

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

STATED MEETING

Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Thursday, January 22, 2026
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
COUNCILWOMAN RUE LANDAU
COUNCILWOMAN QUETCY M. LOZADA
COUNCILMAN NICOLAS O'ROURKE
COUNCILMAN ANTHONY PHILLIPS
COUNCILMAN MARK SQUILLA
COUNCILMAN ISAIAH THOMAS
COUNCILMAN JEFFREY YOUNG, JR.

ELIZABETH MCCOLLUM NAZARIO, CHIEF CLERK

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1 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: Good
2 morning, everyone. I want to thank everyone for
3 being here today. I want to ask for all guests to
4 please retire outside the council chambers behind
5 the rails. I note that the hour has come and the
6 quorum of this council is present. This city
7 council session of 2026 will now come to order.

8 I want to start off by saying Happy
9 New Year and I look forward to a very hardworking
10 and productive city council session and year.

11 Before proceeding I want to ask
12 everyone to please put your cell phones on silent
13 and/or vibrate.

14 Feels good to be back in the house
15 of the people. To give our invocation this
16 morning, chair recognizes my good friend, Bishop
17 Steven Avinger, Sr., senior pastor of Greater St.
18 Matthews Baptist Church. He is here today as
19 guest of Council Member Kendra Brooks.

20 I will ask all members and guests
21 to please rise.

22 BISHOP AVINGER: Let us pray.
23 Lord, we ask for your presence and your guidance
24 for the mayor of this city and this August body as
25 they deliberate today. We pray, God, that you

1 will give them strength to discern the best path
2 for us. Give them the courage to do what's right
3 and fill their hearts with compassion for the
4 residents of the City of Philadelphia. We pray,
5 god, that in the climate that we are in today,
6 that they might work together in harmony seeking
7 justice and promoting the welfare of our entire
8 city.

9 We pray that their actions reflect
10 your love and they will serve for the greater
11 good, give them discernment and the presence of
12 your spirit. In Jesus's name we pray. Amen.

13 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: Amen. The
14 chair thanks the bishop for the invocation.
15 Council will now be at ease.

16 The next order of business is the approval
17 of the journal of the meeting of Thursday,
18 December 11, 2025, the chair recognizes Council
19 Member Cindy Bass.

20 COUNCILMEMBER BASS: Thank you, Mr.
21 President. I move that the journal of the meeting
22 of Thursday, December 11, 2025, be approved.

23 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: It has been
24 moved and properly seconded that the adjournment
25 of the meeting of Thursday, December 11, 2025,

1 stand and approve, all in favor that indicate by
2 saying aye.

3 Those opposed, ayes have it, and
4 the vote is approved.

5 All said aye.

6 The next order of business is
7 request for leave of absence and the chair
8 recognizes Majority Leader Catherine Gilmore
9 Richardson.

10 Council you council.

11 MS. RICHARDSON: Thank you, Mr.
12 President. On behalf of the majority, there are
13 no requests for leave of absence today.

14 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: The chair
15 thanks the council member.

16 The chair recognizes Council Member
17 Brooks.

18 COUNCILMEMBER BROOKS: Thank you,
19 Council President. On behalf of the minority,
20 there are no requests for leave of absence today.

21 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: The Chair
22 thanks the council member.

23 The Chair now recognizes Council
24 Member Majority Leader Catherine Gilmore
25 Richardson for a motion concerning certain

1 legislative matters that may arise during the
2 course of today's session of council and that were
3 not listed on the calender, circulated prior to
4 today's council session.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER THOMAS: Thank you,
6 Mr. President. I move that any of the following
7 matters, if considered today, may be added to the
8 agenda for this session of council and as required
9 by law, subsequently published on an amended
10 agenda, after the consideration of those matters,
11 resolutions authorizing hearings, amendments to
12 bills on first reading, the reconsideration of a
13 bill vetoed by or recall from the mayor,
14 amendments to bills recalled from the mayor,
15 resolutions taking substantive action to be voted
16 on in this session, a motion to withdraw a bill or
17 resolution that is not on the calender, and a
18 motion placing a bill or resolution on or
19 returning a bill or resolution from the suspension
20 calendar that is not listed on today's calendar.
21 The purpose of this motion is to provide the
22 public with notice concerning possible actions by
23 council that arose too late to be included on the
24 calendar that was published prior to today's
25 session.

1 SPEAKER: Second.

2 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: It has been
3 moved and properly seconded, that the legislative
4 matter stated by a majority leader, Council Member
5 Catherine Gilmore Richardson, may be added to the
6 agenda for today. Should those matters arise
7 during the course of this session of council, all
8 those in favor please signify by saying aye.

9 All said aye.

10 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: Those
11 opposed, the ayes have it and the motion carries.

12 The Chair will dispense with the
13 regular order of business to recognize that guests
14 and visitors joining us in chambers this morning.

15 On behalf of all members of city
16 council, I welcome you to our council session. We
17 appreciate you taking the time to join us as we
18 attend to the legislative matters of our great
19 city. We certainly invite you to come again.

20 I want to take a moment to
21 acknowledge two gentleman. One is known as a
22 social media advocate and influencer who has been
23 working hard on a variety of different issues to
24 bring the City of Philadelphia together. He goes
25 by a name of Amir Barbara, also known as Motivate

1 Youth 215. Come on Philly, come on Philly, let's
2 acknowledge Mr. Motivate 215. Could you please
3 stand.

4 He's also joined by Mr. Ephraim
5 Reavis, also known as Ematic the Originator. They
6 are here promoting the viral Ematic dance
7 challenge. We welcome them to Philadelphia city
8 council. This is a dance challenge that has
9 connected people from all different black
10 backgrounds, all different neighborhoods, and have
11 unified our city and put our city on the national,
12 positive light.

13 Mr. Ematic, could you please stand.
14 Let's please give him a round of applause.

15 (Applause).

16 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: They are
17 here as the guest of Minority Leader Council
18 Member Kendra Brooks, who I will also acknowledge
19 to offer some remarks.

20 COUNCILMEMBER BROOKS: Thank you,
21 Council President. I just want to say thank you
22 so much for giving us the opportunity to recognize
23 the work that these younger men are doing,
24 connecting generations through dance and culture.
25 I want to thank you guys for taking the time out

1 to come to city council and just to be a part of
2 civic engagement. It's important that we continue
3 to connect arts, culture, and politics because
4 this is how we're going to impact young people.
5 So let's continue to go viral, let's continue to
6 make this happen, and let's go, Philly.

7 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: Let's give
8 her a round of applause.

9 (Applause.)

10 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: I think if I
11 noted correctly, the Ematic dance challenge has
12 surpassed 500 million streams and likes. Let's
13 give up a round of applause.

14 (Applause.)

15 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: That's way
16 beyond the City of Philadelphia. And interesting
17 enough, all different cultural backgrounds, so if
18 you get a chance to observe the dance challenge,
19 please make sure you're not only observing it
20 through social media platforms, but also maybe
21 even partake in it yourself.

22 The chair recognizes Council Member
23 Dr. Nina Ahmad.

24 COUNCILMEMBER AHMAD: Thank you,
25 Council President. In honor of January being the

1 Human Trafficking Prevention month in the City of
2 Philadelphia, I have a resolution about that
3 today. We have the Salvation Army, who are here.
4 The Salvation Army is one of the premier service
5 providers for survivors of human trafficking and
6 they have very generously put some treats for you
7 on each council members' table, so I just wanted
8 to acknowledge them.

9 I think Reverend Bonnie Camarda is
10 here, if she could just stand. There she is. I
11 thank you and I thank you all of those who are in
12 your organization, supporting those who are most
13 vulnerable. So thank you very much, Council
14 President.

15 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: Thank you,
16 very much.

17 At this time, the chair recognizes
18 Council Member Jeffrey J. Young, Jr., who will
19 present a resolution honoring and recognizing Self
20 Incorporated for his transformative work in
21 addressing homelessness and empowering lives
22 across Philadelphia. Would Dr. Shirlana Dash and
23 those accompanying her please join the council
24 member at the podium.

25 Joining Council Member Young are

1 the following council members, Minority Leader
2 Council Member Kendra Brooks, Council Member Jim
3 Harrity, Councilman Jamie Guathier, and Council
4 Member Majority Deputy Whip, Cindy Bass.

5 The floor is yours, Member Young.

6 COUNCILMEMBER YOUNG: Thank you, so
7 much Council President. And good morning to
8 everyone in the listening in public. Today we are
9 here to honor and recognize Self Inc., the largest
10 provider of emergency housing in the City of
11 Philadelphia. As we embark on this -- the Mayor's
12 One Philly initiative to increase 1,000 beds for
13 homelessness in the city, we must honor and
14 recognize the people who are doing the work to
15 ensure that our unhoused population is treated
16 with dignity and to ensure that our unhoused
17 population gets the services that they need to
18 survive in this city as we face rising, rising
19 costs each and every day here in the City of
20 Philadelphia.

21 So I wanted to take some time out
22 to honor this organization, this black-owned led
23 organization that is on the ground fighting the
24 good fight and taking care of our most vulnerable
25 population here in the City of Philadelphia.

1 With that, I want to honor and
2 recognize Self Incorporated for its transformative
3 work in addressing homelessness and empowering
4 lives across Philadelphia. Whereas the council of
5 the City of Philadelphia is pleased and proud to
6 recognize Self Inc., a nonprofit organization
7 dedicated to providing housing, emergency housing,
8 supportive services, and pathways to stability for
9 individuals and families experiencing
10 homelessness. Whereas, Self Inc. was established
11 in 1982, by Dr. Sylvester Outley, a visionary
12 leader and advocate whose mission was to eradicate
13 homelessness by meeting people where they are and
14 supporting them with compassion, dignity, and
15 care.

16 MS. THOMAS: Whereas, over the past
17 four decades, Self Inc. has grown to become the
18 largest provider of emergency and temporary
19 housing in Philadelphia, serving more than 1,000
20 individuals daily through its network of shelters,
21 supportive housing programs, and outreach
22 services, and whereas Self Inc. has long been
23 recognized for its commitment to ending
24 homelessness through innovative trauma-informed
25 programs that addresses the underlying causes of

1 housing insecurity and promote holistic wellbeing
2 for residents and... Whereas, under the
3 leadership of Board Chairman Reverend Dr. W.
4 Wilson Good, Sr., and Chief Executive Officer Dr.
5 Shirlana Dash, Self Inc. continues to expand its
6 impact through the development of permanent
7 supportive housing programs, youth-focused
8 initiatives, and specialized outreach teams,
9 including a newly-established outreach program at
10 the Philadelphia International Airport, connecting
11 unsheltered individuals to critical care and
12 housing resources.

13 And whereas, through partnerships
14 with the City of Philadelphia, the Commonwealth of
15 Pennsylvania, and numerous community organizations
16 Self Inc. plays an integral role in advancing the
17 City's effort to provide equitable access to
18 housing, employment, and supportive services for
19 vulnerable populations.

20 MS. THOMAS: And, whereas, during
21 National Homeless Awareness month, to council of
22 the City of Philadelphia acknowledges the
23 unwavering dedication of Self Inc.'s staff,
24 leadership, and partners, whose work embodies the
25 principles of dignify, compassion, and just for

1 all Philadelphians and whereas Self Inc.'s legacy
2 of service spanning over 40 years, continues to
3 strengthen communities, empower lives, and
4 transform figures through its beliefs that every
5 person deserves not only a safe place to call
6 home, but also the opportunity to thrive now.

7 Therefore be it...

8 COUNCILMEMBER HARRITY: Resolved by
9 the council of the City of Philadelphia that this
10 esteemed body honors and recognizes Self
11 Incorporated for its transformative leadership,
12 tireless advocacy, and enduring commitment to
13 serving the unhoused and undeserved across our
14 great city.

15 COUNCILMEMBER YOUNG: And be it
16 further resolved that a copy of this resolution be
17 presented to Self Inc. in grateful acknowledgment
18 of its service, and impact with the sincere
19 admiration and appreciation of this legislative
20 body. Thank you so much to Self Inc. for what you
21 do.

22 (Applause.)

23 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: The chair
24 recognizes Dr. Dash for remarks and I would like
25 to acknowledge that Self Inc., Holly House

1 Reserves resides in the second councilmanic
2 District of the City of Philadelphia.

3 The floor is yours, Dr. Dash.

4 DR. DASH: Thank you, Council
5 President. Yes, it does, Holly House is in your
6 district. Thank you.

7 Good morning to Council President
8 Johnson, to Council Members, distinguished guests,
9 partners, and friends. On behalf of Self
10 Incorporated, I am deeply honored and sincerely
11 grateful to the city council for this recognition.
12 Self was founded in 1982 by Dr. Sylvester Outley
13 with a clear and compassionate vision, to meet
14 people experiencing homelessness where they are
15 and support them with dignity, care, and
16 opportunity.

17 More than 40 years later, that
18 mission continues to guide our work every single
19 day. Today Self serves more than 1,000
20 individuals daily across the City of Philadelphia.
21 That number reflects both our capacity and the
22 reality before us, the need is persistent and
23 growing. We house over 700 people every evening
24 in permanent supportive housing and in housing
25 shelters across the city.

1 (Applause.)

2 January is often a time where many
3 of us reset and look ahead, but for those
4 experiencing homelessness, there is no reset
5 button. That is why alignment and action matter.
6 We are proud to stand alongside Mayor Cherelle
7 Parker and this council in advancing the city's
8 commitment to addressing homelessness with urgency
9 and accountability.

10 Just last week, Self was the first
11 provider to step forward under this new initiative
12 with the opening at the Luzerne site, a new
13 24-hour shelter that will house 100 individuals
14 across the city. (Applause.)

15 At a time when this is desperately
16 needed, Self stands alongside city council and the
17 mayor to ensure that the most vulnerable
18 population in our city is served and served well.
19 This is what it looks like when vision and
20 execution are in alignment and comes together as
21 one.

22 I want to thank our board chair in
23 his absence, the Reverend Dr. Wilson Good, Sr., to
24 the boards members that are with us today, to the
25 staff that stand alongside me and with me, and to

1 everyone in the city are who are committed to the
2 compassionate work that we do.

3 We recognize that there are many
4 people that stand alongside us. We do not do this
5 work alone. But we do it with the fellow people
6 that are here with us, we do it with those in the
7 audience, and those in the city that have a heart
8 to serve.

9 So as I close, as we expand
10 emergency housing, permanent supportive housing,
11 and youth initiatives, along with outreach, we do
12 so knowing that this moment demands more from all
13 of us and the choices we make right now shape our
14 future. We accept this honor not as a finish
15 line, but as a responsibility to keep moving to
16 stay aligned and to ensure that every
17 Philadelphian has not just a place to sleep, but a
18 reality to thrive.

19 I thank you. And just putting it
20 out to everyone, next Wednesday the 28th is the
21 PIT count. And for those who don't know what that
22 is, the point in time count happens across the
23 country when we have outreach teams, individuals,
24 and volunteers who go out on the streets and
25 actually identify the unsheltered in the

1 community. The point in time count is so
2 important because it allows us to know who needs
3 services, who needs assistance, and who needs
4 support. So I ask you today as I leave you that
5 if you cross someone on the street, please offer
6 them a warm hello and a smile because everyone on
7 the street is not on the street because they're on
8 drugs. Everybody on the street is not on the
9 street because they have extreme mental health.
10 Some have had life circumstance impact their
11 lives. So if we just offer a bit of humanity,
12 then together, we can eradicate homelessness
13 across the city.

14 (Applause.)

15 SPEAKER: I just want to take a
16 point of personal privilege, I mean, to Dr. Dash's
17 point, there is no face of what homelessness looks
18 like and I have Mr. Randy here, who is a
19 participant of Self Inc. and can show you what the
20 face of homelessness in this city really, really
21 looks like. Mr. Randy.

22 MR. FELICE: Hello, everyone. My
23 full name is Randy Serester Felice. February 3,
24 2005, at the age of 59, I found myself homeless,
25 hopeless, had no clue of how I was going to get on

1 my feet, what direction to take. Through the
2 grace of God, I was able to find myself into
3 Outley House. There with the help of Mr. Mosan, I
4 was suggested to try out Project Homes. Through
5 there, I was able to obtain my forklift
6 certification, got into Philadelphia Technical
7 School on 19th and Girard Drive for drywall,
8 framing, and sheetrock finishing.

9 (Applause.)

10 MR. FELICE: After a two and a half
11 year search, I was able to find full-time
12 employment. That hopelessness that I felt on
13 February the 3, 2025, Outley House gave me my hope
14 back.

15 (Applause.)

16 MR. FELICE: With that, I can see
17 myself getting back on my feet and starting my
18 life over at the age 60, it's never too late.

19 I thank everybody here because
20 without this program, I don't know where I would
21 be. I pray for all those that's still out there
22 and I just want to thank you guys again. You all
23 mean so much and you all have done so much for me.
24 Thank you.

25 (Applause.)

1 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: Council will
2 be at ease.

3 The next order of business is
4 communications. The chair request deliver
5 messages from the mayor to the chief clerk. Will
6 the chief clerk read the messages from the mayor
7 and any other communications in her possession.

8 CHIEF CLERK: To the president and
9 members of the council, the City of Philadelphia,
10 I am submitting here with for the consideration of
11 your honorable body, the following proposed, an
12 ordinance amending Section 9-208 of the
13 Philadelphia code, entitled sidewalk cafes,
14 Section A-301.1.5 of Title 4 Subcode A, the
15 Philadelphia administrative code of Philadelphia
16 code entitled zoning and use registration permits
17 by removing expired provisions related to outdoor
18 entertainment at sidewalk cafes under certain
19 terms and conditions.

20 Any resolution authorizing the
21 commissioner of public property to execute and
22 deliver to the Philadelphia redevelopment
23 authority, deeds conveying fee-simple title to
24 2045 South 56th Street, 5123, 5125, 5127, 5129
25 Baltimore Avenue in the third councilmanic

1 district of the City of Philadelphia and further
2 authorizing the Philadelphia redevelopment
3 authority to transfer to the Philadelphia land
4 bank, fee-simple title to such properties pursuant
5 to Section 16-405 of the Philadelphia code.

6 Any resolution authorizing the
7 Philadelphia land bank to dispose of 134, 138, and
8 140 North 58th Street, located in the fourth
9 councilmanic district in accordance with the terms
10 of Chapter 16-700 of the Philadelphia code. Any
11 resolution authorizing the Philadelphia land bank
12 to dispose of 1403, 1409, 1415, 1428, 1436, 1441
13 North 17th Street, 1624, 1626 Jefferson Street,
14 located the fifth councilmanic district in
15 accordance with the terms of Chapter 16-700 of the
16 Philadelphia code.

17 Any resolution authorizing the
18 Philadelphia land bank to dispose of 1909 North
19 Van Pelt Street located in the fifth councilmanic
20 district in accordance with the terms of Chapter
21 16-700 of the Philadelphia code.

22 Any resolution authorizing the
23 Philadelphia land bank to dispose of 1802 through
24 4 North Franklin Street, 1803, 1807 through 25
25 North 8th Street, located in the fifth

1 councilmanic district in accordance with the terms
2 of Chapter 16-700 of the Philadelphia code.

3 Any resolution approving the third
4 amendment to the redevelopment agreement of the
5 Philadelphia redevelopment agreement of the
6 Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority for the
7 redevelopment in urban renewal of a portion of the
8 American Street, Industrial Car Door Urban Renewal
9 area, designated as Revised Parcel No. 8, Revised
10 Parcel No. 9, Revised Parcel No. 10A, also
11 sometimes identified by house numbers and street
12 addresses for Revised Parcel No. 8, as 1700
13 through 34 North American Street, for Revised
14 Parcel No. 9 at 1703 through 69 North Bodine
15 Street, including 229 through 33 Cecil B. Moore
16 Avenue, for Parcel No. 10A at 1736 through 54
17 North American Street and authorizing the
18 redevelopment authority to execute the third
19 amendment to the redevelopment agreement with 1700
20 North American Street, LLC, and take such action
21 as may be necessary to effectuate the third
22 amendment to the redevelopment agreement.

23 Any resolution authorizing the
24 Philadelphia land bank to dispose of 2039 East
25 Fletcher Street located in the 7th councilmanic

1 district in accordance with the terms of Chapter
2 16-700 of the Philadelphia code.

3 Any resolution authorizing the
4 commissioner of public property to execute and
5 deliver to the Philadelphia Redevelopment
6 Authority, deeds conveying fee-simple title to
7 2726 North 15th Street in the 8th councilmanic
8 district in the City of Philadelphia, and further
9 authorizing the Philadelphia Redevelopment
10 Authority to transfer to the Philadelphia land
11 bank, fee-simple title to such properties pursuant
12 to Section 16-405 of the Philadelphia code.

13 Any resolution authorizing the
14 commissioner of public property to execute and
15 deliver the Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority
16 deeds conveying fee-simple title to 82 East Wister
17 Street, 46 and 47 East Earlam Street, 32 East
18 Clapier Street, 47,45, 75 East Ashmead Street, 40
19 through 42 East Garfield Street, 50 through 58
20 East Garfield Street, 14 West Seymour Street, 4947
21 Portico Street, 5308, 5318, 5332, 5322, 5323,
22 5324, 5331, 5331 Wakefield Street in the eight
23 councilmanic district of the City of Philadelphia,
24 and further authorizing the Philadelphia
25 Redevelopment Authority to transfer to the

1 Philadelphia land bank fee-simple title to such
2 properties pursuant to Section 16-405 of the
3 Philadelphia code.

4 To the president and members of the
5 council, the City of Philadelphia, I'm pleased to
6 advise you that on December 17, 2025, I signed the
7 following bill, which was passed by council at its
8 session on December 4, 2025. Bill No. 250887-A.

9 And that on December 17th, I signed the following
10 bills which passed by council at its session on
11 December 11, 2025, Bill No. 250534, 250573,
12 250841, 250951, 350952, 250953, 250954, 250981,
13 251017, 251018, 251019, and 251023.

14 And that on January 7, 2025, I
15 signed the following bills which were passed by
16 council at its session on December 11, 2025.

17 Bill No. 250574, 250606, 250717,
18 250771-A, 250801, 250805, 250809, 250832, 250839,
19 250840, 250842, 250846-A, 250847, 250888-A,
20 250913, 250914, 250920, 250946, 250947, 250982,
21 250983, 250984, 250985, 240987, 251022-A, and Bill
22 No. 251028.

23 On January 7, 2026, I signed the
24 following bills which were passed by council at
25 its session on December 4, 2025, Bill No. 250708,

1 250709, and 250834. And that on January 13, 2026,
2 I signed the following bill which was passed by
3 council at its session on December 8, 2025, Bill
4 No. 250833.

5 On January 20th, I signed the
6 following bills which were passed by council at
7 its session on December 11, 2025, Bill No.
8 250646-A, 250651-A, 250950.

9 That on January 20, 2026, I signed
10 the following bills which were passed by council
11 at its session on December 4, 2025, Bill No.
12 240304-A and 250607.

13 Bill No. 250720 and Bill No.
14 250804-A were returned unsigned.

15 That pursuant to Sections 4-604 and
16 2-307 of the Philadelphia home rule charter, the
17 city council -- I am transmitting to the council
18 the recommendation of the city planning commission
19 on the following bills, Bill No. 250986 approved,
20 251067, not approved, 251101, not for approval,
21 and 251102, approved.

22 Council president, there are no
23 further communications in my possession.

24 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Thank you. These
25 messages will be printed in the journal. Good

1 job, Chief Clerk.

2 (Applause.)

3 SPEAKER JOHNSON: The next order of
4 business is the introduction of bills and
5 resolutions.

6 The chair recognize Council Member
7 Dr. Anthony Phillips.

8 MR. PHILLIPS: Good morning,
9 Council President and good morning colleagues, and
10 good morning to the distinguished sergeant in
11 arms. We love him. I have one resolution for
12 introduction today.

13 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: Thank you,
14 very much. Will the Chief Clerk please read the
15 title of the privilege registration.

16 CHIEF CLERK: A priveledged
17 resolution recognizing January as Cervical Cancer
18 Awareness Month and honoring Angela, their
19 survivor for her outstanding leadership with the
20 Pennsylvania National Cervical Cancer Coalition,
21 Northwest West Philadelphia chapter, and her
22 dedication to cervical cancer awareness and
23 survivor advocacy.

24 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: This
25 resolution will be placed on today's final

1 calendar.

2 The Chair recognizes Majority
3 Leader Councilman Catherine Gilmore Richardson.

4 MS. RICHARDSON: Good morning,
5 Council President. Good morning, colleagues.
6 Today I offer one bill for privilege resolutions,
7 two of which are on your behalf.

