16 33:6 33:9 41:16  
46:7 49:21 54:25 58:14 68:9  
68:12 69:6 72:12 90:15 95:11  
96:23 96:25 98:1 115:4 115:4  
115:22 123:5 133:4 142:18  
145:20 147:2 179:18  
**Organization's**  
[1] 97:2  
**Organizations**  
[19] 24:17 27:17 28:4 30:19  
31:18 33:11 44:5 44:11 44:14  
91:20 93:8 93:12 93:25 95:11  
115:17 145:16 146:18 226:2  
226:7  
**Organize**  
[1] 107:25  
**Oriented**  
[1] 214:5  
**Original**  
[3] 18:1 94:5 159:12  
**Originally**  
[2] 18:8 59:11  
**Originator**  
[1] 118:15  
**Orleans**  
[1] 235:22  
**Oronato's**  
[1] 57:16  
**Otherwise**  
[2] 14:25 239:13  
**Ourselves**  
[1] 22:3  
**Out-of-three**  
[1] 238:18  
**Outages**  
[2] 55:9 61:6  
**Outburst**  
[1] 8:25  
**Outbursts**  
[1] 8:11  
**Outcome**  
[1] 230:7  
**Outdated**  
[3] 130:2 130:5 177:19  
**Outer**  
[1] 10:21  
**Outrageous**  
[1] 150:3  
**Outset**  
[4] 152:20 153:15 158:15 159:  
3  
**Outside**

[8] 8:5 64:2 72:23 129:5 158:  
7 170:16 194:12 212:9  
**Outsiders**  
[1] 158:4  
**Outstanding**  
[2] 176:19 214:12  
**Overall**  
[5] 63:17 73:3 112:12 132:11  
162:24  
**Overburden**  
[1] 127:5  
**Overdeliver**  
[1] 218:14  
**Overflow**  
[1] 43:1  
**Oversight**  
[2] 143:17 193:5  
**Overstated**  
[2] 115:1 178:11  
**Overwhelming**  
[2] 72:25 221:17  
**Overwhelmingly**  
[2] 174:11 176:6  
**Owe**  
[1] 228:13  
**Own**  
[20] 15:5 23:12 23:14 25:5  
62:24 107:25 115:6 165:24  
166:11 175:6 194:14 196:4  
201:4 224:13 226:17 229:9  
234:19 236:19 236:20 241:21  
**Owned**  
[8] 44:5 62:14 63:21 66:23  
131:9 132:14 174:23 204:15  
**Owner**  
[5] 15:4 54:12 62:23 170:19  
195:11  
**Owner's**  
[1] 138:7  
**Owners**  
[13] 35:19 38:12 39:4 47:17  
66:24 68:25 69:3 91:14 98:1  
136:24 144:5 237:13 237:14  
**Ownership**  
[12] 20:22 22:21 91:2 141:11  
160:23 161:14 161:17 183:19  
200:3 231:4 232:5 236:16  
**Owns**  
[2] 131:11 221:2

## P

**P's**  
[1] 71:14  
**P.C**  
[1] 160:6  
**P.m.**  
[1] 7:25  
**Pads**  
[1] 102:1  
**Page**  
[4] 2:2 3:1 4:1 235:17  
**Paid**  
[6] 52:16 108:23 189:12 194:  
19 201:21 232:23  
**Paint**  
[2] 18:25 149:7  
**Painted**  
[1] 122:1  
**Panama**  
[1] 216:11  
**Pandora's**  
[1] 121:13  
**Panel**  
[1] 6:20  
**Panhandler**  
[1] 194:3  
**Paper**  
[1] 193:24  
**Parade**  
[1] 174:3  
**Parallel**  
[1] 189:25  
**Paramount**  
[1] 76:12  
**Pardon**  
[2] 16:4 209:20  
**Parents**  
[3] 105:9 166:12 190:6  
**Park**  
[13] 26:21 36:20 37:20 37:24  
40:1 43:6 118:4 135:12 170:  
13 186:25 187:10 233:6 233:8  
**Parking**  
[23] 17:11 18:18 18:19 19:2  
20:13 20:15 23:21 40:4 43:1  
82:24 110:18 123:2 185:10  
187:2 187:4 187:6 187:8 187:  
15 188:3 232:14 232:22 232:  
24 233:14  
**Parks**  
[1] 37:13  
**Parlor**  
[2] 67:17 152:3  
**Parlors**  
[2] 79:19 152:10  
**Part**  
[36] 5:12 28:1 30:25 31:5 32:  
4 63:7 63:13 82:22 82:23 90:  
19 93:3 98:16 100:8 102:7  
104:8 104:18 109:2 123:20  
130:12 145:23 151:24 158:22  
178:2 186:9 193:7 212:4 214:  
14 214:18 223:2 224:12 226:  
13 230:2 232:12 240:2 240:3  
241:25  
**Part-time**  
[1] 145:23  
**Partial**  
[2] 56:3 129:23  
**Participants**  
[3] 8:7 107:18 217:17  
**Participate**  
[5] 99:21 100:21 101:10 102:  
15 146:2  
**Participated**  
[2] 91:18 242:8  
**Participating**  
[3] 44:16 101:20 102:19  
**Participation**  
[1] 161:16  
**Particular**  
[5] 29:25 41:24 166:8 166:13  
215:9  
**Particularly**  
[4] 87:15 165:22 185:9 208:20  
**Particulars**  
[1] 39:16  
**Parties**  
[4] 21:25 51:6 112:5 174:5  
**Partner**  
[8] 21:4 31:18 32:20 33:16  
90:12 175:11 236:17 236:18  
**Partnering**  
[3] 33:11 89:3 89:11  
**Partners**  
[8] 27:19 34:4 101:9 105:24  
140:1 140:9 182:2 237:15  
**Partnership**  
[15] 27:7 30:21 31:9 33:5 33:  
17 38:10 88:8 90:23 91:3 92:  
8 92:12 93:23 99:7 141:15  
208:13  
**Partnership's**  
[1] 91:24  
**Partnerships**  
[2] 27:1 27:8  
**Parts**

[1] 129:25  
**Party**  
[1] 20:19  
**Pass**  
[1] 61:21  
**Passage**  
[1] 38:1 217:9  
**Used**  
[7] 47:5 52:12 59:11 81:21  
81:24 197:20 217:5  
**Passing**  
[1] 61:16  
**Passion**  
[3] 105:4 105:6 105:6  
**Passive**  
[2] 107:18 107:19  
**Past**  
[14] 27:25 36:8 53:6 61:2 71:  
22 77:22 77:23 136:6 142:23  
160:16 168:13 195:13 205:10  
205:13  
**Pat**  
[1] 89:25  
**Patient**  
[1] 91:7  
**Patricia**  
[3] 3:22 188:14 188:15  
**Patrolmen**  
[2] 193:10 193:10  
**Patronage**  
[1] 42:15  
**Patronized**  
[1] 179:17  
**Patrons**  
[6] 62:16 77:4 119:20 120:16  
132:17 185:14  
**Pattern**  
[1] 197:5  
**Patterns**  
[2] 125:13 126:22  
3:21 155:8 182:8 182:9  
182:9  
**Pay**  
[11] 23:25 45:16 52:7 66:18  
75:16 130:10 130:12 130:12  
141:6 189:6 229:4  
**Paying**  
[8] 143:2 145:25 163:14 181:  
3 191:4 194:8 211:21 240:2  
**Payment**  
[5] 21:7 21:8 145:7 145:12  
221:5  
**Payments**  
[1] 84:1  
**Payroll**  
[1] 191:4  
**Payrolls**  
[1] 181:6  
**Pecuniary**  
[1] 167:6  
**Pedestrian**  
[1] 219:12  
**Pedestrians**  
[1] 40:6  
**Peer**  
[1] 76:14  
**Pen**  
[1] 121:22  
**Penguin**  
[2] 96:24 123:4  
**Penguins**  
[126] 13:23 14:19 49:10 49:  
12 49:25 58:9 59:16 59:23 60:  
61:5 61:23 62:9 63:8 63:  
64:6 64:7 64:9 64:11 64:  
64:17 64:21 65:2 65:9 65:  
15 65:25 66:9 66:19 67:6 83:

9 85:24 90:13 90:18 90:24 91:  
5 91:24 92:9 92:17 93:8 93:  
17 93:24 95:4 95:8 95:14 95:  
19 96:12 96:22 97:7 97:10  
101:7 101:12 101:18 102:5  
102:10 102:22 103:1 103:2  
103:8 103:13 103:15 103:18  
103:22 103:23 104:7 104:11  
104:11 104:17 104:20 104:21  
104:23 104:25 105:21 105:23  
105:24 117:12 122:22 123:17  
128:25 129:7 129:11 129:13  
129:23 139:6 139:10 139:23  
140:7 140:21 140:23 140:24  
141:2 141:16 142:2 149:5 149:  
10 158:15 158:21 159:18 174:  
4 177:21 181:7 181:10 181:21  
182:1 196:14 196:19 200:10  
201:9 201:12 202:3 220:21  
221:7 227:12 227:15 238:10  
238:15 238:17 239:4 239:11  
239:11 239:13 239:18 239:19  
239:25 240:2 240:3 240:16  
240:22  
**Penguins'**  
[2] 91:13 95:24  
**Penguins-At-Your-Service**  
[1] 92:17  
**Penn**  
[3] 1:6 1:6 7:8  
**PennDOT**  
[1] 38:11  
**Pennsylvania**  
[65] 1:2 1:7 5:3 6:10 6:12 6:  
13 6:16 6:18 7:14 11:20 27:9  
44:8 44:18 52:11 64:3 73:3  
73:6 77:21 77:25 78:4 82:3  
82:5 88:11 90:3 99:13 99:18  
99:22 100:3 100:16 100:18  
101:15 105:13 111:15 127:19  
148:10 148:25 160:12 164:22  
165:10 174:1 174:8 175:5 175:  
15 182:19 189:1 191:11 191:  
15 191:22 196:9 198:7 198:25  
199:3 199:11 203:14 204:1  
204:11 207:12 215:1 215:4  
217:2 217:6 222:14 237:1 237:  
6 242:14  
**Pennsylvania's**  
[2] 76:25 190:20  
**Pennsylvanian**  
[1] 199:6  
**Pennsylvanians**  
[2] 110:22 188:17  
**Pens**  
[3] 92:23 139:23 238:23  
**Pension**  
[1] 87:19  
**People**  
[131] 13:21 17:22 19:6 19:7  
19:14 21:15 24:6 36:14 37:15  
41:7 45:9 45:17 45:24 46:11  
46:15 46:19 46:25 47:24 48:  
21 48:25 53:6 57:7 60:20 60:  
22 62:9 64:2 64:4 65:11 66:6  
67:2 68:14 68:18 69:9 70:3  
71:20 72:6 73:8 73:9 73:20  
73:22 73:25 75:7 75:8 75:12  
76:13 76:19 77:3 81:11 81:15  
84:12 88:23 90:8 103:20 103:  
21 117:23 123:25 125:19 127:  
20 131:24 132:10 134:3 144:  
19 145:17 146:2 147:9 155:6  
155:11 156:1 158:1 158:9 158:  
23 166:6 166:7 166:17 166:21  
166:23 166:24 172:2 172:5  
172:6 174:6 174:9 174:10 174:  
13 174:21 174:24 175:23 176:  
4 176:6 178:20 186:19 187:8  
187:10 191:15 196:11 199:8  
200:12 203:21 204:21 214:3  
214:9 214:21 219:13 219:21  
225:9 226:3 226:5 226:7 226:  
12 226:24 227:21 228:3 228:8  
228:13 230:3 231:12 231:16

231:18 231:21 231:21 231:22  
233:2 233:6 233:8 233:17 233:  
23 234:4 234:12 235:16 236:  
20 238:2  
**Per**  
[8] 56:16 120:10 120:16 120:  
21 121:12 235:19 235:19 235:  
23  
**Percent**  
[2] 189:6 238:20  
**Percentage**  
[6] 52:8 52:15 183:19 189:13  
203:12 204:14  
**Perfect**  
[2] 64:8 181:8  
**Perform**  
[2] 12:15 234:7  
**Performance**  
[3] 111:24 143:15 161:11  
**Performed**  
[1] 108:21  
**Performing**  
[1] 216:6  
**Performs**  
[1] 129:17  
**Perhaps**  
[2] 57:16 69:16  
**Period**  
[4] 32:21 100:8 209:8 215:7  
**Permanent**  
[3] 40:16 53:24 224:6  
**Permit**  
[1] 232:17  
**Permitted**  
[5] 6:3 8:12 8:23 190:20 190:  
21  
**Person**  
[6] 55:13 55:13 65:23 80:14  
167:12 235:23  
**Personal**  
[3] 132:21 174:21 174:24  
**Personally**  
[5] 65:24 83:24 178:18 190:  
12 190:13  
**Persons**  
[3] 9:3 112:5 142:16  
**Perspective**  
[3] 82:4 82:6 131:16  
**Perspectives**  
[2] 70:8 161:8  
**Pertains**  
[1] 225:4  
**Pervert**  
[1] 194:3  
**Pete**  
[1] 142:8  
**Peter**  
[2] 3:7 142:6  
**Petition**  
[3] 59:7 66:6 67:12  
**Petitioners**  
[1] 64:25  
**Petitions**  
[1] 67:23  
**Petroleum**  
[1] 172:14  
**PGCB**  
[1] 8:5  
**Phase**  
[2] 20:5 20:16  
**PhD**  
[1] 69:16  
**Phenomenal**  
[2] 15:3 177:3  
**Phenomenon**  
[1] 169:24  
**Philadelphia**  
[3] 102:19 164:22 192:24

