

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Thursday, November 14, 2013
9:30 a.m.

PRESENT:

COUNCIL PRESIDENT DARRELL L. CLARKE
COUNCILWOMAN CINDY BASS
COUNCILWOMAN JANNIE BLACKWELL
COUNCILMAN W. WILSON GOODE, JR.
COUNCILMAN BILL GREEN
COUNCILMAN WILLIAM K. GREENLEE
COUNCILMAN BOBBY HENON
COUNCILMAN KENYATTA JOHNSON
COUNCILMAN CURTIS JONES, JR.
COUNCILMAN JAMES KENNEY
COUNCILMAN DENNIS O'BRIEN
COUNCILMAN DAVID OH
COUNCILWOMAN MARIA D. QUINONES-SANCHEZ
COUNCILMAN MARK SQUILLA

RESOLUTIONS 130751, 130752, 130824, 130827,
130828, and 130829

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COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good

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morning. We're going to start now.

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Good morning. We have

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established a quorum. This is the

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Philadelphia City Council Committee of

7

the Whole.

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Today, the Committee will

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consider the following resolutions

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related to appointments to the Ethics

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Board and the boards of the City Avenue

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and Germantown Special Services

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Districts. They will be Resolutions

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130751, 130752, 130824, 130827, 130828,

15

and 130829.

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Mr. Christmas, please read the

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title of the resolutions.

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THE CLERK: Resolution 130751,

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reappointing Michael Woodward to the

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Board of Directors of the City Avenue

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Special Services District of Philadelphia

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and Lower Merion.

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Resolution 130752, reappointing

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Gary Brandeis to the Board of Directors

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of the City Avenue Special Services

1 11/14/13 - WHOLE - RES. 130751, etc.
2 District of Philadelphia and Lower
3 Merion.

4 Resolution 130824, confirming
5 the reappointment of Sanjuanita Gonzalez
6 as a member of the Board of Ethics, to
7 serve in the term ending November 16,
8 2018; and

9 Resolution 130827, appointing
10 Dr. Francine Fulton to the Board of
11 Directors of the Germantown Special
12 Services District of Philadelphia; and

13 Resolution 130828, appointing
14 Ingrid R. Shephard to the Board of
15 Directors of the Germantown Special
16 Services District of Philadelphia; and

17 Finally, Resolution 130829,
18 appointing Cornelia Swinson to the Board
19 of Directors of the Germantown Special
20 Services District of Philadelphia.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
22 Thank you, Mr. Christmas.

23 First I would like to welcome
24 all appointees today to the Committee of
25 the Whole. Is there any of the

1 11/14/13 - WHOLE - RES. 130751, etc.

2 appointees here today?

3 Ms. Gonzalez, would you like to
4 come forward and testify briefly.

5 MS. GONZALEZ: Thank you.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good
7 morning.

8 (Witness approached witness
9 table.)

10 MS. GONZALEZ: Good morning.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good
12 morning.

13 MS. GONZALEZ: Council
14 President Clarke, members of City
15 Council, my name is Sanjuanita Gonzalez
16 and I am pleased to appear before you
17 this morning. I'm an attorney and the
18 Managing Partner of Cohen, Fluhr,
19 Gonzalez and Pinillos, a law firm in
20 Philadelphia that concentrates its
21 practice in the areas of immigration and
22 social security disability.

23 First, I want to thank City
24 Council for the opportunity to testify
25 before you today, and I want to thank

1 11/14/13 - WHOLE - RES. 130751, etc.
2 Mayor Nutter for renominating me to the
3 Philadelphia Board of Ethics. I was
4 initially nominated by Mayor Nutter and
5 confirmed by City Council to serve on the
6 Board of Ethics at the end of 2010. I
7 have been honored to serve the City of
8 Philadelphia as an Ethics Board member
9 for three years. My service has taught
10 me the importance of the Board's work to
11 the City, and I would be proud to
12 continue to serve.

13 For those of you who do not
14 know me, I would like to briefly describe
15 my background. I believe my life, work,
16 and educational experiences are a large
17 part of the reason I am able to serve
18 this city well as a member of the Board
19 of Ethics.

20 In the early 1950s, my parents,
21 my sister, and my three brothers
22 immigrated to the United States from
23 Mexico. I was the first in my family
24 born in the United States and I was
25 raised in Laredo, Texas, a small border

1 11/14/13 - WHOLE - RES. 130751, etc.
2 town with Mexico. My brothers proudly
3 served in the United States Army, and
4 they were deployed overseas at the same
5 time. One was in Vietnam, one in
6 Thailand, and the other in Korea. My
7 parents were very hardworking people with
8 a limited education, but they instilled
9 in us good values. I learned that
10 honesty, one's reputation, and hard work
11 are very important.

12 I earned my Bachelor's Degree
13 in Social Work from Texas Woman's
14 University. Subsequently, I moved to
15 Puerto Rico where I worked with troubled
16 youths as a social worker. I returned to
17 the continental United States and
18 completed a Master's Degree in Criminal
19 Justice from John Jay College of Criminal
20 Justice in New York City. After an
21 intensive internship with the New York
22 City Police Department, I decided to go
23 to law school, and I graduated from
24 Rutgers Law School in Newark, New Jersey.
25 While attending law school, I supported

1 11/14/13 - WHOLE - RES. 130751, etc.
2 myself, working as a social worker in a
3 non-profit organization and as an adjunct
4 professor at Seton Hall University and
5 Essex County Community College.

