

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
STATED MEETING

Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Thursday, October 19, 2023
10:37 a.m.

PRESENT:

COUNCIL PRESIDENT DARRELL L. CLARKE
COUNCILWOMAN CINDY BASS
COUNCILWOMAN KENDRA BROOKS
COUNCILMAN MICHAEL DRISCOLL
COUNCILWOMAN JAMIE GAUTHIER
COUNCILWOMAN KATHERINE GILMORE RICHARDSON
COUNCILMAN JIM HARRITY
COUNCILMAN KENYATTA JOHNSON
COUNCILMAN CURTIS JONES, JR.
COUNCILWOMAN QUETCY LOZADA
COUNCILMAN BRIAN J. O'NEILL
COUNCILMAN ANTHONY PHILLIPS
COUNCILMAN MARK SQUILLA
COUNCILMAN ISAIAH THOMAS
COUNCILWOMAN SHARON VAUGHN

MICHAEL A. DECKER, CHIEF CLERK

- - -

1 10/19/23 - STATED - INVOCATION

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good
3 morning, everybody. We're going to get
4 started. Before we start, I just want to
5 give a brief notice.

6 We have an unprecedented number
7 of individuals that have expressed an
8 interest to testify. This is the
9 people's house, so we try our best to
10 accommodate everyone's needs. Today
11 because of the unprecedented number, we
12 will be paring back the timeline, because
13 we want to give everybody that is on the
14 list an opportunity to speak. Under the
15 rules and the guidelines, we're actually
16 allowed to pare back, particularly on
17 same subject matter, meaning that if
18 there's 30 names to testify on the same
19 subject, we can actually under the
20 guidelines cut it back to ten. We're not
21 going to do that. What we're going to do
22 is pare back the time, so everybody will
23 have a shortened timeframe, but hopefully
24 everybody on the list. I'm just trying
25 to be fair.

1 10/19/23 - STATED - INVOCATION

2 Normally three minutes when
3 it's not a significant number. When it's
4 a significant number, once we get over
5 15, 20, we do two minutes. Today we're
6 going to do 90 seconds. So I want to say
7 this early on so you can adjust your
8 testimony to reflect the 90-second
9 timeline.

10 Thank you for your anticipated
11 cooperation. We understand this is a
12 very significant issue, and we want to
13 make sure that everybody has an
14 opportunity and have balanced testimony
15 here today on this very important
16 initiative.

17 Thank you very much, and we
18 will get started.

19 We have established our quorum.
20 The members have now taken their seat.
21 We will give our invocation. And to give
22 our invocation this morning, the Chair
23 recognizes Reverend G. Lamar Stewart,
24 Pastor of Taylor Memorial Baptist Church.
25 He is here today as the guest of

1 10/19/23 - STATED - INVOCATION

2 Councilwoman Gilmore Richardson.

3 I would ask all members,
4 guests, and visitors to please rise.

5 (Councilmembers, guests, and
6 visitors rise.)

7 REVEREND STEWART: Thank you,
8 Council President, and thank you, members
9 of Council.

10 Let us pray.

11 God, we bless you today and we
12 thank you. We thank you, God, for your
13 presence. We thank you, God, for being a
14 God of your promise. We thank you for
15 your provision and your providence and
16 your protection.

17 Thank you, God, for leading and
18 guiding our world, our city, our nation.
19 Thank you, God, for your sovereignty and
20 your power even in this moment.

21 God, as we continue through
22 this Council session, I pray that your
23 presence and your agenda would be
24 priority with every decision that's made.

25 God, there's so many things

1 10/19/23 - STATED - INVOCATION
2 that's happening in the world around us
3 that we are seeking your guidance and
4 your prayer. We pray for the young
5 people of the City of Philadelphia as
6 they are going to and from school. We're
7 praying that you would keep them
8 protected and guided even in their
9 neighborhoods and in communities that
10 they are living in, oftentimes in
11 conditions that are challenging. We
12 pray, God, for their mind and their
13 protection.

14 We pray this morning for our
15 schools and for school administrators,
16 for those who are seeking to guide our
17 young people and to keep them on the
18 right path.

19 We pray this morning for our
20 first responders and those who are
21 keeping our streets safe and those who
22 are keeping order and peace within our
23 communities.

24 We pray for our community-based
25 organizations and grassroot organizers

1 10/19/23 - STATED - INVOCATION

2 and faith leaders who are on the front
3 lines of justice and community
4 transformation and healing.

5 We pray, God, for victims and
6 survivors of violence, particularly of
7 gun violence, who are still trying to
8 heal as we go into the holiday season.

9 We pray for our seniors and
10 those who are elderly who are trying to
11 enjoy oftentimes retirement with just
12 peace of mind.

13 And we pray, God, for those who
14 are unhoused, our homeless community,
15 that you would guide them and protect
16 them and give them peace and hope right
17 now.

18 Then finally, God, we pray for
19 our elected officials and for this august
20 body of Councilmembers. We pray for
21 their families and their staff. We pray,
22 God, that you continue to give Council
23 and our electeds and our City leaders the
24 discernment and wisdom and guidance that
25 they need as they make decisions that

1 10/19/23 - STATED - INVOCATION

2 impact our city, decisions around policy,
3 decisions around funding, resolutions,
4 and navigating local and world crisis.

5 And, God, as we close this
6 prayer, we're reminded of the words of
7 the great gospel legend Mahalia Jackson.
8 If I can help somebody as I travel along,
9 if I can help somebody with a word or
10 song, if I can help somebody from doing
11 wrong, then my living shall not be in
12 vain.

13 If I can do my duty as a good
14 person oft, if I can bring back beauty to
15 a world up of wrought, if I can spread
16 love's message as the master taught, then
17 my living shall not be in vain.

18 God, we pray these prayers and
19 we pray that you will hear even our heart
20 right now. I pray this prayer in the
21 name that's significant to me, the name
22 of Jesus the Christ, and for his sake, we
23 do pray.

24 Amen.

25 (Amen.)

1 10/19/23 - STATED - APPROVAL OF JOURNAL

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

3 Thank you so much, Pastor, for your
4 spiritual guidance.

5 Council will be at ease.

6 (Council at ease.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

8 Thank you again, Pastor, for your
9 spiritual guidance this morning. We
10 really need it. Thank you so much.

11 Our next order of business is
12 the approval of the Journal of the
13 meeting of Thursday, October 12, 2023,
14 and the Chair recognizes Councilwoman
15 Bass.

16 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you,
17 Mr. President. I move that the Journal
18 of the meeting of Thursday, October 12th,
19 2023 be approved.

20 (Duly seconded.)

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: It's
22 been moved and properly seconded that the
23 Journal of the meeting of Thursday,
24 October 12, 2023 stand approved.

25 All in favor indicate by saying

1 10/19/23 - STATED - LEAVES

2 aye.

3 (Aye.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

5 Those opposed?

6 (No response.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
8 ayes have it, and our Journal is
9 approved.

10 And our next order of business
11 is request for leave of absence, and the
12 Chair recognizes Councilman Jones.

13 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
14 Mr. President. On behalf of the members,
15 there are no requests for leaves of
16 absence today.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
18 Chair thanks the gentleman.

19 The Chair recognizes Councilman
20 Squilla for a motion concerning certain
21 legislative matters that may arise during
22 the course of the Council session that
23 were not listed on the Calendar prior to
24 our session today.

25 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Thank you,

1 10/19/23 - STATED - MOTION CONCERNING CALENDAR

2 Mr. President. I move that any of the
3 following matters, if considered today,
4 may be added to the agenda for this
5 session of Council and, as required by
6 law, subsequently published on the
7 amended agenda after the consideration of
8 those matters: resolutions authorizing
9 hearings, amendments to bills on first
10 reading, the reconsideration of a bill
11 vetoed by or re-called from the Mayor,
12 amendments to bills re-called from the
13 Mayor, resolutions taking substantive
14 action to be voted on in this session, a
15 motion to withdraw a bill or resolution
16 that is not on the Calendar, and a motion
17 placing a bill or resolution on or
18 returning a bill or resolution from the
19 Suspension Calendar that is not on
20 today's Calendar.

21 The purpose of this motion is
22 to provide the public with notice
23 concerning possible actions by Council
24 that arose too late to be included in the
25 schedule that was published prior to

1 10/19/23 - STATED - COMMUNICATIONS

2 today's session.

3 (Duly seconded.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

5 Thank you. It has been moved and
6 properly seconded that the legislative
7 matters stated by Councilman Squilla may
8 be added to the agenda for today should
9 those matters arise during the course of
10 the Council session.

11 All in favor indicate by saying
12 aye.

13 (Aye.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

15 Those opposed?

16 (No response.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
18 ayes have it. The motion carries.

19 And our next order of business
20 is communications. I would ask the Clerk
21 to please read the messages from the
22 Mayor and any other communications that
23 he may have in his possession today.

24 CHIEF CLERK: From the Mayor to
25 the President and members of the Council

1 10/19/23 - STATED - COMMUNICATIONS
2 of the City of Philadelphia, I am
3 transmitting for the consideration of
4 your honorable body a resolution
5 authorizing the conveyance of ownership
6 interest in and the assignment of the
7 purchase and development agreement for
8 19, 21, 23, 25, 27 East Somerset Street,
9 and 3022 and 3026 North American Street
10 located in the Seventh Councilmanic
11 District; and

12 A resolution authorizing the
13 Commissioner of Public Property to
14 execute and deliver to the Philadelphia
15 Redevelopment Authority deeds conveying
16 fee simple title to 2106 East Cumberland
17 Street in the First Councilmanic District
18 of the City of Philadelphia; and

19 A resolution authorizing the
20 Commissioner of Public Property to
21 execute and deliver to the Philadelphia
22 Redevelopment Authority deeds conveying
23 fee simple title to 1218, 1220, 1222, and
24 1224 North 15th Street in the Fifth
25 Councilmanic District; and

1 10/19/23 - STATED - COMMUNICATIONS

2 An ordinance extending the term
3 of existence of The Philadelphia Parking
4 Authority; and

5 An ordinance authorizing the
6 Commissioner of Public Property to modify
7 certain easements and enter into an
8 easement agreement with Famell, LLC for a
9 portion of a parcel or parcels of land in
10 and about the area bounded by Noble
11 Street, 12th Street, Callowhill Street,
12 13th Street, more commonly known as 411
13 through 19 North 13th Street; and

14 An ordinance authorizing the
15 Commissioner of Public Property to grant
16 to the Pennsylvania Department of
17 Transportation, an easement on a portion
18 of the parcel or parcels of land in and
19 about the area bounded by Race Street,
20 24th Street, Spruce Street and the
21 Schuylkill River, all under certain terms
22 and conditions.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

24 Thank you, Mr. Decker.

25 And our next order of business

1 10/19/23 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 is the introduction of bills and
3 resolutions, and I would ask the Clerk to
4 please read the titles of the legislation
5 that's being offered by our members
6 today.

7 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman
8 Phillips offers four resolutions,
9 entitled a privileged "Resolution
10 recognizing and honoring Beneficial
11 Multiservices LLC, located in the 9th
12 Council District, for being a Comcast
13 RISE awardee."

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
15 Today's Calendar.

16 CHIEF CLERK: And a privileged
17 resolution recognizing and honoring
18 Brilliant Stars Learning Center, located
19 in the 9th Council District, for being a
20 Comcast RISE Awardee.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
22 Today's Calendar.

23 CHIEF CLERK: And a privileged
24 resolution recognizing and honoring Eagle
25 Staffing Company, located in the 9th

1 10/19/23 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 Council District, for being a Comcast
3 RISE awardee.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

5 Today's Calendar.

6 CHIEF CLERK: And a privileged
7 resolution recognizing and honoring Vicki
8 Riley on the occasion of her retirement.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

10 Today's Calendar.

11 The Chair recognizes Councilman
12 Phillips.

13 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: Good
14 morning, Council President.

15 Good morning, colleagues and
16 the viewing public.

17 Today I've introduced a
18 resolution honoring Vicki Riley, a career
19 public servant.

20 - - -

21 (Applause.)

22 - - -

23 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: This
24 Friday Vicki Riley will be retiring, so I
25 wanted to take this opportunity to give

1 10/19/23 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 her her flowers while she can still smell
3 them.

4 I met Vicki Riley during a town
5 hall that Cherelle Parker hosted in the
6 9th District and it was right after the
7 pandemic. And we had about 40 or so
8 vendors at that town hall, and in the
9 midst of Cherelle's speech, she was
10 talking and saying, I'm so excited that
11 everyone is back from the pandemic. It's
12 good to see everybody. And then she
13 says, Vicki Riley, is that you? And just
14 out of nowhere, I recognized that Vicki
15 Riley was like a very important person in
16 the City of Philadelphia for all of her
17 service.

18 And then I invited her to some
19 block meetings that I organized as a
20 volunteer in the 9th District for our
21 neighborhood, and she came to every block
22 meeting addressing issues around revenue,
23 and she was incredible.

24 Today I ask Vicki Riley why do
25 you do this, what makes you -- why do you

1 10/19/23 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 love this? And she says, listen -- she
3 came from Louisiana looking for an
4 opportunity to come to Philadelphia on an
5 adventure, she says. She just came to
6 Philadelphia on an adventure, no job in
7 hand. And sure enough, she created an
8 adventure in Philly, and she's one of the
9 greatest examples of a good City worker.

10 So for decades Ms. Riley has
11 served laudably as the Public Information
12 Officer at the Philadelphia Department of
13 Revenue. She's dedicated many years to
14 attending more than 300 events, reaching
15 out to various neighborhoods across the
16 City.

17 Mrs. Riley's impact and lasting
18 influence can be seen in the countless
19 homeowners she supported and informed
20 about the Department of Revenue's
21 assistance programs. In all that Vicki
22 Riley has done, she's furthered the
23 progress of our city and Philadelphians
24 through dedication and excellence,
25 contributed in a meaningful way to the

1 10/19/23 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 well-being of the communities, are
3 integral to the functioning and
4 wholesomeness of our city. As such,
5 Vicki Riley's public service is much
6 appreciated, and we want to wish her well
7 and congratulate her on her retirement.

8 And right before I acknowledge
9 Vicki Riley to stand, I just also want to
10 quickly say that Comcast RISE in our
11 district has celebrated some amazing
12 businesses, including one that is here
13 today, Eagle Staffing Company.
14 Ms. Melissa Santos, I just want --
15 Melissa, are you here still? Stand up.

16 Melissa Santos is one of the
17 finer businesses in our district --

18 - - -

19 (Applause.)

20 - - -

21 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: And the
22 award, Comcast RISE supports
23 entrepreneurs and small businesses with a
24 comprehensive grant package that includes
25 monetary grant, consultation, educational

1 10/19/23 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 resources. And we know small businesses
3 are important.

4 So to Eagle Staffing Company,
5 we want to say thank you so much.
6 Brilliant Stars Learning Center as well,
7 Beneficial Multiservices, thank you so
8 much for your work. They were also
9 Comcast award recipients.

10 But with that said, can our
11 honoree who has worked for 27 years for
12 the City of Philadelphia who retires this
13 Friday, Ms. Vicki Riley, please stand.

14 - - -

15 (Standing ovation.)

16 - - -

17 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: Thank
18 you, Council President. And as you can
19 see, she's loved.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
21 Thank you. Thank you, Councilman.

22 The Chair recognizes Councilman
23 Jones.

24 COUNCILMAN JONES: I just want
25 to say to Member Phillips good job of

1 10/19/23 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 recognizing Ms. Riley, but I just want to
3 give you one story.