**Philanthropic**  
[3] 21:10 24:8 96:23  
**Philanthropy**  
[2] 25:12 96:1  
**Philosophy**  
[1] 57:10  
**Phone**  
[1] 189:25  
**Phones**  
[1] 5:7  
**Photographers**  
[1] 69:2  
**Phrase**  
[2] 150:12 150:14  
**Physical**  
[2] 46:22 134:10  
**Physically**  
[1] 29:1  
**Pick**  
[4] 173:15 194:14 197:7 233:  
24  
**Picture**  
[5] 25:9 96:10 120:5 121:24  
149:7  
**Pie**  
[1] 235:25  
**Pie-in-the-sky**  
[1] 235:25  
**Piece**  
[1] 118:7  
**Pierced**  
[1] 121:24  
**PIHL**  
[8] 99:23 100:13 100:15 100:  
21 101:16 103:6 103:11 105:25  
**Pirates**  
[4] 140:2 169:3 170:14 240:17  
**Pit**  
[2] 152:12 152:13  
**Pitfalls**  
[1] 207:20  
**PITG**  
[16] 29:7 29:24 30:2 30:10  
30:15 30:24 31:12 137:12 155:  
21 156:3 156:14 170:10 178:7  
213:7 222:4 222:5  
**PITG's**  
[1] 30:16  
**Pitt**  
[2] 17:14 153:14  
**Pitting**  
[1] 127:1  
**Pittsburgh**  
[335] 1:7 6:13 7:11 11:13 11:  
17 12:2 12:5 13:21 14:2 15:  
10 16:19 16:22 18:9 18:15 19:  
6 19:21 19:25 20:24 21:1 23:  
1 25:22 26:3 26:8 28:21 30:  
25 31:15 32:12 33:22 34:16  
35:12 35:17 35:22 36:7 37:18  
38:6 39:22 40:23 41:6 41:22  
41:23 43:25 44:1 46:16 49:8  
49:12 50:7 50:13 50:17 50:20  
50:22 50:25 56:12 56:19 56:  
21 57:8 58:8 58:10 58:15 58:  
20 59:15 59:17 59:23 60:2 60:  
5 60:7 60:14 60:15 60:23 61:  
3 61:9 61:22 61:25 62:3 62:7  
62:8 62:13 63:11 63:15 63:17  
64:5 64:14 64:16 64:20 65:2  
65:7 65:10 65:11 66:9 66:22  
67:1 67:4 67:6 67:6 67:17 68:  
5 68:8 68:11 68:14 68:19 69:  
4 69:19 69:23 71:15 71:22 72:  
16 72:17 72:22 73:1 74:16 75:  
1 75:5 75:12 75:21 76:16 76:  
19 77:13 81:13 82:16 83:18  
84:15 84:25 86:24 87:4 87:7  
88:1 88:10 88:16 88:20 88:22  
89:7 89:13 90:13 90:18 90:19  
90:24 91:5 91:9 92:22 93:7

93:11 93:13 93:14 95:4 95:5  
95:8 95:9 95:14 96:9 96:10  
96:12 96:22 97:6 97:7 97:10  
98:4 98:8 98:10 98:20 100:1  
101:17 102:5 102:9 102:22  
103:1 103:2 103:8 103:12 103:  
22 104:7 104:11 104:17 104:  
104:23 104:25 105:21 105:  
105:24 116:12 116:22 116:  
23 117:5 117:7 117:10 117:14  
117:24 117:25 122:14 124:18  
124:19 124:20 129:4 129:7  
130:16 130:19 130:20 131:6  
133:16 135:4 135:6 135:21  
136:3 136:6 136:8 136:22 137:  
24 139:1 139:6 139:23 140:11  
140:20 141:8 141:17 142:1  
145:1 145:7 145:10 145:16  
146:15 148:13 148:16 149:3  
149:23 150:9 150:12 150:16  
151:16 152:4 152:9 153:5 154:  
5 154:11 154:24 155:1 155:16  
155:25 156:12 157:4 157:6  
157:15 157:18 158:3 158:16  
159:17 160:9 164:18 164:19  
168:6 168:12 169:3 169:15  
169:23 170:2 171:4 171:16  
171:24 172:1 174:4 174:8 175:  
10 175:19 175:23 175:25 176:  
13 176:14 177:20 178:19 179:  
7 179:11 179:16 179:24 180:1  
182:10 182:11 182:16 184:7  
192:20 193:4 193:11 193:25  
194:2 194:7 194:20 194:24  
197:19 197:21 197:22 198:9  
199:24 200:10 203:1 203:6  
203:16 203:23 204:18 204:21  
205:4 205:11 205:17 206:20  
207:7 208:12 211:4 214:9 214:  
10 214:16 214:23 215:10 218:  
7 220:6 220:21 221:15 221:24  
226:1 227:16 232:16 232:22  
234:2 234:4 235:21 236:20  
236:24 236:24 237:2 237:23  
237:24 238:10 239:8 239:23  
240:1 240:6 240:24 241:18  
24 242:6 242:15

**Pittsburgh's**  
[14] 18:12 38:14 50:1 72:2  
76:2 97:8 118:7 118:14 118:  
23 136:9 142:19 162:17 162:  
23 206:16

**Pittsburgh-based**  
[2] 12:5 44:1

**Pittsburgh/Allegheny**  
[1] 208:10

**Pittsburgher**  
[3] 145:3 157:23 166:9

**Pittsburghers**  
[4] 33:25 74:11 131:18 140:14

**Place**  
[27] 1:6 24:4 36:14 40:23 41:  
6 47:7 57:25 59:19 68:15 111:  
8 111:10 111:12 118:8 129:17  
132:16 134:3 139:25 153:5  
162:23 186:24 192:9 196:25  
208:18 217:8 226:9 231:10  
233:9

**Placed**  
[2] 12:12 217:16

**Places**  
[4] 64:22 147:9 172:7 189:17

**Plagued**  
[1] 151:11

**Plaintiffs**  
[1] 47:25

**Plan**  
[106] 22:25 23:2 35:2 35:4  
40:19 53:22 57:17 58:8 60:6  
61:23 62:3 63:7 66:16 66:21  
71:2 73:19 73:24 74:7 74:11  
75 74:25 75:4 93:6 93:23  
109:20 118:6 118:10 118:  
15 118:15 119:25 122:16 122:  
18 123:5 123:11 123:20 125:

25 128:1 128:2 128:8 128:10  
128:14 128:18 128:21 128:24  
129:9 129:14 129:18 130:18  
130:18 136:3 136:20 136:20  
136:22 136:25 136:25 137:3  
137:3 137:23 137:24 139:1  
139:2 139:9 149:22 151:19  
151:20 151:23 153:4 153:4  
153:18 153:18 154:25 155:16  
158:14 158:22 166:22 173:4  
176:1 176:13 176:22 177:12  
180:16 180:23 181:15 201:7  
201:14 201:19 201:20 202:1  
220:3 220:7 220:15 220:16  
220:16 220:20 220:22 220:22  
221:1 221:11 221:11 221:18  
227:8 237:3 238:21 240:12  
240:23

**Planned**  
[3] 7:12 36:1 187:3

**Planners**  
[1] 204:6

**Planning**  
[6] 62:12 76:8 111:5 158:13  
171:22 224:14

**Plans**  
[23] 7:17 47:13 60:9 60:13  
62:20 87:19 112:7 128:23 153:  
10 154:15 166:4 166:19 166:  
22 166:24 174:20 174:22 181:  
9 181:10 181:22 184:8 202:6  
202:8 232:5

**Plate**  
[2] 176:24 239:1

**Play**  
[8] 40:24 61:6 64:11 69:3  
101:5 152:11 186:25 202:5

**Played**  
[3] 101:22 102:13 104:2

**Players**  
[16] 91:14 100:22 101:22 101:  
25 102:7 102:11 102:13 102:  
16 102:24 103:6 103:11 104:9  
105:2 105:5 105:9 105:25

**Playing**  
[4] 82:1 102:1 102:16 230:2

**Plays**  
[1] 184:1

**Plaza**  
[4] 136:17 138:6 138:8 138:16

**Pleased**  
[2] 30:2 30:13

**Pleasure**  
[2] 10:24 64:9

**Pled**  
[1] 178:5

**Pledge**  
[2] 6:5 24:2

**Pledged**  
[1] 33:19

**Plenty**  
[1] 17:10

**Plum**  
[1] 102:18

**Plunder**  
[1] 199:7

**Plus**  
[2] 221:6 221:13

**PM**  
[1] 242:21

**PNC**  
[2] 135:12 170:13

**Pocketbook**  
[1] 167:19

**Pockets**  
[1] 198:22

**Podium**  
[6] 16:3 16:6 114:16 124:13  
131:1 209:16

**Point**

[27] 37:24 48:8 58:1 58:23  
82:1 82:14 84:12 108:23 112:  
10 121:10 129:20 132:21 141:  
15 141:24 145:5 149:13 149:  
16 157:21 158:13 158:23 166:  
8 189:19 196:17 197:21 235:7  
237:11 238:6

**Points**  
[3] 44:22 216:2 227:23

**Poised**  
[1] 180:2

**Poles**  
[1] 6:2

**Police**  
[8] 75:16 192:19 193:3 193:8  
193:20 194:9 194:16 194:21

**Policemen**  
[1] 193:22

**Policy**  
[8] 157:5 157:8 157:12 157:  
13 157:16 172:18 202:17 202:  
19

**Political**  
[8] 69:9 79:8 88:6 113:4 153:  
11 207:25 229:24 238:25

**Politicians**  
[3] 190:8 196:12 201:9

**Pollution**  
[1] 172:12

**Poor**  
[3] 125:6 164:19 165:2

**Poor's**  
[1] 180:17

**Popejas**  
[7] 3:10 150:23 150:23 151:1  
151:2 151:16 153:23

**Popping**  
[1] 123:24

**Popular**  
[2] 72:10 131:19

**Popularity**  
[3] 92:10 132:2 229:25

**Population**  
[10] 13:9 38:22 45:23 56:9  
56:13 56:16 56:24 71:21 91:  
12 225:25

**Populations**  
[1] 208:7

**Pornography**  
[1] 203:19

**Port**  
[3] 36:9 171:20 172:23

**Porter**  
[6] 4:4 205:3 205:7 205:9  
206:25 207:4

**Portions**  
[1] 211:4

**Posed**  
[1] 126:9

**Position**  
[13] 27:22 28:24 35:15 71:14  
90:12 109:13 131:6 133:14  
184:24 187:22 189:10 190:11  
192:1

**Positions**  
[1] 163:14

**Positive**  
[5] 42:8 42:12 84:5 98:6 212:  
5

**Positives**  
[1] 29:14

**Possess**  
[1] 223:11

**Possibilities**  
[1] 57:23

**Possible**  
[6] 25:8 42:17 65:13 71:18  
218:19 242:12

**Possibly**

[3] 107:2 211:24 227:25

**Post**  
[4] 37:10 134:14 174:17 175:4

**Post-industrial**  
[1] 37:10

**Post-secondary**  
[1] 134:14

**Posted**  
[1] 8:4

**Potential**  
[12] 24:25 26:18 39:9 48:2  
53:20 53:25 78:12 95:16 121:  
13 185:7 197:17 207:25

**Poured**  
[1] 35:9

**Power**  
[11] 46:4 46:5 55:9 61:6 113:  
4 177:22 189:3 189:10 189:17  
190:11 192:1

**PR**  
[2] 109:8 109:15

**Practice**  
[2] 35:21 182:14

**Practices**  
[1] 189:15

**Pre**  
[1] 221:3

**Pre-fund**  
[1] 221:3

**Predominant**  
[1] 52:17

**Prefer**  
[1] 172:3

**Preference**  
[3] 172:19 172:21 174:15

**Premature**  
[1] 112:10

**Premiere**  
[2] 18:12 162:17

**Premium**  
[1] 37:8

**Prepare**  
[2] 11:23 77:16

**Prepared**  
[5] 8:17 102:8 114:7 156:16  
194:4

**Preparing**  
[2] 206:16 207:7

**Presence**  
[4] 96:12 197:23 205:16 208:  
17

**Present**  
[22] 5:23 6:6 6:20 7:17 11:2  
13:21 70:20 71:1 71:14 92:20  
108:9 114:7 120:5 136:7 154:  
15 157:11 168:14 172:22 173:  
8 191:6 204:23 224:23

**Presentation**  
[8] 10:8 22:12 42:2 104:1  
104:5 142:13 148:3 242:18

**Presentations**  
[4] 28:8 28:23 99:24 242:5

**Presented**  
[8] 41:25 59:14 66:16 74:25  
108:13 170:10 192:22 218:24

**Presenter**  
[1] 71:3

**Presenters**  
[1] 8:10

**Presently**  
[2] 115:2 192:23

**Present**  
[2] 72:2 76:23

**Preservation**  
[14] 16:14 18:11 20:10 21:11  
26:14 40:7 145:15 146:9 146:  
23 147:4 147:7 147:10 147:18  
147:23

**Preserve**  
[1] 75:20  
**Preside**  
[1] 230:18  
**President**  
[12] 11:17 19:24 43:21 44:25  
23 77:24 87:2 154:5 160:7  
19 213:10 215:25  
**Presidents**  
[1] 163:25  
**Presiding**  
[94] 1:19 5:1 5:2 6:7 6:9 9:  
5 11:3 11:9 15:24 16:5 16:9  
19:18 25:15 31:22 34:20 41:9  
43:15 50:9 59:1 67:21 77:9  
77:18 86:21 89:19 94:1 94:10  
94:14 94:20 97:13 99:10 106:  
4 113:14 113:21 116:8 118:17  
122:2 122:6 124:9 127:12 130:  
24 133:21 136:13 139:17 142:  
5 144:21 148:1 150:17 150:20  
150:24 153:21 153:24 156:25  
159:24 162:11 164:12 167:21  
171:5 171:8 171:13 173:18  
173:21 176:8 179:1 182:6 184:  
12 188:8 188:13 192:10 195:5  
197:8 197:11 200:24 202:10  
202:13 205:2 206:18 207:2  
208:23 209:12 209:21 209:24  
210:2 210:7 212:24 215:14  
215:17 215:22 222:3 222:6  
222:10 230:12 230:17 230:20  
242:2  
**Presken**  
[3] 2:21 114:15 114:17  
**Pressure**  
[3] 158:20 159:6 165:23  
**Pretty**  
[3] 79:9 84:2 216:16  
**Prevail**  
[1] 8:9  
**Prevent**  
44:14 61:9  
**vention**  
203:8  
**Prevents**  
[1] 161:25  
**Previous**  
[2] 72:25 114:23  
**Previously**  
[2] 67:13 200:7  
**Price**  
[2] 95:23 240:20  
**Prices**  
[2] 80:17 83:6  
**Pride**  
[4] 38:8 65:17 145:18 147:11  
**Primarily**  
[3] 115:5 125:3 176:16  
**Primary**  
[4] 26:5 82:2 106:18 144:5  
**Principal**  
[2] 160:6 182:14  
**Principle**  
[3] 224:12 239:5 239:6  
**Principles**  
[2] 52:19 52:25  
**Printouts**  
[1] 67:13  
**Priority**  
[2] 58:23 203:15  
**Private**  
[16] 15:11 15:13 38:11 45:6  
49:3 49:5 58:7 81:11 115:5  
134:4 161:25 189:21 190:21  
210:14 210:18 220:17  
**privately**  
44:5 220:23  
**privately-owned**  
[1] 44:5