8 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: Thank you,
9 very much. Will the Chief Clerk please read the
10 title of the bill and resolutions.

11 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance amending
12 Chapter 19-700 of the Philadelphia code, entitled
13 finance, taxes, and collections to amend excluded
14 transactions to realty transfer tax all under
15 certain terms and conditions.

16 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: This bill
17 will be referred to the appropriate committee.

18 MS. RICHARDSON: A privileged
19 resolution authorizing the committee on law and
20 government to hold a hearing on the process to
21 resolve a tangled title in the City of
22 Philadelphia.

23 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: This
24 resolution will be placed on today's final
25 calendar.

1 MS. RICHARDSON: And a privileged
2 resolution honoring the African American
3 children's book project on the occasion of its
4 34th annual African American Children's Book fair.

5 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: This
6 resolution will be placed on today's final passage
7 calender.

8 MS. RICHARDSON: And priveledged
9 resolution honoring and congratulating Erve
10 Randolph for his retirement after 31 years of
11 distinguished service to the Philadelphia Tribune
12 and for his lasting contributions to journalism
13 and the City of Philadelphia.

14 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: This
15 resolution will be placed on today's final passage
16 calender.

17 MS. RICHARDSON: And a priveledged
18 resolution authorizing the committee on commerce
19 and economic development to hold hearings to
20 assess the City of Philadelphia's workforce
21 development efforts and existing barriers to
22 employment and to evaluate job creation and
23 workforce development as strategies to eliminate
24 poverty for Philadelphians.

25 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: This

1 resolution will be placed on today's final passage
2 calender.

3 The chair recognizes Councilman
4 Jamie Guathier.

5 COUNCILMAN GUATHIER: Good morning,
6 Council President. Today I have one privilege
7 resolution.

8 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: Thank you
9 very much. Will the Chief Clerk please read the
10 title of the resolution.

11 MS. RICHARDSON: A non-priveledged
12 resolution authorizing the commissioner of public
13 property to execute and deliver to the
14 Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority, deeds
15 conveying fee-simple title to 2045 South 56th
16 Street, 5123, 5125, 5127, and 5129 Baltimore
17 Avenue in the third councilmanic district of the
18 City of Philadelphia and further authorizing the
19 Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority to transfer
20 to the Philadelphia land bank fee simple title to
21 such properties pursuant to Section 16-405 of the
22 Philadelphia code.

23 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: This
24 resolution will be placed on the final passage
25 calender for consideration at our next session of

1 council.

2 The Chair recognizes Councilman
3 Isaiah Thomas.

4 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: Good
5 morning, Council President. Love your energy
6 today. Good morning to the City of Philadelphia,
7 good morning colleagues. I have nothing. Thank
8 you, Council President.

9 COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you.
10 The Chair recognizes Council Member
11 Curtis Jones.

12 COUNCILMEMBER JONES: Thank you,
13 Mr. President. I too recognize your energy in
14 this new year.

15 I have one bill and one
16 non-privileged resolution today.

17 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: Thank you,
18 very much.

19 Will the Chief Clerk please read
20 the title of the bill and resolution.

21 MS. RICHARDSON: An ordinance to
22 amend the Philadelphia zoning maps by changing the
23 zoning designations of certain areas of land
24 located within an area bounded by Main Street,
25 Ridge Avenue, the Wissahickon Creek, Kelly Drive,

1 Falls Road, the Schuylkill River, and Dawson
2 Street extended.

3 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: This bill
4 will be furthered to the appropriate committee.

5 MS. RICHARDSON: A non-privileged
6 resolution authorizing the Philadelphia land bank
7 to dispose of 134, 138, 140 North 58th Street,
8 located in the fourth councilmanic district in
9 accordance with the terms of Chapter 16-700 of the
10 Philadelphia code.

11 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: This
12 resolution will be placed on the final passage
13 calender for consideration at our next session of
14 council.

15 The Chair recognizes Councilman Rue
16 Landau.

17 COUNCILMEMBER LANDAU: Good
18 morning, Council President --

19 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: Good
20 morning.

21 COUNCILMEMBER LANDAU: --
22 Colleagues, and the public. I have one privilege
23 resolution today.

24 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: Thank you,
25 very much. Will the Chief Clerk please read the

1 title of the privilege resolution.

2 CHIEF CLERK: And privileged
3 resolution recognizing January 28, 2026, as a
4 national date of privacy day in the City of
5 Philadelphia.

6 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: This
7 resolution will be placed on today's final passage
8 calendar.

9 Chair recognizes Councilman Quetcy
10 Lozada.

11 COUNCILMEMBER LOZADA: Good
12 morning, Council President. Good morning,
13 everyone. I have two non-privileged resolutions
14 today.

15 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: Thank you
16 very much. Will the Chief Clerk please read the
17 title of the two non-privileged resolutions.

18 CHIEF CLERK: A non-privileged
19 resolution authorizing the Philadelphia land bank
20 of 2039 East Fletcher Street located in the
21 seventh councilmanic district in accordance with
22 the terms of Chapter 16-700 of the Philadelphia
23 code.

24 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: This
25 resolution will be placed on the final passage

1 calendar for consideration at the next session of
2 council.

3 CHIEF CLERK: And a non-privileged
4 resolution approving the third amendment to the
5 redevelopment agreement of the Philadelphia
6 Redevelopment Authority for the redevelopment and
7 urban renewal of a portion of the American Street
8 Industrial Corridor Urban Renewal Area, designated
9 as Revised Parcel No. 8, Revised Parcel No. 9, and
10 Revised Parcel No. 10-A, also sometimes identified
11 by house numbers and street addresses for Revised
12 Parcel No. 8 as 1700 through 24 North American
13 Street, for Revised Parcel No. 9 as 1703 through
14 69 North Bodine Street, including 229 through 33
15 Cecil B. Moore Avenue, and for Parcel No. 10-A as
16 1736 through 54 North American Street, and
17 authorizing the Redevelopment Authority to execute
18 the 3rd amendment to the redevelopment agreement
19 with 1700 North American Street, LLC, and to take
20 such action as may be necessary to effectuate the
21 third amendment to the redevelopment agreement.

22 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: This
23 resolution will be placed on the final passage
24 calender for consideration at the next session of
25 council.

1 Chair recognizes Council Member
2 Jeffrey J. Young.

3 COUNCILMEMBER YOUNG: Thank you,
4 Mr. President. Today I offer one bill and five
5 non-privileged resolutions.

6 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: Thank you
7 very much.

8 Will the Chief Clerk please read
9 the title of the bill and resolutions.

10 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
11 providing for the submission to the qualified
12 electors of the City of Philadelphia of an
13 amendment to the educational supplement to the
14 Philadelphia Home Rule Charter relating to the
15 removal of members of the Board of Education by
16 establishing a process by which city council may
17 remove such members as approved by resolution of
18 the city council, fixing the date of an election
19 for such purpose, prescribing the form of ballot
20 question to be voted on, and authorizing the
21 appropriate officers to publish notice and to make
22 arrangements for the election.

23 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: This bill
24 will be referred to the appropriate committee.

25 CHIEF CLERK: A non-privileged

1 resolution proposing an amendment to the
2 educational supplement to the Philadelphia Home
3 Rule Charter relating to the removal of the
4 members of the Board of Education by establishing
5 a process by which city council may remove such
6 members and providing for the submission of the
7 amendments to the electors of Philadelphia.

8 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: This bill
9 will be referred to the appropriate committee.

10 CHIEF CLERK: And a non-privileged
11 resolution authorizing the Philadelphia land bank
12 to dispose of 1909 North Van Pelt Street located
13 in the 5th councilmanic district in accordance
14 with the terms of Chapter 16-700 of the
15 Philadelphia code.

16 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: This
17 resolution will be placed on the final passage
18 calendar for consideration at the next session of
19 council.

20 CHIEF CLERK: A non-privileged
21 resolution authorizing the Philadelphia land bank
22 to dispose of 1437, 1438, 1539, 1544, 1546, and
23 1610 Ogontz Street, 863 North 15th Street, 841,
24 845, and 851 North 16th Street, located in the 5th
25 councilmanic district in accordance with the terms

1 of Chapter 16-700 of the Philadelphia code.

2 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: This
3 resolution will be placed on the final passage
4 calendar for consideration at our next session of
5 council.

6 CHIEF CLERK: A non-privileged
7 resolution authorizing the Philadelphia land bank
8 to dispose of 1802 through 4 North Franklin
9 Street, 1803, 1807 through 25 North 8th Street
10 located in the fifth councilmanic district in
11 accordance with the terms of Chapter 16-700 of the
12 Philadelphia code.

13 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: This
14 resolution will be placed on the final passage
15 calendar for consideration at our next session of
16 council.

17 CHIEF CLERK: A non-privileged
18 resolution authorizing the Philadelphia land bank
19 to dispose of 1403, 1409, 1415, 1428, 1436, and
20 1441 North 17th Street, 1624 and 1626 Jefferson
21 Street located in the fifth councilmanic district
22 in accordance with the terms of Chapter 16-700 of
23 the Philadelphia code.

24 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: This
25 resolution will be placed on the final passage

1 calender for consideration at our next session of
2 council.

3 The Chair recognizes Council member
4 Kendra Brooks.

5 COUNCILMEMBER BROOKS: Yes, I have
6 one priveleged resolution to introduce.

7 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Thank you, very
8 much.

9 Will the Chief Clerk please read
10 the title of the privileged resolution.

11 CHIEF CLERK: The priveleged
12 resolution recognizing January 22nd as the
13 anniversary of the Supreme Court's landmark
14 decision in Roe versus Wade.

15 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: This
16 resolution will be placed on today's final passage
17 calendar.

18 Chair recognizes Councilman Jim
19 Harrity.

20 COUNCILMEMBER HARRITY: Good
21 afternoon, Council President, colleagues.

22 I have one bill today.

23 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: Thank you
24 very much.

25 Will the Chief Clerk please read

1 the title of the bill.

2 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance creating
3 Title IX, Chapter 6700 of the Philadelphia code to
4 create licensure for certified glass and metal
5 technicians all under certain terms and
6 conditions.

7 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: This bill
8 will be referred to the appropriate committee.

9 Chair recognizes Councilman
10 Nicholas O'Rourke.

11 COUNCILMEMBER O'ROURKE: Good
12 morning, Mr. President. Good morning,
13 Philadelphians all.

14 I have no resolutions or bills to
15 introduce today.

16 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: Thank you,
17 very much.

18 Chair recognizes Councilman Mike
19 Driscoll.

20 COUNCILMEMBER DRISCOLL: Morning,
21 Mr. President.

22 No bills or resolutions today.

23 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Thank you much.

24 Chair recognizes Councilman Bill
25 O'Neil.

1 COUNCILMEMBER O'NEIL: Thank you,
2 Mr. President.

3 No bills or resolutions.

4 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: Thank you
5 very much.

6 Chair recognizes Councilman Mark
7 Squila.

8 COUNCILMEMBER SQUILA: Thank you,
9 Mr. President. I offer two bills, two
10 non-privilege resolutions, one on your behalf.

11 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: Thank you
12 very much.

13 Will the Chief Clerk please read
14 the title of the bills and resolutions.

15 CHIEF CLERK: On ordinance
16 authorizing the installation, ownership, and
17 maintenance of various encroachments along the 300
18 block South Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102,
19 under certain terms and conditions.

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

22 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance amending
23 Section 12-701 of the Philadelphia code entitled
24 designation of bicycle lanes to authorize a
25 bicycle lane and removal of parking on Columbia

1 Avenue under certain terms and conditions.

2 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: This bill be
3 referred to the appropriate committee.

4 CHIEF CLERK: And a non-privileged
5 resolution expressing the city's priorities for
6 the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's 95
7 Revive Project from Center City to South
8 Philadelphia.

9 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: This
10 resolution will be placed on the final passage
11 calendar for consideration at the next session of
12 council.

13 CHIEF CLERK: And a privileged
14 resolution honoring Father Joseph J. Kelly by
15 renaming the 2400 block of -- and a non-privileged
16 resolution honoring Father Joseph J. Kelly by
17 renaming the 2400 block of South 17th Street at
18 Father Joseph Kelly Way in recognition of his
19 dedicated pastoral leadership at St. Monica Parish
20 and his longstanding service to the south
21 Philadelphia community.

22 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: This
23 resolution will be placed on the final passage
24 calendar for consideration at our next session of
25 council.

1 Chair recognizes Council Member
2 Cindy Bass.

3 COUNCILMEMBER BASS: Thank you, Mr.
4 President.

5 I will offer three privileged
6 resolutions, two on your behalf and one
7 non-privileged resolution.

8 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: Thank you
9 very much.

10 Will the Chief Clerk read the title
11 of the resolutions.

12 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged
13 resolution honoring and recognizing Austin J.
14 McGreal, Esquire, for his over 40 years of legal
15 service and dedication to the City of Philadelphia
16 through his tenure as general council of the
17 Philadelphia Municipal Authority.

18 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: This
19 resolution will be placed on today's final passage
20 calendar.

21 CHIEF CLERK: And a priveledged
22 resolution honoring Pushing Progress Philly, P3,
23 and its outstanding leadership and staff for their
24 unwavering commitment to youth gun violence
25 prevention, strengthening families, and building

1 safer, healthier communities in the City of
2 Philadelphia.

3 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: This
4 resolution will be placed on today's final passage
5 calender.

6 CHIEF CLERK: And a privileged
7 resolution honoring and commending endangered
8 kind, it's founder and Executive Director John
9 Solomon and its leadership team Nakeem Haggins,
10 Jalil Martin, Gary Hill, and Eric Knight-Lane for
11 their commitment to fighting youth gun violence in
12 their profound grassroots leadership uplifting
13 vulnerable young men, families and communities
14 throughout the City of Philadelphia.

15 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: This
16 resolution will be placed on today's final passage
17 calender.

18 CHIEF CLERK: And a non-privileged
19 resolution authorizing the commissioner of public
20 property to execute and deliver to the
21 Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority deeds
22 conveying fee simple title to 2726 North 15th
23 Street in the eighth councilmanic district of the
24 City of Philadelphia and further authorizing the
25 Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority to transfer

1 the Philadelphia land bank fee-simple title as
2 such properties, pursuant to Section 126-405 of
3 the Philadelphia code.

4 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: This
5 resolution will be placed on the final passage
6 calender for consideration at our next session of
7 council.

8 The Chair recognizes Council member
9 Dr. Nina Ahmad.

10 COUNCILMEMBER AHMAD: Thank you,
11 Council President.

12 I offer two privileged resolutions,
13 one non-privileged resolution, and one bill.

14 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: Thank you
15 very much.

16 Will the Chief Clerk please read
17 the title of the bill and resolutions.

18 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
19 proposing an amendment to the Philadelphia Home
20 Rule Charter providing for the creation of the
21 Community Child Welfare Commission and providing
22 for the submission of the proposed amendment to
23 the electors of Philadelphia.

24 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: This bill
25 will be referred to the appropriate committee.

1 CHIEF CLERK: A non-privileged
2 resolution providing for the submission to the
3 qualified electors of the City of Philadelphia, of
4 the proposal set forth in a resolution approved by
5 council, proposing an amendment to the
6 Philadelphia Home Rule Charter relating to the
7 creation of the Community Child Welfare Commission
8 and authorizing and directing the appropriate
9 officers to publish notice and to make
10 arrangements for the special election.

11 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: This bill
12 will be referred to the appropriate committee.

13 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged
14 resolution authorizing the Committee of Public
15 Health and Human Services to hold hearings
16 examining the current state of Philadelphia's
17 reproductive health care system, the current
18 federal landscape effecting reproductive policy,
19 and the City's response to protect reproductive
20 freedom.

21 COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: This
22 resolution will be placed on today's final passage
23 calender.

24 Council, be at ease.

25 CHIEF CLERK: And a privileged

1 resolution recognizing January 2026 as human
2 trafficking prevention month in the City of
3 Philadelphia.

4 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: This
5 resolution will be placed on today's final passage
6 calendar.

7 There being no reports from
8 committees today, the next order of business is
9 the consideration of the calendar. The chair
10 recognizes Majority Leader Councilman Catherine
11 Gillmore Richardson for a motion concerning the
12 bills and resolutions on the second reading of
13 final passage calendars.

14 COUNCILMEMBER RICHARDSON: Thank
15 you, Mr. President.

16 The following bills and resolutions
17 are being called up from the second reading and
18 final passage calendars today. Nos. 250303,
19 250768, 250986, 250990, 251027, and 251065. The
20 following bills and resolutions on the calendar
21 are being held, 241070, 241056, 250807, 250843,
22 and 251025.

23 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: Thank you.

24 Before considering these bills and
25 resolutions, we will consider public comment as

1 follows, your public comment must concern matters
2 on the second reading and final passage calendars
3 for possible action at today's council session.
4 All speakers must sign up in order to testify. If
5 you have not already signed up for today's
6 session, please do so now by giving your name to
7 Ms. Hassin at the table outside the rails to my
8 left.

9 Once you have signed up, you'll be
10 called in the order in which your name appears on
11 the sign-up sheet. Under ideal circumstances,
12 public commenters each will have three minutes to
13 speak. However, this timing may vary from council
14 session to council session. Today, due to the
15 repetition of the actual public comment calendar,
16 the time limit will be two minutes.

17 In order to be fair to all those
18 wishing to speak, I intend to hold faithfully to
19 the two-minute limit. When you begin speaking,
20 you will see a green light on the podium. When
21 there are 30 seconds remaining for your time, the
22 light will turn yellow, which is your reminder to
23 please conclude your remarks.

24 Once two minutes have passed, the
25 lights will turn red and the sergeant at arms will

1 disconnect the microphone. Please don't give him
2 a hard time, he's just doing his job. At that
3 point, please yield the podium to the next speaker
4 if you have not done so already.

5 I also reserve the right pursuant
6 to our rules of city council to limit repetitious
7 comments on the same subject matter.

8 I will now ask the chief clerk to
9 please read the name of our first speaker.

10 CHIEF CLERK: May we have Stefan
11 Roots, Maritza Padwa, Loyde Bastin, Kate Perez,
12 Mike Ewal, and Kim Braford please come to the
13 podium.

14 MAYOR ROOTS: Good morning. My
15 name is Stefan Roots, mayor of the City of
16 Chester, Pennsylvania, here seeking support for
17 the passage of the Stop Trashing Our Air Act. I
18 am the first mayor fighting environmental justice
19 in the City of Chester. I was born in '61,
20 graduated in '78 from high school, played in the
21 streets of Chester, and none of my playmates had
22 asthma. Fast forward to 2006, I was at a school
23 celebrating a new book for students, wrote by and
24 sponsored by Keystone First and the students, the
25 topic was centered around childhood asthma.

1 On that day, I learned that 80
2 percent of the students had asthma. What changed
3 in Chester between my time as a child and theirs?
4 Chester has been a dumping ground for polluting
5 industries for decades. When I was a child
6 growing up in the '60s, Delaware River had this
7 oil sheen and my dad said, that's why you see a
8 rainbow.

9 I marveled at that. My parents'
10 bedroom, I would go in crying because outside my
11 bedroom window, the sky looked like it was on
12 fire. That was the refineries on low cloud days,
13 making me scared that the whole city was going to
14 go on fire.

15 In '78, a rubber reclaiming
16 factory, known as Wade Dumsite, sat across the
17 street from the stadium that Philadelphia Union
18 plays and it's now become -- it then became the
19 third super fun site in the city.

20 Here's my point, thanks to the
21 efforts of the EPA, the DEP, pollution in Chester
22 is greatly reduced since my childhood, but my
23 childhood started 65 years ago. 35 years ago a
24 new polluter came to town and the impact of the
25 trash incinerator, while there's been great

1 reductions in other pollution, has been
2 devastating to the lives in Chester.

3 You may be surprised to know that
4 my environmental work started in the City of
5 Philadelphia. When I graduated from Villanova, my
6 first job was at PGW. I was responsible for
7 lowering pollution in Philly. I was responsible
8 for converting schools from coal to gas.

9 Today, Chester City council, my
10 work that started in Philadelphia, reducing
11 pollution in the city, has taken place right here
12 in my city, the City of Chester. Today you're
13 facing council, your own Jeff Brown moment. When
14 he was asked at the last mayor's debate what he
15 thinks about sending Philly trash to Chester, he
16 said he didn't care about Chester and if he ever
17 had a chance to become mayor of Philadelphia, he
18 lost it in that moment. The moderator thought his
19 reaction was shocking and Mayor Parker had a few
20 choice words for him too. Unless she's changed
21 her position since then, I'm certain she still
22 finds the idea of sending Philly trash to Chester
23 disgusting.

24 I invited Philadelphia's leaders to
25 Chester to see the decades of damage the

1 incinerator has done to our city residents.
2 Councilwoman Guathier answered the call. And
3 after taking the toxic tour of Chester, before she
4 stepped on the van to come back to Philly, she
5 promised she'd do something about it. Today is
6 that day. This Stop Trashing Our Air Act is what
7 she did and we're counting on all of you to
8 support it.

9 When I was last -- well, let's just
10 go right to where it matters. In Chester,
11 Delaware County, they own the incinerator, not the
12 City of Chester. It burns three times more trash
13 than Delaware County needs, but they put it in the
14 City of Chester. The other third comes from, the
15 other third from New York.

16 Listen closely, 90 percent of the
17 trash that's burned in Chester is generated from
18 outside of Chester. What we get in return is sick
19 people, a devalued riverfront, and no mayor
20 willing to fight this battle from Chester until I
21 came. Seven million pounds of trash,
22 7 million pounds of trash is burned in the City of
23 Chester every day in an area no bigger than a
24 councilmanic district you guys serve.

25 I'm the first man to challenge

1 Delaware County. The new government leaders in
2 that county listened to me. They agreed to send
3 their trash elsewhere over the next five years.
4 Now I'm stepping to Philly, I'm asking and begging
5 you to do the same. This is your Jeff Brown
6 moment. Here's your chance to be brotherly and
7 show you care about our neighbors. I invite you
8 to join the fight for Chester.

9 When you go to bed tonight knowing
10 that your yes vote today eliminates future
11 childhood asthma in Chester, isn't it all worth
12 it? Vote yes. Thank you.

13 CHIEF CLERK: Thank you. Thank you
14 very much, Mayor Roots. For the record, to all
15 those assembled, we have a number of witnesses.
16 We will keep to a two-minute limit. When you hear
17 the bell, I ask that you conclude your remarks.
18 We want to hear from each and every one of you
19 here, but we will not be able to that if you do
20 not keep to two minutes. Thank you very much.

21 MS. CRUZ: Good morning and buenos
22 dias. My name is Yolanda Cruz and I am the
23 executive director and president of Women Against
24 Abuse, Philadelphia's comprehensive domestic
25 violence service provider. Thank you to city

1 council for recognizing January as Human
2 Trafficking Awareness month and for the
3 opportunity to speak in strong support of Council
4 Member Ahmad's Bill No. 250990.

5 Human trafficking is closely
6 connected to domestic violence. One of its most
7 significant risk factor, survivors often face
8 isolation, housing instability, and financial
9 insecurity conditions traffickers exploit.
10 Trafficking frequently begins not with a stranger,
11 but with someone the victim knows and trusts. As
12 the operator of Philadelphia's only domestic
13 violence emergency shelter, Women Against Abuse
14 sees this reality each and every day.

15 Among survivors fleeing violent
16 homes, young people who run away to escape abuse
17 and individuals who lack the access to stable
18 employment and legal protections. When systems
19 fail to intervene, early to provide meaningful
20 support, survivors are left vulnerable to further
21 exploitation. We wholeheartedly support Bill No.
22 250990, because it advances safety, stability, and
23 dignity for survivors.

24 By preventing work place
25 discrimination based on a person's status as a

1 victim of human trafficking, this legislation
2 removes a major barrier to economic independence,
3 one of the strongest protections against both
4 abuse and human trafficking.

5 Survivors deserve healing, not
6 punishment. They deserve welcoming places, not
7 stigma. And they deserve the opportunity to
8 rebuild and thrive. As we recognize Human
9 Trafficking Awareness month, I urge council to
10 pass Bill No. 250990. What a better way to mark
11 this month than by making concrete action to
12 address this crime and make Philadelphia safer to
13 our most struggle neighbors. Thank you.

14 MR. BASTIN: Good afternoon. I'm
15 Lloyd Bastin, a resident of the Francisville area
16 of Philadelphia and a professor of chemistry and
17 sustainability at Widner University in Chester,
18 Pennsylvania.

