

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
STATED MEETING

Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Thursday, September 5, 2024
10:00 a.m.

PRESENT:

COUNCIL PRESIDENT KENYATTA JOHNSON
COUNCILWOMAN NINA AHMAD
COUNCILWOMAN CINDY BASS
COUNCILWOMAN KENDRA BROOKS
COUNCILMAN MICHAEL DRISCOLL
COUNCILWOMAN JAMIE GAUTHIER
COUNCILWOMAN KATHERINE GILMORE RICHARDSON
COUNCILMAN JIM HARRITY
COUNCILMAN CURTIS J. JONES, JR.
COUNCILWOMAN RUE LANDAU
COUNCILWOMAN QUETCY M. LOZADA
COUNCILMAN BRIAN J. O'NEILL
COUNCILMAN NICOLAS O'ROURKE
COUNCILMAN ANTHONY PHILLIPS
COUNCILMAN MARK F. SQUILLA
COUNCILMAN ISAIAH THOMAS
COUNCILMAN JEFFREY YOUNG, JR.

ELIZABETH MCCOLLUM NAZARIO, INTERIM CHIEF CLERK

- - -

1 9/5/24 - STATED - INVOCATION

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

3 Members, please take your seats.

4 Good morning, everyone.

5 (Good morning.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

7 Good morning, everyone.

8 (Good morning.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

10 I note that the hour has come. A
11 quorum of this Council is present.

12 This Council will now come to
13 order. All Members will please
14 take your seats. Visitors will
15 retire to the seats outside the
16 rails.

17 I'm going to ask you to
18 take any conversations outside of
19 the Council chambers. Before
20 proceeding, I will ask all those
21 present to please set your cell
22 phones to silent or vibrate. Thank
23 you.

24 To give our invocation this
25 morning, the Chair recognizes Imam

1 9/5/24 - STATED - INVOCATION

2 Muhammad Abdul-Aleem, Imam Emeritus
3 of the Masjidullah, who also
4 recently gave the invocation at the
5 Democratic National Convention for
6 Vice-President Kamala Harris. He
7 is the guest of Councilmember
8 Jones.

9 I will ask all Members and
10 guests to please rise.

11 (Councilmembers, guests and
12 visitors rise.)

13 IMAM ABDUL-ALEEM:

14 (Inaudible) who opens to all for
15 all people a way of good conscience
16 and good life. Grant to this
17 Council they continue to serve the
18 people of this city, taking pride
19 in human dignity, industry and
20 service.

21 Let us pray that this
22 Council be an inspiration to other
23 city councils, this state and this
24 nation to move forward towards
25 social and economic justice for

1 9/5/24 - STATED - INVOCATION

2 all. Grant that this Council
3 always have the human heart for
4 charity, compassion, repentance and
5 mercy for the weak and less
6 fortunate among us.

7 Grant that we as human
8 beings always have more hope than
9 trouble and evergrowing goodness
10 and in wisdom. Bless us always to
11 cherish our freedom and the noble
12 essence of our common humanity.

13 Grant that we as citizens
14 understand to better our brothers
15 and sisters in the neighborhoods
16 and also around the world. And we
17 reject unsuitable racism for a
18 human community of brotherhood and
19 peace.

20 Bless us as citizens of
21 this state, this nation and this
22 city. Always live up to the hope
23 and name of the city that we live,
24 the City of Brotherly Love and
25 Sisterly Affection. Bless us in

1 9/5/24 - STATED - INVOCATION

2 this City of neighborhoods to
3 return the neighbor back to the
4 hood.

5 Bless us to establish our
6 city as a city of safety and
7 security and be one of the cleanest
8 cities of the human heart, the
9 human environment and the human
10 condition. Bless the workers of
11 our cities and those in uniform and
12 those not in uniform. Bless all
13 citizens in government together,
14 those of us of great means and
15 small means to appreciate more our
16 city.

17 Bless our homes and our
18 schools. Bless the parents and our
19 troubled youth. Bless our burdened
20 neighborhood to never be without a
21 hope or direction. Bless us as
22 neighbors to keep the best of our
23 ways and bless us to cherish more
24 the pride of industry and self-
25 reliance.

1 9/5/24 - STATED - INVOCATION

2 And bless the efforts of
3 this Council and all other efforts
4 to make progress for more jobs and
5 opportunities as we move into the
6 21st century. And bless us to have
7 more respect for home life, for
8 family life throughout the world.

9 And bless us to understand the
10 great time that we live in, in
11 which the time of the human being.

12 Increase our President of
13 the Council and every member of the
14 Council and the leaders of this
15 city to have the excellence of the
16 human spirit, the excellence of the
17 intellect of the statesmen so that
18 we may build a better world for all
19 of us.

20 Aameen.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
22 Aameen. The Chair thanks the Imam
23 for his invocation.

24 Council will now be at
25 ease.

1 9/5/24 - STATED - APPROVAL OF JOURNAL

2 (Council at ease.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

4 The next order of business is the
5 approval of the Journal of the
6 meeting of Thursday, June 13, 2024.

7 The Chair recognizes
8 Councilmember Bass.

9 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank
10 you, Mr. President.

11 I move that the Journal of
12 the meeting of Thursday, June 13,
13 2024 be approved.

14 (Duly seconded.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

16 It has been moved and properly
17 seconded that the Journal of the
18 meeting of Thursday, June 13, 2024
19 stand approved.

20 All those in favor will
21 indicate by saying aye.

22 (Aye.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

24 Those opposed?

25 (No response.)

1 9/5/24 - STATED - LEAVES

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

3 The ayes have it and the Journal is
4 approved.

5 The next order of business
6 is the request for leaves of
7 absence. And the Chair recognizes
8 Councilmember Gilmore Richardson.

9 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

10 RICHARDSON: Thank you,
11 Mr. President -- thank you,
12 Mr. President.

13 (Mic technicality.)

14 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

15 RICHARDSON: Thank you,
16 Mr. President.

17 On behalf of the Majority,
18 there are no requests for leaves of
19 absence today.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

21 The Chair thanks the Councilmember.

22 The Chair recognizes
23 Councilmember Brooks.

24 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: Thank
25 you, Council President.

1 9/5/24 - STATED - MOTION CONCERNING CALENDAR

2 On behalf of the Minority,
3 there are no requests for leaves of
4 absence today.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

6 The Chair thanks the Councilmember.

7 The Chair now recognizes
8 Councilmember Gilmore Richardson
9 for a motion concerning certain
10 legislative matters that may arise
11 during the course of today's
12 session of Council and that were
13 not listed on the Calendar
14 circulated prior to today's
15 session.

16 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

17 RICHARDSON: Thank you,
18 Mr. President.

19 I move that any of the
20 following matters, if considered
21 today, may be added to the agenda
22 for this session of Council and, as
23 required by law, subsequently
24 published on an amended agenda
25 after the consideration of those

1 9/5/24 - STATED - MOTION CONCERNING CALENDAR

2 matters: resolutions authorizing
3 hearings, amendments to bills on
4 first reading, the reconsideration
5 of a bill vetoed by or re-called
6 from the Mayor, amendments to bills
7 re-called from the Mayor,
8 resolutions taking substantive
9 action to be voted on in this
10 session, a motion to withdraw a
11 bill or resolution that is not on
12 the Calendar and a motion placing a
13 bill or resolution on or returning
14 a bill or resolution from the
15 Suspension Calendar that is not
16 listed on today's Calendar.

17 The purpose of this motion
18 is to provide the public with
19 notice concerning possible actions
20 by Council that arose too late to
21 be included on the Calendar that
22 was published prior to today's
23 session.

24 (Duly seconded.)

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

1 9/5/24 - STATED - MOTION CONCERNING CALENDAR

2 It has been moved and properly
3 seconded that the legislative
4 matters stated by Councilmember
5 Gilmore Richardson may be added to
6 the agenda for today should those
7 matters arise during the course of
8 this session of Council.

9 All those in favor will
10 indicate by saying aye.

11 (Aye.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

13 Those opposed?

14 (No response.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

16 The ayes have it and the motion
17 carries.

18 The Chair will dispense
19 with the regular order of business
20 to recognize the guests and
21 visitors joining us in chambers
22 this morning.

23 On behalf of all members of
24 City Council, we welcome you to our
25 Council session. We appreciate

1 9/5/24 - STATED - COMMUNICATIONS
2 your taking the time to join us as
3 we attend to the legislative
4 affairs of our city. We certainly
5 invite you to come again as there
6 are no presentations today.

7 The next order of business
8 is communications. The Chair
9 requests that the Sergeant-at-Arms
10 deliver the messages from the Mayor
11 to the Chief Clerk.

12 The Chief Clerk will read
13 the messages from the Mayor and any
14 other communications in her
15 possession to the President and
16 members of the Council of the City
17 of Philadelphia.

18 CHIEF CLERK: I am pleased
19 to advise you that on June 14,
20 2024, I signed the following bills
21 which were passed by Council at its
22 session on June 6, 2024: Bill No.
23 240059 and Bill No. 240330.

24 And I am pleased to advise
25 you that on June 14th I signed the

1 9/5/24 - STATED - COMMUNICATIONS
2 following bills which were passed
3 by Council at its session on June
4 13, 2024: Bill Nos. 240179,
5 240180, 240181, 240182, 240376,
6 240377, 240426, 240466, 240492,
7 240494.

8 And on June 18th I signed
9 the following bills which were
10 passed by Council at its session on
11 June 13, 2024: Bill Nos. 240018,
12 240434. And that on June 18th I
13 signed the following bill which was
14 passed by Council at its session on
15 June 6, 2024: Bill No. 240472.

16 And I am pleased to advise
17 you that on June 26th I signed the
18 following bills which were passed
19 by Council at its session on June
20 13, 2024: Bill Nos. 240371,
21 240372, 240373, 240374, 240375,
22 240378, 240380, 240417, 240429,
23 240433, 240467, 240470 and 240475.

24 And that on June 26th I
25 signed the following bill which was

1 9/5/24 - STATED - COMMUNICATIONS
2 passed by Council at its June 6th
3 session: Bill No. 240370.

4 And that on July 19th I
5 signed the following bills which
6 were passed by Council at its
7 session on June 13, 2024: Bill
8 Nos. 240382, 240415, 240473,
9 240496, and 240497.

10 And that on August 12, 2024
11 I signed the following bills which
12 were passed by Council at its
13 session on June 13, 2024: Bill
14 Nos. 240414, 240468, 240474, 240476
15 and 240498.

16 And I'm submitting herewith
17 for the consideration of your
18 Honorable Body the following
19 proposed ordinance: Amending
20 Chapter 9-6300, ("Consumer
21 Protection Ordinance") of The
22 Philadelphia Code to clarify the
23 statute of limitations and provide
24 for retroactivity, all under
25 certain terms and conditions.

1 9/5/24 - STATED - COMMUNICATIONS

2 And I am submitting

3 herewith for the consideration of

4 your Honorable Body the following

5 proposed ordinance: Amending

6 Section 14-303 of The Philadelphia

7 Code, entitled "Common Procedures

8 and Requirements," to clarify

9 provisions related to public

10 hearings of the Zoning Board of

11 Adjustment and make technical

12 changes, all under certain terms

13 and conditions; and

14 An ordinance amending

15 Chapter 9-1000 of The Philadelphia

16 Code entitled "Trades," by adding

17 requirements and establish certain

18 limits related to electrical

19 contractors, all under certain

20 terms and conditions; and

21 An ordinance amending

22 Chapter 19-3200 of The Philadelphia

23 Code, entitled "Keystone

24 Opportunity Zone, Economic

25 Development District and Strategic

1 9/5/24 - STATED - COMMUNICATIONS
2 Development Area," to provide for
3 additional extensions of certain
4 benefits, under certain terms and
5 conditions.

6 And I'm pleased to advise
7 you on September 4, 2024 I signed
8 the following bills which were
9 passed by Council at its session on
10 June 6, 2024: Bill Nos. 240060 and
11 240280.

12 And on September 4, 2024 I
13 signed the following bills which
14 were passed by Council at its
15 session on June 13, 2024: Bill
16 Nos. 240157, 240305, 240332,
17 240384, 240385, 240418, 240419,
18 240420, 240421, 240424, 240469,
19 240493, 240495 and 240500.

20 And I hereby am returning
21 unsigned Bill No. 240058 and Bill
22 No. 240061 and Bill No. 240336,
23 Bill No. 240428 and Bill No.
24 240379.

25 Council President, there

1 9/5/24 - STATED - GUESTS

2 are no other communications in my
3 possession.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

5 Thank you. The messages will be
6 printed in the Journal.

7 The Chair recognizes
8 Councilmember Anthony Phillips.

9 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: Good
10 morning, Philadelphia. Good
11 morning, 9th District. I just
12 wanted to make a brief statement
13 that we have guests in our
14 auditorium today. And of our
15 guests who are visitors from the
16 9th District that are here today
17 can come towards the front here.

18 So recently everyone knows
19 I've been doing some work around
20 nuisance businesses in the area,
21 but I wanted to celebrate 9th
22 District businesses that are doing
23 incredible work to maintain the
24 quality of life in our city.

25 And so, today we're doing

1 9/5/24 - STATED - GUESTS
2 resolutions that recognize
3 Dr. Louis Brown of Dr. Brown's
4 Dermatology in Northeast. Come
5 forward. Dr. Brown's here. We
6 have Cathryn's Cake founders. All
7 of the Councilmembers have cakes
8 and bread pudding today. Their
9 co-owners Judeah, Vaniah and
10 Cheryl's here.

11 And we also have Ron's
12 Caribbean Cuisine in the Northeast.
13 Mr. Peter Clark and wife are here
14 as well. Peter Clark, you can come
15 forward. And Hawkins Funeral Home,
16 Melanie Hawkins Tudos and Bruce
17 Hawkins also from East Oak Lane.
18 So if you all can stand and be
19 recognized for the city of
20 Philadelphia for being great
21 pillars in our community.

22 (Applause.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
24 Welcome.

25 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: Enjoy

1 9/5/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 the cakes, Council.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
4 Thank you, Member Phillips.

5 The next order of business
6 is the introduction of bills and
7 resolutions.

8 The Chair recognizes
9 Councilmember Phillips.

10 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: Good
11 morning. Good morning, Council
12 President again.

13 Today I have 14 privileged
14 resolutions and one non-privileged
15 resolution.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
17 Will the Clerk please read the
18 titles of the resolutions.

19 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
20 honoring and recognizing The
21 Honorable Stephen Kinsey for his
22 exceptional service and leadership
23 as a member of the Pennsylvania
24 House of Representatives from 2013
25 to 2024. Elected to represent the

1 9/5/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 201st Legislative District, Stephen
3 Kinsey proudly served for six
4 terms, demonstrating an unwavering
5 dedication to his constituent
6 community. It's a privileged
7 resolution.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
9 This resolution will be placed on
10 today's Final Passage Calendar.

11 CHIEF CLERK: And
12 recognizing September 2024 as
13 "Prostate Cancer Awareness Month"
14 to raise awareness about the
15 importance of screening for and
16 treatment of prostate cancer, to
17 encourage prostate cancer research
18 and to encourage Philadelphians to
19 take an active role in the fight to
20 end prostate cancer. A privileged
21 resolution.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
23 This resolution will be placed on
24 today's Final Passage Calendar.

25 CHIEF CLERK: Honoring and

1 9/5/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 recognizing the Philadelphia Youth
3 Network, PYN, as it celebrates its
4 25th anniversary. A privileged
5 resolution.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
7 This resolution will be placed on
8 today's Final Passage Calendar.

9 CHIEF CLERK: Honoring and
10 recognizing Youth Action for over
11 two decades of inspiring leadership
12 and community service in
13 Philadelphia. This is a privileged
14 resolution.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
16 This resolution will be placed on
17 today's Final Passage Calendar.

18 CHIEF CLERK: Honoring and
19 recognizing Brown's Linens, Inc.
20 for its historic contributions to
21 the community and its commitment to
22 excellence across four generations.
23 A privileged resolution.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
25 This resolution will be placed on

1 9/5/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 today's Final Passage Calendar.

3 CHIEF CLERK: Honoring and

4 recognizing Buccann for its

5 significant contributions to the

6 local culinary landscape and its

7 commitment to excellence, community

8 engagement and authenticity in

9 modern Dominican cuisine. A

10 privileged resolution.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

12 This resolution will be placed on

13 today's Final Passage Calendar.

14 CHIEF CLERK: Honoring and

15 recognizing Bally's Pizzeria for

16 its significant contribution to the

17 culinary landscape and its

18 unwavering dedication to quality

19 community and authenticity. A

20 privileged resolution.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

22 This resolution will be placed on

23 today's Final Passage Calendar.

24 CHIEF CLERK: Honoring and

25 recognizing Bruce R. Hawkins

1 9/5/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 Funeral Home for its remarkable
3 contributions to the community and
4 its commitment to excellence over
5 the past 40 years. A privileged
6 resolution.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
8 This resolution will be placed on
9 today's Final Passage Calendar.

10 CHIEF CLERK: Honoring and
11 recognizing Cathryn's Cake Salon
12 for its dedication to exceptional
13 service, community engagement and
14 its contribution to the local
15 economy. A privileged resolution.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
17 This resolution will placed on
18 today's Final Passage Calendar.

19 CHIEF CLERK: Honoring and
20 recognizing Eatible Delights
21 Catering and its founder David
22 Simms for their extraordinary
23 contributions to the culinary arts
24 and their unwavering commitment to
25 community service. A privileged

1 9/5/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 resolution.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

4 This resolution will be placed on
5 today's Final Passage Calendar.

6 CHIEF CLERK: Honoring and
7 recognizing Island Fritay for its
8 outstanding contributions to the
9 local culinary scene and its
10 commitment to excellence, community
11 engagement and authenticity in
12 Haitian Caribbean cuisine. A
13 privileged resolution.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

15 This resolution will be placed on
16 today's Final Passage Calendar.

17 CHIEF CLERK: Honoring and
18 recognizing Paul Beale's Flowers
19 for its remarkable 50-year history
20 and its enduring impact on the
21 community. A privileged
22 resolution.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

24 This resolution will be placed on
25 today's Final Passage Calendar.

1 9/5/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 CHIEF CLERK: Authorizing
3 encroachments in the nature of a
4 sidewalk caf in the vicinity of
5 1320 Cottman Avenue, Philadelphia,
6 PA 19111, under certain terms and
7 conditions. A non-privileged
8 resolution.

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

14 CHIEF CLERK: Honoring and
15 recognizing Ron's Caribbean Cuisine
16 for its significant contribution to
17 the culinary landscape and its
18 unwavering dedication to quality,
19 community and authenticity. A
20 privileged resolution.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
22 This resolution will be placed on
23 today's Final Passage Calendar.

24 CHIEF CLERK: Honoring and
25 resolution -- excuse me. Honoring

1 9/5/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 and celebrating Dermatology Laser
3 and Aesthetic Surgery and its owner
4 Dr. Louis A. Brown, Jr. for their
5 extraordinary contributions to the
6 Rising Sun Avenue Business Corridor
7 and the broader Philadelphia
8 community. A privileged
9 resolution.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

11 This resolution will be placed on
12 today's Final Passage Calendar.

13 Council will be at ease.

14 (Council at ease.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

16 The Chair now recognizes Majority
17 Leader Gilmore Richardson.

18 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

19 RICHARDSON: Thank you, Council
20 President.

21 Today I offer two
22 privileged resolutions and two
23 bills on your behalf.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

25 Thank you. Will the Clerk please

1 9/5/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 read the titles of the bills and
3 resolutions.

4 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
5 amending Chapter 19-3200 of The
6 Philadelphia Code, entitled
7 "Keystone Opportunity Zone,
8 Economic Development District and
9 Strategic Development Area," to
10 provide for additional extensions
11 of certain benefits, under certain
12 terms and conditions.

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

16 CHIEF CLERK: And an
17 ordinance amending Section 14-303
18 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled
19 "Common Procedures and
20 Requirements," to clarify
21 provisions related to public
22 hearings of the Zoning Board of
23 Adjustment and make technical
24 changes, all under certain terms
25 and conditions.

1 9/5/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

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

5 CHIEF CLERK: And a
6 resolution honoring the recent
7 partnership between PhilaPort and
8 Norwegian Cruise Line celebrating
9 the return of cruising in the city
10 of Philadelphia. A privileged
11 resolution.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

13 This resolution will be placed on
14 today's Final Passage Calendar.

15 CHIEF CLERK: Recognizing
16 honoring and celebrating Zeta Phi
17 Beta Sorority, Incorporated on the
18 occasion of Zeta Day at City Hall.
19 A privileged resolution.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

21 This resolution will be placed on
22 today's Final Passage Calendar.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

24 The Chair now recognizes
25 Councilmember Jamie Gauthier.

1 9/5/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:

3 Good morning, Council President.

4 Today I have two bills, one
5 privileged resolution, seven
6 non-privileged resolutions and two
7 bills on your behalf.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

9 Thank you. Will the Clerk please
10 read the titles of the bills and
11 resolutions.

12 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
13 amending Title 12 of The
14 Philadelphia Code, entitled
15 "Traffic Code," to prohibit
16 stopping, standing or parking a
17 vehicle in a bicycle lane and to
18 increase monetary penalties for
19 illegally stopping, standing or
20 parking a vehicle in a bicycle
21 lane, all under certain terms and
22 conditions.

23 (Applause.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

25 This bill will be referred to the

1 9/5/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 appropriate committee.
3 CHIEF CLERK: And an
4 ordinance authorizing the Committee
5 on Housing, Neighborhood
6 Development and the Homeless -- I'm
7 sorry. This is a resolution.
8 Authorizing the Committee on
9 Housing, Neighborhood Development
10 and the Homeless to hold hearings
11 on how setting affordable housing
12 program eligibility according to
13 the metric of regional Area Median
14 Income, AMI, fails to reflect the
15 true state of housing affordability
16 needs of Philadelphians, how this
17 leads to City housing programs not
18 providing enough funding to those
19 who need it most, and how the
20 adoption of a more locally defined
21 AMI can be utilized to create and
22 sustain genuinely affordable
23 housing across the city of
24 Philadelphia. A privileged
25 resolution.

