

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
STATED MEETING

Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Thursday, February 29, 2024
10:00 a.m.

PRESENT:

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

ELIZABETH MCCOLLUM-NAZARIO, INTERIM CHIEF CLERK

- - -

1 2/29/24 - STATED - INVOCATION

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

3 Good morning, everyone. Good
4 morning, everyone.

5 (Good morning.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

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

9 Council will now come to order.

10 Members will take your seats.

11 Visitors will retire to their seats
12 outside the rails. Before

13 proceeding, I'd like to ask that
14 all those present to please set
15 your cell phones to silent or
16 vibrate. Thank you.

17 All of us in Philadelphia
18 City Council extend our deepest
19 condolences in the recent passing
20 of our esteemed colleague Council
21 Chief Clerk Michael Decker. I want
22 to ask everyone to stand so we can
23 have a moment of silence in his
24 memory.

25 (Moment of silence.)

1 2/29/24 - STATED - INVOCATION

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

3 Thank you. Council Chief Clerk

4 Michael Decker has dedicated

5 service spanning over 36 years in

6 City Council and has left an

7 indelible mark on our city.

8 Michael was a diligent public

9 servant and a cornerstone in City

10 Council.

11 His commitment and

12 invaluable contribution to the

13 efficient functioning of our

14 legislative body will be remembered

15 with gratitude and respect. He

16 became Chief Clerk starting in

17 September of 2009 under the late

18 Council President Anna Verna. He

19 served under three Council

20 Presidents, Anna Verna, former

21 Council President Darrell Clarke

22 and myself until his passing. Our

23 thoughts and prayers are with

24 Michael's family, friends and

25 colleagues.

1 2/29/24 - STATED - INVOCATION

2 Michael will be laid to
3 rest tomorrow March 1st and we
4 share in the sorrow of his loss and
5 will forever cherish the memories
6 of his unwavering dedication to the
7 betterment of Philadelphia.

8 I would like to thank
9 Elizabeth McCollum for her
10 willingness to serve as Interim
11 Chief Clerk during our transition.

12 At this moment I will ask
13 for Father Mark Kunigonis, Pastor
14 of the St. John Cantius Catholic
15 Church. He is here today as the
16 guest of Councilmember Driscoll. I
17 will ask for all members and guests
18 to please rise. And I want to also
19 thank Pastor Mark for also doing a
20 special prayer for our beloved
21 Chief Clerk Mike Decker.

22 PASTOR KUNIGONIS: Thank
23 you very much for having me here
24 today. I thank Councilman Driscoll
25 for inviting me, and I bring

1 2/29/24 - STATED - INVOCATION

2 greetings from my parish of
3 St. John Cantius and the citizens
4 of Bridesburg.

5 Our prayer this morning is
6 dedicated to Michael Decker and his
7 memory and his soul.

8 Let us pray.

9 God of power and might,
10 wisdom and justice, through you
11 authority is rightly administered.
12 Laws are enacted and judgment is
13 decreed. We come to you today
14 asking for your guidance, your
15 wisdom and your support as you
16 begin this City Council session.

17 Assist with your spirit of
18 Council and fortitude, these
19 Councilmembers of the City of
20 Philadelphia. Unite our lawmakers
21 beyond the personal agendas,
22 fostering wisdom and understanding
23 for the betterment of our city.
24 May they always seek the ways of
25 righteousness, justice and mercy.

1 2/29/24 - STATED - INVOCATION

2 Grant that they may be enabled by
3 your powerful protection to lead
4 our city with honesty and with
5 integrity.

6 Let the (inaudible) of this
7 governing body stir thought-
8 provoking ideas that positively
9 shape our local government. As we
10 embark on this journey, may your
11 guiding hand be evident in every
12 decision made, grant us
13 steadfastness and respect for
14 diversity as we serve together for
15 community development. We pray
16 this as we pray all prayer through
17 Christ our Lord.

18 Amen.

19 (Amen.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

21 The Chair thanks the Pastor's
22 invocation.

23 Council will now be at
24 ease.

25 (Council at ease.)

1 2/29/24 - STATED - APPROVAL OF JOURNAL

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

3 The next order of business is the
4 approval of Journal of the meeting
5 of Thursday, February 15th of 2024.

6 The Chair recognizes
7 Councilmember Bass.

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

10 I move that the Journal of
11 the meeting of Thursday, February
12 15, 2024 be approved.

13 (Duly seconded.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

15 It has been moved and properly
16 seconded that the Journal of the
17 meeting on Thursday, February 15th
18 of 2024 stand approved.

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

21 (Aye.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

23 Those opposed?

24 (No response.)

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

1 2/29/24 - STATED - LEAVES

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

4 The next order of business
5 is request for leave of absences.

6 And the Chair recognizes
7 Councilmember Katherine Gilmore
8 Richardson.

9 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

10 RICHARDSON: Thank you,
11 Mr. President.

12 On behalf of the Majority,
13 there are no requests for leaves of
14 absence today.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
16 Thank you.

17 The Chair recognizes
18 Councilmember Kendra Brooks.

19 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: Thank
20 you, Council President.

21 On behalf of the Minority,
22 there are no requests for leaves of
23 absence today.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
25 Thank you very much.

1 2/29/24 - STATED - MOTION CONCERNING CALENDAR

2 The Chair now recognizes
3 Councilmember Katherine Gilmore
4 Richardson for a motion concerning
5 certain legislative matters that
6 may arise during the course of
7 today's session of Council that
8 were not listed on the Calendar
9 circulated prior to today's
10 session.

11 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

12 RICHARDSON: Thank you,
13 Mr. President.

14 I move that any of the
15 matters, if considered today, may
16 be added to the agenda to this
17 session of Council and as required
18 by law, subsequently published on
19 an amended agenda after the
20 consideration of those matters:
21 resolutions authorizing hearings,
22 amendments to bills on first
23 reading, the reconsideration of a
24 bill vetoed by or recalled from the
25 Mayor, amendments to bills recalled

1 2/29/24 - STATED - MOTION CONCERNING CALENDAR

2 from the Mayor, resolutions taking
3 substantive action to be voted on
4 this session, a motion to withdraw
5 a bill or resolution that is not on
6 the Calendar and a motion placing a
7 bill or resolution on or returning
8 a bill or resolution from the
9 Suspension Calendar that is not
10 listed on today's Calendar.

11 The purpose of this motion
12 is to provide the public with
13 notice concerning possible actions
14 by Council that arose too late to
15 be included on the Calendar that
16 was published prior to today's
17 session.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

19 Is there a second?

20 (Duly seconded.)

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

22 It has been moved and properly
23 seconded that the legislative
24 matters stated by Councilmember
25 Katherine Gilmore Richardson may be

1 2/29/24 - STATED - MOTION CONCERNING CALENDAR
2 added to the agenda for today
3 should those matters arise during
4 the course of this session of
5 Council.

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

8 (Aye.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
10 Those opposed?

11 (No response.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
13 The ayes have it and the motion
14 carries.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
16 The Chair will dispense with the
17 regular order of business to
18 recognize the guests and visitors
19 joining us in the chambers this
20 morning.

21 On behalf of all members of
22 City Council, I welcome you to our
23 Council session. We appreciate you
24 taking the time to join us as we
25 attend the legislative affairs of

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 our great city. We certainly
3 invite you to come again.

4 At this time, the Chair
5 recognizes Councilmember Cindy Bass
6 who will present a resolution
7 honoring Renee Chenault-Fattah for
8 her unwavering dedication and
9 commitment to excellence throughout
10 her esteemed career.

11 Would Renee Chenault-Fattah
12 and those accompanying her please
13 join the Councilmember at the
14 podium.

15 (Councilmembers and guests
16 approached podium.)

17 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Well,
18 good morning, good morning, good
19 morning.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
21 Councilmember, before you start
22 your presentation, the
23 Councilmember will be joined by
24 Councilmember Kendra Brooks,
25 Majority Leader Katherine Gilmore

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 Richardson, Councilmember Jamie

3 Gauthier, Councilmember Quetcy

4 Lozada, Councilmember Rue Landau

5 and Councilmember Nina Ahmad.

6 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank
7 you, Mr. President.

8 And I want to start again.

9 Good morning, everyone.

10 (Good morning.)

11 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: We also
12 want to invite anyone who is a part
13 of Renee's village as a member of
14 the Links who is in journalism or
15 any of the many other areas that
16 Renee is being recognized for today
17 to please feel free to join us this
18 morning.

19 And as we gather here today
20 to honor Renee, we stand at the
21 intersection of two significant
22 observances, Black History Month
23 and Women's History Month. This is
24 the perfect time to reflect on the
25 profound contributions of Black

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS
2 women throughout history whose
3 resilience, courage and brilliance
4 have shaped our world in numerous
5 ways, from being broadcast as a
6 reporter to serving as leadership
7 of numerous organizations to
8 practicing law.

9 Today we come together to
10 honor and celebrate the
11 achievements of one remarkable
12 woman Renee Chenault-Fattah.

13 (Applause.)

14 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Her
15 impact transcends boundaries and
16 inspires us all. In recognizing
17 her accomplishments, we not only
18 pay tribute to her individual
19 journey but also acknowledge the
20 countless narratives of strength,
21 leadership and excellence within
22 the community of Black women.

23 And I do want to say this
24 morning as I was driving in, on the
25 radio I heard a song and it really

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS
2 crystallized this moment for me.
3 And it was from Teddy Pendergrass
4 and it was "Somebody Told Me to
5 Deliver This Message." And I
6 thought about journalism and how
7 important it is to not just get the
8 story, but to get the story right
9 and also to have diversity in that
10 newsroom.

11 So I want to take -- this
12 is an opportunity to say on behalf
13 of all of us that we thank you,
14 Renee, for all of your
15 contributions to journalism here in
16 Philadelphia and moving the City
17 forward.

18 So that being said, whereas
19 an American journalist and former
20 co-anchor of the WCAU NBC10 News,
21 Renee Chenault-Fattah has served
22 three decades proven to be a beacon
23 of journalistic integrity. With
24 ease, she illuminated the stories
25 of our communities with compassion,

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 insight and professionalism; and

3 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

4 RICHARDSON: Whereas Renee

5 Chenault-Fattah has demonstrated

6 leadership, bringing her

7 perspective to each story while

8 simultaneously embodying

9 objectivity. She is an inspiration

10 to her colleagues and viewers

11 alike.

12 Earning a Master's of Arts

13 in Journalism from the University

14 of Missouri, after a few years

15 co-anchoring the news broadcast,

16 she was promoted to the 4:00 p.m.,

17 6:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. news where

18 she spent her next eight years

19 co-anchoring; and

20 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:

21 Whereas through film, Renee

22 Chenault-Fattah has helped to voice

23 those who have been impacted by

24 dementia, directing a documentary

25 entitled "In Our Right Mind:

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 Alzheimer's and Other Dementias'

3 Impact In Communities of Color," in

4 which she bravely showcased her own

5 journey with her aunt who suffered

6 from the disorder; and

7 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:

8 Whereas Renee Chenault-Fattah

9 undoubtedly left a unique mark

10 throughout her journey. She has

11 shown intelligence and grace under

12 pressure and continues to look in

13 the direction of other's lives with

14 interest and stories that impact

15 women as well as health disparities

16 because of racial and economic

17 inequality.

18 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA:

19 Whereas Renee Chenault-Fattah has

20 spoken before universities,

21 audiences, church congregations and

22 civic organizations about the

23 issues concerning health disparity

24 law, education and ethics, and

25 currently serves as a trustee of

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 John Hopkins University and a
3 former trustee of Springside
4 Chestnut Hill Academy, the
5 Philadelphia Museum of Art, the
6 Philadelphia Lawyers for Social
7 Equity, served on the Board of the
8 Philadelphia Zoo and a member of
9 the Penn Towne Links, Inc.; and

10 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:

11 Whereas Renee Chenault-Fattah's
12 most notable stories included
13 political conventions and the
14 school shooting massacre in
15 Litteton, Colorado, her hometown.
16 She was inducted into the Broadcast
17 Pioneers of Philadelphia Hall of
18 Fame in 2009; and

19 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS:

20 Whereas Renee Chenault-Fattah
21 earned her Bachelor's degree in
22 Political Science from John Hopkins
23 where she received the Black Alumni
24 President's Award and earned her
25 career in law by first graduating

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS
2 from the University of Pennsylvania
3 Law School, where she received an
4 alumni award of merit where working
5 at Hughes Hubbard & Reed in New
6 York City and clerking for the late
7 Judge Damon Keith on the United
8 States Court of Appeals for the
9 Sixth Circuit.

10 COUNCILWOMAN BASS:

11 Therefore by virtue of this
12 citation, the Council of the City
13 of Philadelphia hereby honors Renee
14 Chenault-Fattah for being an active
15 member of the community and an
16 inspiration to countless
17 individuals.

18 And I just want to add that
19 if this body, if the folks in this
20 building have really learned
21 nothing else in the last couple of
22 weeks, what we've learned is to
23 give our flowers to her friends
24 while they are here to smell them.
25 And so, it is with great honor and

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 pride that I'm able to recognize my
3 friend Renee Chenault-Fattah and
4 thank her for all of the work that
5 she's done on behalf of the City of
6 Philadelphia.

7 (Applause.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

9 Chair recognizes Renee Chenault-
10 Fattah for remarks.
11 Congratulations.

12 MS. CHENAULT-FATTAH: Thank
13 you. I am speechless, which is no
14 easy feat for somebody who is both
15 a lawyer and a journalist. I
16 always say the only people who like
17 to hear themselves talk more than
18 lawyers are journalists, and yet I
19 am struggling to find the words to
20 let you know how much this means to
21 me to be standing here with my
22 sisters, to see President Johnson,
23 to see, you know, I look out -- I
24 don't even know where to begin.
25 And this is dangerous because I

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 know you have a full agenda. But I
3 do want to say just a few words.

4 First, let me just start
5 off by saying to hear about the
6 passing of Mike Decker, because I
7 worked so many years in journalism,
8 I know how important he was to this
9 institution and what a loss it is,
10 so it breaks my heart to hear that
11 loss.

12 My heart is full today. I
13 struggle to find the words in part
14 because this recognition is coming
15 from City Council. I so admire and
16 respect the sacrifices that you all
17 make for this City. The fact that
18 you're public servants, that you
19 give them your time, because you
20 care and you love Philadelphia.

21 As you heard from this, I
22 felt like my life was flashing
23 before me. But, you know, I'm not
24 from Philadelphia. I was born in
25 Ohio. I grew up in Colorado. I

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 went to school in Baltimore. I
3 practiced law in New York and
4 Detroit.

5 When I went into T.V., I
6 got a journalism in /Missoura/,
7 because that's how they say it out
8 there. I worked in T.V. markets in
9 L.A. and Atlanta and New York and
10 New Jersey. And I say all that to
11 say that over all those years,
12 there is no city I loved more, no
13 place I would rather be than right
14 here in Philadelphia.

15 (Applause.)

16 MS. CHENAULT-FATTAH: And I
17 promise I'm not going to go on much
18 longer, but I do have to say I
19 really feel like I owe this City so
20 very much. Philadelphia gave me my
21 law degree -- well, no, no, I
22 earned that law degree at the
23 University of Pennsylvania Law
24 School. It just happened here.
25 But certainly, Philadelphia gave me

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 my career.

3 I can't tell you how
4 rewarding it is to walk down the
5 street or even this morning when
6 young people come up to me and say,
7 hey, I grew up watching you or they
8 were watching when I was pregnant
9 with my girls who are now 20 and
10 25, so that let's you know how long
11 ago it was, or people will remind
12 me of the fact, the time when I
13 fainted on the air covering the
14 Olympics in Atlanta. People don't
15 forget things. So you gave me my
16 career. Not just that career, but
17 I just finished Philadelphia
18 Lawyers Social for Equity. City
19 Council was so supportive and
20 instrumental.

21 Councilman Jones, thank you
22 so much for the support you gave
23 our organization in giving people
24 second chances. I was at Senior
25 Law Center. The amazing thing City

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 Council did supporting it.

3 Councilwoman Brooks, my
4 God, the things you do around
5 housing and tenants that support
6 our seniors.

7 (Applause.)

8 MS. CHENAULT-FATTAH: I can
9 go on and on. Like you said, I
10 mean you see I found my words. But
11 I owe this City. This is where I
12 met and married my husband. This
13 is where we raised our kids. My
14 parents, my God, after 40 years of
15 living in Colorado they moved here,
16 and they both -- this is their
17 final resting place here in
18 Philadelphia. So Philadelphia is
19 home.

20 And this has made me just
21 want to sort of rededicate myself
22 to helping however I can in this
23 amazing time when we're being lead
24 by this incredibly diverse City
25 Council, more diverse than ever and

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 diverse across the board, and being
3 led by a Mayor who, my God, my
4 girls can look at her and see
5 themselves in her.

6 This is an incredible time.

7 So thank you. I'm going to stop.

8 Like I said, I honestly found my
9 words and then some. Thank you
10 very much. This means more to me
11 than I can say, but I try. Thank
12 you. Thank you so very much.

13 (Applause.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

15 Council be at ease.

16 (Council at ease.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

18 At this time, the Chair recognizes
19 Councilmember Phillips who will
20 present a resolution recognizing
21 the 10th graders at Hill-Freedman
22 World Academy for being featured in
23 the HBO documentary Stand Up &
24 Shout: Songs from a Philly High
25 School.

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 Will Ezechial Thurman and
3 those accompanying him please join
4 the Councilmember at the podium.

5 (Councilmembers and guests
6 approached podium.)

7 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: Wow.
8 Hill-Freedman, welcome to City
9 Hall.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
11 The Councilmember is joined by
12 Councilmember Katherine Gilmore
13 Richardson, Councilmember Driscoll,
14 Councilmember Squilla,
15 Councilmember Jamie Gauthier.

16 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: All
17 right. As Hill-Freedman comes to
18 the rostrum, I just want to briefly
19 say that I am proud to say that in
20 a city where too often young people
21 have been noted as not being as
22 engaged, being as responsible, we
23 have a group of responsible young
24 people who are doing the right
25 thing thanks to the leadership of

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 their principal and their

3 outstanding music instructor

4 Mr. Thurman and Principal Majewski.

5 Thank you.

6 But I just want to briefly

7 say that I had the privilege to sit

8 through the concert that

9 Hill-Freedman World Academy did,

10 Stand Up & Shout last year. And

11 when I tell you y'all killed it,

12 y'all killed it. I mean, these

13 kids got energy and excitement and

14 talent.

15 So today we're going to

16 recognize them for not only doing

17 this incredible concert, but having

18 this incredible -- so incredible to

19 the point that HBO did a

20 documentary recognizing all their

21 musical talents, right. In

22 addition to that, this school

23 thanks to the support of Principal

24 Majewski and Mr. Thurman who leads

25 the initiative have world class

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 musical instruments as well as
3 other technology that allowed these
4 young people to flourish.

5 So I want to say that today
6 we are pleased to support and
7 celebrate all of your artistic and
8 creative endeavors. And I'm happy
9 that we're able to present you to
10 the City of Philadelphia all the
11 way from Mt. Airy 19150 and we're
12 beyond excited to say thank you all
13 so much. So we're going to kick it
14 off. Afterwards Principal Ma --
15 Mr. Thurman is going to give some
16 remarks about what you all have
17 done, but I just want to say we're
18 so proud of y'all.

19 (Applause.)

20 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: All
21 right. So today's resolution we're
22 recognizing -- today we'll start
23 off with our resolution which will
24 be followed by other
25 Councilmembers. We're recognizing

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS
2 the 10th graders at Hill-Freedman
3 World Academy for being featured in
4 the HBO -- oh, 10th to 12th right,
5 there we go. We're recognizing the
6 entire Hill-Freedman World Academy
7 for being featured in the HBO
8 documentary Stand Up & Shout:
9 Songs from a Philly high School,
10 whereas the City of Philadelphia is
11 pleased and proud to support and
12 celebrate the artistic and creative
13 endeavors of young Philadelphians,
14 and whereas students at
15 Hill-Freedman World Academy have
16 demonstrated an impressive talent
17 for songwriting and the musicship.

18 The music they have written
19 and produced beautifully portrays
20 their nuance experiences as
21 Philadelphia youth.

22 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE
23 RICHARDSON: And whereas their
24 laudable musical undertaking is
25 featured in the HBO documentary

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 Stand Up & Shout: Songs from a
3 Philly High School. Their
4 documentary underscores the
5 importance of their artistic
6 expression and highlights all their
7 inspiring musical creations, and
8 whereas the students' immense
9 success so early in their musical
10 careers demonstrates the importance
11 of adequately funding artistic
12 outlets for students in and out of
13 academic settings; and

14 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA:

15 Whereas in all that the students of
16 Hill-Freedman World Academy have
17 done, they have furthered the
18 progress of our City of
19 Philadelphia who through dedication
20 and excellence contribute in a
21 meaningful way to the well-being of
22 their communities through music,
23 art and film are integral to the
24 functioning wholesomeness of the
25 vibrance of our city, as such the

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 students of Hill-Freedman World

3 Academy are much appreciated; and

4 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:

5 Whereas the Council of the City of

6 Philadelphia does hereby extend its

7 sincere gratitude to the students

8 of Hill-Freedman World Academy for

9 their extraordinary contributions

10 through our communities. We wish

11 them success in the days ahead and

12 extend the sincere respect and

13 admiration of this legislative

14 body. Therefore be it --

15 COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL:

16 Resolve that the Council of the

17 City of Philadelphia recognizes the

18 10th graders at Hill-Freedman World

19 Academy, 10th through 12th, for

20 being featured in the HBO

21 documentary Stand Up & Shout:

22 Songs from a Philadelphia High

23 School.

24 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS:

25 Further resolve that an embossed

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS
2 copy be presented to the students
3 of Hill-Freedman World Academy,
4 further evidencing the sincere
5 admiration and respect of this
6 legislative body.

7 (Applause.)

8 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: So we
9 will -- just before we -- oh, yes.
10 I just want to say thank you all
11 for making this happen, the
12 Chairman of Education, I'm the
13 Vice-Chair of Education, Isaiah
14 Thomas, these are the things that
15 we want to see more of in the City
16 of Philadelphia.

17 So you guys are doing the
18 work. Continue to do it. I love
19 y'all. Continue to press forward
20 and continue to make not only the
21 9th District proud, but the entire
22 City of Philadelphia proud.

23 (Applause.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
25 The Chair recognizes Ezechial

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 Thurman for remarks.

3 MR. THURMAN: Thank you.

4 On behalf of the Hill-Freedman

5 World Academy school community,

6 we'd like to thank Councilmember

7 Phillips and all the Councilmembers

8 here, of course Council President

9 Johnson for this great honor for

10 our amazing 12th grade students.

11 They were 10th graders when

12 the film was documented, but we

13 want to be really clear, we're so

14 proud of these students. An

15 example, Hill-Freedman's program is

16 very unique in that it's not a

17 music class. It's everyone in the

18 10th grade makes a record whether

19 they love music or not.

20 And so, we have this

21 amazing journey of writing songs,

22 creating music, publishing an

23 album. And HBO, executive produced

24 by John Legend jumped in for a

25 year-and-a-half filming in the

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS
2 classroom to make Stand Up & Shout.
3 We do want to also
4 acknowledge while we're in this
5 hollowed building Mayor Parker.
6 She's been a huge advocate support
7 of our program. She's been on
8 albums and recordings with students
9 in videos and actually helped
10 support the program. And of course
11 her Chief of Staff, my better half
12 Tiffany Thurman.
13 But these students
14 certainly stand alone for their
15 talents and abilities. And we
16 encourage everyone in the room if
17 you have Max, please see the
18 documentary. It's up and it's
19 streaming worldwide, feedback
20 coming from Europe, all around.
21 People can't believe the amazing
22 work that our Hill-Freedman
23 students in Philly, high school
24 students are doing leading
25 innovation and change in education.

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 Huge village around the
3 students. Got to give some credit,
4 thank you to of course our school
5 community. Working in public
6 schools takes a deep, deep
7 commitment with lots of hard labor.
8 So first, to our innovative strong
9 leader, the head of school,
10 Principal Majewski. Let's give it
11 up for him.

12 (Applause.)

13 MR. THURMAN: We got to
14 thank Hill-Freedman teachers and
15 all teachers, thank you for the 5
16 percent bump yesterday by the way
17 everyone who was a part of that.
18 We appreciate it. And we want to
19 thank our staff. We're there
20 day-in and day-out laboring and
21 supporting students. Also, of
22 course Dr. Watlington, our
23 Assistant Superintendent James
24 Gordon and all the District-level
25 staff that supports students every

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 day.

3 We had to go outside the
4 District to do this one because
5 it's so outside the box and
6 different so we had to rely on
7 nonprofit support. And we were
8 very blessed to find some partners
9 that had deep pockets. And I just
10 want to say we can never overspend
11 on amazing students who have the
12 future in their hands.

13 (Applause.)

14 MR. THURMAN: And with the
15 last two seconds that I have, we
16 need to acknowledge Hal Real from
17 World Cafe Live, the founder and
18 president of that venue, have spent
19 hundreds of thousands of dollars
20 over a seven-year span investing
21 into this program, providing his
22 contacts, his connections and his
23 artists, including some really
24 prominent ones that are featured in
25 the film.

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 Our teaching artists staff
3 at Hill-Freedman, I want to
4 acknowledge Kristal Tytewriter
5 Oliver, I want to acknowledge
6 Andrew Lipke and Bethlehem Roberson
7 who you'll see in the film when you
8 check it out. Also, Hal Real was
9 joined by David Bradley who is the
10 head of their Education Division,
11 and these folks poured into our
12 students.

13 We also have been partnered
14 by Elevate 215 and Spring Point,
15 and I mean big numbers, not a
16 little small amount but large
17 amounts of money. We want to
18 acknowledge them. Finally, HBO and
19 John Legend. In addition to making
20 the film, John Legend has donated
21 along with his partners Mike
22 Jackson and Ty Stiklorius, they
23 donated 100k to the Hill-Freedman
24 records program to help keep it
25 moving forward. Can we give it up

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS
2 for John Legend and his colleagues
3 Mike Jackson and Ty Stiklorius.

4 (Applause.)

5 MR. THURMAN: We want to
6 thank Amy Schatz. She's the award-
7 winning director from HBO that saw
8 this, heard it and decided to tell
9 the story worldwide. What an
10 exciting thing for our school, for
11 our students. And most recently, a
12 really famous Philadelphian, a guy
13 named Jordan Mailata, who's been in
14 our studio and recorded with our
15 students and he just donated
16 another 100,000 to our program. We
17 wanted to acknowledge him publicly
18 and thank him.

19 (Applause.)

20 MR. THURMAN: I know I'm
21 over time. Thank you again,
22 Council. Thank you, everyone.
23 Thank you, students. We are so
24 honored to have you with us and God
25 bless.

1 2/29/24 - STATED - COMMUNICATIONS

2 (Applause.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

4 Council will be at ease.

5 (Council at ease.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

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

12 The Chief Clerk will read
13 the messages from the Mayor and any
14 other communications in her
15 possession.

16 CHIEF CLERK: To the
17 President and members of the
18 Council of the City of
19 Philadelphia, I am transmitting for
20 the consideration of your Honorable
21 Body a resolution authorizing the
22 Commissioner of Public Property to
23 execute and deliver to the
24 Philadelphia Redevelopment
25 Authority deeds conveying fee

1 2/29/24 - STATED - COMMUNICATIONS

2 simple title to 214 North 5th

3 Street in the 7th Councilmanic

4 District in the City of

5 Philadelphia; and

6 A resolution appointing

7 James Aros, Jr. to the position of

8 Chief Assessment Officer of the

9 Office of Property Assessment; and

10 An ordinance amending Title

11 9 Regulation of Businesses, Trades

12 and Professions of The Philadelphia

13 Code to add a new chapter

14 concerning protections for

15 consumers against unfair methods of

16 competition and unfair or deceptive

17 acts or practices and providing

18 remedies; and

19 A resolution authorizing

20 the Commissioner of Public Property

21 to execute and deliver to the

22 Philadelphia Redevelopment

23 Authority deeds conveying fees

24 simple title to 2903, 2907 and 2925

25 Cecil B. Moore Avenue in the 5th

1 2/29/24 - STATED - COMMUNICATIONS

2 Councilmanic District in the City
3 of Philadelphia; and

4 A resolution authorizing
5 the Commissioner of Public Property
6 to execute and deliver to the
7 Philadelphia Redevelopment

8 Authority deeds conveying fee
9 simple title to 5307 Market Street
10 and 723 North Sedgwick Street in
11 the 3rd Councilmanic District of
12 the City of Philadelphia; and

13 A resolution authorizing
14 the Commissioner of Public Property
15 to execute and deliver to the
16 Philadelphia Redevelopment

17 Authority deeds conveying fee
18 simple title to 61, 65, 77, 23, 24,
19 44, 49, 51, 53, 55, 57, 67, 73, 78,
20 89, 93 and 106 Ashmead Street. 18,
21 34, 61, and 87 Collom Street, 69,
22 71, 89, 91, 93 and 95 East Wister
23 Street in the 8th Councilmanic
24 District in the City of
25 Philadelphia; and

1 2/29/24 - STATED - COMMUNICATIONS
2 A resolution approving the
3 5th Amendment of the redevelopment
4 proposal for the Tioga Urban
5 Renewal Area being the area
6 generally bounded by Hunting Park
7 Avenue on the north, Broad Street,
8 Germantown Avenue, Venango Street,
9 15th Street, Allegheny Avenue and
10 Germantown Avenue on the east,
11 Glenwood Avenue and Lehigh Avenue
12 on the south and 23rd Street,
13 Allegheny Avenue and 22nd Street on
14 the west, including the 5th
15 Amendment to the Urban Renewal
16 Plan, which provides for changes
17 that would make it consistent with
18 the Tioga Redevelopment Area Plan
19 and generally consistent with the
20 most recent comprehensive plan
21 approved by the City Planning
22 Commission of the City of
23 Philadelphia; and pursuant to
24 Sections 4-604 and 2-307 of the
25 Home Rule Charter, I am

1 2/29/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 transmitting to the Council the
3 recommendation of the City Planning
4 Commission on the following bills:
5 240012, 240020, 240063, 240064,
6 240065, 240066, 240086.

7 There are no further
8 communications in my possession,
9 Council President.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

11 Thank you. The message will be
12 printed in the Journal.

13 The next order of business
14 is the introduction of bills and
15 resolutions. The Chair recognizes
16 Councilmember Phillips.

17 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

18 Councilmember -- Council President,
19 I have one privileged resolution,
20 but just want to quickly say with
21 the privileged resolution, we have
22 the organization, the United States
23 of Pennsylvania Perelman School of
24 Medicine here recognizing
25 Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month,

1 2/29/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 so you all can please stand. So I
3 just want to say thank you.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
5 Will the Clerk please read the
6 title of the resolution.

7 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged
8 resolution recognizing March 2024
9 as Colorectal Awareness Month and
10 promoting the public awareness of
11 the risk of colon cancer.

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

15 The Chair recognizes
16 Katherine Gilmore Richardson.

17 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE
18 RICHARDSON: Good morning, Council
19 President.

20 Today I offer four
21 resolutions on your behalf; three
22 privileged and one non-privileged.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
24 Will the Clerk please read the
25 titles of the resolutions.

1 2/29/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 CHIEF CLERK: A

3 non-privileged resolution

4 authorizing the creation of the

5 Philadelphia Task Force on Food and

6 Insecurity to study and develop

7 proposals, strategies and

8 recommendations to alleviate hunger

9 and increase access to high quality

10 food in the City of Philadelphia.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

12 This resolution will be placed on

13 the Final Passage Calendar for

14 consideration at our next session

15 of Council.

16 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged

17 resolution honoring Kenneth E.

18 Lawrence, Jr. on his appointment as

19 Board Chair at the Southeastern

20 Transportation Authority and

21 recognizing Mr. Lawrence for his

22 dedication to improving transit

23 service across the SEPTA network.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

25 This resolution will be placed on

1 2/29/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 today's Final Passage Calendar.

3 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged

4 resolution congratulating the

5 Audenried High School Girls

6 Basketball Team for winning the

7 2024 Public League Championship.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

9 This resolution will be placed on

10 today's Final Passage Calendar.

11 CHIEF CLERK: And a

12 privileged resolution honoring the

13 Defender Association of

14 Philadelphia on the 90th

15 anniversary of the Association's

16 founding and recognizing the

17 contributions of the Association

18 and its attorneys to Philadelphia's

19 criminal justice system.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

21 This resolution will be placed on

22 today's Final Passage Calendar.

23 The Chair recognizes

24 Councilmember Jamie Gauthier.

25 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:

1 2/29/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 Thank you, Council President.

3 Today I offer three

4 resolutions; one privileged

5 resolution, one non-privileged

6 resolution and one non-privileged

7 resolution on your behalf.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

9 Thank you.

10 CHIEF CLERK: One

11 privileged resolution, honoring

12 Mr. Abdul-Rahim Muhammad on the

13 occasion of Black History Month for

14 his contributions to West

15 Philadelphia.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

17 This resolution will be placed on

18 today's Final Passage Calendar.

19 CHIEF CLERK: A

20 non-privileged resolution

21 appointing James Aros, Jr. to the

22 position of Chief Assessment

23 Officer of the Office of Property

24 Assessment.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

1 2/29/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 This resolution will be placed on
3 the Final Passage Calendar for
4 consideration at our next session
5 of Council.

6 CHIEF CLERK: And a
7 non-privileged authorizing the
8 Commissioner of Public Property to
9 execute and deliver to the
10 Philadelphia Redevelopment
11 Authority deeds conveying fee
12 simple title to 5307 Market Street
13 and 734 North Sedgwick Street in
14 the 3rd Councilmanic District.

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

20 The Chair recognizes
21 Councilmember Thomas.

22 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Good
23 morning, Council President. Good
24 morning, colleagues.

25 Today I offer two

1 2/29/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 resolutions.

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

6 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged
7 resolution honoring and
8 congratulating the Educator of the
9 Month, Elaine Estes, a Spanish
10 teacher at Furness High School who
11 recently participated at the U.S.
12 Olympic Trials as a marathon
13 runner.

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

17 CHIEF CLERK: And a
18 privileged resolution recognizing
19 the life and legacy of Baba Joe
20 Foster, a community leader in the
21 movement for African-centered
22 education in Philadelphia.

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

1 2/29/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 The Chair recognizes

3 Councilman Curtis Jones.

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

6 I offer one privileged
7 resolution.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
9 Will the Clerk please read the
10 title of the resolution.

11 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged
12 resolution recognizing and honoring
13 Dr. Jo-Elle Mogerman for her
14 leadership as the first female and
15 first Black Chief Executive Officer
16 and President of the Philadelphia
17 Zoo.

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

21 The Chair recognizes
22 Councilmember Rue Landau.

23 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU: Good
24 morning, Council President and
25 colleagues.

1 2/29/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 I offer today one bill and
3 two privileged resolutions.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

5 Will the Clerk please read the
6 titles of the bill and the
7 resolutions.

8 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
9 amending Title 9 Regulation of
10 Businesses, Trades and Professions
11 of The Philadelphia Code to add a
12 new chapter concerning protections
13 for consumers against unfair
14 methods of competition and unfair
15 or deceptive acts or practices and
16 providing remedies, all under
17 certain terms and conditions.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

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

21 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged
22 resolution recognizing and honoring
23 Joy Parham-Thomas for her impactful
24 contributions to a thriving Black
25 food culture in Philadelphia as a

1 2/29/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 chef, culinary educator and

3 advocate for food justice.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

5 This resolution will be placed on

6 today's Final Calendar.

7 CHIEF CLERK: And a

8 privileged resolution authorizing

9 Philadelphia City Council to

10 conduct hearings to investigate the

11 efficiency, implementation and

12 enhancement of the outdoor dining

13 program and improve opportunities

14 for restaurants to operate

15 streeteries and sidewalk cafés.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

17 This resolution will be placed on

18 today's Final Passage Calendar.

19 The Chair recognizes

20 Councilmember Jeffrey Jay Young.

21 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Thank

22 you, Mr. President.

23 Today I offer one bill and

24 one non-privileged resolution on

25 your behalf.

1 2/29/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

3 Thank you.

4 Will the Clerk please read
5 the titles of the bill and
6 resolution.

7 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
8 authorizing encroachments in the
9 nature of two new lightpoles and
10 three existing lightpoles in the
11 vicinity of the southeast and
12 northwest corners of John F.
13 Kennedy Boulevard and North Broad
14 Streets and the northeast corner of
15 John F. Kennedy Boulevard and North
16 Juniper Street, all under certain
17 terms and conditions.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
19 This bill will be referred to the
20 appropriate committee.

21 CHIEF CLERK: And a
22 non-privileged resolution
23 authorizing and ratifying the
24 designation of Councilmember
25 Jeffrey Young, Jr. as Council's

1 2/29/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 representative in connection with
3 an appeal of the decision of the
4 Zoning Board of Adjustment with
5 respect to 1451 North Broad Street
6 and all litigation related thereto.

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

12 The Chair recognizes
13 Councilmember Lozada.

14 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Good
15 morning, Council President.

16 I have no bills and no
17 resolutions this morning.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
19 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
20 Kendra Brooks.

21 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: Good
22 morning, Council President.

23 I have four privileged
24 resolutions to introduce today.

25 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution

1 2/29/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 honoring and recognizing the work
3 and accomplishments of Denise
4 Ripley, whose dedication to the
5 City to community service and to
6 the housing rights of all have
7 invigorated and supported civic
8 life in the City of Philadelphia.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

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

12 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged
13 resolution honoring and recognizing
14 Prudence Powell for her powerful
15 advocacy, lover for her community
16 and her inspiring work to keep
17 families and Philadelphia whole and
18 to provide sanctuary and stability
19 to all.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

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

23 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged
24 resolution honoring and recognizing
25 the life, work and accomplishments

1 2/29/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 of Rochelle Nichols-Solomon whose
3 dedication to serving, teaching and
4 advocating for students and
5 marginalized peoples has improved
6 the lives of people across the City
7 of Philadelphia.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

9 This resolution will be placed on
10 today's Final Passage Calendar.

11 CHIEF CLERK: And a
12 privileged resolution honoring and
13 recognizing the work and
14 accomplishments of the Stadium
15 Stompers whose dedication to
16 advocating for the North Phila --

17 (Applause.)

18 CHIEF CLERK: -- for the
19 North Philadelphia community and
20 for housing rights for all people
21 have helped secure neighborhood
22 stability for communities in the
23 City of Philadelphia.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

25 This resolution will be placed on

1 2/29/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 today's Final Passage Calendar.

3 The Chair recognizes Jim

4 Harrity.

5 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: I have

6 one bill today, Council President.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

8 Will the Clerk please read the

9 title of the bill.

10 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance

11 amending Chapters 11-203 and 11-204

12 of The Philadelphia Code to impose

13 penalties, applicants for failure

14 to comply with the terms of their

15 permit for the complete and

16 satisfactory replacement of the

17 permanent paving.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

19 This bill will be referred to the

20 appropriate committee.

21 The Chair recognizes

22 Councilmember Nicolas Nic O'Rourke.

23 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE:

24 Blessings, Council President.

25 I have no bills or

1 2/29/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 resolutions to introduce today.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
4 The Chair recognizes Councilman
5 Driscoll.

6 COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL:
7 Morning, Mr. President.

8 I offer one privileged
9 resolution today.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
11 Will the Clerk please read the
12 title of the resolution.

13 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged
14 resolution proclaiming the month of
15 March in 2024 as Irish Heritage
16 Month in the City of Philadelphia
17 and honoring the St. Patrick's Day
18 Observance Association of
19 Philadelphia.

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

23 The Chair recognizes
24 Councilman O'Neill.

25 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Thank

1 2/29/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 you, Mr. President.

3 I offer one privileged

4 resolution.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

6 Will the Clerk please read the

7 title of the resolution.

8 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged

9 resolution honoring and celebrating

10 the life and legacy of former Chief

11 Clerk Michael Andrew Decker, our

12 friend, colleague and dedicated

13 public servant.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

15 This resolution will be placed on

16 today's Final Passage Calendar.

17 The Chair recognizes

18 Councilmember Mark Squilla.

19 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Thank

20 you, Mr. President.

21 I offer three bills and two

22 non-privileged resolutions.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

24 Will the Clerk please read the

25 titles of the bills and

1 2/29/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 resolutions.

3 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
4 authorizing encroachments in the
5 nature of a sidewalk café in the
6 vicinity of 2401 East Norris
7 Street, all under certain terms and
8 conditions.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
10 This bill will be referred to the
11 appropriate committee.

12 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
13 authorizing Pat Olivieri d/b/a
14 Pat's King of Steaks to vend from a
15 location in the right-of-way
16 adjacent to Pat's Steaks location
17 in the vicinity of 9th and Wharton
18 Streets, under certain terms and
19 conditions.

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

23 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
24 authorizing Norris Street Holdings,
25 LLC, to install, own and maintain a

1 2/29/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 streetery in the right-of-way
3 adjacent to 2401 East Norris
4 Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
5 19125-2913, under certain terms and
6 conditions.

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

10 CHIEF CLERK: And a
11 non-privileged resolution also
12 naming Federal Street between 6th
13 and 7th Streets as Bob Pantano Way.

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

19 CHIEF CLERK: And a
20 non-privileged resolution also
21 naming Chestnut Street between 12th
22 and 13th Streets in the Gayborhood
23 as Michael Hinson Way to honor the
24 life and legacy of Philadelphia's
25 first appointed --

1 2/29/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 (Applause.)

3 CHIEF CLERK: -- liaison

4 within the City's LGBTQ+

5 communities.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

7 This resolution will be placed on

8 the Final Passage Calendar for the

9 next consideration at our next

10 session of Council.

11 The Chair recognizes

12 Councilmember Cindy Bass.

13 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank

14 you, Mr. President.

15 No bills or resolutions

16 this week.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

18 The Chair recognizes Councilmember

19 Nina Ahmad.

20 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD: Thank

21 you, Mr. President.

22 I offer one privileged

23 resolution.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

25 Will the Clerk please the title of

1 2/29/24 - STATED - REPORTS

2 the resolution.

3 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged
4 resolution celebrating the life and
5 honoring the memory of trailblazing
6 physician, researcher and
7 humanitarian Dr. Edith Peterson
8 Mitchell.

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

12 The next order of business
13 is reports from Committees. The
14 Chair recognizes Councilmember
15 Cindy Bass for a report from the
16 Committee on Rules.

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

19 The Committee on Rules
20 reports five bills with a favorable
21 recommendation.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
23 Thank you.

24 The Chief Clerk will please
25 read the reports.

1 2/29/24 - STATED - REPORTS

2 COUNCILWOMAN BASS:

3 Mr. President, I apologize.

4 Four -- Five.

5 CHIEF CLERK: Four or five?

6 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: I have
7 two scripts. One says four and one
8 says five.

9 CHIEF CLERK: It's four. I
10 apologize, Councilwoman.

11 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Okay.
12 We'll go with your number.

13 CHIEF CLERK: One was held.
14 I apologize.

15 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank
16 you. No problem. Thank you.

17 CHIEF CLERK: To the
18 President and members of the
19 Council of the City of
20 Philadelphia. The Committee on
21 Rules to which was referred Bill
22 No. 240020, entitled Amending Title
23 14 of The Philadelphia Code,
24 entitled "Zoning and Planning," all
25 under certain terms and conditions,

1 2/29/24 - STATED - REPORTS

2 respectfully reports it has
3 considered and amended the same and
4 returns the attached bill to
5 Council with a favorable
6 recommendation; and

7 The Committee on Rules to
8 which was referred Bill No. 240064,
9 entitled, To Amend the Philadelphia
10 Zoning Maps by changing the zoning
11 designations of certain areas of
12 land located within an area bounded
13 by Salmon Street, Ontario Street,
14 Richmond Street and Westmoreland
15 Street respectfully reports it has
16 considered the same and has
17 returned the attached bill to
18 Council with a favorable
19 recommendation; and

20 The Committee on Rules to
21 which was referred Bill No. 240065,
22 entitled To Amend the Philadelphia
23 Zoning Maps by changing the zoning
24 designations of certain areas of
25 land located within an area bounded

1 2/29/24 - STATED - REPORTS

2 by Holme Avenue, Academy Road and
3 Willits Road, respectfully reports
4 it has considered the same and
5 returns the attached bill to
6 Council with a favorable
7 recommendation; and

8 The Committee on Rules to
9 which was referred Bill No. 240066,
10 entitled To Amend the Philadelphia
11 Zoning Maps by changing the zoning
12 designations of certain areas of
13 land located within an area bounded
14 by Wood Street, 4th Street, Vine
15 Street and Lawrence Street,
16 respectfully reports it has
17 considered the same and returns the
18 attached bill to Council with a
19 favorable recommendation.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
21 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
22 Cindy Bass.

23 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank
24 you, Mr. President.

25 I move that the rules of

1 2/29/24 - STATED - REPORTS

2 Council be suspended so as to
3 permit first reading this day of
4 the four bills that were just read
5 into the record by the Clerk.

6 (Duly seconded.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

8 It has been moved and properly
9 seconded that the rules of Council
10 be suspended so as to permit first
11 reading of this day of Bill Nos.
12 240020, 240064, 240065 and 240066.

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

15 (Aye.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

17 Those opposed?

18 (No response.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

20 The ayes have it and these bills
21 will be placed on our First Reading
22 Calendar for today.

23 The Chair recognizes
24 Councilmember Driscoll for a report
25 from the Committee on Licenses and

1 2/29/24 - STATED - REPORTS

2 Inspections.

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

5 The Committee on Licenses
6 and Inspections reports one bill
7 with a favorable recommendation.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
9 Thank you.

10 Will the Chief Clerk please
11 read the title of the report.

12 CHIEF CLERK: To the
13 President and members of the
14 Council of the City of
15 Philadelphia, the Committee on
16 Licenses and Inspections to which
17 was referred Bill No. 240013,
18 entitled Amending Chapter 9-600 of
19 The Philadelphia Code, entitled
20 "Service and Other Businesses," by
21 adding a new section regulating the
22 hours of operation of certain
23 establishments and providing for
24 penalties within an area bounded by
25 East Lehigh Avenue, Kensington

1 2/29/24 - STATED - REPORTS
2 Avenue, D Street, East Tioga Street
3 and Frankford Avenue, all under
4 certain terms and conditions,
5 respectfully reports it has
6 considered and amended the same and
7 returns the attached bill to
8 Council with a favorable
9 recommendation.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
11 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
12 Driscoll.

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

15 I move that the rules of
16 Council be suspended so as to
17 permit first reading this day of
18 Bill No. 240013.

19 (Duly seconded.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
21 It has been moved and properly
22 seconded that the rules of Council
23 be suspended so as to permit first
24 reading on this day of Bill No.
25 240013.

1 2/29/24 - STATED - REPORTS

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

4 (Aye.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

6 Those opposed?

7 (No response.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

9 And this bill will be placed on our
10 First Reading Calendar for today.

11 The Chair recognizes
12 Councilmember Curtis Jones for a
13 report from the Committee on Public
14 Safety.

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

17 The Committee on Public
18 Safety offers one bill with a
19 favorable recommendation.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
21 Will the Clerk please read the
22 title of the report.

23 CHIEF CLERK: To the
24 President and members of the
25 Council of the City of

1 2/29/24 - STATED - REPORTS

2 Philadelphia, the Committee on
3 Public Safety to which was referred
4 Bill No. 240010, entitled Amending
5 Chapter 9-5900 of the Philadelphia
6 Code, entitled "Prohibition on
7 Certain Gambling Machines and
8 Skills Games," to add additional
9 prohibitions and provide for
10 remedies, all under certain terms
11 and conditions, respectfully
12 reports it has considered and
13 amended the same and returned the
14 attached bill to Council with a
15 favorable recommendation.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
17 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
18 Jones.

19 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank
20 you again, Mr. President.

21 I move that the rules of
22 Council be suspended to permit
23 first reading of Bill No. 240010.

24 (Duly seconded.)

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

1 2/29/24 - STATED - REPORTS

2 It has been moved and properly
3 seconded that the rules of Council
4 be suspended so as to permit first
5 reading this day of Bill No.
6 240010.

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

9 (Aye.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

11 Those opposed?

12 (No response.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

14 The ayes have it and this bill will
15 be placed on our First Reading
16 Calendar for today.

17 The Chair recognizes
18 Councilmember Thomas for a report
19 from the Committee on Education.

20 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank
21 you, Council President.

22 The Committee on Education
23 reports out one bill with a
24 favorable recommendation.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

1 2/29/24 - STATED - REPORTS

2 Thank you.

3 The Chief Clerk will please
4 read the report.

5 CHIEF CLERK: To the
6 President and members of the
7 Council of the City of
8 Philadelphia, the Committee on
9 Education to which was referred
10 Bill No. 240007, entitled Amending
11 the Philadelphia Code to add a new
12 Chapter 21-3400, entitled "Youth,
13 Name, Image and Likeness
14 Protection," to establish
15 provisions related to education and
16 counseling for certain Philadelphia
17 youth and their families who are
18 considering licensing publicity
19 rights, all under certain terms and
20 conditions, respectfully reports it
21 has considered the same and returns
22 the attached bill to Council with a
23 favorable recommendation.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
25 Thank you.

1 2/29/24 - STATED - REPORTS

2 The Chair recognizes

3 Councilmember Thomas.

4 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank
5 you, Council President.

6 I move that the rules of
7 Council be suspended so as to
8 permit the first reading on this
9 day of Bill No. 240007.

10 (Duly seconded.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
12 It has been moved and properly
13 seconded that the rules of Council
14 be suspended so as to permit first
15 reading this day of Bill No.
16 240007.

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

19 (Aye.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
21 Those opposed?

22 (No response.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
24 The ayes have it and this bill will
25 be placed on our First Reading

1 2/29/24 - STATED - BILLS ON 2ND READING

2 Calendar for today.

3 The next order of business

4 is the consideration of the

5 Calendar. I note that the bills

6 just reported from Committee with

7 the suspension of rules have been

8 deemed to have had a first reading.

9 These bills will be placed on the

10 Second Reading and Final Passage

11 Calendar for the next session of

12 Council.

13 The Chair recognizes

14 Councilmember Gilmore Richardson

15 for the purpose of calling up

16 resolutions on the Second Reading

17 and Final Passage Calendars.

18 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

19 RICHARDSON: Thank you,

20 Mr. President.

21 The following resolutions

22 are being called up from the Second

23 Reading and Final Passage Calendar:

24 Nos. 240103, 240107, 240108,

25 240109, 240111 and 24112.

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

3 Thank you. Before considering
4 these resolutions, we will consider
5 public comment as follows: Your
6 public comment must concern matters
7 of the Second Reading and Final
8 Passage Calendars for possible
9 action at today's Council session.

10 All speakers must sign up
11 in order to testify. If you have
12 not already signed up for today's
13 session, please do so by giving
14 your name to Ms. Wendy Prescott at
15 the table outside the rails to my
16 left -- to Ms. Hassan who's over
17 there.

18 Once you have signed up,
19 you will be called in the order in
20 which your name appears on the
21 sign-up sheet. Under ideal
22 circumstances, public commenters
23 will have three minutes to speak.
24 However, the time will vary from
25 time to time and session to

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 session.

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

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

24 I will now ask the Clerk to
25 please read the name of our first

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 speaker.

3 CHIEF CLERK: Amanda Ayala,
4 in support of a resolution Gauthier
5 introduced and adopted today.
6 Amanda Ayala.

7 Council President, she's
8 signifying she's upstairs. Give
9 her time to come down and come
10 back?

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
12 Yes.

13 CHIEF CLERK: Ms. Ayala, if
14 you'd like to make your way down.

15 In the meantime, Zak Pyzik
16 in support of a Landau resolution
17 introduced and adopted today.

18 (No response.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
20 Are you here, Zak?

21 (Witness approached
22 podium.)

23 MR. PYZIK: Zak Pyzik.
24 Good morning, Council President
25 Kenyatta Johnson and fellow

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 Councilmembers. My name is Zak
3 Pyzik and I'm the Senior Director
4 of Public Affairs at the
5 Pennsylvania Restaurant and Lodging
6 Association, representing 400
7 operators in Philadelphia and more
8 than 5,000 members statewide.

9 Firstly, thank you to this
10 Council in its prior efforts in
11 formalizing the City's permanent
12 Outdoor Dining program. I also
13 commend Councilmember Rue Landau
14 for introducing this resolution
15 today authorizing City Council to
16 conduct hearings on the City's
17 Outdoor Dining program.

18 While streeteries have
19 become an integral part to the City
20 both for residents and visitors,
21 it's important to recognize that
22 the Streeter program is relatively
23 new to Philadelphia. Given the
24 program's novelties and the recent
25 changes to the Administration and

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 City Council, we believe it's
3 critical for Philadelphia to
4 evaluate the current program
5 comprehensively assessing what is
6 and isn't effective.

7 PRLA supports Councilmember
8 Landau's resolution marking the
9 initiation of this critical
10 dialogue. The collaboration
11 between this body, the former
12 administration and stakeholders
13 across various industries ensured
14 the permanence of outdoor seating
15 in Philadelphia, and for that we
16 express our gratitude.

17 As with any new initiative,
18 enhancements can be made. The
19 increased opportunities for outdoor
20 dining showcase the creativity of
21 our businesses, providing a unique
22 dining experience for residents and
23 visitors. I should also note that
24 there is urgency to this
25 conversation not only due to spring

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 and summer being on the horizon,
3 but especially given all the
4 visitors we intend to host as a
5 region in 2026.

6 Last week the
7 Administration released a new
8 streetery licensed guide offering
9 updated guidance to owners and
10 operators facilitating outdoor
11 dining. We commend this step and
12 hope it signals a commitment to
13 providing certainty, predictability
14 and guidance to the hospitality
15 industry.

16 Philadelphia's thriving
17 restaurant scene, predominantly
18 locally-owned and reflecting
19 diverse backgrounds, contributes
20 significantly to the City's appeal
21 for visitors and residents. The
22 hospitality industry not only
23 creates jobs but fosters a sense of
24 community in our neighborhoods.

25 The Streetery program has

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 opened new opportunities for
3 operators and diners alike
4 benefiting restaurants and their
5 surroundings. Once again, thank
6 you, Councilmember Landau and this
7 body, for initiating this very
8 important conversation. We look
9 forward to working with you and
10 collaborating in any way we can.
11 PRLA stands ready to assist in any
12 way possible as we collectively
13 move forward. Thank you.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
15 Thank you.

16 Will the Clerk please call
17 the next person for public comment.

18 CHIEF CLERK: Erica Brown
19 commenting on 240109, Violence
20 Incident Clearance Act.

21 (No response.)

22 CHIEF CLERK: Erica Brown.
23 They're coming.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
25 Did Amanda make her way down yet?

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 CHIEF CLERK: I'm not sure.

3 (Witness approached

4 podium.)

5 MR. BROWN: My name is

6 Erica Brown from West Philly.

7 Thank you for having me. What I

8 have here is a poster board full of

9 postcards that young kids have

10 drawn of what they want to see at

11 their rec centers and libraries.

12 It's very beautiful. I'm happy to

13 send you a picture later.

14 But what I'm here to talk

15 about is public safety. And my dad

16 was shot. He lives in West Philly.

17 During Hurricane, my grandmom's

18 basement was destroyed. My dad had

19 to go there three days a week to

20 bring her groceries. And the real

21 solutions to public safety is

22 making sure that everyone has their

23 basic needs, right. So that's why

24 I'm here.

25 And I talked to many of

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 you. I really appreciate giving me
3 the time to go over our Green
4 Spaces Active Places Campaign,
5 which is, one, fully funding and
6 staffing rec centers and libraries
7 to keep them open and have
8 programming; number two, repairing
9 every rec center and library so
10 they're safe, accessible and
11 one-on-one 100 percent renewable
12 energy; number three, creating
13 public community gardens to grow
14 fresh food; and number four,
15 creating family-sustaining union
16 jobs and training programs to
17 accomplish all of the above.

18 And if we do this, we will
19 have a much safer city, a much more
20 vibrant city. And so, I appreciate
21 again having met with many of you.
22 And I would please recommend that
23 you put us in contact with the
24 Mayor because despite our efforts,
25 we have not been able to contact

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 her yet. And I know that this is
3 something she would want to
4 support. So thank you so much.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

6 Thank you.

7 (Applause.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

9 Will the Clerk please call the next
10 person for public comment.

11 CHIEF CLERK: Joy Parham-
12 Thomas speaking on 240107, Private
13 City Sector Diversity. Joy
14 Parham-Thomas.

15 (Witness approached
16 podium.)

17 MS. PARHAM-THOMAS: Good
18 morning, everybody. Thank you for
19 your time and your recognition.
20 I'd just like to say that this is a
21 honor to stand here today and be
22 recognized for the work that I've
23 done in this City with food,
24 justice and education through
25 culinary arts, and I hope to

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 connect with some people in this
3 room today and move forward to
4 create safer spaces with the
5 community wrapped around education
6 and access.

7 For anyone who knows anyone
8 in the 19143, we're offering free
9 meals and free brunches to everyone
10 in need. The goal is to feed the
11 Kingsessing area for free. You can
12 join us there every Tuesday from
13 3:00 to 5:00 p.m., I believe. We
14 have our small grocery store.
15 Everything is free down to the
16 bags.

17 You do not need to provide
18 any form of identification. Just
19 come as you are. So I hope to see
20 you guys there. Feel free to share
21 the word. Thank you.

22 (Applause.)

23 CHIEF CLERK: Amanda Ayala.

24 (Witness approached
25 podium.)

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 MS. AYALA: Greetings. My
3 name is Amanda Ayala. Thank you so
4 much for having me today. I'm here
5 in honor of Brother Rahim-Abdul
6 Muhammad and also known as the
7 Mayor of Lancaster Avenue for those
8 of you who know him well. And I'm
9 just absolutely excited for him.

10 He's such a huge
11 inspiration. I met Mr. Muhammad
12 about a couple of years ago. And
13 he said, why don't you come on down
14 and help me with my summer camp
15 program -- actually it was a winter
16 camp program. And I said,
17 absolutely.

18 I'm a homeschool mother of
19 two. I'm also a member of the
20 Black Farmers Co-op and farmer
21 myself. And I came down and
22 assisted him with the program and
23 we've been tied at the hip ever
24 since. We've had a beautiful
25 relationship working with each

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 other and he's an absolute joy to
3 work with and a true inspiration to
4 the community.

5 He works tirelessly to make
6 sure that every child in West
7 Philadelphia has something fun to
8 do any time they're outside of
9 school. He gives me carte blanche
10 to run the program the way I see
11 fit with all the different
12 activities, and he's just -- he's
13 one of the most exciting men I've
14 ever met about this New Freedom
15 District And his redevelopment
16 plan. And I'm just honored to know
17 him. Thank you very much.

18 (Applause.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

20 Excuse me one second. The Chair
21 recognizes Councilmember Katherine
22 Gilmore Richardson.

23 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

24 RICHARDSON: Thank you, Council
25 President.

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Today I respectfully
3 request an early leave and I would
4 like to be recorded as voting aye
5 on all resolutions that are listed
6 on the Final Passage Calendar,
7 particularly the resolution for our
8 dear departed colleague Mr. Michael
9 A. Decker.

10 Thank you, Mr. President.
11 And thank you, colleagues.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
13 You're welcome. Leave is granted.

14 Will the Clerk please call
15 the next person for public comment.

16 CHIEF CLERK: Jeff
17 Hornstein speaking on 240107,
18 Private City Sector Diversity.

19 (Witness approached
20 podium.)

21 MR. HORNSTEIN: Hi. I'm
22 Jeff Hornstein, the Executive
23 Director of the Economy League of
24 Greater Philadelphia. Good
25 morning, Mr. President and esteemed

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 members of City Council. The
3 Economy League is our City's and
4 region's independent think-and-do
5 tank founded in 1909 by forward-
6 thinking business leaders united by
7 the belief that businesses have a
8 civic responsibility beyond
9 profit-making.

10 And our mission is to
11 foster inclusive and equitable
12 growth and prosperity in Greater
13 Philadelphia. That's why I'm
14 thrilled to be here this morning
15 testifying in support of Resolution
16 240107. People who know me know I
17 hardly ever testify in support of
18 anything.

19 We really just try to stick
20 to the facts. But this Committee
21 is so important to create,
22 Council's Special Committee on City
23 and Private Sector Diversity,
24 Equity and Inclusion. As many of
25 you know, the Economy League has

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 been the backbone for collaborative
3 effort between our eds-and-meds
4 anchor institutions to boost the
5 share of their billions of dollars
6 of annual spending that goes to
7 diverse and local firms, an
8 initiative that we call
9 Philadelphia Anchors for Growth and
10 Equity or PAGE.

11 In the past five years,
12 we've helped dozens of local firms
13 capture tens of millions of dollars
14 of contracts with institutions like
15 Penn, Drexel, CHOP, Jefferson,
16 Temple, among others. We've helped
17 firms achieve growth by leveraging
18 institutional supply chains.

19 We've gotten significant
20 funding from Bank of America,
21 Lenfest, TD Charitable Foundation
22 Barra, J.P. Morgan. We've launched
23 a portfolio of PAGE-certified
24 companies we're calling the PAGE
25 100 diverse local firms that are

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 prequalified to do work with major
3 institutions.

4 As it happens, tonight we
5 will be celebrating the 5th
6 anniversary of our work at our
7 Annual PAGE Summit to be held on
8 this, the last day of Black History
9 Month. I'd like to call this Black
10 Leap History Day at the Underground
11 Railroad Museum. Mayor Parker,
12 Commerce Director Martinez will be
13 featured speakers as we discuss
14 breaking down barriers to access
15 for local and diverse firms, access
16 to capital regional best practices
17 and a need for robust data-sharing
18 among the partners.

19 We'll be releasing our
20 Annual Impact Report this evening,
21 laying out the significant progress
22 that has been made. But to
23 paraphrase my mentor and our PAGE
24 Co-chair Harold T. Epps, we need to
25 be doing more and doing it faster.

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Frankly, while we have a great set
3 of partners in our anchor
4 institutions, and many of them are
5 innovators in creating opportunity
6 for local and diverse firms.
7 There's a lot of room for
8 improvement.

9 Our Impact Report analyzed
10 nearly \$9 billion in institutional
11 spend and found less than 5 percent
12 of it going towards local and
13 diverse firms. So we need this
14 Committee. We're in support of it.
15 I look forward to working with this
16 Council to increase. And talk is
17 cheap. It's time to act.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

19 Thank you.

20 Will the Clerk please call
21 the next person for public comment.

22 CHIEF CLERK: Regina
23 Hairston, speaking on 240107,
24 Private City Sector Diversity.
25 Regina Hairston.

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 (Witness approached
3 podium.)

4 MS. HAIRSTON: Regina A.
5 Hairston, President and CEO of the
6 African American Chamber of
7 Commerce for Pennsylvania, New
8 Jersey and Delaware. Good morning,
9 President Council and esteemed
10 members of City Council.

11 I stand here before you
12 today on behalf of the members of
13 the African American Chamber of
14 Commerce in support of Resolution
15 240107, authorizing the creation of
16 a Special Committee on City and
17 Private Sector Diversity. AACC
18 serves as the voice of over 200,000
19 Black-owned businesses in the
20 Delaware Valley and Southeastern
21 region with around 80 percent of
22 our membership being located right
23 here in Philadelphia.

24 Yet more than half report
25 having less than 35 percent of its

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 contracts in business in
3 Philadelphia. Too often we've
4 heard from our members about the
5 difficulty of navigating the
6 procurement processes, whether it's
7 deciding to become a minority-owned
8 certified enterprise or connecting
9 to non-minority firms in the hopes
10 of partnering as a JV or
11 subcontractor on contracts that
12 have been long held by non-minority
13 firms.

14 While we know this City
15 Council has taken steps on
16 dismantling these barriers, they
17 still persist. Too often we hear
18 the other stories of not being able
19 to connect to affordable capital
20 and favorable returns in order to
21 scale and take on new
22 opportunities. And for those that
23 do have the capital, they do not
24 have the talent, which is not
25 always readily available.

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Too often we hear the
3 stories of Black women-owned firms
4 yet being the fastest growing
5 population of entrepreneurs, they
6 are making average revenues of
7 \$30,000. For instance, the AACC
8 conducted a yearlong study with
9 Black women early education
10 providers and found that not only
11 disparities in revenue persist but
12 also policies that govern the ECE
13 do not reflect the unique
14 challenges Black and Brown ECE
15 providers face.

16 We are in support of this
17 because while we are witnessing DEI
18 effort being dismantled across the
19 nation, this Council has the
20 opportunity to double-down on
21 ensuring all of its residents and
22 businesses have access to
23 opportunities and basic services
24 that are the hallmark of our great
25 city and nation. Thank you for

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 this opportunity.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

4 Thank you.

5 (Applause.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

7 Will the Clerk please call the next
8 speaker.

9 CHIEF CLERK: Debra Irons,
10 commenting on 240109 in support of
11 the Victim Act resolution.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

13 Can the following individuals
14 please make their way to the podium
15 if that's okay: Michael White,
16 Angelo Perryman and Donna Allie.

17 (Witness approached
18 podium.)

19 MS. IRONS: Good morning.
20 My name is Debra Irons. I am here
21 to represent being a part of the
22 solution, not the problem. And I
23 work at Parkside Evans seasonally.
24 This will be my eighth year coming
25 back. And in those eight seasons,

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 I've noticed that things have been
3 disappearing as in art camp,
4 organized basketball that I used to
5 officiate there and just popsicle
6 sticks. We need some organized
7 programs at Parkside.

8 I feel that we've been
9 neglected and my heart is in it.
10 And I would just like to once again
11 be a part of the solution, and we
12 need some help there. So I'm just
13 here to state that case. This is
14 my first time being here and I like
15 it. Thank you.

16 (Applause.)

17 (Witness approached
18 podium.)

19 MR. WHITE: Michael White.
20 Good morning. The one thing I know
21 about everybody in this
22 intimidating room is that we love
23 Philadelphia. Looking on the news
24 and seeing you guys in chambers, it
25 just looks easy but I see this is a

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 difficult job that you guys do.

3 I'm here today because of
4 the young man who had the poster
5 board, Erica. He walked in my rec
6 center and asked, what do you guys
7 need, how can I help. And I just
8 want to urge everyone in the room
9 to walk in your local rec center
10 and do the same thing Erica did,
11 say what do we need here and how
12 can I help.

13 This is terrifying for me.
14 I don't want to be here. I came up
15 with every excuse to not come. But
16 I don't think I would have had a
17 good day had I not spoke. We need
18 funding in our rec centers. Thank
19 you.

20 (Applause.)

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
22 Will the Clerk please call the next
23 speaker for public comment.

24 CHIEF CLERK: Angelo
25 Perryman speaking on 240107,

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Private City Sector Diversity.

3 Angelo Perryman.

4 (Witness approached
5 podium.)

6 MR. PERRYMAN: Council

7 President Johnson, distinguished
8 members of Council, good morning.

9 My name is Angelo Perryman. I'm
10 the President of Perryman Building
11 and Construction Services. Thank
12 you for allowing me this
13 opportunity to participate in this
14 Council session to offer comments
15 on the creation of a Special
16 Committee on Diversity, Equity and
17 Inclusion, DEI.

18 We've heard so much about
19 what DEI should be, but I want to
20 share for a moment what it is. In
21 its simplest action, DEI
22 acknowledges the beneficial results
23 delivered in Black, Brown and
24 women-owned business communities
25 when the odds for normal success

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 are smaller.

3 Again and again these firms
4 go out with resiliency to really
5 challenge the system to continue to
6 show that they've earned the right
7 to be a part of this commerce and
8 to be a part of what this Council
9 believes and supports.

10 You guys are the front
11 line. There is nobody else that
12 defends businesses like ours the
13 way you're going to defend us. The
14 return on investment to the City
15 and the Commonwealth merit support
16 of DEI. While our firm has created
17 over 1,000 construction jobs and
18 completed over 1,000 projects
19 within this Greater Philadelphia
20 market, I can't see all the faces
21 that we've touched. But I see the
22 chances that we've created for a
23 better Philadelphia.

24 We hired the first African
25 American carpentry foreman in the

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 City of Philadelphia. There was a
3 long legacy before I got here, but
4 we were the ones that did it. I
5 can only tell you how -- I can't
6 tell you how many Councilpeople --
7 I can't tell you how many people
8 that we have hired that are on the
9 apprentice (inaudible), but being a
10 part of that community allows us a
11 chance to shape their lives, show
12 them a better way, give them a
13 chance to be a different person in
14 their own community to show that
15 they can be a valued part of it.

16 With this distinguished
17 body, I ask -- in short when I'm
18 talking to my team, I usually ask
19 them one question every day before
20 we start out. Is it a 411 issue or
21 is it a 911 issue. They usually
22 tell me and I know pretty clear how
23 critical it is.

24 This issue regarding DEI is
25 a 911 issue that requires

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 first-hand attention. And that
3 first-hand attention requires
4 everybody to look in the mirror.
5 And when they look in the mirror,
6 they say I did my part. In
7 doing -- when I do my part as the
8 business person, you as the front
9 line, I need that help to say that
10 we have the opportunities and the
11 access that we need to continue to
12 grow our businesses.

13 Three quick points that I
14 want to make in two areas that are
15 critical to me: Education, we need
16 to create the best next 21st
17 century educated students that can
18 take the new jobs that are now
19 coming out. We need to create some
20 grant funding which showed itself
21 very important through the pandemic
22 to allow us the chance to bridge
23 what we're planning to correct.

24 On economic opportunity, we
25 want to encourage the financial

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 institutions to better devise
3 access to grow capital,
4 specifically intended to address
5 the issues that keep businesses
6 from getting access. I'll leave
7 comments. Thank you.

8 (Applause.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
10 Thank you very much.

11 Will the Clerk please call
12 the next person for public comment.

13 CHIEF CLERK: Donna Allie
14 for 240107, Private Sector
15 Diversity.

16 And can Lorina Marshall-
17 Blake, Tom Webster and Evelyn
18 Sample-Oates all make their way to
19 the podium. Thank you.

20 Donna Allie.

21 (Witness approached
22 podium.)

23 MS. ALLIE: Good morning,
24 Council President and --

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Good morning.

3 MS. ALLIE: --

4 Councilmembers. I'm Donna Allie
5 and I'm President of Team Clean,
6 which is a building maintenance
7 firm here in Philadelphia. I'm
8 supporting the passage of
9 Resolution 240107 sponsored by
10 Council President Kenyatta Johnson
11 that would create City Council's
12 Special Committee on City and
13 Private Sector Diversity, Equity
14 and Inclusion.

15 I will begin with the
16 definition of DEI, just the one
17 sentence. Diversity, this involves
18 actively seeking out and engaging
19 with suppliers from various
20 backgrounds, including but not
21 limited to race, ethnicity, gender,
22 sexual orientation, disability and
23 socioeconomic status.

24 Equity, equity in
25 procurement means providing fair

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 and impartial opportunities for all
3 supporters regardless of their
4 background or size. Inclusion,
5 inclusion means creating an
6 environment where all suppliers
7 feel valued, respected and
8 supported.

9 My company Team Clean began
10 over 40 years ago. I was cleaning
11 houses with my mom around the Main
12 Line with my mom and several women
13 from West Africa. The company has
14 grown since then to providing
15 employment like Angelo for
16 thousands of men and women in the
17 City, and I will say good union
18 jobs. I could not have --

19 (Applause.)

20 MS. ALLIE: Thank you. I
21 could not have grown my business
22 without the help of Councilman
23 Jones, who was then Director of
24 MBEC. Thank you, Councilman. I
25 always tell people, Councilmembers,

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 if it had not been for OEO and
3 these type of programs, I would
4 still be a domestic housekeeper on
5 the Main Line. And I want to thank
6 you all for that.

7 And today we face an attack
8 on affirmative action, which
9 undoubtedly will spill over to
10 procurement opportunities. We need
11 these policies. The next
12 generation of businesses need these
13 policies. Like Angelo said, we
14 need you more than ever. Upcoming
15 opportunities like technology, life
16 sciences and even the \$2.5 billion
17 new sports complex right here in
18 South Philadelphia, these
19 opportunities are too numerous to
20 ignore.

21 I can count on my hands and
22 toes the number of Black and Brown
23 businesses that are over 20
24 million, and they're not many. I
25 don't have all the answers, but

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 what I'll say to you is please, I

3 beg of you, we need your support.

4 Thank you and God bless you.

5 (Applause.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

7 Thank you.

8 Will the Clerk please call

9 the next individuals for public

10 comment.

11 CHIEF CLERK: Lorina

12 Marshall-Blake for an Ahmad

13 resolution introduced today.

14 Can also Tom Webster,

15 Evelyn Sample-Oates and Vernoca

16 Michael make their way to the

17 podium.

18 (Witness approached

19 podium.)

20 MS. MARSHALL-BLAKE: Thank

21 you. I am Lorina Marshall-Blake,

22 the former President of the Omega

23 Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha

24 Sorority, Inc. here representing my

25 President Charlene Collins and our

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 over 500 members. I am speaking
3 today for the Chapter in support of
4 the resolution which honors the
5 life and legacy of renowned
6 oncologist Dr. Edith Mitchell, a
7 truly, amazing and inspirational
8 woman which was introduced by
9 Councilwoman Member Nina Ahmad.

10 Joining me today are some
11 of our Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority
12 members. We have been active in
13 service to the Philadelphia
14 community for almost 98 years. In
15 fact, the Chapter just last weekend
16 hosted the Pink Goes Red Healthy
17 Heart Program for the West
18 Philadelphia community.

19 And speaking of service,
20 Dr. Edith Mitchell was the epitome
21 of excellence, integrity and grace,
22 a true trailblazer in cancer
23 research, a retired Air Force
24 Brigadier General, the first female
25 physician to attain this rank and

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 she was a member of the Omega Omega
3 Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha
4 Sorority.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

6 Okay.

7 MS. MARSHALL-BLAKE:

8 Dr. Mitchell was born and raised in
9 Brownsville, Tennessee. And when
10 she was a little girl, she was
11 influenced by a Black doctor,
12 someone who looked just like her,
13 who treated her grandfather when he
14 made a house call. She was
15 valedictorian of her high school
16 class and at Tennessee University
17 she was initiated then into Alpha
18 Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

19 Her medical degree was from
20 the Medical College of Virginia.
21 Her studies continued at Meharry
22 Medical College and Georgetown
23 University. Dr. Mitchell was an
24 oncologist at Jefferson Health and
25 most recently was the Enterprise

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Vice-president for Cancer

3 Disparities at the Sidney Kimmel

4 Cancer Center.

5 She transitioned at the age

6 of 76. But most importantly, her

7 leadership extended not just here

8 in Philly but beyond that. At her

9 memorial service -- and I see the

10 red light -- on Tuesday, it was

11 heartwarming to see and hear her

12 colleagues talk about her being a

13 trailblazer, brilliant and highly

14 respected.

15 Dr. Mitchell, I hear her

16 voice saying life has not always

17 been easy but she never gave up.

18 She faced adversity with poise and

19 resolve. She indeed was an amazing

20 person and incredible friend. The

21 world is a better place because she

22 was here. Those of us who were

23 honored to be a part of her life

24 are truly blessed. Thank you,

25 Mr. President.

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 (Applause.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

4 Will the Clerk please call the next
5 person on public comment.

6 CHIEF CLERK: Tom Webster
7 speaking on 240107, Private Sector
8 Diversity.

9 (Witness approached
10 podium.)

11 MR. WEBSTER: Good morning,
12 Council President and your esteemed
13 colleagues here at City Council of
14 Philadelphia. My name is Tom
15 Webster and I'm here in support of
16 City Council Resolution 240107,
17 which authorizes the creation of
18 programming coming out that's going
19 to produce the DEI program for the
20 City of Philadelphia.

21 My perspective on this
22 issue is unique. As a 40-year
23 entrepreneur, I also had the
24 responsibility in the Casey
25 Administration of overseeing

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 affirmative action EEO minority
3 businesses, small business programs
4 across the state of Pennsylvania.

5 It really doesn't matter
6 whether you're calling them that or
7 during my era, affirmation action
8 or civil rights initiative. What
9 these programs do is create
10 opportunities for people who have
11 been limited by barriers to achieve
12 higher education, go into business
13 and even own homes.

14 With my organization Black
15 Squirrel, we currently founded an
16 initiative here in Philadelphia to
17 invest in local community
18 developers to build 60 affordable
19 housings here across the City of
20 Philadelphia working with the Land
21 Bank.

22 In addition to that, what
23 you have is historically
24 limitations put in front of people.
25 The MBDA, a federal agency puts out

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 several facts. The first thing is
3 that minority businesses are denied
4 loans at three times the
5 counterparts of their Whites.
6 Minority firms often when given
7 loans are forced to pay higher
8 interest for lesser amounts.

9 And minority firms in terms
10 of government contracting, whether
11 it's local, state or federal often
12 find themselves limited in terms of
13 opportunities that's presented to
14 them. In addition to that, what
15 you have is when programs are
16 driving to be significant, you are
17 then given the opportunity to make
18 change.

19 One of the things that we
20 saw when I was with the Casey
21 Administration that we were coming
22 around and introducing programs
23 coming out of first the Bakke
24 decision that was changing
25 education in terms of affirmative

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 action, in terms of enrollment and
3 then the Croson decision which
4 limited minority set-aside
5 businesses.

6 As a result of that, we
7 were given a mandate to figure out
8 how to still drive minority
9 participation and state contracting
10 across 30 percent. I am proud to
11 say not only did we meet that goal,
12 but also too we exceeded it. And
13 we exceeded it based on
14 intentionality.

15 This body has the
16 opportunity to do something
17 significant here in the City of
18 Philadelphia by being intentional.
19 And through being intentional, you
20 can create policies, but more
21 importantly hold people
22 accountable. Let me repeat that,
23 hold people accountable for what it
24 is that you're mandating that they
25 can be done.

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 In the Casey

3 Administration, we were responsible

4 for holding cabinet members

5 accountable for meeting their

6 procurement goals and contract

7 responsibilities, and that's how we

8 created and funded many of the

9 significant businesses here in

10 Philadelphia today from PRWT to

11 EMSCO to the Lomax Companies.

12 Thank you very much Council for

13 allowing me to speak this morning.

14 (Applause.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

16 Thank you.

17 Will the Clerk please call

18 the next person for public comment.

19 CHIEF CLERK: We will have

20 Evelyn Sample-Oates speaking on a

21 resolution Councilmember Ahmad

22 introduced and adopted today.

23 Can Vernoca Michael,

24 Eveline Phillips and Julia Platt

25 also make their way to the program.

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Evelyn Sample-Oates.

3 (Witness approached

4 podium.)

5 MS. SAMPLE-OATES: Good

6 morning, Council President and all

7 members of City Council. My name

8 is Evelyn Sample-Oates and I am a

9 proud member of the Links, Inc. and

10 Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. I

11 am here today to speak on the life

12 and legacy of my dear friend

13 Dr. Edith Peterson Mitchell.

14 She made her mark in this

15 world by giving back and committing

16 her life to eliminating health

17 disparities affecting individuals

18 in communities in Philadelphia and

19 beyond. Dr. Mitchell was an

20 oncologist at Jefferson Health and

21 determined, determined to change

22 the trajectory of medical outcomes

23 of cancer in the Black and

24 underserved communities.

25 She was a teacher, a

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 healer, a health equity champion
3 and a pioneer in her field. She
4 was highly decorated as a retired
5 U.S. Air Force Brigadier General,
6 the first woman physician in
7 history to attain this rank. She
8 was a beloved wife, mother, sister,
9 grandmother and friend to many.
10 But to me she was a mentor, a
11 confidante and my sister, not by
12 blood but by love.

13 In October of 2020, I had
14 the honor of sponsoring her
15 membership into the Links, Inc., a
16 beloved organization that was
17 founded in Philadelphia in 1946 by
18 two African American women. The
19 Links is one of the nation's oldest
20 and largest volunteer service
21 organizations of extraordinary
22 women who are committed to
23 enriching, sustaining and ensuring
24 the culture and economic survival
25 of African Americans.

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Our core values are
3 friendships, service and
4 commitment. The Links, Inc. has
5 attracted many distinguished women
6 who are individual achievers and
7 have made a difference in their
8 communities and the world. Like
9 our very own Mayor, Mayor Cherelle
10 Parker, City Representative Jazelle
11 Jones, retired City Councilmember
12 Marian Tasco and the late great
13 Councilwoman Augusta Clark, all
14 members of the Links, Inc.

15 Dr. Mitchell served our
16 organization well as the Chair of
17 our Health and Human Services
18 Committee. She will be greatly
19 missed, but her legacy and her work
20 will live on to save lives forever.
21 I want to thank Councilmember Ahmad
22 for sponsoring this resolution for
23 your friend. Thank you, Dr. Nina
24 Ahmad. Thank you.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Thank you.

3 (Applause.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

5 Will the Clerk please call the next
6 individuals for public comment.

7 CHIEF CLERK: Vernoca

8 Michael. Also, can Eveline

9 Phillips, Julie Platt and D'Angelo
10 Keyes also make their way to the
11 podium.

12 Vernoca Michael.

13 (Witness approached
14 podium.)

15 MS. MICHAEL: President
16 Johnson, members of City Council
17 and all assembled. Good morning.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
19 Good morning.

20 MS. MICHAEL: I'm here to
21 speak about Dr. Edith (inaudible)
22 and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, and
23 a friend of the legendary Blue
24 Horizon, the number one boxing
25 venue in the world.

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

3 Amen.

4 MS. MICHAEL: Dr. Mitchell

5 treated both my friend and my

6 Boxing Director of the Legendary

7 Blue Horizon, but she was also

8 supportive of our Annual Cancer

9 Boxing Show, to which we invited

10 cancer survivors and contributed to

11 many cancer organizations.

12 Dr. Mitchell was also a

13 person who received an honor award

14 from the Blue Horizon Boxing

15 Promotion, LLC. She received it

16 for her excellence in her field of

17 work and her support of the

18 education of the Blue Horizon

19 students, and I represent the

20 students. We continue to support

21 and salute Dr. Edith P. Mitchell

22 for a job well done. Thank you

23 very much, Council.

24 (Applause.)

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 You're welcome.

3 CHIEF CLERK: Eveline

4 Phillips speaking on a resolution

5 introduced by Councilmember

6 Phillips today.

7 (Witness approached

8 podium.)

9 MS. PHILLIPS: Good

10 morning, Council President and

11 Councilmembers. My name is Eveline

12 Phillips. I am a research

13 coordinator and health educator at

14 Penn Medicine's Abramson Cancer

15 Center Office of Community Outreach

16 and Engagement where I address

17 disparities in colorectal care

18 screening among vulnerable

19 populations in underserved

20 communities.

21 We are deeply grateful for

22 the opportunity to help to clear

23 March as Colorectal Cancer

24 Awareness Month in Philadelphia.

25 I'd like to thank Councilmember

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Anthony Phillips for his help to
3 make this happen. Also, sponsoring
4 the bill, Jamie Gauthier and
5 Councilwoman Ahmad.

6 I would like to share a few
7 facts about colorectal cancer.

8 Colorectal cancer is the cancer or
9 growth of the large intestine. It
10 is the third most common and lethal
11 cancer in the United States. In
12 2024, approximately 150,000
13 individuals will be diagnosed with
14 colorectal cancer and about 50,000
15 of those will die of this disease.

16 Individuals over the age of
17 45 are at risk even if they do not
18 have symptoms. Fortunately, a
19 colorectal cancer screening is
20 entirely preventable. There are
21 many tests available to prevent and
22 find colorectal cancer early, from
23 simple at-home tests to
24 colonoscopy. Penn Medicine is here
25 to help you to prevent you and your

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 loved ones prevent colorectal
3 cancer. We are working with
4 insurance companies, foundations
5 and other research agencies and our
6 beloved sports teams.

7 Councilmembers, it would be
8 a great privilege to collaborate
9 with you. I hope you consider
10 allowing us to attend future events
11 and work together towards creating
12 healthier, happier and
13 more-informed communities one
14 screening at a time. Thank you.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

16 Thank you.

17 (Applause.)

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

19 Will the Clerk please call the next
20 person for public comment.

21 CHIEF CLERK: Julie Platt

22 speaking on a resolution introduced
23 by Councilmember Thomas. Also,
24 D'Angelo Keyes, Lynn Landes and
25 Melba Terrell, please make your way

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 to the podium.

3 (Witness approached

4 podium.)

5 MS. PLATT: Hi, everyone.

6 My name is Julie Platt. Some of

7 you guys might know me because I

8 work for Bellevue Strategies but

9 I'm also a runner. I'm part of the

10 Philadelphia Runner Track Club, and

11 I just wanted to thank

12 Councilmember Thomas for honoring

13 my teammate and friend and teacher

14 Elaine Estes.

15 She qualified for the

16 Olympic Trials in 5 -- I'm sorry.

17 She qualified with the Olympic

18 Trials running 5 minute 57 seconds

19 per mile for 26.2 miles which is

20 really, really fast.

21 (Applause.)

22 MS. PLATT: And she was

23 only -- 163 other women in the

24 country made the Olympic Trials.

25 She ran the Olympic Trials in

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 Orlando, did really well, ran a 245
3 which is about 6:20 per mile people
4 which is also extremely fast. And
5 the best thing about her though is
6 that she's also a public school
7 teacher at Furness High School in
8 South Philly and she teaches
9 Spanish, and she's been inspiring
10 her students to really understand
11 that anybody can achieve something
12 and that you don't have to be a
13 professional runner or be sponsored
14 by a big company to be able to
15 really follow your dreams and make
16 a difference. So I just wanted to
17 honor her as a fellow teammate and
18 thank Councilmember Thomas.

19 (Applause.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
21 Will the Clerk please call the next
22 person for public comment.

23 CHIEF CLERK: D'Angelo
24 Keyes speaking on a resolution
25 introduced and adopted by Squilla

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 today.

3 Can Lynn Landes, Melba

4 Terrell and Dr. Atrayee Basu-

5 Mallick also make your way to the

6 podium.

7 D'Angelo Keyes.

8 (Witness approached

9 podium.)

10 MS. LANDES: Good morning.

11 My name is Lynn Landes of

12 safestreetsphilly.org. We do not

13 support the resolution calling on

14 the U.S. Congress to pass the

15 VICTIM Act. It is ironic for City

16 Council to want federal support to

17 stop crime in the City when at the

18 same time City officials have gone

19 out of their way to invite crime by

20 declaring Philadelphia a sanctuary

21 city.

22 What kind of message is

23 City officials sending when they

24 encourage the violation of federal

25 immigration laws, and did the

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 citizens of Philadelphia even
3 support such an unlawful illegal
4 policy. Was our sanctuary city
5 designation the result of the
6 informed consent of the governed?
7 Was there a referendum that the
8 public could vote on? No.

9 Our sanctuary city status
10 was a result of an Executive Order
11 from the former Mayor's Office. It
12 is an open invitation to drug
13 dealers as well as sex and human
14 traffickers. Tens of millions of
15 illegal immigrants were already
16 living in the United States, but an
17 estimated 7 to 10 million
18 additional illegal aliens, mainly
19 military-age young men, have poured
20 across the borders in just the past
21 three years.

22 Do you know how many active
23 military personnel we have? Only
24 1.3. Make no mistake, this is an
25 invasion. We are now literally a

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 narco state with government

3 officials assisting the drug

4 cartels in their takeover of

5 immigration into the United States

6 as well as controlling the illegal

7 drug trade across the country. Our

8 federal government as well as

9 government officials in

10 Philadelphia and other sanctuary

11 cities and states are responsible

12 for this invasion, which is a large

13 part of our crime problem.

14 And all the money in the

15 world won't fix it, but enforcing

16 the law will. It's the obvious

17 solution that City Council needs to

18 finally embrace. Thank you.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

20 Will the Clerk please call the next

21 speaker for public comment.

22 CHIEF CLERK: Melba Terrell

23 speaking on 240103, Land Bank for

24 District 3.

25 (Witness approached

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 podium.)

3 MS. TERRELL: Happy

4 Thursday. Kenyatta Johnson,

5 congratulations being the

6 President.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

8 Thank you.

9 MS. TERRELL: I was here 10

10 years ago. I am a 24-year

11 colorectal cancer warrior.

12 Mr. Jones, I came to your office.

13 Mr. Jones, I spoke to you. I am

14 being sued over -- I am being sued

15 over a tangled title. I am being

16 sued over a tangled title that your

17 office -- I thought I was getting a

18 City home. Nine years later I've

19 been paying the City. I cannot

20 even get a mortgage.

21 I am about to be homeless

22 in 60 days. I am a 24-year

23 colorectal cancer warrior. All I'm

24 asking you, Mr. Jones, is please

25 rectify this because there is no

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 place for me to go. There is no
3 housing for nobody. I'm asking
4 you, Mr. Jones, if you can rectify
5 this. Either I'm going to have to
6 sue the City to get all of my money
7 back. So I'm asking you again can
8 you please help me rectify this. I
9 have everything I need. The City
10 made an agreement with me. For 12
11 years --

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

13 Excuse me, ma'am.

14 MS. TERRELL: -- to pay off
15 back taxes --

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

17 Excuse me, ma'am. I just want to
18 make sure that your comments are
19 germane to the actual Bill No.
20 240103, which refers to Land Bank,
21 land distribution in the 3rd
22 Councilmanic District.

23 MS. TERRELL: President
24 Johnson, I understand that.
25 President Johnson, but this was the

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 only way for me to come in here to
3 express myself. This was the only
4 way for me to do this. I done
5 called down there. I done been to
6 be the Municipal Building, so this
7 was the only way for me to express
8 how I feel. So I apologize to you
9 if it's not the resolution for
10 today.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
12 Chair recognizes Councilman Curtis
13 Jones.

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

16 The young man standing
17 right there, Mr. Glass, will take
18 you and we can start that process
19 right now.

20 MS. TERRELL: I have
21 everything that I need right here,
22 Mr. Jones.

23 COUNCILMAN JONES: Okay.

24 MS. TERRELL: Okay. Let me
25 get my stuff.

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 (Applause.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

4 Will the Clerk please call the next
5 speaker.

6 CHIEF CLERK: Dr. Atrayee

7 Basu-Mallick or Basu-Mallik

8 speaking on the resolution

9 Councilmember Ahmad introduced and
10 adopted today.

11 (Witness approached
12 podium.)

13 DR. BASU-MALLICK: Good
14 morning, Council President Johnson.
15 Good morning to esteemed
16 Councilmembers. Thank you to --

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

18 Excuse me. Can everybody tone it
19 down just for a second so we can
20 hear the individuals providing
21 public comment please.

22 Please restart your
23 remarks.

24 DR. BASU-MALLICK: Good
25 morning, Council President Johnson.

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Good morning, esteemed members of
3 the Council. Thank you,
4 Councilmember Dr. Ahmad, for
5 bringing up this resolution and
6 thank you to Councilmember Squilla
7 for attending the memorial service
8 and speaking at Dr. Edith
9 Mitchell's memorial service at
10 Jefferson.

11 I am Dr. Atrayee Basu-
12 Mallick, an oncologist by
13 profession and one of her many,
14 many mentees. I'm here with my
15 colleague Hugh Lavery to pay
16 tribute to the extraordinary life
17 and legacy of Dr. Edith P.
18 Mitchell. Born in the late 1940s
19 to a farmer and a homemaker in
20 Brownsville, Tennessee, she was
21 inspired to become a physician
22 after witnessing firsthand the lack
23 of access to adequate health care
24 for people of color at that time.

25 This inspiration also

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 guided her career, not only as a
3 health care pioneer but also as a
4 barrier breaker and civil rights
5 champion. Perhaps there's no
6 greater testament to Dr. Mitchell's
7 legacy of service than her ability
8 to prioritize individuals in
9 medically underserved communities.
10 Dating back to a time as stated
11 Surgeon of Missouri by volunteering
12 at a clinic, she was known to make
13 sick home drives to examine
14 immigrant farming families in a
15 remote area with a high rate of
16 sickle cell disease.
17 Throughout her illustrious
18 career, Dr. Mitchell had a
19 multitude of leadership roles at
20 Jefferson. As the Enterprise Vice-
21 president for Cancer Disparities
22 and the Director of the Center to
23 eliminate cancer disparities, she
24 tirelessly championed the cause of
25 health equity.

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Dr. Mitchell was a barrier
3 breaker. She earned her flight
4 wings at the age of 40 with two
5 teenage daughters and also became
6 certified in aerospace medicine.
7 And in the process, she created
8 history by becoming the first woman
9 physician who was a Brigadier
10 General in the Air Force. Over her
11 36 years of military service, she
12 earned over 15 prestigious military
13 service medals and ribbons,
14 including the Legion of Merit and
15 Air Force achievement and
16 commendation medals.

17 Dr. Mitchell's extensive
18 list of professional, civic and
19 community awards is too lengthy to
20 cover in this brief talk. Her
21 influence transcended her medical
22 practice with sought-after insights
23 from prestigious organizations like
24 National Cancer Advisory Board and
25 NIH Council of Councils as the 116

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 President of the National Medical
3 Association and a dedicated member
4 of numerous professional
5 (inaudible). She tirelessly
6 championed diversity and inclusion
7 in health care.

8 Due to her profound
9 experience in cancer research,
10 Dr. Mitchell was appointed to the
11 NCI's Blue Ribbon Panel advising on
12 then Vice-president Biden's
13 National Cancer Moonshot
14 initiative. As we bid farewell to
15 a true trailblazer, let us not
16 mourn her passing, but rather
17 celebrate the extraordinary life of
18 Dr. Edith P. Mitchell. Her legacy
19 will continue to inspire us all to
20 strive a world of equity, justice
21 and compassion reign supreme.
22 Thank you.

23 (Applause.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
25 Will the Clerk please call the next

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 individuals on public comment.

3 CHIEF CLERK: Is Hugh

4 Lavery speaking? Hugh Lavery.

5 (Witness approached

6 podium.)

7 MR. LAVERY: Council

8 President, I just want to thank you

9 for the opportunity to honor the

10 legacy of my friend and colleague

11 Dr. Edith Mitchell. Thank you so

12 much.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

14 Thank you.

15 (Applause.)

16 CHIEF CLERK: Can we also

17 have Rich Garella, Jeremy Blatstein

18 and Ogbonna Hagins make their way

19 to the podium as well.

20 Malik Muhammad.

21 (Witness approached

22 podium.)

23 MR. MUHAMMAD: Good

24 morning, President Johnson,

25 Councilmembers and my fellow

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Philadelphia siblings and guests.

3 My name is Malik Muhammad and I'm

4 the Director of Inclusion

5 Initiatives and Social Justice

6 Education at the University of

7 Pennsylvania.

8 On this, the last day of

9 Black History Month, I'm beyond

10 honored to be here today to speak

11 in full support of the passing of

12 the resolution recognizing my

13 father Abdul-Rahim Muhammad as a

14 Black History maker. Since the day

15 I was born and well before, this

16 humble man has been committed to a

17 life of service. For over 50

18 years, he has served the City of

19 Philadelphia community with the

20 highest form of dedication and

21 persistence that is truly

22 inspiring.

23 I remember when I was young

24 he consistently instilled in me

25 that patience is a virtue. Today

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 is a testament to that, his
3 patience and perseverance and
4 uplifting the African American
5 Muslim community of Philadelphia
6 are a reflection of a long line of
7 social change-makers that have
8 undoubtedly shaped the experience
9 of past, present and future
10 generations.

11 As a young man myself who
12 lives here in the City, I've seen
13 firsthand how my father gives of
14 himself tirelessly as an activist,
15 educator and public servant. His
16 energy, spirit and drive for
17 freedom, justice and equality is
18 all inspiring and needed today more
19 than ever.

20 As I yield my time, I
21 invite you to embrace my father's
22 light as you continue to shine your
23 own on this City, this country and
24 our world. Thank you.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Thank you.

3 (Applause.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

5 Will the Clerk please call the next
6 speaker.

7 CHIEF CLERK: Speaking on
8 240107, City Private Sector
9 Diversity.

10 (Witness approached
11 podium.)

12 MR. MUHAMMAD: That was --

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

14 Let me back up. Mr. Muhammad, go
15 ahead, sir. We yield the floor to
16 you, sir.

17 MR. MUHAMMAD: My name is
18 Abdul-Rahim Muhammad. And I'm the
19 Director at the New Africa Center
20 Muslim American Museum and Archive
21 over at 4243 Lancaster Avenue. And
22 I would love to thank this
23 distinguished body for honoring me
24 as a Black History maker and to the
25 Councilmember Jamie for even

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 recognizing the work that we do.

3 I stand here today really

4 in my whole mind, heart and soul

5 that I'm no more than a

6 continuation of the spirit of my

7 ancestors. My father was the

8 founder of the Lancaster Avenue

9 Business Association and I stand on

10 his shoulders. He was known as the

11 Mayor of Lancaster Avenue. And so,

12 I'm carrying that title today. I'm

13 the new Mayor of Lancaster Avenue.

14 (Applause.)

15 MR. MUHAMMAD: My dad had a

16 dream of transforming Lancaster

17 Avenue and make it a vibrant

18 corridor, and God has blessed me to

19 be able to partner with

20 distinguished people like Mosaic

21 Development Partners and my

22 capacity to connect with people,

23 not because I have any money, but

24 because my social capital and

25 because of my sincerity and because

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 I'm a mission-driven person.

3 Like my son just said, God
4 has given me the quality of
5 patience. And with patience and
6 consistency, God says he guarantees
7 you success. So I'm a living
8 witness that you can be successful.

9 So thank you so much for this
10 distinguished honor. I invite you
11 all to come to our New Freedom
12 District Neighborhood Plan meeting
13 that we're hosting Saturday, March
14 9th at the Clara Muhammad School.

15 And I invite you all to
16 come and give your input and your
17 ideas on how we can use arts and
18 culture and history and
19 neighborhood identity to transform
20 our community. So welcome to the
21 New Freedom District.

22 (Applause.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

24 I know that's right.

25 CHIEF CLERK: We have Rich

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Garella speaking on 240107, the
3 City Private Sector Diversity.

4 Can Jeremy Blatstein,
5 Ogbonna Hagins and Stephanie Marsh
6 also make their way to the podium.

7 (Witness approached
8 podium.)

9 MR. GARELLA: Well, that's
10 a little tough to follow.

11 (Laughter.)

12 MR. GARELLA: Good morning,
13 Council President Johnson and
14 Councilmembers. My name is Rich
15 Garella and Happy Leap Day,
16 everyone. Today you will consider
17 a bill on diversity, equity and
18 inclusion. Five years ago the
19 Parks Department and Fairmount Park
20 Conservancy --

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

22 Excuse me, Mr. Garella.

23 Mr. Garella, just one second.

24 The Chair recognizes
25 Councilman Curtis Jones.

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

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

4 Very briefly, I had the
5 honor of knowing Mr. Muhammad's
6 father. And if you ain't the apple
7 that fell from the tree, I don't
8 know about trees. And to see your
9 son following in your footsteps in
10 his own way is truly, truly
11 heartwarming and to see that
12 patience does pay off. So
13 As-salamu alaykum.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
15 Wa 'alaykum salam.

16 MR. GARELLA: Today you
17 will consider a bill on diversity,
18 equity and inclusion. Five years
19 ago, the Parks Department and
20 Fairmount Conservancy developed a
21 plan to renovate FDR Park. A major
22 part of that plan would replace
23 meadows, woodlands and protected
24 heritage trees with a large
25 suburban-style sports complex

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 featuring 16 artificial turf
3 playing fields at a cost of \$100
4 million supposedly in name of
5 equity for the kids.

6 Now, thanks to this past
7 Sunday's Philadelphia Inquirer, all
8 of you know the true cost of this
9 toxic turf. Young athletes fall
10 victim not only to injuries but to
11 brain cancer, leukemia and more
12 because --

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
14 Mr. Rich, Mr. Rich --

15 MR. GARELLA: -- of the
16 forever chemicals --

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
18 Mr. Rich, can we speak on what's
19 germane to the --

20 MR. GARELLA: That's right.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
22 -- bill at hand, which is focusing
23 on creating a Special Committee on
24 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in
25 the public and private sector as it

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 relates to addressing equity and
3 making sure Black and Brown and
4 women and other individuals have an
5 opportunity to have a seat at the
6 table when it comes to developing
7 businesses here in the City of
8 Philadelphia. Go ahead.

9 MR. GARELLA: Well,
10 I will -- certainly I do think it's
11 relevant. Thanks to the Inquirer,
12 you all know that the claims that
13 there is artificial turf that
14 doesn't contain these forever
15 chemicals, they're simply untrue.
16 The testing is misleading. The
17 vendors lie. The Conservancy lies.

18 There is no such thing as
19 safe artificial turf. Yet in that
20 five years this Council has never
21 voted on this plan to replace a
22 large part --

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
24 Rich, I'm being --

25 MR. GARELLA: And that's

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 why we never get to address --

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

4 All right. Go ahead and -- thank
5 you, sir.

6 Will the Clerk please call
7 the next person to speak.

8 CHIEF CLERK: Jeremy
9 Blatstein speaking on 240103, a
10 Land Bank resolution in District 3.

11 Can Ogbonna Hagins and
12 Stephanie Marsh also make their way
13 to the podium.

14 (Witness approached
15 podium.)

16 MR. BLATSTEIN: I'd just
17 like to say how moving that was
18 just to hear Mr. Muhammad speak
19 just now. That was really
20 powerful. I for the last year had
21 spent time with Queen Mother Falaka
22 Fattah at the House of Umoja, and
23 those types of people are the
24 backbone of the communities that we
25 have in Philadelphia and their

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 organizations need to be supported.
3 So I just first off wanted to say
4 that.

5 But good morning,
6 Kenyatta -- President Johnson,
7 Councilmember Jamie Gauthier and
8 City Council. My name is Jeremy
9 Blatstein and I'm the Director of
10 Finance and Design for Orens
11 Brothers Real Estate. Some of you
12 in this room may know me from my
13 Twitter account, Next PHL Mayor,
14 but that's not why I'm here today.

15 (Laughter.)

16 MR. BLATSTEIN: I'm here in
17 support of Bill No. 240103, which
18 will transfer land from the Land
19 Bank to allow us to build 11 homes
20 for ownership in West Philadelphia
21 sold at prices between \$200,000 and
22 \$280,000. How? The Turn the Key
23 program.

24 The Turn the Key program
25 allows us to build these homes and

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 sell them at those prices. It
3 creates generational wealth for
4 families via homeownership. This
5 is only a small step in tackling
6 the affordable housing problem
7 facing Philadelphia. But as Mayor
8 Parker has said in her first term,
9 I'm committed to building 30,000
10 units of affordable housing and
11 putting Turn the Key on steroids.
12 Let's make it happen.

13 Streamline the Land Bank
14 process, support organizations like
15 Black Squirrel and of course end
16 Councilmanic prerogative. Thank
17 you.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
19 Will the Clerk please call the next
20 person for public comment please.

21 CHIEF CLERK: Ogbonna
22 Hagins, speaking on 240109, the
23 Violence Incident Clearance Act.

24 (Witness approached
25 podium.)

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

3 Good morning, Ogbonna.

4 MR. HAGINS: Before I
5 start, I would really like to send
6 Council and the City of
7 Philadelphia my condolences for the
8 passing of Michael Decker and the
9 new Clerk mispronouncing my name --

10 CHIEF CLERK: I'm sorry.

11 MR. HAGINS: -- just
12 reminds me of the first time that
13 Mr. Decker mispronounced my name
14 and I had to go in the office and
15 tell him that it's Ogbonna and the
16 G is silent.

17 CHIEF CLERK: Ogbonna
18 Hagins, my apologies.

19 MR. HAGINS: So I really
20 send everybody my condolences
21 because it's a great loss. So I
22 understand the reason to
23 investigate violent crimes. I'm
24 speaking on the Violence -- the
25 VICTIM bill. So I understand the

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 importance of dealing with crime.

3 I understand the importance

4 of decreasing the closure rate in

5 murders, right. But I don't want

6 Council to forget that the

7 objective of getting rid of the

8 ghost guns, it was not to make them

9 legal which it actually does

10 because it provides people who have

11 federal licenses the ability to

12 manufacture those guns.

13 And as I spoke two weeks

14 ago, it actually is structurally

15 racist because the only people who

16 can really get a federal license to

17 produce ghost guns are White folk

18 who have money and the individuals

19 who actually are, for negative

20 reasons, but popularize ghost guns

21 are going out of the ghost gun

22 industry the same way that Afro

23 Americans are locked out of the

24 marijuana industry that Afro

25 Americans pretty much promoted and

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 made happen.

3 So I just want to implore
4 Council to review the bill that I
5 introduced as an unseated
6 Councilmember on structural racism,
7 because almost everything that I
8 heard people talk about today is a
9 result of structural racism. When
10 I was a teacher in an architecture
11 program, we had a contest. We had
12 to compete against the suburban
13 schools.

14 And the suburban schools
15 had computers and top of the line
16 equipment, and my students had
17 broken drafting boards. So guess
18 what we were told, you have to
19 overcome, you have to overcome.
20 Why? Because the Dobbins School
21 should have been equal to the
22 schools in the suburb. Structural
23 racism is the greatest problem
24 that's affecting not only
25 Philadelphia but this country.

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 And by Philadelphia being
3 the city of first, it would be
4 absolutely incredible for the
5 members who have not read this bill
6 to read it and to adopt this bill
7 because it solves a lot of
8 problems, particularly gun violence
9 which is the -- the study Roadmap
10 to Safer Communities says at its
11 roots, gun violence is a result of
12 structural racism, so I decided to
13 produce this bill since none of you
14 guys did it. Maybe you're so busy,
15 I know.

16 But what I'm saying to you
17 is read this bill, adopt this bill.
18 Someone please introduce this bill
19 and get it to the first Afro
20 American woman Mayor's desk to sign
21 this historic legislation. Thank
22 you.

23 (Applause.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
25 Will the Clerk please call the next

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 person for public comment.

3 CHIEF CLERK: We have a
4 Stephanie Marsh speaking on a
5 resolution Councilmember Ahmad is
6 adopting today.

7 (Witness approached
8 podium.)

9 MS. MARSH: Good morning,
10 President Johnson and
11 Councilmembers. Hello to Liz
12 McCollum, a Girls' High girl. I am
13 Stephanie Marsh and I'm not
14 speaking for the Administration or
15 for AKA, but am saluting a
16 remarkable woman Dr. Edith
17 Mitchell. It's still Black History
18 Month and we are on the cusp of
19 Women's History Month. Thanks to
20 Councilmember Ahmad and her
21 staffers aka Kyra and Duwayne.

22 Dr. Edith Mitchell rare
23 like the leap day was born on a
24 Tennessee farm and was later high
25 school valedictorian in

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Brownsville, Tennessee. She had
3 credentials. She was a
4 biochemistry major at Tennessee
5 State University, an HBCU in
6 Nashville. Think, Oprah, Wilma
7 Rudolph, Sixers Robert Covington
8 are graduates.

9 Dr. Mitchell was initiated
10 into AKA in 1966. She graduated
11 from the Medical College of
12 Virginia and she furthered her
13 studies at Meharry, another
14 national HBCU. She was phenomenal,
15 brilliant, a rock star. And she
16 was a world-renowned Jefferson
17 Health oncologist for almost 30
18 years. Her expertise was in cancer
19 research and she concentrated on
20 colorectal, prostate and breast
21 cancer and specifically triple
22 negative breast cancer, which
23 disproportionately impacts women of
24 color, like Gloria Casarez, who has
25 a state marker posted outside of

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 City Hall.

3 Dr. Mitchell made breast
4 awareness an international focus of
5 AKA. How? The past International
6 President of AKA, Glenda Glover, is
7 the current President of Tennessee
8 State University. Dr. Mitchell
9 hosted our AKA Omega Omega Chapter
10 members at Jefferson Hospital for a
11 few times. She educated us so that
12 we could educate others. My mom
13 who's here liked those events.

14 In February, for Black
15 History Month she would host a
16 symposium at Jefferson Health for
17 Black Physicians as she invited all
18 of her other groups for the history
19 lessons and to honor medical
20 scholarship recipients. She was a
21 mentor to scores of medical
22 professionals throughout her
23 career.

24 A focus for her was to
25 increase the number of

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 underrepresented individuals in
3 medicine. When she became the
4 President of the National Medical
5 Association, those are the Black
6 doctors, this was in 2015, she
7 wanted then Mayor Michael Nutter to
8 appear at an NMA Board meeting. He
9 attended and then the following
10 year the National Convention of the
11 NMA was held in Philadelphia. That
12 was Dr. Mitchell, always teaching,
13 connecting, seeing the big picture.
14 Interestingly, her memorial
15 service the other day was held in
16 the Michael Nutter auditorium.
17 Also, as the NMA President
18 Dr. Mitchell and famed attorney
19 Benjamin Crump who was the NBA
20 President, those are the Black
21 lawyers, hosted an event for Black
22 doctors and lawyers during the DNC
23 held in Philadelphia. The talent
24 in that room was all inspiring.
25 In 2020, she was recognized

1 2/29/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 as a fellow of the Royal College of
3 Physicians of London. The RCP was
4 founded in 1518 by King Henry the
5 VIII, the mark of achievement and
6 skill as a doctor. She's a Black
7 woman being recognized in London
8 for this achievement.

9 Dr. Mitchell's life journey
10 was to eliminate cancer disparities
11 for all populations regardless of
12 background or zip code and to
13 increase the diversity of patients
14 enrolled in clinical trials. She
15 had extraordinary credentials and
16 accolades but was very humble, but
17 also very demanding.

18 I learned very quickly when
19 Dr. Mitchell called, you responded
20 and made whatever she wanted
21 happen. She was always the
22 Brigadier General. Like the three
23 AKAs in Hidden Figures,
24 Dr. Mitchell was a hidden figure
25 who should be saluted for her

1 2/29/24 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 contributions to Philadelphia and
3 beyond.

4 And I just want to point
5 out, her sister Phyllis and
6 daughter Dale are here today. I
7 know Dale is here from Missouri.
8 Thank you.

9 (Applause.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
11 Are there any other speakers on
12 public comment for today?

13 CHIEF CLERK: Council
14 President, there are no other
15 speakers on today's Calendar.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
17 That concludes today's public
18 comment period.

19 We will now consider
20 resolutions on the Second Reading
21 and Final Passage Calendars.

22 Will the Clerk please read
23 the title of the resolution.

24 CHIEF CLERK: Resolution
25 240103, a resolution authorizing

1 2/29/24 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 the Philadelphia Land Bank to
3 dispose of 18-20, 24-30 and 34-36
4 South 44th Street, and 4422 and
5 4426-30 Ludlow Street located in
6 the 3rd Councilmanic District in
7 accordance with the terms of
8 Chapter 16-700 of The Philadelphia
9 Code.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
11 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman
12 Jamie Gauthier for a motion on the
13 resolution.

14 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:
15 Thank you, Council President.

16 I move for the adoption of
17 the resolution.

18 (Duly seconded.)

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

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

25 (Aye.)

1 2/29/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

3 Those opposed?

4 (No response.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

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

8 Will the Clerk please read
9 the title of the next resolution.

10 CHIEF CLERK: Resolution
11 240107, a resolution authorizing
12 the creation of a Special Committee
13 on City and Private Sector
14 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
15 Policies to examine the impact of
16 such policies and to provide
17 practical evidence-based
18 recommendations to enhance policy
19 effectiveness in the promotion of
20 minority, women and disable-owned
21 businesses in the City of
22 Philadelphia.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

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

1 2/29/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 resolution on my behalf.

3 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank
4 you, Council President.

5 On your behalf, I move for
6 the adoption of the resolution.

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

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

13 (Aye.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
15 Those opposed?

16 (No response.)

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

20 Will the Clerk please read
21 the title of the next resolution.

22 CHIEF CLERK: Resolution
23 No. 240108, Councilmember Thomas
24 for Council President Johnson, a
25 resolution authorizing the

1 2/29/24 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 reconvening of the Philadelphia Tax
3 Reform Commission and its Advisory
4 Committee to conduct an updated
5 comprehensive analysis of all taxes
6 imposed in the City of Philadelphia
7 and to make recommendations
8 concerning tax reforms that support
9 the City's economic growth and
10 competitiveness.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
12 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
13 Isaiah Thomas for a motion on the
14 resolution on my behalf.

15 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Council
16 President, I just want to take a
17 second to really thank you for your
18 leadership on this particular
19 issue. This is one of the biggest
20 problems we have in our city right
21 now that's not being discussed.

22 So I enthusiastically move
23 for the adoption of the resolution.

24 (Duly seconded.)

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

1 2/29/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

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

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

7 (Duly seconded.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

9 Those opposed?

10 (No response.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

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

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

15 Will the Clerk please read the
16 title for the next resolution.

17 CHIEF CLERK: Resolution
18 No. 240109 introduced by
19 Councilmember Jones, a resolution
20 calling on the United States
21 Congress to pass the bipartisan
22 Violent Incident Clearance and
23 Technological Investigative
24 Methods, VICTIM, Act which will
25 give law enforcement the support

1 2/29/24 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 they need to investigate violent
3 crime and increase the closure rate
4 of homicide cases.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
6 The Chair recognizes Councilman
7 Curtis Jones for a motion on the
8 resolution.

9 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank
10 you, Mr. President.

11 I move for the adoption of
12 the resolution.

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

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

18 (Aye.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
20 Those opposed?

21 (No response.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
23 The ayes have it and the resolution
24 is adopted.

25 Will the Clerk please read

1 2/29/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 the next title of the resolution.

3 CHIEF CLERK: Resolution

4 No. 240111, introduced by

5 Councilmember Lozada, a resolution

6 authorizing the Philadelphia Land

7 Bank to dispose of 2428 North

8 Orianna Street located in the 7th

9 Councilmanic District in accordance

10 with the terms of Chapter 16-700 of

11 The Philadelphia Code.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

13 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman

14 Quetcy Lozada for a motion on the

15 resolution.

16 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Thank

17 you, Council President.

18 I move for the adoption of

19 the resolution.

20 (Duly seconded.)

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

22 It has been moved and properly

23 seconded that the resolution be

24 adopted.

25 All those in favor will

1 2/29/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 signify by saying aye.

3 (Aye.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

5 Those opposed?

6 (No response.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

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

10 Will the Clerk please read
11 the title of the next resolution.

12 CHIEF CLERK: Resolution
13 No. 240112, introduced by
14 Councilmember Young, a resolution
15 authorizing the Philadelphia Land
16 Bank to dispose of 2464 North
17 Natrona Street located in the 5th
18 Councilmanic District in accordance
19 with the terms of Chapter 16-700 of
20 The Philadelphia Code.

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

25 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Thank

1 2/29/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 you, Mr. President.

3 I move for its adoption.

4 (Duly seconded.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

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

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

11 (Aye.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

13 Those opposed?

14 (No response.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

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

18 Will the Clerk please read
19 any additional resolutions on
20 today's Calendar.

21 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged
22 resolution recognizing March 2024
23 as Colorectal Cancer Awareness
24 Month and promoting the public
25 awareness of the risk of colon

1 2/29/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 cancer introduced by Anthony --

3 Councilmember Phillips.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

5 Chair recognizes Councilmember

6 Anthony Phillips for a motion on

7 the resolution.

8 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: Thank

9 you, Council President.

10 I move for the adoption of

11 the resolution.

12 (Duly seconded.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

14 It has been moved and properly

15 seconded the resolution be adopted.

16 All those in favor will

17 signify by saying aye.

18 (Aye.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

20 Those opposed?

21 (No response.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

23 The ayes have it and the resolution

24 is adopted.

25 Will the Clerk please

1 2/29/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 read --

3 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution

4 introduced on behalf of Council

5 President honoring Kenneth E.

6 Lawrence, Jr. on his appointment as

7 Board Chair at the Southeastern

8 Pennsylvania Transportation

9 Authority and recognizing

10 Mr. Lawrence for his dedication to

11 improving transit service across

12 the SEPTA network.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

14 The Chair recognizes

15 Councilmember -- I missed that.

16 Who was that again?

17 CHIEF CLERK: Sorry.

18 Gilmore --

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

20 She's not here --

21 CHIEF CLERK: -- she asked

22 for leave.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

24 The Chair recognizes Councilmember

25 Isaiah Thomas.

1 2/29/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank
3 you, Council President.

4 On behalf of you and
5 Councilmember Gilmore Richardson, I
6 move for the adoption of the
7 resolution.

8 (Duly seconded.)

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

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

15 (Aye.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
17 Those opposed?

18 (No response.)

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

22 Thank you very much,
23 Councilmember Thomas.

24 Will the Clerk please read
25 the title of the next resolution.

1 2/29/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
3 congratulating the Audenried High
4 School Girls Basketball Team for
5 winning the 2024 Public League
6 Championship. It was a resolution
7 introduced by Councilmember Gilmore
8 Richardson on behalf of Council
9 President Johnson.

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

14 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank
15 you, Council President.

16 On your behalf as well as
17 Majority Leader Gilmore Richardson,
18 I hesitantly move for the adoption
19 of the resolution.

20 (Duly seconded.)

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

25 All those in favor will

1 2/29/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 signify by saying aye.

3 (Aye.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

5 Those opposed?

6 (No response.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

8 The ayes have it and this

9 resolution has been greatly

10 adopted.

11 Will the Clerk please read

12 the title of the next resolution.

13 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution

14 honoring the Defender Association

15 of Philadelphia on the 90th

16 anniversary of the Association's

17 founding and recognizing the

18 contributions of the Association

19 and its attorneys to Philadelphia's

20 criminal justice system. Also, a

21 resolution introduced by

22 Councilmember Gilmore Richardson on

23 Council President Kenyatta

24 Johnson's behalf.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

1 2/29/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

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

5 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank
6 you, Council President.

7 On your behalf as well as
8 the behalf of the Majority Leader,
9 I move for the adoption of the
10 resolution.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
12 Can I get a second?

13 (Duly seconded.)

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

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

20 (Aye.)

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
22 Those opposed?

23 (No response.)

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

1 2/29/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 is adopted.

3 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
4 honoring Mr. Abdul-Rahim Muhammad
5 on the occasion of Black History
6 Month for his contributions to West
7 Philadelphia introduced by
8 Councilmember Gauthier.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
10 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman
11 Jamie Gauthier.

12 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:
13 Thank you, Council President.

14 I move for the adoption of
15 the resolution.

16 (Duly seconded.)

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

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

23 (Aye.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
25 Those opposed?

1 2/29/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 (No response.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

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

6 (Applause.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

8 Congratulations.

9 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
10 honoring and congratulating the
11 Educator of the Month, Elaine
12 Estes, a Spanish teacher at Furness
13 High School who recently
14 participated in the U.S. Olympic
15 Trials as a marathon runner,
16 introduced by Councilmember Thomas.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

18 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
19 Isaiah Thomas.

20 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank
21 you, Council President.

22 I move for the adoption of
23 the resolution.

24 (Duly seconded.)

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

1 2/29/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

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

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

7 (Aye.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

9 Those opposed?

10 (No response.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

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

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

15 A resolution recognizing the life
16 and legacy of Baba Joe Foster, a
17 community leader in the movement
18 for African-centered education in
19 Philadelphia introduced by
20 Councilmember Thomas.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

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

25 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank

1 2/29/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 you, Council President.

3 I'll speak more indepth
4 about Baba Joe on the floor. So
5 for now I move for the adoption of
6 the resolution.

7 (Duly seconded.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

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

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

14 (Aye.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

16 Those opposed?

17 (No response.)

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

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

21 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
22 recognizing and honoring
23 Dr. Jo-Elle Mogerman for her
24 leadership as the first female and
25 first Black Chief Executive Officer

1 2/29/24 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 and President of the Philadelphia
3 Zoo, introduced by Councilmember
4 Jones.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
6 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
7 Curtis Jones for a motion on the
8 resolution.

9 COUNCILMAN JONES: I just
10 want to recognize that that's
11 mostly in the 3rd Councilmanic
12 District, but I move for the
13 adoption for the parking lot that I
14 represent.

15 (Duly seconded.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
17 That parking is a big deal though.

18 It has been moved and
19 properly seconded that the
20 resolution be adopted.

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

23 (Aye.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
25 Those opposed?

1 2/29/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 (No response.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

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

6 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
7 recognizing and honoring Joy
8 Parham-Thomas for her impactful
9 contributions to thriving Black
10 food culture in Philadelphia as a
11 chef, culinary educator and
12 advocate for food justice
13 introduced by Councilmember Landau.

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

18 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU: I
19 move for the adoption of the
20 resolution.

21 (Duly seconded.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

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

1 2/29/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 All those in favor will

3 signify be saying aye.

4 (Aye.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

6 Those opposed?

7 (No response.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

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

11 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
12 authorizing Philadelphia City
13 Council to conduct hearings and to
14 investigate the efficiency,
15 implementation and enhancement of
16 the outdoor dining program and
17 improve opportunities for
18 restaurants to operate streeteries
19 and sidewalk cafés, introduced by
20 Councilmember Landau.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
22 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
23 Rue Landau for a motion on the
24 resolution.

25 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU: I

1 2/29/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 move for the adoption of the
3 resolution.

4 (Duly seconded.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

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

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

11 (Aye.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

13 Those opposed?

14 (No response.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

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

18 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
19 honoring and recognizing the work
20 and accomplishments of Denise
21 Ripley whose dedication to the
22 City, to community service and to
23 the housing rights of all --

24 (Applause.)

25 CHIEF CLERK: -- have

1 2/29/24 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 invigorated and supported civic
3 life in the City of Philadelphia,
4 introduced by Councilmember Brooks.

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

9 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: Yes,
10 I move for the adoption of the
11 resolution.

12 (Duly seconded.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
14 All those in favor will signify by
15 saying aye.

16 (Aye.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
18 Those opposed?

19 (No response.)

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

23 Congratulations.

24 (Applause.)

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

1 2/29/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 Will the Clerk please read the
3 title of the next resolution.

4 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
5 honoring and recognizing Prudence
6 Powell for her powerful advocacy,
7 love for her community and her
8 inspiring work to keep families in
9 Philadelphia whole and to provide
10 sanctuary and stability to all,
11 introduced by Councilmember Brooks.

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

16 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: I
17 move for the adoption of the
18 resolution.

19 (Duly seconded.)

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

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

1 2/29/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 (Aye.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

4 Those opposed?

5 (No response.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

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

9 Will the Clerk please read
10 the title of the next resolution.

11 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
12 honoring and recognizing the life,
13 work and accomplishments of
14 Rochelle Nichols Solomon whose
15 dedication to serving, teaching and
16 advocating for students and
17 marginalized peoples has improved
18 the lives of people across the City
19 of Philadelphia, introduced by
20 Councilmember Brooks.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

22 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
23 Brooks for a motion on the
24 resolution.

25 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS:

1 2/29/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

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

4 (Duly seconded.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

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

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

11 (Aye.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

13 Those opposed?

14 (No response.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

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

18 (Applause.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

20 Congratulations.

21 Will the Clerk please read
22 the title of the next resolution.

23 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
24 honoring and recognizing the work
25 and accomplishments of the Stadium

1 2/29/24 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 Stompers whose dedication to
3 advocating for the North
4 Philadelphia community and for
5 housing rights for all people have
6 helped secure neighborhood
7 stability for communities in the
8 City of Philadelphia, introduced by
9 Councilmember Brooks.

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

14 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS:
15 Council President, I move for the
16 adoption of the resolution.

17 (Duly seconded.)

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

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

24 (Aye.)

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

1 2/29/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 Those opposed?

3 (No response.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

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

7 (Applause.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

9 Congratulations.

10 Will the Clerk please read
11 the title of the next resolution.

12 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
13 proclaiming the month of March in
14 2024 as Irish Heritage Month in the
15 City of Philadelphia and honoring
16 the St. Patrick's Day Observance
17 Association of Philadelphia,
18 introduced by Councilmember
19 Driscoll.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
21 Make sure you bring them donuts
22 too.

23 The Chair recognizes
24 Councilmember Mike Driscoll for a
25 motion on the resolution.

1 2/29/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL: I

3 move for the adoption of the

4 resolution.

5 (Duly seconded.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

7 It has been moved and properly

8 seconded that a resolution be

9 adopted.

10 All those in favor will

11 signify by saying aye.

12 (Aye.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

14 Those opposed?

15 (No response.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

17 The ayes have it and the resolution

18 is adopted.

19 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution

20 celebrating the life and honoring

21 the memory of trailblazing

22 physician, researcher and

23 humanitarian Dr. Edith Peterson

24 Mitchell, introduced by

25 Councilmember Ahmad.

1 2/29/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

3 Chair recognizes Councilmember Nina
4 Ahmad for a motion on the
5 resolution.

6 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD: Thank
7 you, Council President.

8 I move for the adoption of
9 the resolution.

10 (Duly seconded.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

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

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

17 (Aye.)

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

19 Those opposed?

20 (No response.)

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

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

24 CHIEF CLERK: And a
25 resolution honoring and celebrating

1 2/29/24 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 the life and legacy of former Chief
3 Clerk Michael Andrew Decker, our
4 friend, colleague and dedicated
5 public servant, introduced by
6 Councilmember O'Neill.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
8 The Chair recognizes -- this will
9 be a standing vote. The Chair
10 recognizes Councilmember O'Neill.

11 All members please stand.
12 (All Councilmembers stood.)

13 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: I move
14 for the adoption of the resolution
15 and a moment of silence.

16 (Moment of silence.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
18 Will the Clerk please read the
19 title of the next resolution.

20 CHIEF CLERK: There are no
21 more resolutions on the Calendar
22 for consideration, Mr. President.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
24 That completes our Calendar for
25 today.

1 2/29/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 Are there any speeches on
3 the part of the Minority?

4 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: Yes.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
6 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
7 Brooks.

8 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: Thank
9 you, Council President.

10 Today on the last day of
11 Black History Month I'm introducing
12 resolutions in honor of several
13 Black leaders who have been making
14 history right here in Philadelphia
15 as part of Living History PHL.

16 The first that I introduced
17 was Prudence Powell. Prudence was
18 unable to be here, and earlier you
19 saw a picture of her because she's
20 currently in hospice so her
21 children were here for her and they
22 wanted to get back.

23 Prudence is a champion for
24 immigrant justice and her work is
25 an important reminder of the

1 2/29/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 intersection of racial justice and
3 immigrant justice in our city. As
4 a leader of the Shutdown Berks
5 Coalition, she succeeded in closing
6 down the Berks County Detention
7 Center which imprisoned Black and
8 Brown immigrant families seeking
9 asylum. Prudence is currently in
10 the hospital, but her family was
11 here on her behalf.

12 Second, I would like to
13 honor Rochelle Nichols Solomon who
14 took this kicking and screaming. I
15 had to call her personally myself.
16 And I have to say this because so
17 often as Black women we feel like
18 we don't deserve the honor after
19 all the hard work and setting a
20 pathway for just women in general
21 in our city.

22 Rochelle is a champion for
23 Black and Brown young people in
24 Philadelphia. She has been a
25 leader in over 10 organizations

1 2/29/24 - STATED - SPEECHES
2 focused on education equity,
3 including Youth United For Change,
4 Education Law Center, School
5 Advocacy Council at Samuel Powell
6 School, Philadelphia Public School
7 Notebook, Research for Action and
8 POWER Interfaith. Through her
9 advocacy, she has known what is
10 possible when parents, grandparents
11 take the lead in transforming our
12 schools.

13 Third, I would like to
14 honor, I'm co-introducing with
15 Councilmember Young, Denise Ripley
16 is a seasoned leader for people in
17 North Philadelphia as a block
18 captain, a community person and an
19 organizer with Stadium Stompers and
20 the Philadelphia Unemployment
21 Project, she shows us the power of
22 blending direct service and public
23 advocacy to strength her community.

24 And finally, I would like
25 to honor the Stadium Stompers. The

1 2/29/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 Stadium Stompers was formed in 2015
3 as a coalition of community
4 members, students and faculty who
5 came together to oppose a proposed
6 football stadium on Temple
7 University's campus. Through their
8 efforts, they showed the power of
9 community members coming together
10 to make an impact on how land and
11 resources are used.

12 When we think of history,
13 we sometimes think about the musty
14 textbooks that we had when we were
15 in school or we think about
16 politicians and generals and other
17 famous men who dominate all the
18 pages in the history books.

19 It's harder to learn the
20 stories of everyday people who held
21 families and communities together,
22 who nurtured movements, who
23 shouldered their way into rooms
24 where they weren't supposed to be
25 and who challenged the course of

1 2/29/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 history through the daily and
3 persistent force of their love.

4 Those are the stories that
5 we are honoring today and these
6 people are living history, and we
7 owe them the reverence and
8 gratitude for the ways they have
9 shaped our communities, our city
10 and our future. And I just want to
11 thank each and every one of these
12 folk that I introduced or the
13 groups that we introduced because
14 these are the folks that help
15 formulate me into being a strong
16 activist when I was
17 boots-on-the-ground. And I have
18 been committed to that since I've
19 been elected.

20 So this Living History PHL
21 was just a representation of what
22 it means to be a Black woman,
23 raising a family, trying to figure
24 it out but still standing up and
25 fighting for your community, and so

1 2/29/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 often I went through the list of
3 all these women that came way
4 before me never receiving any
5 recognition. And I think it's
6 important that we celebrate our
7 own. And we have to make sure that
8 they realize that they are worthy
9 of recognition, worthy of the
10 appreciation and worthy of the
11 support of the City that they carry
12 on their backs and don't complain
13 about it.

14 And lastly, I would be
15 remiss if I didn't just say
16 something about Mike Decker. You
17 know, I just remember just him
18 talking about wanting to take a
19 vacation and that's what he was
20 going to do. And as I honor this
21 Living History PHL, it reminds me
22 that we should all take a break,
23 step back, smell a little roses and
24 enjoy our families while we still
25 have time.

1 2/29/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 And I think in Mike's
3 honor, Living History PHL I just
4 remember all the amazing stories
5 that he would tell me over in the
6 Clerk's Office. And I just want
7 him to know that he will be
8 remembered.

9 And I also want to welcome
10 our new Acting Chief Clerk Liz
11 McCollum for stepping up to the
12 plate and helping us get back on
13 track. This is hard for all of us.
14 (Applause.)

15 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: It's
16 a hard transition for all of us
17 here in Council, so I just want to
18 thank her for her service and being
19 able to do that.

20 And last but not least, a part
21 of this Black History PHL, a few
22 years ago I think we honored Mike
23 Hinson in this room, and it's
24 really my honor to continually see
25 things moving forward based on his

1 2/29/24 - STATED - SPEECHES
2 life and legacy of the work that
3 he's done around HIV prevention,
4 LGBTQ community and housing, all
5 the intersections coming together.
6 And we're still seeing his legacy
7 play out. So I'm very warmed and
8 kind of humbled by that.

9 And I want us -- my last
10 shout-out. See, I saved it all. I
11 usually don't say anything so be
12 patient because all of y'all talk a
13 lot.

14 (Laughter.)

15 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: So
16 one other thing is that we said
17 that we wanted to do something in
18 honor of Black History Month. So I
19 want to thank all of my colleagues
20 for being willing to come and
21 represent what it means to be a
22 part of Black History, whether
23 you're representing a fraternity or
24 sorority or African history and
25 your sorority over there in the

1 2/29/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 corner.

3 I just want to thank you
4 for us coming together. And thank
5 you everyone that was willing to
6 just take a pin, because it's Black
7 History 365 for me. However, it
8 would be a lost opportunity if we
9 didn't celebrate our history today
10 collectively, realizing that Black
11 people have made a huge
12 contribution on our city and
13 continue to do so.

14 Thank you so much, Council
15 President.

16 (Applause.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

18 You're welcome. Good job.

19 Any speeches on the part of
20 the Majority?

21 The Chair recognizes
22 Councilman Curtis Jones.

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

25 As I look at that wreath

1 2/29/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 and think about Mr. Decker, the
3 18th member of City Council, Member
4 Brooks is so right. He was next
5 door to me and I would see him in
6 the hallway. And I asked him, are
7 you going to stay around another
8 term. And he talked about whether
9 or not he would, I'm sure you know
10 that.

11 You got to take the time
12 y'all to -- this is important work
13 that we do, but no more important
14 than you. It's important work that
15 we do, but it's not more important
16 than self-care and making sure that
17 you're okay.

18 Transitioning from my
19 friend Mike Decker, I want to thank
20 everybody that came out last
21 Saturday to Parent University.
22 Members of this body included
23 himself, Mr. President, showing a
24 lot of parents that they are
25 important, that they matter.

1 2/29/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 As you look at some of the
3 findings we've had in the Crime
4 Summit and the Blueprint for a
5 Better Philadelphia, what we
6 realize is what goes in the wash
7 comes out in the rinse. If we
8 don't address our children early,
9 they will be problem adults later
10 on.

11 You wind up spending
12 whatever the investment was as a
13 child three to five times as much
14 trying to correct grown people.
15 And of the workshops, the resource,
16 I thank you and your family for
17 taking the time to walk to each of
18 those 100 -- no, 75 resource
19 tables. It meant a lot to the
20 providers.

21 Some of the workshops were
22 insightful, informative but
23 frightening. The one about words
24 do matter, they showed a clip from
25 the movie Precious. I don't know

1 2/29/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 if you saw it but there's a part in
3 there where the mother is berating
4 her daughter and it brought tears
5 to people's eyes to think that
6 someone that you look to for
7 guidance can push you so low.

8 Another workshop that I
9 thought was impactful was -- and I
10 got this from Member Bass, and I
11 give you credit every time I say
12 it -- what do you do when you
13 realize when the shooter lives with
14 you, and it was informative about
15 what to do without overprosecuting
16 your child but keeping them safe
17 even if it's from themselves.

18 The other one that I
19 thought was pretty impactful was
20 grandparents with a second tour of
21 duty. More and more grandparents
22 are stepping up to the plate for
23 the second time to take on the
24 responsibility of raising kids.
25 This was a first time, an inaugural

1 2/29/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 effort, that we're working with
3 DHS, CUAs, JEVS and the Parker
4 Administration to not only make
5 Parent 2.0 but Parent 3.0 to be
6 able to provide this. And thank
7 you for your generous commitment to
8 fund this activity, Mr. President.
9 Thank you so much.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

11 You're welcome, absolutely.

12 The Chair recognizes
13 Councilman -- it was a very, very
14 informative event. I was raised by
15 my Nana so I get it, the second
16 tour of duty as well.

17 The Chair recognizes
18 Councilman Jim Harrity.

19 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: Good
20 evening -- well, good afternoon,
21 colleagues and Council President.

22 I'd like to commend my
23 colleague Councilwoman Gauthier for
24 recognizing Brother Muhammad. It
25 is true that we wait sometimes too

1 2/29/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 long before we recognize the work
3 that they're doing. And I
4 encourage anybody that hasn't been
5 over to the museum that he keeps
6 there on Lancaster Avenue. As a
7 student of history, I was very,
8 very impressed.

9 With that being said, I'd
10 also like to thank the co-sponsors
11 of my pothole bill today. You
12 know, during the campaign there was
13 a poll that came out of what the
14 citizens of Philadelphia thought
15 that we were short on. Of course,
16 the top two we all know which is
17 crime and education, but number
18 three on that poll by far -- number
19 four wasn't even close -- was
20 potholes. And as a highway worker,
21 I thought there was something that
22 we should be doing about that
23 because the bottom line is what's
24 being labeled a pothole is not a
25 pothole. It is a construction hole

1 2/29/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 that was done illegally by a
3 contractor.

4 And the way I know it was
5 done illegally is because if that
6 contractor was to pull a permit,
7 then the City of Philadelphia would
8 come out and fill that hole because
9 we want to make sure it's done
10 right. There's a certain way it
11 has to go. And it always drives me
12 crazy when they get labeled a
13 pothole.

14 And I'm sure it drives the
15 citizens of Philadelphia crazy when
16 they think that they hit a pothole
17 and call us in the City trying to
18 get some money for the damage that
19 was done to their car, and then
20 they are told once we go out and
21 investigate that, no, that wasn't a
22 pothole, that was a construction
23 hole. And of course then we have
24 to figure out who did that
25 construction hole.

1 2/29/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 So I thank you. This is
3 very important to the citizens of
4 Philadelphia. This is commonsense
5 stuff that we need to be doing as a
6 City. People need to be able to
7 get around. People need to be able
8 to drive on our roads without
9 having to worry about losing their
10 suspension or a tire to one of
11 these massive construction holes.

12 So I thank you all and look
13 forward to what we're going to do
14 in the future. Thank you.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
16 Thank you.

17 The Chair recognizes
18 Councilmember Nina Ahmad.

19 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD: Thank
20 you, Council President.

21 I just want to thank
22 everyone, including her sister
23 Phyllis Arnold and her daughter
24 Dale and all that spoke so
25 eloquently about the trailblazing

1 2/29/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 physician, researcher, humanitarian

3 Dr. Edith Peterson Mitchell.

4 I wanted to just speak to

5 one aspect of her amazing career.

6 Her work that she did that helped

7 increase minority participation in

8 clinical trials, and she worked

9 tirelessly to eliminate health

10 disparities affecting too many

11 individuals and communities in

12 Philadelphia and across our

13 country.

14 If nothing else, I want her

15 endearing legacy to continue in

16 making sure we end medical racism.

17 That is a huge issue in our medical

18 communities and it is literally

19 killing people. So I want to

20 commend her for all the work she's

21 done, and I want all of us to

22 continue and carry out that work so

23 that medical racism is no more.

24 I also wanted to thank my

25 staff members here Kyra Harris and

1 2/29/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 Duwayne Terry who put this
3 together, since I actually never
4 met Dr. Mitchell and I'm sad that I
5 didn't. And speaking to the point
6 that giving people their flowers
7 while they're here and she died
8 very suddenly, so I want to thank
9 all of you for recognizing her, but
10 most importantly continue her
11 legacy. Thank you.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

13 Thank you.

14 (Applause.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

16 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
17 Anthony Phillips.

18 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

19 Council President, Council
20 colleagues as well as all of
21 Philadelphia, good afternoon.

22 Several weeks ago
23 Councilwoman Lozada and her
24 colleagues Councilmembers Harrity,
25 Driscoll and Squilla rendered and

1 2/29/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 commenced several initiatives of
3 good will to end the long nights of
4 human captivity that residents of
5 Kensington neighborhood of
6 Philadelphia have experienced.

7 Unfortunately, their noble
8 decision has not gone without
9 opposition. This opposition has
10 risen to incredible proportions.
11 While the majority of residents of
12 Kensington welcome the swift moves
13 of the Kensington Caucus, there
14 remains a loud minority of
15 individuals that live in places
16 like Ardmore, Narberth and other
17 neighborhoods outside of Kensington
18 voicing harrowingly comments about
19 their efforts.

20 Though Kensington does not
21 encompass the 9th District, I wish
22 to offer my public and unqualified
23 support for a dramatic, thoughtful,
24 compassionate and timely shift in
25 policy for one of Philadelphia's

1 2/29/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 most bedeviling and vexing
3 challenges and, that is, what do we
4 do about Kensington.

5 Most of us here on Council
6 welcome the efforts of the
7 Kensington Caucus. Our colleague
8 Councilwoman Lozada and the other
9 members of the Kensington Caucus
10 and our new Mayor Cherelle Parker
11 have struck out on the early stages
12 of a new and welcomed approached to
13 battling the challenges faced by
14 Kensington residents.

15 I want to be reflected on
16 the record that they are not alone.
17 I stand, think, act, pray and
18 strategize with them as we seek to
19 address a moral imperative.
20 Kensington despite its richness and
21 resilience represents a global and
22 local call to action for those who
23 care about people of the future of
24 the City of Philadelphia.

25 As Kensington goes, so goes

1 2/29/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 Philadelphia. I rise today to say
3 to the opposition from individuals,
4 that for over a decade we have
5 tried it your way. We have offered
6 food, clothes and counseling
7 services. Yet the problem in
8 Kensington still exists.

9 We have calmly tried to get
10 individuals into treatment and have
11 done protection support. Yet the
12 problem in Kensington still exists.
13 After we tried it your way for over
14 a decade, the residents of
15 Kensington are still held hostage
16 in their homes.

17 While many of those in
18 opposition can afford to go back to
19 their privileged lives, there are
20 people in Kensington, the residents
21 have to live through this treachery
22 of reality and they're calling out
23 for our wavering support. It is
24 now time to give our Mayor Cherelle
25 Parker and City Council's

1 2/29/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 Kensington Caucus the ability to
3 lead differently.

4 I would be remiss if I
5 didn't say that 7th District
6 Councilwoman Lozada is a hero.
7 She's going to lead us into
8 something greater when it comes to
9 this issue.

10 To quote our Police
11 Commissioner Kevin Bethel who made
12 remarks about Kensington several
13 weeks ago, "Philadelphia, we won't
14 be in this position this time next
15 year." I'm confident in our Police
16 Commissioner. I'm confident in our
17 Mayor. I'm confident in
18 Councilwoman Lozada and the rest of
19 the Kensington Caucus to solve this
20 issue.

21 In too many corridors
22 Kensington has become a code word
23 for community in freefall. Online
24 and in the minds of too many
25 people, Kensington has become

1 2/29/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 synonymous with ills of modernity.

3 I want to say it's a new day

4 dawning. I'm in complete support

5 of new direction that emphasizes

6 both compassion and responsibility.

7 In my world and the rest of

8 world, most of the people we serve

9 there are twin towers of the

10 problem-solving, compassion and

11 responsibility. One without the

12 other is simply incomplete. It

13 says I care about you but willing

14 to leave unchallenged and

15 unchanged, that somehow the state

16 government cares more about you

17 than you care for yourself cannot

18 be the position. This is

19 ultimately inhumane and does not

20 transform people. People must be

21 active agents in their own healing

22 and transformation. And our city

23 in Kensington needs to transform

24 desperately.

25 I'm reminded of someone in

1 2/29/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 my own family who was active in
3 their own healing and own
4 transformation. I'm reminded of
5 one of my aunt's stories. My aunt
6 who struggled with addiction for
7 several years once came to my
8 grandmother's house in North
9 Philadelphia strung out on drugs.

10 The grandmother from South
11 Carolina said, Cuda -- that was my
12 mom's nickname -- don't let her in
13 my house. It pained my grandmother
14 not to let the daughter she loved
15 for several years not to come into
16 that house, but she knew that the
17 only way to support her was not
18 supporting her addiction. She knew
19 that she wasn't raised that way and
20 my grandmother from the south was
21 not going to tolerate that
22 foolishness.

23 My aunt at the time did not
24 understand. She said, Mommy, you
25 won't let your own daughter in the

1 2/29/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 house, how could you, Mommy. And
3 my grandmother just looked and
4 said, Go do what you got to do. If
5 my grandmother would have let my
6 aunt in that house, my aunt would
7 not have graduated from college
8 with two Master's degrees. If my
9 grandmother would have let my aunt
10 in that house, my aunt would not
11 have become a great health care
12 professional that she is today.

13 I say to you all today that
14 we have to stop enabling these
15 people so they can be people like
16 my aunt and understand that they
17 have to be able to support
18 themselves, and we're going to be
19 there with them every step of the
20 way. As policymakers, we must
21 endow our policymaking with equal
22 parts of compassion and
23 responsibility.

24 We must act bold, nimbly
25 with our paralyzed ideologies that

1 2/29/24 - STATED - SPEECHES
2 in the past superseded reason,
3 responsibility, experience and
4 human nature. That when we act
5 aggressively, we are doing so out
6 of love and sometimes fueled by the
7 desperation of our neighbors who
8 are forced to drive the streets of
9 Kensington looking for their
10 children or mothers or fathers who
11 have been sucked into an
12 unescapable web of addiction and
13 modernity.
14 Kensington Caucus, push us,
15 bring us along. Tell us what you
16 and the communities represent and
17 need. We're not here for Narberth.
18 We're not here for Ardmore and
19 we're not here for anyone else that
20 is not other than the residents of
21 Kensington. We are with you. We
22 stand with you and you are our
23 neighbors and we're here to listen
24 and do. We're here. Thank you.
25 (Applause.)

1 2/29/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

3 Chair recognizes Councilmember

4 Jamie Gauthier.

5 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:

6 Thank you, Council President.

7 First, I wanted to invite
8 all my colleagues and their staff
9 to a briefing and a report launch
10 by Philadelphia Coalition for
11 Affordable Communities on the state
12 of affordable housing in the City.
13 It will be happening immediately
14 following Council, and lunch will
15 be provided.

16 Next, I wanted to just
17 offer a few words about the late
18 Michael Decker. First, I want to
19 express my condolences to his
20 family and friends and everybody
21 who knew and loved him. I think
22 the thing that made me most sad
23 about his passing beyond the fact
24 that he's not here is that I never
25 personally got to tell him how much

1 2/29/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 I appreciated him and everything
3 that he did for this place to keep
4 it running and going. And I just
5 hope that he knew how much all of
6 us appreciated him for his efforts
7 and how instrumental he was to
8 keeping City Hall running every
9 day.

10 And it also made me want to
11 say a word of appreciation to all
12 of the staff here. We appreciate
13 everything that you do to keep our
14 offices moving forward, to keep
15 City Council moving forward. And I
16 hope that we can show each other
17 that every day.

18 But I also wanted to say
19 that when I think about how much
20 Mike Decker gave to this place, it
21 makes me also want -- I hope that
22 people realize that they're more
23 valuable than the work that they
24 produce, right, on behalf of other
25 people.

1 2/29/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 All of us are public
3 servants, but all of us at the end
4 of the day are whole people. And I
5 hope that we all realize that. And
6 I hope that we continue to give a
7 lot to the City of Philadelphia,
8 but I also hope that we take the
9 time to give to ourselves and to
10 recognize that beyond the work that
11 we do we are valuable because we
12 are humans and because we exist.
13 And so, thank you so much.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
15 Thank you.

16 (Applause.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
18 Councilmember Isaiah Thomas.

19 COUNCILMAN THOMAS:
20 Afternoon, Council President.
21 Similar to the energy of
22 Councilmember Brooks, I don't
23 normally do speeches on the floor
24 but I have a lot to say. So I'm
25 going to try to get through this as

1 2/29/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 soon as possible. And y'all know

3 I'm a big fan of lunch, right.

4 First, Mr. Decker, similar

5 to Councilmember Gauthier, great

6 minds think alike, I was literally

7 thinking about all of the staff,

8 right. So we had an Education

9 Committee hearing earlier in the

10 week, and I offered my condolences

11 as well as the members of the

12 Education Committee to Mr. Decker.

13 But listening to Elizabeth

14 today, she did a phenomenal job and

15 looking at the Tech staff as well

16 as the Sergeant-at-Arms, I was on a

17 panel recently listening to an

18 educator talk about the fact that

19 often teachers spend more time with

20 our children than we do because we

21 spend so much time here.

22 And you look up, we all

23 spend so much time together as a

24 unit, as a Council family, that you

25 just never know not only when your

1 2/29/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 number is going to be called, but
3 you never know how these losses are
4 going to impact us.

5 Of course, my condolences
6 to Mr. Decker, but similar to the
7 spirit of Councilmember Gauthier I
8 just want to say thank you to
9 everybody who allow us to kind of
10 sit here, stand here, get all of
11 the credit for all this stuff that,
12 you know, most of it we don't even
13 think of ourselves, right.

14 We've got great staff and
15 great people around us who advise
16 us and who recommend what we do in
17 the best interest of the City. So
18 my condolences to Mr. Decker.
19 Great job, Elizabeth. But thank
20 you to everybody who moves Council
21 forward.

22 Elaine is here today. I
23 don't know if she's still here.
24 We've been here for a while, but
25 Elaine was the person who we wanted

1 2/29/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 to recognize as our Educator of the
3 Month during public comment. She
4 is here. Can we give Elaine a
5 round of applause. She's still
6 here.

7 (Applause.)

8 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: I
9 talked about those teachers who
10 spend so much time with our
11 children. And, Council President,
12 I'm pretty sure it's your District,
13 not only is she spending time with
14 those children that we all love and
15 care so much about, she also found
16 time to represent the City of
17 Philadelphia in the U.S. Olympics
18 doing something that I would never
19 do, which is run a marathon. So
20 thank you, Elaine. Thank you for
21 leading by example. And of course,
22 thank you for all you do for our
23 children.

24 A couple of quick
25 announcements and then I'm going to

1 2/29/24 - STATED - SPEECHES
2 get a little spicy, Council
3 President, if that's okay with you.
4 I wanted to thank my colleagues
5 Councilmember Phillips,
6 Councilmember O'Rourke,
7 Councilmember Young. It's not
8 necessarily popular to talk about
9 some of the things that they stand
10 for, but the most important thing
11 that I want to recognize them for
12 today is the demographic that they
13 represent.

14 On Monday I had a chance to
15 share the stage with the Mayor. It
16 was actually my first time sharing
17 the stage with the new Mayor.
18 She's phenomenal. But I had an
19 opportunity to look at the young
20 Black girls who seen Mayor Parker
21 for the first time in person, and
22 she didn't even have to say any
23 words, her presence, right, where
24 she's from, her story, it inspired
25 them young sisters.

1 2/29/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 And it got us thinking
3 about what we can do because just
4 like she's a sister from the City,
5 we're all young brothers who live
6 and represent different parts of
7 the City, and I commend each and
8 every one of those Councilmembers
9 for stepping up to the plate and
10 deciding that we are going to fight
11 one of the most important issues we
12 have in 2024, which is getting
13 young Black men to participate in
14 the democratic process.

15 So our goal in 2024 is
16 2024. We want to get 2400 young
17 Black men registered and pledged to
18 vote in this year's General
19 Election. And this is a bipartisan
20 effort. We appreciate the
21 Commissioner's Office for joining
22 us in this initiative. And we will
23 continue to announce other efforts,
24 events and activities to get young
25 Black men educated, informed and

1 2/29/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 registered to vote.

3 I also want to take a
4 moment to announce that starting
5 tomorrow and, Council President,
6 we're in a lot of meetings
7 together, so I want to publicly
8 thank Harrisburg, right. We're
9 thanking our legislators in both
10 the House and the Senate.

11 Somebody, please record
12 this and put this out there because
13 they say we don't thank them
14 enough. But I really want to thank
15 them for what they did in enacting
16 and enabling the City of
17 Philadelphia to be able to put up
18 more cameras to address issues
19 around traffic safety, traffic
20 calming and looking at what we need
21 to do to keep cyclists safe,
22 pedestrians and the citizens across
23 the City of Philadelphia.

24 So I want to thank all of
25 the District Councilmembers who

1 2/29/24 - STATED - SPEECHES
2 have agreed to partner with my
3 office. This is a campaign that
4 will be starting tomorrow. And we
5 want to hear from constituents all
6 across the City of Philadelphia as
7 it relates to where they think
8 these cameras should go and what
9 corridors in the City of
10 Philadelphia are not safe and what
11 we need to do as government to
12 improve that.

13 I'm getting towards the
14 end, Council President. I
15 introduced a resolution today in
16 recognition of Baba Joe Foster.
17 Anybody who knows me knows that I
18 believe in African-centered
19 education and African-centered
20 pedagogy and Baba Joe Foster who
21 while we were in Council today,
22 family and friends and educators
23 actually buried him this morning.
24 And Baba Joe Foster, for
25 those who don't know, was a

1 2/29/24 - STATED - SPEECHES
2 prominent leader in
3 African-centered education not just
4 in Philadelphia but all across the
5 country. He was one of the
6 co-founders of the African-centered
7 Public Charter School of PA, former
8 principal at Imhotep and just to
9 get a little closer to home,
10 actually taught with my father.
11 For those who don't know,
12 my father was a teacher in the
13 School District for over 40 years.
14 And Baba Joe and my father as well
15 as Mr. Art Steinberg for those who
16 might not know is the leader of the
17 PFT, all of those folks worked
18 together. And when we talk about
19 standing on the shoulders of those
20 who came before us, the entire
21 African-centered community, the
22 entire education community mourns
23 the loss of Baba Joe. And I felt
24 that it is only befitting on the
25 last day of Black History Month

1 2/29/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 that this City Council body honors
3 him, his work and his legacy and
4 what he means to education and
5 specifically African-centered
6 education here in the City of
7 Philadelphia.

8 In the spirit of Baba Joe,
9 we know that we're having some
10 issues as it relates to Black-led
11 institutions here in the City of
12 Philadelphia, and there were some
13 decisions that were made around a
14 specific school, Math, Civics and
15 Science that I publicly and
16 privately disagreed with.

17 Based on the hand that we
18 have right now, as government we
19 should feel obligated to step up
20 for the families and the children
21 at Math, Civics and Science and
22 make sure they have a soft landing.
23 Tonight the School Board of
24 Philadelphia is going to be making
25 an important vote as it relates to

1 2/29/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 what happens with the families and
3 children involved in Math, Civics
4 and Science and whether or not
5 we'll be able to give those folks a
6 soft landing as it relates to the
7 possibility of transitioning as
8 many staff members and families and
9 stakeholders to the possibility of
10 them being a part of the Global
11 Leadership Academy program.

12 I will be at the Board
13 meeting tonight, Council President.
14 I encourage anybody who cares about
15 what's going on with those families
16 to be at the Board meeting tonight.
17 And I emphatically ask the School
18 Board of the City of Philadelphia
19 to please get this right.

20 We need to make sure that
21 the things that we can't control
22 that have put us in a position to
23 have to make a tough decision, we
24 have to do what's in the best of
25 children, we have to do what's in

1 2/29/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 the best interest of families and
3 we have to preserve what a lot of
4 us called The Pub.

5 Math, Civics and Science
6 has done a great job of being a
7 phenomenal brand of what we called
8 The Pub. And some of the things
9 that they've done as it relates to
10 protecting the integrity of the
11 Public League needs the opportunity
12 to continue, and that journey needs
13 to essentially move forward.

14 And so, I'm in the position
15 right now where I'm somewhat
16 frustrated, I'm extremely concerned
17 and I'm willing to do everything in
18 my power as the Chair of the
19 Education Committee to protect the
20 families, the children and those
21 who are suffering from the
22 unfortunate decisions that adults
23 have made.

24 We tried for months to get
25 this right, and it's unfortunate

1 2/29/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 that at the end of Black History
3 Month we put ourselves in a
4 position where some of the most
5 vulnerable Black people in the City
6 of Philadelphia may become even
7 more vulnerable because adults in
8 government can't get it right.

9 So I'll stop right there,
10 Council President. I probably can
11 give another 15-minute dissertation
12 about this issue, but I'm going to
13 save that monologue for the School
14 Board meeting tonight. Thank you,
15 Council President.

16 (Applause.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
18 Thank you very much.

19 The Chair
20 recognizes Councilmember -- you
21 sure you don't want another 15,
22 Councilman Thomas? You good?

23 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: No, I'm
24 good.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

1 2/29/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 Because you can go. The floor is
3 yours, opportunity for Majority
4 speeches.

5 At this time, I want to
6 acknowledge Councilmember Rue
7 Landau.

8 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU: Thank
9 you so much. I know it's been a
10 long afternoon, so I will be quick.
11 First, I want to shout out
12 Philadelphia chef Joy Parham-Thomas
13 who's made remarkable contributions
14 to Philadelphia's culinary scene.

15 My resolution that I
16 introduced today honors not only
17 Chef Joy, but her accomplishments
18 in Philadelphia's food scene and
19 her advocacy for the well-being of
20 food and hospitality workers. As
21 we heard from her today, she is
22 giving out free food in
23 Kingsessing, and she needs to be
24 honored. So during Black History
25 Month, my office has been proud to

1 2/29/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 lift up Philadelphia chefs who make
3 our city the vibrant and exciting
4 city we know it to be.

5 Second, I'd like to thank
6 my colleagues who cosponsored and
7 supported my new resolution to
8 re-open the conversation around
9 streeteries and sidewalk cafés. As
10 a city renowned for its culinary,
11 diversity and innovation,
12 Philadelphia's outdoor dining scene
13 was a wonderful addition that
14 benefited restaurants and visitors
15 alike.

16 However, the transition
17 from emergency measures to
18 permanent regulations has presented
19 overbearing hurdles for many
20 restaurateurs. Through my new
21 resolution, we aim to engage in
22 constructive dialogue, identify
23 areas for improvement and pave the
24 way for a more inclusive and
25 thriving dining experience. At

1 2/29/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 this critical moment, we have the
3 opportunity to champion our small
4 businesses, enrich our culinary
5 landscape, especially as our city
6 moves toward 2026.

7 And finally, I'm excited to
8 introduce the Consumer Protection
9 ordinance today. This ordinance
10 championed by Mayor Parker's
11 Administration is a crucial step in
12 combating unfair business practices
13 and safeguarding the interest of
14 Philadelphians.

15 Philadelphia doesn't have a
16 consumer protection ordinance, and
17 this ordinance gives our city the
18 ability to act on the public's
19 behalf to protect Philadelphians
20 from unfair and unscrupulous
21 business practices, fraud and
22 scams. By empowering our Law
23 Department to swiftly investigate
24 and act against deceptive
25 practices, we send a clear message

1 2/29/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 that fraud will not be tolerated in
3 our city. From misleading
4 financing to false product
5 advertising, we are committed to
6 protecting our residents from
7 exploitation.

8 I thank Mayor Parker for
9 prioritizing this ordinance and
10 each of you for your support. Let
11 us continue working together to
12 create a fair and secure
13 environment for all Philadelphians.
14 Thank you.

15 (Applause.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
17 You're welcome.

18 Councilmember Jeffrey Jay
19 Young.

20 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Thank
21 you, Mr. President.

22 First, I want to
23 congratulate Ms. Denise Ripley, a
24 resident of the 5th Council
25 District in the 47th Ward.

1 2/29/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 Ms. Ripley has taught me a lot
3 about her work in the past and her
4 continued support for residents in
5 North Philadelphia and beyond.

6 I also want to thank the
7 Stadium Stompers. As a former
8 staffer, I worked on that matter
9 under Council President Darrell
10 Clarke, and their advocacy actually
11 led me to take a trip down to New
12 Orleans with Temple University to
13 figure out if it was actually
14 feasible for a stadium to be in
15 North Philadelphia, which we
16 concluded it was not. So thanks to
17 the efforts of the Stadium Stompers
18 for that.

19 I want to thank
20 Councilmember Isaiah Thomas for
21 giving us the platform to reach
22 young men of color in the City,
23 particularly Black and Brown men,
24 because it is important that our
25 issues are pushed to the forefront

1 2/29/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 of the City because it is us who
3 are jailed more frequently than
4 others. It is us who are murdered
5 more frequently than others. And
6 so, it is imperative that us as the
7 young leaders of this body to make
8 sure that they see representation
9 in their City.

10 I want to give my sincere
11 condolences of the family of
12 Michael Decker. Again, as a former
13 legislative staffer his insight was
14 invaluable to me when I first
15 started working here in this body
16 as the legislative counsel to
17 former Council President Darrell
18 Clarke.

19 And I want to make sure
20 that I acknowledge the passing of a
21 former 5th District staffer,
22 Zenobia Harris who has worked in
23 Council for over 30 years, worked
24 for former Mayor John Street when
25 he was Councilman of the 5th

1 2/29/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 District and also for Council

3 President Darrell Clarke.

4 When I first started

5 working for Council President

6 Clarke, I took over zoning duties

7 from her. I was an attorney so I

8 knew the legal aspects of zoning,

9 but I didn't know the community

10 side and she taught me the

11 community aspect of zoning, and she

12 will forever be missed and will

13 forever have a place in my heart.

14 But what I want to speak on

15 is last Friday was not just another

16 day in the 5th District. It was a

17 thunderous declaration of our

18 community resilience and resolve.

19 As Chair of the Streets and

20 Services Committee, a member on the

21 Committee on Commerce and Economic

22 Development and also a member of

23 the Public Safety Committee, my

24 team led by this indomitable spirit

25 of Bonita Cummings and then in

1 2/29/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 collaboration with community
3 partners, Mayor Cherelle Parker
4 launched her first ever Safe, Green
5 and Clean Tour in the heart of
6 Strawberry Mansion on the 29th
7 Street Corridor, showed her
8 commitment and dedication to North
9 Philadelphia.

10 We seized the moment
11 rallying together with fiery
12 determination to reclaim our
13 streets, our pride and our future.
14 We didn't just show her the blight,
15 the short-dumping, the nuisance
16 businesses, we thrust them in the
17 spotlight exposing the neglect my
18 constituents have endured for far
19 too long.

20 We didn't just point
21 fingers. We pointed the way
22 forward. Our initiative was a
23 battle cry against the decay that
24 has marred our streets, a rallying
25 call to reclaim our neighborhoods

1 2/29/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 from the grip of neglect. And let
3 me tell you our message was heard
4 loud and clear.

5 The Office of Clean and
6 Green Initiates under the steadfast
7 leadership of Carlton Williams
8 didn't hesitate. They pounced into
9 action, coordinating City agencies
10 along with department heads such as
11 Streets, Sanitation, Commerce,
12 Building Enforcement and Quality of
13 Life, also with the Parking
14 Authority who I've never seen to
15 move this fast to remove abandoned
16 vehicles.

17 Essentially, Parking
18 Authority purged our streets
19 removing abandoned vehicles.
20 Streets Department removed tons of
21 debris. Their swift response was a
22 testament to our unwavering
23 commitment. We will not tolerate
24 neglect in our community, not now
25 and now ever. Our community spirit

1 2/29/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 soars higher with each eyesore
3 removed, each blight banished.

4 Last Friday wasn't just
5 about cleaning up our streets. It
6 was about unleashing the power of
7 collective action and community
8 pride. We stood shoulder-to-
9 shoulder, a force to be reckoned
10 with, united in our mission to
11 build a better tomorrow.

12 Our work has only just
13 begun. This is not the end. This
14 was just an example of our
15 unwavering commitment to the 5th
16 District and the transformative
17 power of our collective efforts.

18 So I'm urging all community
19 members in the 5th District and
20 beyond, that was just the first
21 tour that we will have, but there
22 will be many others. So if you
23 have a commercial corridor, if you
24 have an area in the City that needs
25 this type of rapid response, we

1 2/29/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 will be there. But we need your
3 support to keep it up.

4 We can come through, remove
5 the debris, but it's up to the
6 community to maintain this effort.
7 And we will provide you with all
8 those necessary resources to
9 maintain those efforts.

10 So, Mr. President, I want
11 to thank you for this time. Thank
12 you.

13 (Applause.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
15 Thank you.

16 The Chair recognizes
17 Councilmember Quetcy Lozada.

18 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Thank
19 you, Council President.

20 I just want to take the
21 opportunity to also extend my
22 condolences to Michael Decker's
23 family. He was someone who was
24 very supportive of myself and my
25 legislative team since the day I

1 2/29/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 walked in the door but also was
3 very supportive of me as a Chief of
4 Staff walking into City government
5 with no idea what government
6 actually had to do, and he really
7 provided his knowledge and
8 unwavering support. So my
9 condolences to all of his family.
10 Please know my family is keeping
11 all of you in our prayers.

12 And then I'd also like to
13 take an opportunity to thank
14 Councilmember Phillips. His
15 District does not abut mine. His
16 District does not abut any of us in
17 the 7th Council District, but I am
18 grateful for the fact that when
19 there is a question, when he is not
20 clear, when he connects with people
21 on social media about the things
22 that are happening as a result of
23 the work that the Kensington Caucus
24 is doing or as a result of the work
25 that I'm doing as an individual

1 2/29/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 elected in the 7th Councilmanic
3 District, he picks up the phone, he
4 calls, he asks questions.

5 He corrects me, right, if I
6 need correction and he also
7 provides support and ideas and
8 recommendations about how to
9 further improve the quality of life
10 for the residents of the 7th
11 Council District.

12 And so, I say that to say
13 to all of my colleagues here, the
14 work that we are doing in the 7th
15 Council District and through the
16 Kensington Caucus will not be easy.
17 The optics are going to be painful
18 and they are going to challenging,
19 but they are absolutely necessary.
20 And I've said that many times.

21 I invite you, my door is
22 open, my cell phone is always on,
23 my text messages are always
24 available. I invite you and your
25 staff to sit with me, sit with the

1 2/29/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 Caucus, ask us questions. Don't
3 take the things that you read in
4 the paper or the comments that
5 people make that often times are
6 not of those who live in that
7 community. Don't take that as
8 facts because often times they are
9 not and/or there is more
10 information associated with that.

11 My providers are being
12 bombarded by calls from folks on
13 this legislative body about wanting
14 to provide support to them. We are
15 grateful for that. We appreciate
16 that, but please connect with us
17 because we are working. I don't
18 want them to be overwhelmed and
19 confused and fear that they are
20 doing something incorrect as a
21 result of supporting us.

22 And so, again my doors are
23 open, 484. 6-3448 is our number.
24 My staff and I are ready to provide
25 the necessary information and

1 2/29/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 support. We may not agree and it's
3 okay, right. We may not agree and
4 it is okay, but we will be
5 respectful to each other. I will
6 always, always take what you say
7 with respect even if I don't agree.
8 I'm here to serve. I'm here to
9 serve alongside you, but my
10 priority is my community, the
11 people who live, work and play in
12 the Kensington Harrowgate
13 community.

14 Thank you, Council
15 President.

16 (Applause.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

18 Thank you. There are no more
19 speeches on behalf of the Majority.

20 Before we adjourn, I just
21 want to take a moment, again as we
22 continue to move forward, the life
23 and legacy of our beloved Michael
24 Decker, I give my condolences and
25 prayers to his family.

1 2/29/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 And I want to take a
3 personal moment to thank Wendy
4 Prescott-Tate as well as John
5 Christmas for just stepping up and
6 working with the team and Chief
7 Clerk's office, Elizabeth McCollum-
8 Nazario and the rest of their staff
9 just to make sure in the spirit of
10 Michael Decker we continue moving
11 this great institution forward.
12 And I thank all my colleagues for
13 being patience with us through this
14 process.

15 But most importantly, I
16 just want to take a moment to
17 acknowledge them as we continue to
18 do the work on his great behalf.
19 On behalf of this great city of
20 Philadelphia, as well as John Finn
21 and his team and Lopez and the
22 Sergeant-at-Arms team, just making
23 sure they stay available to all the
24 staff and Councilmembers during
25 this period. So I just want to

1 2/29/24 - STATED - ADJOURNMENT

2 personally say thank you.

3 And at this particular
4 time, the Chair recognizes
5 Councilmember Isaiah Thomas for a
6 motion to adjourn.

7 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank
8 you, Council President.

9 Before we adjourn, I just
10 want to take a moment to announce
11 that services for Mr. Mike Decker
12 are as follows: Visitation will be
13 Friday, tomorrow, March 1, 2024
14 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. at
15 Holy Innocents Church, which is at
16 1337 East Hunting Park Avenue and L
17 Street in East Hunting Park Avenue,
18 19124.

19 The actual funeral will be
20 at the same location, Holy
21 Innocents Church. And the funeral
22 will start at 11:00 a.m. Again,
23 visitation 9:00 to 10:45. Funeral
24 services at 11:00 a.m.

25 And with that being said,

1 2/29/24 - STATED - ADJOURNMENT

2 Council President, I move that

3 Council stand adjourned until

4 Thursday, March 7, 2024 at

5 10:00 a.m.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

7 It has been moved and properly

8 seconded that Council stand

9 adjourned until Thursday, March 7,

10 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

11 All those in favor will

12 signify by saying aye.

13 (Aye.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

15 Those opposed?

16 (No response.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

18 The ayes have it and the motion

19 carries.

20 Thank you very much,

21 everyone. Have a great weekend.

22 - - -

23 (Stated Meeting adjourned

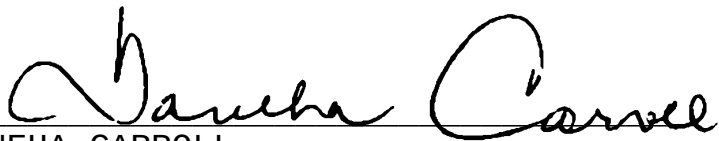
24 at 1:15 p.m.)

25 - - -

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

I, hereby certify that the proceedings
and evidence noted are contained fully and
accurately in the stenographic notes taken by
me in the foregoing matter, and that this is
a correct transcript of the same.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Taneha Carroll". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

TANEHA CARROLL
Court Reporter - Notary Public

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	10:45	150,000	1:15	60:1 61:1
\$	250:14, 23	123:12	251:24	62:1 63:1
\$100	10th	1518	1st	64:1 65:1
146:3	25:21	159:4	4:3	66:1 67:1
\$2.5	29:2, 4	15th		68:1 69:1
107:16	31:18, 19	7:5, 17	2	70:1 71:1
\$200,000	33:11, 18	42:9	2-307	72:1 73:1
149:21	11	16	42:24	74:1 75:1
\$280,000	149:19	146:2	2.0	76:1 77:1
149:22	11-203	16-700	205:5	78:1 79:1
\$30,000	57:11	161:8	2/29/24	80:1 81:1
96:7	11-204	167:10	2:1 3:1	82:1 83:1
\$9	57:11	168:19	4:1 5:1	84:1 85:1
93:10	116	163	6:1 7:1	86:1 87:1
	136:25	125:23	8:1 9:1	88:1 89:1
1	11:00	18	10:1 11:1	90:1 91:1
1	16:17	41:20	12:1 13:1	92:1 93:1
250:13	250:22, 24	18-20	14:1 15:1	94:1 95:1
1,000	12	161:3	16:1 17:1	96:1 97:1
101:17, 18	131:10	18th	18:1 19:1	98:1 99:1
1.3	12th	202:3	20:1 21:1	100:1
128:24	29:4 31:19	1909	22:1 23:1	101:1
10	33:10	90:5	24:1 25:1	102:1
128:17	61:21	19124	26:1 27:1	103:1
130:9	1337	250:18	28:1 29:1	104:1
194:25	250:16	19125-2913	30:1 31:1	105:1
100	13th	61:5	32:1 33:1	106:1
84:11	61:22	19143	34:1 35:1	107:1
91:25	14	86:8	36:1 37:1	108:1
203:18	64:23	19150	38:1 39:1	109:1
100,000	1451	28:11	40:1 41:1	110:1
38:16	54:5	1940s	42:1 43:1	111:1
100k	15	134:18	44:1 45:1	112:1
37:23	7:12	1946	46:1 47:1	113:1
106	136:12	118:17	48:1 49:1	114:1
41:20	233:21	1966	50:1 51:1	115:1
10:00	15-minute	156:10	52:1 53:1	116:1
251:5, 10	233:11		54:1 55:1	117:1
			56:1 57:1	118:1
			58:1 59:1	119:1
				120:1
				121:1

122:1	164:1	206:1	248:1	22nd
123:1	165:1	207:1	249:1	42:13
124:1	166:1	208:1	250:1	23
125:1	167:1	209:1	251:1	41:18
126:1	168:1	210:1	20	23rd
127:1	169:1	211:1	23:9	42:12
128:1	170:1	212:1	107:23	24
129:1	171:1	213:1	200,000	41:18
130:1	172:1	214:1	94:18	24-30
131:1	173:1	215:1	2009	161:3
132:1	174:1	216:1	3:17 18:18	24-year
133:1	175:1	217:1	2015	130:10, 22
134:1	176:1	218:1	158:6	2400
135:1	177:1	219:1	196:2	226:16
136:1	178:1	220:1	2020	240007
137:1	179:1	221:1	118:13	73:10
138:1	180:1	222:1	158:25	74:9, 16
139:1	181:1	223:1	2024	240010
140:1	182:1	224:1	7:5, 12, 18	71:4, 23
141:1	183:1	225:1	44:8 46:7	72:6
142:1	184:1	226:1	58:15	240012
143:1	185:1	227:1	123:12	43:5
144:1	186:1	228:1	169:22	240013
145:1	187:1	229:1	173:5	68:17
146:1	188:1	230:1	189:14	69:18, 25
147:1	189:1	231:1	226:12, 15,	240020
148:1	190:1	232:1	16 250:13	43:5 64:22
149:1	191:1	233:1	251:4, 10	67:12
150:1	192:1	234:1	2026	240063
151:1	193:1	235:1	81:5 236:6	43:5
152:1	194:1	236:1	21-3400	240064
153:1	195:1	237:1	73:12	43:5 65:8
154:1	196:1	238:1	214	67:12
155:1	197:1	239:1	40:2	240065
156:1	198:1	240:1	215	43:6 65:21
157:1	199:1	241:1	37:14	67:12
158:1	200:1	242:1	21st	240066
159:1	201:1	243:1	103:16	43:6 66:9
160:1	202:1	244:1		
161:1	203:1	245:1		
162:1	204:1	246:1		
163:1	205:1	247:1		

67:12	24112	178:1	3:00	484
240086	75:25	179:1	86:13	247:23
43:6	2428	180:1	3rd	49
2401	167:7	181:1	41:11	41:19
60:6 61:3	245	182:1	48:14	4:00
240103	126:2	183:1	131:21	16:16
75:24	2464	184:1	161:6	4th
129:23	168:16	185:1	180:11	66:14
131:20	25	186:1		
148:9	23:10	187:1	4	5
149:17	26.2	188:1	4-604	5
160:25	125:19	189:1	42:24	35:15
240107	2903	190:1	40	93:11
75:24	40:24	191:1	24:14	125:16, 18
85:12	2907	192:1	106:10	5,000
89:17	40:24	3	136:4	79:8
90:16	2925	3	229:13	50
93:23	40:24	129:24	40-year	139:17
94:15	29th	148:10	112:22	50,000
99:25	241:6	3.0	400	123:14
104:14	2ND	205:5	79:6	500
105:9	75:1 160:1	30	411	109:2
112:7, 16	161:1	77:10	102:20	51
141:8	162:1	115:10	4243	41:19
144:2	163:1	156:17	141:21	53
162:11	164:1	239:23	44	41:19
240108	165:1	30,000	41:19	5307
75:24	166:1	150:9	4422	41:9 48:12
163:23	167:1	34	161:4	55
240109	168:1	41:21	4426-30	41:19
75:25	169:1	34-36	161:5	57
82:19	170:1	161:3	44th	41:19
97:10	171:1	35	161:4	125:18
150:22	172:1	94:25	45	5:00
165:18	173:1	36	123:17	86:13
240111	174:1	3:5 136:11	47th	5th
75:25	175:1	365	237:25	40:2, 25
167:4	176:1	201:7		42:3, 14
240112	177:1			
168:13				

92:5 168:17 237:24 239:21, 25 240:16 243:15, 19	734 48:13 75 203:18 76 111:6 77 41:18 78 41:19 7th 40:3 61:13 167:8 214:5 245:17 246:2, 10, 14	91 41:22 911 102:21, 25 93 41:20, 22 95 41:22 98 109:14 9:00 250:14, 23 9th 32:21 60:17 143:14 211:21	236:18 Abramson 122:14 absence 8:14, 23 absences 8:5 absolute 88:2 absolutely 87:9, 17 154:4 205:11 246:19 abut 245:15, 16 academic 30:13 Academy 18:4 25:22 27:9 29:3, 6, 15 30:16 31:3, 8, 19 32:3 33:5 66:2 231:11 access 45:9 86:6 92:14, 15 96:22 103:11 104:3, 6 134:23 accessible 84:10 accolades 159:16	accompanyin g 12:12 26:3 accomplish 84:17 accomplishm ents 14:17 55:3, 25 56:14 183:20 186:13 187:25 234:17 accordance 161:7 167:9 168:18 account 149:13 accountable 115:22, 23 116:5 achieve 91:17 113:11 126:11 achievement 136:15 159:5, 8 achievement s 14:11 achievers 119:6 acknowledge 14:19 34:4 36:16 37:4, 5, 18
6 6-3448 247:23 60 113:18 130:22 61 41:18, 21 65 41:18 67 41:19 69 41:21 6:00 16:17 6:20 126:3 6th 61:12	8 80 94:21 87 41:21 89 41:20, 22 8th 41:23	A a.m. 250:14, 22, 24 251:5, 10 AACC 94:17 96:7 abandoned 242:15, 19 Abdul-rahim 47:12 139:13 141:18 176:4 abilities 34:15 ability 135:7 152:11 214:2		
7 7 128:17 251:4, 9 71 41:22 723 41:10 73 41:19	9 9 40:11 51:9 9-5900 71:5 9-600 68:18 90th 46:14 174:15			

38:17	activist	148:2	adopt	164:23
234:6	140:14	203:8	154:6, 17	166:11
239:20	197:16	212:19	adopted	167:18
249:17	activities	227:18	78:5, 17	169:3
acknowledge	88:12	addressing	116:22	170:10
s	226:24	147:2	126:25	172:6
100:22	activity	adequate	133:10	173:18
act	205:8	134:23	161:22	175:9
82:20	acts	adequately	162:7	176:14
93:17	40:17	30:11	163:10, 19	177:22
97:11	51:15	adjacent	165:4, 13	179:5
127:15	actual	60:16 61:3	166:15, 24	180:13
150:23	131:19	adjourn	167:24	181:19
165:24	250:19	248:20	168:9	183:2
212:17	add	250:6, 9	169:8, 17	184:10
217:24	19:18	adjourned	170:15, 24	185:17
218:4	40:13	251:3, 9, 23	172:12, 21	187:3
236:18, 24	51:11 71:8	ADJOURNMENT	173:24	188:16
Acting	73:11	250:1	174:10	190:3
199:10	added	251:1	175:17	191:8
action	9:16 11:2	Adjustment	176:2, 20	192:14
10:3 76:9	addiction	54:4	177:5	adults
100:21	216:6, 18	administere	178:4, 13	203:9
107:8	218:12	d	179:11, 20	232:22
113:2, 7	adding	5:11	180:20	233:7
115:2	68:21	administrat	181:5, 25	adversity
195:7	addition	ion	182:10	111:18
212:22	27:22	79:25	183:8, 17	advertising
242:9	37:19	80:12 81:7	184:22	237:5
243:7	113:22	112:25	185:23	advise
actions	114:14	114:21	186:8	223:15
10:13	235:13	116:3	187:8, 17	advising
active	additional	155:14	188:21	137:11
19:14 84:4	71:8	205:4	189:6	Advisory
109:12	128:18	236:11	190:9, 18	136:24
128:22	169:19	admiration	191:14, 23	164:3
215:21	address	31:13 32:5	adopting	advocacy
216:2	104:4	admire	155:6	55:15
actively	122:16	21:15	adoption	185:6
105:18			161:16	195:5, 9, 23
			163:6	

234:19	African-	agreement	33:23	82:25
238:10	centered	131:10	albums	86:23 87:3
advocate	49:21	ahead	34:8	amazing
34:6 52:3	178:18	31:11	aliens	23:25
181:12	228:18, 19	141:15	128:18	24:23
advocating	229:3, 6, 21	147:8	alike	33:10, 21
56:4, 16	230:5	148:4	16:11 82:3	34:21
186:16	Afro	Ahmad	222:6	36:11
188:3	152:22, 24	13:5 16:20	235:15	109:7
aerospace	154:19	62:19, 20	Allegheny	111:19
136:6	afternoon	108:12	42:9, 13	199:4
affairs	205:20	109:9	alleviate	209:5
11:25 79:4	210:21	116:21	45:8	Amen
affecting	221:20	119:21, 24	Allie	6:18, 19
117:17	234:10	123:5	97:16	121:3
153:24	age	133:9	104:13, 20,	Amend
209:10	111:5	134:4	23 105:3, 4	65:9, 22
affirmation	123:16	155:5, 20	106:20	66:10
113:7	136:4	190:25	allowed	amended
affirmative	agencies	191:4, 6	28:3	9:19 65:3
107:8	124:5	208:18, 19	allowing	69:6 71:13
113:2	242:9	aim	100:12	amending
114:25	agency	235:21	116:13	40:10 51:9
afford	113:25	air	124:10	57:11
213:18	agenda	23:13	alongside	64:22
affordable	9:16, 19	109:23	248:9	68:18 71:4
95:19	11:2 21:2	118:5	Alpha	73:10
113:18	agendas	136:10, 15	108:23	Amendment
150:6, 10	5:21	Airy	109:11	42:3, 15
219:11, 12	agents	28:11	110:3, 17,	amendments
Africa	215:21	aka	18 117:10	9:22, 25
106:13	aggressivel	155:15, 21	120:22	America
141:19	y	156:10	alumni	91:20
African	218:5	157:5, 6, 9	18:23 19:4	American
94:6, 13	agree	AKAS	Alzheimer's	15:19
101:24	248:2, 3, 7	159:23	17:2	94:6, 13
118:18, 25	agreed	alaykum	Amanda	101:25
140:4	228:2	145:13, 15	78:3, 6	118:18
200:24		album		140:4

141:20	announce	88:18 97:5	appointed	150:24
154:20	226:23	98:16	61:25	155:7
Americans	227:4	99:20	137:10	212:12
118:25	250:10	104:8	appointing	approval
152:23, 25	announcemen	106:19	40:6 47:21	7:1, 4
amount	ts	108:5	appointment	approved
37:16	224:25	112:2	45:18	7:12, 18
amounts	annual	116:14	171:6	8:3 42:21
37:17	91:6 92:7,	120:3	appreciated	approving
114:8	20 121:8	121:24	31:3	42:2
Amy	answers	124:17	220:2, 6	approximate
38:6	107:25	125:21	appreciatio	ly
analysis	Anthony	126:19	n	123:12
164:5	123:2	133:2	198:10	architectur
analyzed	170:2, 6	137:23	220:11	e
93:9	210:17	138:15	apprentice	153:10
ancestors	apologies	141:3	102:9	Archive
142:7	151:18	142:14	approached	141:20
anchor	apologize	143:22	12:16 26:6	Ardmore
91:4 93:3	64:3, 10, 14	154:23	78:21 83:3	211:16
Anchors	132:8	160:9	85:15	218:18
91:9	appeal	177:6	86:24	area
and/or	54:3 81:20	183:24	89:19 94:2	42:5, 18
247:9	Appeals	184:24	97:17	65:12, 25
Andrew	19:8	187:18	98:17	66:13
37:6 59:11	appears	189:7	100:4	68:24
192:3	76:20	199:14	104:21	86:11
Angelo	applause	201:16	108:18	135:15
97:16	14:13 20:7	210:14	112:9	243:24
99:24	22:15 24:7	218:25	117:3	areas
100:3, 9	25:13	221:16	120:13	13:15
106:15	28:19	224:5, 7	122:7	65:11, 24
107:13	32:7, 23	233:16	125:3	66:12
Anna	35:12	237:15	127:8	103:14
3:18, 20	36:13	244:13	129:25	235:23
anniversary	38:4, 19	248:16	133:11	arise
46:15 92:6	39:2 56:17	apple	138:5, 21	9:6 11:3
174:16	62:2 85:7	145:6	141:10	Arnold
	86:22	applicants	144:7	208:23
		57:13	148:14	

Aros 40:7 47:21	assist 5:17 82:11	attain 109:25 118:7	41:8, 17 45:20 48:11	award- 38:6
arose 10:14	Assistant 35:23	attend 11:25 124:10	171:9 242:14, 18	awards 136:19
art 18:5 30:23 98:3 229:15	assisted 87:22	attended 158:9	authorizes 112:17	awareness 43:25 44:9, 10 122:24 157:4 169:23, 25
artificial 146:2 147:13, 19	Association 46:13, 17 58:18 79:6	attending 134:7	authorizing 9:21 39:21 40:19 41:4, 13 45:4 48:7 52:8 53:8, 23 60:4, 13, 24 79:15 94:15 160:25 162:11 163:25 167:6 168:15 182:12	Ayala 78:3, 6, 13 86:23 87:2, 3
artistic 28:7 29:12 30:5, 11	137:3 142:9 158:5 174:14, 18 189:17	attention 103:2, 3		
artists 36:23 37:2		attorney 158:18 240:7		aye 7:20, 21 11:7, 8 67:14, 15 70:3, 4 72:8, 9 74:18, 19 89:4 161:24, 25 163:12, 13 165:6 166:17, 18 168:2, 3 169:10, 11 170:17, 18 172:14, 15 174:2, 3 175:19, 20 176:22, 23 178:6, 7 179:13, 14 180:22, 23 182:3, 4 183:10, 11 184:15, 16 185:25 186:2
arts 16:12 85:25 143:17	Association 's 46:15 174:16	attorneys 46:18 174:19		
As-salamu 145:13	asylum 194:9	attracted 119:5		
Ashmead 41:20	at-home 123:23	Audenried 46:5 173:3	Avenue 40:25 42:7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13 66:2 68:25 69:2, 3 87:7 141:21 142:8, 11, 13, 17 206:6 250:16, 17	
asks 246:4	athletes 146:9	audiences 17:21		
aspect 209:5 240:11	Atlanta 22:9 23:14	auditorium 158:16		
aspects 240:8	Atrayee 127:4 133:6 134:11	Augusta 119:13		
assembled 120:17	attached 65:4, 17 66:5, 18 69:7 71:14 73:22	aunt 17:5 216:5, 23 217:6, 9, 10, 16		
assessing 80:5		aunt's 216:5	average 96:6	
Assessment 40:8, 9 47:22, 24	attack 107:7	authority 5:11 39:25 40:23	award 18:24 19:4 121:13	

187:10,11	23 230:8	149:19	134:11	94:12
188:23,24	Bachelor's	150:13	Basu-	163:2,5
190:11,12	18:21	161:2	mallick	164:14
191:16,17	back	167:7	133:7,13,	171:4
251:12,13	78:10	168:16	24	172:4
ayes	97:25	Barra	Basu-mallik	173:8,16
8:2 11:13	117:15	91:22	133:7	174:24
67:20	131:7,15	barrier	battle	175:7,8
72:14	135:10	135:4	241:23	194:11
74:24	141:14	136:2	battling	220:24
162:6	193:22	barriers	212:13	236:19
163:18	198:23	92:14	beacon	248:19
165:12	199:12	95:16	15:22	249:18,19
166:23	213:18	113:11	beautiful	belief
168:8	backbone	based	83:12	90:7
169:16	91:2	115:13	87:24	believes
170:23	148:24	199:25	beautifully	101:9
172:20	background	230:17	29:19	Bellevue
174:8	106:4	basement	bedeviling	125:8
175:25	159:12	83:18	212:2	beloved
177:4	backgrounds	basic	befitting	4:20
178:12	81:19	83:23	229:24	118:8,16
179:19	105:20	96:23	beg	124:6
181:4	backs	basketball	108:3	248:23
182:9	198:12	46:6 98:4	began	beneficial
183:16	bags	173:4	106:9	100:22
184:21	86:16	Bass	begin	benefited
186:7	Bakke	7:7,8	5:16 20:24	235:14
187:16	114:23	12:5,17	77:7	benefiting
189:5	Baltimore	13:6,11	105:15	82:4
190:17	22:2	14:14	begun	Benjamin
191:22	banished	19:10	243:13	158:19
251:18	243:3	62:12,13	behalf	berating
B	Bank	63:15,17	8:12,21	204:3
Baba	91:20	64:2,6,11,	11:21	Berks
49:19	113:21	15 66:22,	15:12 20:5	194:4,6
178:16	129:23	23 204:10	33:4 44:21	Bethel
179:4	131:20	Basu-	47:7 52:25	214:11
228:16,20,	148:10	127:4		
24 229:14,				

Bethlehem	151:25	87:20	138:17	boards
37:6	153:4	92:8, 9	144:4	153:17
betterment	154:5, 6,	96:3, 9, 14	148:9, 16	Bob
4:7 5:23	13, 17, 18	100:23	149:9, 16	61:13
bid	206:11	107:22	blending	body
137:14	billion	110:11	195:22	3:14 6:7
Biden's	93:10	113:14	bless	19:19
137:12	107:16	117:23	38:25	31:14 32:6
big	billions	139:9, 14	108:4	39:21
37:15	91:5	141:24	blessed	80:11 82:7
126:14	bills	147:3	36:8	102:17
158:13	9:22, 25	150:15	111:24	115:15
180:17	43:1, 4, 14	155:17	142:18	141:23
222:3	44:1 45:1	157:14, 17	Blessings	202:22
biggest	46:1 47:1	158:5, 20,	57:24	230:2
164:19	48:1 49:1	21 159:6	blight	239:7, 15
bill	50:1 51:1	176:5	241:14	247:13
9:24 10:5,	52:1 53:1	179:25	243:3	bold
7, 8 51:2,	54:1, 16	181:9	block	217:24
6, 19 52:23	55:1 56:1	193:11, 13	195:17	bombarded
53:5, 19	57:1, 25	194:7, 17,	blood	247:12
57:6, 9, 19	58:1 59:1,	23 197:22	118:12	Bonita
60:10, 21	21, 25 60:1	199:21	Blue	240:25
61:8 64:21	61:1 62:1,	200:18, 22	120:23	books
65:4, 8, 17,	15 63:20	201:6, 10	121:7, 14,	196:18
21 66:5, 9,	67:4, 20	225:20	18 137:11	boost
18 67:11	75:1, 5, 9	226:13, 17,	Blueprint	91:4
68:6, 17	biochemistr	25 229:25	203:4	boots-on-
69:7, 18, 24	y	233:2, 5	board	the-ground
70:9, 18	156:4	234:24	18:7 25:2	197:17
71:4, 14, 23	bipartisan	238:23	45:19 54:4	borders
72:5, 14, 23	165:21	Black-led	83:8 99:5	128:20
73:10, 22	226:19	230:10	136:24	born
74:9, 15, 24	Black	Black-owned	158:8	21:24
123:4	13:22, 25	94:19	171:7	110:8
131:19	14:22	Blake	230:23	134:18
144:17	18:23	104:17	231:12, 16,	139:15
145:17	47:13	blanche	18 233:14	155:23
146:22	50:15	88:9		
149:17	51:24	Blatstein		

bottom 206:23	bridge 103:22	16 186:20, 23, 25	150:9 242:12	C
Boulevard 53:13, 15	briefing 219:9	188:9, 12, 14 193:4, 7, 8 199:15	bump 35:16	cabinet 116:4
boundaries 14:15	briefly 26:18 27:6	200:15 202:4 221:22	buried 228:23	Cafe 36:17
bounded 42:6 65:12, 25 66:13 68:24	145:4		business 7:3 8:4 11:17 39:7 43:13 63:12 75:3 90:6 95:2 100:24 103:8 106:21 113:3, 12 142:9 236:12, 21	café 60:5
box 36:5	Brigadier 109:24 118:5 136:9 159:22	Brother 87:5 205:24		cafés 52:15 182:19 235:9
boxing 120:24 121:6, 9, 14	brilliance 14:3	brothers 149:11 226:5		Calendar 9:1, 8 10:1, 6, 9, 10, 15 11:1 44:14 45:13 46:2, 10, 22 47:18 48:3, 17 49:16, 25 50:20 52:6, 18 54:9 55:11, 22 56:10 57:2 58:22 59:16 61:16 62:8 63:11 67:22 70:10 72:16 75:2, 5, 11, 23 89:6 160:15 169:20 192:21, 24
Bradley 37:9	brilliant 111:13 156:15	Brown 82:18, 22 83:5, 6 96:14 100:23 107:22 147:3 194:8, 23 238:23		
brain 146:11	bring 4:25 83:20 189:21 218:15	Brownsville 110:9 134:20 156:2	businesses 40:11 51:10 68:20 80:21 90:7 94:19 96:22 101:12 103:12 104:5 107:12, 23 113:3 114:3 115:5 116:9 147:7 162:21 236:4 241:16	
brand 232:7	bringing 16:6 134:5			
bravely 17:4	Broad 42:7 53:13 54:5			
break 198:22	broadcast 14:5 16:15 18:16	brunches 86:9		
breaker 135:4 136:3	broken 153:17	build 113:18 149:19, 25 243:11		
breaking 92:14	Brooks 8:18, 19 12:24 18:19 24:3 31:24 54:20, 21 184:4, 7, 9 185:11, 14,	building 19:20 34:5 100:10 105:6 132:6	busy 154:14	
breaks 21:10				Calendars
breast 156:20, 22 157:3				
Bridesburg 5:4				

75:17 76:8 160:21 call 82:16 85:9 89:14 91:8 92:9 93:20 97:7 99:22 104:11 108:8 110:14 112:4 116:17 120:5 124:19 126:21 129:20 133:4 137:25 141:5 148:6 150:19 154:25 194:15 207:17 212:22 241:25 called 75:22 76:19 132:5 159:19 223:2 232:4, 7 calling 75:15 91:24 113:6 127:13 165:20 213:22	calls 246:4 247:12 calming 227:20 calmly 213:9 cameras 227:18 228:8 camp 87:14, 16 98:3 campaign 84:4 206:12 228:3 campus 196:7 cancer 43:25 44:11 109:22 111:2, 4 117:23 121:8, 10, 11 122:14, 23 123:7, 8, 11, 14, 19, 22 124:3 130:11, 23 135:21, 23 136:24 137:9, 13 146:11 156:18, 21, 22 159:10 169:23 170:2	Cantius 4:14 5:3 capacity 142:22 capital 92:16 95:19, 23 104:3 142:24 captain 195:18 captivity 211:4 capture 91:13 car 207:19 care 21:20 122:17 134:23 135:3 137:7 212:23 215:13, 17 217:11 224:15 career 12:10 18:25 23:2, 16 135:2, 18 157:23 209:5 careers 30:10 cares 215:16 231:14	Carlton 242:7 Carolina 216:11 carpentry 101:25 carries 11:14 251:19 carry 198:11 209:22 carrying 142:12 carte 88:9 cartels 129:4 case 98:13 Caserez 156:24 cases 166:4 Casey 112:24 114:20 116:2 Catholic 4:14 Caucus 211:13 212:7, 9 214:2, 19 218:14 245:23 246:16 247:2	Cecil 40:25 celebrate 14:10 28:7 29:12 137:17 198:6 201:9 celebrating 59:9 63:4 92:5 190:20 191:25 cell 2:15 135:16 246:22 center 23:25 84:9 99:6, 9 111:4 122:15 135:22 141:19 194:7 195:4 centers 83:11 84:6 99:18 century 103:17 CEO 94:5 certainty 81:13 certified 95:8 136:6 chains 91:18
---	---	--	---	---

Chair	178:22	135:5	167:10	Chenault-
6:21 7:6	180:6	193:23	168:19	fattah's
8:6,17 9:2	181:15	194:22	Chapters	18:11
11:16 12:4	182:22	236:3	57:11	Cherelle
20:9 25:18	184:6	championed	Charitable	119:9
32:25 39:8	185:13	135:24	91:21	212:10
43:15	186:22	137:6	Charlene	213:24
44:15	188:11	236:10	108:25	241:3
45:19	189:23	Championshi	Charter	cherish
46:23	191:3	p	42:25	4:5
48:20	192:8,9	46:7 173:6	229:7	Chestnut
50:2,21	193:6	chance	cheap	18:4 61:21
52:19	201:21	102:11,13	93:17	Chief
54:12,19	205:12,17	103:22	check	2:21 3:3,
57:3,21	208:17	225:14	37:8	16 4:11,21
58:4,23	210:16	chances	chef	34:11
59:17	219:3	23:24	52:2	39:11,12,
62:11,18	232:18	101:22	181:11	16 40:8
63:14	233:19	change	234:12,17	44:7 45:2,
66:21	240:19	34:25	chefs	16 46:3,11
67:23	244:16	114:18	235:2	47:10,19,
69:11	250:4	117:21	chemicals	22 48:6
70:11	Chairman	195:3	146:16	49:6,17
71:17	32:12	change-	147:15	50:11,15
72:17 74:2	challenge	makers	Chenault-	51:8,21
75:13	101:5	140:7	20:9	52:7 53:7,
88:20	challenged	changing	Chenault-	21 54:25
119:16	196:25	65:10,23	fattah	55:12,23
132:12	challenges	66:11	12:7,11	56:11,18
144:24	96:14	114:24	14:12	57:10
161:11	212:3,13	chapter	15:21	58:13
162:24	challenging	40:13	16:5,22	59:8,10
164:12	246:18	51:12	17:8,19	60:3,12,23
166:6	Chamber	68:18 71:5	18:20	61:10,19
167:13	94:6,13	73:12	19:14	62:3 63:3,
168:22	chambers	108:23	20:3,12	24 64:5,9,
170:5	11:19	109:3,15	22:16 24:8	13,17
171:7,14,	98:24	110:3		68:10,12
24 173:11	champion	157:9		70:23
175:2	118:2	161:8		73:3,5
176:10				78:3,13
177:18				

82:18, 22	189:12	76:22	84:19, 20	194:3, 21
83:2 85:11	190:19	citation	85:13, 23	197:9
86:23	191:24	19:12	89:18	198:11
89:16	192:2, 20	cities	90:2, 22	201:12
93:22 97:9	199:10	129:11	93:24	202:3
99:24	245:3	citizens	94:10, 16	207:7, 17
104:13	249:6	5:3 128:2	95:14	208:6
108:11	child	206:14	96:25	212:24
112:6	88:6	207:15	100:2	213:25
116:19	203:13	208:3	101:14	215:22
120:7	204:16	227:22	102:2	219:12
122:3	children	city	105:11, 12	220:8, 15
124:21	193:21	2:18 3:6,	106:17	221:7
126:23	203:8	7, 9 5:16,	112:13, 16,	223:17
129:22	218:10	19, 23 6:4	20 113:19	224:16
133:6	222:20	11:22 12:2	115:17	226:4, 7
138:3, 16	224:11, 14,	15:16	117:7	227:16, 23
141:7	23 230:20	19:6, 12	119:10, 11	228:6, 9
143:25	231:3, 25	20:5	120:16	230:2, 6, 11
148:8	232:20	21:15, 17	127:15, 17,	231:18
150:21	CHOP	22:12, 19	18, 21, 23	233:5
151:10, 17	91:15	23:18, 25	128:4, 9	235:3, 4, 10
155:3	Christ	24:11, 24	129:17	236:5, 17
160:13, 24	6:17	26:8, 20	130:18, 19	237:3
162:10	Christmas	28:10	131:6, 9	238:22
163:22	249:5	29:10	139:18	239:2, 9
165:17	church	30:18, 25	140:12, 23	242:9
167:3	4:15 17:21	31:5, 17	141:8	243:24
168:12	250:15, 21	32:15, 22	144:3	245:4
169:21	Cindy	39:18 40:4	147:7	249:19
171:3, 17,	12:5 62:12	41:2, 12, 24	149:8	City's
21 173:2	63:15	42:21, 22	151:6	62:4
174:13	66:22	43:3 45:10	154:3	79:11, 16
176:3	Circuit	52:9 55:5,	157:2	81:20 90:3
177:9	19:9	8 56:6, 23	162:13, 21	164:9
179:21, 25	circulated	58:16	164:6, 20	civic
181:6	9:9	64:19	182:12	17:22 55:7
182:11	circumstanc	68:14	183:22	90:8
183:18, 25	es	70:25 73:7	184:3	136:18
185:4		79:15, 19	186:18	184:2
186:11		80:2	188:8	
187:23			189:15	

Civics 230:14, 21 231:3 232:5	Clearance 82:20 150:23 165:22	97:7, 9 99:22, 24 104:11, 13 108:8, 11 112:4, 6 116:17, 19 120:5, 7 122:3 124:19, 21 126:21, 23 129:20, 22 133:4, 6 137:25 138:3, 16 141:5, 7 143:25 148:6, 8 150:19, 21 151:9, 10, 17 154:25 155:3 160:13, 22, 24 162:8, 10 163:20, 22 165:15, 17 166:25 167:3 168:10, 12 169:18, 21 170:25 171:3, 17, 21 172:24 173:2 174:11, 13 176:3 177:9 179:21 181:6 182:11 183:18, 25 185:2, 4 186:9, 11	187:21, 23 189:10, 12 190:19 191:24 192:3, 18, 20 199:10 Clerk's 199:6 249:7 clerking 19:6 clinic 135:12 clinical 159:14 209:8 clip 203:24 close 206:19 closer 229:9 closing 194:5 closure 152:4 166:3 clothes 213:6 Club 125:10 co-anchor 15:20 co-anchoring 16:15, 19 Co-chair 92:24	co-founders 229:6 co-introducing 195:14 Co-op 87:20 co-sponsors 206:10 coalition 194:5 196:3 219:10 code 40:13 51:11 57:12 64:23 68:19 71:6 73:11 159:12 161:9 167:11 168:20 214:22 collaborate 124:8 collaborating 82:10 collaboration 80:10 241:2 collaborative 91:2 colleague 2:20 59:12
civil 113:8 135:4 claims 147:12 Clara 143:14 Clark 119:13 Clarke 3:21 238:10 239:18 240:3, 6 class 27:25 33:17 110:16 classroom 34:2 Clean 105:5 106:9 241:5 242:5 cleaning 106:10 243:5 clear 33:13 102:22 122:22 236:25 242:4 245:20	Clerk 2:21 3:3, 16 4:11, 21 39:11, 12, 16 44:5, 7, 24 45:2, 16 46:3, 11 47:10, 19 48:6 49:4, 6, 17 50:9, 11 51:5, 8, 21 52:7 53:4, 7, 21 54:25 55:12, 23 56:11, 18 57:8, 10 58:11, 13 59:6, 8, 11, 24 60:3, 12, 23 61:10, 19 62:3, 25 63:3, 24 64:5, 9, 13, 17 67:5 68:10, 12 70:21, 23 73:3, 5 77:24 78:3, 13 82:16, 18, 22 83:2 85:9, 11 86:23 89:14, 16 93:20, 22			

89:8	colonoscopy	10 86:1	133:1, 21	commerce
134:15	123:24	87:1 88:1	134:1	92:12
138:10	color	89:1, 15	135:1	94:7, 14
192:4	17:3	90:1 91:1	136:1	101:7
205:23	134:24	92:1 93:1,	137:1	240:21
212:7	156:24	21 94:1	138:1, 2	242:11
colleagues	238:22	95:1 96:1	139:1	commercial
3:25 16:10	Colorado	97:1 98:1	140:1	243:23
38:2 48:24	18:15	99:1, 23	141:1	Commission
50:25	21:25	100:1	142:1	42:22 43:4
89:11	24:15	101:1	143:1	164:3
111:12	colorectal	102:1	144:1	Commissione
112:13	43:25 44:9	103:1	145:1	r
200:19	122:17, 23	104:1, 12	146:1	39:22
205:21	123:7, 8,	105:1	147:1	40:20
210:20, 24	14, 19, 22	106:1	148:1	41:5, 14
219:8	124:2	107:1	149:1	48:8
225:4	130:11, 23	108:1, 10	150:1, 20	214:11, 16
235:6	156:20	109:1	151:1	Commissione
246:13	169:23	110:1	152:1	r's
249:12	combating	111:1	153:1	226:21
collective	236:12	112:1, 5	154:1	commitment
243:7, 17	commenced	113:1	155:1, 2	3:11 12:9
collectivel	211:2	114:1	156:1	35:7 81:12
y	commend	115:1	157:1	119:4
82:12	79:13	116:1, 18	158:1	205:7
201:10	81:11	117:1	159:1	241:8
college	205:22	118:1	160:12, 18	242:23
110:20, 22	209:20	119:1	224:3	243:15
156:11	226:7	120:1, 6	commenters	committed
159:2	commendatio	121:1	76:22	118:22
217:7	n	122:1	commenting	139:16
Collins	136:16	123:1	82:19	150:9
108:25	comment	124:1, 20	97:10	197:18
Collom	76:1, 5, 6	125:1	comments	237:5
41:21	77:1 78:1	126:1, 22	77:23	committee
colon	79:1 80:1	127:1	100:14	51:20
44:11	81:1 82:1,	128:1	104:7	53:20
169:25	17 83:1	129:1, 21	131:18	57:20
	84:1 85:1,	130:1	211:18	60:11, 22
		131:1	247:4	
		132:1		

61:9	communities	196:3, 9	215:4	61:6 64:25
63:16, 19	15:25 17:3	197:25	completed	69:4 71:11
64:20	30:22	200:4	101:18	73:20
65:7, 20	31:10	214:23	completes	condolences
66:8 67:25	56:22 62:5	229:21, 22	192:24	2:19
68:5, 15	100:24	240:9, 11,	complex	151:7, 20
70:13, 17	117:18, 24	18 241:2	107:17	219:19
71:2	119:8	242:24, 25	145:25	222:10
72:19, 22	122:20	243:7, 18	comply	223:5, 18
73:8 75:6	124:13	244:6	57:14	239:11
90:20, 22	135:9	247:7	comprehensi	244:22
93:14	148:24	248:10, 13	ve	245:9
94:16	154:10	companies	42:20	248:24
100:16	188:7	91:24	164:5	conduct
105:12	196:21	116:11	comprehensi	52:10
119:18	197:9	124:4	vely	79:16
146:23	209:11, 18	company	80:5	164:4
162:12	218:16	106:9, 13	computers	182:13
164:4	219:11	126:14	153:15	conducted
222:9, 12	community	compassion	concentrate	96:8
232:19	6:15 14:22	15:25	d	confidante
240:20, 21,	19:15 33:5	137:21	156:19	118:11
23	35:5 49:20	215:6, 10	concern	confident
Committees	55:5, 15	217:22	76:6	214:15, 16,
63:13	56:19	compassiona	concerned	17
committing	81:24	te	232:16	confused
117:15	84:13 86:5	211:24	concert	247:19
common	88:4	compete	27:8, 17	congratulat
123:10	102:10, 14	153:12	conclude	e
commonsense	109:14, 18	competition	77:12	237:23
208:4	113:17	40:16	concluded	congratulat
Commonwealt	122:15	51:14	238:16	ing
h	136:19	competitive	concludes	46:4 49:8
101:15	139:19	ness	160:17	173:3
communicati	140:5	complain	conditions	177:10
ons	143:20	198:12	51:17	congratulat
39:1, 8, 14	178:17	complete	53:17	ions
40:1 41:1	183:22	57:15	60:8, 19	20:11
42:1 43:8	185:7			130:5
	188:4			
	195:18, 23			

177:8	considered	continuatio	81:19	copy
184:23	9:15 65:3,	n	contributio	32:2
187:20	16 66:4,17	142:6	n	core
189:9	69:6 71:12	continue	3:12	119:2
congregatio	73:21	32:18,19,	201:12	corner
ns	consistency	20 101:5	contributio	53:14
17:21	143:6	103:11	ns	201:2
Congress	consistent	121:20	13:25	corners
127:14	42:17,19	137:19	15:15 31:9	53:12
165:21	consistentl	140:22	46:17	cornerstone
connect	y	201:13	47:14	3:9
86:2 95:19	139:24	209:15,22	51:24	correct
142:22	constituent	210:10	160:2	103:23
247:16	s	221:6	174:18	203:14
connecting	228:5	226:23	176:6	correction
95:8	241:18	232:12	181:9	246:6
158:13	constructio	237:11	234:13	corrects
connection	n	248:22	control	246:5
54:2	100:11	249:10,17	231:21	corridor
connections	101:17	continued	controlling	142:18
36:22	206:25	110:21	129:6	241:7
connects	207:22,25	238:4	Convention	243:23
245:20	208:11	continues	158:10	corridors
consent	constructiv	17:12	conventions	214:21
128:6	e	contract	18:13	228:9
Conservancy	235:22	116:6	conversatio	cosponsored
144:20	consumer	contracting	n	235:6
145:20	236:8,16	114:10	80:25 82:8	cost
147:17	consumers	115:9	235:8	146:3,8
considerati	40:15	contractor	conveying	council
on	51:13	207:3,6	39:25	2:2,6,8,9,
9:20 39:20	contact	contracts	40:23	18,20 3:2,
45:14	84:23,25	91:14	41:8,17	3,6,10,18,
48:4,18	contacts	95:2,11	48:11	19,21
54:10	36:22	contribute	coordinatin	5:16,18
61:17 62:9	contest	30:20	g	6:20,23,25
75:4	153:11	contributed	242:9	7:2,14,22,
192:22	continually	121:10	coordinator	25 8:15,
	199:24	contributes	122:13	20,24 9:7,

17 10:14, 18, 21 11:5, 9, 12, 15, 22, 23 12:20 19:12 20:8 21:15 23:19 24:2, 25 25:14, 15, 16, 17 26:10 31:5, 16 32:24 33:8 38:22 39:3, 4, 5, 6, 18 43:2, 9, 10, 18 44:4, 12, 18, 23 45:11, 15, 24 46:8, 20 47:2, 8, 16, 25 48:5, 15, 19, 23 49:3, 14, 23 50:8, 18, 24 51:4, 18 52:4, 9, 16 53:2, 18 54:7, 11, 15, 18, 22 55:9, 20 56:8, 24 57:6, 7, 18, 24 58:3, 10, 20 59:5, 14, 23 60:9, 20 61:7, 14, 18 62:6, 10, 17, 24	63:9, 22 64:19 65:5, 18 66:6, 18, 20 67:2, 7, 9, 16, 19 68:8, 14 69:8, 10, 16, 20, 22 70:5, 8, 20, 25 71:14, 16, 22, 25 72:3, 10, 13, 21, 25 73:7, 22, 24 74:5, 7, 11, 13, 20, 23 75:12 76:2, 9 77:22 78:7, 11, 19, 24 79:10, 15 80:2 82:14, 24 85:5, 8 88:19, 24 89:12 90:2 93:16, 18 94:9, 10 95:15 96:19 97:3, 6, 12 99:21 100:6, 8, 14 101:8 104:9, 24, 25 105:10 108:6 110:5 112:3, 12, 13, 16	116:12, 15 117:6, 7 119:25 120:4, 16, 18 121:2, 23, 25 122:10 124:15, 18 126:20 127:16 129:17, 19 130:7 131:12, 16 132:11 133:3, 14, 17, 25 134:3 136:25 137:24 138:7, 13 140:25 141:4, 13 143:23 144:13, 21 145:14 146:13, 17, 21 147:20, 23 148:3 149:8 150:18 151:2, 6 152:6 153:4 154:24 160:10, 13, 16 161:10, 15, 19 162:2, 5, 23 163:4, 7, 14, 17, 24 164:11, 15, 25 165:8,	11, 14 166:5, 13, 19, 22 167:12, 17, 21 168:4, 7, 21 169:5, 12, 15 170:4, 9, 13, 19, 22 171:4, 13, 19, 23 172:3, 9, 16, 19 173:8, 10, 15, 21 174:4, 7, 23, 25 175:6, 11, 14, 21, 24 176:9, 13, 17, 24 177:3, 7, 17, 21, 25 178:8, 11, 14, 21 179:2, 8, 15, 18 180:5, 16, 24 181:3, 14, 22 182:5, 8, 13, 21 183:5, 12, 15 184:5, 13, 17, 20, 25 185:12, 20 186:3, 6, 21 187:2, 5, 12, 15, 19 188:10, 15, 18, 25	189:4, 8, 20 190:6, 13, 16 191:2, 7, 11, 18, 21 192:7, 17, 23 193:5, 9 195:5 199:17 201:14, 17 202:3 205:10, 21 208:15, 20 210:12, 15, 19 212:5 219:2, 6, 14 220:15 221:14, 17, 20 222:24 223:20 224:11 225:2 227:5 228:14, 21 230:2 231:13 233:10, 15, 17, 25 237:16, 24 238:9 239:17, 23 240:2, 5 244:14, 19 245:17 246:11, 15 248:14, 17 250:8 251:2, 3, 6, 8, 14, 17 Council's 53:25 90:22
--	--	---	---	---

105:11	233:22, 23	69:11	190:25	Councils
213:25	237:20	70:12	191:3	136:25
Councilman	239:25	71:17	192:6, 10	Councilwoman
4:24 23:21	250:7	72:18 74:3	193:6	n
26:7, 16	Councilman	75:14	195:15	7:8 8:9, 19
28:20	c	79:13 80:7	208:18	9:11 12:17
30:14	40:3 41:2,	82:6 88:21	210:16	13:6, 11
31:15 32:8	11, 23	116:21	219:3	14:14
43:17	48:14	119:11, 21	221:18, 22	16:3, 20
48:22	131:22	122:5, 25	222:5	17:7, 18
50:3, 4	150:16	124:23	223:7	18:10, 19
52:21	161:6	125:12	225:5, 6, 7	19:10 24:3
57:5, 23	167:9	126:18	233:20	29:22
58:4, 6, 24,	168:18	133:9	234:6	31:4, 24
25 59:19	180:11	134:4, 6	237:18	44:17
68:3 69:13	246:2	141:25	238:20	46:25
70:15	Councilmember	149:7	244:17	50:23
71:19		153:6	245:14	54:14, 21
72:20 74:4	4:16 7:7	155:5, 20	250:5	62:13, 20
106:22, 24	8:7, 18 9:3	162:24	councilmembers	63:17
132:12, 14,	10:24	163:23	5:19 12:15	64:2, 6, 10,
23 144:25	12:5, 13,	164:12	26:5 28:25	11, 15
145:2	21, 23, 24	165:19	33:7 79:2	66:23
163:3	13:2, 3, 4, 5	167:5	105:4	75:18
164:15	25:19	168:14, 22	106:25	88:23
166:6, 9	26:4, 11,	170:3, 5	122:11	109:9
168:25	12, 13, 14,	171:15, 24	124:7	119:13
170:8	15 33:6	172:5, 23	133:16	123:5
172:2	43:16, 18	173:7, 11	138:25	161:11, 14
173:14	46:24	174:22	144:14	167:13, 16
175:5	48:21	175:2	155:11	176:10, 12
177:20	50:22	176:8	192:12	181:18
178:25	52:20	177:16, 18	210:24	182:25
180:9	53:24	178:20, 22	226:8	184:9
190:2	54:13, 19	180:3, 6	227:25	185:16
192:13	57:22	181:13, 15	249:24	186:25
201:22, 23	59:18	182:20, 22	Councilpeople	188:14
205:13, 18,	62:12, 18	184:4, 6	102:6	191:6
19 210:18	63:14	185:11, 13		193:4, 8
221:19	66:21	186:20, 22		199:15
224:8	67:24	188:9, 11		200:15
		189:18, 24		

205:23	cover	credentials	culinary	daily
208:19	136:20	156:3	52:2 85:25	197:2
210:23	covering	159:15	181:11	Dale
212:8	23:13	credit	234:14	160:6,7
214:6,18	Covington	35:3	235:10	208:24
219:5	156:7	204:11	236:4	damage
234:8	crazy	223:11	culture	207:18
244:18	207:12,15	crime	51:25	Damon
counsel	create	127:17,19	118:24	19:7
239:16	86:4 90:21	129:13	143:18	dangerous
counseling	103:16,19	152:2	181:10	20:25
73:16	105:11	166:3	Cummings	Darrell
213:6	113:9	203:3	240:25	3:21 238:9
count	115:20	206:17	current	239:17
107:21	237:12	crimes	80:4 157:7	240:3
counterpart	created	151:23	Curtis	data-
s	101:16,22	criminal	50:3 70:12	sharing
114:5	116:8	46:19	132:12	92:17
countless	136:7	174:20	144:25	Dating
14:20	creates	critical	166:7	135:10
19:16	81:23	80:3,9	180:7	daughter
country	150:3	102:23	201:22	160:6
125:24	creating	103:15	cus	204:4
129:7	33:22	236:2	155:18	208:23
140:23	84:12,15	Croson	cyclists	216:14,25
153:25	93:5 106:5	115:3	227:21	daughters
209:13	124:11	crucial		136:5
229:5	146:23	236:11	D	David
County	creation	Crump	D'ANGELO	37:9
194:6	45:4 94:15	158:19	120:9	dawning
couple	100:15	cry	124:24	215:4
19:21	112:17	241:23	126:23	day
87:12	162:12	crystallize	127:7	36:2 58:17
224:24	creations	d	d/b/a	67:3,11
courage	30:7	15:2	60:13	69:17,24
14:3	creative	CUAS	dad	72:5 74:9,
Court	28:8 29:12	205:3	83:15,18	15 92:8,10
19:8	creativity	Cuda	142:15	99:17
	80:20	216:11		102:19

139:8, 14	decay	declaration	defend	226:14
144:15	241:23	240:17	101:13	demographic
155:23	deceptive	declaring	Defender	225:12
158:15	40:16	127:20	46:13	demonstrate
189:16	51:15	decorated	174:14	d
193:10	236:24	118:4	defends	16:5 29:16
215:3	decided	decreasing	101:12	demonstrate
220:9, 17	38:8	152:4	definition	s
221:4	154:12	decreed	105:16	30:10
229:25	deciding	5:13	degree	denied
240:16	95:7	dedicated	18:21	114:3
244:25	226:10	3:4 5:6	22:21, 22	Denise
day-in	decision	59:12	110:19	55:3
35:20	6:12 54:3	137:3	degrees	183:20
day-out	114:24	192:4	217:8	195:15
35:20	115:3	dedication	DEI	237:23
days	211:8	4:6 12:8	96:17	departed
31:11	231:23	30:19	100:17, 19,	89:8
83:19	decisions	45:22 55:4	21 101:16	department
130:22	230:13	56:3, 15	102:24	144:19
deal	232:22	139:20	105:16	145:19
180:17	Decker	171:10	112:19	236:23
dealers	2:21 3:4	183:21	Delaware	242:10, 20
128:13	4:21 5:6	186:15	94:8, 20	deserve
dealing	21:6 59:11	188:2	deliver	194:18
152:2	89:9	241:8	15:5 39:9,	Design
dear	151:8, 13	deeds	23 40:21	149:10
89:8	192:3	39:25	41:6, 15	designation
117:12	198:16	40:23	48:9	53:24
Debra	202:2, 19	41:8, 17	delivered	128:5
97:9, 20	219:18	48:11	100:23	designation
debris	220:20	deemed	demanding	s
242:21	222:4, 12	75:8	159:17	65:11, 24
244:5	223:6, 18	deep	dementia	66:12
decade	239:12	35:6 36:9	16:24	desk
213:4, 14	248:24	deepest	Dementias'	154:20
decades	249:10	2:18	17:2	desperately
15:22	250:11	deeply	democratic	215:24
	Decker's	122:21		
	244:22			

desperation 218:7	difference 119:7	disable- owned 162:20	167:7 168:16	240:2, 16 243:16, 19
destroyed 83:18	126:16	disagreed 230:16	disproporti onately 156:23	245:15, 16, 17 246:3, 11, 15
Detention 194:6	differently 214:3	disappearin g 98:3	dissertatio n 233:11	District- level 35:24
determinati on 241:12	difficult 99:2	disconnect 77:17	distinguish ed 100:7	diverse 24:24, 25 25:2 81:19
determined 117:21	difficulty 95:5	discuss 92:13	102:16 119:5	91:7, 25 92:15
Detroit 22:4	diligent 3:8	discussed 164:21	141:23 142:20	93:6, 13
develop 45:6	diners 82:3	disease 123:15	143:10	diversity 6:14 15:9
developed 145:20	dining 52:12	dismantled 96:18	distributio n 131:21	85:13 89:18
developers 113:18	79:12, 17	dismantling 95:16	District 32:21 36:4	90:23 93:24
developing 147:6	80:20, 22	disorder 17:6	40:4 41:2, 11, 24	94:17 100:2, 16
development 6:15	81:11	disparities 17:15	48:14 88:15	104:15 105:13, 17
142:21	182:16	96:11	129:24 131:22	112:8 137:6
240:22	235:12, 25	111:3	143:12, 21 148:10	141:9 144:3, 17
devise 104:2	direct 195:22	117:17	161:6 167:9	145:17 146:24
DHS 205:3	directing 16:24	122:17	168:18 180:12	159:13 162:14
diagnosed 123:13	direction 17:13	135:21, 23	211:21 214:5	235:11
dialogue 80:10	215:5	disparity 17:23	224:12 227:25	Division 37:10
235:22	director 38:7 79:3	dispense 11:16	229:13 237:25	DNC 158:22
die 123:15	89:23	dispose 161:3	239:21	Dobbins 153:20
died 210:7	92:12			
	106:23			
	121:6			
	135:22			
	139:4			
	141:19			
	149:9			
	disability 105:22			

doctor 110:11 159:6	dozens 91:12	drugs 216:9	E	118:24
doctors 158:6, 22	drafting 153:17	due 80:25 137:8	earlier 193:18 222:9	164:9 240:21
documentary 16:24 25:23 27:20 29:8, 25 30:4 31:21 34:18	dramatic 211:23	duly 7:13 10:20 67:6 69:19 71:24 74:10 161:18 164:24 165:7 167:20 169:4 170:12 172:8 173:20 175:13 176:16 177:24 179:7 180:15 181:21 183:4 184:12 185:19 187:4 188:17 190:5 191:10	early 30:9 89:3 96:9 123:22 203:8 212:11	Economy 89:23 90:3, 25
documented 33:12	drawn 83:10	dream 142:16	earned 18:21, 24 22:22 101:6 136:3, 12	Edith 63:7 109:6, 20 117:13 120:21 121:21 134:8, 17 137:18 138:11 155:16, 22 190:23 209:3
dollars 36:19 91:5, 13	dreams 126:15	Drexel 91:15	Earning 16:12	eds-and-meds 91:3
domestic 107:4	Driscoll 4:16, 24 26:13 31:15 58:5, 6 67:24 68:3 69:12, 13 189:19, 24 190:2 210:25	drive 115:8 140:16 208:8 218:8	ease 6:24, 25 15:24 25:15, 16 39:4, 5	educate 157:12
dominate 196:17	drive 115:8 140:16 208:8 218:8	duties 240:6	east 41:22 42:10 60:6 61:3 68:25 69:2 250:16, 17	educated 103:17 157:11 226:25
donated 37:20, 23 38:15	drives 135:13 207:11, 14	duty 204:21 205:16	easy 20:14 98:25 111:17 246:16	education 17:24 32:12, 13 34:25 37:10 49:22 72:19, 22 73:9, 15 85:24 86:5 96:9 103:15 113:12 114:25
Donna 97:16 104:13, 20 105:4	driving 14:24 114:16	Duwayne 155:21 210:2	ECE 96:12, 14	
donuts 189:21	drug 128:12 129:3, 7		economic 17:16 103:24	
door 202:5 245:2 246:21				
doors 247:22				
double-down 96:20				

121:18	84:24	embodying	encroachment	162:18
139:6	196:8	16:8		enhancement
178:18	211:19	embossed	53:8 60:4	52:12
195:2,4	212:6	31:25	end	182:15
206:17	220:6	embrace	150:15	enhancement
222:8,12	226:23	129:18	209:16	s
228:19	238:17	140:21	211:3	80:18
229:3,22	243:17	emergency	221:3	enjoy
230:4,6	244:9	235:17	228:14	198:24
232:19	eighth	emphasizes	233:2	enrich
educator	97:24	215:5	243:13	236:4
49:8 52:2	Elaine	emphatically	endearing	enriching
122:13	49:9	y	209:15	118:23
140:15	125:14	231:17	endeavors	enrolled
177:11	177:11	employment	28:8 29:13	159:14
181:11	223:22,25	106:15	endow	enrollment
222:18	224:4,20	empowering	217:21	115:2
224:2	elected	236:22	endured	ensured
educators	197:19	EMSCO	241:18	80:13
228:22	246:2	116:11	energy	ensuring
EE0	Election	enabled	27:13	96:21
113:2	226:19	6:2	84:12	118:23
effective	Elevate	enabling	140:16	enterprise
80:6	37:14	217:14	221:21	95:8
effectiveness	eliminate	227:16	enforcement	110:25
ss	135:23	enacted	165:25	135:20
162:19	159:10	5:12	242:12	enthusiasti
efficiency	209:9	enacting	enforcing	cally
52:11	eliminating	227:15	129:15	164:22
182:14	117:16	encompass	engage	entire
efficient	Elizabeth	211:21	235:21	29:6 32:21
3:13	4:9 222:13	encourage	engaged	229:20,22
effort	223:19	34:16	26:22	entitled
91:3 96:18	249:7	103:25	Engagement	16:25
205:2	eloquently	127:24	122:16	64:22,24
226:20	208:25	206:4	engaging	65:9,22
244:6	embark	231:14	105:18	66:10
efforts	6:10		enhance	68:18,19
79:10				

71:4, 6 73:10, 12 entrepreneur 112:23 entrepreneurs 96:5 environment 106:6 237:13 epitome 109:20 Epps 92:24 equal 153:21 217:21 equality 140:17 equipment 153:16 equitable 90:11 equity 18:7 23:18 90:24 91:10 100:16 105:13, 24 118:2 135:25 137:20 144:17 145:18 146:5, 24 147:2 162:14 195:2	era 113:7 Erica 82:18, 22 83:6 99:5, 10 essentially 232:13 242:17 establish 73:14 establishments 68:23 Estate 149:11 esteemed 2:20 12:10 89:25 94:9 112:12 133:15 134:2 Estes 49:9 125:14 177:12 estimated 128:17 ethics 17:24 ethnicity 105:21 Europe 34:20 evaluate 80:4 Evans 97:23	Eveline 116:24 120:8 122:3, 11 Evelyn 104:17 108:15 116:20 117:2, 8 evening 92:20 205:20 event 158:21 205:14 events 124:10 157:13 226:24 everyday 196:20 evidence-based 162:17 evidencing 32:4 evident 6:11 examine 135:13 162:15 exceeded 115:12, 13 excellence 12:9 14:21 30:20 109:21 121:16	excited 28:12 87:9 236:7 excitement 27:13 exciting 38:10 88:13 235:3 excuse 88:20 99:15 131:13, 17 133:18 144:22 execute 39:23 40:21 41:6, 15 48:9 executive 33:23 50:15 89:22 128:10 179:25 exist 221:12 existing 53:10 exists 213:8, 12 experience 80:22 137:9 140:8 218:3 235:25 experienced	211:6 experiences 29:20 expertise 156:18 exploitation 237:7 exposing 241:17 express 80:16 132:3, 7 219:19 expression 30:6 extend 2:18 31:6, 12 244:21 extended 111:7 extensive 136:17 extraordinary 31:9 118:21 134:16 137:17 159:15 extremely 126:4 232:16 eyes 204:5 eyesore 243:2 Ezechial
---	--	---	--	--

26:2 32:25	Fairmount	family-	218:10	FDR
F	144:19	sustaining	Fattah	145:21
face	145:20	84:15	20:10	fear
96:15	faithfully	famous	148:22	247:19
107:7	77:6	38:12	favor	feasible
faced	Falaka	196:17	7:19 11:6	238:14
111:18	148:21	fan	67:13 70:2	feat
212:13	fall	222:3	72:7 74:17	20:14
faces	146:9	farewell	161:23	featured
101:20	false	137:14	163:11	25:22
facilitatin	237:4	farm	165:5	29:3, 7, 25
g	Fame	155:24	166:16	31:20
81:10	18:18	farmer	167:25	36:24
facing	famed	87:20	169:9	92:13
150:7	158:18	134:19	170:16	featuring
fact	families	Farmers	172:13	146:2
21:17	55:17	87:20	173:25	February
23:12	73:17	farming	175:18	7:5, 11, 17
109:15	135:14	135:14	176:21	157:14
219:23	150:4	fast	178:5	federal
222:18	185:8	125:20	179:12	61:12
245:18	194:8	126:4	180:21	113:25
facts	196:21	242:15	182:2	114:11
90:20	198:24	faster	183:9	127:16, 24
114:2	230:20	92:25	184:14	129:8
123:7	231:2, 8, 15	fastest	185:24	152:11, 16
247:8	232:2, 20	96:4	187:9	fee
faculty	family	father	188:22	39:25
196:4	3:24	4:13	190:10	41:8, 17
failure	194:10	139:13	191:15	48:11
57:13	197:23	140:13	251:11	feed
fainted	203:16	142:7	favorable	86:10
23:13	216:2	145:6	63:20	feedback
fair	219:20	229:10, 12,	65:5, 18	34:19
77:4	222:24	14	66:6, 19	feel
105:25	228:22	father's	68:7 69:8	13:17
237:12	239:11	140:21	70:19	22:19
	244:23	fathers	71:15	86:20 98:8
	245:9, 10		72:24	106:7
	248:25		73:23	
			95:20	

132:8	fill	financing	21:22	234:18, 20,
194:17	207:8	237:4	flight	22
230:19	film	find	136:3	foolishness
fees	16:21	20:19	floor	216:22
40:23	30:23	21:13 36:8	141:15	football
fell	33:12	114:12	179:4	196:6
145:7	36:25	123:22	221:23	footsteps
fellow	37:7, 20	findings	234:2	145:9
78:25	filming	203:3	flourish	force
126:17	33:25	fingers	28:4	45:5
138:25	final	241:21	flowers	109:23
159:2	24:17	finished	19:23	118:5
felt	44:14	23:17	210:6	136:10, 15
21:22	45:13	Finn	focus	197:3
229:23	46:2, 10, 22	249:20	157:4, 24	243:9
female	47:18	firm	focused	forced
50:14	48:3, 17	101:16	195:2	114:7
109:24	49:16, 25	105:7	focusing	218:8
179:24	50:20	firms	146:22	forefront
field	52:6, 18	91:7, 12,	folk	238:25
118:3	54:9	17, 25	152:17	foreman
121:16	55:11, 22	92:15	197:12	101:25
fields	56:10 57:2	93:6, 13	folks	forever
146:3	58:22	95:9, 13	19:19	4:5 119:20
fiery	59:16	96:3 101:3	37:11	146:16
241:11	61:16 62:8	114:6, 9	197:14	147:14
fight	63:11	first-hand	229:17	240:12, 13
226:10	75:10, 17,	103:2, 3	231:5	forget
fighting	23 76:7	firsthand	247:12	23:15
197:25	89:6	134:22	follow	152:6
figure	160:21	140:13	126:15	form
115:7	finally	Firstly	144:10	86:18
159:24	37:18	79:9	food	139:20
197:23	129:18	fit	45:5, 10	formalizing
207:24	195:24	88:11	51:25 52:3	79:11
238:13	236:7	fix	84:14	formed
Figures	Finance	129:15	85:23	196:2
159:23	149:10	flashing	181:10, 12	formulate
	financial		213:6	
	103:25			

197:15	124:4	243:4	functioning	144:2, 9,
fortitude	founded	250:13	3:13 30:24	12, 15, 22,
5:18	90:5	friend	fund	23 145:16
Fortunately	113:15	20:3 59:12	205:8	146:15, 20
123:18	118:17	111:20	funded	147:9, 25
forward	159:4	117:12	116:8	gather
15:17	founder	118:9	funding	13:19
32:19	36:17	119:23	30:11 84:5	Gauthier
37:25	142:8	120:23	91:20	13:3 18:10
82:9, 13	founding	121:5	99:18	26:15 31:4
86:3 93:15	46:16	125:13	103:20	46:24, 25
199:25	174:17	138:10	funeral	78:4 123:4
208:13	Frankford	192:4	250:19, 21,	149:7
220:14, 15	69:3	202:19	23	161:12, 14
223:21	Frankly	friends	Furness	176:8, 11,
232:13	93:2	3:24 19:23	49:10	12 205:23
241:22	fraternity	219:20	126:7	219:4, 5
248:22	200:23	228:22	177:12	222:5
249:11	fraud	friendships	furthered	223:7
forward-	236:21	119:3	30:17	gave
90:5	237:2	frightening	156:12	22:20, 25
foster	free	203:23	future	23:15, 22
49:20	13:17	front	36:12	111:17
90:11	86:8, 9, 11,	101:10	124:10	220:20
178:16	15, 20	103:8	140:9	Gayborhood
228:16, 20,	234:22	113:24	197:10	61:22
24	freedom	frustrated	208:14	gender
fostering	88:14	232:16	212:23	105:21
5:22	140:17	fueled	241:13	general
fosters	143:11, 21	218:6		109:24
81:23	freefall	full	G	118:5
found	214:23	21:2, 12	Gambling	136:10
24:10 25:8	frequently	83:8	71:7	159:22
93:11	239:3, 5	139:11	Games	194:20
96:10	fresh	fully	71:8	226:18
224:15	84:14	84:5	gardens	generally
Foundation	Friday	fun	84:13	42:6, 19
91:21	240:15	88:7	Garella	generals
foundations			138:17	196:16

generation 107:12	girls 23:9 25:4	Gloria 156:24	133:13,15, 24 134:2	217:7
generationa l 150:3	46:5 173:4 225:20	Glover 157:6	138:23	graduates 156:8
generations 140:10	Girls' 155:12	goal 86:10	144:12	graduating 18:25
generous 205:7	give 19:23	115:11	149:5	grandfather 110:13
Georgetown 110:22	21:19	226:15	151:3	grandmom's 83:17
germane 131:19	28:15	goals 116:6	155:9	grandmother 118:9
146:19	35:3,10	God 5:9 24:4,	201:18	216:10,13,
Germantown 42:8,10	37:25 78:8	14 25:3	205:19,20	20 217:3,
get all 131:6	102:12	38:24	210:21	5,9
223:10	143:16	108:4	211:3	grandmother 's 216:8
ghost 152:8,17, 20,21	165:25	142:18	233:22,24	grandparent s 195:10
Gilmore 8:7,9 9:3, 11 10:25	204:11	143:3,6	Gordon 35:24	204:20,21
12:25 16:3	213:24	good 2:3,5	govern 96:12	grant 6:2,12
26:12	221:6,9	12:18	governed 128:6	103:20
29:22	224:4	13:9,10	governing 6:7	granted 89:13
44:16,17	231:5	44:18	government 6:9 114:10	grateful 122:21
75:14,18	233:11	48:22,23	129:2,8,9	245:18
88:22,23	239:10	50:23	215:16	247:15
171:18	248:24	54:14,21	228:11	gratitude 3:15 31:7
172:5	giving 23:23	78:24	230:18	80:16
173:7,17	76:13 84:2	85:17	233:8	197:8
174:22	117:15	89:24 94:8	245:4,5	great 12:2 19:25
girl 110:10	210:6	97:19	grace 17:11	33:9 93:2
155:12	234:22	98:20	109:21	96:24
	238:21	99:17	grade 33:10,18	119:12
	Glass 132:17	100:8	graders 25:21 29:2	
	Glenda 157:6	104:23	31:18	
	Glenwood 42:11	105:2	33:11	
	global 212:21	106:17	graduated 156:10	
	231:10	112:11		
		117:5		
		120:17,19		
		122:9		
		127:10		

124:8	104:3	guys	107:21	211:18
151:21	growing	32:17	happen	Hassan
217:11	96:4	86:20	32:11	76:16
222:5	grown	98:24	123:3	HBCU
223:14, 15,	106:14, 21	99:2, 6	150:12	156:5, 14
19 232:6	203:14	101:10	153:2	HBO
249:11, 18,	growth	125:7	159:21	25:23
19 251:21	90:12	154:14	happened	27:19
greater	91:9, 17		22:24	29:4, 7, 25
89:24	123:9	H	happening	31:20
90:12	164:9	Hagins	219:13	33:23
101:19	guarantees	138:18	245:22	37:18 38:7
135:6	143:6	144:5	happier	head
214:8	guess	148:11	124:12	35:9 37:10
greatest	153:17	150:22	happy	heads
153:23	guest	151:4, 11,	28:8 83:12	242:10
greatly	4:16	18, 19	130:3	healer
119:18	guests	Hairston	144:15	118:2
174:9	4:17 11:18	93:23, 25	hard	healing
green	12:15 26:5	94:4, 5	35:7	215:21
77:8 84:3	139:2	Hal	194:19	216:3
241:4	guidance	36:16 37:8	199:13, 16	health
242:6	5:14 81:9,	half	harder	17:15, 23
grew	14 204:7	34:11	196:19	110:24
21:25 23:7	guide	94:24	Harold	117:16, 20
grip	81:8	Hall	92:24	118:2
242:2	guided	18:17 26:9	Harris	119:17
groceries	135:2	157:2	209:25	122:13
83:20	guiding	220:8	239:22	134:23
grocery	6:11	hallmark	Harrisburg	135:3, 25
86:14	gun	96:24	227:8	137:7
group	152:21	hallway	Harrity	156:17
26:23	154:8, 11	202:6	57:4, 5	157:16
groups	guns	hand	205:18, 19	209:9
157:18	152:8, 12,	6:11	210:24	217:11
197:13	17, 20	146:22	Harrowgate	healthier
grow	guy	230:17	248:12	124:12
84:13	38:12	hands	harrowingly	Healthy
103:12		36:12		109:16

hear 20:17 21:5,10 95:17 96:2 111:11,15 133:20 148:18 228:5	helped 16:22 34:9 56:21 91:12,16 188:6 209:6	243:2	history 13:22,23 14:2 47:13 92:8,10 118:7 136:8 139:9,14 141:24 143:18 155:17,19 157:15,18 176:5 193:11,14, 15 196:12, 18 197:2, 6,20 198:21 199:3,21 200:18,22, 24 201:7,9 206:7 229:25 233:2 234:24	holes 208:11
heard 14:25 21:21 38:8 95:4 100:18 153:8 234:21 242:3	helping 24:22 199:12	highest 139:20		hollowed 34:5
hearing 222:9	Henry 159:4	highlights 30:6		Holme 66:2
hearings 9:21 52:10 79:16 182:13	heritage 58:15 145:24 189:14	highly 111:13 118:4		Holy 250:15,20
heart 21:10,12 98:9 109:17 142:4 240:13 241:5	hero 214:6	highway 206:20		home 24:19 42:25 130:18 135:13 229:9
heartwarmin g 111:11 145:11	hesitantly 173:18	Hill 18:4		homeless 130:21
held 64:13 92:7 95:12 158:11,15, 23 196:20 213:15	hesitate 242:8	Hill- freedman 25:21 26:8,17 27:9 29:2, 6,15 30:16 31:2,8,18 32:3 33:4 34:22 35:14 37:3,23		homemaker 134:19
	hey 23:7	Hill- freedman's 33:15	hit 207:16	homeownersh ip 150:4
	hidden 159:23,24	Hinson 61:23 199:23	HIV 200:3	homes 113:13 149:19,25 213:16
	high 25:24 29:9 30:3 31:22 34:23 45:9 46:5 49:10	hip 87:23	hold 77:6 115:21,23	homeschool 87:18
	110:15 126:7 135:15 155:12,24 173:3 177:13	hired 101:24 102:8	holding 116:4	hometown 18:15
	higher 113:12 114:7	historic 154:21	Holdings 60:24	homicide 166:4
		historical l y 113:23	hole 206:25 207:8,23, 25	honestly 25:8
				honesty 6:4
				honor 13:20 14:10

19:25 33:9	179:22	hospitality	hosings	hurdles
61:23	181:7	81:14, 22	113:19	235:19
85:21 87:5	183:19	234:20	Hubbard	Hurricane
118:14	185:5	host	19:5	83:17
121:13	186:12	81:4	huge	husband
126:17	187:24	157:15	34:6 35:2	24:12
138:9	189:15	hostage	87:10	
143:10	190:20	213:15	201:11	I
145:5	191:25	hosted	209:17	idea
157:19	197:5	109:16	Hugh	245:5
193:12	honors	157:9	134:15	ideal
194:13, 18	19:13	158:21	138:3, 4	76:21
195:14, 25	109:4	hosting	Hughes	ideas
198:20	230:2	143:13	19:5	6:8 143:17
199:3, 24	234:16	hour	human	246:7
200:18	hope	2:7	119:17	identificat
Honorable	81:12	hours	128:13	ion
39:20	85:25	68:22	211:4	86:18
honored	86:19	house	218:4	identify
38:24	124:9	110:14	humanitaria	235:22
88:16	220:5, 16,	148:22	n	identity
111:23	21 221:5,	216:8, 13,	63:7	143:19
139:10	6, 8	16 217:2,	190:23	ideologies
199:22	hopes	6, 10	209:2	217:25
234:24	95:9	227:10	humans	ignore
honoring	Hopkins	housekeeper	221:12	107:20
12:7 45:17	18:2, 22	107:4	humble	illegal
46:12	horizon	houses	139:16	128:3, 15,
47:11 49:7	81:2	106:11	159:16	18 129:6
50:12	120:24	housing	humbled	illegally
51:22	121:7, 14,	24:5 55:6	200:8	207:2, 5
55:2, 13, 24	18	56:20	hundreds	ills
56:12	Hornstein	131:3	36:19	215:2
58:17 59:9	89:17, 21,	150:6, 10	hunger	illuminated
63:5	22	183:23	45:8	15:24
125:12	hospice	188:5	Hunting	illustrious
141:23	193:20	200:4	42:6	135:17
171:5	hospital	219:12	250:16, 17	
174:14	157:10			
176:4	194:10			
177:10				

Image 73:13	implementat ion 52:11 182:15	52:13 182:17 228:12 246:9	137:6 139:4 144:18 145:18 146:24 162:14	individuals 19:17 97:13 108:9 117:17 120:6 123:13, 16 133:20 135:8 138:2 147:4 152:18 158:2 209:11 211:15 213:3, 10
Imhotep 229:8	implore 153:3	improved 56:5 186:17	inclusive 90:11 235:24	
immediately 219:13	importance 30:5, 10 152:2, 3	improvement 93:8 235:23	incomplete 215:12	
immense 30:8	important 15:7 21:8 79:21 82:8 90:21 103:21 193:25 198:6 202:12, 13, 14, 15, 25 208:3 225:10 226:11 230:25 238:24	improving 45:22 171:11 inaudible 6:6 102:9 120:21 137:5 inaugural 204:25 Incident 82:20 150:23 165:22 included 10:15 18:12 202:22 including 36:23 42:14 105:20 136:14 195:3 208:22 inclusion 90:24 100:17 105:14 106:4, 5	incorrect 247:20 increase 45:9 93:16 157:25 159:13 166:3 209:7 increased 80:19 incredible 25:6 27:17, 18 111:20 154:4 211:10 incredibly 24:24 indelible 3:7 independent 90:4 indepth 179:3 individual 14:18 119:6 245:25	
immigrant 135:14 193:24 194:3, 8				
immigrants 128:15				
immigration 127:25 129:5				
impact 14:15 17:3, 14 92:20 93:9 162:15 196:10 223:4				
impacted 16:23				
impactful 51:23 181:8 204:9, 19				
impacts 156:23				
impartial 106:2				
imperative 212:19 239:6				
	impose 57:12 imposed 164:6 impressed 206:8 impressive 29:16 imprisoned 194:7 improve			
				indomitable 240:24 inducted 18:16 industries 80:13 industry 81:15, 22 152:22, 24 inequality 17:17 influence 136:21 influenced 110:11 information 247:10, 25 informative 203:22 204:14 205:14 informed 128:6

226:25	Insecurity	institution	intentional	57:1 58:1
inhumane	45:6	21:9	ity	59:1 60:1
215:19	insight	249:11	115:14	61:1 62:1
initiated	16:2	institution	interest	introduce
110:17	239:13	al	17:14	54:24 58:2
156:9	insightful	91:18	114:8	154:18
Initiates	203:22	93:10	223:17	236:8
242:6	insights	institution	232:2	introduced
initiating	136:22	s	236:13	78:5, 17
82:7	Inspections	91:4, 14	Interesting	108:13
initiation	68:2, 6, 16	92:3 93:4	ly	109:8
80:9	inspiration	104:2	158:14	116:22
initiative	16:9 19:16	230:11	Interfaith	122:5
27:25	87:11 88:3	instructor	195:8	124:22
80:17 91:8	134:25	27:3	Interim	126:25
113:8, 16	inspiration	instrumenta	4:10	133:9
137:14	al	l	internation	153:5
226:22	109:7	23:20	al	165:18
241:22	inspire	220:7	157:4, 5	167:4
initiatives	137:19	instruments	intersectio	168:13
139:5	inspired	28:2	n	170:2
211:2	134:21	insurance	13:21	171:4
injuries	225:24	124:4	194:2	173:7
146:10	inspires	integral	intersectio	174:21
Innocents	14:16	30:23	ns	176:7
250:15, 21	inspiring	79:19	200:5	177:16
innovation	30:7 55:16	integrity	intestine	178:19
34:25	126:9	6:5 15:23	123:9	180:3
235:11	139:22	109:21	intimidatin	181:13
innovative	140:18	232:10	g	182:19
35:8	158:24	intelligenc	98:22	184:4
innovators	185:8	e	INTRO	185:11
93:5	install	17:11	43:1 44:1	186:19
input	60:25	intend	45:1 46:1	188:8
143:16	instance	77:6 81:4	47:1 48:1	189:18
Inquirer	96:7	intended	49:1 50:1	190:24
146:7	instilled	104:4	51:1 52:1	192:5
147:11	139:24	intentional	53:1 54:1	193:16
		115:18, 19	55:1 56:1	197:12, 13
				228:15
				234:16

introducing	219:7	209:17	Jefferson	106:18
79:14	246:21, 24	214:9, 20	91:15	Joe
114:22	invited	233:12	110:24	49:19
193:11	121:9	issues	117:20	178:16
introduction	157:17	17:23	134:10	179:4
n	inviting	104:5	135:20	228:16, 20,
43:14	4:25	226:11	156:16	24 229:14,
invaluable	invocation	227:18	157:10, 16	23 230:8
3:12	2:1 3:1	230:10	Jeffrey	John
239:14	4:1 5:1	238:25	52:20	4:14 5:3
invasion	6:1, 22		53:25	18:2, 22
128:25	involved	J	168:23	33:24
129:12	231:3	J.P.	237:18	37:19, 20
invest	involves	91:22	Jeremy	38:2
113:17	105:17	Jackson	138:17	53:12, 15
investigate	Irish	37:22 38:3	144:4	239:24
52:10	58:15	jailed	148:8	249:4, 20
151:23	189:14	239:3	149:8	Johnson
166:2	ironic	James	Jersey	2:2, 6 3:2
182:14	127:15	35:23 40:7	22:10 94:8	6:20 7:2,
207:21	Irons	47:21	JEVS	14, 22, 25
236:23	97:9, 19, 20	Jamie	205:3	8:15, 24
Investigative	Isaiah	13:2 26:15	Jim	10:18, 21
165:23	32:13	46:24	57:3	11:9, 12, 15
investing	162:25	123:4	205:18	12:20
36:20	164:13	141:25	Jo-elle	20:8, 22
investment	171:25	149:7	50:13	25:14, 17
101:14	173:12	161:12	179:23	26:10
203:12	175:3	176:11	job	32:24 33:9
invigorated	177:19	219:4	99:2	39:3, 6
55:7 184:2	178:23	Jay	121:22	43:10
invitation	221:18	52:20	201:18	44:4, 12, 23
128:12	238:20	168:23	222:14	45:11, 24
invite	250:5	237:18	223:19	46:8, 20
12:3 13:12	issue	Jazelle	232:6	47:8, 16, 25
127:19	102:20, 21,	119:10	jobs	48:15
140:21	24, 25	Jeff	81:23	49:3, 14, 23
143:10, 15	112:22	89:16, 22	84:16	50:8, 18
	164:19		101:17	51:4, 18
			103:18	52:4, 16
				53:2, 18

54:7, 18	131:12, 16,	176:9, 17,	join	journalist
55:9, 20	24, 25	24 177:3,	11:24	15:19
56:8, 24	132:11	7, 17, 25	12:13	20:15
57:7, 18	133:3, 14,	178:8, 11,	13:17 26:3	journalisti
58:3, 10, 20	17, 25	14, 21	86:12	c
59:5, 14, 23	137:24	179:8, 15,	joined	15:23
60:9, 20	138:13, 24	18 180:5,	12:23	journalists
61:7, 14	140:25	16, 24	26:11 37:9	20:18
62:6, 17, 24	141:4, 13	181:3, 14,	joining	journey
63:9, 22	143:23	22 182:5,	11:19	6:10 14:19
66:20	144:13, 21	8, 21	109:10	17:5, 10
67:7, 16, 19	145:14	183:5, 12,	226:21	33:21
68:8	146:13, 17,	15 184:5,	Jones	159:9
69:10, 20	21 147:23	13, 17, 20,	23:21	232:12
70:5, 8, 20	148:3	25 185:12,	50:3, 4	joy
71:16, 25	149:6	20 186:3,	70:12, 15	51:23
72:10, 13,	150:18	6, 21	71:18, 19	85:11, 13
25 73:24	151:2	187:5, 12,	106:23	88:2 181:7
74:11, 20,	154:24	15, 19	119:11	234:12, 17
23 76:2	155:10	188:10, 18,	130:12, 13,	Jr
78:11, 19,	160:10, 16	25 189:4,	24 131:4	40:7 45:18
25 82:14,	161:10, 19	8, 20	132:13, 14,	47:21
24 85:5, 8	162:2, 5, 23	190:6, 13,	22, 23	53:25
88:19	163:7, 14,	16 191:2,	144:25	171:6
89:12	17, 24	11, 18, 21	145:2	Judge
93:18	164:11, 25	192:7, 17,	165:19	19:7
97:3, 6, 12	165:8, 11,	23 193:5	166:7, 9	judgment
99:21	14 166:5,	201:17	180:4, 7, 9	5:12
100:7	13, 19, 22	205:10	201:22, 23	Julia
104:9, 25	167:12, 21	208:15	Jordan	116:24
105:10	168:4, 7, 21	210:12, 15	38:13	Julie
108:6	169:5, 12,	219:2	Journal	120:9
110:5	15 170:4,	221:14, 17	7:1, 4, 10,	124:21
112:3	13, 19, 22	233:17, 25	16 8:2	125:6
116:15	171:13, 19,	237:16	43:12	jumped
119:25	23 172:9,	244:14	journalism	33:24
120:4, 16,	16, 19	248:17	13:14	Juniper
18 121:2,	173:9, 10,	251:6, 14,	15:6, 15	53:16
25 124:15,	21 174:4,	17	16:13 21:7	
18 126:20	7, 25	Johnson's	22:6	
129:19	175:11, 14,	174:24		
130:4, 7	21, 24			

justice 5:10, 25 46:19 52:3 85:24 137:20 139:5 140:17 174:20 181:12 193:24 194:2, 3	Kenneth 45:17 171:5 Kensington 68:25 211:5, 12, 13, 17, 20 212:4, 7, 9, 14, 20, 25 213:8, 12, 15, 20 214:2, 12, 19, 22, 25 215:23 218:9, 14, 21 245:23 246:16 248:12 Kenyatta 78:25 105:10 130:4 149:6 174:23 Kevin 214:11 Key 149:22, 24 150:11 Keyes 120:10 124:24 126:24 127:7 kick 28:13 kicking 194:14 kids 24:13	27:13 83:9 146:5 204:24 killed 27:11, 12 killling 209:19 Kimmel 111:3 kind 127:22 200:8 223:9 King 60:14 159:4 Kingssessing 86:11 234:23 knew 216:16, 18 219:21 220:5 240:8 knowing 145:5 knowledge 245:7 Kristal 37:4 Kunigonis 4:13, 22 Kyra 155:21 209:25	22:9 labeled 206:24 207:12 labor 35:7 laboring 35:20 lack 134:22 laid 4:2 Lancaster 87:7 141:21 142:8, 11, 13, 16 206:6 land 65:12, 25 66:13 113:20 129:23 131:20, 21 148:10 149:18 150:13 161:2 167:6 168:15 196:10 Landau 13:4 17:7 50:22, 23 78:16 79:13 82:6 181:13, 16, 18 182:20, 23, 25 234:7, 8	Landau's 80:8 Landes 124:24 127:3, 10, 11 landing 230:22 231:6 landscape 236:5 large 37:16 123:9 129:12 145:24 147:22 largest 118:20 lastly 198:14 late 3:17 10:14 19:6 119:12 134:18 219:17 laudable 29:24 Laughter 144:11 149:15 200:14 launch 219:9 launched 91:22 241:4
JV 95:10				
K				
Kappa 108:23 109:11 110:3, 18 117:10 120:22 Katherine 8:7 9:3 10:25 12:25 26:12 44:16 88:21 keeping 204:16 220:8 245:10 Keith 19:7 Kendra 8:18 12:24 54:20 Kennedy 53:13, 15				
		L		
		L.A.		

Lavery	175:8	8:5 89:3,	legendary	liaison
134:15	178:17	13 104:6	120:23	62:3
138:4, 7	194:4, 25	171:22	121:6	libraries
law	195:16	215:14	Legion	83:11 84:6
9:18 14:8	229:2, 16	leaves	136:14	library
17:24	leaders	8:1, 13, 22	legislation	84:9
18:25 19:3	90:6	led	154:21	license
22:3, 21,	193:13	25:3	legislative	152:16
22, 23	239:7	238:11	3:14 9:5	licensed
23:25	leadership	240:24	10:23	81:8
129:16	14:6, 21	left	11:25	licenses
165:25	16:6 26:25	3:6 17:9	31:13 32:6	67:25
195:4	50:14	76:16	239:13, 16	68:5, 16
236:22	111:7	legacy	244:25	152:11
lawmakers	135:19	49:19	247:13	licensing
5:20	164:18	59:10	legislators	73:18
Lawrence	179:24	61:24	227:9	lie
45:18, 21	231:11	102:3	Lehigh	147:17
66:15	242:7	109:5	42:11	lies
171:6, 10	leading	117:12	68:25	147:17
laws	34:24	119:19	Lenfest	life
5:12	224:21	134:17	91:21	21:22
127:25	leads	135:7	lengthy	49:19
lawyer	27:24	137:18	136:19	55:8, 25
20:15	League	138:10	lesser	59:10
lawyers	46:7 89:23	178:16	114:8	61:24 63:4
18:6 20:18	90:3, 25	192:2	lessons	107:15
23:18	173:5	200:2, 6	157:19	109:5
158:21, 22	232:11	209:15	lethal	111:16, 23
laying	leap	210:11	123:10	117:11, 16
92:21	92:10	230:3	leukemia	134:16
lead	144:15	248:23	146:11	137:17
6:3 24:23	155:23	legal	leveraging	139:17
195:11	learn	152:9	91:17	159:9
214:3, 7	196:19	240:8	LGBTQ	178:15
leader	learned	Legend	200:4	184:3
12:25 35:9	19:20, 22	33:24	LGBTQ+	186:12
49:20	159:18	37:19, 20	62:4	190:20
173:17	leave	38:2		192:2

200:2	listening	121:15	211:3	242:4
242:13	222:13, 17	loans	234:10	love
246:9	literally	114:4, 7	241:19	21:20
248:22	128:25	local	longer	32:18
lift	209:18	6:9 91:7,	22:18	33:19
235:2	222:6	12, 25	looked	98:22
light	litigation	92:15	110:12	118:12
77:9, 11, 15	54:6	93:6, 12	217:3	141:22
111:10	Litteton	99:9	Lopez	185:7
140:22	18:15	113:17	249:21	197:3
lightpoles	live	114:11	Lord	218:6
53:9, 10	36:17	212:22	6:17	224:14
Likeness	119:20	locally-	Lorina	loved
73:13	211:15	owned	104:16	22:12
limit	213:21	81:18	108:11, 21	124:2
77:3, 7, 22	226:5	located	losing	216:14
limitations	247:6	65:12, 25	208:9	219:21
113:24	248:11	66:13	loss	lover
limited	lives	94:22	4:4 21:9,	55:15
105:21	17:13 56:6	161:5	11 151:21	low
113:11	83:16	167:8	229:23	204:7
114:12	102:11	168:17	losses	Lozada
115:4	119:20	location	223:3	13:4 17:18
Links	140:12	60:15, 16	lost	54:13, 14
13:14 18:9	186:18	250:20	201:8	167:5, 14,
117:9	204:13	locked	lot	16 210:23
118:15, 19	213:19	152:23	93:7 154:7	212:8
119:4, 14	living	Lodging	180:13	214:6, 18
Lipke	24:15	79:5	200:13	244:17, 18
37:6	128:16	Lomax	202:24	Ludlow
list	143:7	116:11	203:19	161:5
136:18	193:15	London	221:7, 24	lunch
198:2	197:6, 20	159:3, 7	227:6	219:14
listed	198:21	long	232:3	222:3
9:8 10:10	199:3	23:10	238:2	Lynn
89:5	Liz	95:12	lots	124:24
listen	155:11	102:3	35:7	127:3, 11
218:23	199:10	140:6	loud	
	LLC	206:2	211:14	
	60:25			

	92:2	205:4	Mansion	markets
M	145:21	207:9	241:6	22:8
Ma	156:4	230:22	manufacture	marking
28:14	majority	231:20, 23	152:12	80:8
Machines	8:12 12:25	235:2	Maps	marred
71:7	173:17	239:7, 19	65:10, 23	241:24
made	175:8	247:5	66:11	married
6:12 24:20	201:20	249:9	marathon	24:12
80:18	211:11	maker	49:12	Marsh
92:22	234:3	139:14	177:15	144:5
110:14	248:19	141:24	224:19	148:12
117:14	make	makes	March	155:4, 9, 13
119:7	21:17	33:18	4:3 44:8	Marshall-
125:24	32:20 34:2	220:21	58:15	104:16
131:10	42:17	making	122:23	Marshall-
153:2	78:14	32:11	143:13	blake
157:3	82:25 88:5	37:19	169:22	108:12, 20,
159:20	97:14	83:22 96:6	189:13	21 110:7
201:11	103:14	147:3	250:13	Martinez
214:11	104:18	193:13	251:4, 9	92:12
219:22	108:16	202:16	marginalize	massacre
220:10	114:17	209:16	d	18:14
230:13	116:25	230:24	56:5	massive
232:23	120:10	249:22	186:17	208:11
234:13	123:3	Malik	Marian	Master's
Mailata	124:25	138:20	119:12	16:12
38:13	126:15	139:3	marijuana	217:8
Main	127:5	Mallick	152:24	Math
106:11	128:24	127:5	mark	230:14, 21
107:5	131:18	134:12	3:7 4:13,	231:3
maintain	135:12	man	19 17:9	232:5
60:25	138:18	99:4	59:18	matter
244:6, 9	142:17	132:16	117:14	77:23
maintenance	144:6	139:16	159:5	113:5
105:6	148:12	140:11	marker	202:25
Majewski	150:12	mandate	156:25	203:24
27:4, 24	152:8	115:7	market	238:8
35:10	164:7	mandating	41:9 48:12	matters
major	189:21	115:24	101:20	
	196:10			
	198:7			

9:5,15,20 10:24 11:3 76:6 Max 34:17 Mayor 9:25 10:2 25:3 34:5 39:10,13 84:24 87:7 92:11 119:9 142:11,13 149:13 150:7 158:7 212:10 213:24 214:17 225:15,17, 20 236:10 237:8 239:24 241:3 Mayor's 128:11 154:20 MBDA 113:25 MBEC 106:24 Mccollum 4:9 155:12 199:11 Mccollum- 249:7 meadows 145:23 meals	86:9 meaningful 30:21 means 20:20 25:10 105:25 106:5 197:22 200:21 230:4 meant 203:19 meantime 78:15 measures 235:17 medals 136:13,16 media 245:21 medical 110:19,20, 22 117:22 136:21 137:2 156:11 157:19,21 158:4 209:16,17, 23 medically 135:9 medicine 43:24 123:24 136:6 158:3	Medicine's 122:14 meet 115:11 meeting 7:4,11,17 116:5 143:12 158:8 231:13,16 233:14 251:23 meetings 227:6 Meharry 110:21 156:13 Melba 124:25 127:3 129:22 member 13:13 18:8 19:15 87:19 109:9 110:2 117:9 137:3 202:3 204:10 240:20,22 members 2:10 4:17 11:21 39:17 64:18 68:13 70:24 73:6 79:8 90:2	94:10,12 95:4 100:8 109:2,12 116:4 117:7 119:14 120:16 134:2 154:5 157:10 192:11 196:4,9 202:22 209:25 212:9 222:11 231:8 243:19 membership 94:22 118:15 memorial 111:9 134:7,9 158:14 memories 4:5 memory 2:24 5:7 63:5 190:21 men 88:13 106:16 128:19 196:17 226:13,17, 25 238:22, 23 mentees	134:14 mentor 92:23 118:10 157:21 mercy 5:25 merit 19:4 101:15 136:14 message 15:5 43:11 127:22 236:25 242:3 messages 39:10,13 246:23 met 24:12 84:21 87:11 88:14 210:4 methods 40:15 51:14 165:24 Michael 2:21 3:4,8 4:2 5:6 59:11 61:23 89:8 97:15 98:19 108:16 116:23 120:8,12, 15,20
--	--	--	--	---

121:4	millions	missed	Mitchell's	monologue
151:8	91:13	119:19	134:9	233:13
158:7, 16	128:14	171:15	135:6	month
192:3	mind	240:12	136:17	13:22, 23
219:18	16:25	mission	159:9	43:25 44:9
239:12	142:4	90:10	modernity	47:13 49:9
244:22	minds	243:10	215:2	58:14, 16
248:23	214:24	mission-	218:13	92:9
249:10	222:6	driven	Mogerman	122:24
Michael's	mine	143:2	50:13	139:9
3:24	245:15	Missoura	179:23	155:18, 19
microphone	minority	22:6	mom	157:15
77:17	8:21 113:2	Missouri	106:11, 12	169:24
Mike	114:3, 6, 9	16:14	157:12	176:6
4:21 21:6	115:4, 8	135:11	mom's	177:11
37:21 38:3	162:20	160:7	216:12	189:13, 14
189:24	193:3	mistake	moment	193:11
198:16	209:7	128:24	2:23, 25	200:18
199:22	211:14	Mitchell	4:12 15:2	224:3
202:19	minority-	63:8	100:20	229:25
220:20	owned	109:6, 20	192:15, 16	233:3
250:11	95:7	110:8, 23	227:4	234:25
Mike's	minute	111:15	236:2	months
199:2	125:18	117:13, 19	241:10	232:24
mile	minutes	119:15	248:21	Moonshot
125:19	76:23	121:4, 12,	249:3, 16	137:13
126:3	77:4, 14	21 134:18	250:10	Moore
miles	mirror	135:18	Mommy	40:25
125:19	103:4, 5	136:2	216:24	moral
military	misleading	137:10, 18	217:2	212:19
128:23	147:16	138:11	Monday	more-
136:11, 12	237:3	155:17, 22	225:14	informed
military-	mispronounc	156:9	money	124:13
age	ed	157:3, 8	37:17	Morgan
128:19	151:13	158:12, 18	129:14	91:22
million	mispronounc	159:19, 24	131:6	morning
107:24	ing	190:24	142:23	2:3, 4, 5
128:17	151:9	209:3	152:18	5:5 11:20
146:4		210:4	207:18	12:18, 19
				13:9, 10, 18

14:24 23:5	motion	170:10	183:6	Muhammad's
44:18	9:1, 4	172:6	185:21	145:5
48:23, 24	10:1, 4, 6,	173:18	187:6	multitude
50:24	11 11:1, 13	175:9	188:19	135:19
54:15, 17,	161:12	176:14	190:7	Municipal
22 58:7	162:25	177:22	191:12	132:6
78:24	164:13	179:5	251:7	murdered
85:18	166:7	180:12	movement	239:4
89:25	167:14	181:19	49:21	murders
90:14 94:8	168:23	183:2	178:17	152:5
97:19	170:6	184:10	movements	museum
98:20	173:12	185:17	196:22	18:5 92:11
100:8	175:3	187:2	moves	141:20
104:23	178:23	188:15	211:12	206:5
105:2	180:7	190:3	223:20	music
112:11	181:16	191:8	236:6	27:3 29:18
116:13	182:23	192:13	movie	30:22
117:6	184:7	232:13	203:25	33:17, 19,
120:17, 19	185:14	242:15	moving	22
122:10	186:23	248:22	15:16	musical
127:10	188:12	251:2	37:25	27:21 28:2
133:14, 15,	189:25	moved	148:17	29:24
25 134:2	191:4	7:15 10:22	199:25	30:7, 9
138:24	250:6	24:15 67:8	220:14, 15	musicship
144:12	251:18	69:21 72:2	249:10	29:17
149:5	mourn	74:12	Mt	Muslim
151:3	137:16	161:20	28:11	140:5
155:9	mourns	163:8	Muhammad	141:20
228:23	229:22	165:2	47:12	musty
mortgage	move	166:14	87:6, 11	196:13
130:20	7:10 9:14	167:22	138:20, 23	
Mosaic	66:25	169:6	139:3, 13	N
142:20	69:15	170:14	141:12, 14,	named
mother	71:21 74:6	172:10	17, 18	38:13
87:18	82:13 86:3	173:22	142:15	naming
118:8	161:16	175:15	143:14	61:12, 21
148:21	163:5	176:18	148:18	Nana
204:3	164:22	178:2	176:4	205:15
mothers	166:11	179:9	205:24	
218:10	167:18	180:18		
	169:3	181:23		

Narberth 211:16 218:17	negative 152:19 156:22	nickname 216:12	north 40:2 41:10 42:7 48:13	number 64:12 84:8,12,14
narco 129:2	neglect 241:17 242:2,24	Nicolas 57:22	53:13,15 54:5	107:22 120:24
narratives 14:20	neglected 98:9	nights 211:3	56:16,19 167:7	157:25 206:17,18
Nashville 156:6	neighborhood 56:21 143:12,19	NIH 136:25	168:16 188:3	223:2 247:23
nation 96:19,25	neighborhoods 81:24 211:17 241:25	nimbly 217:24	195:17 216:8	numbers 37:15
nation's 118:19	neighbors 218:7,23	Nina 13:5 62:19 109:9	238:5,15 241:8	numerous 14:4,7
national 136:24 137:2,13 156:14 158:4,10	network 45:23 171:12	119:23 191:3 208:18	northeast 53:14	107:19 137:4
Natrona 168:17	news 15:20 16:15,17 98:23	NMA 158:8,11,17	northwest 53:12	nurtured 196:22
nature 53:9 60:5 218:4	newsroom 15:10	noble 211:7	Nos 67:11 75:24	Nutter 158:7,16
navigating 95:5	Nic 57:22	non-	notable 18:12	O
Nazario 249:8	Nichols 186:14 194:13	minority 95:9,12	note 2:7 75:5 80:23	O'NEILL 58:24,25 192:6,10,13
NBA 158:19	Nichols-solomon 56:2	non-privileged 44:22 45:3 47:5,6,20 48:7 52:24	Notebook 195:7	O'ROURKE 57:22,23 225:6
NBC10 15:20		53:22 59:22 61:11,20	noted 26:21	objective 152:7
NCI's 137:11		nonprofit 36:7	notice 10:13	objectivity 16:9
necessarily 225:8		normal 100:25	noticed 98:2	obligated 230:19
needed 140:18		Norris 60:6,24 61:3	novelties 79:24	Observance 58:18 189:16
			nuance 29:20	observances 13:22
			nuisance 241:15	

obvious 129:16	Officer 40:8 47:23	oncologist 109:6	opportunity 15:12 93:5	186:4
occasion 47:13	50:15	110:24	96:20 97:2	187:13
176:5	179:25	117:20	100:13	189:2
October 118:13	offices 220:14	134:12	103:24	190:14
odds 100:25	officials 127:18, 23	156:17	114:17	191:19
OEO 107:2	129:3, 9	one-on-one 84:11	115:16	251:15
offer 44:20 47:3	officiate 98:5	Online 214:23	122:22	opposition 211:9
48:25 50:6	Ogbonna 138:18	Ontario 65:13	138:9	213:3, 18
51:2 52:23	144:5	open 84:7	147:5	Oprah 156:6
58:8 59:3,	148:11	128:12	201:8	optics 246:17
21 62:22	150:21	246:22	225:19	order 2:9 7:3
100:14	151:3, 15,	247:23	232:11	8:4 11:17
211:22	17	opened 82:2	234:3	39:7 43:13
219:17	Ohio 21:25	operate 52:14	236:3	63:12 75:3
offered 213:5	oldest 118:19	182:18	244:21	76:11, 19
222:10	Oliver 37:5	operation 68:22	245:13	77:4 95:20
offering 81:8 86:8	Olivieri 60:13	operators 79:7 81:10	oppose 196:5	128:10
offers 70:18	Olympic 49:12	82:3	opposed 7:23 11:10	ordinance 40:10 51:8
office 40:9 47:23	125:16, 17,	opportuniti es 52:13	67:17 70:6	53:7 57:10
122:15	24, 25	80:19 82:2	72:11	60:3, 12, 23
128:11	177:14	95:22	74:21	236:9, 16,
130:12, 17	Olympics 23:14	96:23	162:3	17 237:9
151:14	224:17	103:10	163:15	Orens 149:10
199:6	Omega 108:22, 23	106:2	165:9	organizatio n 23:23
226:21	110:2	107:10, 15,	166:20	43:22
228:3	157:9	19 113:10	168:5	113:14
234:25		114:13	169:13	118:16
242:5		182:17	170:20	119:16
249:7			172:17	organizatio ns 14:7 17:22
			174:5	118:21
			175:22	
			176:25	
			178:9	
			179:16	
			180:25	
			182:6	
			183:13	
			184:18	

121:11	overprosecu	222:17	237:8	participati
136:23	ting	Pantano	241:3	on
149:2	204:15	61:13	Parker's	115:9
150:14	overseeing	paper	236:10	209:7
194:25	112:25	247:4	parking	partner
organized	overspend	paralyzed	180:13, 17	142:19
98:4, 6	36:10	217:25	242:13, 17	228:2
organizer	overwhelmed	paraphrase	Parks	partnered
195:19	247:18	92:23	144:19	37:13
Orianna	owe	Parent	145:19	partnering
167:8	22:19	202:21	Parkside	95:10
orientation	24:11	205:5	97:23 98:7	partners
105:22	197:7	parents	part	36:8 37:21
Orlando	owners	24:14	13:12	92:18 93:3
126:2	81:9	195:10	21:13	142:21
Orleans	ownership	202:24	35:17	241:3
238:12	149:20	Parham-	79:19	parts
other's		85:11	97:21	217:22
17:13	P	Parham-	98:11	226:6
outcomes	p.m.	thomas	101:7, 8	pass
117:22	16:16, 17	51:23	102:10, 15	127:14
outdoor	86:13	85:14, 17	103:6, 7	165:21
52:12	251:24	181:8	111:23	passage
79:12, 17	PA	234:12	125:9	44:14
80:14, 19	229:7	parish	129:13	45:13
81:10	PAGE-	5:2	145:22	46:2, 10, 22
182:16	CERTIFIED	Park	147:22	47:18
235:12	91:23	42:6	193:3, 15	48:3, 17
outlets	pages	144:19	199:20	49:16, 25
30:12	196:18	145:21	200:22	50:20
Outreach	pained	250:16, 17	201:19	52:18 54:9
122:15	216:13	Parker	204:2	55:11, 22
outstanding	painful	34:5 92:11	231:10	56:10 57:2
27:3	246:17	119:10	participate	58:22
overbearing	pandemic	150:8	226:13	59:16
235:19	103:21	205:3	participate	61:16 62:8
overcome	panel	212:10	d	63:11
153:19	137:11	213:25	49:11	75:10, 17,
		225:20	177:14	23 76:8
				89:6 105:8

160:21	Patrick's	14, 23	56:5	persistence
passed	58:17	26:20, 24	186:17	139:21
77:15	189:16	28:4 34:21	percent	persistent
passing	pave	56:6, 20	35:16	197:3
2:19 3:22	235:23	86:2 90:16	84:11	person
21:6	paving	102:7	93:11	82:17
137:16	57:17	106:25	94:21, 25	85:10
139:11	pay	113:10, 24	115:10	89:15
151:8	14:18	115:21, 23	Perelman	93:21
219:23	114:7	126:3	43:23	102:13
239:20	131:14	134:24	perfect	103:8
past	134:15	142:20, 22	13:24	104:12
91:11	145:12	148:23	period	111:20
128:20	paying	152:10, 15	160:18	112:5
140:9	130:19	153:8	249:25	116:18
146:6	pedagogy	186:18	permanence	121:13
157:5	228:20	188:5	80:14	124:20
218:2	pedestrians	194:23	permanent	126:22
238:3	227:22	195:16	57:17	143:2
Pastor	penalties	196:20	79:11	148:7
4:13, 19, 22	57:13	197:6	235:18	150:20
Pastor's	68:24	201:11	permit	155:2
6:21	Pendergrass	203:14	57:15	195:18
Pat	15:3	208:6, 7	67:3, 10	223:25
60:13	Penn	209:19	69:17, 23	225:21
Pat's	18:9 91:15	210:6	71:22 72:4	personal
60:14, 16	122:14	212:23	74:8, 14	5:21 249:3
pathway	123:24	213:20	207:6	personally
194:20	Pennsylvani	214:25	Perryman	194:15
patience	a	215:8, 20	97:16	219:25
139:25	19:2 22:23	217:15	99:25	250:2
140:3	43:23 61:4	220:22, 25	100:3, 6, 9, 10	personnel
143:5	79:5 94:7	221:4	perseveranc	128:23
145:12	113:4	223:15	e	perspective
249:13	139:7	233:5	140:3	16:7
patient	171:8	245:20	persist	112:21
200:12	people	247:5	95:17	Peterson
patients	20:16	248:11	96:11	63:7
159:13	23:6, 11,	people's		117:13
		peoples		190:23

209:3	57:12	160:2	236:15	126:8
PFT	58:16, 19	161:2, 8	238:5, 15	PHL
229:17	61:4	162:22	241:9	149:13
phenomenal	64:20, 23	164:2, 6	249:20	193:15
156:14	65:9, 22	167:6, 11	Philadelphi	197:20
222:14	66:10	168:15, 20	a's	198:21
225:18	68:15, 19	174:15	46:18	199:3, 21
232:7	71:2, 5	176:7	61:24	phone
Phila	73:8, 11, 16	178:19	81:16	246:3, 22
56:16	79:7, 23	180:2	174:19	phones
Philadelphia	80:3, 15	181:10	211:25	2:15
a	88:7 89:24	182:12	234:14, 18	Phyllis
2:17 4:7	90:13 91:9	184:3	235:12	160:5
5:20 15:16	94:23 95:3	185:9	Philadelphi	208:23
18:5, 6, 8,	98:23	186:19	an	physician
17 19:13	101:19, 23	188:4, 8	38:12	63:6
20:6	102:2	189:15, 17	Philadelphi	109:25
21:20, 24	105:7	193:14	ans	118:6
22:14, 20,	107:18	194:24	29:13	134:21
25 23:17	109:13, 18	195:6, 17,	236:14, 19	136:9
24:18	112:14, 20	20 203:5	237:13	190:22
28:10	113:16, 20	206:14	Phillips	209:2
29:10, 21	115:18	207:7, 15	25:19	Physicians
30:19	116:10	208:4	26:7, 16	157:17
31:6, 17, 22	117:18	209:12	28:20 32:8	159:3
32:16, 22	118:17	210:21	33:7	picks
39:19, 24	122:24	211:6	43:16, 17	246:3
40:5, 12, 22	125:10	212:24	116:24	picture
41:3, 7, 12,	127:20	213:2	120:9	83:13
16, 25	128:2	214:13	122:4, 6, 9,	158:13
42:23	129:10	216:9	12 123:2	193:19
45:5, 10	139:2, 19	219:10	170:3, 6, 8	pin
46:14	140:5	221:7	210:17, 18	201:6
47:15	146:7	224:17	225:5	Pink
48:10	147:8	227:17, 23	245:14	109:16
49:22	148:25	228:6, 10	Philly	pioneer
50:16	149:20	229:4	25:24 29:9	118:3
51:11, 25	150:7	230:7, 12,	30:3 34:23	135:3
52:9 55:8,	151:7	24 231:18	83:6, 16	
17 56:7,	153:25	233:6	111:8	
19, 23	154:2	234:12		
	158:11, 23	235:2		

Pioneers	146:3	241:20	populations	55:14
18:17	pleased	pointed	122:19	185:6
place	28:6 29:11	241:21	159:11	193:17
22:13	pledged	points	portfolio	195:5
24:17	226:17	103:13	91:23	power
111:21	pockets	poise	portrays	5:9 195:8,
131:2	36:9	111:18	29:19	21 196:8
220:3, 20	podium	Police	position	232:18
240:13	12:14, 16	214:10, 15	40:7 47:22	243:6, 17
places	26:4, 6	policies	214:14	powerful
84:4	77:9, 18	96:12	215:18	6:3 55:14
211:15	78:22 83:4	107:11, 13	231:22	148:20
placing	85:16	115:20	232:14	185:6
10:6	86:25	162:15, 16	233:4	practical
plan	89:20 94:3	policy	positively	162:17
42:16, 18,	97:14, 18	128:4	6:8	practice
20 88:16	98:18	162:18	possession	136:22
143:12	100:5	211:25	39:15 43:8	practiced
145:21, 22	104:19, 22	policymaker	possibility	22:3
147:21	108:17, 19	s	231:7, 9	practices
planning	112:10	217:20	postcards	40:17
42:21 43:3	117:4	policymakin	83:9	51:15
64:24	120:11, 14	g	posted	92:16
103:23	122:8	217:21	156:25	236:12, 21,
plate	125:2, 4	political	poster	25
199:12	127:6, 9	18:13, 22	83:8 99:4	practicing
204:22	130:2	politicians	pothole	14:8
226:9	133:12	196:16	206:11, 24,	pray
platform	138:6, 19,	poll	25 207:13,	5:8 6:15,
238:21	22 141:11	206:13, 18	16, 22	16 212:17
Platt	144:6, 8	popsicle	potholes	prayer
116:24	148:13, 15	98:5	206:20	4:20 5:5
120:9	150:25	popular	pounced	6:16
124:21	155:8	225:8	242:8	prayers
125:5, 6, 22	point	popularize	poured	3:23
play	27:19	152:20	37:11	245:11
200:7	37:14	population	128:19	248:25
248:11	77:18	96:5	Powell	Precious
playing	160:4			203:25
	210:5			

predictability 81:13	32:1 33:1 34:1 35:1 36:1 37:1 38:1	18, 22 55:9, 20 56:8, 24 57:6, 7, 18, 24 58:3, 7, 10, 20 59:2, 5, 14, 20, 23 60:9, 20 61:7, 14 62:6, 14, 17, 21, 24 63:9, 18, 22 64:3, 18 66:20, 24 67:7, 16, 19 68:4, 8, 13 69:10, 14, 20 70:5, 8, 16, 20, 24 71:16, 20, 25 72:10, 13, 21, 25 73:6, 24 74:5, 11, 20, 23 75:20 76:2 78:7, 11, 19, 24 82:14, 24 85:5, 8 88:19, 25 89:10, 12, 25 93:18 94:5, 9 97:3, 6, 12 99:21 100:7, 10 104:9, 24, 25 105:5, 10 108:6, 22, 25	110:5 111:25 112:3, 12 116:15 117:6 119:25 120:4, 15, 18 121:2, 25 122:10 124:15, 18 126:20 129:19 130:6, 7 131:12, 16, 23, 25 132:11, 15 133:3, 14, 17, 25 135:21 137:2, 24 138:8, 13, 24 140:25 141:4, 13 143:23 144:13, 21 145:3, 14 146:13, 17, 21 147:23 148:3 149:6 150:18 151:2 154:24 155:10 157:6, 7 158:4, 17, 20 160:10, 14, 16 161:10, 15, 19 162:2, 5, 23 163:4, 7,	14, 17, 24 164:11, 16, 25 165:8, 11, 14 166:5, 10, 13, 19, 22 167:12, 17, 21 168:4, 7, 21 169:2, 5, 12, 15 170:4, 9, 13, 19, 22 171:5, 13, 19, 23 172:3, 9, 16, 19 173:9, 10, 15, 21 174:4, 7, 23, 25 175:6, 11, 14, 21, 24 176:9, 13, 17, 24 177:3, 7, 17, 21, 25 178:8, 11, 14, 21 179:2, 8, 15, 18 180:2, 5, 16, 24 181:3, 14, 22 182:5, 8, 21 183:5, 12, 15 184:5, 13, 17, 20, 25 185:12, 20 186:3, 6, 21
predominantly 81:17	presented 32:2 114:13 235:18			
pregnant 23:8				
prequalified 92:2	preserve 232:3			
prerogative 150:16	president 2:2, 6 3:2, 18, 21 6:20 7:2, 9, 14, 22, 25 8:11, 15, 20, 24 9:13 10:18, 21 11:9, 12, 15 12:20 13:7 20:8, 22 25:14, 17 26:10 32:24 33:8 36:18 39:3, 6, 17 43:9, 10, 18 44:4, 12, 19, 23 45:11, 24 46:8, 20 47:2, 8, 16, 25 48:15, 23 49:3, 14, 23 50:5, 8, 16, 18, 24 51:4, 18 52:4, 16, 22 53:2, 18 54:7, 15,			
Prescott 76:14				
Prescott-tate 249:4				
presence 225:23				
present 2:8, 14 12:6 25:20 28:9 140:9				
presentation 12:22				
PRESENTATIONS 12:1 13:1 14:1 15:1 16:1 17:1 18:1 19:1 20:1 21:1 22:1 23:1 24:1 25:1 26:1 27:1 28:1 29:1 30:1 31:1				

187:2, 5, 12, 15, 19 188:10, 15, 18, 25 189:4, 8, 20 190:6, 13, 16 191:2, 7, 11, 18, 21 192:7, 17, 22, 23 193:5, 9 201:15, 17, 24 202:23 205:8, 10, 21 208:15, 20 210:12, 15, 19 219:2, 6 221:14, 17, 20 224:11 225:3 227:5 228:14 231:13 233:10, 15, 17, 25 237:16, 21 238:9 239:17 240:3, 5 244:10, 14, 19 248:15, 17 250:8 251:2, 6, 14, 17 President's 18:24 Presidents 3:20 press 32:19	pressure 17:12 prestigious 136:12, 23 pretty 102:22 152:25 204:19 224:12 prevent 123:21, 25 124:2 preventable 123:20 prevention 200:3 prices 149:21 150:2 pride 20:2 241:13 243:8 principal 27:2, 4, 23 28:14 35:10 229:8 printed 43:12 prior 9:9 10:16 79:10 prioritize 135:8 prioritizin g 237:9	priority 248:10 private 85:12 89:18 90:23 93:24 94:17 100:2 104:14 105:13 112:7 141:8 144:3 146:25 162:13 privately 230:16 privilege 27:7 124:8 privileged 43:19, 21 44:7, 22 45:16 46:3, 12 47:4, 11 49:6, 18 50:6, 11 51:3, 21 52:8 54:23 55:12, 23 56:12 58:8, 13 59:3, 8 62:22 63:3 169:21 213:19 PRLA 80:7 82:11 problem	64:16 97:22 129:13 150:6 153:23 203:9 213:7, 12 problem- solving 215:10 problems 154:8 164:20 proceeding 2:13 process 132:18 136:7 150:14 226:14 249:14 processes 95:6 proclaiming 58:14 189:13 procurement 95:6 105:25 107:10 116:6 produce 112:19 152:17 154:13 220:24 produced 29:19 33:23	product 237:4 profession 134:13 professiona l 126:13 136:18 137:4 217:12 professiona lism 16:2 professiona ls 157:22 Professions 40:12 51:10 profit- making 90:9 profound 13:25 137:8 program 33:15 34:7, 10 36:21 37:24 38:16 52:13 79:12, 17, 22 80:4 81:25 87:15, 16, 22 88:10 109:17 112:19 116:25
---	---	---	---	--

149:23, 24	121:15	196:5	247:14, 24	70:13, 17
153:11	162:19	prosperity	provided	71:3 76:1,
182:16	properly	90:12	219:15	5, 6, 22
231:11	7:15 10:22	prostrate	245:7	77:1 78:1
program's	67:8 69:21	156:20	providers	79:1, 4
79:24	72:2 74:12	protect	96:10, 15	80:1 81:1
programming	161:20	232:19	203:20	82:1, 17
84:8	163:8	236:19	247:11	83:1, 15, 21
112:18	165:3	protected	providing	84:1, 13
programs	166:14	145:23	36:21	85:1, 10
84:16 98:7	167:22	protecting	40:17	86:1 87:1
107:3	169:6	232:10	51:16	88:1 89:1,
113:3, 9	170:14	237:6	68:23	15 90:1
114:15, 22	172:10	protection	80:21	91:1 92:1
progress	173:22	6:3 73:14	81:13	93:1, 21
30:18	175:15	213:11	105:25	94:1 95:1
92:21	176:18	236:8, 16	106:14	96:1 97:1
Prohibition	178:2	protections	133:20	98:1 99:1,
71:6	179:9	40:14	provisions	23 100:1
prohibition	180:19	51:12	73:15	101:1
s	181:23	proud	provoking	102:1
71:9	183:6	26:19	6:8	103:1
Project	185:21	28:18	Prudence	104:1, 12
195:21	187:6	29:11	55:14	105:1
projects	188:19	32:21, 22	185:5	106:1
101:18	190:7	33:14	193:17, 23	107:1
prominent	191:12	115:10	194:9	108:1, 9
36:24	251:7	117:9	PRWT	109:1
229:2	Property	234:25	116:10	110:1
promise	39:22	proven	Pub	111:1
22:17	40:9, 20	15:22	232:4, 8	112:1, 5
promoted	41:5, 14	provide	public	113:1
16:16	47:23 48:8	10:12	3:8 10:12	114:1
152:25	proportions	55:18 71:9	21:18 35:5	115:1
promoting	211:10	86:17	39:22	116:1, 18
44:10	proposal	162:16	40:20	117:1
169:24	42:4	185:9	41:5, 14	118:1
promotion	proposals	205:6	44:10 46:7	119:1
	45:7	244:7	48:8 59:13	120:1, 6
	proposed			121:1
				122:1
				123:1

124:1, 20	221:2	puts		243:25
125:1	224:3	113:25	R	rare
126:1, 6, 22	229:7	putting	race	155:22
127:1	232:11	150:11	105:21	rate
128:1, 8	240:23	Pyzik	racial	135:15
129:1, 21	public's	78:15, 23	17:16	152:4
130:1	236:18	79:3	194:2	166:3
131:1	publicity		racism	ratifying
132:1	73:18	Q	153:6, 9, 23	53:23
133:1, 21	publicly	qualified	154:12	RCP
134:1	38:17	125:15, 17	209:16, 23	159:3
135:1	227:7	quality	racist	re-open
136:1	230:15	45:9 143:4	152:15	235:8
137:1	published	242:12	radio	reach
138:1, 2	9:18 10:16	246:9	14:25	238:21
139:1	publishing	Queen	Rahim-abdul	read
140:1, 15	33:22	148:21	87:5	39:12
141:1	pull	question	Railroad	44:5, 24
142:1	207:6	102:19	92:11	49:4 50:9
143:1	purged	245:19	rails	51:5 53:4
144:1	242:18	questions	2:12 76:15	57:8 58:11
145:1	purpose	246:4	raised	59:6, 24
146:1, 25	10:11	247:2	24:13	63:25 67:4
147:1	75:15	Quetcy	110:8	68:11
148:1	pursuant	13:3	205:14	70:21 73:4
149:1	42:23	167:14	216:19	77:25
150:1, 20	77:21	244:17	raising	154:5, 6, 17
151:1	push	quick	197:23	160:22
152:1	204:7	103:13	204:24	162:8
153:1	218:14	224:24	rallying	163:20
154:1	pushed	234:10	241:11, 24	165:15
155:1, 2	238:25	quickly	ran	166:25
156:1	put	43:20	125:25	168:10
157:1	84:23	159:18	126:2	169:18
158:1	113:24	quorum	rank	171:2
159:1	210:2	2:8	109:25	172:24
160:12, 17	227:12, 17	quote	118:7	174:11
169:24	231:22	214:10	rapid	185:2
173:5	233:3			186:9
192:5				187:21
195:6, 22				
211:22				

189:10	186:1	receiving	20:9 25:18	185:13
192:18	187:1	198:4	31:17	186:22
247:3	188:1	recent	32:25	188:11
readily	189:1	2:19 42:20	43:15	189:23
95:25	190:1	79:24	44:15	191:3
reading	191:1	recently	46:23	192:8, 10
9:23 67:3,	192:1	38:11	48:20	193:6
11, 21	ready	49:11	50:2, 21	201:21
69:17, 24	82:11	110:25	52:19	205:12, 17
70:10	247:24	177:13	54:12, 19	208:17
71:23	real	222:17	57:3, 21	210:16
72:5, 15	36:16 37:8	recipients	58:4, 23	219:3
74:8, 15, 25	83:20	157:20	59:17	233:20
75:1, 8, 10,	149:11	reckoned	62:11, 18	244:16
16, 23 76:7	reality	243:9	63:14	250:4
160:1, 20	213:22	reclaim	66:21	recognizing
161:1	realize	241:12, 25	67:23	14:16
162:1	198:8	recognition	69:11	25:20
163:1	203:6	21:14	70:11	27:20
164:1	204:13	85:19	71:17	28:22, 25
165:1	220:22	198:5, 9	72:17 74:2	29:5 43:24
166:1	221:5	228:16	75:13	44:8 45:21
167:1	realizing	recognize	88:21	46:16
168:1	201:10	11:18 20:2	132:12	49:18
169:1	reason	27:16	144:24	50:12
170:1	151:22	79:21	161:11	51:22
171:1	218:2	180:10	162:24	55:2, 13, 24
172:1	reasons	206:2	164:12	56:13
173:1	152:20	221:10	166:6	139:12
174:1	rec	224:2	167:13	142:2
175:1	83:11	225:11	168:22	169:22
176:1	84:6, 9	recognized	170:5	171:9
177:1	99:5, 9, 18	13:16	171:14, 24	174:17
178:1	recalled	85:22	173:11	178:15
179:1	9:24, 25	158:25	175:2	179:22
180:1	received	159:7	176:10	181:7
181:1	18:23 19:3	recognizes	177:18	183:19
182:1	121:13, 15	7:6 8:6, 17	178:22	185:5
183:1		9:2 12:5	180:6	186:12
184:1			181:15	187:24
185:1			182:22	205:24
			184:6	

210:9	red	Reform	released	77:12
recommend	77:15	164:3	81:7	193:25
84:22	109:16	reforms	releasing	reminds
223:16	111:10	164:8	92:19	151:12
recommendat	rededicate	Regina	relevant	198:21
ion	24:21	93:22, 25	147:11	remiss
43:3 63:21	redevelopme	94:4	rely	198:15
65:6, 19	nt	region	36:6	214:4
66:7, 19	39:24	81:5 94:21	remaining	remote
68:7 69:9	40:22	region's	77:10	135:15
70:19	41:7, 16	90:4	remains	remove
71:15	42:3, 18	regional	211:14	242:15
72:24	48:10	92:16	remarkable	244:4
73:23	88:15	registered	14:11	removed
recommendat	Reed	226:17	155:16	242:20
ions	19:5	227:2	234:13	243:3
45:8	referendum	regular	remarks	removing
162:18	128:7	11:17	20:10	242:19
164:7	referred	regulating	28:16 33:2	rendered
246:8	51:19	68:21	77:13	210:25
reconsidera	53:19	Regulation	133:23	Renee
tion	57:19	40:11 51:9	214:12	12:7, 11
9:23	60:10, 21	regulations	remedies	13:16, 20
reconvening	61:8 64:21	235:18	40:18	14:12
164:2	65:8, 21	reign	51:16	15:14, 21
record	66:9 68:17	137:21	71:10	16:4, 21
33:18 67:5	71:3 73:9	related	remember	17:8, 19
212:16	refers	54:6 73:15	139:23	18:11, 20
227:11	131:20	relates	198:17	19:13
recorded	reflect	147:2	199:4	20:3, 9
38:14 89:4	13:24	228:7	remembered	Renee's
recordings	96:13	230:10, 25	3:14 199:8	13:13
34:8	reflected	231:6	remind	renewable
records	212:15	232:9	23:11	84:11
37:24	reflecting	relationshi	reminded	Renewal
rectify	81:18	p	215:25	42:5, 15
130:25	reflection	87:25	216:4	renovate
131:4, 8	140:6		reminder	145:21

renowned	97:21	195:7	21 47:5, 6,	160:23, 24,
109:5	121:19	researcher	7, 11, 17, 20	25 161:13,
235:10	180:14	63:6	48:2, 16	17, 21
repairing	200:21	190:22	49:7, 15,	162:6, 9,
84:8	218:16	209:2	18, 24	10, 11
repeat	224:16	reserve	50:7, 10,	163:2, 6, 9,
115:22	225:13	77:20	12, 19	18, 21, 22,
repetitious	226:6	resident	51:22	25 164:14,
77:22	representat	237:24	52:5, 8, 17,	23 165:3,
replace	197:21	residents	24 53:6, 22	12, 16, 17,
145:22	239:8	79:20	54:8, 25	19 166:8,
147:21	representat	80:22	55:10, 13,	12, 15, 23
replacement	ive	81:21	21, 24	167:2, 3, 5,
57:16	54:2	96:21	56:9, 12, 25	15, 19, 23
report	119:10	211:4, 11	58:9, 12,	168:8, 11,
63:15	representin	212:14	14, 21	12, 14, 24
67:24	g	213:14, 20	59:4, 7, 9,	169:7, 16,
68:11	79:6	218:20	15 61:11,	22 170:7,
70:13, 22	108:24	237:6	15, 20	11, 15, 23
72:18 73:4	200:23	238:4	62:7, 23	171:3
92:20 93:9	represents	246:10	63:2, 4, 10	172:7, 11,
94:24	212:21	resilience	78:4, 16	20, 25
219:9	request	14:3	79:14 80:8	173:2, 6,
reported	8:5 89:3	212:21	89:7 90:15	13, 19, 23
75:6	requests	240:18	94:14	174:9, 12,
reporter	8:13, 22	resiliency	97:11	13, 21
14:6	39:8	101:4	105:9	175:4, 10,
reports	required	resolution	108:13	16, 25
63:1, 13,	9:17	10:5, 7, 8	109:4	176:3, 15,
20, 25 64:1	requires	12:6 25:20	112:16	19 177:4,
65:1, 2, 15	102:25	28:21, 23	116:21	9, 23
66:1, 3, 16	103:3	39:21	119:22	178:3, 12,
67:1 68:1,	research	40:6, 19	122:4	15, 24
6 69:1, 5	109:23	41:4, 13	124:22	179:6, 10,
70:1 71:1,	122:12	42:2	126:24	19, 21
12 72:1, 23	124:5	43:19, 21	127:13	180:8, 20
73:1, 20	137:9	44:6, 8, 13	132:9	181:4, 6,
74:1	156:19	45:3, 12,	133:8	17, 20, 24
represent		17, 25	134:5	182:9, 11,
		46:4, 9, 12,	139:12	24 183:3,
			148:10	7, 16, 18
			155:5	184:8, 11,

21 185:3, 4, 15, 18, 22 186:7, 10, 11, 24 187:3, 7, 16, 22, 23 188:13, 16, 20 189:5, 11, 12, 25 190:4, 8, 17, 19 191:5, 9, 13, 22, 25 192:14, 19 228:15 234:15 235:7, 21	respect 3:15 6:13 21:16 31:12 32:5 54:5 248:7 respected 106:7 111:14 respectful 248:5 respectfull y 65:2, 15 66:3, 16 69:5 71:11 73:20 89:2 responded 159:19 response 7:24 11:11 67:18 70:7 72:12 74:22 78:18 82:21 162:4 163:16 165:10 166:21 168:6 169:14 170:21 172:18 174:6 175:23 177:2 178:10 179:17 181:2 182:7	183:14 184:19 186:5 187:14 189:3 190:15 191:20 242:21 243:25 251:16 responsibil ities 116:7 responsibil ity 90:8 112:24 204:24 215:6, 11 217:23 218:3 responsible 26:22, 23 116:3 129:11 rest 4:3 214:18 215:7 249:8 restart 133:22 restaurant 79:5 81:17 restaurants 52:14 82:4 182:18 235:14 restaurateu rs 235:20	resting 24:17 result 115:6 128:5, 10 153:9 154:11 245:22, 24 247:21 results 100:22 retire 2:11 retired 109:23 118:4 119:11 return 101:14 returned 65:17 71:13 returning 10:7 returns 65:4 66:5, 17 69:7 73:21 95:20 revenue 96:11 revenues 96:6 reverence 197:7 review 153:4 rewarding	23:4 Ribbon 137:11 ribbons 136:13 Rich 138:17 143:25 144:14 146:14, 18 147:24 Richardson 8:8, 10 9:4, 12 10:25 13:2 16:4 26:13 29:23 44:16, 18 75:14, 19 88:22, 24 172:5 173:8, 17 174:22 Richmond 65:14 richness 212:20 rid 152:7 right-of- way 60:15 61:2 righteousne ss 5:25 rightly 5:11 rights 55:6 56:20
resolutions 9:21 10:2 43:15 44:21, 25 47:4 49:2, 5 51:3, 7 54:17, 24 58:2 59:22 60:2 62:15 75:16, 21 76:4 89:5 160:20 169:19 192:21 193:12 resolve 31:16, 25 111:19 240:18 resource 203:15, 18 resources 196:11 244:8				

73:19	156:15	71:21 72:3	71:3	saved
113:8	roles	74:6, 13	83:15, 21	200:10
135:4	135:19	75:7 77:21	227:19	scale
183:23	room	run	240:23	95:21
188:5	34:16 86:3	88:10	salam	scams
rinse	93:7 98:22	224:19	145:15	236:22
203:7	99:8	runner	Salmon	scene
Ripley	149:12	49:13	65:13	81:17
55:4	158:24	125:9, 10	salute	234:14, 18
183:21	199:23	126:13	121:21	235:12
195:15	rooms	177:15	saluted	Schatz
237:23	196:23	running	159:25	38:6
238:2	roots	125:18	saluting	scholarship
rise	154:11	220:4, 8	155:15	157:20
4:18 213:2	roses		Sample-	school
risen	198:23	S	oates	18:14 19:3
211:10	rostrum	sacrifices	104:18	22:2, 24
risk	26:18	21:16	108:15	25:25
44:11	round	sad	116:20	27:22 29:9
123:17	224:5	210:4	117:2, 5, 8	30:3 31:23
169:25	Royal	219:22	Samuel	33:5 34:23
Road	159:2	safe	195:5	35:4, 9
66:2, 3	Rudolph	84:10	sanctuary	38:10
Roadmap	156:7	147:19	55:18	43:23 46:5
154:9	Rue	204:16	127:20	49:10 88:9
roads	13:4 50:22	227:21	128:4, 9	110:15
208:8	79:13	228:10	129:10	126:6, 7
Roberson	181:16	241:4	185:10	143:14
37:6	182:23	safeguardin	Sanitation	153:20
Robert	234:6	g	242:11	155:25
156:7	Rule	236:13	satisfactor	173:4
robust	42:25	safer	y	177:13
92:17	rules	84:19 86:4	57:16	195:4, 6
Rochelle	63:16, 19	154:10	Saturday	196:15
56:2	64:21	safestreets	143:13	229:7, 13
186:14	65:7, 20	philly.org.	202:21	230:14, 23
194:13, 22	66:8, 25	127:12	save	231:17
rock	67:9	safety	119:20	233:13
	69:15, 22	70:14, 18	233:13	schools
				35:6

153:13, 14, 22 195:12	161:18, 21 163:9 164:24 165:3, 7 166:15 167:20, 23 169:4, 7 170:12, 15 172:8, 11 173:20, 23 175:13, 16 176:16, 19 177:24 178:3 179:7, 10 180:15, 19 181:21, 24 183:4, 7 184:12 185:19, 22 187:4, 7 188:17, 20 190:5, 8 191:10, 13 251:8	105:13 112:7 141:8 144:3 146:25 162:13 secure 56:21 188:6 237:12 Sedgwick 41:10 48:13 seek 5:24 212:18 seeking 105:18 194:8 seized 241:10 self-care 202:16 sell 150:2 Senate 227:10 send 83:13 151:5, 20 236:25 sending 127:23 Senior 23:24 79:3 seniors 24:6 sense	81:23 sentence 105:17 SEPTA 45:23 171:12 September 3:17 Sergeant - at-arms 39:9 77:16 222:16 249:22 servant 3:9 59:13 140:15 192:5 servants 21:18 221:3 serve 4:10 6:14 215:8 248:8, 9 served 3:19 15:21 18:7 119:15 139:18 serves 17:25 94:18 service 3:5 45:23 55:5 68:20 109:13, 19 111:9 118:20 119:3	134:7, 9 135:7 136:11, 13 139:17 158:15 171:11 183:22 195:22 199:18 services 96:23 100:11 119:17 213:7 240:20 250:11, 24 serving 14:6 56:3 186:15 session 5:16 9:7, 10, 17 10:4, 17 11:4, 23 45:14 48:4, 18 54:10 61:17 62:10 75:11 76:9, 13, 25 77:2 100:14 set 2:14 93:2 set-aside 115:4 setting 194:19
Science 18:22 230:15, 21 231:4 232:5 sciences 107:16 scores 157:21 screaming 194:14 screening 122:18 123:19 124:14 scripts 64:7 seasonally 97:23 seasoned 195:16 seasons 97:25 seat 147:5 seating 80:14 seats 2:10, 11 seconded 7:13, 16 10:20, 23 67:6, 9 69:19, 22 71:24 72:3 74:10, 13	seconds 36:15 77:10 125:18 section 68:21 Sections 42:24 sector 85:13 89:18 90:23 93:24 94:17 100:2 104:14			

settings 30:13	shot 83:16	shows 195:21	7:20 11:7 67:14 70:3	41:9,18 48:12
seven-year 36:20	shoulder 243:9	Shutdown 194:4	72:8 74:18 161:24	123:23
sex 128:13	shoulder - to- 243:8	siblings 139:2	163:12 165:6	simplest 100:21
sexual 105:22	shouldered 196:23	sick 135:13	166:17 168:2	simply 147:15 215:12
shape 6:9 102:11	shoulders 142:10 229:19	sickle 135:16	169:10 170:17 172:14	simultaneou sly 16:8
shaped 14:4 140:8 197:9	shout 25:24 27:10 29:8 30:2 31:21 34:2 234:11	side 240:10	174:2 175:19 176:22 178:6 179:13 180:22 182:3 183:10 184:14 185:25 187:10 188:23 190:11 191:16 251:12	sincere 31:7,12 32:4 239:10
share 4:4 86:20 91:5 100:20 123:6 225:15	shout-out 200:10	sidewalk 52:15 60:5 182:19 235:9	Sidney 111:3	sincerity 142:25
sharing 225:16	show 101:6 102:11,14 121:9 220:16 241:14	sign 76:10 154:20	sign 76:10 154:20	sir 141:15,16 148:5
sheet 76:21	showcase 80:20	sign-up 76:21	signifying 78:8	sister 118:8,11 160:5 208:22 226:4
shift 211:24	showcased 17:4	signals 81:12	significance 13:21 91:19 92:21 114:16 115:17 116:9	sisters 20:22 225:25
shine 140:22	showed 103:20 196:8 203:24 241:7	signed 76:12,18	silence 2:23,25 192:15,16	sit 27:7 223:10 246:25
shooter 204:13	showing 202:23	significant 81:20	silent 2:15 151:16	Sixers 156:7
shooting 18:14	shown 17:11	significantly 81:20	similar 221:21 222:4 223:6	Sixth 19:9
short 102:17 206:15		signify	simple 40:2,24	size 106:4
short- dumping 241:15				

skill	solutions	southeast	89:17	199:1
159:6	83:21	53:11	93:23	200:1
Skills	solve	Southeaster	99:25	201:1, 19
71:8	214:19	n	109:2, 19	202:1
small	solves	45:19	112:7	203:1
37:16	154:7	94:20	116:20	204:1
86:14	son	171:7	122:4	205:1
113:3	143:3	spaces	124:22	206:1
150:5	145:9	84:4 86:4	126:24	207:1
236:3	song	span	129:23	208:1
smaller	14:25	36:20	133:8	209:1
101:2	songs	Spanish	134:8	210:1
smell	25:24 29:9	49:9 126:9	138:4	211:1
19:24	30:2 31:22	177:12	141:7	212:1
198:23	33:21	spanning	144:2	213:1
soars	songwriting	3:5	148:9	214:1
243:2	29:17	speak	150:22	215:1
social	sorority	76:23 77:5	151:24	216:1
18:6 23:18	108:24	116:13	155:4, 14	217:1
139:5	109:11	117:11	210:5	218:1
140:7	110:4, 18	120:21	special	219:1
142:24	117:10	139:10	4:20 90:22	220:1
245:21	120:22	146:18	94:16	221:1, 23
socioeconom	200:24, 25	148:7, 18	100:15	222:1
ic	sorrow	179:3	105:12	223:1
105:23	4:4	209:4	146:23	224:1
soft	sort	240:14	162:12	225:1
230:22	24:21	speaker	specific	226:1
231:6	sought-	77:19 78:2	230:14	227:1
sold	after	97:8 99:23	specificall	228:1
149:21	136:22	129:21	y	229:1
Solomon	soul	133:5	104:4	230:1
186:14	5:7 142:4	141:6	156:21	231:1
194:13	south	speakers	230:5	232:1
solution	42:12	76:10	speeches	233:1
97:22	107:18	92:13	193:1, 2	234:1, 4
98:11	126:8	160:11, 15	194:1	235:1
129:17	161:4	speaking	195:1	236:1
	216:10, 20	77:8 85:12	196:1	237:1
			197:1	238:1
			198:1	239:1
				240:1

241:1	208:24	188:7	13:20	114:11
242:1	spoken	stadium	25:23	115:9
243:1	17:20	56:14	27:10 29:8	129:2
244:1	sponsored	187:25	30:2 31:21	156:5, 25
245:1	105:9	195:19, 25	34:2, 14	157:8
246:1	126:13	196:2, 6	44:2 85:21	215:15
247:1	sponsoring	238:7, 14,	94:11	219:11
248:1, 19	118:14	17	142:3, 9	stated
249:1	119:22	staff	192:11	2:1 3:1
speechless	123:3	34:11	212:17	4:1 5:1
20:13	sports	35:19, 25	218:22	6:1 7:1
spend	107:17	37:2	223:10	8:1 9:1
93:11	124:6	209:25	225:9	10:1, 24
222:19, 21,	145:25	219:8	251:3, 8	11:1 12:1
23 224:10	spotlight	220:12	standing	13:1 14:1
spending	241:17	222:7, 15	20:21	15:1 16:1
91:6	spring	223:14	132:16	17:1 18:1
203:11	37:14	231:8	192:9	19:1 20:1
224:13	80:25	245:4	197:24	21:1 22:1
spent	Springside	246:25	229:19	23:1 24:1
16:18	18:3	247:24	stands	25:1 26:1
36:18	Squilla	249:8, 24	82:11	27:1 28:1
148:21	26:14	staffer	star	29:1 30:1
spicy	30:14	238:8	156:15	31:1 32:1
225:2	59:18, 19	239:13, 21	start	33:1 34:1
spill	126:25	staffers	12:21 13:8	35:1 36:1
107:9	134:6	155:21	21:4 28:22	37:1 38:1
spirit	210:25	staffing	102:20	39:1 40:1
5:17	Squirrel	84:6	132:18	41:1 42:1
140:16	113:15	stage	151:5	43:1 44:1
142:6	150:15	225:15, 17	250:22	45:1 46:1
223:7	St	stages	started	47:1 48:1
230:8	4:14 5:3	212:11	239:15	49:1 50:1
240:24	58:17	stakeholder	240:4	51:1 52:1
242:25	189:16	s	starting	53:1 54:1
249:9	stability	80:12	3:16 227:4	55:1 56:1
spoke	55:18	231:9	228:4	57:1 58:1
99:17	56:22	stand	state	59:1 60:1
130:13	185:10	2:22 7:18	98:13	61:1 62:1
152:13			113:4	63:1 64:1
				65:1 66:1

67:1 68:1	126:1	168:1	210:1	states
69:1 70:1	127:1	169:1	211:1	19:8 43:22
71:1 72:1	128:1	170:1	212:1	123:11
73:1 74:1	129:1	171:1	213:1	128:16
75:1 76:1	130:1	172:1	214:1	129:5, 11
77:1 78:1	131:1	173:1	215:1	165:20
79:1 80:1	132:1	174:1	216:1	statewide
81:1 82:1	133:1	175:1	217:1	79:8
83:1 84:1	134:1	176:1	218:1	status
85:1 86:1	135:1, 10	177:1	219:1	105:23
87:1 88:1	136:1	178:1	220:1	128:9
89:1 90:1	137:1	179:1	221:1	stay
91:1 92:1	138:1	180:1	222:1	202:7
93:1 94:1	139:1	181:1	223:1	249:23
95:1 96:1	140:1	182:1	224:1	steadfast
97:1 98:1	141:1	183:1	225:1	242:6
99:1 100:1	142:1	184:1	226:1	steadfastne
101:1	143:1	185:1	227:1	ss
102:1	144:1	186:1	228:1	6:13
103:1	145:1	187:1	229:1	Steaks
104:1	146:1	188:1	230:1	60:14, 16
105:1	147:1	189:1	231:1	Steinberg
106:1	148:1	190:1	232:1	229:15
107:1	149:1	191:1	233:1	step
108:1	150:1	192:1	234:1	81:11
109:1	151:1	193:1	235:1	150:5
110:1	152:1	194:1	236:1	198:23
111:1	153:1	195:1	237:1	217:19
112:1	154:1	196:1	238:1	230:19
113:1	155:1	197:1	239:1	236:11
114:1	156:1	198:1	240:1	Stephanie
115:1	157:1	199:1	241:1	144:5
116:1	158:1	200:1	242:1	148:12
117:1	159:1	201:1	243:1	155:4, 13
118:1	160:1	202:1	244:1	stepping
119:1	161:1	203:1	245:1	199:11
120:1	162:1	204:1	246:1	204:22
121:1	163:1	205:1	247:1	226:9
122:1	164:1	206:1	248:1	249:5
123:1	165:1	207:1	249:1	
124:1	166:1	208:1	250:1	
125:1	167:1	209:1	251:1, 23	

steps 95:15	38:9 225:24	streets 53:14 60:18 61:13, 22 218:8 240:19 241:13, 24 242:11, 18, 20 243:5	32:2 33:10, 14 34:8, 13, 23, 24 35:3, 21, 25 36:11 37:12 38:11, 15, 23 56:4 103:17 121:19, 20 126:10 153:16 186:16 196:4	suburban 153:12, 14
steroids 150:11	strategies 45:7 125:8			suburban- style 145:25
stick 90:19	strategize 212:18			succeeded 194:5
sticks 98:6	Strawberry 241:6			success 30:9 31:11 100:25 143:7
Stiklorius 37:22 38:3	streaming 34:19	strength 14:20 195:23		successful 143:8
stir 6:7	Streamline 150:13	strive 137:20	students' 30:8	sucked 218:11
Stompers 56:15 188:2 195:19, 25 196:2 238:7, 17	street 23:5 40:3 41:9, 10, 20, 21, 23 42:7, 8, 9, 12, 13 48:12, 13 53:16 54:5 60:7, 24 61:4, 12, 21 65:13, 14, 15 66:14, 15 69:2 161:4, 5 167:8 168:17 239:24 241:7 250:17	strong 35:8 197:15	studies 110:21 156:13	suddenly 210:8
stood 192:12 243:8		struck 212:11	studio 38:14	sue 131:6
stop 25:7 127:17 217:14 233:9		structural 153:6, 9, 22 154:12	study 45:6 96:8 154:9	sued 130:14, 16
store 86:14		structurall y 152:14	stuff 132:25 208:5 223:11	suffered 17:5
stories 15:24 17:14 18:12 95:18 96:3 196:20 197:4 199:4 216:5	streeteries 52:15 79:18 182:18 235:9	struggle 21:13	subcontract or 95:11	suffering 232:21
		struggled 216:6	subsequentl y 9:18	summer 81:2 87:14
	streetery 61:2 79:22 81:8, 25	struggling 20:19	substantive 10:3	Summit 92:7 203:4
story 15:8 16:7		strung 216:9	suburb 153:22	Sunday's 146:7
		student 206:7		Superintend ent 35:23
		students 29:14 30:12, 15 31:2, 7		superseded 218:2
				suppliers 105:19

106:6	supported	74:7, 14	203:17	tax
supply	55:7 106:8	suspension	talent	164:2, 8
91:18	149:2	10:9 75:7	27:14	taxes
support	184:2	208:10	29:16	131:15
5:15 23:22	235:7	sustaining	95:24	164:5
24:5 27:23	supporters	118:23	158:23	TD
28:6 29:11	106:3	swift	talents	91:21
34:6, 10	supporting	211:12	27:21	teacher
36:7 78:4,	24:2 35:21	242:21	34:15	49:10
16 85:4	105:8	swiftly	talk	117:25
90:15, 17	216:18	236:23	20:17	125:13
93:14	247:21	symposium	83:14	126:7
94:14	supportive	157:16	93:16	153:10
96:16	23:19	symptoms	111:12	177:12
97:10	121:8	123:18	136:20	229:12
101:15	244:24	synonymous	153:8	teachers
108:3	245:3	215:2	200:12	35:14, 15
109:3	supports	system	222:18	222:19
112:15	35:25 80:7	46:19	225:8	224:9
121:17, 20	101:9	101:5	229:18	teaches
127:13, 16	supposed	174:20	talked	126:8
128:3	196:24		83:25	teaching
139:11	supposedly		202:8	37:2 56:3
149:17	146:4	T	224:9	158:12
150:14	supreme	T.V.	talking	186:15
164:8	137:21	22:5, 8	102:18	team
165:25	Surgeon	table	198:18	46:6
198:11	135:11	76:15	tangled	102:18
211:23	surrounding	147:6	130:15, 16	105:5
213:11, 23	s	tables	tank	106:9
215:4	82:5	203:19	90:5	173:4
216:17	survival	tackling	Tasco	240:24
217:17	118:24	150:5	119:12	244:25
237:10	survivors	takeover	Task	249:6, 21,
238:4	121:10	129:4	45:5	22
244:3	suspended	takes	taught	teammate
245:8	67:2, 10	35:6	229:10	125:13
246:7	69:16, 23	taking	238:2	126:17
247:14	71:22 72:4	10:2 11:24	240:10	teams
248:2				

124:6	69:4 71:10	thing	172:2, 23	33:2, 3
tears	73:19	23:25	173:12, 14	34:12
204:4	114:9, 12,	26:25	175:3, 5	35:13
Tech	25 115:2	38:10	177:16, 19,	36:14
222:15	161:7	98:20	20 178:20,	38:5, 20
Technologic	167:10	99:10	23, 25	Thursday
al	168:19	114:2	221:18, 19	7:5, 11, 17
165:23	Terrell	126:5	224:8	130:4
technology	124:25	147:18	233:22, 23	251:4, 9
28:3	127:4	200:16	238:20	tied
107:15	129:22	219:22	250:5, 7	87:23
Teddy	130:3, 9	225:10	thought	Tiffany
15:3	131:14, 23	things	15:6	34:12
teenage	132:20, 24	23:15 24:4	130:17	time
136:5	terrifying	32:14 98:2	204:9, 19	11:24 12:4
Temple	99:13	114:19	206:14, 21	13:24
91:16	Terry	199:25	thought -	21:19
196:6	210:2	225:9	6:7	23:12
238:12	testament	231:21	thoughtful	24:23
tenants	135:6	232:8	211:23	25:6, 18
24:5	140:2	245:21	thoughts	38:21
Tennessee	242:22	247:3	3:23	76:24, 25
110:9, 16	testify	think-and-	thousands	77:3, 10
134:20	76:11	do	36:19	78:9 84:3
155:24	90:17	90:4	106:16	85:19 88:8
156:2, 4	testifying	thinking	thrilled	93:17
157:7	90:15	90:6 222:7	90:14	98:14
tens	testing	226:2	thriving	124:14
91:13	147:16	Thomas	51:24	127:18
128:14	tests	32:14	81:16	134:24
term	123:21, 23	48:21, 22	181:9	135:10
150:8	text	72:18, 20	235:25	140:20
202:8	246:23	74:3, 4	thrust	148:21
terms	textbooks	85:12	241:16	151:12
51:17	196:14	124:23	thunderous	198:25
53:17	thanking	125:12	240:17	202:11
57:14	227:9	126:18	Thurman	203:17
60:7, 18	thereto	162:25	26:2 27:4,	204:11, 23,
61:5 64:25	54:6	163:3, 23	24 28:15	25 213:24
		164:13, 15		214:14
		171:25		216:23

221:9	162:9	116:10, 22	59:16	touched
222:19, 21,	163:21	117:11	63:11	101:21
23 224:10,	165:16	122:6	76:9, 12	tough
13, 16	167:2	127:2	77:3	144:10
225:16, 21	168:11	132:10	160:15, 17	231:23
234:5	172:25	133:10	169:20	tour
244:11	174:12	139:10, 25	toes	204:20
250:4	185:3	140:18	107:22	205:16
timely	186:10	142:3, 12	told	241:5
211:24	187:22	144:16	15:4	243:21
times	189:11	145:16	153:18	towers
114:4	192:19	149:14	207:20	215:9
157:11	titles	153:8	tolerate	Towne
203:13	44:25 49:5	155:6	216:21	18:9
246:20	51:6 53:5	160:6, 12	242:23	toxic
247:5, 8	59:25	192:25	tolerated	146:9
Tioga	today	193:10	237:2	track
42:4, 18	4:15, 24	197:5	Tom	125:10
69:2	5:13 8:14,	201:9	104:17	199:13
tire	23 9:15	206:11	108:14	trade
208:10	11:2	213:2	112:6, 14	129:7
tirelessly	13:16, 19	217:12, 13	tomorrow	Trades
88:5	14:9 21:12	222:14	4:3 227:5	40:11
135:24	27:15	223:22	228:4	51:10
137:5	28:5, 22	225:12	243:11	traffic
140:14	44:20 47:3	228:15, 21	250:13	227:19
209:9	48:25 51:2	234:16, 21	tone	traffickers
title	52:23	236:9	133:18	128:14
40:2, 10, 24	54:24 57:6	today's	tonight	trailblazer
41:9, 18	58:2, 9	9:7, 9	92:4	109:22
44:6 48:12	67:22	10:10, 16	230:23	111:13
50:10 51:9	70:10	28:21	231:13, 16	137:15
57:9 58:12	72:16 75:2	44:14	233:14	trailblazin
59:7 62:25	78:5, 17	46:2, 10, 22	tons	g
64:22	79:15	47:18	242:20	63:5
68:11	85:21 86:3	49:16, 25	top	190:21
70:22	87:4 89:2	50:20	153:15	208:25
130:15, 16	94:12 99:3	52:6, 18	206:16	training
142:12	107:7	55:11, 22		
160:23	108:13	56:10 57:2		
	109:3, 10	58:22		

84:16	transmittin	trustee	148:22	218:12
trajectory	g	17:25 18:3	unable	unfair
117:22	39:19 43:2	Tuesday	193:18	40:15, 16
transcended	Transportat	86:12	unchallenge	51:13, 14
136:21	ion	111:10	d	236:12, 20
transcends	45:20	turf	215:14	unfortunate
14:15	171:8	146:2, 9	unchanged	232:22, 25
transfer	treachery	147:13, 19	215:15	union
149:18	213:21	turn	Underground	84:15
transform	treated	77:11, 15	92:10	106:17
143:19	110:13	149:22, 24	underrepres	unique
215:20, 23	121:5	150:11	ented	17:9 33:16
transformat	treatment	twin	158:2	80:21
ion	213:10	215:9	underscores	96:13
215:22	tree	Twitter	30:4	112:22
216:4	145:7	149:13	underserved	unit
transformat	trees	two-minute	117:24	222:24
ive	145:8, 24	77:7	122:19	Unite
243:16	trials	Ty	135:9	5:20
transformin	49:12	37:22 38:3	understand	united
g	125:16, 18,	type	126:10	19:7 43:22
142:16	24, 25	107:3	131:24	90:6
195:11	159:14	243:25	151:22, 25	123:11
transit	177:15	types	152:3	128:16
45:22	209:8	148:23	216:24	129:5
171:11	tribute	Tyewriter	217:16	165:20
transition	14:18	37:4	understandi	195:3
4:11	134:16		ng	243:10
199:16	trip	U	5:22	units
235:16	238:11	U.S.	undertaking	150:10
transitione	triple	49:11	29:24	universitie
d	156:21	118:5	undoubtedly	s
111:5	true	127:14	17:9 107:9	17:20
transitioni	88:3	177:14	140:8	University
ng	109:22	224:17	Unemploymen	16:13 18:2
202:18	137:15	ultimately	t	19:2 22:23
231:7	146:8	215:19	195:20	110:16, 23
	205:25	Umoja	unescapable	139:6
				156:5

157:8	urging	120:7,12	Vine	vote
202:21	243:18	vetoed	66:14	128:8
238:12		9:24	violation	192:9
University'	V	vexing	127:24	226:18
s	vacation	212:2	violence	227:2
196:7	198:19	vibrance	82:19	230:25
unlawful	valedictori	30:25	150:23	voted
128:3	an	vibrant	151:24	10:3
unleashing	110:15	84:20	154:8,11	147:21
243:6	155:25	142:17	violent	voting
unqualified	Valley	235:3	151:23	89:4
211:22	94:20	vibrate	165:22	vulnerable
unscrupulou	valuable	2:16	166:2	122:18
s	220:23	Vice-	Virginia	233:5,7
236:20	221:11	135:20	110:20	
unseated	valued	Vice-chair	156:12	W
153:5	102:15	32:13	virtue	Wa
untrue	106:7	Vice-	19:11	145:15
147:15	values	president	139:25	wait
unwavering	119:2	111:2	visitation	205:25
4:6 12:8	vary	137:12	250:12,23	walk
242:22	76:24	vicinity	visitors	23:4 99:9
243:15	vehicles	53:11	2:11 11:18	203:17
245:8	242:16,19	60:6,17	79:20	walked
Upcoming	Venango	victim	80:23	99:5 245:2
107:14	42:8	97:11	81:4,21	walking
updated	vend	127:15	235:14	245:4
81:9 164:4	60:14	146:10	voice	wanted
uplifting	vendors	151:25	16:22	38:17
140:4	147:17	165:24	94:18	125:11
upstairs	venue	videos	111:16	126:16
78:8	36:18	34:9	voicing	149:3
Urban	120:25	viewers	211:18	158:7
42:4,15	Verna	16:10	volunteer	159:20
urge	3:18,20	VIII	118:20	193:22
99:8	Vernoca	159:5	volunteerin	200:17
urgency	108:15	village	g	209:4,24
80:24	116:23	13:13 35:2	135:11	219:7,16
				220:18

223:25	weekend	wife	197:22	55:2, 16, 25
225:4	109:15	118:8	women	56:13
wanting	251:21	Williams	14:2, 22	85:22 88:3
198:18	weeks	242:7	17:15 96:9	92:2, 6
247:13	19:22	willingness	106:12, 16	97:23
Ward	152:13	4:10	118:18, 22	119:19
237:25	210:22	Willits	119:5	121:17
warmed	214:13	66:3	125:23	124:11
200:7	welcomed	Wilma	147:4	125:8
warrior	212:12	156:6	156:23	142:2
130:11, 23	well-being	wind	162:20	183:19
wash	30:21	203:11	194:17, 20	185:8
203:6	234:19	wings	198:3	186:13
watching	Wendy	136:4	Women's	187:24
23:7, 8	76:14	winning	13:23	193:24
Watlington	249:3	38:7 46:6	155:19	194:19
35:22	west	173:5	women-owned	200:2
wavering	42:14	winter	96:3	202:12, 14
213:23	47:14	87:15	100:24	206:2
ways	83:6, 16	wisdom	wonderful	209:6, 20,
5:24 14:5	88:6	5:10, 15, 22	235:13	22 220:23
197:8	106:13	wishing	Wood	221:10
WCAU	109:17	77:5	66:14	230:3
15:20	149:20	Wister	woodlands	238:3
wealth	176:6	41:22	145:23	243:12
150:3	Westmoreland	withdraw	word	245:23, 24
web	65:14	10:4	86:21	246:14
218:12	Wharton	witnessing	214:22	248:11
Webster	60:17	96:17	220:11	249:18
104:17	White	134:22	words	worked
108:14	97:15	woman	20:19	21:7 22:8
112:6, 11, 15	98:19	14:12	21:3, 13	209:8
week	152:17	109:8	24:10 25:9	229:17
62:16 81:6	Whites	118:6	203:23	238:8
83:19	114:5	136:8	219:17	239:22, 23
222:10	wholesomeness	154:20	225:23	worker
	ss	155:16	work	206:20
	30:24	159:7	20:4 32:18	workers
			34:22	234:20
				working
				19:4 35:5

82:9 87:25	worthy	87:12	168:14, 23,
93:15	198:8, 9, 10	91:11	25 194:23
113:20	Wow	106:10	195:15
124:3	26:7	109:14	225:7, 19,
205:2	wrapped	128:21	25 226:5,
237:11	86:5	130:10, 18	13, 16, 24
239:15	wreath	131:11	237:19, 20
240:5	201:25	136:11	238:22
247:17	writing	139:18	239:7
249:6	33:21	144:18	youth
works	written	145:18	29:21
88:5	29:18	147:20	73:12, 17
workshop		156:18	195:3
204:8		199:22	
workshops	Y	216:7, 15	Z
203:15, 21	y'all	229:13	Zak
world	27:11, 12	239:23	78:15, 20,
14:4 25:22	28:18	yellow	23 79:2
27:9, 25	32:19	77:11	Zenobia
29:3, 6, 15	200:12	yesterday	239:22
30:16	202:12	35:16	zip
31:2, 8, 18	222:2	yield	159:12
32:3 33:5	year	77:18	zoning
36:17	27:10	140:20	54:4 64:24
111:21	97:24	141:15	65:10, 23
117:15	148:20	York	66:11
119:8	158:10	19:6 22:3,	240:6, 8, 11
120:25	214:15	9	Zoo
129:15	year's	young	18:8 50:17
137:20	226:18	23:6	180:3
140:24	year-and-a-	26:20, 23	
215:7, 8	half	28:4 29:13	
world-	33:25	52:20, 21	
renowned	yearlong	53:25 83:9	
156:16	96:8	99:4	
worldwide	years	128:19	
34:19 38:9	3:5 16:14,	132:16	
worry	18 21:7	139:23	
208:9	22:11	140:11	
	24:14	146:9	