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COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
STATED MEETING

- - -

Thursday, October 4, 2001
10:16 a.m.
Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, PA

- - -

PRESENT: COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANNA C. VERNA
COUNCILWOMAN JANNIE L. BLACKWELL
COUNCILWOMAN BLONDELL REYNOLDS BROWN
COUNCILMAN DARRELL L. CLARKE
COUNCILMAN DAVID COHEN
COUNCILMAN FRANK J. DICICCO
COUNCILMAN W. WILSON GOODE, JR.
COUNCILMAN JAMES F. KENNEY
COUNCILWOMAN JOAN L. KRAJEWSKI
COUNCILMAN W. THACHER LONGSTRETH
COUNCILMAN RICHARD T. MARIANO
COUNCILWOMAN DONNA REED MILLER
COUNCILMAN MICHAEL A. NUTTER
COUNCILMAN BRIAN J. O'NEILL
COUNCILMAN ANGEL L. ORTIZ
COUNCILMAN FRANK RIZZO
COUNCILWOMAN MARIAN B. TASCO

PATRICIA RAFFERTY, Deputy Chief Clerk

VINCENT VARALLO ASSOCIATES, INC.
Registered Professional Reporters
Eleven Penn Center, Suite 600
Philadelphia, PA 19103
(215) 561-2220

1 10/4/01 STATED - GREETING/INVOCATION

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Good morning,
3 everyone. I note that the hour has come and that a
4 quorum of this Council is present. The Council will
5 come to order, please. Members will take their
6 seats and visitors will retire to the seats outside
7 the rails.

8 To give our invocation this morning, the
9 chair welcomes Rabbi Avi Winokur from the Society
10 Hill Synagogue. He is here day as a guest of
11 Councilman DiCicco. All members and guests will

12 RABBI WINOKUR: I want to thank you for
13 this opportunity and this privilege to address you.

14 There is a line in the -- in the beginning
15 of the prophet Isaiah, Isaiah says that he's
16 prophesied through four different kings, he's
17 outlived four different kings. And so the Talmud
18 takes that and says, "Oy, the burdens of leadership,
19 they kill you." Your critics -- it may be the
20 press, I don't know, they'll decide. Your critics
21 outlive you, the burden of leadership is just too
22 much. So there is a recognition in our tradition of
23 just how difficult this burden is and how much work
24 you put in. And it is really something that I hope
25 that people will be grateful for. In coming new to

1 10/4/01 STATED - GREETING/INVOCATION

2 Philadelphia, I certainly am.

3 You are here in this beautiful building
4 that -- that I just -- is absolutely gorgeous. And
5 we're here during the Jewish holiday of Sukkot,
6 which is all about the fragility of buildings. And
7 unfortunately, we in this nation know about the
8 fragility of buildings like we have never known it
9 before in our history. Sukkot is a holiday in which
10 Jews built a little structure that is supposed to be
11 temporary, that is supposed to be fragile, that
12 recalls our days of wandering in the desert, when
13 Judaism was originally formulated.

14 I think we have all learned almost the
15 obvious lesson, and that it is not our buildings
16 that count but it is what we do inside them that
17 counts. I repeat the obvious because I think it is
18 also important. Sometimes we overlook the obvious.

19 In this beautiful, beautiful building,
20 it's your work that really counts, and it is your
21 work that is in many ways the response to those who
22 would tear down this country.

23 I want to conclude with the blessing that
24 is found in the Talmud.

25 Blessed are You, Lord, our God, who

1 9/20/01 JOURNAL APPROVAL

2 commands us to engage in the needs of this
3 community. And blessed are those who are so
4 engaged.

5 Amen.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Amen.

7 The Chair thanks the Reverend for his
8 inspiring invocation.

9 Council will be at ease.

10 (Council stands at ease.)

11 (Proceedings resume.)

12 - - -

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The next order
14 of the business is the approval of the meeting of
15 the Journal of Thursday, October, 2001. The Chair
16 recognizes Councilwoman Blackwell.

17 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you, Madam
18 President. I move that the Journal of the meeting
19 of Thursday, September 20, 2001 is approved.

20 (Duly seconded.)

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: It's been moved
22 and properly seconded that the Journal of the
23 meeting of Thursday, September 20, 2001 stand
24 approved.

25 All those in favor will signify by saying

1 LEAVES OF ABSENCE REQUESTS/VISITOR RECOGNITION

2 aye.

3 Those opposed?

4 The ayes have it the motion carries and
5 the journal of the meeting of Thursday September 20,
6 2001 stands approved.

7 - - -

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The next order
9 of business is requests for leaves of absence. And
10 the Chair recognizes Councilwoman Blackwell.

11 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you, Madam
12 President. There are no requests for leaves of
13 absence on the part of the majority.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair thanks
15 the Councilwoman.

16 The Chair recognizes Councilman Rizzo.

17 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: There are no requests
18 for leaves of absence from the Republicans.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair thanks
20 the gentleman.

21 - - -

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The chair will
23 dispense with the regular order of business to
24 recognize guests and visitors joining us in chambers
25 this morning. On behalf of all members of City

1 COMMUNICATIONS

2 Council, I welcome you to our Council session. We
3 appreciate your taking the time to join us as we
4 attend to the legislative affairs of our city. We
5 certainly invite to you come again.

6 - - -

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The next order
8 of business is communications.

9 The chair requests that the Sergeant-at-
10 Arms deliver the messages from the Mayor to the
11 clerk. The clerk will please reads messages from
12 the Mayor.

13 THE CLERK: To the President and Members
14 of the Council of the City of Philadelphia: I am
15 pleased to advise you that on October 3, 2001, I
16 signed the following bills that were passed by
17 Council at its session of September 20, 2001: Bill
18 No. 010269, 010274, and 101369.

19 And I am returning herewith as disapproved
20 Bill No. 010527 passed by Council at its session of
21 September 20, 2001.

22 And I am returning herewith as disapproved
23 Bill No. 010523. Council passed this bill at its
24 session on September 20, 2001.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The messages

1 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, RESOLUTIONS

2 will be printed in the Journal. The clerk will
3 please read any other communications in her
4 possession.

5 THE CLERK: That's all I have, Madam
6 President.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

8 - - -

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The next order
10 of business is the introduction of bills and
11 resolutions.

12 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman
13 Blackwell.

14 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you, Madam
15 President. I move that the rules of Council be
16 suspended so as to permit immediate consideration of
17 resolutions at their time of introduction.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Do I hear a
19 second?

20 (Duly seconded.)

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: It has been
22 moved and properly seconded that the rules of
23 Council be suspended so as to permit immediate
24 consideration of resolutions at the time of
25 introduction.

1 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, RESOLUTIONS

2 All in favor of the motion will say aye.

3 Those opposed?

4 The ayes have it and the motion carries

5 The Chair recognizes Councilman Kenney for
6 the introduction of bills and resolutions.

7 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you, Madam
8 President. I offer one bill and three resolutions.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The clerk will
10 please read the title of the bill.

11 THE CLERK: An ordinance amending Section
12 19-2604 of the Philadelphia Code relating to tax
13 rates, credits and alternate tax computation for the
14 business privilege tax by reducing certain tax rates
15 and by making technical amendments, all under
16 certain terms and conditions.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The bill will be
18 referred to the appropriate committee.

19 The clerk will please read the title of
20 the first resolution.

21 THE CLERK: A resolution authorizing City
22 Council's Public Safety and Legislative Oversight
23 committees to hold public hearings on the status and
24 condition of the Philadelphia Fire Department's
25 equipment and safety gear.

1 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, RESOLUTIONS

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
3 recognizes Councilman Kenney.

4 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: I move the adoption of
5 the resolution.

6 (Duly seconded.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: All those in
8 favor will signify by saying aye.

9 Those opposed?

10 The ayes have it, and the resolution will
11 be referred to the appropriate committee.

12 The clerk will please read the title of
13 the second resolution.

14 THE CLERK: A resolution authorizing City
15 Council's Legislative Oversight Committee to hold
16 public hearings on the potential effect of the
17 Deferred Retirement Option Program on the City's
18 workforce and City services.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
20 recognizes Councilman Kenney.

21 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: I move the adoption of
22 the resolution.

23 (Duly seconded.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: It has been
25 moved and properly seconded that the resolution be

1 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, RESOLUTIONS

2 adopted.

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

5 Those opposed?

6 The ayes have it and the resolution will
7 be referred to the appropriate committee.

8 The clerk will please read the title of
9 the third resolution.

10 THE CLERK: A resolution authorizing City
11 Council's Legislative Oversight Committee to hold
12 public hearings on the management and oversight of
13 the investment strategy in the growth of the City's
14 municipal pension fund.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
16 recognizes Councilman Kenney.

17 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Move the adoption of
18 the resolution.

19 (Duly seconded.)

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

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

25 Those opposed?

1 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, RESOLUTIONS

2 The ayes have it and the resolution will
3 be referred to the appropriate committee.

4 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman
5 Blackwell.

6 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you, Madam
7 President. This morning, I introduce one bill on
8 your behalf and one resolution on my own.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you. The
10 clerk will read the title of the bill.

11 THE CLERK: An ordinance approving the
12 redevelopment contract of the Redevelopment
13 Authority of the City of Philadelphia for the
14 redevelopment and urban renewal of a portion of the
15 Grays Ferry urban renewal area designated as Parcel
16 150.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The bill will be
18 referred to the appropriate committee.

19 The clerk will please read the title of
20 the resolution.

21 THE CLERK: A resolution authorizing the
22 Commissioner of Public Property to execute and
23 deliver to the Redevelopment Authority of the City
24 of Philadelphia deeds located in the 6th, 34th,
25 46th, and 51st Wards of the City of Philadelphia.

1 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, RESOLUTIONS

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
3 recognizes Councilwoman Blackwell.

4 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Madam President,
5 I move for the adoption.

6 (Duly seconded.)

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

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

12 Those opposed?

13 The ayes have it and the resolution has
14 been adopted.

15 The Chair recognizes Councilman Cohen.

16 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Madam President, I
17 offer one resolution on your behalf.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you. The
19 clerk will please read the title of the resolution.

20 THE CLERK: A resolution recognizing the
21 legacy of William Penn on the anniversary of his
22 birth, October 24th.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
24 recognizes Councilman Cohen.

25 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Madam President, I move

1 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, RESOLUTIONS

2 adoption of the resolution.

3 (Duly seconded.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: It has been
5 moved and properly seconded that the resolution be
6 adopted.

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

9 Those opposed?

10 The ayes have it and the resolution has
11 been adopted.

12 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman
13 Krajewski.

14 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Madam President,
15 I offer one bill.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The clerk will
17 please read the title of the bill.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: An ordinance
19 authorizing transfers in appropriations for Fiscal
20 Year 2002 within the General Fund from certain or
21 all City offices, departments, boards and
22 commissions to certain or all City offices,
23 departments, boards, and commissions.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The bill will be
25 referred to the appropriate committee.