1 9/5/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 (Applause.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

4 This resolution will be placed on
5 today's Final Passage Calendar.

6 CHIEF CLERK: And an
7 ordinance authorizing -- I'm sorry.
8 One minute. Sorry about that.

9 And an ordinance
10 authorizing encroachments in the
11 nature of a sidewalk cafe in the
12 vicinity of 3527-31 Lancaster
13 Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19104,
14 under 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 authorizing encroachments
20 in the nature of a sidewalk cafe in
21 the vicinity of 3200 Chestnut
22 Street, Philadelphia, PA 19124 --
23 104, under certain terms and
24 conditions.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

1 9/5/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

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

4 CHIEF CLERK: And a
5 resolution authorizing the
6 Philadelphia Land Bank to dispose
7 of 3914, 3917, 3927, 3935, 3936,
8 3937, 3938, 3940, 3946 and 3948
9 Folsom Street located in the 3rd
10 Councilmanic District in accordance
11 with the terms of Chapter 16-700 of
12 The Philadelphia Code. A
13 non-privileged resolution.

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

17 CHIEF CLERK: And a
18 resolution authorizing the
19 Philadelphia Land Bank to dispose
20 of 3837, 3917, 3938, 3940, 3944
21 Mount Vernon Street; 612 Union
22 Street; and 3607, 3830 and 3832
23 Melon Street located in the 3rd
24 Councilmanic District in accordance
25 with the terms of Chapter 16-700 of

1 9/5/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 The Philadelphia Code. A

3 non-privileged resolution.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

5 This bill will be referred to the

6 appropriate committee -- this

7 resolution will be placed on the

8 Final Passage Calendar for

9 consideration at our next session

10 of Council.

11 CHIEF CLERK: And a

12 resolution authorizing the

13 Philadelphia Land Bank to dispose

14 of 839 North 39th Street; 3517

15 Mount Vernon Street; 524 North 35th

16 Street; 3605 Melon Street; 3833 and

17 3915 Brown Street; 735 North Dekalb

18 Street; and 740 and 765 North 38th

19 Street located in the 3rd

20 Councilmanic District in accordance

21 with the terms of Chapter 16-700 of

22 The Philadelphia Code. A

23 non-privileged resolution.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

25 This resolution will be placed on

1 9/5/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 the Final Passage Calendar for
3 consideration at the next session
4 of Council.

5 CHIEF CLERK: Authorizing
6 the Philadelphia Land Bank to
7 dispose of 3731 and 3940 Aspen
8 Street; 3936 and 3959 Brown Street;
9 3958 Parrish Street; 3900 and 3972
10 Reno Street; 773 Sloan Street
11 located in the 3rd Councilmanic
12 District in accordance with the
13 terms of Chapter 16-700 of The
14 Philadelphia Code. A
15 non-privileged resolution.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
17 This resolution will be placed on
18 the Final Passage Calendar for
19 consideration at our next session
20 of Council.

21 CHIEF CLERK: And a
22 resolution authorizing the
23 Philadelphia Land Bank to dispose
24 of 3539 Aspen Street; 682 North
25 33rd Street; 3624 Brown Street;

1 9/5/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 3405, 3830, 3832 Wallace Street;
3 610, 612 and 614 North Shedwick
4 Street; and 620 North 35th Street
5 located in the 3rd Councilmanic
6 District in accordance with the
7 terms of Chapter 16-700 of The
8 Philadelphia Code. A
9 non-privileged resolution.

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

15 CHIEF CLERK: And a
16 resolution authorizing the
17 Philadelphia Land Bank to dispose
18 of 3858 Mount Vernon Street; 3903,
19 3905, 3907 and 3930 Wallace Street;
20 642, 647 and 658 Union Street; and
21 3841 and 3843 Melon Street located
22 in the 3rd Councilmanic District in
23 accordance with the terms of
24 Chapter 16-700 of The Philadelphia
25 Code. A non-privileged resolution.

1 9/5/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

3 This resolution will be placed on
4 the Final Passage Calendar for
5 consideration at our next session
6 of Council.

7 CHIEF CLERK: And a
8 resolution authorizing the
9 Philadelphia Land Bank to dispose
10 of 3801, 3803, 3811, 3814, 3816,
11 3850, 3852, 3960, 3962 and 3964
12 Reno Street located in the 3rd
13 Councilmanic District in accordance
14 with the terms of Chapter 16-700 of
15 The Philadelphia Code. A
16 non-privileged resolution.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

18 This resolution will be placed on
19 the Final Passage Calendar for
20 consideration at our next session
21 of Council.

22 CHIEF CLERK: And an
23 ordinance amending Section
24 19-1301.2 of The Philadelphia Code,
25 entitled "Homestead Exclusion," to

1 9/5/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 revise the deadline by which
3 applications for designation of
4 property as Homestead property are
5 due and making conforming changes,
6 all under certain terms and
7 conditions.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

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

11 The Chair now recognizes
12 Majority Whip Isaiah Thomas.

13 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Good
14 morning, Council President. Good
15 morning, colleagues. Good morning
16 to the listening public.

17 Today I have two privileged
18 resolutions on your behalf, Council
19 President, and three privileged
20 resolutions of my own. Thank you.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

22 Thank you.

23 Will the Clerk please read
24 the titles of the resolutions.

25 CHIEF CLERK: Resolution

1 9/5/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 honoring and congratulating the Rex
3 6 Basketball Team for winning the
4 2024 Brotherly Love Basketball
5 Championship. A privileged
6 resolution.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
8 This resolution will be placed on
9 today's Final Passage Calendar.

10 CHIEF CLERK: And honoring
11 and congratulating Preparatory
12 Charter High School Graduate
13 Kahleah Copper on winning the Gold
14 Medal in Women's Basketball during
15 the 2024 Summer Olympic Games in
16 Paris, France. A privileged
17 resolution.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
19 This resolution will be placed on
20 today's Final Passage Calendar.

21 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
22 authorizing the Committee on
23 Legislative Oversight to hold
24 hearings investigating the City's
25 progress towards achieving its

1 9/5/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 Vision Zero goals and examining
3 opportunities to increase safety
4 measures for pedestrians and
5 cyclists. A privileged resolution.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
7 This resolution will be placed on
8 today's Final Passage Calendar.

9 CHIEF CLERK: And
10 authorizing the Committee on
11 Legislative Oversight to hold
12 hearings to assess the current
13 state of Philadelphia's
14 preparations for the multitude of
15 events being held across the City
16 throughout 2026 as we celebrate
17 America's 250th birthday and
18 Philadelphia's central role in
19 America's founding. A privileged
20 resolution.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
22 This resolution will be placed on
23 today's Final Passage Calendar.

24 CHIEF CLERK: Honoring and
25 congratulating Joel Embiid on his

1 9/5/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 gold medal finish in the 2024
3 Olympic Games Basketball Final and
4 for becoming the first player in
5 Philadelphia 76ers franchise
6 history to win a gold medal with
7 Team USA. A privileged resolution.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
9 This resolution will be placed on
10 today's Final Passage Calendar.

11 The Chair recognizes
12 Councilmember Curtis Jones -- the
13 Chair recognizes Councilmember
14 Isaiah Thomas.

15 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: I'm
16 sorry, Council President. I just
17 have to do this for the record
18 because I know the sista's going to
19 get so upset.

20 Her name is Kahleah Copper.
21 And if we don't say Kahleah Copper,
22 she has a significant issue with
23 that. So just want to congratulate
24 her and make sure that we
25 understand who she is and what she

1 9/5/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 means to the city of Philadelphia.

3 Thank you, Council

4 President.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

6 You're welcome, Member Thomas. It

7 shall be duly noted.

8 The Chair recognizes

9 Councilmember Curtis Jones.

10 COUNCILMAN JONES: Good

11 morning, Mr. President. Good

12 morning, colleagues.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

14 Good morning.

15 COUNCILMAN JONES: I have

16 five privileged resolutions and one

17 bill.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

19 Will the Clerk please read the

20 titles of the resolutions and the

21 bill.

22 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance

23 amending Section 14-524 of The

24 Philadelphia Code, entitled "/FD0,

25 Fourth District Overlay District,"

1 9/5/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 to include certain areas of land
3 within the Morris Park
4 neighborhood, under certain terms
5 and conditions.

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

9 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
10 authorizing the Joint Committees on
11 Public Safety and Public Health and
12 Human Services to hold hearings to
13 investigate the effectiveness and
14 potential expansion of mobile
15 mental health units administered by
16 the Department of Behavioral Health
17 and Intellectual Disability
18 Services. A privileged resolution.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
20 This resolution will be placed on
21 today's Final Passage Calendar.

22 CHIEF CLERK: And a
23 resolution honoring and recognizing
24 6abc Philadelphia news anchor and
25 reporter Rick Williams for his

1 9/5/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 contributions to the impactful
3 "Crimefighters" series. A
4 privileged resolution.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
6 This resolution will be placed on
7 today's Final Passage Calendar.

8 CHIEF CLERK: And honoring
9 and recognizing Drexel University
10 alumnus Justin Best, who mastered
11 the sport of rowing on the
12 Schuylkill River at Boathouse Row
13 in the 4th Councilmanic District,
14 for his contribution in securing
15 the gold medal as one of four on
16 the United States Olympic Rowing
17 Team at the 2024 Summer Olympic
18 Games in Paris, France. A
19 privileged resolution.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
21 This resolution will be placed on
22 today's Final Passage Calendar.
23 Two Olympians from Philadelphia.
24 Okay.

25 CHIEF CLERK: Authorizing

1 9/5/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 the Committee on Education to hold
3 hearings investigating the rate of
4 food waste and determining
5 distribution options for excess
6 food in the School District of
7 Philadelphia. A privileged
8 resolution.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
10 This resolution will be placed on
11 today's Final Passage Calendar.

12 CHIEF CLERK: And
13 authorizing the Committee on Public
14 Safety to hold hearings to
15 investigate the ability and
16 preparedness of critical City
17 departments to possess a redundancy
18 of records. A privileged
19 resolution.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
21 This resolution will be placed on
22 today's Final Passage Calendar.

23 The Chair recognizes
24 Councilmember Rue Landau.

25 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU: Good

1 9/5/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 morning, Council President.

3 Today I have one bill, one
4 bill on your behalf, one
5 non-privileged resolution and two
6 privileged resolutions.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
8 Will the Clerk please read the
9 titles of the bills and
10 resolutions.

11 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
12 amending Chapter 9-6300 ("Consumer
13 Protection Ordinance") of The
14 Philadelphia Code to clarify the
15 statute of limitations and provide
16 for retroactivity, 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 amending Chapter 19-1300
23 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled
24 "Real Estate Taxes," to provide for
25 a mechanism for informal review of

1 9/5/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 individual property assessments,
3 all under certain terms and
4 conditions.

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

8 CHIEF CLERK: And a
9 resolution urging the Board of
10 Revision of Taxes, the BRT, to
11 adopt a policy of accepting all
12 nunc pro tunc property assessment
13 appeals filed for Tax Year 2025 by
14 March 31, 2025 due to the delay in
15 mailing of property reassessment
16 notices until August 7, 2024. A
17 non-privileged resolution.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
19 This resolution will be placed on
20 the Final Passage Calendar for
21 consideration at our next session
22 of Council.

23 CHIEF CLERK: And a
24 resolution recognizing September
25 10, 2024 as Suicide Prevention Day

1 9/5/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 in the city of Philadelphia and
3 affirming the need for suicide
4 prevention awareness and robust
5 mental health services. A
6 privileged resolution.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
8 This resolution will be placed on
9 today's Final Passage Calendar.

10 CHIEF CLERK: And a
11 resolution honoring and recognizing
12 Maia Weintraub for representing
13 Philadelphia and the United States
14 in the 2024 Summer Olympics and
15 winning a gold medal in team
16 fencing. A privileged resolution.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
18 This resolution will proudly be
19 placed on today's Final Passage
20 Calendar. Three Olympians.

21 The Chair now recognizes
22 Councilmember Quetcy Lozada.

23 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Thank
24 you, Council President.

25 This morning I offer two

1 9/5/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 bills.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
4 Will the Clerk please read the
5 titles of the bills.

6 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
7 amending Title 10 of The
8 Philadelphia Code, entitled
9 "Regulation of Individual Conduct
10 and Activity," by adding
11 prohibitions and penalties related
12 to litter near mobile providers of
13 goods, all under certain terms and
14 conditions.

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

18 CHIEF CLERK: And an
19 ordinance amending Title 10 of The
20 Philadelphia Code, entitled
21 "Regulation of Individual Conduct
22 and Activity," by adding a new
23 chapter concerning vehicular mobile
24 service providers and providing for
25 penalties, all under certain terms

1 9/5/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 and conditions.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
4 This bill will be referred to the
5 appropriate committee.

6 The Chair recognizes
7 Councilmember Jeffrey Jay Young.

8 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Thank
9 you, Mr. President.

10 Today I offer six
11 resolutions, two privileged and
12 four non-privileged.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
14 Will the Clerk please read the
15 titles of the resolutions.

16 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
17 calling on the Commonwealth of
18 Pennsylvania to secure \$161 million
19 in funding for SEPTA. A
20 non-privileged resolution.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
22 This resolution will be placed on
23 the Final Passage Calendar for
24 consideration at our next session
25 of Council.

1 9/5/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 CHIEF CLERK: And a

3 resolution authorizing the Joint

4 Committees on Public Safety and

5 Streets and Services to hold

6 hearings to investigate

7 Philadelphia Police Department

8 precinct policies and practices for

9 approving and denying block party

10 permits and exploring methods to

11 increase block party permit

12 applications. A privileged

13 resolution.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

15 This resolution will be placed on

16 today's Final Passage Calendar.

17 CHIEF CLERK: And a

18 resolution authorizing the Council

19 Committee on Streets and Services

20 to hold hearings to investigate the

21 policies, procedures and practices

22 regarding the changing of the

23 direction of streets as authorized

24 by the Philadelphia Department of

25 Streets. A privileged resolution.

1 9/5/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

3 This resolution will be placed on
4 today's Final Passage Calendar.

5 CHIEF CLERK: And a
6 resolution calling on universities
7 in the city of Philadelphia to
8 adopt the SEPTA Key Advantage UPass
9 Program for all their students. A
10 non-privileged resolution.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

12 This resolution will be placed on
13 the Final Passage Calendar for
14 consideration at our next session
15 of Council.

16 CHIEF CLERK: And a
17 resolution calling on the City of
18 Philadelphia to explore the funding
19 of a pilot program for free
20 doorbell cameras to enhance public
21 safety in the city of Philadelphia.
22 A non-privileged resolution.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

24 This resolution will be placed on
25 the Final Passage Calendar for

1 9/5/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 consideration at our next session
3 of Council.

4 CHIEF CLERK: And a
5 resolution calling on the City of
6 Philadelphia to explore the
7 resumption of Annual Philly Free
8 Streets Day. A non-privileged
9 resolution.

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

15 The Chair recognizes
16 Minority Leader Brooks.

17 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: Good
18 morning, Council President.

19 I have one non-privileged
20 resolution to introduce.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
22 Will the Clerk please read the
23 title of the resolution.

24 CHIEF CLERK: Authorizing a
25 task force to advance

1 9/5/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 recommendations and coordinate
3 initiatives to ensure that all
4 people in Philadelphia are able to
5 exercise their fundamental right to
6 bodily autonomy and reproductive
7 freedom. A non-privileged
8 resolution.

9 (Applause.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

11 This resolution will be placed on
12 the Final Passage Calendar for
13 consideration at our next session
14 of Council.

15 The Chair recognizes
16 Councilmember Jim Harrity.

17 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: Good
18 afternoon, Council President. Good
19 morning.

20 No resolutions or bills
21 today. Thank you.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

23 The Chair recognizes Minority Whip
24 O'Rourke.

25 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE: Thank

1 9/5/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 you, Council President.

3 I have one privileged

4 resolution to introduce.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

6 Will the Clerk please read the

7 title of the resolution.

8 CHIEF CLERK: Authorizing

9 the Joint Committees on Public

10 Safety and Legislative Oversight to

11 hold hearings examining actions

12 necessary to significantly reduce

13 the Philadelphia prison population

14 in an effort to permanently close

15 Philadelphia's oldest and most

16 inhumane prison facility, The

17 Detention Center. A privileged

18 resolution.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

20 This resolution will be placed on

21 today's Final Passage Calendar.

22 The Chair recognizes

23 Councilmember Mike Driscoll.

24 COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL:

25 Morning, Mr. President.

1 9/5/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 I have one bill on your
3 behalf and I have two privileged
4 resolutions.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
6 Will the Clerk please read the
7 titles of the bill and resolutions.

8 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
9 amending Chapter 9-1000 of The
10 Philadelphia Code, entitled
11 "Trades," by adding requirements
12 and establishing certain limits
13 related to electrical contractors,
14 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 a
20 resolution authorizing the
21 Committee on Transportation and
22 Public Utilities to hold hearings
23 to investigate the economic impact
24 of the Philadelphia Water
25 Department's implementation of

1 9/5/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 Advanced Metering Infrastructure on
3 the residents of the City of
4 Philadelphia. A privileged
5 resolution.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
7 This resolution will be placed on
8 today's Final Passage Calendar.

9 CHIEF CLERK: And
10 authorizing the Special Committee
11 on Kensington to hold public
12 hearings to examine the current
13 state of transportation
14 infrastructure and services in the
15 City of Philadelphia in response to
16 the opioid crisis. A privileged
17 resolution.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
19 This resolution will be placed on
20 today's Final Passage Calendar.

21 The Chair recognizes
22 Councilmember O'Neill.

23 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Thank
24 you, Mr. President. I offer one
25 bill.

1 9/5/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

3 Will the Clerk please read the
4 title of the bill.

5 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
6 amending Chapter 12-2700 of The
7 Philadelphia Code, entitled "Permit
8 Parking Districts," by amending the
9 boundaries for certain permit
10 parking districts, all under
11 certain terms and conditions.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

13 This bill will be referred to the
14 appropriate committee.

15 The Chair recognizes
16 Councilmember Mark Squilla.

17 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Thank
18 you, Mr. President.

19 I offer three bills and two
20 non-privileged resolutions.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

22 Will the Clerk please read the
23 titles of the bills and
24 resolutions.

25 CHIEF CLERK: And a

1 9/5/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 resolution calling upon the
3 Philadelphia Water Department to
4 use projected climate rainfall
5 information to prioritize actions
6 to fix raw sewage overflows and
7 urging the Philadelphia Water
8 Department to use real world
9 climate-related rainfall data to
10 project the impacts of their Green
11 City Clean Water plan. A
12 non-privileged resolution.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
14 This resolution will be placed on
15 the Final Passage Calendar for
16 consideration at our next session
17 of Council.

18 CHIEF CLERK: And a
19 resolution continuing the Fishtown
20 Kensington Area Business
21 Improvement District in the area
22 that generally includes both sides
23 of Frankford Avenue from the west
24 side of Delaware Avenue to the
25 southwest side of Lehigh Avenue,

1 9/5/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 both sides of North Front Street
3 and the north side of Poplar Street
4 to the south side of Diamond
5 Street, both sides of East Girard
6 Avenue from Frankford Avenue
7 continuing to the west side of East
8 Berks Street, the north side of
9 West Girard Avenue from Frankford
10 Avenue to North 2nd Street and the
11 south side of West Girard Avenue
12 from Frankford Avenue to Howard
13 Street and certain blocks of
14 streets that intersect portions of
15 these streets; approving an
16 extension of the boundaries of the
17 District to include North Front
18 Street from Montgomery Street to
19 Diamond Street, East Girard Avenue
20 from East Fletcher Street to East
21 Berks Street and the north side of
22 West Girard Avenue from Front
23 Street to North 2nd Street,
24 continuing the Fishtown Kensington
25 Area Business Improvement District;

1 9/5/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 a Pennsylvania nonprofit
3 corporation as a Neighborhood
4 Improvement District Management
5 Association for the District,
6 approving a plan for and report
7 concerning the District;
8 authorizing the Director of
9 Commerce on behalf of the City to
10 execute an agreement with the
11 Fishtown Kensington Area Business
12 Improvement District relating to
13 the District and re-authorizing the
14 Fishtown Kensington Area Business
15 Improvement District to assess
16 property owners within the District
17 a special property assessment fee
18 to be used in accordance with the
19 approved plan, all in accordance
20 with the provisions of the
21 Community and Economic Improvement
22 Act and under certain terms and
23 conditions. A non-privileged
24 resolution.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

1 9/5/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 This resolution will be placed on
3 the Final Passage Calendar for
4 consideration at our next session
5 of Council.

6 CHIEF CLERK: And an
7 ordinance authorizing encroachments
8 in the nature of a sidewalk caf in
9 the vicinity of 1601 South 10th
10 Street, Philadelphia, PA 19148,
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 authorizing encroachments
17 in the nature of a marquee canopy
18 in the vicinity of 2654 South Alder
19 Street, Philadelphia, PA 19148,
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
25 ordinance amending Section 12-701

1 9/5/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled
3 "Designation of Bicycle Lanes," to
4 add a bicycle lane on South 3rd
5 Street, all under certain terms and
6 conditions.

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

10 (Applause.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
12 The Chair recognizes Deputy Whip
13 Councilmember Cindy Bass.

14 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank
15 you, Mr. President.

16 I offer three bills and
17 three privileged resolutions.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
19 Will the Clerk please read the
20 titles of the bills and
21 resolutions.

22 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
23 amending Title 15 of The
24 Philadelphia Code, entitled "Parks
25 and Recreation," to add a new

1 9/5/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 Chapter 15-800, entitled "Events
3 Permits, to encourage applicants
4 for event planning permits to
5 establish contingency measures, all
6 under certain terms and conditions.

