

1 COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

2
3 STATED MEETING4 City Hall, Room 400
5 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
6 Thursday, March 12, 2026
7 10:00 a.m.

8 PRESENT:

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT KENYATTA JOHNSON
10 COUNCILWOMAN RUE LANDAU
11 COUNCILWOMAN NINA AHMAD
12 COUNCILWOMAN KENDRA BROOKS
13 COUNCILWOMAN JAMIE GAUTHIER
14 COUNCILWOMAN KATHERINE GILMORE-RICHARDSON
15 COUNCILWOMAN QUETCY M. LOZADA
16 COUNCILWOMAN CINDY BASS
17 COUNCILMAN MICHAEL DRISCOLL
18 COUNCILMAN CURTIS J. JONES, JR.
19 COUNCILMAN NICOLAS O'ROURKE
20 COUNCILMAN JEFFREY YOUNG, JR.
21 COUNCILMAN ANTHONY PHILLIPS
22 COUNCILMAN BRIAN O'NEILL23 ELIZABETH MCCOLLUM, Chief Clerk
24

P R O C E E D I N G S

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

I note that the hour has come and that a quorum of this Council is present.

All visitors please retire to seats outside the rails. Please take all sidebar conversations outside the Council chambers. I'll all -- I'll ask all those present, please put your cell phones on silent and/or vibrate. This is the last time I'm going to ask you to take all sidebar conversations outside the Council chambers. If you will not be quiet, Sergeant at Arms will escort you outside the chambers. Thank you very much.

To give our invocation this morning, the Chair recognizes Bishop J. Louis Felton, President of the Black Clergy of Philadelphia and vicinity and Senior Pastor of Mount Airy Church of God in Christ. He is

1 here today as my guest, and I'll ask
2 all members and guests to please
3 rise.

4 MR. FELTON: Thank you,
5 President Johnson. Good morning.

6 AUDIENCE: Good morning.

7 MR. FELTON: Let us pray
8 together. Eternal God our Father,
9 we are thankful to you that you have
10 so favored us to come together this
11 day to engage in the business of
12 your kingdom as you have entrusted
13 to us in the city of Philadelphia,
14 Pennsylvania. We are compassed
15 about with so great a cloud of
16 witnesses, for we walk by faith and
17 not by sight. We have faith in the
18 great leaders that you have placed
19 in the city to lead us in these
20 critical times.

21 We have faith in our
22 Council President, Councilman
23 Kenyatta Johnson. We have faith in
24 our Mayor, Mayor Parker. We have

1 faith in every person who holds the
2 trusted office of Councilmember of
3 the city of Philadelphia. Faith in
4 our public schools. Faith in our
5 police department and Commissioner
6 Bethel. We have faith in our
7 public-school teachers, our
8 principals, our staff, crossing
9 guards. We have faith in every
10 police officer and fire person.

11 For God, we not only
12 believe in you, we believe in each
13 other. May you validate this mutual
14 faith that we have by causing our
15 great City of Philadelphia to have a
16 renaissance in this 250th year of
17 the birth of America. But we thank
18 you that nearly a century before
19 America was born, Philadelphia was
20 already here, founded by William
21 Penn, October the 27th, 1682. Thank
22 you that in the deoxyribonucleic
23 acid of Philadelphia that is
24 inherent and intrinsic freedom for

1 all persons.

2 In the city of
3 Philadelphia, even while slavery was
4 the law of the land throughout
5 America, Philadelphia was a place of
6 liberty, freedom, and justice. "If
7 I can just get to Philadelphia,"
8 many an enslaved person had in their
9 heart, "I can experience the gift of
10 freedom."

11 As the world places its
12 eyes upon us this year, converging
13 upon the sacred grounds of this City
14 of Brotherly Love, may we be the
15 agents that you use to bring a
16 spiritual, moral, and economic
17 rebirth to America so that we may
18 live up to the true meaning of our
19 creed.

20 We pray in the name of our
21 blessed Lord and Savior, who loved
22 us and gave himself for us, even the
23 Christ. Amen.

24 AUDIENCE: Amen.

1 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

2 The Chair thanks the bishop for his
3 invocation. Council will now be at
4 ease.

5 The next order of business
6 is the approval of the Journal of
7 the Meeting of Thursday, March the
8 5th of 2026. The Chair recognizes
9 Majority Deputy Whip Councilmember
10 Cindy Bass.

11 COUNCILMEMBER BASS: Thank
12 you, Mr. President. I move that the
13 Journal of the Meeting of Thursday,
14 March 5th, 2026 be approved.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
16 It has been moved and properly
17 seconded that the Journal of the
18 Meeting of Thursday, March the 5th
19 of 2026 stand approved. All those
20 in favor will signify by saying
21 "aye."

22 AUDIENCE: Aye.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
24 Those opposed? The ayes have it,

1 and the journal is approved.

2 The next order of business
3 is request for leave of absence, and
4 the Chair recognizes Majority Leader
5 Councilmember Catherine Gilmore
6 Richardson.

7 COUNCILMEMBER GILMORE -

8 RICHARDSON: Thank you,
9 Mr. President. On behalf of the
10 Majority, there are no requests for
11 leave of absence today.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

13 The Chair thanks the Majority
14 Leader. The chair thanks -- now
15 recognizes Minority Leader
16 Councilmember Katherine --
17 Councilmember Kendra Brooks.

18 COUNCILMEMBER BROOKS:

19 Thank you, Council President. On
20 behalf of the Minority, there are no
21 requests for leave of absence.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

23 The Chair thanks the Minority
24 leader. The Chair now recognizes

1 Majority Leader Katherine Gilmore
2 Richardson for a motion concerning
3 certain legislative matters that may
4 arise during the course of today's
5 session of Council and that were not
6 listed on the Calendar circulated
7 prior to today's Council's session.

8 COUNCILMEMBER GILMORE -

9 RICHARDSON: Thank you,
10 Mr. President. I move that any of
11 the following matters, if considered
12 today, may be added to the agenda
13 for this session of Council and as
14 required by law, subsequently
15 published on an amended agenda after
16 the consideration of those matters:

17 Resolutions authorizing
18 hearings, amendments to bills on
19 First Reading, the reconsideration
20 of a bill vetoed by or recalled from
21 the Mayor, amendments to bills
22 recalled from the Mayor, resolutions
23 taking substantive action to be
24 voted on in this session, a motion

1 to withdraw a bill or resolution
2 that is not on the calendar, and a
3 motion placing a bill or resolution
4 on or returning a bill or resolution
5 from the suspension calendar that is
6 not listed on today's calendar.

7 The purpose of this motion
8 is to provide the public with notice
9 concerning possible actions by
10 counsel that arose too late to be
11 included on the calendar that was
12 published prior to today's session.

13 COUNCILMEMBERS: Second.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

15 It has been moved and properly
16 seconded that the legislative matter
17 stated by Councilmember and Majority
18 Leader Katherine Gilmore-Richardson
19 may be added to the agenda for today
20 should those matters arise during
21 the course of this session of
22 Council. All those in favor will
23 signify by saying "aye."

24 COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

1 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

2 Those opposed? The ayes have it,
3 and the motion carries. The Chair
4 recognizes Minority Leader
5 Councilmember Kendra Brooks.

6 COUNCILMEMBER BROOKS:

7 Thank you, Council President. I'm
8 going to have to leave on Council
9 matters and I would like to be voted
10 "aye" on all bills and resolutions.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

12 Thank you very much. Leave will be
13 granted and voted "aye" on all bills
14 and resolutions will be recorded.

15 The Chair will dispense
16 from the regular order of business
17 to recognize the guests and visitors
18 joining us in Council chambers this
19 morning. On behalf of all members
20 of City Council, we welcome you to
21 our session. We appreciate you
22 taking the time to join us as we
23 attend to the legislative affairs of
24 our great City and we certainly

1 invite you to come again. I want to
2 take a moment to acknowledge the
3 elected officials who are joining us
4 in the house today.

5 I want to first acknowledge
6 State Representative Morgan Cephas,
7 thank you for joining us; City
8 Controller Christy Brady, thank you
9 for joining us; District Attorney
10 Larry Krasner, thank you for joining
11 us; first African American woman
12 Sheriff in the city of Philadelphia,
13 Ms. Rochelle Bilal, thank you for
14 joining us; City Commissioner
15 Christie Deeley -- Lisa Deeley,
16 thank you for joining us; Mr. John
17 Sabatina, register of Wills, thank
18 you for joining us; State Senator
19 Anthony Hardy Williams, thank you
20 for joining us; State Senator Sharif
21 Street, thank you for joining us;
22 State Senator Nikil Saval, thank you
23 for joining us.

24 All these state folks,

1 we're getting prepared for their
2 budgets, so. The honorable former
3 Councilmember Derek Green. The
4 honorable Jannie L. Blackwell,
5 thank you for joining us as well.
6 The Honorable Blondell Reynolds
7 Brown, thank you for joining us.
8 Chairman Commissioner's office, Omar
9 Sabir. We want to thank all elected
10 officials for joining us this
11 morning as we prepare for the budget
12 address from our Mayor, Cherelle L.
13 Parker.

14 At this time, the Chair
15 recognizes Councilmember Jamie
16 Gauthier.

17 COUNCILMEMBER GAUTHIER:
18 Thank you, Council President. I
19 want to welcome and acknowledge
20 Christie Davis, my guest for Mayor
21 Parker's budget address. Christie,
22 can you stand? Christie is one of
23 the 3000 Philadelphians who live in
24 the 900 affordable homes owned by

1 Neighborhood Restorations. They're
2 scattered across West and Southwest
3 Philly and they're being put up for
4 sale, and as we begin this budget
5 address, I am looking for a solution
6 for that and I could think of no one
7 better to have here than Christie.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

9 Thank you very much. Welcome
10 Christie. The Chair recognizes
11 Majority Leader Katherine Gilmore-
12 Richardson.

13 COUNCILMEMBER GILMORE-
14 RICHARDSON: Thank you. Thank you
15 very much, Mr. President. I, too,
16 welcome the many esteemed guests who
17 are joining us here in Council
18 chambers today, as well as my
19 special guest, David Ford. But I
20 wanted to recognize someone very
21 special here in our Council chambers
22 who has joined us today, and I
23 believe we have to do a fact check,
24 we may be the first mother-daughter

1 duo Ward leaders serving
2 simultaneously. So I'd like to
3 welcome my mom to the Council
4 chambers. Please welcome Sherita
5 Glenn.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
7 Thank you very much. Welcome. The
8 Chair recognizes Council Man Curtis
9 Jones Jr.

10 COUNCILMEMBER JONES: Thank
11 you, Mr. President. Colleagues, I
12 would like to welcome to these
13 chambers the city rep for the city
14 of Philadelphia, Jazelle Jones.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
16 Smart man. Welcome. The Chair
17 recognizes the Councilmember Rue
18 Landau.

19 COUNCILMEMBER LANDAU:
20 Thank you, Council President. I
21 would like to welcome my special
22 guest, Jose Benitez, who is the
23 Executive Director of Philadelphia
24 FIGHT, one of the leading LGBTQ

1 health providers in the city of
2 Philadelphia.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

4 Welcome. The Chair recognizes
5 Councilmember Jeffrey J. Young.

6 COUNCILMEMBER YOUNG: Thank
7 you, Mr. President. I want to
8 welcome all of our special guests
9 today. With me today is
10 Dr. Shirlana Dash, CEO of SELF Inc.,
11 the largest provider of emergency
12 housing here in the city of
13 Philadelphia.

14 And as we have just seen an
15 uptick in the number of homelessness
16 in the city, I want to make sure
17 that our city sheds the light on
18 street homelessness and make sure
19 that we have the funding necessary
20 to provide the emergency housing for
21 our citizens, folks who look like us
22 in this community. So thank you so
23 much, Mr. President.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

1 Thank you very much. Chair
2 recognizes Councilmember Dr. Anthony
3 Phillips.

4 COUNCILMEMBER PHILLIPS:

5 Thank you, Council President. I
6 would like to welcome my special
7 guest who is known by many members
8 of City Council, Mr. David Simms,
9 who is an extraordinary restaurant
10 -- caterer, has a restaurant as well
11 on Wister Avenue. He's also a
12 community leader who's always
13 helping our commercial corridors and
14 he's always engaged in our
15 neighborhoods. We're thankful for
16 him, Mr. David Simms. He's also a
17 friend of the Mayor and myself, so
18 we're proud to have him.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

20 Thank you very much. You know, you
21 slid that in there, "he's cool with
22 me and the Mayor," like he kind of,
23 wait for a shout out. Thank you,
24 Dr. Anthony Phillips. The Chair

1 recognizes Councilmember Dr. Nina
2 Ahmad.

3 COUNCILMEMBER AHMAD: Thank
4 you, Council President. Welcome to
5 everyone. I just wanted to
6 recognize my guest who is the wing
7 beneath my wings, my husband, Ahsan
8 Nasratullah --

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
10 Smart woman.

11 COUNCILMEMBER AHMAD: --
12 who also is policymaker. Thank you.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
14 Way to go for the fellas.
15 Dr. Phillips, but, yeah, I have
16 known Mr. David Simms since I
17 started Peace Not Guns. He was
18 providing free catering for me at
19 the time when I was supporting young
20 people back in the early 90s. So
21 thank you for joining us today,
22 Dr. Simms. I appreciate your
23 support, sir. The Chair recognizes
24 Minority Leader Councilmember Kendra

1 Brooks.

2 COUNCILMEMBER BROOKS:

3 Thank you, Council president. I
4 want to recognize my person here
5 today is Jasmine Rivera. She's a
6 leader in the immigrants' rights
7 movement, and I just want to say
8 thank you for allowing me to have
9 her with me today.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

11 Thank you. Chair recognizes
12 Councilmember Quetcy Lozada.

13 COUNCILMEMBER LOZADA:

14 Thank you, Council President.
15 Welcome to all of our special
16 guests. I'd like to recognize my
17 special guest who doesn't need an
18 introduction to this chamber.
19 Reverend Bonnie Camarda from the
20 Salvation Army who does a lot in our
21 community.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

23 Thank you for joining us. Chair
24 recognizes Councilmember Cindy Bass.

1 COUNCILMEMBER BASS: Thank
2 you, Mr. President. I want to
3 recognize my special guest as well,
4 who's in a very long line trying to
5 get upstairs right now, but it is
6 Mekia Elizabeth who is the
7 Philadelphia Citizens Block Captain
8 of the Year for the city of
9 Philadelphia. Thank you.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
11 Congratulations. As there are no
12 presentations today, the next order
13 of business is communications. The
14 Chair requests that the Sergeant at
15 Arms deliver the messages from the
16 Mayor to the Chief Clerk. Will the
17 Chief Clerk please read the messages
18 from the Mayor and any other
19 communications in her possession.

20 CHIEF CLERK: "To the
21 President and Members of the Council
22 of the city of Philadelphia, I'm
23 submitting, herewith for the
24 consideration of your honorable

1 body, the following:

2 An ordinance to amend Bill
3 No. 250198 approved June 13th, 2025
4 entitled an Ordinance to Adopt a
5 Capital Program for the six fiscal
6 years 2026 through 2031 inclusive,
7 by revising various appropriation
8 amounts and totals, all under
9 certain terms and conditions. And
10 an ordinance to adopt a capital
11 program for the six fiscal years
12 2027 through 2032 inclusive.

13 And an ordinance to adopt a
14 fiscal year 2027 capital budget.
15 And an ordinance adopting the
16 operating budget for fiscal year
17 2027. And an ordinance to amend
18 Bill No. 250197, approved June 13th,
19 2025, entitled an Ordinance to Adopt
20 a Fiscal 2026 Capital Budget, by
21 revising various appropriation
22 amounts and totals, all under
23 certain terms and conditions.

24 And an ordinance

1 authorizing transfers and
2 appropriations for fiscal year 2026
3 from: the General Fund, the Water
4 Fund, the Transportation Fund and
5 the Grants Revenue Fund, all from
6 certain or all city offices,
7 departments, boards and commissions
8 to; the General Fund, the Water
9 Fund, the Special Gasoline Tax fund,
10 the Grants Revenue Fund, the
11 Aviation Fund, and the
12 Transportation Fund, all or to
13 certain or all city offices,
14 departments, boards and commissions.

15 And an ordinance amending
16 subcode A, the Philadelphia
17 Administrative Code of Title 4 of
18 the Philadelphia Code, the Building,
19 Construction and Occupancy Code, by
20 adding and revising zoning board of
21 adjustments fees, and provisions
22 regarding hearing scheduling, all
23 under certain terms and conditions.

24 And an ordinance amending

1 Chapter 6-600 of the Philadelphia
2 Code, Asbestos, by adding and
3 revising provisions related to
4 various fees, all under certain
5 terms and conditions.

6 And an ordinance amending
7 Section 19-1806 of the Philadelphia
8 Code entitled Authorization of
9 Realty Use and Occupancy Tax, to
10 clarify the imposition of the tax on
11 the use or occupancy of real estate
12 with respect to cell towers, all
13 under certain terms and conditions.

14 And an ordinance amending
15 Title 3 of the Philadelphia Code
16 entitled Air Management Code, to
17 modify amounts of license and permit
18 fees, under certain terms and
19 conditions.

20 An ordinance amending
21 Chapter 19-2400 of the Philadelphia
22 Code entitled Hotel Room Rental Tax,
23 by providing for an additional
24 excise tax on hotel room rentals,

1 all under certain terms and
2 conditions.

3 An ordinance amending Title
4 19 of the Philadelphia Code entitled
5 Finances, Taxes, and Collections, to
6 adding new Chapter 19-4800, entitled
7 Retail Delivery Tax, to establish a
8 tax on orders for the delivery in
9 Philadelphia of retail, consumer,
10 and other tangible goods, all under
11 certain terms and conditions.

12 An ordinance amending
13 Chapter 19-1800 of the Philadelphia
14 Code entitled School Tax
15 Authorization, to add a new Section
16 19-1808, entitled Authorization of
17 Ride Share use Tax, to authorize the
18 Board of the School District of
19 Philadelphia to levy a tax upon the
20 use by a passenger of a
21 transportation network company for a
22 prearranged ride that originates in
23 Philadelphia, all under certain
24 terms and conditions.

1 And a resolution providing
2 for the approval by the Council of
3 Philadelphia of a revised five-year
4 financial plan for the city of
5 Philadelphia covering fiscal years
6 2027 through 2031 and incorporating
7 revisions with respect to fiscal
8 year 2026, which is to be submitted
9 by the Mayor to the Pennsylvania
10 Intergovernmental Cooperation
11 Authority pursuant to an
12 Intergovernmental Cooperation
13 Agreement, by and between the city
14 and the authority.

15 And to the President and
16 Members of Council of the city of
17 Philadelphia, I'm pleased to advise
18 you that on March 10th, 2026, I
19 signed the following bill which
20 passed by Council at its session on
21 February 26th, 2026:

22 Bill No. 241056.

23 There are no further
24 communications in my possession,

1 Council President.

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

3 Thank you very much. The message
4 will be printed in the journal. The
5 next introduction -- the next order
6 of business is the introduction of
7 bills and resolutions. The Chair
8 recognizes Councilmember Dr. Anthony
9 Phillips.

10 COUNCILMEMBER PHILLIPS:

11 Good morning, Council President and
12 everyone in the audience today. I
13 have no bills or resolutions.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

15 Thank you very much, Dr. Phillips.
16 The Chair recognizes the Majority
17 Leader Councilmember Katherine
18 Gilmore-Richardson.

19 COUNCILMEMBER GILMORE-

20 RICHARDSON: Good morning, Council
21 President. Good morning colleagues.
22 Today, I offer nine bills on your
23 behalf and one non-privileged
24 resolution on your behalf.

1 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

2 Thank you very much. Would the
3 Chief Clerk please read the title of
4 the bills and resolutions.

5 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
6 to amend the Philadelphia zoning
7 maps by changing the zoning
8 designations of certain areas of
9 land located within an area bounded
10 by I-76, the Schuylkill Expressway
11 ramp, Hartranft Street, and the
12 Conrail right-of-way.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
14 This bill will be referred to the
15 appropriate committee.

16 CHIEF CLERK: And an
17 ordinance amending Chapter 19-2400
18 of the Philadelphia code entitled
19 Hotel Room Rental Tax, by providing
20 for an additional excise tax on
21 hotel room rentals, all under
22 certain terms and conditions.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
24 This bill will be referred to the

1 appropriate committee.

2 CHIEF CLERK: And an
3 ordinance amending subcode A, the
4 Philadelphia Administrative Code of
5 Title 4 of the Philadelphia Code,
6 the Building, Construction and
7 Occupancy Code by adding and
8 revising the zoning board of
9 adjustment fees and provisions
10 regarding hearing scheduling, all
11 under certain terms and conditions.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
13 This bill will be referred to the
14 appropriate committee.

15 CHIEF CLERK: And an
16 ordinance amending Title 3 of the
17 Philadelphia code entitled Air
18 Management Code to modify the
19 amounts of license and permit fees,
20 under certain terms and conditions.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
22 This bill will be referred to the
23 appropriate committee.

24 CHIEF CLERK: And an

1 ordinance amending section 19-1806
2 of the Philadelphia Code entitled
3 Authorization of Realty Use and
4 Occupancy Tax, to clarify the
5 imposition of the tax on the use or
6 occupancy of real estate with
7 respect to cell towers, all under
8 certain terms and conditions.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

10 This bill will be referred to the
11 appropriate committee.

12 CHIEF CLERK: And an
13 ordinance amending Chapter 6-600 of
14 the Philadelphia Code, Asbestos, by
15 adding and revising provisions
16 related to various fees, all under
17 certain terms and conditions.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

19 This bill will be referred to the
20 appropriate committee.

21 CHIEF CLERK: And an
22 ordinance adopting the operating
23 budget for fiscal year 2027.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

1 This bill will be referred to the
2 appropriate committee.

3 CHIEF CLERK: And an
4 ordinance to adopt a fiscal year
5 2027 capital budget.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
7 This bill will be referred to the
8 appropriate committee.

9 CHIEF CLERK: And an
10 ordinance to adopt a capital program
11 for six -- for the six fiscal years,
12 2027 through 2032 inclusive.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
14 This bill will be referred to the
15 appropriate committee.

16 CHIEF CLERK: And a
17 non-privileged resolution providing
18 for the approval by the Council of
19 the city of Philadelphia of a
20 revised five-year financial plan for
21 the city of Philadelphia covering
22 fiscal years 2027 through 2031 and
23 incorporating revisions with respect
24 to fiscal year 2026, which is to be

1 submitted to -- by the Mayor to the
2 Pennsylvania Intergovernmental
3 Cooperation Authority pursuant to an
4 Intergovernmental Cooperation
5 Agreement, by and between the city
6 and the authority.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

8 This resolution will be placed on
9 the Final Passage Calendar --

10 CHIEF CLERK: Appropriate
11 committee.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

13 Got it. This resolution will be
14 referred to the appropriate
15 committee. The Chair recognizes
16 Councilmember Jamie Gauthier.

17 COUNCILMEMBER GAUTHIER:

18 Good morning, Council President.
19 Today, I have two non-privileged
20 resolutions for introduction.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

22 Thank you very much. Will the Chief
23 Clerk please read the title of the
24 resolutions.

1 CHIEF CLERK: A
2 non-privileged resolution also
3 naming the 6200 block of Osage
4 Avenue, Gerald Wayne Renfrow Way, to
5 honor the life, leadership, and
6 enduring legacy of Gerald Wayne
7 Renfrow in the Osage Avenue and Pine
8 Street community.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
10 This resolution will be placed on
11 the Final Passage Calendar for
12 consideration at our next session of
13 Council.