19 I'm here to strongly support the
20 Stop Trashing Our Air Act. Incineration of trash
21 is an outdated technology that emits multiple
22 pollutants into our air. Air pollutants,
23 particularly particulate matter, ozone, and
24 nitrogen oxides are strongly linked to asthma,
25 cancer, and other adverse health conditions.

1 The impact of these air pollutants
2 increases dramatically when a community has
3 multiple polluting facilities. Chester suffers
4 from the pollution of nearby oil refineries and
5 power plants, in addition to seven facilities
6 located along Chester's one square mile
7 waterfront.

8 These facilities include the
9 largest incinerator in the country. The
10 cumulative and additive impacts of these
11 industries create serious air quality issues in
12 Chester and the placement of these facilities in a
13 predominantly black neighborhood was deliberate
14 and is a textbook example of environmental racism.

15 Reworld Chester is the largest
16 contributor to air pollution in Chester and
17 operates in violation of the Clean Air Act. For
18 example, according to Reworld's own stats, they
19 produce 14 percent of Delaware County's nitrogen
20 oxide omissions. As a result of the cumulative
21 air pollution in Chester, Chester's asthma rates
22 are twice the Pennsylvania state level and
23 pediatric asthma is more than four times the
24 national average.

25 Reworld lacks continuous monitoring

1 of most chemicals of concern and consequently, we
2 don't know what's in Chester's air from hour to
3 hour.

4 Because of that and because
5 Philadelphia is downwind of Chester, we do not
6 know what is in Philadelphia's air. And we must
7 improve the quality -- air quality in Chester and
8 Philadelphia. And I urge city council to stop
9 sending our trash to Philadelphia, Philadelphia's
10 trash to Chester, or any other incinerator. Thank
11 you.

12 CHIEF CLERK: We have Kate Perez,
13 Mike Ewal, Kim Braford, May Jasmine Bahamandi,
14 Alex Piscatelli, Romano Jones, Alysssa Wilds, and
15 Dawn Perice, please make their way to the podium.

16 MS. PEREZ: I'm Kate Perez. And
17 when I see the city moving money, I think about
18 how much more the state should be able to give us.
19 When you had your Christmas dinners, did you think
20 about how our sister city has been enforcing about
21 a blockage since March, torturing an entire
22 population, and forcing them into famine. With
23 our SEPTA deficit, I can't imagine why the state
24 treasurer would invest more money into war bonds
25 that will continue to decrease in value as more

1 and more countries distance themselves from
2 Israel.

3 Gaza is about the same size as
4 Philadelphia with double the people. Imagine if
5 Israel used a tank to destroy our oldest church.
6 Drones strike every single hospital, every high
7 school, every college, every day care targeted and
8 flattened. Imagine more than 90 percent of our
9 population living on the street with babies
10 freezing to death overnight, now an almost daily
11 headline.

12 When I asked my friends how they
13 are, it's seven people sharing one blanket, too
14 cold to move your hands and the war planes never
15 left, giving everyone constant migraines and more
16 strikes. The IOF has committed at least 1,298
17 cease fire violations since October 10th, killing
18 480 human beings, at least 169 children, with 428
19 documented direct shootings, 66 incursions by
20 armored vehicles, 604 artillery strikes on
21 populated civilian areas.

22 Like just yesterday when the IOF
23 killed 11 people while targeting three
24 journalists. The newlywed Abdul Raoof Shamir
25 Shaat, his mother's only son, and Mohammad Sala

1 Cashta, whose wife and children were abroad when
2 he was assassinated. As a city hosting their No.
3 1 weapon's supplier on Spring Garden, we know that
4 this level of destruction would not be possible
5 without our complicity and our efforts to
6 normalize through our sister city partnership.

7 This every climbing death toll does
8 not include people crushed by crumpling
9 infrastructure, lack of access, lack of medicine
10 supplies, or wiped away in icy storms. We can cut
11 off this relationship and I can't come back here
12 for awhile, but I want to leave you with Basan
13 Odwads words, getting used to a genocide is the
14 quickest way to ensure its completion. Arms
15 embargo now, free Palestine.

16 MR. EWAL: Hi, my name is Mike
17 Ewal. I'm the founder and executive director of a
18 national organization called Energy Justice
19 Network, based here in Philadelphia and I'm here
20 to speak in favor of the Stop Trashing Our Air Act
21 250768. I'm a member of Council Member Lozada's
22 district and have been working and leading the
23 work to get this bill to this point since 2021.
24 I'm glad to see it get this far.

25 Around Philadelphia, we have the

1 worst cluster of trash incinerators in the nation.
2 There are five of them surrounding the city and
3 whichever way the wind is blowing, we're breathing
4 someone's trash, often our own. All five of these
5 incinerators are among the top seven industrial
6 air polluters in the seven county Philadelphia
7 area of the city and all the counties that touch
8 it.

9 This is directly related to the
10 fact that our region is the No. 4 asthma capital
11 in the whole country and No. 2 of the top big
12 cities in the country in cancer incidents,
13 something that's impacted folks in my home and
14 almost every neighbor on my block that I know.

15 It incinerators that we use,
16 particularly the one in Chester, is documented to
17 cause 23 times more harm to public health than the
18 landfills that would be used instead, which is why
19 we're supporting this bill. We don't like
20 landfills, but we know that burning trash and
21 toxic ashes is 23 times worse for public health.

22 (Applause.)

23 We know that there are some council
24 members that are thinking, well, what do the
25 unions have to say, what about the jobs. We've

1 studied this. I'm in all of your in boxes with
2 information on this in the past few days and we've
3 documented that there are more jobs from landfills
4 and there are more Philadelphia-based union jobs
5 if we pass this bill because the alternative means
6 going from a nonunion transfer station to a
7 teamsters-organized transfer station here in the
8 city and ultimately to a landfill that is also
9 being unionized. So please support this bill.
10 Thank you so much.

11 (Applause.)

12 MS. BRADFORD: Good morning,
13 council. My name is Kim Braford. I have been a
14 proud resident of the City of Philadelphia,
15 District 4 for eight years, residing in the
16 Wynnewood neighborhood. I am the Pennsylvania
17 environmental manager for Reworld. The Chester
18 facility is a sustainable solutions facility that
19 helps a wide range of municipal, commercial,
20 industrial clients recover, recycle, and reimage
21 waste.

22 Reworld also operates sustainable
23 waste management facilities throughout the United
24 States and Canada, all located in urban, suburban,
25 and rural areas, converting waste into renewable

1 energy.

2 In fact, countries such as Germany,
3 the Netherlands, and Sweden have all enacted
4 legislation to minimize the use of landfills as a
5 waste management option. These countries, the
6 United Nations, and the US EPA all recognize
7 wasted energy as superior to landfills, which is
8 the third largest cause of methane, the
9 climate-damaging greenhouse gas.

10 Like nearly all waste management
11 processes, the Chester facility has air emissions.
12 Unlike landfills, these emissions are strictly
13 regulated in accordance with permits issued by
14 PayDEP.

15 It is my job to work very closely
16 with the facility to ensure that the facility
17 complies with these requirements. Our emissions
18 are up to 99 percent below the permitted levels.
19 Our share of emissions within the county air shed
20 is very small. We represent just 1 percent of the
21 fine particulate emissions in the county and 1
22 tenth of 1 percent of the volatile organic
23 compound emissions.

24 The primary source of pollution in
25 this area is mobile, such as cars and trucks. A

1 human health risk assessment completed by an
2 independent third party last year in accordance to
3 the EPA protocols demonstrated that the operations
4 at the facility is protective of human health.

5 Consistent with our EJ policy,
6 Reworld seeks to engage in two-way communication
7 with our communities in which we operate. As a
8 matter of fact, through this communication, we
9 have embarked on four major projects to improve
10 our environmental performance. We acknowledge
11 that our facility is located inside a community
12 that has long beared a burden disproportion to an
13 environment and we are working every day to make
14 ourselves a better community member. Thank you
15 for allowing me to speak today. Thank you.

16 (Applause.)

17 MS. BOMONDA: Good morning and
18 thank you everyone for the opportunity to speak
19 today. My name is Jasmine Bomonda and I'm the HR
20 manager at Reworld in Chester and also a lifelong
21 resident of Philadelphia. As a Latino who grew up
22 in this region, I take true pride in working in a
23 company that's not only committed to
24 sustainability, but also the people who make our
25 community thrive.

1 Reworld is a sustainable solutions
2 company, focused on helping cities and businesses
3 manage resources as well as reduce waste and
4 protect our environment, but for us,
5 sustainability goes beyond environmental goals.
6 It's also about creating sustainable opportunities
7 for people.

8 When I joined Reworld in
9 February of 2023, only a few employees lived
10 locally in the Chester area. Through intentional
11 hiring practices, community partnerships, and a
12 strong commitment to equity and inclusion, we have
13 increased that number to 26 city of Chester
14 employees and growing.

15 Those individuals bring invaluable
16 perspective, pride, and representation to our
17 Reworld force. As team members move on or retire,
18 we remain intentional while filling those roles
19 with talent from Chester and within the ten-mile
20 radius.

21 Our outreach to technical trade
22 schools and the Chester Upland School District
23 reflect our continued dedication to creating
24 meaningful community-based employment
25 opportunities.

1 This focus on local hiring
2 strengthens our local impact. It's about more
3 than filling positions for me. It's about opening
4 doors to, meaningful, long-lasting careers. Thank
5 you for your time.

6 (applause.)

7 MR. PISCATELLI: Good morning. My
8 name is Alex Palasandra Piscatelli and I am the
9 facility manager at the Reworld Delaware Valley
10 facility. I have been with Reworld for 36 years
11 and for 18 of those years, I've proudly served the
12 Delaware Valley in Chester, Pennsylvania.

13 My entire career has been rooted in
14 facilities operations, starting as a crane
15 operator and eventually becoming a regional
16 operations manager. So I've seen firsthand how
17 our industry has evolved and improved.

18 The Delaware facility was designed
19 and constructed to operated on the strict
20 requirements of the Clean Air Act, a federal law
21 that was created to protect human health, while
22 ensuring that air pollution remains at levels that
23 are safe for people, as well as the environment.

24 The facts are clear, our facility
25 has consistently operated at 60 to 90 percent

1 below those standards. While no facility is
2 perfect, over decades of operations, our
3 performance has been strong and we continue to
4 improve air pollution control technologies as it
5 advances.

6 Because it is claimed that the
7 Delaware Valley facility has caused human health
8 issues are simply not supported by the data. I
9 understand that when people don't feel well, they
10 look for causes. What I can speak on are the
11 facts. Our admissions are continuously monitored.
12 They have been operated well below federal limits.
13 Those limits are set specifically to protect human
14 health. If those were any indications our
15 emissions were causing any harm, regulators would
16 have intervened.

17 The Clean Air Act framework is
18 designed so that safety isn't just based on a
19 company, it is an independent oversight. The key
20 point being our emission data isn't ours, it is
21 regulated, audited, and verified by the state and
22 federal agencies, we report them continuously and
23 they have the authority to act if we don't meet
24 those standards.

25 Community concerns matter and

1 people deserve answers. What I'm saying is that
2 scientific and regulatory data did not show the
3 link between our facility and health issues. We
4 are committed to listening, sharing information,
5 and continuing to approve. This isn't about
6 dismissing concern, it's about grounding the
7 conversation in facts. Thank you for your time.

8 (Applause.)

9 MS. ROMONA: Good morning. My name
10 is Ramona and I'm the facility administrative
11 assistant at Reworld in Chester, where I was born,
12 raised, currently reside. I retired from child
13 care after 30 years because I was tired of the
14 40-minute commute to outside of Chester and back
15 and forth. I wanted to be more easily accessible
16 to my children, who are in school, my older child
17 and her children, as well as my father, my mother,
18 and other family members that reside in Chester.

19 Reworld has given me the
20 opportunity to work locally and be close to home.
21 I no longer have a necessity to rely on government
22 assistance because of being able to earn a livable
23 wage, a higher wage by working at Reworld. I can
24 be actively present and involved with my
25 children's school and extracurricular activities

1 without feeling exhausted from a long commute.

2 I have had the privilege of working
3 at Reworld for the past year and a half. And as
4 the administrative assistant, I work closely with
5 our facility team and community relations to be
6 present, to be transparent, and to be committed to
7 supporting the families of Chester. I am able to
8 witness numerous, heartfelt accolades of
9 appreciation when Reworld shows up to participate
10 and sponsor the City of Chester events, whether
11 it's a clean up, a festival, or making donations
12 individually or to groups or organizations. We
13 are present throughout the year within the city.

14 It means a great deal to me to be
15 part of an organization, generally invest in the
16 place I call home. Thank you.

17 (Applause.)

18 MS. WILDS: Good morning and thank
19 you for the opportunity to speak. My name is
20 Alyssa Wilds. I am the senior director of
21 corporate and community relations at Reworld,
22 leading a team of professionals whose sole purpose
23 is partnering with residents and keeping them
24 engaged and informed.

25 I pride myself on the collaborative

1 work being done in our host cities, creating
2 partnerships and service plans based on the
3 individualize needs and wants of each community as
4 expressed by our key stakeholders.

5 I too was born and raised in
6 Camden, New Jersey, another one of Reworld's host
7 cities. While I would never contend with the
8 lived experience of those who testified before me,
9 my lived experiences are far different. Camden
10 was my home for the first 30 years of my life and
11 for my mother's full 82.5 years. There are no
12 persistent illnesses in my family and the
13 relationship with Reworld has not been combative
14 or dismissive.

15 My mother is four blocks away from
16 our current facility in Camden and she is a
17 vibrant elder. The relationship with the
18 facility, even prior to my employment nearly five
19 years ago, has been collaborative and transparent.
20 The two-way communication, open-door policies have
21 allowed us -- our curiosities to be quelled, our
22 questions to be answered, and our concerns to be
23 put to rest.

24 Once an employee, my experiences at
25 home allow me to seamlessly recreate the same

1 around the country, granting residents in all of
2 our host communities across the country the exact
3 experiences that both my mother and I have had.
4 With that and many more things, I ask that you
5 vote no to Bill 250768. Thank you.

6 (Applause.)

7 MS. PETERS: My name is Dawn
8 peters, member of OnePA. Thank you for having me
9 here. I stand in support of Bill 250768, the Stop
10 Trashing Our Air Act. I am a mother, a
11 grandmother, and a lifelong resident of Chester,
12 Pennsylvania. I stand before you not as a
13 statistic, but as a black woman who has lived the
14 consequences of environmental racism. Decisions
15 made without our voices.

16 When the incinerator came to
17 Chester, I was married, a young, vibrant, healthy
18 mother with a toddler. I had no asthma, no
19 allergies, no breathing problems. After my second
20 child was born, I suffered a sudden breathing
21 emergency that sent me to Crozier-Chester Medical
22 Center. That was when I was diagnosed with
23 asthma.

24 From that moment on, my life
25 changed. I live with a worsening respiratory

1 illness, nebulizers, repeated steroid treatments,
2 and fear. Doctors told me to stay indoors, to
3 keep my windows closed at home, and in my car, and
4 to avoid being outside.

5 Imagine being told that the very
6 air meant to give you life, can make you sick.
7 This is not just my story. I have watched family
8 members, neighbors, loved ones suffer from asthma,
9 lung cancer my father died, heart disease,
10 strokes, and liver illness. These are not
11 coincidences. These are patterns created when
12 toxic facilities are placed in communities like
13 mine.

14 We love our children, just as
15 deeply as any family anywhere else. We want them
16 to play outside. We want them to walk the streets
17 without fear. We want them to have air that is
18 truly clean. I ask you today with urgency and
19 compassion to see us, hear us, and protect us
20 because if this were happening to your family, you
21 would demand action.

22 We are not asking for special
23 treatment, we're asking for justice, we're asking
24 for the basic human right to breathe. Please
25 stand with Chester, Philadelphia, and the

1 surrounding areas, pass the Stop Trashing Our Air
2 Act bill.

3 (Applause.)

4 MR. TOOMEY: Good morning council
5 president and members of city council. My name is
6 Matt Toomey and I represent the operating
7 engineers, whose members work at this Reworld
8 facility here -- there in Chester. I'm here this
9 morning to oppose the bill that would remove a
10 company I represent for participating in the
11 current bid process.

12 At stake, are up to 120
13 family-sustaining jobs. These aren't temporary
14 jobs, these are careers. Professional careers
15 that support families, provide health care,
16 pensions, and stability. A significant amount of
17 these workers live in Chester or have moved out of
18 the area and everyone contributed to the local
19 economy.

20 Trash and waste management is
21 reality of every major city. There is no option
22 that comes without impact. What matters is how
23 the impact is managed. Waste to energy
24 incineration is one of the most heavily regulated
25 waste management systems in the country, overseen

1 by the EPA with continuous monitoring and
2 enforceable standards.

3 The facility operates in a
4 long-established industrial zone, alongside other
5 infrastructure that already exists.

6 The contract is currently out to
7 bid. That process exists for a reason, to ensure
8 fairness, competition, transparency, and the best
9 outcome for tax payers and residents. Removing a
10 qualified bidder for this process completely
11 undermines the trust and puts jobs, costs, and
12 public confidence at risk.

13 There are also real consequences to
14 consider. This facility contributes power to the
15 regional grid at a time when energy costs are
16 rising and rate payers are already under pressure.
17 Decisions like this do not happen in a vacuum. We
18 support environmental protection. We believe in
19 accountability, but we also believe in due
20 process, working families, and fair competition.

21 I respectfully urge counsel to
22 reject this bill and allow the bid process to
23 proceed and attend without political interference
24 and without sacrificing careers that our family
25 members depend on. Thank you for your time and

1 consideration.

2 (Applause)

3 MS. HIRSCH: Good afternoon. My
4 name is Shari Hirsch. I'm speaking as a resident
5 of Philadelphia. I'm also a member of Trash
6 Academy and Queen Philadelphia Now Coalition. I
7 participated in city wide campaign against illegal
8 dumping in Philadelphia by 2028. Thank you,
9 members of city council, for the opportunity to
10 speak to support stop trashing our air act. In
11 Philadelphia we are serious about becoming the
12 cleanest, greenest biggest city in America which
13 we support. We must end incineration and
14 ultimately land filling and ensure that our
15 sanitation contracts including robust waste
16 diversion requirements.

17 We cannot make one community
18 cleaner by trashing another. When 4,000 tires
19 were removed from Tacony creek park, they were
20 sent to Reworld to be incinerated, a practice that
21 harms nearby residents and contradicts our city's
22 environmental hopes. Please support this act and
23 work that provides a pathway -- provides a pathway
24 towards long term solutions that reduce waste,
25 improve public health and strengthen economic

1 vitality. Our recycling rate is currently 13
2 percent, far below the 22 percent we achieved
3 before COVID.

4 Sanitation contracts must include
5 composting to divert food waste, curbside textile
6 collection, and programs that recover construction
7 and demolition materials for reuse. These
8 measures will help Philadelphia build a
9 sustainable equitable approach to waste management
10 that makes all community healthier and stronger.
11 As the clean air program continues to grow it's
12 capacity impact let's ensure these occur during
13 and shared across every neighborhood. (Applause.)

14 MR. BLATSTEIN: Hello Philadelphia
15 city counsel and happy 2026. My name is Jeremy
16 Blatstein. Some of you may know me as a real
17 estate developer, some may know me as ex-account
18 mayor and prerogative or SEPTA guy that ride to
19 ride, he did apologize to me. Or as the guy who
20 talks about housing. But I am here today as a
21 member of the Philadelphia community who will
22 never quote shut the heck up unquote. First,
23 shout out to my guys, John Dot, AKA, Nakeen, and
24 Jaleel, they're real ones who are in the trenches
25 every day fighting gun violence.

1 The home plan matters, but I
2 question whether we're being fiscally responsible
3 by issuing bonds for these spending properties.
4 Supply, supply, supply. We have a housing supply
5 problem. Most have spent ones that are gone,
6 that's not stable or fiscally responsible. That
7 is what general funds is suppose to be used for.
8 Spending money is easy. Building houses in a
9 fiscally responsible way is hard. Philadelphia
10 keeps choosing easy. If we want affordability, we
11 need more housing, especially workforce and
12 middle-income housing built at scale.

13 The solution is straightforward,
14 create a revolving loan fund to build more
15 housing. Capital that gets deployed, repaid and
16 redeployed again and again. This works. Other
17 cities have done it. One dollar can buy multiple
18 properties instead of just one, \$10,000 can create
19 10,000 homes. We need to invest in supply not
20 just spending. Last but not least, we're talking
21 about SEPTA. Raise your hand if your SEPTA fly
22 since the last city council meeting. Shout out to
23 my guy, Councilman Young, who came up top me at an
24 event and told me he rode SEPTA looking fly.
25 Thank you for riding SEPTA. It's important we

1 need SEPTA. Thank you. (Applause.)

2 MS. ROBIN: Robin here testifying
3 regarding 250251065. I'm going to start off by
4 saying, Happy New Year and Trust but verify. I'm
5 going to say tell the truth and shame to devil.

6 Bad deal for Philadelphia housing
7 authority, bad deal. \$25 millions is a bad debt,
8 you all buying bad debt. Another neighborhood
9 made change to the bill but it does not need PA
10 funds to delay bills. Come on, it's a market
11 value community. PHA lost this mission. PHA had
12 worked on more abandon properties throughout
13 Philadelphia especially in the 32 ward. Since no
14 one is speaking for us in the 32 ward, I'm going
15 to say let us get in on that deal so we can truly
16 show you all how to do affordable housing. We
17 live in that area and we shelter senior and we
18 know people are not looking to do anything but get
19 out those shelter into housing and we also revere
20 Raymond Rosen. PHA has been allowed to do eminent
21 domain so councilmen came up to take imminent
22 domain. A thousand parcels so you need to know
23 that. I'm going to give you all a little update
24 on your skills here. It you have 11 more families
25 in South Philly, generation wealth soley from PHA

1 you have to pull the cord in PHA and swear no less
2 and just after 20 years still trying to figure
3 that out. Labor agreement shut out African
4 Americans for century bad deals. Look at the job
5 sites around town. Come up in North Philly and
6 look at where these houses should be, \$40 million
7 for public project and no black folks on the job.
8 (Applause.) You're borrowing money bond money and
9 people have to pay for it. Stop say it's all your
10 young folks, gets up and give even grandmom has
11 her OSHA card. I want to know if you're going to
12 get one, young folks, check out they are good
13 about doing that, but stand up, tell the truth and
14 shame to --

15 (Applause.)

16 MR. GRIFFITH: Good morning. My
17 name is Bruce Griffith. I appreciate the
18 opportunity to speak on behalf of Reworld Company.
19 I'm a lifelong resident of Delaware County. I'm a
20 proud seven-year veteran of the United States
21 Marine Corps. I was born and raised in the city
22 of Chester, PA. I'm currently operations training
23 supervisor at Reworld. I've been working at the
24 facility for close to 35 years, starting out as a
25 laborer, working as a mechanic, operation

1 technician for ten years. I was in the control
2 room for ten years. I have two federal licenses.
3 You need a federal license to operate those
4 boilers. And progressing into several management
5 positions.

6 We produce sustainable electrical
7 generation for 51,000 houses, which reduces
8 dependence on fossil fuels. We recycle over 34,000
9 tons of ferrous and 1,000 tons of non-ferrous
10 metals, and we reduce the size of it by 90 percent.
11 Just as important is our continual commitment to our
12 surrounding community, or city cleanup efforts,
13 serving meals at the senior center. Numerous
14 clothing drives throughout the year. I take
15 personal pride in assisting with opportunities for
16 employment for the people of our community,
17 specifically my city of Chester. New employee
18 providing field through sustainable solutions for an
19 ever growing concern of waste management continuing
20 to move forward. I conduct numerous facility tours
21 and discussions for high schools, elected officials,
22 colleges, professional individuals, and the average
23 person seeking information on our process year in
24 and year out.

25 This facility provided stability

1 for me and my family when I unfortunately lost my
2 job when the shipyards in Chester closed in 1989,
3 and it afforded me the opportunity to grow my
4 knowledge and the challenges in the field of feral
5 nuclear operations in past is one of the future
6 workers.