1 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, RESOLUTIONS

2 The Chair recognizes Councilman Mariano.

3 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Madam President, I
4 have one resolution.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The clerk will
6 please read the title of the resolution.

7 THE CLERK: A resolution authorizing the
8 Commissioner of Public Property to execute and
9 deliver to the Redevelopment Authority of the City
10 of Philadelphia deeds located in the 7th, 18th,
11 19th, and 23rd wards of the City of Philadelphia

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
13 recognizes Councilman Mariano.

14 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Madam President, I
15 move for the adoption.

16 (Duly seconded.)

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

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

22 Those opposed?

23 The ayes have it and the motion carries.

24 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman Tasco.

25 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Madam President, I

1 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, RESOLUTIONS

2 have no bills or resolutions.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair thanks
4 the Councilwoman.

5 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman Miller.

6 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Thank you, Madam
7 President. I offer one bill and two resolutions,
8 and one resolution is cosponsored by Councilman
9 Clarke.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you. The
11 clerk will please read the title of the bill.

12 THE CLERK: An ordinance amending Section
13 5 of an ordinance (Bill No. 000259) granting
14 permission to the Chestnut Hill Academy, 500 Willow
15 Grove Avenue, to construct and use and maintain one
16 water distribution line.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The bill will be
18 referred to the appropriate committee.

19 the clerk will please read the title of
20 the first resolution.

21 THE CLERK: A resolution honoring and
22 commending native son John Cheyney for his
23 contributions to the City of Philadelphia and
24 congratulating him upon his induction into the
25 Basketball Hall of Fame.

1 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, RESOLUTIONS

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
3 recognizes Councilwoman Miller.

4 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: I move the adoption
5 of the resolution.

6 (Duly seconded.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: It has been
8 moved and seconded that the resolution be adopted.

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

11 Those opposed?

12 The ayes have it and the resolution has
13 been adopted.

14 The clerk will please read the title of
15 the second resolution.

16 THE CLERK: A resolution declaring October
17 4, 2001 as "International Walk To School Day."

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
19 recognizes Councilwoman Miller.

20 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Thank you, Madam
21 President. I move for the adoption of the
22 resolution.

23 (Duly seconded.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: It has been
25 moved and properly seconded that the resolution be

1 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, RESOLUTIONS

2 adopted.

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

5 Those opposed?

6 The ayes have it and the resolution has
7 been adopted.

8 The Chair recognizes Councilman Nutter.

9 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you, Madam
10 President. I offer one bill and three resolutions.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you. The
12 clerk will please read the title of the bill.

13 THE CLERK: An ordinance amending Chapter
14 19-1800 of the Philadelphia Code, entitled "School
15 Tax Authorization," by revoking the authority of the
16 Board of Education of the School District of
17 Philadelphia to impose the liquor sales tax after a
18 certain date, under certain terms and conditions.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The bill will be
20 referred to the appropriate committee.

21 The clerk will please read the title of
22 the first resolution.

23 THE CLERK: A resolution authorizing the
24 Council Committee of the Whole to conduct hearings
25 for the purpose of receiving testimony from

1 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, RESOLUTIONS

2 representatives of the restaurant, hotel and
3 hospitality industry and the Greater Philadelphia
4 Chamber of Commerce in order to assess the impact of
5 the severe downturn in the national and local
6 economy on these industries in Philadelphia and the
7 impact on the state and local taxes of these
8 industries, and also asking that the General
9 Assembly explore any options to enable the repeal of
10 the Philadelphia School District's liquor sales tax
11 by the enactment of a new revenue source that will
12 replace the revenues raised by the liquor sales tax
13 in order to help and improve the business climate
14 and promotion of the restaurant, hotel and
15 hospitality industries in Philadelphia.

16 COUNCILWOMAN VERNA: The Chair recognizes
17 Councilman Nutter.

18 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: I move for the
19 adoption of the resolution.

20 (Duly seconded.)

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: It has been
22 moved and seconded that the resolution be adopted.

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

25 Those opposed?

1 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, RESOLUTIONS

2 The ayes have it and the resolution will
3 be referred to the appropriate committee.

4 The clerk will please read the title of
5 the second bill [sic].

6 THE CLERK: A resolution authorizing the
7 Council Committee on Commerce and Economic
8 Development to hold hearings for the purpose of
9 reviewing the operations, programs, and strategic
10 plans of the public and quasi-public entities within
11 the jurisdiction of the committee in order to
12 evaluate their role in the promotion of commerce and
13 economic development and employment within the City
14 of Philadelphia.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
16 recognizes Councilman Nutter.

17 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Madam President, I
18 move for the adoption of the resolution.

19 (Duly seconded.)

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

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

25 Those opposed?

1 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, RESOLUTIONS

2 The ayes have it and the resolution has
3 been adopted. And the resolution will be referred
4 to the appropriate committee.

5 The clerk will please read the title of
6 the third resolution.

7 THE CLERK: A resolution calling upon
8 Mayor John F. Street and the City administration to
9 fully extend health benefits and explore the
10 differences in compensation to municipal employees
11 who are called into active duty in the National
12 Guard or other reserve components of the armed
13 forces of the United States of America.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
15 recognizes Councilman Nutter.

16 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Madam President, I
17 move the adoption of the resolution.

18 (Duly seconded.)

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

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

24 Those opposed?

25 The ayes have it and the resolution will

1 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, RESOLUTIONS

2 be referred to the appropriate committee.

3 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman Brown.

4 COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Thank you,
5 Madam President. I have no bills or resolutions
6 today.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you

8 The Chair recognizes Councilman Goode.

9 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you, Madam
10 President. I have one resolution on your behalf.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The clerk will
12 please read the title of the resolution.

13 THE CLERK: A resolution recognizing
14 November 4 to 10, 2001 as "Chemistry Week" in the
15 City of Philadelphia.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
17 recognizes Councilman Goode.

18 COUNCILMAN GOODE: I move for the
19 adoption.

20 (Duly seconded.)

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

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

1 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, RESOLUTIONS

2 Those opposed?

3 The ayes have it and the resolution has
4 been adopted.

5 The Chair recognizes Councilman Ortiz.

6 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: I have no bills or
7 resolutions, Madam President.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

9 The Chair recognizes Councilman DiCicco.

10 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Thank you, Madam
11 President. I have three bills and one resolution
12 cosponsored by all members of City Council and
13 introduced on your behalf.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you. The
15 clerk will please read the title of the first bill.

16 THE CLERK: An ordinance granting
17 permission to CTSI LLC, a Pennsylvania liability
18 company, its successors, assigns, and agents to
19 construct, maintain and operate, replace and remove
20 telecommunications system along, over, in, and under
21 the public rights-of-way in the City streets.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The bill will be
23 referred to the appropriate committee.

24 THE CLERK: And an ordinance granting
25 permission to RCN Telecom Services of Philadelphia,

1 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, RESOLUTIONS

2 a Pennsylvania corporation, its successors, assigns,
3 and agents to construct, maintain and operate,
4 replace and remove a telecommunications system
5 along, over, and under the public rights-of-way in
6 City streets.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: This bill will
8 also be referred to the appropriate committee.

9 THE CLERK: And an ordinance granting
10 permission to Level Three Communications, LLC, a
11 Delaware limited liability company registered to do
12 business in Pennsylvania and its successors,
13 assigns, and agents to construct, maintain and
14 operate, replace and remove a telecommunications
15 system along, over, in, and under the public
16 rights-of-way in City streets.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The bill will be
18 referred to the appropriate committee.

19 The clerk will please read the title of
20 the resolution.

21 THE CLERK: A resolution designating the
22 week of Monday, October 1, 2001 through Monday,
23 October 8, 2001 as "Christopher Columbus Week" in
24 celebration of the festivities commemorating
25 Columbus's historical voyage to the new world.

1 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, RESOLUTIONS

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
3 recognizes Councilman DiCicco.

4 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: I move the adoption
5 of the resolution.

6 (Duly seconded.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: It's been moved
8 and properly seconded that the resolution be
9 adopted.

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

12 Those opposed?

13 The ayes have it and the resolution has
14 been adopted.

15 The Chair recognizes Councilman O'Neill

16 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Madam President, I
17 have no bills or resolutions.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair thanks
19 the gentleman.

20 The Chair recognizes Councilman Clarke.

21 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you, Madam
22 President. I have one resolution today.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The clerk will
24 please read the title of the resolution.

25 THE CLERK: A resolution honoring and

1 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, RESOLUTIONS

2 commending Bernard Hopkins, IBF and WBC

3 Middle-Weight Champion, for capturing the WBA

4 middle-weight title and becoming the undisputed

5 middle-weight champion of the world.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair

7 recognizes Councilman Clarke.

8 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you, Madam

9 President. Madam President, that resolution is

10 cosponsored by Councilwoman Donna Miller and myself

11 and others members of Council.

12 I move for the adoption of the resolution.

13 (Duly seconded.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: It's been moved

15 and properly seconded that the resolution be

16 adopted.

17 All those in favor will signify by saying

18 aye.

19 Those opposed?

20 The ayes have it and the resolution has

21 been adopted.

22 The Chair recognizes Councilman

23 Longstreth.

24 COUNCILMAN LONGSTRETH: No bills or

25 resolutions, Madam President.

1 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, RESOLUTIONS

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair thanks
3 the gentleman.

4 The Chair recognizes Councilman Rizzo.

5 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Madam President, one
6 resolution today.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The clerk will
8 please read the title of the resolution.

9 THE CLERK: A resolution directing the
10 Department of Public Property to serve as the lead
11 agency to coordinate a survey with all the City
12 departments and agencies of all the facilities owned
13 or operated by the City of Philadelphia to determine
14 and provide for the capability of such facilities to
15 display flags of the United States of America and
16 the City of Philadelphia and to ensure the prominent
17 display of such United States and City flags at such
18 locations.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
20 recognizes Councilman Rizzo.

21 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: I move for the adoption
22 of this resolution.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Do I hear a
24 second?

25 (Duly seconded.)

1 COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

5 All in favor will signify by saying aye.
6 Those opposed?

7 The ayes have it and the resolution has
8 been adopted.

9 - - -

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The next order
11 of business will be reports from committees, and the
12 Chair recognizes Councilman DiCicco for a report
13 from the Streets and Services Committee.

14 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Thank you, Madam
15 President. The Committee on Streets and Services
16 reports 15 bills out with a favorable
17 recommendation.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you. The
19 Clerk will please read the report.