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

10 CHIEF CLERK: And a
11 resolution renaming the 3700 block
12 of Bayblon Street "Lou and Choo's
13 Way," to honor Louis Crump and
14 Charles Franklin's "Lou and Choo
15 Lounge". A non-privileged
16 resolution.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
18 It's a good look. I had plenty of
19 good -- this resolution will be
20 placed on the Final Passage
21 Calendar for consideration at our
22 next session of Council.

23 CHIEF CLERK: And an
24 ordinance amending The Philadelphia
25 Code to add to Chapter 15-500,

1 9/5/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 entitled "Libraries," a new section
3 entitled "Book Sanctuaries," to
4 ensure unrestricted access to books
5 and information and to protect
6 against censorship, all 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 establishing parking
13 regulations, one-way regulations
14 and the designation of a bicycle
15 lane in the vicinity of Maplewood
16 Avenue from Green Street to Wayne
17 Avenue, all under certain terms and
18 conditions.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

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

22 (Applause.)

23 CHIEF CLERK: And a
24 resolution calling upon the
25 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to

1 9/5/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 strengthen enforcement against
3 illegal activity in merchants that
4 impact neighborhoods throughout the
5 city of Philadelphia. A
6 non-privileged resolution.

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

12 CHIEF CLERK: And a
13 resolution renaming the Woodview
14 Playground to the "Donna Reed
15 Miller Playground" to honor the
16 life and contributions of former
17 Councilmember Donna Reed Miller.

18 (Applause.)

19 CHIEF CLERK: A
20 non-privileged resolution.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
22 This resolution will be placed on
23 the Final Passage Calendar for
24 consideration at our next session
25 of Council.

1 9/5/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 The Chair recognizes

3 Councilmember Nina Ahmad.

4 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD: Thank
5 you, Mr. President.

6 Today I have one bill and
7 two privileged resolutions.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
9 Will the Clerk please read the
10 titles of the bill and resolutions.

11 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
12 rescinding Bill No. 240500 and
13 amending Title 9 of The
14 Philadelphia Code, entitled
15 "Regulation of Businesses, Trades
16 and Professions," by adding a new
17 Chapter creating requirements
18 related to the operation and
19 maintenance of electric vehicle
20 charging stations installed at
21 certain commercial and residential
22 parcels, all under certain terms
23 and conditions.

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

1 9/5/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 appropriate committee.

3 CHIEF CLERK: And a
4 resolution recognizing September as
5 "Childhood Cancer Awareness Month"
6 and promoting the public awareness
7 and research of childhood cancer in
8 the City of Philadelphia. A
9 privileged resolution.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
11 This resolution will be placed on
12 today's Final Passage Calendar.

13 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
14 recognizing the prevalence of
15 childhood abuse and the severe
16 impacts it has on children of
17 Philadelphia, and affirming the
18 City of Philadelphia's commitment
19 to examining the effectiveness of
20 City-funded programs that provide
21 services for child welfare and
22 safety. A privileged resolution.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
24 This resolution will be placed on
25 today's Final Passage Calendar.

1 9/5/24 - STATED - BILLS ON 2ND READING

2 As there being no reports

3 from committees today, the next

4 order of business is the

5 consideration of the Calendar.

6 The Chair recognizes Councilmember

7 and Majority Leader Gilmore

8 Richardson for the purpose of

9 calling up bills and resolutions on

10 the Second Reading and Final

11 Passage Calendars.

12 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

13 RICHARDSON: Thank you,

14 Mr. President.

15 The following bills and

16 resolutions are being called up

17 from the Second Reading and Final

18 Passage Calendars today:

19 Nos. 240629, 240368. The following

20 bills and resolutions on the

21 Calendar are being held: 240242,

22 240427 and 240416-A.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

24 Thank you.

25 Before considering these

1 9/5/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 bills and resolutions, we will
3 consider public comment as follows:
4 Your public comment must concern
5 matters on the Second Reading and
6 Final Passage Calendars for
7 possible action in today's Council
8 session. All speakers must sign up
9 in order to testify.

10 If you have not already
11 signed up for today's session,
12 please do so now by giving your
13 name to Ms. Hassen at the table
14 inside the rails to the left. Once
15 you have signed up, you will be
16 called in the order in which your
17 name appears on the sign-up sheet.

18 Under ideal circumstances,
19 public commenters each will have up
20 to three minutes to speak.
21 However, this time limit may vary
22 from session to session. Today the
23 time limit will be one minute due
24 to the volume of individuals
25 commenting in City Council today on

1 9/5/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 various bills.

3 In order to speak, to be
4 fair to all those wishing to speak
5 I intend to hold faithfully to the
6 one-minute limit. When you begin
7 speaking, you will see a green
8 light on the podium. When there
9 are 30 seconds remaining to your
10 time, the light will turn yellow
11 which is your reminder to conclude
12 your remarks. And I'm going to ask
13 you to be respectful of the person
14 who's going to be speaking after
15 you based upon the significant list
16 of individuals who will be speaking
17 on public comment today.

18 Once one minute has passed,
19 the light will turn red and the
20 Sergeant-at-Arms will disconnect
21 the microphone. Again, please be
22 respectful of the person who will
23 be speaking after you. At that
24 point, please yield the podium to
25 the next speaker if you have not

1 9/5/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 done so already. I also reserve
3 the right pursuant to our rules of
4 Council to limit repetitious
5 comments on the same matter.

6 I will now ask the Chief
7 Clerk to please read the name of
8 our first speaker.

9 CHIEF CLERK: Ben Wilcox.
10 (Witness approached
11 podium.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
13 Sir, just please speak your name
14 into the microphone and begin your
15 public comment.

16 MR. WILCOX: Good morning,
17 Council President Johnson,
18 Councilmembers and colleagues. My
19 name is Ben Wilcox and I'm speaking
20 today on the Streets Safety Hearing
21 resolution introduced by Isaiah
22 Thomas.

23 Many of you in this chamber
24 know me, but today I'm speaking to
25 you from the other side of the

1 9/5/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 rails in a personal capacity on
3 behalf of the families of victims
4 of traffic fatalities who cannot be
5 with us in Council today. We as a
6 Council felt it best to ensure that
7 their testimony be read aloud in
8 their absence.

9 First, I'll read the
10 testimony of Laura Fredricks, the
11 co-founder of Families for Safe
12 Streets Greater Philadelphia and
13 the mother of Emily Fredricks whose
14 life was taken from us on November
15 28, 2017. These are the words of
16 Laura Fredricks:

17 My daughter Emily Claire
18 Fredricks was 24 years old when she
19 was killed on November 28, 2017 at
20 the corner of Spruce and 11th
21 Street. She was cycling to work as
22 a French pastry chef in Rittenhouse
23 Square and she was killed by the
24 driver of a private sanitation
25 truck who was not held accountable

1 9/5/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 in any way for her death.

3 My husband Rich and I have
4 become advocates for safe streets
5 since Emily was killed in this
6 tragic, traumatic and preventable
7 crash. We are the co-founders of
8 Families for Safe Streets Greater
9 Philadelphia and are involved with
10 many other safe streets
11 organizations such as Keep Kids
12 Alive Drive 25, the Truck Safety
13 Coalition and the Institute for
14 Safer Trucking.

15 I'm writing in support of
16 increasing the funding for Vision
17 Zero to upgrade the current bicycle
18 lane network to include permanent
19 protection using concrete. The
20 summer was filled with tragic and
21 preventable deaths on the streets
22 of Philadelphia and I feel like we
23 have come nowhere since Emily was
24 killed in 2017.

25 I'm calling on City Council

1 9/5/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 to do their part and restore the
3 Vision Zero funding to 2.5 million
4 in Fiscal Year '25 with a plan to
5 increase funding to 3 million in
6 Fiscal Year 2026. Philadelphia is
7 a Vision Zero city and that means
8 prioritizing lives. Philly was
9 once again rated the most walkable
10 city in the country, but Philly has
11 a long way to go to ensure our
12 streets are safe for all vulnerable
13 road-users.

14 So many people have been
15 killed or seriously injured in
16 traffic crashes. Zero is the only
17 acceptable number. Who are you
18 willing to lose? We will miss
19 Emily every second of every day and
20 we will continue to fight for safe
21 streets for all. We know it's too
22 late for Emily. Thank you, Council
23 President and the rest of Council
24 for your time and attention.

25 (Applause.)

1 9/5/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

3 Thank you.

4 Will the Clerk please call
5 the next speak --

6 CHIEF CLERK: One more.

7 MR. WILCOX: Sorry.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

9 Go ahead.

10 MR. WILCOX: Next I'll
11 speak on behalf of Dr. Cole Friedes
12 whose wife Barbara was tragically
13 killed on July 17th. Here is his
14 testimony: My name is Dr. Cole
15 Friedes. And on July 17, 2024 my
16 wife Dr. Barbara Friedes was killed
17 by a drunk driver on 18th and
18 Spruce Streets when riding home in
19 the bike lane.

20 She was a figurehead of the
21 Philadelphia community, a Chief
22 resident at Children's Hospital of
23 Philadelphia and an aspiring
24 pediatric oncologist. She was a
25 kind, compassionate and loving soul

1 9/5/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 who dedicated her curing
3 childhood -- sorry, dedicated her
4 life to curing childhood cancer and
5 advocating for the most vulnerable
6 in society, and now she's lost.
7 She was only 30 years old.

8 As such, I'm testifying in
9 support of increasing Vision Zero
10 funding to upgrade the current
11 bicycle lane network to include
12 permanent protection using
13 concrete. In the past decade we've
14 witnessed too many lives lost or
15 irrevocably altered by preventable
16 tragedies.

17 It's unacceptable that
18 traffic fatalities in Philadelphia
19 have increased by 58 percent
20 between 2013 and 2022 with
21 pedestrians and cyclists
22 disproportionately affected. These
23 numbers are more than just
24 statistics. They represent lives
25 shattered, families devastated and

1 9/5/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 a city that is failing to keep its
3 residents safe.

4 After another tragic summer
5 of avoidable traffic crashes, I'm
6 calling on City Council to do your
7 part and restore Vision Zero
8 funding to the 2.5 million in FY25
9 with the plan to increase funding
10 to 3 million in FY26. This is a
11 necessity. The need for protected
12 bike lanes, pedestrian-friendly
13 intersections and aggressive
14 traffic-calming measures is not
15 just apparent, it's urgent.

16 I'm confident that if
17 Vision Zero were to be funded and
18 bicyclists' lives valued, my wife,
19 a pillar of the Philadelphia
20 community, would still be alive
21 today. Thank you, Council
22 President Johnson and the rest of
23 Council, for your time and
24 attention.

25 (Applause.)

1 9/5/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

3 Thank you. Will the Clerk please
4 call the next speaker.

5 CHIEF CLERK: Hazami Sayad.

6 Can Isabel Melvin, Kate Perez and
7 John Ivan also make their way to
8 the podium.

9 Hazami Sayad.

10 (Witnesses approached
11 podium.)

12 MR. SAYAD: (Inaudible).

13 Oh -- should I start again? Oh,
14 sorry. Okay. Good morning, City
15 Council. I'm here as a longtime
16 resident of West Philadelphia, as a
17 parent of two sons who attended
18 Penn Alexander School and as an
19 Arab American who founded and led a
20 local nonprofit for 18 years.

21 I believe in fairly funding
22 our public schools so that all
23 schools are better-resourced. Our
24 students deserve better. They are
25 the future that our city and state

1 9/5/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 must invest in. I would also like
3 to take this opportunity to remind
4 City Council that as the school
5 year begins here, Palestinian
6 children in Gaza have not attended
7 school for an entire academic year.

8 Not only have they been
9 deprived of education by Israel's
10 raining death and destruction for
11 11 months across Gaza, they have
12 been traumatized and maimed for
13 life with over 14,000 children
14 killed and thousands more
15 unaccounted for under the rubble.
16 Home schools and all civic
17 institutions have been destroyed.
18 Famine and disease are widespread,
19 not due to a natural disaster but
20 intentional ethnic cleansing, a
21 genocide inflicted by Israel on the
22 people of Palestine.

23 The fact that our tax
24 dollars are funding this genocide
25 of Palestinians is unconscionable.

1 9/5/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 As we call on Pennsylvania to
3 fairly fund schools, we must also
4 acknowledge that the State Treasury
5 has \$56 million invested in Israeli
6 bonds, funds that could instead be
7 invested locally to improve our
8 schools, parks, transportation and
9 health care.

10 Why is it not a priority to
11 solve the inequities in our state
12 here in our cities? As session
13 resumes, I hope Councilmembers will
14 take up the demands that many of
15 your constituents and organizations
16 here in Philadelphia say, divest
17 from war and invest in our children
18 and future here now.

19 Heed the courageous
20 decision made yesterday by Maine's
21 Portland City Council to divest
22 from companies complicit in
23 Israel's human rights violations.
24 We hopefully can follow suit.
25 Thank you very much.

1 9/5/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 (Applause.)

3 CHIEF CLERK: Isabel

4 Melvin, Kate Perez, John Ivan and
5 Chris Gale, make their way to the
6 podium.

7 Isabel Melvin.

8 (Witnesses approached
9 podium.)

10 MS. PEREZ: Hello. Okay.

11 240629. This resolution calls on
12 the State Senate to change the
13 public school charter to expand
14 public funds to include cyber
15 charter schools. As we start this
16 school year, let's remember that by
17 November 6th Israeli forces had
18 already killed so many children in
19 that Gaza's Ministry of Education
20 had to cancel their 2024 school
21 year.

22 Symbolic resolutions like
23 this that call for action from our
24 upper government are useful and we
25 must join in State College, Erie

1 9/5/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 City and Lancaster, Pennsylvania to
3 call for a permanent ceasefire in
4 Palestine. The Inquirer reports
5 that the 13 current cyber charter
6 schools receive about \$1 billion a
7 year from school districts. By
8 that metric, we could have funded
9 338 more schools instead of handing
10 Israel \$26 billion in military aid.

11 Our country has already
12 sent 50,000 tons of munitions and
13 some of that was built right in our
14 city. Day & Zimmerman is the sole
15 supplier of Israel's three most
16 used munitions, M795, M107 and
17 M830, tank shells and high
18 explosives. Leonardo manufactures
19 naval guns right in O'Neill's
20 District.

21 Citations, hearings,
22 resolutions, press conferences,
23 don't pretend to be powerless as
24 Palestinians are being massacred
25 with our tank shells. Renowned

1 9/5/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 journalist Bisan Owda says, getting
3 used to a genocide is the best way
4 to ensure its completion. Call for
5 a ceasefire. Call for an arms
6 embargo now.

7 (Applause.)

8 MS. MELVIN: Good morning.
9 I'm Isabel Melvin. I'd like to
10 thank the Councilmembers for all
11 your hard work for the city of
12 Philadelphia and especially thank
13 you, Councilmember Landau and
14 Councilmember Thomas, for together
15 sponsoring a resolution to
16 authorize the Committee on
17 Legislative Oversight to hold a
18 hearing examining the progress of
19 Vision Zero's goals and safety of
20 cyclists and pedestrians in the
21 city of Philadelphia.

22 Tickets by Park Authority
23 and police stops are a truly
24 important part of Vision Zero.
25 However, tickets and traffic stops

1 9/5/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 purpose is to change the behavior
3 of drivers tomorrow. Safe
4 infrastructure for pedestrians and
5 cyclists can change behavior today.
6 In order to reach zero traffic
7 fatalities, our city needs both
8 enforcement and safe
9 infrastructure. Concrete
10 protective bike lanes today. Thank
11 you.

12 (Applause.)

13 CHIEF CLERK: John Ivan,
14 Chris Gale. And may Suzanne Hagner
15 and Anisa George also make their
16 way to the podium.

17 (Witnesses approached
18 podium.)

19 MR. GALE: Good morning,
20 Council. My name is Chris Gale.
21 I'm the Executive Director of The
22 Bicycle Coalition of Greater
23 Philadelphia and I live in
24 Francisville. I'm testifying in
25 support of the resolution

1 9/5/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 introduced by Councilmembers
3 Thomas, O'Rourke and Landau calling
4 for a hearing on Vision Zero.

5 I also want to testify in
6 support of the Council President's
7 bill to change parking regulations
8 and bike lanes from no parking to
9 no stopping. The mission of The
10 Bicycle Coalition of Greater
11 Philadelphia is to make every
12 bicycle ride safe, to empower youth
13 and adults to ride and to foster a
14 ridership that reflects the
15 diversity of the region.

16 After another tragic summer
17 of avoidable traffic crashes, I'm
18 calling on City Council to do your
19 part and prioritize Vision Zero
20 through funding infrastructure,
21 passing policies focused on the
22 safety of vulnerable road-users and
23 building a connected network of
24 high-quality bike lanes.

25 Since the pandemic,

1 9/5/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Philadelphia has seen a huge
3 increase in people killed in
4 traffic crashes of which an
5 increasing amount being people
6 walking and biking. Traffic
7 fatalities are preventable, yet
8 almost 130 people were killed on
9 Philadelphia roads last year.
10 These are real people with families
11 and friends who will forever have
12 an empty seat at the table. Thank
13 you, Council President Johnson and
14 the rest of Council, for your time
15 and attention to this important
16 issue.

17 (Applause.)

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

19 Thank you. Will the Clerk please
20 call the next person.

21 MS. HAGNER: Okay. My name
22 is Suzanne Hagner and I live in
23 Wissahickon in the Northwest
24 section of the city. And I'm here
25 today to ask for the Vision Zero

1 9/5/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 bill, the money to be restored.

3 I'm concerned about the Ridge

4 Avenue hill where it really looks

5 like a Third World country

6 corridor.

7 We have had two bicycles

8 hit there. We've had cars hit the

9 concrete wall going down. That's

10 always broken. There's sections of

11 railing patched together. There's

12 orange cones. And in this section,

13 there are four bus stops and two

14 crosswalks so it's many people

15 walking, people bicycling and

16 there's also an entrance to the

17 SEPTA train station.

18 It is in deplorable

19 condition. The sidewalks are

20 broken. The street has holes in

21 it. I met with Streets and OTIS in

22 the middle of August and we talked

23 about this. And they said they did

24 not have the money to make this a

25 safe corridor. It's the gateway to

1 9/5/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Wissahickon, Roxborough and parts
3 of Manayunk. Thank you.

4 (Applause.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

6 Thank you.

7 CHIEF CLERK: Anisa George.

8 Can Queen Judith Robinson, Lolitta
9 Raven and Julie White also make
10 their way to the podium.

11 (Witnesses approached
12 podium.)

13 MS. GEORGE: (Inaudible).

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

15 One second. Can the Sergeant-at-
16 Arms assist.

17 MS. GEORGE: Good morning.

18 Thank you. My name is Anisa
19 George. I'd like to speak in
20 support of fully funding our
21 schools. I'd also like us to
22 support our children by calling for
23 a ban on artificial turf which
24 exists and is still being
25 introduced in children's playing

1 9/5/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 spaces across the city, most
3 notably at FDR Park where 16 fields
4 are being introduced.

5 This turf is toxic. It is
6 hot. It causes more injuries. It
7 is more expensive long term and we
8 should ban it as the city of Boston
9 has banned it. Also, if we can ban
10 plastic bags, we can ban giant
11 plastic carpets that give kids
12 cancer and poison our waterways. I
13 think the Fairmount Park
14 Conservancy, which should be called
15 the Fairmount Park Demolition Crew,
16 has pulled the wool over a lot of
17 people's eyes about their
18 renovation and restoration plans
19 for FDR Park, but we see the
20 devastation that is happening day
21 after day and we are not fooled.

22 And we are here to say if
23 you clear-cut our life support
24 systems and replace them with
25 cancer-causing turf, it is not

1 9/5/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 renovation. It is annihilation.
3 It is not restoration. It is
4 obliteration. And we can do better
5 in this city. We have an
6 incredible plan called the Philly
7 Tree Plan, but it's not good enough
8 to write it. We have to do it.
9 And we also have to ban artificial
10 turf which is poisonous for
11 children. Thank you.

12 (Applause.)

13 CHIEF CLERK: Queen Judith
14 Robinson, Lolitta Raven and Julie
15 White. Holly Ian Winter, Kelsey
16 Leon and Brion Shreffler.

17 MR. RAVEN: Noah Raven.
18 Noah Raven.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
20 You can begin.

21 MR. RAVEN: Good morning,
22 members of the Council. My name is
23 Noah Raven. I'm 14 years old. And
24 in addition to supporting school
25 funding, I want to support children

1 9/5/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 by opposing the installation of
3 harmful plastic grass in FDR Park.

4 (Applause.)

5 MR. RAVEN: All artificial
6 turf contains toxic chemicals,
7 including known carcinogens,
8 neurotoxins and respiratory
9 irritants. Artificial turf also
10 contains incredibly harmful
11 substances called PFAS, also known
12 as for forever chemicals which can
13 stay in the environment for
14 thousands of years. Numerous
15 studies have linked these chemicals
16 to birth defects, cancer,
17 reproductive harm and adverse
18 effects on the body's immune
19 system.

20 Research has found toxins
21 in all samples of artificial turf.
22 None are safe. An investigation
23 done by the Philadelphia Inquirer
24 last year found that PFAS may have
25 caused the early deaths of six

1 9/5/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 former Phillies players from a rare
3 form of brain cancer who all played
4 on artificial turf.

5 If this turf is installed,
6 young people like me would be at a
7 direct risk and I urge you to ban
8 it. If the shameful legacy of
9 contaminating our parks' clean,
10 green and toxic-free playing spaces
11 what the City of Philadelphia wants
12 to leave my generation with, if
13 not, then there's no place for
14 artificial turf in FDR Park. Thank
15 you.

16 (Applause.)

17 CHIEF CLERK: Julie White,
18 Holly Ian Winter, Kelsey Leon,
19 Brion Shreffler, Jacob Russell, Dan
20 Chabanov, Nick Di Taranto, Andrew
21 Posmontier.

22 (Witnesses approached
23 podium.)