**Privilege**  
[2] 163:13 240:20  
**Prize**  
[1] 213:12  
**Problem**  
[10] 56:20 71:23 137:9 151:  
19 152:18 159:8 185:18 189:  
18 197:6 206:13  
**Problems**  
[14] 70:4 70:7 72:3 74:13  
120:18 125:23 126:3 126:9  
126:25 172:22 186:12 207:18  
207:19 233:3  
**Proceed**  
[1] 222:4  
**Proceedings**  
[2] 243:1 243:4  
**Proceeds**  
[2] 15:9 203:12  
**Process**  
[41] 12:4 15:15 35:20 43:9  
52:10 52:14 52:22 54:20 59:  
21 70:22 98:17 107:6 107:11  
108:21 108:24 109:1 109:7  
109:22:113:1 113:2 113:3 143:  
11 143:18 168:19 206:15 207:  
6 210:15 212:12 213:16 213:  
20 213:25 214:6 217:19 217:  
20 226:22 227:18 228:12 229:  
24 230:1 230:2 230:4  
**Prodred**  
[1] 178:7  
**Produce**  
[2] 49:7 186:11  
**Produced**  
[1] 20:14  
**Producing**  
[1] 211:17  
**Product**  
[1] 25:11  
**Products**  
[1] 95:2  
**Professional**  
[12] 37:17 38:22 47:25 97:25  
102:17 102:25 103:25 104:1  
104:1 129:1 130:15 208:21  
**Professionally**  
[2] 70:7 230:5  
**Professionals**  
[1] 47:11  
**Professions**  
[1] 98:2  
**Professor**  
[1] 157:14  
**Professors**  
[1] 69:2  
**Proffer**  
[1] 55:7  
**Profit**  
[14] 16:15 25:25 32:15 33:10  
35:1 41:15 68:12 95:10 115:4  
115:16 178:12 190:13 190:13  
206:1  
**Profitability**  
[1] 184:6  
**Profits**  
[10] 20:9 174:21 174:25 191:  
5 221:4 221:8 221:8 224:9  
224:10 225:16  
**Program**  
[7] 22:24 26:16 27:14 206:11  
207:13 207:14 208:6  
**Programming**  
[1] 203:14  
**Programs**  
[13] 20:11 24:10 24:12 26:10  
26:23 27:11 91:7 145:17 146:  
3 147:5 160:14 203:8 203:10  
**Programs'**

[1] 204:17  
**Progress**  
[3] 30:22 91:25 200:8  
**Prohibits**  
[1] 189:21  
**Project**  
[25] 23:8 53:22 68:5 68:9 68:  
11 119:2 134:2 142:14 146:11  
153:14 154:6 170:6 170:10  
182:12 210:13 219:23 221:19  
224:5 231:5 232:20 237:5 237:  
7 238:1 241:9 241:10  
**Projected**  
[9] 21:21 170:21 175:17 181:  
4 191:6 199:14 210:24 223:1  
235:23  
**Projection**  
[3] 175:15 199:20 235:21  
**Projections**  
[18] 12:17 24:23 24:25 35:16  
127:24 175:14 182:25 183:4  
187:24 191:8 199:19 215:3  
222:20 222:21 222:25 232:3  
234:19 241:19  
**Projects**  
[19] 29:10 33:3 36:17 39:23  
43:11 75:18 133:19 143:20  
144:12 145:15 160:17 169:10  
214:4 216:9 216:20 219:4 219:  
5 219:11 233:11  
**Prominent**  
[1] 35:18  
**Promise**  
[3] 110:6 183:21 222:23  
**Promised**  
[4] 19:10 132:17 180:25 184:3  
**Promises**  
[3] 19:11 43:8 138:2  
**Promising**  
[2] 52:23 183:15  
**Promote**  
[3] 130:20 134:9 159:19  
**Promotes**  
[2] 146:23 157:19  
**Promoting**  
[1] 145:18  
**Promptly**  
[1] 242:17  
**Pronged**  
[1] 72:5  
**Pronounce**  
[1] 150:21  
**Proper**  
[1] 108:8  
**Properties**  
[9] 33:1 34:5 75:25 88:25 97:  
17 97:25 163:2 191:2 204:15  
**Property**  
[33] 17:7 18:2 18:21 18:23  
23:17 23:19 35:18 35:18 37:8  
37:15 38:11 39:4 42:24 54:9  
62:23 66:23 131:12 132:14  
136:16 149:2 156:20 178:1  
180:10 181:1 181:16 181:23  
196:5 196:8 198:6 198:24 220:  
9 220:16 236:16  
**Proponent**  
[1] 16:18  
**Proportion**  
[1] 208:16  
**Proposal**  
[50] 25:13 42:10 43:1 48:10  
71:8 71:17 72:17 74:5 76:7  
76:23 81:1 89:6 89:13 118:25  
127:4 136:2 136:11 142:3 145:  
6 147:15 149:4 156:6 157:9  
157:22 157:24 170:5 170:10  
182:24 188:4 198:13 199:23  
200:1 200:4 200:9 210:21 211:  
25 223:15 224:13 224:20 224:  
24 225:14 225:19 225:22 226:

5 226:17 226:25 227:3 227:13  
236:8 237:25  
**Proposals**  
[21] 12:6 12:8 12:12 15:17  
22:5 35:15 40:13 71:4 84:24  
86:4 149:1 158:4 159:9 176:  
19 178:4 180:24 181:20 183:4  
226:21 228:22 231:18  
**Propose**  
[3] 17:8 111:17 228:19  
**Proposed**  
[20] 28:16 28:25 29:3 29:22  
30:1 30:12 62:20 68:18 116:  
11 119:12 168:10 170:2 172:  
11 172:18 172:21 180:20 183:  
11 199:12 211:9 238:21  
**Proposes**  
[3] 12:23 15:20 182:21  
**Proposing**  
[3] 219:22 223:17 233:22  
**Prospective**  
[1] 71:4  
**Prosper**  
[1] 88:1  
**Prosperity**  
[2] 110:22 169:14  
**Prostitutes**  
[1] 203:21  
**Prostitution**  
[1] 203:19  
**Protection**  
[5] 45:1 80:8 80:9 194:9 204:  
8  
**Prothonotary**  
[1] 184:22  
**Protocols**  
[2] 5:25 6:1  
**Proud**  
[5] 33:16 87:15 111:16 130:  
15 230:1  
**Proved**  
[1] 72:9  
**Proven**  
[6] 25:4 37:13 49:1 158:2  
167:18 210:16  
**Provide**  
[23] 14:7 26:17 37:16 49:14  
52:8 65:17 65:19 71:6 76:15  
100:12 123:22 134:13 145:14  
155:25 159:11 175:19 205:23  
206:4 206:9 208:4 220:7 220:  
9 228:22  
**Provided**  
[5] 14:23 15:11 139:22 156:  
11 223:7  
**Providence**  
[1] 216:13  
**Provider**  
[1] 95:1  
**Provides**  
[9] 26:9 38:25 44:1 45:1 49:  
5 49:7 74:1 74:15 208:6  
**Providing**  
[6] 52:20 75:6 99:7 112:22  
119:7 200:2  
**Provision**  
[4] 51:15 51:19 73:22 204:4  
**Proximity**  
[2] 29:15 173:1  
**Psychological**  
[1] 144:14  
**PTTG**  
[2] 71:1 73:20  
**Public**  
[71] 1:4 1:23 5:4 5:13 6:10  
6:11 7:11 7:14 7:18 7:20 8:4  
9:11 11:22 20:22 25:6 35:7  
35:8 39:1 39:5 41:1 45:6 54:  
14 68:2 76:2 81:9 81:10 85:  
11 121:8 134:5 143:10 143:14

157:3 157:5 157:8 157:12 157:13  
13 157:16 157:17 158:19 159:6  
6 165:2 171:25 172:3 172:4  
172:15 173:11 173:16 180:6  
183:9 185:2 188:20 189:14  
190:20 190:22 191:19 191:21  
191:22 192:5 192:6 202:17  
191:19 204:12 205:19 207:18  
208:1 220:23 221:17 224:25  
238:13 242:5 243:9

**Public's**

[3] 120:3 121:3 121:15

**Public/private**

[1] 38:9

**Publically**

[7] 22:20 25:1 25:5 34:15 37:14  
44:5 81:6

**Publically-accessible**

[1] 37:14

**Publically-held**

[3] 22:20 25:1 25:5

**Publically-subsidized**

[1] 81:6

**Publications**

[1] 146:5

**Publicize**

[1] 58:14

**Publicly**

[1] 181:11

**Publicly-held**

[1] 181:11

**Published**

[1] 183:3

**Pull**

[1] 137:17

**Pulls**

[1] 49:17

**PUM**

[1] 71:14

**PUMP**

[24] 68:10 68:22 68:23 69:6  
10 69:18 69:20 69:25 70:  
70:14 70:18 70:24 71:9 71:  
71 72:18 72:20 73:1 73:4 74:  
6 74:17 75:3 154:5 154:13  
155:3

**PUMP's**

[6] 68:16 70:20 71:12 72:9  
72:13 155:7

**Purchased**

[3] 232:6 232:7 232:9

**Purchaser**

[1] 129:13

**Pure**

[1] 149:10

**Purely**

[1] 158:5

**Purpose**

[28] 14:1 14:15 17:22 21:2  
44:17 59:15 60:6 60:18 61:15  
62:5 67:3 76:12 90:11 95:6  
98:16 99:9 100:6 177:15 177:  
24 178:9 182:17 200:6 200:20  
220:13 220:18 223:24 227:11  
232:14

**Purposes**

[1] 163:1

**Pursuant**

[1] 6:16

**Pursue**

[1] 38:15

**Pursuing**

[1] 50:23

**Pursuit**

[1] 134:14

**Pursuits**

132:1 132:12

[27] 40:18 47:7 49:11 54:18

57:24 79:6 84:18 85:21 93:17  
95:7 95:23 118:9 129:18 130:  
18 130:19 141:18 151:21 152:  
16 176:23 178:8 181:20 195:  
24 200:1 208:18 232:17 239:  
10 239:13

**Puts**

[1] 118:6

**Putting**

[4] 81:16 130:7 234:14 240:17

**Puzzle**

[1] 118:8

**Q**

**Qualifications**

[1] 223:12

**Qualified**

[2] 12:19 223:4

**Qualifies**

[1] 168:8

**Qualities**

[1] 39:5

**Quality**

[20] 40:4 53:24 65:16 87:16  
87:23 88:6 88:13 88:19 89:7  
89:12 89:16 111:19 133:5 133:  
19 180:8 180:14 182:4 186:7  
189:5 218:25

**Quality-of-life**

[1] 186:7

**Quantified**

[1] 162:5

**Quantify**

[1] 161:5

**Quantities**

[1] 223:12

**Quest**

[1] 180:13

**Questionable**

[1] 143:4

**Questions**

[7] 10:12 71:4 71:16 86:12  
143:21 172:25 239:9

**Quick**

[1] 92:16

**Quicker**

[1] 85:3

**Quickly**

[1] 107:24

**Quinn**

[4] 3:4 133:22 133:23 133:24

**Quite**

[9] 56:7 57:3 80:4 107:2 125:  
5 195:14 197:1 218:18 228:5

**Quote**

[4] 47:18 47:20 196:13 212:20

**Qwest**

[5] 189:25 190:4 190:10 190:  
12 190:17

**R**

**Racinos**

[1] 87:13

**Radar**

[1] 48:22

**Raiford**

[4] 3:15 164:14 164:15 164:16

**Rail**

[2] 173:11 196:1

**Railroad**

[3] 20:7 153:2 185:22

**Raise**

[5] 11:1 37:15 91:19 93:18  
209:25

**Raised**

[11] 48:13 51:7 51:8 91:6 92:  
20 103:13 110:7 164:17 177:4  
188:4 203:25

**RAMP**

[1] 207:14

**Ran**

[1] 177:1

**Range**

[6] 14:7 41:22 44:2 69:11  
122:21 171:22

**Ranged**

[1] 218:7

**Ranked**

[1] 56:14

**Ranks**

[2] 102:25 208:21

**Ransom**

[1] 150:2

**Rape**

[1] 193:14

**Rapid**

[1] 173:13

**Rapid-transit**

[1] 173:13

**Rate**

[1] 27:5

**Rather**

[3] 40:20 72:15 113:5

**Rating**

[1] 180:17

**Rationally**

[1] 162:2

**Ratner**

[6] 4:10 164:1 230:16 230:19  
230:24 230:25

**Ratners**

[1] 84:24

**Raup**

[6] 2:9 41:10 41:11 41:12 41:  
12 43:16

**Ravages**

[1] 91:23

**Ravishes**

[1] 165:2

**Reach**

[3] 92:6 152:18 189:19

**Reached**

[1] 152:19

**Reaching**

[3] 96:2 125:22 182:23

**Read**

[4] 71:7 146:5 175:2 187:19

**Readily**

[1] 185:11

**Ready**

[3] 132:14 151:23 222:4

**Reaffirmed**

[1] 149:19

**Real**

[20] 13:2 20:12 20:14 30:25  
42:19 97:21 98:3 109:25 114:  
20 128:3 128:6 145:5 153:6  
168:3 170:6 181:12 183:22  
195:21 234:6 236:12

**Real-world-time-frames**

[1] 183:22

**Realistic**

[2] 199:18 222:24

**Realized**

[1] 183:6

**Really**

[28] 13:24 14:23 47:12 77:14  
77:17 80:7 84:16 93:10 105:  
11 115:16 149:9 166:16 166:  
17 166:22 166:23 176:6 197:5  
213:15 216:3 216:10 216:23  
217:11 218:11 218:13 219:11  
222:24 227:16 229:20

**Realty**

[2] 61:24 62:1

**Rear**

[1] 10:15

**Reason**

[9] 62:18 82:2 120:19 122:24  
167:10 178:18 180:10 197:25  
233:1

**Reasonable**

[1] 227:4

**Reasons**

[9] 17:24 60:5 66:20 115:13  
119:1 122:17 127:25 128:1  
134:16

**Rebuild**

[3] 200:5 200:6 221:19

**Rebuttal**

[4] 9:15 114:7 209:8 213:5

**Receive**

[4] 103:6 170:25 198:9 199:11

**Received**

[3] 28:7 109:19 154:18

**Receives**

[3] 31:12 178:2 193:1

**Receiving**

[1] 28:22

**Recent**

[2] 56:11 64:9

**Recently**

[6] 63:4 63:16 66:15 142:11  
152:14 188:5

**Recess**

[7] 9:2 113:18 114:10 209:2  
209:4 209:7 242:20

**Recite**

[1] 31:3

**Recognition**

[1] 102:23

**Recognize**

[1] 197:19

**Recognized**

[2] 102:12 145:22

**Recognizes**

[1] 14:20

**Recommend**

[1] 208:9

**Recommendation**

[2] 48:1 105:15

**Recommendations**

[3] 203:3 204:25 205:18

**Reconnect**

[4] 128:16 153:5 177:10 221:  
20

**Reconnecting**

[1] 224:18

**Reconvene**

[2] 113:18 209:5

**Reconvened**

[2] 113:22 209:14

**Record**

[23] 5:12 5:21 24:5 25:4 31:  
5 31:6 32:2 32:4 68:2 89:2  
116:9 122:7 122:10 131:8 158:  
2 169:4 177:4 183:2 184:4  
205:19 225:1 238:4 238:5