20 THE CLERK: To the President and Members
21 of the Council of the City of Philadelphia: The
22 Committee on Streets and Services to which was
23 referred:

24 Bill No. 000586, an ordinance revising
25 parking regulations on Ninth Street, both sides,

1 COMMITTEE REPORTS

2 from Bainbridge Street to Fitzwater Street;

3 and Bill No. 000587, an ordinance revising
4 parking regulations on Fitzwater Street, both sides,
5 from Tenth Street to Eleventh Street;

6 and Bill No. 000588, an ordinance revising
7 parking regulations on Fitzwater Street, both sides,
8 from Eight Street to Ninth Street;

9 and Bill No. 000644, an ordinance revising
10 parking regulations on Watts Street, east side, from
11 Ritner Street to Porter Street;

12 and Bill No. 010265, an ordinance revising
13 parking regulations on Carlyle Street, both sides,
14 from Erie Avenue to Butler Street;

15 and Bill No. 010266, an ordinance
16 establishing parking regulations on Gravers Lane,
17 east side, Germantown Avenue to Shawn Street;

18 and Bill No. 010290, an ordinance
19 establishing parking regulations Hicks Street, east
20 side, Ritner Street to Porter Street;

21 and Bill No. 010291, an ordinance
22 establishing a parking regulation on Porter Street,
23 both sides, 15th Street to 16th Street;

24 and Bill No. 010292, an ordinance
25 establishing a parking regulation on Rosewood

1 COMMITTEE REPORTS

2 Street, east side, Jackson Street to Wolf Street;
3 and Bill No. 010293, an ordinance
4 establishing a parking regulation on Rosewood
5 Street, east side, Shunk Street to Oregon Avenue;
6 and Bill No. 010294, an ordinance
7 establishing a parking regulation on Shunk Street,
8 both sides, Broad Street to 15th Street;
9 and Bill No. 010295, an ordinance
10 establishing a parking regulation on Shunk Street,
11 both sides, 15th Street to 16th Street;
12 and Bill No. 010296, an ordinance
13 establishing a parking regulation on 15th Street,
14 both sides, Ritner Street to Porter Street;
15 and Bill No. 010505, an ordinance
16 authorizing Irvin Berskin, owner of the property
17 2551 South Fifth Street, to construct and maintain a
18 fence for a Dumpster enclosure on the east footway
19 of South Fifth Street;
20 and Bill No. 010525, an ordinance
21 establishing a parking regulation on Murdoch Street
22 between Pickering Avenue and Cheltenham Avenue
23 respectfully reports it has considered the
24 same and returns the attached bills to Council with
25 a favorable recommendation.

1 COMMITTEE REPORTS

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
3 recognizes Councilman DiCicco.

4 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Thank you, Madam
5 President. I move that the rules of Council be
6 suspended so as to permit first reading this day on
7 the 15 bills that have just been read into the
8 record.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Did I hear a
10 second?

11 (Duly seconded.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: It has been
13 moved and properly seconded that the rules of
14 Council be suspended so as to permit first reading
15 this day of Bill No.'s 000586, 000587, 000588,
16 000644, 010265, 010266, 010290, 010291, 010292,
17 010293, 010294, 010295, 010296, 010505, and 010525.

18 All in favor will signify by saying aye.

19 Those opposed?

20 The ayes have it and the bills just
21 mentioned will be placed on today's first-reading
22 calendar.

23 - - -

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: At this time, we
25 will consider the calendar. The clerk will please

1 FIRST-READING CALENDAR

2 call the first bill up for consideration.

3 THE CLERK: Bill No. 000586, an ordinance
4 revising parking regulations on Ninth Street, both
5 sides, from Bainbridge Street to Fitzwater Street.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The chair
7 agrees.

8 THE CLERK: And Bill No. 000587, an
9 ordinance revising parking regulations on Fitzwater
10 Street, both sides, from Tenth Street to Eleventh
11 Street.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The chair
13 agrees.

14 THE CLERK: And Bill No. 000588, an
15 ordinance revising parking regulations on Fitzwater
16 Street, both sides, from Eight Street to Ninth
17 Street.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
19 agrees.

20 THE CLERK: And Bill No. 000644, an
21 ordinance revising parking regulations on Watts
22 Street, east side, from Ritner Street to Porter
23 Street.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
25 agrees.

1 FIRST-READING CALENDAR

2 THE CLERK: And Bill No. 010265, an
3 ordinance revising parking regulations on Carlyle,
4 both sides, from Erie Avenue to Butler Street.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The chair
6 agrees.

7 THE CLERK: And Bill No. 010266, an
8 ordinance establishing parking regulations on
9 Gravers Lane, east side, Germantown Avenue to Shawn
10 Street.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
12 agrees.

13 THE CLERK: And Bill No. 010290, an
14 ordinance establishing a parking regulation on Hicks
15 Street, east side, Ritner Street to Porter Street.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
17 agrees.

18 THE CLERK: And Bill No. 010291, an
19 ordinance establishing a parking regulation on
20 Porter Street, both sides, 15th Street to 16th
21 Street.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
23 agrees.

24 THE CLERK: And Bill No. 010292, an
25 ordinance establishing a parking regulation on

1 FIRST-READING CALENDAR

2 Rosewood Street, east side, Jackson Street to Wolf
3 Street.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
5 agrees.

6 THE CLERK: And Bill No. 010293, an
7 ordinance establishing a parking regulation on
8 Rosewood Street, east side, Shunk Street to Oregon
9 Avenue.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
11 agrees.

12 THE CLERK: And Bill No. 010294, an
13 ordinance establishing a parking regulation on Shunk
14 Street, both sides, Broad Street to 15th Street.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
16 agrees.

17 THE CLERK: And Bill No. 010295, an
18 ordinance establishing a parking regulation on Shunk
19 Street, both sides, 15th Street to 16th Street.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
21 agrees.

22 THE CLERK: And Bill No. 010296, an
23 ordinance establishing a parking regulation on 15th
24 Street, both sides, Ritner Street to Porter Street.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair

1 SECOND READING - BILL 000629

2 President. This morning Bill No.'s 000629 and
3 000716 are being called up for second reading and
4 final passage. All other bills are being held.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

6 The clerk will please read the title of
7 Bill No. 000629.

8 THE CLERK: An ordinance amending Title 14
9 of the Philadelphia Code, entitled "Zoning and
10 Planning," by amending language regarding appeals,
11 under certain terms and conditions.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: This bill having
13 been read on two different days, the question now
14 is, shall the bill pass finally?

15 The clerk will please call the roll.

16 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Madam President?

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Yes?

18 COUNCILMAN COHEN: I move to table it.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Is there a
20 second?

21 (Duly seconded.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: All in favor?
23 We'll do a roll call. Did I hear one aye?

24 COUNCILMAN COHEN: There was more than
25 one.

1 SECOND READING - BILL 000629

2 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Aye.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Two.

4 All of those in favor of tabling Bill No.

5 000629 will indicate by saying aye. I think we

6 better have a roll call.

7 THE CLERK: Councilwoman Blackwell?

8 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: No.

9 THE CLERK: Councilman Clarke?

10 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Aye.

11 THE CLERK: Councilman Cohen?

12 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Aye.

13 THE CLERK: Councilman DiCicco?

14 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: No.

15 THE CLERK: Councilman Goode?

16 COUNCILMAN GOODE: No.

17 THE CLERK: Councilman Kenney?

18 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: No.

19 THE CLERK: Councilwoman Krajewski?

20 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: No.

21 THE CLERK: Councilman Longstreth?

22 COUNCILMAN LONGSTRETH: No.

23 THE CLERK: Councilman Mariano?

24 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: No.

25 THE CLERK: Councilwoman Miller?

1 SECOND READING - BILL 000629

2 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: No.

3 THE CLERK: Councilman Nutter?

4 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Aye.

5 THE CLERK: Councilman O'Neill?

6 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: No.

7 THE CLERK: Councilman Ortiz?

8 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Aye.

9 THE CLERK: Councilwoman Reynolds Brown?

10 COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: No.

11 THE CLERK: Councilman Rizzo?

12 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Aye.

13 THE CLERK: Councilwoman Tasco?

14 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Aye.

15 THE CLERK: Council President Verna?

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Aye.

17 The nays are 10, the ayes are 7. The

18 motion fails.

19 We will now consider the vote for final

20 passage.

21 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Madam President?

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Councilman

23 Cohen.

24 COUNCILMAN COHEN: It's with a great deal

25 of sadness that I address this action, which has no

1 SECOND READING - BILL 000629

2 business coming before this City Council. For this
3 great city's council's legislative body to even
4 think of taking away rights of citizens in favor of
5 the rights of developers is an absolutely wrong
6 principle. We're supposed to be representing the
7 people.

8 This bill by Councilman DiCicco has so
9 many flaws in it that every newspaper in the City
10 and media outlet has been in opposition to this
11 bill. Every community organization, save perhaps
12 one or two, are overwhelmingly opposed to this bill
13 because it takes away rights.

14 For someone who says he's interested in
15 building the City and getting growth, this is the
16 wrong way to do it. What this bill says is any
17 developer from anywhere in the world -- he doesn't
18 have to be a citizen, he doesn't have to be a
19 resident, anybody can go into any neighborhood and
20 propose a bill to develop something, put up a
21 billboard, do anything that's harmful to the
22 neighborhood. Anybody from outside the City can do
23 it, but only those very close by will ever have a
24 right to oppose it. What a travesty of justice to
25 say developers have all the rights and the people

1 SECOND READING - BILL 000629

2 have none.

3 This bill has so many flaws on it. It's
4 been the subject of many editorials in the
5 newspapers and many articles by the people.

6 I urge my colleagues to put an end to this
7 once and for all and by voting no on this bill. It
8 ought not to have come to this because it is an
9 insult to the people of Philadelphia that this
10 body's even compelled to vote on this bill.

11 Thank you, Madam President.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

13 (Applause.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The chair
15 recognizes Councilman Ortiz.

16 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Thank you, Madam
17 President.

18 Madam President, I've never seen a bill
19 come before this body that has been so rejected
20 across the board by the huge majority of the civic
21 associations of the City, from the Northeast to
22 Southwest Philadelphia to North Philadelphia,
23 Central, every organization --

24 (Interruption.)

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Excuse me,

1 SECOND READING - BILL 000629

2 Councilman.

3 (Addressing unauthorized person on Council
4 floor.) Mr. Gillespie.

5 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: We got a new
6 Councilperson.

7 Organization after organization have asked
8 the members of this council to reject this bill.
9 It's a bill that pretends to be something that it is
10 not. It is not about neighborhoods; it's really
11 about taking power and rights from citizens across
12 Philadelphia.

13 We are a city; we're a city of
14 neighborhoods but we are a city. We're not a
15 Balkanized city. Sometimes we are a segregated
16 city, and that is something that we have to struggle
17 against, the segregation that keeps people apart
18 with different barriers, invisible or not.

19 This bill does not take us to that ideal
20 of us being Philadelphians, of us being a city. In
21 fact, it drives us back into our little enclaves and
22 prevents people who have some rights, the citizens
23 of this city and other individuals, from expressing
24 their thoughts on something that might blight our
25 environment.