4 So we're out in a community
5 meeting. It was packed to the rim, and
6 it was about AVI. It was about raising
7 taxes. Vicki Riley takes the mic, walks
8 around answering questions, pointing out
9 programs that each of my community
10 members were eligible to take advantage
11 of. By the end of the presentation, they
12 were clapping about raising taxes.

13 She cannot retire. I never saw
14 that kind of reaction to a public
15 servant, more or less a person who was
16 talking about increasing taxes.

17 So God bless you, Godspeed, and
18 we look forward to the next chapter of
19 your life.

20 Thank you, Mr. President.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

22 Thank you.

23 - - -

24 (Applause.)

25 - - -

1 10/19/23 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
3 Chair recognizes Councilwoman Gilmore
4 Richardson.

5 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Thank
6 you, Council President.

7 I do not want to belabor, but
8 must rise in support of my colleague's
9 resolution, Councilmember Phillips, in
10 recognizing Vicki Riley for her stellar
11 27 years of service to the great City of
12 Philadelphia. And I will tell you that I
13 have had the pleasure of working with a
14 number of people across City government
15 who help our constituents navigate City
16 government effectively, no one more
17 effective than Vicki Riley.

18 Vicki joined us every single
19 Sunday before the pandemic at every
20 single church visit we had for the last
21 three years. And we restarted after the
22 pandemic lightened up a bit, and she was
23 with us every single weekend, not during
24 the week, not in the evening, on
25 weekends. And I just greatly appreciate

1 10/19/23 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 her bubbly spirit and sisterly

3 effectiveness mixed with southern charm.

4 She has just been one of the

5 best public servants I've ever had the

6 pleasure of working with, and I just

7 wanted to give her kudos on a job well

8 done and wish her well in her retirement.

9 Thank you, Ms. Vicki.

10 - - -

11 (Applause.)

12 - - -

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

14 Thank you, Councilwoman.

15 The Chair recognizes

16 Councilwoman Gauthier.

17 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Thank

18 you, Council President.

19 I just wanted to add to

20 everything that's being said about Vicki.

21 We appreciate her so much in the 3rd

22 District. She is always there at our

23 events giving information about

24 beneficial City programs and resources.

25 This past year or so when the

1 10/19/23 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 assessments were raised, that was a hard
3 time in the district. People were pretty
4 upset. We did a number of property tax
5 workshops. Vicki was always there.

6 City government can be a thing
7 that is big and confusing and complicated
8 for constituents, but she makes it human,
9 and she is always there and ready to
10 engage.

11 So my staff loves you, Vicki.
12 Our constituents love you. Thank you so
13 much for all of your service, and I hope
14 you enjoy your retirement. You deserve
15 that after giving us so many years.

16 Thank you.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

18 Thank you.

19 - - -

20 (Applause.)

21 - - -

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

23 Thank you, and good luck.

24 Mr. Decker, please proceed.

25 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Thomas

1 10/19/23 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 offers a privileged resolution honoring
3 and congratulating the Champions of the
4 Week, Student Activists Against Sexual
5 Assault, for their continued
6 determination and advocacy towards sexual
7 violence awareness and prevention at
8 Temple University.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
10 Chair recognizes Councilman Thomas.

11 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Good
12 morning, Council President.

13 Good morning, colleagues.

14 Today we are joined by our
15 Champions of the Week, the Student
16 Activists Against Sexual Rape. Today we
17 have the founder, Ray -- the founder and
18 President, Ray; Vice President, Val;
19 Rebecca and Ava.

20 October is Domestic Violence
21 Awareness Month, and one in three college
22 women have reported being raped or
23 sexually assaulted based on some
24 relationship they have. Fifty-seven
25 percent of college women say that those

1 10/19/23 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 relationships took place while actually
3 being enrolled in the university.

4 This organization has done
5 great work, including receiving \$200,000
6 worth of free Uber rides for students to
7 assure that people are safe when
8 traveling to and from events, and overall
9 they've raised hundreds of thousands of
10 dollars to work with college students to
11 assure their safety and to do their part
12 to fight against sexual assault.

13 Can we have the young people
14 who started that organization that's here
15 today please stand so we can give them a
16 round of applause.

17 - - -

18 (Applause.)

19 - - -

20 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank you
21 to those amazing young people, and thank
22 you to my colleagues for supporting our
23 Champion of the Week. And a special
24 shout-out to one of my staff members,
25 Ben, who is also one of the founding

1 10/19/23 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 members of the organization, which is
3 housed at Temple University.

4 Thank you, Council President.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

6 Thank you, Councilman.

7 That will be on this week's
8 Calendar.

9 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Jones
10 offers three resolutions. On behalf of
11 Council President Clarke, a
12 non-privileged resolution authorizing the
13 Philadelphia Land Bank to dispose of 3112
14 West Dakota Street located in the 5th
15 Councilmanic District.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Next
17 week's Calendar.

18 CHIEF CLERK: And on his own
19 behalf, Councilman Jones offers a
20 privileged resolution authorizing the
21 Joint Committees on Education and Parks,
22 Recreation, and Cultural Affairs to hold
23 public hearings to examine the cost and
24 liabilities for the School District and
25 the Department of Parks and Recreation to

1 10/19/23 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 ease the barriers of access to youth
3 sports.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: This
5 week's Calendar.

6 CHIEF CLERK: And a
7 non-privileged resolution also naming the
8 4200 block of Houghton Street as "William
9 'Speedy' Morris Way."

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Next
11 week's Calendar.

12 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman
13 Lozada offers two bills and two
14 resolutions, entitled "An ordinance to
15 amend the Philadelphia Zoning Maps by
16 changing the zoning designations of
17 certain areas of land located within an
18 area bounded by Roosevelt Boulevard,
19 Adams Avenue, Ramona Street, Wyoming
20 Avenue and Whitaker Avenue; and

21 An ordinance to amend the
22 Philadelphia Zoning Maps by changing the
23 zoning designations of certain areas of
24 land located within an area bounded by
25 Pratt Street, Darrah Street, Dyre Street,

1 10/19/23 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 and Frankford Avenue.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Next
4 week's Calendar.

5 CHIEF CLERK: And a privileged
6 resolution recognizing Friday,
7 October 20, 2023, as Community Media Day
8 and Honoring Public, Educational, and
9 Government Access Channels in the City of
10 Philadelphia.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: This
12 week's Calendar.

13 CHIEF CLERK: And a privileged
14 resolution recognizing and honoring the
15 heroism of police officer Richard Mendez,
16 an exceptional public servant, who gave
17 everything in his duty to the City of
18 Philadelphia.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: This
20 week's Calendar.

21 (Brief pause.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: I'm
23 sorry, Mr. Decker. Please proceed.

24 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman
25 Brooks offers a privileged resolution

1 10/19/23 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 declaring October as Domestic Violence
3 Awareness Month in the City of
4 Philadelphia.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: This
6 week's Calendar.

7 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman
8 Harrity offers one bill and one
9 resolution, entitled "An ordinance
10 amending Chapter 9-2300 of The
11 Philadelphia Code to provide greater
12 protections for displaced contract
13 workers."

14 Mr. President, Councilman
15 Harrity would like to be recognized for a
16 motion on this ordinance.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
18 Referred to committee.

19 Councilman Harrity. I'm sorry.

20 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: Council
21 President, I move that the bill be
22 withdrawn so I can work on some of the
23 language.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Oh,
25 I am sorry. Thank you.

1 10/19/23 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 (Duly seconded.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: It's
4 been moved and properly seconded.

5 All in favor of the withdrawal,
6 please say aye.

7 (Aye.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
9 Those opposed?

10 (No response.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
12 ayes have it, and that bill is withdrawn.

13 Thank you, Councilman.

14 CHIEF CLERK: And a privileged
15 resolution honoring Carlos "King Arthur"
16 Alvarez on his induction into the
17 National Rhythm and Blues Hall of Fame
18 and his lifetime achievements in the
19 music industry.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: This
21 week's Calendar.

22 And the Chair recognizes
23 Councilman Harrity.

24 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: Thank you,
25 Council President and colleagues.

1 10/19/23 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 You know, as Councilman

3 Phillips said, we should give flowers to
4 people while they're here. You know, I
5 grew up on King Arthur, listening to his
6 radio show with my parents. To this day,
7 my father has a jukebox in his living
8 room that has nothing but doo-wop music
9 in it, and we have to suffer through it
10 every holiday. But I gest, because I'm
11 actually a big fan of doo-wop and also a
12 big fan of King Arthur.

13 He was inducted into the
14 National Rhythm and Blues Hall of Fame,
15 along with such greats as Clyde
16 McPhatter, the Ivy Brothers, Dee Dee
17 Sharp. He was honored for his producing
18 and promoting of this music.

19 A lot of us listened to him
20 with our families on the AM radio
21 station, and I think it's just great that
22 Philly gets so many honors by so many
23 musicians and things. We are known
24 throughout the country as a place where
25 music thrives, and I think that it's just

1 10/19/23 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 great, and I think it's great that we
3 have another one of our own, King Arthur,
4 inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of
5 Fame.

6 So thank you.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

8 Thank you. Thank you, Councilman.

9 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman
10 Gauthier offers one bill and two
11 resolutions, entitled "An ordinance to
12 approve amendments to the University of
13 Pennsylvania Master Plan in the area
14 bounded by Walnut Street, 33rd Street,
15 Spruce Street, and 34th Street, related
16 to the Stuart Weitzman Hall at 220 South
17 33rd Street."

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

19 Referred to committee.

20 CHIEF CLERK: And a
21 non-privileged resolution authorizing the
22 Philadelphia Land Bank to dispose of 1511
23 through 17 South 55th Street located in
24 the 3rd Councilmanic District.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: And

1 10/19/23 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 that will be on next week's Calendar.

3 CHIEF CLERK: And a

4 non-privileged resolution authorizing the

5 Commissioner of Public Property to

6 execute and deliver to the Philadelphia

7 Redevelopment Authority deeds conveying

8 fee simple title to 5232 Chester Avenue,

9 5906 Market Street, 5908 Market Street,

10 and 6025 Washington Avenue in the Third

11 Councilmanic District.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Next

13 week's Calendar.

14 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman

15 Squilla offers one bill and one

16 resolution, entitled "An ordinance

17 extending term" -- on behalf of Council

18 President Clarke, an ordinance extending

19 the term of the existence of The

20 Philadelphia Parking Authority.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

22 Referred to committee.

23 CHIEF CLERK: And a

24 non-privileged resolution authorizing the

25 Commissioner of Public Property to

1 10/19/23 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 execute and deliver to the Philadelphia
3 Redevelopment Authority deeds conveying
4 fee simple title to 2106 East Cumberland
5 Street in the First Councilmanic
6 District.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: And
8 that will be on next week's Calendar.

9 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman Bass
10 offers a non-privileged resolution
11 recognizing Governor Shapiro's Executive
12 Order to create a Behavioral Health
13 Council in which state leaders, local
14 governments, and community providers join
15 forces to design and implement a
16 statewide action plan with aim to address
17 how to effectively deliver exceptional
18 mental health and addiction care
19 services.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: And
21 that will be on next week's Calendar.

22 CHIEF CLERK: There are no
23 other bills or resolutions being offered
24 today by the members, Mr. President.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

1 10/19/23 - STATED - REPORTS

2 Thank you very much, Mr. Decker.

3 That concludes our introduction
4 of bills and resolutions, and our next
5 order of business is the reports from
6 committee.

7 And the Chair recognizes
8 Councilman Jones for a report from the
9 Committee of the Whole.

10 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
11 Mr. President. The Committee of the
12 Whole offers one bill with a favorable
13 recommendation.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
15 Thank you.

16 Mr. Decker, please read that
17 report.

18 CHIEF CLERK: To the President
19 and members of the Council of the City of
20 Philadelphia, the Committee of the Whole,
21 to which was referred Bill No. 200253,
22 entitled "An ordinance amending Section
23 20-303 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled
24 'Salaries of Specified Officers,' to
25 establish salaries based on an Annual

1 10/19/23 - STATED - REPORTS

2 Compensation Plan, under certain terms
3 and conditions," respectfully reports it
4 has considered and amended the same and
5 returns the attached bill to Council with
6 a favorable recommendation.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

8 Thank you.

9 The Chair again recognizes
10 Councilman Jones.

11 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you
12 again, Mr. President. I move that the
13 rules of Council be suspended to permit
14 first reading this day of Bill No.
15 200253.

16 (Duly seconded.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: It's
18 been moved and properly seconded that the
19 rules of Council be suspended so as to
20 permit first reading this day of Bill No.
21 200253.

22 All in favor indicate by saying
23 aye.

24 (Aye.)

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

1 10/19/23 - STATED - REPORTS

2 Those opposed?

3 (No response.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
5 ayes have it, and this bill will be on
6 our First Reading Calendar today.

7 The Chair now recognizes
8 Councilman Thomas for a report from the
9 Committee on Streets and Services.

10 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Good
11 morning, Council President. The
12 Committee on Streets and Services reports
13 out 25 bills with a favorable
14 recommendation.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
16 Thank you.

17 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: It was a
18 long hearing, Council President.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
20 Mr. Decker, please read that report.

21 CHIEF CLERK: The Committee on
22 Streets and Services, to which was
23 referred Bill No. 230445, entitled "An
24 ordinance authorizing Brandywine Realty
25 Trust to construct, own and maintain

1 10/19/23 - STATED - REPORTS

2 various right-of-way encroachments at
3 3001 through 3003 John F. Kennedy
4 Boulevard, 3025 John F. Kennedy, 3025
5 through 53 Market Street, and 3101
6 through 57 Market Street (Rear)"; and

7 Bill No. 230486, entitled "An
8 ordinance authorizing the revision of
9 lines and grades on a portion of City
10 Plan No. 308 by striking from the City
11 Plan and vacating Addison Street from a
12 point approximately eighty feet east of
13 Fifth Street to its terminus further
14 eastwardly therefrom"; and

15 Bill No. 230487, entitled "An
16 ordinance amending Chapter 12-900
17 ('Parking Regulations and Penalties') and
18 12-2800 ('Administrative Adjudication of
19 Parking Violations') of The Philadelphia
20 Code to revise requirements, limitations,
21 and fines with respect to angle parking";
22 and

23 Bill No. 230488, entitled "An
24 ordinance authorizing the revision of
25 lines and grades on a portion of City

1 10/19/23 - STATED - REPORTS

2 Plan No. 146 by striking from the City
3 Plan and vacating Morse Street from Beach
4 Street to Allen Street and Allen Street
5 from Morse Street to its terminus
6 northeastwardly therefrom"; and

7 Bill No. 230489, entitled "An
8 ordinance adding a new Chapter 12-3600 of
9 The Philadelphia Code, entitled
10 'Camera-Based Enforcement Systems For
11 Parking, Stopping, and Standing
12 Violations That Interfere With Mass
13 Transit,' to decrease traffic congestion,
14 improve traffic safety, and address the
15 climate crisis within the City of
16 Philadelphia"; and

17 Bill No. 230550, entitled "An
18 ordinance authorizing the installation of
19 all-way stop signs at the intersection of
20 34th Street and West Allegheny Avenue";
21 and

22 Bill No. 230570, entitled "An
23 ordinance amending Chapter 11-700 of The
24 Philadelphia Code, entitled 'Right of Way
25 Management,' by amending Section 11-705,

1 10/19/23 - STATED - REPORTS

2 entitled 'Construction,' by adding new
3 provisions relating to notice"; and

4 Bill No. 230572, entitled "An
5 ordinance authorizing encroachments in
6 the nature of a sidewalk cafe in the
7 vicinity of 1216 North 29th Street"; and

8 Bill No. 230573, entitled "An
9 ordinance authorizing encroachments in
10 the nature of a sidewalk cafe in the
11 vicinity of 635 West Girard Avenue"; and

12 Bill No. 230575, entitled "An
13 ordinance authorizing the revision of
14 lines and grades on a portion of City
15 Plan No. 266 by striking from the City
16 Plan and vacating the legally open
17 portion of Lex Street from Thompson
18 Street to its terminus southwardly
19 therefrom"; and

20 Bill No. 230577, entitled "An
21 ordinance granting permission to
22 Wynnefield/Overbrook Eruv Association, in
23 order to demarcate the boundaries of a
24 Wynnefield/Overbrook eruv district, to
25 construct and maintain a clear nylon cord

1 10/19/23 - STATED - REPORTS

2 and other ancillary facilities including
3 a maximum of one hundred poles and
4 forty-five pieces of plexiglass along,
5 over, and in public rights-of-way"; and

6 Bill No. 230580, entitled "An
7 ordinance authorizing encroachments in
8 the nature of a sidewalk cafe in the
9 vicinity of 817 Christian Street"; and

10 Bill No. 230581, entitled "An
11 ordinance authorizing encroachments in
12 the nature of a sidewalk cafe in the
13 vicinity of 1524 South 10th Street"; and

14 Bill No. 230582, entitled "An
15 ordinance authorizing encroachments in
16 the nature of a sidewalk cafe in the
17 vicinity of 2301 East Albert Street"; and

18 Bill No. 230584, entitled "An
19 ordinance amending Section 9-212 of The
20 Philadelphia Code, entitled 'Newsstands,'
21 by modifying the list of products that
22 may be sold from newsstands"; and

23 Bill No. 230621, entitled "An
24 ordinance establishing a no truck parking
25 regulation on both sides of Nevada Street

1 10/19/23 - STATED - REPORTS

2 between North 51st Street and West
3 Dauphin Street"; and

4 Bill No. 230622, entitled "An
5 ordinance authorizing encroachments in
6 the nature of a sidewalk cafe in the
7 vicinity of 4629 through 4631 Baltimore
8 Avenue"; and

9 Bill No. 230623, entitled "An
10 ordinance authorizing encroachments in
11 the nature of a sidewalk cafe in the
12 vicinity of 701 South 50th Street"; and

13 Bill No. 230624, entitled "An
14 ordinance authorizing encroachments in
15 the nature of a sidewalk cafe in the
16 vicinity of 4430 Pine Street"; and

17 Bill No. 230625, entitled "An
18 ordinance amending Section 9-208 of The
19 Philadelphia Code, entitled 'Sidewalk
20 Cafes,' by permitting sidewalk cafes to
21 be maintained in certain locations in the
22 Sixth District of Council"; and

23 Bill No. 230652, entitled "An
24 ordinance amending Section 2 of an
25 ordinance (Bill No. 170086) approved

1 10/19/23 - STATED - REPORTS

2 May 22, 2017, entitled 'An ordinance
3 authorizing the revision of lines and
4 grades on a portion of City Plan No. 269
5 by relocating portions of the houselines
6 and curblines of Convention Avenue, from
7 Thirty-Fourth Street to Health Sciences
8 Drive,' by extending the period for
9 compliance with the terms and conditions
10 stated therein"; and

11 Bill No. 230655, entitled "An
12 ordinance amending Title 9 of The
13 Philadelphia Code, by amending Section
14 9-203 relating to Street Vendors, by
15 prohibiting street vending on certain
16 portions of Girard Avenue"; and

17 Bill No. 230676, entitled "An
18 ordinance amending Chapter 12-3000 of The
19 Philadelphia Code, entitled 'Use Of An
20 Automated Red Light Enforcement System To
21 Prevent Red Light Violations,' by
22 authorizing the installation of red light
23 enforcement systems at the intersection
24 of Belmont Avenue, Ford Road and
25 Overbrook Avenue"; and

1 10/19/23 - STATED - REPORTS

2 Bill No. 230677, entitled "An
3 ordinance amending Chapter 12-3000 of The
4 Philadelphia Code, entitled 'Use Of An
5 Automated Red Light Enforcement System To
6 Prevent Red Light Violations,' by
7 authorizing the installation of red light
8 enforcement systems at the intersection
9 of Kelly Drive and Falls Bridge"; and

10 Bill No. 230678, entitled "An
11 ordinance amending Chapter 12-3000 of
12 Philadelphia Code, entitled 'Use Of An
13 Automated Red Light Enforcement System To
14 Prevent Red Light Violations,' by
15 authorizing the installation of red light
16 enforcement systems at the intersection
17 of 17th Street and Washington Avenue,"
18 respectfully reports it has considered
19 the same and returns the attached bills
20 to Council with a favorable
21 recommendation.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

23 Thank you, Mr. Decker.

24 The Chair again recognizes
25 Councilman Thomas.

1 10/19/23 - STATED - REPORTS

2 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank you,
3 Council President. I move that the rules
4 of Council be suspended to permit the
5 first reading this day of the 25 bills
6 that were just read into the record by
7 the Clerk.

8 (Duly seconded.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
10 Thank you. It has been moved and
11 properly seconded that the rules of
12 Council be suspended so as to permit
13 first reading this day of the 25 bills
14 just read by the Clerk.

15 All those in favor indicate by
16 saying aye.

17 (Aye.)

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
19 Those opposed?

20 (No response.)

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
22 ayes have it, the motion carries, and
23 these bills will be on our First Reading
24 Calendar today.

25 That concludes our reports from

1 10/19/23 - STATED - BILLS ON 2ND READING
2 committee, and our next order of business
3 is consideration of the Calendar.

4 I note that the bills just
5 reported from committee with a suspension
6 of the rules have been deemed to have had
7 a first reading. They will be on our
8 Second Reading and Final Passage Calendar
9 at our next session of Council.

10 As there are no additional
11 bills on the First Reading Calendar
12 today, the Chair recognizes Councilman
13 Jones for the purpose of calling up the
14 bills and resolutions on the Final
15 Passage Calendar today.

16 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
17 Mr. President. The following resolutions
18 and bills are being called up from Second
19 Reading to Final Passage Calendars today:
20 Nos. 230705, 230706, and 230708. All
21 other resolutions and bills are being
22 held.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
24 Thank you very much.

25 Before considering the

1 10/19/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 resolutions and bills on our Final
3 Passage Calendar today, we will have our
4 public comment. It will go as follows:

5 Your public comment must
6 concern matters that are on the Final
7 Passage Calendar today. Your names will
8 be called in the order in which you
9 signed up.

10 When your name is called, you
11 will go to the podium in the middle of
12 the Council Chamber. There's a device on
13 that podium. There's a light. When the
14 light turns green, it will be your time
15 to speak. When the light turns yellow,
16 you will have 30 seconds to conclude your
17 remarks, and when the light turns red,
18 we'd ask that you please adhere to our
19 guidelines and our timeline that was
20 established today.

21 As I said earlier, given the
22 volume of individuals that wish to
23 testify today and our interest in
24 ensuring that everybody has an
25 opportunity and people don't have to wait

1 10/19/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 around for three hours to speak, we will
3 be giving 90 seconds today. So, again,
4 please adjust your testimony to reflect
5 the 90-second timeline.

6 Thank you very much for your
7 interest in testifying and your
8 participation in your government in
9 action.

10 Mr. Decker, please call the
11 first name on the list.

12 CHIEF CLERK: The first speaker
13 today, Mr. President, is Pennsylvania
14 State Representative Jared Solomon.

15 (No response.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: One
17 more time.

18 CHIEF CLERK: Pennsylvania
19 State Representative Jared Solomon.

20 (No response.)

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: I do
22 not see the Rep. I don't think the Rep
23 is here. Next name.

24 CHIEF CLERK: The next speaker
25 is Amichai Shdimah and Cory Shdimah,

1 10/19/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 commenting on 230706.

3 (Witnesses approached podium.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good
5 morning.

6 MR. SHDIMAH: Morning. My name
7 is Amichai Shdimah. I want --

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
9 Please speak into the mic.

10 MR. SHDIMAH: I want to start
11 by giving testimony to a nightmare that
12 became reality. Early morning Saturday,
13 October 7, my 84-year-old stepmother,
14 Ditza Heiman, was awakened by a Red
15 Alert. As always in this situation, she
16 moved to a safe room inside the house.

17 Contact with Ditza was lost
18 around 10:00 a.m. Hours later after
19 trying to contact her, somebody answered
20 the phone and said it is Hamas. Later a
21 neighbor shared that he tried to help
22 her, come to her aid. He saw that she
23 was escorted by terrorists and was unable
24 to help her. He went back to his safe
25 room.

1 10/19/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Two days later the family found
3 a Hamas propaganda video showing somebody
4 breaking into her home, leading her
5 outside, and being seated in their car.
6 This is the last evidence we have of what
7 happened to her, and it is very important
8 to highlight to the world that she was
9 (unintelligible) life.

10 Due to chronic illness, she
11 needs medicine. Is she getting the care
12 she needs? There are many painful
13 questions, but there are no answers.

14 I want to thank Councilmembers
15 Johnson and Driscoll for putting this
16 important resolution forward. The
17 resolution clearly --

18 (Audience members yelling.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Hold
20 up. Hold up. Check this out. Hold up.
21 Everybody is going to get a chance to
22 speak.

23 (Audience members yelling.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
25 Either you will participate in the

1 10/19/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 decorum of the Council or you will not be
3 in the Council Chambers today.

4 We're going to give everybody a
5 chance to speak. Let everybody have
6 their say. If you want to speak, you
7 speak. All right? We're not doing that
8 today.

9 Next name.

10 CHIEF CLERK: The next speaker
11 today is Andrea Custis, commenting on
12 230706.

13 (Witness approached podium.)

14 MS. CUSTIS: My name is Andrea
15 Custis.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good
17 morning.

18 MS. CUSTIS: Good morning.

19 To the honorable members of the
20 Philadelphia City Council, I stand before
21 you today to express my strong support
22 for the resolution condemning the Hamas
23 terrorist attack in Israel and calling
24 for a peaceful resolution to the
25 Israel-Palestine conflict.

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2 The recent events in Israel
3 have been deeply tragic, with the death
4 toll of this heinous massacre surpassing
5 1,300 civilians. Over 3,300 individuals,
6 including men, women, children, have been
7 gravely injured.

8 Let us not merely label it an
9 attack. This was a barbaric massacre.
10 It is heart-wrenching to think of the 150
11 innocent individuals, including infants
12 and elderly Holocaust survivors, who were
13 kidnapped and taken as hostages by Hamas.

14 Everyone around the world must
15 condemn terrorist acts. It is imperative
16 to note that Hamas's intention is not to
17 seek a two-state solution or uplift the
18 Palestinian people, but to destroy the
19 Jewish state and perpetrate violence
20 against Jews.

21 It is equally crucial to
22 differentiate between Hamas extremist
23 organization and the innocent
24 Palestinians. Both Israel and
25 Palestinians suffer due to the actions of

1 10/19/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Hamas.

3 So let me just close by saying

4 I would ask City Council --

5 (Audience members yelling.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: All

7 right. All right. Hold up. Hold up.

8 If you don't want to be in the room, you

9 can just leave now, right? Or if you

10 were scheduled to testify, then we ask

11 that you respect the speakers. You will

12 be given a chance to give your

13 perspective on this issue, but you can't

14 holler and scream at these individuals.

15 - - -

16 (Applause.)

17 - - -

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Just

19 calm down. Everybody will have a chance

20 to get their perspective. There will be

21 a balanced list, but I got to tell you

22 that if you're not going to be civil in

23 here as it relates to allowing people to

24 speak, you're going to be out of here.

25 It's real simple.

1 10/19/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 - - -

3 (Applause.)

4 - - -

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: All
6 right?

7 Next name. Next name, Mr.
8 Decker.

9 CHIEF CLERK: The next speaker,
10 Mr. President, is Reverend Marshall
11 Mitchell.

12 (No response.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Did
14 he leave?

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: He
16 left.

17 Next name.

18 CHIEF CLERK: The next speaker
19 is Pastor Carl Day.

20 (Witness approached podium.)

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good
22 morning.

23 PASTOR DAY: Pastor Carl Day,
24 Culture Changing Christians.

25 This morning I just want to

1 10/19/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 thank Councilman Jones for putting this
3 resolution together. I firmly -- I'm
4 sorry. Johnson and Driscoll. I'm
5 sitting here looking at my man, Mr. 4th
6 Ward.

7 But I do want to thank you all
8 for this resolution. First and foremost,
9 I do condemn the attacks of Hamas, but I
10 also recognize that there are many people
11 right now caught in the cross-hairs of
12 what's going on.

13 I do want to sit there and let
14 it be known that I'm praying for peace,
15 reconciliation, also that the hostages
16 will be returned back to their homes,
17 that peace will come about between both
18 sides, because what we're seeing right
19 now, nothing but devastation and trauma
20 will continue to happen right now, which
21 makes it inevitably impossible for both
22 sides to reconcile to further to
23 discontinue.

24 So my prayer is that, again,
25 peace will come about, the terrorism

1 10/19/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 would not be condoned, terrorism would be
3 abolished, that Hamas will show
4 themselves and stop putting their own
5 people at risk so that then people can
6 move forward.

7 So as a man of God, as a person
8 who is on the front lines in the City
9 that won't be disrespected by anybody in
10 here too, by the way, I'm asking that we
11 continue to go ahead and pray that we
12 will go ahead -- I'm saying what I'm
13 saying -- that we will pray and hope that
14 this will come to an end.

15 So may God be with everybody.

16 Thank you.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

18 Thank you.

19 - - -

20 (Applause.)

21 - - -

22 CHIEF CLERK: The next speaker
23 is Mark Zucker, Chancellor of the
24 Philadelphia Bar Association.

25 (Witness approached podium.)

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2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good
3 morning.

4 MR. ZUCKER: Council President,
5 esteemed members of Council, thank you
6 for allowing me to speak. Mark Zucker,
7 as has been identified. I am the
8 Chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar
9 Association.

10 I'm here to express our
11 Association's support for the Resolution
12 230706 and to thank Councilpersons
13 Johnson and Driscoll for introducing the
14 resolution.

15 While our Bar Association and
16 this legislative body by necessity are
17 focused primarily on local issues, there
18 are times like this when speaking out on
19 an international issue is warranted.
20 This is precisely why yesterday our Bar
21 Association issued a statement which
22 declared as follows:

23 As an association of thousands
24 of lawyers who stand for mutual respect,
25 security, and the rule of law and who

1 10/19/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 promote constructive solutions to
3 intractable problems locally, nationally,
4 and globally, we support this resolution
5 condemning the horrific and brutal acts
6 of terrorism by Hamas which have caused
7 tremendous human suffering and death
8 through barbaric acts that violate
9 international law.

10 The resolution appropriately
11 assigns blame where it belongs, on the
12 unilateral and inhumane acts of a
13 terrorist organization, which has set in
14 motion a series of events that are
15 causing pain and anguish not only to the
16 Jewish and Arab citizens of Israel that
17 is beyond comprehension but also
18 consequential pain and anguish for the
19 residents of Gaza.

20 (Audience members yelling.)

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

22 Thank you.

23 MR. ZUCKER: Thank you very
24 much.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

1 10/19/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Thank you.

3 - - -

4 (Applause.)

5 - - -

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Next
7 name.

8 CHIEF CLERK: Jason Holtzman,
9 commenting on 230706.

10 (Witness approached podium.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good
12 morning.

13 MR. HOLTZMAN: Good morning,
14 Council. I'm Jason Holtzman. I'm the
15 Director of the Jewish Community
16 Relations Council of the Jewish
17 Federation of Greater Philadelphia.

18 First, I want to thank
19 Councilmen Kenyatta Johnson and Mike
20 Driscoll for introducing this resolution
21 and the Councilmembers for unanimously
22 signing on to this resolution as an
23 acknowledgment that Hamas is a terrorist
24 organization whose purpose is to kill
25 Israelis and Jews without regard for

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2 Palestinian life.

3 On October 7th, Hamas attacked
4 Israel, launching thousands of rockets,
5 murdering civilians, and taking hundreds
6 hostage. Because of Hamas, October 7,
7 2023 now marks the highest number of Jews
8 killed in one day since the Holocaust.

9 Hamas's war crimes are some of
10 the most worst that the world has ever
11 seen. Babies were burned. More than 40
12 babies were murdered. Women were raped.
13 Elderly people, including Holocaust
14 survivors, being murdered while in
15 captive.

16 (Audience members yelling.)

17 MR. HOLTZMAN: Like any other
18 country under attack, Israel has the
19 right to defend itself while remaining
20 committed to its humanitarian values.
21 Israel tries to minimize civilian
22 casualties as much as possible, going out
23 of its way to warn civilians of upcoming
24 operations, even at the risk of Israel's
25 military success.

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2 (Audience members yelling.)

3 MR. HOLTZMAN: The same cannot
4 be said for Hamas or their supporters,
5 who frequently use Palestinian civilians
6 as human shields, firing rockets for
7 mosques, schools, and hospitals.

8 Clear evidence reveals that
9 terrorists in Gaza were responsible for
10 the recent strike on a Gaza hospital that
11 killed innocent Palestinians.

12 (Audience members yelling.)

13 MR. HOLTZMAN: We mourn the
14 loss --

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: All
16 right. Thank you. Thank you.

17 This is the deal. Everybody
18 that doesn't have a seat, you go outside.
19 If you're scheduled to testify, you will
20 be called, you come in and testify. All
21 right? But we're just not going to have
22 people just disrespecting speakers today.

23 I mean, everybody has a list.
24 This is a balanced list. Everybody will
25 have an opportunity to give their

1 10/19/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 perspective, but if your intent is to
3 come here and disrupt, you're just not
4 going to be able to participate today.
5 It's real simple. All right? Real
6 simple.

7 (Audience members yelling.)
8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: You
9 have to leave.

10 (Audience members being
11 escorted out of Chambers.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
13 Okay. Next name.

14 CHIEF CLERK: The next speaker
15 is Ray Epstein, commenting on 230722.

16 (Witnesses approached podium.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
18 Ms. Epstein, Ray Epstein, Champions of
19 the Week.

20 MS. EPSTEIN: Good morning. My
21 name is Ray Epstein and I'm the President
22 of Student Activists Against Sexual
23 Assault at Temple University. Thank you
24 for letting me speak, Council President
25 Clarke.

1 10/19/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Right now on Temple

3 University's campus, my peers are hanging
4 t-shirts on a clothes line to represent
5 those who have been victimized by
6 domestic and sexual violence, and when I
7 leave here today, I will be joining them.

8 October is Domestic Violence

9 Awareness Month, and one in three college
10 women report being in an abusive
11 relationship. Fifty-seven percent of
12 those college women say that those
13 abusive relationships took place while
14 they were enrolled at their university.

15 Our organization is working
16 tirelessly to reduce those numbers. We
17 have partnered with Uber, who has awarded
18 us \$200,000 in free rides to help
19 students get home safely when they find
20 themselves sexually vulnerable.

21 We are proud to be one of the
22 many organizations in Philadelphia who
23 are fighting to eliminate domestic
24 violence in our city, and I am truly
25 honored to be here to address you today.

1 10/19/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Thank you.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

4 Thank you for your testimony.

5 - - -

6 (Applause.)

7 - - -

8 CHIEF CLERK: The next speaker
9 is Tony Brice.

10 (No response.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Tony
12 Brice?

13 (Audience members yelling.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: He's
15 on his way.

16 - - -

17 (Applause.)

18 - - -

19 (Witness approached podium.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good
21 morning.

22 MR. BRICE: Good morning. I've
23 heard the word "Hamas" before I left out
24 to assist the young lady who was being,
25 you know, grabbed by five grown men,

1 10/19/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 decedents of slaves who grabbed this
3 young sister. My ring was also ripped
4 off when I was trying to assist her, so I
5 hope -- I'm saying it on public record
6 that somebody, you know, can help
7 retrieve my ring.

8 The word "Hamas" is keep being
9 used, and that's a word that many of you
10 that I know for sure start hearing about
11 a few weeks ago.

12 I was sitting in the Caucus
13 Room with a lady named Betty who has been
14 protesting about Palestine and the
15 genocide. That's a word I haven't heard
16 anybody use today, "genocide."

17 - - -

18 (Applause.)

19 - - -

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
21 Folks.

22 MR. BRICE: So when people like
23 Pastor Carl Day gets up here and speaks
24 and talks about the Hamas and the
25 terrorists, he learned about that two

1 10/19/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 weeks ago. That's --

3 - - -

4 (Applause.)

5 - - -

6 MR. BRICE: Betty -- where you
7 at, Betty? Betty was protesting about
8 Palestine in 1967 when my mother was
9 seven years old.

10 - - -

11 (Applause.)

12 - - -

13 MR. BRICE: I reached out to
14 Councilman Johnson yesterday, because
15 he's somebody who before the recent
16 situation, he's somebody that I've
17 supported and genuinely love, and this
18 conflict and this genocide has caused so
19 much division within our city. And as I
20 look over and I see the Councilwoman from
21 Kensington over here and I see you guys
22 paying attention to such -- him to have a
23 resolution for such a global matter and
24 we have so many local issues, we have so
25 much poverty and violence in the City.

1 10/19/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 - - -

3 (Applause.)

4 - - -

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

6 Summarize. Just kind of summarize.

7 MR. BRICE: We will remember

8 this during election time. We will

9 remember this during election time.

10 - - -

11 (Applause.)

12 - - -

13 MR. BRICE: And best believe,

14 God is the ultimate judge.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

16 Thank you. Thank you for your testimony.

17 - - -

18 (Applause.)

19 - - -

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Next

21 name.

22 (Audience members yelling.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Come

24 on, guys, let us get through the list.

25 All right? People want to speak.

1 10/19/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Next name.

3 CHIEF CLERK: The next name is

4 Nour Qutyan.

5 (Witness approached podium.)

6 - - -

7 (Applause.)

8 - - -

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good
10 morning.

11 MS. QUTYAN: Hello. My name is
12 Nour Qutyan and I in the strongest terms
13 condemn this resolution that was brought
14 forward by Johnson and Driscoll.
15 Genocide will be not endorsed in my name.

16 - - -

17 (Applause.)

18 - - -

19 MS. QUTYAN: (Unintelligible)
20 and human rights (unintelligible) per our
21 agreement as well as an apartheid state
22 committing war crimes against stateless
23 indigenous people.

24 - - -

25 (Applause.)

1 10/19/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 - - -

3 MS. QUTYAN: Our government is
4 funding Israel and its march to genocide,
5 giving the state \$3.8 billion annually.
6 It was a U.S.-manufactured bomb that
7 dropped on the Baptist Hospital in Gaza
8 two years ago and killed over a thousand
9 people so far (unintelligible).

10 In the few days since, the
11 Palestinian death toll has risen from
12 3,000 to 4,200.

13 City Council is now terming
14 this genocide as Israel's right to defend
15 itself. Will you stand with Israel and
16 call their war crimes self-defense when
17 the death toll reaches 10,000? What
18 about when it reaches 100,000? What
19 about when it reaches 2.2 million
20 residents in Gaza, totally erasing
21 (unintelligible) --

22 (Audience members yelling.)

23 MS. QUTYAN: -- and making room
24 for amusement parks and (unintelligible).
25 Israel wants to build over Palestinian

1 10/19/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 corpses.

3 This is the dark future you are
4 signing onto with this Resolution 230706.

5 (Audience members yelling.)

6 MS. QUTYAN: This is the
7 violence you are normalizing and
8 justifying as moral and right. The blood
9 of thousands was already on your hands
10 when you all co-signed this resolution,
11 and the blood of thousands more will
12 stain your hands forever if you pass this
13 resolution today.

14 (Audience members yelling.)

15 MS. QUTYAN: (Unintelligible)
16 your support of this resolution
17 (unintelligible) inhumane. If you truly
18 want lasting peace, the only way that
19 will ever happen is to dismantle
20 occupation, apartheid, and --

21 (Audience members yelling.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

23 Thank you.

24 (Audience members yelling.)

25 MS. QUTYAN: (Unintelligible.)

1 10/19/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Until then, there will be no justice and
3 there will be no peace.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

5 Thank you.

6 - - -

7 (Applause.)

8 - - -

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

10 Okay, guys. All right. Next speaker.

11 People wanted to speak, let them speak,
12 please.

13 Next speaker.

14 CHIEF CLERK: Anusha Khan,
15 commenting on 230706.

16 (Witness approached podium.)

17 - - -

18 (Applause.)

19 - - -

20 MS. KHAN: This is Anusha Khan
21 speaking against Resolution 230706.

22 This resolution stakes blame on
23 an occupied people's resistance to
24 colonization. There's a gross
25 under-evaluation of the indigenous

1 10/19/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 (unintelligible) lives. There's no
3 mention of the war crimes or condemnation
4 of the (unintelligible) of a colonistic
5 state of Israel that perpetrated violence
6 over the Palestinian people over decades.

7 The federal colony of Israel is
8 starkly defended in this resolution, with
9 no accountability for the inhumane
10 conditions that have been inflicted on
11 the West Bank and Gaza, with 4,000 dead
12 already and more people already dying in
13 the West Bank where Hamas has no
14 influence.

15 We need to propose and support
16 a bill that calls for the cease fire and
17 allows aid into Gaza and not
18 (unintelligible) --

19 (Audience members yelling.)

20 MS. KHAN: -- Israeli's
21 occupation force fund.

22 The blood is not only on your
23 hands, Councilwomen and men. I hope you
24 recognize the change in our democracy and
25 see that moral conscious cannot forever

1 10/19/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 be outweighed by greed.

3 The events set forth in motion
4 did not begin in October 7th but instead
5 1948 and honestly quite prior.

6 (Audience members yelling.)

7 MS. KHAN: (Unintelligible) the
8 Palestinian people. If Israelis stop
9 fighting, there will be peace, but if the
10 Palestinians stop fighting, they will
11 cease to exist.

12 Over a thousand children are
13 dead with countless war crimes, including
14 white phosphorous and the collective
15 punishment of Palestinian citizens.

16 Israel has the power to limit
17 electricity, water, food, and medicine in
18 Gaza, which is the clear sign of the
19 oppressor. There's nothing to like in
20 the acts other than genocide.

21 Free Palestine. Call for the
22 cease fire and end the occupation
23 (unintelligible).

24 (Audience members yelling.)

25 MS. KHAN: Free Palestine.

1 10/19/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 - - -

3 (Applause.)

4 (Audience members chanting.)

5 - - -

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Come
7 on, come on. Let people speak. You got
8 a lot of people that want to speak.

9 Next name.

10 CHIEF CLERK: Nora Elmarzouky.

11 - - -

12 (Applause.)

13 - - -

14 (Witness approached podium.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good
16 morning.

17 MS. ELMARZOUKY: Good morning.

18 My name is Nora.

19 How can you fit 4,000 years
20 worth of history in a minute, in
21 90 seconds? It's impossible. So I ask
22 you, did you ask your Palestinian
23 constituents about co-writing this
24 resolution? I highly doubt it, but I'm
25 sure you had other people.

1 10/19/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 - - -

3 (Applause.)

4 - - -

5 MS. ELMARZOUKY: Your callous
6 (unintelligible) situation in the City.
7 Let's begin with the facts that the
8 occupied territories is the same thing as
9 Palestine. Occupied territories is
10 Palestine. Palestine is occupied by the
11 apartheid state named Israel, which has
12 been proven by human rights
13 organizations, including an Israeli
14 organization B'Tselem.

15 Your resolution says committed
16 to promoting peace, justice, and security
17 for all people. Yet where is the
18 acknowledgment of the dehumanization and
19 genocide that's taking place to the
20 Palestinian people in Gaza and --

21 (Audience members yelling.)

22 MS. ELMARZOUKY: -- and the
23 arrest and killings in the West Bank,
24 where Hamas does not exist.

25 At least one million people are

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2 currently displaced. That's more than
3 half the population of Philadelphia.
4 Imagine one million Philadelphians
5 displaced.

6 We talk about displacement and
7 gentrification up in this place, right?
8 But we don't talk about colonization and
9 how that's gentrification and
10 displacement.

11 - - -
12 (Applause.)

13 - - -

14 MS. ELMARZOUKY: Over 3,900
15 people have been killed, over 14,000
16 missing. Our people have been under
17 siege for 16 years in a place that is six
18 feet by -- 6 miles by 25 miles. That is
19 actually only 1.8 square miles smaller
20 than Philadelphia, having -- with double
21 the population in it, being bombed, more
22 bombs in six days than one year in
23 Afghanistan.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
25 Thank you.

1 10/19/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 - - -

3 (Applause.)

4 - - -

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Next
6 name.

7 CHIEF CLERK: Sarah Trad.
8 (Witness approached podium.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good
10 morning.

11 MS. TRAD: Good morning. My
12 name is Sarah Trad.

13 In the last two weeks, the
14 Israeli government has used white
15 phosphorous in Lebanon and Gaza, a human
16 rights violation recognized by
17 international law, and bombed the
18 Egyptian border to stop humanitarian aid,
19 as well as committed numerous acts of
20 genocide against the Palestinian people.
21 These crimes are numerous, including the
22 IOF invasion of the Shuafat refugee camp
23 in Al-Quds, Jerusalem, killing of over 54
24 Palestinians in the West Bank outside of
25 Hamas's control, and just Tuesday the

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2 bombing of the Anglican Hospital in the
3 middle of Gaza City, killing 500
4 civilians, civilian children and staff.

5 Israel has committed war
6 crimes, such as killing of almost a dozen
7 Palestinian journalists, clearly marked
8 in white brood press attire, bombing
9 civilian escape routes and, most
10 shockingly, cut off an entire city's
11 water and electricity supply.

12 These actions have been fueled
13 and justified by misinformation based on
14 racism and egregiously unprofessional
15 journalism, and they have real
16 consequences such as when the BBC world
17 tweeted the possibility that Hamas might
18 be building tunnels under the Anglican
19 Hospital a day before it was bombed.

20 (Audience members yelling.)

21 MS. ELMARZOUKY: This coverage
22 is meant to homogenize the idea of the
23 Palestinian civilian, Hamas, and
24 so-called terrorism. It has real world
25 consequences, and when you speak for me

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2 and my community, I demand that you not
3 only oppose this resolution but to use
4 your platform to denounce the Israeli war
5 machine and 75 years of occupation
6 against the Palestinian people.

7 - - -

8 (Applause.)

9 - - -

10 MS. ELMARZOUKY: I demand that
11 you open the borders to allow
12 humanitarian aid and the human right to
13 water for our community.

14 Thank you.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

16 Thank you for your testimony.

17 - - -

18 (Applause.)

19 - - -

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Next
21 name.

22 CHIEF CLERK: Susan Abulhawa.

23 - - -

24 (Applause.)

25 - - -

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2 (Witness approached podium.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good
4 morning.

5 MS. ABULHAWA: This resolution
6 is just like a city resolution that was
7 passed in August of 1831 that condemned
8 the so-called savage assault that was led
9 by Nat Turner --

10 - - -

11 (Applause.)

12 - - -

13 MS. ABULHAWA: -- against
14 defenseless women and children sleeping
15 on the plantation in the big house.

16 They said it was unprovoked and
17 sickening, and they affirmed the need to
18 whip and execute more enslaved people in
19 self-defense to put an end to such savage
20 ideas.

21 My grandmothers died penniless
22 refugees so every privileged Jew in this
23 room and beyond can have an extra
24 country. My mother and grandmother died
25 waiting to go home to the stolen homes in

1 10/19/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Jerusalem while European Jews lived in
3 their homes, people who had no lineage in
4 that land, while being
5 (unintelligible) --

6 (Audience members yelling.)

7 MS. ABULHAWA: -- continuously
8 living in the same village, but none of
9 us are allowed to be there, but all these
10 folks can be there just for being Jewish.

11 Seeing all these Black faces in
12 this room cheering a genocidal settler
13 colonial project, it means one thing, and
14 that is that white supremacy has become
15 multi-racial.

16 (Audience members yelling.)

17 MS. ABULHAWA: So
18 congratulations on this feat.

19 - - -

20 (Applause.)

21 (Audience members chanting.)

22 - - -

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Come
24 on. Quiet, quiet, quiet, please. Quiet,
25 please.

1 10/19/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 Next name.
3 (Audience member yelling.)
4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: My
5 man, calm down. Calm down.
6 Next name.
7 CHIEF CLERK: Mohd Shwaiter.
8 (No response.)
9 CHIEF CLERK: Mohd Shwaiter.
10 (No response.)
11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Not
12 here?
13 (Audience member yelling.)
14 CHIEF CLERK: Jamie Pagirsky.
15 (No response.)
16 CHIEF CLERK: Jamie Pagirsky.
17 (No response.)
18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Not
19 here?
20 CHIEF CLERK: Dou Nya Ramadan.
21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
22 Here?
23 (Witness approached podium.)
24 - - -
25 (Applause.)

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2 - - -

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good
4 morning.

5 MS. RAMADAN: Good morning. My
6 name is Dou Nya Ramadan. I oppose
7 Resolution 23706 [sic].

8 As you introduced in this
9 resolution, Councilman Johnson, you have
10 stated and quoted violence and terrorism
11 can never be justified as a means to
12 achieve political goals. My question is,
13 why has this not been applied to the
14 United States?

15 The fact of the matter is, that
16 is exactly what the United States has
17 been engaging in for years and at this
18 very moment as we speak. The U.S. has
19 been funding and unequivocally supporting
20 a settler colonial expansion project and
21 ethnic cleansing campaign since the
22 illegal state of Israel had formed in
23 1948, giving \$3.8 billion to Israel in
24 military aid, in this case actively
25 choosing violence to achieve U.S.

1 10/19/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 political interests at the expense of
3 indigenous Palestinians and Israeli
4 lives. It was never to protect the
5 people living there. It wasn't a
6 continued to be all about protecting U.S.
7 interests.

8 Therefore, the Zioness project
9 needed to survive with our U.S. tax
10 dollars and an incredibly ruthless
11 propaganda campaign by Israel and its
12 strongest ally, the U.S., where everyone
13 who speaks out against this project is
14 faced with and continues to be faced with
15 the backlash of being castigated as a
16 disgusting anti-Semite.

17 If this Zioness project were
18 ever questioned, one has always been
19 immediately shut down and condemned.
20 Man, I wish all racism was treated in
21 this manner by the United States.

22 - - -

23 (Applause.)

24 - - -

25 MS. RAMADAN: (Unintelligible)

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2 state in this country has been justified

3 as a means to achieve political goals.

4 Joe Biden quite blatantly proclaimed in

5 Congress on June 5th, 1986 that it is the

6 best \$3 billion investment we make. Were

7 there not in Israel, the United States of

8 America would have to invent an Israel to

9 protect their interests in the region.

10 (Audience members yelling.)

11 MS. RAMADAN: Furthermore, it

12 is stated in this resolution that

13 dialogue and negotiation are the only

14 vital paths towards lasting peace and

15 stability. Well, Council, there can't be

16 any more dialogue or negotiation if the

17 Palestinian population arrives at zero or

18 in other terms it's completely

19 exterminated or wiped off the face of

20 this planet.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

22 Thank you for your testimony.

23 - - -

24 (Applause.)

25 - - -

1 10/19/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: All
3 right. All right. All right.

4 Next speaker, Mr. Decker.

5 CHIEF CLERK: Danielle Weiss.

6 (Witness approached podium.)

7 - - -

8 (Applause.)

9 - - -

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good
11 morning.

12 MS. WEISS: Good morning. I'm
13 Danielle Weiss. I am your constituent,
14 and I speak here today in my capacity as
15 the Chair of the Jewish Community
16 Relations Council of the Jewish
17 Federation of Greater Philadelphia. We
18 extend our deepest thanks to Councilman
19 Johnson, Councilman Driscoll, and all of
20 you today voting on Resolution 230706 for
21 your support of Israel and for standing
22 together with the Jewish community in
23 this profoundly dark moment.

24 (Audience members booing.)

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Hold

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2 on. Hold on. Hold up. Folks, hey, come
3 on. You can't be one-sided. All right?
4 Everybody gets a chance to speak.
5 Respect the speaker regardless of their
6 perspective. I just ask you to let them
7 speak.

8 Go ahead. I'm sorry. Please
9 proceed.

10 MS. WEISS: Standing with
11 Israel against Hamas, a terrorist regime,
12 and with the Jewish community confirms my
13 unending pride for being a Philadelphian.

14 As a Jew, I am grateful that
15 you understand the significance of Israel
16 as the ancestral homeland of the Jewish
17 people for more than 2,000 years
18 (unintelligible) --

19 (Audience members yelling.)

20 MS. WEISS: It makes perfect
21 sense that this city, which birthed
22 modern democracy, stands in solidarity
23 with the only true liberal democracy in
24 the Middle East.

25 My community is grieving.

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2 (Audience members yelling.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Hold

4 on, ma'am. Hold on.

5 (Audience members yelling.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Hold

7 on. Hold on. Hold on. Are you all

8 right?

9 All right. Go ahead, ma'am.

10 Continue your testimony.

11 MS. WEISS: Thank you.

12 We, the Jewish community, are

13 grieving. Our greatest Jewish value is

14 the sanctity of human life. We mourn not

15 only for the loss of life --

16 (Audience members yelling.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Hold

18 on. Hold up. You all are like not --

19 this is not right. All right? You can't

20 like scream and holler.

21 (Audience members yelling.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: I

23 understand that, but you can't scream and

24 holler when somebody else has a different

25 perspective and then it's okay when you

1 10/19/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 want to cheer, right?

3 (Audience members yelling.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: No,
5 man. Be fair out of respect.

6 (Audience members yelling.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Be
8 fair. You can have your perspective.
9 You can testify.

10 (Audience members yelling.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: All
12 right. Thirty seconds.

13 MS. WEISS: We mourn not only
14 for the loss of life in Israel but also
15 the loss of innocent life in Gaza. It
16 has been difficult to push through the
17 pain of living through the single
18 deadliest day for the Jewish people since
19 the Holocaust.

20 To process this current
21 continuing trauma, I have found solace in
22 the immortal words of Anne Frank, child
23 Holocaust victim, who left behind a
24 legacy of hope and wisdom. She wrote in
25 her diary: It really is a wonder that I

1 10/19/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 haven't dropped all of my ideals because
3 they seem so absurd and impossible to
4 carry out, yet I keep them. Because
5 despite of everything, I still believe
6 that people are really good at heart. I
7 simply can't build my hopes on a
8 foundation of confusion, misery, and
9 death. I see the world gradually turning
10 into wilderness.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: All
12 right. Thank you.

13 MS. WEISS: I hear the
14 approaching thunder. I believe if I look
15 up to the heavens, I think it will come
16 out right --

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
18 Ma'am.

19 MS. WEISS: -- that one of
20 these days, this cruelty will end and
21 peace and tranquility will return.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
23 Thank you.

24 - - -

25 (Applause.)

1 10/19/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 - - -

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Next
4 name.

5 (Audience member yelling.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Sir,
7 come on.

8 Come on, guys. Come on, calm
9 down, man. Come on. Come on, y'all.

10 Next name.

11 CHIEF CLERK: Tara Tarawnett.

12 (Witness approached podium.)

13 - - -

14 (Applause.)

15 - - -

16 MS. TARAWNETT: My name is Tara
17 Tarawnett and I'm here to oppose the
18 resolution you're all about to sign on.
19 The resolution does something very
20 dangerous. It implies that Hamas strikes
21 first this time. We all know this is not
22 true, because Israel by the sheer fact of
23 its existence always strikes first. It
24 is a settler colonial state based on the
25 murder and expulsion of Palestinians.

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2 The military occupation of the West Bank,
3 that is an example of Israel striking
4 first.

5 The equation of violence on
6 both sides and the equation of casualties
7 on both sides are also very dangerous,
8 because there are no civilians in a
9 settler state. They all serve in the
10 Army for two years and they're actively
11 participating in the colonization of
12 land.

13 - - -

14 (Applause.)

15 - - -

16 MS. TARAWNETT: The right for
17 colonized people to resist their
18 colonization by any means necessary,
19 including armed resistance, is recognized
20 under international law.

21 - - -

22 (Applause.)

23 - - -

24 MS. TARAWNETT: When
25 considering the question of peace, it is

1 10/19/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 always important to ask peace for whom.

3 Israel continuing to occupy Palestinian

4 land while ethnically cleansing and

5 displacing Palestinians is not peace.

6 Israel is systemically depriving

7 Palestinians of food, water, and shelter

8 while holding them in prison and bombing

9 them is not peace.

10 Israel regularly carrying out

11 violent attacks on Palestinians is not

12 peace. Colonization is not and will

13 never be peace, and Palestinians, like

14 all of us people, have the right to

15 resist their oppressors by any means

16 necessary.

17 - - -

18 (Applause.)

19 - - -

20 MS. TARAWNETT: If you sign on

21 to this resolution, you all have blood on

22 your hands. We will never forgive and we

23 will forget. Shame on all of you.

24 - - -

25 (Applause.)

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2 - - -

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: All
4 right. Quiet, please.

5 (Audience members yelling.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Come
7 on. Come on. We've got people that want
8 to speak. Come on.

9 (Audience member yelling.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Hey,
11 sir, come on, you got to stop. You got
12 to chill. All right?

13 Next name.

14 CHIEF CLERK: Betsy Piette.

15 (Witness approached podium.)

16 - - -

17 (Applause.)

18 - - -

19 MS. PIETTE: My name is Betsy
20 Piette and I oppose Resolution 230706.

21 I have lived in the
22 Philadelphia area for 35 years and I've
23 watched the bombing that Israel does on a
24 regular basis of Palestinian homes,
25 killing and maiming Palestinian children

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2 and families. Since 2008, they have
3 bombed Gaza at least ten times, and I
4 have not seen this Council pass a single
5 resolution against that. Against that.

6 - - -
7 (Applause.)

8 - - -
9 MS. PIETTE: I have to ask,
10 what would this Council have done about
11 apartheid in South Africa? Would you
12 have passed a resolution supporting the
13 right of those carrying out apartheid
14 because it's -- you know, against the
15 attacks for those fighting apartheid? If
16 you vote for this resolution, it's the
17 same thing.

18 - - -
19 (Applause.)

20 - - -
21 MS. PIETTE: You know, I think
22 it was Councilman Driscoll who said
23 Israelis should have the unalienable
24 rights guaranteed under the U.S.
25 Constitution. Councilman Driscoll, most

1 10/19/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 of the people in Israel aren't supposed
3 to be covered by the U.S. Constitution.
4 Well, because a lot of them come from the
5 U.S., so maybe they are. But what about
6 the unalienable right of oppressed people
7 to resist? What about that right? What
8 about that right?

9 Israel has become the biggest
10 gentrifier in the world. They have taken
11 over the entire land of an indigenous
12 population, and they are in the process
13 right now of murdering two million of
14 them.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
16 Thank you. Thank you.

17 MS. PIETTE: Are you going to
18 vote for justification? What is the
19 message to the people in Chinatown --

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
21 Thank you, ma'am.

22 MS. PIETTE: -- about that?
23 Shame on you if you vote
24 (unintelligible.)

25 - - -

1 10/19/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 (Applause.)

3 (Audience members yelling.)

4 - - -

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: All

6 right. Next --

7 (Audience members yelling.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Come

9 on. Everybody will have a chance --

10 everybody that's on the list will have a

11 chance to speak. Just calm down.

12 Next name.

13 CHIEF CLERK: Auita Ruskin.

14 (Witness approached podium.)

15 - - -

16 (Applause.)

17 - - -

18 MS. RUSKIN: My name is Tali

19 Ruskin. I'm a member of Jewish Voice for

20 Peace, a national organization

21 (unintelligible) --

22 (Audience members yelling.)

23 MS. RUSKIN: -- in solidarity

24 with the Palestinian (unintelligible).

25 Following Israel's

1 10/19/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 establishment on May 14th, 1948, the new
3 Israeli government set up an unofficial
4 body called the Transfer Committee to
5 oversee the destruction of Palestinian
6 towns and villages, order repopulation
7 with Jews, and to prevent displaced
8 Palestinians from returning to their
9 homes. The Committee called for the,
10 quote, destruction of villages as much as
11 possible during military operations.

12 Honorable Council, Israel has
13 been forcibly wiping out entire
14 communities of Palestinians from their
15 land for over 75 years. They've been
16 doing so systematically using military
17 violence, intimidation, imprisonment, and
18 apartheid laws to enact a decades-long
19 slow genocide and ethnic cleansing of
20 Palestinians. That is what you should be
21 condemning.

22 - - -

23 (Applause.)

24 - - -

25 MS. RUSKIN: Over the past

1 10/19/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 week, Israel has revved up its genocide
3 efforts into turbo speed, bombing
4 thousands, sending down the bombs on
5 (unintelligible), killing thousands of
6 Palestinians, including children. That
7 is what we need to be condemning.

8 Israeli Prime Minister

9 Netanyahu posted on Twitter, this is a
10 struggle between children of light and
11 children of darkness, between humanity
12 and the law of the jungle. I'm going to
13 repeat that. Between children of light
14 and children of darkness. You represent
15 a city that is a majority of people of
16 color. How can you support that state
17 that says that? How can you not condemn
18 that?

19 - - -

20 (Applause.)

21 - - -

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

23 Thank you. Thank you.

24 MS. RUSKIN: What Israel is
25 doing in Gaza is genocide.

1 10/19/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 - - -

3 (Applause.)

4 - - -

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

6 Thank you.

7 Next speaker.

8 CHIEF CLERK: Tom Tropp.

9 (Witness approached podium.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good
11 morning -- good afternoon.

12 MR. TROPP: Good morning. My
13 name is Tom Tropp and I'm a member of the
14 Board of the Philadelphia/South Jersey
15 Regional Office of the American Jewish
16 Committee. I am here to urge members of
17 Philadelphia Council to support
18 Resolution 230706.

19 First, thank you, Councilman
20 Kenyatta Johnson and Councilman Mike
21 Driscoll, for introducing the resolution,
22 and thank you to all the other members of
23 this Council who will vote in favor of
24 its passage.

25 The attack by Hamas on

1 10/19/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 October 7th was savage, barbaric,
3 murderous. It deliberately targeted for
4 murder the young, the old, children, even
5 babies, and Hamas took hostages, again,
6 the young, old, children.

7 There's no justification, none,
8 in a civilized world for the pure
9 unadulterated evil that Hamas
10 perpetrated. Hamas is a terrorist
11 organization dedicated to the destruction
12 of the state of Israel and dedicated to
13 the killing of Israelis.

14 We understand that not all
15 Palestinians are Hamas or support Hamas.
16 We mourn the death of innocent civilians,
17 but we also know that many of those
18 deaths are caused by Hamas using
19 civilians as human shields.

20 (Audience members yelling.)

21 MR. TROPP: And let me add, we
22 should be joined by all of the civilized
23 world, the civilized world, in our demand
24 for the immediate and unconditional
25 release of all the hostages being held in

1 10/19/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Gaza.

3 The world needs to be a better
4 place.

5 Thank you for allowing me to
6 speak.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

8 Thank you, sir.

9 - - -

10 (Applause.)

11 - - -

12 CHIEF CLERK: The next speaker
13 is Rami Ibrahim.

14 (No response.)

15 CHIEF CLERK: Rami Ibrahim.

16 (No response.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Not
18 here?

19 CHIEF CLERK: Jared Armstrong.

20 (No response.)

21 CHIEF CLERK: Jared Armstrong.

22 (No response.)

23 CHIEF CLERK: Laura Goldman.

24 (Witness approached podium.)

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good

1 10/19/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 afternoon.

3 MS. GOLDMAN: Good afternoon.

4 Hello. I'm Laura Goldman and I am a
5 proud American Israeli.

6 My family, some of it, has been
7 in Israel since the 1920s. They came
8 from Russia as part of a communist
9 experiment.

10 What I wanted to focus -- get
11 the focus back on is the families that
12 are kidnapped and they're housed in Gaza,
13 many of them, the elderly, without
14 medication, and also the victims that are
15 related to this area, including Cory and
16 Amichai's stepmother. But there's my
17 friend, Elana, her family grew up on the
18 kibbutz Be'eri that was destroyed. Her
19 aunt is in the hospital, unconscious.
20 Her uncle and cousin were shot.

21 Also there is a professor at
22 Temple University whose family -- he's a
23 doctor, Jack Ludmir, who came from Peru
24 and settled here, and his family in
25 Israel has been destroyed.

1 10/19/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 I ask you for vanity for these
3 families that are related to Israel. And
4 thank you.

5 - - -

6 (Applause.)

7 - - -

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

9 Thank you for your testimony.

10 CHIEF CLERK: The next speaker
11 is Collin Hawan Hemler.

12 - - -

13 (Applause.)

14 - - -

15 (Witness approached podium.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good
17 afternoon.

18 MR. HEMLER: Good afternoon.

19 My name is Collin Kawan Hemler. For
20 better or worse, I reside in Councilman
21 Squilla's district.

22 I felt moved to speak against
23 Resolution 230706 because I don't believe
24 City Council is properly reckoning with
25 Philadelphia's own history of oppression.

1 10/19/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Thirty-eight years ago on
3 May 13th, 1985, the City of Philadelphia
4 conducted a siege upon 6221 Osage Avenue
5 against MOVE, a Black liberation
6 organization. Former Mayor Wilson Goode
7 classified MOVE as a terrorist
8 organization, dehumanizing MOVE members.
9 Not unlike Israel's siege on Gaza,
10 Philadelphia police cut the home's water
11 and electricity.

12 On a residential block, the
13 police fired more than 10,000 rounds of
14 ammunition. Lieutenant Frank Powell then
15 dropped two bombs onto the house's roof.
16 The police decided to let the fire burn
17 to destroy the terrorist bunker.

18 The police shot at MOVE
19 members, including children, who
20 attempted to flee the flames. John,
21 Rhonda, Theresa, Frank, Conrad, Tree,
22 Delisha, Netta, Little Phil, Tomaso, and
23 Raymond Africa all perished that day.

24 As we speak, Israel is
25 unleashing the same terror of aerial

1 10/19/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 bombardment upon the Palestinian people
3 of Gaza. And when Israel bombed
4 hospitals killing hundreds, they claimed
5 there's a strike against a terrorist
6 bunker. And the journalists, they target
7 the journalists, just as Philadelphia
8 targeted Mumia Abu-Jamal for daring to
9 document these crimes.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

11 Thank you.

12 MR. HEMLER: Vote no.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

14 Thank you.

15 - - -

16 (Applause.)

17 - - -

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: All

19 right. Next speaker, Mr. Decker.

20 CHIEF CLERK: The next speakers
21 are Aliyah Furman and Michal Furman.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good
23 afternoon.

24 (Witnesses approached podium.)

25 MS. ALIYAH FURMAN: Hello. I

1 10/19/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 am Aliyah Furman. This is my sister
3 Michal. I want to start by thanking
4 Councilman Johnson and Councilman
5 Driscoll for bringing forward this
6 resolution and to thank all of the
7 Councilmembers for being co-sponsors.

8 We are Jews from Judea. My
9 family is Israeli. We immigrated here
10 20 years ago, and Philadelphia has opened
11 up to us with big arms, and we're so
12 proud to call ourselves Philadelphians.
13 I am raising my two young sons here,
14 Councilman Johnson, in your district and
15 I've dedicated my career to public
16 service working in a (unintelligible)
17 development with many of your offices.

18 MS. MICHAL FURMAN: Good
19 morning, Council. My name is Michal and
20 I work in Kensington as a Philadelphia
21 police officer.

22 Just some personal anecdotes --
23 you will show me respect and you will not
24 talk while I speak.

25 (Audience members yelling.)

1 10/19/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Hey,
3 hey, hey, come on. Come on.

4 MS. MICHAL FURMAN: As a
5 personal anecdote, earlier this week I
6 went to Goldie, a local Jewish
7 restaurant, to help show my support.
8 There was a long line of people there. I
9 was in full uniform. People didn't think
10 I was there to go eat. They thought I
11 was there to protect them. They told me
12 they were scared, and they told me that
13 they were grateful that I was there, and
14 I was just going there to eat.

15 I ask that you pass this
16 resolution so that the Jews in
17 Philadelphia feel safe, because right now
18 they do not.

19 (Audience members yelling.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Calm
21 down. Hey, folks, folks, let them speak.
22 Let them speak, please.

23 Go ahead.

24 MS. ALIYAH FURMAN: We are the
25 granddaughters of Holocaust survivors,

1 10/19/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 and what terrifies me more than the Nazis
3 and more than Hamas is the silent
4 majority that allows this type of hate to
5 perpetuate.

6 I want to thank Council for not
7 being the silent majority. I deserve to
8 feel safe in my city as a Jew.

9 Thank you so much. Please pass
10 this resolution.

11 MS. MICHAL FURMAN: Thank you,
12 Council.

13 - - -

14 (Applause.)

15 - - -

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
17 Thank you. Thank you for your testimony.

18 CHIEF CLERK: The next speaker
19 is Jonathan Goldman.

20 (Witness approached podium.)

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good
22 afternoon.

23 MR. GOLDMAN: Good afternoon,
24 Councilman Clarke. My name is Jonathan
25 Goldman and I'm the Chair of the

1 10/19/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Pennsylvania Jewish Coalition, which
3 represents Jewish federations and Jewish
4 communities throughout Pennsylvania. It
5 is an honor to be here.

6 Thank you, Councilman Kenyatta
7 Johnson and Mike Driscoll, for
8 introducing this resolution and all
9 Councilmembers for signing on it
10 unanimously.

11 This resolution condemns the
12 recent terrorist attacks by Hamas and not
13 the Palestinian people. What happened
14 that day of the attacks was different
15 from what happened before and different
16 from what is being cheered about in this
17 room.

18 Israel is a strong economic
19 military and strategic partner of the
20 United States and one of its most loyal
21 allies. It is a democracy, and Israel is
22 the historic homeland of the Jewish
23 people.

24 Israel was founded in 1948 in
25 the wake of the Holocaust to make sure

1 10/19/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 the Holocaust never happens again.

3 Hamas -- unless you are a

4 Jew --

5 (Audience members yelling.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Hold

7 on, hold on. Sir, hold on one second.

8 Okay. This is the way it's

9 going to work.

10 MR. GOLDMAN: Hamas --

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: If

12 you insist on -- sir, hold on.

13 MR. GOLDMAN: Oh, I'm sorry.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: If

15 you insist on screaming and hollering

16 when people are talking, you're going to

17 have to leave. All right? All we ask

18 you to do is just let people talk, right?

19 There will be a vote. I'm just telling

20 you, you're going to have to leave if

21 you're going to keep screaming and

22 hollering, right?

23 Everybody should be respectful,

24 period. If you can have respect for

25 yourself, have respect for other people.

1 10/19/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 That's all we ask you to do.

3 - - -

4 (Applause.)

5 - - -

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: I'm
7 not asking you to take sides. All right?
8 So please let people speak so we can get
9 on to having a vote. And then once we
10 have a vote, you will form your mindset
11 about the people that voted. Just let
12 people talk, please, so we can get
13 through this process. All right?
14 Please.

15 (Audience member yelling.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: All
17 right? Don't have the back and forth.

18 This is the City Council of
19 Philadelphia. All right? We're trying
20 to give everybody a balanced discussion.
21 All right? So please let that happen
22 today. We all want democracy, right, and
23 this is the way democracy is practiced,
24 so let us do that today. Okay?

25 - - -

1 10/19/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 (Applause.)

3 - - -

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

5 Please proceed.

6 MR. GOLDMAN: Thank you,

7 Councilman.

8 Hamas's attack was not just an
9 act of terror committed on the state of
10 Israel but an act of terror against all
11 Jewish people and really all civilized
12 people throughout the world.

13 With regard to Hamas's attack
14 on Israel, it has been said never again
15 is now. Jews are not in favor of
16 genocide. We have been the victims of
17 genocide. Hamas's horrific and barbaric
18 terrorist attack targets civilians,
19 women, children, and the elderly, and
20 Hamis has taken more than 200 people
21 hostages. Those acts of terror cannot be
22 tolerated in Israel or anywhere, and
23 these hostages must be released.

24 (Audience member yelling.)

25 MR. GOLDMAN: Israel is tiny.

1 10/19/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 It's the size of New Jersey. Its
3 terrorists attacked the United States
4 like Hamas attacked Israel. The
5 proportional damage would be the death
6 toll from more than a dozen 9/11's.
7 Think about that.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

9 Thank you. Thank you.

10 MS. GOLDMAN: Thank you.

11 - - -

12 (Applause.)

13 - - -

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Next
15 speaker.

16 CHIEF CLERK: The next speaker
17 is Mark Blaskey.

18 (Audience member yelling.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Hey,
20 come on.

21 CHIEF CLERK: Mark Blaskey.

22 (Witness approached podium.)

23 CHIEF CLERK: Mark Blaskey.

24 MR. BLASKEY: I'm right here.

25 My name is Mark Blaskey. I am here on

1 10/19/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 behalf of the Jewish Federation of
3 Greater Philadelphia. I'm also an
4 attorney with Ballard Spahr in
5 Philadelphia, and thank you all for
6 considering this resolution today.

7 There's a very long history of
8 conflict in the Middle East, obviously,
9 and we're not here to solve that today.
10 There have been a lot of things that have
11 happened on both sides over the past
12 100 years.

13 The conflict this resolution
14 addresses is between Israel and a
15 terrorist organization, not between
16 Israel and the Palestinian people.

17 - - -

18 (Applause.)

19 - - -

20 MR. BLASKEY: Not the
21 Palestinians, who we know yearn for their
22 own state and yearn to live in peace and
23 peaceful co-existence with the state of
24 Israel. Israel also yearns to live in
25 peace.

1 10/19/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 What happened on October 7th
3 was a terrorist invasion into Israel's
4 sovereign land in which over 1,200
5 innocent women, men, and children were
6 brutally killed. There can be no
7 justification for these actions. All
8 people everywhere must condemn these
9 brutal acts.

10 - - -

11 (Applause.)

12 - - -

13 MR. BLASKEY: All people must
14 work to remove such evil from the face of
15 the earth. All people must support
16 unequivocally the right of Israel to
17 defend its borders and to retaliate
18 against and destroy this evil enemy.
19 That is what this resolution says, and
20 that is why this Council must adopt it.
21 And we also must demand the release of
22 the hostages who were removed from their
23 homes --

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

25 Thank you.

1 10/19/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 MR. BLASKEY: -- and from the
3 streets of Israel with no justification
4 for their capture.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
6 Thank you.

7 MR. BLASKEY: They're not
8 prisoners of war.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
10 Thank you. Sir, sir.

11 MR. BLASKEY: They're innocent
12 civilians.

13 Thank you.

14 CHIEF CLERK: The next speaker
15 is Rabbi David Liven.

16 - - -

17 (Applause.)

18 - - -

19 (Witness approached podium.)

20 RABBI LIVEN: Thank you,
21 Mr. President, members of the City
22 Council for the opportunity to speak.
23 I'm going to do the impossible, which is,
24 for a Rabbi, be brief.

25 Thank you, Councilman Kenyatta

1 10/19/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Johnson and Councilman Mike Driscoll, for
3 introducing the resolution and the
4 Councilmembers for unanimously signing on
5 to the recognition that Hamas is a
6 terrorist organization --

7 (Audience member yelling.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Hold
9 on, hold on, hold on.

10 (Audience members yelling.)

11 (Audience members being
12 escorted out of Chambers.)

13 (Pause.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

15 Okay. We are going to try to get through
16 this. All right? And I was hoping that
17 we would be able to get through this
18 without an incident, but tensions are so
19 high about a matter that, frankly
20 speaking, we have no jurisdiction over,
21 but we understand that --

22 (Audience member yelling.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: So,
24 ma'am, all of this like screaming and
25 hollering is not going to get you

1 10/19/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 anywhere, right? So we are trying to be
3 as fair as possible to let people speak,
4 right? Under the rules, we actually have
5 the ability to suspend the public
6 comment, right, and I tried to be fair
7 and let everybody speak by limiting the
8 time, but it is increasingly clear that
9 we are not going to be able to get
10 through this, because people continue to
11 scream and holler and interrupt based on
12 your perspective.

13 So I'm at a point where I'm
14 ready to ask our colleagues to suspend
15 the testimony. You all can submit your
16 written testimony, and we can move on
17 with the Council and we will ultimately
18 have a vote on this particular
19 resolution. I don't like to do that, but
20 if we're not going to be able to get
21 through this process, then I have no
22 other choice. And I believe that people
23 are going to vote the way they're going
24 to vote irrespective of a lot of the
25 things that we're seeing today. All

1 10/19/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 right?

3 So I think based on what we
4 have witnessed today, I'm going to make a
5 call. It will probably be somewhat
6 unpopular, but they put me up here to
7 make sometimes unpopular decisions. So
8 what we are going to do, we're going to
9 ask individuals on the list, we have your
10 name, we have phone numbers, and we will
11 allow you to weigh in on the testimony
12 via written or e-mail or others, but we
13 must move on, particularly given the fact
14 that it appears that we're not going to
15 be allowed to have a civil conversation
16 in here today.

17 So I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I
18 really tried to do this in a fair and
19 equitable way. I think there has been
20 balanced testimony, but for whatever
21 reason, folks just don't want to like let
22 people speak. So I'm going to make the
23 call.

24 (Audience members yelling.)

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

1 10/19/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 You're not even going to let me speak.

3 That's my point.

4 (Audience members yelling.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: So

6 we're going to move on on the public

7 comment and we will proceed with the rest

8 of the Council session.

9 So, again, we have your

10 numbers, and we'll make sure that you

11 have an e-mail to weigh in on your

12 perspective. If you have written

13 testimony today, you can please leave

14 that with us and we will make sure it's a

15 matter of record in the Council document

16 that will be published on a daily basis.

17 All right?

18 So we're going to move on,

19 Mr. Decker, because it doesn't seem like

20 we're going to be able to conduct the

21 rest of our business in a way that I had

22 hoped.

23 So we have concluded our public

24 comment. Again, thank you for your

25 participation, and we will move on with

1 10/19/23 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 our Calendar today.

3 Mr. Decker, will you please
4 read the title of Resolution No. 230705.

5 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
6 calling on the Administration to develop
7 grant programs for businesses and
8 restaurants suffering from retail theft
9 and crime.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
11 Chair recognizes Councilman Jones.

12 (Audience members yelling.)

13 (Pause.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
15 Thank you. Mr. Decker, let's start over.
16 Please read the title of Resolution No.
17 230705.

18 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
19 calling on the Administration to develop
20 grant programs for businesses and
21 restaurants suffering from retail theft
22 and crime.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
24 Chair recognizes Councilman Jones.

25 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,

1 10/19/23 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 Mr. President. I move for the adoption.

3 (Duly seconded.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

5 Thank you. It has been moved and
6 properly seconded that the resolution be
7 adopted.

8 All in favor indicate by saying
9 aye.

10 (Aye.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

12 Those opposed?

13 (No response.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
15 ayes have it, and that resolution is
16 adopted.

17 Mr. Decker, please read the
18 title of Resolution No. 230706.

19 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
20 condemning the Hamas terrorist attacks in
21 Israel and calling for a peaceful
22 resolution to the Israel-Palestine
23 conflict.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
25 Chair recognizes Councilman Johnson.

1 10/19/23 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you,
3 Council President.

4 - - -

5 (Applause.)

6 - - -

7 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: I wanted
8 to just take this moment to just clarify
9 this resolution just based upon the
10 strong emotional reactions as relates to
11 this resolution being offered today.

12 This resolution specifically
13 condemns the recent terrorist attacks
14 launched by Hamas and calls for a
15 peaceful resolution to the
16 Israel-Palestine conflict. And let me be
17 clear on that key point. Hamas has
18 engaged in despicable acts of terror that
19 intentionally targeted civilian
20 populations in Israel, both Jewish and
21 Arab, killing hundreds of civilians and
22 taking hundreds more as hostages,
23 including women and children. These
24 actions surely deserve our condemnation.

25 Just as importantly, this

1 10/19/23 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 resolution recognizes that violence
3 cannot form the basis for a just and
4 lasting peace, and the resolution
5 specifically calls for a peaceful
6 resolution to the ongoing conflict.

7 It's been said that this
8 resolution makes no mention of the
9 suffering experienced by innocent
10 Palestinian civilians. That is not true.
11 The resolution explicitly acknowledges
12 Palestinians' suffering and loss and
13 calls for a peaceful settlement to the
14 ongoing violence.

15 It's also been said that this
16 resolution fails to acknowledge the
17 deeply held national aspirations of the
18 Palestinian people. That is not true.
19 This resolution affirms that Council's
20 belief that any settlement to the ongoing
21 conflict must respect the rights and
22 national aspirations of the Palestinian
23 people.

24 It's even been said that this
25 resolution condones and encourages the

1 10/19/23 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 killing of innocent Palestinian
3 civilians. Again, that is not true. The
4 resolution expresses Council's support
5 for a peaceful settlement to the ongoing
6 conflict, and the text makes no
7 distinction between Israelis and
8 Palestinians when discussing the horrible
9 impact of the war on these civilian
10 casualties.

11 What this resolution does say
12 is that the Council stands for the
13 universal and inalienable human rights,
14 the rights of all people to live in
15 peace, the rights of all people to
16 politically self-determinate, the rights
17 of all people to pursue happiness, free
18 from fear of violence and persecution.

19 Also the resolution states the
20 protection of these fundamental rights
21 for all people is indispensable to a
22 peaceful settlement to the ongoing
23 conflict.

24 I've heard from passionate
25 voices on both sides of this debate. A

1 10/19/23 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 passionate debate is a vital part of our
3 democratic process, as you just
4 mentioned, Council President, but I ask
5 those on both sides of this issue to read
6 this resolution clearly and to make an
7 informed decision about the statement the
8 resolution actually makes.

9 For too long we have allowed
10 all discussions of Israel and Palestine
11 to devolve into a zero-sum game where any
12 perceived support for one group must
13 necessarily come at the expense of the
14 other. We can express our sympathy for
15 the Israeli people and even our support
16 for their right to self-defense without
17 denigrating the rights and aspirations of
18 the Palestinian people.

19 We can also express our
20 sympathy for the suffering of innocent
21 Palestinians without minimizing or
22 explaining away the despicable acts of
23 Hamas.

24 That is what this resolution
25 does, and I respectfully ask for the

1 10/19/23 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 support of my colleagues with a vote of
3 yes on this resolution.

4 Thank you, Council President.

5 - - -

6 (Applause.)

7 - - -

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
9 Chair recognizes Councilwoman Brooks.

10 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: Thank
11 you, Council President.

12 From Philadelphia to the Middle
13 East, every family deserves to live free
14 from the threat of violence. Like many
15 Philadelphians, I'm grieving for Israeli
16 and Palestinian civilians who have lost
17 their lives in recent days, and I am
18 deeply concerned for Israeli hostages and
19 for the families who are now under siege
20 in Gaza without food, water, or
21 electricity. Military leaders in Israel
22 and Palestine have failed to uphold its
23 national law, and innocent families are
24 suffering and in grave danger.

25 I call on American leaders,

1 10/19/23 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 including President Biden, to support an
3 immediate cease fire and to send swift
4 humanitarian assistance to save lives in
5 Gaza.

6 - - -
7 (Applause.)

8 - - -
9 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: I believe
10 in addressing the root causes of violence
11 wherever it occurs. Without an end to
12 apartheid and peace for Palestinians, the
13 cycle of trauma will always continue.

14 - - -
15 (Applause.)

16 - - -
17 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: As
18 Americans and as human beings, we must
19 insist on the right of every family to
20 live in peace and safety, and demand an
21 end to armed occupation and violence
22 against civilians.

23 My heart is with any of my
24 constituents who have family or loved
25 ones in the region, and my office is

1 10/19/23 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 available to support those who have been
3 impacted by the ongoing conflict.

4 Thank you.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

6 Thank you, Councilwoman.

7 - - -

8 (Applause.)

9 - - -

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
11 Chair recognizes Councilman Jones.

12 COUNCILMAN JONES: I really
13 wish we weren't voting on this right
14 today, but there's no backdoor to the
15 Alamo and you got to make a decision, you
16 got to be where you are.

17 I want to rise to say that
18 before I signed on to this resolution, I
19 read it three times to make sure that it
20 did not overly disproportionately condemn
21 what Palestinians fight for and won. But
22 I read the Quran, I read the Bible, and
23 I've read the Torah, and each of those
24 books talk about how you wage war and how
25 you should not wage war.

1 10/19/23 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 So you can be against
3 kidnapping of kids and those kinds of
4 reactions, killing of the innocent, and
5 be for justice for all people. You
6 can -- both things can be equally true.

7 - - -

8 (Applause.)

9 - - -

10 COUNCILMAN JONES: I will tell
11 you this, that, God, I wish it didn't
12 visit here, but I know that my
13 colleagues, many of them, have even
14 actually been to the Holy Lands, happily
15 walked through them and saw the injustice
16 and know what -- so I respect what they
17 put forward, because I would not have
18 signed on, kid you not.

19 I will say this, and I will use
20 this analogy, that bad things happen in a
21 lot of neighborhoods, every district. I
22 know there are people that have lived in
23 public housing and have been almost held
24 hostage by the crime that happens in that
25 facility, and people that live in that

1 10/19/23 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 public facility have gone out and done
3 bad things and run back to that facility.
4 But you can't blow up the projects
5 looking for a few. That is not fair,
6 that is not just, and that is not
7 proportionality.

8 So I will be voting for this
9 resolution condemning that which is evil,
10 but that resolution does not go deep
11 enough to understand the hundreds of
12 years of history in that land. And I,
13 like my colleague Member Brooks, I pray
14 for peace, because guess what? Those
15 souls that are Jewish who are my
16 brothers, those souls that are Muslim
17 that are my brothers and sisters, I pray
18 for equally, and a lot of times innocent
19 people wind up in the mess that other
20 powerful people create.

21 So thank you, colleagues, for
22 enduring this. I want to -- I'm not
23 going to do "some my best friends are,"
24 but a lot of my best friends are both,
25 and I love them both, and I fight for

1 10/19/23 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 them both. And we have to listen
3 sometimes with bringing controversy here,
4 bro, like, you know.

5 So I just wanted to bring that
6 from my heart, that this was probably at
7 least the most difficult day of my tenure
8 here over the last five administrations.

9 So thank you for your
10 indulgence.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

12 Thank you, Councilman.

13 - - -

14 (Applause.)

15 - - -

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
17 Chair recognizes Councilman Driscoll.

18 COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL: Thank
19 you, Mr. President, and thank you,
20 Councilman Johnson, for your leadership
21 on this.

22 I, just like so many, call the
23 United States home and descended from
24 people who fled violence, starvation,
25 famine and oppression. We came to a

1 10/19/23 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 nation with a history of expanding rights
3 to all, and as I said last week, while I
4 do not pretend to completely understand
5 the intricacies and nuances of this
6 conflict, I believe that a path forward
7 must be rooted in the inalienable human
8 rights recognized by our nation's
9 Constitution. I believe that by
10 providing these rights to all, while
11 forever imperfect, while forever
12 imperfect, peaceful progress can be
13 achieved.

14 I condemn all violence against
15 innocent civilians. Wanton bloodshed has
16 never been the answer for the call for
17 liberty and inequity. Our call is for
18 peace throughout Mideast today. We
19 condemn murder and bloodshed of any
20 innocent civilians wherever they reside
21 and whatever their ethnicity.

22 My heartfelt and deepest
23 prayers are with the people of Palestine
24 and Israel. May a new path to peace be
25 found as we travel along this trail of

1 10/19/23 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 tragedy.

3 Thank you, Mr. President.

4 - - -

5 (Applause.)

6 - - -

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

8 Thank you. Thank you, Councilman.

9 Councilman Johnson, can you
10 call for a motion.

11 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you,
12 Council President. I move for the
13 adoption of the resolution.

14 (Duly seconded.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: It's
16 been moved and properly seconded.

17 All in favor indicate by saying
18 aye.

19 (Aye.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

21 Those opposed?

22 (No response.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
24 ayes have it. The motion carries. The
25 resolution is adopted.

1 10/19/23 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 - - -

3 (Applause.)

4 - - -

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

6 Mr. Decker, will you please read the
7 title of Resolution No. 230708.

8 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
9 recognizing and honoring Sid Booker, by
10 renaming the 4600 block of North Broad
11 Street "Sid Booker Way," to credit the
12 life of the businessman he is today with
13 the legacy that will forever live on.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
15 Chair recognizes Councilwoman Bass.

16 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you,
17 Mr. President. I want to take a moment
18 to completely change directions on the
19 course of conversation.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Hold
21 on one second, Councilwoman.

22 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Certainly.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
24 Could you all as you leave please leave
25 quietly. Thank you.

1 10/19/23 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 I'm sorry, Councilwoman.

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

5 I want to take a second and
6 just really make sure that everybody
7 knows that we're doing something really
8 special this Saturday. And there's a lot
9 of people when times are tough, you can't
10 always find folks that are going to step
11 up and speak out and work hard for our
12 communities, and I would say for not just
13 the African American community, not just
14 for Logan or North Philadelphia and not
15 just for Philadelphia by itself, but when
16 we look at the work done by somebody like
17 a Sid Booker, I think it really commands
18 our attention, our respect to come out
19 and celebrate. This is someone who has
20 done so much for everyone in the City of
21 Philadelphia, whether you know him or you
22 don't know him.

23 I really want to encourage
24 folks to be mindful that we will be
25 celebrating him while he is here to smell

1 10/19/23 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 his roses this coming Saturday, the 21st,
3 at 1:00 p.m.

4 And I say all that to say that
5 I move for the adoption of the
6 resolution, Mr. President.

7 (Duly seconded.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

9 Thank you. It's been moved and properly
10 seconded.

11 All in favor indicate by saying
12 aye.

13 (Aye.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

15 Those opposed?

16 (No response.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
18 ayes have it, and that resolution is
19 adopted.

20 I saw some names that just
21 popped up on the screen. Anybody? You
22 can still do it before we move on.

23 Councilman Harrity.

24 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: I just
25 wanted to thank Councilwoman Cindy Bass

1 10/19/23 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 for putting in this bill. Many people
3 might not know this, but I had the
4 pleasure of working under Sid when he was
5 doing his role as the Chief Deputy of the
6 Philadelphia Sheriff's Office. You know,
7 back then I was young staffer and I was a
8 bit of a knucklehead, but Sid, he got me,
9 and he would sit me down and explain
10 things to me the way I could get it,
11 because he knew, you know, I was a kid
12 from the neighborhood and sometimes I
13 didn't get all of the intricacies that
14 were involved in actually having a
15 position like I have.

16 So I am truly honored that
17 Cindy put this in, because like she said,
18 this man has done so much for so many
19 people, including myself. I mean, I
20 can't tell you all the things that he's
21 done for me, but I had some problems when
22 I was over there and he helped me through
23 it. I actually used to hide out in his
24 office, because he would tell me, listen,
25 nobody goes into my office, hide out in

1 10/19/23 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 there.

3 So I thank you, Cindy, and it
4 will be an honor to be there on Saturday.

5 Thank you.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

7 Thank you, Councilman. Good to know that
8 you were a young staffer and a
9 knucklehead. You are now a young
10 Councilman, no longer a knucklehead.
11 Thank you. Thank you.

12 Mr. Decker, do you have any
13 additional resolutions?

14 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
15 recognizing and honoring Beneficial
16 Multiservices LLC, located in the 9th
17 Council District, for being a Comcast
18 RISE awardee, introduced today by
19 Councilman Phillips.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
21 Chair recognizes Councilman Phillips.

22 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: Thank
23 you, Council President. I move for the
24 adoption of the resolution.

25 (Duly seconded.)

1 10/19/23 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: It's
3 been moved and properly seconded.

4 All in favor indicate by saying
5 aye.

6 (Aye.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
8 Those opposed?

9 (No response.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
11 ayes have it, and that resolution is
12 adopted.

13 CHIEF CLERK: And a resolution
14 recognizing and honoring Brilliant Stars
15 Learning Center, located in the 9th
16 Council District, for being a Comcast
17 RISE awardee, introduced today by
18 Councilman Phillips.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
20 Chair recognizes Councilman Phillips.

21 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: Thank
22 you, Council President. I move for the
23 adoption of the resolution.

24 (Duly seconded.)

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: It's

1 10/19/23 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 been moved and properly seconded.

3 All in favor indicate by saying
4 aye.

5 (Aye.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

7 Those opposed?

8 (No response.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
10 ayes have it, and that resolution is
11 adopted.

12 CHIEF CLERK: And a resolution
13 recognizing and honoring Eagle Staffing
14 Company, located in the 9th Council
15 District, for being a Comcast RISE
16 awardee, introduced today by Councilman
17 Phillips.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
19 Chair again recognizes Councilman
20 Phillips.

21 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: Thank
22 you, Council President. I move for the
23 adoption of the resolution.

24 (Duly seconded.)

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: It's

1 10/19/23 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 been moved and properly seconded.

3 All in favor indicate by saying
4 aye.

5 (Aye.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

7 Those opposed?

8 (No response.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
10 ayes have it, and that resolution is
11 adopted.

12 CHIEF CLERK: And a resolution
13 recognizing and honoring Vicki Riley on
14 the occasion of her retirement,
15 introduced today by Councilman Phillips.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
17 Chair again recognizes Councilman
18 Phillips.

19 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: Thank
20 you, Council President. I
21 enthusiastically move for the adoption of
22 the resolution.

23 (Duly seconded.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: It's
25 been moved and properly seconded.

1 10/19/23 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 All in favor indicate by saying

3 aye.

4 (Aye.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

6 Those opposed?

7 (No response.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
9 ayes have it, and that resolution is
10 adopted.

11 CHIEF CLERK: And a resolution
12 honoring and congratulating the Champions
13 of the Week, Student Activists Against
14 Sexual Assault, for their continued
15 determination and advocacy toward sexual
16 violence awareness and prevention at
17 Temple University, introduced today by
18 Councilman Thomas.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
20 Chair recognizes Councilman Thomas.

21 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank you.
22 Council President. I move for the
23 adoption.

24 (Duly seconded.)

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: It's

1 10/19/23 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 been moved and properly seconded.

3 All in favor indicate by saying
4 aye.

5 (Aye.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

7 Those opposed?

8 (No response.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
10 ayes have it, and that resolution is
11 adopted.

12 CHIEF CLERK: And a resolution
13 authorizing the Joint Committees on
14 Education and Parks, Recreation, and
15 Cultural Affairs to hold public hearings
16 to examine the cost and liabilities for
17 the School District and the Department of
18 Parks and Recreation to ease the barriers
19 of access to youth sports, introduced
20 today by Councilman Jones.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
22 Chair recognizes Councilman Johnson --
23 Jones. I'm sorry. Councilman Jones.

24 COUNCILMAN JONES: Same
25 plantation.

1 10/19/23 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Same
3 plantation.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: I
5 know.

6 COUNCILMAN JONES: I move for
7 the adoption.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: You
9 said it. I didn't.

10 (Duly seconded.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: It's
12 been moved and properly seconded.

13 All in favor indicate by saying
14 aye.

15 (Aye.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
17 Those opposed?

18 (No response.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
20 ayes have it, and that resolution is
21 adopted.

22 CHIEF CLERK: And a resolution
23 recognizing Friday, October 20, 2023, as
24 Community Media Day and Honoring Public,
25 Educational, and Government Access

1 10/19/23 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 Channels in the City of Philadelphia,
3 introduced today by Councilwoman Lozada.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
5 Chair recognizes Councilwoman Lozada.

6 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Thank
7 you, Council President. I move for the
8 adoption of the resolution.

9 (Duly seconded.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: It's
11 been moved and properly seconded.

12 All in favor indicate by saying
13 aye.

14 (Aye.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
16 Those opposed?

17 (No response.)

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
19 ayes have it, and that resolution is
20 adopted.

21 CHIEF CLERK: And a resolution
22 recognizing and honoring the heroism of
23 police officer Richard Mendez, an
24 exceptional public servant, who gave
25 everything in his duty to the City of

1 10/19/23 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 Philadelphia, introduced today by
3 Councilwoman Lozada and Councilman
4 O'Neill.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
6 Chair recognizes Councilwoman Lozada.

7 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Thank
8 you, Council President. Very quickly
9 before I move for the adoption, I just
10 wanted to say thank you to all of my
11 colleagues who have been extremely
12 supportive during this time.

13 Officer Richard Mendez was a
14 very close friend. His family is
15 overwhelmed at the moment. I think I've
16 said that many times over the course of
17 the last few days, but they are extremely
18 grateful for all of the support and all
19 of the prayers that they've received over
20 the course of the last week, I'm going to
21 say, because I don't even know what days
22 I'm living right now.

23 But I want to just ask us,
24 today we heard from a lot of very
25 sensitive people, and sometimes when our

1 10/19/23 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 emotions are really high, kind of
3 violence kind of stirs, right? There's a
4 lot of things happening in our community
5 that oftentimes what happened to Officer
6 Mendez ends up being the result of that,
7 right? There's just -- people just are
8 not stopping to think about their
9 actions. People are not stopping to
10 think about what they say. People are
11 not stopping to think about how they
12 treat others.

13 And so I'm just asking for us
14 to recommit ourselves to peace, to taking
15 responsibility for ourselves and our
16 families and just to listen and be kind
17 to one another.

18 And so with that, I want to
19 move for the adoption of the resolution.

20 (Duly seconded.)

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: It's
22 been moved and properly seconded.

23 All in favor indicate by saying
24 aye.

25 (Aye.)

1 10/19/23 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

3 Those opposed?

4 (No response.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Did
6 you want to -- before or after?

7 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: I just ask
8 for a standing vote out of respect.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
10 Sure.

11 All in favor indicate by saying
12 aye.

13 (All Councilmembers standing.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
15 resolution has been adopted.

16 CHIEF CLERK: And a resolution
17 honoring Carlos "King Arthur" Alvarez on
18 his induction into the National Rhythm
19 and Blues Hall of Fame and his lifetime
20 achievements in the music industry,
21 introduced today by Councilman Harrity.

22 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: I move for
23 the adoption of the resolution.

24 (Duly seconded.)

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: It's

1 10/19/23 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 been moved and properly seconded.

3 All in favor indicate by saying

4 aye.

5 (Aye.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

7 Those opposed?

8 (No response.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
10 ayes have it, and that resolution is
11 adopted.

12 CHIEF CLERK: There are no
13 other resolutions on the Final Passage
14 Calendar, Mr. President.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

16 Thank you very much.

17 That concludes our Calendar for
18 today.

19 Are there any speeches on
20 behalf of the minority?

21 (No response.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

23 Speeches on behalf of the majority?

24 The Chair recognizes

25 Councilwoman Gauthier.

1 10/19/23 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Thank
3 you, Council President.

4 This has been a pretty
5 emotional session, but I could not let
6 this day pass without acknowledging that
7 this is my Legislative Director, Cydnea
8 Shearlds', last Council meeting. Cydnea
9 has been a core member of our team for
10 two and a half years now, playing a key
11 role in core initiatives like the
12 People's Preservation package, the
13 Reparations Task Force, JustServicesPHL,
14 the Reproductive Freedom package, and
15 countless pieces of legislation,
16 resolutions, and hearings.

17 Her work has greatly improved
18 the lives of West and Southwest
19 Philadelphians and residents citywide.
20 She has served with excellence and grace
21 during one of the most turbulent moments
22 in our city's modern history.

23 You don't have to take my word
24 for it either, because you can find
25 Cydnea's work lauded in publications like

1 10/19/23 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 The Washington Post.

3 Cydney, while -- let's clap for
4 that.

5 - - -

6 (Applause.)

7 - - -

8 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: And I
9 have my whole team here to cheer Cydney
10 on.

11 Cydney, while I'm very sorry to
12 see you go, I'm excited to see you
13 continue to thrive and grow. Your
14 steadfast commitment to equity and
15 uplifting marginalized communities is
16 very inspiring to me. Thank you for your
17 service to the City of Philadelphia and
18 to the people of the 3rd Councilmanic
19 District.

20 Please join me in giving Cydney
21 a round of applause.

22 (Standing ovation.)

23 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Just
24 one more thing. Sorry. I want to remind
25 my colleagues as well as Council staff

1 10/19/23 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 that I'm hosting a briefing with
3 Community Legal Services directly
4 following today's Council session in the
5 Caucus Room. The briefing will focus on
6 supporting homeowners, preventing
7 homelessness, helping people maintain
8 access to gas, water, and electric
9 service in their homes, and ensuring
10 people with criminal records can get
11 family-sustaining jobs.

12 CLS is an amazing partner for
13 this Council, so I hope that you all will
14 join. Lunch will also be served. Hope
15 to see you there.

16 Thank you.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

18 Thank you. Thank you, Councilwoman.

19 The Chair recognizes
20 Councilwoman Vaughn.

21 COUNCILWOMAN VAUGHN: Thank
22 you, Council President.

23 First, I want to take a moment
24 to express my deepest condolences to the
25 family of Officer Richard Mendez in the

1 10/19/23 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 wake of his tragic passing after the
3 incident on October 12th.

4 I also want to send my prayers
5 and best wishes to Officer Raul Ortiz and
6 his family as they move forward and heal
7 together from such a traumatic
8 experience.

9 I want both families as well as
10 members of the Philadelphia Police
11 Airport Unit to know we are here for you.
12 We stand with you.

13 Finally, I want to commend
14 interim Police Commissioner John Stanford
15 for his leadership as well as the
16 Philadelphia Police Department for their
17 tireless efforts and swift action to
18 deliver justice for not just these two
19 families but for all the families
20 impacted by the devastation of gun
21 violence here in Philadelphia.

22 This epidemic has affected too
23 many lives across the nation, not just
24 here in Philadelphia. What's even more
25 disheartening is that the predators are

1 10/19/23 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 getting younger and younger. We're
3 witnessing young people's lives being
4 thrown away in so many disturbing ways
5 from all the walks of life. No one,
6 regardless of where you're from or what
7 you look like, is immune to this plague.

8 Yobranny Martinez Fernandez,
9 who is just 18 years old, nothing but a
10 child, has been arrested and charged in
11 this case. He, along with his
12 accomplices and others who played a role
13 in this horrific act, upend not just the
14 lives of Officer Mendez and Ortiz's
15 family but their own as well. Everyone
16 will suffer from this incident.

17 The cynical destruction and
18 disregard for life is the ultimate
19 tragedy here, and it must stop.

20 Thanks to the generosity and
21 contributions of many, including our
22 Councilmember Johnson and others, to the
23 Officer Richard Mendez, Officer Raul
24 Ortiz Reward Fund, over \$275,000 was
25 raised to help solve this case. We are

1 10/19/23 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 grateful.

3 I want to remind everyone that
4 any piece of information or tip in this
5 case is crucial, and if you see
6 something, say something. Please call
7 215-686-TIPS to report your tip
8 anonymously.

9 Finally, to the knuckleheads
10 who seek to do harm to others and wreak
11 havoc in our city, especially those who
12 have the audacity to come from outside
13 our city limits and sell chaos, I want to
14 say you better think again.

15 Thank you, Council President.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

17 Thank you, Councilwoman.

18 The Chair recognizes Councilman
19 Johnson.

20 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you,
21 Council President.

22 I just want to make two
23 acknowledgments -- announcements. First
24 and foremost, I want to echo the
25 sentiments of my colleague Councilwoman

1 10/19/23 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 Sharon Vaughn as well as Councilwoman
3 Quetcy Lozada in thanking the
4 Philadelphia Police Department as well as
5 Commissioner John Stanford and their team
6 in their swift action to bring justice to
7 the family of Officer Mendez.

8 And so we definitely want to
9 thank them for, as my mentor Hardy
10 Williams will say, staying on the case
11 but, most importantly, moving forward
12 towards bringing justice to that family.
13 So we definitely want to acknowledge
14 them.

15 And I also want to announce
16 that tomorrow at 11:00 a.m. we will be
17 naming the, I guess it's, 100 block of
18 South 22nd Street Pat Eiding Way. For
19 those of you who have been involved in
20 the labor movement know that Pat Eiding
21 is an icon in the City of Philadelphia
22 advocating for those who need a voice,
23 particularly around labor rights,
24 healthcare rights, worker rights and,
25 most importantly, making sure that

1 10/19/23 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 individuals have an opportunity to work
3 in the environment with pride and
4 dignity.

5 And so that street renaming
6 will be tomorrow, 11:00 a.m., 22nd and
7 Market Streets, and it's going to be
8 named Pat Eiding Way. So to all who want
9 to come out and participate, let's come
10 out and give Mr. Pat Eiding his flowers.

11 Thank you very much, Council
12 President.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

14 Thank you, Councilman.

15 The Chair recognizes Councilman
16 Harrity.

17 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: Thank you,
18 Council President, colleagues.

19 I just wanted to say thank you
20 to the staff and the deputies today for
21 all they did to keep us safe and to keep
22 order in this house. It is the people's
23 house, so we do have to let the people
24 in, but it was handled very well, I
25 thought, and avoided some stuff that

1 10/19/23 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 could have been bad.

3 So I thank you guys for
4 protecting us, and I thank you for being
5 here always, the sergeant-of-arms
6 committee, deputies, the officers. So
7 thank you very much.

8 - - -

9 (Applause.)

10 - - -

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

12 Thank you. Thank you, Councilman.

13 The Chair recognizes Councilman
14 Johnson.

15 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: We just
16 want to take a moment -- and I've been in
17 this body for a little while, since 2011,
18 and my experience is a little different.
19 This wasn't the only exciting time I've
20 been here as a Councilperson. There was
21 a couple other times where some whistles
22 were blowing and no one can hear anybody,
23 but nevertheless, Council President, I
24 just want to acknowledge you for your
25 leadership, your North Philly calm,

1 10/19/23 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 smooth demeanor to keep order in the
3 midst of the chaos but, most importantly,
4 recognizing that this is the people's
5 house and providing everybody an
6 opportunity respectfully to have an
7 opportunity to chime in and express their
8 issues and their concerns.

9 And so we just want to thank
10 you personally just for your leadership
11 and how you carry yourself and how you
12 represent this body.

13 Thank you very much.

14 - - -

15 (Applause.)

16 - - -

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

18 Thank you. Thank you, Councilman. Thank
19 you. I wasn't always like this, but
20 thank you, Councilman. I appreciate it.
21 Appreciate it much.

22 That concludes our speeches on
23 behalf of the minority and the majority,
24 and with that, the Chair recognizes
25 Councilman Squilla for a motion to

1 10/19/23 - STATED - ADJOURNMENT

2 adjourn.

3 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Thank you,
4 Mr. President. I move that Council stand
5 adjourned until Thursday, October 26th,
6 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

7 Go Phils.

8 (Duly seconded.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
10 Thank you. It's been moved and properly
11 seconded that Council adjourned until
12 Thursday, October 26, 2023, 10:00 a.m.

13 All in favor indicate by saying
14 aye.

15 (Aye.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
17 Those opposed?

18 (No response.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
20 motion carries.

21 Thank you all very much.

22 - - -

23 (Stated Meeting adjourned at
24 1:04 p.m.)

25 - - -

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CERTIFICATE

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I HEREBY CERTIFY that the

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proceedings, evidence and objections are

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contained fully and accurately in the

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stenographic notes taken by me upon the

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foregoing matter, and that this is a true and

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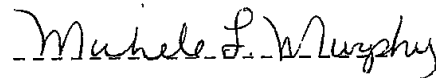
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MICHELE L. MURPHY

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