6 In 1981, soon after graduating
7 from law school, I came to live in
8 Philadelphia, and I have lived and worked
9 in this area ever since. For a brief
10 period of time, I lived in Bala Cynwyd.
11 I am now back to Philadelphia. I'm in
12 the Roxborough section of Philadelphia.

13 I have been practicing social
14 security disability and immigration law
15 for many years. During my career as an
16 attorney, I have been involved in
17 community as well as professional
18 organizations in Philadelphia. I served
19 as President of the Board of Concilio,
20 the oldest Latino community-based
21 organization in Pennsylvania. In that
22 role, I faced many challenging times, and
23 I sought and received the assistance of
24 some of our elected officials and
25 government agencies to ensure the

1 11/14/13 - WHOLE - RES. 130751, etc.
2 survival of the organization. I was the
3 first appointed member of the Board of
4 Governors of the Philadelphia Bar
5 Association and have also served as Vice
6 President to the Hispanic Bar Association
7 of Pennsylvania.

8 Currently, I serve as Co-Chair
9 of the Social Security Disability
10 Committee of the Philadelphia Bar
11 Association after being appointed by the
12 last six Chancellors. I have also
13 presented at national conferences to my
14 colleagues on ethics. I believe that my
15 values and my diverse experience
16 continues to make me a good Ethics Board
17 candidate.

18 I would like to take this
19 opportunity to talk a little about my
20 experience serving on the Ethics Board.
21 I have found my service to the City as a
22 member of the Board of Ethics to be among
23 the most satisfying community service
24 experiences that I have had. My fellow
25 Board members, whom you have confirmed,

1 11/14/13 - WHOLE - RES. 130751, etc.
2 bring a richness of perspectives to the
3 Board's work, and all the Board members
4 are strongly committed to the Board's
5 mission of promoting integrity in City
6 government. The Board's deliberations on
7 the matters before us are invigorating
8 and always involve thoughtful
9 consideration and probing analysis.

10 As you know, the Board of
11 Ethics administers the City's ethics,
12 campaign finance, financial disclosure,
13 and lobbying laws, collectively called
14 the Public Integrity Laws. A major goal
15 of the Board is to provide education and
16 guidance concerning these laws.

17 During my tenure on the Board,
18 I am pleased that we have had a major
19 emphasis on providing guidance, because
20 good guidance is key to achieving ethical
21 compliance and integrity in City
22 government. I am proud that we have
23 increased and improved training on these
24 laws in order to help alleviate confusion
25 and to assist City officials, employees,

1 11/14/13 - WHOLE - RES. 130751, etc.
2 and candidates in complying with the
3 Public Integrity Laws.

4 As another example of practical
5 guidance, we proactively send hundreds of
6 timely reminders to the regulated
7 community subject to the campaign
8 finance, financial disclosure, and
9 lobbying laws. Each of the Board's
10 recent regulations has also taken a step
11 towards making the City's public
12 integrity laws plainer and clearer.

13 In addition, during my time,
14 the Board has taken on administration of
15 the entirely new City lobbying laws.
16 Rather than allowing lobbying disclosure
17 to be delayed, the Board has created and
18 implemented an interim paper reporting
19 system and made reports available to the
20 public on our website to temporarily
21 fulfill the law's disclosure mandates
22 until the online reporting system is
23 completed.

24 In closing, I believe that the
25 Philadelphia Board of Ethics serves a

1 11/14/13 - WHOLE - RES. 130751, etc.
2 vital role by promoting the public's
3 trust in its government. I am confident
4 that I can remain an effective Ethics
5 Board member and work to maintain
6 integrity in our government while
7 ensuring that it is done in a fair
8 manner.

9 Once again, I want to thank
10 Mayor Nutter and City Council for
11 permitting me to serve the City of
12 Philadelphia, which I have called home
13 for more than three decades. I hope that
14 I will have the opportunity to continue
15 to do so.

16 I would be happy to respond to
17 any questions you might have.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
19 Thank you very much.

20 Are there any questions for
21 this witness from members of the
22 Committee?

23 (No response.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
25 There being none, thank you very much for

1 11/14/13 - WHOLE - RES. 130751, etc.
2 your testimony.

3 MS. GONZALEZ: Thank you.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
5 Thank you for your years of service.

6 MS. GONZALEZ: Thank you.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: This
8 concludes our witness list for today. We
9 will now move from the public hearing
10 into the public meeting.

11 The Chair recognizes Councilman
12 Jones for a motion on the six
13 resolutions.

14 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
15 Mr. President. I move that Resolution
16 Nos. 130751, 130752, 130824, 130827,
17 130828, and 130829 be reported from this
18 committee with a favorable
19 recommendation.

20 (Duly seconded.)

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
22 Thank you. It has been moved and
23 properly seconded that Resolutions No.
24 130751, 130752, 130824, 130827, 130828,
25 and 130829 be reported from this

1 11/14/13 - WHOLE - RES. 130751, etc.
2 committee with a favorable
3 recommendation.

4 All those in favor say aye.
5 (Aye.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

7 Those opposed?

8 (No response.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
10 ayes have it and the motion carries.
11 Resolution 130751, 130752, 130824,
12 130827, 130828, and 130829 will be
13 reported from this committee with a
14 favorable recommendation.

15 Thank you all very much. This
16 concludes the public meeting today.

17 (Committee of the Whole
18 concluded at 9:40 a.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the
proceedings, evidence and objections are
contained fully and accurately in the
stenographic notes taken by me upon the
foregoing matter, and that this is a true and
correct transcript of same.

MICHELE L. MURPHY
RPR-Notary Public

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direct control and/or supervision of the
certifying reporter.)

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