1 SECOND READING - BILL 000629

2 It is a wrong bill. It is a bill brought
3 forward by the powerful, by the people with money.
4 It is not a bill brought forward by community
5 because the community groups, as present here and in
6 writing across the City, have said to vote no on
7 629.

8 I ask this body to reject it and to give
9 people -- because we were once known as "the
10 people's body" -- to give people back their voice
11 and make this a city, not enclaves.

12 Thank you.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

14 (Applause.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The chair
16 recognizes Councilman DiCicco.

17 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Thank you, Madam
18 President. I will try to be brief but to the point.

19 In June of this year, I was asked by a
20 couple of my colleagues if I would hold the bill
21 until they had time to meet with the various
22 community groups who had some concern for the bill,
23 and in respect to those colleagues, I tabled the
24 bill for the better part of, I guess, about four and
25 a half months.

1 SECOND READING - BILL 000629

2 But it's interesting what my colleague
3 Councilman Cohen is saying, that if this bill
4 passes, it will allow developers from all over the
5 world to come into the City of Philadelphia and do
6 development without any public input. I wish we
7 could get developers from all over the world to come
8 into the City of Philadelphia and develop our city
9 to make it a better place, to create jobs and
10 economic opportunities for the citizens of this
11 city.

12 My dear friend and colleague Councilman
13 Ortiz made a good point when he says we are a
14 segregated city. I don't look at it as a segregated
15 city; I look at it as a city of neighborhoods. And
16 in my opinion, that is what the heart of this bill
17 is all: Allowing the uniqueness of the individual
18 neighborhoods that make Philadelphia unique in this
19 country, of the diversity throughout the
20 neighborhoods throughout this city to allow
21 individuals in those communities and organizations
22 and community groups and advisory councils to make
23 decisions that will affect the quality of life in
24 their neighborhood.

25 This is not going to, as Councilman Cohen

1 SECOND READING - BILL 000629

2 says also, that this will allow developers to come
3 in and do as they want. The bill, as it stands
4 today, allows any individual who pays a single tax
5 in the City of Philadelphia, regardless if he or she
6 lives in this city, the ability to stand in front of
7 the court and ask for an immediate appeal and get an
8 immediate appeal on a zoning decision that had been
9 granted by the Zoning Board and with the approval of
10 the community group after many weeks, and sometimes
11 months, of negotiations with that developer or
12 developers. This is not about silencing the people.

13 I came from the bolt of cloth that created
14 three nonprofit groups in the last twenty years:
15 The Italian Market Civic Association, the South
16 Broad Street Beautification Committee, and Citizens
17 Alliance for Better Neighborhoods. All of those
18 groups or organizations were formed with the
19 intention of empowering the people in the various
20 communities even before I became a Councilperson, so
21 it was before my district, but people in my
22 community, empowering them and bringing them into
23 the political process so that they would have the
24 say in what goes on in their community that affects
25 the quality of life for them and their children.

1 SECOND READING - BILL 000629

2 This is not about -- select enforcement is
3 what we're dealing with today where some advocacy
4 groups purport to be against certain things unless
5 the situation suits their needs. We all know about
6 the half a million dollar payoff -- I don't want to
7 belabor that point. If I would have done that or
8 any other member of this Council would have accepted
9 a half million dollar consideration to withdraw an
10 appeal on a zoning, you would be having a hearing
11 with me at Sixth and Market in federal court today.

12 This is really about empowering people.
13 There's been a total misrepresentation of the facts,
14 I think everyone understands that.

15 And I will say this publicly: If any of
16 the dire consequences that have been purported over
17 the last four months should occur in any community
18 with any community group, I'll be the first person
19 to ask to repeal this bill. This is not about --
20 en -- enfranchising communities, I think it's about
21 enfranchising them even more so, 'cause that's where
22 I came from.

23 And as to -- again, with all due respect
24 to Councilman Ortiz saying that he's never seen such
25 an outcry, I can recall in the six and a half years

1 SECOND READING - BILL 000629

2 that I've been here three very controversial bills.
3 I remember when this chamber and the gallery were
4 packed with police and firemen, many of whom are my
5 friends and neighborhoods, urging me to vote for the
6 pension bill, the first pension bill, and I voted
7 against it because it was a bad bill, and we created
8 a bill that was even better for them.

9 I remember the Archdiocese spending about
10 a quarter of a million dollars to defeat me and
11 colleague Councilman Kenney by putting ads in local
12 newspapers saying that if the domestic-partner bill
13 would pass, it's the end of the world for
14 civilization as we know it. We voted for that bill
15 because it was the right thing to do. That was
16 about peel and empowering people.

17 I can remember at 2:30 a.m. in the
18 morning, when my colleague Councilman Cohen stood up
19 and told me I had no right to make a motion on the
20 floor of this chamber when we were dealing with
21 sidewalk behavior, and it was his opinion at the
22 time that if that bill passed, everyone's human
23 rights in the City of Philadelphia would be
24 violated, people would be taken off the sidewalks,
25 their rights as citizens would be violated, they

1 SECOND READING - BILL 000629

2 would have no say. The bill passed, we did the
3 right thing by doing that bill, and no one's rights
4 have been violated.

5 It is not the end of the worlds if 629
6 passes. I would encourage my colleagues to vote for
7 the bill.

8 And you have my word: If any community
9 group or District Councilperson, who are engaged in
10 every zoning application that comes through our
11 respective districts -- at least I know I am. We're
12 there all the time. I don't need somebody from
13 Bucks County coming in to fight a zoning application
14 for a supermarket at Tenth and South, when the
15 community wants that supermarket. Let the people in
16 the community decide what is right for them.

17 And I did this bill and I didn't use any
18 geographical boundaries. I said that the request of
19 Councilman Cohen or any community group or
20 organization would have standing on the appeal
21 process in the Court of Common Pleas.

22 Thank you, Madam President.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

24 The chair recognizes Councilman Cohen.

25 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Thank you, Madam

1 SECOND READING - BILL 000629

2 President.

3 Let's deal with some facts. First of all,
4 Councilman DiCicco has attempted to spread this
5 story that he tells us now all throughout the City
6 for many months. In the June meeting, when he held
7 up the bill for the first time, he said, "I'm going
8 to campaign all over the City because I know all
9 community organizations are in favor of this bill."

10 The community organizations are very much
11 interested at every step of the way in empowering
12 their communities, but the community organizations
13 see that this bill takes power away from them, it
14 does not empower them, and so they've rejected the
15 misrepresentations made by my colleague Councilman
16 DiCicco.

17 With respect to that 2:30-in-the-morning
18 effort on my part to prevent Councilman DiCicco from
19 making a motion, it was because the motion was to
20 cut off discussion, to take away the rights of
21 Councilmembers from further discussing the sidewalk
22 bill, just in line with his effort now to take away
23 the right of discussion from the people in the City
24 of Philadelphia.

25 There are many issues that come up that

1 SECOND READING - BILL 000629

2 there may be no local organization prepared to
3 fighting it, the millions, sometimes the hundreds of
4 millions of dollars of developers. Therefore, you
5 need citywide organizations available to represent
6 the interests of all people.

7 This is not a city of fiefdoms, this isn't
8 a city where one local group has the right to build
9 barriers and keep the rest of the City away, saying,
10 It's none of your business. This is one city; we've
11 got to make it so.

12 Just a couple days ago, the Pennsylvania
13 Supreme Court issued a ruling against the major
14 supporter of this bill, the billboard operator. It
15 was a case that went from the Zoning Board to the
16 Common Pleas Court to the Commonwealth Court to the
17 Pennsylvania Supreme Court. And the Supreme Court
18 dismissed the appeal, indicating it was absolutely
19 right that the organization, the citywide
20 organization -- in my judgment, a great
21 organization -- SCRUB, which fights on behalf of all
22 people everywhere in the City with respect to the
23 environmental questions, the Supreme Court said they
24 were right and this developer was wrong. The
25 Supreme Court of Pennsylvania stands fully behind

1 RECONSIDERATION OF BILLS 010523, 010527

2 the rights of citizens to be empowered, not
3 disempowered.

4 I urge all of my colleagues to vote no on
5 629. It is a terrible bill from every point of
6 view.

7 (Applause.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: At this time,
9 we're going to delay the vote on this bill. We're
10 going to go into special business now.

11 Council will now proceed under a special
12 order of business to reconsider Bill No.'s 010523
13 and 010527. Bill No. 010523 was passed by the
14 Council at its September 20th session and was
15 returned disapproved by the Mayor to today's session
16 of Council. The Mayor's veto message has already
17 been read into the record, has it not, to the chief
18 clerk -- by the clerk?

19 THE CLERK: Yes it has, Madam President.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The chair now
21 recognizes Councilwoman Blackwell.

22 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you, Madam
23 President. I move that Council reconsider Bill
24 No. 010523, which was approved by Council on
25 September 20, 2001.

1 RECONSIDERATION OF BILLS 010523, 010527

2 And may I add, Madam President, that I'd
3 like to make remarks on this bill.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: We have to have
5 a second.

6 (Duly seconded.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: It has been
8 moved and seconded that we reconsider Bill
9 No. 010523.

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

12 Those opposed?

13 The ayes have it and the motion carries.

14 The chair recognizes Councilwoman
15 Blackwell.

16 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you, Madam
17 President.

18 Madam President, I was very happy to be in
19 the 15-2 vote with regard to Bill No. 010523. I
20 rise to speak on this bill today because I am
21 ambivalent, as has been evidenced all morning, and
22 I've talked to almost everybody in this body, and,
23 of course, to ascertain what their opinions were and
24 to talk about the various issues as we see them
25 today.

1 RECONSIDERATION OF BILLS 010523, 010527

2 City Council should, and must, make its
3 own decisions. As separation of powers, the
4 executive legislative and judicial bodies, it must
5 be done. We as legislators, however, should not
6 feel torn between representing some segments of our
7 respective communities who feel they have been
8 disenfranchised and ourselves as a legislative body.

9 Madam President, I support you, I always
10 have and I always will. I add, however, that I feel
11 that my role as majority leader in this Council
12 dictates that I appeal for a compromise, which, the
13 public, I believe, has the right to expect from
14 reasonable leaders such as we have in this body
15 today.

16 Madam President, I finally feel --
17 ultimately, I feel that a mere three divisions in
18 our whole city, a mere three divisions, should not
19 dictate that we have the problem that we have today.
20 Therefore, I move that we, City Council, hold this
21 bill for one week to try to work out a solution that
22 would be acceptable to all sides.

23 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Point of order.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Yes, the chair
25 recognizes Councilman Kenney.

1 RECONSIDERATION OF BILLS 010523, 010527

2 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Madam President, with
3 all due respect to the majority leader, and I
4 understand her heartfelt sentiments, I don't know if
5 a motion to hold this for a week is appropriate,
6 considering the motion on the floor to reconsider.
7 It's a technical issue.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you
9 The chair recognizes Councilman Clarke.