14 CHIEF CLERK: And a
15 non-privileged resolution
16 authorizing Councilmember Gauthier
17 to intervene on behalf of, and as a
18 representative of City Council, in
19 the appeal against the zoning board
20 of adjustment with respect to 4283
21 Viola Street.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
23 This resolution will be placed on
24 the Final Passage Calendar for

1 consideration at the next session of
2 Council. Chair recognizes
3 Councilmember Curtis Jones Jr.

4 COUNCILMEMBER JONES: Thank
5 you, Mr. President. And on behalf
6 of Women's History Month, I have one
7 non-privileged resolution.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
9 Thank you very much sir. Would the
10 Chief Clerk please read the title of
11 the resolution?

12 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged
13 resolution honoring and recognizing
14 Major Benjamin F. Brooks for his
15 historic career in the Pennsylvania
16 State Police and his role in
17 expanding opportunity in law
18 enforcement.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
20 This resolution will be placed on
21 the Final Passage Calendar for
22 today. The Chair recognizes
23 Councilmember Rue Landau.

24 COUNCILMEMBER LANDAU:

1 Morning, Council President. Thank
2 you. I have one privileged
3 resolution and two bills on your
4 behalf.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
6 Thank you very much. Will the Chief
7 Clerk read the title of the bills
8 and resolutions.

9 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
10 amending chapter 19-1800 of the
11 Philadelphia Code entitled School
12 Tax Authorization to add a new
13 section 19-1808 entitled
14 Authorization of Ride Share use Tax,
15 to authorize the board of the School
16 District of Philadelphia to levy a
17 tax upon the use by a passenger of a
18 transportation network company for a
19 prearranged ride that originates in
20 Philadelphia, all under certain
21 terms and conditions.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
23 This bill will be referred to the
24 appropriate committee.

1 CHIEF CLERK: And an
2 ordinance amending Title 19 of the
3 Philadelphia Code entitled Finance,
4 Taxes, and Collections, to add a new
5 Chapter 19-4800, entitled Retail
6 Delivery Tax, to establish a tax on
7 orders for the delivery in
8 Philadelphia of retail, consumer,
9 and other tangible goods, all under
10 certain terms and conditions.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
12 This bill will be referred to the
13 appropriate committee.

14 CHIEF CLERK: And a
15 privileged resolution authorizing
16 the Committee on Legislative
17 Oversight to hold hearings on the
18 status, operations, and economic
19 impact at the port of Philadelphia,
20 PhilaPort, to ensure its growth and
21 operations position the city of
22 Philadelphia as a 21st Century
23 Commerce hub.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

1 In the 2nd Councilmanic District.

2 This resolution will be placed on

3 today's Final Passage Calendar.

4 Good job, Rue. Chair recognizes

5 Councilmember Isaiah Thomas.

6 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: Good

7 morning, Council President. Good

8 morning, colleagues. Good morning

9 to all of our special guests.

10 Today, I offer one resolution.

11 Thank you, Council President.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

13 Thank you very much, Member Thomas.

14 Will the Chief Clerk please read the

15 title of the resolution.

16 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged

17 resolution recognizing the month of

18 March, 2026 as Creative and

19 Nighttime Economy Month in the city

20 of Philadelphia.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

22 This resolution will be placed on

23 today's Final Passage Calendar. The

24 Chair recognizes Councilmember

1 Quetcy Lozada.

2 COUNCILMEMBER LOZADA: Good
3 morning, Council President. I have
4 three bills.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
6 Thank you very much. Chief Clerk,
7 please read the title of the bills.

8 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
9 amending Section 12-2705 of the
10 Philadelphia Code, Issuance of
11 Resident Parking Permits, to allow
12 for certain residential parking
13 permits in District 38, all under
14 certain terms and conditions.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
16 This bill will be referred to the
17 appropriate committee.

18 CHIEF CLERK: And an
19 ordinance to amend the Philadelphia
20 zoning maps by changing the zoning
21 designations of certain areas of
22 land located within an area bounded
23 by Erie Avenue, Front Street,
24 Lippincott Street, and 2nd Street.

1 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

2 This bill will be referred to the
3 appropriate committee.

4 CHIEF CLERK: And an
5 ordinance to amend the Philadelphia
6 zoning maps by changing the zoning
7 designations of certain areas of
8 land located within an area bounded
9 by McKinley Street, Leonard Street,
10 Devereaux Avenue, and Bustleton
11 Avenue.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

13 This bill will be referred to the
14 appropriate committee. The Chair
15 recognizes Councilmember Jeffrey J.
16 Young.

17 Councilmember YOUNG: Good
18 morning, Mr. President. No Bills
19 and resolutions today.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

21 Thank you very much. Chair
22 recognizes the Councilmember
23 Minority Leader Kendra Brooks.

24 COUNCILMEMBER BROOKS:

1 Thank you, Council President. I
2 have no bills or resolutions today.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

4 Thank you very much. Chair
5 recognizes Councilmember Jim
6 Harrity.

7 COUNCILMEMBER HARRITY:

8 Thank you, Council President. I
9 have one privileged resolution
10 today.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

12 Thank you very much. Chief Clerk,
13 please read the title of the
14 resolution.

15 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged
16 resolution designating March 8th,
17 2026 as Joe Frazier Day in the city
18 of Philadelphia in celebration and
19 recognition of the 55th anniversary
20 of the Fight of the Century in which
21 Philadelphia icon, Smokin' Joe
22 Frazier defeated Muhammad Ali to win
23 the World Heavyweight Championship
24 title.

1 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

2 This resolution to be placed on

3 today's Final Passage Calendar.

4 Good job, Member Harrity. Chair

5 recognizes Councilmember, Minority

6 Deputy Whip, Nicholas O'Rourke.

7 Mr. Whip, excuse me, sir.

8 COUNCILMEMBER O'ROURKE:

9 All good. Thank you, Mr. President.

10 Good morning to all Philadelphians.

11 Nothing today.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

13 Thank you very much. Chair

14 recognizes Councilmember Mike

15 Driscoll.

16 COUNCILMEMBER DRISCOLL:

17 Morning, Mr. President. Good

18 morning, honored guests, and no

19 bills or resolutions today.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

21 Thank you very much. Chair

22 recognizes Councilmember Brian

23 O'Neill.

24 COUNCILMEMBER O'NEILL:

1 Thank you, Mr. President. I have no
2 bills or resolutions.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

4 Thank you very much. Chairman
5 recognizes Councilmember Mark
6 Squilla. Council, be at ease.

7 Chair recognizes
8 Councilmember Cindy Bass.

9 COUNCILMEMBER BASS: Thank
10 you, Mr. President. I offer three
11 privileged resolutions today.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
13 Thank you very much, Member Bass.
14 Chief Clerk, please read the title
15 of the resolutions. Member Bass, do
16 you have resolutions or bills on
17 behalf of Councilmember Squilla?

18 COUNCILMEMBER BASS:
19 Councilmember Squilla has no bills
20 or resolutions today.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
22 Okay. Thank you very much.

23 COUNCILMEMBER BASS: Okay.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

1 Chief Clerk, please proceed.

2 COUNCILMEMBER BASS: Our
3 Majority Leader has the resolutions
4 and bills.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
6 Okay. Well, we'll finish with your
7 bills first and then I'll go to my
8 Majority Leader. Chief Clerk,
9 please read the title of the
10 resolutions.

11 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged
12 resolution recognizing and honoring
13 the students, educators, and
14 leadership of Imhotep Institute
15 Charter High School for their
16 outstanding STEM program and global
17 education initiatives, including
18 Project Cumba, Japan, and
19 celebrating their commitment to
20 expanding access to science,
21 technology, engineering, and
22 mathematics education for students
23 in the city of Philadelphia.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

1 This resolution will be placed in
2 today's Final Passage Calendar.

3 CHIEF CLERK: And a
4 privileged resolution honoring and
5 recognizing Mekia Elizabeth, Block
6 Captain of the 4500 block of
7 Fernhill Road in Southwest
8 Germantown, for being named Block
9 Captain of the Year by the
10 Philadelphia citizens and commending
11 her outstanding leadership and
12 dedication to building a stronger,
13 more connected community in the city
14 of Philadelphia.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
16 Is she here, Member Bass? Did she
17 make it up in the room?

18 COUNCILMEMBER BASS:
19 Absolutely.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
21 Could she please stand?

22 AUDIENCE: For Block
23 Captain of the Year.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

1 Congratulations. This resolution
2 will be placed in today's Final
3 Passage Calendar.

4 CHIEF CLERK: And a
5 privileged resolution honoring and
6 congratulating Max Kent on the
7 occasion of his retirement from
8 NewCourtland and recognizing his
9 decades of dedicated leadership in
10 the United States Army, Healthcare
11 administration, community service,
12 and support of Philadelphia seniors
13 and those who are underserved.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
15 This resolution will be placed on
16 today's Final Passage Calendar. The
17 Chair recognizes Majority Leader
18 Katherine Gilmore-Richardson, who
19 will introduce bills on behalf of
20 Councilmember Mark Squilla.

21 COUNCILMEMBER GILMORE-
22 RICHARDSON: Thank you,
23 Mr. President. On behalf of
24 Councilmember Squilla, today he

1 offers five bills; three on your
2 behalf.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

4 Thank you very much, Majority
5 Leader. Will Chief Clerk please
6 read the title of the bills.

7 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
8 to amend Bill No. 250198 approved
9 June 13th, 2025, entitled An
10 Ordinance to Adopt a Capital Program
11 for the six fiscal years 2026
12 through 2031 inclusive, by revising
13 various appropriation amounts and
14 totals, all under certain terms and
15 conditions.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
17 This bill will be referred to the
18 appropriate committee.

19 CHIEF CLERK: And an
20 ordinance to amend Bill No. 250197
21 approved June 13th, 2025, entitled
22 An Ordinance to Adopt a Fiscal Year
23 2026 Capital Budget, by revising
24 various appropriation amounts and

1 totals, all under certain terms and
2 conditions.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

4 This bill will be referred to the
5 appropriate committee.

6 CHIEF CLERK: And an
7 ordinance authorizing transfers and
8 appropriations for fiscal year 2026
9 from; the General fund, the Water
10 Fund, the Transportation Fund, and
11 the Grants Revenue Fund, all from
12 certain or all city offices,
13 departments, boards, and commissions
14 to; the General Fund, the Water
15 Fund, the Special Gasoline Tax Fund,
16 the Grants Revenue Fund, the
17 Aviation Fund, and the
18 Transportation Fund, all to certain
19 or all city offices, departments,
20 boards, and commissions.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

22 This bill will be referred to the
23 appropriate committee.

24 CHIEF CLERK: And an

1 ordinance authorizing the
2 installation, ownership, and
3 maintenance of a dumpster
4 encroachment in the vicinity of 509
5 through 19 Vine Street,
6 Philadelphia, PA 19106, under
7 certain terms and conditions.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

9 This bill will be referred to the
10 appropriate committee.

11 CHIEF CLERK: And an
12 ordinance authorizing various
13 encroachments in the vicinity of
14 2655 South Juniper Street,
15 Philadelphia, PA 19148, under
16 certain terms and conditions.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

18 This bill will be referred to the
19 appropriate committee. Chair
20 recognizes Councilmember Dr. Nina
21 Ahmad.

22 COUNCILMEMBER AHMAD: Thank
23 you, Council President. I have no
24 bills or resolutions today.

1 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

2 Thank you very much. The next order
3 of business is reports from
4 committee. The Chair recognizes
5 Councilmember Cindy Bass for report
6 from the Committee on Rules.

7 COUNCILMEMBER BASS: Thank
8 you, Mr. President. The Committee
9 on Rules reports out four bills with
10 a favorable recommendation.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
12 Thank you very much. Would the
13 Chief Clerk please read the report.

14 CHIEF CLERK: The Committee
15 on Rules to which were referred the
16 following bills:

17 Bill No. 260055, an
18 ordinance amending Title 14 of the
19 Philadelphia Code, entitled Zoning
20 and Planning, by revising and
21 clarifying certain provisions and
22 making technical changes to text
23 that has expired, all under certain
24 terms and conditions.

1 And Bill No. 260073, an
2 ordinance amending Section 9-208 of
3 the Philadelphia Code entitled
4 Sidewalk Cafes and Section A-301.1.5
5 of Title 4 subcode A, the
6 Philadelphia Administrative Code of
7 the Philadelphia Code entitled
8 Zoning and Use Registration Permits,
9 by removing expired provisions
10 related to outdoor entertainment at
11 sidewalk cafes, under certain terms
12 and conditions, respectfully reports
13 it has considered the same and
14 returns the attached bills to
15 Council with a favorable
16 recommendation.

17 And Bill No. 260022, an
18 ordinance to amend the Philadelphia
19 zoning maps by changing the zoning
20 designations of certain areas of
21 land located within an area bounded
22 by Main Street Ridge Avenue, the
23 Wissahickon Creek, Kelly Drive,
24 Falls Road, the Schuylkill River,

1 and Dawson Street extended.

2 And Bill No. 260074, an
3 ordinance to amend Title 14 of the
4 Philadelphia Code by adding section
5 14-546 entitled 6th District Overlay
6 District, revised section 14-515 The
7 Northeast Overlay District, remove
8 Section 14-523, the Industrial and
9 Manufacturing Overlay District and
10 make other related changes, all
11 under certain terms and conditions,
12 respectfully reports it has
13 considered and amended the same and
14 returns the attached bills to
15 Council with a favorable
16 recommendation.

17 There are no further bills
18 to report out from the Committee on
19 Rules, Council President.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
21 Thank you very much. The chair
22 recognizes Councilmember Cindy Bass
23 for a motion.

24 COUNCILMEMBER BASS: Thank

1 you, Mr. President. I move that the
2 Rules of Council be suspended to
3 permit First Reading this day of the
4 bills just read into the record by
5 the Chief Clerk.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

7 It has been moved and properly
8 seconded that the Rules of Council
9 be suspended so as to permit the
10 consideration of these bills just
11 read by the Chief Clerk at today's
12 session of Council. All those in
13 favor of the motion will signify by
14 saying "aye."

15 COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

17 Those opposed? The ayes have it.
18 The motion carries. These bills
19 will be placed on our First Reading
20 Calendar for today.

21 Chair also likes to welcome
22 to City Council chambers, State
23 Senator Vincent Hughes. Thank you
24 for joining us today, sir. The next

1 order of business is the
2 consideration of the calendar. I
3 note that the bills just reported
4 from committees with the suspension
5 of the rules have been deemed to
6 have had a First Reading.

7 These bills will be placed
8 in the Second Reading and Final
9 Passage Calendar for the next
10 session of Council.

11 As there are no additional
12 bills on the First Reading Calendar,
13 the Chair recognizes Majority Leader
14 Katherine Gilmore-Richardson for a
15 motion concerning the bills and
16 resolution on the Second Reading and
17 Final Passage Calendars.

18 COUNCILMEMBER GILMORE -
19 RICHARDSON: Thank you,
20 Mr. President. The following bills
21 and resolutions are being called up
22 from the Second Reading and Final
23 Passage Calendars today:

24 Numbers 260171, 260174,

1 260175, 260179, 250769, 250917-A,
2 251066, 260112, and 260113.

3 The following bills and
4 resolutions on the calendar are
5 being held:

6 250768, 250807, 250980-A,
7 251025, and 260021. The following
8 bills are being amended: 250329,
9 250330, and 250843-A.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

11 Thank you very much. Before
12 considering these bills and
13 resolutions, public comment is as
14 follows:

15 Your public comment must
16 concern matters on the Second
17 Reading and Final Passage Calendars
18 for possible action in today's
19 Council's session.

20 All speakers must sign up
21 in order to testify. Once you have
22 signed up, you will be called in the
23 order in which your name appears on
24 a signup sheet. Under ideal

1 circumstances, public commenters
2 each will have three minutes to
3 speak, however, this time limit may
4 vary from session to session.

5 Today, the time limit will be two
6 minutes.

7 In order to be fair to all
8 those wishing to speak, I intend to
9 hold faithfully to the two-minute
10 limit. When you begin speaking, you
11 will see a green light on the
12 podium, when there are 30 seconds
13 remaining to your time, the light
14 will turn yellow, which is your
15 reminder to conclude your remarks.

16 Once two minutes have
17 passed, the light will turn red and
18 the Sergeant at Arms will disconnect
19 the microphone. At that point,
20 please yield the podium to the next
21 speaker if you have not done so
22 already. I also reserve the right,
23 pursuant to our Rules of City
24 Council, to limit repetitious

1 comments on the same subject matter.

2 I will now ask the Chief
3 Clerk to prepare to call the first
4 speaker, but at first, I would like
5 to acknowledge, also joining us is
6 former member of the legislative
7 staff of this body, but also
8 honorable State Representative of
9 the General House, our good friend,
10 Ms. Donna Bullock. Could you stand,
11 Ms. Bullock? Always good to see
12 you. Thank you for being here.

13 Chief Clerk, can you please
14 call the first person for public
15 comment, please.

16 CHIEF CLERK: May Jeremy
17 Blatstein, Lynn Landes, David
18 Alexander Jenkins, Deborah Toney-
19 Moore, Shirley Posley and Mekia
20 Elizabeth Matthews, please make your
21 way to the podium.

22 MR. BLATSTEIN: Good
23 morning, City Council. My name is
24 Jeremy Blatstein. We're talking

1 about all bills and resolutions
2 today. Grow Philly to 2 Milly. I
3 repeat. Grow Philly to 2 Milly.
4 That's the north star that every
5 single piece of resolution should be
6 viewed through, right? Growing the
7 population of Philadelphia,
8 pro-growth, pro-development.

9 We're talking about some
10 safety with housing, with Councilman
11 O'Rourke. Those bills are not ready
12 to be passed. Why? The
13 Philadelphia Sheriff's Department
14 and evictions, it's taking too long.
15 We already -- Councilwoman Landau
16 and Councilwoman Brooks are working
17 on this. That bill cannot pass in
18 its current form.

19 The last thing we're
20 talking about is Turn the Key.
21 Councilwoman Lozada has on her desk
22 a bill for 30 Turn the Key homes.
23 This Council is passing money for
24 affordable housing for Turn the Key.

1 Councilwoman Lozada or any other
2 member of this body could be
3 introducing this bill to build 30
4 affordable homes once Turn the Key
5 house is at \$280,000.

6 The last but not least,
7 we're talking about SEPTA. Look
8 over there, I'm looking at you,
9 State Rep Cephas. We're not doing
10 free SEPTA. She's pushing free
11 SEPTA. We're a little -- that's a
12 little too extreme. But we want
13 funding for SEPTA, right? We want
14 SEPTA funded and we need Harrisburg
15 to fund SEPTA. We also need there
16 to be density along our transit
17 corridors.

18 Shout out Councilwoman
19 Gauthier for supporting that, but it
20 doesn't go far enough. We need to
21 get rid of our restrictive zoning
22 overlays, up zone our transit
23 corridors, Grow Philly to 2 Milly.
24 And last but not least, ride the

1 ride. Councilman Thomas, we got to
2 ride SEPTA again, all right. I know
3 no pictures or anything, but thank
4 you. Ride the ride. Grow Philly to
5 2 Milly.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
7 Chair recognizes Councilmember
8 Quetcy Lozada.

9 COUNCILMEMBER LOZADA:
10 Thank you, Council President. I was
11 sent here to work for the people and
12 I want to say for the record, for
13 the 2000th time, I support the home
14 initiative. I support Turn The Key.
15 I will not allow for individuals
16 like Mr. Blatstein who is sent here
17 by developers who make money off of
18 projects in our city for their own
19 benefit. I have -- I have had
20 community residents -- I have had
21 community residents who have said
22 four times that they do not want
23 this project. I'm not sure who
24 Mr. Blatstein or others think they

1 are to assume that it's okay for
2 them to tell my community what they
3 need in their community. I'm about
4 stability and growth in my community
5 and it will be dictated and
6 determined by the people who live
7 there.

8 And so I will decide with
9 my community whether those 30
10 properties will be built or not.
11 And it will not be him to tell me if
12 I'm going to do it or not.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
14 The Chair recognizes Member Lozada.

15 COUNCILMEMBER LOZADA: If
16 he needs my community to keep
17 telling him that, tell him to keep
18 showing up. We're going to run his
19 ass out every single time.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
21 For the sake of the institution, we
22 would like all opinions, all
23 comments and concerns that remain
24 politically PC to refrain from that

1 language. Thank you very much.

2 Will the Chief Clerk please call the
3 next person?

4 CHIEF CLERK: We have Lynn
5 Landes, David Alexander Jenkins,
6 Deborah Toney-Moore, Shirley Posey,
7 and Mekia Elizabeth Matthews.

8 MS. LANDES: Good morning.
9 I'm Lynn Landes from Philly's
10 Republican Network. Diverting
11 Philadelphia waste away from
12 incinerators is a big step in the
13 right direction, but more needs to
14 be done to protect public health and
15 the environment. We should also be
16 looking at biomedical and other
17 facilities whose emissions could
18 prove hazardous.

19 Furthermore, medications
20 that many people are taking have
21 been found in municipal drinking
22 water supplies. In addition, much
23 of our food, food containers,
24 personal care and beauty products,

1 as well as household cleaners and
2 building materials include
3 unnecessarily harmful chemicals.

4 Very frankly, we need to
5 look -- take a hard look at our
6 marketplace and resource management
7 plan and begin to systematically
8 remove unnecessary toxins wherever
9 we can because they are directly,
10 profoundly, and adversely impacting
11 the public's health, the
12 environment, as well as our economy.

13 We cannot keep loading up
14 ourselves and our planet with toxins
15 and trash. There's a better,
16 healthier, and less expensive way to
17 live. You can learn more at
18 zerowasteamerica.org. Thank you
19 very much.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
21 Thank you very much. One second
22 Mr. Alexander. I'm thinking about
23 to bring the bishop to come back and
24 reset. Please proceed.

1 MR. JENKINS:

2 Mr. President, members and guests,
3 David Alexander Jenkins, and I rise
4 pro the bill that's before us
5 250330. Protections against
6 retaliation and harassment seem in
7 order, not only as it pertains to
8 the rights of our neighbors and
9 housing, but across the board in
10 this City of brotherly love and
11 sisterly affection.

12 A city which has been
13 granted an implied warranty if you
14 will, vested in the decisions those
15 of you whom sit within the rail make
16 even today. It seems that before
17 that we would hear from our Mayor
18 who will present a budget that seeks
19 to balance the responsibilities of
20 our fiscal truth and our duty to the
21 citizenry of Philadelphia as we
22 overcome a history that has often
23 left housing and poverty to be dealt
24 with someday, quite frankly, any

1 other day than today. You see,
2 budgets are declarations of
3 priority, are they not? They reveal
4 whom a government believes is worth
5 saving and whom it is willing to
6 leave behind.

7 And so today, as we debate
8 numbers, allocations, and programs,
9 I rise to remind this body that the
10 crisis before us is not abstract; it
11 is human. During the funeral of the
12 late great Reverend Jesse Jackson, I
13 was sat ruminating in the words of
14 -- that were presented by Stevie
15 Wonder. Words, famously lamented by
16 the late great Dr. Martin Luther
17 King, Jr. Words I sang as a child
18 walking hand in hand down the aisle
19 of Jones Tabernacle AME. "We shall
20 overcome, we shall overcome." And it
21 struck me that it is not everybody
22 who needs to overcome.

23 In fact, most of the people
24 who historically sang that song are

1 no longer part of the we who must
2 overcome at all. It is not the
3 tired, the hungry, the poor, the
4 huddled masses yearning to be free.
5 It is not the colored or the
6 burdened, the sick, the friendless,
7 or the needy, dare I say, who need
8 to overcome.

9 But it is we. We who know
10 who we are, we who stand between the
11 promises of a 250-year-old
12 declaration and the cries of a
13 people for liberty in the pursuit of
14 happiness. We the keepers of a
15 system of inequality. We the
16 arbiters of tactless solutions that
17 sound good even fiscally, but often
18 do not do anything more than to lie
19 in the pockets of our friends. We
20 who blocked the gates of a Zion, an
21 apostle named Paul once described as
22 a more excellent way. Friends,
23 deep, deep in my heart, it is my
24 belief that we must overcome today.