**Record-setting**

[1] 177:4

**Records**

[1] 161:13

**Recourse**

[1] 143:10

**Recreation**

[1] 53:21

**Recreational**

[3] 38:3 204:5 224:15

**Recruit**

[1] 21:19

**Recruitment**

[2] 25:10 208:6

**Red**

[3] 10:9 87:9 163:17

**Redefine**

[1] 40:22  
**Redevelop**  
 [4] 60:9 61:25 151:23 178:10  
**Redeveloped**  
 [2] 106:21 128:11  
**Developing**  
 [1] 112:14 138:1  
**Redevelopment**  
 [5] 63:6 123:21 169:11 221:9  
 221:19  
**Redevelopments**  
 [1] 110:13  
**Reduce**  
 [3] 119:22 196:8 207:17  
**Reduced**  
 [1] 212:1  
**Reduction**  
 [1] 54:9  
**Reenergize**  
 [1] 221:20  
**Refer**  
 [2] 52:1 180:9  
**Referendum**  
 [1] 180:11  
**Refers**  
 [1] 112:2  
**Reflect**  
 [2] 30:23 208:14  
**Reflected**  
 [1] 64:24  
**Refunds**  
 [1] 236:8  
**Refurbishment**  
 [1] 134:24  
**Refuse**  
 [2] 9:3 202:3  
**Refuses**  
 [1] 121:6  
**Yard**  
 [1] 12:15 91:15 106:20 112:  
 112:16 161:12  
**Regarded**  
 [1] 183:8  
**Regarding**  
 [5] 6:13 42:25 69:17 75:8 76:  
 6  
**Regardless**  
 [3] 42:6 129:16 223:24  
**Region**  
 [67] 11:20 12:10 14:6 14:25  
 31:15 35:8 48:11 58:2 60:7  
 60:19 67:4 69:4 69:8 69:25  
 70:19 74:16 75:1 77:5 78:15  
 79:25 80:2 82:8 83:15 84:2  
 84:10 92:23 98:8 98:20 99:7  
 100:8 100:12 102:2 103:2 104:  
 21 105:21 107:2 123:14 123:  
 15 128:25 129:5 145:4 145:10  
 145:16 146:15 147:11 147:19  
 154:11 155:1 156:11 157:7  
 157:20 159:16 159:20 173:9  
 177:16 178:15 182:16 199:25  
 200:18 200:21 203:15 208:17  
 220:10 220:25 221:23 227:12  
 234:13  
**Region's**  
 [2] 26:5 90:21  
**Regional**  
 [7] 14:3 37:25 70:13 146:21  
 147:3 206:16 207:7  
**Regions**  
 [1] 78:14  
**Registered**  
 [4] 8:2 10:25 11:2 213:2  
**ular**  
 [1] 80:14 214:4  
**regulation**  
 [1] 6:18

**Regulations**

[4] 47:6 47:12 47:20 48:21  
**Rehab**  
 [1] 36:20  
**Rehabilitated**  
 [1] 26:12  
**Reinforce**  
 [1] 41:3  
**Reinheimer**  
 [7] 2:4 16:2 16:4 16:7 16:11  
 16:12 19:19  
**Reinvested**  
 [1] 91:9  
**Reinvestment**  
 [8] 75:18 107:9 110:7 110:10  
 112:12 225:9 225:14 227:7  
**Rejected**  
 [1] 149:24  
**Rejuvenation**  
 [1] 117:21  
**Related**  
 [8] 39:9 43:11 44:3 46:22  
 120:18 191:1 207:8 207:17  
**Relating**  
 [1] 218:6  
**Relation**  
 [1] 182:25  
**Relationship**  
 [4] 28:20 42:5 184:6 226:10  
**Relative**  
 [1] 12:21  
**Relatively**  
 [2] 93:19 219:5  
**Relatives**  
 [1] 241:5  
**Relatives'**  
 [1] 190:25  
**Relevant**  
 [1] 92:2  
**Reliable**  
 [1] 228:1  
**Relief**  
 [13] 18:2 23:17 42:24 54:9  
 75:10 76:24 156:20 178:1 181:  
 1 181:16 181:23 198:6 220:10  
**Relieve**  
 [1] 186:22  
**Relinquished**  
 [1] 192:2  
**Relocated**  
 [1] 169:13  
**Rely**  
 [3] 47:17 51:15 216:19  
**Remain**  
 [5] 10:7 41:20 106:10 200:11  
 227:15  
**Remained**  
 [3] 54:25 123:9 123:15  
**Remaining**  
 [1] 132:6  
**Remarks**  
 [14] 5:6 9:18 9:23 11:25 15:  
 25 16:6 31:6 35:6 97:14 144:  
 23 157:7 159:9 171:6 179:2  
**Remember**  
 [2] 77:1 108:16  
**Remind**  
 [6] 5:10 114:11 209:6 222:10  
 230:21 242:13  
**Reminder**  
 [1] 131:24  
**Remove**  
 [3] 44:12 74:21 156:5  
**Removed**  
 [1] 18:24  
**Removing**  
 [1] 156:11  
**Renaissance**

[3] 117:3 117:4 117:22

**Rendell**

[3] 66:17 118:11 149:15  
**Render**  
 [1] 188:24  
**Renewal**  
 [4] 24:11 112:1 147:13 147:23  
**Renewals**  
 [1] 161:10  
**Reno**  
 [1] 132:24  
**Renovated**  
 [1] 132:3  
**Renovation**  
 [3] 55:23 138:11 193:25  
**Renovations**  
 [2] 36:22 195:15  
**Rental**  
 [1] 204:15  
**Replace**  
 [1] 13:16  
**Replaced**  
 [3] 14:12 96:24 115:1  
**Report**  
 [3] 30:2 30:13 120:22  
**Reported**  
 [2] 46:13 51:5  
**Reportedly**  
 [1] 51:8  
**Reporter**  
 [2] 1:23 243:9  
**Reports**  
 [1] 120:25  
**Repositioning**  
 [1] 92:16  
**Represent**  
 [12] 33:24 45:17 59:6 68:21  
 77:3 77:4 78:1 94:25 154:11  
 225:25 226:1 226:3  
**Representative**  
 [5] 63:3 66:15 99:21 107:15  
 108:6  
**Representatives**  
 [6] 5:23 7:21 27:16 27:18 28:  
 9 91:15  
**Represented**  
 [2] 7:1 170:5  
**Representing**  
 [14] 19:21 27:22 32:7 34:22  
 41:10 41:17 50:12 77:11 89:  
 22 97:16 97:23 99:13 106:7  
 226:13  
**Represents**  
 [4] 53:22 87:6 87:10 93:7  
**Reputation**  
 [2] 133:9 229:13  
**Request**  
 [6] 28:9 28:12 31:4 70:23  
 121:1 121:6  
**Requested**  
 [1] 28:7  
**Require**  
 [7] 110:6 144:7 144:17 171:  
 23 172:15 183:5 194:11  
**Required**  
 [6] 53:14 120:2 120:9 142:19  
 144:4 183:10  
**Requirement**  
 [5] 21:6 48:7 69:13 159:11  
 229:11  
**Requirements**  
 [6] 47:21 51:18 53:10 53:15  
 53:17 121:12  
**Requies**  
 [2] 17:8 189:13  
**Research**  
 [7] 71:10 91:7 91:10 92:1  
 111:13 111:14 207:9

**Resent**

[1] 150:1  
**Reserve**  
 [1] 103:17  
**Reside**  
 [4] 131:3 162:15 184:16 206:3  
**Residences**  
 [1] 169:13  
**Residency**  
 [1] 34:17  
**Resident**  
 [23] 16:13 20:1 25:22 43:20  
 50:17 56:6 90:1 106:15 113:  
 11 145:2 148:13 150:8 151:3  
 151:3 152:6 157:4 160:5 168:  
 1 173:24 174:1 185:6 202:25  
 216:1  
**Residential**  
 [16] 23:10 37:4 37:7 43:2 75:  
 24 108:1 108:15 110:5 125:4  
 125:7 126:8 127:2 127:10 128:  
 15 169:20 186:6  
**Residents**  
 [28] 26:4 38:5 41:17 53:25  
 56:18 65:16 72:22 106:25 107:  
 13 111:20 112:20 124:5 125:  
 17 125:22 136:22 138:22 149:  
 1 151:17 153:20 165:19 174:6  
 174:7 174:8 176:1 196:9 198:  
 15 198:23 239:22  
**Resides**  
 [1] 9:20  
**Resolved**  
 [2] 137:10 149:22  
**Resonate**  
 [1] 184:8  
**Resorts**  
 [1] 131:10  
**Resources**  
 [3] 165:24 181:13 208:5  
**Respect**  
 [2] 114:22 185:10  
**Respected**  
 [3] 30:6 133:10 216:24  
**Respectful**  
 [1] 30:5  
**Respectfully**  
 [4] 8:12 60:15 99:23 110:3  
**Respectively**  
 [1] 73:15  
**Respects**  
 [1] 146:25  
**Respond**  
 [1] 225:2  
**Responded**  
 [2] 28:16 30:3  
**Respondents**  
 [1] 75:22  
**Response**  
 [6] 64:15 125:9 126:18 127:8  
 154:18 222:5  
**Responsibilities**  
 [1] 119:7  
**Responsibility**  
 [4] 8:9 35:14 40:12 198:4  
**Responsible**  
 [6] 30:4 143:14 190:2 193:10  
 207:13 228:16  
**Responsive**  
 [2] 28:11 145:21  
**Rest**  
 [2] 49:11 72:18  
**Restaurant**  
 [16] 42:15 46:11 69:2 77:21  
 77:25 78:5 81:8 82:4 82:6 82:  
 8 82:9 82:11 82:11 82:12 187:  
 14 201:4  
**Restaurants**  
 [14] 46:9 78:1 78:15 78:19

78:22 80:2 80:25 81:2 83:12  
 126:12 138:15 172:8 196:24  
 224:15  
**Restoration**  
 [4] 9:3 26:14 26:20 146:10  
**Restoring**  
 20:6  
**ts**  
 [1] 120:3  
**Result**  
 [5] 39:17 110:9 145:8 181:3  
 205:15  
**Resulting**  
 [1] 111:3  
**Results**  
 [8] 29:16 38:18 70:20 72:16  
 74:14 75:2 76:10 156:17  
**Resume**  
 [1] 9:2  
**Retail**  
 [5] 45:7 99:2 138:15 138:18  
 139:22  
**Retains**  
 [1] 75:5  
**Retardation**  
 [1] 163:19  
**Retention**  
 [7] 71:20 73:14 74:8 155:6  
 155:11 155:18 155:19  
**Retired**  
 [1] 124:18  
**Retirement**  
 [1] 163:11  
**Retractable**  
 [1] 168:15  
**Retrofit**  
 [1] 48:24  
**Return**  
 [9] 17:10 114:6 115:19 183:  
 22 188:11 189:20 198:9 236:6  
 2:14  
**nite**  
 [1] 136:4  
**Reusing**  
 [1] 20:6  
**Rev**  
 [2] 4:3 202:15  
**Reveal**  
 [1] 212:22  
**Revenue**  
 [47] 12:16 23:16 35:16 36:3  
 52:8 52:16 52:24 54:8 56:23  
 61:10 62:17 63:20 63:21 76:1  
 76:7 76:16 91:20 93:5 123:19  
 127:24 147:14 147:16 170:21  
 175:14 175:17 180:25 181:23  
 182:25 186:11 198:5 199:19  
 210:25 211:17 214:23 215:3  
 215:9 217:2 218:19 219:9 219:  
 10 222:20 222:20 232:3 235:  
 19 236:4 236:6 240:12  
**Revenues**  
 [17] 25:10 49:8 75:9 75:15  
 149:3 156:21 181:16 183:3  
 198:13 198:18 199:11 199:14  
 199:22 200:21 220:8 233:25  
 234:17  
**Reverend**  
 [2] 202:14 202:16  
**Reverse**  
 [3] 40:11 52:5 71:25  
**Reversing**  
 [1] 57:6  
**Review**  
 [9] 15:16 28:10 119:3 143:19  
 156:18 174:18 175:22 205:21  
 20  
**iewing**  
 [2] 47:15 161:1  
**Revitalization**

[8] 14:4 20:10 21:11 24:9 35:  
 20 58:19 170:7 221:24  
**Revitalize**  
 [7] 13:4 26:12 37:24 95:8 97:  
 5 136:4 201:20  
**Revitalized**  
 [1] 135:22  
**Revitalizing**  
 [1] 21:25  
**Rewards**  
 [1] 235:16  
**RFP**  
 [1] 159:12  
**Rice**  
 [4] 3:9 148:8 148:9 148:12  
**Ride**  
 [2] 17:21 187:11  
**Ridge**  
 [1] 194:18  
**Ridiculous**  
 [1] 191:19  
**Rigged**  
 [2] 55:11 56:2  
**Rightly**  
 [1] 225:12  
**Rights**  
 [2] 44:24 47:9  
**Rinks**  
 [1] 101:23  
**Rise**  
 [5] 6:5 11:1 32:17 94:11 116:  
 25  
**Risen**  
 [1] 25:3  
**Rittvo**  
 [6] 215:1 215:11 215:16 215:  
 21 215:24 215:24  
**Ritvo**  
 [1] 4:7  
**River**  
 [7] 17:16 119:16 137:11 169:  
 6 169:17 170:16 171:3  
**River's**  
 [1] 40:9  
**Riverboat**  
 [1] 232:8  
**Riverboats**  
 [1] 132:8  
**Riverfront**  
 [13] 35:18 35:19 35:23 36:17  
 37:3 37:20 38:24 39:23 40:25  
 74:23 76:9 156:9 195:23  
**Riverfronts**  
 [3] 37:14 38:2 39:10  
**Riverlife**  
 [5] 34:22 34:25 34:25 36:6  
 38:8  
**Rivers**  
 [16] 1:18 6:22 35:2 35:10 36:  
 1 36:9 37:6 39:13 40:1 40:25  
 41:5 41:6 128:22 140:3 153:3  
 169:5  
**RJ**  
 [1] 102:18  
**Road**  
 [2] 148:16 183:17  
**Roads**  
 [2] 125:18 163:6  
**Roadways**  
 [2] 119:11 144:10  
**Robinson**  
 [4] 171:9 171:11 171:14 174:4  
**Robison**  
 [4] 3:17 171:12 171:15 171:16  
**Rock**  
 [1] 174:23  
**Rohm**  
 [5] 2:23 118:19 118:20 118:

21 122:7  
**Role**  
 [1] 184:1  
**Ron**  
 [4] 4:4 50:16 205:3 205:9  
**Ronald**  
 [2] 2:11 50:12  
**Roof**  
 [2] 61:4 168:16  
**Rookie**  
 [1] 177:4  
**Room**  
 [5] 6:3 9:5 10:15 10:22 17:10  
**Rooms**  
 [2] 23:11 132:18  
**Roots**  
 [1] 146:17  
**Rosina**  
 [2] 3:5 136:15  
**Roughly**  
 [2] 41:17 45:23  
**Round**  
 [1] 73:15  
**Route**  
 [1] 185:16  
**Routes**  
 [1] 144:1  
**Row**  
 [1] 114:2  
**Rowers**  
 [1] 39:2  
**RPR**  
 [2] 1:22 243:9  
**Rubber**  
 [1] 183:16  
**Rules**  
 [1] 8:3  
**Run**  
 [7] 79:13 115:25 138:19 173:  
 7 176:25 193:7 196:22  
**Runner**  
 [1] 58:24  
**Running**  
 [4] 115:23 115:24 166:21 196:  
 24  
**Runs**  
 [3] 115:5 131:21 193:12  
**Rush**  
 [5] 2:25 124:12 124:14 124:  
 14 124:17  
**Russia**  
 [1] 64:3

**S**

**Sadly**  
 [1] 194:1  
**Safe**  
 [4] 75:13 75:17 169:19 169:21  
**Safely**  
 [2] 193:17 227:15  
**Safety**  
 [7] 6:3 120:3 121:3 121:8  
 121:15 132:10 180:6  
**Sake**  
 [1] 142:1  
**Sale**  
 [1] 145:8  
**Sales**  
 [3] 23:21 103:10 179:13  
**Sam**  
 [5] 2:19 94:6 99:13 99:15 99:  
 17  
**San**  
 [3] 37:12 233:12 241:12  
**Sanford**  
 [2] 1:18 6:22  
**Sat**

[6] 85:5 160:12 163:24 166:2  
 166:2 232:21  
**Satellite**  
 [1] 120:7  
**Saturday**  
 [1] 211:9  
**Saturdays**  
 [1] 197:4  
**Save**  
 [3] 196:10 211:11 235:8  
**Saved**  
 [1] 32:21  
**Saving**  
 [3] 95:13 96:17 165:1  
**Saw**  
 [4] 20:16 22:12 116:13 198:1  
**Sawyer's**  
 [1] 66:8  
**Scale**  
 [2] 29:10 205:16  
**Scenic**  
 [1] 43:5  
**Scepticism**  
 [1] 178:14  
**Schedule**  
 [1] 186:20  
**Scheduled**  
 [10] 8:1 19:20 25:17 32:6 34:  
 21 43:17 50:11 77:10 89:21  
 99:12  
**Schedules**  
 [1] 226:18  
**Scholarships**  
 [2] 96:3 105:1  
**School**  
 [13] 100:16 102:18 102:21  
 103:25 133:25 134:4 134:5  
 134:18 146:3 157:14 165:5  
 165:17 240:11  
**School's**  
 [1] 134:8  
**Schools**  
 [3] 21:13 24:13 163:3  
**Science**  
 [4] 135:15 157:19 170:13 218:  
 11  
**Scientifically**  
 [1] 234:22  
**SciTech**  
 [1] 157:19  
**Score**  
 [2] 37:12 130:1  
**Scott**  
 [7] 2:24 122:4 122:5 122:5  
 122:7 122:11 122:11  
**Screen**  
 [1] 48:23  
**Scrutiny**  
 [2] 217:12 217:16  
**Seaman**  
 [4] 3:3 130:25 131:2 131:3  
**Seamlessly**  
 [1] 37:19  
**Searched**  
 [1] 20:20  
**Season**  
 [4] 63:18 83:6 92:14 92:14  
**Seasonal**  
 [1] 140:12  
**Seasons**  
 [1] 65:20  
**Seat**  
 [1] 188:11  
**Seated**  
 [2] 11:10 94:21  
**Seats**  
 [7] 55:11 55:13 56:2 56:5  
 106:10 113:22 209:13

**Seclude**  
[1] 62:21  
**Second**  
[8] 16:1 48:8 116:17 128:24  
140:7 161:19 191:9 235:21  
**Secondary**  
134:14  
**Seconds**  
[2] 10:7 86:12  
**Secret**  
[1] 78:9  
**Secretly**  
[1] 190:11  
**Section**  
[6] 51:17 116:23 124:19 164:  
18 165:16 224:16  
**Sector**  
[8] 87:17 87:22 157:17 189:  
21 190:20 190:21 210:14 210:  
18  
**Secured**  
[1] 103:15  
**Securing**  
[1] 121:7  
**Security**  
[2] 194:12 194:15  
**See**  
[28] 10:13 22:5 52:6 64:11  
65:22 65:25 66:20 75:8 80:1  
87:8 103:23 103:24 103:25  
109:9 109:14 114:15 116:3  
129:25 130:1 139:15 153:6  
153:8 156:21 166:5 193:15  
211:13 235:20 236:10  
**Seeing**  
[4] 102:3 138:14 159:14 201:7  
**Seek**  
[6] 21:19 24:2 47:1 70:4 232:  
17 232:17  
**Seeking**  
[1] 190:14  
**See m**  
32:15 78:15 199:18  
**Seize**  
[1] 41:3  
**Select**  
[4] 22:7 171:24 198:4 229:8  
**Selected**  
[10] 21:3 27:10 29:7 30:11  
30:17 40:19 42:7 43:10 225:  
22 232:11  
**Selection**  
[2] 40:4 223:2  
**Selects**  
[1] 121:18  
**Self**  
[5] 117:18 134:9 206:11 206:  
12 231:21  
**Self-esteem**  
[1] 134:9  
**Self-exclusion**  
[1] 206:11  
**Self-identify**  
[1] 206:12  
**Self-made**  
[1] 231:21  
**Self-sustained**  
[1] 117:18  
**Sell**  
[5] 20:18 20:18 80:12 240:1  
240:19  
**Selling**  
[2] 149:11 189:4  
**Semifinals**  
[2] 103:18 103:24  
**ate**  
217:3 217:5  
**Send**

[1] 87:24  
**Senior**  
[3] 32:16 33:18 133:24  
**Seniors**  
[2] 32:25 34:10  
**Sensational**  
[1] 177:3  
**Sense**  
[2] 65:17 181:8  
**Sensible**  
[1] 147:8  
**Sent**  
[1] 71:12  
**Sentiment**  
[1] 64:24  
**Separate**  
[1] 78:22  
**Series**  
[10] 7:13 11:22 101:8 101:10  
103:16 104:12 108:7 108:15  
177:1 179:20  
**Serious**  
[3] 15:22 107:5 123:11  
**Seriously**  
[2] 70:1 154:22  
**Serve**  
[8] 24:12 25:23 90:2 90:5  
100:2 126:13 206:2 233:16  
**Served**  
[10] 106:17 124:20 162:6 162:  
7 172:23 173:3 173:6 179:19  
204:19 205:10  
**Serves**  
[1] 69:8  
**Service**  
[23] 26:3 28:2 79:2 79:20 79:  
21 79:22 87:17 87:20 87:21  
87:23 88:2 88:13 92:17 92:18  
109:13 109:14 132:15 157:3  
159:23 163:16 173:11 194:22  
206:9  
**Service-sector**  
[1] 87:17  
**Services**  
[10] 26:10 44:3 44:9 45:6  
107:15 139:22 163:18 204:9  
206:5 215:7  
**Serving**  
[3] 26:1 91:11 179:14  
**Set**  
[6] 21:6 39:10 40:11 52:15  
52:16 121:11  
**Sets**  
[1] 189:9  
**Setting**  
[3] 39:5 39:11 177:4  
**Settings**  
[1] 37:21  
**Settle**  
[1] 229:16  
**Seven**  
[5] 34:10 53:18 53:19 131:7  
133:12  
**Seventh**  
[1] 101:1  
**Seventies**  
[3] 84:25 133:2 140:3  
**Several**  
[7] 13:11 27:18 56:5 78:18  
79:15 98:23 227:22  
**Severe**  
[1] 186:13  
**Shall**  
[3] 11:5 94:16 210:4  
**Shaping**  
[1] 112:23  
**Shapiro**  
[4] 2:22 116:18 116:19 116:21

**Share**  
[4] 7:22 75:12 93:12 221:4  
**Shareholders**  
[2] 189:24 190:18  
**Sharing**  
[3] 65:20 191:5 191:5  
**Sheraton**  
[2] 131:5 131:11  
**Shift**  
[1] 72:24  
**Shiloh**  
[1] 42:14  
**Shirts**  
[1] 87:9  
**Shocked**  
[1] 188:18  
**Shopping**  
[3] 62:5 135:19 162:24  
**Shops**  
[2] 185:24 196:25  
**Shore**  
[16] 13:15 36:20 39:1 117:17  
137:22 152:23 152:23 169:8  
169:10 170:9 173:3 173:4 201:  
23 211:24 223:17 224:21  
**Short**  
[3] 33:5 36:12 220:13  
**Shortening**  
[1] 90:7  
**Shortly**  
[1] 113:24  
**Shoulders**  
[1] 202:8  
**Shoveled**  
[1] 179:12  
**Show**  
[6] 72:17 75:2 147:2 214:18  
235:6 240:9  
**Showing**  
[1] 187:21  
**Shown**  
[1] 153:1  
**Shows**  
[4] 60:24 122:21 146:20 153:  
16  
**Shroeder**  
[4] 2:8 34:21 34:23 34:24  
**Sic**  
[2] 113:19 171:9  
**Side**  
[45] 17:2 17:20 25:18 25:23  
26:3 26:7 26:11 27:3 27:19  
27:23 28:3 28:13 29:2 29:4  
29:5 29:9 29:11 30:9 30:15  
31:1 31:15 31:16 38:21 101:9  
117:16 117:17 124:22 135:7  
138:13 146:16 169:4 169:7  
169:16 169:23 170:4 178:13  
179:10 185:22 185:23 186:6  
186:7 193:14 201:24 224:4  
225:23  
**Side's**  
[2] 28:18 29:25  
**Siders**  
[1] 26:17  
**Sidney**  
[3] 102:6 103:5 177:4  
**Sight**  
[1] 196:12  
**Sign**  
[1] 10:14  
**Sign-up**  
[1] 10:14  
**Signage**  
[1] 110:19  
**Signatures**  
[3] 59:13 64:2 67:13  
**Signed**

[5] 44:24 45:19 59:7 66:6 67:  
12  
**Significance**  
[1] 217:1  
**Significant**  
[12] 14:5 29:10 54:8 92:2  
110:10 168:13 181:4 187:15  
199:11 217:11 217:21 225:24  
**Significantly**  
[1] 219:8  
**Signs**  
[2] 6:1 207:15  
**Similar**  
[9] 42:2 54:10 62:4 118:13  
218:22 219:4 219:5 222:21  
229:3  
**Similarities**  
[1] 219:20  
**SIMMONS**  
[1] 1:19  
**Simple**  
[3] 72:24 141:9 149:10  
**Simply**  
[5] 57:1 76:17 125:18 176:2  
181:20  
**Simultaneously**  
[2] 7:16 108:6  
**Sincere**  
[2] 30:23 103:7  
**Sincerely**  
[2] 99:24 121:25  
**Single**  
[2] 101:4 168:11  
**Sister**  
[2] 190:6 211:13  
**Sit**  
[2] 129:24 231:9  
**Site**  
[29] 20:11 21:2 29:3 29:22  
30:12 74:19 110:19 116:2 116:  
13 119:12 119:15 120:6 120:  
14 120:18 131:20 132:12 137:  
5 137:18 137:18 137:21 170:  
16 173:2 173:3 173:6 173:16  
184:3 218:21 219:11 220:4  
**Site's**  
[1] 121:17  
**Sites**  
[13] 29:1 35:17 37:3 110:5  
110:12 110:20 116:12 137:22  
168:11 170:2 172:21 188:3  
211:9  
**Sits**  
[1] 137:10  
**Sitting**  
[3] 86:3 86:10 231:11  
**Situated**  
[1] 123:1  
**Situation**  
[1] 61:12  
**Six**  
[2] 101:22 214:11  
**Sixth**  
[2] 100:25 192:3  
**Sixties**  
[1] 115:23  
**Sizable**  
[1] 104:25  
**Size**  
[4] 184:1 218:6 219:4 219:5  
**Skills**  
[2] 134:9 134:11  
**Skip**  
[1] 178:16  
**Skipping**  
[1] 170:22  
**Sky**  
[1] 235:25

**Slides**  
[1] 235:6  
**Slightly**  
[2] 218:12 235:24  
**Slot**  
[4] 52:2 97:11 124:3 152:10  
**ts**  
12:25 59:4 59:8 59:10  
59:11 59:14 59:18 60:2 60:17  
63:10 64:19 65:9 66:14 67:10  
67:17 68:1 79:18 81:17 99:25  
118:4 121:19 142:19 170:21  
170:25 175:6 175:24 176:14  
178:3 180:12 183:14 186:25  
191:10  
**Slots-based**  
[1] 12:25  
**Slow**  
[1] 83:5  
**Slower**  
[1] 125:9  
**Small**  
[8] 14:22 56:21 87:12 134:4  
160:13 170:19 185:12 195:11  
**Smallest**  
[3] 55:25 56:4 56:5  
**Smart**  
[1] 146:24  
**Smithfield**  
[3] 43:4 185:17 185:19  
**Smoggy**  
[1] 129:6  
**Smokey**  
[1] 174:3  
**Smoking**  
[2] 81:21 81:23  
**SMP**  
[1] 22:17  
**Snapshot**  
[2] 68:22 69:14  
**ocial**  
54:15 99:5 107:14 108:1  
18 163:16 202:18 202:23  
**Society**  
[1] 16:14  
**Sold**  
[4] 18:21 21:5 80:16 129:12  
**Sole**  
[2] 95:1 198:4  
**Solicited**  
[1] 58:11  
**Solution**  
[2] 143:4 143:13  
**Solutions**  
[3] 71:25 72:2 158:7  
**Solve**  
[2] 70:5 151:18  
**Solved**  
[1] 66:10  
**Someone**  
[5] 10:19 186:16 198:2 214:  
25 240:1  
**Somerset**  
[1] 100:19  
**Sometime**  
[1] 226:22  
**Sometimes**  
[1] 213:14  
**Somewhat**  
[3] 148:20 186:20 214:21  
**Soon**  
[3] 37:23 61:13 196:3  
**Soon-to-be-established**  
[1] 15:9  
**ely**  
48:18  
**erry**  
[4] 82:13 104:14 172:11 200:6