10 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you, Madam
11 President.

12 Madam President, I concur with
13 Councilwoman Blackwell's statements, but I'd like to
14 say this has been -- obviously been somewhat of a
15 troubling time over the last two weeks. I have had
16 a great relationship with every member of City
17 Council, have seen some level of that relationship
18 deteriorate over the period of the last month. It
19 is clearly something that I did not want.

20 But as I sit here and I listen to the
21 various speeches about empowerment, I cannot not
22 speak about the fact that there are a number of
23 individuals in the City who don't feel that they
24 were adequately empowered as a result of this
25 particular legislation and its process.

1 RECONSIDERATION OF BILLS 010523, 010527

2 I think about the people in the Latino
3 community and particularly the representatives that
4 came here during the Council hearing on this
5 particular bill who were not comfortable with the
6 ultimate outcome of this bill, who spoke of the fact
7 that they were not able to have their representation
8 present because of the tragedy that happened on
9 September 11th and were adamantly opposed to the
10 outcome of this bill.

11 I speak of those individuals in the 8th
12 Ward, which I represent, who, it is my
13 understanding, have sent more than 200 letters to
14 Councilmembers, indicating their support for me as
15 their Councilperson and wishing to continue that
16 level of support.

17 I'd like to speak also of members of the
18 2nd District, who have seen an opportunity, based on
19 what I have been told, to at some point in the near
20 future -- and mind you, that they have voiced their
21 sincere and continuing support for their
22 Councilperson, their concern that as we move ahead
23 in the years forth that they will not be able to
24 elect a Councilperson of a minority race.

25 So I just ask the members, as we talk

1 RECONSIDERATION OF BILLS 010523, 010527

2 about empowerment, that we take into account all of
3 the many citizens of the City of Philadelphia who
4 have asked to be empowered during this trying
5 process.

6 And as Councilwoman Blackwell has
7 indicated, this is an issue that I have always
8 wanted to work out as a District Councilperson for
9 the 5th District, continue to want to work out,
10 'cause I think the worst thing that can happen as a
11 result of the passage of this bill is that we have
12 some lingering effects of this very trying process,
13 particularly my relationship with you, Madam
14 President.

15 So I ask the members to consider what
16 Councilwoman Blackwell has said, and hopefully we
17 can resolve this and we can continue to be the good
18 friends that we have been over the years.

19 Thank you, Madam President.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank you

21 The chair recognizes Councilman Ortiz.

22 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: No, I don't want to
23 speak to the point of order, ma'am; I want to speak
24 to the bill when it comes up for a vote.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: We're ready to

1 RECONSIDERATION OF BILLS 010523, 010527

2 do that.

3 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: But I thought we had a
4 point of order about whether we were going to hold
5 the -- there was a technical question.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: No, we're not
7 holding.

8 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: All right.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Councilman
10 Ortiz, do you want to --

11 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: All right, yes.

12 Madam Chair --

13 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: (Inaudible, off-mic.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: I don't think a
15 motion was actually made.

16 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Oh, I'm sorry.

17 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: No, I didn't make a
18 motion to table.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Councilman
20 Ortiz?

21 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: I just -- what are we
22 speaking to are? We speaking to the point of order
23 that Councilwoman, uh ...

24 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Madam President, I
25 believe that you have called for the consideration

1 RECONSIDERATION OF BILLS 010523, 010527
2 of the bill. There was a point of order. I think
3 you made a declaration that it will not be held. I
4 think Councilman Ortiz is speaking on the bill.
5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Yes.
6 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: I put a motion on
7 the floor --
8 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: (Inaudible, off-mic.)
9 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: I can't hear you.
10 All right, then I will merely make a
11 friendly request. I'm willing to have the
12 discussion under any circumstances. Madam
13 President, if you determine it's not legal, that's
14 fine. Then I certainly -- I mean I merely make a
15 friendly request to my colleagues that we consider
16 holding this for a week.
17 (Council President Verna
18 confers off the record with Council
19 legal staff.)
20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Councilwoman
21 Tasco? I'm sorry -- Councilwoman Blackwell?
22 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Yes, ma'am?
23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Actually, we're
24 not -- we're reconsidering the bill. I am told by
25 our attorney and technical staff that you're just

1 RECONSIDERATION OF BILLS 010523, 010527

2 making a friendly request for a delay of the vote
3 for a week?

4 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: That would be
5 fine. I would consider it under any circumstances
6 that Council determines are proper.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Is anyone in
8 favor of delaying this a week, say aye.

9 One, two? Did I hear two ayes from this
10 side of the room? Any on this side of the room?

11 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: I have a question,
12 Madam President.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Yes?

14 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Is there any chance
15 of the two parties working something out? I mean, I
16 think that's what the Councilwoman was trying to --

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: I think that we
18 voted on this bill by 15 to 2 last week. This is a
19 veto.

20 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Okay.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: If this doesn't
22 pass, we're just going to have to go back to the
23 drawing board again, and we're just going to have to
24 live with whatever we get the next time around. And
25 Councilpeople will not be paid until such time as a

1 RECONSIDERATION OF BILLS 010523, 010527
2 bill is presented and the Mayor sees fit to pass it
3 and sign it.

4 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: So what you're
5 telling me is, if we wait, we're just blowing smoke
6 in the wind 'cause there's no chance of this being
7 reconsidered or worked out without us having this
8 vote?

9 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Well, you'll have a new
10 plan.

11 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: No, no, I'm asking
12 about this plan. She wants to -- I think
13 Councilwoman Blackwell wants to work something out
14 between the two parties here, and we all know what's
15 going on, okay? And I'm asking the Council
16 President if there's any chance of that happening.

17 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Point of order.

18 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: It is a point.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: We can't amend a
20 bill that's already been passed.

21 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: I was one of the two
22 votes that voted against it.

23 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Just a point of
24 information, that's all.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Okay, point of

1 RECONSIDERATION OF BILLS 010523, 010527

2 information well taken.

3 Councilwoman Tasco?

4 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: I was just going to
5 call for the vote.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

7 Is there a second?

8 (Duly seconded.)

9 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Madam President?

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Yes?

11 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: One final remark.

12 In the spirit of cooperation, and certainly I agree
13 with what has been said, you see, I continue to
14 believe that reasonable people can always work
15 things out. I think that's why we're here.

16 (Applause.)

17 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: And in the spirit
18 of that, if we decide that we want to push the vote
19 through, then I would be voting to abstain in view
20 of my position, asking that we consider holding it a
21 week. I just wanted to say that in advance.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Council will now
23 consider the vote, which was passed, Bill 010523.

24 The clerk will read the title of the bill.

25 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Point of order.

1 RECONSIDERATION OF BILLS 010523, 010527

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Yes, sir?

3 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: I usually ask this
4 when we do these types of votes, that you clarify
5 what a "yes" vote means and what a "no" votes means.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Yes, very
7 definitely. Thank you.

8 The clerk will please read the title of
9 the of the bill.

10 THE CLERK: An ordinance amending Chapter
11 2500 of the Philadelphia Code, entitled
12 "Councilmatic Districts," by revising the boundaries
13 of the Councilmatic districts, under certain terms
14 and conditions.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: This bill having
16 been read on two different days, was duly approved
17 by City Council on September 20, 2001 and returned
18 to Council by the Mayor as disapproved at today's
19 session of Council. The question is, shall Bill
20 No. 010523 pass, notwithstanding the Mayor's
21 disapproval?

22 Please note that a vote of aye is a vote
23 to override the Mayor's veto, a vote of aye is to
24 override the Mayor as veto. And a vote of nay is a
25 vote to let the veto stand. Is everybody clear on

1 RECONSIDERATION OF BILLS 010523, 010527

2 that?

3 The clerk will please call the roll.

4 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Madam President?

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Excuse me, I'm
6 sorry. Did somebody call? Yes, Councilman Cohen?

7 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Yes, one point of
8 order. With deep regret, I have to remind the
9 majority leader that the Home Rule Charter does not
10 permit any member of Council to abstain on an
11 ordinance. It must be a vote of aye or nay, except
12 in the case where -- Councilman O'Neill, where
13 there's a conflict of interest.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Mr. Auerbach is
15 here. He is checking that.

16 Councilman Cohen, I will tell you that in
17 all of my years here, it was always my impression
18 that you had to vote aye or nay on any given bill.
19 However, I have Mr. Auerbach checking. Mr. Auerbach
20 is looking at our rules, and I would like him to
21 come to the podium to read the rules please.

22 MR. AUERBACH: The rules of Council,
23 paragraph 12, no. 4: "Every member present, when a
24 question is put, shall vote on the same, unless
25 personally interested or unless excused from voting

1 RECONSIDERATION OF BILLS 010523, 010527

2 at the time the question is about to be put."

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Councilwoman,
4 are you voting aye or nay?

5 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Madam President,
6 what was the determination? I'm sorry. What did
7 Rick Auerbach advise the president?

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: I'm sorry, I
9 can't hear you.

10 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: What was the
11 final resolution of the question.

12 MR. AUERBACH: The rules say you have to
13 vote.

14 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: All right, I'm
15 happy to abide by the rules certainly, but I'll only
16 request that we keep these -- that we abide by the
17 same rules on every issue, that we be consistent,
18 that is my only request.

19 And, therefore, if we cannot work it out,
20 then I will be voting no.

21 THE CLERK: Councilwoman Blackwell?

22 THE CLERK: Councilman Clarke?

23 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: No.

24 THE CLERK: Councilman Cohen?

25 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Aye.

1 RECONSIDERATION OF BILLS 010523, 010527

2 THE CLERK: Councilman DiCicco?

3 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Aye.

4 THE CLERK: Councilman Goode?

5 COUNCILMAN GOODE: No.

6 THE CLERK: Councilman Kenney?

7 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Aye.

8 THE CLERK: Councilwoman Krajewski?

9 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Aye.

10 THE CLERK: Councilman Longstreth?

11 COUNCILMAN LONGSTRETH: No.

12 THE CLERK: Councilman Mariano?

13 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: No.

14 THE CLERK: Councilwoman Miller?

15 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: No.

16 THE CLERK: Councilman Nutter?

17 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Aye.

18 THE CLERK: Councilman O'Neill?

19 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Aye.

20 THE CLERK: Councilman Ortiz?

21 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Aye.

22 THE CLERK: Councilwoman Reynolds Brown?

23 COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: No.

24 THE CLERK: Councilman Rizzo?

25 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Aye.

1 RECONSIDERATION OF BILLS 010523, 010527

2 THE CLERK: Councilwoman Tasco?

3 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Aye.

4 THE CLERK: Council President Verna?

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Aye.