1 CHIEF CLERK: We have
2 Deborah Toney-Moore, Shirley Posey,
3 Mekia Elizabeth Matthews. May
4 Dr. Deidre Farmbry, Jarvis McArthur,
5 Charles Friedman, Wilfrida Ball,
6 Sister Taleah Taylor, and Theresa
7 Howell also make their way to the
8 podium.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
10 Could the next speaker please
11 approach the podium? We'll call the
12 next speakers, please.

13 CHIEF CLERK: Dr. Deidre
14 Farmbry, Jarvis McArthur, Charles
15 Friedman, Wilfrida Ball, Sister
16 Taleah Taylor, Theresa Howell. We
17 also have Melissa Mons, Corey
18 Phillips, Sherman McLeod, Marvin
19 Robinson, and Tabbal Louis, please
20 start making your way to the podium.

21 MR. MCARTHUR: Good
22 morning, COUNCILMEMBERS and
23 distinguished elected officials. My
24 name is Jarvis McArthur, and this is

1 Dr. Wilfrida Ball --

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

3 Could you speak into the microphone,
4 sir, please?

5 MR. MCARTHUR: My name is
6 Jarvis McArthur, and this is
7 Dr. Wilfrida Ball, and we are
8 co-executors of the estate of
9 Dr. Constance E. Clayton. We are
10 here in support of the legislation
11 proposed by Councilman Jeffrey Young
12 Jr., to rename Buttonwood Street,
13 Dr. Constance E. Clayton Way.

14 There's much to be said
15 about the achievements and
16 accomplishments of Dr. Clayton. She
17 was the first woman and first
18 African American Superintendent of
19 the Philadelphia Public School
20 system. She implemented the model
21 early childhood program that is used
22 nationally and she improved
23 standardized curricular and she was
24 the recipient of honorary doctorate

1 -- several honorary doctorates and
2 hundreds of rewards.

3 We as executors, however,
4 are mindful of the fact of
5 Dr. Clayton's purpose and that
6 purpose was to children. This
7 became more pronounced when we were
8 organizing and reviewing many of her
9 papers and writings. We came across
10 a document where Dr. Clayton did the
11 eulogy for the Honorable Judge
12 Juanita Kidd Stout. She said at
13 that eulogy, and I'm quoting,
14 "Protect --" perhaps Judge Stout
15 would have said the following, When
16 I die, if you need to weep, cry for
17 the children roaming the street.

18 And when you need me, put
19 your arms around others and give
20 them what you need to give me.'" In
21 essence, in passing this
22 legislation, you are symbolically
23 putting your arms around and
24 encouraging others, particularly our

1 children and helping them to know
2 and to remember Dr. Clayton, her
3 legacy, and more importantly, her
4 motto; "The children come first." We
5 respectfully--

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
7 Say it again, sir.

8 MR. MCARTHUR: "The
9 children come first." We
10 respectfully request that you pass
11 the legislation. Thank you.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
13 Thank you, sir. Save our schools.

14 MS. FARMBRY: Good morning.
15 My name is Dr. Deidre Farmbry, and I
16 can't believe that it's been 24
17 years since I was in this chamber
18 for School District of Philadelphia
19 budget hearings in my role then as
20 interim superintendent.

21 But today, I am here to
22 speak of the legendary Dr. Constance
23 E. Clayton, my mentor. Thank you
24 for granting me this moment to

1 express my deep appreciation for the
2 decision to rename the block of
3 Buttonwood Street adjacent to the
4 School District of Philadelphia
5 building the Dr. Constance E.
6 Clayton Way. Today's action is more
7 than a ceremonial gesture; it is an
8 act of historical recognition and
9 civic gratitude.

10 Dr. Clayton was a
11 trailblazer in every sense of the
12 word. In the 1980s, she shattered
13 barriers when she became the first
14 African American and first woman to
15 serve as Superintendent of the
16 School District of Philadelphia.
17 She led the district for 11 years
18 and to this day, remains the longest
19 serving Superintendent in district
20 history. That kind of leadership
21 does not happen by accident. It
22 happens through vision, courage, and
23 unwavering commitment.

24 But what makes this

1 movement even more meaningful is
2 that Dr. Clayton was truly
3 homegrown. She was born in
4 Philadelphia, educated in
5 Philadelphia public schools, and
6 chose to dedicate her life to
7 serving the very community that
8 nurtured her.

9 Dr. Clayton guided her work
10 with a simple but powerful belief,
11 and you heard it, "the children come
12 first," setting the expectation for
13 actions to result in every child,
14 regardless of neighborhood or
15 circumstance, receiving opportunity
16 and a quality education. As a
17 street is a pathway towards a
18 destination, so too was this motto
19 setting the direction for excellence
20 with no tolerance for detours. Time
21 is up? Okay. Thank you.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

23 Thank you, Ma'am.

24 MS. POSEY: Okay. Good

1 morning. My name is Shirley Posey
2 and I'm the Director of STEM at
3 Imhotep Institute Charter High
4 School. Really -- yes.

5 Really quickly, I want to
6 paint a picture for you. About a
7 group of students from the city of
8 Philadelphia that traveled to -- the
9 fourth time to Ghana, not just for
10 sightseeing, but to actually provide
11 healthcare to over 1200 villagers.
12 Not only that, they collected data.
13 And what the data showed was, out of
14 those 1200 villagers, 78 percent of
15 them had waterborne illnesses. But
16 we had a key to that. We
17 3D-printed, right at Imhotep, water
18 filters. And when we incorporated
19 those 3D-printed water filters,
20 guess what the data showed? It
21 showed that it was a hundred percent
22 decline in waterborne diseases and
23 illnesses within that village.

24 In 2022, I was given the

1 opportunity to develop the STEM
2 program, but -- and we've gone to
3 other communities such as Sapelo
4 Island, Jackson, Mississippi, Kenya,
5 but this year we've expanded our
6 research to Japan. We just came
7 back from doing R&D, Research and
8 Development, with the top engineers
9 and scientists.

10 And not only were they --
11 were -- we loved what they were
12 doing, but they loved the students
13 from Imhotep Institute Charter High
14 School STEM program, that they want
15 to collaborate and create a
16 partnership with their Japan
17 students. And so what we have is
18 our STEM program. We're just not
19 learning about robotics and coding,
20 but we're looking at how to solve
21 problems. And when you transform
22 students, you transform the
23 community.

24 So I would like to thank

1 the resolution that is coming forth
2 to honor these students, and what
3 we've discovered are innovative and
4 sustainable solutions to take
5 plastic water bottles and trash and
6 convert them into cement and other
7 sustainable solutions for the city
8 of Philadelphia.

9 So thank you all so much,
10 and if you want to hear more about
11 our STEM program and what the
12 phenomenal and transformational work
13 that our students are doing, then we
14 are here, and we have student
15 representatives here to answer any
16 questions. Thank you for your time.

17 MS. ELIZABETH: Hi. My
18 name is Mekia Elizabeth, and I am a
19 co-chair of Fernhill Park, Friends,
20 and Community Impact Director for
21 Harmony Hill. Good morning, and
22 thank you to City Council for this
23 recognition. I'm truly grateful to
24 receive it, but I want to honestly

1 say that this work has never been
2 about one person. What's happening
3 on Fernhill Road and in the Fernhill
4 Park community is the result of
5 neighbors deciding to care for one
6 -- to care for ourselves, one
7 another, and the place we live.

8 A few years ago, we put a
9 small free coffee station on our
10 patio. It was supposed to be a
11 self-serve -- it was supposed to be
12 self-serve, and it was supposed to
13 be a finished space on an unfinished
14 block where adults could gather to
15 vision and enjoy a more beautiful
16 experience of neighborhood life.
17 But the neighborhood kids showed up
18 first, and they had their own vision
19 for the space, and they insisted on
20 executing it themselves. The kids
21 showed up first thing in the
22 morning, some still in their Spider-
23 Man onesie pajamas, greeting and
24 serving neighbors, watering the

1 plants, picking up litter, making
2 treats and drinks, writing thank you
3 notes for donations, collecting
4 signatures for birthday cards, and
5 drinking all the hot chocolate.

6 In response, the adult
7 neighbors started bringing what they
8 had to share. One neighbor brought
9 bags of coffee beans, another
10 brought juice boxes. Someone showed
11 up with bagels, another neighbor
12 dropped off apples. Someone donated
13 a toaster oven. Someone brought
14 coloring books and crayons and
15 stickers so kids would have
16 something to do while the adults
17 talked. Someone gave Barbies,
18 another neighbor brought a TV, so
19 the kids could see Gracie's Corner.

20 Little by little, a gift
21 economy emerged. People were eager
22 to offer what they had so the whole
23 community could flourish. These
24 gifts even helped us offer a \$2,500

1 college scholarship for one of our
2 neighborhood youth who works as a
3 barista at the cafe.

4 It turns out our community
5 cafe wasn't all neighbors had to
6 give. One neighbor offered a
7 dedicated space for an after-school
8 club and community gatherings.
9 We're also growing a neighborhood
10 food forest, building a children's
11 play village, and hosting Fun
12 Fridays at Fernhill Park, where all
13 spaces where people of all ages and
14 backgrounds can learn, play, and
15 belong.

16 What began as a little
17 patio experiment, a space built by
18 neighbors for neighbors with the
19 help of this city, eventually grew
20 into what we could now call St.
21 Harmony Café.

22 It now became a part of a
23 larger vision we call Harmony Hill.
24 Harmony Hill is our local expression

1 of the beloved community that
2 Coretta Scott King spoke about, a
3 place where neighbors care for one
4 another, steward the land, and
5 create opportunities for all
6 generations. Right now, we're
7 continuing that work by restoring
8 our community clubhouse and
9 expanding green spaces that support
10 our youth, land stewards, our
11 gardens, and community gatherings.

12 So I'm grateful for this
13 recognition, but I also want to
14 extend an invitation. If you want
15 to see the future of Philadelphia,
16 come spend a day with us in Harmony
17 Hill. Thank you.

18 MR. FREEDMAN: Good
19 morning, council. You know me as
20 Charles Freedman, and I want to talk
21 specially to Mark, your Bill
22 250843A, today. And I really enjoy
23 watching everybody connect today in
24 City Council.

1 And I wish we could connect
2 about this trash problem we got in
3 Philadelphia. Some neighborhoods,
4 it's just being thrown in the trash.
5 You know, people take bags and put
6 them by the curb. Why don't they
7 just invite the animals to come in
8 their house and get the trash,
9 because that's what we're doing? We
10 are feeding the animals and stuff.

11 And Mark's bill is a great
12 idea, and I want to shout out to my
13 main man, Councilman Curtis Jones.
14 He's a -- he's a wise man, and he's
15 teaching me too. But getting back
16 to this trash thing, I'm telling
17 you, Philadelphia better not fail
18 with the trash. I am not going to
19 be defeated by trash. And we can --
20 and we can fix this. We can fix
21 this. We got -- we got to change
22 some of the policies so it would
23 easier for everybody to get on
24 board.

1 And Mark, I'm with you 110
2 percent. I was at your office
3 yesterday, and you did a sidestep on
4 me, but that's okay. And what I'm
5 going to do is I'm going to keep --

6 I'm going to keep backing
7 you up because you got a good idea.
8 I was going to tell you some of the
9 secrets to it, but I'll hook up with
10 you later on. And I just want to
11 give thanks to -- where's my other
12 mentor, Jannie Blackwell. She
13 taught me well. And I want to thank
14 City Council for giving me this
15 chance to talk about something that
16 I know we can defeat. Thank you.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
18 Thank you, Mr. Freeman. So it is
19 what it is, right? Please call the
20 next speaker. Sister Taleah,
21 welcome.

22 MS. TAYLOR: Yeah. Sister
23 Taleah Taylor, President of the city
24 of Dreams Coalition, also -- oh,

1 okay -- also Director of Community
2 Engagement at Level Up Philly,
3 Political Advisor, and Youth Case
4 Manager. Hello, everyone, City
5 Council.

6 Good afternoon, members of
7 City Council. My name is Sister
8 Taleah Taylor. Many of the people
9 across Philadelphia know me as a
10 community activist, someone who
11 fights every day for families all
12 across Philadelphia. But today, I
13 want to speak not as just as an
14 advocate, but as someone who has
15 personally lived through the very
16 housing conditions we are
17 discussing.

18 I am here on behalf of
19 Councilmember O'Rourke and the bills
20 that he has -- he has introduced.
21 In my personal life, I have
22 experienced housing insecurity that
23 no resident of Philadelphia should
24 ever have to endure. My home was

1 robbed over and over again for
2 years. Even when the perpetrators
3 were identified, the system failed
4 to protect me.

5 The conditions of the
6 property deteriorated so badly that
7 the house became nearly unlivable.
8 Walls were broken, windows
9 shattered, and people were climbing
10 -- were able to climb back and forth
11 through the windows over and over
12 again. There were 18 pages -- 18
13 pages of violations documented by
14 License and Inspections, yet nothing
15 was resolved, ever.

16 Imagine the stress, the
17 mental anguish, and the depression
18 that comes from living in those
19 conditions. Imagine trying to
20 continue serving your community
21 while your own living situation is
22 unstable and unhealthy.

23 Through my hotline and
24 community work, I receive over 1,000

1 calls every year from families
2 experiencing the same thing.
3 Mothers, caregivers, seniors, and
4 children live in homes that are
5 unsafe, unhealthy, and ignored. I
6 watch families break under the
7 weight of the stress because they
8 cannot get the help they need, even
9 after contacting multiple city
10 agencies.

11 That is why the legislation
12 before you today matters so much.
13 Accountability matters, structure
14 matters, and enforcement matters.
15 That is about thousands of
16 Philadelphia residents who wake up
17 every day wondering if anyone in
18 power actually sees them.

19 Today, you have the
20 opportunity to show them that you
21 do. And this was also by the old
22 administration that I was -- I was
23 failed, but this definitely -- okay.
24 But thank you, Nicholas O'Rourke,

1 for everything that you're doing to
2 help improve the quality of life for
3 everyone.

4 MS. HOWELL: Good morning.
5 My name is Teresa Howell. Council
6 President, City Council as a whole
7 --

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
9 Excuse me one second, ma'am. Chair
10 recognizes Councilman Curtis Jones
11 Jr.

12 COUNCILMEMBER JONES: Thank
13 you so much, Mr. President. For the
14 record, Sister Taleah lived on my
15 block and then she moved out of my
16 district.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
18 So it ain't your district you
19 talking about?

20 COUNCILMEMBER JONES: It
21 ain't my district. I want for the
22 record.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
24 Yes.

1 COUNCILMEMBER JONES: And
2 that's why we are welcoming her
3 back.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
5 Yes, sir.

6 COUNCILMEMBER JONES: Thank
7 you, Mr. President.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
9 Thank you, Member Jones. For the
10 record, it is not the 4th
11 Councilmanic District. The floor is
12 yours, ma'am.

13 MS. HOWELL: Thank you. I
14 would like to thank Councilmember
15 Nicolas O'Rourke for his
16 introduction of the Safe Healthy
17 Homes Act. I would like to thank
18 the Housing Committee for passing it
19 out of committee, six to zero. I
20 look forward to next week, where I
21 know it will pass out of City
22 Council as well and become law.

23 We also want to thank the
24 Mayor, who has prioritized license

1 and inspection for Safe Healthy
2 Homes inspections.

3 We thank her for her
4 initiative. We thank her for
5 prioritizing us, when we are always
6 the ones -- which, speaking of
7 low-income people, are always the
8 ones overlooked or grandfathered in.
9 But for the first time, with this
10 City Council, I feel important. I
11 feel like I matter.

12 I want to thank my
13 Councilmember Quetcy Lozada for
14 always standing up for Frankford.
15 She stands up for the people of
16 Frankford and the neighborhoods of
17 Frankford, and she fights hard for
18 us. And I thank you for the fight.
19 Thank you very much.

20 MS. MONS: Good morning.
21 My name is Melissa Mons. I am here
22 as part of One PA Renters United,
23 and I am immensely grateful for the
24 passage of the Safe Healthy Homes

1 Act out of the housing committee,
2 and to the Council, if these
3 measures had been in place eight
4 years ago, I would not be as sick as
5 I am today. That is why these bills
6 are so important. People's health
7 -- are losing their health.

8 One of our members is in
9 the hospital, has been in the
10 hospital repeatedly, since the
11 beginning of the year due to severe
12 asthma, and is still battling
13 rodents running through her housing,
14 chewing through sheetrock and things
15 of that nature. And she's
16 constantly battling health issues.
17 So we are immensely grateful.

18 We are immensely grateful
19 to the Mayor for including funding,
20 specifically for proactive
21 inspections. That fight has been
22 fought for a very long time from my
23 understanding. I'm sorry to say I
24 wasn't there at the beginning, but

1 I'm here now, and I'm glad to be a
2 part of bringing it home. I want to
3 thank, again, Quetcy Lozada. She
4 has been a major force in this. I
5 got sick in Frankford. I've been
6 able to -- I've been one of the
7 fortunate ones that's been able to
8 move out of that environment.

9 I want to say thank you to
10 Councilmember Nicolas O'Rourke for
11 introducing the bill. All the hard
12 work his team has done, late-night
13 phone calls, and everything else. I
14 want to thank the co-sponsors of the
15 bill and everyone who has supported
16 us to this day. I will be back next
17 week, hopefully a little better than
18 I am today with -- to help push this
19 over the finish line. Thank you,
20 again. We appreciate you immensely.

21 CHIEF CLERK: We have Corey
22 Phillips, Sherman McLeod, Marvin
23 Robinson, Tabb Lewis, and Ogbonna
24 Hagins. Please make your way to the

1 podium.

2 MR. PHILIPS: Good morning.

3 My name is Cory Phillips, another
4 member of One PA Renters United.

5 And I wanted to, again, add thanks
6 to all the Councilmembers, Squilla,
7 belated -- one-month belated
8 birthday to Ms. Gauthier and
9 Councilman Jones and other council.

10 I may not get you all names
11 off hand, but just thanking you all
12 for the support of the Safe Healthy
13 Homes Act, which is very vital to
14 the city of Philadelphia. If we are
15 to grow, we got to get the homes
16 right first for people to come in to
17 move into the city.

18 So we got to make sure
19 these landlords are held accountable
20 in so many ways, not just with the
21 health need -- when it comes to the
22 health, when it comes to the
23 conditions of the buildings or even
24 some try to legally rob us, which I

1 feel as though I didn't get legally
2 robbed, but I was evicted with no
3 cause, I wasn't even on the
4 property, and still got an eviction
5 on my -- on my name when he
6 allegedly said I'm evicted.

7 So right now, I'm just
8 stuck for a little while at family.
9 But thank you for those who are
10 supporting it, this bill, to improve
11 the housing in Philadelphia, the
12 city of brotherly love. Thank you
13 all.

14 MS. FARMER: Hello. David
15 Tony Moore signed us up, but my name
16 is Norie Farmer, and I am a 12th
17 grade STEM trailblazer. I'm a part
18 of the STEM program at Imhotep
19 Institute Charter High School, and
20 we develop innovative solutions to
21 environmental crisis that exists in
22 today's time.

23 We use existing
24 technologies to improve our

1 communities and also improve
2 ourselves. Being -- me joining
3 STEM, it not only changed how I
4 critically think, but it changed me
5 on a maturity wise and
6 comprehension. Just changed me into
7 a better person who was able to
8 speak in spaces like this.

9 A year ago from now, I
10 could wouldn't even be able to
11 communicate properly, so not only do
12 we learn how to be unified with each
13 other, but we also learn how to be
14 professional and have etiquette with
15 everyone else.

16 And I do believe that it's
17 important that STEM is implemented
18 into our communities, into our
19 schools, into our youth, because
20 STEM is life. Everything you have
21 is science, technology, engineering,
22 and mathematics. So this instills
23 integrity and intelligence within
24 ourselves and our own students.

1 MR. HUTTON: Hey. How are
2 you all doing? My name is Troy
3 Hutton. I'm a part of the
4 engineering team for the STEM
5 program at Imhotep Charter.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
7 Speak into the microphone a little
8 bit more, young man.

9 MR. HUTTON: How are you
10 guys doing? My name is Troy Hutton.
11 I'm a 12th grader at Imhotep Charter
12 School for the engineering team.
13 While in Japan, we observed many
14 things, like Japan's infrastructure.
15 They have energized footsteps that
16 control the city energy. We looked
17 at greenhouses while there. In
18 there, we observed many things that
19 we could portray into the city and
20 maybe develop the city's
21 infrastructure, the city's water
22 lining, the city's energy, the
23 city's everything.

24 MS. FARMER: And we also

1 would like to use our studies and
2 research to propose a bill.

3 MR. MCLEOD: Good morning,
4 COUNCILMEMBERS and our citizens of
5 Philadelphia. My name is Sherman
6 McLeod. I'm the president and CEO
7 of Philadelphia Technician Training
8 Institute, where we bought the
9 Marine Institute in 2015. We own
10 that whole block. Thank you for the
11 opportunity that the Councilmembers
12 here have been very supportive of
13 us, and being able to get people
14 from, on the adult scale, 18 and up.

15 Also, for people that are
16 prison-bound in the -- on state road
17 training, so that they don't have
18 the recidivism, in addition to
19 having children on Saturday that we
20 train to be able to be tradespeople.
21 We're next -- our next part of the
22 expansion; we just completed
23 expansion on Girard Avenue. It was
24 a six-and-a-half million-dollar

1 expansion.

2 We're going into
3 Councilwoman Gauthier's district
4 with a \$20 million expansion. We've
5 been responsible, with the
6 collective energy in this room, to
7 be able to put cumulatively over a
8 billion dollars in salaries for
9 people that are in the trades in
10 Philadelphia. We just want to thank
11 you for your opportunity to have
12 done that.

13 MALE SPEAKER: All right.
14 Good morning, everybody. Good
15 morning, Council President. This
16 resolution, actually -- this is for
17 Curtis Jones recognizing great
18 leaders. I just wanted to say this
19 resolution that Curtis Jones had, it
20 was 260175.

21 From Geneva Black -- this
22 man, Councilman, has been honoring
23 people in our neighborhood. And I'm
24 going to cry, because Geneva Black,

1 Pastor James Allen -- Dr. James
2 Allen, all these people I'm talking
3 about, these people led me. They
4 guided me when I was a kid, when I
5 was 16 years old. A lot of them are
6 not here.

7 And I really appreciate,
8 Councilman, from the bottom of my
9 heart, that you've been honoring
10 these people before they leave here.
11 I think that's a great gift, because
12 most people get their honor when
13 they're gone.

14 So I just wanted to say to
15 you, thank you for honoring Madeline
16 Dunn. Because Madeline Dunn had me
17 since I was 16 years old. Pastor
18 Allen then had me since I was 18
19 years old. Geneva Black had me
20 since I was 12 years old. So a lot
21 of my leadership comes from those
22 strong people, and I just want to
23 say thank you, thank you, thank you
24 so much for honoring people before

1 they leave here.

2 And the second thing I just
3 want to say to all the city Council,
4 thank you all. Thank you all for
5 just listening to us. Thank you all
6 for passing Safe Homes, because
7 that's important. That's -- I mean,
8 that's not something to really argue
9 about, but sometimes you got to come
10 here and debate. And I love this
11 building. Do you know why? Because
12 it makes it who we are. It's a
13 democracy. So thank each and every
14 one of you all. I appreciate it.

15 And especially to the
16 Mayor, I really came to really just
17 hear the Mayor and also honor you,
18 as you honor somebody else,
19 Councilman. You've definitely
20 touched my heart. You've been doing
21 a great job in the neighborhood, and
22 I mean that from my heart, because
23 we had great leaders in our
24 neighborhood. They're resting right

1 now, but I'm sure they're proud.

