

6/8/2023

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
COMMITTEE ON LAW AND GOVERNMENT

Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Thursday, June 8, 2023
3:59 p.m.

PRESENT:

COUNCILWOMAN KATHERINE GILMORE RICHARDSON,
CHAIR
COUNCILWOMAN CINDY BASS
COUNCILWOMAN KENDRA BROOKS
COUNCILMAN JIM HARRITY
COUNCILMAN CURTIS JONES, JR.
COUNCILMAN BRIAN J. O'NEILL
COUNCILMAN ANTHONY PHILLIPS
COUNCILMAN MARK SQUILLA

BILLS 230005, 230411, and 230435
RESOLUTION 230430

- - -

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1 6/8/23 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 230005, ETC.

2 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Good
3 afternoon. Before we begin the public
4 hearing, I will make the following
5 announcement:

6 City Council committees are
7 currently meeting remotely. We are using
8 Microsoft Teams to make these remote
9 hearings possible. Instructions for how
10 the public may view and offer public
11 testimony at public hearings of Council
12 committees are included in the public
13 hearing notice -- pardon me.

14 City Council committees are
15 currently meeting remotely. We are using
16 Microsoft Teams to make these remote
17 hearings possible. Instructions for how
18 the public may view and offer public
19 testimony at public hearings of Council
20 committees are included in the public
21 hearing notices that are published in the
22 Daily News, Inquirer, and Legal
23 Intelligencer prior to the hearings, and
24 can also be found on PHLCouncil.com.

25 I now note that the hour has

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1 6/8/23 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 230005, ETC.
2 come.

3 Ms. Alford, will you please
4 call the roll to take attendance.
5 Members that are in attendance will
6 please indicate that you are present when
7 your name is called. Also, please say a
8 few brief words when responding so that
9 your image will be displayed on screen
10 when you speak.

11 THE CLERK: Councilmember Bass.

12 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Good
13 afternoon. I am present.

14 THE CLERK: Councilmember
15 Phillips.

16 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: Good
17 afternoon, colleagues. Good afternoon,
18 Chairwoman Gilmore Richardson. I'm
19 present.

20 THE CLERK: Thank you.
21 Councilmember Jones.

22 COUNCILMAN JONES: Good
23 afternoon, Madam Chair and colleagues.
24 Thank you for your endurance today.

25 THE CLERK: And Chair Gilmore

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2 Richardson.

3 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Thank
4 you, Ms. Alford. I am present.

5 A quorum of the Committee is
6 present and this hearing is now called to
7 order. This is the public hearing of the
8 Committee on Law and Government regarding
9 Bill Nos. 230005, 230435, and 230411 and
10 Resolution No. 230430.

11 Ms. Alford, will you please
12 read the title of the bills.

13 THE CLERK: Bill No. 230005, an
14 ordinance amending Section 9-1102 through
15 1123 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled
16 "Verification of Life Partnerships," by
17 removing gendered language relating to
18 same-sex and same-gender couples,
19 expanding access to this Life
20 Partnerships regardless of gender.

21 Bill No. 230435, an ordinance
22 amending Title 17 of The Philadelphia
23 Code, entitled "Contracts and
24 Procurement," to modify contractor
25 reporting obligations related to women

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1 6/8/23 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 230005, ETC.
2 and minorities serving as board members
3 and executive staff, to eliminate
4 reporting requirements for subcontracted
5 labor sources on certain City contracts
6 for public works, other competitively bid
7 services, bid goods, and professional
8 services, to remove certain requirements
9 for contractor reporting of demographic
10 data, to modify the contract threshold
11 triggering reporting obligations, to
12 revise reporting deadlines, and to make
13 certain technical changes, all under
14 certain terms and conditions.

15 Bill No. 230411, an ordinance
16 providing for the submission to the
17 qualified electors of the City of
18 Philadelphia of the proposal set forth in
19 a Resolution approved by Council
20 proposing an amendment to the
21 Philadelphia Home Rule Charter to provide
22 for the creation of an Office for People
23 with Disabilities, to provide for the
24 powers and duties of such Office, to
25 eliminate a duplicative office and to

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1 6/8/23 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 230005, ETC.
2 otherwise provide for incorporation of
3 the Office into the City government; and
4 authorizing the appropriate officers to
5 publish notice and to make arrangements
6 for the special election.

7 Resolution No. 230430, a
8 resolution proposing an amendment to The
9 Philadelphia Home Rule Charter to provide
10 for the creation of an Office for People
11 with Disabilities, to provide for the
12 powers and duties of such Office, to
13 eliminate a duplicative office and to
14 otherwise provide for incorporation of
15 the Office into the City government; and
16 providing for the submission of the
17 amendment to the electors of
18 Philadelphia.

19 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Thank
20 you.

21 Before we begin to hear
22 testimony from the witnesses we have for
23 today, everyone who has been invited to
24 the meeting to testify should be aware
25 that this public hearing is being

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1 6/8/23 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 230005, ETC.
2 recorded. Because the hearing is public,
3 participants and viewers have no
4 reasonable expectation of privacy. By
5 continuing to be in the meeting, you are
6 consenting to being recorded.

7 Additionally, prior to
8 recognizing members for the questions or
9 comments they have for witnesses, I will
10 note for the record at this time that we
11 will use the Chat feature available in
12 Microsoft Teams to allow members to
13 signify that they wish to be recognized.
14 In order to comply with the Sunshine Act,
15 the Chat feature must only be used for
16 this purpose.

17 I'd now like to recognize
18 Councilmember Brooks before we call upon
19 the witnesses for Bill No. 230411 and
20 Resolution 230430.

21 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: Thank
22 you, Councilmember Gilmore Richardson.
23 Did I hear that properly?

24 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Yes,
25 ma'am.

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2 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: It's been
3 a long day. I'm sorry.

4 Thank you so much for hosting
5 this hearing, and I want to thank Mayor
6 Kenney for creating the Office of People
7 with Disability in 2017 and for pushing
8 for this office to become a firmer
9 institution in our Charter.

10 Before I begin, I want to thank
11 Amy Nieves, Executive Director of the
12 Mayor's Commission on People with
13 Disabilities, and Commissioner Nico
14 Meyering, who will also be speaking
15 today.

16 I also want to thank Vicki
17 Landers and the hundreds of advocates
18 whose work made the creation of the
19 Office of People with Disabilities
20 possible and who constantly push our city
21 and society to be more accessible and
22 more just.

23 As many of you know, my career
24 before City Council was devoted to
25 providing services and programming for

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2 people with disabilities. This work
3 helped me to recognize the many obstacles
4 that make life more difficult for our
5 loved ones and neighbors with
6 disabilities, and it also instilled in me
7 a deep commitment to making our city more
8 accessible for everyone.

9 The Americans with Disability
10 Act became law in 1990, and despite its
11 promises, we still have a lot of work to
12 do to ensure that people with
13 disabilities have the same rights,
14 opportunities, and access as everyone
15 else.

16 This is especially true in
17 Philadelphia, which has the highest
18 proportion of residents with disabilities
19 as any big city in this country. For
20 example, I'm a big fan of streeteries,
21 and they popped up during the pandemic.
22 I love sitting outside with friends and
23 family and enjoying the life of the City,
24 but I also noticed that a lot of the
25 streeteries were not fully accessible,

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2 and that would be difficult for my
3 friends with wheelchairs to join me.

4 I see these barriers in other
5 places too. I see them in the subway
6 stations that don't have functional
7 elevators and also when the machines are
8 too tall for people in the wheelchair to
9 be able to access the fare, and on
10 corners that don't have curb cuts, making
11 it difficult for people in wheelchairs or
12 use walking sticks to kind of navigate
13 corners.

14 Making sure that every
15 Philadelphian can participate in
16 community and culture and the life of our
17 city is not just our moral obligation, it
18 is a legal obligation. And we still have
19 a long way to go to fulfill the promises
20 of ADA, and that's why we need a
21 permanent Office for People with
22 Disabilities.

23 So by submitting this Charter
24 change to voters, we acknowledge the work
25 that still needs to be done, and we

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1 6/8/23 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 230005, ETC.
2 affirm our commitment to making
3 Philadelphia more accessible for
4 everyone.

5 Thank you so much, Madam Chair.

6 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Thank
7 you so much, Councilmember Brooks, the
8 legislation sponsor, for your comments.

9 Councilmember Harrity, for the
10 record, I will recognize you when we call
11 your bill and your panel.

12 But, Ms. Alford, will you
13 please call the first panel we have to
14 testify this afternoon on Bill No. 230411
15 and Resolution No. 230430.

16 THE CLERK: Amy Nieves and Nico
17 Meyering.

18 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Okay.
19 Excellent.

20 Good afternoon. Are you
21 connected and ready to proceed with your
22 testimony? Please state your name for
23 the record and, Amy Nieves, you can
24 proceed with your testimony. Thank you.

25 MS. NIEVES: Thank you,

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2 Chairperson Gilmore Richardson. My name
3 is Amy Nieves. I use she/her pronouns.
4 I'm Executive Director for the Mayor's
5 Office for People with Disabilities.

6 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Okay.
7 Thank you. You can proceed with your
8 testimony.

9 MS. NIEVES: Okay. Thank you
10 so much.

11 Good afternoon again,
12 Chairperson Gilmore Richardson and
13 members of the Law and Government
14 Committee. As stated, again, my name is
15 Amy Nieves. I use she/her pronouns. I'm
16 Executive Director for the Mayor's Office
17 for People with Disabilities. A visual
18 description of myself, I'm a fair-skinned
19 female, blond curly hair, a blue dress,
20 and behind me is my virtual background of
21 the Philadelphia Disability Demographics
22 Map.

23 But beyond my work as the
24 Executive Director, I am also a proud
25 disabled neurodivergent with deafness and

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2 the primary caregiver to my three
3 children, who also all have disabilities.
4 I am also joined by Adrienne Ewing from
5 our office and may be joined later by our
6 Chief DEI Officer, Josie Pickens, and our
7 Commissioner Nico Meyering from the
8 Mayor's Commission on People with
9 Abilities. We thank you for this
10 opportunity to testify on Resolution No.
11 230430.

12 This legislation would create a
13 ballot question in the upcoming election
14 related to transitioning our office,
15 which is the current Mayor's Office for
16 People with Disabilities, which was
17 brought forward into the Office of
18 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion by Mayor
19 Kenney in Executive Order 1-20, to now be
20 a permanent City office known as the
21 Office for People with Disabilities and
22 at the same time amend the Charter to
23 remove harmful language of "handicap
24 advocate" from our City Charter.

25 As outlined in the legislation,

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2 the Office for People with Disabilities
3 will coordinate the City's ADA and other
4 related compliance efforts to create and
5 provide access by people with
6 disabilities to City services, programs
7 through training, policy development;
8 receive complaints and inquiries from the
9 public regarding access to City services
10 and programs and confer with City
11 agencies and places of public
12 administration concerning such complaints
13 and inquiries and elevate as needed to
14 other parties; provide education and
15 guidance to the public on the rights and
16 interests of people with disabilities and
17 address ableism and disability-positive
18 practices. We want to continue to
19 support the appointees and activities of
20 commissions serving people with
21 disabilities, including the Mayor's
22 Commission on People with Disabilities.
23 We will coordinate with our City offices
24 and departments so accessibility for
25 people with disabilities is incorporated

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2 into City policies and programs.

3 Nearly one in five
4 Philadelphians are a person with
5 disabilities. Philadelphia has one of
6 the highest prevalence rates of
7 disability of all U.S. large cities at
8 nearly 17 percent, and this population
9 faces barriers every single day. Our
10 work and office aims to reduce and
11 eliminate these barriers while
12 strengthening our equitable engagements
13 and partnerships.

14 When I was appointed to this
15 role two years ago by Mayor Kenney, I had
16 two goals - to shift the conversation
17 around disability representation and to
18 improve accessibility for our residents.
19 With this legislation, our efforts have
20 the opportunity to take root and to grow.
21 Currently we do provide education, create
22 resources, and address Title II concerns
23 related to City programming and so much
24 more.

25 We also support the Mayor's

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2 Commission, as mentioned, and we make
3 referrals to services and supports for
4 residents on a daily basis. This
5 legislation would expand and build upon
6 our current work and capacity, but this
7 will take an increased capacity in
8 funding to do so.

9 We have accomplished much,
10 especially in the last two years. In
11 January 2022, I came before this body and
12 the full City Council to share our
13 office's success in creating the map that
14 you see before me, which is the nation's
15 first-ever Disability Characteristics
16 Data Map of a U.S. city that brought age,
17 race, and disability together in a
18 user-friendly geographic information
19 systems map. This map has been
20 transformative for our city on many ways.
21 Since its launch, thousands of users have
22 utilized the map to inform their work
23 plan --

24 (Background noise.)

25 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON:

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2 Excuse me.

3 COUNCILMAN JONES: Can everyone
4 put --

5 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: We
6 need everyone to go on mute.

7 MS. NIEVES: Thank you.

8 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Wow.

9 MS. NIEVES: Pardon me. I lost
10 my train of thought.

11 But as I was saying, this map
12 has been transformative to our city.
13 Since its launch, thousands of users have
14 utilized the map to inform their work
15 plans, gain grant funding, shift their
16 dialogues around disability and
17 inclusion. It has also had a national
18 and global influence in disability
19 demographic space and how we look at
20 demographics.

21 In November of 2022, the U.S.
22 Access Board invited us to present this
23 work to the leaders of all of our
24 nation's federal agencies. That same
25 week we taught the fifth grade class at

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2 Frankford Friends how to use the map.
3 And this July we will present the map at
4 the annual ESRI conference, which is the
5 world's largest data mapping conference.

6 And so disability
7 representation should be accessible for
8 everyone at every level, and this is just
9 one example of the many projects that
10 this office has done. And we will soon
11 be upgrading the map this summer, and
12 with those upgrades, it will become the
13 most accessible data map currently
14 available in the world. This project is
15 building the legacy of accessibility for
16 Philadelphia.

17 Additionally, the Commission
18 for People with Disabilities has offered
19 impactful events, education, resources to
20 the community. This past year we spent a
21 lot of intentional time restructuring and
22 expanding what it looks like to ensure
23 that underrepresented disabled voices are
24 represented within the Commission. We
25 have been intentional around these

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2 efforts to bring our community together
3 to move beyond just disability awareness
4 and traditional inclusion models and into
5 a space of belonging and equity for all
6 people.