6 The votes are 10-7. The Mayor's veto has
7 been sustained.

8 We will now move to reconsider Bill

9 No. 0105 -- oh, I'm sorry where, are we?

10 We now move to reconsideration of Bill

11 No. 010527, which was passed by Council at its
12 September 20, 2001 session and was returned
13 disapproved by the Mayor to today's session of
14 Council. The Mayor's veto message has already been
15 read into the record by the clerk.

16 At this time, the chair recognizes
17 Councilwoman Blackwell.

18 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you, Madam
19 President. I move that the Council reconsider Bill
20 No. 010527, which was approved by City Council on
21 September 20, 2001.

22 (Duly seconded.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: It has been
24 seconded.

25 All in favor will let it be known by

1 RECONSIDERATION OF BILLS 010523, 010527

2 saying aye.

3 Those opposed?

4 The ayes have it and the motion carries

5 council will now reconsider the vote by

6 which Bill No. 010527 was passed. The clerk will

7 please read the title of the bill.

8 THE CLERK: An ordinance providing for the
9 submission to the qualified electors of the City
10 Philadelphia for an amendment to the educational
11 supplement to the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter
12 which would establish a process which would
13 authorize the privatization of the administration,
14 operation, and management of the School District, as
15 approved by resolution of the City Council, fixing
16 the date of a special election for such purpose,
17 prescribing the form of ballot question to be voted
18 on, and authorizing the appropriate officers to
19 publish notice and to make arrangements for the
20 special election.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: This bill,
22 having been read on two different days, was duly
23 approved by City Council on September 20, 2001 and
24 was returned to Council by the Mayor as disapproved
25 at today's session of Council. The question is,

1 RECONSIDERATION OF BILLS 010523, 010527
2 shall Bill No. 010527 pass, notwithstanding the
3 Mayor's disapproval?
4 The clerk will please call the roll.
5 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Madam President?
6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Yes?
7 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: On the question
8 would you explain what the "aye" vote means and what
9 a "nay" vote means for clarification?
10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: I'd be happy to
11 do that again.
12 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you.
13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: If you're voting
14 aye, you are voting to go override the veto; a vote
15 of nay is to let the veto stand.
16 The clerk will please call the roll.
17 THE CLERK: Councilwoman Blackwell?
18 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Aye.
19 THE CLERK: Councilman Clarke?
20 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: No.
21 THE CLERK: Councilman Cohen?
22 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Aye.
23 THE CLERK: Councilman DiCicco?
24 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Aye.
25 THE CLERK: Councilman Goode?

1 RECONSIDERATION OF BILLS 010523, 010527

2 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Aye.

3 THE CLERK: Councilman Kenney?

4 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Aye.

5 THE CLERK: Councilwoman Krajewski?

6 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: No.

7 THE CLERK: Councilman Longstreth?

8 COUNCILMAN LONGSTRETH: No.

9 THE CLERK: Councilman Mariano?

10 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: No.

11 THE CLERK: Councilwoman Miller?

12 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Aye.

13 THE CLERK: Councilman Nutter?

14 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Aye.

15 THE CLERK: Councilman O'Neill?

16 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: No.

17 THE CLERK: Councilman Ortiz?

18 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Aye.

19 THE CLERK: Councilwoman Reynolds Brown?

20 COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Aye.

21 THE CLERK: Councilman Rizzo?

22 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: No.

23 THE CLERK: Councilwoman Tasco?

24 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Aye.

25 THE CLERK: Council President Verna?

1 SECOND READING - BILL 000629

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Aye.

3 The ayes are 11, the nays are 6, and the
4 veto stands.

5 - - -

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: I believe we
7 were on Bill No. 000629. This bill having been read
8 on two different days, the question now is, shall
9 the bill pass final?

10 The clerk will please call the roll.

11 THE CLERK: Councilwoman Blackwell?

12 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Aye.

13 THE CLERK: Councilman Clarke?

14 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: No.

15 THE CLERK: Councilman Cohen?

16 COUNCILMAN COHEN: No.

17 THE CLERK: Councilman DiCicco?

18 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Aye.

19 THE CLERK: Councilman Goode?

20 COUNCILMAN GOODE: No.

21 THE CLERK: Councilman Kenney?

22 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Aye.

23 THE CLERK: Councilwoman Krajewski?

24 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Aye.

25 THE CLERK: Councilman Longstreth?

1 SECOND READING - BILL 000629
2 COUNCILMAN LONGSTRETH: Aye.
3 THE CLERK: Councilman Mariano?
4 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Aye.
5 THE CLERK: Councilwoman Miller?
6 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Aye.
7 THE CLERK: Councilman Nutter?
8 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: No.
9 THE CLERK: Councilman O'Neill?
10 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Aye.
11 THE CLERK: Councilman Ortiz?
12 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: No.
13 THE CLERK: Councilwoman Reynolds Brown?
14 COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: No.
15 THE CLERK: Councilman Rizzo?
16 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: No.
17 THE CLERK: Councilwoman Tasco?
18 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Aye.
19 THE CLERK: Council President Verna?
20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: No.
21 The vote is 8 in the affirmative, 9 in the
22 negative, and the bill passes.
23 (Applause.)
24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Oh, I'm sorry.
25 (Inaudible.)

1 SECOND READING - BILL 000629

2 The next bill to be called for
3 consideration is -- everybody's light is on.
4 Does --

5 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: I think you
6 declared --

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: I'm sorry. The
8 vote was 9 aye, 8 no. Nine being the majority, the
9 bill passes.

10 The clerk will please read the title of
11 Bill No. 000716.

12 THE CLERK: An ordinance amending Chapter
13 21-1100 of the Philadelphia Code, entitled
14 "Community Development," by amending Section
15 21-1108, entitled "Economic Development."

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The clerk will
17 please call the roll.

18 THE CLERK: Councilwoman Blackwell?

19 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Aye.

20 THE CLERK: Councilman Clarke?

21 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Aye.

22 THE CLERK: Councilman Cohen?

23 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Aye.

24 THE CLERK: Councilman DiCicco?

25 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Aye.

1 SECOND READING - BILL 000629
2 THE CLERK: Councilman Goode?
3 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Aye.
4 THE CLERK: Councilman Kenney?
5 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Aye.
6 THE CLERK: Councilwoman Krajewski?
7 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Aye.
8 THE CLERK: Councilman Longstreth?
9 COUNCILMAN LONGSTRETH: Aye.
10 THE CLERK: Councilman Mariano?
11 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Aye.
12 THE CLERK: Councilwoman Miller?
13 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Aye.
14 THE CLERK: Councilman Nutter?
15 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Aye.
16 THE CLERK: Councilman O'Neill?
17 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Aye.
18 THE CLERK: Councilman Ortiz?
19 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Aye.
20 THE CLERK: Councilwoman Reynolds Brown?
21 COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Aye.
22 THE CLERK: Councilman Rizzo?
23 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Aye.
24 THE CLERK: Councilwoman Tasco?
25 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Aye.

1 SPEECHES

2 THE CLERK: Council President Verna?

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Aye.

4 The ayes are 17, the nays are 0. A
5 majority of all members of Council having voted in
6 the affirmative, this bill passes.

7 That concludes our calendar.

8 - - -

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Are there
10 speeches on the part of the minority?

11 (No speeches on the part of the minority.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Are there
13 speeches on the part of the majority?

14 Councilman Cohen, your light's on.

15 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Yes. I just wanted to
16 report why it's so important for the Gas Works to be
17 part of the City of Philadelphia.

18 Last night, about 7 o'clock, I received a
19 call from a block captain in the ward in which I'm
20 the Democratic leader, telling me that a
21 quadriplegic person had had the electricity turned
22 off, which she needed desperately for breathing
23 since she has a severe asthma case, and PECO -- she
24 owed a bill of \$600. She's on Social Security,
25 disability, has no other income. She was told she

1 SPEECHES

2 had to have \$400 in by the end of the day.

3 Using her check and every available
4 resource, she put together \$350 and delivered it to
5 the office that they had requested, the Thriftway
6 market at 22nd and Lehigh. Through the intervention
7 of our Managing Director Joe Martz, PECO was
8 contacted and promised to put her electricity on.
9 It was clear it was a humanitarian matter. She was
10 only \$50 short. Her life was at stake with her
11 severe asthmatic condition.

12 I have to report to you that PECO did not
13 do so. If it were a City agency, there is
14 absolutely no question that the lights would have
15 been turned on.

16 I want to mention that because I think
17 people so misunderstand the role of public service.
18 They think business is efficient. I don't think
19 that's necessarily true because of all the
20 bankruptcies that take place, but business seems to
21 have no feeling for people, no humanitarianism.

22 I call this to everyone's attention when
23 we consider the plans for PGW in the future. I
24 think it was a shameful action that PECO took last
25 night in refusing to put the woman's electricity on.

1 SPEECHES

2 Thank you, Madam president.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank you.

4 The chair recognizes Councilman Ortiz.

5 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Madam Chair, I wanted
6 to speak before, when the bill was being considered.

7 Ten years ago, I stood up in this Council,
8 myself and Councilwoman Tasco. At that time, the
9 Latino community had a problem: We were divided
10 into four different districts.

11 The bill today that we considered, this
12 Council had a very good opportunity if the Latino
13 issue was the priority two weeks ago and a few weeks
14 before that to really create a Latino district. But
15 this Council didn't do that. We went, we did not
16 bad, not good. There was a lot of dissatisfaction.
17 I voted no. It was 15 to 2.

18 The Latino issue has been brought up as a
19 reason for this, for this veto. I don't think so.
20 I think the people who spoke on the bill to try to
21 delay the bill really couched it correctly. This
22 was about Center City, some divisions, but it was
23 not about creating a Latino district.

24 I would hope that now that we're here, we
25 will come up with a 45, 46, 47 percent Latino

1 SPEECHES

2 district. I would hope that the reason given for
3 the veto is made to stand, but I don't think that
4 was the reason. And that's why, knowing that the
5 Latino was being used, I was not going to go along
6 with it.

7 But this was -- this vote was not about
8 creating a Latino district. This vote was about
9 Center City. That's all it was, this veto.

10 Thank you, Madam Chair.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

12 The chair recognizes Councilman Mariano.

13 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Thank you, Madam
14 President.

15 You know, I probably shouldn't say this
16 and that's how I get in trouble around here, but I
17 just can't help myself. That's probably one of the
18 biggest untruths I ever heard in Council. You know,
19 I mean, the Councilman fought all along for a
20 district, and then when it comes to a chance to do
21 something for the people that he's supposed to
22 represent here in Council, who he's been telling me
23 he represented for the six years I've been sitting
24 here, then he changes the vote and then cops a plea
25 afterwards. In my neighborhood, Councilman -- I

1 SPEECHES

2 don't know what that's called in your neighborhood,
3 but in my neighborhood, it's just no intestinal
4 fortitude. Sometimes you just got to do what's
5 right.