2 So I just want to thank you
3 for that. And also, I just want to
4 say to the Mayor, I think she's
5 doing an outstanding job as our
6 Mayor, so thank you. I can't wait
7 to hear her budget.

8 MR. HAGINS: Good morning.
9 My name is Ogbonna Hagins, and I'm a
10 4th generation chattel slavery
11 survivor. Bill 251066 is about
12 digitizing Philadelphia's vital
13 records and making them searchable.
14 That may sound like a simple records
15 project, but records tell the story
16 of people's lives. They show our
17 history and the conditions people
18 lived under.

19 A city budget works the
20 same way; it shows who the city
21 invests in and whose problems it is
22 trying to fix. When a budget does
23 not deal with the specific harms
24 experienced by the descendants of

1 emancipated people, two things
2 happen.

3 First, it ignores the only
4 group whose poverty was created by
5 law.

6 Second, it goes against the
7 39th Congress with what they said
8 after slavery. "Freedom comes to
9 freedmen; it should be able to
10 support themselves." Freedmen should
11 be able to support themselves and
12 have the same economic opportunities
13 as white citizens.

14 And it brings me back to
15 251066. When the city preserves its
16 historical records, it is admitting
17 its historical records matter. It's
18 admitting that. The records show
19 clearly that American freedmen faced
20 slavery, Black Codes, Jim Crow,
21 redlining, racial covenants, and
22 other policies that shaped the
23 economic conditions that we still
24 see today.

1 Philadelphia has already
2 recognized this history in its own
3 law, including the city's slavery-
4 era disclosure law and the Slave
5 Lineage Reparative Resolution for
6 the Office of Freedmen Affairs.
7 It's history should be dealt with
8 now and not delayed.

9 Ogbonna Hagins, over and
10 out.

11 CHIEF CLERK: Council
12 President, there are no further
13 names for public comment.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
15 That concludes today's public
16 comment period. We will now
17 consider the bills and resolution on
18 the Second Reading of Final Passage
19 calendar. The Clerk, please read
20 the title of Resolution No. 260171?

21 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
22 urging the United States Congress to
23 pass the Protecting American History
24 Act, which would prevent any further

1 attempt by the federal government to
2 whitewash Philadelphia's complex
3 history, and require the restoration
4 of the President's House Memorial.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

6 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman
7 Catherine Gilmore-Richardson for a
8 motion regarding Resolution No.
9 260171.

10 COUNCILMEMBER GILMORE-
11 RICHARDSON: Thank you,
12 Mr. President. On your behalf, I
13 move the adoption of the resolution.

14 COUNCILMEMBERS: Second.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

16 It has been moved and properly
17 seconded that the Resolution No.
18 260171 be adopted. All those in
19 favor of the motion will signify by
20 saying "aye."

21 COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

23 Those opposed? The ayes have it.

24 The motion carries. The resolution

1 is adopted. Will the Clerk please
2 read the title of Resolution No.
3 260174?

4 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
5 also naming the 5100 block of
6 Delancey Street as Rasheen Hall Way
7 to honor the life and memory of
8 Rasheen Hall, and his lasting impact
9 on his family, neighbors, and the
10 West Philadelphia community.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
12 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
13 Jamie Gauthier for a motion
14 regarding Resolution No. 260174.

15 COUNCILMEMBER GAUTHIER:
16 Thank you, Council President. I
17 move for the adoption of the
18 resolution.

19 COUNCILMEMBERS: Second.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
21 It has been moved and properly
22 seconded that the Resolution No.
23 260174 be adopted. All those in
24 favor will signify by saying "aye."

1 COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

3 Those opposed? The ayes have it.

4 The motion carries. The resolution

5 is adopted. Will the Clerk please

6 read the title of Resolution No.

7 260175?

8 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution

9 renaming the 700 Block of North 63rd

10 Street "Madeline Dunn Way," in

11 recognition of her lifetime of

12 community leadership and civic

13 engagement in West Philadelphia.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

15 The Chair recognizes Councilmember

16 Jones for a motion regarding

17 Resolution No. 260175.

18 COUNCILMEMBER JONES:

19 Mr. President, may I speak to the

20 resolution for a moment?

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

22 Briefly, sir.

23 COUNCILMEMBER JONES:

24 Briefly. Briefly. I got it.

1 Madeline Dunn preceded Curtis Jones.

2 Madeline Dunn helped elect half of
3 the people sitting in that section.

4 Madeline Dunn ran for this seat
5 before I ever thought about it. And
6 back then, unlike now, her
7 provocative kind of leadership was
8 not accepted. And so she fell back,
9 didn't go away, but she contributed
10 a different way.

11 And what I would say to you
12 is that, as Marvin Robinson said, we
13 need to give our leaders flowers
14 while they can still smell them.
15 And I'm very proud to have had her
16 as a staffer. And why did I do
17 that? You remember Morgan Cephas?
18 Nobody managed Madeline; Madeline
19 managed everybody. So
20 enthusiastically, I move for the
21 adoption of this resolution.

22 COUNCILMEMBERS: Second.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

24 It has been moved and properly and

1 enthusiastically seconded -- well
2 done -- that the Resolution No.
3 260175 be adopted. All those in
4 favor of the motion will signify by
5 saying "aye."

6 COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

8 Those opposed? The ayes have it.

9 The motion carries, and the
10 resolution is adopted.

11 And Curt, I'm from all the
12 way down South Philly. When -- I
13 remember when I first got elected in
14 Council, she would be like, "Come
15 here, let me talk to you, kind of
16 give you some directions." This is
17 when I first met her, pulled me to
18 the side. So very well done, sir.

19 Will the Clerk please read
20 the title of Resolution No. 260179?

21 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
22 also naming Buttonwood Street
23 between Broad Street and North 15th
24 Street as Dr. Constance E. Clayton

1 Way.

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

3 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
4 Jeffrey J. Young for a motion
5 regarding Resolution No. 260179.

6 COUNCILMEMBER YOUNG: Thank
7 you, Mr. President. Children come
8 first. I move for the adoption of
9 the resolution.

10 COUNCILMEMBERS: Second.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

12 It has been moved and properly
13 seconded that the Resolution No.
14 260179 be adopted. All those in
15 favor of the motion will signify by
16 saying "aye."

17 COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

19 Those opposed? The ayes have it.
20 The motion carries. The resolution
21 is adopted. Will the clerk please
22 read the title of Bill No. 250329?

23 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
24 amending Chapter 9-3900 of the

1 Philadelphia Code, entitled Property
2 Licenses and Owner Accountability,
3 to clarify licensing requirements,
4 authorize the department to create a
5 proactive inspection program,
6 require public reporting related to
7 Code compliance, and establish
8 remedies, damages, and protections
9 for tenants, all under certain terms
10 and conditions.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

12 The Chair recognizes Councilman
13 O'Rourke for a motion.

14 COUNCILMEMBER O'ROURKE:

15 Thank you, Mr. President. I would
16 like to offer an amendment to Bill
17 No. 250329. A copy of the amendment
18 has been circulated to all the
19 members of the council. And I move
20 for the adoption of that amendment.

21 COUNCILMEMBERS: Second.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

23 It has been moved and properly
24 seconded that the amendment to Bill

1 No. 250329 be adopted. All those in
2 favor will signify by saying "aye."

3 COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

5 Those opposed? The ayes have it and
6 the bill has been amended. This
7 bill will be placed on the Final
8 Passage calendar for our next
9 session of Council. Will the Clerk
10 please read the title of Bill No.
11 250330?

12 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
13 amending Chapter 9-800 of the
14 Philadelphia Code, entitled Landlord
15 and Tenant, to modify the
16 requirements related to good cause
17 for ending a tenancy; add
18 protections against retaliation and
19 harassment for tenants and tenant
20 organizations; specify tenants'
21 rights related to the implied
22 warranty of habitability, and
23 provide a legal presumption related
24 to breaches of the implied warranty

1 of habitability; create a tenant
2 right to organize, specify deadlines
3 for asserting claims; and establish
4 and enhance enforcement mechanisms,
5 remedies, damages, and protections,
6 all under certain terms and
7 conditions.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

9 The Chair recognizes Councilman
10 O'Rourke for a motion.

11 COUNCILMEMBER O'ROURKE:

12 Thank you again for that
13 recognition, Mr. President. I would
14 like to offer another amendment to
15 Bill No. 250330. A copy of the
16 amendment has been circulated to all
17 the members of the Council. And I
18 do move for the adoption of the
19 amendment.

20 COUNCILMEMBERS: Second.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

22 It has been moved and properly
23 seconded that the amendment to Bill
24 No. 250330 be adopted. All those in

1 favor will signify by saying "aye."

2 COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

4 Those opposed? The ayes have it,
5 and the bill has been amended. This
6 bill will be placed on the Final
7 Passage calendar for our next
8 session of Council. Will the Clerk
9 please read the title of Bill No.
10 250769?

11 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
12 amending Title 20 of the
13 Philadelphia Code, entitled Officers
14 and Employees, by changing the
15 compensation of members of the
16 Zoning Board of Adjustment, all
17 under certain terms and conditions.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
19 This bill having been read on two
20 different days, the question now is,
21 shall the bill pass finally? Will
22 the Chief Clerk please call roll?

23 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
24 Phillips?

1 COUNCILMEMBER PHILLIPS:

2 Aye.

3 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
4 Gilmore-Richardson?

5 COUNCILMEMBER GILMORE-
6 RICHARDSON: Aye.

7 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
8 Gauthier?

9 COUNCILMEMBER GAUTHIER:
10 Aye.

11 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
12 Thomas?

13 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: Aye.

14 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
15 Jones?

16 COUNCILMEMBER JONES: Aye.

17 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
18 Landau?

19 COUNCILMEMBER LANDAU: Aye.

20 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
21 Lozada?

22 COUNCILMEMBER LOZADA: Aye.

23 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
24 Young?

1 COUNCILMEMBER YOUNG: Aye.

2 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember

3 Brooks was aye. Councilmember

4 Harrity?

5 COUNCILMEMBER HARRITY:

6 Aye.

7 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember

8 O'Rourke?

9 COUNCILMEMBER O'ROURKE:

10 Aye.

11 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember

12 Driscoll?

13 COUNCILMEMBER DRISCOLL:

14 Aye.

15 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember

16 O'Neill?

17 COUNCILMEMBER O'NEILL:

18 Aye.

19 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember

20 Squilla?

21 COUNCILMEMBER SQUILLA:

22 Aye.

23 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember

24 Bass?

1 COUNCILMEMBER BASS: Aye.

2 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember

3 Ahmad?

4 COUNCILMEMBER AHMAD: Aye.

5 CHIEF CLERK: And Council

6 President Johnson?

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

8 Aye. The ayes are 17 and nays are

9 zero. Majority of all members

10 having voted in the affirmative, the

11 bill passes.

12 Will the Clerk please read

13 the title of Bill No. 250843-A?

14 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance

15 amending Chapter 10-700 of the

16 Philadelphia Code, entitled Refuse

17 and Littering, to require locking

18 dumpsters, all under certain terms

19 and conditions.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

21 The Chair recognizes Councilmember

22 Squilla for a motion.

23 COUNCILMEMBER SQUILLA:

24 Thank you, Mr. President. I'd like

1 to offer an amendment to Bill No.
2 250843-A. A copy of the amendment
3 has been circulated to all members
4 of Council. I move for the adoption
5 of the amendment.

6 COUNCILMEMBERS: Second.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

8 It has been moved and properly
9 seconded that the amendment to Bill
10 No. 250843 be adopted. All those in
11 favor will signify by saying "aye."

12 COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

14 Anyone opposed? The ayes have it,
15 and the bill has been amended. This
16 bill will be placed on the Final
17 Passage calendar for our next
18 session of Council. Will the Clerk
19 please read the title of Bill No.
20 250917-A?

21 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
22 amending Section 14-529 of the
23 Philadelphia Code, entitled 5th
24 District Overlay District, to

1 provide for building requirements to
2 prevent vacant lots, all under
3 certain terms and conditions.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

5 This bill having been read on two
6 different days, the question now is,
7 shall the bill pass finally? Chief
8 Clerk, please call the roll.

9 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
10 Phillips?

11 COUNCILMEMBER PHILLIPS:
12 Aye.

13 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
14 Gilmore-Richardson?

15 COUNCILMEMBER GILMORE-
16 RICHARDSON: Aye.

17 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
18 Gauthier?

19 COUNCILMEMBER GAUTHIER:
20 Aye. And can I also be recorded as
21 voting "aye" on all bills and
22 resolutions I missed.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
24 Will be recorded. Proceed, Chief

1 Clerk.

2 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember

3 Thomas?

4 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: Aye.

5 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember

6 Jones?

7 COUNCILMEMBER JONES: Aye.

8 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember

9 Landau?

10 COUNCILMEMBER LANDAU: Aye.

11 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember

12 Lozada?

13 COUNCILMEMBER LOZADA: Aye.

14 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember

15 Young?

16 COUNCILMEMBER YOUNG: Aye.

17 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember

18 Brooks was aye. Councilmember

19 Harrity?

20 COUNCILMEMBER HARRITY: I'd

21 like -- aye. And I'd like to be

22 marked "aye" on all bills I may have

23 missed.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

1 It shall be recorded.

2 COUNCILMEMBER HARRITY:

3 When I came in, I wasn't sure where
4 it was --

5 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
6 O'Rourke?

7 COUNCILMEMBER O'ROURKE:
8 Aye.

9 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
10 Driscoll?

11 COUNCILMEMBER DRISCOLL:
12 Aye.

13 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
14 O'Neill?

15 COUNCILMEMBER O'NEILL:
16 Aye.

17 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
18 Squilla?

19 COUNCILMEMBER SQUILLA:
20 Aye.

21 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
22 Bass?

23 COUNCILMEMBER BASS: Aye.

24 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember

1 Ahmad?

2 COUNCILMEMBER AHMAD: Aye.

3 CHIEF CLERK: And Council
4 President Johnson?

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

6 Aye. The ayes are 17 and nays are
7 zero. Majority of all members
8 having voted in the affirmative, the
9 bill passes. Will the Clerk please
10 read the title of Bill No. 251066?

11 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
12 authorizing the Commissioner of
13 Records and the Procurement
14 Commissioner, on behalf of the city,
15 to execute a multi-year concession
16 agreement with Ancestry.com in
17 connection with the digitizing,
18 indexing, and public access and
19 search of City of Philadelphia
20 Department of Records vital records,
21 all under provisions set forth in
22 the concession agreement,
23 substantially as set forth in
24 Exhibit A to this ordinance.

1 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

2 This bill having been read on two
3 different days, the question now is,
4 shall the bill pass finally? Will
5 the Chief Clerk please call the
6 roll.

7 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
8 Phillips?

9 COUNCILMEMBER PHILLIPS:
10 Aye.

11 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
12 Gilmore-Richardson?

13 COUNCILMEMBER GILMORE-
14 RICHARDSON: Aye.

15 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
16 Gauthier?

17 COUNCILMEMBER GAUTHIER:
18 Aye.

19 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
20 Thomas?

21 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: Aye.

22 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
23 Jones?

24 COUNCILMEMBER JONES: Aye.

1 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember

2 Landau?

3 COUNCILMEMBER LANDAU: Aye.

4 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember

5 Lozada?

6 COUNCILMEMBER LOZADA: Aye.

7 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember

8 Young?

9 COUNCILMEMBER YOUNG: Aye.

10 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember

11 Brooks was aye. Councilmember

12 Harrity?

13 COUNCILMEMBER HARRITY:

14 Aye.

15 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember

16 O'Rourke?

17 COUNCILMEMBER O'ROURKE:

18 Aye.

19 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember

20 Driscoll?

21 COUNCILMEMBER DRISCOLL:

22 Aye.

23 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember

24 O'Neill?

1 COUNCILMEMBER O'NEILL:

2 Aye.

3 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
4 Squilla?

5 COUNCILMEMBER SQUILLA:

6 Aye.

7 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
8 Bass?

9 COUNCILMEMBER BASS: Aye.

10 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
11 Ahmad?

12 COUNCILMEMBER AHMAD: Aye.

13 CHIEF CLERK: And Council
14 President Johnson?

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

16 Aye. The ayes are 17 and nays are
17 zero. Majority of all members
18 having voted in the affirmative, the
19 bill passes. Chief Clerk, please
20 read the title of Bill No. 260112?

21 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
22 authorizing, generally, the
23 continued issuance and sale by the
24 city of Philadelphia of the Gas

1 Works Revenue Notes of the city,
2 prescribing the forms of notes and
3 providing for their execution and
4 payment, pledging certain revenues
5 of the Gas Works as security,
6 adopting a rate covenant and
7 directing the imposition and
8 collection of rates and charges
9 sufficient to comply therewith,
10 prescribing the conditions precedent
11 to the issuance of specific series
12 of notes, including a resolution
13 passed by the Bond Committee
14 providing for establishment of
15 credit support for notes, providing
16 for the designation of a Fiscal
17 Agent and Sinking Fund Depository,
18 providing for establishment of a
19 Sinking Fund and its management,
20 providing remedies upon default, and
21 providing for amendments and
22 modifications.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

24 This bill having been read on two

1 different days, the question now is,
2 shall the bill pass, finally?

3 Chief clerk, please call
4 the roll.

5 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
6 Phillips?

7 COUNCILMEMBER PHILLIPS:
8 Aye.

9 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
10 Gilmore-Richardson?

11 COUNCILMEMBER GILMORE -
12 RICHARDSON: Aye.

13 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
14 Gauthier?

15 COUNCILMEMBER GAUTHIER:
16 Aye.

17 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
18 Thomas?

19 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: Aye.

20 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
21 Jones?

22 COUNCILMEMBER JONES: Aye.

23 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
24 Landau?

1 COUNCILMEMBER LANDAU: Aye.

2 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember

3 Lozada?

4 COUNCILMEMBER LOZADA: Aye.

5 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember

6 Young?

7 COUNCILMEMBER YOUNG: Aye.

8 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember

9 Brooks was aye. Councilmember

10 Harrity?

11 COUNCILMEMBER HARRITY:

12 Aye.

13 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember

14 O'Rourke?

15 COUNCILMEMBER O'ROURKE:

16 Aye.

17 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember

18 Driscoll?

19 COUNCILMEMBER DRISCOLL:

20 Aye.

21 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember

22 O'Neill?

23 COUNCILMEMBER O'NEILL:

24 Aye.

1 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
2 Squilla?

3 COUNCILMEMBER SQUILLA:
4 Aye.

5 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
6 Bass?

7 COUNCILMEMBER BASS: Aye.

8 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
9 Ahmad?

10 COUNCILMEMBER AHMAD: Aye.

11 CHIEF CLERK: And Council
12 President Johnson?

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
14 Aye. The ayes are 17 and nays are
15 zero. Majority of all members
16 having voted in the affirmative, the
17 bill passes.

18 Will the Chief Clerk please
19 read the title of Bill No. 260113?

20 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
21 authorizing the execution, delivery,
22 and performance by the Philadelphia
23 Facilities Management Corporation,
24 on behalf of the Philadelphia Gas

1 Works, of an amended service
2 agreement with Transcontinental Gas
3 Pipeline Company, LLC for gas
4 storage services under the Transco
5 WSS Open Access Rate Schedule.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

7 This bill having been read on two
8 different days, the question now is,
9 shall the bill pass finally?

10 Chief clerk, please call
11 the roll.

12 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
13 Phillips?

14 COUNCILMEMBER PHILLIPS:
15 Aye.

16 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
17 Gilmore-Richardson?

18 COUNCILMEMBER GILMORE -
19 RICHARDSON: Aye.

20 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
21 Gauthier?

22 COUNCILMEMBER GAUTHIER:
23 Aye.

24 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember

1 Thomas?

2 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: Aye.

3 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember

4 Jones?

5 COUNCILMEMBER JONES: Aye.

6 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember

7 Landau?

8 COUNCILMEMBER LANDAU: Aye.

9 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember

10 Lozada?

11 COUNCILMEMBER LOZADA: Aye.

12 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember

13 Young?

14 COUNCILMEMBER YOUNG: Aye.

15 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember

16 Brooks was aye. Councilmember

17 Harrity?

18 COUNCILMEMBER HARRITY:

19 Aye.

20 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember

21 O'Rourke?

22 COUNCILMEMBER O'ROURKE:

23 Aye.

24 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember

1 Driscoll?

2 COUNCILMEMBER DRISCOLL:

3 Aye.

4 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember

5 O'Neill?

6 COUNCILMEMBER O'NEILL:

7 Aye.

8 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember

9 Squilla?

10 COUNCILMEMBER SQUILLA:

11 Aye.

12 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember

13 Bass?

14 COUNCILMEMBER BASS: Aye.

15 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember

16 Ahmad?

17 COUNCILMEMBER AHMAD: Aye.

18 CHIEF CLERK: And Council

19 President Johnson?

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

21 Aye. The ayes are 17 and nays are

22 zero. Majority of all members

23 having voted in the affirmative, the

24 bill passes. Will the Clerk please

1 read any additional resolutions on
2 today's calendar?

3 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged
4 resolution honoring and recognizing
5 Major Benjamin F. Brooks for his
6 historic career in the Pennsylvania
7 State Police, and his role in
8 expanding opportunity in law
9 enforcement, introduced by
10 Councilmember Jones.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
12 Chair recognizes Councilmember
13 Curtis Jones for a motion on the
14 resolution.

15 COUNCILMEMBER JONES: I
16 move for the adoption of the
17 resolution.

18 COUNCILMEMBERS: Second.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
20 It has been moved and properly
21 seconded that the resolution be
22 adopted. All those in favor will
23 signify by saying "aye."

24 COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

1 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

2 Those opposed? The ayes have it.

3 The resolution is adopted. Will the
4 Chief Clerk please read the next
5 resolution?

6 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged
7 resolution authorizing the Committee
8 on Legislative Oversight to hold
9 hearings on the status, operations,
10 and economic impact of the Port of
11 Philadelphia, PhilaPort, to ensure
12 continued growth in operations and
13 position the city of Philadelphia as
14 a 21st-century commerce hub,
15 introduced by Councilmember Landau.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
17 Chair recognizes Councilmember Rue
18 Landau for a motion on the
19 resolution in the 2nd Councilmanic
20 District.

21 COUNCILMEMBER LANDAU:
22 Thank you, Council President. I
23 move for the adoption of the
24 resolution.

1 COUNCILMEMBERS: Second.

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

3 It has been moved and properly
4 seconded that the resolution be
5 adopted. All those in favor will
6 signify by saying "aye."

7 COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

9 Those opposed? The ayes have it.
10 The resolution is adopted. Good
11 Job, Member Rue Landau. Will the
12 Chief Clerk please read the title of
13 the next resolution.

14 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged
15 resolution recognizing the month of
16 March, 2026 as Creative and
17 Nighttime Economy month in the city
18 of Philadelphia, introduced by
19 Councilmember Thomas.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

21 Chair recognizes Councilmember
22 Isaiah Thomas for motion on the
23 resolution.

24 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS:

1 Thank you, Council President. I
2 move for the adoption of the
3 resolution.

4 COUNCILMEMBERS: Second.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

6 It has been moved and properly
7 seconded that the resolution be
8 adopted. All those in favor will
9 signify by saying "aye."

10 COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

12 Anyone opposed. The ayes have it.
13 And the resolution is adopted. The
14 chief clerk please read the title of
15 the next resolution.

16 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged
17 resolution designating March 8, 2026
18 as Joe Frazier Day in the city of
19 Philadelphia, in celebration and
20 recognition of the 55th anniversary
21 of the Fight of the Century, in
22 which Philadelphia icon, Smokin' Joe
23 Frazier, defeated Muhammad Ali to
24 win the world heavyweight

1 championship, introduced by
2 Councilmember Harrity.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
4 Chair recognizes Councilmember Jim
5 Harrity for motion on the
6 resolution.