**Sort**  
[1] 181:18  
**Sorts**  
[1] 213:17  
**Sought**  
[3] 46:6 58:11 213:13  
**Sound**  
[2] 10:9 189:6  
**Source**  
[8] 15:7 54:8 61:14 76:16 99:  
8 123:18 147:22 207:22  
**Sources**  
[2] 61:10 172:13  
**South**  
[17] 17:2 17:20 38:20 117:16  
124:22 135:7 135:7 138:13  
163:5 169:16 169:23 170:4  
171:4 172:24 178:13 186:6  
201:23  
**Southern**  
[1] 78:25  
**Southwestern**  
[6] 11:20 70:15 100:17 174:1  
174:7 203:14  
**Space**  
[4] 36:25 39:25 162:25 204:5  
**Spaces**  
[1] 187:6  
**Spain**  
[3] 152:4 152:9 178:21  
**Speaker**  
[60] 8:2 8:14 8:16 9:17 9:25  
10:8 10:10 11:11 16:1 19:20  
25:17 32:6 34:21 41:9 43:17  
50:11 55:3 59:3 68:4 77:10  
86:23 89:21 94:22 97:15 99:  
12 106:6 114:14 116:17 118:  
19 122:4 124:11 127:14 130:  
25 133:22 136:15 139:18 142:  
6 144:24 148:8 150:21 154:1  
157:1 160:1 162:13 164:14  
167:23 171:9 173:22 176:10  
179:3 182:8 184:14 188:14  
192:12 195:9 197:13 201:1  
202:14 205:3 209:15  
**Speaker's**  
[1] 10:5  
**Speakers**  
[17] 5:8 8:10 8:11 8:22 9:7  
9:13 9:21 10:1 11:2 113:24  
113:25 114:1 114:4 114:12  
114:23 213:2 242:4  
**Speaking**  
[8] 11:18 17:24 35:5 44:17  
171:17 195:17 224:9 224:18  
**Speaks**  
[1] 163:8  
**Special**  
[4] 81:20 91:19 112:17 146:4  
**Specialized**  
[1] 91:10  
**Specific**  
[3] 42:25 98:14 205:14  
**Specifically**  
[10] 15:18 51:7 51:8 51:17  
52:1 54:6 90:5 93:15 110:6  
162:5  
**Specify**  
[1] 161:3  
**Specifying**  
[2] 161:23 162:1  
**Spectacular**  
[3] 37:21 157:19 162:18  
**Speculative**  
[1] 210:17  
**Spend**  
[4] 46:9 47:3 49:24 186:18  
**Spending**  
[4] 46:1 46:4 46:5 46:14  
**Spends**

[1] 186:16  
**Spent**  
[4] 46:19 116:14 186:24 212:  
18  
**Sphered**  
[1] 4:2  
**Spiral**  
[2] 57:4 57:6  
**Spirit**  
[2] 30:20 36:11  
**Spiritually**  
[1] 96:6  
**Spokesperson**  
[5] 11:12 25:19 59:4 205:4  
226:2  
**Spokespersons**  
[3] 9:8 9:9 94:4  
**Sponsor**  
[2] 103:15 103:16  
**Sport**  
[3] 102:8 103:7 105:7  
**Sporting**  
[3] 29:12 122:21 179:18  
**Sports**  
[15] 13:23 14:21 14:23 15:5  
39:1 101:2 123:13 140:13 164:  
3 176:23 200:15 203:4 224:1  
224:1 239:17  
**Spot**  
[2] 116:4 152:5  
**Spots**  
[1] 167:12  
**Spur**  
[3] 27:4 79:3 182:14  
**Square**  
[66] 17:4 18:8 18:8 18:16 20:  
5 20:8 21:1 21:5 25:12 38:25  
42:10 43:1 55:21 62:25 63:1  
63:6 79:16 79:19 80:19 117:  
16 119:15 120:6 126:6 126:16  
126:21 126:25 128:15 130:4  
131:5 131:8 131:16 131:25  
132:4 132:6 132:22 135:8 137:  
5 137:10 137:21 138:4 138:9  
145:9 172:23 179:22 180:15  
180:21 185:8 185:12 185:13  
186:13 187:3 187:7 187:17  
195:12 195:13 196:6 196:23  
197:3 211:12 213:7 230:14  
231:5 232:2 232:6 232:21 233:  
2  
**Squarely**  
[2] 120:3 161:15  
**St**  
[2] 102:20 235:23  
**Stack**  
[1] 67:23  
**Stadium**  
[7] 13:14 118:3 140:3 169:5  
170:12 170:14 181:21  
**Stadium's**  
[1] 137:15  
**Stadiums**  
[2] 36:18 84:8  
**Staff**  
[7] 10:14 28:4 103:10 103:10  
147:25 222:14 242:10  
**Stake**  
[1] 191:1  
**Stakeholder**  
[1] 27:18  
**Stakeholders**  
[4] 26:2 31:18 108:22 110:16  
**Stand**  
[12] 33:14 60:17 109:6 109:9  
143:12 176:13 178:2 235:2  
236:9 237:1 238:20 239:1  
**Stand-alone**  
[3] 60:17 176:13 178:2  
**Standard**

[6] 39:10 87:16 87:25 89:4  
111:4 180:17  
**Standards**  
[5] 39:5 40:2 40:14 40:15  
191:23  
**Standing**  
[1] 140:9  
**Standpoint**  
[3] 85:16 161:19 220:11  
**Stands**  
[4] 77:19 77:20 187:16 202:7  
**Stanley**  
[4] 65:18 66:2 139:24 140:8  
**Stapleton**  
[1] 241:8  
**Star**  
[5] 120:24 155:22 156:4 156:  
14 199:17  
**Stars**  
[1] 168:18  
**Start**  
[6] 21:22 61:3 83:24 184:23  
224:5 224:7  
**Started**  
[4] 10:6 59:9 92:8 241:4  
**Starting**  
[2] 170:4 237:5  
**Startling**  
[1] 69:17  
**Starwood**  
[2] 131:10 133:14  
**State**  
[60] 7:2 9:19 13:17 27:13 37:  
24 47:15 51:14 58:3 60:21 72:  
13 89:18 100:16 101:10 101:  
15 104:14 104:22 107:10 107:  
15 108:6 112:24 121:19 122:  
19 123:7 146:21 148:25 165:  
10 177:15 181:15 188:18 189:  
17 191:8 191:9 192:2 192:4  
192:22 192:24 193:6 198:6  
198:25 199:10 200:21 200:21  
202:20 203:25 204:8 204:20  
211:6 214:25 215:4 216:12  
217:8 217:10 217:13 217:24  
218:2 219:25 220:9 221:12  
225:16 240:10  
**State's**  
[5] 15:8 88:6 121:11 182:4  
192:8  
**State-of-the-art**  
[1] 13:17  
**Statement**  
[4] 50:21 57:8 77:16 198:10  
**States**  
[4] 34:9 44:6 175:5 183:4  
**Statewide**  
[1] 7:13  
**Stating**  
[1] 9:18  
**Station**  
[63] 17:4 18:8 18:8 18:16 20:  
5 20:8 21:1 21:5 25:12 38:25  
42:10 42:25 62:25 63:1 63:6  
117:16 119:15 120:6 126:6  
126:16 126:21 126:25 131:5  
131:8 131:16 131:25 132:4  
132:6 132:22 135:8 137:5 137:  
10 137:21 145:9 162:22 164:8  
164:10 172:23 172:25 173:1  
179:22 180:15 180:21 185:8  
185:12 185:13 186:13 187:3  
187:7 187:17 195:12 195:13  
196:6 196:23 197:3 211:12  
213:7 230:14 231:4 232:2 232:  
6 232:21 233:2  
**Station-Square-based**  
[1] 63:1  
**Stationed**  
[1] 10:14  
**Stations**

[1] 193:15  
**Statistic**  
 [1] 69:17  
**Statistics**  
 [4] 45:14 68:21 114:19 127:23  
**Status**  
 180:19  
**Stute**  
 [1] 161:24  
**Stay**  
 [21] 23:2 58:10 128:25 129:  
 10 211:22 220:21 224:10 225:  
 16 236:24 237:8 238:15 238:  
 23 239:2 239:7 239:18 239:19  
 239:20 239:23 239:25 240:23  
 240:25  
**Stayed**  
 [2] 35:3 241:21  
**Stays**  
 [1] 236:22  
**Steadfast**  
 [1] 90:12  
**Steel**  
 [6] 34:18 36:10 81:7 116:25  
 136:7 179:12  
**Steelers**  
 [7] 136:9 140:2 140:6 169:3  
 170:12 234:3 240:16  
**Steelers'**  
 [1] 200:14  
**Stein**  
 [5] 2:10 43:18 43:19 43:20  
 50:10  
**Stenographer**  
 [1] 7:4  
**Stenographer's**  
 [1] 8:18  
**Step**  
 [5] 11:14 16:3 16:6 131:1  
 191:20  
**stepped**  
 104:17 129:15 130:9 176:  
  
**Stepping**  
 [1] 238:22  
**Steve**  
 [7] 4:7 215:1 215:5 215:8  
 215:12 215:24 219:17  
**Steven**  
 [4] 3:21 155:8 182:8 182:9  
**Stewart**  
 [4] 3:19 176:10 176:11 176:12  
**Sticks**  
 [1] 6:1  
**Still**  
 [9] 33:23 47:11 112:11 129:6  
 169:21 220:3 223:21 224:20  
 230:22  
**Stimuli**  
 [1] 168:14  
**Stock**  
 [1] 190:4  
**Stony**  
 [1] 202:20  
**Stood**  
 [1] 217:15  
**Stop**  
 [4] 10:10 85:21 173:14 206:19  
**Spotlight**  
 [1] 10:2  
**Store**  
 [2] 135:19 241:12  
**Strategies**  
 [1] 38:16  
**Strategy**  
 37:10 112:12  
**feet**  
 [17] 17:13 17:19 23:4 27:12

42:15 43:4 43:4 82:10 110:13  
 162:17 185:17 185:18 185:19  
 185:22 203:22 203:22 216:18  
**Streets**  
 [3] 27:11 75:20 187:12  
**Strengthen**  
 [3] 26:10 31:14 42:19  
**Strenuously**  
 [1] 50:23  
**Stress**  
 [2] 130:14 170:23  
**Strictly**  
 [2] 8:6 132:21  
**Strike**  
 [2] 92:16 95:18  
**Strings**  
 [1] 139:4  
**Strip**  
 [1] 138:13  
**Strives**  
 [1] 71:24  
**Stroke**  
 [1] 167:8  
**Strong**  
 [5] 48:1 92:25 134:1 134:13  
 134:17  
**Strongest**  
 [1] 155:17  
**Strongly**  
 [4] 73:18 73:23 134:22 228:5  
**Structure**  
 [5] 27:25 185:20 185:25 192:  
 4 192:21  
**Structured**  
 [2] 206:15 207:6  
**Structures**  
 [5] 21:12 24:11 26:15 40:16  
 82:18  
**Struggle**  
 [1] 141:5  
**Struggles**  
 [1] 117:7  
**Stubbed**  
 [1] 84:11  
**Students**  
 [7] 24:13 69:1 99:21 100:25  
 101:20 106:1 134:19  
**Studied**  
 [1] 51:23  
**Studies**  
 [8] 51:25 91:10 127:24 137:  
 13 142:23 147:5 187:20 210:25  
**Study**  
 [11] 40:23 46:7 46:10 70:7  
 108:17 188:2 188:7 220:5 228:  
 20 229:1 229:5  
**Stuff**  
 [4] 86:1 115:9 179:12 207:5  
**Sturgess**  
 [5] 3:8 144:24 144:25 144:25  
 148:2  
**Subject**  
 [2] 51:24 217:11  
**Submit**  
 [5] 31:3 120:22 148:5 186:12  
 188:6  
**Submitted**  
 [9] 67:14 120:24 122:8 187:  
 20 205:19 205:20 217:25 219:  
 23 226:16  
**Submitting**  
 [1] 217:24  
**Subsidies**  
 [1] 85:11  
**Subsidized**  
 [1] 81:6  
**Subsidizing**  
 [1] 199:2

**Subsidy**  
 [2] 115:6 183:12  
**Substance**  
 [2] 226:12 226:13  
**Substantial**  
 [6] 55:23 98:7 144:8 181:2  
 226:13 226:25  
**Substituted**  
 [1] 5:16  
**Suburbanites**  
 [1] 151:5  
**Suburbia**  
 [1] 168:20  
**Succeed**  
 [1] 134:1  
**Success**  
 [2] 20:8 98:22  
**Successful**  
 [11] 19:5 26:25 66:14 92:14  
 107:9 161:18 180:21 195:19  
 206:10 207:11 241:14  
**Successfully**  
 [1] 62:2  
**Succinctly**  
 [1] 219:2  
**Suffer**  
 [1] 90:8  
**Suffered**  
 [1] 168:24  
**Sufficient**  
 [1] 154:20  
**Suggest**  
 [3] 50:22 157:8 210:19  
**Suggested**  
 [3] 51:5 79:14 144:13  
**Suggestion**  
 [1] 228:18  
**Suggestions**  
 [2] 75:11 77:6  
**Suited**  
 [1] 126:7  
**Sum**  
 [2] 36:24 213:5  
**Sum-up**  
 [1] 213:5  
**Summary**  
 [1] 212:14  
**Super**  
 [4] 83:1 140:6 177:2 200:14  
**Super-highest**  
 [1] 83:1  
**Superimposed**  
 [1] 112:18  
**Superior**  
 [1] 128:2  
**Supervisory**  
 [1] 111:2  
**Supply**  
 [1] 156:17  
**Support**  
 [40] 26:13 32:13 32:17 33:3  
 33:3 54:8 59:13 60:1 80:25  
 92:12 92:19 95:12 95:15 102:  
 9 105:6 110:3 112:9 118:25  
 123:8 123:15 123:17 140:18  
 145:17 147:22 165:14 174:13  
 176:2 176:12 178:5 192:20  
 201:6 205:23 206:1 221:11  
 221:13 221:17 225:21 225:22  
 227:3 228:4  
**Supported**  
 [4] 27:6 34:11 79:15 174:10  
**Supporter**  
 [1] 122:14  
**Supporters**  
 [1] 59:20  
**Supporting**  
 [1] 163:16

**Supportive**  
 [1] 112:15  
**Supports**  
 [2] 91:6 187:15  
**Surface**  
 [2] 182:23 187:5  
**Surge**  
 [1] 37:6  
**Surprised**  
 [1] 72:23  
**Surround**  
 [1] 119:12  
**Surrounding**  
 [8] 15:21 75:17 75:18 92:22  
 131:25 185:9 186:5 211:15  
**Survey**  
 [15] 70:9 70:21 71:8 71:12  
 72:1 72:9 72:10 72:11 72:14  
 75:2 75:14 76:11 154:19 154:  
 23 156:18  
**Surveyed**  
 [4] 154:17 155:15 155:24 174:  
 13  
**Surveys**  
 [1] 154:19  
**Survival**  
 [2] 92:3 92:5  
**Suspected**  
 [1] 149:17  
**Sustainability**  
 [1] 22:17  
**Sustainable**  
 [1] 147:8  
**Sustained**  
 [1] 117:18  
**Sway**  
 [1] 212:10  
**Swear**  
 [5] 11:4 94:11 94:15 210:2  
 215:17  
**Sweeney**  
 [4] 2:7 32:7 32:9 32:10  
**Swor**  
 [1] 209:22  
**Sword**  
 [1] 121:23  
**Sworn**  
 [9] 9:22 11:1 94:8 209:19  
 215:13 222:7 222:7 230:18  
 230:21  
**Sycamore**  
 [1] 43:3  
**Synergies**  
 [1] 220:12  
**Synergy**  
 [1] 80:2  
**Sypherd**  
 [3] 201:1 201:2 201:3  
**System**  
 [7] 37:20 37:25 76:2 76:3  
 165:2 192:5 208:11  
**Systems**  
 [2] 98:24 240:11

