

**Testimony of the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce**

**On City Council Bill 080084**

**February 12, 2008**

**Good afternoon Chairwoman Reynolds Brown and members of the Committee on Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs. For the record, I am Joseph W. Mahoney, Jr. Executive Vice President of the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce (GPCC). I am pleased to come before you today in support of Bill 080084. This bill provides the lease agreement(s) between the City of Philadelphia, the Fairmount Park Commission and the Fox Chase Cancer Center, Inc. (“Fox Chase”) that would finally get this much needed expansion project underway.**

**As you are aware, the GPCC has been a staunch supporter of the expansion plan for a number of years, and Mark Schweiker has personally testified in support of it before this Council on a number of occasions—most recently on November 26, 2007 on a companion bill that approved the zoning for the project. And, attached to my testimony today is an article from January 2005 (over three years ago) that appeared in the Philadelphia Inquirer urging the Fairmount Park Commission to approve this plan.**

**For 100 years, the hospital of Fox Chase Cancer has been providing the highest level of cancer care while making important research discoveries which have contributed to the transformation of our understanding of cancer. Utilizing a current 750,000 square foot facility, the Fox Chase Cancer Center is a world-renown comprehensive cancer center that is literally bursting at its structural seams. Fox Chase treated 740 new patients in 1980, and is expected to treat between 9,000 to 12,000 new patients in 2010. As you likely know, the problem of cancer in the Commonwealth and the nation is growing with the aging of the population. At Fox Chase, patient care now represents 40% of its mission while research and scientific enterprise account for the other 60%.**

**From the medical standpoint, let me also emphasize that a preeminent institution like the Fox Chase Cancer Research Center reflects well on Philadelphia and the entire region. Its life improving research and care is well known and attracts not only needy patients and their families but the world's finest cancer researchers. In fact, researchers at the Fox Chase Cancer Center have earned recognition and significant honors including the Nobel Prize in Medicine.**

**The facts are clear—the \$1Billion expansion plan over 20 years would create 4,000 new jobs and more than \$40 million in additional tax revenues for Philadelphia and Pennsylvania. More importantly, the expansion would enable Fox Chase to double its ability to treat cancer patients from around the world as well as those in its own back yard.**

**It is worth noting that the plan has been significantly scaled back from 35 to 19.4 acres in order to preserve as much parkland as possible. In addition, Fox Chase is a proven good neighbor and an asset to the community, providing beautifully landscaped grounds and added security for the neighborhood. Fox Chase has worked hard to provide employee off-street parking to address residential parking concerns. They have more than met each and every request made of them to move the project forward, and they are to be commended for their diligence and perseverance over the years.**

**Finally, I would like to applaud the sponsor, Councilman Brian J. O'Neill, for his tireless efforts in working with the community and Fox Chase to bring this project to fruition.**

**Thank you for this opportunity.**