7 COUNCILMEMBER HARRITY: I
8 move for the adoption of the
9 resolution.

10 COUNCILMEMBERS: Second.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
12 It has been moved and properly
13 seconded that the resolution be
14 adopted. All those in favor will
15 signify by saying "aye."

16 COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
18 Anyone opposed? The ayes have it,
19 and the resolution is adopted. Good
20 job, Member Harrity. Will the Chief
21 Clerk please read the title of the
22 next resolution.

23 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged
24 resolution, recognizing and honoring

1 the students, educators, and
2 leadership of Imhotep Institute
3 Charter High School for their
4 outstanding STEM program and global
5 educational initiatives, including
6 Project Cumba, Japan, and
7 celebrating their commitment to
8 expanding access to science,
9 technology, engineering, and
10 mathematics education for students
11 in the city of Philadelphia,
12 introduced by Councilmember Bass.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
14 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
15 Cindy Bass for motion on the
16 resolution.

17 COUNCILMEMBER BASS: Thank
18 you, Mr. President. I move for the
19 adoption of the resolution.

20 COUNCILMEMBERS: Second.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
22 It has been moved and properly
23 seconded that the resolution be
24 adopted. All those in favor will

1 signify by saying "aye."

2 COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

4 Anyone opposed? The ayes have it.

5 And the resolution is adopted. Will

6 the Chief Clerk please read the

7 title of the next resolution?

8 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged

9 resolution honoring and recognizing

10 Mekia Elizabeth, Block Captain of

11 the 4500 block of Fernhill Road in

12 Southwest Germantown, for being

13 named Block Captain of the Year by

14 The Philadelphia Citizen, and

15 commending her outstanding

16 leadership and dedication to

17 building a stronger, more connected

18 community in the city of

19 Philadelphia, introduced by

20 Councilmember Bass.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

22 The Chair recognizes the

23 Councilmember Bass for motion on the

24 resolution.

1 COUNCILMEMBER BASS: Thank
2 you, Mr. President. I'm honored to
3 move for the adoption of this
4 resolution.

5 COUNCILMEMBERS: Second.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
7 It has been moved and properly
8 seconded that the resolution be
9 adopted. All those in favor will
10 signify by saying "aye."

11 COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
13 Anyone opposed? The ayes have it,
14 and the resolution is adopted.
15 Chief Clerk, please read the title
16 of the next resolution?

17 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged
18 resolution honoring and
19 congratulating Max Kent on the
20 occasion of his retirement from
21 NewCourtland, and recognizing his
22 decades of dedicated leadership in
23 the United States Army, healthcare
24 administration, community service,

1 and support of Philadelphia seniors
2 and those who are underserved,
3 introduced by Councilmember Bass.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
5 Chair recognizes Councilmember bass
6 for motion on the resolution.

7 COUNCILMEMBER BASS: Thank
8 you, Mr. President. I move for the
9 adoption of this resolution.

10 COUNCILMEMBERS: Second.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
12 It has been moved and properly
13 seconded that the resolution be
14 adopted. All those in favor will
15 signify by saying "aye."

16 COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
18 Anyone opposed? The ayes have it,
19 and the resolution is adopted. Will
20 the Chief Clerk please read the
21 title of the next resolution?

22 CHIEF CLERK: Council
23 President, there are no further
24 resolutions in my possession.

1 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

2 Council will be at ease.

3 (Council at ease.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

5 Good afternoon, everyone. Members,
6 please take your seats. All
7 visitors, please reside outside the
8 Council chamber rails. All sidebar
9 conversations, please take out of
10 the council chambers, as we prepare
11 for our next order of business.

12 The time has come for us to
13 consider the Mayor's presentation of
14 our annual budget message. The
15 Philadelphia Home Rule Charter
16 states that the Mayor shall submit
17 to Council, no later than 90 days
18 before the end of the fiscal year,
19 her operating budget message and
20 proposed operating budget ordinance
21 for the ensuing fiscal year.

22 At the same time, the Mayor
23 shall submit to Council the
24 recommended capital program and

1 capital budget, as received from the
2 city Planning Commission, to the
3 extent approved by the Mayor.

4 I now appoint the following
5 committee to escort the Mayor into
6 the Council Chambers:

7 Councilmember, Majority
8 Leader Katherine Gilmore-Richardson;
9 Councilmember and Majority Whip
10 Isaiah Thomas; Councilmember,
11 Majority Deputy Whip Cindy Bass; and
12 Minority Whip Councilmember Nicholas
13 O'Rourke.

14 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Council
15 President, the Mayor has arrived.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
17 Ladies and gentlemen, I am pleased
18 to introduce the Mayor of the city
19 of Philadelphia, Mayor Cherelle L.
20 Parker.

21 MAYOR PARKER: All right.
22 I see you all.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
24 The floor is yours, Madam Mayor.

1 MAYOR PARKER: Thank you,
2 Mr. President. Before I officially
3 begin, Mr. President, I want you to
4 know that I shared a copy of the
5 message that you sent to me, which
6 was a flashback to 1990. Had me
7 thinking about Mekka Designs and our
8 pennies.

9 You all don't even know
10 what Mekka Designs are. Somebody in
11 here wore them. And I showed the
12 picture to Langston, and he said,
13 "What's wrong?" I said, "I'm going
14 back to that room today." He said,
15 "You look nervous." I said, "I
16 always am." He said, "I won't be
17 there to help you, but grandmom and
18 dad will be there. They'll hold you
19 down."

20 I want to start by saying
21 to Ms. Gladys James and to Benjamin
22 Mullins, thank you both for being
23 the anchors of our family and our
24 village. And it is because of you

1 that I am allowed to fulfill my
2 duties as Mayor of the city of
3 Philadelphia. And I love you both.
4 Thank you.

5 With that being said, good
6 morning, Philadelphia.

7 To my friend, Council
8 President Kenyatta Johnson, and your
9 leadership team:

10 Majority Leader Katherine
11 Gilmore-Richardson, Majority Whip
12 Isaiah Thomas, Deputy Majority Whip
13 Cindy Bass, Minority Leader Kendra
14 Brooks, Minority Whip Nicholas
15 O'Rourke, and to every dedicated
16 member of the city Council of
17 Philadelphia; to our Philadelphia
18 delegation in the Pennsylvania
19 General Assembly and every statewide
20 leader who is present.

21 Thank you to our Speaker of
22 the House, Joanna McClinton; our
23 Appropriations Chairman, Jordan
24 Harris; our Senate Democratic

1 Appropriations Chairman, who is also
2 my therapist, Vincent Hughes; and to
3 all of our cherished faith leaders,
4 the men and women of organized
5 labor, community, business, and
6 civic leaders.

7 And especially to my
8 cabinet, led with excellence by my
9 Chief of Staff -- Chief Air Traffic
10 Controller Tiffany Thurman, Chief --
11 along with my Chief Deputy Mayors,
12 Vanessa Garrett Harley and Sincere
13 Harris, as well as every cabinet
14 member here in the room today. And
15 of course, to every Philadelphian
16 watching online, listening on word
17 or tuning in on television.

18 Our third year is
19 officially underway, and I am more
20 energized and hopeful and determined
21 than ever to lead us forward as your
22 100th Mayor.

23 Today, I want you to know
24 that I am proposing for your

1 consideration my One Philly, One
2 Future Fiscal Year 2027 budget,
3 five-year plan, and recommended
4 capital budget and program. Now, I
5 want you to know that this
6 \$7-billion FY27 budget, it is not
7 just a ledger full of numbers; it's
8 a bold set of strategic investments,
9 and actually, what I believe is a
10 roadmap to a safer, cleaner, and
11 greener Philadelphia with access to
12 economic opportunity for all.

13 Before we chart the path
14 ahead, I want to pause and honor
15 those who embody the spirit of
16 service and sacrifice that define
17 our city. To the men and women and
18 individuals of our Philadelphia
19 Police and Fire Departments, and all
20 of our city workers, I want you to
21 know that your courage, dedication,
22 and resilience are the heartbeat of
23 our city.

24 When you see my cabinet

1 wearing blue, red, and white ribbons
2 today, I want you to know that each
3 color carries a story; a story of
4 sacrifice and service to the people
5 of Philadelphia.

6 Some of you may remember
7 that last December we lost
8 Philadelphia Highway Patrolman, Andy
9 Chan; a husband, a father, a
10 protector. To Mrs. Chan and your
11 children, our blue ribbons are a
12 small symbol of the gratitude and
13 respect of an entire city.
14 Mrs. Chan and family, please rise if
15 you are present please so we can
16 give you a round of applause. Thank
17 you. Thank you.

18 Recently -- more recently,
19 back on March 2nd, as flames rose in
20 the Wynnefield community, nine brave
21 Philadelphia firefighters ran toward
22 the danger and ended up hospitalized
23 as a result. Lieutenant Julius
24 Sanders from Ladder 24 was there

1 that night. So were eight other
2 firefighters, and I want you to hear
3 their names. From Ladder 24:
4 Firefighters Peter Turk, James
5 McCafferty, Steven Bowling, and
6 Justin Easley. From Engine 41:
7 Firefighters Justin Hager, Jonathan
8 Gorafo, and Lieutenant Joseph Ryan.
9 And Brian Collins from Engine 16.

10 I think Lieutenant Sanders
11 is present with us today.
12 Lieutenant Sanders, I want you to
13 please rise on behalf of yourself
14 and your colleagues. Thank you,
15 sir. Thank you, sir. Thank you,
16 sir. The red ribbon is for you and
17 all your fellow firefighters who put
18 their lives on the line that night,
19 and to the family of Timothy Sapp, a
20 longtime employee of the Streets
21 Department, who passed away during
22 one of the recent winter storms.

23 Mr. Sapp had just finished
24 his plowing shift when he suffered a

1 fatal medical emergency. His widow,
2 Corinne, is here with us today, and
3 I would like to ask her to please
4 rise so we can recognize Mr. Sapp's
5 decades of service and commitment to
6 the city of Philadelphia. Thank
7 you, Corinne, for being here. Thank
8 you. I told you we're not going
9 anywhere.

10 And to the families of
11 several other city employees who
12 have passed recently. Kenneth King
13 from the Sanitation Department, and
14 Christopher Thompson from Fleet,
15 Darrell Brown from Parks and
16 Recreation, and Dawn Holloway from
17 the Medical Examiner's Office.

18 We want to thank you and
19 your loved ones for the service that
20 you've provided to our great city.
21 The white ribbons that the cabinet
22 is wearing today is in honor of the
23 memory of Mr. Sapp and all of our
24 other departed city colleagues.

1 Let's give all of our employees a
2 round of applause.

3 Before I go in to the
4 budget, I want you to know I saw a
5 clip this morning from a lady we are
6 all familiar with by the name of
7 Donna Brazile. She was in
8 Philadelphia, talking about the
9 state of political affairs in our
10 nation, and she said most
11 prominently that we suffered from a
12 hope deficit in our nation, that
13 Americans needed a sense of hope.

14 So I thought long and hard
15 about Donna Brazile's comments. And
16 then my friend and brother, Mungus
17 Sanchez, came to mind, and him
18 always saying to me that hope is
19 important. But don't forget that
20 hope doesn't buy bread, eggs, milk,
21 and cheese. People need access to
22 opportunity, so that they can feel
23 the hope, pride, and inspiration.
24 With that being said, I want you to

1 know that as we head into our FY27
2 budget, I want us to take a look
3 briefly at where we've been, and
4 then we'll talk about where we're
5 going.

6 But the -- but the hope is
7 that you will feel that our city of
8 Philadelphia is moving forward. We
9 are making real and measurable
10 progress. I want you to know,
11 Philadelphia, that our city is
12 safer. Our city is cleaner and
13 greener, and the data proves it.

14 We know that we are safer
15 under the leadership of Police
16 Commissioner Kevin Bethel and Public
17 Safety Director Adam Geer.

18 Through their leadership
19 and our holistic pie strategy,
20 prevention, intervention, and
21 enforcement, and in partnership with
22 our community anti-violence groups
23 across our city, we know that
24 homicides and shootings are at their

1 lowest levels in over 50 years here
2 in our city. Council President
3 Kenyatta Johnson, we are on our way.
4 And Philadelphia, I just don't want
5 you to take my word for it. Pew
6 Charitable Trust confirms that our
7 progress, Philadelphia's progress,
8 it outpaces 20 other major U.S.
9 cities. That is what I'm proud
10 about.

11 It's with that data in mind
12 that I am really excited to affirm
13 that we are proposing \$25 million in
14 community-based anti-violence grants
15 in FY27, because we know that these
16 investments work, they work. With
17 that being said, there are some
18 folks who are here. I know that my
19 friend, Pastor Carl Day, he can
20 attest to the fact that the strategy
21 works, but I need you to just hold
22 it for a second. Chief Deputy
23 Mayor, Vanessa Garrett Harley, told
24 on you, Pastor Carl Day, wherever

1 you are, yesterday, and we
2 understand that New York has been
3 trying to poke you, and you've been
4 doing some work there for about two
5 days a week.

6 But I want you to remember
7 that the Philly comes at you, Mayor,
8 and we need you here in the city of
9 Philadelphia, Pastor Carl Day.
10 Where is Taj Murdock of men of
11 Courage? Taj Murdock here? What
12 about Shante Love from Every Murder
13 Is Real. I want you all to stand.
14 Where's Mandy? Mandy 215. Where's
15 Mandy? Stand up, Mandy. And what
16 about Tom Barr? Is Tom Barr here?
17 These are the men and women who are
18 on the ground doing the work. I
19 text them, I call them, they're
20 connected. They are plugged in. I
21 rely on you, and I'm grateful for
22 you. Each of you.

23 Councilmember Curtis Jones
24 Jr., the author of our Blueprint for

1 a Safer Philadelphia. I know that
2 we have more work to do, but as you
3 laid out in your blueprint, we know
4 that these investments are working.
5 I also want us -- because I remember
6 being on the trail, and it wasn't
7 popular to talk about the need to
8 support community policing in the
9 city of Philadelphia. But I want to
10 hear from you all a round of
11 applause for the men and women of
12 the Philadelphia Police Department.

13 Our Commissioner Bethel,
14 the best police commissioner in the
15 United States, and Chief Public
16 Safety Director Adam Geer, and
17 everyone on his team. Bethel and
18 Geer, you're my public safety
19 anchors. I'm grateful for you every
20 day. Thank you.

21 Philadelphia, I want you to
22 know that we are not stopping there.
23 While we are proud of the progress
24 and the lower homicide numbers, I

1 want you to know that's only the
2 beginning. The Philadelphia Police
3 Department is also helping to
4 address quality of life issues in
5 our neighborhood. A new team of
6 quality-of-life assurance officers
7 will be deployed to every police
8 district in the city.

9 Now, many of you have
10 already seen them in action with the
11 Market East Revitalization Project.
12 What are these officers doing? They
13 are addressing nuisance properties
14 and problem establishments that
15 disrupt the peace of our residential
16 blocks. And here's one more
17 important update, a promise that we
18 made to you about transparency in
19 public safety.

20 We talked about those body
21 worn cameras. Philadelphia, as your
22 Mayor, I'm proud to affirm for you
23 today that body-worn cameras are now
24 issued to every officer in every

1 patrol district, as well as our
2 frontline personnel. Listen, we
3 promise this to the people of
4 Philadelphia, and we are delivering
5 on that promise.

6 In addition to that safe,
7 but I also want you to know that we
8 value clean and green, and we are
9 cleaning up and greening up our city
10 in a significant way under the
11 leadership of Clean and Green
12 Director Carlton Williams and
13 Sanitation Director Crystal Jacob
14 Shipman. Yeah. Yeah. They're on
15 the front line. Yes. My partners,
16 under their leadership,
17 Philadelphia.

18 FEMALE VOICE: We love you.

19 MAYOR PARKER: Thank you,
20 baby, I love you too. Thank you.
21 And listen, if you stay tuned,
22 you're going to be excited about
23 what you're about to hear, because
24 you and I, we like that. Okay. All

1 right. Because if you think about
2 the leadership of Carlton Williams
3 and Crystal Jacobs Shipman, I don't
4 simply want you to listen to me
5 saying that our city is cleaner and
6 greener, I want you to think about
7 what they've already done. We've
8 executed 94,000 actions last year.
9 Cleaner streets, illegal dumping
10 tackle, twice a week trash
11 collection restored. We are on our
12 way to eliminating that Philadelphia
13 moniker. We're trying Philadelphia.

14 Now, at the same time, I
15 want to stay here for a second. We
16 are advancing environmental justice
17 through our urban forestry unit.
18 Why? Because we know that
19 neighborhoods with higher poverty
20 rates often has fewer trees.
21 Councilmember Majority Leader
22 Catherine Gilmore-Richardson, my
23 teacher, about the urban heat island
24 index.

1 So this is why, in
2 partnership with the Department of
3 Commerce, we trained 40 taking care
4 of business ambassadors to care for
5 460 newly planted trees on
6 commercial corridors across the
7 city.

8 Now, listen, I will -- I
9 can't help it. I'm a tree nut, so I
10 get excited about trees. Listen, in
11 FY27, we are going to focus on 3,600
12 plus trees and shrubs that were
13 planted last year, with a laser
14 focus on Cobb Creek and Tacony Creek
15 Park. Senator Hughes, Rep Cephas,
16 and Jones, that is how we will help
17 to realize a cleaner, greener, and
18 stronger city.

19 And it's important to me,
20 Philadelphia, that you viewed this
21 effort as a promise made and a
22 promise kept. Why? Because I'm the
23 Mayor that said to you, I'm a
24 Baldwins like thinker. That I don't

1 want you to simply listen to what I
2 say. I want you to watch what I do.
3 That's why we always fact check our
4 promises to the people of
5 Philadelphia.

6 And what did we do in
7 preparation for this presentation?
8 We fact checked 26 promises that I
9 made in last year's budget address.
10 And in a document that is on the
11 desk of all members of council
12 today, we are letting you know
13 exactly how we did. I never, and we
14 don't promise perfection, but we do
15 want you to know we are doing the
16 best that we can with what we have.
17 So please take a look, check out our
18 progress, give us feedback, and let
19 us know what you think. We want to
20 make sure that we are being
21 responsive.

22 Now, Philadelphia, this is
23 important. I want to start by
24 encouraging each of us to dream big,

1 to think bigger. But we can't dream
2 big and think bigger without making
3 sure that fiscal stability is our
4 ground rock that we will stand on.
5 Together, we need to roll up our
6 sleeves. I want us to dive into the
7 \$7-billion proposal that I offer for
8 Council's consideration today.

9 And the first thing I want
10 you to know is that nothing, and I
11 do mean nothing, will shake me from
12 my core belief that fiscal stability
13 is the foundation upon which we will
14 build everything else. And I am
15 proud to announce to you all that
16 the state of the city's fiscal
17 health remains strong, but it faces
18 rising challenges.

19 We continue making
20 contributions to the budget
21 stabilization reserve fund, also
22 known as the rainy-day fund. It
23 will have \$344 million by the end of
24 the proposed five-year plan. And I

1 want you to know that's the most
2 we've ever had for a rainy day in
3 the history of the city. Listen,
4 that fund -- that fund, it'll be
5 especially important as we face
6 economic and federal policy
7 uncertainties.

8 And in order to get us
9 prepared for this moment with fiscal
10 stability, we can't do that without
11 giving thanks to our Majority
12 Leader, Catherine Gilmore-
13 Richardson, for all she's done on
14 this issue. Thank you, Majority
15 Leader, for all of your hard work.

16 Next, our city's pension
17 fund, it also continues to move in
18 the right direction. We've
19 surpassed, for the first time, the
20 67 percent funding level, and that
21 is the highest in decades. Now,
22 this is usually not a sexy issue to
23 talk about, unless you were in
24 Harrisburg, rumbling for sales tax

1 exemption and the other revenue we
2 need at the start so that we could
3 get on sound fiscal -- sounds of
4 fiscal footing.

5 But listen, that's a 20
6 plus percentage increase. Senator
7 Hughes, 10 years. Ten years. And
8 guess what? The fund's actuary
9 projects that it will reach 80
10 percent in FY29 and 100 percent by
11 FY33. And it happened because of
12 shared sacrifice. How? Listen,
13 because of our collective discipline
14 and determination.

15 Philadelphia has secured
16 the highest combined credit rating
17 in decades. The highest. So
18 listen, this is -- this is
19 important. I want to thank, because
20 when people contribute to the work,
21 they need to be acknowledged. I
22 want to thank the members and staff
23 of the pension board, all of our
24 municipal unions, city council, and

1 here, you know, they don't get
2 enough credit. And I guess I feel
3 and share their pain because I know
4 what they do. We need to give a
5 huge round of applause for our
6 Philadelphia delegation to the
7 Pennsylvania General Assembly.
8 Thank you all for your work. We
9 wouldn't be here without what you
10 all did.

11 Once these pension
12 obligations are fully funded,
13 Council President Johnson, we talked
14 about this, our annual general fund
15 costs will drop by hundreds of
16 millions of dollars. And I want you
17 to know, Philadelphia, that that's
18 real money we can use for our
19 biggest priorities.

20 We still face fiscal
21 challenges ahead, and we have to
22 keep that in mind. You've heard me
23 reference previously that the city
24 borrow \$1.3 billion in the 1990s to

1 shore up our pension fund during the
2 Rendell administration. It was a
3 bold and essential move to turn the
4 fiscal health of our city around.

5 And I'm grateful to former
6 Mayor and Governor Ed Rendell for
7 having the courage to move us in the
8 right direction. But I want you to
9 know that this is 2026, and we're
10 still paying for it today. From now
11 through FY29, the general fund will
12 pay almost \$550 million in debt
13 service on our pension obligation
14 bonds, including a \$64 million
15 balloon payment that's due in FY29.

16 We are also facing, right
17 now, limited job growth and
18 persistent inflation. And I know
19 some people forget about this, this
20 is why it's important to note for
21 the record, the lifeline that we
22 counted on for the last few years,
23 you'll remember it as that \$1.4
24 billion in COVID relief money.

1 Those ARPA dollars, Philadelphia,
2 they're gone. Despite that fact, I
3 want you to know will meet our
4 obligations as we always do.

5 As Mayor of this city, I
6 will never allow anyone or anything
7 to compromise our fiscal stability,
8 because we can't address all of the
9 major issues that are impacting our
10 city if we don't have access to
11 revenue to do it.

12 Now, I want to move on to
13 the heart of this budget. You heard
14 the message: safe, clean, green.
15 But then there's economic
16 opportunity and economic mobility
17 for all. Let's get into the meat of
18 the budget. In my first and second
19 budgets, the One Philly, a United
20 City, and then the One Philly 2.0
21 budget, my administration set out on
22 a bold course, making Philadelphia
23 safer, cleaner, and greener for
24 every Philadelphian. But now, this

1 is my 3rd year and my 3rd budget
2 address.

3 My focus sharpens on a goal
4 that touches every family and every
5 neighborhood. And that is economic
6 mobility for all and self-
7 sufficiency for all. Because I want
8 you to think about this: What good
9 is a safer, cleaner, and greener
10 city if our people don't have access
11 to good paying jobs, quality
12 healthcare, and a real shot at
13 raising a family, owning a home, and
14 building a pathway to a better and
15 more affordable life? That's why my
16 economic mobility agenda is set to
17 address many of those issues. If
18 you were like me, a product of
19 humble beginnings, a first
20 generation college graduate, a first
21 generation Ivy League graduate, you
22 may need some direction as it
23 relates to economic mobility and
24 being put on a path to self-

1 sufficiency.