**T**

**Table**  
 [4] 84:19 167:3 223:22 227:17  
**Tackle**  
 [1] 165:21  
**Tad**  
 [2] 1:15 6:23  
**Talent**  
 [3] 37:17 73:14 90:20  
**Talks**  
 [2] 81:2 81:3  
**Tangible**  
 [1] 151:23

**Tap**  
[1] 208:12

**Tarnished**  
[1] 129:6

**Task**  
[20] 8:16 34:22 34:25 36:6  
9 39:19 49:1 80:7 87:5  
12 107:13 108:17 112:1  
113:12 192:16 205:5 205:11  
206:20 220:6 231:13

**Taskforce**  
[1] 110:15

**Tax**  
[42] 14:13 18:2 23:15 23:17  
23:19 23:19 25:9 27:6 42:24  
49:7 50:1 52:8 52:16 52:24  
54:9 54:9 56:21 56:23 63:20  
75:10 76:16 76:24 82:24 83:6  
93:5 143:2 147:14 147:16 149:  
2 156:20 156:21 180:24 181:1  
181:16 181:23 182:18 198:6  
211:5 211:15 220:8 220:9 236:  
7

**Tax-paying**  
[1] 143:2

**Taxes**  
[15] 18:3 20:13 20:15 23:21  
23:21 23:21 23:22 57:1 180:  
10 194:8 196:9 198:24 211:11  
220:16 232:24

**Taxing**  
[1] 23:16

**Taxpayer**  
[7] 59:16 60:8 61:13 67:4 99:  
8 183:5 212:1

**Taxpayers**  
[4] 130:13 177:25 183:24 184:  
2

**Teach**  
[1] 146:3

**Teaching**  
[1] 157:15

**um**  
[1] 13:23 15:5 22:7 31:8 31:  
14 50:6 55:18 61:23 64:20 82:  
7 83:10 83:23 90:19 91:2 91:  
13 92:9 92:13 92:20 92:21 93:  
4 123:11 135:2 149:11 178:17  
196:10 201:6 229:7 229:7 240:  
19

**Team's**  
[2] 63:9 90:14

**Teams**  
[21] 14:21 14:23 15:3 100:20  
100:21 100:22 100:23 100:23  
100:24 101:3 101:5 101:6 104:  
2 104:5 123:13 140:10 140:14  
234:4 234:6 234:7 239:18

**Technical**  
[2] 108:8 194:22

**Technically**  
[1] 92:20

**Technology**  
[1] 157:20

**Teen**  
[1] 165:21

**Teens**  
[2] 46:4 174:15

**Television**  
[2] 104:13 198:2

**Temper**  
[1] 143:6

**Temporary**  
[1] 40:15

**Ten**  
[1] 9:10

**Tenant**  
[1] 14:17 14:18 177:20 211:22

**Tenants**  
[1] 83:2

**Tend**  
[2] 70:4 173:7

**Tenors**  
[1] 148:21

**Tens**  
[1] 55:23

**Tens-of-million-dollar**  
[1] 55:23

**Tent**  
[1] 110:20

**Tenth**  
[1] 101:1

**Term**  
[5] 36:13 76:16 90:22 192:8  
211:21

**Terms**  
[8] 12:24 13:22 31:3 85:18  
89:11 161:15 168:13 227:7

**Terrific**  
[1] 231:21

**Terry**  
[1] 7:1

**Tested**  
[1] 137:1

**Testified**  
[1] 228:4

**Testify**  
[7] 33:21 90:13 98:13 124:16  
187:25 226:5 228:8

**Testifying**  
[1] 69:20

**Testimony**  
[11] 5:15 11:4 72:8 93:4 94:  
15 106:8 106:10 151:25 210:3  
215:18 225:3

**Themselves**  
[5] 46:24 49:24 72:21 187:21  
239:11

**Therefore**  
[8] 8:11 25:8 62:25 142:24  
143:5 145:13 175:9 199:21

**Thereof**  
[1] 97:20

**Thieves**  
[1] 194:4

**Thinking**  
[5] 68:13 76:19 134:12 154:  
10 212:10

**Thinks**  
[1] 154:24

**Third**  
[5] 51:6 117:5 129:20 191:15  
229:1

**Thirds**  
[1] 232:13

**Thirteen**  
[2] 20:2 233:18

**Thomas**  
[2] 2:4 16:1

**Thornburg**  
[1] 197:16

**Thorough**  
[2] 107:6 213:19

**Thoroughfare**  
[1] 168:22

**Thoroughness**  
[1] 229:21

**Thoughtful**  
[2] 93:22 184:10

**Thoughts**  
[3] 7:22 70:2 76:18

**Thousand**  
[2] 56:5 121:25

**Thousands**  
[5] 33:1 33:2 87:6 132:10  
178:24

**Threat**  
[4] 78:12 78:12 85:17 240:5

**Threatening**  
[1] 90:9

**Three**  
[51] 9:11 14:22 28:7 28:8 28:  
22 37:2 57:2 66:12 66:12 72:  
5 73:15 86:4 86:8 101:14 108:  
12 114:12 117:22 127:25 128:  
5 128:9 140:3 140:13 143:23  
148:18 148:20 154:14 154:22  
158:23 160:21 164:23 168:10  
169:5 172:19 172:21 177:6  
180:23 186:20 188:3 199:12  
199:22 200:17 203:17 206:24  
212:18 219:3 225:6 228:21  
231:18 238:18 238:19 238:19

**Three-in-three**  
[1] 66:12

**Three-out-of-three**  
[1] 238:19

**Three-pronged**  
[1] 72:5

**Thriving**  
[1] 75:23

**Throughout**  
[15] 7:24 10:17 11:20 12:10  
35:8 58:12 89:18 109:22 113:  
1 145:16 147:19 162:9 216:24  
217:8 223:10

**Throw**  
[1] 120:20

**Ticketholder**  
[1] 129:24

**Tie**  
[1] 83:25

**Tied**  
[5] 63:9 111:23 174:20 174:  
21 174:25

**Tierney**  
[8] 209:16 209:18 209:20 209:  
23 210:1 210:6 210:9 210:9

**Tim**  
[5] 4:6 4:8 213:9 215:11 216:  
25

**Timely**  
[1] 189:19

**Timer**  
[1] 10:3

**Title**  
[1] 109:13

**Today**  
[58] 7:11 8:2 8:20 9:7 10:25  
11:11 11:25 16:1 18:4 21:14  
22:12 32:12 33:14 33:22 33:  
24 34:14 44:17 60:21 67:18  
68:16 77:17 78:3 79:6 90:2  
92:5 93:21 97:23 98:13 106:  
22 106:25 109:6 114:5 119:10  
122:13 129:19 131:15 151:5  
151:8 154:5 157:7 160:19 169:  
8 169:21 179:25 184:21 185:6  
185:12 198:1 203:4 204:23  
209:2 213:2 225:3 228:9 233:  
3 233:21 237:1 241:21

**Today's**  
[4] 71:15 72:8 90:11 224:22

**Toe**  
[1] 84:11

**Together**  
[8] 35:3 38:11 61:23 63:23  
146:8 212:18 237:21 240:5

**Toledo**  
[1] 159:21

**Tom**  
[1] 16:11

**Tomorrow**  
[2] 18:6 180:1

**Took**  
[2] 177:1 234:23

**Tools**  
[1] 181:22

**Top**  
[4] 56:8 73:15 76:5 155:3

**Topic**  
[1] 51:4

**Topics**  
[1] 70:17

**Topography**  
[1] 56:20

**Total**  
[4] 25:8 61:24 63:18 198:17

**Totally**  
[1] 49:3

**Touched**  
[2] 95:24 160:22

**Tough**  
[3] 213:21 229:20 231:13

**Tourism**  
[8] 12:9 13:25 54:14 63:14  
64:6 86:7 135:5 147:12

**Tourist**  
[2] 42:13 126:21

**Tourists**  
[1] 38:4

**Tourney**  
[1] 4:5

**Tours**  
[1] 146:4

**Touted**  
[1] 176:20

**Toward**  
[2] 37:6 178:8

**Towards**  
[4] 52:20 110:11 130:7 226:22

**Town**  
[7] 36:10 49:12 64:11 152:25  
179:19 224:17 226:14

**Township**  
[3] 142:8 160:5 168:1

**Track**  
[7] 24:5 25:4 89:2 158:2 175:  
6 183:2 184:4

**Tracked**  
[1] 101:17

**Tracks**  
[1] 153:2

**Tractor**  
[1] 49:17

**Traffic**  
[49] 42:13 42:14 43:2 119:8  
119:13 119:18 119:23 120:12  
120:18 120:21 120:25 123:2  
125:13 125:15 126:2 126:22  
126:25 127:24 137:1 137:6  
137:7 137:13 137:14 137:17  
144:1 148:14 148:14 148:14  
148:16 172:12 178:12 185:10  
185:11 186:4 186:12 186:24  
188:2 194:11 195:25 197:2  
197:5 210:25 227:20 227:22  
228:7 228:20 229:16 233:3  
241:14

**Traffic-related**  
[1] 120:18

**Trail**  
[2] 37:25 76:9

**Trails**  
[2] 40:8 144:11

**Train**  
[1] 21:20

**Trained**  
[1] 21:17

**Training**  
[4] 21:19 25:11 124:4 207:10

**Transcript**  
[1] 243:5

**Transcription**  
[1] 70:16

**Transform**

[1] 37:10  
**Transit**  
 [7] 76:3 144:12 171:18 172:20 173:11 173:13 219:12  
**Translates**  
 [1] 17:9  
**Transparencies**  
 40:3  
**Transparency**  
 [2] 20:22 190:23  
**Transparent**  
 [1] 22:20  
**Transport**  
 [1] 32:24  
**Transportation**  
 [15] 40:7 71:19 73:8 74:10 74:12 98:24 171:25 172:3 172:4 172:16 173:16 228:7 228:14 228:20 232:4  
**Travel**  
 [1] 86:7  
**Travellers**  
 [1] 46:14  
**Treasure**  
 [2] 40:25 169:23  
**Treasurer**  
 [2] 6:25 7:2  
**Treatment**  
 [1] 23:23  
**Tree**  
 [1] 128:20  
**Tremendous**  
 [1] 237:19  
**Tremendously**  
 [1] 168:24  
**Trend**  
 [2] 41:4 71:25  
**Trends**  
 [1] 38:17  
**Tri**  
 122:19  
**Tri-state**  
 [1] 122:19  
**Triangle**  
 [2] 43:25 128:10  
**Tribune**  
 [2] 174:17 175:22  
**Tried**  
 [4] 22:6 121:21 123:5 222:17  
**Trip**  
 [2] 172:2 211:11  
**Triple**  
 [1] 101:3  
**Trotting**  
 [1] 242:18  
**Trouble**  
 [2] 83:13 88:4  
**Troutman**  
 [2] 1:22 243:9  
**Trucks**  
 [2] 32:24 125:21  
**True**  
 [6] 31:9 32:18 99:6 120:5 121:22 198:11  
**Truly**  
 [8] 42:24 113:5 133:4 134:22 169:24 175:18 188:1 229:10  
**Trust**  
 [2] 132:10 228:4  
**Trustees**  
 [2] 145:22 147:25  
**Truth**  
 [12] 11:5 11:6 11:6 94:16 94:17 94:17 210:4 210:4 210:5 210:19 215:19 215:20  
**Truthful**  
 [1] 115:15  
**Try**

[2] 61:7 216:3  
**Trying**  
 [3] 48:24 84:7 152:18  
**Tuesday**  
 [2] 83:5 200:13  
**Tunnels**  
 [1] 163:6  
**Turn**  
 [5] 5:6 46:17 54:4 81:7 141:11  
**Turned**  
 [1] 198:23  
**Turns**  
 [2] 10:6 10:9  
**TV**  
 [2] 65:22 66:5  
**Tweens**  
 [1] 46:5  
**Twelfth**  
 [1] 101:2  
**Twice**  
 [2] 61:6 64:12  
**Two**  
 [43] 15:15 25:1 35:17 36:18 42:13 44:21 46:3 46:6 53:16 55:9 57:23 64:10 66:2 71:14 84:8 86:11 88:21 107:22 109:10 117:4 117:18 127:7 131:20 132:6 155:7 158:13 161:7 166:7 170:9 176:18 180:7 203:12 211:3 211:24 216:2 218:6 223:15 229:2 232:13 235:6 235:9 235:11 242:5  
**Two-thirds**  
 [1] 232:13  
**Type**  
 [1] 216:9  
**Typical**  
 [1] 88:2

**U**

**U.S.**  
 [2] 46:1 216:7  
**Uku**  
 [6] 3:13 160:1 160:2 160:4 160:6 160:6  
**Ultimately**  
 [6] 21:22 108:3 109:18 112:19 183:5 194:14  
**Umberger**  
 [1] 102:18  
**Unacceptable**  
 [1] 112:10  
**Unaffordable**  
 [1] 88:3  
**Unavailable**  
 [1] 95:19  
**Unbiased**  
 [1] 229:17  
**Unconcerned**  
 [1] 29:17  
**Unconscionable**  
 [2] 189:9 199:9  
**Undeniably**  
 [1] 37:1  
**Under**  
 [21] 24:20 26:24 27:13 37:3 37:4 45:9 70:16 81:24 98:19 103:11 103:20 119:3 137:22 168:18 189:14 192:21 193:4 207:12 216:22 222:11 230:22  
**Underage**  
 [1] 207:16  
**Underestimated**  
 [1] 218:16  
**Underground**  
 [1] 144:9  
**Undermanned**