24 MR. RUSSELL: Good morning,
25 City Councilmembers and President.

1 9/5/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 I am Professor Jacob Russell. And
3 I want to thank you for the several
4 bills introduced today to protect
5 people walking and rolling on our
6 streets. I urge you to pass these
7 items and take further action to
8 physically protect Philadelphians
9 as we move about our city.

10 I live on Spruce Street
11 between 5th and 6th. Every day I
12 grapple with the exact same
13 dangerous conditions that killed
14 Dr. Friedes and Emily Fredricks. I
15 worry each day that I will be the
16 one who doesn't make it to class
17 with my students or home to my
18 family.

19 This is not a unique
20 experience to me on Spruce Street.
21 Every Philadelphian must walk or
22 roll on streets that lack basic
23 protective infrastructure. The
24 deaths on our streets are not
25 accidents. They are not

1 9/5/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 inevitable. They are the direct
3 consequences of your choices as
4 leaders of our city, your choice
5 whether or not to build the
6 infrastructure that will save
7 lives. Thank you very much.

8 (Applause.)

9 MR. WINTER: Hello. My
10 name is Holly, Holly Ian Winter. I
11 was about a month ago riding my
12 bicycle in the bicycle lane on
13 Chestnut Street when a car parking
14 in the parallel parking area went
15 into the bicycle lane which caused
16 me to have to swerve. As a result,
17 I hit one of the plastic dividers
18 that divide the bicycle lane from
19 the parked cars.

20 I fell on top of the
21 plastic divider, which I don't know
22 if you have seen them, they're
23 really sharp. This plastic divider
24 cut me in the neck. I went to the
25 hospital and they told me that the

1 9/5/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 wound had almost got my carotid
3 artery. And if that had happened,
4 I probably would have bled out on
5 the street.

6 I'm here to testify for the
7 need for safer bicycle
8 infrastructure. As a result, I
9 have nerve damage in my face that
10 may never heal. And this
11 plastic -- the bike lane
12 infrastructure that we have is not
13 enough. The plastic bike dividers
14 are sharp. They're dangerous.
15 What we need is concrete barriers
16 that protect bicyclists, that keep
17 cars from parking in the bike lane,
18 and that's something that if you
19 fall on top of it isn't going to
20 kill you. So that was what I had
21 to say. Thank you for having me.

22 (Applause.)

23 MR. SHREFFLER: Hi. I'm
24 Brion Shreffler from South
25 Philadelphia. Like anybody else

1 9/5/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 who bikes daily, commutes to work
3 via bicycle, I risked my life to
4 get here today. It's a bit of an
5 absurdity that has to be true. Too
6 many people continue to die.

7 I'm here to support the
8 resolution examining the progress
9 of Vision Zero, which honestly
10 there's been zero progress. I'm a
11 lifelong resident. I'm not seeing
12 anything. And the safety of
13 cyclists, we need concrete barriers
14 now. They recently -- there's no
15 time for community engagement.
16 There's no time for examination.

17 We saw 10 years of
18 examination and feedback by Philly
19 OTIS engaging with the community,
20 looking at studies around the world
21 for the redevelopment of Washington
22 Avenue which did not happen west of
23 11th Street, and that is like Mad
24 Max. I saw a family of four biking
25 on there with a small child, five

1 9/5/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 members of a family. And I felt
3 really terrified for them.

4 Design guides behavior, we
5 need to guide behavior today and
6 protect people. By protecting
7 cyclists, we'll also keep cars off
8 the streets which has happened all
9 too often in this city. We need to
10 lead on something. There's too
11 many things where people growl, get
12 upset. Angry uninformed people
13 yell because they don't like
14 change. We know it works around
15 the world for cities that care
16 about every single citizen in those
17 cities. I want to see this City
18 Council show they care about every
19 citizen. Please.

20 (Applause.)

21 MR. CHABANOV: Hello. My
22 name is Dan Chabanov. I live in
23 Manayunk. I'd like to speak in
24 support of continuing the progress
25 of Vision Zero and prioritizing the

1 9/5/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 safety of pedestrians and cyclists
3 in Philadelphia. I also support
4 updating parking regulations and
5 signage citywide from no parking to
6 no stopping and standing in all
7 bike lanes.

8 This matters to me. I take
9 my daughter to daycare by bike
10 every day. She loves it, but I
11 routinely have conversations with
12 other parents in which they tell me
13 something along the lines of, oh,
14 you're so brave, I could never bike
15 in the city. And that breaks my
16 heart because I'm just riding my
17 bike. I don't want to be brave. I
18 want to get to where I'm going
19 safely.

20 Cycling in Philadelphia
21 should not be something that
22 requires bravery. It should just
23 be another way to get around our
24 beautiful city. I'm asking Council
25 to continue making progress on

1 9/5/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 Vision Zero and increase its
3 funding, investing in traffic-
4 calming infrastructure like
5 concrete-protected bike lanes that
6 will save lives and make the
7 streets safer for all road-users
8 including drivers. Thank you.

9 (Applause.)

10 (Witnesses approached
11 podium.)

12 MR. DI TARANTO: Good
13 morning. Good morning, Council.
14 My name is Nick Di Taranto and I
15 live in Old Richmond. I'm here
16 today as one of over 6,000 people
17 that signed a petition asking
18 Council to increase Vision Zero
19 funding, change parking regulations
20 from no parking to no stopping and
21 to install permanent concrete
22 protection on our bike lanes
23 throughout the city.

24 I walk and bike everywhere
25 because I do not have a car. Like

1 9/5/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 many Philadelphians, that's my
3 primary way of getting around.

4 Like all Philadelphians, I deserve
5 safety and I've lost count of the
6 number of times I've almost been
7 hit by a car or harassed by an
8 aggressive driver.

9 I thank Councilmember
10 Thomas and Councilmember Landau for
11 their resolution calling for
12 hearings on Vision Zero funding,
13 and I thank Council President
14 Johnson on his bill regarding
15 parking regulations. I'd like to
16 add that I'd love to see permanent
17 protection on Spruce and Pine, but
18 please do not forget Allegheny.
19 People of color and low-income
20 people are far more likely to be
21 victims of traffic violence and
22 everyone in our city deserves
23 protection.

24 (Applause.)

25 CHIEF CLERK: Can Zac

1 9/5/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Benjamin, Ted Zellers, Alicia

3 Santiago and Alexandria Murphy also

4 make their way to the podium.

5 (Witnesses approached

6 podium.)

7 MR. POSMONTIER: Good

8 morning, Council President Johnson,

9 City Council. Andrew Posmontier.

10 I'm on Pine Street between 9th and

11 10th. Every day just sitting at

12 home looking out my window I hear

13 and see near misses in the bike

14 lane with traffic and bicyclists.

15 Every single day I hear tires

16 screech. I hear yelling. I hear

17 honking. I hear near misses, and

18 this is really dangerous behavior.

19 I see people drive into the

20 bike lane, use it as a passing

21 lane. That's the behavior that

22 killed Dr. Barbara Friedes. I'm

23 here to ask for immediate concrete

24 protection for physical barriers

25 for the bike lane.

1 9/5/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 (Applause.)

3 MR. POSMONTIER: I know --

4 contrary to popular belief I know

5 the city can act fast when it's

6 necessary for safety. And I'm

7 imploring you to put in physical

8 safe barriers, protect lives and

9 also bring back Vision Zero funding

10 to do this everywhere in the city,

11 not just on Pine Street. Thank you

12 so much.

13 (Applause.)

14 MR. BENJAMIN: President

15 Johnson, Councilmembers, thank you

16 for your time. My name is Zac

17 Benjamin. I live in Queen Village.

18 I'd like to recast the humble

19 bicycle, not as an obstacle whose

20 accommodations come at the expense

21 of other street users but rather as

22 an unbeatable opportunity for you

23 to unlock a healthier, happier and

24 richer Philadelphia.

25 (Applause.)

1 9/5/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 MR. BENJAMIN: People who
3 travel by bike the data clearly
4 show have lower health care costs
5 and spend more money locally,
6 supporting the businesses they pass
7 every day. So what holds back
8 ridership? I believe there are two
9 main obstacles. First is safety,
10 which you have the power to address
11 and I hope you will.

12 Well-researched measures
13 don't just improve life for people
14 who currently bike. They act as an
15 invitation to would-be riders who,
16 hesitant due to safety concerns,
17 choose to drive instead. Some
18 safety measures like concrete
19 barriers reduce collisions at
20 intersections by nearly 50 percent
21 improving travel times for all
22 street users.

23 I'm encouraged that Mayor
24 Parker is revisiting this issue,
25 but her vision for a cleaner,

1 9/5/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 greener and safer Philadelphia
3 cannot be realized until we
4 recognize people on bikes as the
5 powerhouses of vitality and
6 prosperity that they are. It
7 starts with fully-funded Vision
8 Zero. Thank you.

9 (Applause.)

10 CHIEF CLERK: We have Ted
11 Zellers, Alicia Santiago,
12 Alexandria Murphy and Jonathan
13 Hessney.

14 (Witnesses approached
15 podium.)

16 MS. SANTIAGO: Good
17 morning. My name is Alicia
18 Santiago. I live in Lower
19 Moyamensing and I work in the Navy
20 Yard. I'm commenting on the
21 privileged resolution introduced by
22 Thomas calling for hearings on
23 cyclist and pedestrian safety.

24 I stand here today on
25 behalf of my friend Andrea Gonzalez

1 9/5/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 who could not be here because in
3 October of last year Andrea was
4 killed in a car crash when a
5 reckless driver fatally struck her
6 while she was leading a group bike
7 ride. Andrea was in the prime of
8 her life when she became a victim
9 of traffic violence.

10 She was recently recognized
11 in Al D a's 40 under Forty for her
12 work in helping Spanish-speaking
13 business owners in Philadelphia get
14 access to COVID-19 resources and
15 for her volunteer work at The
16 Bicycle Coalition. She was working
17 in affordable housing in
18 Philadelphia and she had just
19 bought a house in the Fairmount
20 neighborhood and she was planning
21 for her wedding, which was supposed
22 to happen earlier this year.
23 Andrea meant a great deal to a lot
24 of people and she should be here.
25 Our streets are dangerous

1 9/5/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 because we designed them and we
3 built them this way, but we have
4 the choice to redesign them and
5 rebuild them.

6 (Applause.)

7 MS. SANTIAGO: We have the
8 choice to prevent these preventable
9 deaths and we have the choice to
10 save lives like my friend Andrea's.
11 I'm here to please ask City Council
12 to make the right choice. Support
13 safe streets by increasing Vision
14 Zero funding and upgrading our
15 bicycle infrastructure to include
16 permanent concrete protection now.

17 As my friend Andrea would
18 say, Nos vemos en bici, See you on
19 the bike. Thank you.

20 (Applause.)

21 MR. ZELLERS: Hello. My
22 name is Ted Zellers. I strongly
23 support creating a network of safe,
24 concrete-protected bike lanes and
25 increasing funding for Vision Zero.

1 9/5/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 I live in Kensington and my wife
3 and I are pretty normal. Like a
4 third of Philadelphians, we don't
5 have access to a car. We like to
6 bike for exercise, to save money
7 and to protect the environment,
8 benefits we hope to share with all
9 of our friends and family. But
10 unfortunately, biking in the city
11 is very stressful and
12 unpredictable.

13 Often when I go to work,
14 biking down Spruce Street often
15 feels more like skiing down a giant
16 slalom course where I have to weave
17 back and forth around large parked
18 vehicles. And the lack of
19 protected bike routes makes it hard
20 to convince my wife to bike with me
21 actually, even though she really
22 likes it and would like to do it
23 more.

24 And if I can't even
25 convince my own wife, I have no

1 9/5/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 hope with my friends who regularly
3 tell me they feel intimidated and
4 defeated by the streets around
5 here, even though they would like
6 to bike more. Everyone should have
7 the freedom to bike, whether
8 they're 8 or 80 to enjoy those
9 benefits. So thank you.

10 (Applause.)

11 CHIEF CLERK: We have
12 Alexandria Murphy, Jonathan
13 Hessney. And can Strothers
14 Thompson and Joe Cox also make
15 their way to the podium.

16 (Witnesses approached
17 podium.)

18 MS. LEON: Good morning,
19 City Council. Welcome back. My
20 name is Kelsey Leon. I'm a
21 clinical researcher in harm
22 reduction specifically studying
23 barriers to treatment in the city.
24 I'm speaking in regards to
25 Councilmember Jones' bill 240242

1 9/5/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 restricting medical services in his
3 District, but I am going to speak
4 in reference to the bills that
5 Quetcy Lozada, Councilmember Lozada
6 introduced today, because it speaks
7 to the wider treatment landscape.

8 Over the past year I'm a
9 member of the Coalition for Dignity
10 and Treatment which advocates for
11 and educates around treatment
12 barriers and conditions for people
13 who use drugs in our city. Over
14 the past year myself and my
15 colleagues have distributed
16 numerous studies to your staff.

17 We've taken meetings with
18 you. We've provided public comment
19 at City Council sessions and
20 provided evidence that at a macro,
21 micro level that harm reduction
22 saves lives. We've impressed upon
23 you again and again that attacking
24 services for people using drugs
25 does damage to entire communities.

1 9/5/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 If you are going to vote in
3 favor of bills that restrict
4 services for people using drugs,
5 you cannot in good conscience say
6 that you want people who use drugs
7 to recover. You cannot say that
8 you want them to get medical or
9 psychological treatment. You
10 cannot say that you want their
11 suffering to end because you are
12 exacerbating it.

13 The Kensington Special
14 Committee held hearings on barriers
15 to treatment beds in the city this
16 summer. If you vote for these
17 bills, you are the treatment
18 barriers. You are making matters
19 worse. And so, I urge all of you
20 to take actions that you can sleep
21 at night soundly and without blood
22 on your hands. Thank you.

23 (Applause.)

24 MR. HESSNEY: Good morning.
25 My name is Jonathan Hessney. And

1 9/5/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 I'm here to speak on zoning

3 overlays and related restrictions

4 coming from historic designations.

5 A small group of historic

6 preservationists are trying to mass

7 designate over 1,400 properties in

8 Washington Square West as historic

9 declaring any building built

10 between 1740 and 1985 as historic,

11 which could apply to the entire

12 city.

13 If this happens, any work

14 on the outside of a home will now

15 require a seven-part application to

16 the Commission for approval for any

17 modification, any maintenance at

18 all. This would require

19 photographs, historic

20 documentation, scaled plots or site

21 plans, shop drawings, all to do

22 something as small as replace a

23 window or even just paint your

24 house.

25 These requirements are

1 9/5/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 costly burdens on residents and
3 unnecessary for the majority of the
4 1400 homes, which are not historic.
5 Residents of Washington Square West
6 are overwhelmingly opposed. This
7 designation will make it more
8 difficult and more expensive to
9 live in Philadelphia.

10 I ask Councilman Squilla as
11 our local representative and
12 Council President Johnson as a
13 member of the Historical Commission
14 to oppose this mass designation and
15 keep Philadelphia a vibrant and
16 livable city for all. Thank you.

17 (Applause.)

18 MR. COX: Hello. My name
19 is Joe Cox. First, I want to thank
20 Council President for legislation
21 calling for no stopping in the bike
22 lanes.

23 (Applause.)

24 MR. COX: I am here in
25 honor of Dr. Barbara and every

1 9/5/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 other victim of lack of action
3 toward Vision Zero. We need Vision
4 Zero. Every day the city tries to
5 kill you. If you don't own a car
6 in the city, you are treated as a
7 second-class citizen. Your life is
8 less valuable.

9 Biking is seen as something
10 leisure. That is a problem. It
11 makes zero sense. In the poorest
12 big city we have the most cyclist
13 commuters. The majority of
14 delivery cyclists are people of
15 color. We have the most disabled
16 citizens. Yet our Mayor defunded
17 Vision Zero, which is already a
18 joke.

19 Someone biking to work is
20 faced with a bike lane becoming a
21 sidewalk. Pedestrians are put into
22 traffic with no warning. Drivers
23 don't know basic laws. They don't
24 care and they aren't enforced. I
25 can't tell you how many times

1 9/5/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 someone tries to kill me, most days
3 with their car. I don't want to be
4 a ghost bike. We need Vision Zero.
5 Also, no arena near Chinatown.
6 Thank you.

7 (Applause.)

8 CHIEF CLERK: Can Peter
9 Clark, Melanie Hawkins, Judeah and
10 Cheryl Fote also make their way to
11 the podium.

12 (Witnesses approached
13 podium.)

14 MS. STROTHERS THOMPSON:
15 Greetings. My name is Shani
16 Strothers Thompson. I'm here on
17 behalf of my 94 year-old widowed
18 public school teacher, retired
19 public school teacher mother. You
20 may have seen us in the paper on
21 Battle for 45th Street last
22 September almost a year ago. And
23 I'm here. I have a lot to talk
24 about, but I'm going to talk about
25 rats. I'm here to talk about rats.

1 9/5/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

3 Is that a part of the bill, ma'am?

4 MS. STROTHERS THOMPSON:

5 Pardon me?

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

7 Is it --

8 MS. STROTHERS THOMPSON:

9 You're talking about non-conforming
10 properties, right?

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

12 Nonconforming properties. Go
13 ahead.

14 MS. STROTHERS THOMPSON:

15 Okay. I want to talk to you about
16 some properties that are
17 non-conforming and that's why we
18 have rats. The Department of
19 Health, the Vector Control Unit has
20 told us that they cannot remediate
21 our rat situation, although they
22 have baited several times, killed
23 the squirrels, killed everything
24 moving, but the rats are still
25 there because we have open trash

1 9/5/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 next door.

3 It's supposed to be a
4 two-unit building, duplexes. He
5 has it as Apartment 1, 2 and B with
6 10 rooms, 10 bathrooms and all that
7 trash comes out every day and sits
8 in front of the house and it is
9 impossible to close. He had owned
10 13 properties on our block. It's
11 impossible to close the trash cans.
12 It's a 24/7 rat buffet.

13 In addition to that, he has
14 rat harborage. We got a violation
15 for rat harborage at our house.
16 And I got the Survey Unit from the
17 Streets Department to come out and
18 they determined that the voids, the
19 7 inch wide, 25 feet high -- 90 and
20 25 feet long voids that are newly
21 constructed next to our former
22 rowhouses are harboring the rats.
23 They're on his premises, not on
24 ours, although they can be accessed
25 from our house.

1 9/5/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 If you stand on our porch,
3 you can lean over and look down
4 into his voids where the rats,
5 raccoons, squirrels, bees -- I
6 can't even tell you what I've seen
7 going in and out of there. And
8 it's impossible to clean it. These
9 are non-conforming -- these are
10 non-conforming conditions that have
11 rats on us, which is unsanitary.
12 And as a world-class city, a city
13 that wants to consider itself
14 green, this, that and the other, to
15 allow rats to -- Licenses and
16 Inspections to recently tell us
17 that they did not see any
18 conditions that were in violation
19 needs to be handled.

20 We have an L&I standing
21 Committee here. My Councilwoman is
22 on it. You all know who you are on
23 it. Half the Council's on the
24 Committee. Something needs to be
25 done so that we don't have rats.

1 9/5/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 And we have the laws to do it.

3 They just need to be enforced. The

4 city needs to have the kahunas to

5 do it. Thank you.

6 (Applause.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

8 Thank you, ma'am.

9 CHIEF CLERK: Peter Clark,
10 Melanie Hawkins, Judeah and Cheryl
11 Fote, Dr. Brown, Ogbonna Hagins and
12 Lynn Landes. Please make your way
13 to the podium. Peter Clark,
14 Melanie Hawkins, Judeah and Cheryl
15 Fote, Dr. Brown, Ogbonna Hagins.

16 (Witnesses approached
17 podium.)

18 MR. HAGINS: I'm going to
19 make a request. It's kind of
20 difficult for me to say what I have
21 to say in one minute. So since
22 some of the people are not coming,
23 I just would request to have one
24 min -- two minutes. You're saying
25 no?

1 9/5/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

3 One minute, sir, per person
4 speaking on public comment. Please
5 begin.

6 MR. HAGINS: Well, what
7 includes the one minute, like when
8 I introduce myself? I spend time
9 writing what I --

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

11 Your minute is running now, so
12 please state your public comment,
13 sir.

14 MR. HAGINS: I have a bill
15 here for you guys. We have badges
16 of slavery, vestiges of slavery
17 happening in Philadelphia. And you
18 have the ability to eradicate those
19 badges of slavery based on the
20 United States Constitution.

21 I have a bill here called
22 the Philly 13th Amendment bill.
23 The Supreme Court said that
24 Congress has the ability and has to
25 define what the badges, vestiges

1 9/5/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 and incidents of slavery are. You
3 are a legislative body and you are
4 obligated to define those things
5 that harm the descendants of
6 slavery, the Freedmen.

7 How do you know that these
8 things are happening and you don't
9 create a law to stop it? I have
10 the bill here, since my time is
11 limited, and I also have the speech
12 here that I have prepared. So I
13 would ask that the Sergeant-at-Arms
14 give this to all the
15 Councilmembers, including Council
16 President. And I expect and demand
17 a response. Don't ignore me like
18 you ignore your emails and you
19 ignore your phone calls.

20 We've had people who have
21 been calling your office, sir, and
22 you haven't been responding.
23 You're in breach of duty. You have
24 the obligation to respond to your
25 constituents and you're not doing

1 9/5/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 it. This whole body is in
3 violation of the 13th Amendment,
4 but you guys don't know the 13th
5 Amendment, but you're going to know
6 about it.

7 CHIEF CLERK: Lynn Landes.
8 Can Albert Meister, Jasmine Hoffman
9 and Kimberly Model, please also
10 make their way to the podium.

11 MS. LANDES: Good morning.
12 I'm Lynne Landes of
13 Smallstreetsphilly.org. I'm
14 speaking in opposition of the
15 ordinance continuing a Neighborhood
16 Improvement District in East
17 Passyunk. Neighborhood Improvement
18 Districts and Business Improvement
19 Districts, otherwise known as NIDS
20 and BIDS, are privatization of
21 government functions.

22 These private entities are
23 imposed on businesses and
24 neighborhoods without the informed
25 consent of property owners. These

1 9/5/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 entities are allowed to tax
3 citizens without due process. They
4 select their own boards that have
5 the power to levy taxes, take out
6 loans and condemn properties, among
7 other things.

8 One day we may all wake up
9 and find out that we've encouraged
10 huge debts because these entities
11 are basically operating behind
12 closed doors and unaccountable to
13 the public. In a similar fashion,
14 large swaths of Philadelphia
15 private property have been put
16 under the authority of the City's
17 Historical Commission through their
18 historic designation process.

19 Once again decisions are
20 being made by a handful of people
21 without the informed consent of the
22 property owners. On September
23 13th, the Historical Commission
24 could vote to designate most of
25 Washington Square West a historic

1 9/5/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 designation area. We are asking
3 the Mayor and City Council to urge
4 the Commission to restrict its
5 historic designations to truly
6 historic buildings with the fully-
7 informed consent of property
8 owners. Thank you.

9 CHIEF CLERK: Albert
10 Meister, Jasmine Hoffman, Kimberly
11 Model and Emilio Flores, please
12 make their way to the podium.

13 (Witnesses approached
14 podium.)

15 MS. MODEL: Hello. My name
16 is Kimberly Model. I'm here
17 speaking in support of the
18 resolutions calling for bike safety
19 and for no stopping in the bike
20 lane for Vision Zero. I brought a
21 number of props. But for time I'm
22 going to forego most of them.

23 I'd like to show you. I've
24 got this helmet. It's broken
25 because there's a crack here.

1 9/5/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 Helmets are one-time use and
3 whenever you crash on them, they
4 crack, deform and you can't use
5 them anymore. I've got another one
6 here. I've got another one here,
7 completely destroyed. You can see
8 there's cracks here and there. And
9 the last prop I'd like to show you
10 is one of my bike lights, but I'll
11 forego that for time reasons.

12 I'm here asking for Vision
13 Zero funding because I need more
14 than speed cushions and flexi-posts
15 to protect me. I'm asking for no
16 stopping on all bike lanes because
17 I don't want to be squished between
18 a parked car and a speeding driver.
19 And I'm asking for concrete now
20 because I don't want to be the next
21 person run over by a drunk driver.
22 Thank you.

23 (Applause.)

24 MS. HOFFMAN: Hi. My name
25 is Jasmine Hoffman. I'm an

1 9/5/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 advocate for Jay-Alert Bill SB730
3 and I'm here representing my sister
4 Ayesha Poole, whose daughter and my
5 niece, Jayanna Powell who was 8
6 years old walking home from Cassidy
7 Elementary School, in 2018 she was
8 hit by a vehicle crossing the
9 street walking home with her
10 siblings.

11 I am testifying in support
12 of a resolution introduced by
13 Councilmembers Thomas, O'Rourke and
14 O'Lay(sic) calling for a hearing on
15 Zero Vision -- on Vision Zero. I
16 also want to testify in support of
17 the Council President's bill to
18 change parking resolutions and bike
19 lanes from no parking to no
20 stopping.

21 Jay Alert SB730 is a tool
22 that will help pedestrians and
23 bicyclists in lowering the
24 fatalities of hit-and-runs in
25 Philadelphia by awareness. Jay

1 9/5/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Alert is a tool that will back up
3 the news and the police station and
4 send out alerts to our cell phones
5 and also registered auto shops.

6 We hope that the Councilmen
7 will also help with moving SB730
8 off the Committee floor. We also
9 hope of hearing on Vision Zero
10 talks about the lack of enforcement
11 of hit-and-run crashes and get
12 funding for concrete barriers.
13 Thank you to the Council President
14 and the rest of this Council.
15 Thank you.

16 (Applause.)

17 CHIEF CLERK: Albert
18 Meister, Emilio Flores. Can Wanda
19 Walker, William Hendricks,
20 Christopher Dasher and David Simms
21 also make their way to the podium.

22 (Witnesses approached
23 podium.)

24 MS. FLORES: Hi. My name
25 is Emilio Flores. I'm a harm

1 9/5/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 reductionist, a substance use
3 researcher at Penn Med and a person
4 who uses drugs. I'm part of a
5 collective of community members,
6 some of whom are licensed medical
7 professionals and social workers
8 who hit the streets of Kensington
9 every single weekend, rain or
10 shine, and have done so throughout
11 the pandemic at our own personal
12 risk.

13 We're not a nonprofit and
14 none of us are paid for this work.
15 We do it because we care and
16 because we understand that when the
17 state leaves people behind, it's up
18 to us to take care of one another.
19 I'm presenting today in opposition
20 to Councilmember Lozada's proposed
21 amendment to Title 10 of The
22 Philadelphia Code, which would
23 effectively ban mobile outreach in
24 the 7th District, including
25 distribution of life-saving harm

1 9/5/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 reduction supplies.

3 The introduction of this
4 amendment would be cruel under any
5 circumstances but introducing it
6 now amid an increasingly toxic and
7 deadly drug supply is indefensible.
8 With the local drug supply being
9 overtaken by xylazine, the
10 devastating impact on our community
11 is impossible to ignore.

12 Xylazine in combination
13 with fentanyl and other adulterants
14 has led to severe infections,
15 amputations and an alarming rise in
16 infections. While this is all
17 occurring, our Mayoral
18 administration has set its sights
19 on defunding vital public health
20 services, like the Syringe Exchange
21 Program at Prevention Point.

22 A 2019 study out of GWU
23 found that PPP services prevented
24 10,000 people from contracting HIV
25 over a 10-year period. By

1 9/5/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 defunding these services and
3 banning smaller grassroots outreach
4 efforts, the Administration is
5 sending a clear message that it
6 does not care about the
7 proliferation of HIV and other
8 bloodborne illnesses.

9 If that's not enough to
10 convince you of these services of
11 necessity, consider that the same
12 study estimated \$1.8 billion in
13 total lifetime taxpayer savings.
14 Opposition to harm reduction
15 services isn't just morally
16 repugnant, it's fiscally
17 irresponsible.

18 At a time when we should be
19 responding to the crisis with
20 compassion and practices based on
21 evidence, members of Council are
22 responding with punitive measures
23 that fly in the face of decades of
24 public health research. Since the
25 beginning of Mayor Parker's tenure,

1 9/5/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 I and other harm reductionists have
3 been harassed by police while
4 distributing electrolyte packets
5 and water during a heat wave and
6 while administering wound care to
7 an individual who didn't feel
8 comfortable accessing services at a
9 nearby hospital for fear of being
10 stigmatized.

11 (Applause.)

12 MS. WALKER: My name is
13 Wanda Walker. Good morning,
14 beautiful people. We only have one
15 minute. 240416-A is what I'm going
16 to speak about to be respectful.
17 Of course I want to speak about
18 generational wealth and what's
19 going on with small businesses and
20 landlords, but we'll stick to this
21 one.

22 I'm not okay with this
23 because it says non-electoral. Who
24 are these people? You're talking
25 about selling bonds to create

1 9/5/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 money. There are other ways to get
3 revenue in the city of
4 Philadelphia. Are you all aware
5 that 23,000 buildings in
6 Philadelphia are nonexempt, which
7 equals \$30 billion in property
8 value that does not get taxed a
9 property tax like the rest of us.

10 And if you look at places
11 like U of P that own like one-third
12 of Philadelphia and their endowment
13 and they're not paying taxes, this
14 would be a great way to get
15 revenue. So if we started even
16 doing a flat tax on churches,
17 universities, hospitals and
18 nonprofits, we would find the money
19 that we need.

20 I'm definitely going to say
21 no to the stadium. We already have
22 four of them. So anything a new
23 one can do the four that we have
24 can do the same. We are the number
25 one poorest big city for this

1 9/5/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 reason right here. We are not
3 doing the things that are necessary
4 and needed for this city to be
5 better. We keep doing other
6 things. Thank you. I'll see you
7 next week.

8 (Applause.)

9 CHIEF CLERK: We have
10 William Hendricks, Christopher
11 Dasher, David Simms.

12 (Witnesses approached
13 podium.)

14 MR. DASHER: Good morning,
15 Council. My name is Christopher
16 Dasher. I live and work in South
17 Philadelphia where I'm also raising
18 two children, ages 3 and 9 -- my
19 name is Christopher Dasher -- good
20 morning. My name is Christopher
21 Dasher. I live and work in South
22 Philadelphia where I'm raising two
23 children, ages 3 and 9.

24 I believe all traffic
25 deaths are preventable. I wish to

1 9/5/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 express my support for the measures
3 introduced today regarding
4 pedestrian and bicycle safety and
5 thank Council for doing so. I
6 believe it is a fundamental right
7 of every Philadelphia resident to
8 get around safely without the use
9 of a car in every neighborhood.

10 Cities in the U.S. and
11 around the world have learned that
12 when you build a city for cars, get
13 cars. When you build a city for
14 people, you get people. And it's
15 the people of Philadelphia that
16 make me love this city so much.

17 (Applause.)

18 MR. DASHER: I was born
19 here. I'm raising my kids here.
20 Thank you for making it safer to do
21 so. The community has spoken.
22 Paint is not protection. We need
23 concrete now. Thank you.

24 (Applause.)

25 MR. SIMMS: Good morning.

1 9/5/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 My name is David Simms. I am the
3 artist and proprietor of Eatible
4 Delights Catering. And I'd like to
5 start off by saying in the words of
6 our Vice-President Kamala Harris, I
7 am a joyful business owner. I come
8 to you today to say thank you to
9 Anthony Phillips for recognizing
10 Eatible Delights as being a
11 longstanding business.

12 I've been here in business
13 in Philadelphia for over 25 years.
14 I'm originally from New York, but
15 I'm a Philadelphian. I wouldn't go
16 back to New York. So my message
17 more is for the business owner --

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
19 The Cowboys say that too.

20 MR. SIMMS: Keep that to
21 yourself.

22 (Laughter.)

23 MR. SIMMS: My message is
24 for the small business owner or for
25 the business owner. It's not easy

1 9/5/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 but it's worth it. And I want to
3 say thank you to all the people in
4 Philadelphia that has supported
5 Eatible Delights for over 25 years.
6 I'm very happy to say that I've
7 served five Mayoral administrations
8 and most of the people here in City
9 Council. So thank you for your
10 time and everyone have a good day.

11 (Applause.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

13 Thank you, David.

14 CHIEF CLERK: Council
15 President, there are no other names
16 for public comment.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

18 That concludes today's public
19 comment period.

20 The Chair recognizes
21 Councilmember Brooks, then
22 Councilmember Young.

23 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: Thank
24 you so much, Council President.

25 I would like to be excused

1 9/5/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 for --

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

4 Member Brooks, one second. Can we
5 keep it down as Members make their
6 remarks.

7 The Chair recognizes
8 Councilmember Brooks.

9 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: Thank
10 you, Council President.

11 I would like to be excused
12 for official Council business, and
13 I vote aye on all bills and
14 resolutions.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
16 Leave is excused. We will now
17 consider the bills and resolutions
18 on the Second Reading and Final
19 Passage Calendars.

20 Will the Clerk please read
21 the title of Resolution No. 240629.

22 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
23 calling on the Pennsylvania State
24 Senate to enact House Bill 2370 to
25 fairly fund schools in Philadelphia

1 9/5/24 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 and across the Commonwealth to
3 ensure fair allocation of resources
4 for all students. Introduced by
5 Councilmember Thomas for Council
6 President Johnson.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
8 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
9 Gilmore Richardson for a motion
10 regarding Resolution No. 240629.

11 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

12 RICHARDSON: Thank you --

13 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank
14 you, Council President.

15 On your behalf, I move for
16 the adoption of the resolution.

17 (Duly seconded.)

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
19 For the record, the Chair
20 recognizes Councilmember Thomas for
21 a motion regarding Resolution No.
22 240629.

23 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank
24 you, Council President.

25 I move for the adoption of

1 9/5/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 the resolution.

3 (Duly seconded.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

5 It has been moved and properly

6 seconded that Resolution No. 240629

7 be adopted.

8 All those in favor of the

9 motion will signify by saying aye.

10 (Aye.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

12 Those opposed?

13 (No response.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

15 The ayes have it. The motion

16 carries. The resolution is

17 adopted.

18 Will the Clerk please read

19 the title of Bill No. 240368.

20 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance

21 continuing a Neighborhood

22 Improvement District known as East

23 Passyunk Avenue Business

24 Improvement District in an area

25 that generally includes both sides

1 9/5/24 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 of East Passyunk Avenue from the
3 south side of Federal Street to the
4 east side of South Broad Street,
5 certain blocks of streets that
6 intersect that portion of East
7 Passyunk Avenue, both sides of
8 Broad Street from the north side of
9 McKean Street to the north side of
10 Snyder Avenue and the west side of
11 South Broad Street from the south
12 side of Mifflin Street to the north
13 side of McKean street, designating
14 the East Passyunk Avenue Business
15 Improvement District, which has
16 organized itself as a Pennsylvania
17 nonprofit corporation, as the
18 Neighborhood Improvement District
19 Management Association for the
20 District; approving a plan for the
21 District, including a list of
22 proposed improvements and their
23 estimated cost, and providing for
24 assessment fees to be levied on
25 property owners within the

1 9/5/24 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 District; authorizing the Director
3 of Commerce, on behalf of the City,
4 to execute an agreement with the
5 East Passyunk Avenue Business
6 Improvement District, relating to
7 the District; and authorizing the
8 East Passyunk Avenue Business
9 Improvement District to assess
10 property owners within the District
11 the special property assessment fee
12 to be used in accordance with the
13 approved plan; all in accordance
14 with the provisions of the
15 Community Economic Improvement Act,
16 and under certain terms and
17 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.

22 Will the Chief Clerk please
23 call the roll.

24 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
25 Phillips.

1 9/5/24 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: Aye.
3 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
4 Gilmore Richardson.
5 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE
6 RICHARDSON: Aye.
7 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
8 Gauthier.
9 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:
10 Aye.
11 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
12 Thomas.
13 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Aye.
14 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
15 Jones.
16 COUNCILMAN JONES: Aye.
17 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
18 Landau.
19 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU: Aye
20 on all bills.
21 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
22 Lozada.
23 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Aye.
24 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
25 Young.

1 9/5/24 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Aye.
3 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
4 Brooks voted aye.
5 Councilmember Harrity.
6 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: Aye.
7 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
8 O'Rourke.
9 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE: Aye.
10 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
11 Driscoll.
12 COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL: Aye.
13 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
14 O'Neill.
15 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Aye.
16 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
17 Squilla.
18 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Aye.
19 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
20 Bass.
21 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Aye.
22 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
23 Ahmad.
24 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD: Aye.
25 CHIEF CLERK: And, Council

1 9/5/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 President Johnson.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

4 Aye. The ayes are 17. The nays
5 are zero. Majority of all members
6 having voted in the affirmative,
7 the bill passes.

8 The Clerk will please read
9 any additional resolutions on
10 today's Calendar.

11 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
12 honoring and recognizing The
13 Honorable Stephen Kinsey for his
14 exceptional service and leadership
15 as a member of the Pennsylvania
16 House of Representatives from 2013
17 to 2024. Elected to represent the
18 201st Legislative District, Stephen
19 Kinsey proudly served for six
20 terms, demonstrating unwavering
21 dedication to his constituents and
22 community. Introduced by
23 Councilmember Phillips.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
25 The Chair recognizes Councilmember

1 9/5/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 Phillips for a motion on the
3 resolution. Very well done
4 resolution.

5 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: Thank
6 you, Council President.

7 On behalf of myself and the
8 8th District Councilwoman Cindy
9 Bass, I move for the adoption of
10 the resolution for a great man.

11 (Duly seconded.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

13 It has been moved and properly
14 seconded that the resolution be
15 adopted.

16 All those in favor will
17 signify by saying aye.

18 (Aye.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

20 Those opposed?

21 (No response.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

23 The ayes have it and the resolution
24 is adopted.

25 Will the Clerk --

1 9/5/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 CHIEF CLERK: And a

3 resol -- sorry.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

5 Go ahead.

6 CHIEF CLERK: And a

7 resolution recognizing September

8 2024 as "Prostate Cancer Awareness

9 Month" to raise awareness about the

10 importance of screening for and

11 treatment of prostate cancer, to

12 encourage prostate cancer research

13 and to encourage Philadelphians to

14 take an active role in the fight to

15 end prostate cancer. Introduced by

16 Councilmember Phillips.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

18 The Chair recognizes Councilmember

19 Phillips for a motion on the

20 resolution.

21 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: Thank

22 you. I move for the adoption of

23 the resolution.

24 (Duly seconded.)

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

1 9/5/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 It has been moved and properly
3 seconded that the resolution be
4 adopted.

5 All those in favor will
6 signify by saying aye.

7 (Aye.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

9 The ayes have it and the resolution
10 is adopted.

11 CHIEF CLERK: And a
12 resolution honoring and recognizing
13 the Philadelphia Youth Network as
14 it celebrates its 25th anniversary.
15 Introduced by Councilmember
16 Phillips.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
18 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
19 Phillips for a motion on the
20 resolution.

21 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: I
22 move for the adoption of the
23 resolution.

24 (Duly seconded.)

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

1 9/5/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 It has been moved and properly
3 seconded that the resolution be
4 adopted.

5 All those in favor will
6 signify by saying aye.

7 (Aye.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

9 Those opposed?

10 (No response.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

12 The ayes have it and the resolution
13 is adopted.

14 CHIEF CLERK: Honoring and
15 recognizing Youth Action for over
16 two decades of inspiring leadership
17 and community service in
18 Philadelphia. Introduced by
19 Councilmember Phillips.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

21 Chair recognizes Councilmember
22 Phillips for a motion on the
23 resolution.

24 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: I
25 enthusiastically move for the

1 9/5/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 adoption of this resolution.

3 (Duly seconded.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

5 It has been moved and properly

6 seconded that the resolution be

7 adopted.

8 All those in favor will

9 signify by saying aye.

10 (Aye.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

12 Those opposed?

13 (No response.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

15 The ayes have it and the resolution

16 is adopted.

17 CHIEF CLERK: Honoring and

18 recognizing Brown's Linen, Inc. for

19 its historic contributions to the

20 community and its commitment to

21 excellence across four generations.

22 Introduced by Councilmember

23 Phillips.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

25 The Chair recognizes Councilmember

1 9/5/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 Phillips for a motion on the
3 resolution.

4 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: I
5 move for the adoption of the
6 resolution.

7 (Duly seconded.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
9 It has been moved and properly
10 seconded that the resolution be
11 adopted.

12 All those in favor will
13 signify by saying aye.

14 (Aye.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
16 Those opposed?

17 (No response.)

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
19 The ayes have it and the resolution
20 is adopted.

21 CHIEF CLERK: And a
22 resolution honoring and recognizing
23 Buccann for its significant
24 contributions to the local culinary
25 landscape and its commitment to

1 9/5/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 excellence, community engagement

3 and authenticity in modern

4 Dominican cuisine. Introduced by

5 Councilmember Phillips.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

7 The Chair recognizes Councilmember

8 Phillips for a motion on the

9 resolution.

10 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: I

11 move for the adoption of the

12 resolution.

13 (Duly seconded.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

15 It has been moved and properly

16 seconded that the resolution be

17 adopted.

18 All those in favor will

19 signify by saying aye.

20 (Aye.)

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

22 Those opposed?

23 (No response.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

25 The ayes have it and the resolution

1 9/5/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 is adopted.

3 CHIEF CLERK: Resolution
4 honoring and recognizing Bally's
5 Pizzeria for its significant
6 contribution to the culinary
7 landscape and its unwavering
8 dedication to quality, community
9 and authenticity. Introduced by
10 Councilmember Phillips.

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

15 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: I
16 move for the adoption of the
17 resolution.

18 (Duly seconded.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
20 It has been moved and properly
21 seconded that the resolution be
22 adopted.

23 All those in favor will
24 signify by saying aye.

25 (Aye.)

1 9/5/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

3 Those opposed?

4 (No response.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

6 The ayes have it and the resolution
7 is adopted.

8 CHIEF CLERK: And a
9 resolution honoring and recognizing
10 Bruce R. Hawkins Funeral Home for
11 its remarkable contributions to the
12 community and its commitment to
13 excellence over the past 40 years.
14 Introduced by Councilmember
15 Phillips.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
17 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
18 Phillips for a motion on the
19 resolution.

20 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: I
21 move for the adoption of the
22 resolution.

23 (Duly seconded.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

25 It has been moved and properly

1 9/5/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 seconded that the resolution be
3 adopted.

4 All those in favor will
5 signify by saying aye.

6 (Aye.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

8 Those opposed?

9 (No response.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

11 The ayes have it and the resolution
12 is adopted.

13 CHIEF CLERK: Honoring and
14 recognizing Cathryn's Cake Salon
15 for its dedication to exceptional
16 service, community engagement and
17 its contribution to the local
18 economy. Introduced by
19 Councilmember Phillips.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

21 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
22 Phillips for a motion on the
23 resolution.

24 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: I

25 move for the adoption of the

1 9/5/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 resolution.

3 (Duly seconded.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

5 It has been moved and properly

6 seconded that the resolution be

7 adopted.

8 All those in favor will

9 signify by saying aye.

10 (Aye.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

12 Those opposed?

13 (No response.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

15 The ayes have it and the resolution

16 is adopted.

17 CHIEF CLERK: Honoring and

18 recognizing Eatible Delights

19 Catering and its founder David

20 Simms for their extraordinary

21 contributions to the culinary arts

22 and their unwavering commitment to

23 community service. Introduced by

24 Councilmember Phillips.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

1 9/5/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
3 Phillips for a motion on the
4 resolution.

5 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: I
6 move for the adoption of the
7 resolution.

8 (Duly seconded.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
10 It has been moved and properly
11 seconded that the resolution be
12 adopted.

13 All those in favor will
14 signify by saying aye.

15 (Aye.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
17 Those opposed?

18 (No response.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
20 The ayes have it and the resolution
21 is adopted.

22 CHIEF CLERK: And a
23 resolution honoring and recognizing
24 Island Fritay for its outstanding
25 contributions to the local culinary

1 9/5/24 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 and its commitment to excellence,
3 community engagement and
4 authenticity in Haitian Caribbean
5 cuisine. Introduced by
6 Councilmember Phillips.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
8 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
9 Phillips for a motion on the
10 resolution.

11 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: I
12 move for the adoption of the
13 resolution.

14 (Duly seconded.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
16 It has been moved and properly
17 seconded that the resolution be
18 adopted.

19 All those in favor will
20 signify by saying aye.

21 (Aye.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
23 Those opposed?

24 (No response.)

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

1 9/5/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 The ayes have it and the resolution
3 is adopted.

4 CHIEF CLERK: Honoring and
5 recognizing Paul Beale's Flowers
6 for its remarkable 50-year history
7 and its enduring impact on the
8 community. Introduced by
9 Councilmember Phillips.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
11 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
12 Phillips for a motion on the
13 resolution.

14 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: I
15 move for the adoption of the
16 resolution.

17 (Duly seconded.)

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
19 It has been moved and properly
20 seconded that the resolution be
21 adopted.

22 All those in favor will
23 signify by saying aye.

24 (Aye.)

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

1 9/5/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 Those opposed?

3 (No response.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

5 The ayes have it and the resolution
6 is adopted.

7 CHIEF CLERK: And a
8 resolution honoring and recognizing
9 Ron's Caribbean Cuisine for its
10 significant contribution to the
11 culinary landscape and its
12 unwavering dedication to quality,
13 community and authenticity.
14 Introduced by Councilmember
15 Phillips.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
17 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
18 Phillips for a motion on the
19 resolution.

20 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: I
21 move for the adoption of the
22 resolution.

23 (Duly seconded.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

25 It has been moved and properly

1 9/5/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 seconded that the resolution be
3 adopted.

4 All those in favor will
5 signify by saying aye.

6 (Aye.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

8 Those opposed?

9 (No response.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

11 The ayes have it and the resolution
12 is adopted.

13 CHIEF CLERK: And a
14 resolution honoring and celebrating
15 Dermatology Laser and Aesthetic
16 Surgery and its owner Dr. Louis A.
17 Brown, Jr. for their extraordinary
18 contributions to the Rising Sun
19 Avenue Business Corridor and the
20 broader Philadelphia community.
21 Introduced by Councilmember
22 Phillips.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

24 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
25 Phillips for a motion on the

1 9/5/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 resolution.

3 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: I

4 move for the adoption of the

5 resolution.

6 (Duly seconded.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

8 It has been moved and properly

9 seconded that the resolution be

10 adopted.

11 All those in favor will

12 signify by saying aye.

13 (Aye.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

15 Those opposed?

16 (No response.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

18 The ayes have it and the resolution

19 is adopted.

20 CHIEF CLERK: And a

21 resolution recognizing the recent

22 partnership between PhilaPort and

23 Norwegian Cruise Line and

24 celebrating the return of cruising

25 in the city of Philadelphia.

1 9/5/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 Introduced by Councilmember Gilmore
3 Richardson.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
5 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
6 Kathy Gilmore Richardson for a
7 motion on the resolution.

8 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

9 RICHARDSON: Thank you,
10 Mr. President.

11 I enthusiastically move the
12 adoption of the resolution.

13 (Duly seconded.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
15 It has been moved and properly
16 seconded that the resolution be
17 adopted.

18 All those in favor will
19 signify by saying aye.

20 (Aye.)

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
22 Those opposed?

23 (No response.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
25 The ayes have it and the resolution

1 9/5/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 is adopted.

3 CHIEF CLERK: And a
4 resolution recognizing, honoring
5 and celebrating Zeta Phi Beta
6 Sorority, Incorporated on the
7 occasion of Zeta Day at City Hall.
8 Introduced by Councilmember
9 Gilmore Richardson.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
11 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
12 Kathy Gilmore Richardson for a
13 motion on the resolution.

14 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE
15 RICHARDSON: Thank you,
16 Mr. President.

17 I move the adoption of the
18 resolution and look forward to
19 welcoming the finer women of Zeta
20 Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated to
21 Philadelphia City Council chambers.

22 (Duly seconded.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
24 It has been moved and
25 enthusiastically seconded that the

1 9/5/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 resolution be adopted.

3 All those in favor will

4 signify by saying aye.

5 (Aye.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

7 Those opposed?

8 (No response.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

10 The ayes have it and the resolution

11 is adopted.

12 CHIEF CLERK: And a

13 resolution authorizing the

14 Committee on Housing, Neighborhood

15 Development and the Homeless to

16 hold hearings on how setting

17 affordable housing program

18 eligibility according to the metric

19 of regional Area Median Income,

20 AMI, fails to reflect the true

21 state of housing affordability

22 needs of Philadelphians, how this

23 leads to City housing programs not

24 providing enough funding to those

25 who need it most and how the

1 9/5/24 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 adoption of a more locally defined
3 AMI can be utilized to create and
4 sustain genuinely affordable
5 housing across Philadelphia.
6 Introduced by Councilmember
7 Gauthier.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
9 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
10 Gauthier.

11 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:
12 Thank you, Council President.
13 I call for the adoption of
14 the resolution.

15 (Duly seconded.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
17 It has been moved and properly
18 seconded that the resolution be
19 adopted.

20 All those in favor will
21 signify by saying aye.

22 (Aye.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
24 Those opposed?

25 (No response.)

1 9/5/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

3 The ayes have it and the resolution
4 is adopted.

5 CHIEF CLERK: And a

6 resolution honoring and

7 congratulating the Rex 6 Basketball

8 Team for winning the 2024 Brotherly

9 Love Basketball Championship.

10 Introduced by Councilman Thomas for

11 Council President Johnson.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

13 The Chair enthusiastically

14 recognizes Councilmember Isaiah

15 Thomas for a motion on the

16 resolution.

17 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Because

18 I have to thank you, thank you,

19 Council President. And I

20 reluctantly move for the adoption

21 of the resolution.

22 (Duly seconded.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

24 It has been moved and properly

25 seconded that the resolution be

1 9/5/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 adopted.

3 All those in favor will
4 signify by saying aye.

5 (Aye.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

7 Those opposed?

8 (No response.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

10 The ayes have it and the resolution
11 is adopted.

12 CHIEF CLERK: And a
13 resolution honoring and
14 congratulating Preparatory Charter
15 High School graduate Kahleah Copper
16 on winning the Gold Medal in
17 Women's Basketball during the 2024
18 Summer Olympic Games in Paris,
19 France. Introduced by
20 Councilmember Thomas for Council
21 President Johnson.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

23 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
24 Isaiah Thomas for a motion on the
25 resolution.

1 9/5/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank
3 you, Council President.

4 I move for the adoption of
5 the resolution.

6 (Duly seconded.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

8 It has been moved and properly
9 seconded that the resolution be
10 adopted.

11 All those in favor will
12 signify by saying aye.

13 (Aye.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

15 Those opposed?

16 (No response.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

18 The ayes have it and the resolution
19 is adopted.

20 CHIEF CLERK: And a
21 resolution authorizing the
22 Committee on Legislative Oversight
23 to hold hearings investigating the
24 City's progress towards achieving
25 its Vision Zero goals and examining

1 9/5/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 opportunities to increase safety
3 measures for pedestrians and
4 cyclists. Introduced by
5 Councilmember Thomas.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
7 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
8 Thomas for a motion on the
9 resolution.

10 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank
11 you, Council President.

12 Clearly this was a hot
13 topic discussion issue today, so I
14 appreciate all of my colleagues
15 taking this issue and making it a
16 priority and I look forward to the
17 conversation. So with that being
18 said, I move for the adoption of
19 the resolution.

20 (Duly seconded.)

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
22 It has been enthusiastically moved
23 and seconded that the resolution be
24 adopted.

25 All those in favor will

1 9/5/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 signify by saying aye.

3 (Aye.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

5 Those opposed?

6 (No response.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

8 The ayes have it and the resolution
9 is adopted.

10 (Applause.)

11 CHIEF CLERK: And a
12 resolution authorizing the
13 Committee on Legislative Oversight
14 to hold hearings to assess the
15 current state of Philadelphia's
16 preparations for the multitude of
17 events being held across the City
18 throughout 2026 as we celebrate
19 America's 250th birthday and
20 Philadelphia's central role in
21 America's founding. Introduced by
22 Councilmember Thomas.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

24 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
25 Thomas for a motion on the

1 9/5/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 resolution.

3 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank
4 you, Council President.

5 This is an important topic,
6 and I move for the adoption of the
7 resolution.

8 (Duly seconded.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
10 It has been moved and properly
11 seconded that the resolution be
12 adopted.

13 All those in favor will
14 signify by saying aye.

15 (Aye.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
17 Those opposed?

18 (No response.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
20 The ayes have it and the resolution
21 is adopted.

22 CHIEF CLERK: And a
23 resolution honoring and
24 congratulating Joel Embiid on his
25 gold medal finish in the 2024

1 9/5/24 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 Olympic Games Basketball Final and
3 for becoming the first player in
4 Philadelphia 76ers franchise
5 history to win a gold medal with
6 Team USA. Introduced by
7 Councilmember Thomas.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
9 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
10 Thomas for a motion on the
11 resolution.

12 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank
13 you, Council President.

14 Congratulations to all of
15 the Philadelphia folks who won a
16 gold medal. And I move for the
17 adoption of the resolution.

18 (Duly seconded.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
20 It has been moved and properly
21 seconded that the resolution be
22 adopted.

23 All those in favor will
24 signify by saying aye.

25 (Aye.)

1 9/5/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

3 Those opposed?

4 (No response.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

6 The ayes have it and the resolution
7 is adopted.

8 CHIEF CLERK: And a
9 resolution authorizing the Joint
10 Committees on Public Safety and
11 Public Health and Human Services to
12 hold hearings to investigate the
13 effectiveness and potential
14 expansion of mobile mental health
15 units administered by the
16 Department of Behavioral Health and
17 Intellectual Disability Services.
18 Introduced by Councilmember Jones.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
20 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
21 Jones for a motion on the
22 resolution.

23 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank
24 you, Mr. President.

25 I move for the adoption.

1 9/5/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 (Duly seconded.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

4 It has been moved and properly
5 seconded that the resolution be
6 adopted.

7 All those in favor will
8 signify by saying aye.

9 (Aye.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

11 Those opposed?

12 (No response.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

14 The ayes have it and the resolution
15 is adopted.

16 CHIEF CLERK: And a
17 resolution honoring and recognizing
18 6abc Philadelphia news anchor and
19 reporter Rick Williams for his
20 contributions to the impactful
21 "Crimefighters" series introduced
22 by Councilmember Jones.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

24 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
25 Jones for a motion on the

1 9/5/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 resolution.

3 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank
4 you, Mr. President.

5 I move for its adoption.

6 (Duly seconded.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

8 It has been moved and properly
9 seconded that the resolution be
10 adopted.

11 All those in favor will
12 signify by saying aye.

13 (Aye.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

15 Those opposed?

16 (No response.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

18 The ayes have it and the resolution
19 is adopted.

20 CHIEF CLERK: And a
21 resolution honoring and recognizing
22 Drexel University alumnus Justin
23 Best, who mastered the sport of
24 rowing on the Schuylkill River at
25 Boathouse Row in the 4th

1 9/5/24 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 Councilmanic District, for his
3 contribution in securing the gold
4 medal as one of four on the United
5 States Olympic Rowing Team at the
6 2024 Summer Olympic Games in Paris,
7 France. Introduced by
8 Councilmember Jones.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
10 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
11 Jones for a motion on the
12 resolution.

13 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank
14 you, Mr. President.

15 I move for its adoption.
16 (Duly seconded.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
18 It has been moved and properly
19 seconded that the resolution be
20 adopted.

21 All those in favor will
22 signify by saying aye.

23 (Aye.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
25 Those opposed?

1 9/5/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 (No response.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

4 The ayes have it and the resolution
5 is adopted.

6 CHIEF CLERK: And a
7 resolution authorizing the
8 Committee on Education to hold
9 hearings investigating the rate of
10 food waste and determining
11 distribution options for excess
12 food in the city of Philadelphia.
13 Introduced by Councilmember Jones.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
15 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
16 Jones for a motion on the
17 resolution.

18 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank
19 you, Mr. President.

20 I move for the adoption.

21 (Duly seconded.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

23 It has been moved and properly
24 seconded that the resolution be
25 adopted.

1 9/5/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 All those in favor will
3 signify by saying aye.

4 (Aye.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

6 Those opposed?

7 (No response.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

9 The ayes have it and the resolution
10 is adopted.

11 CHIEF CLERK: And a
12 resolution authorizing the
13 Committee on Public Safety to hold
14 hearings to investigate the ability
15 and preparedness of critical City
16 departments to possess a redundancy
17 of records. Introduced by
18 Councilmember Jones.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

20 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
21 Jones for a motion on the
22 resolution.

23 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank
24 you again, Mr. President.

25 I move for the adoption.

1 9/5/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 (Duly seconded.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

4 It has been moved and properly
5 seconded that the resolution be
6 adopted.

7 All those in favor will
8 signify by saying aye.

9 (Aye.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

11 Those opposed?

12 (No response.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

14 The ayes have it and the resolution
15 is adopted.

16 CHIEF CLERK: And a
17 resolution recognizing September
18 10, 2024 as Suicide Prevention Day
19 in the City of Philadelphia and
20 affirming the need for suicide
21 prevention awareness and robust
22 mental health services. Introduced
23 by Councilmember Landau.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

25 The Chair recognizes Councilmember

1 9/5/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 Landau.

3 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU: Thank
4 you, Council President.

5 I move for the adoption of
6 the resolution.

7 (Duly seconded.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

9 It has been moved and properly
10 seconded that the resolution be
11 adopted.

12 All those in favor will
13 signify by saying aye.

14 (Aye.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

16 Those opposed?

17 (No response.)

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

19 The ayes have it and the resolution
20 is adopted.

21 CHIEF CLERK: And a
22 resolution honoring and recognizing
23 Maia Weintraub for representing
24 Philadelphia and the United States
25 in the 2024 Summer Olympics and

1 9/5/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 winning a gold medal in team

3 fencing. Introduced by

4 Councilmember Landau.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

6 The Chair recognizes Councilmember

7 Landau.

8 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU: Thank

9 you, Council President.

10 I move for the adoption.

11 (Duly seconded.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

13 It has been moved and properly

14 seconded that the resolution be

15 adopted.

16 All those in favor will

17 signify by saying aye.

18 (Aye.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

20 Those opposed?

21 (No response.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

23 The ayes have it and the resolution

24 is adopted.

25 CHIEF CLERK: And a

1 9/5/24 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 resolution authorizing the Joint
3 Committees on Public Safety and
4 Streets and Services to hold
5 hearings to investigate the
6 Philadelphia Police Department
7 precinct policies and practices for
8 approving and denying block party
9 permits and exploring methods to
10 increase block party permit
11 applications. Introduced by
12 Councilmember Young.

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

17 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Thank
18 you, Mr. President.

19 I move for its adoption.
20 (Duly seconded.)

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

25 All those in favor will

1 9/5/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 signify by saying aye.

3 (Aye.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

5 Those opposed?

6 (No response.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

8 The ayes have it and the resolution
9 is adopted.

10 CHIEF CLERK: And a
11 resolution authorizing the Council
12 Committee on Streets and Services
13 to hold hearings to investigate the
14 policies, procedures and practices
15 regarding the changing of the
16 direction of streets as authorized
17 by the Philadelphia Department of
18 Streets. Introduced by
19 Councilmember Young.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
21 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
22 Young for a motion on the
23 resolution.

24 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Thank
25 you, Mr. President.

1 9/5/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 I move for its adoption.

3 (Duly seconded.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

5 It has been moved and properly
6 seconded that the resolution be
7 adopted.

8 All those in favor will
9 signify by saying aye.

10 (Aye.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

12 Those opposed?

13 (No response.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

15 The ayes have it and the resolution
16 is adopted.

17 CHIEF CLERK: And a
18 resolution authorizing the Joint
19 Committees on Public Safety and
20 Legislative Oversight to hold
21 hearings examining actions
22 necessary to significantly reduce
23 the Philadelphia prison population
24 in an effort to permanently close
25 Philadelphia's oldest and most

1 9/5/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 inhumane prison facility, the
3 Detention Center. Introduced by
4 Councilmember O'Rourke.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
6 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
7 O'Rourke for a motion on the
8 resolution.

9 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE: Thank
10 you, Council President.

11 I move for the adoption of
12 the resolution.

13 (Duly seconded.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
15 It has been moved and properly
16 seconded that the resolution be
17 adopted.

18 All those in favor will
19 signify by saying aye.

20 (Aye.)

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
22 Those opposed?

23 (No response.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
25 The ayes have it and the resolution

1 9/5/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 is adopted.

3 CHIEF CLERK: And a

4 resolution authorizing the

5 Committee on Transportation and

6 Public Utilities to hold hearings

7 to investigate the economic impact

8 of the Philadelphia Water

9 Department's implementation of

10 Advanced Metering Infrastructure on

11 the residents of the City of

12 Philadelphia. Introduced by

13 Councilmember Driscoll.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

15 The Chair recognizes Councilmember

16 Mike Driscoll for a motion on the

17 resolution.

18 COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL: I

19 move for the adoption of the

20 resolution.

21 (Duly seconded.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

23 It has been moved and properly

24 seconded that the resolution be

25 adopted.

1 9/5/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 All those in favor will

3 signify by saying aye.

4 (Aye.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

6 Those opposed?

7 (No response.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

9 The ayes have it and the resolution
10 is adopted.

11 CHIEF CLERK: And a
12 resolution authorizing the Special
13 Committee on Kensington to hold
14 public hearings to examine the
15 current state of transportation
16 infrastructure and services in the
17 City of Philadelphia in response to
18 the opioid crisis. Introduced by
19 Councilmember Driscoll.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

21 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
22 Driscoll for a motion on the
23 resolution.

24 COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL: I

25 move for the adoption of the

1 9/5/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 resolution.

3 (Duly seconded.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

5 It has been moved and properly

6 seconded that the resolution be

7 adopted.

8 All those in favor will

9 signify by saying aye.

10 (Aye.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

12 Those opposed?

13 (No response.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

15 The ayes have it and the resolution

16 is adopted.

17 CHIEF CLERK: And a

18 resolution recognizing September as

19 "Childhood Cancer Awareness Month"

20 and promoting the public awareness

21 and research of childhood cancer in

22 the City of Philadelphia.

23 Introduced by Councilmember Ahmad.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

25 The Chair recognizes Councilmember

1 9/5/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 Ahmad for a motion on the
3 resolution.

4 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD: Thank
5 you, Council President.

6 I move for the adoption of
7 this resolution.

8 (Duly seconded.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
10 It has been moved and properly
11 seconded that the resolution be
12 adopted.

13 All those in favor will
14 signify by saying aye.

15 (Aye.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
17 Those opposed?

18 (No response.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
20 The ayes have it and the resolution
21 is adopted.

22 CHIEF CLERK: And a
23 resolution recognizing the
24 prevalence of childhood abuse and
25 the severe impacts it has on the

1 9/5/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 children of Philadelphia, and
3 affirming the City of
4 Philadelphia's commitment to
5 examining the effectiveness of
6 City-funded programs that provide
7 services for child welfare and
8 safety. Introduced by
9 Councilmember Ahmad.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
11 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
12 Ahmad for a motion on the
13 resolution.

14 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD: Thank
15 you, Council President.

16 I move for the adoption of
17 this resolution.

18 (Duly seconded.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
20 It has been moved and properly
21 seconded that the resolution be
22 adopted.

23 All those in favor will
24 signify by saying aye.

25 (Aye.)

1 9/5/24 - STATED - SPECIAL REMARKS

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

3 Those opposed?

4 (No response.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

6 The ayes have it and the resolution
7 is adopted.

8 CHIEF CLERK: Council

9 President, there are no more
10 resolutions in my possession.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

12 That completes our Calendar for
13 today.

14 Before we officially go
15 into speeches, I want to
16 acknowledge Councilmember Cindy
17 Bass.

18 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank
19 you, Mr. President.

20 I'm going to ask Councilman
21 O'Neill -- I was going to ask
22 Councilman O'Neill if he was
23 wanting to make remarks as well.

24 So I was going to speak on
25 the passing of former Councilmember

1 9/5/24 - STATED - SPECIAL REMARKS
2 Donna Reed Miller. And so, over
3 the summer we lost a great warrior
4 and champion in Councilwoman Donna
5 Reed Miller. And she was someone
6 who was as authentic as you can
7 possibly be. She was always true
8 to herself, true to her community
9 and true to the issues that were
10 long before there was this notion
11 of I would say progressivism.
12 There were people like Donna Reed
13 Miller who came from Dave
14 Richardson, Brother Dave Richardson
15 School of Politics, who like Hardy
16 Williams and so many others were
17 the fathers of independent Black
18 politics in the City of
19 Philadelphia.
20 And so, when I heard that
21 she had passed, I think most of us
22 were really shocked because
23 although we knew that there might
24 have been some ailments, it was
25 nothing that we thought, you know,

1 9/5/24 - STATED - SPECIAL REMARKS
2 that we were having the expectation
3 of losing her so soon.

4 And so, I know that she
5 worked with Councilman O'Neill as a
6 colleague. She worked with
7 Councilman Jones as a colleague.
8 And she also worked with interns
9 and staffers like Councilwoman
10 Quetcy Lozada, Councilman Jeffrey
11 Young, our Majority Leader Kathy
12 Gilmore Richardson, other
13 relationships like Jimmy Harrity,
14 Councilmember Harrity and so many
15 more, you know, a lot of
16 relationships with the former
17 Council Lady.

18 So I was going to ask if we
19 could have a moment of silence, a
20 standing moment of silence in her
21 honor for all of the hard work that
22 she did and put into the City of
23 Philadelphia and all that she gave
24 for each and every one of us.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

1 9/5/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 Absolutely.

3 (Standing moment of
4 silence.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

6 Thank you, Member Bass. Definitely
7 will be missed.

8 Are there any speeches on
9 the part of the Minority?

10 The Chair recognizes
11 Councilmember O'Rourke.

12 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE: Thank
13 you, President Johnson.

14 And thank you to everyone
15 who came out this morning, I guess
16 afternoon, or tuned in to see your
17 government in action today as we
18 resume our legislative work here in
19 the fall session.

20 I personally am still going
21 through my first year as a
22 legislator, and something that I
23 wasn't ready for was how the many
24 hopes and dreams and visions and
25 opinions that Philadelphians have

1 9/5/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 for their city would work on me
3 through the summer break. All the
4 joy that is evoked by our everyday
5 miracles, all the sorrow brought on
6 by our everyday tragedies, it was
7 all there.

8 It was all coming to our
9 phone lines. It was coming to my
10 email box, came in letters. But
11 this body wasn't in session and we
12 couldn't act on it. Our systems do
13 run on a calendar. I was clear
14 about that, but life happens to all
15 of us every day and is seen in all
16 of the joys that we evoke and all
17 the sorrow that we bring.

18 The tension of the summer
19 kind of focused me. It focused me
20 forward to today and to these weeks
21 ahead of us in a way that feels
22 deeply spiritual, if I may, because
23 it is spiritual. The people's
24 needs are sacred. The people's
25 needs are holy. And we as the

1 9/5/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 elected representatives are charged
3 to be in relationship, to be in
4 deep discourse with all of you who
5 are watching, listening, who are
6 here.

7 We have to be responsive.
8 We have to be engaged. We have to
9 be strategizing together toward
10 that more perfect union, if you
11 will. That is the spirit of
12 democracy. And it feels like that
13 spirit revives every four years
14 when this idea of democracy starts
15 to kind of clarify and feel real
16 for so many. As it is on the
17 outside, my prayer is that it may
18 be so on the inside.

19 May that animating spirit
20 of democracy in this season rein in
21 this chamber all season long
22 because we have a lot of work to
23 get through. We have a lot of
24 plans and a lot of proposals. We
25 have a lot on our hearts. Some of

1 9/5/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 us are mourning today. Some folks
3 came mourning Christopher Cabrera,
4 a pedestrian who was killed by a
5 car accident in Kensington on the
6 same terrible day in July when
7 Dr. Barbara Friedes was killed by a
8 drunk driver while riding her bike
9 on Spruce Street, as was
10 articulated today during public
11 comment.

12 People are basically
13 begging us, y'all, to get out of
14 our own way and to do what is
15 feasible in their eyes to make our
16 streets safer. I think that we are
17 off to a strong start. I think all
18 of us would agree, one, to grow
19 upon as we move through this
20 session for sure.

21 Some of us came to the
22 chamber today in a celebratory
23 move. And I wish I could have
24 joined the celebration in
25 Wynnefield yesterday with the bold

1 9/5/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 brave tenants of Brith Sholom
3 House. They are worthy of a round
4 of applause for the work that they
5 have done. Their action in their
6 homes and in City Hall made a
7 material difference.

8 Instead of living under the
9 boot of a slumlord, they
10 communicated with their
11 representatives to incite the
12 purchase of their apartment
13 building from PHA. And that's an
14 example of what government can do
15 when it heeds the calls of the
16 people and when it comes together
17 for action.

18 This is I believe another
19 testament to the power of organized
20 tenants. This too is what
21 democracy looks like, as we say in
22 the streets, they showed it in the
23 community. Some among us are
24 thoroughly scared for the future of
25 our communities, like our neighbors

1 9/5/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 in Chinatown. And according to
3 some reports commissioned by the
4 City, their worries appear to be
5 well-founded after all.

6 I have the luxury of having
7 been a firm public opinion on this
8 issue early on which is that our
9 basketball franchise I believe
10 would be better served and would be
11 a better neighbor, if you will, by
12 continuing the search for the ideal
13 location here in the beloved city
14 of Philadelphia to build their
15 arena, but we need to be credible.
16 We need to be open. We need to be
17 honest when we have that
18 discussion, not for show, not for
19 words, but so that the people can
20 actually witness self-government
21 working for them. We deserve, they
22 deserve an honest conversation.

23 Some of our constituents
24 are not part of the conversation at
25 all, if we're being honest.

1 9/5/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 Whether that's because they feel
3 disenfranchised or disillusioned or
4 because they actually are
5 disenfranchised and the only way
6 they can talk to us is if we go to
7 them.

8 This summer we went up
9 State Road to talk to a number of
10 our incarcerated constituents.
11 What's abundantly clear is that we
12 have to end the crisis in our jails
13 where Philadelphians are getting
14 their rights violated on a daily
15 basis. And I call them
16 Philadelphians because that's what
17 they are. They are Philadelphians
18 and they are having their rights
19 violated for a variety of reasons.

20 And that's why it's my
21 first action of this session
22 calling for a hearing on
23 decarceration, getting people out
24 of jail who do not need to be
25 there. Ten years into this

1 9/5/24 - STATED - SPEECHES
2 movement towards decarceration and
3 some of them may feel a bit
4 repetitive for us to have those
5 sorts of hearings, but these are
6 hard conversations. That's our
7 job. That's what we have to do.
8 It's our work. That's life in a
9 thoroughly democratic republic,
10 where we don't just see voting
11 twice a year as the full breath of
12 other people's engagement, but we
13 engage this way too.
14 It's essential that we feel
15 and know that as much as we love
16 Philadelphia, that Philadelphia is
17 a city that loves us back. I'm
18 honored to say that aspirational-
19 termed phrase that's guiding our
20 office came straight from Cameron
21 Morris, who is a wonderful young
22 man and senior at Roman Catholic
23 who interned in my office this past
24 summer. Philadelphia, a city that
25 loves you back.

1 9/5/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 Philly must be a
3 municipality that won't just hear
4 your voice, but empower it, that it
5 can match your dreams with the
6 resources to realize your dreams.
7 That's the Philly that I imagine.
8 That's the Philly that I believe
9 for. That's the Philly that I pray
10 for as I pray for this Council, as
11 I pray for our Mayor, as I pray for
12 our constituents.

13 And whether you pray or
14 whether you don't pray, I hope that
15 you too can imagine with us in this
16 chamber, can believe in a beloved
17 community and believe in what that
18 One Philly might actually look like
19 with us in the City Council, to do
20 it with your neighbor and do it in
21 the honest, quiet recesses of your
22 own time. I pray that this belief
23 drives us forward and I pray that
24 it does it together. Thank you.
25 God bless you. I look forward to

1 9/5/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 this fall.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

4 You're welcome.

5 Are there any speeches on
6 behalf of the Majority?

7 The Chair recognizes
8 Councilmember Jim Harrity.

9 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: Good
10 afternoon, colleagues. Good
11 afternoon, Council President.

12 Man, I woke up today
13 feeling blessed. I got up real
14 early and was able to watch the sun
15 come up. And the way it was
16 hitting with the clouds, the rays
17 were actually visible coming out
18 and it just made my whole day. And
19 then I come into Council today and
20 I look up and there's my mentor, my
21 spiritual advisor, my brother Imam
22 Abdul-Aleem up there giving our
23 prayer invocation today.

24 And it just made me
25 reminisce. You know, we all -- a

1 9/5/24 - STATED - SPEECHES
2 bunch of us came from the
3 Convention. And a lot of you that
4 were there, you know I didn't
5 really have much fun at the
6 Convention. I spent most of the
7 time acting as a staffer again and
8 trying to make everybody happy, and
9 we were able to do that. And I
10 actually gave my pass away every
11 day to somebody else to go see.
12 And finally on the last day
13 my brother was a little upset with
14 me because I had taken care of so
15 many people and I was so irritated
16 that I wasn't even going to go
17 Thursday night. And it's funny how
18 God works. He beat me up a little
19 bit and gave me his page pass,
20 which gives you access to
21 everything. And I went over and
22 actually sat down and I was still
23 not feeling right. And then I look
24 up and who was standing there but
25 Abdul-Aleem. And I was like, you

1 9/5/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 know what, this is God. Putting
3 people in place when you need it,
4 when you need to hear something.
5 And I needed to hear his message.
6 And it was very good.

7 And, you know, I'd be
8 remiss if I didn't -- my wife
9 Marnie is here in the audience
10 today. So she works for the Mayor
11 and all that, but what most people
12 don't know is that Abdul-Aleem
13 actually married us Islamically a
14 few years back because he is my
15 brother. He pulled us aside one
16 night at a dinner and had a little
17 service for us right there in the
18 restaurant while everybody was
19 eating. It was a very loving
20 gesture and his words were very
21 kind. And I'll never forget that.

22 So for me today was a great
23 day, coming in to our first new
24 Council session, feeling the energy
25 of my colleagues. I mean, we have

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2 good people here. I am so honored
3 to work with all these people in
4 City Council here. I do believe
5 that they really do have the people
6 in mind just like I have the people
7 in mind every day when I come to
8 work. So I just want to thank you
9 all and I look forward to having
10 more fantastic days here at City
11 Council. So thank you, everyone.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

13 Thank you.

14 The Chair recognizes
15 Councilmember Jones.

16 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank
17 you, Mr. President.

18 There are a lot of
19 adjectives to describe what people
20 are feeling today. I want to use
21 the one that the Vice-President
22 uses, joy and gratitude. I'm
23 joyful and grateful for the Mayor's
24 commitment to do 30,000 affordable
25 luxury houses. Starting yesterday,

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2 and you were there, colleague and
3 President, where that promise made
4 is a promise being kept for the
5 people of Brith Sholom.

6 (Applause.)

7 COUNCILMAN JONES: 269

8 units being renovated by PHA.

9 Thank you, Mr. President, and thank
10 the Board of Directors and the
11 Chief Operating Officer over at PHA
12 for rescuing those people. Thank
13 you, Mr. President and colleagues,
14 for what I learned from the Chair
15 of Housing who went through this
16 and texted me and said, I got your
17 back, I'll show you how, but she
18 did not tell me how much pressure
19 that was.

20 When those people look you
21 in the face when they came into
22 this Council and said, you're our
23 last and only hope, and we looked
24 back at them and said, we got your
25 back. That day yesterday could

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2 have turned out real different
3 prayers. We could have been trying
4 to find homes for them, to go to
5 shelters, people in the fourth
6 quarter of their life that were
7 veterans and people with
8 disabilities.

9 When we did the tour,
10 President, my colleagues showed up,
11 Members Brooks, Nina Ahmad, Rue
12 Landau, O'Rourke and most
13 importantly Driscoll because he's
14 not At-large, he represents a
15 district. None of those people at
16 Brith Sholom can vote for you, but
17 you took that tour. And when we
18 took the tour and walked in front
19 of a unit, Mr. President, that had
20 crime tape on it, the lady had been
21 dead for three days. No wellness
22 check. Nobody checking on her. No
23 family.

24 Kathy, you've been up
25 there. You donned your Wonder

1 9/5/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 Woman cape when they had power
3 failures. Thank you.

4 But it meant a lot to me.

5 Called you first when we got the
6 word that PHA settled on that
7 because you did not have an
8 obligation to be there,
9 Mr. President, but he showed up and
10 I am forever grateful.

11 On all that I love,
12 yesterday was the most fulfilling
13 day of being a public servant
14 Councilmember. I've been on the
15 top of the parade at the World
16 Series, got hit in the head with
17 Bud Light. That was fun. But this
18 was the job. This is why we run.
19 This is why we serve.

20 I want to focus a little
21 bit on yesterday talking to people
22 and I remember that tour. And
23 there was one veteran who invited
24 us into the house. And when I tell
25 you the conditions he lived in, he

1 9/5/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 could not open his oven because it
3 was caked with debris, grease,
4 things like that. Definitely a
5 fire hazard.

6 I asked him, I looked
7 around, I said, well, where do you
8 sleep? He pointed at an EZ chair.
9 But I said, there's a bed right
10 there. He said, sir, that's full
11 of bed bugs. He served our
12 country. He did not deserve to be
13 in the fourth quarter of his life
14 and live like that.

15 You guys came to the
16 rescue. The Mayor put up \$8
17 million towards the \$23 million PHA
18 did to save them. I won't say what
19 I want to say because the President
20 will have something to say coming
21 along, but I will say this: If you
22 think -- the owners, the prior
23 owners of that building -- you're
24 going to walk away into sunset with
25 23 million of our dollars after

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2 what you did to those people, what
3 you did in other cities to those
4 people? They not like us. They
5 not like us.

6 And finally, I want to tell
7 you that those people were
8 grateful. You saw them. They were
9 grateful that we -- promise made
10 promise kept. And I am proud to
11 serve with you because what
12 yesterday represented is why we
13 ran. So thank you very much. Keep
14 up the good work and may we be --
15 the price we pay for the space we
16 occupy is service.

17 Thank you, Mr President.

18 (Applause.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

20 You're welcome. Good job.

21 Councilmember Jamie
22 Gauthier.

23 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:

24 Thank you, Council President. And
25 good afternoon, colleagues and

1 9/5/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 Philadelphians following along in
3 City Hall and at home.

4 I am so excited to be back
5 here completing the people's work.
6 In the first six months of our
7 term, this Council has already
8 taken major steps to put City Hall
9 to work for our neighborhoods, but
10 there is much more to do. I've
11 spent much of my summer continuing
12 to work diligently to solve our
13 housing crisis.

14 In Philadelphia and across
15 the country, Americans have made it
16 clear that bringing housing costs
17 down must be a government priority.
18 I'm glad that candidates for office
19 at the highest level have started
20 talking about affordable housing
21 with the seriousness the issue
22 deserves. Because in every
23 neighborhood across our city, we
24 hear the same story, housing costs
25 have skyrocketed and income just

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2 isn't keeping up.

3 Forty percent of the
4 households I represent earn less
5 than \$30,000 annually, including
6 many seniors and people with
7 disabilities. These constituents
8 need our help the most, but for too
9 long the City has failed to give
10 them enough support for them to
11 access safe, accessible and
12 affordable housing.

13 One of the main causes of
14 this shortcoming is regional Area
15 Median Income, commonly referred to
16 as AMI. Every level of government
17 uses AMI as a benchmark for
18 affordable housing programs. This
19 makes sense on paper, but the truth
20 is that our AMI does not accurately
21 represent Philadelphia.

22 The federal government
23 calculates our AMI by combining
24 Philly's median income with the
25 median incomes of the 10 other

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2 counties in our metropolitan area,
3 but Philly has a higher proportion
4 of low-income residents than the
5 collar counties do. Meaning, our
6 Area Median Income is significantly
7 inflated.

8 Our region's Area Median
9 Income is just over \$114,000
10 annually, but the typical
11 Philadelphia household earns only
12 half of that. This means that when
13 we build so-called affordable
14 housing for residents earning 60,
15 80, 100 and 120 percent of AMI, it
16 is still too expensive for the
17 hundreds of thousands of residents
18 who need affordable housing the
19 most. We will never solve our
20 housing crisis until government
21 stops hiding behind a statistic
22 that we know does not represent our
23 reality here in Philadelphia.

24 That's why the Committee on
25 Housing, Neighborhood Development

1 9/5/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 and the Homeless will hold a
3 hearing on how setting affordable
4 housing program eligibility
5 according to AMI fails to reflect
6 our city's true affordable housing
7 needs, how this leads to City
8 housing programs not providing
9 enough funding to those who need it
10 most and how the adoption of a more
11 locally defined AMI can be utilized
12 to create and sustain genuinely
13 affordable housing across the city
14 of Philadelphia.

15 I look forward to this
16 discussion and seeing what changes
17 need to be made to the Code to make
18 our affordable housing programs
19 more effective and more equitable
20 too.

21 I also want to take a
22 moment to thank everyone who came
23 here today to advocate for safer
24 bike lanes and traffic calming.
25 Like many of you, I'm still

1 9/5/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 grieving the loss of Dr. Barbara
3 Friedes, a beloved member of the
4 3rd Council District's CHOP
5 community as well as our other
6 neighbors taken from us too soon by
7 traffic violence.

8 Traffic violence is real
9 violence and it is preventable. We
10 can and must do more to make sure
11 every Philadelphian is safe as they
12 travel about our city no matter how
13 they get around. It is important
14 to remember that working-class
15 Black and Brown communities like
16 those I represent experience a
17 disproportionate share of traffic
18 violence.

19 And as the Chair of the
20 Committee on the Environment, I
21 have not lost sight of the fact
22 that biking is one of the cheapest
23 and most sustainable ways to
24 travel. Every neighborhood
25 deserves safe streets. That's why

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2 I've made it a priority to
3 introduce road diets on major
4 thoroughfares in my Council
5 District, including Market Street,
6 Chestnut Street, Walnut Street and
7 Cobbs Creek Parkway as well as
8 other neighborhood thoroughfares
9 like 48th Street.

10 Under the Council
11 President's leadership, I look
12 forward to working with the biking
13 community, neighbors and my Council
14 colleagues to ramp up this work.
15 The legislation introduced by the
16 Council President today, which I
17 proudly introduced on his behalf as
18 well as the hearing planned by
19 Councilmembers Thomas and Landau is
20 just a start. And I look forward
21 to the work ahead. Thank you so
22 much.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

24 You're welcome.

25 The Chair recognizes

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2 Councilmember Jeffrey Jay Young.

3 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Thank
4 you, Mr. President.

5 Today I just want to thank
6 my colleagues for passing two
7 resolutions authorizing hearings
8 today. One being reviewing of the
9 block party permit policies, right.
10 As I was going out throughout North
11 Philadelphia all summer traveling
12 through communities, one major
13 thing popped up in a lot of blocks
14 in my District, is that they are
15 not able to have block parties
16 because their permits are
17 continuously denied by the police
18 department for "safety reasons".

19 But for me I think that
20 allowing these blocks to unite at a
21 block party can help enhance that
22 community spirit and can make a
23 community actually safer because
24 folks feel like they're more
25 engaged as a part of their

1 9/5/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 community. So I look forward to
3 holding that hearing to discuss
4 those procedures on how the police
5 department operates when it comes
6 to block party permits.

7 Also, grateful again for
8 passing the resolution authorizing
9 a hearing to talk about the
10 policies of the Streets Department
11 when it comes to changing street
12 directions here in the city of
13 Philadelphia. Before I even got
14 elected, this issue was on my table
15 with some matters in the Logan
16 Square section. So I want to give
17 the community the opportunity to
18 put their opinions before us to
19 talk about how these street
20 direction changes affect their
21 quality of life. So I'm looking
22 forward to holding that hearing in
23 the Committee on Streets and
24 Services.

25 I want to thank my

1 9/5/24 - STATED - SPEECHES
2 colleagues for introducing
3 resolutions today that are
4 important to me as well.
5 Councilman Phillips, thank you for
6 introducing the resolution honoring
7 David Simms. Before he was a 9th
8 District resident, he was a
9 prominent member of North
10 Philadelphia on Ridge Avenue where
11 every year he put on a Christmas
12 show for those residents, so it is
13 dearly missed. So thank you so
14 much for honoring David Simms.
15 Council President,
16 Councilmember Thomas, thank you for
17 honoring Kahleah Copper, a North
18 Philadelphia resident with Norf
19 with an "f". Before she went to
20 Prep Charter, she was a proud
21 student at Girard College from
22 Grades 1 through 10, but sometimes
23 your talents outgrow your
24 environment so she had to go to
25 Prep Charter to hone in on her

1 9/5/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 basketball talents.

3 Council Majority Leader

4 Katherine Gilmore Richardson, my

5 mother-in-law has that cruise line

6 on her refrigerator so she's

7 waiting for that. So there are a

8 lot of Philadelphians talking about

9 that cruise, so it's very important

10 that we promote that as well

11 because there are a lot of folks

12 who are anxiously waiting to aboard

13 that cruise here in our city.

14 And, Councilmember Thomas,

15 I went to Dobbins on Tuesday to

16 talk to some high school students.

17 And one of the main things they

18 mentioned to me is that their food

19 is trash, right, so that's why it's

20 in the trash, right, because it's

21 trash. So we have to talk about

22 why we are feeding our children

23 food that they deem not edible,

24 that they don't like. So we have

25 to talk about why there's excess

1 9/5/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 waste in our School District.

3 And, Councilmember

4 Gauthier, I got a call yesterday

5 from a constituent who receives

6 \$985 a month for SSI and is paying

7 \$600 a month to rent a room at 17th

8 and Dauphin, right. That is the

9 conditions of our residents in the

10 city of Philadelphia. So when you

11 talk about affordable housing,

12 affordable to who is the question.

13 And so, we have to make

14 sure that we are putting forth

15 policies that really get to the

16 issue that we're trying to solve,

17 right, because putting put forth

18 housing that cost \$300,000 is not

19 going to solve our affordable

20 housing crisis here in the city of

21 Philadelphia. So I look forward to

22 working with you all on trying to

23 figure out what is that good sweet

24 spot for affordable housing here in

25 the city of Philadelphia.

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2 On a personal note, this
3 Saturday I'm partnering with the
4 Spring Garden Civic Association to
5 bring the First Annual Sunflower
6 Festival. We will be on the 1700
7 block through 1900 block of
8 Fairmount Avenue from 12:00 to
9 7:00. It's also sponsored by WXPB
10 who's presenting the Headliner
11 Stella Ruze. So if you're out this
12 weekend, please enjoy the Sunflower
13 Festival on Fairmount Avenue.

14 And lastly, Mr. President,
15 today we heard a lot of testimony
16 from the public about protecting
17 lives and preventable tragedies,
18 right. So I want to talk about
19 some preventable tragedies that
20 occur here in the city of
21 Philadelphia and, that is, the
22 tragedy of gun violence, right.

23 As of September 2nd, there
24 were 165 fatal shootings here in
25 the city of Philadelphia and 605

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2 nonfatal shootings. As we talk
3 about victims of crime, there are
4 only -- so 71 percent of those gun
5 violence cases do not have a court
6 case associated with that. So 71
7 percent of those cases are just out
8 there just living freely floating
9 in the world with no end in sight
10 for those victims to have justice,
11 right, as we talk about justice for
12 victims. And 80 percent of those
13 victims are Black.