2 That's why I am proud today
3 to introduce what I call
4 Philadelphia's Economic GPS. That's
5 Philadelphia's economic growth,
6 prosperity, and security. To me,
7 Philadelphia, it is a roadmap to
8 self-sufficiency. A path that makes
9 it easier for every Philadelphian to
10 move up and not just get by. Just
11 like our GPS in our cars. You know,
12 now we can go anywhere we want and
13 we really don't have to know it.

14 All we have to do is punch
15 in the address in our GPS, and it'll
16 take us where we want to go. Well,
17 this budget charts the course from
18 early childhood to school age, from
19 graduation to career, all the way to
20 retirement.

21 My economic mobility plan
22 is designed so there is a pathway
23 for everyone at every stage in life
24 to move up that ladder. But first,

1 I don't ever want you to forget that
2 growth, it must be inclusive and
3 dynamic. So I don't care whether or
4 not you run a small business on a
5 neighborhood commercial corridor or
6 a manufacturing plan, you deserve to
7 grow, to hire, and compete.

8 Prosperity must be shared
9 and accessible, with every resident
10 able to afford a home, gain a
11 quality education, and get the
12 skills training they need.

13 Now, if we get this right
14 by making value driven, data
15 informed investments, Philadelphia
16 can become the national model for
17 economic mobility across the
18 country. This is our moment and our
19 chance to do what no city has ever
20 done before. So, Philadelphia, I'm
21 hoping that you're going to join me,
22 join the council, as we all work and
23 move up.

24 And we need to from being

1 last in economic mobility in this
2 nation and show the world that when
3 we have intergovernmental
4 cooperation and planning and we work
5 together, we can be One Philly with
6 one future, with economic mobility
7 for all. We can do this together.
8 We can -- we can access economic
9 mobility.

10 How are we going to get it
11 done? We are working to reduce
12 barriers to economic mobility and
13 provide access to capital, workforce
14 development, transportation. And
15 here's a big one, housing
16 affordability. It's important.
17 Senator Hughes, affordability is new
18 for a whole lot of other people.
19 We've been working on affordability
20 for a long, long time. But you
21 know, when we think about housing in
22 the city of Philadelphia, you have
23 to think about housing as a gateway
24 to economic mobility. There's no

1 other way to think about it. And I
2 know that city council feels the
3 same too.

4 Listen, if you ask any
5 economist, liberal, moderate, or
6 conservative, do we have a housing
7 crisis in our nation? Everyone will
8 agree, yes, we do. They will also
9 tell you that it's rooted in two
10 things, supply and production. That
11 is why my administration is
12 proposing specific solutions.

13 Now, we just had the honor
14 and privilege of working with this
15 city council of Philadelphia to
16 usher in a \$2-billion investment in
17 restoring and building and repairing
18 30,000 units of housing through our
19 HOME initiative. That's the Housing
20 Opportunities Made Easy plan.

21 It's the largest housing
22 initiative in Philadelphia's
23 history. Think about that in
24 partnership with Kelvin Jeremiah in

1 the Philadelphia Housing Authority's
2 plan to create and preserve 20,000
3 units of deeply affordable housing.

4 And that translates into
5 50,000 units of housing overall and
6 collaboration. It's important for
7 us to not work in silos, Senator
8 Street, Representative Cephas, we
9 have to work together in order to
10 get this done.

11 So, Philadelphia, when you
12 think about programs, and I'm really
13 giddy about this one, this is my
14 baby, I'm proud to see it come to
15 fruition. I want you to think about
16 our One Philly Mortgage Program. I
17 want you to think about Basic
18 Systems Home Repair. I want you to
19 think about renter protections. I
20 want you to think about adaptive
21 modifications.

22 I want you to think about
23 Turn the Key. Our menu of options.
24 All of these programs and many

1 others are designed to help
2 Philadelphians buy their own homes,
3 obtain grants to repair their
4 existing homes, or help with the
5 high cost of rental housing.

6 If someone asks you what is
7 the city of Philadelphia, the Mayor
8 and the city Council doing to
9 address affordability and economic
10 mobility, tell them to not simply
11 listen to what we say. Tell them to
12 check out what we've already done
13 here in the city of Philadelphia,
14 the Council, the executive branch
15 working together to get it done.

16 And listen, I've got to
17 state for the record that while I
18 know there were some differences
19 around who should benefit from some
20 of these programs, Councilmember
21 Gauthier, I want you to know that I
22 believe we can all agree that we
23 need to ensure that we are serving
24 both renters and homeowners. And we

1 get right down to the bottom of it
2 as it relates to HOME.

3 The proposed five-year plan
4 that I offer here today includes
5 that debt service for the two \$400
6 million borrowings under HOME.
7 Councilmember Jones, the first
8 borrowing goes to the market very
9 shortly.

10 So, Philadelphia, we want
11 you to know that help and more
12 housing is on the way in our great
13 city. Help and housing is on the
14 way.

15 I'm excited because it's
16 true. We can do so much with this
17 borrowing, and we will.
18 Philadelphia is stepping up, and we
19 are doing the hard work that it
20 takes to address seemingly
21 intractable problems. But we have to
22 remember that this housing crisis,
23 this is just not a Philadelphia
24 problem. And that is why I'm

1 excited that our governor has made
2 housing a priority in his budget,
3 and we want to make sure that we are
4 working closely with him and our
5 legislative delegation to ensure
6 that Philadelphia gets its fair
7 share of that new state housing
8 funding.

9 Next, housing our
10 innovation and partnership, no
11 silos. It was on full display
12 during my recent visit to a U.S.
13 Conference of Mayors meeting. And I
14 knew people were talking about the
15 plan, because all they wanted to
16 talk about was, how did the
17 Philadelphia building and
18 construction trades get to invest
19 \$50 million to completely renovate
20 an affordable apartment building for
21 senior citizens.

22 Ryan Boyer, a building
23 trades leader, all members of the
24 trades who are present, I saw you,

1 Sam, and Calvin Jeremiah.

2 I just said, I'm just the
3 Mayor, but this is how we do it in
4 Philadelphia, and we work together.
5 But that said to me, people saw what
6 you did. That's not the building
7 trades of the old, where all we
8 would talk about is, oh, we need to
9 diversify and we need inclusion, and
10 they're only concerned about
11 themselves.

12 When we all work together
13 with the building trades in
14 partnership with external partners
15 in the nonprofit sector, like Kelvin
16 Jeremiah, we can achieve success
17 together. Give Ryan Boyer of
18 Building Trades and Kelvin Jeremiah
19 a huge round of applause. This is a
20 new building trades in Philadelphia,
21 and I'm proud that you're one of our
22 anchors in finding solutions.

23 Here's another investment
24 in economic mobility. When I first

1 started publicly talking about this
2 idea, I didn't know how many people
3 would catch on, but I want you to
4 think about Philadelphia during our
5 industrial years. You know, we were
6 the home base for factories here in
7 the city of Philadelphia, producing
8 a number of different items that
9 created jobs that put people on a
10 path to self-sufficiency. It's with
11 that history in mind and our
12 possibility for the future that I
13 want you to think about building
14 factories to create modular housing
15 right here in the city of
16 Philadelphia, where we can build the
17 supply to meet the demand, and not
18 just in one neighborhood, in all
19 neighborhoods in the city of
20 Philadelphia.

21 Councilmember Isaac Thomas,
22 you were one of the first members to
23 understand what that vision would
24 require, that we needed to address

1 supply and production. But it also
2 meant that we will create a pipeline
3 for training the next generation of
4 skilled trades workers here in our
5 city. And it takes leadership to do
6 that. Councilmember Thomas, thank
7 you. Please give them a round of
8 applause. You embrace that vision
9 before a whole lot of other people
10 could see it.

11 I want you to think about
12 this, Philadelphia really, factories
13 with employees working around the
14 clock, because they're in a
15 controlled climate and they don't
16 have to worry about the elements. I
17 want you to think about like three
18 shifts, working 24/7, family
19 sustaining union jobs to build
20 affordable and workforce homes for
21 Philadelphians who need housing
22 right now. Right now, we need that
23 housing. We can't wait. That's
24 why, in this budget, I am proposing

1 that we invest \$10 million to move
2 this agenda item forward.

3 And guess what,
4 Councilmember Thomas, we put out an
5 RFI, that's a Request For
6 Information, and there is real
7 interest already coming in. I don't
8 know if Jesse Lawrence and Angela
9 Brooks are here, but I was on pins
10 and needles waiting for the
11 responses, and they have been very
12 encouraging.

13 So we have a whole lot of
14 work to do, and as Mayor of this
15 city, you need to know I'm counting
16 on you. Give Angela Brooks and
17 Jesse Lawrence a huge round of
18 applause. John Mondlak, thank you
19 all for your leadership.

20 I want you to stay with me.
21 Let's talk about access to workforce
22 development. You can't have
23 economic mobility and be put on a
24 path to self-sufficiency if you

1 don't get access to the ability to
2 learn a skill that will allow you to
3 have a career or do something that
4 you love so you can make a living.

5 So when we talk about
6 access to workforce development as a
7 part of our economic mobility
8 agenda, I want you to know that we
9 have to pay for that too. And
10 that's why, in this budget, I am
11 proposing that we add \$10 million to
12 our budget to support workforce
13 development training.

14 Now, in my last budget, you
15 know we made this same commitment,
16 and we invested in organizations
17 like the Center for Black Educator
18 Development, Unite Here, the Black
19 Brain Campaign, and SCIU. And I'm
20 proud to let you know, Philadelphia,
21 that these investments, they are
22 already making a difference.

23 But when we work together,
24 the city doesn't have to do

1 everything alone. So that when we
2 had the foresight to make that
3 investment, the philanthropic
4 community, they also stepped up.
5 They were led by Comcast, the
6 William Penn Foundation, the
7 Philadelphia Foundation, and others.
8 And guess what they did? They added
9 another \$10 million, and it has been
10 invested to provide workers in
11 emerging industries with the support
12 and skills training that they need
13 so that people can be put on a path
14 to self-sufficiency. That's
15 economic mobility.

16 And if Layla Bibi and Omar
17 Nelson and Sherman McLeod are here,
18 I want you to stand up. Are they in
19 the room anywhere? Give them a
20 round of applause. The skills --
21 the skills training that you do at
22 the Carpenters Union, at the Sam
23 State and Senior Apprenticeship
24 Program, and the Philadelphia

1 Technical Training Institute, it is
2 exactly what we need to move forward
3 with economic mobility. And as
4 Mayor, I'm proud and looking forward
5 to partnering with each of you.
6 Please give them a huge round of
7 applause. Thank you.

8 Our public awards are going
9 to be announced soon. Council
10 President and Majority Leader
11 Catherine Gilmore-Richardson will be
12 trying to get on your calendar very,
13 very shortly.

14 Next, I want to talk about
15 a area and the issue that is very
16 dear and near to my heart. My
17 grandmother would tell me sometimes,
18 and you know, when you're younger,
19 you know how you don't think older
20 people know what they're talking
21 about, and you are a teenager and
22 you think you know it all. My
23 grandmother and my aunt Vi, you
24 know, they were enough. They were

1 domestic workers who traveled to
2 Philadelphia from the south.

3 And mommy would say things
4 to me like, well, if you would just
5 be quiet and listen to the teachers
6 and get it in your head, you can do
7 anything you want to do in life, no
8 matter your circumstances. That's
9 why today I am a firm believer that
10 all of our work in the field of
11 education, it is the foundation to
12 ensure that we increase economic
13 mobility.

14 Every day we have to be
15 focused on increasing pathways for
16 our children. But don't just talk
17 about children. We have to talk
18 about children and adult learners
19 too, those who are taking care of
20 the children. And it's not always
21 mom and dad. Some people are raised
22 like I was through kinship care,
23 being raised by my grandmother and
24 my grandfather. And so we have to

1 think about our youngest learners
2 and our adult learners.

3 And that's why in this
4 budget, for our youngest learners,
5 we propose adding 100 new high-
6 quality seats for our PHLpreK
7 program. That would take us to a
8 total of 5,350 seats right here in
9 the city of Philadelphia. Yes,
10 parents of children in the program,
11 they can work with a peace of mind
12 while knowing that their children
13 are receiving a free high-quality
14 education.

15 And we can't ever forget
16 that that childcare, that early
17 childhood education, that is
18 economic mobility. But we don't
19 just stop there. I want you to know
20 that through our Extended
21 Day/Extended Year program --

22 MALE VOICE:

23 (Indiscernible.)

24 MAYOR PARKER: Sugar,

1 there's something in here for two,
2 you too, if you listen. Yeah. I
3 want you to know that we just won't
4 -- we won't stop with just early
5 childhood education. I want you to
6 know that through our Extended
7 Day/Extended Year partnership with
8 the School District of Philadelphia,
9 and I want you to write this down
10 and take notes, Philadelphia, so
11 nobody will ever get these facts
12 confused. The partnership -- the
13 partnership with the School District
14 of Philadelphia --

15 MALE VOICE:

16 (Indiscernible.)

17 MAYOR PARKER: Listen, you
18 all, we're Philadelphia. This is
19 the birthplace of democracy. If
20 anybody has to be patient when
21 somebody's trying to express what
22 they feel, Philadelphia should be
23 sensitive to it. So let's be
24 patient and let the brother have his

1 time. We're a model for the nation
2 in democracy. Be patient,
3 Philadelphia. Thank you.
4 Philadelphia, I want you to remember
5 this. We just spoke about early
6 childhood education, but I now want
7 you to turn your attention to
8 something that we had never done in
9 the city of Philadelphia before.

10 MALE VOICE:

11 (Indiscernible.)

12 MAYOR PARKER: You, too,
13 Sugar. I'll see you soon.

14 Philadelphia's 6th largest
15 city in the nation, birthplace of
16 democracy. We believe in free
17 speech, and we should be patient
18 with anyone who's ever trying to
19 communicate what they think and
20 feel, because what he feels, it
21 matters. And this is the place and
22 space where we have to make sure we
23 keep his thoughts in mind.

24 But now I want to get back

1 to something that we had never done
2 in the city of Philadelphia before,
3 and that was the creation of what we
4 coined our Extended Day/Extended
5 Year partnership with the school
6 district of Philadelphia. Yeah, I'm
7 excited about this one.

8 Councilmember Phillips,
9 we've opened pre and after school
10 enrichment programs with over 14,000
11 slots now in 40 schools, both
12 district traditional and district
13 charter operated schools. And when
14 we say this, sometimes I don't think
15 people get what we mean, so I want
16 to be clear. We are talking about
17 winters, spring, and summer breaks,
18 our families who may not have the
19 financial wherewithal to pay for
20 high quality academic enrichment
21 programs, well now they don't have
22 to pay for them, because the city of
23 Philadelphia and school district is
24 providing them. That is economic

1 mobility too.

2 So our program and EDEY, it
3 is going so well that we propose
4 investing \$1.9 million to expand our
5 Extended Day/Extended Year program
6 to 47 schools in FY27. And that
7 would make 35 district operated
8 schools and 12 charter schools.

9 Listen, right now I need our
10 superintendent, Dr. Tony Watlington,
11 our dynamic superintendent, who is
12 also recognized nationally for his
13 leadership. I want you to please
14 stand, Dr. Watlington. Dr. Deb
15 Carrera, my Chief Education Officer,
16 and Chief Deputy Mayor of Vanessa
17 Garrett Harley, please stand.

18 Listen, Jessica is around here
19 somewhere.

20 Thank you all for your
21 leadership. You saw the vision and
22 you ran with it, and I'm so grateful
23 that you all made it happen. But
24 not only is the cabinet here, I

1 think there are parents of two EDEY
2 students who are here with us today.

3 Is Quill and Tisch Camera
4 here, whose children attend the
5 Solis Cohen Elementary? Please rise
6 and be. Please give them a round of
7 applause. Thank you. Thank you.
8 Thank you.

9 Philadelphia, when I was on
10 the campaign trail in 2023, asking
11 you to give me the honor and
12 privilege of serving as your leader
13 in this city, I always heard the
14 question, how can you help me gain
15 access to a good paying city job?
16 People would ask me that question
17 all of the time. They would also
18 say, what are you going to do about
19 all of those vacancies in our city?
20 I need you to know that we listen,
21 and because we listen from the
22 ground up, we created our city
23 College for Municipal Employment
24 Program, otherwise known as CCME.

1 And through it, we've
2 educated hundreds of students about
3 career opportunities in city
4 government. And this too is thanks
5 to strong collaboration between the
6 Community College of Philadelphia,
7 led by Dr. Alycia Marshall.
8 Dr. Marshall, please stand to be
9 recognized. Dr. Watlington, please
10 stand again. And I'm not sure Pat
11 Clancy is here. Is Pat here? Pat
12 Clancy, and Camille Duchaussee, our
13 Chief Administrative Officer. Thank
14 you all so, so very much.

15 CCME is working. It's
16 another issue that I have to talk
17 about often when I'm at the U.S.
18 Conference of Mayors. So to you,
19 Pat, to Dr. Marshall, and
20 Dr. Watlington, I want to thank you
21 for everything that you are doing to
22 make CCME a success. It is
23 definitely a model that we are
24 building in our nation. And it's

1 with their leadership in mind that
2 is now time for us to take the next
3 step.

4 And the next step means
5 that we propose investing \$7-million
6 to establish a CCME Fellows program
7 for recent graduates transitioning
8 to municipal employment. And I do
9 think that two recent CCME graduates
10 who now work for the city of
11 Philadelphia are here today. Is
12 Inga Fichetola, who is a information
13 security analyst with the Office of
14 Innovation and Technology, and Tynae
15 Robinson, who is a clerk with the
16 Sanitation Department.

17 Please stand. These two
18 women are products of our city
19 college for municipal employment.
20 Thank you for taking advantage of
21 the opportunity.

22 Listen, our economic
23 mobility agenda, Philadelphia, has
24 another super exciting development

1 on the education front. This, and
2 I've talked to many people in this
3 room, and I know that we feel and
4 have felt each other's pain. Higher
5 education has been a proven pathway
6 to high wage jobs and entry into the
7 middle class for generations of
8 Philadelphians. It's what we know,
9 it's what many of us did in our
10 lives.

11 But I want you to know that
12 as the cost of higher education has
13 risen, many Philadelphians have
14 taken out loans to pay for both
15 undergraduate and graduate studies,
16 so much so that more than 231,000
17 Philadelphians have student loan
18 debt that they're struggling with,
19 and 14 percent of them are over the
20 age of 65.

21 Listen, changes to the
22 federal student loan program that
23 were approved by Congress in 2025
24 threatened to increase those costs

1 for most borrowers. That's why, as
2 a part of our holistic economic
3 mobility agenda, we propose
4 investing \$850,000 to start a
5 student and loan help center right
6 here in the city of Philadelphia, to
7 assist borrowers as they try to
8 navigate the confusing and
9 frequently changing landscape.

10 While at the same time,
11 many folks are seeking public
12 service loan forgiveness, and
13 they're trying to have those dollars
14 to be put back into their pocket so
15 that they can be put on a path of
16 self-sufficiency.

17 And so working with our
18 Mayor's Office of Education, that
19 that is where this initiative will
20 be led. They will work in
21 partnership with the Office of
22 Community Empowerment and
23 Opportunity and the Chief
24 Administrative Office, helping

1 Philadelphia get rid of student
2 loan debt. Guess what, Philly, that
3 too is economic mobility.

4 Now, Councilmember Landau,
5 before we leave education, I know
6 that we are all aware that the
7 school district is facing a
8 financial crisis. Chairman Thomas,
9 Council President, many others have
10 talked about this. And I want you
11 to know that the Parker
12 administration is committed to
13 ensuring that our schools, and that
14 we do everything in our power to
15 ensure that our schools are
16 adequately funded and that our
17 students do have access to a
18 thorough and efficient public
19 education.

20 In my first two budgets,
21 and on that campaign trail, you all
22 will remember, we have made
23 significant steps towards fulfilling
24 my promise to shift the millage

1 percentage from 55 percent to 58
2 percent. Somebody's watching from
3 home saying, what's the millage and
4 55? We don't know anything about
5 that. Well, right when we started,
6 when we were on the trail, we know
7 55 cents of every dollar in our
8 property tax revenue is dedicated to
9 public education.

10 On the campaign trail,
11 nobody had to give me a dissertation
12 and a speech about the importance of
13 funding public education. We
14 promised and committed to shifting
15 that millage rate from 55 percent to
16 58 percent. That's a three percent
17 increase. And so far, Philadelphia,
18 in our five-year plan, we have
19 invested 131 million more in our
20 schools through our changes to the
21 millage rate that we have already
22 implemented.

23 And listen, the reason why
24 I'm excited about it, because this

1 is -- this is our what, second year,
2 this is our 3rd budget, and we're
3 already halfway to our promise.

4 So today, today, what makes
5 this exciting is that we are
6 announcing even more revenue that we
7 would like to see support the
8 ongoing operations of the school
9 district. Through the
10 implementation of two new taxes, we
11 propose to generate \$12 million
12 annually that will go directly to
13 the school district.

14 And I want to explain what
15 they are. The first is the
16 transportation network company tax.
17 And it's a 20 cents per ride tax on
18 ride share rides that originate in
19 Philadelphia. So beginning July the
20 1st of next year, if implemented,
21 this tax is expected to generate
22 \$9.6 million per year. And all of
23 the revenue will go to our school
24 District of Philadelphia.

1 Councilmember Landau, we
2 have big dreams, but we know we have
3 to pay for it, and we look forward
4 to working with you on this issue.

5 That's one vehicle. The
6 next vehicle, because the structural
7 deficit that the school district of
8 Philadelphia is facing, it really
9 needs more additional revenue. With
10 that in mind, I want you to know
11 that we are also proposing to modify
12 the tax calculation from cell towers
13 under the use and occupancy tax.

14 Now, somebody is saying, a
15 cell tower use, and what is that?
16 If you're like me, walk down the
17 street and every once in a while
18 look up high. I want you to think
19 about those like metal antennas.
20 They look like old fashioned metal
21 antennas, and I call them
22 contraptions. They're at the top of
23 buildings, and you see them
24 scattered in neighborhoods across

1 the city. But what you may rarely
2 notice about them is that all of our
3 cell phone carriers, the telecom
4 companies that we get our cell
5 phones from, that we pay our bills
6 to, each of them have their own
7 signal connectors attached to these
8 towers.

9 And that's how we get
10 varying connections with our cell
11 phone usage, and it varies based on
12 the company that you're with. Well,
13 this is something that you should
14 know, that they don't do that for
15 free. Whomever owns the building
16 where the cell phone tower is
17 located, they get paid to have that
18 cell phone tower on their building.

19 And since they're operating
20 and functioning here in the city of
21 Philadelphia, it makes good sense to
22 ensure that that business activity
23 is taxed and that the funding goes
24 to support our schools. We support

1 those companies. We now need that
2 revenue to support our schools. And
3 we're going to work very hard to
4 fight for that revenue. How much
5 would it generate? We estimate that
6 this would generate an annual
7 additional \$2.4 million for the
8 school district.

9 And I know President
10 Streater, if School Board President
11 Reginald Streater is here, he's
12 saying, yeah, I hear you, and those
13 are great ideas, but we need more
14 and I know that, President Streater.

15 That is why, as Mayor of
16 this city, working in partnership
17 with the city Council of
18 Philadelphia, I want you to know
19 that we are going to do our part
20 with the taxes that we just
21 recommended for implementation.

22 But we are also going to do
23 our part in supporting our governor
24 and our state legislators as they

1 work hard to help fix our
2 Philadelphia crumbling
3 infrastructure and give our children
4 learning spaces that they deserve.

5 So part of this budget
6 includes the administrative and
7 executive branches working together
8 so that we can help Harrisburg, help
9 Philadelphia. And, Councilmembers,
10 I think we can do that together.
11 Why is it important? It's important
12 that we do it together because,
13 although it is the state's
14 constitutional responsibility to
15 deliver a thorough and efficient
16 public education, Senator Hughes,
17 Mr. Chairman knows that Philadelphia
18 has always stepped up in a super big
19 way to raise revenue locally to
20 support our public schools. And we
21 won't stop now. We're going to do
22 everything that we can to make sure
23 our school district has what it
24 needs because our kids are worth it

1 and they deserve it.

2 Next, I want to talk about
3 small and local businesses as
4 economic mobility. Small and local
5 businesses and encouraging
6 innovation in our city's economy,
7 it's an essential part of our
8 economic mobility agenda. I can
9 remember when the Supreme Court
10 ruling made it clear that
11 Philadelphia's program for ensuring
12 diversity and contracts would have
13 to change.

14 I was proud that my
15 administration did not wait for
16 another adverse court ruling. We
17 acted proactively and decisively
18 under the leadership of Nadir Jones,
19 our Director of Business Impact and
20 Economic Advancement, and Chief
21 Deputy Mayor Garrett Harley, with
22 legal advice from our city solicitor
23 Renee Garcia. We immediately began
24 building a new program emphasizing

1 small and local businesses and how
2 the city awards contracts.

3 In this budget, we are
4 proposing \$3.3 million in FY27 to
5 support this critically important
6 new initiative. And I am confident,
7 I want you to hear me well, because
8 it was a whole lot of noise going on
9 when this -- when this decision was
10 made.

11 I want you to know, I am
12 confident that our new small and
13 local initiative, that it will not
14 just succeed, that it will exceed
15 the previous program in both
16 quantity and quality of contracts
17 awarded to small and local
18 businesses.

19 Mayor Parker, that sounds
20 good, but how are you going to get
21 it done? You have to pay for it.
22 At the same time, I want you to know
23 that we are going to close a
24 loophole in the city's sales and use

1 tax, which would require remote
2 sellers outside the city to charge a
3 two percent local sales tax
4 beginning July 1st.

5 Philadelphia, I want you to
6 hear me. Right now, any business
7 located outside of Philadelphia,
8 only has to charge the state six
9 percent sales tax on something that
10 you buy online. So if they're
11 selling here, they say, "Okay, we'll
12 pay the state tax." That's six
13 percent. While our local businesses
14 have to collect the full eight
15 percent; the six percent from the
16 state and two percent for the city.
17 We have put our local small business
18 owners at a disadvantage, and it's
19 long past time that we leveled the
20 playing field.

21 So no matter where a
22 business is located, whether that be
23 elsewhere in Pennsylvania or
24 anywhere across the country, every

1 seller is subject to the same sales
2 tax. And just because you're out of
3 town don't mean that you get to have
4 a leg up on our local small
5 businesses. It's only fair, and we
6 estimate that this will generate
7 \$1.5 million annually for the city
8 of Philadelphia.

9 Our agenda also supports
10 innovation and growth in our local
11 economy as well. I want you to know
12 that when we think about economic
13 mobility, I want you to think about
14 Lower South and the Navy Yard area.
15 We support the commercial and
16 industrial base of South
17 Philadelphia called Lower South.

18 It's becoming a new and a
19 thriving economic hub located in the
20 heart of Council President Johnson's
21 district. Councilmembers, I think
22 everybody is clear; the Phillies,
23 the Flyers, the Eagles, and the
24 Sixers, again are in Council

1 President Johnson's District.

2 But Councilmembers, I need
3 you now to think about this, think
4 even bigger. I want you to think
5 about the fact that as it relates to
6 Lower South and economic mobility,
7 that we are talking about the
8 potential for tens of thousands of
9 good-paying, family sustaining jobs
10 at the Bellwether District, the Navy
11 Yard, and PhilaPort.

12 Roberto just -- I just
13 talked to him yesterday, another big
14 fish on the hook coming in. You
15 have to look so that you can see
16 this long-term vision of economic
17 mobility with me.

18 Think about this, we all
19 know that Philadelphia is home to
20 some of the finest educational and
21 medical institutions in the country.
22 Whenever anyone talks about us and
23 when we talk about ourselves, we
24 always say Philadelphia is the city

1 of Eds and Meds; and it's true.

2 They help drive our growth and we
3 are very proud of them.

4 But I am also now proud
5 that some folks are catching up to
6 what they've heard me saying over
7 the past two years as your Mayor,
8 and that is, we can no longer just
9 limit ourselves and say that
10 Philadelphia is simply a city of Eds
11 and Meds and leave out the economic
12 potential of maritime shipbuilding
13 and defense industries because they
14 can and should be essential parts of
15 our efforts to have economic
16 mobility right here in our silly --
17 city.

18 Philadelphia should, they
19 can, and they must compete for that
20 work. We can do that right here in
21 Philadelphia. Please give a round
22 of applause for maritime
23 shipbuilding right here in our city.

24 I want you to consider

1 this, \$5 billion in planned
2 infrastructure investment by the
3 Hanwha Philly Shipyard. Hanwha has
4 already grown its workforce here,
5 but there's the potential for
6 thousands of additional Philadelphia
7 jobs.

8 Then I want you to think
9 about Rhoades Industries. Rhoades
10 is investing \$100 million to expand
11 its workforce with the U.S. Navy
12 and expects to double the workforce
13 to 1,000.

14 Listen, the shipbuilding
15 and defense industries, guess what
16 they need? They need welders. With
17 partners like the Community College
18 of Philadelphia and PTTI,
19 Philadelphia can supply them with
20 the skilled workforce that they
21 need. And so if we are thinking
22 big, that too is economic mobility
23 that the city of Philadelphia must
24 rely on.

1 Now, I want us to go back,
2 and we just touched on it. I'm an
3 eternal optimist and I always
4 believe that the glass is always
5 half full, never empty. Out of
6 challenge comes opportunity. And
7 just as exciting, right now, when we
8 think about maritime and
9 shipbuilding, just as exciting is
10 the prospect of a new first-in-class
11 arena that will be home to our
12 Philadelphia 76ers and Flyers and --
13 Councilmember Thomas, and soon,
14 okay, our own WNBA team right here
15 in the city of Philadelphia. Yes.
16 When you think about the WNBA, I
17 want you to think about that along
18 with an opportunity to drive towards
19 a larger vision for the Stadium
20 Complex.

21 Now, Council President
22 Johnson and I, we've been talking
23 about this for a long time, but I
24 need you Philadelphia to stay with

1 me and see the vision and to see the
2 vision I'm talking about, you don't
3 need to squint. How many people
4 here attended the Unrivaled Tours
5 women's two pro basketball games in
6 Philadelphia? How many people here?
7 Listen, they had 21,000 people per
8 game, and if you think that's
9 something, you haven't seen nothing
10 yet until the WNBA gets here. And
11 it's with that in mind that I want
12 to say this; the Philadelphia
13 Sisters, Alex and Wanda Sykes,
14 Ashley Lunkenheimer, and Starla
15 Crandall, Councilmember Thomas,
16 we've been at this long before I
17 became Mayor. I was a Councilmember
18 in this -- in this chamber when we
19 started working with them.

20 We are about to make it
21 happen in the city of Philadelphia
22 down at that Stadium Complex. But I
23 need you to think a little bigger.
24 The stadium complex right now

1 supports around 300 events per year.

2 And I'm not saying that's not nice,
3 that's nice, attracting residents
4 and visitors to see our championship
5 teams.

6 We are, to me, the prime
7 sports City you know, in the nation.
8 But I want you to imagine if our
9 complex expands into an
10 entertainment venue like Atlanta's
11 Battery. Why? Because that Battery
12 draws crowds and becomes a
13 destination in and of itself, no
14 matter whether or not there's a
15 sport event taking place there. And
16 I know that if we all work together,
17 we can make this happen. I want to
18 give a huge shout out to John
19 Middleton, Mike Harris, Jeff Lurie,
20 Don Smolenski, Brian Roberts, Dan
21 Hilferty, Josh Harris, and David
22 Adelman. I'm looking forward to
23 working with each of you, along with
24 my administration, Council President

1 Johnson and Governor Shapiro,
2 because if we work together, we can
3 make this vision a reality. Please
4 give Lower South and its potential a
5 huge round of applause.

6 More jobs, more pathways,
7 more crowds will mean more tax
8 revenues to help as we deliver vital
9 state and city services. That is
10 how you increase economic mobility,
11 Philadelphia. But there's more to
12 the economic mobility agenda and it
13 does require collaboration and
14 connectedness.

15 For years, you all know
16 that there's been a career-connected
17 learning program that supports
18 summer and academic year jobs for
19 our young people. I can't talk
20 about this without thinking about
21 the place that used to be at Broad
22 and Lehigh. That's where I went to
23 go get my working papers when I
24 turned 14.

1 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

2 I did, too.

3 MAYOR PARKER: In our five-
4 year plan, I want you to know that I
5 am proposing \$14.7 million so that
6 we can create an additional 1,000
7 new summer job slots for our young
8 people. And that will bring our
9 total to 9,000 opportunities for
10 summer jobs for our children.

11 But Philadelphia, I just
12 say think big and I'm always going
13 to try to think bigger. That's not
14 enough. The demand far exceeds our
15 supply. That is why I am issuing a
16 challenge to our business community
17 in the hopes that all of our
18 business chambers will help us add
19 another 1,000 jobs. Because if we
20 do, guess what that will mean
21 Philadelphia? We will have 10,000
22 summer jobs for our young people.
23 That will be the highest amount that
24 we can remember in one summer.

1 There's more in the
2 economic mobility agenda, folks. I
3 want you to think financial
4 empowerment. Philadelphia, another
5 powerful way that we are increasing
6 economic mobility is by financially
7 empowering our residents. For far
8 too long, too many Philadelphians
9 have been fending for themselves and
10 subjected to unfair and even
11 predatory financial practices that I
12 would learn about right here in this
13 chamber as a staffer. But that is
14 changing on our watch in this
15 administration.

16 We propose investing, in
17 this budget, \$13.9 million over the
18 five-year plan to break through
19 these cycles and open new pathways
20 to economic opportunity for
21 Philadelphians through programs that
22 we know already work. Like our
23 Financial Empowerment Centers, the
24 BankOn Philadelphia Coalition, and

1 Claim Your Money PHL, where we are
2 helping to provide real, tangible
3 support for Philadelphians. What
4 are they getting from these
5 organizations? They're getting
6 free, expert financial counseling.

7 They're expanding access to
8 safe, low-cost banking options, and
9 they're helping people collect the
10 tax refunds that they've earned.

11 He's no longer here, but I
12 can never talk about this issue
13 without thinking about our former
14 colleague, Councilmember Allan Domb.
15 Councilmember Brooks, I want you to
16 know that we are putting dollars
17 back into the pockets of
18 Philadelphians when we support this
19 program.

20 Through Claim Your Money
21 PHL in particular, we've brought
22 back \$19 million in tax refunds back
23 into the pockets of families and our
24 local economy. Excited about that.

1 Why? Because these types of
2 services are essential. And we are
3 going to develop -- and this is what
4 I'm really happy about, a One Philly
5 Economic GPS app. What does -- what
6 does that mean? "Mayor, you always
7 call yourself a technical dinosaur."
8 I am, but I do know what the app
9 store is. And I want you to imagine
10 being able to go to the app store
11 and download the One Philly Economic
12 GPS app, and you can have it on your
13 computer or on your phone in the
14 palm of your hand.

15 Why is this important? I
16 want you to think about it this way;
17 when you hear me talk about the
18 city's credit ratings, you hear me
19 talk about firms like Moody's and
20 Fitch and S&P? Well, those are the
21 city of Philadelphia's credit rating
22 agencies. But when we talk about
23 our own credit and our own credit
24 reports, we are thinking about

1 Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion.
2 So I want you to imagine that with
3 this app, we're going to ensure that
4 you can get help to check on your
5 own credit, manage your own debt,
6 and keep your own individual
7 personal financial house in order,
8 just like we're doing for the city
9 of Philadelphia.

10 Why? Because it's our
11 intention that you can get access to
12 all of this information in a
13 one-stop shop, whether that be at
14 your District Council person's
15 office, they'll have access to it
16 there, one of our neighborhood
17 community action centers, or on your
18 own cell phone.

19 This is about making sure
20 that every Philadelphia household
21 has its own solid financial footing
22 and can build generational wealth
23 and move up the socioeconomic
24 ladder, rung by rung. This is what

1 you hear me talking about when you
2 hear me reference putting people on
3 a path to self-sufficiency with
4 greater economic opportunity.

5 I'm a teach me how to fish
6 kind of girl, I don't want you to
7 give me anything. Because I do
8 believe that there's a sense of
9 pride and dignity that comes from
10 having the opportunity to do for
11 self and learn on your own and take
12 care of your own family, but only
13 when you've been given access to the
14 opportunity. If you're born
15 wealthy, you get this easily because
16 it's just handed down to you through
17 your social networks and how you
18 live.

19 But if you come from the
20 humble beginnings that I come from,
21 you have to learn to build financial
22 stability in your life. And we want
23 to put that in the hands of all
24 Philadelphians.

1 In our city -- yeah, I'm
2 proud. I'm proud about that. I'm
3 really proud about that. In
4 Philadelphia, upward economic
5 mobility, it shouldn't be the
6 exception. It must be the
7 expectation. That's why, to do this
8 within City government, all of our
9 efforts around economic mobility,
10 they must remain coordinated,
11 collaborative, and strategic. No
12 silos.

13 So to spearhead this
14 endeavor, I am proposing that we
15 establish a new Economic Mobility
16 Cabinet to oversee what we already
17 have in existence, which is our City
18 College for Municipal Employment and
19 Workforce Portfolio, as well as the
20 Office of Community Engagement and
21 Opportunity that leads our financial
22 empowerment initiatives.

23 When you hear me talk about
24 this cabinet, I want you to know

1 that it will lead across city
2 government. And with business and
3 philanthropic community
4 organizations right by our side, we
5 will be a place where hardworking
6 people can enjoy the quality of life
7 that they deserve.

8 How are you going to do it,
9 Mayor Parker, if you don't have the
10 number of city employees that you
11 need to actually do the work that
12 you are referencing? Hiring and
13 adding to our city's municipal
14 workforce, I want you to remember
15 that's economic mobility, too.

16 Since January of 2024 when
17 I became Mayor --Philadelphians, I
18 want you to take notes on this one.
19 When I became Mayor, since that time
20 in January 2024, we've added over
21 2,000 net new city jobs. And that
22 is not by accident. I am proud of
23 that. How? How did we do it? I
24 want you to know that it is the

1 result of tireless coordination to
2 find and hire talented people who
3 want to serve Philadelphia, with
4 good jobs, strong salaries, and real
5 benefits.

6 So let's talk about that
7 access to economic opportunity.
8 Guess what? You can't get to it
9 without safe, reliable transit
10 because that is the bedrock of
11 economic mobility. That is why our
12 "One Philly, One Future" budget,
13 delivers an historic almost \$900
14 million investment in SEPTA over the
15 five years. What -- yes, we are --
16 we're excited about that. We're
17 excited because we know that public
18 transit is essential to our region's
19 future and to economic mobility for
20 our residents and businesses.

21 And, Councilmember
22 O'Rourke, I don't know what you were
23 thinking when we met, but I hope on
24 today, you see that for the third

1 year in a row, we are proposing to
2 continue our investment in the Zero
3 Fare Program. \$25 million to help
4 low-income Philadelphians by
5 providing them with free SEPTA
6 passes. That's what we are
7 proposing. I couldn't say it then
8 Councilmember, but we proposed it.

9 In addition to that, I want
10 you to know that we're also
11 proposing \$10 million to cover fares
12 for city employees through the Key
13 Advantage program, because economic
14 GPS starts with something very
15 simple. And this is important
16 because a lot of this stuff is not
17 complex, we make it more complex
18 than it is.

19 Economic mobility starts
20 with something very simple, and
21 guess what that is? A reliable ride
22 to work. That's what it starts
23 with. So that's economic mobility
24 in action.

1 Now to something that's
2 very important, Philadelphia, this
3 is ground up. Every Philadelphian
4 deserves a city that delivers for
5 them in the everyday moments of
6 life. The streets we drive on, the
7 blocks we walk down, the parks where
8 our children play. Why? Because
9 improving quality of life, it starts
10 with the basics. And when I'm
11 thinking about quality of life and
12 neighborhoods, I can't be in this
13 room and in this Council without
14 thinking about councilmembers like
15 Cindy Bass, Councilmember Phillips,
16 and Brian O'Neill because they know
17 exactly what I'm talking about.

18 The basics matter. That's
19 why in this budget, Councilmember
20 Phillips, I am proposing a \$7.1
21 million investment to launch what
22 has never existed in our city
23 before. And that is what I am
24 referencing as our "One Philly

1 Pothole Squad." We need a Pothole
2 Squad in the city of Philadelphia.
3 Somebody's going to say that, "she
4 just get all excited about
5 potholes."

6 And what I'm going to say
7 is that until you've had to go and
8 get your shocks or your car serviced
9 because you hit a pothole, you don't
10 know how serious an issue this is in
11 the city of Philadelphia. But
12 somebody is watching and they're
13 saying, "Well, Mayor Parker, what's
14 a Pothole Squad?" I'm glad you
15 asked. Last year alone, the Streets
16 Department repaired more than 60,000
17 potholes across our city. But I'll
18 be the first to acknowledge that
19 that wasn't enough. So the Pothole
20 Squad is simple; more crews, more
21 equipment, and more action to keep
22 our roads in good repair.

23 So with a dedicated
24 maintenance team in each of the

1 city's six highway districts, the
2 Pothole Squad will respond faster
3 and more proactively when they're
4 patrolling neighborhoods to fix
5 potholes and roadway defects. So
6 this -- think about the Pothole
7 Squad as a way for us to try to be
8 proactive instead of reactive. And
9 if you like those residential street
10 cleaning teams, Members of City
11 Council, I think you're going to
12 love the Pothole Squad. Give it up
13 for the Pothole Squad you all. Look
14 at my Brian O'Neill.

15 Well, listen, but fixing
16 our streets, you all listen, fixing
17 our streets and patching potholes,
18 it costs money.

19 So in this budget, we are
20 proposing a new retail delivery tax
21 of 25 cents per order on certain
22 goods delivered in Philadelphia, and
23 it will start July the 1st of 2027.
24 And the tax will be charged to

1 retailers, so we're not taxing
2 individuals, we're talking about the
3 retailers. Why? Because essential
4 delivery items, I mean, we know, we
5 think about some firms, they have
6 changed commerce and the way we do
7 business in the city of
8 Philadelphia.

9 But we do want you to know
10 that with how we do business in
11 mind, the tax that we are proposing,
12 it excludes certain items like food,
13 baby products, medications, and
14 medical devices. Those items would
15 not be subject to the tax. But when
16 we implement it yet next year, the
17 tax is expected to generate \$15
18 million annually with the revenue
19 dedicated to improving road
20 conditions across the city of
21 Philadelphia.

22 In other words,
23 Philadelphians, I want you to think
24 about it like this, businesses that

1 rely on our streets for deliveries,
2 very simple, they'll have to help us
3 maintain them. We have more cars on
4 the road doing the business because
5 they're in business. We have to
6 take care of our infrastructure and
7 we will get a contribution from
8 those industries. And it does make
9 sense to me because traffic safety,
10 it is just as important. And that
11 is why when we are thinking about
12 the pothole passing, I also want you
13 to think about safety because
14 potholes impact safety.

15 And through our capital
16 program, this year I want you to
17 know that we are committed to
18 investing \$30 million for Vision
19 Zero strategies to make our streets
20 safer for everyone.

21 Now, let's talk about
22 another issue residents raise all
23 the time; illegal dumping. Dumping
24 on neighborhood blocks isn't just an

1 eyesore, it damages quality of life
2 and disrespects communities. That's
3 why in this budget, and you know we
4 already launched this, we continue
5 to strengthen our One Philly Illegal
6 Dumping Task Force.

7 Now, since launching this
8 effort, we've issued 105 violation
9 notices, we've cleared 88
10 enforcement cases, and we, the city
11 of Philadelphia proper, we have
12 secured \$3.5 million in judgments
13 against the people who are illegal
14 dumpers in the city of Philadelphia.
15 Councilmember Lozada, I know you
16 agree with us that we are sending a
17 clear message that illegal dumping
18 will not be tolerated in our City of
19 Philadelphia. And that is extremely
20 important to us.

21 As we clean up our
22 neighborhoods, we are also investing
23 in how Philadelphia looks to the
24 world. I want you to think about it

1 this way, winter is fading. Well, I
2 was hoping it was fading, and then
3 somebody gave me a PTSD, like, move
4 today, because somebody whispered
5 snow, and I get -- got nervous.

6 And, you know, so, as the
7 winter fades, I want you to know you
8 are going to notice something else
9 that's going to be disappearing.
10 And guess what that is? The trash
11 and debris that lines our
12 expressways. I know you've
13 experienced it going up and down in
14 the highway and you're thinking to
15 yourself, "How did dirt and trash
16 get right there?" Well, guess what?
17 We are no longer acting like it's
18 not there. We are getting our own
19 house in order.

20 Through our Gateways to
21 Philadelphia Initiative, we are
22 transforming I-76 by planting more
23 than 85 trees and over 96,000 bulbs
24 all along that route. And guess

1 what? It's backed by \$11.5 million
2 in city, state, and philanthropic
3 support. Those plantings are paired
4 with a new mural replacing decades
5 of graffiti near 30th Street
6 Station. Can we get a round of
7 applause? How many years have we
8 seen this and we did nothing about
9 it.

10 So our "One Philly, One
11 Future" budget, it prioritizes
12 proposed spending of \$179 million in
13 capital investments that will not
14 just help us look better, but these
15 investments will be made in parks
16 and recreation. And all of this
17 will be loved by our beloved
18 Commissioner Susan Slawson. Give
19 Susan Slawson a huge round of
20 applause.

21 One example is Lemon Hill
22 in Fairmount Park, where this summer
23 thousands will gather for the
24 region's only free FIFA Fan

1 Festival. Councilmember Jones, you
2 know, Senator Hughes, you know, I
3 know you all jumping all this
4 summer, but you know this work is --
5 it's about more than just one
6 summer. Led by Parks and Recreation
7 and the Department of Streets, I
8 don't ever want you to forget this,
9 we're investing to improve
10 accessibility and to upgrade public
11 spaces in that area as well. And
12 thanks to the public-private
13 partnerships with Philly Soccer and
14 FIFA, they are going to contribute
15 another \$3 million to help transform
16 Lemon Hill even further. And guess
17 what? This will benefit the city of
18 Philadelphia, this investment, long
19 after 2026 is over.

20 And investments like these,
21 they aren't just about hosting
22 global moments. Councilmember
23 Young, you and I were talking about
24 this recently, you know that they're

1 about strengthening the places where
2 families gather, young people play,
3 and communities come together every
4 day. Why? Because when
5 neighborhood amenities are strong,
6 our residents are better positioned
7 to pursue economic opportunity.
8 Please give "enhancing our public
9 spaces" a round of applause. And,
10 Sue Slawson, we're going to work
11 with you. Thank you.

12 Next, our One Philly Plan
13 to End Street Homelessness. I want
14 to talk to you about something that
15 every Philadelphian sees. The
16 people who are sleeping on our
17 streets. Back in December, I
18 pledged that this administration
19 would confront street homelessness
20 with a sense of urgency. Through
21 the One Philly Plan to End Street
22 Homelessness, we committed to
23 creating 1,000 new beds across our
24 system. Then Philadelphia winter

1 hit hard, and with Philadelphia
2 enduring a historic 25-day stretch
3 of brutally cold temperatures, we
4 had to build capacity and we knew we
5 needed to build capacity that would
6 eventually become a lifesaving
7 vehicle.

8 Thanks to our dedicated
9 city employees, I want you to know
10 that during Code Blue, we provided
11 nearly 2,500 nightly stays for
12 Philadelphians who are homeless.
13 And guess what? Because we focus,
14 Majority Leader Gilmore-Richardson,
15 on higher quality shelter, people
16 did not just come inside. Guess
17 what? They stayed. When people
18 stay, that's how we can help them
19 move forward. But we won't be able
20 to do this alone.

21 With the help of our city
22 leadership and advocates like former
23 state representative and current
24 leader, Donna Bullock, who leads

1 Project HOME and Sherita Glenn and
2 Cecil Hankins from the Logan
3 community, we can all address this
4 seemingly intractable issue
5 together. And we know that we can
6 get it done.

7 On this past Tuesday, as we
8 opened Hope 220, a homeless solution
9 center on Broad Street, I want you
10 to know I was proud to stand behind
11 Cheryl Hill. And give Cheryl Hill
12 and Deputy Managing Director Crystal
13 Yates, give them a round of
14 applause. They're my subject matter
15 experts here.

16 I want you to know I was
17 proud to announce that Philadelphia,
18 and I want to share this with you
19 today. Those 1,000 beds that we
20 promised, I want you to know that we
21 have now identified the full
22 capacity needed to meet our first
23 goal of 1,000 new beds in the city
24 of Philadelphia. And Hope 220 it is

1 a part of that solution. Please
2 give a round of applause for Hope
3 220. Reverend Bonnie, the Salvation
4 Army, wherever you are, thank you.

5 Listen, it connects
6 Philadelphians to housing,
7 healthcare, and the support that
8 they need to move toward long-term
9 stability.

10 Crystal and Cheryl, I want
11 to thank you for your vision, but we
12 also have to thank the private
13 sector. He's not here on today, but
14 when you see him, I want you to say
15 thank you or send them a message.
16 The private sector leadership that
17 we needed for this partnership, it
18 came from John McNichol and PHL
19 Cares for their leadership and
20 \$500,000 investment to help launch
21 this center, and Jefferson Health
22 for providing the on-site healthcare
23 to residents. By the time they
24 quantify all of the dollars they've

1 raised over the past few years, they
2 will be over \$2 million. Please
3 give them a round of applause.
4 Thank you.

5 So in this budget, I want
6 you to know we have to sustain it.
7 And for anybody who's thinking, oh,
8 you can, just on the capital side,
9 fix up the building and create the
10 beds, that's how you'll solve it.
11 If someone says that to you, I know
12 they don't know anything about this
13 chronic challenge called street
14 homelessness. Because if you have
15 the beds, but you don't give those
16 who are in need access to the
17 wraparound services, we put
18 ourselves on a vicious cycle.

19 That's why my
20 administration is proposing a \$22
21 million investment in FY27 and a
22 \$110 million investment over our
23 five-year plan to support our goal;
24 Philadelphia's goal of ending street

1 homelessness. If we do it, we can
2 work together and make it happen.
3 Philadelphia, we can end street
4 homelessness. Donna Bullock, you're
5 going to have to help us lead it.
6 We're counting on you.

7 So listen, we have the
8 plan, but now we have to pay for it.
9 We are proposing a two percent
10 increase in the hotel tax beginning
11 in August. This would generate an
12 additional \$20 million annually to
13 support these efforts.

14 And listen, we will work
15 with all of our partners at every
16 level of government to pass the
17 legislation needed to enact this
18 hotel tax and to help our fellow
19 Philadelphians live with safety and
20 dignity. Now, Senator --
21 Appropriations Chairman, Hughes,
22 someone said, "Well, oh my gosh, you
23 have to get that enabling authority
24 from the Commonwealth of

1 Pennsylvania in order for the city
2 to do this." I said, yes, but I want
3 you to think about it, the
4 Commonwealth problem wouldn't be
5 fixing Philadelphia's problem. We
6 would be saying give us the tool so
7 we could get our own house in order
8 like we did with that sales tax and
9 cigarette tax.

10 So can you give self-
11 sufficiency for the city of
12 Philadelphia a round of applause.
13 That's what we're coming to
14 Harrisburg to ask for; the means to
15 take care of ourselves. And we know
16 that bringing people inside, we know
17 it works, but we know it's only the
18 first step. Why? Because for many
19 people living on the streets
20 suffering with addiction, substance
21 use disorder, recovery, all of that
22 is a part of challenges that they
23 are facing.

24 At our Riverview Wellness

1 Village, Managing Director Thiel,
2 you were building a plane. Well,
3 you know, we were trying to build it
4 -- our wellness ecosystem, flying
5 the plane where we were trying to
6 build it. We launched Riverview
7 Wellness Village and we launched a
8 recovery-based model built on
9 foundations of housing, medical
10 care, recovery services, economic
11 opportunity, and social support.
12 Where is she? I see you up there.
13 I'm proud to tell you that today
14 Riverview is operating at 95 percent
15 capacity with more than 220
16 residents on site and over 400
17 individuals served since its
18 opening.

19 Next year --- next year, we
20 will expand workforce training,
21 financial counseling, and aftercare
22 so that residents who leave
23 Riverview, they will leave with
24 housing, the ability to earn an

1 income, and stability. And right
2 now I want to give a super huge
3 acknowledgement, because it wasn't
4 popular when we announced it. A
5 whole lot of people tried to kill it
6 before we even got started, and it
7 took leadership to make it happen,
8 but none of it would've been
9 possible without my friend and
10 double former colleague,
11 Councilmember Driscoll. I want to
12 thank you, sir. Thank you,
13 Councilmember Driscoll.

14 When people talk about this
15 model in the nation, when I'm at
16 that U.S. Conference of Mayors, I
17 tell them about our partnership
18 because it was your leadership that
19 ensured that the community had a
20 voice regarding Riverview. And that
21 community leadership has helped to
22 ensure that this successful model,
23 that it's not just a win for the
24 residents who are benefiting, but

1 it's also a anchor and can provide
2 support for families in Northeast
3 Philadelphia, and for that, I am
4 grateful. Please give Councilmember
5 Driscoll another round. Thank you.
6 It was a big, big deal, sir. Thank
7 you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank
8 you.

9 We know it works because we
10 are seeing similar success at Philly
11 Home at Girard, serving residents
12 experiencing homelessness and
13 addiction. Councilmember Ahmad and
14 Councilmember Harrity, as you know,
15 when housing, treatment, and support
16 all come together, that is how
17 people can stabilize themselves and
18 they can begin to move forward.
19 That is why in this budget, we
20 propose investing \$211 million in
21 Opioid settlement funds. Do those
22 funds come from our general fund?

23 COUNCILMEMBERS: No.

24 MAYOR PARKER: They come

1 from our opioid settlement funds,
2 right? I just want to make sure we
3 get that fact on the record. \$211
4 million in our Opioid settlement
5 funds, we want to invest that into
6 our wellness ecosystem over the next
7 five years so that we can continue
8 our operations at Riverview and the
9 Philly Home at Girard, and also our
10 Kensington Wellness Support Center,
11 as well as our Wellness Court and
12 other programs.

13 And Public Safety Director
14 Geer, and Isabel, and all of our
15 team there, I am proud that we have
16 a resident from Riverview here with
17 us today, Lawrence Nichols. Please
18 rise, Lawrence Nichols, and be
19 recognized. He's with Isabel
20 McDevitt, our Director at Riverview
21 Crystal Yates Gale, our Deputy
22 Managing Director who does all of
23 this work. We are proud of you. I
24 love you too, baby. Thank you.

1 Listen, for those of you
2 who've been in this city, Council
3 President, we talk about this, this
4 wasn't available in 1980 when crack
5 cocaine came and it ravaged black
6 neighborhoods and brown
7 neighborhoods across this city. We
8 didn't have a Riverview that was
9 available. Nobody talked about
10 substance use disorder and addiction
11 as a public health crisis. That was
12 not how we addressed it. But we get
13 to do it the right way now, and for
14 any of us who have ever loved
15 someone who suffered from addiction,
16 this means more to you because you
17 are contributing and doing what
18 wasn't done to many people that we
19 loved. Please give them another
20 round of applause. Thank you.

21 Labor. Labor. Labor. All
22 of what you've been hearing me
23 describe, it requires hardworking,
24 dedicated workforce, members, team

1 members to make it happen. As for
2 the city of Philadelphia's
3 workforce, and I always say this,
4 this is by far our greatest asset.
5 The prior FY26 through 30 five-year
6 Plan, it set aside a record \$550
7 million for collective bargaining
8 with our unionized employees. Well,
9 guess what? In this past year,
10 we've successfully executed multi-
11 year contracts or received
12 arbitration awards with five
13 municipal unions.

14 And we are now in
15 arbitration, well in the arbitration
16 process with the remaining three.
17 And sometimes I want you to know
18 Philadelphia, these are not easy
19 discussions, but I must continue to
20 be unwavering in both my commitment
21 to supporting our hardworking
22 employees and maintaining fiscal
23 responsibility to protect the city's
24 future.

1 And with that in mind,
2 having exhausted the prior funding
3 for the labor agreements and the
4 awards to date, this proposed plan
5 reestablishes the Labor Reserve with
6 a new record of \$615 million
7 allocated through FY31. This is a
8 substantial investment, but our city
9 workers are worth it and it's an
10 investment in them. Please give our
11 workforce a round of applause.

12 Market East. Market East.
13 America's first commercial shopping
14 corridor, anchored by Independence
15 Mall, the Liberty Bell, and the
16 President's House, making it central
17 to our America 250 celebration.

18 Mr. President, when I went to the
19 U.S. Conference of Mayors, I had
20 more people saying they wanted to
21 come to visit Philadelphia to see
22 our traditional history, our Liberty
23 Bell, our Independence Mall.

24 But folks now know, thanks

1 to the work of Michael Coard, and
2 I'm thinking of Ross McPherson and
3 so many others associated with the
4 Avenging the Ancestors Coalition,
5 people are now coming to
6 Philadelphia to see that President's
7 House exhibition. Give that exhibit
8 a round of applause.

9 Well, so when we think
10 about our Market East Revival and
11 the advisory committee chaired by
12 Philadelphia's Jerry Sweeney of
13 Brandywine Realty Trust, I want you
14 to know this is our effort to help
15 chart a new path on this historic
16 quarter. To help bring new energy
17 to the quarter, the city of
18 Philadelphia will support retail
19 pop-ups, local artists
20 collaborations, and streetscape
21 improvements along Market East ahead
22 of this summer's 2026 celebrations.

23 And I want to start by
24 thanking, because he keeps us on

1 point, I want to thank First
2 District Councilmember Mark Squilla
3 for his strong partnership in
4 advancing this work. We don't do
5 this without you, Mark Squilla and I
6 thank you. But listen, that's not
7 it. Let me tell you about this.

8 We're making more
9 investments throughout the city that
10 will enhance quality of life for
11 Philadelphians. Everyone knows that
12 our libraries are one of our
13 greatest assets. Libraries serve as
14 a lifeline after school care for
15 many of our children and their
16 parents. I want you to know that
17 the Parker administration is
18 proposing \$33 million over the
19 capital program dedicated to HVAC
20 upgrades at our libraries. Nothing
21 more frustrating trying to be hot
22 and reading and learning at the same
23 time.

24 But that's not it, we're

1 also investing in our city's amazing
2 cultural institutions. Spurred by
3 the leadership, and he's not here,
4 you know when a new administration
5 comes, usually there's a pattern of
6 trying to wipe away whatever the
7 previous Mayor or previous
8 leadership, you know, tried to get
9 accomplished. And I said, you know,
10 that's petty politics to me, I won't
11 engage in that. We're going to
12 continue the legacy of leadership
13 where sound firm programs and
14 investments have been made.

15 So I'm proud to note that
16 because of the leadership of our
17 former Council President Darrell
18 Clarke, this City of Philadelphia
19 will be continuing the city's \$50
20 million investment to support the
21 relocation of the African American
22 Museum. I listen. I listen.

23 Now, listen, let's not
24 forget about equity and

1 entertainment. For the music fans,
2 for the real music fans, the budget
3 boost operating support -- now I'm
4 going to get a little emotional
5 about this because, you know, I
6 start thinking about endowments at
7 institutions of higher learning.

8 And you think about my
9 Lower Lincoln University's endowment
10 compared to the University of
11 Pennsylvania's endowment. And those
12 two endowments aren't created equal,
13 so this one right here hits me in my
14 heart. This budget boosts operating
15 support for the Dell Music Center by
16 \$500,000 a year and adds 1 million
17 in capital funding. The Dell is not
18 a stepchild; the Dell deserves
19 investment.

20 So when a city chooses to
21 honor its monuments, it has to, in
22 its public spaces. We have to make
23 sure that equity and access to
24 opportunity is an essential part of

1 our leadership. That's why one of
2 the most important decisions I made
3 when I became Mayor. So many people
4 talk about our Commissioner Bethel,
5 and he's the best. They talk about
6 Geer, he's amazing. They talk about
7 Thompson and Fire and Renee. But I
8 want you Philadelphia to know that
9 one of the most important decisions
10 I could have ever made was getting a
11 woman who was actually about to
12 retire to say yes. Her name is Val
13 Gay and she is now the Chief
14 Cultural Officer for the city of
15 Philadelphia. Val Gay, thank you
16 for saying yes, I love you. And
17 listen, I hope you all see the
18 pattern of the decision making, Val
19 Gay is now the Chief Cultural
20 Officer. And I want you to think
21 about this, Philadelphia has
22 approved new statues honoring
23 Philadelphia boxing legend Joe
24 Frazier and educational trailblazer

1 and human rights activist, Sadie
2 T.M. Alexander. I saw Blondel
3 somewhere. And listen, this is
4 important, Rocky. Rocky will live
5 at the top of the art museum steps.
6 Give that a round of applause.

7 Now, let me say this to
8 you, you know -- you know -- you
9 know where you stand on the issue
10 depends on where you sit. I'm the
11 Mayor now, so they -- my staff says,
12 "Mayor, you can't think the way you
13 used to think. You have to have a
14 giraffe view now, you have to see it
15 all." So for those people who don't
16 think that Rocky matters, and I've
17 been on the phone at length with
18 Sylvester Stallone, and if you are
19 watching this, Sylvester Stallone,
20 Philadelphia loves you, and we are
21 grateful that Rocky is here, don't
22 you come trying to take Rocky away
23 from us anytime.

24 Now, listen, I want you to

1 think about what I felt when people
2 told me that our Rocky statue at the
3 top of those art museum steps, it
4 was only second to visitors, to the
5 Statue of Liberty in New York. Did
6 you hear what I just said? So for
7 anybody -- listen, this is when you
8 have to have a giraffe view. Our
9 hometown hero is coming to the
10 parkway and you're going to be able
11 to stand in line with Joe Frazier,
12 our champion. And that's important,
13 right?

14 But don't forget the power
15 of art, culture, and cinema, and its
16 ability to tell stories, because
17 Rocky tells the story about
18 something that's associated with our
19 great City of Philadelphia, and
20 that's grittiness, the underdog, and
21 the ability to overcome. So I'm not
22 an either/or Mayor, it's both. And
23 we are going to make sure that we do
24 everything that we can to move the

1 city of Philadelphia forward when it
2 comes to arts, culture, and
3 entertainment. That's why, aside
4 from those statues, this budget
5 invests in the implementation of
6 Philadelphia's first Cultural Master
7 Plan led by Val Gay. You.

8 2026, we've been waiting
9 and building towards this moment for
10 250 years. From America's 250th
11 birthday, the FIFA World Cup, MLB,
12 All Star Week, and NCAA's March
13 Madness, Philadelphia will welcome
14 the world. Members of City Council,
15 I want to remind you of this one on
16 July the 2nd, the U.S. Conference
17 of Mayors; mayors across America,
18 the conference led by CEO and
19 Executive Director Tom Cochran, and
20 incoming President, Mayor Todd
21 Gloria of San Diego; they are going
22 to bring America's mayors to
23 Philadelphia. We are going to walk
24 from City Hall to Independence Mall.

1 We're going to view the
2 President's House exhibit, and we
3 are then going to hear from two
4 globally renowned constitutional
5 scholars at a lecture there. And I
6 am so excited that it is all going
7 to happen in our great city, the
8 birthplace of democracy. Give a
9 round of applause to all of the
10 mayors of America, who we will
11 welcome in our great city.

12 Next, I wish I could do
13 this, and I tried. I asked them,
14 "Could I do an executive order?"
15 And the airport staff told me that I
16 couldn't. I wanted to develop an
17 executive order that prevented all
18 outgoing flights from Philadelphia
19 from July the 2nd through the 5th.
20 I asked, I -- would you -- I asked,
21 you can't hurt me for asking, and
22 they said that I couldn't do this.

23 And let me tell you about
24 why I'm excited about all of those

1 things. But I am really excited
2 about what's going to happen here on
3 July the 4th. I'm looking at the
4 lady in front of me, Jazelle Jones,
5 I am thinking of Michael Newmuis,
6 our Director for 2026. Give Michael
7 Newmuis a round of applause. And
8 I'm thinking about my rock, Vanessa
9 Garrett Harley, my Chief Deputy
10 Mayor.

11 Mr. President, I was a
12 little -- what did we -- when we
13 were grow -- what did we say when we
14 were mad? When we were growing up?
15 I was a little salty --

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
17 Salty.

18 MAYOR PARKER: -- when we
19 first got elected because there were
20 some people who wrote some articles
21 and said, you know, "What's going to
22 be the legacy or project of this
23 administration. Where's the bridge
24 or the Please Touch Museum." And I

1 said, "I just got here on January
2 the 1st. Let me see what's in the
3 pot. Finance Director Rob Dubow and
4 Budget Director Sabrina Maynard, how
5 much do we have to start with as we
6 build out what 2026 will look like
7 here in the city of Philadelphia?"

8 And in typical Rob Dubow-
9 Sabrina Maynard form, they said,
10 "Well, it's nothing. Zero." Nothing
11 is in the pot? Well, I'm excited
12 about July the 4th. Remember, an
13 Eternal Optimist turn every
14 challenge into an opportunity.
15 While we don't have the ability or
16 wherewithal to build a Please Touch
17 Museum or a bridge, we were
18 innovative in thinking and said we
19 can create not a legacy building,
20 but we can create a legacy
21 experience here in the city of
22 Philadelphia, one that no one will
23 want to miss.

24 These events are going to

1 build on the more than \$120 million
2 in investments that we've made
3 through FY26 to prepare the city for
4 this historic moment. And I just
5 got to stop; how many of you in here
6 are old enough to remember Live Aid?
7 No, they don't remember. Oh, some
8 people. If you remember Live Aid
9 and you think about the legacy
10 experience we are trying to create
11 -- commissioner, we talked about
12 this. That's what we're trying to
13 do on July the 4th. So I wouldn't
14 want their jobs because I wouldn't
15 want that pressure on my shoulders.
16 But they do understand the
17 assignment that I have given.

18 But Mr. President, Council
19 President Johnson, I'm excited that
20 we are soon going to be ready to
21 launch what has been a priority for
22 you and me. And I told him I
23 wouldn't believe it until I see it,
24 but coming is the soon-to-launch

1 2026 Access Philly app. It's a app
2 that will allow you to discover
3 every event that is a curry in the
4 city of Philadelphia.

5 It is a tool that will
6 direct visitors to headline events,
7 and even those 250-neighborhood
8 base. 2026 celebrations, all eyes
9 of the world are on Philadelphia.
10 And as people come, they will be
11 able to see, touch, and feel that
12 our city is ready to ring it on.
13 Give a round of applause. 2026,
14 we're ready.

15 Now, listen, and you all
16 then when we talking about the time,
17 you all don't forget that I had a
18 little delay. So, Council
19 President, I hope you're calculating
20 that in my time. Throughout my
21 address, I want you all to know that
22 I've outlined how we're going to pay
23 for all of these new investments.

24 Somebody's going to

1 criticize it, but I want you to know
2 that I don't take lightly any
3 proposal to raise any tax or fee.
4 We've taken very few such actions
5 during my first two years in office.
6 And these proposed taxes, they will
7 be paid by companies that benefit
8 from doing business in the city of
9 Philadelphia.

10 I also want you to know
11 that we've done big, bold things by
12 working together, thinking
13 creatively, and acting decisively.
14 These new revenues, they will
15 continue to make those big things
16 possible, from improving economic
17 mobility and creating good-paying
18 jobs to building and restoring the
19 30,000 units of housing, the 20,000
20 units of housing from Kelvin and
21 PHA, to improving the quality of
22 education in our schools, to keeping
23 our streets safer, cleaner, and
24 greener for every resident of our

1 city. Anything that we want to do,
2 we have to pay for it.

3 In closing, I want to
4 affirm, Philadelphia, that my name
5 is Cherelle L. Parker, and I am the
6 100th Mayor of the city of
7 Philadelphia and the first woman to
8 lead this city in 341 years. I
9 proposed this "One Philly, One
10 Future" budget to the city council
11 of Philadelphia, and I
12 wholeheartedly approve this message.
13 Today is the beginning of the
14 process. I'm coming soon to a
15 neighborhood near you for a budget
16 townhall.

17 Let's work together with
18 collaboration, diligence, and
19 purpose towards this passage and
20 implementation for our city. I want
21 us to show the nation what
22 Philadelphia is made for. And I
23 don't even have to -- let me see --
24 before I even ask you to do it, can

1 everybody just -- can you just try
2 for me -- oh, that makes me feel
3 good. Okay. Can everybody just put
4 one finger in the air? I don't care
5 how many people laugh because I'm
6 never going to stop trying to unite
7 this city. And in more ways than
8 one, we're becoming a model for the
9 nation. So I want you all to repeat
10 after me, I want to hear you say,
11 One Philly.

12 AUDIENCE: One Philly.

13 MAYOR PARKER: A United
14 City.

15 AUDIENCE: A United City.

16 MAYOR PARKER: One America.

17 AUDIENCE: One America.

18 MAYOR PARKER: A United
19 Nation.

20 AUDIENCE: A United Nation.

21 MAYOR PARKER: That was
22 just practice. Put your hands up.
23 We're going to do it loud because
24 they're recording, this is going on

1 the gram. All right. Let me hear
2 you all repeat after me and say, One
3 Philly.

4 AUDIENCE: One Philly.

5 MAYOR PARKER: A United
6 City.

7 AUDIENCE: A United City.

8 MAYOR PARKER: One America.

9 AUDIENCE: One America.

10 MAYOR PARKER: A United
11 Nation.

12 AUDIENCE: A United Nation.

13 MAYOR PARKER: We will be
14 the safest, cleanest, greenest, big
15 city in the nation with access to
16 economic opportunity for all. Thank
17 you.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
19 Are there any speeches on behalf of
20 the minority? Hearing none. Are
21 there any speeches on behalf of the
22 majority? The Chair recognizes
23 Councilmember Mike Driscoll.

24 COUNCILMEMBER DRISCOLL:

1 I'll be brief, Mr. President. The
2 SEPTA briefing is right after
3 council. And I just want to
4 encourage everyone in the five-
5 county area to come out for the St.
6 Patrick's Day parade this Sunday at
7 12:00 noon on Market Street. Thank
8 you, Mr. President.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
10 Thank you very much. At this time,
11 the Chair recognizes Councilmember
12 Isaiah Thomas for a motion to
13 adjourn.

14 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS:
15 Thank you, Mr. President. I move
16 that Council stands adjourned until
17 Thursday, March 19th, 2026 at
18 10:00 a.m.

19 COUNCILMEMBERS: Second.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
21 It has been moved and properly
22 seconded. The Council will stand
23 adjourned until Thursday, March the
24 19th, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. All in

1 favor will say "aye."

2 COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

4 Those opposed? The ayes have it.

5 And the motion carries. Thank you

6 all very much.

7 (Stated meeting concluded at 2:15 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I hereby certify that the proceedings and evidence are contained fully and accurately in the notes taken by me of the above case, and this copy is a correct transcript of the same.

Samanda J. Rios

Samanda J. Rios

Court Reporter
Notary Public of PA & DE

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