[1] 193:22  
**Underpromise**  
 [1] 218:13  
**Underscore**  
 [1] 98:14  
**Understandably**  
 [1] 187:21  
**Understated**  
 [1] 178:12  
**Understatement**  
 [1] 169:22  
**Understood**  
 [1] 239:3  
**Underway**  
 [1] 38:6  
**Underwent**  
 [1] 55:22  
**Undeveloped**  
 [1] 17:7  
**Undisputed**  
 [1] 128:1  
**Unenviable**  
 [1] 35:14  
**Unfair**  
 [1] 80:10  
**Unfairly**  
 [1] 80:21  
**Unfiltered**  
 [1] 229:17  
**Unfortunate**  
 [1] 71:23  
**Unfortunately**  
 [4] 81:14 153:22 188:10 197:9  
**Unice**  
 [4] 3:2 127:14 127:15 127:16  
**Union**  
 [2] 24:1 87:3  
**Unionized**  
 [2] 88:18 89:1  
**Unique**  
 [4] 29:21 38:9 58:1 93:3  
**Unite**  
 [8] 86:24 87:2 87:6 87:10 88:7 88:18 89:3 89:8  
**United**  
 [3] 34:9 44:6 163:17  
**Units**  
 [3] 37:5 95:21 241:7  
**Universities**  
 [3] 117:2 143:23 217:13  
**University**  
 [5] 132:24 157:15 164:22 164:24 202:20  
**Unknown**  
 [2] 93:19 212:20  
**Unless**  
 [1] 88:17  
**Unlike**  
 [3] 119:21 231:12 240:16  
**Unlimited**  
 [1] 122:22  
**Unmatched**  
 [2] 25:13 147:21  
**Unmolested**  
 [1] 193:17  
**Unpatriotic**  
 [1] 172:17  
**Unsafe**  
 [1] 138:23  
**Unselfish**  
 [1] 145:21  
**Unsightly**  
 [1] 138:20  
**Unwittingly**  
 [1] 57:17  
**Up**  
 [53] 9:10 9:11 9:15 9:16 10:

8 10:14 11:14 17:1 34:17 51:20 57:6 68:23 71:7 73:15 79:1 83:25 86:2 100:15 100:22 105:11 118:12 121:13 122:20 123:5 123:24 127:19 129:15 130:9 134:19 141:6 144:22 162:17 164:25 168:23 171:6 176:24 187:1 188:10 195:16 195:16 196:23 197:9 209:8 213:4 213:5 214:22 215:8 217:15 220:23 230:14 238:11 239:1 240:17  
**Up-to-date**  
 [1] 122:20  
**Updated**  
 [1] 83:16  
**Upfront-commitment**  
 [1] 49:2  
**Upgraded**  
 [1] 204:3  
**Upgrades**  
 [1] 76:2  
**Upper**  
 [2] 102:20 135:24  
**Ups**  
 [1] 195:14  
**Upscale**  
 [1] 204:4  
**Upstanding**  
 [1] 214:2  
**Uptown**  
 [10] 63:23 95:9 116:23 117:19 122:25 168:21 177:10 201:5 201:15 201:24  
**Upwards**  
 [2] 95:22 181:11  
**Urban**  
 [9] 26:21 39:11 68:5 68:8 68:11 154:6 163:17 182:11 204:6  
**Urge**  
 [5] 39:20 40:13 77:5 171:23 229:2  
**User**  
 [1] 49:15  
**User-friendly**  
 [2] 48:25 49:15  
**Users**  
 [1] 38:3  
**Usher**  
 [1] 114:1  
**Utilities**  
 [2] 144:10 163:4  
**Utilize**  
 [1] 76:8  
**Utilized**  
 [2] 156:21 215:6

**V**

**Vacant**  
 [2] 138:20 139:12  
**Vacate**  
 [1] 55:15  
**Valenta**  
 [4] 3:14 162:13 162:14 162:14  
**Validate**  
 [1] 220:2  
**Valuable**  
 [3] 123:18 149:12 190:14  
**Value**  
 [3] 170:11 184:2 191:6  
**Valued**  
 [2] 81:25 160:18  
**Values**  
 [2] 37:15 170:7  
**Vansickle**  
 [4] 3:18 173:22 173:23 173:24  
**Variation**  
 [1] 218:23

**Variety**  
[4] 26:9 75:10 122:23 126:11

**Various**  
[4] 26:22 27:16 28:10 112:4

**Varsity**  
[3] 100:23 100:23 101:6

**V**  
218:20

**Vegas**  
[4] 58:16 87:13 236:22 236:22

**Vehicle**  
[5] 120:10 120:16 120:21 121:12 185:15

**Vehicles**  
[3] 125:21 186:2 187:13

**Vehicular**  
[2] 185:16 219:12

**Vento**  
[3] 3:5 136:15 136:16

**Venture**  
[3] 62:18 112:24 232:9

**Ventures**  
[1] 161:17

**Venue**  
[10] 49:7 49:15 75:17 76:14 98:16 103:25 104:2 130:5 131:19 233:20

**Venues**  
[4] 13:19 159:18 179:21 203:23

**Verify**  
[1] 65:5

**Vested**  
[2] 63:11 127:21

**Via**  
[3] 17:13 71:12 185:17

**Viability**  
[6] 53:1 53:7 53:9 98:10 98:22 192:8

**Viable**  
95:7 224:21

**Vibrant**  
[3] 169:19 169:22 221:22

**Vice**  
[1] 163:25

**Victory**  
[1] 153:18

**Video**  
[3] 104:13 104:15 122:8

**View**  
[7] 40:7 76:13 132:21 145:5 162:18 166:8 227:23

**Views**  
[2] 56:3 213:20

**Vigilant**  
[1] 88:15

**Violate**  
[1] 52:19

**Violating**  
[1] 52:25

**Violation**  
[2] 53:13 181:17

**Violative**  
[1] 54:20

**Virginia**  
[1] 87:14

**Virtually**  
[4] 49:8 87:11 216:14 217:23

**Visibility**  
[1] 56:3

**Visible**  
[1] 61:2

**Vision**  
35:2 46:23 75:4 75:13 18

**Visionary**  
[1] 145:21

**Visit**  
[9] 29:12 64:4 64:22 67:10 74:20 116:2 120:17 132:17 153:20

**Visited**  
[2] 29:18 116:11

**Visiting**  
[1] 125:19

**Visitors**  
[6] 37:16 63:16 117:23 125:17 126:13 131:21

**Visually**  
[1] 116:3

**Vital**  
[6] 58:18 70:18 90:16 91:7 178:1 220:24

**Vitality**  
[4] 36:12 70:19 77:5 147:11

**Vocal**  
[1] 8:15

**Voice**  
[4] 69:9 97:19 118:22 183:17

**Voices**  
[1] 67:18

**Volume**  
[1] 233:25

**Volumes**  
[1] 119:8

**Volunteer**  
[3] 33:2 34:12 108:22

**Volunteers**  
[1] 145:24

**Vote**  
[3] 69:10 191:16 212:20

**Voted**  
[2] 41:20 174:10

**Voter**  
[1] 143:18

**Voters**  
[3] 180:11 180:25 182:4

**Voters'**  
[1] 181:17

**Vukotich**  
[4] 3:12 157:1 157:2 157:3

**Vulnerable**  
[1] 125:9

**Vying**  
[1] 168:11

---

**W**

---

**Wage**  
[4] 23:21 23:24 26:18 54:9

**Wages**  
[2] 87:18 88:2

**Waiting**  
[1] 139:3

**Walk**  
[3] 92:16 220:13 241:20

**Walk-out**  
[1] 92:16

**Walking**  
[3] 118:5 166:25 167:1

**Wall**  
[1] 216:18

**Walter**  
[4] 2:25 124:12 124:14 124:17

**Wants**  
[4] 52:6 52:7 141:16 211:22

**Warhol**  
[1] 135:13

**Washington**  
[28] 16:12 16:13 16:24 17:4 17:17 38:1 41:10 41:13 41:18 42:11 42:20 115:22 132:7 136:17 138:6 138:7 138:16 162:18 173:25 184:17 184:20 185:7 186:5 187:11 187:12 204:20

216:18

**Watched**  
[2] 98:9

**Watching**  
[4] 42:6 226:18

**Water**  
[2] 32:48

**Waterfront**  
[3] 38:38 39

**Waterways**  
[1] 166

**Ways**  
[3] 51:51 52:7 5

**WBRA**  
[3] 77:17 177:20

**We are here to tell you what is best**  
[1] 15:10

**Weekend**  
[3] 72:11 92:11 92:15 315:4

**Weaver**  
[4] 32:18 118:18 186:16

**Website**  
[3] 518:5 710

**Websites**  
[1] 77

**Week**  
[2] 42:4 12

**Weekly**  
[1] 151:13

**Weekends**  
[1] 131:23

**Weeks**  
[4] 34:5 77:14 151:13

**Weighing**  
[1] 22:25

**Weisberg**  
[2] 19:1 19:8

**Welcome**  
[3] 10:1 77:12

**Welfare**  
[3] 215:2 220:12

**Well-accepted**  
[1] 27:17

**Well-being**  
[3] 98:9 113:10

**Well-developed**  
[1] 37:13

**Well-financed**  
[1] 22:1

**Well-known**  
[2] 214:2 215

**Well-served**  
[2] 16:1 16:7

**Well-trained**  
[1] 21:7

**Wellness**  
[1] 209:16

**West**  
[5] 17:1 17:18 87:14 115:7 166

**Western**  
[4] 77:2 82:9 312:7 19

**Westmoreland**  
[1] 17:22

**Whammy**  
[1] 82:5

**Wheatley**  
[1] 102:7

**Wheels**  
[3] 38:3 113:15

**Wherby**  
[1] 112:2

**Wherewithal**  
[2] 22:1 72:20

**Whilst**  
[1] 10:16

**Whole**  
[11] 11:6 74:15 94:17 122:19 149:8 154:25 165:16 165:18 166:5 210:4 215:19

**Wide**  
[2] 44:1 51:20

**Widely**  
[3] 68:9 72:10 133:10

**Widen**  
[1] 144:10

**Wield**  
[1] 113:4

**Wife**  
[3] 124:18 127:18 130:13

**William**  
[4] 1:6 1:6 1:19 7:8

**Williams**  
[5] 3:16 167:24 167:25 168:1 171:7

**Willing**  
[8] 97:4 178:23 189:5 229:4 234:8 234:11 239:12 240:22

**Wilson**  
[4] 3:24 195:9 195:10 195:11

**Win**  
[5] 49:25 66:2 91:21 140:6 166:18

**Wing**  
[1] 103:11

**Winner**  
[1] 121:19

**Winners**  
[1] 101:13

**Winning**  
[3] 82:11 238:18 238:19

**Wins**  
[3] 57:18 200:21 200:22

**Wisdom**  
[2] 27:24 27:25

**Wish**  
[8] 48:8 76:6 85:3 86:19 114:8 195:7 230:8 231:14

**Wishes**  
[1] 181:17

**WITNESS**  
[1] 197:10

**Witnessed**  
[1] 116:24

**WITNESSES**  
[7] 2:2 3:1 4:1 11:8 94:9 94:13 94:19

**Woes**  
[1] 82:23

**Woman**  
[1] 44:7

**Women**  
[3] 69:5 161:16 162:1

**Won**  
[5] 41:4 139:24 140:7 176:25 177:2

**Wonder**  
[1] 227:24

**Wonderful**  
[4] 28:19 33:8 34:16 34:18

**Word**  
[3] 31:12 164:5 169:22

**Words**  
[5] 36:5 121:24 121:25 128:6 199:1

**Wore**  
[1] 84:3

**Workers**  
[10] 38:4 49:16 87:7 87:11 87:17 87:23 89:4 196:22 202:23 206:6

**Workforce**  
[1] 206:7

**Works**

[2] 38:21 58:8  
**Workshops**  
 [1] 146:3  
**World**  
 [10] 22:15 23:2 38:20 98:21  
 133:11 176:25 179:20 183:22  
 19:240:15  
**World's**  
 [1] 168:15  
**World-class**  
 [2] 98:21 233:19  
**Worries**  
 [1] 30:6  
**Worse**  
 [4] 55:5 125:24 126:5 187:18  
**Worth**  
 [3] 121:25 122:1 149:10  
**Worthy**  
 [1] 146:13  
**Wrap**  
 [2] 9:16 10:8  
**Wrap-up**  
 [1] 9:16  
**Wrestled**  
 [1] 176:15  
**Writing**  
 [2] 183:15 210:22  
**Written**  
 [6] 5:11 5:14 5:19 30:14 156:  
 18 226:8

**Y**

**Yard**  
 [1] 107:3  
**Yards**  
 [1] 177:1  
**Yeager**  
 [5] 3:11 154:1 154:2 154:3  
 154:4  
**Year**  
 20:12 20:14 22:2 24:17  
 2 38:3 46:10 46:18 49:9  
 53:5 56:16 70:12 83:8 95:18  
 104:10 104:10 104:15 131:21  
 134:20 138:18 139:7 150:10  
 165:11 195:24 196:2 196:7  
 198:20 205:13 214:18 218:2  
 226:23 235:19 236:7 240:11  
 240:25 241:3 241:22  
**Year's**  
 [1] 36:2  
**Yearly**  
 [1] 70:9  
**Years**  
 [71] 13:11 13:18 16:17 20:2  
 21:7 21:14 24:5 32:21 33:17  
 48:20 50:19 60:21 71:22 72:  
 25 82:10 82:21 84:3 86:6 90:  
 19 90:25 91:5 91:25 92:4 92:  
 6 92:11 95:15 103:12 106:16  
 115:8 115:18 115:24 115:25  
 116:24 124:20 127:16 129:24  
 130:8 131:7 133:8 133:12 137:  
 25 138:4 139:3 141:1 151:4  
 157:18 160:10 160:15 162:15  
 163:11 164:21 164:23 168:5  
 169:9 179:7 179:8 180:22 195:  
 12 195:13 197:4 202:18 203:2  
 210:11 212:5 216:8 228:10  
 232:6 232:19 233:18 238:4  
 240:13  
**Yellow**  
 [2] 10:6 147:2  
**Yesterday**  
 [23] 22:12 22:23 23:18 24:20  
 57:14 66:10 81:1 86:4 87:8  
 95:9 149:19 151:9 151:25  
 163:3 206:21 215:16 222:8  
 225:5 225:3 225:15 228:9 230:  
 18 230:18  
**Yesterday's**

[1] 224:22  
**Yield**  
 [1] 73:16  
**York**  
 [7] 46:13 87:14 202:20 204:  
 20 216:13 233:12 241:11  
**Young**  
 [34] 3:20 38:21 66:1 68:13  
 68:13 68:17 69:9 70:3 71:20  
 72:6 73:8 73:9 73:20 73:22  
 75:7 75:8 75:12 76:13 76:18  
 76:19 77:3 90:20 109:12 129:  
 1 130:15 154:10 154:10 155:6  
 155:11 156:1 165:4 179:3 179:  
 4 179:6  
**Young-thinking**  
 [3] 68:13 76:19 154:10  
**Yourself**  
 [1] 184:1  
**Youth**  
 [6] 71:20 74:8 75:6 155:5  
 155:18 155:18  
**Yvonne**  
 [1] 237:22

**Z**

**Zappala**  
 [1] 237:17  
**Zeigler**  
 [1] 232:7  
**Zerega**  
 [4] 3:7 142:6 142:7 142:8  
**Zero**  
 [2] 20:13 212:1  
**Ziegler**  
 [5] 2:5 19:21 19:23 19:24 25: