

1 COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

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

8 PRESENT:

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

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

3 Good morning, everyone.

4 COUNCILMEMBERS: Good

5 morning.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

7 Good morning, everyone.

8 COUNCILMEMBERS: Good

9 morning.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

11 We have a packed house today. I

12 note that the hour has come that a

13 quorum of this council is present.

14 City Council is now coming to

15 order. I thank all members for

16 taking their seats.

17 I thank all visitors for

18 retiring outside the rails, and

19 I'll ask for all sidebar

20 conversations to be taken outside

21 of this City Council chambers. I

22 also would like to ask for everyone

23 to put your cell phones on silent

24 and/or vibrate.

1 To give our invocation
2 this morning, the Chair recognizes
3 Frair Luke Kim from the St. John
4 the Evangelist Catholic Church. He
5 is here today as guests of
6 Councilmember from South
7 Philadelphia, Mark Squilla. I'll
8 ask all members and guests to
9 please rise.

10 FRAIR KIM: Good morning,
11 everyone.

12 COUNCILMEMBERS: Morning.

13 FRAIR KIM: The prayer
14 probably is not the long, so don't
15 be worried too much. My name is
16 Deacon Luke Kim. I'm a
17 transitional deacon with Franciscan
18 Capuchins, and since last June, I
19 have been assigned to St. John
20 Church here in Philadelphia.

21 I'm pretty enjoying the
22 Center City life here. Although I
23 did not grow up here, Philadelphia
24 has quickly become a place I love

1 deeply. There is an energy in the
2 city that is hard to miss. The
3 warmth of its people, the richness
4 of its neighborhoods, the
5 incredible food, the culture, the
6 music, the history, and the
7 beautiful diversity that makes this
8 city alive in so many different
9 ways.

10 Walking through the
11 streets of Philadelphia, you
12 encounter not just buildings and
13 institutions, but stories,
14 families, struggles, hopes and
15 dreams. It's a privilege to stand
16 here this morning, and I'm grateful
17 to the Council President and to the
18 members of this council for this
19 opportunity to begin this day in
20 prayer.

21 Let us pray. In the name
22 of the Father, of the Son, of the
23 Holy Spirit, amen. God of wisdom
24 and compassion we pause for a

1 moment in the middle of busy
2 schedules, responsibilities and
3 decisions to remember something
4 simple and essential that every
5 city, every community, and every
6 human life ultimately rests in your
7 care.

8 Today we lift up the city
9 of Philadelphia, a city shaped by
10 history, resilience, and the daily
11 work of millions of people who call
12 it home. We pray for the leaders
13 gathered in this chamber. Grant
14 them clarity of mind, integrity of
15 heart, and the courage to seek not
16 what is easy, but what is just and
17 good for the people they serve.

18 We pray for those who
19 serve the public every day, for
20 police officers and firefighters
21 who step toward danger when others
22 step away, for first responders and
23 emergency workers who carry the
24 weight of urgent moments for public

1 servants and civil employees, whose
2 work often goes unseen but keeps
3 the city functioning.

4 We pray for the teachers
5 and educators shaping the minds and
6 hopes of the next generation, for
7 students and young people growing,
8 searching, and discovering who they
9 are meant to become. We pray for
10 medical professionals, nurses,
11 caregivers and hospital staff who
12 bring healing to patients and
13 compassion to those who suffer. We
14 remember the elderly whose wisdom
15 and life stories form the
16 foundation of our communities. We
17 pray for children that they may
18 grow up safe, loved in full of
19 possibility.

20 We pray for families,
21 those who are thriving and those
22 quietly struggling, we lift up
23 those who often remain unseen: the
24 homeless, the poor, the sick, those

1 battling loneliness, addiction or
2 fear. May this city be a place
3 where dignity is protected, where
4 neighbors care for one another and
5 where no person is forgotten.

6 We also pray beyond these
7 walls for our nation, the United
8 States, that it may continue
9 striving toward justice, unity, and
10 peace, and for our world, which
11 longs for healing in so many places
12 marked by conflict, division and
13 suffering.

14 God, grant us the wisdom
15 to see one another, not as
16 stranger, but as fellow human
17 beings entrusted to each other's
18 care. May the work done in this
19 chamber today contribute even in
20 small ways to a more just,
21 compassionate and joyful city.

22 And may the spirit of
23 peace guide our decisions, our
24 conversations, and our shared

1 future. Amen. In the name of the
2 Father, of the Son, of the Holy
3 Spirit, amen.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

5 The Chair thanks the Father for his
6 invocation. Council will be at
7 ease.

8 The next order of business
9 is the approval of the Journal of
10 the Meeting of Thursday, February
11 the 26th, 2026. The Chair
12 recognizes Majority Deputy Whip
13 Councilmember Cindy Bass.

14 COUNCILMEMBER BASS: Thank
15 you, Mr. President. I move that
16 the journal of the meeting of
17 Thursday, February 26th, 2026 be
18 approved.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
20 It has been moved and properly
21 seconded that the journal of the
22 meeting of Thursday, February the
23 26th, 2026 stand approved. All in
24 favor will indicate by saying

1 "aye."

2 AUDIENCE: Aye.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

4 Those opposed? The ayes have it,
5 and the journal is approved. The
6 next order of business is request
7 for leave of absence, and the Chair
8 recognizes Majority Leader
9 Councilmember Katherine Gilmore
10 Richardson.

11 COUNCILMEMBER RICHARDSON:

12 Thank you, Mr. President. On
13 behalf of the Majority, a leave of
14 absence is requested for
15 Councilmember Isaiah Thomas.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

17 The Chair thanks the Majority
18 Leader, leave will be granted.

19 The Chair recognizes
20 Minority Leader Councilmember
21 Kendra Brooks.

22 COUNCILMEMBER BROOKS:

23 Thank you, Council President. On
24 the behalf of the minority, there

1 are no requests for leaves of
2 absence.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

4 The Chair thanks the minority
5 leader.

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

15 COUNCILMEMBER RICHARDSON:

16 Thank you, Mr. President.

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

24 Resolutions authorizing

1 hearings, amendments to bills on
2 first reading, the reconsideration
3 of a bill vetoed by or recalled
4 from the mayor, amendments to bills
5 recalled from the mayor,
6 resolutions taking substantive
7 action to be voted on in this
8 session.

9 A motion to withdraw a
10 bill or resolution that is not on
11 the calendar, and a motion placing
12 a bill or resolution on or
13 returning a bill or resolution from
14 the suspension calendar that is not
15 listed on today's calendar.

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

23 COUNCILMEMBER: Second.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

1 It has been moved and properly
2 seconded that the legislative
3 matter stated by Councilmember
4 Katherine Gilmore Richardson may be
5 added to the agenda for today
6 should those matters arise during
7 the course of this council session.
8 All in favor will signify by saying
9 "aye."

10 COUNCILMEMBER: Aye.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

12 Those opposed? The ayes have it,
13 and the motion carries. The Chair
14 will dispense from the regular
15 order of business to recognize the
16 guests and visitors joining us in
17 chambers this morning.

18 On behalf of all members
19 of City Council, I welcome you to
20 our Council session. We appreciate
21 you taking the time to join us as
22 we attend the legislative affairs
23 of our great city. We certainly
24 invite you to come again. I'm

1 going to take a moment to
2 acknowledge the presence of state
3 Senator Sharif Street. Thank you
4 for joining us today.

5 I want to also take a
6 moment to welcome back our
7 colleague, our friend, Honorable
8 Sharon Vaughn, former Councilmember
9 At-Large. Welcome back.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
11 At this time the Chair recognizes
12 Majority Leader Katherine Gilmore-
13 Richardson.

14 COUNCILMEMBER GILMORE-
15 RICHARDSON: Thank you. Thank you
16 so much, Council President. I
17 wanted to take a moment to
18 recognize a school that's here with
19 us in Council today. And on behalf
20 of Councilmember Quetcy Lozada and
21 I, we thank former Principal Lisa
22 Messi for ensuring that we have
23 their information. Let's welcome
24 the Youth Court from Feltonville

1 School of Arts and Sciences.

2 Please stand and be
3 recognized. Thank you very much.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

5 Thank you very much. The Chair
6 recognizes Councilmember Quetcy
7 Lozada.

8 COUNCILMEMBER LOZADA:

9 Thank you, Council President. I
10 actually was going to do the same
11 thing. Majority Leader, just so we
12 -- just welcoming our students to
13 our chamber.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

15 Thank you very much. Chair
16 recognizes Councilmember
17 Dr. Anthony Phillips.

18 COUNCILMEMBER PHILLIPS:

19 Well, Council President, today I
20 have the privilege and honor of
21 recognizing an incredible
22 individual who is doing work here
23 in the city of Philadelphia.

24 We have an NFL Pro Bowler

1 here today. He was a Philadelphia
2 native, and a native of West Oak
3 Lane, here in the 9th District.
4 Zaire started -- Zaire Franklin is
5 here with us today. He started
6 Shelice's Angels in honor of his
7 late mother, Shelice Highsmith, in
8 recognition of women who helped
9 shape his life.

10 Today, the organization
11 empowers young women across
12 Philadelphia by expanding their
13 horizons and exposing them to
14 opportunities beyond what they may
15 see in their immediate
16 surroundings.

17 Zaire is also a graduate
18 of La Salle College High School.
19 Proud to share that with him. But
20 his organization -- he's here --
21 normally -- he's not here for his
22 football accomplishments, even
23 though he led league in tackles
24 last year. And he's outstanding if

1 you've seen him ever play. But
2 he's here because he does great
3 service in our city.

4 And so he's helping young
5 women through mentorship,
6 leadership development, and
7 programs like entrepreneurship,
8 academies and day in life career
9 experiences. And I just want to
10 say that I had the -- I have the
11 honor of presenting the resolution
12 to him, that -- introduced the
13 resolution in honor of his
14 foundation and honor his mother.

15 And we share in losing our
16 mother at a year -- at a young age.
17 I just want to say, Philadelphia,
18 please welcome to Philadelphia City
19 Council, Pro Bowler and also a
20 servant to Philadelphia, Zaire
21 Franklin and his entire family is
22 here today. Thank you, Council
23 President.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

1 Yes, thank you. Welcome to City
2 Council. Chair recognizes
3 Councilmember Cindy Bass.

4 COUNCILMEMBER BASS: Thank
5 you, Mr. President. Well, and good
6 morning, everyone. And today I
7 along with my colleague,
8 Councilmember Jeffrey Young and
9 with state Senator Sharif Street,
10 we want to welcome students from
11 the Philadelphia Technician
12 Training Institute, PTTI, who are
13 here visiting today. Programs like
14 theirs are incredibly important
15 because they prepare people with
16 real hands-on skills and trades
17 like welding, construction,
18 manufacturing, and automotive
19 repair, careers that keep our city
20 running and growing.

21 As future professionals in
22 these industries, the work they're
23 training to do will help build and
24 maintain our communities. And I'm

1 so glad they took time out to come
2 and visit and learn a little bit
3 about how local government works.

4 And again, a special shout
5 out. I want to thank State Senator
6 Sharif Street for organizing the
7 tour and taking time out of his
8 very busy meeting and schedule to
9 make sure that we had the
10 conversation directly with the
11 students and director of PTTI.

12 Please welcome them to chambers and
13 wish them all the success as they
14 continue building their skills and
15 careers. Thank you, Mr. President.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

17 Thank you very much. The Chair
18 also welcomes to our chambers
19 today, Philadelphia's first woman
20 sheriff, Rochelle Bilal. Thank you
21 for joining us today. Chair
22 recognizes Minority Leader Kendra
23 Brooks.

24 COUNCILMEMBER BROOKS:

1 Thank you, Council President. I
2 want to welcome to the chambers in
3 honor of Black History Month, and
4 as the chair of Disabilities, four
5 amazing women that are kind of
6 paving the way for folks with
7 disabilities, primarily their
8 children; is Cecilia Thomas,
9 Dolores Brown Waters, Yvonne Hughes
10 and Isalee Laverne Baskerville.

11 I had the honor of working
12 with many of these women prior to
13 being elected around Education,
14 Justice, and I'm working with
15 children with disabilities. So I
16 would like to welcome to the
17 chamber today and honor them in
18 reference to Black History Month.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
20 Welcome to City Council. Can you
21 please stand. Thank you very much.

22 The Chair recognizes
23 Councilmember Jamie Gauthier.

24 COUNCILMEMBER GAUTHIER:

1 Thank you, Council President.
2 Well, I originally pressed my
3 button to recognize my special
4 guest, but I see so many friends
5 that I want to mention quickly.

6 First, I see James Aye
7 from YEAH Philly here today because
8 they're being honored. They do
9 some of the best work I've ever
10 seen with young people, keeping
11 them out of a cycle of violence,
12 and I'm so grateful for their
13 efforts, particularly in my
14 district.

15 And I'm so glad to see
16 PTTI here today because they're
17 expanding to the 3rd District,
18 which is incredibly exciting. But
19 chiefly, I wanted to recognize many
20 leaders and supporters of
21 Philadelphia Masjid who are here
22 today to speak in favor of a
23 resolution that we'll be voting on
24 to rename the 4700 block of

1 Wyalusing Philadelphia Masjid Way.

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

3 Okay.

4 COUNCILMEMBER GAUTHIER: I

5 can't say enough about what great

6 partners Philadelphia Masjid is to

7 me and my community work. They are

8 welcoming to people inside of the

9 Masjid walls, and they also provide

10 a huge amount of support to

11 community members outside of the

12 Masjid walls. And it is my

13 pleasure to honor them, and I look

14 forward to hearing their comments

15 today. Thank you so much.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

17 The Chair recognizes Councilmember

18 Jim Harrity.

19 COUNCILMEMBER HARRITY:

20 Thank you, Council President. I

21 figured I'd get on it. I've seen

22 her hiding up there. Former State

23 Rep Movita Harrell-Johnson is in

24 the house also. I know she's here

1 with PTTI, which I'm a big
2 supporter of also, and so she was
3 kind of kind to keep it cool, but I
4 spotted you. Thank you, Council
5 President.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

7 Thank you, Member Jim Harrity.
8 Thank you everyone who are joining
9 us today. I want to take a moment
10 of personal privilege as we kick
11 off Women's History Month to ask
12 the women of City Council to join
13 me as we honor the Deborah Grand
14 Chapter Order of Eastern Star.

15 During Women's History
16 Month for 126 years of women led
17 fraternal service to the city of
18 Philadelphia with Kelly J.
19 Shepherd, Grand Worthy Matron of
20 Deborah Grand Chapter, Prince Hall
21 Adopted Commonwealth of
22 Pennsylvania and all those
23 accompanying her to the podium.
24 And I would like to ask for all of

1 the women of City Council to join
2 them as well.

3 As we celebrate Women's
4 History Month, it's only fitting
5 and right that as a Council body,
6 we acknowledge the importance of
7 women, but most importantly their
8 place in our society as we move our
9 great city of Philadelphia forward.
10 And this is an organization that
11 exemplifies service, but most
12 importantly, the empowerment of
13 women.

14 So I thank them for
15 joining me in this celebration as
16 we honor their hard work and
17 dedication to improving the quality
18 of life of all people here in the
19 city of Philadelphia. And the
20 Chair acknowledges Majority Leader
21 Katherine Gilmore-Richardson. Can
22 we give our women a round of
23 applause, everyone?

24 They said if you want to

1 get something done, give it to a
2 woman.

3 COUNCILMEMBER GILMORE-

4 RICHARDSON: Thank you. Thank you
5 very much, Council President, for
6 recognizing the women of
7 Philadelphia City Council as we
8 recognize and honor the Order of
9 Eastern Star, so many wonderful
10 community servants who are here
11 with us today. We thank you for
12 your service to the Philadelphia
13 community.

14 The Council of the city of
15 Philadelphia is pleased and proud
16 to honor and recognize the Deborah
17 Grand Chapter of the Order of
18 Eastern Star during Women's History
19 Month for 126 years of women-led
20 service to the city of Philadelphia
21 and the Commonwealth of
22 Pennsylvania.

23 COUNCILMEMBER LOZADA:

24 Whereas, in the 1900s the

1 Order of Eastern Star was
2 officially founded in Pennsylvania,
3 a fraternal organization consisting
4 of Prince Hall Mason relatives
5 devoted to paternal love and
6 community service. The Deborah
7 Grand Chapter is the umbrella
8 organization of Eastern Star
9 chapters across the commonwealth
10 comprising of over 50 local
11 chapters across the state. And --

12 COUNCILMEMBER GAUTHIER:

13 Whereas, local Eastern
14 Star chapters from Philadelphia,
15 Pittsburgh, and Harrisburg united
16 in 1916 to form the Pennsylvania
17 Grand Chapter Order of Eastern
18 Star, known colloquially as the
19 Deborah Grand Chapter. And --

20 COUNCILMEMBER BASS:

21 Whereas, the Order of
22 Eastern Star's mission is to uplift
23 families, mentor young women,
24 support educational initiatives and

1 strengthen neighborhoods. And
2 whereas the Order of Eastern Star's
3 uplifts young individuals in
4 Philadelphia by providing
5 scholarships and mentorships to
6 college-bound students. And --

7 COUNCILMEMBER BROOKS:

8 Whereas, the Deborah Grand
9 Lodge focuses its initiatives on
10 improving outcomes and quality life
11 for individuals affected by
12 disease, with members actively
13 fundraising for breast cancer
14 research, autism awareness, and
15 diabetes education. And --

16 COUNCILMEMBER AHMAD:

17 Whereas, as Philadelphia
18 celebrates Women's History Month,
19 the Deborah Grand Chapter stands as
20 a powerful example of the vital
21 role women-led organizations play
22 in strengthening the city's civic
23 and social fabric. And --

24 COUNCILMEMBER LANDAU:

1 Whereas, for 126 years the
2 Deborah Grand Chapter of the Order
3 of the Eastern Star has embodied
4 the spirit of sisterly affection,
5 working to strengthen and uplift
6 the Philadelphia community and the
7 city, and the city is proud to
8 recognize and honor this legacy.

9 COUNCILMEMBER GILMORE-
10 RICHARDSON: Therefore, by virtue
11 of this citation, the Council of
12 the city of Philadelphia does
13 hereby honor and congratulate the
14 Deborah Grand Chapter of the Order
15 of Eastern Star during Women's
16 History Month for 126 years of
17 women-led fraternal service to the
18 city of Philadelphia and the
19 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

20 With deep appreciation, we
21 extend the sincere respect and
22 admiration of this legislative
23 body. Congratulations.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

1 Please proceed.

2 SIS. KELLY SHEPPARD: Good
3 morning.

4 COUNCILMEMBERS: Good
5 morning.

6 SIS. KELLY SHEPPARD: I
7 just want to thank City Council
8 President Kenyatta Johnson, and
9 certainly to the City Council of
10 Philadelphia for this wonderful
11 recognition. We came bearing a few
12 gifts ourselves, and if you
13 wouldn't mind, in honor of Women's
14 History Month, I have a whole thing
15 that I wrote, but I'm just going to
16 talk.

17 We have some presentations
18 for some very special people,
19 members of City Council who come
20 every day and work for their
21 constituents. They come here every
22 day to stand up for those who do
23 not have a voice. They come here
24 every day to make sure that the

1 citizens of Philadelphia in their
2 districts are represented. At this
3 time, Monique --

4 MS. MONIQUE: I'm right
5 here.

6 SIS. KELLY SHEPPARD: All
7 right. Katherine Gilmore-
8 Richardson, Majority Leader, Kendra
9 Brooks, Minority Leader, Jamie
10 Gauthier, District 3, Quetcy
11 Lozada, District 7, Cindy Bass,
12 District 8, Nina Ahmad and Rue
13 Landau. Deborah Grand Chapter came
14 here today to offer some added
15 encouragement to you ladies today.

16 As we reflect on
17 milestones achieved, we also
18 recognize the work that remains,
19 the spirit of trailblazers like
20 Sojourner Truth or Katherine
21 Johnson lives on in those who
22 continue pushing for equality,
23 innovation, and opportunity.
24 Women's History Month is both a

1 celebration and a call to action,
2 to mentor, to advocate, and to
3 lead. May you all have an amazing
4 day. Thank you so much.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
6 Council will be at ease. Happy
7 Women's History Month.

8 Again, Happy Women's
9 History Month to the ladies of City
10 Council. At this time the chair
11 recognizes Councilmember Quetcy
12 Lozada, who will present a
13 resolution recognizing, celebrating
14 the 2026 Women's History Month in
15 the city of Philadelphia in
16 championing the power of women who
17 build connections and drive
18 prosperity for all.

19 Will Mo McCarty and those
20 accompanying her please join
21 Councilmember Quetcy Lozada at the
22 podium.

23 Joining Councilmember
24 Quetcy Lozada are the following

1 members:

2 Everyone. For the record,
3 Councilmember Dr. Anthony Phillips,
4 Councilmember Rue Landau, Minority
5 Leader Kendra Brooks, Councilmember
6 and Minority Deputy Whip Nicholas
7 O'Rourke, Councilmember Mike
8 Driscoll, Councilmember Mark
9 Squilla, Councilmember Cindy Bass,
10 Majority Leader Katherine Gilmore-
11 Richardson, Councilmember Dr. Nina
12 Ahmad, Councilmember Curtis Jones,
13 Jr., Councilmember Jim Harrity,
14 Councilmember Rue Landau and
15 Councilmember Jamie Gauthier.

16 Everybody. I like that. I like it
17 that way. Unanimous.

18 The Chair recognizes
19 Councilmember Quetcy Lozada. The
20 floor is yours.

21 COUNCILMEMBER LOZADA:

22 Thank you, Council President. I
23 can't help but notice all of the
24 women in this chamber. And so

1 because we're celebrating Women's
2 History Month, can we give all the
3 women in chamber a round of
4 applause.

5 Today I rise to recognize
6 March, 2026 as Women's History
7 Month in the city of Philadelphia
8 and celebrate the women in our
9 communities who build connections,
10 strengthen neighborhoods, and
11 create opportunities for others.
12 Women's History Month is a time to
13 reflect on those who came before
14 us, women who pushed open -- to
15 open doors in government,
16 education, healthcare, business and
17 community life.

18 A time to recognize the
19 women doing the work every day in
20 our neighborhoods. Across
21 Philadelphia and especially in our
22 communities, women are building the
23 networks of care that hold families
24 and neighborhoods together. The

1 women we honor in this resolution
2 remind us of what leadership looks
3 like and where it happens. Their
4 work, this essential work
5 strengthens our neighborhoods,
6 supports our families, and moves
7 our city forward.

8 Women's History Month is
9 about honoring that impact and
10 making sure the next generation of
11 girls and young women can see what
12 leadership looks like in their own
13 communities and know it belongs to
14 them too.

15 To the women we recognize
16 today and to the many others across
17 Philadelphia doing the work every
18 day, thank you. Thank you so much.
19 Philadelphia is stronger because of
20 you.

21 Recognizing and
22 celebrating March, 2026 as Women's
23 History Month in the city of
24 Philadelphia and championing the

1 power of women who build
2 connections and drive prosperity
3 for all. Whereas since 1995,
4 presidents have issued an annual
5 proclamation recognizing March as
6 Women's History Month, celebrating
7 the numerous contributions women
8 have made to the United States and
9 acknowledging the specific
10 achievements of women across
11 diverse field throughout American
12 history.

13 And whereas women of every
14 social economic background have
15 made significant historic
16 contributions to the growth,
17 development and resilience of the
18 city of Philadelphia shaping its
19 culture, economy and society. And
20 --

21 COUNCILMEMBER GILMORE-
22 RICHARDSON: Whereas, the city of
23 Philadelphia commends the
24 contributions of women in

1 Philadelphia who historically have
2 been underrepresented as part of an
3 ongoing effort to celebrate women
4 of all backgrounds in celebration
5 of Women's History Month.

6 COUNCILMEMBER AHMAD:

7 Whereas, Lynnette Perez, Susan
8 Post, Amanda Garayua, Alma B. Rios,
9 Keisha Hudson, Nashira Felder, DJ
10 Nash, Jasmine Rivera, Mo McCarty,
11 Erika Nunez and Natalie Gonzalez
12 are emblematic of women throughout
13 Philadelphia who dedicate their
14 lives to building communities of
15 support and influence, founding
16 grassroots advocacy organizations,
17 strengthening influential community
18 bonds and creating neighborhood
19 spaces for care and connection.

20 And --

21 COUNCILMEMBER GILMORE-

22 RICHARDSON: Whereas, Lynnette
23 Perez has played a crucial role in
24 helping women who face barriers to

1 economic mobility find community
2 and support, drawing on her decades
3 of experience as a controller
4 Lynnette founded Raices Financials,
5 a nonprofit that provides financial
6 expertise to those experiencing
7 economic hardship in her community.

8 Through this work and
9 other leadership roles, she
10 exemplifies advocacy for women by
11 helping them navigate obstacles and
12 empowering them through mentorship
13 and shared community. And --

14 COUNCILMEMBER BASS:
15 Whereas, Susan Post, a long-term
16 resident -- long-term resident of
17 Hunting Park, has devoted over 20
18 years as Chief Executive Officer of
19 Esperanza Health Center to
20 improving healthcare access and
21 quality of life outcomes, providing
22 culturally responsive care that
23 dignifies patients.

24 And under her leadership,

1 Esperanza serves more than 15,000
2 patients annually, across three
3 sites through comprehensive
4 medical, dental, behavioral health,
5 and community health services. And
6 --

7 COUNCILMEMBER BROOKS:

8 Whereas, Amanda Garayua has
9 dedicated her life towards
10 addressing Philadelphia's
11 affordable housing shortage,
12 serving as a director of Housing
13 Services, HAVE, she has led efforts
14 to empower more than 7,500
15 households to access credit
16 improvement, home ownership
17 education, foreclosure prevention,
18 counseling and innovative
19 leadership that have led to long-
20 term housing stability throughout
21 our city. And --

22 COUNCILMEMBER LANDAU:

23 Whereas, during times of loss and
24 grief, Alma B. Rios helps

1 individuals navigate these
2 difficult emotions that often lead
3 to isolation. Through a leadership
4 of a grief ministry, she creates
5 supportive, shared experiences that
6 bring the community together.

7 At the same time as the
8 operator of Amadorez Funeral Home,
9 she demonstrates a deep commitment
10 to ensuring that all members of the
11 community are honored with dignity
12 and care regardless of social
13 standing. And --

14 COUNCILMEMBER DRISCOLL:

15 Whereas, when members of our
16 community are unjustly treated by
17 the criminal justice system, Chief
18 Defender Keisha Hudson steps in to
19 advocate on behalf of these often-
20 overlooked individuals. And for
21 over 23 years in public defense,
22 she has fought on behalf of
23 migrants, those wrongfully
24 incarcerated while building systems

1 of support that bring marginalized
2 communities together in the face of
3 injustice.

4 And whereas, West
5 Philadelphia native, Nashira
6 Felder, formerly known as DJ Nash,
7 exemplifies love and connection by
8 creating intentional spaces of
9 cultural exchange through music
10 that blends multiple diasporas.

11 And she brings these same
12 principles to local communities
13 through her Family of Beats and
14 Babes and Sweet 45, a community
15 centered space in the 7th
16 Councilmanic District, elevating
17 the voices of women DJs, expanding
18 opportunities in the music industry
19 and building spaces that bridge
20 divides, strengthens local
21 communities and brings people
22 together. And --

23 COUNCILMEMBER O'ROURKE:
24 Whereas, ICE unlawfully detains

1 individuals and separates them from
2 our communities, Jasmine Rivera
3 steps in to advance legislation
4 that protects migrants while
5 helping those unjustly detained
6 return home to their families,
7 demonstrating a strong aptitude for
8 fostering collective and social
9 action. Serving as executive
10 director for Pennsylvania
11 Immigration Coalition, she
12 strengthens community connection,
13 inspiring meaningful change. And
14 --

15 COUNCILMEMBER HARRITY:

16 Whereas, Mo McCarty devotes her
17 time to ensuring that women of low
18 socioeconomic status have access to
19 mental health resources that have
20 traditionally been unavailable to
21 them. As the -- sorry -- founder
22 of the nonprofit Unorthodox Therapy
23 Inc., she has created a framework
24 that allows women-owned businesses

1 to access mental health care
2 without disrupting their
3 operations.

4 Through this work and
5 other leadership initiatives, Mo
6 fosters meaningful relationships
7 across the community, creating
8 lasting connections, stability and
9 support. And --

10 COUNCILMEMBER O'NEILL:
11 Whereas, employing her creative
12 talents, Erika Nunez blends art and
13 advocacy to transcend communities
14 and build coalitions that come
15 together to fight for those facing
16 injustice. And serving as
17 executive director of Juntos, she
18 pioneers efforts to uplift
19 immigrant communities by
20 celebrating traditional cultural
21 traditions while remembering those
22 lost to detention and systemic
23 injustice, building intentional
24 spaces of reflection, healing, and

1 solidarity that dignify all who
2 have been lost to injustice. And
3 --

4 COUNCILMEMBER PHILLIPS:

5 Whereas, growing up in Juanita
6 Park, Natalie Gonzalez was inspired
7 through her -- Juliana. You know
8 I'm from Philadelphia when I go to
9 -- good Lord. Whereas growing up
10 in Juliana Park, Natalie Gonzalez
11 was inspired throughout her
12 educational journey at Hobson's
13 Elementary School, Community
14 Academy of Philadelphia Charter
15 School, where she recognized the
16 early needs to support multilingual
17 learners.

18 After earning her teacher
19 certification, Natalie Gonzalez
20 dedicated herself to empowering
21 K-12 students and their families,
22 fostering a sense of belonging,
23 acceptance, and opportunity in
24 classrooms that have historically

1 limited pathways, embodying
2 inclusion in the belief that all
3 students deserve access to
4 education and the chance to
5 succeed. And --

6 COUNCILMEMBER YOUNG:

7 Whereas, in light of their
8 collective and lasting impact, it
9 is important to recognize women
10 such as those mentioned above,
11 whose contributions have often been
12 underrepresented in the ongoing
13 celebration of Women's History
14 Month, providing opportunities to
15 elevate their voices, ensure their
16 achievements are acknowledged and
17 inspire future generations of women
18 leaders. Now, therefore, be it --

19 COUNCILMEMBER SQUILLA:

20 Resolved by the City Council of
21 Philadelphia, that hereby
22 recognizes and celebrates March,
23 2026 as Women's History Month and
24 honors the power of women in the

1 city of Philadelphia to whom
2 meaningful connections strengthen
3 communities and drive economic
4 growth and prosperity for all.
5 Congratulations.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
7 Chair recognizes Mo McCarty for
8 remarks.

9 MS. MCCARTY: All right.
10 Wow and wow and wow. That was a,
11 like -- that was a handful, right?
12 My goodness, what an honor it is to
13 be here. And of course, just like
14 anyone else, we have a list of
15 things and we have a -- I wrote a
16 paper with all the things, but you
17 know, I'm a natural speaker, and I
18 just want to start off by saying I
19 moved here seven and a half years
20 ago, and so I'm not your average
21 Philly -- boots on -- like girl
22 that was born here, raised here.

23 And so I want to emphasize
24 that I got my first winter storm

1 this past winter storm, and what
2 I've learned is that you don't
3 touch nobody's cones, you don't
4 touch nobody's trash cans, you
5 don't touch anybody's nothing.

6 But what I've learned
7 through that is the emphasis of
8 Philly and the culture, and I've
9 learned to love the community so
10 much, and for those that have been
11 around me, have seen me, I have
12 count -- I have toured all 10
13 councilmanic districts and I'm
14 boots on the grounds with these
15 women.

16 I got to see what most
17 transplant don't get to see. And
18 that is really live in the day in
19 and day out of Philadelphians,
20 especially as someone who is
21 navigating what mental health looks
22 like and providing services for
23 women through local women business
24 owners. Okay? So I have a

1 nonprofit here called Unorthodox
2 Therapy, and I feel -- as I -- when
3 I transition here, there was a gap,
4 and there's a stigma where therapy
5 looks like you have to be in front
6 of someone, when therapy looks like
7 being in community. We were not
8 designed to be alone.

9 And in this -- in this
10 room alone here, look at the women
11 here, look at this. We're about to
12 celebrate 250 years -- 250 years.
13 This city is the first of many
14 things. And the first we have
15 women like Quetcy, we have women
16 like the first Asian, South Asian,
17 Nina, you have Rue here, you have
18 the Gilmores, you have all these
19 wonderful women -- I said the
20 Gilmores -- but you have all these
21 women that are leading the way,
22 breaking change and change makers.

23 And I am so proud to stand
24 here today to not only be the light

1 of this world, but be the salt on
2 this earth as I was called to be.
3 Okay? And so it is not easy. I
4 will tell you that it is not easy.
5 But man, what is it an honor to sit
6 here and be here as a transplant,
7 so all the women -- for all the
8 young ladies, for all the women
9 that are watching.

10 Let me be a walking
11 testimonial what it looks like to
12 not know a single soul. I didn't
13 know anyone here in Philadelphia.
14 I knew a man that I fell in love
15 with. Okay? That man right there
16 is the executive chief of the Fire
17 Department. And let me tell you --
18 and I mentioned that because it's
19 very important that we leverage the
20 relationships we have, right?

21 And use our male
22 counterparts because they're going
23 to get in rooms that we can't get
24 into. Unfortunately, that's how

1 history showed it, right? Until
2 history said, nah, we got this, we
3 got this, we got this, we got this.
4 And I want you to know that I'm a
5 walk-in testimony of that, because
6 even though there might be a glass
7 ceiling that says we can't get
8 there, let me be that face that
9 says, listen, I am a transplant.

10 I'm an LA girl living in
11 Philadelphia, making a way here
12 with no one and nobody, but you
13 know what? Relationships,
14 community, this is what that looks
15 like, and I want you to know that
16 if I can do it, you can do it.
17 Absolutely. Okay?

18 So we thank you so much.
19 I thank you and I'm so honored to
20 be here. And I thank you for this
21 opportunity to speak and share just
22 my history, my story, here for the
23 city of Philadelphia. I love this
24 city. I'm the best version of

1 myself because of this city. LA
2 didn't do that for me. Cali didn't
3 do that for me. Philadelphia did
4 that for me. Okay? So I'm a
5 Philly girl. Okay? I'm that Jawn.
6 Is that the saying? The Jawn.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
8 Thank you very much.

9 MS. HUDSON: My name is
10 Keisha Hudson. I'm the chief
11 defender at the Defender
12 Association of Philadelphia. I
13 want to -- that's very hard to
14 follow, Mo. I always appreciate
15 and love the opportunities to talk
16 about public defense and why public
17 defense is important.

18 And so I want to thank
19 Councilmember Lozada for giving me
20 the opportunity and this honor to
21 talk just for a few moments about
22 why our work matters. Our
23 organization is the largest public
24 defense organization in the

1 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

2 We're the fourth largest public
3 defender agency in the country.

4 Last year, we represented
5 70 percent of the people in
6 Philadelphia, youth adults who came
7 into the system, to break the
8 numbers down that looked like
9 30,000 adults and 4,000 children,
10 not just children in our justice
11 system, but we also represent
12 children in our dependency system
13 as well.

14 And we did that with 230
15 lawyers and a quarter of a million
16 court appearances. Our work is
17 intense, it is hard, and we work
18 with people who are; by the
19 definition of getting a public
20 defender are impoverished. Every
21 system, for many of our clients,
22 multiple systems have impacted
23 their journey into the criminal
24 legal space, whether that'd be

1 education, whether that'd be
2 poverty, trauma. 70 percent of our
3 clients were victims of some type
4 of criminal offense before they
5 became our clients.

6 So the work we do is hard,
7 and I thank Councilmember Lozada
8 for acknowledging not just me, but
9 the larger and more important
10 acknowledgement of the Defender
11 Association of Philadelphia and the
12 530 people that work with me to do
13 incredible hard work. I always say
14 that public defenders are the best
15 storytellers because you only get
16 one frame of our clients when they
17 come into the system.

18 You may read that one
19 headline, see that news report, and
20 it is not going to portray our
21 clients at all in a good light.
22 But public defenders, we have to
23 look at it as a painting, right?
24 You get one tiny frame of the

1 painting. Everybody's lives is
2 much more complex and has been
3 informed by so much more than what
4 happened on the day of or the night
5 of. And it is our jobs as public
6 defenders to tell that story.

7 I'm proud also to announce
8 that in January we launched our
9 first immigration defense practice.
10 We did that with the supports of
11 Councilmember Lozada, City Council
12 President and the Parker
13 administration. We are doing
14 incredible work on the ground and
15 we're now telling the stories of
16 our non-citizen community members
17 in Philadelphia, who are being
18 brought into the system by ICE.
19 Families are torn apart, and we're
20 sitting with them now telling their
21 stories, trying to get them out of
22 detention, trying to get them to
23 stay here in a city that they
24 built, that they worked, in

1 communities that they've built.

2 And so I'm proud to thank
3 City Council for the work that they
4 have done to support us in being
5 able to do the work of now being in
6 a new space for us which is
7 representing non-citizens. Thank
8 you.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
10 Thank you. Council will be at
11 ease.

12 (Council at ease.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
14 The next order of business
15 is communications to Chair requests
16 that the Sergeant-at-Arms delivered
17 the messages from the mayor to the
18 Chief Clerk.

19 Would the Chief Clerk
20 please read the messages from the
21 mayor and any other communications
22 in her possession.

23 CHIEF CLERK: To the
24 president and members of the

1 council of the city of
2 Philadelphia, I'm submitting
3 herewith for the consideration of
4 your honorable body the following
5 proposed ordinance:

6 An ordinance amending
7 Title 14 of the Philadelphia Code
8 entitled Zoning and Planning by
9 amending certain provisions of the
10 CMX-1 Commercial Mixed Use, zoning
11 district regarding uses,
12 dimensional requirements and
13 parking, all under certain terms
14 and conditions.

15 And an ordinance amending
16 Title 14 of the Philadelphia Code
17 entitled Zoning and Planning by
18 revising certain provisions of
19 Section 14-513 entitled Transit-
20 Oriented Development Overlay
21 District to rename it Transit-
22 Oriented Communities Overlay
23 District to expand its
24 applicability radius and amending

1 various sections to make changes to
2 applicable use, dimensional and
3 parking standards, all under
4 certain terms and conditions.

5 And an ordinance amending
6 Section 14-513 of the Philadelphia
7 Code entitled Transit-Oriented
8 Development Overlay District by
9 exempting certain districts from
10 ground floor use requirements, all
11 under certain terms and conditions.

12 And an ordinance amending
13 Section 14-600 of the Philadelphia
14 Code entitled Use Regulations to
15 allow transit station use and
16 commercial zoning districts all
17 under certain terms and conditions.

18 And an ordinance
19 authorizing the installation
20 ownership and maintenance of right
21 of way encroachments in various
22 parts of the city, under certain
23 terms and conditions.

24 And I'm pleased to advise

1 you that on March 4th, 2026 I
2 signed the following bills which
3 were passed by counsel at its
4 session on February 19th, 2026.
5 Bill No. 250989-A and 251098, and
6 that Bill No. 251097 is being
7 returned unsigned, and that
8 pursuant to Sections 4-604 and
9 2-307 of the Philadelphia Home Rule
10 Charter, I'm today transmitting to
11 the council the recommendation of
12 the City Planning Commission on the
13 following bills:

14 Bill No. 260022; approval
15 with amendments, 260025, 260055 and
16 260074 all approved.

17 Council President, there
18 are no further communications in my
19 possession.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
21 Thank you. The messages will be
22 printed in the journal. The next
23 order of business is the
24 introduction of bills and

1 resolutions.

2 The Chair recognizes
3 Councilmember Dr. Anthony Phillips.

4 COUNCILMEMBER PHILLIPS:
5 Thank you, Council President. I
6 have two privileged resolutions,
7 one of them honoring Shelice
8 Highsmith, the mother of Zaire
9 Franklin, for all the work that
10 she's did for him and now he's
11 doing for our community.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
13 Thank you very much. Would the
14 Chief Clerk please read the title
15 of the resolutions?

16 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged
17 resolution honoring and recognizing
18 Shelice's Angels for its work
19 empowering young women by expanding
20 their horizons, building self-
21 esteem and providing resources,
22 mentorship and exposure to
23 opportunities beyond their
24 immediate environments.

1 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

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

4 CHIEF CLERK: And a
5 privileged resolution honoring and
6 recognizing Youth Empowerment for
7 Advancement Hangout, YEAH Philly,
8 for its work, advancing community-
9 based violence prevention, youth
10 leadership and healing centered
11 engagement with Black youth in
12 Philadelphia.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

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

16 Chair recognizes Majority Leader
17 Katherine Gilmore-Richardson.

18 COUNCILMEMBER GILMORE-
19 RICHARDSON: Thank you, Council
20 President. Today I offer three
21 bills, one on your behalf, two
22 privileged resolutions, one on your
23 behalf and one non-privileged
24 resolution on your behalf.

1 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

2 Would the Chief Clerk please read
3 the title of the bills and
4 resolutions?

5 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
6 amending chapter 9-600 of the
7 Philadelphia Code Service and other
8 Businesses by adding --

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
10 One second. Counsel will be at
11 ease. Mr. Sergeant-at-Arms, could
12 you make sure on that side of the
13 room that people please keep it
14 down, and take any sidebar
15 conversations out of the Council
16 chambers even if you have any
17 questions you want to ask anyone.
18 Please resume.

19 Chief Clerk, please read
20 the title of the bills and
21 resolutions please.

22 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
23 amending chapter 9-600 of the
24 Philadelphia Code Service and other

1 businesses by adding a new Section
2 9-631.1 to establish requirements
3 for commercial landlords to take
4 remedial action against -- excuse
5 me -- take certain remedial action
6 against commercial tenants who
7 engage in tobacco retailing with a
8 required tobacco retailer permit
9 and establishing penalties, all
10 under certain terms and conditions.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
12 This bill will be referred to your
13 prob via committee.

14 CHIEF CLERK: And an
15 ordinance amending Title IX of the
16 Philadelphia Code entitled
17 Regulation of Businesses, Trades
18 and Professions to establish
19 restrictions and regulations
20 related to the sale of certain
21 intoxicating substances and provide
22 for associated penalties and
23 enforcement, all under certain
24 terms and conditions.

1 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

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

4 CHIEF CLERK: And an
5 ordinance authorizing the
6 installation, ownership and
7 maintenance of a right of way
8 encroachment in various parts of
9 the city, all under certain terms
10 and conditions.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

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

14 CHIEF CLERK: And a
15 privileged resolution honoring --
16 congratulating and honoring the
17 Deborah Grand Chapter of the Order
18 of Eastern Star during Women's
19 History Month for 126 years of
20 women-led service to the city of
21 Philadelphia and the Commonwealth
22 of Pennsylvania.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

24 This resolution will be placed on

1 today's Final Passage Calendar.

2 CHIEF CLERK: And a
3 non-privileged resolution urging
4 the United States Congress to pass
5 the Protecting American History
6 Act, which would prevent any
7 further attempt by the federal
8 government to whitewash
9 Philadelphia's complex history and
10 require the restoration of the
11 President's House Memorial.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
13 This resolution will be placed on
14 the Final Passage Calendar for
15 consideration at our next session
16 of council. The Chair recognizes
17 the Councilmember --

18 CHIEF CLERK: One more.
19 And a privileged resolution
20 recognizing March 1st through the
21 7th, 2026 during Women's History
22 Month as Women in Construction Week
23 in the city of Philadelphia.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

1 This resolution will be placed on
2 today's Final Passage Calendar.
3 Chair recognizes Councilmember
4 Jamie Gauthier.

5 COUNCILMEMBER GAUTHIER:
6 Good morning, Council President.
7 Today I have one non-privileged
8 resolution for introduction.

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

13 CHIEF CLERK: A
14 non-privileged resolution also
15 naming the 5100 block of Delancey
16 Street as Rashe Hall Way, to honor
17 the life and memory of Rashe Hall
18 and his lasting impact on his
19 family, neighbors, and the West
20 Philadelphia community.

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

1 of council. The Chair recognizes
2 Councilmember Jones.

3 COUNCILMEMBER JONES:

4 Thank you, Mr. President. I have
5 one bill, one privileged, and one
6 non-privileged resolution.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

8 Thank you very much, Member Jones.
9 Will the Chief Clerk please read
10 the title of the bill and
11 resolutions.

12 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
13 amending Section 12-701 of the
14 Philadelphia Code entitled
15 Designation of Bicycle Lanes to
16 authorize bicycle lanes and the
17 removal of travel lanes on portions
18 of Ridge Avenue, under certain
19 terms and conditions.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

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

23 CHIEF CLERK: And a
24 non-privileged resolution renaming

1 the 700 block of North 63rd Street
2 Madeline Dunaway in recognition of
3 her lifetime community leadership
4 and civic engagement in West
5 Philadelphia.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

7 This resolution will be placed on
8 the Final Passage Calendar for
9 consideration at our next session
10 in council. Very well done, Member
11 Jones.

12 CHIEF CLERK: And a
13 privileged resolution honoring and
14 recognizing the National Coalition
15 of 100 Black Women Incorporated,
16 Pennsylvania, Chapter NC100BWPA on
17 their annual legislative day and
18 for their dedication to advancing
19 gender and racial equity and
20 empowering Black women during
21 Women's History Month.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

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

1 Chair recognizes Councilmember Rue
2 Landau.

3 COUNCILMEMBER LANDAU:
4 Good morning, Council President,
5 colleagues and the public. I have
6 two privileged resolutions today,
7 one of which I am co-introducing
8 with Councilmember O'Rourke.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
10 Thank you very much. Chief Clerk,
11 please read the title of the
12 resolutions please.

13 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged
14 resolution declaring March 1st
15 through 7th, 2026 as National
16 Consumer Protection Week in the
17 city of Philadelphia.

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

21 CHIEF CLERK: And a
22 privileged resolution honoring the
23 life of Nasrallah Abu Siyam, a
24 Palestinian Philadelphian who was

1 fatally shot in the village of
2 Mukhmas in occupied West Bank on
3 the first day of Ramadan.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

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

7 COUNCILMEMBER LANDAU: And
8 Council President --

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
10 Chair recognizes Councilmember Rue
11 Landau.

12 COUNCILMEMBER LANDAU:
13 Thank you so much. Just one
14 second. I wanted to recognize the
15 family who is here today. If you
16 guys could stand, we could
17 recognize you as Nasrallah's
18 family. Thank you.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
20 Chair recognizes Councilmember
21 Quetcy Lozada.

22 Councilmember LOZADA:
23 Good morning, Council President. I
24 have one bill.

1 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

2 Thank you very much. Will the
3 Chief Clerk please read the title
4 of the bill.

5 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
6 amending Section 14-545 of the
7 Philadelphia Code entitled 7th
8 District Overlay District by adding
9 provisions from the American Street
10 Overlay District and the
11 Neighborhood Commercial Area
12 Overlay District, North Delaware
13 Avenue, by removing the American
14 Street Overlay District from the
15 zoning code and making related
16 changes, all under certain terms
17 and conditions.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
19 This bill will be referred to the
20 appropriate committee. Chair
21 recognizes Councilmember Jeffrey J.
22 Young.

23 COUNCILMEMBER YOUNG:
24 Thank you, Mr. President. Today I

1 offer one bill co-sponsored by
2 Councilmember Jones, and one
3 non-privileged resolution.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

5 Thank you very much. Will the
6 Chief Clerk please read the title
7 of the bill and resolution.

8 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
9 amending Section 12-2700 of the
10 Philadelphia Code entitled
11 Stopping, Standing or Parking at
12 certain times, to provide for
13 regulation of such activity within
14 an area described therein.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

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

18 CHIEF CLERK: And a
19 non-privileged resolution also
20 naming Buttonwood Street between
21 Broad Street and North 15th Street
22 as Dr. Constance E. Clayton Way.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

24 Very well done, Member Young. This

1 resolution will be placed on the
2 Final Passage Calendar for
3 consideration in our next session
4 of Council. And in that spirit,
5 the great -- late great Constance
6 E. Clayton. How many of you-all
7 remember Constance E. Clayton
8 growing up? Good job, Member
9 Young. Make you go to school in 10
10 feet of snow. We were still going
11 to school, though.

12 I miss that spirit. We
13 knew she cared about us though, no
14 doubt in my mind, wouldn't be
15 closing all these schools either,
16 but that's another conversation.
17 It is what it is. The Chair
18 recognizes Minority Leader Kendra
19 Brooks.

20 COUNCILMEMBER BROOKS:
21 Thank you, Council President. I
22 have one privileged resolution to
23 introduce today.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

1 Thank you very much. Would the
2 Chief Clerk please read the title
3 of the privileged resolution.

4 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged
5 resolution celebrating Cecilia
6 Thompson, Dolores Brown Waters,
7 Yvonne Hughes, Isalee Laverne
8 Baskerville and Black women
9 fighting for disability justice and
10 accessibility for all across
11 Philadelphia on the occasion of
12 Women's History Month.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
14 This resolution will be placed on
15 today's Final Passage Calendar. I
16 saw Cecilia around here somewhere.
17 Is she still here in the building?
18 Cecilia, could you please stand?
19 Congratulations. One of the
20 hardest working legitimate school
21 board members I've ever seen
22 working on behalf of our children.
23 Thank you for being here. Great
24 job, Member Brooks. The Chair

1 recognizes Councilmember Jim
2 Harrity.

3 COUNCILMEMBER HARRITY:

4 Thank you, Council President. I
5 have no bills or resolutions today.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

7 Thank you, sir. Chair recognizes
8 Councilmember Nicholas O'Rourke.

9 COUNCILMEMBER O'ROURKE:

10 Thank you, Mr. President. No bills
11 today.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

13 Thank you very much. Chair
14 recognizes Councilmember Mike
15 Driscoll.

16 COUNCILMEMBER DRISCOLL:

17 Morning, Mr. President. I have one
18 privileged resolution on your
19 behalf.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

21 Thank you very much. Would the
22 Chief Clerk please read the title
23 of the privileged resolution?

24 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged

1 resolution proclaiming the month of
2 March, 2026 as Irish Heritage Month
3 in the city of Philadelphia and
4 honoring Daniel J. Hilferty for his
5 commitment to advancing the Irish
6 American community and service as
7 the Grand Marshal leading the 254th
8 St. Patrick's Day Parade on March
9 15th, 2026.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

11 This resolution will be placed on
12 today's Final Passage Calendar.
13 Member Driscoll, please make sure
14 you have my Irish potatoes next
15 week. Thank you, sir. Looking
16 forward, sir.

17 COUNCILMEMBER DRISCOLL:

18 Next Thursday.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

20 Next Thursday. Thank you, sir.
21 Chair recognizes Councilmember
22 Brian O'Neill.

23 COUNCILMEMBER O'NEILL:

24 Thank you Mr. President. I have no

1 bills or resolutions.

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

3 Thank you very much, sir. Chair
4 recognizes Councilmember Mark
5 Squilla.

6 COUNCILMEMBER SQUILLA:

7 Thank you, Mr. President. Call for
8 one bill.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

10 Thank you very much. Would the
11 Chief Clerk please read the title
12 of the bill?

13 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
14 amending Section 9-605 of the
15 Philadelphia Code entitled Towing
16 to revise certain requirements
17 regarding the issuance of a ticket
18 on private lots, private property
19 and driveways.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

21 This bill will be referred to the
22 appropriate committee. Chair
23 recognizes Councilmember Cindy
24 Bass.

1 COUNCILMEMBER BASS: Thank
2 you, Mr. President. I offer one
3 bill and one privileged resolution.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
5 Thank you very much. May the Chief
6 Clerk please read the title of the
7 bill and resolution.

8 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
9 amending Section 9-605 of the
10 Philadelphia Code entitled Towing
11 by regulating the use of vehicle
12 immobilization devices commonly
13 known as barnacles and other
14 non-wheel-based immobilization
15 devices by private parking lot
16 operators, all under certain terms
17 and conditions.

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

21 CHIEF CLERK: And a
22 privileged resolution honoring and
23 recognizing the life and legacy of
24 Henrietta Lacks during Women's

1 History Month and further
2 commending the Lacks' family for
3 their advocacy in reaching historic
4 settlements with pharmaceutical
5 companies and helping to advance
6 national conversations about
7 medical ethics, racial equity, and
8 patients' rights.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

10 This resolution will be placed on
11 today's Final Passage Calendar.
12 Chair recognizes Councilmember
13 Dr. Nina Ahmad.

14 COUNCILMEMBER AHMAD:

15 Thank you, Council President. I
16 have no bills or resolutions today.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

18 Thank you very much. The next
19 order of business is reports from
20 committee. The Chair recognizes
21 Majority Leader Councilmember
22 Katherine Gilmore-Richardson for a
23 report on the Committee on Finance.

24 COUNCILMEMBER GILMORE -

1 RICHARDSON: Thank you,
2 Mr. President. The Committee on
3 Finance reports out five bills with
4 a favorable recommendation.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
6 Thank you very much. Would the
7 Chief Clerk please read the report?

8 CHIEF CLERK: The
9 Committee on Finance to which were
10 referred the following bills: Bill
11 No. 250769, an ordinance amending
12 Title 20 of the Philadelphia Code
13 entitled Officers and Employees by
14 changing the compensation of
15 members of the Zoning Board of
16 Adjustment, all under certain terms
17 and conditions.

18 Bill No. 251066, an
19 ordinance authorizing the
20 commissioner of records and the
21 procurement commissioner on behalf
22 of the city to execute a multi-year
23 concession agreement with
24 Ancestry.com in connection with the

1 digitizing, indexing and public
2 access and search of city of
3 Philadelphia Department of Records
4 vital records, all under provisions
5 set forth in the concession
6 agreement substantially as set
7 forth in Exhibit A to this
8 ordinance.

9 Bill No. 260021, an
10 ordinance amending chapter 19-1700
11 of the Philadelphia Code entitled
12 Finances, Taxes and Collections, to
13 amend excluded transactions to the
14 Realty Transfer Tax, all under
15 certain terms and conditions.

16 Bill No. 260112, an
17 ordinance authorizing generally the
18 continued issuance on sale by the
19 city of Philadelphia of Gas Works
20 revenue notes of the city
21 prescribing the forms of notes and
22 providing for their execution and
23 payment, pledging certain revenues
24 of the gas works as security,

1 adopting a rate of covenant and
2 directing the imposition and
3 collection of rates and charges
4 sufficient to comply therewith,
5 prescribing the conditions
6 precedent to the issuance of
7 specific series of notes including
8 a resolution passed by the Bond
9 Committee, providing for
10 establishment of credit report for
11 notes, providing for designation of
12 a fiscal agent and sinking fund
13 depository, providing for the
14 establishment of a sinking fund in
15 its management, providing remedies
16 upon default and providing
17 amendments and modifications.

18 And Bill No. 260113, an
19 ordinance authorizing generally the
20 continued issuance and sale by the
21 city of Philadelphia of Gas Works
22 revenue notes of the City,
23 prescribing the forms of notes and
24 providing for their execution and

1 payment; pledging certain revenues
2 of the Gas Works as security;
3 adopting a rate covenant and
4 directing the imposition and
5 collection of rates and charges
6 sufficient to comply therewith;
7 prescribing the conditions
8 precedent to the issuance of
9 specific series of notes, including
10 a resolution passed by the Bond
11 Committee; providing for the
12 establishment of credit support for
13 notes; providing for the
14 designation of a fiscal agent and
15 sinking fund depository; providing
16 for the establishment of a sinking
17 fund and its management; providing
18 remedies upon default; and
19 providing for amendments and
20 modifications, respectfully reports
21 it as considered the same and
22 returns the attached bill to
23 Council with a favorable
24 recommendation.

1 There are no further bills
2 to report out from the Committee on
3 Finance, Council President.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

5 Thank you very much. The Chair
6 recognizes Majority Leader
7 Katherine Gilmore-Richardson for a
8 motion.

9 COUNCILMEMBER GILMORE-
10 RICHARDSON: Thank you,
11 Mr. President. I move that the
12 Rules of Council be suspended as to
13 permit First Reading this day of
14 the bills just read into the record
15 by the Chief Clerk.

16 COUNCILMEMBERS: Second.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

18 It has been moved and properly
19 seconded that the Rules of Council
20 be suspended so as to permit the
21 consideration of these bills just
22 read by the Chief Clerk at today's
23 session of council. All those in
24 favor of the motion will signify by

1 saying "aye."

2 COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

4 Those opposed? The ayes have it.

5 The motion carries. These bills

6 will be placed on our First Reading

7 calendar for today. The Chair

8 recognizes Councilmember Jamie

9 Gauthier for a report from the

10 Committee on Housing and

11 Neighborhood Development and the

12 Homeless.

13 CHIEF CLERK: Thank you,

14 Council President. The Committee

15 on Housing, Neighborhood

16 Development and the Homeless

17 reports out two bills with a

18 favorable recommendation.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

20 Thank you very much. Would the

21 Chief Clerk please read the report?

22 CHIEF CLERK: The

23 Committee on Housing, Neighborhood

24 Development and the Homeless to

1 which were referred the following
2 bills:

3 Bill No. 250329, an
4 ordinance amending Chapter 9-3900
5 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled
6 Property Licenses and Owner
7 Accountability, to clarify
8 licensing requirements, authorize
9 the Department to create a
10 proactive inspection program,
11 require public reporting related to
12 code compliance, and establish
13 remedies, damages, and protections
14 for tenants, all under certain
15 terms and conditions.

16 And Bill No. 250330, an
17 ordinance amending Chapter 9-800 of
18 The Philadelphia Code, entitled
19 Landlord and Tenant, to modify the
20 requirements related to good cause
21 for ending a tenancy; add
22 protections against retaliation and
23 harassment for tenants and tenant
24 organizations; specify tenants'

1 rights related to the implied
2 warranty of habitability; provide a
3 legal presumption related to
4 breaches of the implied warranty of
5 habitability; create a tenant right
6 to organize; specify deadlines for
7 asserting claims; and establish and
8 enhance enforcement mechanisms,
9 remedies, damages, and protections,
10 all under certain terms and
11 conditions, respectfully reports it
12 has considered and amended the same
13 and returns the attached bills to
14 Council with a favorable
15 recommendation.

16 There are no further bills
17 to report out from the Committee on
18 Housing, Neighborhood Development
19 and the Homeless, Council
20 President.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
22 Chair recognizes Councilmember
23 Jamie Gauthier for a motion.

24 COUNCILMEMBER GAUTHIER:

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

6 COUNCILMEMBERS: Second.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

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

16 COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

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

22 The next order of business
23 is the consideration of the
24 calendar. I note that the bills

1 just reported from committees with
2 the suspension of the rules have
3 been deemed to have had a First
4 Reading. These bills will be
5 placed on the Second Reading and
6 Final Passage Calendar for the next
7 session of Council, as there are no
8 additional bills on the First
9 Reading Calendar.

10 The Chair recognizes
11 Majority Leader Katherine Gilmore-
12 Richardson for a motion concerning
13 the bills and resolutions on the
14 Second Reading and Final Passage
15 Calendars.

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

22 Nos. 260136 and 260139.
23 The following bills and resolutions
24 on the calendar are being held:

1 250768, 250807 and 251025.

2 The following bills are
3 being amended: 250843, 250917 and
4 250980.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
6 Thank you, Majority Leader. Before
7 considering the bills and
8 resolutions, we will consider
9 public comment as follows:

10 Your public comment must
11 concern matters on a Second Reading
12 and Final Passage Calendars for
13 possible action at today's Council
14 session. All speakers must sign up
15 in order to testify. If you have
16 not already signed up for today's
17 session, please do so now by giving
18 your name to Ms. Hashing at the
19 table outside the rails to my left.
20 Once you have signed up, you will
21 be called in the order in which
22 your name appears on the signup
23 sheet.

24 Under ideal circumstances,

1 public commenters each will have
2 three minutes to speak. However,
3 this time limit may vary from
4 session to session. Today, the
5 time limit will be two minutes.

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

15 Once two minutes have
16 passed, the light will turn red and
17 the Sergeant-at-Arms will
18 disconnect the microphone. At that
19 point, please yield the podium to
20 the next speaker if you have not
21 already done so.

22 I also reserve the right
23 pursuant to our Rules of Council to
24 limit repetitious comments on the

1 same subject matter. In addition,
2 if you are also here to speak with
3 a guest, you must have your name
4 written still on our record log in
5 order for you to come forward and
6 speak and to be acknowledged.

7 I will now ask for our
8 Chief Clerk -- which is pretty
9 significant because she will be --
10 let me make sure I get the title
11 right. Deputy Chief Clerk for the
12 day, first African American woman
13 to be in such a position to kick
14 off Women's History Month, to
15 please call the first person to
16 testify.

17 CHIEF CLERK: Will Sheriff
18 Rochelle Bilal, Zaire Franklin,
19 Jeremy Blatstein, Carla Hill,
20 Charles Barr and Saul Muhammad,
21 please make your way to the podium.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
23 Floor is yours, Madam Sheriff.

24 SHERIFF BILAL: Good

1 morning.

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

3 Morning.

4 SHERIFF BILAL: Council
5 President, Councilmembers, I'm here
6 to speak on Bill No. 260136. And
7 the reason why I'm here is because
8 I am one of the original group that
9 helped establish Sister Clara
10 Muhammad, now known as Philadelphia
11 Masjid. Not only did I help
12 establish it, I was one of the
13 secretaries in the office at the
14 school.

15 My daughter attended
16 Sister Clara Muhammad. And I want
17 to thank Councilwoman Gauthier and
18 everybody that signed on it in
19 naming the street. They say
20 Philadelphia Masjid; I say Sister
21 Clara Muhammad/Philadelphia Masjid.
22 Get it right, brothers. Sister
23 Clara Muhammad, who was the wife of
24 Elijah Muhammad, which basically

1 helped establish the Nation of
2 Islam. And she was the first lady.
3 We call her Nation of Islam.

4 And so I'm just here in
5 support of and making sure that you
6 know the history. And thank you
7 because this is Women's History
8 Month, and because Sister Clara
9 Muhammad was history. And so just
10 to let you know my history, and
11 being one of the original members
12 that raised money because it was a
13 Roman Catholic School when we
14 boarded Nation Number 12 to become
15 Sister Clara Muhammad.

16 I'm in full support of and
17 I support it, though I'm a solid
18 member of Masjid Allah, I still
19 support Sister Clara Muhammad.
20 Thank you.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
22 Thank you very much.

23 MR. FRANKLIN: Good
24 morning.

1 COUNCILMEMBERS: Morning.

2 MR. FRANKLIN: Don't want

3 to take too much of your time.

4 First off, just want to say thank

5 you again to the City Council.

6 Thank you again,

7 Dr. Anthony Phillips, you know, for

8 honoring Shelice's Angels, for the

9 resolution from my mother, Shelice

10 Nicole Highsmith. You know, I just

11 not only wanted to give thanks, but

12 also wanted to speak on a little

13 bit about who she was.

14 My mother was a dreamer,

15 someone who taught me to believe

16 not only in myself, but to see

17 further and past the environment

18 that we were in. That's something

19 that I take extremely personal, and

20 I try to instill on the young men

21 and women that I come across and am

22 able to influence.

23 The entire purpose and

24 goal of my organization is not only

1 to give kids these experiences that
2 they may not have had otherwise,
3 whether that's taking them to
4 Google headquarters in New York,
5 having them sit down with the front
6 office of the Sixers or, you know,
7 sit down with business owners in
8 the Black -- in the community and
9 talk about entrepreneurship and
10 talk about the adversity that it
11 takes to be successful.

12 It's just to really give
13 them the realistic understanding
14 that you could really dream and you
15 accomplish anything you want to.
16 Me being a young man from North
17 Philly, growing up in West Oak
18 Lane, I never dreamed that I would
19 have the honor or the privilege to
20 be able to stand here in front of
21 you today.

22 Never thought I would have
23 the honor of playing in the NFL,
24 playing in Germany and

1 accomplishing and doing all the
2 different things that I've been
3 able to do. So I'm just here to
4 let you guys know that you have
5 somebody that's from our city, from
6 our neighborhood that's fighting to
7 serve our youth in the right way
8 and lead them the way they need to.
9 So thank you guys again.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

11 Excuse me, sir. Excuse me, sir,
12 Zaire. Could you -- could you cite
13 your stats last season for the
14 record.

15 MR. FRANKLIN: Last
16 season. Well, I was coming -- it
17 was my worst season, but, so I had
18 120 tackles or 25 or something like
19 that.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

21 Something like that, 125. Let's
22 get a brother a round of applause.

23 MR. FRANKLIN: No, for
24 sure. Appreciate it, man. Thank

1 you, again.

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

3 Thank you. We appreciate all that
4 you have done, and we want to thank
5 you also for giving back. A lot of
6 times we have people that make it
7 out of the city of Philadelphia.
8 You know, they become prominent
9 celebrities, prominent athletes,
10 and don't always come back and give
11 back.

12 And so to Dr. Anthony
13 Phillips, just want to make sure we
14 acknowledge the work that you are
15 doing to acknowledge someone who's
16 contributed to the city of
17 Philadelphia, who has great
18 character on the field, but most
19 importantly, great character off
20 the field. Thank you very much,
21 sir.

22 MR. BLATSTEIN: Hi, my
23 name is Jeremy Blatstein. Yeah.
24 Yeah. Got that. You like that

1 word.

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

3 Can't help yourself, can you?

4 MR. BLATSTEIN: I mean,
5 come on. You got to throw it in
6 there. My name's Jeremy Blatstein.
7 We're here talking about Councilman
8 J. Young's bill of demolition.
9 It's another one of his crazy bills
10 that isn't -- shouldn't go
11 anywhere. Just like his bill last
12 week that hopefully just dies
13 before it gets assigned to a
14 committee, regarding the zoning
15 bill.

16 Councilman Young got out
17 there last weekend, spewed some
18 lies, saying it won't really affect
19 anything. It will affect a lot of
20 small businesses, and I challenge
21 each of the District members to
22 really take a look at it and just
23 kill it, because this -- it's a
24 three-month thing for zoning bills,

1 but Councilman Young's change to
2 this bill will affect 91 percent of
3 the small businesses in the city of
4 Philadelphia who are trying to
5 start businesses.

6 So I don't -- the
7 quarrelsome contrarian is back at
8 it again. He's a little upset, I
9 think, probably because of his
10 Hahnemann overlay, but it's just
11 something that needs to kind of be
12 squashed.

13 The last thing we're
14 talking about, of course, we're
15 talking about SEPTA. We got some
16 money from the Feds. That's good,
17 right? For World Cup, I think we
18 got \$8 million. We get some state
19 money, but we still need funding,
20 right? Call your account -- your
21 house of representative. Call your
22 senator and fund SEPTA. Ride the
23 ride. Thank you.

24 MS. HILL: I'm going to

1 ask the National Association of
2 Black Women in Construction to come
3 stand with me for a minute, please.
4 So, good morning, Majority Leader
5 Katherine Gilmore-Richardson, and
6 distinguished members of City
7 Council.

8 Thank you for your
9 leadership and for opening the
10 doors of City Hall to celebrate the
11 women who build our city. I am
12 Karla Hill, representing NABWIC,
13 the National Association of Black
14 Women in Construction. Before I
15 begin, I must honor our national
16 leadership, our visionary founder,
17 Ms. Ann McNeil, and our national
18 President, Dr. Egheosa Igbinoba,
19 affectionately known as Dr. E to
20 us. We just call her Dr. E. I
21 also want to recognize our
22 leadership from YouthBuild Philly,
23 including Mr. George Jenkins,
24 Director of Construction, and

1 Charles Ware, Senior Director of
2 Vocational Development for the
3 YouthBuild Philly Charter School.

4 This institution is a
5 proud public-sector member of
6 NABWIC, proving that the bridge
7 between education and industry is
8 stronger than ever.

9 I'm also joined today by a
10 delegation that represents the full
11 ecosystem of our work. Our
12 students, these young women:

13 Sanai Bowman, D. Cooper,
14 Kiki Javis, Nini Rodriguez, all
15 between 18 and 20, are old enough
16 to vote, just so you know. And are
17 not just students, they are
18 official members of NABWIC. They
19 are the next generation of
20 Philadelphia's skilled labor force.

21 Our NABWIC members, both
22 the women, including Nicole Clayton
23 Morgan, and our male allies:
24 Robert Barnett, CPA, and John

1 Thomas, who stand together to
2 ensure that equity is reality on
3 every job site.

4 As we celebrate National
5 Women in Construction Week, our
6 mission is to expand our reach and
7 deepen our impact. We are looking
8 to grow this movement. We invite
9 you to join us, whether as public
10 sector partners, corporate
11 sponsors, small business owners, or
12 individual members. Together we
13 can ensure that every woman in the
14 trades has a seat at the table and
15 a hand on the blueprint. To the
16 honorees, you are living textbooks
17 for our students. You prove that a
18 career in the construction industry
19 is a path to power.

20 Thank you, Majority Leader
21 and City Council for building a
22 stronger, more equitable
23 Philadelphia with us. Let's keep
24 building. Thank you so much.

1 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

2 Thank you.

3 MR. BARR: Good afternoon,
4 everyone. Good afternoon,
5 everyone.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
7 Good afternoon.

8 MR. BARR: So my name is
9 Tone Barr. I'm the Community
10 Liaison Director of the
11 Philadelphia Masjid. I proudly
12 serve as the chairman of the
13 leadership team at the Masjid, too.
14 So first and foremost, I want to
15 say, empathetically, two words:
16 thank you, Jamie Gauthier.

17 When you talk about the
18 Philadelphia Masjid, we're much
19 more than khimars, kufis. We're
20 good people, and that's what we
21 want to be known as. Good people.

22 Over the last few years,
23 we have done so much for the
24 community. We started off with a

1 \$450,000 scholarship to kids going
2 to -- going to college. Just the
3 history and the legacy, the
4 pioneers that walked through the
5 doors at the Philadelphia Masjid,
6 you know, it's just a rich, deep
7 history, and the only thing that we
8 can really say is thank you. I'm
9 not going to tie up because we got
10 a lot of speakers that's want to
11 speak on this, but empathetically,
12 we just want to say thank you.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

14 Thank you for your service,
15 Mr. Tone Barr.

16 MR. SAFALAS: My name is
17 Brother Safalas from the
18 Philadelphia Masjid. I want to
19 first thank this distinguished body
20 of elected officials for
21 entertaining us and this
22 legislation. I would like to say
23 that this legislation is historic
24 legislation, because when you look

1 at the Philadelphia Masjid, you're
2 actually looking through a lens
3 that has a bigger reality.

4 And that reality is the
5 reality of the Nation of Islam, a
6 community and the organization that
7 was impactful in America that gave
8 America Muhammad Ali, Malcolm X,
9 Farrakhan. And we know that when
10 we talk about the American Muslim,
11 we know that we're talking about a
12 mosaic fabric that is interwoven in
13 the very American society. Because
14 we talk about Muhammad Ali, he just
15 don't belong to the Muslims; he's
16 part of American history. He's
17 part of world history.

18 When we talk about
19 Malcolm, we're talking about the
20 same. So when we talk about
21 honoring the Philadelphia Masjid,
22 it is not that location on
23 Philadelphia, Masjid Street 4700 in
24 Wyalusing.

1 We're honoring
2 Masjidullah, the Human Center for
3 Excellence. We're honoring Masjid
4 Muhammad where we have Imam Sweet
5 Sedine here, who's the lead of the
6 -- Muslim lead of voters. We're
7 honoring boom down South Philly.
8 Because the fact of the matter is
9 when we talk about the Philadelphia
10 Masjid, all these places come out
11 of this womb.

12 So this is recognition not
13 just for us, but it's recognition
14 for all of the Masjid in the city,
15 it's recognition for history at a
16 time when history is under attack.
17 So this legislation is inspiration
18 because it highlights figures that
19 nobody else can lay claim to. And
20 these figures that come out of the
21 womb of the Philadelphia Masjid,
22 that come out of the womb of the
23 Nation Islam, are historical
24 figures. Thank you for your time.

1 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

2 Thank you.

3 CHIEF CLERK: Will Dawood

4 Tony, David Alexander Jenkins,

5 Ahmet Selim Tekelioglu, John

6 Allante McAuley, and Nicole

7 Piusienski, please make your way to

8 the podium.

9 MR. TONY: Good morning.

10 Or I say Assalamu alaikum. Today

11 is a proud and historical moment

12 for our community as we gather to

13 rename the street in honor of

14 Sister Clare Muhammad. This is

15 more than a changing of a street

16 sign. It is a recognition of a

17 legacy, a life of service, and a

18 commitment of uplifting our people

19 through education, faith, and

20 discipline. Sister Clare Muhammad

21 was a pioneer at a time when

22 opportunities for African American

23 children were limited and our

24 communities were searching for

1 empowerment.

2 She stepped forward with
3 vision and courage. She believed
4 that education was a key to self-
5 determination, dignity, and
6 progress. Because of her
7 leadership, schools were
8 established that focus not only on
9 academic excellence, but also on
10 character, culture, and community
11 responsibility.

12 She helped lay the
13 foundation for generations for our
14 people to believe in themselves,
15 the heritage, and strive for
16 greatness. Sister Clara Muhammad,
17 the city of Philadelphia is making
18 a powerful statement. Every person
19 who walks down this block, every
20 child who reads this street sign
21 will be reminded that one dedicated
22 woman helped change the course of
23 education and uplift countless
24 lives. This street will now stand

1 as a symbol, a symbol of faith,
2 knowledge, discipline, and service
3 to the community. Let it remind us
4 that real change begins with people
5 who are willing to work, sacrifice,
6 and believe in a better future for
7 the next generation.

8 To the young people who
9 will grow up seeing this name, let
10 it inspire you. Let it remind you
11 that greatness can come from
12 service, from education, and from
13 dedication to your community.
14 Today, we honor Sister Clara
15 Muhammad/Philadelphia Masjid not
16 only with the street name, but with
17 our commitment to work to get
18 started. Assalamu alaikum.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
20 Alaikum assalam.

21 MR. JENKINS:
22 Mr. President, members and guests,
23 David Alexander Jenkins and I rise
24 to address 25102 and 250330. The

1 phrase "luxury affordable housing"
2 is filled with the sort of
3 philanthropic pretense that maketh
4 my blood boil. It paints over the
5 very nature of distressed
6 Philadelphians struggling to stay
7 in their homes, if they have homes
8 at all, with wide strokes of
9 magical manure that this
10 administration continues to push,
11 which neither address tangibly the
12 real issues of the people separated
13 from us today by a pane of glass,
14 people pleading with the government
15 for relief.

16 The amendment to Ordinance
17 9-3900 introduced by Councilmember
18 Philips and those submitted by
19 Councilmember Gauthier are
20 astonishing, if not embarrassing,
21 to my ears, because they expose
22 just how haphazardly we place the
23 lives of Philadelphians in anyone
24 whose bids.

1 So I'm thankful someone is
2 paying attention today. Yes, of
3 course, tenants must have access
4 locally to the -- to landlords. Of
5 course, tenants must not be
6 unceremoniously removed from their
7 homes, nor should they be harassed.
8 In the words of one of my more
9 sympathetic correspondences, duh.

10 But I may just suggest
11 that this work not stop here. Let
12 us focus on the failure to target
13 deep areas of poverty and systems
14 that create homeless folks out of
15 the once housed.

16 You know them: credit
17 checks, for a city filled with
18 those who don't have credit;
19 background checks for people who
20 perhaps experience a little thing
21 called life; proof of income, often
22 three times the rent, in a
23 Philadelphia where 13 percent of
24 its citizens are unbanked and one

1 in five residents' lives below the
2 poverty line. I am reminded, as we
3 open this session with prayer, that
4 we are commanded by a man I call
5 Messiah and others call prophetic
6 to clothe the naked and feed the
7 hungry. Yes, even to house the
8 homeless.

9 If you love me, feed my
10 people. If you love me, come on
11 somebody, tend my flock. Sometimes
12 I think too many of us have
13 abandoned that teaching for a
14 Chinese proverb, you know, and it
15 says, if you give a man a fish, you
16 feed him for a day, but if you
17 teach him the fish, you feed them
18 for a lifetime.

19 And while I'm sure the
20 Savior would be such an education,
21 I have come to remind you that we
22 set forth founding documents in
23 this land based on the command to
24 house, clothe, and feed first, and

1 nowhere, brothers and sisters of
2 love, will be permitted to set
3 conditions on who benefits from
4 such a prophetic command. So
5 Councilmembers, where there are
6 barriers to justice, freedom and
7 peace, barriers to housing, access,
8 food, feed, my people, tend my
9 flock.

10 MR. TEKELIOGLU: Good
11 morning. Assalamu alaikum. My
12 name is Ahmet Tekelioglu. I'm the
13 executive director of Care
14 Philadelphia, a Muslim nonprofit
15 civil rights organization serving
16 our Muslim American communities,
17 making sure that our community is
18 growing justice and indignity in
19 the face of discrimination and
20 Islamophobia. Council President
21 Johnson, thank you.

22 I didn't expect to get a
23 tender rendition here in the room
24 this morning when I walked in.

1 That was wonderful. I see so many
2 of our Muslim leaders: Imam
3 Kenneth, Imam Sweden, and other
4 leaders here in the room.

5 I am here to thank
6 Councilmember Landau and
7 Councilmember O'Rourke for
8 introducing the resolution honoring
9 the life of Nasrallah Abu Siyam, a
10 son of Philadelphia, a 19-year-old
11 teenager who was murdered in West
12 Bank in the hands of Israeli
13 settlers.

14 I also want to thank
15 Councilmember Gauthier for
16 introducing her resolution
17 recognizing Philadelphia Masjid,
18 which is a historical institution,
19 not only for this history of
20 Philadelphia, but all the history
21 of Islam in the United States.

22 To tell you a little bit
23 about Nasrallah, he was 19 years
24 old. He was born here in

1 Philadelphia, an American citizen,
2 and he is the third American
3 citizen killed in this past year in
4 Palestine.

5 Yesterday, we heard from
6 his uncle a story that Nasrallah
7 had a horse called Shams,
8 translated to Sun in English. And
9 he told us that the horse, Shams,
10 Sun, has been uneasy ever since
11 Nasrallah has been murdered, that
12 no one can calm him down. It looks
13 like, you know, he feels that
14 Nasrallah was taken from us.

15 As I conclude, I want to
16 remind us that injustices abroad
17 impact us here. That is why we
18 need to speak with moral clarity in
19 the face of injustice. That's why
20 from Philadelphia to Palestine, we
21 need to uphold justice and hold
22 those disrupting justice
23 accountable. Thank you.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

1 Thank you.

2 MR. MCAULEY: Good
3 morning, everybody. My name is
4 John Allante McAuley. I'm with a
5 grassroots organization called Flip
6 Philly Red. We're here to offer
7 you something different because
8 you've been voting Democrat for the
9 mayor's office for the past 70
10 years.

11 In regards to Bill 250768,
12 what we have here is more
13 government overreach. I thought
14 Democrats were supposedly the party
15 for unions, a bill championed by
16 Councilmember Jamie Gauthier, that
17 will put more than 120 family jobs
18 at risk. I asked, will union
19 workers of IUOE Local 542 still be
20 voting Democrat after they cut your
21 jobs? What I see in Reworld
22 Chester facility is a process that
23 turns waste into energy, giving
24 electricity to more than 51,000

1 homes a year.

2 Why are Democrats bent on
3 creating problems and then coming
4 up with frivolous solutions to
5 control our life? If we have to
6 use more landfills, property taxes
7 will rise. Your own sanitation
8 department said it will cause
9 taxpayers \$6.5 million a year if
10 you force contractors to stop using
11 incinerators. Every day,
12 Councilmembers had their thumbs on
13 the scale, more regulations, more
14 mandates. Conservatives, let
15 businesses thrive.

16 We want you to innovate to
17 the workers and operations,
18 maintenance, engineers, and other
19 related fields. I feel for you
20 because who was fighting for you?
21 This is just another cheap
22 political win for Councilmember
23 Gauthier. Democrats, supposedly
24 the party that hates fossil fuels,

1 but once they eliminate a process
2 that eliminates the use of reliance
3 on fossil fuels, modern plants use
4 filters to minimize emissions, much
5 more than dump -- much more
6 effective than dumping everything
7 into landfills that leach toxins
8 into our groundwater.

9 The city of Philadelphia
10 has more pressing things to worry
11 about. Let's stop the sanctuary
12 cities and let's stop the
13 transgender for everybody. Thank
14 you for your attention to this
15 matter.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
17 Thank you, sir. Chief Clerk,
18 please call the next person for
19 testimony. Brother Mars.

20 CHIEF CLERK: Nicole
21 Piusienski.

22 MS. PIUSIENSKI: Good
23 morning, everyone. My name's
24 Nicole Piusienski. I'm a paralegal

1 with the Consumer Housing Unit of
2 Philadelphia Legal Assistance, or
3 PLA for short. I'm here on behalf
4 of PLA to express my support for
5 Councilmember Landau's resolution,
6 declaring the National Consumer
7 Protection Week in the city of
8 Philadelphia. PLA provides free
9 civil legal services to low-income
10 Philadelphians.

11 And with our consumer
12 housing unit, we operate the Savior
13 Home Philly hotline, which serves
14 as the primary point of contact for
15 homeowners of all income levels who
16 are at risk of losing their home or
17 facing another home ownership
18 issue.

19 During my first year at
20 PLA, I worked as a hotline
21 paralegal answering live calls each
22 day and providing legal assistance
23 and advice to over 500 homeowners.
24 Through the hotline, we frequently

1 hear from victims of predatory
2 companies that profit off of
3 targeting homeowners in
4 foreclosure.

5 I currently work in a unit
6 paralegal role where one of my main
7 focuses is assisting clients that
8 face a sheriff sale. This is the
9 final stage of a foreclosure when
10 the home is listed for public
11 auction.

12 Our consumer housing unit
13 provides advice and representation
14 for sheriff sales each month. And
15 in 2025 alone, we assist in
16 preventing over 235 sales.

17 Homeowners are most vulnerable at
18 the point of a sheriff sale, often
19 feeling they have no options
20 remaining to save their home.

21 Many of our clients facing
22 sales have been targeted by
23 predatory companies such as
24 wholesale home buyers and loan

1 modification scams. These
2 companies intentionally present an
3 easy solution to homeowners who are
4 at the end of their rope in dire
5 need of help.

6 Our hotline helps
7 homeowners at all stages of
8 foreclosure, and in the majority of
9 cases we encounter, there is a
10 means to saving the home.

11 Homeowners have access to free
12 resources including HUD certified
13 housing counselors, PLAs Legal
14 Services where predatory companies
15 drive homeowners further away from
16 accessing these resources. Victims
17 of the scams lose hundreds and
18 thousands of dollars without
19 resolving the problem.

20 Councilmember Landau
21 resolution will raise awareness
22 about consumer rights and the
23 importance of protecting not only
24 homeowners but all consumers in

1 Philadelphia. Thank you again for
2 your time and consideration.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

4 Thank you.

5 CHIEF CLERK: Will Bilal
6 Qayyum, Al Madid Sayam, Erin
7 O'Brien McHoffmann, Dishman Frith,
8 and Kimura Anderson, please make
9 your way to the podium.

10 MR. QAYYUM: Good morning,
11 Assalamu alaikum. Ramadan Mubarak
12 for my brothers and sisters in the
13 Islamic community.

14 My name is Bilal Qayyum.
15 I'm here today to support
16 Resolution 260136. I hope I got
17 that right. Can't even recognize
18 my own writing. I'd like to first
19 of all acknowledge and thank the
20 councilwoman Jamie for this action
21 she took.

22 Today, we are in, as you
23 all -- everybody knows, troubled
24 times, particularly as we relate to

1 folks who accept the Islam as a
2 religion. So for this bill is so
3 important for a lot of reasons.

4 Number one, I want to commend
5 Councilmembers for your support.
6 You might not know, but you're
7 making history today.

8 Council President, this is
9 the first street named in the city
10 of Philadelphia after a mas. So
11 you-all are making history today.
12 You're history makers all the time
13 doing it today.

14 And I just want to say
15 that a lot of folks didn't talk
16 about -- they did mention about the
17 school, Clara Muhammad School, I
18 believe, was started in 1974 or
19 '75, has over thousands of young
20 people who have attended and have
21 graduated from that school, and a
22 lot of them are non-Muslims.

23 Matter of fact, Councilman
24 President, I believe your chief of

1 staff was one of the graduates.

2 I'm sitting there looking
3 at him. There's been a lot of my
4 friends who are very successful in
5 their life because they did go to
6 Clara Muhammad. They got a degree
7 and moved on in their life and a
8 lot of them are doing great work.

9 So I'm asking you today to
10 vote, get this street name and I
11 will end, Councilman Jones and
12 Councilman there, our president, he
13 opened up the door. So we may be
14 wanting to give him a jihada after
15 council is over. Thank you.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
17 Very well said, brother Bilal
18 Qayyum, and thank you for your
19 service to the city of Philadelphia
20 as well.

21 MR. SIYAM: Thank you.
22 Assalamu alaikum. My name is Abdul
23 Hamid Siyam. I am the uncle of the
24 deceased Nasrallah Abu Siyam.

1 Nasrallah Abu Siyam is a
2 Palestinian American, but he's not
3 the first nor he will be the last.

4 There are five Palestinian
5 Americans were killed since
6 February, 2024. And there are 117
7 killed outside being American --
8 Palestinian Americans. 1,117
9 killed since October 7th in the
10 West Bank. I'm not talking about
11 Gaza, which lost 72,000 and a 170
12 -- 1,000 were wounded. I'm talking
13 about the West Bank.

14 So if we don't stand with
15 Palestinian Americans who are
16 murdered by the settlers, then
17 everyone is vulnerable.

18 I want to say that I spend
19 all my life with the United Nations
20 as a staff and as a journalist. I
21 am still accredited journalist to
22 the United Nations. I spent my
23 life on international law.

24 Security Council passed Resolution

1 23 -- 34 on 24 December, 2016, last
2 few days of Obama, calling the
3 settlements are illegal and should
4 be stopped.

5 ICJ also passed a legal
6 opinion on 17 July, 2024 calling
7 settlements are illegal and it
8 should be banned. And calling on
9 Israel to dismantle its occupation.
10 You don't know what it means to
11 live under occupation. You don't
12 know what these settlers are doing.
13 They are killing us. They're
14 stealing our land. They're
15 stealing our goats. With this
16 attack on Nasrallah and killing
17 him, they stole 350 goats from the
18 village. They also destroyed 71
19 olive trees.

20 I want to say, my friends,
21 that when justice is attacked,
22 silence is treason. We should
23 stand -- the power of law or the
24 law of power. We should stand

1 together and pressure all those
2 elected officials to stand with
3 justice. None one single
4 Palestinian American killed has
5 been -- has been investigated.
6 Thank you very much.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
8 Thank you.

9 MS. HOFMANN: Good
10 morning, Council President, members
11 of City Council and Councilwoman
12 Katherine Gilmore-Richardson.

13 My name is Erin O'Brien
14 Hofmann and I'm a proud union
15 painter with District Council 21 of
16 the International Union of Painters
17 and Allied Trades, where I serve as
18 the Director of Member Engagement,
19 the coordinator for WINC, Women in
20 Non-Traditional Careers
21 pre-apprenticeship program.

22 And I am honored to stand
23 here today in support of this
24 resolution recognizing Women in

1 Construction Week.

2 For many years,
3 construction was seen as a field
4 where women just didn't belong.
5 Today, that is changing. And it is
6 changing because we are
7 intentionally creating pathways and
8 opportunities. Through programs
9 like WINC, we introduce women to
10 careers in skilled trades and
11 provide the training, mentorship,
12 and support that they need to
13 succeed.

14 What we see is powerful.
15 Women building confidence, building
16 careers and building a better
17 future for their families. These
18 are careers that provide family
19 sustaining wages, strong benefits
20 and long-term stability. When we
21 invest in women entering into the
22 Philadelphia Union building trades,
23 we strengthen our workforce, our
24 unions and our communities.

1 Thank you to Councilwoman
2 Gilmore-Richardson for recognizing
3 Women in Construction Week and for
4 helping to elevate the incredible
5 women who are helping build
6 Philadelphia every single day.
7 Thank you.

8 MS. FRITH: Hello. Butch
9 Bennett, but my name is Desmond
10 Frith, and I will be speaking on
11 his behalf today. Thank you.
12 Thank you, Councilmembers and
13 Council President, for allowing me
14 to speak on his behalf today in
15 support of Women in Construction
16 Week.

17 The Philadelphia Building
18 and Construction Trades Council is
19 an umbrella organization for more
20 than 50-member local unions that
21 work in the construction industry
22 in the greater Philadelphia region.
23 Within these local unions, there
24 are great career opportunities with

1 great benefits, as well as long
2 lasting connections to be made for
3 women in these trades.

4 Being a woman in the
5 trades allows for one to hold a job
6 and title that will give you pride
7 and dignity, speaking from
8 experience. Thank you and have a
9 great day.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

11 Thank you.

12 CHIEF CLERK: Will Leslie
13 K. Whitby, Charles Freeman,
14 Roseanne Milanes, Basam Keyed and
15 Sael Keyed, please make your way to
16 the podium.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

18 Please proceed.

19 MS. ANDERSON: Good
20 morning, Council President, members
21 of City Council and fellow
22 residents of the city of
23 Philadelphia. My name is Kimura
24 Anderson and I proudly stand before

1 you serving as the President of the
2 National Association of Women in
3 Construction, Philadelphia Chapter
4 145.

5 I also work as the
6 Director of Human Resources and
7 Union Affairs for Clements
8 Construction Company. I happily
9 spend my career advocating for
10 workforce development,
11 opportunities, inclusion within the
12 male dominated construction field.

13 I stand before you today
14 respectfully asking for the support
15 and encouragement for the city of
16 Philadelphia to officially
17 recognize the first week in March
18 during Women's History Month as the
19 National Association of Women in
20 Construction, Women in
21 Non-Traditional Careers, National
22 Association of Black Women in
23 Construction and Professional Women
24 in Construction Week.

1 This recognition is
2 important -- excuse me -- because
3 it shines light on thousands of
4 women who are contributing every
5 single day to industries that have
6 historically been male dominated.

7 Women across Philadelphia
8 are working as carpenters,
9 electricians, engineers, project
10 managers, superintendents, safety
11 professionals, and a host of other
12 positions. While progress has been
13 made, women still represent a small
14 percentage in the construction
15 workforce nationally.

16 Recognition from this
17 council help send a powerful
18 message to our young women and
19 girls throughout Philadelphia,
20 saying to them, there is a place
21 for you in this -- in one of these
22 careers. When we acknowledge women
23 in construction and non-traditional
24 careers, we are doing more than

1 just celebrating individuals. We
2 are encouraging the workforce
3 development community, promoting
4 economic opportunities, and
5 expanding pathways to family
6 sustaining careers.

7 Thank you to Councilwoman
8 Katherine Gilmore-Richardson for
9 her continued support every year on
10 this initiative, and we appreciate
11 the support of City Council. Thank
12 you so much.

13 MS. WHITBY: Good morning
14 to everyone, and happy Women in
15 Construction Week. I am Leslie K.
16 Whitby and I'm speaking on behalf
17 of Women in Construction -- sorry,
18 Women in Construction Week
19 resolution. I'd like to thank
20 Council President Johnson for the
21 opportunity to speak and to thank
22 Councilmember Gilmore-Richardson
23 for introducing this resolution.
24 I'm honored to serve as the

1 President of Professional Women in
2 Construction Philadelphia Chapter.

3 I'm also proud to be a
4 founding board member in this
5 incredible organization.

6 About nine years ago, I
7 realized something important. In a
8 -- in a region as vibrant and
9 innovative as Philadelphia, there
10 wasn't a professional organization
11 from women in the architecture,
12 engineering, and construction
13 industry that truly met my
14 professional and personal needs.

15 I wanted a space where
16 women could connect, support one
17 another, and grow together in an
18 industry we are -- where we are
19 still minority. So instead of
20 waiting for that organization to
21 exist, we decided to create it.

22 In 2018 with the help of
23 passionate and diverse group of
24 professional women, we launched the

1 Philadelphia Chapter of
2 Professional Women in Construction.
3 From the very beginning, our vision
4 was simple but powerful.

5 Every woman has a story to
6 share, whether you're just
7 beginning your career or you're a
8 seasoned professional. Each of us
9 brings unique experiences,
10 perspectives, and strengths to this
11 industry.

12 Women in construction may
13 still be the minority, but our
14 voices are stronger than ever and
15 they continue to grow. At PWC
16 Philadelphia, our mission is to
17 connect, promote and advance women
18 in the architecture, engineering,
19 and construction industry. We do
20 that by bringing together both
21 women and men from across
22 architecture, engineering and
23 construction and affiliated firms
24 through educational programs,

1 networking opportunities and
2 meaningful conversations that help
3 move our industry forward.

4 But what makes this -- but
5 what makes this organization truly
6 special is the -- sorry.

7 Professional Women in Construction
8 is a platform where people build
9 relationships, expand their
10 networks and support one another in
11 careers. It's a place where
12 mentorship happens and
13 opportunities create and lasting
14 friendships are formed. Thank you.

15 MR. FREEMAN: Good
16 morning, Council President Johnson
17 and City Council. My name is
18 Charles Freeman and I'm here to
19 represent Bill 250843. I'd like
20 your idea, Councilman Johnson,
21 about locking the dumpsters. I
22 live in the 3rd Division, 11th
23 Ward, 8th Councilmanic District,
24 where we have constantly people

1 putting trash out that they know
2 that the sanitation boys will not
3 pick up.

4 And I really
5 wholeheartedly support the first
6 step that you're taking to lock
7 this trash business down. I've
8 never seen a city being defeated by
9 trash, and we need more input.

10 I suggest that if the
11 sanitation boys don't pick up this
12 illegal trash, they should call it
13 in themselves. And that will help
14 us reel in who these people are and
15 help us keep this city clean. I've
16 been a volunteer of you for over 50
17 years, playing in this trash.

18 And I definitely support
19 your Bill 250843, and I hope that
20 we can work together and get
21 stronger so that we can keep this
22 city clean. And I thank you.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
24 Thank you. Mr. Charles Freeman,

1 just real quick. I would love to
2 take credit for it because you've
3 given a lot of good accolades, but
4 the author of the bill is
5 Councilmember Mark Squilla. Mark
6 Squilla, could you just be
7 acknowledged that that's your bill.
8 Okay, sir.

9 MR. FREEMAN: Thank you,
10 Mark.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
12 Thank you, Mark Squilla.

13 COUNCILMEMBER SQUILLA:
14 Thank you.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
16 Thank you, sir. Keep up the good
17 work. Thank you.

18 MS. MILANES: Good
19 afternoon. My name is Roseanne
20 Milanes and I'm the Director of
21 Guardianship Grand Families and
22 Victim Services at Senior Law
23 Center. Senior Law Center is a
24 nonprofit public interest law firm

1 seeking justice for older people by
2 using the power of the law,
3 educating the community, and
4 advocating on local, state, and
5 national levels.

6 Thank you for allowing us
7 to comment on Councilmember
8 Landau's resolution declaring this
9 first week in March as National
10 Consumer Protection Week in the
11 city of Philadelphia.

12 Elder abuse and financial
13 exploitation cross every racial,
14 ethnic and social economic line.
15 In 2024, older adults aged 60 and
16 older in the US lost \$4.8 billion,
17 the largest amount of any of the
18 other age groups.

19 In 2024, Pennsylvania,
20 consumers of all ages lost the most
21 to investment scams, business
22 imposters and romance scams. Senior
23 Law Center understands the
24 devastation the older adult

1 population faces when they're
2 financially exploited.

3 Many older adults are on
4 fixed income, paying for mortgages
5 or rent, healthcare and medication
6 expenses, daily living expenses,
7 and sometimes caring for their
8 grandchildren and great-
9 grandchildren. For some older
10 adults, being taken advantage of is
11 not just about losing money; it
12 means waiting for their next
13 monthly social security or pension
14 check to be able to pay for their
15 housing, to pay for a meal or to
16 pay for vital medication.

17 To address this crisis,
18 Senior Law Center provides legal
19 services to older Philadelphians to
20 intervene and stop abuse and
21 financial exploitation. We do this
22 through reporting fraud or identity
23 theft, reviewing bank statements
24 and contacting those financial

1 institutions, placing fraud alerts
2 and credit freezes, filing claims
3 to recover stolen funds and filing
4 quiet title actions where there is
5 deed fraud. We also link older
6 adults to other resources and
7 supportive services.

8 Again, with the billions
9 of dollars lost to fraud and
10 identity theft each year, and with
11 the largest proportion of loss
12 coming from the older adult
13 population, we welcome bringing
14 awareness, education, and support
15 from our local leaders. Thank you.

16 CHIEF CLERK: Will, Lisa
17 Haver, Sister Talia, Kalisa Harris
18 and Alex Pezanowski please make
19 your way to the podium.

20 MALE VOICE 1: No paper,
21 no phone. I'm speaking straight
22 from the heart. This is my nephew,
23 Nasrallah Abu Siyam, killed the
24 first day of Ramadan, February

1 18th, by illegal settlers that come
2 onto our village, try to occupy our
3 land, steal our sheep, burn our
4 homes, burn our cars. All we
5 wanted was justice for my nephew.

6 As a Philadelphia native,
7 he had his whole life ahead of him
8 at the age of 19, and all we wanted
9 for him is to live a good life.
10 His horse, which he rode every
11 single day, now refuses to take any
12 riders. That horse, which is an
13 animal, is also in mourning for its
14 owner.

15 All we want is justice,
16 and hopefully, hopefully we get
17 justice from my nephew, where I can
18 be able to call his mom and dad,
19 who are mourning every single day,
20 and tell them that we got justice
21 for your son. Thank you.

22 MALE VOICE 2: Good
23 afternoon, Councilman and city of
24 Philadelphia. Seems like a lot of

1 great resolutions have been passed
2 today. Congratulations. I want to
3 thank the council and specifically
4 Councilman O'Rourke and Landau for
5 passing the resolution for my
6 cousin Nasrallah Abu Siyam, who was
7 murdered in Palestine.

8 This is the unfortunate
9 history in Palestine for over 80
10 years now. Constant death every
11 single day. They come to our
12 villages, whether it's Israeli
13 settlers or Israeli soldiers, and
14 just do whatever they want.
15 Whether it's a checkpoint that
16 stopped my cousin from getting to
17 the hospital in time over two hours
18 and just bled to death.

19 We as Americans, where
20 we're giving billions of dollars to
21 the Israeli government to kill our
22 people in Palestine, whether
23 they're Palestinian or American
24 citizens, we need to put an end to

1 this.

2 And I think if people rise
3 up and are aware of what their
4 money is going to and actually have
5 a real boycott against this state
6 of Israel, that's committing a
7 holocaust in Gaza and has been
8 ongoing killing for over 80 years,
9 they don't see Palestinians as
10 equal to them. They see us as
11 animals. They're calling out in
12 the public for the death and
13 killing of the Palestinian people.

14 So I would hope the people
15 of Philadelphia and in the US rise
16 up and divest from anything to do
17 with Israel, whether it's
18 financial, whether it's, you know,
19 entertainment, art. We need to
20 really take a stance. And I think
21 that if we divest and put Israel in
22 its place, that we can have, like
23 we had in South Africa, justice,
24 but we need to take a stance.

1 It starts at the council
2 level, then it goes to the Congress
3 level, and from there, and I think
4 with the people rising, we can
5 bring about change in the -- in
6 Palestine. And don't let anybody
7 fool you. This is a Muslim-Arab
8 issue between Jews. We have a lot
9 of Jewish people that stand for
10 Palestine, that stand for justice,
11 and it's, as the great Martin
12 Luther King said, injustice
13 anywhere is a threat to justice
14 everywhere. Thank you so much.

15 MS. HAVER: Good morning.
16 Thank you. My name is Lisa Haver.
17 I'm here on behalf of the Alliance
18 for Philadelphia Public Schools.
19 And I sent to all the
20 Councilmembers this week a report
21 from the alliance -- sorry, got to
22 pick up the monstrosity -- about
23 something called Accelerating
24 Opportunity.

1 The School District of
2 Philadelphia's facilities master
3 plan. There's a lot of shocking
4 things about that plan, but the
5 title of our article was Nobody
6 Wants This, They Don't Care. And
7 that is absolutely true because
8 every meeting that APPS members
9 went to, I know the Councilmembers
10 went to, you never heard anybody
11 say, I'm in favor of closing this
12 school.

13 Keep in mind, please, that
14 there were only meetings on school
15 closures. There are a ton of grade
16 band changes where schools going
17 from a K-5 to a K-4, or a K-5 to a
18 K-8. There were no meetings at any
19 of those schools. I have friends
20 who still teach in some of those
21 schools. They didn't know anything
22 about it. The meetings were all
23 wrapped up.

24 And they got an email the

1 day after last week's board meeting
2 saying, we just want to let you
3 know that when the board votes on
4 this, which by all indications will
5 be in about three weeks, your
6 school has been slated for grade
7 band change. Nobody said they
8 wanted it. Nobody got to have a
9 meeting to say, I'm not sure about
10 this. It's done. It's a shocking,
11 shocking plan.

12 I want to thank the
13 Councilmembers who came last week.
14 I want to especially thank
15 Councilmember Bass, who was sick,
16 and Councilmember Gauthier, who was
17 there till the bitter end and saw
18 me and some other APPS members
19 testify in the wee small hours of
20 Friday morning. I'm going to be
21 here. You know I'll be here.

22 I would love to talk to
23 any of you, all of you, about this.
24 But it is a shocking plan for many,

1 many reasons. And I think the main
2 reason is it treats the students as
3 collateral damage. There is not a
4 single reason open to any page.

5 There is no reason for them to do
6 what they're doing to any school.

7 Thank you very much. Thank you.

8 CHIEF CLERK: You have two
9 minutes. State your name for the
10 record please.

11 MS. TAYLOR: Peace and
12 blessings. Assalamu alaikum.
13 Ramadan Mubarak, everyone.

14 First, I want to say thank
15 you to City Council and also
16 special thank you to Councilwoman
17 Gauthier for even recognizing the
18 Philadelphia Masjid and all the
19 hard work and being a part of the
20 growth and the resilience of the
21 Masjid.

22 My name is Sister Talia
23 Taylor, president of the City of
24 Dreams Coalition, and also Director

1 of Community Engagement at Level Up
2 Philly. I rise today in support of
3 the resolution of recognizing the
4 4,700 block of Wyalusing Avenue as
5 the Philadelphia Masjid Way.

6 This recognition is
7 important because institutions like
8 the Philadelphia Masjid on the
9 4,700 block of Wyalusing Avenue
10 have been anchors in our community
11 for generations. More than 50
12 years, it has been a place where
13 faith, discipline, service, and
14 leadership has been cultivated.

15 In neighborhoods like
16 ours, these spaces are more than
17 places of worship. They are places
18 where young people find directions,
19 families find support, and
20 communities find unity. Naming
21 this block Philadelphia Match Your
22 Way is not just about a street
23 sign, it is about honoring a legacy
24 of faith, resilience, and service

1 that has helped shape West
2 Philadelphia.

3 It recognizes the elders
4 who have built this foundation as
5 these beautiful jewels right here
6 that basically raised me. But it
7 recognizes the elders who built
8 this foundation and the generations
9 of young Muslims who will continue
10 to carry it forward.

11 At City of Dreams
12 Coalition, our mission is to meet
13 people where they are and help them
14 rise. Institutions like the Masjid
15 have been doing that work quietly
16 and faithfully for decades. Today
17 we acknowledge the impact and
18 ensure that its legacy is
19 permanently reflected in the fabric
20 of our city.

21 Thank you to Councilwoman
22 Gauthier, City Council, Councilman
23 Curtis Jones, for all the work he
24 has done amongst the Muslim

1 population and recognizing the
2 value of this history for uplifting
3 the communities that continue to
4 make Philadelphia strong. Thank
5 you so much. Assalamu alaikum.

6 MS. HARRIS: Assalamu
7 alaikum. Ramadan Mubarak. Good
8 afternoon, everyone. My name is
9 Kalisa Harris and I'm honored to
10 stand before you today, not just as
11 a speaker for the youth, but as a
12 secretary of the Muslim Student
13 Association at the luxurious first
14 Black HBCU, Cheyney University of
15 Pennsylvania.

16 Today's recognition of
17 Philadelphia Masjid way is more
18 than just naming of a street. It
19 is a celebration of faith, active
20 service, and community. For over
21 50 years, this Masjid has stood as
22 a place of worship, guidance, and
23 unity for countless individuals and
24 families. It has nurtured

1 generations with values of
2 compassion, discipline, education,
3 and commitment to serving others.

4 Additionally, the
5 Philadelphia Masjid has also played
6 a huge part in guiding the youth to
7 Islamic way of life. Lastly, I
8 don't just stand here as an
9 advocate for Muslims; I stand here
10 to speak for the youth. Thank you.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
12 Thank you.

13 CHIEF CLERK: Will Ogbonna
14 Hagins, James Aye and Mona Baishya.
15 Please make your way to the podium.

16 MR. PEZANOWSKI: Hello.
17 My name is Alex Pezanowski. I
18 spoke here before letting these
19 guys know that I've been targeted
20 by the Philadelphia Police
21 Department and other government
22 entities. And this is pertaining
23 to, you know, what everybody is
24 talking about with Palestine and

1 ICE and everything. I just feel as
2 though it's unfair that you guys
3 are having more of a --

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
5 How are you doing, Alex? The bill
6 that say you're speaking on focuses
7 on property acquire certain parcels
8 to be released to the Philadelphia
9 School district. So could you
10 speak on topic?

11 MR. PEZANOWSKI: Not
12 really because it's just unfair
13 that you guys just keep targeting
14 me and there was a whole news
15 report about how you guys want to
16 focus on getting ICE out of
17 Philadelphia. But you guys are
18 following me around all day every
19 day. I just got arrested for --

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
21 I'm just trying to get you to speak
22 on the topic.

23 MR. PEZANOWSKI: I'm just
24 saying I got arrested for, you

1 know, this ordeal that you guys
2 have brought on --

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

4 But I also say this, sir, I'm just
5 doing protocol following Council
6 agenda. But just hear me out.
7 Just hear me out. If you want
8 somebody to talk to you about your
9 issue directly, I have one of my
10 staff pull you to the side and we
11 can get to the bottom of the actual
12 issue you're talking about. Okay.
13 Understood. Thank you, sir.

14 Mr. Ogbonna Hagins, please
15 come up please. I understand,
16 beloved. Have a good one. God
17 bless. Mr. Ogbonna Hagins, please
18 begin your remarks, sir.

19 MR. HAGINS: Good morning,
20 everyone. I'm a fourth-generation
21 chattel slavery survivor, and my
22 name is Ogbonna Hagins. I reviewed
23 Bill 251025, introduced by
24 Councilmember Driscoll, regulating

1 the direction of traffic on Ryan
2 Avenue between Leon Street and
3 Frankford Avenue. Traffic
4 regulation is a basic
5 responsibility of city government.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
7 Please begin, sir.

8 MR. HAGINS: Traffic
9 regulations is a basic
10 responsibility of city government.
11 Streets must function safely and
12 the city has the authority to
13 determine how traffic moves through
14 its neighborhoods. But when we
15 talk about regulating streets in
16 Philadelphia, we also have to
17 acknowledge the broader system of
18 parking enforcement that shapes how
19 those streets function every day.

20 That system is the
21 Philadelphia parking authority.
22 For 25 years, the state control PPA
23 has extracted millions of dollars
24 from Philadelphia residents through

1 tickets, boots, tolls, suspensions,
2 often from neighborhoods least able
3 to absorb it.

4 Now, let me recenter this
5 directly to the subject of this
6 bill, the city regulation of its
7 streets. Because while the city
8 determines how streets operate, a
9 state authority controls the
10 parking enforcement, the parking
11 enforcement systems that operate on
12 those same streets, and collects
13 the revenue from it. And guess
14 what? Philadelphia doesn't get it.

15 That arrangement has
16 existed for decades without local
17 accountability and without any
18 obligation to reinvest those
19 revenues in communities that paid
20 them.

21 Nothing in law prevents
22 this city from reclaiming control
23 of its own parking authority.
24 Nothing in law prevents you from

1 doing it. And if you want to know
2 how you can do it, you can contact
3 my organization. We should want
4 that revenue back in the city,
5 right?

6 And contact the
7 Philadelphia Reparations Coalition
8 for American Freeman and we can
9 consult you on how to get -- I
10 think it's like \$250 million or
11 more that the state gets that could
12 be coming to Philadelphia. I think
13 that money should be spent right
14 here.

15 It could be much well
16 spent here in the city of
17 Philadelphia that produces all that
18 revenue. If you want any
19 information, I have flyers here
20 that you can read about our
21 political wellness checker --

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
23 Thank you, sir.

24 MR. HAGINS: -- that we're

1 having to discuss this very issue.

2 Thank you.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

4 Thank you very much, sir.

5 MR. HAGINS: Ogbonna

6 Hagins. Over and out.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

8 Thank you, sir.

9 MR. AYE: Hey, good

10 afternoon, Councilmembers. First,

11 I do want to thank Council

12 President for allowing us here.

13 But I want to do a special thank

14 you to Councilmembers Gauthier and

15 Phillips for our work and giving us

16 the citation today.

17 But also, because this is

18 Women's History Month, I'm not a

19 fan of taking up space for women.

20 So what I want to do is I want to

21 introduce one of my colleagues,

22 Mona, who's going to talk a little

23 bit more about YEAH Philly. So I

24 appreciate you all.

1 MS. BAISHYA: I wanted to
2 touch on some of my experiences
3 since I've started working with
4 YEAH Philly.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
6 Could you -- could you say your
7 name for the record, please?

8 MS. BAISHYA: Oh, yeah.
9 Dr. Mona Baishya, VCI Research
10 Director at YEAH Philly. I wanted
11 to touch on some of my experiences
12 that I've -- since I've started
13 working with YEAH Philly,
14 specifically with what I personally
15 experienced regarding GPS and
16 probation. I've heard the phrase
17 duplication of services many times
18 in the six short months that I've
19 been at YEAH as the research
20 director. What does that mean? It
21 assumes that the things YEAH Philly
22 wants to do are being done by
23 probation.

24 YEAH Philly looks at core

1 needs, addresses them. And this
2 includes things like court
3 advocacy, getting young people
4 enrolled back in school, connecting
5 them with mental health resources,
6 job resources, literacy resources,
7 buying clothing, making sure
8 families have food and beds and
9 better living conditions.

10 And now I just want to
11 share one anecdote. I have a lot
12 of anecdotes, but this is the one
13 that came to mind when I was
14 thinking about what I wanted to say
15 today. I don't get to handle a lot
16 of cases directly, simply because
17 my role is to manage the data and
18 keep a tether to all the young
19 people who are at the VCI, the
20 Violent Crimes Initiative.

21 But it was important for
22 me to learn what case management
23 looked like. So I had a caseload
24 of one, Jamar. Jamar is a great

1 young person. His mom makes
2 amazing banana pudding and somehow
3 she found out that I had a
4 doctorate through one of our
5 community partners. And at this
6 point in our relationship, she
7 calls me Doc Big Sis, which warms
8 my heart every time I hear it.
9 Jamar was on probation and GPS when
10 he came to YEAH and Jamar came to
11 YEAH looking for ways to earn
12 money. He held a job, he regularly
13 goes to school. We would go to his
14 court dates, his PO would show up
15 and barely say hi, and it honestly
16 felt avoidant.

17 Jamar would tell me that
18 his PO never answered his phone.
19 So what was the function of
20 probation in this case? Just to
21 check in on court dates. No other
22 "how are you doing," and "what do
23 you need?" Do you think his PO
24 knows that Jamar likes R&B and

1 plays basketball? And do you think
2 that his PO knows about his
3 mother's banana pudding?

4 The difference between how
5 we move at -- how we at YEAH move
6 and probation moves is exactly
7 this. We show our young people
8 love, real love. The Ralph Bradley
9 kind of love, the Daniel Loeb kind
10 of love, the Corey Curtis kind of
11 love, Kamal Pet kind of love, the
12 James A. kind of love. Kendra,
13 Paris, Nafis, or Ramirez, the "big
14 doc sis" kind of love, the YEAH
15 Philly kind of love. Thank you.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
17 Thank you.

18 CHIEF CLERK: Council
19 President, this concludes our
20 listing for public comment for
21 today.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
23 Thank you very --

24 CHIEF CLERK: Thank you.

1 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

2 Thank you very much. We will now
3 consider the bills and resolutions
4 on the second reading and final
5 passage calendar.

6 Will the chief clerk,
7 please read the title of Resolution
8 No. 260136.

9 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
10 also naming the 4,700 block of
11 Wyalusing Avenue as Philadelphia
12 Masjid Way in recognition of over
13 50 years of faith, service,
14 leadership, and community
15 excellence.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
17 The Chair recognizes the
18 Councilmember Jamie Gauthier for
19 motion regarding Resolution No.
20 260136.

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

1 COUNCILMEMBER: Second.

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

3 It has been moved and properly
4 seconded that the Resolution No.
5 260136 be adopted. All those in
6 favor of the motion will signify by
7 saying aye.

8 COUNCILMEMBER: Aye.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

10 Those opposed? The ayes have it.
11 The motion carries, the resolution
12 is adopted.

13 Will the clerk please read
14 the title of the Resolution No.
15 260139?

16 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
17 calling on the PA General Assembly
18 to take swift and decisive action
19 to pass Pennsylvania Senate Bill
20 110, known as Brian's Law, to amend
21 the Emergency and Law Enforcement
22 Personnel Death Benefits Act to
23 extend line-of-duty death benefits
24 to surviving spouses and children

1 of first responders who die from
2 job-related trauma, including PTSI-
3 related suicide, ensuring equitable
4 treatment for their families.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

6 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
7 Jones for a motion regarding
8 Resolution No. 260139.

9 COUNCILMEMBER JONES:

10 Thank you, Mr. President. And it
11 does not fall on deaf ears that we
12 had a major fire in the city of
13 Philadelphia in my district on
14 Hazelhurst Street, where nine first
15 responder firemen were
16 hospitalized.

17 So post-traumatic stress,
18 whatever these provision that you
19 put forth, it will address that. I
20 move for the adoption.

21 COUNCILMEMBERS: Second.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

23 Thank you. It has been moved and
24 properly seconded. The Resolution

1 No. 260139 be adopted. All those
2 in favor of the motion will signify
3 by saying aye.

4 COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

6 Those opposed? The ayes have it.

7 The motion carries. The resolution
8 is adopted.

9 Will the clerk please read
10 the title of Bill No. 250843?

11 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
12 amending Chapter 10-700 of the
13 Philadelphia Code, entitled Refuse
14 and Littering to require locking
15 dumpsters, all under certain terms
16 and conditions.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
18 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
19 Mark Squilla for a motion.

20 COUNCILMEMBER SQUILLA:
21 Thank you, Mr. President. I'd like
22 to offer an amendment to Bill No.
23 250843. A copy of amendment has
24 been circulated to all members of

1 Council. I move for the adoption
2 of the amendment.

3 COUNCILMEMBERS: Second.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

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

10 COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

12 Those opposed? The ayes have it,
13 and the bill has been amended.

14 This bill will be placed with the
15 final passage calendar for our next
16 session of Council.

17 Would the clerk please be
18 the title of Bill No. 250917.

19 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
20 amending Section 14-529 of the
21 Philadelphia Code, entitled 5th
22 District Overlay District to
23 provide for building requirements
24 to prevent vacant lots, all under

1 certain terms and conditions.

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

3 The Chair recognizes the
4 Councilmember Young for a motion.

5 COUNCILMEMBER YOUNG:

6 Thank you, Mr. President. I would
7 like to offer an amendment to Bill
8 No. 250917. A copy of the
9 amendment has been circulated to
10 all members of Council, and I move
11 for the adoption of the amendment.

12 COUNCILMEMBERS: Second.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

14 It has been moved and properly
15 seconded that the amendment to Bill
16 No. 250917 be adopted. All in
17 favor will signify by saying aye.

18 COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

20 Those opposed? The ayes have it,
21 and the bill has been amended.
22 This bill will be placed on our
23 final passage calendar for the next
24 session of Council.

1 Will the clerk please read
2 the title of Bill No. 250980?

3 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
4 amending chapter 9-3900 of the
5 Philadelphia Code, entitled
6 Property Licenses and Owner
7 Accountability by requiring
8 non-resident landlords to provide
9 verifiable contact information, and
10 a designated local contact, and
11 establishing penalties for
12 non-compliance, all under certain
13 terms and conditions.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
15 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
16 Dr. Anthony Phillips for a motion.

17 COUNCILMEMBER PHILIPS:
18 Thank you, Council President. I
19 would like to offer an amendment to
20 Bill No. 250980. A copy of the
21 amendment has been circulated to
22 all members of Council. I move for
23 the adoption of the amendment.

24 COUNCILMEMBERS: Second.

1 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

2 It has been moved and properly
3 seconded that the amendment to Bill
4 No. 250980 be adopted. All those
5 in favor will signify by saying
6 aye.

7 COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

9 Those opposed? The ayes have it,
10 and the bill has been amended.
11 This bill will be placed on our
12 final passage calendar for our next
13 session of Council.

14 The clerk will now read
15 any additional resolutions on
16 today's calendar.

17 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged
18 resolution, honoring and
19 recognizing --

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

21 Council will be at ease. The Chair
22 recognizes Councilman Nicholas
23 O'Rourke.

24 COUNCILMEMBER O'ROURKE:

1 Thank you.

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

3 Then Councilmember Rue Landau.

4 COUNCILMEMBER O'ROURKE:

5 Thank you, Mr. President. Just
6 step up for a second. I want to be
7 voted, aye, for all bills I may
8 have missed while stepping out.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

10 It shall be recorded voting aye on
11 all bills and resolutions for
12 Mr. O'Rourke.

13 COUNCILMEMBER LANDAU:

14 Sorry. Please record me as voting
15 aye on all bills and resolutions.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

17 It shall be recorded voting aye on
18 all bills and resolutions.

19 Councilmember Brooks?

20 COUNCILMEMBER BROOKS:

21 Same, Council President, I would
22 like to be voted, aye, on all bills
23 and resolutions.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

1 Will be recorded as voting aye on
2 all bills and resolutions.

3 Chief Clerk, please
4 resume.

5 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged
6 resolution, honoring and
7 recognizing Shelice's Angels for
8 its work empowering young women by
9 expanding their horizons, building
10 self-esteem, and providing
11 resources, mentorship, and exposure
12 to opportunities beyond their
13 immediate environments introduced
14 by Councilmember Phillips.

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

19 COUNCILMEMBER PHILIPS:
20 Thank you, Council President. I
21 move for the adoption of the
22 resolution.

23 COUNCILMEMBERS: Second.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

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

5 COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
7 Anybody opposed? The ayes have it.
8 The resolution is adopted.

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

12 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged
13 resolution Honoring and recognizing
14 Youth Empowerment for Advancement
15 Hangout, YEAH Philly, for its work,
16 advancing community-based violence
17 prevention, youth leadership, and
18 healing-centered engagement with
19 black youth in Philadelphia,
20 introduced by Councilmember
21 Phillips.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
23 The Chair recognizes Councilmember,
24 Dr. Anthony Phillips for a motion

1 on the resolution.

2 COUNCILMEMBER PHILIPS: I
3 move for the adoption of the
4 resolution.

5 COUNCILMEMBERS: Second.

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

11 COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

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

17 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged
18 resolution congratulating and
19 honoring the Deborah Grand Chapter
20 of the Order of the Eastern Star
21 during Women's History Month for
22 126 years of women-led service to
23 the city of Philadelphia and the
24 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania,

1 introduced by Councilmember
2 Gilmore-Richardson on behalf of
3 Council President Johnson.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
5 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
6 Majority Leader Katherine Gilmore-
7 Richardson for a motion.

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

13 COUNCILMEMBERS: Second.

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

19 COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
21 Those opposed? The ayes have it,
22 and the Resolution is adopted.

23 Chief Clerk, please read
24 the title of the next resolution?

1 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged
2 resolution recognizing March 1st
3 through the 7th 2026, during
4 Women's History Month as Women in
5 Construction Week in the city of
6 Philadelphia, introduced by
7 Councilmember Gilmore-Richardson.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
9 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
10 Majority the Katherine Gilmore-
11 Richardson for a motion on the
12 resolution.

13 COUNCILMEMBER GILMORE-
14 RICHARDSON: Thank you,
15 Mr. President. On behalf of all
16 the women in construction, I move
17 for the adoption of the resolution.

18 COUNCILMEMBERS: Second.

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

24 COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

1 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

2 Anyone opposed? The ayes have it,
3 and the resolution is adopted.

4 Chief Clerk, please read
5 the title of the next resolution?

6 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged
7 resolution honoring and recognizing
8 the National Coalition of 100 Black
9 Women Incorporated Pennsylvania
10 Chapter NC100 BWPA on their annual
11 legislative day, and for their
12 dedication to advancing gender and
13 racial equity, and empowering Black
14 women during Women's History Month,
15 introduced by Councilmember Jones.

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

20 COUNCILMEMBER JONES:
21 Thank you, Mr. President. I move
22 for its adoption.

23 COUNCILMEMBERS: Second.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

1 It has been moved and properly
2 seconded that the resolution be
3 adopted. All those in favor
4 signify by saying aye.

5 COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

7 Anyone opposed? The ayes have it.
8 The resolution is adopted.

9 Would Chief Clerk please
10 read the title of the next
11 resolution?

12 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged
13 resolution declaring March 1st
14 through the 7th as National
15 Consumer Protection Week in the
16 city of Philadelphia, introduced by
17 Councilmember Landau.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
19 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
20 Rue Landau for a motion on the
21 resolution.

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

1 resolution.

2 COUNCILMEMBERS: Second.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

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

8 COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

10 Anyone opposed? The ayes have it.
11 The resolution is adopted.

12 Chief Clerk, please read
13 title for the next resolution.

14 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged
15 resolution honoring the life of
16 Nasrallah Abu Siyam, a Palestinian-
17 Philadelphian who was fatally shot
18 in the village of Mukhmas in the
19 occupied West Bank on the first day
20 of Ramadan, introduced by
21 Councilmember Landau.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

23 The Chair recognizes Councilman Rue
24 Landau for a motion on the

1 resolution.

2 COUNCILMEMBER LANDAU:

3 Thank you, Council President. I
4 co-introduced this with
5 Councilmember O'Rourke, and I move
6 for the adoption.

7 COUNCILMEMBERS: Second.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

9 It has been moved and properly
10 seconded that the resolution be
11 adopted. All those in favor
12 signify by saying aye.

13 COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

15 Anyone opposed? The ayes have it.
16 The resolution is adopted.

17 Chief Clerk, please read
18 the title for the next resolution?

19 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged
20 resolution celebrating Cecilia
21 Thompson, Dolores Brown Waters,
22 Yvonne Hughes, Isley Laverne
23 Baskerville, and Black women
24 fighting for disability justice and

1 accessibility for all across
2 Philadelphia on the occasion of
3 Women's History Month, introduced
4 by Councilmember Brooks.

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

9 COUNCILMEMBER BROOKS:
10 Thank you, Council President. I
11 move for the adoption of the
12 resolution.

13 COUNCILMEMBERS: Second.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
15 It has been moved and properly
16 seconded that the resolution be
17 adopted. All those in favor
18 signify by saying aye.

19 COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
21 Anyone opposed? The ayes have it.
22 The resolution is adopted.

23 Chief Clerk, please read
24 the title for the next resolution?

1 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged
2 resolution proclaiming the month of
3 March, 2026 as Irish Heritage Month
4 in the city of Philadelphia, and
5 honoring Daniel J. Hilferty for his
6 commitment to advancing the Irish
7 American community and service as
8 the Grand Marshal leading the 254th
9 St. Patrick's Day parade on March
10 15th, 2026, introduced by
11 Councilmember Driscoll on behalf of
12 Council President Johnson.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
14 The Chair recognizes Councilman
15 Michael Driscoll for a motion on
16 the resolution.

17 COUNCILMEMBER DRISCOLL: I
18 move for the adoption of the
19 resolution.

20 COUNCILMEMBERS: Second.

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

1 signify by saying aye.

2 COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

4 Anyone opposed? The ayes have it.

5 The resolution is adopted.

6 Chief Clerk, please read
7 the title for the next resolution.

8 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged
9 resolution honoring and recognizing
10 the life and legacy of Henrietta
11 Lacks during Women's History Month,
12 and further commending the Lack's
13 family for their advocacy in
14 reaching historic settlements with
15 pharmaceutical companies, and
16 helping to advance national
17 conversations about medical ethics,
18 racial equity, and patient's
19 rights, introduced by Councilmember
20 Bass.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

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

1 COUNCILMEMBER BASS: Thank
2 you, Mr. President. I move for the
3 adoption of the resolution.

4 COUNCILMEMBERS: Second.

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

10 COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

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

16 CHIEF CLERK: There are no
17 further resolutions in my
18 possession, Council President.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
20 Thank you very much. Are there any
21 speeches on behalf of the minority?
22 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
23 Kendra Brooks.

24 COUNCILMEMBER BROOKS:

1 Thank you, Council President.
2 Today is our first stated meeting
3 of Women's History Month, and I am
4 continuing my office's tradition of
5 honoring women who are making
6 history right here in Philadelphia.

7 I introduced a resolution
8 today to recognize Black women
9 leading the fight for more
10 accessible city for all of us. I
11 spent much of my career focused on
12 people with disabilities. And now
13 firsthand, I'm getting -- I know
14 firsthand that getting basic
15 accommodations, accommodations that
16 are guaranteed by federal law is
17 far more difficult than it should
18 be.

19 People with disabilities
20 are ignored, dismissed, and
21 discriminated against on a regular
22 basis. That is the reality in
23 Philadelphia. And these women have
24 refused to accept this as the

1 status quo. They have spent their
2 lives standing up for their
3 children, their loved ones, and all
4 Philadelphians with disabilities.
5 They are making history, just like
6 many Black women before them, by
7 securing resources for our
8 communities, holding powerful
9 people accountable, and demanding
10 justice. I'm so proud to kick off
11 this Women's History month by
12 honoring and celebrating Cecilia
13 Thompson, Dolores Brown Waters,
14 Ivan Hughes, and Isley Laverne
15 Baskerville.

16 I also want to thank my
17 colleagues who are planning to
18 attend this evening's people's
19 hearing on reproductive health. We
20 -- as we reflect on everything that
21 women have fought for and won in
22 the past, we must pay attention to
23 what women are going through right
24 now. Health clinics are closing,

1 Medicaid is being cut, and people
2 in our communities are facing the
3 consequences.

4 We will hear about this
5 directly from Philadelphians at
6 tonight's hearing. I'm looking
7 forward to seeing many of you
8 there. We are at capacity for
9 enrollment, so I ask folks, if
10 you're interested in tuning in,
11 please feel free to tune in via
12 livestream on our
13 Facebook@councilmemberkendrabrooks.
14 Thank you so much.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
16 Thank you very much. The speech is
17 on behalf of the majority. The
18 Chair recognizes Majority Leader
19 Katherine Gilmore-Richardson.

20 COUNCILMEMBER GILMORE-
21 RICHARDSON: Thank you. Thank you,
22 Mr. President. Today, as I do each
23 year during Women's History Month,
24 I introduced a resolution

1 recognizing March 1st through March
2 7th, as Women in Construction Week
3 here in the city of Philadelphia.

4 Women in Construction Week
5 aims to amplify, educate, and
6 inspire current and future
7 generations of women to join and
8 excel in the construction trades,
9 something you all know that I care
10 deeply about.

11 In that spirit, I wanted
12 to take a moment to recognize some
13 of the individuals and
14 organizations who were here with us
15 today, and thank them for their
16 ongoing support.

17 Of course, we had Erin
18 O'Brien-Hofmann from DC21, National
19 Association of Women in
20 Construction, represented by Kimora
21 Anderson, the Philadelphia Chapter
22 of Professional Women in
23 Construction, represented by Leslie
24 Whitby, the National Association of

1 Black Women in Construction, who I
2 had an opportunity to share a time
3 with last Saturday, represented by
4 Carla Hill, who was also joined
5 today by Youth Build Philadelphia.

6 And of course, the
7 Philadelphia Building and
8 Construction Trades Council,
9 represented by Ms. Frith, who was
10 representing Butch Bennett on
11 behalf of Local 98 and the laborers
12 and all of the Philadelphia
13 Building and Construction's Trade
14 Council. I have to shout out, of
15 course, the carpenters who continue
16 to do great work.

17 And finally, the
18 Philadelphia Council of the AFLCIO.
19 I appreciate each and every one of
20 you for joining us today. We have
21 additional activities once Council
22 concludes. We're looking forward
23 to a good time.

24 Secondly, Council

1 President, I wanted to mention for
2 my colleagues, and particularly for
3 our district colleagues, that
4 today, I'm continuing to build on
5 the ongoing work to address quality
6 of life issues here in our city in
7 meaningful and in lasting ways, and
8 particularly, as it relates to the
9 illegal smoke shops that we are
10 plagued with here in the city of
11 Philadelphia.

12 You know that I've said
13 this time and time again, these
14 businesses have been fueling crime,
15 they operate without community
16 approval, they are exposing our
17 young people to some dangerous
18 products that we don't even know
19 what's inside of these products.

20 And they're really, really
21 holding our neighborhoods and our
22 commercial corridors back. And for
23 years, I've worked with many
24 members of this legislative body to

1 strengthen enforcement and crack
2 down on these establishments. And
3 we have made meaningful and
4 important progress, and I
5 appreciate the work that we all
6 have continued to do. But we know
7 that our work is far from complete.

8 So today, I introduced two
9 new pieces of legislation. And I
10 want to thank, in particular, my
11 colleague who has worked with us on
12 this legislation from day one,
13 Councilmember Brian O'Neill, and
14 for all the help and support of his
15 team, and his legislative staff.
16 If you don't know, he is a zoning
17 guru. He knows everything about
18 zoning in the city of Philadelphia.
19 So thank you to him and to his
20 team.

21 Also, to my colleague,
22 Councilmember J. Young, who has
23 been working tirelessly in his
24 district on this issue, as well as

1 Councilmember Jones, my district
2 Councilmember, who has been working
3 on this, I know since 2021, since
4 that tour in North 54th. And then
5 also Councilmember Dr. Anthony
6 Phillips, who has worked very
7 closely with my office.

8 And finally, I must
9 mention Councilmember Cindy Bass,
10 who has done a lion share of this
11 work prior to me being a member of
12 City Council. But the two new
13 pieces of legislation would
14 establish accountability for
15 commercial landlords who rent
16 illegal smoke shops and create a
17 definition of intoxicating
18 substances in our Philadelphia
19 Code, including Hemp products and
20 Kratom.

21 The first bill, the
22 Illegal Smoke Shop Accountability
23 bill is modeled after similar
24 successful enforcement legislation

1 used in New York City, and it would
2 add a new section to our
3 Philadelphia Code, allowing the
4 city to take action against
5 commercial landlords who knowingly
6 allow illegal smoke shops to
7 operate in their properties.

8 The second bill, the
9 Intoxicating Substances Bill, would
10 add a new section to the
11 Philadelphia Code that creates
12 definitions for intoxicating
13 substances for Hemp-derived
14 products and for Kratom. And it
15 clarifies the city's current rule
16 that products with intoxicating
17 substances are considered
18 adulterated and cannot be sold
19 until they are considered safe by
20 the Food and Drug Administration.

21 And it will create an
22 intoxicating substance retailer
23 license, limiting where these
24 FDA-approved products can be sold,

1 and ensuring that as a city we know
2 who's selling them, and where
3 they're selling these products. It
4 also sets a 21 and over age limit
5 for the sale of these products.

6 And so together, these two
7 new pieces of legislation will
8 really strengthen our enforcement
9 mechanisms and ensure that we are
10 using every tool in our toolbox to
11 continue to make our community
12 safer and support their long-term
13 wellbeing.

14 And I look forward to
15 continuing to work with my Council
16 colleagues to hold these bad actors
17 accountable, and to ensure our
18 neighborhoods are places where
19 families, businesses, and
20 communities can grow and thrive.

21 And I wanted to mention on the
22 record for our district colleagues
23 that this legislation, the second
24 bill, was derived from and modeled

1 after the medical marijuana
2 legislation that was introduced by
3 Councilmember Jones.

4 And so if you read the
5 text version of the bill as
6 introduced, you will see that it's
7 modeled directly off of that bill,
8 which is why our office reached out
9 to every district Councilmember in
10 writing yesterday to know -- so you
11 know that we are ready, willing,
12 able, and prepared to work with
13 each of you to ensure that the
14 corridors you would like addressed
15 in the legislation will be
16 addressed.

17 But I don't want you to
18 think that we were just looking at,
19 you know, the 4th, the 5th and the
20 10th, it's just that the
21 legislation was modeled off of
22 other legislation in the code, and
23 so now we'll work through that
24 process as we move hopefully

1 towards the hearing phase and
2 alternate passage of the
3 legislation.

4 So thank you very much,
5 colleagues. Thank you, Council
6 President, and our work certainly
7 continues.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

9 Thank you. Good work. The Chair
10 recognizes Councilmember
11 Dr. Anthony Phillips.

12 COUNCILMEMBER PHILIPS:

13 Thank you, Council President. As I
14 stated earlier, we were able to
15 honor Zaire Franklin, NFL Pro
16 baller, for his incredible work in
17 the city of Philadelphia. His
18 mother was a stalwart in his life,
19 and he honored her by creating a
20 foundation that empowers young
21 women.

22 So we want to continue to
23 push him to do great things. I
24 would be remiss if I didn't mention

1 something important about Zaire.
2 As I noted earlier, he's a graduate
3 La Salle College High School, and
4 as someone who also went to La
5 Salle, I feel obligated in the
6 interest of full transparency to
7 note that some of the best people
8 come from there. And I mean, look
9 at the evidence.

10 An NFL player giving back
11 to the community, and now myself
12 introduced a resolution about it, I
13 think Brown O'Neil would agree. So
14 -- but all seriousness, thank you,
15 Zaire, for all the work that you
16 do.

17 The second resolution
18 recognizes, YEAH Philly, Youth
19 Empowerment for Advancement
20 Hangout, for their work, advancing
21 community-based violence prevention
22 and youth leadership, founded by
23 Kendra Van Day Water, and James
24 Aye. YEAH Philly provides safe

1 spaces, mentorship, workforce
2 opportunities, and healing-centered
3 support for young people, ages 15
4 to 24, who have been impacted by
5 violence.

6 They serve hundreds of
7 young people each year, helping
8 them resolve conflicts and create
9 pathways towards the stability and
10 opportunity.

11 I also want to acknowledge
12 Councilmember Jamie Gauthier, who
13 is the primary co-sponsor of this
14 resolution since YEAH Philly
15 operates in the 3rd Councilmanic
16 District. We're grateful for her
17 partnership and leadership.

18 Colleagues, these organizations
19 represent the very best of
20 Philadelphia, particularly in West
21 Philadelphia and southwest
22 Philadelphia.

23 People are showing up and
24 investing in our youth, and

1 building stronger communities every
2 day. I ask for your support, and I
3 thank you for your support of
4 Shelice's Angels, and YEAH Philly
5 for the important work they're
6 doing to improve the next
7 generation leaders.

8 And I also want to quickly
9 acknowledge and thank our senior
10 policy director who is celebrating
11 two years with me today. And we've
12 been doing some really good stuff
13 together. I'm looking forward.
14 Her name is Cykhira Walton, as you
15 all know here. And so we're
16 looking forward to continuing the
17 good work together. So thank you.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
19 I hope she get a raise on Women's
20 History Month. We need -- we need
21 more than just, oh, she was great
22 for two years.

23 COUNCILMEMBER PHILIPS:
24 You got me good there.

1 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

2 Hey.

3 COUNCILMEMBER PHILIPS:

4 I'm done. All right.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

6 Thank you, Dr. Phillips. Any other
7 remarks, sir?

8 COUNCILMEMBER PHILIPS:

9 There was one other thing I wanted
10 to say, but I done forgot about it,
11 so hopefully it comes back to me.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

13 Thank you, Dr. Phillips.

14 COUNCILMEMBER PHILIPS:

15 Thank you.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

17 Thank you for your hard work, sir.

18 COUNCILMEMBER PHILLIPS: I
19 appreciate.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

21 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
22 Dr. Nina Ahmad.

23 COUNCILMEMBER AHMAD:

24 Thank you, Council President. This

1 past Monday, I held a very
2 productive hearing examining the
3 current state of Philadelphia's
4 reproductive healthcare system, the
5 shifting federal landscape
6 affecting reproductive policy, and
7 the city's role in protecting
8 reproductive freedom.

9 I wanted to thank my
10 Councilmembers on the Public Health
11 and Human Services Committee for
12 attending and contributing
13 thoughtfully to the conversation,
14 and especially Councilmember
15 O'Rourke, who sat through the
16 entire thing. So I deeply
17 appreciate it. It was a long
18 hearing.

19 I wanted to, in honor of
20 Women's History Month, name all of
21 these women who came to testify.
22 You know, I'll try to be quick, but
23 I just want to make sure we
24 acknowledge the hard work of all

1 those who came and who came with
2 very solution-oriented testimony,
3 and that's what we had asked them
4 to do.

5 So they were Dr. Aasta
6 Mehta from the Philadelphia
7 Department of Public Health,
8 Division of Reproductive,
9 Adolescent, and Child Health;
10 Dr. Meredith Matone from CHOP; Lila
11 Slovak from the Women's Law
12 Project; LaQuisha Anthony of WOAR;
13 Jabina Coleman, founder of Bay
14 Culture; Jessica Corey from the
15 Maternity Care Coalition; Selima
16 Jay McNeil; Carla Mendez Lugo; and
17 Lila Finley from Oshun Family
18 Center; Signe Espinoza from Planned
19 Parenthood; Audrey Ann Ross from
20 the Access Matters; Dr. Diana
21 Montoya-Williams from the Perelman
22 School of Medicine; Dr. Alice
23 Abernathy, Perelman School of
24 Medicine; Dr. Abigail Wolf,

1 Perelman School of Medicine;
2 Professor Elizabeth Kukura, Drexel
3 University Kline School of Law;
4 Katya Perez of the Abortion
5 Liberation Fund of PA; Jenné Johns,
6 President of Once Upon A Preemie;
7 Jessi Schwarz from the Lifecycle
8 Wellness and Birth Center;
9 Dr. Hillary Rosenstein from the
10 Mazzoni Center, who was unable to
11 attend but sent her testimony; and
12 Robyn Faye, gynecologist as well.
13 This was a part of an ongoing fact-
14 finding effort authorized by
15 Council to evaluate barriers to
16 care.

17 And I look forward to
18 working with all my fellow
19 Councilmembers on developing a more
20 coordinated response with
21 providers, partners, advocates, and
22 community members.

23 Yesterday, I had an
24 opportunity to attend a press

1 conference, hosted by the
2 Philadelphia Federation of
3 Teachers, and the Lankenau
4 Environmental Magnet High School.
5 Alongside with Councilmembers
6 Gilmore-Richardson, Isaiah Thomas,
7 and House Representative Morgan
8 Cephas, I continue to oppose the
9 school district's decision to shut
10 down Lankenau Environmental Science
11 Magnet High School and giving it 17
12 acres of land to developers.

13 Lankenau is educating the
14 future stewards of our planet, has
15 100 percent graduation rate,
16 supports the state's only three-
17 year CTE, and is a Title I school
18 with 98 percent minority student
19 body. Closing it would be an
20 injustice, and I will continue to
21 stand against this position.

22 Furthers on a happier
23 note, today, immediately after this
24 session, I will join all available

1 city councilmembers for a briefing
2 at the Salvation -- with the
3 Salvation Army to discuss human
4 trafficking and the work being done
5 by Salvation Army in our caucus
6 room. I look forward to all of you
7 joining us there.