7 MR. LILES: Good morning, Council
8 President, majority, and all of you who are part
9 of the city council. I am BP Liles, a lifelong
10 Philadelphia resident. I want to say past
11 speakers, I think a lot has been done. I want to
12 talk about the fact that Philadelphia is on the
13 precipice of decision-making. With the current
14 president of the United States that has the
15 devalued climate, has devalued the Department of
16 Justice. In fact rolling, attempting to roll the
17 plot back. I think to ensure that blacks and
18 other people of color remain and go back to the
19 bottom of the dump unit. It's imperative that we
20 as Philadelphia take the stance we're moving in
21 positive progressive directions as it's relates to
22 housing, as it relates to home -- (Applause)

23 I just firmly believe that it would
24 be a mistake for us to fail as it relates to the
25 Stop Trashing Our Air Act. I think we need to

1 look at how Philadelphia is viewed across the
2 country. The fact of the matter is that
3 incineration has been banned -- the last
4 incinerator has been -- has been eradicated and
5 closed in the State of Oregon. Recently the same
6 has been done in the State of California and also
7 in Washington. The fact of the matter is we need
8 to make it efficient to stop sending out trash
9 over to Chester and to stop sending our trash to
10 -- And in fact to incorporate and utilize better
11 practices for waste management, and a concern with
12 the overall health of our citizens in this city
13 and all across the region. You have the power to
14 do that and I know that the country is watching
15 us.

16 CHAIRMAN: The Chair now recognizes
17 Council Member Jones.

18 COUNCILMEMBER JONES: Good
19 afternoon, Chair. I have to go back to someone
20 who I hold in the highest regard, high esteem. I
21 would only say that every now and then the work
22 clock is right oh head corps and every now
23 somebody can be wrong. And I want to push back in
24 BrickShalom was Ground Zero in Fourth District,
25 the 52nd Ward and the City of Philadelphia.

1 BrickShalom was a chapter right out of the
2 Sopranos where somebody took out a \$34 million
3 loan and did a walk-around, and then put nothing
4 back into the property. Taking all of the
5 proceeds somewhere else. And then where she is
6 correct, tried to gyp us and throw back to the
7 City of Philadelphia this distressed property. In
8 fact, it was more insidious. They tried to get
9 the L&I Department to close BrickShalom because of
10 violations so that they could not take any
11 responsibility for it.

12 PHA, Calvin Jeremiah, my hero, came
13 in and negotiated one of the best -- I would never
14 play poker with that man. He looked them in the
15 eye, they wanted more money, he settled on 24,
16 right? And at the settlement table, those
17 criminals were prosecuted and are in jail. They
18 thought they were getting away with the bag. They
19 were wrong.

20 President Johnson said to me right
21 away early on, hey, we need to ask the state
22 attorney general to pursue this. I said with all
23 due respect, please hold up on that until they
24 sell that property. And once they, they did.

25 Now, moving forward, our mayor, who

1 has committed over 30,000 units of affordable
2 housing, 300 are going to come from BrickShalom.
3 We are going to renovate beyond those individuals
4 that were relocated, expectations, so that when
5 they come home they will be coming home willing to
6 welcome people to visit.

7 You went with me. O'Rourke went
8 with me on the tour. Driscoll went with me on a
9 tour of that property. And one of the units, we
10 stood in front of a unit, Madam Chair, it still
11 chokes me up, where there was crime tape on the
12 door. They said that the lady had passed away
13 three days before and was partially attacked by
14 varmints and insects. No veteran, no disabled
15 person, no senior citizen deserves to live their
16 fourth quarter of life like that.

17 Martin Luther King said that
18 everyone deserves a safe, affordable place to
19 live. And if we're going to live up to that
20 creed, I thank -- I thank the unions that stepped
21 up to the plate, putting their money where their
22 mouth is, putting \$50 million into the
23 restoration. You may consider that a bad deal. I
24 consider that a good break. Thank you, Madam
25 Chair.

1 CHIEF CLERK: Council will be at
2 ease.

3 (A break was held.)

4 CHIEF CLERK: We'll come back to
5 order.

6 Ma'am, please state your name for the
7 record and you may proceed.

8 MS. CALHOUN: Good morning, City
9 Council. My name is Sandra Calhoun, AKA, Aminta.
10 I'm here today, No. 1, I cannot say Happy New
11 Year. How can we say Happy New Year when here we
12 have a whole city, a whole industry, people
13 suffering, strategically, intentionally from an
14 inhuman environmental injustice. So where is the
15 Happy New Year? You can't be happy when you
16 cannot breathe clean. I am here in solidarity of
17 Chester.

18 We say here in Philadelphia, clean
19 and -- and green. How can the clean come and the
20 green come when you don't have no breathing come.
21 All we are doing is writing bills. Let's write a
22 bill to breathe clean, not just in Chester, but
23 throughout. Stomp out these incinerators that is
24 killing us. That's giving Chester people asthma
25 by the moment. All type of ills by the moment.

1 And we here in Philadelphia, we are just funk
2 dumplings dying from unclean, injustice
3 environment. Thank you. Stomp it out. No more
4 bills --

5 (Applause.)

6 MR. SCOTT: Good morning, Council
7 Members. My name is John Scott. I'm a proud
8 resident of District 5. Shout out to Jay Young.
9 Thank you again for your servant leadership. I
10 serve as the director of government relations for
11 Reworld and I'm here today because of the serious
12 concerns with Bill 250768, a bill that directly
13 impact jobs and livelihoods for more than 100
14 employees and partners with ripple effects beyond
15 just one company.

16 I came to Philadelphia for
17 opportunity. I earned my graduate degree at
18 Fordham University and my undergrad from Lincoln
19 University of Pennsylvania, the nation's first
20 HVCU. Shout out to Councilman Thomas as well and
21 Mayor Parker.

22 I chose the city because I found a
23 company that invested in communities that looked
24 like mine. I began working at the Reworld site at
25 58th and Woodland Avenue, alongside Philadelphians

1 who take pride in their work. That experience
2 took me to Chester and eventually elsewhere. It's
3 because of those workers and their families that
4 I'm here today.

5 Here are the facts. That RFP was
6 issued December 23rd. RFP responses are due less
7 than a month away. Vendors will be selected this
8 spring. Reworld's existing contract with the City
9 of Philadelphia goes until June 30th. Intervening
10 now undermines a competitive and fair procurement
11 process.

12 Many of you have heard directly
13 from leaders that you respect on this issue.
14 Those leaders would not be reaching out and
15 putting their names on the line if they did not
16 believe this bill raises serious concerns.
17 There's been strong opposition to this bill from
18 those same labor union leaders, community leaders
19 and other stakeholders.

20 Because it interferes with an
21 active RFP process, advancing claims not supported
22 by comprehensive independent analysis, risk higher
23 disposal costs, increased transportation emissions
24 and job losses.

25 Council Members, this is not about

1 just one company. It's about process, fairness,
2 workers, and fiscal responsibility. And let me be
3 clear in closing. This is not a vote to approve a
4 vendor. This is a vote to allow a qualified
5 company to continue participating in the RFP
6 process that is already underway. I respectfully
7 urge you to vote no on Bill 250768. Thank you for
8 your time.

9 (Applause.)

10 MS. BOND: Good morning. My name
11 is Lanaya Bond and I'm the Director of Education
12 for Physicians for Social Responsibility in
13 Pennsylvania. Are some communities more disposal
14 than others? And if so, which ones? Two weeks
15 ago the EPA passed a final rule that the federal
16 agency would no longer consider the economic cost
17 of harm to human health from fine particles in
18 ozone, to air pollutants that are known to effect
19 human health. No one wants their health to be
20 reduced to a number, especially when federal and
21 state regulations are already often too lax and
22 frequently violated. But at least when the EPA
23 counted the cost of asthma, cancers, miscarriages,
24 lifelong vulnerability that results from preterm
25 labor, and other health impacts of incineration,

1 for example, everyone's health was reduced to the
2 same cold numbers.

3 We know that it's not that they're
4 no longer counting, it's just that our health and
5 our lives are now worth zero dollars compared to
6 the purchasing power of who can pay to buy the
7 favor of the highest powers in the land.

8 In the context of this moment, this
9 government, if Chester is disposable to us, what
10 protects us from the same treatment by others with
11 more power. We are a city that resembles Chester
12 in many ways. Philadelphia is the poorest large
13 city in America. In Chester, because of the
14 incinerator, you can buy a house for \$60,000.

15 Our populations have a similar
16 racial makeup. We must stand with Chester not
17 only because we share the same air and pollution,
18 for burning our trash in Chester carries back to
19 us, but because neither of our communities are
20 disposal and we have to stand together for the
21 importance of human health, especially of
22 vulnerable populations.

23 We knew seven years ago about the
24 impacts of the incinerator and we punted. We must
25 pass this bill today to act on what we know.

1 Thank you.

2 (Applause.)

3 MS. REESE: Greetings, everyone,
4 city council president, and members, my 9th
5 District Councilman Anthony Phillips. Thank you
6 for introducing this important resolution about
7 women's cervical health. I am a 16-year cervical
8 health and disabilities inclusion excellence
9 advocate, who by the grace of God is victoriously
10 surviving cervical cancer survivor and being
11 paralyzed for over six years from chemotherapy and
12 internal/external radiation beam therapy.

13 Charter chapter leader of the
14 National Cervical Cancer Coalition of Pennsylvania
15 Uptown Philly chapter, I am dedicated to serving
16 women with or at risk for cervical cancer. I am
17 also the author and publisher of
18 thesurvivordiva.com, digital media resource for
19 cervical cancer awareness and disability inclusion
20 excellence advocacy.

21 This resolution is very important.
22 I don't want anyone else having to go through all
23 that I have gone through and endured fighting this
24 preventable cancer that disproportionally effects
25 black women who have the higher death rates and

1 incidence of disease.

2 Disparities in cervical cancer stem
3 from systemic issues like social, economic status,
4 race, ethnicity, and geographic location, leading
5 to unequal access to prevention, which is HPV
6 vaccination and screenings and follow-up care.
7 Especially for marginalized groups.

8 Key factors include medical
9 mistrust, lack of insurance, resources, limited
10 health literacy, screening, and follow-up gaps and
11 structural barriers, resulting in later-stage
12 diagnosis and higher mortality rates, highlighting
13 issues with healthcare quality and delivery, not
14 just biology.

15 There's a stigma often causing
16 women to delay or avoid vital screenings and
17 treatment. Policy changes, education, healthcare,
18 provider role, and community engagement are key to
19 overcoming this stigma. Legislation must be
20 better to address lower income under the uninsured
21 individuals who face more barriers to preventive
22 care.

23 The solution is to address the root
24 causes. Closing the cervical cancer gap requires
25 addressing the social determinants that help

1 improve, access, tailor education, culturally
2 sensitive care, and policies that promote health
3 equity. This is another rallying call to action
4 for the City of Philadelphia to lead the charge in
5 Pennsylvania, prioritizing and finding funding to
6 better implement the World Health Organizations
7 elimination of strategy for cervical cancer.

8 Thank you for your time.

9 COUNCILMEMBER RICHARDSON: Will you
10 please briefly state your name?

11 MS. REESE: Angela Reese.

12 COUNCILMEMBER RICHARDSON: Thank
13 you.

14 MR. CHANNAN: Thanks for the
15 opportunity to speak. My name is Mitch Channan.
16 I live in northeast Philadelphia in the 10th
17 District. I also chair the Climate Justice Caucus
18 in Reclaim Philly and I'm here to speak in favor
19 of the Stop Trashing Our Air Act.

20 Everyone deserves clean air, safe
21 air, and a healthy neighborhood. But the city's
22 current waste management practices deny people
23 that right. As Mayor Root said, during the
24 mayoral candidate debate two years ago, Jeff Brown
25 infamously said in response to a question about

1 the incinerator that Chester is Chester, he's
2 running to be mayor of Philadelphia, the trash has
3 to go somewhere.

4 Council needs to decide today
5 whether you will uphold the fierce critiques that
6 people made of Jeff Brown at that time or if you
7 will do the right thing and honor the health and
8 wellbeing of people in Chester as though they are
9 equal to people in Philadelphia.

10 We used to burn trash here in the City of
11 Philadelphia. We had incinerators throughout the
12 City, including one in your council district,
13 Council Members Jones in Roxborough, including one
14 in Council Members Squill's district, he's not here
15 listening, I'm sorry, at Spring Garden and Delaware
16 Avenue. Those were closed because of the health
17 impact of the toxic pollution.

18 We do not want to burn trash in our city.
19 In the 1980s, there was a fierce debate about
20 whether or not to build a new incinerator at the
21 navy yard. City council decided that we would not
22 do that because we did not want the toxic pollution
23 in our city. Yet, we have repeatedly made the
24 decision to send 180,000 tons of trash per year to
25 be burned in someone else's neighborhood. Do people

1 in Chester matter less than people in Philadelphia?

2 AUDIENCE: No.

3 MR. CHANNAN: Then why is it okay
4 for us to send our trash there? If New York City
5 were sending 180,000 tons of trash every year to
6 be burned in neighborhoods in Philadelphia, I
7 guarantee Philadelphia you would not allow that.
8 So why are we doing it to Chester? Thank you.

9 (Applause.)

10 MS. ROBINSON: Good afternoon, city
11 council and everybody that's here. My name is
12 Andrea Robinson. I am with the One Pennsylvania
13 Chester chapter and I am a Chester resident. I'm
14 here today thanking you for the opportunity to
15 have a voice in this matter about incinerating the
16 trash in Chester. I'm here to urge city council
17 to please, please pass this Bill 250768 for the
18 health and wellbeing of the City of Chester. I am
19 someone who is affected by this. I live close to
20 the incineration. Didn't know that I was moving
21 to it when I moved to Chester a few years ago. I
22 walk out my door and I smell the stinkiness of
23 this incinerator going on.

24 I'm embarrassed to invite my family
25 and friends from other places to come to my house

1 and see me and my family because of that odor.
2 Not only that, but the chemical factory is not far
3 from me, so I'm dealing with that and the
4 incineration and the dust, the dirt, all over the
5 car, all over the porch, all over the windows, and
6 everything. We need some relief here. Please,
7 please, please, city council, help us to live
8 better. We want to thrive. We want to be
9 healthy. We want to be strong. We want to
10 contribute back into society. Well, okay. And
11 then we're suffering from a whole lot of different
12 health issues; sinuses, allergies, you heard lung
13 cancer, all kinds of diseases that I have to take
14 double medication for. I walk out my door some
15 days and my nose just lights up. It just starts
16 burning. And really, I mean, that's -- that's you
17 know, that's terrible. You know, sneezing,
18 coughing excessively. I have three granddaughters
19 I'm raising, young teenagers. They are going
20 through things right now that they didn't have
21 health issues like that before we got there.

22 And don't get me wrong, I can make
23 it in Chester. I have a home there, but I want to
24 be healthy and strong. So please, please. And
25 not only that, other people around me, my

1 neighbors, you know, other people are complaining.
2 Other people are complaining about this. So
3 please, please pass the bill of 250768. Thank
4 you.

5 (Applause.)

6 MS. TALIA: Good morning. My name
7 is Talia and I'm the director of social services
8 of the Salvation Army of greater Philadelphia
9 where I oversee trafficking services across the
10 city.

11 Today I'm here in support of
12 councilwoman's resolution recognizing January as
13 Human Trafficking Awareness month and Bill 350990
14 which is up for final passage. This bill prevents
15 victims of human trafficking who are experiencing
16 workplace discrimination based on their victim
17 status. Survivors deserve safety, dignity and
18 opportunity to rebuild their lives. In the human
19 trafficking program we see every day how critical
20 stable, safe employment is to survivor's long-term
21 independence. This legislation is an important step
22 toward removing barriers to stability and
23 self-sufficiency.

24 Employment protection is not just a
25 workplace issue, it's a public safety issue, a

1 recovery issue, and an economic stability issue.
2 Passing this bill during Human Trafficking
3 Awareness month sends a powerful message to
4 survivors that this city's leadership sees them,
5 believes them and taking actions to protect their
6 rights.

7 City council members, on your desk
8 you will find the Salvation Army's annual report
9 detailing our work over the past year with human
10 trafficking survivors. Through New Day we served
11 1,100 survivors across all ZIP codes in
12 Philadelphia. We provided 296 survivors with
13 trauma OF key management. Supported 65 of
14 aversion and delivered critical basic need
15 services through our drop-in center in Kensington,
16 including 5,600 meals and 773 showers, helping
17 survivors stabilize and take their next steps
18 towards safety and self-sufficiency.

19 Thank you again, city council, and
20 especially councilwoman Dr. Ahmad for elevating
21 this issue and for your continued partnership.

22 On behalf of the survivors we
23 served last year, those we continue to serve
24 today, and the many that are still hidden
25 exploitation, I urge you do pass Bill 250990, and

1 I ask you not to stop there, but to continue
2 brining human trafficking awareness to the
3 forefront as anti-policy that protect survivors
4 and strengthen prevention in our city. Thank you.

5 COUNCILMEMBER RICHARDSON: Thank
6 you. Section 16 in our Resolution 240001, under
7 public comments we are providing for an
8 opportunity for the public to give public comment,
9 and we have the right to set the time. We have
10 only gotten through 23 of 54 witnesses. At this
11 time, per the rules of council under Section 16,
12 Resolution No. 240001, I am now changing the time
13 allotted for public comment to one minute because
14 we want to have the opportunity to hear from each
15 person. So I respectfully request that each
16 person amend their comment to one minute so we can
17 hear from each of you. Okay? Everybody okay with
18 that?

19 AUDIENCE: No.

20 COUNCILMEMBER RICHARDSON: Okay.
21 Well, excuse me. Excuse me. Excuse me. Under
22 Section 5 of Section 15 we can also defer the rest
23 of the public comments today. I'm allowing
24 everyone one minute. Thank you very much.

25 MR. VAN BRIAN: Good morning,

1 council members. Thank you for the opportunity to
2 comment. My name Michael Van Brian. I am a
3 licensed environmental engineer and I lead the
4 environmental sustainability team at Reworld. The
5 world's most sustainable countries, like Germany,
6 use waste energy facilities like Chester to help
7 reduce the environmental impact of managing waste
8 and placement of facilities directly in their
9 cities. The EU, United Nations and EP all
10 recognize waste energy as preferable to land. Our
11 opponent of the report commission by Delaware
12 County. This report makes critical fundamental
13 errors. Instead of relying on gas emission data
14 since 2010, the authors emission by overstating by
15 57 percent.

16 An additional error was that the
17 proponents of the bill used for recent data from
18 NASA, EEF and others that showcase how much more
19 damaging landfills are from than the time before. I
20 understand that you've received lots of different
21 and conflicting information. We're willing to have
22 a robust conversation about the facts, but this will
23 take time. I urge the council to vote against the
24 bill.

25 (Applause.)

1 MS. ANTHONY: Good morning. My
2 name is Latisha Anthony. I'm the senior manager
3 of Advocacy at Warden, Philadelphia Center. The
4 only crisis center in Philadelphia. Thank you
5 Council Member for your leadership and for Bill
6 #25099. January is Human Trafficking Awareness
7 Month, the time trafficking with truth and action.
8 Human trafficking and sexual assault are deeply
9 connected. Sex trafficking and repeated sexual
10 violence used to control its voice of others.
11 There is no consent, only fraud and coercion.
12 Trafficking is happening in our community often
13 hidden in plain sight. It thrives when systems
14 fail to protect the most vulnerable and when
15 silence replaces accountability. Bill #25099 a
16 critical step towards protection, accountability,
17 justice for survivors. While legislation alone
18 cannot end trafficking, it sends a clear message
19 that exploitation will not be tolerated.
20 Proponents of this bill provides attention role
21 with you value to stands for justice and dignity
22 and human rights supporting this bill and
23 continuing to raise awareness of human trafficking
24 through this month and beyond. Thank you.

25 (Applause.)

1 MR. CRONIN: My any name David
2 Cronin. I have lived in Pennsylvania, Delaware
3 Valley for over 40 years. Today we heard from the
4 folks of Reworld that the main cause of pollution
5 in the City of Chester is the vehicle, trucks.
6 The one thing that more trucks than anywhere else
7 in the city is Atlanta. There are hundreds of
8 truck idling on our streets every body single day
9 waiting to dump their trashcan or take their trash
10 out. So how do we figure they're big pollution.
11 In '66 Philadelphia has six incinerators. In '86
12 Philadelphia had 14,000 tons of unwanted toxic ash
13 from those incinerators. That trash went on a
14 cargo ship. They ended up dumping 4,000 tons and
15 the rest of that stuff illegally in the Atlantic
16 and Indian Oceans. The point is the -- pass the
17 apple.

18 MS. CRUZ: Hello again. Members of
19 the City Council I thank you for this opportunity
20 to testify the second time today. My name is
21 Carmella Cruz for Survivors of Domestic Violence
22 Relationship Abuse. Reproductive choice is
23 essential. Many have experienced sexual violence
24 reproductive control by their partner. One access
25 to abortion or reproductive care is restricted the

1 problem intensifies. Reproductive health is the
2 pathway to safety, timely and survival. After
3 Rowe versus Wade was overturned, Philadelphia
4 stepped up by investing in city funding to support
5 patients and survivors. But in the 2025 budget
6 the funding was cut. Providers are overwhelmed
7 barriers and national tax continue to escalate.
8 Supporting reproductive freedom is supporting
9 survivors, families and community. We urge City
10 Council to act now. Thank you.

11 (Applause.)

12 MS. PROUD: Natalie proud. Thank
13 you for allowing the privilege of speaking in
14 front of you today. I am the program director for
15 Co-Habitat of Pennsylvania and the co-chair of
16 Philadelphia Anti-Trafficking Coalition. The
17 Covenant House helps young people we serve in our
18 shelters are survivors of trafficking. And last
19 year the Philadelphia Anti-Trafficking Coalition
20 identified 497 survivors of trafficking, up
21 23 percent from last year. And I do want to point
22 out that is only the survivors that are affiliated
23 with any kind of social service or identified by
24 law enforcement. Trafficking costs the U.S.
25 \$9.5 million every year. While traffickers are

1 getting rich, the rest of society is taking a
2 financial hit. In past societies the increase in
3 the criminal justice Court of Common Pleas
4 decrease our wages decreased -- increased health
5 care assistance and loss of social capital. We
6 need City Council to earmark money specifically
7 for the prevention of human trafficking investing
8 in intervention. We need money to create more
9 housing opportunity for the exploited look stable
10 housing, often identified by survivors as an
11 increase in trafficking or cannot extra
12 trafficking.

13 (Applause.)

14 MR. MUHAMMED: My name is Madeer
15 Muhammad. I'm not here to give a whole speech.
16 I'm just going to let God speak to me through the
17 hearts of the body. I'm a father and a long-term
18 resident of the City of Chester that goes back
19 seven generations. My daughters have suffered
20 because of this incinerator. When my youngest
21 daughter was born -- I'm a little scared -- when
22 my youngest daughter was born she was said by the
23 doctors for the first couple years of her life she
24 was one of the most healthiest children ever seen.
25 We don't believe in vaccinations. We eat clean

1 and healthy and she's a vegan child. When we
2 start spending a lot of time in the west end of
3 city near the incinerator we saw a drift in her
4 health, and one of those things was a cough that
5 really continues to this day. Chronic cough. She
6 has constant and chronic nose bleeds. And my
7 youngest daughter's asthma starts to flare. It's
8 a dangerous situation for the citizens of the City
9 of Chester. We're here to stand with council to
10 make sure incinerator get shut down and I --

11 (Applause.)

12 MS. MUHAMMAN: Hello. My name is
13 Ava Muhammad and I just wanted to say I remember
14 feeling really scared thinking my baby sister who
15 I would protect with all my might is sick all the
16 time not knowing the reason why. I was really
17 young, also having really bad allergy reaction to
18 problems, while my one-year-old sister was having
19 really bad nose bleeds and she could barely
20 breathe when she was asleep. She coughed all the
21 time. We need to protect my sister so I ask of
22 you please clean our air.

23 (Applause.)

24 MS. HINES: Hello all. My name is
25 Tina Hines. I'm speaking as an individual and I'm

1 also speaking as one of the co-directors of Trash
2 Academy. This is regarding Stop Trashing Our Air
3 Act. And so as a person that suffers from asthma
4 and allergies, to have significant for me to have
5 attacks. So I just find it absolutely terrifying
6 that the residents of Chester are constantly in a
7 position to have to breathe in this toxic air.

8 And we all know that the rates of asthma and
9 cancer are very high in Chester due to the
10 incinerator. Ask what we can do to help our
11 fellow citizens in Chester out is to rethink our
12 waste management solution. Compared to other
13 large cities of the country, Philadelphia is
14 behind in waste diversion changes that and not
15 week mined kicking the can down the road is not an
16 option.