6 Thank you, Madam President.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The chair
8 recognizes Councilman Clarke.

9 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you, Madam
10 President.

11 Madam President, all due respect to the
12 Councilman, at least in my mind, this was not just
13 about Center City. This was about a dilution in
14 votes in the most densely populated portion of the
15 5th District that required that I then move
16 northward and eastward and acquire a substantial
17 amount of wards and divisions that were populated
18 extremely highly by the Latino population. If I had
19 not had to move as far northward and eastward, those
20 divisions could have been put in the existing 7th
21 Councilmatic District and increased the percentages
22 as it relates to this particular bill. So it was
23 not just about Center City, in all due respect, sir

24 Thank you, Madam President.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The chair

1 SPEECHES

2 recognizes Councilman Ortiz.

3 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Madam chair, I've been
4 in this Council many, many years. The words that I
5 use, I use very carefully. I don't think that I
6 have ever used a word to question someone else's
7 intellect, valor, whatever. It's about ideas, it's
8 about concepts. Some people may not understand
9 that.

10 But I stood on this Council many times by
11 myself on the issues that I believe in. Again,
12 people had an opportunity, the representative from
13 the 7th District had an opportunity to really
14 advocate for a district during the term that we used
15 to create the redistricting plan; he did not use
16 that. He did not create a plan, he did not go
17 forward and say, We need a 45, and I will not accept
18 anything less than that. He didn't say that. He
19 voted for the plan. He voted for the plan. I
20 didn't vote for the plan.

21 However, when the override comes, I look
22 at this body, and this is (indiscernible), which
23 I've grown to respect, which I've grown to
24 understand over the last 17 years. We're a
25 legislative body, that's all that we are. I do not

1 SPEECHES

2 believe that this represented what I thought it
3 represented and I voted accordingly.

4 Let's see what happens in the following
5 weeks when we create a new map. Let's see what
6 happens and who supports what, because I would like
7 to see that. I would like to see a commitment of at
8 least a 45 percent district in the 7th Councilmatic,
9 because that's where it grew and that's where it
10 should be.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you

12 The chair recognizes Councilman Mariano.

13 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: This could probably
14 go on and on all afternoon but, you know, sometimes
15 enough's enough with the rhetoric.

16 When both Latino groups came to me -- and
17 I'm sure all of the other Councilpeople in this
18 room, I said to them, I know what I said. I said,
19 what do you need? what do you want? how big of a
20 district? They said, Councilman, we're looking 43,
21 44 percent. We have 38 percent citywide. I said,
22 You may be selling yourself a little short; it may
23 be higher than 38 percent. They said, We'd be very
24 happy with a 40 percent. One of the young men in
25 that group, I said, Let me understand what you're

1 SPEECHES

2 saying, and there was other people from my staff and
3 some other people present. I think Ed Nielson (ph.)
4 was in the room from the Electricians Union. And we
5 said to that group -- I said, now 40 percent, right?
6 And I said 40 percent in my mind is 39.6 percent,
7 39.7, 39.8, 39.9, that's 40 percent. Okay, that's
8 40 percent. Are you clear with that? And they said
9 yeah, both groups. If 45 percent was what someone
10 wanted, they should have said it.

11 Now, I don't want to -- you know, I saw
12 what went on here today and I'm personally offended
13 by it. And I'm sure everyone in my district that
14 looks around and tries to use the at-large people
15 for what good they're good and they're good, and
16 that's one of the reasons. The Councilman is the
17 one that hangs by -- that hides behind that banner
18 all the time, not me. I'm the one with the district
19 that's 40 percent, maybe 45 percent, and I'm okay
20 with that, I'm fine with it.

21 But I think everyone -- if we're going to
22 give speeches, let's tell the truth, you know, let's
23 not say one thing to the press and in private say
24 something different.

25 Thank you, Madam President. And I'm

1 SPEECHES

2 willing to go on all day if he wants to go on. I
3 have my yogurt and I'm happy

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

5 The chair recognizes Councilman Goode.

6 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you, Madam

7 President.

8 Needless to say, this is a difficult day
9 in City Council; it's a day which didn't have to
10 happen, and actually, I wish it happened next week.
11 I believe that had it happened next week, the
12 outcome might have been different.

13 It was my every intention to vote to
14 override the veto. I can say that as much as people
15 want to frame this as a duel between the Mayor and
16 yourself, I'm not choosing between you and the
17 Mayor. As much as people want to make this a duel
18 between the Mayor and Senator Fumo, that's not
19 even -- the senator does not represent me.

20 In the end, what happened today, which
21 shouldn't have had to happen, was a split in Council
22 leadership. I think that's what we need to consider
23 and we need to mend whatever has been broken today.

24 Thank you.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

1 SPEECHES

2 The chair recognizes Councilman Cohen.

3 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Thank you, Madam
4 President.

5 As a follow-up to what Councilman Goode
6 just said, I think the Council made a terrible error
7 on Bill 629, for which it will suffer and the
8 citizens of Philadelphia will suffer, because there
9 will be no peace in this Council until 629, if it
10 gets signed, by the Mayor is repealed. That's
11 number one.

12 Number two, today, in one sense, was a
13 very great day for City Council. I regret the fact
14 that the Mayor's veto were not overridden, but at
15 least we got started on acting like a legislative
16 body. I think it's dead wrong that the Mayor should
17 try to control Council as well as the mayoralty. He
18 did that when he was president of City Council. He
19 operated very closely, never shared information with
20 the other members of Council. For him to attempt at
21 this stage of the day to control City Council, I
22 think, represents a very bad judgment call by the
23 Mayor, and I hope he understands that.

24 But today, this City Council, I believe,
25 began to reassert itself and began to reassert its

1 SPEECHES

2 responsibility to the citizens of Philadelphia to
3 act as an independent legislative body.

4 And I believe, Madam President, that
5 before we're done, the redistricting bills and the
6 bill with respect to the public schools will show
7 that Council is an independent body. This is a
8 mayor who plans on throwing away the public school
9 system in Philadelphia. This is a man who, without
10 any consultation with any member of City Council,
11 urged the governor to take over the public school
12 system in Philadelphia. I've never heard of such a
13 single disgraceful act for a chief executive of the
14 city to do as the Mayor has done.

15 Today City Council has really begun to act
16 independently. We had a majority in City Council
17 today who believe that City Council ought to make
18 the decisions, because in both cases, the majority
19 voted to override. It did not -- the majority did
20 not vote to sustain the veto. The Mayor won a
21 technical victory because of the fact that to
22 sustain a veto, you need only approximately
23 one-third of the City Council.

24 I congratulate the City Council on its
25 actions with respect to the two bills that were put

1 SPEECHES

2 before it on the question of overriding the Mayor's
3 veto. I think we're going to work that out
4 ultimately in a way that respects City Council.

5 I do regret again, as I say. The action
6 taken on 629, but the will of the people on 629 will
7 assert itself, and it will assert itself at whatever
8 cost it takes, at whatever price has to be paid, and
9 under any form; as will the people's will to
10 maintain a public school system in Philadelphia and
11 not permit its privatization.

12 Thank you, Madam President.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: You're welcome.

14 The chair recognizes Councilwoman
15 Blackwell.

16 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you, Madam
17 President

18 Let me say that in response to one of my
19 colleagues who talked about a break in leadership,
20 there is no break in leadership.

21 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Oh, there was today.

22 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Excuse me,
23 Councilman. If you would like to speak, I'll yield
24 to you.

25 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Okay, I'm sorry.

1 SPEECHES

2 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: That's all right.

3 Thank you.

4 There is no break in leadership. I
5 believe in my president, I believe in Council, I
6 believe in the value and the leadership abilities of
7 everybody here and in their sincerity in not only
8 leading their districts but in trying to do the best
9 for all of the citizens in our city.

10 Certainly, I believe even now that the
11 best will come out of all of this. And I believe
12 that leadership dictates that we have to find a way
13 to make everybody feel that they're included.

14 I heard my colleague talk about there's
15 been some debate about Latino districts, about all
16 of that, all of that. We a city made up of all
17 ethnic groups, and certainly that is as it should
18 be. And I believe that out of this, good will come
19 so that all people will feel that they are included.

20 Let me say that from the inception of our
21 president's term, when the Mayor was president of
22 Council, our city with a in economic straits, and we
23 worked very hard to support him and the former mayor
24 because we had to to bring our city to a certainly
25 economic stability. When President Verna came on

1 SPEECHES

2 board, we were ready to be our own body, and we are.
3 I believe in this body. I believe in the value and
4 the abilities of everybody here.

5 And, again, I will reiterate that I
6 believe the best will come out of this because it
7 gives everybody a chance to work it out. I don't
8 believe that we can't work out issues that only
9 involve a few thousand people in a city this size.
10 You mean we can't work it out, we can't be positive,
11 we can't show that we can feel, make everybody feel
12 that they're included so that John and Jane Q.
13 Public realize we care about them, that we are
14 not -- that the debate is not about who wants or who
15 doesn't want certain communities, but that the
16 debate is about everybody feeling they have a place
17 in redistricting, that we are proud to represent
18 them, and that we can do it in a way so that we're
19 all satisfied?

20 I don't think it's worth a debate, I don't
21 think we should walk out of here with ill feelings
22 about one another over -- because of a few thousand
23 people. We love our citizens in this city, we
24 certainly respect that -- at least we respect one
25 another. I respect each and every one of you, I

1 SPEECHES

2 support each and every one of you, and I'm looking
3 forward to us working this out to the betterment of
4 all.

5 Thank you, Madam President.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

7 The chair recognizes Councilman Kenney.

8 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you, Madam
9 President.

10 I just finished reading a book called "All
11 Politics Is Local," written by Tip O'Neill. It's a
12 very short book and it has in there a number of
13 statements and stories and little anecdotes about
14 his career. And one of the top things that he says
15 that makes legislative bodies work and that makes
16 people have collegial attitudes toward each other,
17 open-mindedness towards each other.

18 The one mantra that he has is that your
19 word is your bond, your word is your bond, and
20 without that simple tenet --

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: You have nothing

22 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: -- legislative bodies
23 have nothing.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: That's right.

25 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: -- and will never be a

1 SPEECHES

2 force, will never be a part of the process that we
3 have in this government.

4 This -- the framers of our charter
5 understood that they were creating a strong mayoral
6 form of government, and that's what we have, and
7 that is a good thing. But we as a legislative body
8 have a role. And if we allow, after we've expressed
9 our vote, 15 to 2, 17 to 0, if we allow ourselves to
10 be manipulated, if we allow ourselves to have our
11 arms twisted, if we allow ourselves to be
12 intimidated, if we allow ourselves to be moved from
13 one side to the other willy-nilly every other day,
14 we will never have the credibility that's necessary
15 to do our job. Not to beat the mayor, not to be the
16 top dog on the ladder, but to fulfill our duties as
17 legislators, to be able to do our jobs in an
18 independent and careful and responsible way.