7 Adrienne and I have provided
8 hundreds of trainings to departments in
9 the last two years and over into our
10 community partners on accessibility,
11 dismantling ableism, and have increased
12 the use of American Sign Language and
13 other accessibility features across
14 departments in the scope of our
15 enhancements of the work of the MOPD.

16 Even our team's account and
17 contract with Microsoft has shifted
18 because of this work. Now you can click
19 the three dots on your Microsoft tab and
20 you will have closed captioning available
21 to you, including in this meeting.

22 Regarding the first-ever Title
23 II ADA Transition Plan that the office is
24 also responsible for and was created in
25 support by the Kenney Administration and

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2 City Council in 2020, we have made
3 tremendous strides over the last three
4 years in addressing corrective actions
5 and making both our built and social
6 environments for our city buildings and
7 programs more accessible. We have
8 successfully also launched our ADA Unit
9 with a \$300,000 grant award from the
10 Operations Transformation Fund. Just
11 yesterday we gathered with the Mayor and
12 our project leads to celebrate the
13 unveiling of 600 fully accessible tactile
14 signs in City Hall. We were able to also
15 address many of the low and no cost
16 corrective actions ahead of schedule
17 within the Title II plan with this
18 project within -- and so, therefore, I
19 want to also point out that this project
20 partnered with Parks and Rec, Public
21 Property, Libraries, and other
22 departments to provide support to vital
23 community centers that they worked -- as
24 they work to increase accessibility.

25 In the scope of our work in the

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2 last year, 45 libraries have been
3 evaluated with this project, with a
4 number of small corrective actions
5 addressed right on the spot during the
6 evaluation process instead of waiting for
7 a report. And this could include
8 adjusting a door speed, changing out a
9 doorknob, removing barriers. By the
10 month's end, approximately 25 recreation
11 centers will also be fully evaluated
12 within the scope of this project, and
13 both departments will be provided a more
14 comprehensive evaluation report to better
15 support their efforts under the existing
16 Transition Plan to ensure quicker and
17 more readily equitable access to our
18 libraries and recreation centers.

19 Our strategic priorities for
20 Fiscal Year '23 and '24 have included
21 efforts to improve around efforts of the
22 Commission, ADA compliance, and how we
23 engage with our constituents.
24 Additionally, we have focused our
25 internal workforce partnerships around

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2 accessible hiring practices, leveraging
3 existing work streams, and setting
4 strategies across departments that have
5 led for impactful policy changes that
6 impact our 30,000 workforce members.

7 We want to ensure that we
8 collectively are approaching our work
9 accessibly and equitably and no matter
10 what we are focusing on and to elevate
11 that disabled people are assets to our
12 workforce, our creative processes,
13 program implementation, and how we lift
14 equity. Disability and capacity I assure
15 you co-exist, and programs created with
16 people they aim to support are more
17 sustainable and impactful than programs
18 built for them.

19 The Office for People with
20 Disabilities is a small agency. There's
21 only two of us currently, and yet we have
22 a community of a quarter of a million
23 Philadelphians to serve. Yet I'm proud
24 of the accomplishments we have done and
25 what has been laid before us, but we know

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2 that the need is vast and there is so
3 much more work that must and can be done.

4 Under this Charter provision,
5 the office will continue our work of
6 ensuring people with disabilities have
7 access to City services and programs and
8 that in certain situations we will be
9 better able to assist in problems of
10 access regarding public spaces across our
11 city.

12 Starting out, I do anticipate
13 our core functions will remain largely
14 focused on City services and programs,
15 community education and outreach, but as
16 capacity and funding allows, I plan to
17 expand our work to address other barriers
18 that they may face in the public parts of
19 our city.

20 This work will also be very
21 complementary to that of our Philadelphia
22 Commission on Human Relations and other
23 anti-discrimination law enforcement
24 entities. OPD already has strong
25 relationships with and has become a

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2 trusted advocate for people with
3 disabilities in this community.

4 Maintaining that trust is of the utmost
5 importance and will require focusing our
6 efforts in certain priority areas as the
7 agency gets itself established to ensure
8 that limited resources are used to
9 maximum effort.

10 I look forward to building on
11 my and my team's record of success in
12 collaboration with members of the
13 disability community, departments, and
14 other City partners, community partners.
15 I'm optimistic that as OPD is able to
16 expand our resources and capacity, it
17 will be better able to address the needs
18 of Philadelphians with disabilities. It
19 will be my honor to build this work and
20 launch this office for the disability
21 community of Philadelphia.

22 Access is a human right. All
23 citizens of Philadelphia should be
24 represented in our City government. How
25 society has traditionally addressed

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2 accessibility, I often have been quoted
3 as saying it's much like when we bake a
4 cake and we've forgotten the sugar. It
5 might look like a cake. It certainly
6 doesn't taste like one. It's a lot
7 harder to get that sugar back in a cake
8 after it's been baked. You might try to
9 sprinkle it in, but retrofitting
10 accessibility needs to become something
11 of the past. We need to start getting it
12 in at the very start in the recipe card,
13 in the idea stage when we're thinking
14 about bills and actions, when we're
15 building programs.

16 This Charter change is that
17 very mindset in action, that at our
18 foundational core as a city we will
19 prioritize people with disabilities and
20 this community and a commitment to
21 accessibility. This legislation codifies
22 our priorities and intentions to ensure
23 access and equity for people with
24 disabilities.

25 I again want to thank

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2 Councilmember Brooks for introducing this
3 important and historic resolution for the
4 support -- and for the support of many of
5 you on the City Council have joined us in
6 these efforts over the years and in this
7 resolution to prioritize people with
8 disabilities. We see seen and heard in
9 this resolution. This is equity in
10 action, a historic moment for our city to
11 ensure that the work that we do to make
12 this city fully accessible will always
13 have a place in our city structure and
14 Charter.

15 I will close with what has
16 driven this legislation, my career, and
17 our advocacy efforts and work as an
18 office, which is captured by a disability
19 advocate, Elsa S. Henry: Representation
20 matters because there's a richness to
21 disability you are probably not aware of.

22 Thank you, and happy to take
23 any questions.

24 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Thank
25 you. Thank you so much, Ms. Nieves, for

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2 your testimony and for all your advocacy
3 and for your great work. You are truly a
4 champion, and we appreciate working with
5 you.

6 I'd like to note for the record
7 that Councilmembers Squilla and O'Neill
8 have joined us and are present for this
9 hearing.

10 In addition, I want to note for
11 the record that Adrienne Ewing, ADA
12 Coordinator of Diversity, Equity and
13 Inclusion, has joined us for the hearing
14 and is available for questions at the end
15 of this panel.

16 The next person we will
17 recognize for testimony is Vicki Landers
18 of Disability Pride PA.

19 Are you connected and ready to
20 testify?

21 THE CLERK: Vicki is not
22 available at this time, so we can move on
23 to Nico.

24 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Okay.
25 Thank you so much, Ms. Alford.

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2 We will now hear from Nico
3 Meyering, Commissioner of the Mayor's
4 Commission on People with Disabilities.

5 Are you connected and ready to
6 proceed with your testimony, Nico?

7 MR. MEYERING: Yes, I am. Can
8 you hear me?

9 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Yes,
10 we can hear you. Thank you so much.
11 Please state your name for the record,
12 and you may proceed with your testimony.

13 MR. MEYERING: Hi, everyone.
14 My name is Nico Meyering and I use he/him
15 pronouns. It is an honor to be here with
16 all of you today.

17 So just like about 246,000 of
18 my fellow Philadelphians, I'm disabled.
19 As noted, I'm a Commissioner for the
20 Mayor's Commission on People with
21 Disabilities, and I speak today in favor
22 of making that corresponding office, the
23 Mayor's Office for People with
24 Disabilities, a permanent and central
25 fixture of Philadelphia's government.

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2 The best government is one that
3 meets the needs of its citizens. Well,
4 almost 15 percent of Philly residents are
5 disabled. With numbers like that, one
6 thing becomes very clear: Our needs
7 deserve to be met. We also need to see
8 leadership that looks like us, and the
9 Mayor's Office for People with
10 Disabilities has never looked better than
11 it has under the leadership of Director
12 Nieves.

13 Disabled people like me, like
14 Director Nieves, and my fellow
15 Commissioners have chosen Philadelphia as
16 our home base. Philadelphia is where we
17 congregate, celebrate, advocate, and
18 work. Philadelphia is coincidentally where
19 I asked a cute, disabled (unintelligible)
20 to coffee one night, and Philadelphia is
21 where two years later I married her.

22 Disabled people teach and learn
23 in your schools. We work in your stores.
24 We start new companies. We lead your
25 civic organizations. And what's more is

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2 this, that perhaps some of you who can
3 hear my voice, perhaps some of you
4 elected officials are now realizing that
5 that number I said previously, 246,000,
6 might include some of you as well.

7 Disabled people deserve a
8 government that works for them. We saw
9 government work for us yesterday. You
10 know I got to sit in the big fancy
11 reception room and see hundreds of
12 accessible signage and features unveiled
13 in City Hall and discussed in our public
14 City buildings. And we can see
15 government work for us again today.

16 I urge all of you again to make
17 the Mayor's Office for People with
18 Disabilities a permanent office in City
19 Hall. We can be that communication and
20 resource hub for disabled people to
21 interact with the City and flourish in
22 the City. As Director, Amy is already
23 doing this critical work, connecting us
24 to the Streets Department to talk about
25 sidewalk access and streeteries,

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2 connecting us to the Housing Authority to
3 help them understand the needs of
4 disabled residents looking for housing.
5 Your home, my non-profit past obliges me
6 to note, is your biggest financial asset.
7 I used to work in housing repair.

8 Director Nieves has
9 accomplished so much on a bare-bones
10 budget, which is why I urge you to
11 allocate significant funding to this
12 office. Imagine what we can do then,
13 right?

14 Finally, I want to remind us,
15 all of the folk, by the disabled writer
16 and advocate Alice Wong, who tells us,
17 quote, "The narrative trajectory of a
18 disabled person's life is necessarily
19 webbed. We are often only as strong as
20 our friends and family make us, only as
21 strong as our community, only as strong
22 as the resources and privileges we have."

23 Members of Council, I dare say
24 we are stronger together, and if you
25 agree, I urge you to make that city

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2 stronger. How? Again, you can support
3 enshrining the Mayor's Office for People
4 with Disabilities in our Home Charter.

5 Thank you for your time,
6 everyone. I'm rooting for you. And you
7 know what? I'm rooting for me too.

8 Thank you.

9 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Thank
10 you. Thank you so much, Mr. Meyering,
11 for your testimony and for that wonderful
12 story that you share with all of us. We
13 were very, very intrigued and interested.

14 So that concludes the public
15 comment -- I'm sorry; the public
16 testimony for Bill No. 230411 and
17 Resolution No. 230430. I now recognize
18 any members who may have questions for
19 this panel. Are there any members who
20 have questions for this panel?

21 (Background noise.)

22 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON:
23 Please everyone go on mute. Please go on
24 mute for the duration of the hearing.
25 Thank you.

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2 Are there any members who have
3 questions or comments for members of this
4 panel?

5 (No response.)

6 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON:

7 Seeing none, we will now move to Bill No.
8 230005, and I'd now like to recognize
9 Councilmember Harrity, the legislation
10 sponsor, for any comments you may have.

11 Councilmember Harrity.

12 (No response.)

13 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Okay.
14 We will come back --

15 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: I am here.
16 Sorry.

17 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: No
18 problem, Councilmember. Please proceed.

19 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: Okay. I
20 am happy that the Committee on Law and
21 Government is considering my Bill 230005
22 creating wider access to life
23 partnerships for individuals of different
24 genders.

25 Philadelphia was one of the

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2 first cities in the United States to
3 create life partnerships as a way for
4 same-sex couples to get access to some of
5 the same rights as a married heterosexual
6 couple in a time before gay marriage was
7 legalized. At that time, it was a major
8 step forward for LGBTQ+ rights. However,
9 now the time has come for Philadelphia to
10 allow life partnerships for all
11 Philadelphians, especially those from
12 non-traditional relationships.

13 It's a fact of life that some
14 people don't want to be traditionally
15 married, but they want some of the
16 benefits that a life partnership could
17 offer. These include visitation rights,
18 rights to make end-of-life decisions, and
19 in some cases access to health insurance.
20 It is vital that this quality-of-life
21 change be made to allow those couples
22 access to these rights.

23 I'd also like to explain the
24 importance of the amendment to my bill in
25 conjunction with the Administration. The

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2 amendment allows for another agency to
3 handle the potential influx of life
4 partnership applications, the
5 Philadelphia Commission on Human
6 Relations. It is my hope that with the
7 appropriate administrative capacity, that
8 those couples who apply for a life
9 partnership find the process seamless.

10 Thank you.

11 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Thank
12 you so much, Councilmember Harrity, for
13 your remarks and for your great work on
14 Bill No. 230005.

15 Ms. Alford, will you please
16 call the first panel we have to testify
17 this afternoon on Bill No. 230005.

18 THE CLERK: Ontonio Beard.

19 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON:
20 Excellent.

21 Ontonio Beard, are you
22 connected and ready to proceed? You can
23 please state your name for the record and
24 proceed with your testimony.

25 You are on mute. Mr. Beard,

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1 6/8/23 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 230005, ETC.
2 you are on mute, if you could come off of
3 mute.

4 MR. BEARD: Oh, there you go.

5 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Thank
6 you very much.

7 MR. BEARD: Hello. My name is
8 Ontonio Beard and I would like to give
9 you my testimony on behalf of the Jim
10 Harrity bill that he's trying to get.

11 Like being in a relationship
12 with somebody, you know, for a very long
13 time, like, you know, if two people
14 together, like me and my spouse that I'm
15 with, we not married, but, you know, we
16 join each other like in sharing the bills
17 and helping each other out. We live
18 together and all this now. If one of us
19 happened to pass away, like it should be,
20 you know -- she should have access and
21 have the right, you know what I mean, to
22 determine if, you know, if the plug needs
23 to be pulled on me on situations like
24 that, because sometimes, you know, people
25 immediate family is not around. Like,

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2 you know, they might not be able to be
3 there in the time of a death situation
4 may occur just from out of nowhere, you
5 know what I mean, and to make decisions
6 on, you know, what's best for us. And
7 like, you know, if I'm working every day
8 and I'm helping her pay her insurance,
9 why she shouldn't be able to be on my
10 insurance, you know what I mean, and when
11 situations occur, because we never know
12 when our due date is going to come, when
13 things like that is going to take place.

14 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Okay.
15 Well, thank you very, very much,
16 Mr. Beard, for your testimony and for
17 joining us this afternoon. We certainly
18 appreciate all the information that you
19 have shared and just appreciate you being
20 here with us this afternoon. Thank you.

21 MR. BEARD: All right. I
22 appreciate it. Thank you.

23 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Okay.
24 There are no additional witnesses
25 scheduled for Bill No. 230005, so we will

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1 6/8/23 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 230005, ETC.
2 now proceed to Bill No. 230435.

3 We thank the bill sponsor,
4 Councilmember Phillips, for joining us
5 this afternoon.

6 Ms. Alford, will you please
7 call the first panel we have to testify.

8 COUNCILMAN JONES: Excuse me,
9 Madam Chair.

10 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Yes.
11 Pardon me, Councilmember Jones.

12 COUNCILMAN JONES: I'm sorry I
13 was late to the draw, but just a couple
14 of brief questions from the author of the
15 legislation.

16 First of all, thank you for
17 raising this important issue. I have
18 experienced and know too many people who
19 fall within that category of being
20 someone's significant other without
21 having the exact title of significant
22 others, and at the time of expiration in
23 our lives, it is important for someone to
24 be designated as the person that we
25 entrust our above-ground and after-death

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2 decisions.

3 Just a quick question. How
4 does one get that designation? How does
5 one officially become someone's, for lack
6 of a better word, significant other?

7 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: Well,
8 Councilman, good question. It would be a
9 process the same as we did for the LGBTQ
10 community. You know, it would be a
11 licensing fee, just like a regular
12 marriage certificate. I believe the fee
13 will be \$95, I believe, you know, and
14 that will be processed.

15 Right now we amended it because
16 the Philadelphia Commission on Human
17 Rights is actually only three employees,
18 so they're trying to put it in another
19 department that could actually handle the
20 influx of applications that will come.

21 But it's a fairly simply
22 process. It's something like you live
23 together for three years, fill out the
24 application. There's other ways that you
25 can be. Owning property together, having

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2 children together will also qualify you.
3 And of course it's just a simple
4 application and an application fee of, I
5 believe, \$95.

6 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you so
7 much, Member Harrity.

8 Thank you, Madam Chair.

9 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Thank
10 you, Councilmember Jones, and thank you,
11 Councilmember Harrity.

12 We will now proceed to Bill No.
13 230435.

14 Ms. Alford, will you please
15 call the first panel we have to testify
16 for this bill.

17 THE CLERK: Stephanie Tipton.

18 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Okay.
19 Excellent.

20 Good afternoon. I see you are
21 connected and ready to proceed. Please
22 state your name for the record and
23 proceed with your testimony.

24 MS. TIPTON: Thank you. Good
25 afternoon, Councilmember Gilmore

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2 Richardson, Chair of the Committee on Law
3 and Government, Committee Vice Chair
4 Councilmember Jones, bill sponsor
5 Councilmember Phillips, and other members
6 of the Committee on Law and Government.

7 My name is Stephanie Tipton and I am the
8 Chief Administrative Officer for the City
9 of Philadelphia. I am here to testify in
10 support of Bill No. 230435. This bill
11 proposes modifications to Chapter 17-1400
12 and 17-104 of The Philadelphia Code
13 governing contractor workforce and
14 ownership demographics reporting
15 obligations. The proposed amendments are
16 the result of a comprehensive review of
17 the implementation of the Walter P.
18 Lomax, Jr. Transparency in Business Act,
19 which I will refer to as TIB for short,
20 which seeks to collect and report on the
21 demographic make-up of the businesses
22 with which the City contracts.

23 Over the past year, the City
24 has been working diligently to implement
25 the provisions of this chapter, and

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2 through the course of that
3 implementation, we have received feedback
4 from contractors and we've identified
5 ways that we can make this process much
6 better. These changes that I will talk
7 about today will require the legislative
8 changes as proposed by this bill.

9 The goal of Bill No. 230435 is
10 to simplify the process of submitting
11 ownership and workforce demographic
12 information for vendors, while
13 simultaneously enabling the City to
14 receive more robust demographic data from
15 businesses awarded contracts. The
16 amendments proposed by the bill will also
17 support a new online demographic
18 disclosure portal, which is expected to
19 launch in early Fiscal Year 2024. We
20 believe that, in concert, this
21 legislation and the new disclosure portal
22 will make the contracting process more
23 efficient and will provide the City with
24 more robust data, while also maintaining
25 compliance with the City's demographic

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2 disclosure requirements.

3 I'll now summarize the key
4 provisions of the bill.

5 Bill No. 230435 seeks to
6 resolve duplicative submissions of
7 workforce and ownership demographic
8 information and streamline the collection
9 and reporting of such information by
10 consolidating the Women and Minority on
11 Boards, TIB, and Non-Profit Diversity
12 disclosure forms into one consolidated
13 form.

14 The bill also proposes to
15 collect all required demographic
16 disclosures at the time of award and only
17 from awarded vendors. The proposed
18 modification to Code Section
19 17-104.1.3(d) will close the gap in the
20 data collected from contractors that are
21 required to submit labor source
22 information. Currently, the disclosure
23 requirements differ by contractor tier
24 and contract type, which can be very
25 confusing to the contractor themselves.

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2 This difference in requirements
3 limits the City from receiving
4 transparent demographic data from all
5 contractors. So by consolidating the
6 disclosure forms and requiring all
7 awardees to submit the same disclosures,
8 regardless of any contract that they're
9 working on, and when that contract is
10 valued over the formal bidding threshold,
11 it will streamline the collection of the
12 information. It will simplify the
13 process for contractors. It will provide
14 the City with more consistent demographic
15 data.

16 The bill also proposes to
17 change Code Section 17-104.3 so that the
18 threshold to disclose contractor
19 demographic information aligns with the
20 formal bidding threshold, which is
21 adjusted annually based on the Consumer
22 Price Index. Connecting the disclosure
23 requirement to the formal bidding
24 threshold will also increase the
25 legislative impact.

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2 Bill No. 230435 also proposes
3 changing the requirement of submitting
4 the Women and Minority on Boards found in
5 Code Section 17-104.3 to apply to
6 entities who are awarded the contract.
7 The reason for this change is that the
8 information disclosed in this particular
9 requirement is completely duplicative of
10 the information that is also captured in
11 the TIB disclosure form, and that's
12 collected at the time of award, and thus
13 that creates two different reporting
14 requirements for the same information
15 essentially.

16 Going forward, the information
17 requested pursuant to both ordinances
18 will be consolidated into one form that's
19 collected at the time of award and is
20 submitted through this new online
21 demographic disclosure portal. The new
22 forms will capture all contractor
23 workforce ownership and ownership
24 demographic information at one point in
25 time.

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2 The bill also proposes to
3 remove the subcontractor and labor source
4 demographic disclosure requirements.
5 This data was duplicative again to
6 information that is already being
7 collected by City departments, in
8 addition to it being quite challenging
9 for some contractors in particular.

10 Finally, another aim of this
11 bill is to change the reporting timing
12 for contracts, which is currently found
13 in Code Section 17-104.1.6 and 17-1402,
14 and it will align it with the fiscal year
15 and make it due by October 1st.

16 So thank you for the
17 opportunity to testify today. We look
18 forward to working together with members
19 of City Council as we continue to
20 modernize and reform the contracting
21 disclosure process. I'd also like to
22 thank Councilmember Phillips for
23 championing these changes and for his
24 partnership with the Administration on
25 these efforts.

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2 This concludes my testimony.

3 I'm happy to answer any questions from
4 the Committee.

5 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Thank
6 you. Well, thank you so much for your
7 testimony.

8 Are there any questions or
9 comments from members of the Committee?

10 (No response.)

11 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Okay.
12 Seeing none, we thank you so much for
13 your testimony.

14 MS. TIPTON: Thank you.

15 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: We
16 will now proceed with public comment.

17 Alexander Casper, are you
18 connected and ready to proceed with your
19 public comment?

20 (No response.)

21 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Ms.
22 Alford, will you please call the --

23 MR. CASPER: I'm here.

24 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Okay.
25 You're there?

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1 6/8/23 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 230005, ETC.

2 MR. CASPER: Yes, I'm here.

3 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Okay.

4 Good afternoon. You're connected and
5 ready to proceed. Please state your name
6 for the record and proceed with your
7 testimony.

8 MR. CASPER: Hi. My name is
9 Alexander Casper. I use they/them
10 pronouns and I am commenting on
11 Resolution No. 230430 in favor of
12 supporting a ballot measure to make the
13 Office for People with Disabilities
14 permanent and give it further financial
15 support.

16 I have various disabilities
17 myself. I also serve in our local
18 government. I'm on a resident steering
19 committee in the Philadelphia Department
20 of Planning and Development for the
21 Reimagine Philadelphia Committee. I also
22 serve of the Election Board for Ward 47
23 Division 14 as minority inspector.

24 I have barriers throughout
25 accessing all different parts of our

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2 community because of my disabilities. I
3 had several brain injuries. I got a neck
4 injury. I have latex allergy, which is
5 an airborne allergen, and I have asthma,
6 and these set limitations and barriers on
7 the types of indoor spaces and sometimes
8 even going outside on days like today.

9 Some of the places I can't go
10 to would be our libraries, some medical
11 public health centers, because we use
12 latex items commonly throughout many of
13 our government facilities. Sometimes
14 City Hall is decorated in my allergy as
15 an airborne allergen that impacts about
16 six percent of our community members.

17 Being able to work with Amy has
18 allowed me to be able to start these
19 conversations about how we can undo some
20 of these barriers, as nine states across
21 the country have actually written
22 legislation protecting people like me to
23 make it so that we don't have the same
24 barriers to be able to access our
25 different community resources.

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2 And so being able to have
3 support from a Mayor's Office for People
4 with Disabilities was the first time I
5 have ever had support -- feel like I've
6 had support from a local office and been
7 able to make any kind of progress in
8 talking to my Councilmembers or state
9 legislators or any government office
10 about how to support someone like me and
11 have a place to be safe in the community.

12 There's other communities with
13 better -- have common disabilities as
14 well that have barriers that have not
15 been addressed, and our Council and I
16 think there's things that this office in
17 the short time that it's existed has been
18 able to make progress in undoing many of
19 these barriers, and I think this
20 resolution will allow us to be able to
21 undo more people's barriers so that
22 somebody could have an accessible and
23 equitable Philadelphia to live in.

24 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Thank
25 you. Thank you so much, Mr. Casper, for

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2 your testimony.

3 I'd like to recognize
4 Councilmember O'Neill.

5 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Yeah.
6 Thank you, Madam Chair. I have to leave
7 the meeting and I would -- I know it's
8 not going to be very soon, but I have to
9 run, and if I could be recorded as voting
10 aye on all bills and resolutions, I'd
11 appreciate it.

12 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON:
13 Certainly. Your vote will be recorded.
14 Thank you so much for your presence,
15 Councilmember O'Neill.

16 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Thank you
17 for your courtesy. Thank you.

18 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Thank
19 you.

20 We will now, Ms. Alford,
21 proceed with the next person to testify
22 for public comment.

23 THE CLERK: Cecilia Thompson.

24 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Okay.
25 Excellent.

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2 Ms. Thompson, are you connected
3 and ready to testify? If so, please
4 proceed with your testimony.

5 (No response.)

6 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON:

7 Ms. Thompson?

8 MS. THOMPSON: Yes.

9 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Okay.

10 Thank you so much.

11 MS. THOMPSON: Can you hear me?

12 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Yes,
13 ma'am. Please proceed with your
14 testimony. State your name for the
15 record.

16 MS. THOMPSON: Okay. Let me
17 read from my statement.

18 Good afternoon, Councilmember
19 Gilmore Richardson and Vice Chair
20 Councilmember Jones and all
21 Councilmembers on this call. My name is
22 Cecilia Thompson and I'm speaking as one
23 of the Commissioners and Chairperson of
24 the Mayor's Commission on People with
25 Disabilities. I am testifying on Bill

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1 6/8/23 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 230005, ETC.
2 230430 to make the Mayor's Commission on
3 People with Disabilities a permanent
4 office in Philadelphia.

5 As the proud parent of a
6 24-year-old living with severe autism,
7 when my son was much, much younger, I
8 needed assistance and resources unrelated
9 to special education. I found the help
10 provided by the office then extremely
11 valuable to a then frantic mom just
12 seeking services for my son. I have
13 since referred hundreds of individuals to
14 this office to get the services and
15 supports related to either their physical
16 disability or their neurodiversity.

17 Furthermore, as someone who now
18 has my own physical challenges, under the
19 leadership of Ms. Adrienne Ewing, the
20 City and other government buildings
21 should have accessible entrances and push
22 pad to enter the facility.

23 I'm also in support of
24 increasing the funding so the office can
25 do so much, much more than what they have

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2 greatly accomplished with just a staff of
3 three people, which is Ms. Amy, the new
4 constituent person, and Ms. Adrienne.
5 They have done a phenomenal job,
6 including, although I couldn't be there
7 on the 7th, showing how they've made City
8 Hall much more accessible to individuals
9 with physical disabilities and
10 neurodiversity.

11 So I am asking, I am imploring
12 that this bill goes through for the --
13 while people with disabilities are
14 17 percent, anybody, if you just get hit
15 by a car and now you're paralyzed, now
16 you're part of the disability world.

17 So thank you for listening to
18 me and allowing me to provide testimony.

19 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Thank
20 you. Well, thank you so much,
21 Ms. Thompson, and thank you for all your
22 hard work and advocacy with your son. We
23 appreciate all of your service and what
24 you've done on behalf of the City.

25 Ms. Alford, will you please

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2 call the next person here for public
3 comment.

4 THE CLERK: Patrick McCloskey.

5 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Okay.

6 Patrick McCloskey, are you connected and
7 ready to proceed with your testimony?

8 (No response.)

9 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON:

10 Patrick McCloskey, are you connected and
11 ready to proceed with your testimony?

12 (No response.)

13 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON:

14 Patrick McCloskey?

15 MR. McCLOSKEY: Hello?

16 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Yes.

17 Are you connected and ready to proceed
18 with your testimony?

19 MR. McCLOSKEY: Yes.

20 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Okay.

21 Please state your name for the record and
22 proceed.

23 MR. McCLOSKEY: My name is
24 Patrick McCloskey and I am testifying on
25 Resolution No. 230430.

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2 Good afternoon to everyone, all
3 the Councilmembers, and thank you for
4 your time. I'm here today to speak in
5 support of an amendment to the
6 Philadelphia Home Rule Charter to provide
7 for the creation of an Office for People
8 with Disabilities.

9 I have lived in Philadelphia
10 for my entire life, which is 37 years,
11 and I have a physical disability called
12 tetraplegia that requires the use of a
13 wheelchair. I am currently a
14 Commissioner on the Mayor's Commission
15 for People with Disabilities. I joined
16 last year in July.

17 I know firsthand the challenges
18 that people with disabilities face in our
19 city. Some of these challenges include
20 access to Philadelphia City-owned
21 properties and facilities to people with
22 disabilities. This can make it difficult
23 for people like myself to participate in
24 activities and programs, and it can also
25 create safety concerns.

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2 I'd also like to talk about the
3 high rate of gun violence in our parks as
4 a safety concern for people with
5 disabilities. People with disabilities
6 may be more vulnerable with gun violence,
7 and they may also have difficulty
8 escaping from dangerous situations.

9 I was recently on the news
10 because there was a gunshot wound that
11 occurred in front of my house right in
12 front of Pennypack Park and it created a
13 situation where I became a little
14 concerned about whether I should be going
15 into the park by myself and what times of
16 day to go in.

17 And, lastly, I'd like to talk
18 about some of the sidewalks that have
19 been super inaccessible due to just old
20 age and not being repaired and it's
21 caused safety concerns again.

22 So over 2,000 people with
23 disabilities live in Philadelphia, which
24 represents about 17 percent of the
25 population. An Office for People with

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2 Disabilities would be established to help
3 address disparities in employment,
4 housing, and education.

5 The Office for People with
6 Disabilities has also been working to
7 improve access for City services,
8 programs, and to promote the inclusion of
9 accessibility. The office has made
10 significant progress in improving the
11 lives of people with disabilities in
12 Philadelphia. Here are some of the
13 achievements that have been stated:

14 They've advocated for a
15 policies program and systematic changes
16 that maximize independence and community
17 integration for Philadelphians with
18 disabilities.

19 They've provided resources and
20 referrals to local organizations that
21 support residents with disabilities.

22 They've written policies and
23 procedures and developed resources to
24 ensure equal access to City-provided
25 services, programs, and activities for

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2 people with disabilities.

3 They've educated employees and
4 City entities on disability-related laws,
5 oversaw the Philadelphia Transition Plan
6 and structural access within City
7 buildings, responded to grievances from
8 residents with disabilities who feel --

9 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Mr.
10 McCloskey, I apologize. Mr. McCloskey, I
11 apologize for the interruption, but due
12 to accessibility issues, we must conclude
13 this hearing in the next ten minutes.
14 Will you please wrap up your testimony so
15 that we can recognize the final witness
16 and vote. Thank you very much.

17 MR. MCCLOSKEY: Overall an
18 Office of People with Disabilities is an
19 important step forward for Philadelphia,
20 and the office helps to ensure that
21 people with disabilities have the same
22 opportunities as everyone else and it
23 makes our city a more inclusive and
24 welcoming place for everyone.

25 I urge you to vote in favor of

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1 6/8/23 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 230005, ETC.
2 this resolution.

3 Thank you.

4 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Thank
5 you. Thank you so much for your
6 testimony and for your patience and for
7 being here this afternoon.

8 Ms. Alford, please recognize
9 the final witness we have for public
10 comment.

11 THE CLERK: Brian Valdez.

12 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON:
13 Mr. Valdez, are you connected and ready
14 to proceed with your testimony? I ask if
15 you could just give us the 60-second
16 version of your testimony, please.

17 (No response.)

18 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Brian
19 Valdez?

20 (No response.)

21 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: We
22 will now proceed. There being no further
23 questions from members of the Committee
24 and no other witnesses to testify on Bill
25 Nos. 230411, 230005, and 230435 and

6/8/2023

1 6/8/23 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 230005, ETC.
2 Resolution No. 230430, I will ask if
3 there's anyone else present in this
4 hearing whose name we failed to call that
5 wishes to offer testimony on the bills
6 and resolutions being considered today?

7 MR. VALDEZ: Yes, ma'am.

8 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON:
9 Hearing none, I want to thank the panel
10 and witnesses for their participation
11 today.

12 Okay. Is someone seeking to be
13 recognized?

14 MR. VALDEZ: Yes, please.

15 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Okay.
16 Please state your name for the record,
17 proceed with your very abbreviated
18 60-second version of your testimony. As
19 per accessibility issues, we must ensure
20 that we conclude this hearing within the
21 next eight minutes.

22 MR. VALDEZ: Yes, ma'am. Thank
23 you. My name is Brian Valdez.

24 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Oh,
25 okay.

6/8/2023

1 6/8/23 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 230005, ETC.

2 MR. VALDEZ: I've lived in
3 Philadelphia for over 20 years and right
4 now I work with Inglis. I wanted to
5 submit this testimony in support of
6 Resolution 230430, and on behalf of the
7 Inglis Leadership Team and those we
8 serve, I am pleased to submit this
9 testimony in support of the resolution to
10 make the Office for People with
11 Disabilities a permanent part of the
12 Philadelphia Home Rule Charter.

13 The resolution represents an
14 important step towards making
15 Philadelphia more inclusive. It
16 recognizes the indispensable contribution
17 residents with disabilities are making to
18 our city and ensures that we will always
19 have a place to voice our concerns.

20 I want to thank Councilmember
21 Brooks for introducing the resolution and
22 for all those that voiced their support.

23 And on a personal level, I want
24 to thank the Mayor's Commission for all
25 the work that they are doing. They have

6/8/2023

1 6/8/23 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 230005, ETC.
2 really helped me stay connected on a
3 local level with everything that's going
4 on in terms of advocacy but also on a
5 state level, connecting me to resources.

6 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Thank
7 you. Great. Thank you very much for
8 your testimony. Thank you for being here
9 and for your patience.

10 Are there any further witnesses
11 to testify this afternoon?

12 (No response.)

13 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON:
14 Hearing none, we want to thank all of
15 you --

16 MR. TOMCZUK: Yes.

17 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON:
18 Pardon me?

19 MR. TOMCZUK: Yes.

20 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Okay.
21 I'm going to ask as the Chair of this
22 Committee, recognizing that we have
23 accessibility issues at this time and
24 must conclude this hearing by 5 o'clock
25 due to the budget issues in City Council

6/8/2023

1 6/8/23 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 230005, ETC.
2 today, that if you could please submit
3 your testimony for the record for this
4 Committee's review. We must conclude
5 this hearing by 5:00 p.m. to ensure that
6 we are legally appropriately hosting this
7 hearing today.

8 Okay? Thank you very, very
9 much. Seeing no further witnesses -- and
10 thank you, Luke, for your understanding,
11 but we want to be sure that we are
12 following the rules.

13 We will now conclude this
14 public hearing today. I'll now invite
15 all panels and witnesses to please
16 disconnect from the hearing before we go
17 into the public meeting on the bills and
18 resolutions. We will now pause the
19 proceedings very, very briefly as
20 multiple participants leave the hearing.

21 This concludes the public
22 hearing of the Committee. We will now go
23 into a public meeting to consider the
24 action to be taken on the bills and
25 resolutions before this Committee today.

6/8/2023

1 6/8/23 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 230005, ETC.

2 We will now convene the public meeting.

3 Ms. Alford, will you please
4 call the roll to take attendance.

5 Members that are in attendance will
6 please indicate that you are present when
7 your name is called. Also, please say a
8 few brief words when responding so that
9 your image will be displayed on screen
10 when you speak.

11 THE CLERK: Councilmember
12 Phillips.

13 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: Present.

14 THE CLERK: Councilmember Bass.

15 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Good
16 afternoon. I'm still present.

17 THE CLERK: Vice Chair Jones.

18 COUNCILMAN JONES: Present.

19 THE CLERK: Councilmember
20 Squilla.

21 (No response.)

22 THE CLERK: And Chair Gilmore
23 Richardson.

24 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: I am
25 present.

6/8/2023

1 6/8/23 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 230005, ETC.

2 The Chair now recognizes
3 Councilmember Jones for a motion on Bill
4 No. 230411.

5 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
6 Madam Chair. I move that Bill No. 230411
7 be moved from this Committee with a
8 favorable recommendation and further move
9 that the rules of Council be suspended to
10 permit first reading of this bill at our
11 next session of Council.

12 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: All
13 right. Is there a second?

14 (No response.)

15 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Is
16 there a second?

17 (Duly seconded.)

18 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Thank
19 you. The Chair notes for the record that
20 Councilmember Bass seconds the motion.

21 It has been moved and properly
22 seconded that Bill No. 230411 be reported
23 from this Committee with a favorable
24 recommendation and further moved that the
25 rules of Council be suspended to permit

6/8/2023

1 6/8/23 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 230005, ETC.
2 first reading of this bill at the next
3 session of Council.

4 All those in favor of the
5 motion will signify by stating aye.

6 (Aye.)

7 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Those
8 opposed?

9 (No response.)

10 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: The
11 ayes have it. The motion carries.

12 I will now recognize
13 Councilmember Jones for a motion on the
14 amendment to Resolution No. 230430.

15 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you
16 again, Madam Chair. I have an amendment
17 to Resolution No. 230430. A copy of that
18 amendment has been circulated to all
19 members of Council. I, therefore, move
20 for the adoption of the amendment to
21 230430.

22 (Duly seconded.)

23 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Thank
24 you. The Chair notes for the record that
25 Councilmember Bass seconds the motion.

6/8/2023

1 6/8/23 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 230005, ETC.

2 It has been moved and properly
3 seconded that the amendment to Resolution
4 No. 230430 be approved.

5 All those in favor of the
6 motion will signify by stating aye.

7 (Aye.)

8 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Those
9 opposed?

10 (No response.)

11 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: The
12 ayes have it and the amendment to
13 Resolution No. 230430 has been approved.

14 The Chair now recognizes
15 Councilmember Jones for a motion on
16 Resolution No. 230430, as amended.

17 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you
18 again, Madam Chair. I move that
19 Resolution No. 230430 be moved from this
20 Committee with a favorable recommendation
21 and further move that the rules of
22 Council be suspended to permit first
23 reading of this resolution at our next
24 session of Council.

25 (Duly seconded.)

6/8/2023

1 6/8/23 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 230005, ETC.

2 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Okay.

3 The Chair notes for the record that

4 Councilmember Bass seconds the motion.

5 It has been moved and properly

6 seconded that Resolution No. 230430, as

7 amended, be reported from this Committee

8 with a favorable recommendation.

9 All those in favor of the

10 motion will signify by stating aye.

11 (Aye.)

12 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Those

13 opposed?

14 (No response.)

15 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: The

16 ayes have it.

17 The Chair now recognizes

18 Councilmember Jones for a motion on the

19 amendment to Bill No. 230005.

20 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you

21 again, Madam Chair. I offer an amendment

22 to Bill No. 230005. A copy of that

23 amendment has been circulated to all

24 members of Council, and I move for the

25 adoption of the amendment to Bill No.

6/8/2023

1 6/8/23 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 230005, ETC.
2 230005.

3 (Duly seconded.)

4 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: The
5 Chair notes for the record that
6 Councilmember Bass seconds the motion.

7 It has been moved and properly
8 seconded that the amendment to Bill No.
9 230005 be approved.

10 All those in favor of the
11 motion will signify by stating aye.

12 (Aye.)

13 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Those
14 opposed?

15 (No response.)

16 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: The
17 ayes have it. The motion carries.

18 The Chair now recognizes
19 Councilmember Jones for a motion on Bill
20 No. 230005, as amended.

21 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
22 Madam Chair. I move that Bill No. 230005
23 be moved from this Committee with a
24 favorable recommendation, as amended, and
25 further moved that the rules of Council

6/8/2023

1 6/8/23 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 230005, ETC.
2 be suspended to permit first reading at
3 our next session of Council.

4 (Duly seconded.)

5 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Thank
6 you. The Chair notes for the record that
7 Councilmember Bass seconds the motion.

8 It has been moved and properly
9 seconded that Bill No. 230005, as
10 amended, be reported from this Committee
11 with a favorable recommendation and
12 further moved that the rules of Council
13 be suspended to permit first reading of
14 this bill at the next session of Council.

15 All those in favor of this
16 motion will signify by stating aye.

17 (Aye.)

18 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Those
19 opposed?

20 (No response.)

21 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: The
22 ayes have it. The motion carries.

23 The Chair recognizes
24 Councilmember Jones for a motion on Bill
25 No. 230435.

6/8/2023

1 6/8/23 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 230005, ETC.

2 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you
3 again. I move that Bill No. 230435 be
4 moved from this Committee with a
5 favorable recommendation and further move
6 that the rules of Council be suspended to
7 permit first reading of this bill at our
8 next session of Council.

9 (Duly seconded.)

10 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: The
11 Chair notes for the record that this
12 motion has been seconded by Councilmember
13 Bass.

14 It has been moved and properly
15 seconded that Bill No. 230435 be reported
16 from this Committee with a favorable
17 recommendation and further moved that the
18 rules of Council be suspended to permit
19 first reading of this bill at the next
20 session of Council.

21 All those in favor of the
22 motion will signify by stating aye.

23 (Aye.)

24 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Those
25 opposed?

6/8/2023

1 6/8/23 - LAW & GOV. - BILL 230005, ETC.

2 (No response.)

3 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: The
4 ayes have it. The motion carries.

5 This concludes the business
6 before the Committee on the Law and
7 Government Committee today. We thank you
8 all so very much for your attendance and
9 for allowing us to conclude at 5:00 p.m.

10 Thank you so much, Vice Chair
11 Councilmember Jones.

12 COUNCILMAN JONES: Well done,
13 Madam Chair.

14 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Thank
15 you, colleagues.

16 - - -

17 (Committee on Law and
18 Government concluded at 5:00 p.m.)

19 - - -

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6/8/2023

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CERTIFICATE

3

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the

4

proceedings, evidence and objections are

5

contained fully and accurately in the

6

stenographic notes taken by me upon the

7

foregoing matter, and that this is a true and

8

correct transcript of same.

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MICHELE L. MURPHY

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