14 So let's continue to talk
15 about those preventable tragedies
16 that we have in our city, the
17 preventable tragedy of gun violence
18 because it is only the Black
19 community in urban areas who
20 experience gun violence at the rate
21 that we experience it. So let's
22 continue to talk about those
23 preventable tragedies as we work to
24 make our city safer, cleaner,
25 greener and all that other good

1 9/5/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 stuff.

3 So thank you,

4 Mr. President.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

6 You're welcome, sir.

7 The Chair recognizes

8 Councilmember Nina Ahmad.

9 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD: Thank
10 you, Council President.

11 It is a pleasure to be back
12 and ready to do the people's work.
13 We actually never stopped,
14 continued to work through the
15 summer. I just wanted to speak
16 about a few things that I
17 introduced today. Over the summer
18 my office has continued working on
19 electric vehicle policy to address
20 climate crisis.

21 As elected officials and
22 City Councilmembers, we have a
23 crucial role to play in addressing
24 climate crisis and protecting our
25 future, and it is critical that we

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2 continue to invest in
3 infrastructure and support
4 vulnerable communities, promote
5 climate equity and enhance
6 emergency preparedness and advocate
7 for stronger legislation.

8 To that end, today we
9 introduced a bill adding
10 enforcement provisions for L&I to
11 the bill we passed in June. This
12 bill establishes a more concrete
13 pathway for the City to oversee the
14 maintenance of electric vehicle
15 chargers, something that is already
16 governed by federal laws for people
17 who get the NEVI money but is not
18 codified in Philadelphia.

19 We are also working on
20 legislation to expand the
21 accessibility and the
22 democratization of EV charging and
23 EV adoption. We can't have all
24 these chargers just in Center City.
25 If we are going to want to end our

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2 carbon footprint, the goals of 2030
3 to be met, we cannot be in these
4 gas-guzzling cars.

5 So I look forward to
6 continuing to work with OTIS and
7 the Department of Planning and
8 Development to really have a
9 strategic view of how we are
10 transforming Philadelphia to be at
11 the forefront of addressing climate
12 change and using our adoption of EV
13 as a mode to do that.

14 I also wanted to talk on
15 two resolutions I introduced today
16 focused on the well-being of our
17 youth. And I just want to point
18 out the irony of these two
19 resolutions juxtaposed together.
20 One was about the Childhood Cancer
21 Awareness Month and really about
22 honoring the extraordinary courage
23 of children battling childhood
24 cancer, their families and friends
25 who care for them through every

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2 step of their cancer journey and
3 the Philadelphia's hospitals,
4 medical centers, research labs and
5 organizations that are dedicated to
6 enhancing the quality of life for
7 these children and their families.

8 Well, next to that we also
9 introduced a resolution recognizing
10 the prevalence of childhood abuse
11 and the severe impacts it has on
12 children. We are taking care of
13 our children on their cancer
14 journey and yet we have a whole
15 host of children who are not being
16 taken care of. A society is judged
17 on how well our children are doing
18 and we are not doing so well.

19 An estimated 1 in 10
20 children in Philadelphia
21 experiences some form of abuse or
22 neglect before the age of 18. How
23 is that child prepared to face the
24 world? Child abuse has devastating
25 impacts on a child's physical,

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2 emotional and psychological
3 development with long-lasting
4 consequences for our city's
5 children's, families and
6 communities.

7 Research has shown that
8 victims of childhood abuse are nine
9 times more likely to be engaged in
10 criminal activities, are more
11 likely to perpetuate cycles of
12 violence. They are in this
13 perpetual cycle that they can't get
14 out of. And raising awareness of
15 childhood abuse is a critical step
16 towards prevention and
17 intervention, ensuring that every
18 child in Philadelphia has the
19 opportunity to grow up in a safe,
20 supportive and stable environment.

21 So I implore all of us to
22 focus on the children of the city
23 and make sure we are meeting their
24 needs and all the resources we have
25 from our different departments are

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2 actually going and are actually
3 effective in addressing this issue.

4 So I look forward to working with
5 all of you in this coming session.

6 We continue to work on our
7 maternal mortality issue, working
8 on legislation to address implicit
9 bias in the treatment of pregnant
10 women and birthing people,
11 particularly those of color who
12 face so much, so many impediments
13 for a safe journey to give birth.
14 And this directly ties into our
15 issues of our children and how well
16 they're taken care of. So I look
17 forward to working with all of you
18 and thank you very much for my
19 time.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

21 Thank you.

22 The Chair recognizes
23 Councilmember Rue Landau.

24 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU: Thank
25 you, Council President.

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2 Welcome back, everyone.

3 I'm deeply honored to reconvene
4 today and recommit ourselves to the
5 well-being, safety and fairness of
6 every Philadelphian. I hope
7 everyone had a great summer. I too
8 was out in neighborhoods throughout
9 the city and loved being on the
10 ground with people, hearing their
11 ideas and their concerns for our
12 city.

13 I wanted to take a moment
14 to note, to just talk to Councilman
15 Jones for a second about how
16 incredible yesterday was as well at
17 Brith Sholom. As a lifelong
18 housing justice advocate, I've been
19 in hundreds of units throughout the
20 city of Philadelphia and without a
21 doubt it is heartbreaking to watch
22 the conditions in which people have
23 to live, especially when they're
24 paying money to a landlord to
25 provide them what should be a safe,

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2 habitable space. And there is
3 nothing more fulfilling than
4 finally providing people with what
5 they deserve for literally
6 habitable safe housing with some
7 people that is just basic justice,
8 but it's also just basic morality
9 of something that would do so.

10 I was so glad to be there
11 to celebrate that day with you.
12 You and your staff did such
13 incredible work and can't wait
14 especially with the Chair of my
15 Housing Commission -- I mean, my
16 Housing Committee to do so much
17 more this session.

18 But I wanted to just to
19 take a note to say congratulations
20 to all of our Olympians who were
21 honored, including Maia Weintraub
22 who won the golden fencing.
23 Clearly Philadelphia is growing
24 some great Olympians. And today I
25 was honored to champion myself

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2 several critical initiatives that
3 reflect our collective
4 responsibility to build a city
5 where every resident can thrive.

6 I'm excited to serve as the
7 primary co-sponsor on the
8 resolution of Councilman Thomas
9 authorizing legislative oversight
10 to hold hearings on the progress of
11 Vision Zero's goals. As Chair and
12 Vice-Chair of the Committee,
13 Councilmember Thomas and I, along
14 with Councilmember Nic O'Rourke and
15 others in the chamber are acutely
16 aware that Vision Zero is not just
17 a policy, it's a commitment, to
18 ensuring that our streets are safe
19 for all who use them, whether
20 they're cyclists, pedestrians or
21 drivers.

22 Too many lives have been
23 lost or altered forever due to
24 preventable traffic violence. This
25 hearing will provide a much-needed

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2 space for us to hear the voices of
3 experts and community members. Our
4 goal is to create a vision of
5 Philadelphia so that no one
6 regardless of their socioeconomic
7 status, race, where they reside or
8 any other variable has to fear for
9 their safety on our roads. I look
10 forward to those hearings.

11 I also introduced a bill on
12 Council President's behalf and also
13 my resolution that addressed the
14 urgent issue my office has heard so
15 much about from constituents,
16 rising properly tax assessments
17 across our city. As a housing
18 rights lawyer, I am well-versed on
19 how rising property values have
20 placed an increasing burden on our
21 residents, particularly long-term
22 residents in or near gentrifying
23 neighborhoods. That is why I
24 introduced a bill to extend the
25 deadline for first level review

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2 appeals to November 18th.

3 I am strongly urging also
4 the Board of Revision of Taxes to
5 extend the timeline for filing
6 formal appeals for Tax Year 2025
7 until March 31st of that year. The
8 current deadline of October 7th
9 does not provide adequate time for
10 our residents to initially pursue a
11 first level review and then make a
12 formal appeal to respond to their
13 increased assessment. When so many
14 of our neighbors are already
15 struggling to make ends meet,
16 fairness and equity must be at the
17 forefront of our tax policies.
18 This extension will ensure that all
19 Philadelphians have the opportunity
20 to appeal their assessments and
21 seek relief whenever it's needed.

22 Finally, I introduced a
23 resolution to declare September 10,
24 2024 a Suicide Awareness and
25 Prevention Day in our city.

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2 Suicide is a public health crisis
3 that touches every community and
4 the United States is currently
5 undergoing the highest suicide rate
6 in nearly 80 years.

7 By declaring this day, we
8 join the national effort during
9 Suicide Awareness and Prevention
10 Month to shine a light on this
11 critical issue. Suicide
12 unfortunately is especially felt in
13 the LGBTQ+ community. LGBTQ+ young
14 people are more than four times as
15 likely to attempt suicide than
16 their peers and one attempts
17 suicide every -- can't do it -- one
18 attempts suicide every 45 seconds
19 in the United States.

20 We must work together to
21 reduce the stigma surrounding
22 mental health, educate our
23 community about the warning signs
24 of suicide and ensure that everyone
25 has access to the support and

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2 services they need. It is our duty
3 to stand with those who are
4 struggling and offer hope.

5 Finally, I'd like to give a
6 huge shout-out to my colleague
7 Minority Leader Kendra Brooks for
8 moving forward on the Reproductive
9 Freedom Task Force. This is such a
10 crucial issue as our rights and
11 freedoms are sadly on the line.
12 Each of these initiatives reflects
13 our shared values of safety,
14 fairness and compassion.

15 As we move forward, let us
16 remember that our work here has the
17 power to change lives for the
18 better. I look forward to working
19 with all of you to make these goals
20 more a reality for people of
21 Philadelphia. Thank you.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
23 Thank you, Rue.

24 The Chair recognizes
25 Councilmember Anthony Phillips.

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2 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: Thank
3 you, Council President.

4 Good afternoon,
5 Philadelphia, especially good
6 afternoon to the residents of the
7 9th District. I just want to come
8 before you very briefly and note
9 today we have a very special
10 organization near and dear to my
11 heart and also to the heart of many
12 people who have been impacted by
13 it.

14 When I was 14 years old, I
15 set out to figure out how I was
16 going to be this civil rights
17 activist leader and people would
18 ask me, Anthony, how do you plan to
19 make money? I just said, I just
20 don't want to -- I'm not worried
21 about money, I just want to lead
22 and find a way to make a
23 difference. And I just had this
24 like 1960s view of the world.

25 And I met a person named

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2 Tavis Smiley back in 2003 through a
3 conference that I went to that
4 changed my life, where we founded
5 an organization called Youth
6 Action. And there were individuals
7 like Jordan Harris, who was my
8 brother and mentor, who helped me
9 organize this or put this
10 organization together as well as
11 Janine Lewis and a whole bunch of
12 people, four of the people who
13 helped put this together. And
14 Youth Action is still around today
15 and they're training young people
16 to be leaders.

17 Today one of the interns in
18 the office, Shania Davis, is an
19 alum of Youth Action and we had
20 lunch yesterday. And she said that
21 Youth Action has really exposed her
22 to the importance of community
23 service, which is why she wanted to
24 intern in our office. And it's
25 ingrained in her because she spent

1 9/5/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 close to a decade, over a decade
3 actually, in our program. And that
4 program is still existent today
5 because of alums and people who
6 care.

7 Today we have our Executive
8 Director of Youth Action Kiyana
9 Neil who's here today. If she can
10 stand. Kiyana is proud --

11 (Applause.)

12 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: -- to
13 continue the legacy of teaching
14 students from middle school and
15 high school the importance of civic
16 engagement. So if you're
17 interested in getting your middle
18 school or high school students
19 involved with service, visit
20 www.youthactionteam.org. They've
21 been serving for over 20 years.
22 And a good chunk of those years I
23 was there. And I'm just thankful
24 that we have passed the baton to
25 someone like Kiyana to continue

1 9/5/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 that work. So thank Youth Action
3 for all that you've done.

4 I also want to briefly say
5 something about Steven Moultrie.

6 Steven Moultrie was a member of Phi
7 Beta Sigma, Inc. and unfortunately,
8 he had an untimely death due to a
9 motor vehicle accident this summer.
10 I briefly met Steven. And what I
11 will tell you about him is that he
12 seemed like a really good guy, and
13 our Majority Leader Councilwoman
14 Katherine Gilmore Richardson knew
15 him well as well as our husband
16 because they are frat and sorority
17 brothers and sisters.

18 And one of the things I
19 would tell you, I don't know what
20 it was about that death, but it
21 really messed me up. And I've told
22 several people this story over the
23 summer. I said, Steven, that could
24 have been me, right. It could have
25 been anyone, right. Decent people

1 9/5/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 traveling and then an accident
3 happens.

4 And I've been hearing for
5 many months now about the
6 individuals for Vision Zero and
7 other folks about motor vehicle
8 deaths. There has to be something
9 that we're going to do to really
10 change the trajectory of this city
11 when it comes to vehicle deaths.
12 Because if it's not Steven, it
13 could be someone else the next day.
14 So we have to find a way to drive
15 carefully.

16 So I'm looking forward to
17 working with our Majority Whip
18 Isaiah Thomas on this issue as we
19 continue to look to create
20 transparency in our city when it
21 comes to this issue. And it's very
22 serious for me now.

23 And lastly, this morning I
24 wanted to tell you that the reason
25 why we recognized all of these

1 9/5/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 businesses is because I've been
3 keen about the City cracking down
4 on nuisance businesses and the
5 quality-of-life issues that impact
6 us daily. And I fundamentally
7 believe that we're in the business
8 of improving the lives of
9 addressing businesses like stop-
10 and-gos, gas stations, serial
11 nuisance businesses.

12 And that's why it gives me
13 great joy to call attention and
14 bring the light to several
15 businesses in the 9th District who
16 have distinguished themselves as
17 good corporate citizens and
18 neighbors. So today I pause to
19 recognize a diverse range of
20 industries, 11 businesses who I
21 call the good guys. And they are
22 the ones who do great and honest
23 business and they provide high-
24 quality products and work and they
25 simply get it.

1 9/5/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 In addition to doing
3 business, they take responsibility
4 for their community and I'm so
5 proud of it. So I just want to
6 quickly recognize the businesses
7 again. Ron's Caribbean Cuisine in
8 Northeast; Hawkins Funeral Home in
9 East Oak Lane; Cathryn's Cake in
10 West Oak Lane, Mt. Airy; Dr. Brown
11 Dermatology in the Lawncrest,
12 Northeast area; Island Fritay in
13 Olney; Buccann in the Bhurlome,
14 Castor Gardens, Oxford Circle area;
15 Tio Pepe in Oxford Circle,
16 Northeast; Brown's Linen in
17 Mt. Airy; Bally's Pizzeria in Mt.
18 Airy; Eatible Delights in Mt. Airy;
19 Paul Beale's Flowers in West Oak
20 Lane.

21 These businesses have been
22 doing incredible work for a very
23 long time and I just want to say
24 thank you all so much. And also,
25 congratulations to the Philadelphia

1 9/5/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 Youth Network for over 25 years of
3 service. God bless. Thank you.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

5 Thank you.

6 Chair recognizes
7 Councilmember Cindy Bass.

8 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank
9 you, Mr. President.

10 Just a couple of things I
11 wanted to say before I go into my
12 remarks around I thought that the
13 resolution around hearings around
14 school lunches was just brilliant,
15 because what is served I don't
16 believe is acceptable. And I think
17 what I'd like to do, Mr. President,
18 is have Council convene a luncheon
19 with School District administrators
20 and bring in some School District
21 lunches and everybody just chow
22 down. Okay.

23 I think that's something
24 that I would love to work with you
25 on. Because if we're offering it

1 9/5/24 - STATED - SPEECHES
2 to our most vulnerable citizens,
3 many of whom don't have other lunch
4 options, it should be something
5 worth serving. Okay. So I just
6 really wanted to say that. And
7 thank you so much for that
8 resolution because like I said, I
9 think that was really a smart thing
10 to do, to put that issue out front.
11 Today I offered a number of
12 bills and resolutions, but I just
13 really wanted to very briefly make
14 mention of a couple of them. The
15 first is the street renaming for
16 Lou and Choo's Way, for those who
17 have been to one of the many, many
18 community events fish fries,
19 events, activities outside of Lou &
20 Choo's. I want to give a shout-out
21 especially to former Councilmember
22 Sharon Vaughn, who really was
23 pushing for this legislation and
24 I'm sure will be here to speak on
25 that. It's very, very important.

1 9/5/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 And of course, the renaming
3 of Waterview Playground after
4 Councilwoman Donna Reed Miller who
5 we mentioned earlier in our
6 standing silent recognition for
7 her. And the Waterview Playground
8 in East Germantown is a staple in
9 the Donna Reed Miller family.
10 Generations grew up there, very
11 well-known. And so, we look
12 forward to that activity and seeing
13 each and every one of you when we
14 actually have that ceremony later
15 this year hopefully.

16 Also, we did a resolution
17 calling on the Commonwealth to
18 really strengthen enforcement
19 against illegal activities of
20 merchants and primarily stop-and-
21 gos. We really need the
22 Commonwealth to really pay
23 attention to this issue, to really
24 step up to insert themselves in a
25 way that we haven't seen before.

1 9/5/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 And we know that resources are
3 scarce and there's not nearly
4 enough inspectors, but we need them
5 at the table to be able to
6 effectively deal with the problem
7 that we're having, particularly the
8 sale of loosies, tobacco products,
9 all kinds of other items, shots of
10 liquor, cans of cheap beer. It's a
11 hot mess and it continues on.

12 And so, again we're
13 reaching out to the Commonwealth
14 saying, we need your help with
15 stop-and-gos. We know that the
16 Philadelphia Delegation has been
17 all in 100 percent all the way
18 through, but what we really need is
19 for the Liquor Control and
20 Enforcement to be more of
21 assistance to us here in the city
22 of Philadelphia.

23 One of the other bills that
24 I introduced today was really to
25 protect materials obtained by the

1 9/5/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 Free Library of Philadelphia, no
3 censorship or banning of books in
4 the city of Philadelphia, that kind
5 of foolishness which seems to be
6 happening in other places. Not
7 that we expect it to be here, but
8 just to let folks know don't even
9 think about coming this way with
10 that kind of foolishness. So no
11 censorship or banning of any books
12 here in the city of Philadelphia.

13 And last but not least, we
14 introduced a bill today requiring
15 Parks and Recreation to move to
16 help thoroughly plan events that
17 require permitting here in the city
18 of Philadelphia. And so, what we
19 were asking is that they actually
20 help individuals who are planning
21 to have summer events or events at
22 any time to really give some
23 significant thought to safety,
24 medical emergencies and parking.
25 The bill is not a mandate. It does

1 9/5/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 not require these services, but it
3 does give pause to say, have you
4 thought about these very crucial
5 components.

6 Council President, I was at
7 your summer event a few weeks ago
8 and you had all of the required
9 plans in place around safety,
10 around medical emergencies, around
11 parking, around all of those
12 things. But we just need folks to
13 really think them through because
14 it would be great if we had events
15 and nothing happened. But most of
16 the time it doesn't but sometimes
17 it does.

18 And so, that bill really
19 just requires Parks & Recreation to
20 help thoroughly plan events for the
21 city of Philadelphia to make sure
22 that everyone is able to enjoy
23 themselves and have a good time.

24 And so, with that being
25 said, Mr. President, I just want to

1 9/5/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 thank you for all of your hard
3 work. And I want to thank my
4 colleagues. I don't know where
5 this notion comes from that we
6 don't work over the summer because
7 I saw each and every one of my
8 colleagues out and about. I got a
9 thousand invitations to come to
10 events and activities, and folks
11 came to all of our events and
12 activities. Shout-out to Oldies in
13 the Park and Jazz Funk Soul in the
14 Northwest. But I want to thank all
15 my colleagues for having a such
16 robust programming and series of
17 events that we were able to all go
18 to this summer.

19 So thank you,
20 Mr. President.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

22 No, thank you. And thank everyone
23 for their hard work, and we're
24 rocking and rolling on the first
25 day of Council session. So always

1 9/5/24 - STATED - ADJOURNMENT

2 good doing the business of the
3 people.

4 As there are no more
5 speeches at this time, the Chair
6 recognizes Councilmember Isaiah
7 Thomas for a motion to adjourn.

8 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Council
9 President, I want to say thank you
10 for allowing my staffer Ben Wilcox
11 to testify in reading the testimony
12 of some of the families who
13 couldn't be here today. I
14 definitely appreciate that. I just
15 wanted to put that out there before
16 we close out.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
18 You're welcome.

19 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: So with
20 that being said, Council President,
21 I move that Council stand adjourned
22 until Thursday, September 12, 2024
23 at 10:00 a.m. sharp.

24 (Duly seconded.)

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

1 9/5/24 - STATED - ADJOURNMENT

2 It has been moved and seconded that
3 Council stand adjourned until
4 Thursday, September 12, 2024 at
5 10:00 a.m.

6 All those in favor will
7 signify by saying aye.

8 (Aye.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

10 Those opposed?

11 (No response.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

13 The ayes have it. The motion
14 carries. Thank you very much.

15 - - -

16 (Stated Meeting adjourned
17 at 1:09 p.m.)

18 - - -

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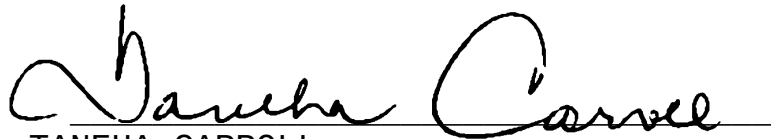
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C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I, hereby certify that the proceedings
and evidence noted are contained fully and
accurately in the stenographic notes taken by
me in the foregoing matter, and that this is
a correct transcript of the same.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Taneha Carroll", written over a horizontal line.

TANEHA CARROLL
Court Reporter - Notary Public

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