17 Now here in Philadelphia we're working to
18 end the legal dumping by 2028. Chester rightfully
19 so those allowed to legally dump on them.

20 Philadelphia being one of those legal dumpers. My
21 point is just because it's legal doesn't make it
22 right. We want clean and green in Chester. Here
23 waste division other solution act on right away is
24 away is being mindful of our consumption as a
25 constant after-effect of what we can do. Thank you

1 very much.

2 MS. COLDBURN: Good morning, City
3 Council members. As we stood together, we stood
4 as winners. All council member who voted for the
5 past the Amended Home Plan --

6 COUNCILMEMBER RICHARDSON: Ma'am,
7 please state your name for the record. Thank you.

8 MS. COLDBURN: Dawn Coldburn.

9 Working class in homeowner need.
10 But the fight continues. By the grace of God we
11 stand here again. Low income citizens like me are
12 protected from being bullying, retaliated against
13 or treated poorly. Council members, you have the
14 chance to make sure the house concern by home are
15 safe and healthy for renters. We look forward to
16 you passing this Safe Healthy Home Act. Not too
17 long ago I was scared to speak up. I a big
18 paycheck or degree I wasn't taken seriously. But
19 today I know you are never alone. I stand with
20 One PA. Please pass. Thank you.

21 (Applause.)

22 - - -

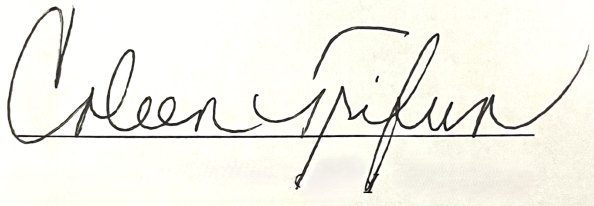
23 (Whereupon, remarks were made by District
24 Council members.)

25 - - -

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

I, COLEEN TRIFUN, RPR, CCRNJ and Notary Public, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate transcript of the stenographic notes taken by me in the aforementioned matter.

- - -

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light yellow rectangular background. The signature is cursive and reads "Coleen Trifun". Below the signature is a horizontal line.

DATE:

COLEEN TRIFUN, RPR, CCRNJ

#		
#25099 96:6,15	140 20:8 30:7	1802 20:23 35:8
	1403 20:12 35:19	1803 20:24 35:9
	1409 20:12 35:19	1807 20:24 35:9
	1415 20:12 35:19	19-700 26:12
	1428 20:12 35:19	1909 20:18 34:12
	1436 20:12 35:19	19102 38:18
	1437 34:22	1980s 89:19
	1438 34:22	1982 11:11 14:12
	1441 20:12 35:20	1989 77:2
	15 94:22	19th 18:7
	1539 34:22	
	1544 34:22	2
	1546 34:22	2 57:11
	15th 22:7 34:23 41:22	2-307 24:16
	16 94:6,11	20 24:9 75:2
	16-405 20:5 22:12 23:2 28:21	2005 17:24
	16-700 20:10,15,21 21:2 22:2 30:9 31:22 34:14 35:1,11,22	2006 46:22
	16-year 86:7	2010 95:14
	1610 34:23	2021 56:23
	1624 20:13 35:20	2023 61:9
	1626 20:13 35:20	2025 18:13 23:6,8,11,14, 16,25 24:3,7,11 98:5
	169 55:18	2026 23:23 24:1,9 31:3 44:1 72:15
	16th 34:24	2028 71:8 101:18
	17 23:6	2039 21:24 31:20
	1700 21:12,19 32:12,19	2045 19:24 28:15
	1703 21:14 32:13	20th 24:5
	1736 21:16 32:16	22 72:2
	17th 20:13 23:9 35:20 39:17	229 21:15 32:14
	18 62:11	22nd 36:12
	180,000 89:24 90:5	23 57:17,21 94:10 98:21
		23rd 83:6
		24 32:12 79:15

24-hour 15:13	250841 23:12	251101 24:20
2400 39:15,17	250842 23:19	251102 24:21
240001 94:6,12	250843 44:21	26 61:13
240304-A 24:12	250846-A 23:19	2726 22:7 41:22
240987 23:21	250847 23:19	28 31:3
241056 44:21	250887-A 23:8	28th 16:20
241070 44:21	250888-A 23:19	296 93:12
25 20:24 35:9	250913 23:20	
250251065 74:3	250914 23:20	3
250303 44:18	250920 23:20	3 17:23 18:13
250534 23:11	250946 23:20	30 45:21 64:13 66:10
250573 23:11	250947 23:20	30,000 80:1
250574 23:17	250950 24:8	300 38:17 80:2
250606 23:17	250951 23:12	30th 83:9
250607 24:12	250953 23:12	31 27:10
250646-A 24:8	250954 23:12	32 22:17 74:13,14
250651-A 24:8	250981 23:12	33 21:15 32:14
250708 23:25	250982 23:20	34 21:13
250709 24:1	250983 23:21	34,000 76:8
250717 23:17	250984 23:21	34th 27:4
250720 24:13	250985 23:21	35 47:23 75:24
250768 44:19 56:21 67:5,9 82:12 84:7 90:17 92:3	250986 24:19 44:19	350952 23:12
250771-A 23:18	250990 44:19 51:4,22 52:10 93:25	350990 92:13
250801 23:18	251017 23:13	36 62:10
250804-A 24:14	251018 23:13	3rd 32:18
250805 23:18	251019 23:13	4
250807 44:21	251022-A 23:21	4 19:14 20:24 23:8,25 24:11 35:8 57:10 58:15
250809 23:18	251023 23:13	4,000 71:18 97:14
250832 23:18	251025 44:22	4-604 24:15
250833 24:4	251027 44:19	40 13:2 14:17 22:18 40:14 97:3
250834 24:1	251028 23:22	40-minute 64:14
250839 23:18	251065 44:19	
250840 23:19	251067 24:20	

42 22:19		9-208 19:12
428 55:18	6	90 49:16 55:8 62:25 76:10
46 22:17	60 18:18 62:25	95 39:6
47 22:17	604 55:20	99 59:18
47,45 22:18	60s 47:6	9th 86:4
480 55:18	61 46:19	A
4947 22:20	65 47:23 93:13	A-301.1.5 19:14
497 98:20	66 55:19 97:11	abandon 74:12
5	6700 37:3	Abdul 55:24
5 82:8 94:22	69 21:14 32:14	abortion 97:25
5,600 93:16	7	abroad 56:1
50 22:19	7 23:14,23 49:22	absence 15:23
51,000 76:7	700 14:23	absolutely 101:5
5123 19:24 28:16	75 22:18	abuse 50:24 51:13,16 52:4 97:22
5125 19:24 28:16	773 93:16	Academy 71:6 101:2
5127 19:24 28:16	78 46:20 47:15	accept 16:14
5129 19:24 28:16	7th 21:25	access 12:17 51:17 56:9 87:5 88:1 97:24
52nd 78:25	8	accessible 64:15
5308 22:21	8 21:9,12 24:3 32:9,12	accolades 65:8
5318 22:21	80 47:1	accordance 20:9,15,20 21:1 22:1 30:9 31:21 34:13,25 35:11,22 59:13 60:2
5322 22:21	82 22:16	accountability 15:9 70:19 96:15,16
5323 22:21	82.5 66:11	achieved 72:2
5324 22:22	841 34:23	acknowledge 13:25 60:10
5331 22:22	845 34:24	acknowledges 12:22
5332 22:21	851 34:24	acknowledgment 13:17
54 21:16 32:16 94:10	86 97:11	act 46:17 49:6 52:20 53:17 56:20 62:20 63:17, 23 67:10 69:2 71:10,22 77:25 85:25 88:19 98:10
56th 19:24 28:15	863 34:23	
57 95:15	8th 20:25 22:7 35:9	
58 22:19	9	
58th 20:8 30:7 82:25	9 21:10,14 32:9,13	
59 17:24		
5th 34:13,24		

101:3,23 102:16	after-effect 101:25	amend 26:13 29:22 94:16
action 15:5 21:20 32:20 45:3 52:11 68:21 88:3 96:7	afternoon 36:21 52:14 71:3 78:19 90:10	Amended 102:5
actions 93:5	age 17:24 18:18	amending 19:12 26:11 38:22
active 83:21	agencies 63:22	amendment 21:4,19,22 32:4,18,21 33:13 34:1 42:19,22 43:5
actively 64:24	agency 84:16	amendments 34:7
activities 64:25	agreed 50:2	America 71:12 85:13
actual 45:15	agreement 21:4,5,19,22 32:5,18,21 75:3	American 21:8,13,17,20 27:2,4 32:7,12,16,19
addition 53:5	ahead 15:3	Americans 75:4
additional 95:16	Ahmad 42:9,10 93:20	Aminta 81:9
additive 53:10	Ahmad's 51:4	amount 69:16
address 52:12 87:20,23	air 46:17 49:6 52:20,22 53:1,11,16,17,21 54:2,6,7 56:20 57:6 59:11,19 62:20,22 63:4,17 67:10 68:6,17 69:1 71:10 72:11 77:25 84:18 85:17 88:19, 20,21 100:22 101:2,7	analysis 83:22
addresses 11:25 21:12 32:11	Airport 12:10	Andrea 90:12
addressing 11:3 15:8 87:25	AKA 72:23 81:9	Angela 25:18 88:11
administrative 19:15 64:10 65:4	Alex 54:14 62:8	anniversary 36:13
admiration 13:19	aligned 16:16	annual 27:4 93:8
admissions 63:11	alignment 15:5,20	answers 64:1
advances 51:22 63:5	allergies 67:19 91:12 101:4	Anthony 25:7 86:5 96:1,2
advancing 12:16 15:7 83:21	allergy 100:17	anti-policy 94:3
adverse 52:25	allotted 94:13	Anti-trafficking 98:16,19
advise 23:6	allowed 66:21 74:20 101:19	apologize 72:19
advocacy 13:12 25:23 86:20 96:3	allowing 60:15 94:23 98:13	appears 45:10
advocate 11:12 86:9	alongside 15:6,16,25 16:4 70:4 82:25	applause 13:22 15:1,14 17:14 18:9,15,25 25:2 57:22 58:11 60:16 62:6 64:8 65:17 67:6 69:3 71:2 72:13 74:1 75:8,15 77:22 82:5 84:9 86:2 90:9 92:5 95:25 96:25 98:11 99:13 100:11,23 102:21
affected 90:19	alternative 58:5	apple 97:17
affiliated 98:22	Alyssa 65:20	appreciation 13:19 65:9
affordability 73:10	Alysssa 54:14	approach 72:9
affordable 74:16 80:1,18		
afforded 77:3		
African 27:2,4 75:3		

approval 24:20 approve 64:5 84:3 approved 24:19,20,21 33:17 43:4 approving 21:3 32:4 area 21:9 29:24 32:8 49:23 52:15 57:7 59:25 61:10 69:18 74:17 areas 29:23 55:21 58:25 69:1 armored 55:20 arms 25:11 45:25 56:14 Army 92:8 Army's 93:8 arrangements 33:22 43:10 artillery 55:20 ash 97:12 ashes 57:21 Ashmead 22:18 asleep 100:20 assassinated 56:2 assault 96:8 assembled 50:15 assess 27:20 assessment 60:1 assistance 17:3 64:22 99:5 assistant 64:11 65:4 assisting 76:15 asthma 46:22,25 47:2 50:11 52:24 53:21,23 57:10 67:18,23 68:8 81:24 84:23 100:7 101:3, 8 Atlanta 97:7	Atlantic 97:15 attacked 80:13 attacks 101:5 attempting 77:16 attend 70:23 attention 96:20 attorney 79:22 audience 16:7 90:2 94:19 audited 63:21 Austin 40:13 author 86:17 authority 19:23 20:3 21:6, 18 22:6,10,15,25 28:14, 19 32:6,17 40:17 41:21, 25 63:23 74:7 authorize 38:24 authorizing 19:20 20:2,6, 11,17,22 21:17,23 22:3,9, 13,24 26:19 27:18 28:12, 18 30:6 31:19 32:17 33:20 34:11,21 35:7,18 38:16 41:19,24 43:8,14 authors 95:14 Ava 100:13 Avenue 19:25 21:16 28:17 29:25 32:15 39:1 82:25 89:16 average 53:24 76:22 aversion 93:14 avoid 68:4 87:16 awareness 12:21 25:18, 22 51:2 52:9 86:19 92:13 93:3 94:2 96:6,23 awhile 56:12 B babies 55:9	baby 100:14 back 18:14,17 49:4 56:11 64:14 77:17,18 78:19,23 79:4,6 81:4 85:18 91:10 99:18 bad 74:6,7,8 75:4 80:23 100:17,19 bag 79:18 Bahamandi 54:13 ballet 33:19 Baltimore 19:25 28:16 bank 20:4,7,11,18,23 21:24 22:11 23:1 28:20 30:6 31:19 34:11,21 35:7, 18 42:1 banned 78:3 barely 100:19 barrier 52:2 barriers 27:21 87:11,21 92:22 98:7 Basan 56:12 based 51:25 56:19 63:18 66:2 92:16 basic 68:24 93:14 Bass 10:4 40:2,3 Bastin 46:11 52:14,15 battle 49:20 beam 86:12 beared 60:12 bed 50:9 bedroom 47:10,11 beds 10:12 began 82:24 begging 50:4 begin 45:19 begins 51:10
--	--	---

behalf 14:9 26:7 38:10 40:6 75:18 93:22 beings 55:18 beliefs 13:4 believes 93:5 bell 50:17 bicycle 38:24,25 bid 69:11 70:7,22 bidder 70:10 big 57:11 97:10 102:17 bigger 49:23 biggest 71:12 bill 23:7,8,11,17,21,25 24:2,3,7,11,13,19 26:6, 10,16 29:15,20 30:3 33:4, 9,23 34:8 36:22 37:1,7,24 38:20 39:2 42:13,17,24 43:11 51:4,21 52:10 56:23 57:19 58:5,9 67:5,9 69:2,9 70:22 74:9 81:22 82:12 83:16,17 84:7 85:25 90:17 92:3,13,14 93:2,25 95:17,24 96:5,15, 20,22 bills 23:10,15,24 24:6,10, 19 25:4 37:14,22 38:3,9, 14 44:12,16,20,24 74:10 81:21 82:4 biology 87:14 bit 17:11 black 53:13 67:13 75:7 86:25 black-owned 10:22 blacks 77:17 blanket 55:13 Blatstein 72:14,16 bleeds 100:6,19 block 38:18 39:15,17 57:14	blockage 54:21 blocks 66:15 blowing 57:3 board 12:3 15:22 33:15 34:4 boards 15:24 Bodine 21:14 32:14 body 13:10,20 19:11 97:8 99:17 boilers 76:4 Bomonda 60:17,19 bond 75:8 84:10,11 bonds 54:24 73:3 book 27:3,4 46:23 born 46:19 64:11 66:5 67:20 75:21 99:21,22 borrowing 75:8 bottom 77:19 bounded 29:24 boxes 58:1 BP 77:9 BRADFORD 58:12 Braford 46:12 54:13 58:13 break 80:24 81:3 breathe 68:24 81:16,22 100:20 101:7 breathing 57:3 67:19,20 81:20 Brian 94:25 95:2 Brickshalom 78:24 79:1,9 80:2 briefly 88:10 bring 61:15 brining 94:2 Broad 38:18	Brooks 10:2 36:4,5 brotherly 50:6 Brown 48:13 50:5 88:24 89:6 Bruce 75:17 budget 98:5 buenos 50:21 build 72:8 73:14 89:20 building 40:25 73:8 built 73:12 bullying 102:12 burden 60:12 burn 89:10,18 burned 49:17,22 89:25 90:6 burning 57:20 85:18 91:16 burns 49:12 business 19:3 25:4 44:8 businesses 61:2 button 15:5 buy 73:17 85:6,14 buying 74:8
C		
		cafes 19:13,18 calendar 26:1,25 31:8 32:1 34:18 35:4,15 36:17 39:11,24 40:20 44:6,9,20 calendars 44:13 calender 27:7,16 28:2,25 30:13 32:24 36:1 41:5,17 42:6 43:23 45:15 calenders 44:18 45:2 Calhoun 81:8,9

California 78:6	center 39:7 67:22 76:13 93:15 96:3,4	25 49:3,10,12,14,17,18, 20,23 50:8,11 52:17 53:3, 12,15,16,21 54:5,7,10 57:16 58:17 59:11 60:20 61:10,13,19,22 62:12 64:11,14,18 65:7,10 67:11,17 68:25 69:8,17 75:22 76:17 77:2 78:9 81:17,22,24 83:2 85:9,11, 13,16,18 89:1,8 90:1,8, 13,16,18,21 91:23 95:6 97:5 99:18 100:9 101:6,9, 11,18,22
call 13:5 49:2 65:16 88:3	centered 46:25	Chester's 53:6,21 54:2
called 44:17 45:10 56:18	century 75:4	chief 12:4 19:5,6,8 25:1, 14,16 26:9,11 28:9 29:19 30:25 31:2,16,18 32:3 33:8,10,25 34:10,20 35:6, 17 36:9,11,25 37:2 38:13, 15,22 39:4,13 40:10,12, 21 41:6,18 42:16,18 43:1, 13,25 46:8,10 50:13 54:12 81:1,4
Calvin 79:12	certification 18:6	child 42:21 43:7 47:3,5 64:12,16 67:20 100:1
Camden 66:6,9,16	certified 37:4	childhood 46:25 47:22,23 50:11
campaign 71:7	cervical 25:17,20,22 86:7, 10,14,16,19 87:2,24 88:7	children 55:18 56:1 64:16, 17 68:14 99:24
Canada 58:24	chair 13:23 15:22 19:4 25:6 26:2 28:3 29:2,10 30:15 31:9 33:1 36:3,18 37:9,18,24 38:6 40:1 42:8 44:9 78:16,19 80:10,25 88:17	children's 27:3,4 64:25
cancer 25:17,20,22 52:25 57:12 68:9 86:10,14,16, 19,24 87:2,24 88:7 91:13 101:9	Chairman 12:3 78:16	choice 48:20 97:22
cancers 84:23	challenge 49:25	choices 16:13
candidate 88:24	challenges 77:4	chokes 80:11
capacity 14:21 72:12	chance 48:17 50:6 102:14	choosing 73:10
capital 57:10 73:15 99:5	change 74:9	chose 82:22
car 21:8 68:3 91:5	changed 47:2 48:20 67:25	Christmas 54:19
card 75:11	changing 29:22 94:12	chronic 100:5,6
care 10:24 11:15 12:11 14:15 43:17 48:16 50:7 55:7 64:13 69:15 87:6,22 88:2 97:25 99:5	Channan 88:14,15 90:3	church 55:5
career 62:13	chapter 20:10,15,20 21:2 22:1 25:21 26:12 30:9 31:22 34:14 35:1,11,22 37:3 79:1 86:13,15 90:13	Cindy 10:4 40:2
careers 62:4 69:14 70:24	charge 88:4	circumstance 17:10
cargo 97:14	charter 24:16 33:14 34:3 42:20 43:6 86:13	
Carmella 97:21	check 75:12	
carries 85:18	chemical 91:2	
cars 59:25	chemicals 54:1	
Cashta 56:1	chemistry 52:16	
Catherine 26:3 44:10	chemotherapy 86:11	
Caucus 88:17	Cherelle 15:6	
caused 63:7	Chester 46:16,19,21 47:3, 4,21 48:2,9,12,15,16,22,	
causing 63:15 87:15		
cease 55:17		
Cecil 21:15 32:15		
celebrating 46:23		

circumstances 45:11 cities 57:12 61:2 66:1,7 73:17 95:9 101:13 citizen 80:15 citizens 78:12 100:8 101:11 102:11 city 10:10,13,18,19,25 11:5 12:14,22 13:9,14 14:2,11,20,25 15:14,16, 18 16:1,7 17:13,20 19:9 20:1 22:8,23 23:5 24:17, 18 26:21 27:13,20 28:18 29:6 31:4 33:12,16,18 34:5 39:7 40:15 41:1,14, 24 43:3 44:2 46:6,15,19 47:13,19 48:4,9,11,12 49:1,12,14,22 50:25 54:8, 17,20 56:2,6 57:2,7 58:8, 14 61:13 65:10,13 69:5, 21 71:7,9,12 72:15 73:22 75:21 76:12,17 77:9 78:12,25 79:7 81:8,12 82:22 83:8 85:11,13 86:4 88:4 89:10,12,18,21,23 90:4,10,16,18 91:7 92:10 93:7,19 94:4 97:5,7,19 98:4,9 99:6,18 100:3,8 102:2 city's 12:17 15:7 39:5 43:19 71:21 88:21 93:4 civilian 55:21 claimed 63:6 claims 83:21 Clapier 22:18 class 102:9 clean 53:17 62:20 63:17 65:11 68:18 72:11 81:16, 18,19,22 88:20 99:25 100:22 101:22 cleaner 71:18 cleanest 71:12	cleanup 76:12 clear 14:13 62:24 84:3 96:18 clerk 19:5,6,8 25:1,14,16 26:9,11 28:9 29:19 30:25 31:2,16,18 32:3 33:8,10, 25 34:10,20 35:6,17 36:9, 11,25 37:2 38:13,15,22 39:4,13 40:10,12,21 41:6, 18 42:16,18 43:1,13,25 46:8,10 50:13 54:12 81:1, 4 clients 58:20 climate 77:15 88:17 climate-damaging 59:9 climbing 56:7 clock 78:22 close 16:9 64:20 75:24 79:9 90:19 closed 68:3 77:2 78:5 89:16 closely 49:16 51:5 59:15 65:4 closing 84:3 87:24 clothing 76:14 cloud 47:12 clue 17:25 cluster 57:1 co-chair 98:15 co-directors 101:1 Co-habitat 98:15 coal 48:8 Coalition 25:20 71:6 86:14 98:16,19 code 19:13,15,16 20:5,10, 16,21 21:2 22:2,12 23:3 26:12 28:22 30:10 31:23 34:15 35:1,12,23 37:3 38:23 42:3	codes 93:11 coercion 96:11 coincidences 68:11 cold 55:14 85:2 Coldburn 102:2,8 collaborative 65:25 66:19 colleagues 25:9 26:5 29:7 30:22 36:21 collection 72:6 collections 26:13 college 55:7 colleges 76:22 color 77:18 Columbia 38:25 combative 66:13 commending 41:7 comment 44:25 45:1,15 94:8,13,16 95:2 commenters 45:12 comments 46:7 94:7,23 commerce 27:18 commercial 58:19 commission 24:18 42:21 43:7 95:11 commissioner 19:21 22:4,14 28:12 41:19 commitment 11:23 13:12 15:8 40:24 41:11 61:12 76:11 committed 16:1 55:16 60:23 64:4 65:6 80:1 committee 26:17,19 27:18 30:4 33:24 34:9 37:8 38:21 39:3 42:25 43:12, 14 committees 44:8
--	--	---

Common 99:3	concern 45:1 54:1 64:6 76:19 78:11 102:14	continues 12:5 13:2 14:18 72:11 100:5 102:10
Commonwealth 12:14	concerns 63:25 66:22 82:12 83:16	continuing 64:5 76:19 96:23
communication 60:6,8 66:20	conclude 45:23 50:17	continuous 53:25 70:1
communications 19:4,7 24:23	concrete 52:11	continuously 63:11,22
communities 13:3 41:1, 13 60:7 67:2 68:12 82:23 84:13 85:19	conditions 19:19 26:15 37:6 38:19 39:1 51:9 52:25	contract 70:6 83:8
community 12:15 17:1 39:21 42:21 43:7 53:2 60:11,14,25 61:11 63:25 65:5,21 66:3 71:17 72:10, 21 74:11 76:12,16 83:18 87:18 96:12 98:9	conduct 76:20	contracts 71:15 72:4
community-based 61:24	confidence 70:12	contradicts 71:21
commute 64:14 65:1	conflicting 95:21	contribute 91:10
company 60:23 61:2 63:19 69:10 75:18 82:15, 23 84:1,5	congratulating 27:9	contributed 69:18
compared 85:5 101:12	connected 51:6 96:9	contributes 70:14
compassion 11:14 12:25 68:19	connecting 12:10	contributions 27:12
compassionate 14:13 16:2	consent 96:11	contributor 53:16
competition 70:8,20	consequences 67:14 70:13	control 63:4 76:1 96:10 97:24
competitive 83:10	consideration 19:10 28:25 30:13 32:1,24 34:18 35:4,15 36:1 39:11, 24 42:6 44:9 71:1	conversation 64:7 95:22
complaining 92:1,2	Consistent 60:5	converting 48:8 58:25
completed 60:1	consistently 62:25	conveying 19:23 22:6,16 28:15 41:22
completely 70:10	constant 55:15 100:6 101:25	copy 13:16
completion 56:14	constantly 101:6	cord 75:1
complicity 56:5	constructed 62:19	corporate 65:21
complies 59:17	construction 72:6	corps 75:21 78:22
composting 72:5	consumption 101:24	correct 79:6
compound 59:23	contend 66:7	Corridor 32:8
comprehensive 50:24 83:22	context 85:8	cost 84:16,23
	continual 76:11	costs 10:19 70:11,15 83:23 98:24
	continue 54:25 63:3 84:5 93:23 94:1 98:7	cough 100:4,5
	continued 61:23 93:21	coughed 100:20
		coughing 91:18
		council 10:1,2,3,7 11:4 12:21 13:9 14:4,7,8,11 15:7,16 19:1,9 23:5,7,10, 16,24 24:3,6,10,17,22