8 And this weekend, I'm
9 joining State Representative
10 Hohenstein, and Councilmember
11 Quetcy Lozada for a shredding and
12 electronic recycling event at
13 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at 5801
14 Frankford Community -- Frankford --
15 oops, sorry, 5801 Frankford, and
16 community members are all welcome,
17 including all our Councilmembers.

18 I'm also proud to join
19 fellow Councilmembers this same
20 Saturday from 11:00 to 1:00 for the
21 Standup for Science Rally at the
22 north side of Philly Hall -- Philly
23 City Hall. I am proud to be a part
24 of a Council that stands up for

1 those who are being oppressed and
2 targeted. And so I thank you all
3 for your attention.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

5 Thank you very much. Good job.

6 Also joining us in the
7 chambers today is former staffer
8 from the 4th Councilmanic District.
9 The Chair of the Philadelphia
10 Delegation, State Representative
11 Morgan Cephas. Thank you for
12 joining us.

13 The Chair recognizes
14 Councilmember Dr. Anthony Phillips,
15 briefly.

16 COUNCILMEMBER PHILIPS:

17 Yes, just 20 seconds. I remember
18 what I wanted to say. I'm going to
19 be away this weekend, but I just
20 want to quickly acknowledge the
21 fact that our colleague,
22 Councilmember Lozada, is being
23 recognized by Roberto Clemente
24 Middle School. She's going to get

1 a name on a -- a name on a room at
2 the Family Resource Center. I wish
3 I could be there, but
4 congratulations and thanks for all
5 of your hard work that you're
6 doing. So keep up the good work,
7 Councilmember Lozada.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
9 Congratulations. They're naming
10 buildings after you and stuff.
11 Your second turn. I can't say that
12 about your predecessor, but good
13 job.

14 The Chair recognizes the
15 Councilmember Curtis Jones, Jr.

16 COUNCILMEMBER JONES:
17 Thank you. Thank you,
18 Mr. President. Very quickly, I
19 wanted to acknowledge the Lenfest
20 Institute who was down here and
21 there in social media and
22 journalism, and they were here
23 today. Chelsea Cox was the among
24 them sister of Morgan Cephas the

1 other famous Cephas. And so if
2 they're here.

3 The second thing I wanted
4 to talk about, Mr. President, was
5 I'm truly grateful to serve with my
6 colleagues in this room. We come
7 from different backgrounds,
8 different races, different
9 religions, but we stand on the --
10 on the behalf of right.

11 If you noticed, there were
12 different Islamic organizations
13 recognizing Sister Clara Muhammad.
14 Thank you, Member Gauthier for
15 putting that in. But they were all
16 unified in a sense of harmony about
17 what was going on, in spite of the
18 chaos -- kept in chaos that Number
19 47, the President of the United
20 States is doing.

21 We are actively engaged in
22 military conflict in 11 -- no, 12
23 different countries because of that
24 chaos. It is Ramadan, it is a time

1 where most Muslims want to kind of
2 internalize their religion, but
3 they cannot because they're
4 fighting a war. Whether you deal
5 with the governmental side of how
6 it got started, it's going on, and
7 he is 10 toes down, and it is very
8 concerning the position we are in
9 right now.

10 So I go back to what I
11 started, I'm grateful to serve with
12 the diversity that's in this room,
13 because we stand together on a
14 great many things, and we want to
15 make sure that we deal with the
16 things we can under our feet. And
17 you've always been a proponent of
18 that, Mr. President, and for which
19 I am grateful. Thank you.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
21 Thank you, Member Jones.

22 Councilmember Rue Landau.

23 COUNCILMEMBER LANDAU:
24 Thank you, Council President, and

1 thank you, colleague Councilman
2 Jones, for always putting our
3 international conflicts and chaos
4 in such perspective for us. It's
5 important, and as we all know, it
6 trickles into our Philadelphia
7 communities.

8 So it's important that we
9 recognize what's happening and
10 we're honest about it as well.

11 Today, I introduced a
12 resolution declaring this week as
13 National Consumer Protection Week
14 in the city of Philadelphia. This
15 week is a great opportunity to
16 remind everyone that Philadelphians
17 must stay vigilant against fraud.

18 I encourage anyone who
19 would like to file a consumer
20 complaint to call the Pennsylvania
21 Bureau of Consumer Protection
22 Resources at 1-800-441-2555, or
23 online at the Attorney General's
24 website.

1 In my first year of
2 office, I introduced a consumer
3 protection ordinance on behalf of
4 the Parker Administration, which
5 empowers the city to respond to
6 frauds harming consumers. I'm
7 excited to continue that work and
8 for the -- or this -- the ordinance
9 to continue to pay dividends for
10 Philadelphians who may have fallen
11 victim to predatory or fraudulent
12 practices.

13 Today, I also
14 co-introduced with Councilmember
15 O'Rourke a resolution honoring the
16 life of Nasrallah Abu Siyam, a
17 Palestinian Philadelphian who was
18 fatally shot in the occupied West
19 Bank on the first day of Ramadan.

20 He was born here in
21 Philadelphia, and his friends and
22 family are deeply mourning his
23 passing. I'd like to acknowledge
24 members of his family who joined us

1 for a Council session today, and
2 other members of his family are
3 trapped overseas after having flown
4 over for his funeral and are unable
5 to secure a way home due to the
6 most recent, but also unjust, new
7 war on Iran at the hands of the
8 president.

9 The United States -- US
10 State Department, and the
11 Department of Justice must conduct
12 a full investigation and pursue
13 justice for Nasrallah. Our
14 thoughts are with his family during
15 this difficult time. Thank you
16 very much.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
18 Thank you very much.

19 The Chair recognizes
20 Councilmember Jeffrey J. Young.

21 COUNCILMEMBER YOUNG:
22 Thank you, Mr. President. I want
23 to acknowledge that our Ramadan Toy
24 Drive is still live. We have

1 partnered with the Philly Majlis,
2 Councilman Jones, Chairman Omar
3 Sabir, the Office of Muslim
4 Engagement, and Parks and Rec, and
5 we are still accepting toy
6 donations through March 13th.

7 And we encourage anyone
8 who can give us help and a donation
9 to donate; you can donate at my
10 office. You can donate at Makkah
11 Mosque. You can donate at
12 Commissioner Sabir's North
13 Philadelphia office as well. And
14 the donated toys will be
15 distributed at our post-Eid toy
16 giveaway on Saturday, March 21st
17 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at
18 Penrose Recreation Center.

19 And actually, in that same
20 spirit of Ramadan, for Read Across
21 America Day, I had the opportunity
22 to read a book called Ramadan
23 Kareem to 3rd and 5th graders at
24 Dunbar Elementary School. And

1 that's the book that they chose
2 democratically. We had a list of
3 books, and each class voted,
4 surprisingly, on the same book to
5 be read, which is Ramadan Kareem.

6 And at Dunbar, right, this
7 is a school that is a part of the
8 school district facilities plan.
9 This school has small class sizes,
10 where the students are able to
11 thrive. But the school district
12 wants to disrupt this particular
13 school by sending hundreds of kids
14 from the Ludlow neighborhood to
15 Dunbar for school, which is a mile-
16 and-a-half away, and again, leaving
17 Ludlow without a school in that
18 neighborhood.

19 And so as we continue to
20 go through and work out this
21 facilities plan, I hope the school
22 district is listening to residents
23 of the city of Philadelphia,
24 because this plan, even as its

1 tweaked, doesn't make any sense.
2 Particularly in my Council
3 district, as I stated to the school
4 board, there are a lot of
5 contradictions in your goals of
6 your plan and how it really impacts
7 the 5th Council district.

8 So I'm going to continue
9 to say something about it, and do
10 something about it. As I know my
11 colleagues, we did -- I did
12 introduce a bill that will allow us
13 to impeach school board members.
14 And so that's something I'm going
15 to be talking to you about very,
16 very soon as we move forward with
17 this process.

18 We also, today, we
19 introduce legislation. You know,
20 Philadelphia's preparing to host a
21 World Cup and a lot of other
22 events. And as excitement builds
23 around the fan experience on the
24 parkway in Lemon Hill, we must also

1 ensure that surrounding
2 neighborhoods are protected. So we
3 introduced a bill today that will
4 allow for free residential permit
5 parking for residents around that
6 Parkway Lemon Hill area.

7 So you live in the
8 southern part of Strawberry
9 Mansion, in Brewerytown, in
10 Fairmount, in Spring Garden, and
11 Logan Square, we want to make sure
12 your community is protected. Major
13 events like this bring crowds, and
14 without planning, visitors
15 searching for parking can overwhelm
16 residential blocks and make it
17 difficult for residents to park
18 near their own homes.

19 This ordinance designates
20 permanent parking -- designate a
21 permanent parking district so
22 residents are not pushed out of
23 their own streets during the fan
24 experience.

1 If we are going to host
2 global events, we need to plan
3 ahead. This legislation helps
4 balance welcoming visitors while
5 protecting the quality of life of
6 people who live here. So I want to
7 thank Councilmember Jones for
8 co-sponsoring this legislation with
9 me as well.

10 And finally, during
11 Women's History Month, we are proud
12 to honor Dr. Constance E. Clayton,
13 a pioneer in leading education here
14 in the city of Philadelphia.
15 Dr. Clayton made history as the
16 first African American and first
17 woman superintendent of the School
18 District of Philadelphia, leading
19 with vision and courage at a
20 critical moment for our public
21 schools. Dr. Clayton believed
22 deeply that decisions about our
23 schools must always center
24 students, families, and

1 communities.

2 I hope the school district
3 is listening into that, right?

4 Naming this street in honor of her
5 reminds us that we shape the future
6 of our schools. We must do so with
7 transparency, community voice, and
8 the commitment to opportunity for
9 every child. Designating this
10 block as Dr. Constance E. Clayton
11 Way ensures her legacy continues to
12 inspire generations of students,
13 educators, and leaders.

14 And I'm asking all of
15 those who love Dr. Clayton, who
16 want to honor Dr. Clayton to come
17 out next week to testify as this
18 legislation is on final passage.

19 And as you alluded to,
20 Mr. President, I don't think that
21 this current plan would be
22 something that Dr. Clayton would be
23 for. So I hope the school district
24 again continues to work with

1 communities, work with members of
2 Council to ensure that as this
3 facilities plan rolls out, it's
4 done so with equity, with real
5 equity, right? Because you can't
6 have a goal of increasing college
7 access while closing the schools
8 that send our kids to college.

9 That just doesn't make any
10 sense. And so I hope we continue
11 to work through this plan, so it
12 becomes a better school district of
13 Philadelphia, again, where only 70
14 percent of our fourth graders are
15 able to read at grade level. How
16 does this plan address that? Thank
17 you, Mr. President.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
19 Thank you very much. The Chair
20 recognizes the majority Deputy Whip
21 Councilmember Cindy Bass.

22 COUNCILMEMBER BASS: Thank
23 you, Mr. President. And speaking
24 about education, following up on my

1 colleagues' comments, I'm looking
2 forward to supporting the
3 resolution on the renaming for
4 Dr. Constance Clayton, who was a
5 neighbor and I lived in the same
6 area as myself and Councilmember
7 Ahmad, and was just so highly
8 regarded and respected. So I'm
9 looking forward to supporting your
10 resolution.

11 And also, I wanted to -- I
12 would like the record to reflect
13 that the students who joined us
14 today from PTTI, they were specific
15 students from the START program,
16 which is Skill Technical and
17 Rehabilitation Training. This
18 program provides structural --
19 structured Saturday programming,
20 focused on work readiness, personal
21 development, and support for court-
22 involved youth as they transition
23 back into their communities.

24 And we are grateful to

1 have them here with us today and
2 thankful for PTTI for the important
3 work that they're doing for the
4 young people in Philadelphia. And
5 they also, I believe, came down and
6 are sitting here with us today.
7 So, again, thank you so much for
8 being here.

9 I also wanted to make
10 mention that last week, there was a
11 school district hearing or school
12 district meeting to talk about the
13 school closures.

14 And although I tried to
15 stay as long as I could, I was a
16 little sick with the flu, still
17 recovering, but I wanted to really
18 make a full mention of my comments
19 because I didn't get a chance to
20 that evening. And I really wanted
21 to just say that, you know, and I
22 say this over and over again, if
23 you create the conditions, you are
24 responsible for the results. You

1 are responsible for what we are
2 looking at right now. And you have
3 created these conditions by making
4 changes. There was an analysis
5 done by the Enquirer that listed
6 how lower enrollment in specific
7 schools was a direct result of
8 school district changes to special
9 admit schools.

10 And so the reason that
11 you're now saying that you have to
12 close them is because the
13 enrollment is low, but you put in
14 place the actions, which cause the
15 enrollment to be low -- and so --
16 to be lower than it's supposed to
17 be. And again, if you create this
18 situation, you have to fix it.

19 And so they had a number
20 of different options to choose
21 from, the district did, in terms of
22 figuring out how to make this
23 better. The options could have
24 been revisiting the special admit

1 policy and make corrections to
2 ensure that quality educational
3 options are done and available in
4 every single neighborhood. That's
5 still an option.

6 The other option is to
7 move students to empty spaces to
8 preserve schools and neighborhoods
9 with less attendance. You know,
10 provide transportation. Why is
11 that not an option, where you have
12 schools primarily on the east side
13 of Broad Street that are, you know,
14 just overwhelmed with capacity, and
15 then you have empty seats on the
16 west side of Broad Street?

17 Why are we not even having
18 a conversation about moving
19 students so that we can have
20 quality education in every
21 neighborhood? Because what are we
22 going to do? Are we really talking
23 about taking empty school
24 buildings, putting -- making the

1 residential locations, apartments
2 and whatnot, condos, whatever.

3 And I -- like, are those
4 people moving in? Do any of them
5 have children? I'm assuming that
6 they do. Are we just going to say,
7 okay, well you can only move in if
8 you don't have children, because we
9 don't have any educational options
10 in this part of Philadelphia for
11 you, because we've moved them all
12 on the east side of Broad Street.

13 And so, you know, we have
14 to be really thoughtful about what
15 we're talking about. You cannot
16 take away these options, and then
17 when these neighborhoods come back,
18 bounce back, grow back, thrive, you
19 know, with families, where are
20 those children going to go to
21 school if we keep making these
22 kinds of decisions?

23 When we closed -- when the
24 school district, not we, when the

1 school district decided to close
2 buildings 10 years ago, you know,
3 the district put up a map when they
4 did their presentation. And they
5 showed how there were closures on
6 the east side, closures on the west
7 side 10 years ago. And, you know,
8 the sort of like the growth and the
9 change on the east side. Okay,
10 fine.

11 Now you're coming back and
12 saying, we're making these
13 additional changes, but you never
14 went back and fixed the changes and
15 the resulting damage that was done,
16 and the trauma that was done from
17 the changes that happened from the
18 closures 10 years ago.

19 And, you know,
20 Dr. Watlington said, "Well, when
21 you drop out of school, that's a
22 life decision. Because if you drop
23 out, there's a likelihood that you
24 don't have the same life

1 expectancy." Well, from his own
2 words, you know, we know that when
3 we close schools, you lose
4 students.

5 During COVID, we know that
6 we lost some of our students that
7 we couldn't account for. We don't
8 know what happened to them; they
9 just sort of dropped out of sight,
10 and the district doesn't know what
11 happened to them. And the same
12 thing when we did those closures 10
13 years ago, some of those students
14 dropped out.

15 So the district is making
16 those life-impacting decisions for
17 our young people, and who are going
18 to be traumatized by these changes
19 and closures.

20 So, you know, I have a lot
21 to say about it, but I just wanted
22 to drop that for right now because
23 there's a lot more that I think we
24 can do and could be done to keep

1 our schools open. Those schools
2 don't have to be closed. That's
3 the easy solution. You know,
4 that's the easy thing to do.

5 But the important and the
6 hard work behind it means that we
7 need to go back to the drawing
8 board, look at what was done 10
9 years ago, and make the corrections
10 rather than just closing those
11 schools as the option. So thank
12 you, Mr. President.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
14 Thank you, Member Bass. Very well
15 said. That concludes all of our
16 speeches. The Chair recognizes
17 Majority Leader Katherine Gilmore-
18 Richardson for a motion to adjourn.

19 COUNCILMEMBER GILMORE-
20 RICHARDSON: Thank you,
21 Mr. President. I move that Council
22 stand adjourned until Thursday,
23 March 12th, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

24 COUNCILMEMBER: Second.

1 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

2 It has been moved and properly
3 seconded. The Council stand
4 adjourned until Thursday, March
5 12th at 10:00 a.m. All those in
6 favor signify by saying aye.

7 COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

9 Those opposed? The ayes have it.
10 The motion carries. Thank you all
11 very much, and that's March 12th,
12 2026, for the record.

13 (Stated meeting concluded at 1:10 p.m.)
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C E R T I F I C A T I O N

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

Samanda J. Rios

Samanda J. Rios

Court Reporter
Notary Public of PA & DE

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City of Philadelphia
City Council Calendar
Thursday, March 5, 2026

PUBLIC COMMENT

ABOUT PUBLIC COMMENT: City Council receives public comment on bills and resolutions that are printed on this agenda for the meeting. Speakers will have up to three minutes to speak; please prepare your comments to fit within that time limit. The Council President, may, depending on circumstances, establish a lower time limit. The Council President will announce the applicable time limit at the beginning of the public comment portion of the agenda. The Council President may also limit repetitious comments on the same agenda item or defer comments to the next meeting of Council.

HOW TO SIGN UP FOR PUBLIC COMMENT: Speakers for public comment can sign up in advance, submit comments electronically, or sign up to speak the day of the meeting.

To sign up in advance, speakers may call 215-686-3406 or email chiefclerk@phila.gov by no later than 3 p.m. the day before the meeting. Speakers who sign up in advance will be added to the list. Speakers must provide the following information:

- Full name (including proper pronunciation and spelling)
- The bill number or resolution number that will be addressed
- Whether you support or oppose that particular bill or resolution
- Telephone number where you can be reached
- Street address

Speakers may also submit public comment electronically by email to chiefclerk@phila.gov no later than 3 p.m. the day before the meeting, preferably as a PDF attachment to the email. Electronic submissions become part of the written record of the proceedings but they are not read aloud in Council. To sign up the day of the meeting, come to Room 400, City Hall and check in at the desk by the entrance.

***If you require an accommodation or service to fully participate, please let the Chief Clerk's Office know when signing up for Public Comment.**

***If you need an interpreter for these events, please call or email the Chief Clerk's office for information about our language services.**

ORDER OF BUSINESS IN A COUNCIL SESSION

Note: Some items do not occur at every session:

Invocation.

Approval of the journal of the preceding meeting.

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

Reading of communications from the Mayor.

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

Reports from Committees of Council.

Special business.

Bills on first reading.

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

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

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

Bills and resolutions on the Suspension Calendar.

Speeches by Councilmembers.

BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS ON FINAL PASSAGE**260136****INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Gauthier

Resolution also naming the 4700 Block of Wyalusing Avenue as “Philadelphia Masjid Way” in recognition of over 50 years of faith, service, leadership, and community excellence.

260139**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Jones for Council President Johnson

Resolution calling on the PA General Assembly to take swift and decisive action to pass Pennsylvania Senate Bill 110, also known as Bryan’s Law, to amend the Emergency and Law Enforcement Personnel Death Benefits Act to extend line-of-duty death benefits to surviving spouses and children of first responders who die from job-related trauma, including PTSI-related suicide, ensuring equitable treatment for their families.

BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS ON SECOND READING AND FINAL PASSAGE**250768****INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Gauthier

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

250807**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Squilla

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

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

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

250917**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Young

An Ordinance amending Section 14-529 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled “/VDO, Fifth District Overlay District,” to provide for building requirements to prevent vacant lots, all under certain terms and conditions.

250980**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Phillips

An Ordinance amending Chapter 9-3900 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled “Property Licenses and Owner Accountability,” by requiring non-resident landlords to provide verifiable contact information and a designated local contact and establishing penalties for non-compliance, all under certain terms and conditions.

251025**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Driscoll

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