25:6,9 26:5 28:6 29:1,5,8, 10 30:14,18 31:12 32:2, 25 33:1,16,18 34:5,19 35:5,16 36:2,3,21 39:12, 25 40:1,16 42:7,8,11 43:5,24 45:3,13,14 46:6 48:9,13 51:1,3 52:9 54:8 56:21 57:23 58:13 69:4,5 71:9 73:22 77:7,9 78:17 81:1,9 82:6 83:25 86:4 89:4,12,13,14,21 90:11, 16 91:7 93:7,19 94:11 95:1,23 96:5 97:19 98:10 99:6 100:9 102:3,4,13,24 Councilman 10:3 26:3 28:3,5 29:2 30:15 31:9 36:18 37:9,18,24 38:6 44:10 73:23 82:20 86:5 councilmanic 14:1 19:25 20:9,14,19 21:1,25 22:7, 23 28:17 30:8 31:21 34:13,25 35:10,21 41:23 49:24 COUNCILMEMBER 10:6 13:8,15,23 19:1 25:13,24 26:8,16,23 27:5,14,25 28:8,23 29:4,9,12,17 30:3,11,17,19,21,24 31:6, 11,15,24 32:22 33:3,6,23 34:8,16 35:2,13,24 36:5, 15,20,23 37:7,11,16,20 38:1,4,8,11,20 39:2,9,22 40:3,8,18 41:3,15 42:4, 10,14,24 43:11,21 44:4, 14,23 78:18 88:9,12 94:5, 20 102:6 councilmen 74:21 councilwoman 49:2 93:20 councilwoman's 92:12 counsel 70:21 72:15 count 16:21,22 17:1 counted 84:23 counties 57:7	counting 49:7 85:4 countries 55:1 59:2,5 95:5 country 16:23 53:9 57:11, 12 67:1,2 69:25 78:2,14 101:13 county 49:11,13 50:1,2 57:6 59:19,21 75:19 95:12 County's 53:19 couple 99:23 Court 99:3 Court's 36:13 Covenant 98:17 COVID 72:3 crane 62:14 create 37:4 53:11 73:14, 18 99:8 created 62:21 68:11 creating 37:2 61:6,23 66:1 creation 27:22 42:20 43:7 creed 80:20 creek 29:25 71:19 crime 52:12 80:11 criminal 99:3 criminals 79:17 crisis 96:4 critical 12:11 92:19 93:14 95:12 96:16 critiques 89:5 Cronin 97:1,2 cross 17:5 Crozier-chester 67:21 crumpling 56:8 crushed 56:8	Cruz 50:21,22 97:18,21 crying 47:10 culturally 88:1 cumulative 53:10,20 curbside 72:5 curiosities 66:21 current 43:16,17 66:16 69:11 77:13 88:22 Curtis 29:11 cut 56:10 98:6 D dad 47:7 daily 11:20 14:20 55:10 damage 48:25 damaging 95:19 dangerous 100:8 Dash 12:5 13:24 14:3,4 Dash's 17:16 data 63:8,20 64:2 95:13, 17 date 31:4 33:18 daughter 99:21,22 daughter's 100:7 daughters 99:19 David 97:1 Dawn 54:15 67:7 102:8 Dawson 30:1 day 10:19 14:19 31:4 47:1 49:6,23 51:14 55:7 60:13 72:25 92:19 93:10 97:8 100:5 days 47:12 58:2 80:13 91:15 deal 65:14 74:6,7,15 80:23
--	---	--

dealing 91:3	demand 68:21	dias 50:22
deals 75:4	demands 16:12	died 68:9
death 55:10 56:7 86:25	demolition 72:7	digital 86:18
debate 48:14 88:24 89:19	demonstrated 60:3	dignify 12:25
debt 74:7,8	deny 88:22	dignity 10:16 11:14 14:15 51:23 92:17 96:21
decades 11:17 47:5 48:25 63:2	DEP 47:21	dinners 54:19
December 23:6,8,9,11,16, 25 24:3,7,11 83:6	Department 39:6 77:15 79:9	direct 55:19
decide 89:4	depend 70:25	directing 43:8
decided 89:21	dependence 76:8	direction 18:1
decision 36:14 89:24	deployed 73:15	directions 77:21
decision-making 77:13	Deputy 10:4	directly 57:9 82:12 83:12 95:8
Decisions 67:14 70:17	deserve 52:5,6,7 64:1 92:17	director 41:8 50:23 56:17 65:20 82:10 84:11 92:7 98:14
decrease 54:25 99:4	deserves 13:5 80:15,18 88:20	dirt 91:4
decreased 99:4	designated 21:9 32:8	disabilities 86:8
dedicated 11:7 39:19 86:15	designation 38:24	disability 86:19
dedication 12:23 25:22 40:15 61:23	designations 29:23	disabled 80:14
deeds 19:23 22:6,16 28:14 41:21	designed 62:18 63:18	disconnect 46:1
deeply 14:10 68:15 96:8	desk 93:7	discrimination 51:25 92:16
defer 94:22	desperately 15:15	discussions 76:21
deficit 54:23	destroy 55:5	disease 68:9 87:1
degree 82:17 102:18	destruction 56:4	diseases 91:13
Delaware 47:6 49:11,13 50:1 53:19 62:9,12,18 63:7 75:19 89:15 95:11 97:2	detailing 93:9	disgusting 48:23
delay 74:10 87:16	determinants 87:25	dismissing 64:6
deliberate 53:13	devalued 49:19 77:15	dismissive 66:14
deliver 19:4,22 22:5,15 28:13 41:20	devastating 48:2	Disparities 87:2
delivered 93:14	developer 72:17	disposable 85:9
delivery 87:13	development 12:6 27:19, 21,23	disposal 83:23 84:13 85:20
	devil 74:5	dispose 20:7,12,18,23 21:24 30:7 34:12,22 35:8, 19
	diagnosed 67:22	
	diagnosis 87:12	

disproportion 60:12 disproportionally 86:24 distance 55:1 distinguished 14:8 25:10 27:11 distressed 79:7 district 14:2,6 20:1,9,14, 20 21:1 22:1,8,23 28:17 30:8 31:21 34:13,25 35:10,21 41:23 49:24 56:22 58:15 61:22 78:24 82:8 86:5 88:17 89:12,14 102:23 diversion 71:16 101:14 divert 72:5 division 101:23 doctors 68:2 99:23 documented 55:19 57:16 58:3 dollar 73:17 dollars 85:5 domain 74:21,22 domestic 50:24 51:6,12 97:21 donations 65:11 door 21:8 80:12 90:22 91:14 doors 62:4 Dot 72:23 double 55:4 91:14 downwind 54:5 dramatically 53:2 drift 100:3 Driscoll 37:19,20 80:8 Drive 18:7 29:25 drives 76:14	Drones 55:6 drop-in 93:15 drugs 17:8 drywall 18:7 due 45:14 70:19 79:23 83:6 101:9 dump 77:19 97:9 101:19 dumpers 101:20 dumping 47:4 71:8 97:14 101:18 dumplings 82:2 Dumbsite 47:16 dust 91:4 dying 82:2	effecting 43:18 effects 82:14 86:24 effectuate 21:21 32:20 efficient 78:8 effort 12:17 efforts 27:21 47:21 56:5 76:12 eighth 41:23 EJ 60:5 elder 66:17 elected 76:21 election 33:18,22 43:10 electors 33:12 34:7 42:23 43:3 electrical 76:6 elevating 93:20 eliminate 27:23 eliminates 50:10 elimination 88:7 else's 89:25 embargo 56:15 embark 10:11 embarked 60:9 embarrassed 90:24 embodies 12:24 emergency 10:10 11:7,18 16:10 51:13 67:21 eminent 74:20 emission 63:20 95:13,14 emissions 59:11,12,17, 19,21,23 63:15 83:23 emits 52:21 employee 66:24 76:17 employees 61:9,14 82:14
E		
doctors 68:2 99:23 documented 55:19 57:16 58:3 dollar 73:17 dollars 85:5 domain 74:21,22 domestic 50:24 51:6,12 97:21 donations 65:11 door 21:8 80:12 90:22 91:14 doors 62:4 Dot 72:23 double 55:4 91:14 downwind 54:5 dramatically 53:2 drift 100:3 Driscoll 37:19,20 80:8 Drive 18:7 29:25 drives 76:14	Earlham 22:17 early 51:19 79:21 earmark 99:6 earn 64:22 earned 82:17 ease 19:2 43:24 81:2 easily 64:15 East 21:24 22:16,17,18, 19,20 31:20 easy 73:8,10 eat 99:25 economic 27:19 52:2 71:25 84:16 87:3 93:1 economy 69:19 education 33:15 34:4 84:11 87:17 88:1 educational 33:13 34:2 EEF 95:18 effect 84:18	effecting 43:18 effects 82:14 86:24 effectuate 21:21 32:20 efficient 78:8 effort 12:17 efforts 27:21 47:21 56:5 76:12 eighth 41:23 EJ 60:5 elder 66:17 elected 76:21 election 33:18,22 43:10 electors 33:12 34:7 42:23 43:3 electrical 76:6 elevating 93:20 eliminate 27:23 eliminates 50:10 elimination 88:7 else's 89:25 embargo 56:15 embark 10:11 embarked 60:9 embarrassed 90:24 embodies 12:24 emergency 10:10 11:7,18 16:10 51:13 67:21 eminent 74:20 emission 63:20 95:13,14 emissions 59:11,12,17, 19,21,23 63:15 83:23 emits 52:21 employee 66:24 76:17 employees 61:9,14 82:14

employment 12:18 18:12 27:22 51:18 61:24 66:18 76:16 92:20,24	53:14 58:17 60:10 61:5 67:14 70:18 71:22 81:14 95:3,4,7	ex-account 72:17
empower 13:3	EP 95:9	exact 67:2
empowering 11:3	EPA 47:21 59:6 60:3 70:1 84:15,22	examining 43:16
enacted 59:3	equal 89:9	excellence 86:8,20
encroachments 38:17	equitable 12:17 72:9	excessively 91:18
end 71:13 96:18 100:2 101:18	equity 61:12 88:3	excluded 26:13
endangered 41:7	eradicate 11:12 17:12	excuse 94:21
ended 97:14	eradicated 78:4	execute 19:21 21:18 22:4, 14 28:13 32:17 41:20
ending 11:23	Eric 41:10	execution 15:20
endured 86:23	error 95:16	executive 12:4 41:8 50:23 56:17
enduring 13:12	errors 95:13	exhausted 65:1
energy 29:5,13 56:18 59:1,7 69:23 70:15 95:6, 10	Erve 27:9	existing 27:21 83:8
enforceable 70:2	escalate 98:7	exists 70:5,7
enforcement 98:24	escape 51:16	expand 12:5 16:9
enforcing 54:20	Esquire 40:14	expectations 80:4
engage 60:6	essential 97:23	experience 66:8 83:1
engaged 65:24	established 11:10	experienced 97:23
engagement 87:18	establishing 33:16 34:4	experiences 66:9,24 67:3
engineer 95:3	estate 72:17	experiencing 11:9 14:14 15:4 92:15
engineers 69:7	esteem 78:20	expired 19:17
ensure 10:15,16 15:17 16:16 56:14 59:16 70:7 71:14 72:12 77:17	esteemed 13:10	exploit 51:9
ensuring 62:22	ethnicity 87:4	exploitation 51:21 93:25 96:19
entertainment 19:18	EU 95:9	exploited 99:9
entire 54:21 62:13	evaluate 27:22	expressed 66:4
entitled 19:13,16 26:12 38:23	evening 14:23	expressing 39:5
environment 60:13 61:4 62:23 82:3	event 73:24	extended 30:2
environmental 46:18 48:4	events 65:10	extra 99:11
	eventually 62:15 83:2	extracurricular 64:25
	everyone's 85:1	extreme 17:9
	evolved 62:17	eye 79:15
	Ewal 46:12 54:13 56:16, 17	

F		
face 10:18 17:17,20 51:7 87:21	favor 56:20 85:7 88:18	find 18:2,11 93:8 101:5
facilities 53:3,5,8,12 58:23 62:14 68:12 95:6,8	fear 68:2,17	finding 88:5
facility 58:18 59:11,16 60:4,11 62:9,10,18,24 63:1,7 64:3,10 65:5 66:16,18 69:8 70:3,14 75:24 76:20,25	February 17:23 18:13 61:9	finds 48:22
facing 48:13	federal 43:18 62:20 63:12, 22 76:2,3 84:15,20	fine 59:21 84:17
fact 57:10 59:2 60:8 77:12,16 78:2,7,10 79:8	fee 28:20 41:22	finish 16:14
factor 51:7	fee-simple 19:23 20:4 22:6,11,16 23:1 28:15 42:1	finishing 18:8
factors 87:8	feel 63:9	fire 47:12,14 55:17
factory 47:16 91:2	feeling 65:1 100:14	firmly 77:23
facts 63:11 64:7 83:5 95:22	feet 18:1,17	firsthand 62:16
fail 51:19 77:24 96:14	Felice 17:22,23 18:10,16	fiscal 84:2
fair 27:4 45:17 70:20 83:10	fellow 16:5 101:11	fiscally 73:2,6,9
fairness 70:8 84:1	felt 18:12	fixing 33:18
faithfully 45:18	feral 77:4	flare 100:7
Falls 30:1	ferrous 76:9	flattened 55:8
families 11:9 40:25 41:13 65:7 69:15 70:20 74:24 83:3 98:9	festival 65:11	fleeing 51:15
family 64:18 66:12 68:7, 15,20 70:24 77:1 90:24 91:1	field 76:18 77:4	Fletcher 21:25 31:20
family-sustaining 69:13	fierce 89:5,19	floor 10:5 14:3
famine 54:22	fight 10:24 49:20 50:8 102:10	fly 73:21,24
Fast 46:22	fighting 10:23 41:11 46:18 72:25 86:23	focus 62:1
fasts 62:24	figure 75:2 97:10	focused 61:2
father 39:14,16,18 64:17 68:9 99:17	figures 13:4	folks 57:13 75:7,10,12 97:4
	filling 61:18 62:3 71:14	follow-up 87:6,10
	final 25:25 26:24 27:6,15 28:1,24 30:12 31:7,25 32:23 34:17 35:3,14,25 36:16 39:10,23 40:19 41:4,16 42:5 43:22 44:5, 13,18 45:2 84:15 92:14	food 72:5
	finance 26:13	force 61:17
	financial 51:8 99:2	forcing 54:22
		Fordham 82:18
		forefront 94:3
		forklift 18:5
		form 33:19
		forward 15:11 46:22 76:20 79:25 102:15
		fossil 76:8
		found 17:24 82:22

founded 14:12 founder 41:8 56:17 fourth 20:8 30:8 78:24 80:16 framework 63:17 framing 18:8 Francisville 52:15 Franklin 20:24 35:8 fraud 96:11 free 56:15 freedom 43:20 98:8 freezing 55:10 frequently 51:10 84:22 friends 14:9 55:12 90:25 front 80:10 98:14 fuels 76:8 full 17:23 66:11 full-time 18:11 fun 47:19 fund 73:14 fundamental 95:12 funding 88:5 98:4,6 funds 73:7 74:10 funk 82:1 furthered 30:4 future 16:14 50:10 77:5	gas 48:8 59:9 95:13 gave 18:13 Gaza 55:3 general 40:16 73:7 79:22 generally 65:15 generated 49:17 generation 74:25 76:7 generations 99:19 genocide 56:13 geographic 87:4 Germany 59:2 95:5 Gillmore 44:11 Gilmore 26:3 Girard 18:7 give 46:1 54:18 68:6 74:23 75:10 94:8 99:15 giving 45:6 55:15 81:24 glad 56:24 glass 37:4 goals 61:5 God 18:2 86:9 99:16 102:10 good 10:7,24 12:4 14:7 15:23 24:25 25:8,9,10 26:4,5 28:5 29:4,6,7 30:17,19 31:11,12 36:20 37:11,12 46:14 50:21 52:14 58:12 60:17 62:7 64:9 65:18 69:4 71:3 75:12,16 77:7 78:18 80:24 81:8 82:6 84:10 90:10 92:6 94:25 96:1 102:2 government 26:20 50:1 64:21 82:10 85:9 grace 18:2 86:9 102:10 graduate 82:17	graduated 46:20 48:5 granddaughters 91:18 grandmom 75:10 grandmother 67:11 granting 67:1 grassroots 41:12 grateful 13:17 14:11 great 13:14 47:25 65:14 greater 92:8 greatly 47:22 green 45:20 81:19,20 101:22 greenest 71:12 greenhouse 59:9 grew 60:21 grid 70:15 Griffith 75:16,17 ground 10:23 47:4 78:24 grounding 64:6 groups 65:12 87:7 grow 72:11 77:3 growing 14:23 47:6 61:14 76:19 grown 11:17 guarantee 90:7 Guathier 10:3 28:4,5 49:2 guests 14:8 guide 14:18 gun 40:24 41:11 72:25 guy 72:18,19 73:23 guys 18:22 49:24 72:23 gyp 79:6
G		
gap 87:24 gaps 87:10 Garden 56:3 89:15 Garfield 22:19,20 Gary 41:10		

H		
Haggins 41:9 half 18:10 65:3 hand 73:21 hands 55:14 happen 70:17 happening 68:20 96:12 happy 72:15 74:4 81:10, 11,15 hard 46:2 73:9 harm 57:17 63:15 84:17 harms 71:21 Harrity 10:3 13:8 36:19,20 Hassin 45:7 head 78:22 headline 55:11 healing 52:5 health 17:9 43:15,17 52:25 57:17,21 60:1,4 62:21 63:7,14 64:3 69:15 71:25 78:12 84:17,19,25 85:1,4,21 86:7,8 87:10 88:2,6 89:7,16 90:18 91:12,21 98:1 99:4 100:4 healthcare 87:13,17 healthier 41:1 72:10 healthiest 99:24 healthy 67:17 88:21 91:9, 24 100:1 102:15,16 hear 50:16,18 68:19 94:14,17 heard 83:12 91:12 97:3 hearing 26:20 hearings 27:19 43:15 heart 16:7 68:9	heartfelt 65:8 hearts 99:17 heavily 69:24 heck 72:22 held 44:21 81:3 helping 61:2 93:16 helps 58:19 98:17 hero 79:12 hey 79:21 hidden 93:24 96:13 high 46:20 55:6 76:21 78:20 101:9 higher 64:23 83:22 86:25 87:12 highest 78:20 85:7 highlighting 87:12 Hill 41:10 Hines 100:24,25 hiring 61:11 62:1 Hirsch 71:3,4 hit 99:2 hold 26:20 27:19 43:15 45:18 78:20 79:23 holistic 12:1 Holly 13:25 14:5 home 13:6 24:16 33:14 34:2 42:19 43:6 57:13 64:20 65:16 66:10,25 68:3 73:1 77:22 80:5 91:23 102:5,14,16 homeless 12:21 17:24 homelessness 10:13 11:3,10,13,24 14:14 15:4, 8 17:12,17,20 homeowner 102:9 homes 18:4 51:16 73:19	honor 10:9,13,22 11:1 16:14 89:7 honorable 19:11 honored 14:10 honoring 25:18 27:2,9 39:14,16 40:13,22 41:7 honors 13:10 hope 18:13 hopeless 17:25 hopelessness 18:12 hopes 71:22 hospital 55:6 host 66:1,6 67:2 hosting 56:2 hour 54:2,3 house 13:25 14:5,23 15:13 18:3,13 21:11 32:11 85:14 90:25 98:17 102:14 houses 73:8 75:6 76:7 housing 10:10 11:7,19,21 12:1,7,12,18 14:24 16:10 51:8 72:20 73:4,11,12,15 74:6,16,19 77:22 80:2 99:9,10 HPV 87:5 HR 60:19 human 43:15 44:1 51:1,5 52:1,4,8 55:18 60:1,4 62:21 63:7,13 68:24 84:17,19 85:21 92:13,15, 18 93:2,9 94:2 96:6,8,22, 23 99:7 humanity 17:11 hundreds 97:7 HVCU 82:20

I	incineration 52:20 69:24 71:13 78:3 84:25 90:20 91:4	industries 47:5 53:11 industry 62:17 81:12
icy 56:10	incinerator 47:25 49:1,11 53:9 54:10 67:16 78:4 85:14,24 89:1,20 90:23 99:20 100:3,10 101:10	infamously 88:25
idea 48:22	incinerators 57:1,5,15 81:23 89:11 97:11,13	information 58:2 64:4 76:23 95:21
ideal 45:11	include 53:8 56:8 72:4 87:8	informed 65:24
identified 21:11 32:10 98:20,23 99:10	including 12:9 21:15 32:14 71:15 89:12,13 93:16	infrastructure 56:9 70:5
identify 16:25	inclusion 61:12 86:8,19	inhuman 81:14
idling 97:8	income 87:20 102:11	initiative 10:12 15:11
illegal 71:7	incorporate 78:10	initiatives 12:8 16:11
illegally 97:15	Incorporated 11:2 13:11 14:10	injustice 81:14 82:2
illness 68:1,10	increase 10:12 99:2,11	innovative 11:24
illnesses 66:12	increased 61:13 83:23 99:4	insects 80:14
ills 81:25	increases 53:2	insecurity 12:1 51:9
imagine 54:23 55:4,8 68:5	incursions 55:19	inside 60:11
imminent 74:21	independence 52:2 92:21	insidious 79:8
impact 12:6 13:18 17:10 47:24 53:1 62:2 69:22,23 72:12 82:13 89:17 95:7	independent 60:2 63:19 83:22	instability 51:8
impacted 57:13	Indian 97:16	installation 38:16
impacts 53:10 84:25 85:24	indications 63:14	insurance 87:9
imperative 77:19	individual 100:25	integral 12:16
implement 88:6	individualize 66:3	intend 45:18
importance 85:21	individually 65:12	intensifies 98:1
important 17:2 73:25 76:11 86:6,21 92:21	individuals 11:9,20 12:11 14:20 15:13 16:23 51:17 61:15 76:22 80:3 87:21	intentional 61:10,18
improve 54:7 60:9 63:4 71:25 88:1	indoors 68:2	intentionally 81:13
improved 62:17	industrial 21:8 32:8 57:5 58:20 70:4	interference 70:23
Inc.'s 12:23 13:1		interferes 83:20
incidence 87:1		internal/external 86:12
incidents 57:12		International 12:10
incinerated 71:20		intervene 51:19
incinerating 90:15		intervened 63:16
		Intervening 83:9
		intervention 99:8
		introduce 36:6 37:15
		introducing 86:6

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later-stage 87:11 Latino 60:21 Latisha 96:2 law 26:19 62:20 98:24 lax 84:21 lead 88:4 95:3 leader 10:1 11:12 26:3 44:10 86:13 leaders 48:24 50:1 83:13, 14,18 leadership 12:3,24 13:11 25:19 39:19 40:23 41:9, 12 82:9 93:4 96:5 leading 56:22 65:22 87:4 learned 47:1 leave 17:4 56:12 led 10:22 left 45:8 51:20 55:15 legacy 13:1 legal 40:14 51:18 101:18, 20,21 legally 101:19 legislation 52:1 59:4 87:19 92:21 96:17 legislative 13:19 level 53:22 56:4 levels 59:18 62:22 license 76:3 licensed 95:3 licenses 76:2 licensure 37:4 life 17:10 18:18 66:10 67:24 68:6 80:16 99:23 lifelong 60:20 67:11 75:19 77:9 84:24 light 45:20,22	lights 45:25 91:15 Liles 77:7,9 limit 45:16,19 46:6 50:16 limited 87:9 limits 63:12,13 Lincoln 82:18 link 64:3 linked 52:24 Listen 49:16 listened 50:2 listening 10:8 64:4 89:15 literacy 87:10 livable 64:22 live 67:25 69:17 74:17 80:15,19 88:16 90:19 91:7 lived 61:9 66:8,9 67:13 97:2 livelihoods 82:13 liver 68:10 lives 11:4 13:3 17:11 48:2 85:5 92:18 living 55:9 LLC 21:20 32:19 Lloyd 52:15 loan 73:14 79:3 local 62:1,2 69:18 locally 61:10 64:20 located 20:8,14,19,25 21:25 29:24 30:8 31:20 34:12,24 35:10,21 53:6 58:24 60:11 location 87:4 long 11:22 60:12 65:1 71:24 102:17 long-established 70:4	long-lasting 62:4 long-term 92:20 99:17 longer 64:21 84:16 85:4 longstanding 39:20 looked 47:11 79:14 82:23 loss 99:5 losses 83:24 lost 48:18 74:11 77:1 lot 77:11 91:11 100:2 lots 95:20 love 25:11 29:5 68:14 loved 68:8 low 47:12 102:11 lower 87:20 lowering 48:7 Loyde 46:11 Lozada 31:10,11 Lozada's 56:21 lung 68:9 91:12 Luther 80:17 Luzerne 15:12
M		
Madam 80:10,24 made 67:15 74:9 89:6,23 102:23 Madeer 99:14 main 29:24 97:4 maintenance 38:17 major 52:2 60:9 69:21 majority 10:4 26:2 44:10 77:8 make 16:13 33:21 43:9 52:12 54:15 60:13,24 68:6 71:17 78:8 91:22		

100:10 101:21 102:14	meals 76:13 93:16	mile 53:6
makes 72:10 95:12	meaningful 51:19 61:24 62:4	million 49:21,22 75:6 79:2 80:22 98:25
makeup 85:16	means 58:5 65:14	millions 74:7
making 47:13 52:11 65:11	meant 68:6	mindful 101:24
man 49:25 79:14	measures 72:8	mine 68:13 82:24
manage 61:3	mechanic 75:25	mined 101:15
managed 69:23	media 86:18	minimize 59:4
management 58:23 59:5, 10 69:20,25 72:9 76:4,19 78:11 88:22 93:13 101:12	medical 67:21 87:8	Minority 10:1
manager 58:17 60:20 62:9,16 96:2	medication 91:14	minute 94:13,16,24
managing 95:7	medicine 56:9	minutes 45:12,16,24 50:20
maps 29:22	meet 14:13 63:23	miscarriages 84:23
March 54:21	meeting 11:13 73:22	mission 11:12 14:18 74:11
marginalized 87:7	member 10:2,4,5 25:6 29:10 33:1 36:3 40:1 42:8 51:4 56:21 60:14 67:8 71:5 72:21 78:17 96:5 102:4	mistake 77:24
Marine 75:21	members 10:1 14:8 15:24 19:9 23:4 33:15,17 34:4,6 57:24 61:17 64:18 68:8 69:5,7 70:25 71:9 82:7 83:25 86:4 89:13,14 93:7 95:1 97:18 102:3,13,24	mistrust 87:9
Maritza 46:11	men 41:13	Mitch 88:15
mark 38:6 52:10	mental 17:9	mobile 59:25
market 74:10	message 93:3 96:18	moderator 48:18
married 67:17	messages 19:5,6 24:25	Mohammad 55:25
Martin 41:10 80:17	metal 37:4	moment 16:12 48:13,18 50:6 67:24 81:25 85:8
marveled 47:9	metals 76:10	money 54:17,24 73:8 75:8 79:15 80:21 99:6,8
materials 72:7	methane 59:8	Monica 39:19
Matt 69:6	Michael 95:2	monitored 63:11
matter 15:5 46:7 52:23 60:8 63:25 78:2,7 90:1,15	microphone 46:1	monitoring 53:25 70:1
matters 45:1 49:10 69:22 73:1	middle-income 73:12	month 12:21 25:18 44:2 51:2 52:9,11 83:7 92:13 93:3 96:7,24
mayor 15:6,17 19:5,6 46:14,15,18 48:17,19 49:19 50:14 72:18 79:25 82:21 88:23 89:2	migraines 55:15	Moore 21:15 32:15
mayor's 10:11 48:14	Mike 37:18 46:12 54:13 56:16	morning 10:7 14:7 25:8,9, 10 26:4,5 28:5 29:5,6,7 30:18,20 31:12 37:12,20 46:14 50:21 58:12 60:17 62:7 64:9 65:18 69:4,9
mayoral 88:24		
Mcgreal 40:14		

75:16 77:7 81:8 82:6
84:10 92:6 94:25 96:1
102:2
mortality 87:12
Mosan 18:3
mother 64:17 66:15 67:3,
10,18
mother's 55:25 66:11
motion 44:11
mouth 80:22
move 55:14 61:17 76:20
moved 69:17 90:21
moving 16:15 54:17 77:20
79:25 90:20
Muhammad 99:15 100:13
MUHAMMAN 100:12
MUHAMMED 99:14
multiple 52:21 53:3 73:17
municipal 40:17 58:19

N

Nakeem 41:9
Nakeen 72:23
names 83:15
NASA 95:18
Natalie 98:12
nation 57:1
nation's 82:19
national 12:21 25:20 31:4
53:24 56:18 86:14 98:7
Nations 59:6 95:9
navy 89:21
nearby 53:4 71:21
nebulizers 68:1
necessity 64:21

needed 15:16
negotiated 79:13
neighbor 57:14
neighborhood 53:13
58:16 72:13 74:8 88:21
89:25
neighborhoods 90:6
neighbors 50:7 52:13
68:8 92:1
Netherlands 59:3
network 11:20 56:19
newly-established 12:9
newlywed 55:24
Nicholas 37:10
Nina 42:9
nitrogen 52:24 53:19
non-ferrous 76:9
non-priveledged 28:11
non-privilege 38:10
non-privileged 29:16 30:5
31:13,17,18 32:3 33:5,25
34:10,20 35:6,17 39:4,15
40:7 41:18 42:13 43:1
nonprofit 11:6
nonunion 58:6
normalize 56:6
North 20:8,13,18,24,25
21:13,14,17,20 22:7 30:7
32:12,14,16,19 34:12,23,
24 35:8,9,20 41:22 75:5
northeast 88:16
Northwest 25:21
Nos 44:18
nose 91:15 100:6,19
notice 33:21 43:9
nuclear 77:5

number 14:21 50:15
61:13 84:20
numbers 21:11 32:11
85:2
numerous 12:15 65:8
76:13,20

O

O'NEIL 37:25 38:1
O'ROURKE 37:10,11 80:7
obtain 18:5
occasion 27:3
occur 72:12
Oceans 97:16
October 55:17
odor 91:1
Odwads 56:13
offer 17:5,11 26:6 33:4
38:9 40:5 42:12
Officer 12:4
officers 33:21 43:9
officials 76:21
Ogontz 34:23
oil 47:7 53:4
older 64:16
oldest 55:5
omissions 53:20
one-year-old 100:18
Onepa 67:8
open-door 66:20
opening 15:12 62:3
operate 60:7 76:3
operated 62:19,25 63:12
operates 53:17 58:22 70:3

operating 69:6 operation 75:25 operations 60:3 62:14,16 63:2 75:22 77:5 operator 51:12 62:15 opponent 95:11 opportunities 61:6,25 76:15 opportunity 13:6 14:16 51:3 52:7 60:18 64:20 65:19 71:9 75:18 77:3 82:17 88:15 90:14 92:18 94:8,14 95:1 97:19 99:9 oppose 69:9 opposition 83:17 option 59:5 69:21 101:16 order 19:3 25:3 44:8 45:4, 10,17 81:5 ordinance 19:12 26:11 29:21 33:10 37:2 38:15, 22 42:18 Oregon 78:5 organic 59:22 organization 10:22,23 11:6 56:18 65:15 organizations 12:15 65:12 88:6 OSHA 75:11 outcome 70:9 outdated 52:21 outdoor 19:17 Outley 11:11 14:12 18:3, 13 outreach 11:21 12:8,9 16:11,23 61:21 outstanding 25:19 40:23 overcoming 87:19	overnight 55:10 oversee 92:9 overseen 69:25 oversight 63:19 overstating 95:14 overturned 98:3 overwhelmed 98:6 ownership 38:16 oxide 53:20 oxides 52:24 ozone 52:23 84:18	particles 84:17 particulate 52:23 59:21 partner 97:24 partnering 65:23 partners 12:24 14:9 82:14 partnership 56:6 93:21 partnerships 12:13 61:11 66:2 party 60:2 pass 52:10 58:5 69:1 85:25 90:17 92:3 93:25 97:16 102:20 passage 27:6,15 28:1,24 30:12 31:7,25 32:23 34:17 35:3,14,25 36:16 39:10,23 40:19 41:4,16 42:5 43:22 44:5,13,18 45:2 46:17 92:14 passed 23:7,10,15,24 24:2,6,10 45:24 80:12 84:15 passing 93:2 102:16 past 11:16 58:2 65:3 77:5, 10 93:9 99:2 102:5 pastoral 39:19 pathway 71:23 98:2 pathways 11:8 patients 98:5 patterns 68:11 pay 75:9 85:6 paycheck 102:18 Paydep 59:14 payers 70:9,16 pediatric 53:23 Pelt 20:19 34:12 Pennsylvania 12:15 25:20 39:6 46:16 52:18 53:22
P		
P3 40:22 PA 38:18 74:9 75:22 102:20 Padwa 46:11 Palasandra 62:8 Palestine 56:15 paralyzed 86:11 Parcel 21:9,10,12,14,16 32:9,10,12,13,15 parcels 74:22 parents' 47:9 Parish 39:19 park 71:19 Parker 15:7 48:19 82:21 parking 38:25 part 65:15 77:8 partially 80:13 participant 17:19 participate 65:9 participated 71:7 participating 69:10 84:5		

58:16 62:12 67:12 82:19 84:13 86:14 88:5 90:12 97:2 98:15 pensions 69:16 people 10:14 11:13 14:14, 23 16:4,5 49:19 51:16 55:4,13,23 56:8 60:24 61:7 62:23 63:9 64:1 74:18 75:9 76:16 77:18 80:6 81:12,24 88:22 89:6, 8,9,25 90:1 91:25 92:1,2 98:17 percent 47:2 49:16 53:19 55:8 59:18,20,22 62:25 72:2 76:10 95:15 98:21 Perez 46:11 54:12,16 perfect 63:2 performance 60:10 63:3 Perice 54:15 permanent 12:6 14:24 16:10 permits 19:16 59:13 permitted 59:18 persistent 14:22 66:12 person 13:5 76:23 80:15 94:15,16 101:3 person's 51:25 personal 17:16 76:15 perspective 61:16 peters 67:7,8 PGW 48:6 PHA 74:11,20,25 75:1 79:12 Philadelphia 10:11,20,25 11:4,5,19 12:10,14,22 13:9 14:2,20 18:6 19:9, 13,15,22 20:1,2,3,5,7,10, 11,16,18,21,23 21:2,5,6, 24 22:2,5,8,9,10,12,15,	23,24 23:1,3,5 24:16 25:21 26:12,22 27:11,13 28:14,18,19,20,22 29:6, 22 30:6,10 31:5,19,22 32:5 33:12,14 34:2,7,11, 15,21 35:1,7,12,18,23 37:3 38:18,23 39:8,21 40:15,17 41:2,14,21,24, 25 42:1,3,19,23 43:3,6 44:3 47:17 48:5,10,17 52:12,16 54:5,8,9 55:4 56:19,25 57:6 58:14 60:21 68:25 71:5,6,8,11 72:8,14,21 73:9 74:6,13 77:10,12,20 78:1,25 79:7 81:18 82:1,16 83:9 85:12 88:4,16 89:2,9,11 90:1,6, 7 92:8 93:12 96:3,4 97:11,12 98:3,16,19 101:13,17,20 Philadelphia's 27:20 43:16 48:24 50:24 51:12 54:6,9 Philadelphia-based 58:4 Philadelphian 16:17 Philadelphians 13:1 27:24 37:13 82:25 Phillips 25:7,8 86:5 Philly 10:12 40:22 48:7, 15,22 49:4 50:4 74:25 75:5 86:15 88:18 Physicians 84:12 Piscatelli 54:14 62:7,8 PIT 16:21 place 13:5 16:17 48:11 51:24 65:16 80:18 placement 53:12 95:8 places 52:6 90:25 plain 96:13 plan 73:1 102:5 planes 55:14	planning 24:18 plans 66:2 plants 53:5 plate 80:21 play 68:16 79:14 played 46:20 playmates 46:21 plays 12:16 47:18 Pleas 99:3 pleased 11:5 23:5 plot 77:17 podium 45:20 46:3,13 54:15 point 16:22 17:1,16,17 46:3 47:20 56:23 63:20 97:16 98:21 101:21 poker 79:14 policies 66:20 88:2 policy 43:18 60:5 87:17 political 70:23 pollutants 52:22 53:1 84:18 polluter 47:24 polluters 57:6 polluting 47:4 53:3 pollution 47:21 48:1,7,11 53:4,16,21 59:24 62:22 63:4 85:17 89:17,22 97:4, 10 poorest 85:12 poorly 102:13 populated 55:21 population 10:15,17,25 15:18 54:22 55:9 populations 12:19 85:15, 22
--	--	---

porch 91:5	87:5 94:4 99:7	programs 11:21,25 12:7 72:6
Portico 22:21	preventive 87:21	Progress 40:22
portion 21:7 32:7	prevents 92:14	progressing 76:4
position 48:21 101:7	pride 60:22 61:16 65:25 76:15 83:1	progressive 77:21
positions 62:3 76:5	primary 59:24	project 18:4 27:3 39:7 75:7
positive 77:21	principles 12:25	projects 60:9
possession 19:7 24:23	printed 24:25	promised 49:5
pounds 49:21,22	prior 66:18	promote 12:1 88:2
poverty 27:24	priorities 39:5	properties 20:4 22:11 23:2 28:21 42:2 73:3,18 74:12
power 53:5 70:14 78:13 85:6,11	prioritizing 88:5	property 19:21 22:4,14 28:13 41:20 79:4,7,24 80:9
powerful 93:3	privacy 31:4	proponents 95:17 96:20
powers 85:7	priveledged 25:16 27:8, 17 36:6,11 40:21	proposal 43:4
practice 71:20	privilege 17:16 25:15 26:6 28:6 30:22 31:1 65:2 98:13	proposed 19:11 42:22
practices 61:11 78:11 88:22	privileged 26:18 27:1 31:2 36:10 39:13 40:5,12 41:6 42:12 43:13,25	proposing 34:1 42:19 43:5
pray 18:21	problem 73:5 98:1	prosecuted 79:17
precipice 77:13	problems 67:19 100:18	protect 43:19 61:4 62:21 63:13 68:19 93:5 94:3 96:14 100:15,21
predominantly 53:13	proceed 70:23 81:7	protected 102:12
preferable 95:10	proceeds 79:5	protection 70:18 92:24 96:16
prerogative 72:18	process 26:20 33:16 34:5 69:11 70:7,10,20,22 76:23 83:11,21 84:1,6	protections 51:18 52:3
prescribing 33:19	processes 59:11	protective 60:4
present 64:24 65:6,13	procurement 83:10	protects 85:10
presented 13:17	produce 53:19 76:6	protocols 60:3
president 10:7 14:5,7 19:8 23:4 24:22 25:9 26:5 28:6 29:5,8,13 30:18 31:12 33:4 36:21 37:12, 21 38:2,9 40:4 42:11 44:15 50:23 69:5 77:8,14 79:20 86:4	professional 69:14 76:22	proud 11:5 15:6 58:14 75:20 82:7 98:12
pressure 70:16	professionals 65:22	proudly 62:11
preterm 84:24	professor 52:16	provide 12:17 51:19 69:15
preventable 86:24	profound 41:12	
preventing 51:24	program 12:9 18:20 72:11 92:19 98:14	
prevention 40:25 44:2		

provided 76:25 93:12 provider 10:10 11:18 15:11 50:25 87:18 Providers 98:6 providing 11:7 33:11 34:6 42:20,21 43:2 76:18 94:7 provisions 19:17 public 10:8 19:21 22:4,14 28:12 30:22 41:19 43:14 44:25 45:1,12,15 57:17, 21 70:12 71:25 75:7 92:25 94:7,8,13,23 publish 33:21 43:9 publisher 86:17 pull 75:1 punishment 52:6 punted 85:24 purchasing 85:6 purpose 33:19 65:22 pursuant 20:4 22:11 23:2 24:15 28:21 42:2 46:5 pursue 79:22 push 78:23 Pushing 40:22 put 49:13 66:23 79:3 puts 70:11 putting 16:19 80:21,22 83:15 Q qualified 33:11 43:3 70:10 84:4 quality 53:11 54:7 87:13 quarter 80:16 Queen 71:6 quelled 66:21	question 33:20 73:2 88:25 questions 66:22 Quetcy 31:9 quickest 56:14 quote 72:22 R race 87:4 racial 85:16 racism 53:14 67:14 radiation 86:12 radius 61:20 rails 45:7 rainbow 47:8 raise 73:21 96:23 raised 64:12 66:5 75:21 raises 83:16 raising 91:19 rallying 88:3 Ramona 64:10 Randolph 27:10 Randy 17:18,21,23 range 58:19 Raoof 55:24 rate 70:16 72:1 rates 53:21 86:25 87:12 101:8 Raymond 74:20 reaching 83:14 reaction 48:19 100:17 read 19:6 25:14 26:9 28:9 29:19 30:25 31:16 33:8 36:9,25 38:13 40:10 42:16 46:9	reading 44:12,17 45:2 real 70:13 72:16,24 reality 14:22 16:18 51:14 69:21 realty 26:14 reason 70:7 100:16 rebuild 52:8 92:18 received 95:20 recent 95:17 Recently 78:5 Reclaim 88:18 reclaiming 47:15 recognition 14:11 39:18 recognize 10:9,14 11:2,6 16:3 25:6 29:13 52:8 59:6 95:10 recognized 11:23 recognizes 13:10,24 26:2 28:3 29:2,10 30:15 31:9 33:1 36:3,18 37:9,18,24 38:6 40:1 42:8 44:10 78:16 recognizing 25:17 31:3 36:12 40:13 44:1 51:1 92:12 recommendation 24:18 record 50:14 81:7 102:7 recover 58:20 72:6 recovery 93:1 recreate 66:25 recycle 58:20 76:8 recycling 72:1 red 45:25 redeployed 73:16 redevelopment 19:22 20:2 21:4,5,6,7,18,19,22 22:5,9,15,25 28:14,19
---	---	---

32:5,6,17,18,21 41:21,25 reduce 61:3 71:24 76:10 95:7 reduced 47:22 84:20 85:1 reduces 76:7 reducing 48:10 reductions 48:1 Reese 86:3 88:11 referred 26:17 33:24 34:9 37:8 38:21 39:3 42:25 43:12 refineries 47:12 53:4 reflect 61:23 reflects 14:21 regard 78:20 region 57:10 60:22 78:13 regional 62:15 70:15 registration 19:16 25:15 regulated 59:13 63:21 69:24 regulations 84:21 regulators 63:15 regulatory 64:2 reimage 58:20 reject 70:22 related 19:17 57:9 relates 77:21,22,24 relating 33:14 34:3 43:6 relations 65:5,21 82:10 relationship 56:11 66:13, 17 97:22 relief 91:6 relocated 80:4 rely 64:21 relying 95:13	remain 61:18 77:18 remaining 45:21 remains 62:22 remarks 13:24 45:23 50:17 102:23 remember 100:13 reminder 45:22 removal 33:15 34:3 38:25 remove 33:17 34:5 69:9 removed 71:19 removes 52:2 removing 19:17 70:9 92:22 renaming 39:15,17 renewable 58:25 renewal 21:7,8 32:7,8 renovate 80:3 renters 102:15 repaid 73:15 repeated 68:1 96:9 repeatedly 89:23 repetition 45:15 repetitious 46:6 replaces 96:15 report 63:22 93:8 95:11, 12 reports 44:7 represent 59:20 69:6,10 representation 61:16 reproductive 43:17,18,19 97:22,24,25 98:1,8 request 19:4 94:15 requirements 59:17 62:20 71:16 requires 87:24	resembles 85:11 reserve 46:5 Reserves 14:1 reset 15:3,4 reside 64:12,18 resident 52:15 58:14 60:21 67:11 71:4 75:19 77:10 82:8 90:13 99:18 residents 12:2 49:1 65:23 67:1 70:9 71:21 101:6 resides 14:1 residing 58:15 resolution 13:16 19:20 20:6,11,17,22 21:3,23 22:3,13 25:11,17,25 26:19,24 27:2,6,9,15,18 28:1,7,10,12,24 29:16,20 30:6,12,23 31:1,3,7,19,25 32:4,23 33:17 34:1,11,17, 21 35:3,7,14,18,25 36:6, 10,12,16 39:5,10,14,16, 23 40:7,13,19,22 41:4,7, 16,19 42:5,13 43:2,4,14, 22 44:1,5 86:6,21 92:12 94:6,12 resolutions 25:5 26:6,10 31:13,17 33:5,9 37:14,22 38:3,10,14 40:6,11 42:12, 17 44:12,16,20,25 resolve 26:21 resolved 13:8,16 resource 86:18 resources 12:12 61:3 87:9 respect 79:23 83:13 respectfully 70:21 84:6 94:15 respiratory 67:25 response 43:19 88:25
--	---	--

responses 83:6 responsibility 16:15 79:11 84:2,12 responsible 48:6,7 73:2, 6,9 rest 66:23 94:22 97:15 99:1 restoration 80:23 restricted 97:25 result 53:20 resulting 87:11 results 84:24 retaliated 102:12 rethink 101:11 retire 61:17 retired 64:12 retirement 27:10 return 49:18 returned 24:14 reuse 72:7 revere 74:19 Reverend 12:3 15:23 Revised 21:9,10,12,13 32:9,10,11,13 Revive 39:7 revolving 73:14 Reworld 53:15,25 58:17, 22 60:6,20 61:1,8,17 62:9,10 64:11,19,23 65:3, 9,21 66:13 69:7 71:20 75:18,23 82:11,24 95:4 97:4 Reworld's 53:18 66:6 83:8 RFP 83:5,6,21 84:5 rich 99:1	Richardson 26:3,4,18 27:1,8,17 28:11 29:21 30:5 44:11,14 88:9 94:5, 20 102:6 RICHRDSON 88:12 ride 72:18,19 Ridge 29:25 riding 73:25 rightfully 101:18 rights 93:6 96:22 ripple 82:14 rising 10:18 70:16 risk 51:7 60:1 70:12 83:22 86:16 River 30:1 47:6 riverfront 49:19 road 30:1 101:15 Robin 74:2 Robinson 90:10,12 robust 71:15 95:22 rode 73:24 Roe 36:14 role 12:16 87:18 96:20 roles 61:18 roll 77:16 rolling 77:16 Romano 54:14 ROMONA 64:9 room 76:2 root 87:23 88:23 rooted 62:13 Roots 46:11,14,15 50:14 Rosen 74:20 Rowe 98:3	Roxborough 89:13 rubber 47:15 Rue 30:15 rule 24:16 33:14 34:3 42:20 43:6 84:15 rules 46:6 94:11 run 51:16 running 89:2 rural 58:25
S		
sacrificing 70:24 safe 13:5 62:23 80:18 88:20 92:20 102:15,16 safer 41:1 52:12 safety 51:22 63:18 92:17, 25 93:18 98:2 Sala 55:25 Salvation 92:8 93:8 Sandra 81:9 sanitation 71:15 72:4 sat 47:16 scale 73:12 scared 47:13 99:21 100:14 102:17 school 18:7 46:20,22 55:7 61:22 64:16,25 schools 48:8 61:22 76:21 Schuylkill 30:1 scientific 64:2 Scott 82:6,7 screening 87:10 screenings 87:6,16 seamlessly 66:25 search 18:11		

seconds 45:21 Section 19:12,14 20:5 22:12 23:2 28:21 38:23 42:2 94:6,11,22 Sections 24:15 seeking 46:16 76:23 seeks 60:6 sees 51:14 93:4 selected 83:7 self-sufficiency 92:23 93:18 sell 79:24 send 50:2 89:24 90:4 sending 48:15,22 54:9 78:8,9 90:5 sends 93:3 96:18 senior 65:20 74:17 76:13 80:15 96:2 sensitive 88:2 SEPTA 54:23 72:18 73:21, 24,25 74:1 Serester 17:23 sergeant 25:10 45:25 servant 82:9 serve 16:8 49:24 82:10 93:23 98:17 served 15:18 62:11 93:10, 23 serves 14:19 service 13:2,18 27:11 39:20 40:15 50:25 66:2 98:23 services 10:17 11:8,22 12:18 17:3 43:15 92:7,9 93:15 serving 11:19 13:13 76:13 86:15	session 23:8,10,16,25 24:3,7,11 28:25 30:13 32:1,24 34:18 35:4,15 36:1 39:11,24 42:6 45:3, 6,14 set 43:4 63:13 94:9 settled 79:15 settlement 79:16 seven-year 75:20 seventh 31:21 Sex 96:9 sexual 96:8,9 97:23 Seymour 22:20 Shaat 55:25 shame 74:5 75:14 Shamir 55:24 shape 16:13 share 59:19 85:17 shared 72:13 Shari 71:4 sharing 55:13 64:4 she'd 49:5 shed 59:19 sheen 47:7 sheet 45:11 sheetrock 18:8 shelter 15:13 51:13 74:17, 19 shelters 11:20 14:25 98:18 ship 97:14 shipyards 77:2 Shirlana 12:5 shocking 48:19 shootings 55:19	shout 72:23 73:22 82:8,20 show 17:19 50:7 64:2 74:16 showcase 95:18 showers 93:16 shows 65:9 shut 72:22 75:3 100:10 sick 49:18 68:6 100:15 sidewalk 19:13,18 sight 96:13 sign 45:4 sign-up 45:11 signed 23:6,9,15,23 24:2, 5,9 45:5,9 significant 51:7 69:16 101:4 silence 96:15 similar 85:15 simple 28:20 41:22 simply 63:8 sincere 13:18 sincerely 14:10 single 14:18 55:6 97:8 sinuses 91:12 sister 54:20 56:6 100:14, 18,21 site 15:12 47:19 82:24 sites 75:5 situation 100:8 size 55:3 76:10 skills 74:24 sky 47:11 sleep 16:17 small 59:20
---	--	--

smell 90:22	spending 73:3,8,20 100:2	statistic 67:13
smile 17:6	spent 73:5	stats 53:18
sneezing 91:17	sponsor 65:10	status 51:25 87:3 92:17
social 84:12 87:3,25 92:7 98:23 99:5	sponsored 46:24	stay 16:16 68:2
societies 99:2	spring 56:3 83:8 89:15	Stefan 46:10,15
society 91:10 99:1	square 53:6	stem 87:2
sole 65:22	Squila 38:7,8	step 15:11 92:21 96:16
soley 74:25	Squill's 89:14	stepped 49:4 80:20 98:4
solidarity 81:16	Sr 12:4 15:23	stepping 50:4
Solomon 41:9	St 39:19	steps 93:17
solution 73:13 87:23 101:12,23	stability 11:8 51:22 69:16 76:25 92:22 93:1	steroid 68:1
solutions 58:18 61:1 71:24 76:18	stabilize 93:17	stigma 52:7 87:15,19
someone's 57:4	stable 51:17 73:6 92:20 99:9	stinkiness 90:22
son 55:25	stadium 47:17	Stomp 81:23 82:3
Sopranos 79:2	staff 12:23 15:25 40:23	stood 80:10 102:3
source 59:24	stake 69:12	stop 46:17 49:6 52:20 54:8 56:20 67:9 69:1 71:10 75:9 77:25 78:8,9 88:19 94:1 101:2
south 19:24 28:15 38:18 39:7,17,20 74:25	stakeholders 66:4 83:19	storms 56:10
spanning 13:2	stance 77:20	story 68:7
speak 45:13,18 51:3 56:20 60:15,18 63:10 65:19 71:10 75:18 88:15, 18 99:16 102:17	stand 15:6,25 16:4 67:9, 12 68:25 75:13 85:16,20 100:9 102:11,19	straightforward 73:13
speaker 17:15 24:24 25:3 36:7 37:23 46:3,9	standards 63:1,24 70:2	stranger 51:10
speakers 45:4 77:11	stands 15:16 96:21	strategically 81:13
speaking 45:19 71:4 74:14 98:13 100:25 101:1	start 74:3 100:2	strategies 27:23
special 43:10 68:22	started 47:23 48:4,10	strategy 88:7
specialized 12:8	starting 18:17 62:14 75:24	street 17:5,7,8,9 19:24 20:8,13,19,24,25 21:8,11, 13,15,17,20,25 22:7,17, 18,19,20,21,22 28:16 29:24 30:2,7 31:20 32:7, 11,13,14,16,19 34:12,23, 24 35:9,20,21 38:18 39:17 41:23 47:17 55:9
specifically 63:13 76:17 99:6	starts 91:15 100:7	streets 16:24 46:21 68:16 97:8
speech 99:15	state 43:16 53:22 54:18, 23 63:21 78:5,6 79:21 81:6 84:21 88:10 102:7	
	States 58:24 75:20 77:14	
	station 58:6,7	

strengthen 13:3 71:25 94:4	supplement 33:13 34:2	systems 51:18 69:25 96:13
strengthening 40:25	supplier 56:3	
strengthens 62:2	supplies 56:10	T
strict 62:19	supply 73:4,19	table 45:7 79:16
strictly 59:12	support 14:15 17:4 46:16 49:8 51:3,20,21 52:19 58:9 67:9 69:15 70:18 71:10,13,22 92:11 98:4	Tacony 71:19
strike 55:6	supported 63:8 83:21 93:13	tailor 88:1
strikes 55:16,20	supporting 11:14 57:19 65:7 96:22 98:8	taking 10:24 49:3 79:4 93:5 99:1
strokes 68:10	supportive 11:8,21 12:7, 18 14:24 16:10	talent 61:19
strong 51:3 61:12 63:3 83:17 91:9,24	suppose 73:7	Talia 92:6,7
stronger 72:10	Supreme 36:13	talk 77:12
strongest 52:3	surprised 48:3	talking 73:20
strongly 52:19,24	surrounding 57:2 69:1 76:12	talks 72:20
structural 87:11	survival 98:2	tangled 26:21
struggle 52:13	survive 10:18	tank 55:5
students 46:23,24 47:2	surviving 86:10	tape 80:11
studied 58:1	survivor 25:19,23 86:10	targeted 55:7
stuff 97:15	survivor's 92:20	targeting 55:23
Subcode 19:14	survivors 51:7,15,20,23 52:5 92:17 93:4,10,11,12, 17,22 94:3 96:17 97:21 98:5,9,18,20,22 99:10	tax 26:14 70:9 98:7
subject 46:7	sustainability 52:17 60:24 61:5 95:4	taxes 26:13
submission 33:11 34:6 42:22 43:2	sustainable 58:18,22 61:1,6 72:9 76:6,18 95:5	team 41:9 61:17 65:5,22 95:4
submitting 19:10	swear 75:1	teams 12:8 16:23
suburban 58:24	Sweden 59:3	teamsters-organized 58:7
sudden 67:20	Sylvester 11:11 14:12	technical 18:6 61:21
suffer 68:8	system 43:17	technician 76:1
suffered 67:20 99:19	systemic 87:3	technicians 37:5
suffering 81:13 91:11		technologies 63:4
suffers 53:3 101:3		technology 52:21
suggested 18:4		teenagers 91:19
super 47:19		temporary 11:18 69:13
superior 59:7		ten 76:1,2
supervisor 75:23		

ten-mile 61:19	thrives 96:13	tons 76:9 89:24 90:5 97:12,14
tenth 59:22	throw 79:6	Toomey 69:4,6
tenure 40:16	time 10:21 15:2,15 16:22 17:1 45:16,21 46:2 47:3 62:5 64:7 70:15,25 84:8 88:8 89:6 94:9,11,12 95:19,23 96:7 97:20 100:2,16,21	top 57:5,11 73:23
term 71:24	timely 98:2	topic 46:25
terms 19:19 20:9,15,20 21:1 22:1 26:15 30:9 31:22 34:14,25 35:11,22 37:5 38:19 39:1	times 49:12 53:23 57:17, 21	torturing 54:21
terrible 91:17	timing 45:13	touch 57:7
terrifying 101:5	Tina 100:25	tour 49:3 80:8,9
testified 66:8	tired 64:13	tours 76:20
testify 45:4 97:20	tireless 13:12	town 47:24 75:5
testifying 74:2	tires 71:18	toxic 49:3 57:21 68:12 89:17,22 97:12 101:7
textbook 53:14	title 19:14,23 20:4 22:6, 11,16 23:1 25:15 26:10, 21 28:10,15,20 29:20 31:1,17 33:9 36:10 37:1,3 38:14 40:10 41:22 42:1, 17	trade 61:21
textile 72:5	today 10:8 14:19 15:24 17:4 25:12 26:6 28:6 29:6,16 30:23 31:14 33:4 36:22 37:15,22 44:8,18 45:14 48:9,12 49:5 50:10 60:15,19 68:18 72:20 81:10 82:11 83:4 85:25 89:4 90:14 92:11 93:24 94:23 97:3,20 98:14 102:19	traffickers 51:9 98:25
thanking 90:14	today's 25:25 26:24 27:6, 15 28:1 31:7 36:16 40:19 41:4,16 43:22 44:5 45:3,5	trafficking 44:2 51:2,5,10 52:1,4,9 92:9,13,15,19 93:2,10 94:2 96:6,7,8,9, 12,18,23 98:18,20,24 99:7,11,12
therapy 86:12	toddler 67:18	training 75:22
thesurvivordiva.com 86:18	told 68:2,5 73:24	transactions 26:14
thing 89:7 97:6	tolerated 96:19	transfer 20:3 22:10,25 26:14 28:19 41:25 58:6,7
things 67:4 91:20 100:4	toll 56:7	transform 13:4
thinking 57:24 100:14	tonight 50:9	transformative 11:2 13:11
thinks 48:15		transmitting 24:17
Thomas 11:16 12:20 13:23 19:1 25:13,24 26:8, 16,23 27:5,14,25 28:8,23 29:3,4,17 30:3,11,19,24 31:6,15,24 32:22 33:6,23 34:8,16 35:2,13,24 36:15, 23 37:7,16 38:4,11,20 39:2,9,22 40:8,18 41:3,15 42:4,14,24 43:11 44:4,23 82:20		transparency 70:8
thought 48:18 79:18		transparent 65:6 66:19
thousand 74:22		transportation 83:23
thrive 13:6 16:18 52:8 60:25 91:8		Transportation's 39:6
		trash 47:25 48:15,22 49:12,17,21,22 50:3 52:20 54:9,10 57:1,4,20 69:20 71:5 78:8,9 85:18 89:2,10,18,24 90:4,5,16 97:9,13 101:1
		trashcan 97:9

trashing 46:17 49:6 52:20 56:20 67:10 69:1 71:10, 18 77:25 88:19 101:2 trauma 93:13 trauma-informed 11:24 treasurer 54:24 treated 10:15 102:13 treatment 68:23 85:10 87:17 treatments 68:1 trenches 72:24 Tribune 27:11 truck 97:8 trucks 59:25 97:5,6 true 60:22 trust 70:11 74:4 trusts 51:11 truth 74:5 75:13 96:7 turn 45:22,25 two-minute 45:19 50:16 two-way 60:6 66:20 type 81:25	unhoused 10:15,16 13:13 uninsured 87:20 union 47:17 58:4 83:18 unionized 58:9 unions 57:25 80:20 unit 77:19 80:10 United 58:23 59:6 75:20 77:14 95:9 units 80:1,9 University 52:17 82:18,19 Unlike 59:12 unquote 72:22 unsheltered 12:11 16:25 unsigned 24:14 unwanted 97:12 unwavering 12:23 40:24 update 74:23 uphold 89:5 Upland 61:22 uplifting 41:12 Uptown 86:15 urban 21:7,8 32:7,8 58:24 urge 52:9 54:8 70:21 84:7 90:16 93:25 95:23 98:9 urgency 15:8 68:18 utilize 78:10	varmints 80:14 vary 45:13 vegan 100:1 vehicle 97:5 vehicles 55:20 vendor 84:4 Vendors 83:7 verified 63:21 verify 74:4 versus 36:14 98:3 veteran 75:20 80:14 vibrant 66:17 67:17 victim 51:11 52:1 92:16 victims 92:15 victoriously 86:9 viewed 78:1 Villanova 48:5 violated 84:22 violation 53:17 violations 55:17 79:10 violence 40:24 41:11 50:25 51:6,13 72:25 96:10 97:21,23 violent 51:15 vision 14:13 15:19 visionary 11:11 visit 80:6 vital 87:16 vitality 72:1 voice 90:15 96:10 voices 67:15 volatile 59:22 volunteers 16:24 vote 50:10,12 67:5 84:3,4,
U		
U.S. 98:24 ultimately 58:8 71:14 unclean 82:2 undergrad 82:18 underlying 11:25 undermines 70:11 83:10 understand 63:9 95:20 underway 84:6 undeserved 13:13 unequal 87:5	unhoused 10:15,16 13:13 uninsured 87:20 union 47:17 58:4 83:18 unionized 58:9 unions 57:25 80:20 unit 77:19 80:10 United 58:23 59:6 75:20 77:14 95:9 units 80:1,9 University 52:17 82:18,19 Unlike 59:12 unquote 72:22 unsheltered 12:11 16:25 unsigned 24:14 unwanted 97:12 unwavering 12:23 40:24 update 74:23 uphold 89:5 Upland 61:22 uplifting 41:12 Uptown 86:15 urban 21:7,8 32:7,8 58:24 urge 52:9 54:8 70:21 84:7 90:16 93:25 95:23 98:9 urgency 15:8 68:18 utilize 78:10	varmints 80:14 vary 45:13 vegan 100:1 vehicle 97:5 vehicles 55:20 vendor 84:4 Vendors 83:7 verified 63:21 verify 74:4 versus 36:14 98:3 veteran 75:20 80:14 vibrant 66:17 67:17 victim 51:11 52:1 92:16 victims 92:15 victoriously 86:9 viewed 78:1 Villanova 48:5 violated 84:22 violation 53:17 violations 55:17 79:10 violence 40:24 41:11 50:25 51:6,13 72:25 96:10 97:21,23 violent 51:15 vision 14:13 15:19 visionary 11:11 visit 80:6 vital 87:16 vitality 72:1 voice 90:15 96:10 voices 67:15 volatile 59:22 volunteers 16:24 vote 50:10,12 67:5 84:3,4,
V		
vaccination 87:6 vaccinations 99:25 vacuum 70:17 Valley 62:9,12 63:7 97:3 van 20:19 34:12 49:4 94:25 95:2	vaccination 87:6 vaccinations 99:25 vacuum 70:17 Valley 62:9,12 63:7 97:3 van 20:19 34:12 49:4 94:25 95:2	varmints 80:14 vary 45:13 vegan 100:1 vehicle 97:5 vehicles 55:20 vendor 84:4 Vendors 83:7 verified 63:21 verify 74:4 versus 36:14 98:3 veteran 75:20 80:14 vibrant 66:17 67:17 victim 51:11 52:1 92:16 victims 92:15 victoriously 86:9 viewed 78:1 Villanova 48:5 violated 84:22 violation 53:17 violations 55:17 79:10 violence 40:24 41:11 50:25 51:6,13 72:25 96:10 97:21,23 violent 51:15 vision 14:13 15:19 visionary 11:11 visit 80:6 vital 87:16 vitality 72:1 voice 90:15 96:10 voices 67:15 volatile 59:22 volunteers 16:24 vote 50:10,12 67:5 84:3,4,

7 95:23 voted 33:20 102:4 vulnerability 84:24 vulnerable 10:24 12:19 15:17 41:13 51:20 85:22 96:14	week 15:10 101:15 weeks 84:14 welcoming 52:6 Welfare 42:21 43:7 wellbeing 12:1 89:8 90:18 west 22:20 25:21 100:2 whichever 57:3 Whip 10:4 wholeheartedly 51:21 wide 58:19 71:7 Widner 52:17 wife 56:1 Wilds 54:14 65:18,20 Wilson 12:4 15:23 wind 57:3 window 47:11 windows 68:3 91:5 winners 102:4 wiped 56:10 wishing 45:18 Wissahickon 29:25 Wister 22:16 witnesses 50:15 94:10 woman 67:13 women 50:23 51:13 86:16,25 87:16 women's 86:7 Woodland 82:25 words 48:20 56:13 work 10:14 11:3 12:24 14:18 16:2,5 48:4,10 51:24 56:23 59:15 64:20 65:4 66:1 69:7 71:23 78:21 83:1 93:9 worked 74:12	workers 69:17 77:6 83:3 84:2 workforce 27:20,23 73:11 working 56:22 60:13,22 64:23 65:2 70:20 75:23, 25 82:24 101:17 102:9 workplace 92:16,25 works 73:16 World 88:6 world's 95:5 worse 57:21 worsening 67:25 worst 57:1 worth 50:11 85:5 write 81:21 writing 81:21 wrong 78:23 79:19 91:22 wrote 46:23 Wynnewood 58:16
W		Y
Wade 36:14 47:16 98:3 wage 64:23 wages 99:4 waiting 97:9 Wakefield 22:22 walk 68:16 90:22 91:14 walk-around 79:3 wanted 10:21 64:15 79:15 100:13 war 54:24 55:14 ward 74:13,14 78:25 Warden 96:3 warm 17:6 Washington 78:7 waste 58:21,23,25 59:5,10 61:3 69:20,23,25 71:15, 24 72:5,9 76:19 78:11 88:22 95:6,7,10 101:12, 14,23 wasted 59:7 watched 68:7 watching 78:14 waterfront 53:7 ways 85:12 wealth 74:25 weapon's 56:3 Wednesday 16:20		yard 89:21 year 18:11 29:14 60:2 65:3,13 74:4 76:14,23,24 81:11,15 89:24 90:5 93:9, 23 98:19,21,25 years 13:2 14:17 27:10 40:14 47:23 50:3 58:15 62:10,11 64:13 66:10,11, 19 75:2,24 76:1,2 85:23 86:11 88:24 90:21 97:3 99:23 yellow 45:22 yesterday 55:22 yield 46:3 Yolanda 50:22

York 49:15 90:4

young 10:5,6 13:15 33:2,3
41:13 51:16 67:17 73:23
75:10,12 82:8 91:19
98:17 100:17

youngest 99:20,22 100:7

youth 16:11 40:24 41:11

youth-focused 12:7

Z

ZIP 93:11

zone 70:4

zoning 19:16 29:22,23

City of Philadelphia
City Council Calendar
Thursday, January 22, 2026

PUBLIC COMMENT

Please note that this is an in-person meeting, and it is open to the public. This meeting may also be viewed on Xfinity Channel 64, Fios Channel 40 or <http://phlcouncil.com/watch-city-council/>

Public comment will be received in-person regarding those matters printed on the agenda on the following pages. Speakers interested in participating in public comment at this meeting may call 215-686-3406 by no later than 3 p.m. the day before the meeting and they must submit the following information:

- **Full name (including proper pronunciation and spelling)**
- **Identify the bill number or resolution number that will be addressed**
- **State whether you support or oppose that particular bill or resolution**
- **Telephone number where you can be reached**

Speakers may also sign-up to participate in public comment on the day of the meeting in Room 400, City Hall. Speakers who submitted the above information within the required time frame will be added to the list. Speakers will have up to three minutes to speak; the Council President, however, reserves the right based on circumstances to establish a different time limit. The Council President may also limit testimony where repetitious comments are offered on an agenda item.

ORDER OF BUSINESS IN A COUNCIL SESSION

Note: Some items do not occur at every session:

Invocation.

Approval of the journal of the preceding meeting.

Requests by Councilmembers for permission to be absent from the session.

Reading of communications from the Mayor.

Introduction of bills and resolutions (to be referred to appropriate Committees of Council).

Reports from Committees of Council.

Special business.

Bills on first reading.

**Public comment on bills and resolutions on the Second Reading and Final Passage
Calendars - titles are printed below.**

Bills that Council passed but that need to be returned by the Mayor for reconsideration.

Consideration of bills and resolutions on the Second Reading and Final Passage Calendars.

Bills and resolutions on the Suspension Calendar.

Speeches by Councilmembers.

BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS ON FINAL PASSAGE**241070****INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Thomas

Resolution proposing an amendment to the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter to eliminate the requirement that City officers and employees resign from their City office or employment before becoming candidates for public office; and providing for the submission of the amendment of the electors of Philadelphia.

250303**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Thomas

Resolution honoring The Philadelphia Juvenile Justice Service Center School celebrating its 20th bi-annual “Carpe Diem” honoring all the judges and students who participate in this remarkable and beneficial event.

BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS ON SECOND READING AND FINAL PASSAGE**241056****INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Thomas

An Ordinance providing for the submission to the qualified electors of the City of Philadelphia of the proposal set forth in a Resolution approved by Council proposing an amendment to the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter to eliminate the requirement that City officers and employees resign from their City office or employment before becoming candidates for public office; and authorizing the appropriate officers to publish notice and to make arrangements for the special election.

250768**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Gauthier

An Ordinance amending Title 17 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled “Contracts and Procurement,” to prohibit contractors providing solid waste, recycling or composting services to the City from incinerating discarded matter, under certain terms and conditions.

250807**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Squilla

An Ordinance authorizing the Commissioner of Public Property to acquire, on behalf of the City, fee simple title or a lesser interest, by purchase, dedication, donation, condemnation, agreement in lieu of condemnation or otherwise, for the purpose of making, enlarging, connecting, extending, operating, and maintaining public parks for recreational use, certain parcels of land, generally bounded and located between Vine Street, Fairmount Avenue, 8th Street and 12th Street, together with all improvements thereon and all associated easements and appurtenances; and to lease the property, or a portion thereof, to the Center City District; all under certain terms and conditions.

250843**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Squilla for Council President Johnson

An Ordinance amending Chapter 10-700 of the Philadelphia Code, entitled “Refuse and Littering,” to require locking dumpsters; all under certain terms and conditions.

250986**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Jones

An Ordinance amending Section 14-500 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled “Overlay Zoning Districts” by creating Section 14-545, entitled, “/WFS, West Fairmount Sports Area Overlay District,” all under certain terms and conditions.

250990**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Ahmad

An Ordinance amending Chapter 9-1100 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled “Fair Practices Ordinance: Protections Against Unlawful Discrimination,” to add protections against employment discrimination on the basis of human trafficking victim status, all under certain terms and conditions.

251025**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Driscoll

An Ordinance regulating the direction of movement of traffic on Ryan Avenue between Leon Street and Frankford Avenue.

251027**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Squilla for Council President Johnson

An Ordinance authorizing transfers in appropriations for Fiscal Year 2025 from: the General Fund, the Water Fund, the Water Residual Fund, the Grants Revenue Fund, the Aviation Fund, and the Transportation Fund, all from certain or all City offices, departments, boards and commissions; to: the General Fund, the Water Fund, the Water Residual Fund, the Aviation Fund and the Transportation Fund, all to certain or all City offices, departments, boards and commissions.

251065**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Gauthier for Council President Johnson

An Ordinance amending Bill No. 250568 (approved June 13, 2025), entitled “An Ordinance Authorizing and approving the execution and delivery of a Service Agreement between The City of Philadelphia and the Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority relating to the financing of a Housing Opportunities Made Easy (H.O.M.E.) Plan which includes housing production and preservation, home affordability, home owner and renter assistance, related contractor training and support, blight and vacant property reduction, urban beautification, neighborhood infrastructure, and other related programs; approving the issuance by the Authority of bonds, notes or other evidences of indebtedness (including reimbursement obligations related to lines or letters of credit) in one or more series to finance or refinance such plan and authorizing and approving the obligation of The City of Philadelphia to pay in full when due the Service Fee and other amounts payable under the Service Agreement; authorizing certain City officers to take certain actions required to issue such bonds, notes or other evidences of indebtedness; covenanting that The City of Philadelphia will make necessary appropriations in each of the City’s fiscal years to provide for, and will make timely payments of, the Service Fee and other amounts due under the Service Agreement; requiring an annual program statement and budget to be approved by Council, and other requirements; and authorizing and approving the Director of Finance of the City and other City officials to take other necessary or appropriate actions to effectuate the purposes of this ordinance; all under certain terms and conditions,” in order to expand on the H.O.M.E programs and provide further process concerning spending, all under certain terms and conditions.