19 And unless we decide, 17 of us decide,
20 that we are going to work as a body, we are going to
21 allow our leadership to lead us, 'cause let me tell
22 you something, I voted for all three members of
23 leadership, all three members of leadership against
24 men. A male voting against men to break the glass
25 ceiling, to have this kind of leadership. And if I

1 SPEECHES

2 can't depend on people's word and people's bonds, if
3 we're being allowed to be whip-sawed in this chamber
4 on this issue, on stadiums, on whatever it is, we
5 might as well mail our votes in and allow a single
6 branch of government to run this city. And if
7 that's the case then fine, let us all say that's
8 what we're going to do.

9 But I'll tell you what, in the last month,
10 up until today, I felt proud to be a member of this
11 body, I felt proud that we were actually sitting
12 there across the table from each other, going to
13 people's offices, talking to them, even if they
14 didn't agree with you. I was trying to get Bill 505
15 passed; I had nine votes today, I had nine votes
16 today, but I held it because some of the votes
17 changed, and I understand the pressure that a lot of
18 people have been put under, and I think that
19 pressure is unfair, because this is a debate about
20 ideas and issues. And if you can't express yourself
21 and then not be put upon, pounced upon by various
22 interests and then have your vote change -- see, to
23 me, I think that's what our real problem is.

24 And until we decide as 17 members of this
25 body to stand up and do our jobs and to work

1 SPEECHES

2 together and to support our leadership, then we're
3 not really going to be a part of this process. And
4 every major issue that comes down this road, we're
5 going to have the same problem with.

6 And I'll tell you the truth, I was going
7 to give a speech today about how proud I was to be a
8 member of this body, how I felt for the first time
9 in ten years this January that we really did stick
10 together and do the right thing by everyone, with
11 the exception of Councilmember Cohen's position on
12 629, which I will give him his due, he has his
13 purpose, but when it -- he has his right to express
14 his view.

15 But I've sat across the desk of many
16 people in this body in the last month -- maybe for
17 the first time sometime, and that's my fault, I
18 should have reached out and branched out and tried
19 to do better to get along with my colleagues. But
20 in the last month or so, I have had the opportunity
21 to sit across a desk, look in people's eyes, and say
22 you know what, I can respect where you're coming
23 from, you can respect where I'm coming from, and we
24 will try to get ourselves where we want to be as a
25 legislative body, and then we allow ourselves to

1 SPEECHES

2 have our arms twisted up our back over -- not the
3 Latinos, this has got nothing to do with the Latino
4 district, absolutely nothing to do. This has got
5 something more to do with the control of development
6 and campaign dollars in Center City. This is what
7 it's about, this is what it's always been about, and
8 that's why Bill 505 is absolutely and totally
9 necessary.

10 If we had passed Bill 505 some time ago,
11 we wouldn't be arguing about the 8th Ward, we
12 wouldn't be arguing about the 5th Ward. We wouldn't
13 be having people in the Administration trying to
14 manipulate the one role that is solely our role. The
15 districts created so we represent them, it's our
16 business. Other issues that come before this City
17 Council, there are economic-development issues,
18 there are other important issues, and we have to
19 work with the Mayor to do these kinds of things.

20 But this is our business, and if we allow
21 our business to be disrupted, to be manipulated,
22 then we get what we deserve. And when issues come
23 down the pike that we're concerned about that you
24 need our support for, we should stick together, but
25 we're not sticking together, and until we learn to

1 SPEECHES

2 stick together -- 15 to 2 means 15 to 2. It doesn't
3 mean, Well, maybe it's 15 to 2 and I'll change and
4 I'll get a couple phone calls and maybe I'll change,
5 and if somebody grabs me in the hallway, then maybe
6 I'll flip it. It's 15 to 2, 17 to 0. If you can't
7 stand by your vote, you should have voted no in the
8 first place.

9 So I am -- I feel badly today, not because
10 we lost. We didn't lose. It's an issue -- we'll
11 resolve it. Councilmember Blackwell's right, we'll
12 figure out a way to fix this. But what we lost
13 today was our independence, and unless we get that
14 independence back, there's no reason for this body
15 to exist.

16 Thank you, Madam President.

17 (Applause.)

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The chair
19 recognizes Councilman Cohen.

20 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Thank you, Madam
21 President.

22 While I agree with much of what Councilman
23 Kenney says, I have to disagree with some things
24 that Council does. Let's take Bill 629 --

25 (Laughter.)

1 SPEECHES

2 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: What would you like
3 to do?

4 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Well, I'll tell you
5 where I'd like to take it because I think Council
6 acted wrongly two ways on the substance, we've
7 discussed. But before there was even a hearing on
8 this bill, I was informed that an overwhelming
9 number of Councilmembers were committed to support
10 Councilman DiCicco for one reason or for another.
11 They hadn't heard a single argument about 629, but
12 they were for Councilman DiCicco.

13 When you say your word is your bond, that
14 means -- that's a good thing, but it also carries
15 with it a responsibility, that when you begin to
16 understand an issue, you open your mind up and you
17 say if you believe you were wrong, I believe I was
18 wrong, and a number of members did that today and
19 voted to defeat Bill 629.

20 But if this Council is to maintain
21 integrity. Let's not just accuse the Mayor of
22 making little political deals. A political deal was
23 made for 629 to permit developers to run rampant
24 throughout the City. Now, that's what hurts,
25 because our responsibility is to the people of

1 SPEECHES

2 Philadelphia. That responsibility was not met today
3 because of a failing of City Council.

4 This crazy notion that issues don't count
5 but that I give my word to somebody when I don't
6 even know the words. I take umbrage by District
7 Councilwoman Miller for voting against the
8 communities in her 8th Councilmatic District today.
9 I don't understand how she did that, to say to them
10 that you're going to be excluded from having your
11 right.

12 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: She's not here to
13 defend herself.

14 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Oh, I'm sorry, okay. I
15 thought she was here.

16 I'm opposed to all of these District
17 Councilmembers. Richardson Dilworth was right when
18 he said a majority of the membership of City Council
19 ought to consist of Councilmembers-at-large because
20 they have an overall view. Well, each district
21 tends to be very narrow, selfish about its own
22 particular interests. There's nothing wrong with a
23 District Councilman being selfish and wanting things
24 for his district, but a District Councilman has the
25 same responsibility as Councilmembers-at-large to

1 SPEECHES

2 think of the whole city. And this notion of just
3 getting a commitment to take away the rights of
4 Philadelphians is dead wrong.

5 And this is why I disagree with Councilman
6 Kenney. There's no way to be proud of a body that
7 takes its responsibility so loosely that it makes
8 commitments without concern for the issues. So when
9 we talk about changes, we've got to include our own
10 procedures in City Council.

11 Thank you very much, Madam President.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: You're welcome

13 The chair recognizes Councilman Clarke.

14 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you, Madam
15 President. I'll be real brief. I promise.

16 Madam Council President, I cannot sit here
17 and listen to references about the Mayor and the
18 Administration putting pressure, as if that is the
19 only body or the only entity that does that. During
20 the hearing on the redistricting bill leading up to
21 that particular hearing, I thought I had it, which
22 was nine votes. That morning, I no longer had nine
23 votes, and it was -- and people were pressured.
24 They were not pressured by the Mayor, all right?
25 They were pressured by outside sources. And I

1 SPEECHES

2 understand that. You know, people told me -- at
3 least they told me to my face that they had to do
4 what they had to do. So I think this goes on across
5 the spectrum; it's not just the Administration. I'm
6 not acknowledging that the administration did that
7 in this particular case.

8 So, you know, to sit here and to imply
9 that somehow that that particular arm-twisting was
10 only on behalf of the Mayor, I think, is
11 disingenuous.

12 Thank you, Madam President.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The chair
14 recognizes Councilwoman Tasco.

15 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Thank you, Madam
16 President.

17 I think there's been a struggle today.
18 There's been some victories and some
19 disappointments, but I think it's good that we can
20 do, that we live in a democracy where people can
21 have their view and have their say. Sometimes your
22 view will prevail and sometimes it won't prevail.

23 I do regret, though, that this issue of
24 the redistricting reduced itself to a power
25 struggle, and to say that it was anything else would

1 SPEECHES

2 be disingenuous. We all know what it was all about.

3 However, I question where do we go from
4 here, 'cause the discussion and the debate was not
5 about the Latino district; it was about three
6 divisions. And how do we resolve that. And I ask
7 each of my colleagues, when we go back to the
8 drawing table to address this issue, if I decide
9 that I don't like what I get, do I get a veto? Does
10 Councilwoman Blackwell decide when she doesn't get
11 what she wants that we get a veto? How often will
12 we veto this bill?

13 Because I believe that nine District
14 Councilmembers agreed upon the plan that was
15 presented, and none of us voiced any opposition to
16 the districts that we got. I did not particularly
17 like moving my district further northeast; I would
18 have preferred it to go in another way, but I sought
19 to compromise to accommodate the Latino district.

20 So as we deliberate in the next few
21 months -- because I don't believe the issue will be
22 resolved very quickly, because the issue was not
23 about the redistricting; the issue was about who the
24 power. And to say anything other than that would be
25 disingenuous.

1 SPEECHES

2 I do hope we come to a resolution on it.

3 I agree with Councilwoman Blackwell that we may not
4 always be together on everything. As leadership, we
5 should struggle and try to be together.

6 I do agree with Councilman Kenney: Your
7 word is your bond and that's why I ended up voting
8 for Bill 629 because early on, I supported
9 Councilman DiCicco because I understood the
10 problems. I am a District Councilperson who spends
11 a lot of time, I have a staff person who represents
12 my office before the Zoning Board. We struggle with
13 this and we talked about this based on the
14 experiences we've had with zoning in our district,
15 and we talked about examples that I've had in my
16 district where this bill would be very beneficial.
17 And if you had 67 counties, 66 counties in the State
18 with the -- that has the same legislation, I mean, I
19 was puzzled about Philadelphia and why we were left
20 out.

21 So, you know, while we -- some people
22 voted for it, some people voted against it. Some
23 people voted for another bill so -- it was just
24 really wonderful to see how people voted different
25 interests so you don't come down on one side or the

1 SPEECHES

2 other. I think we voted based on how we believed in
3 the issue. But I do hope that we -- and I believe
4 we will continue to exercise a democratic process
5 that is so important in this country and that we are
6 sending our people across the country to fight for.

7 Thank you very much.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

9 The chair recognizes Councilman Mariano.

10 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Thank you, Madam
11 President.

12 From all the good speeches we had today
13 and all of the different points of views, what a
14 better reason to go with the proposal that I talked
15 about last week, and there's still information
16 coming from my staff in the next couple of weeks to
17 create 15 District Council seats. This is the main
18 reason we should do this, so we never have to go
19 through this again.

20 Thank you, Madam President.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

22 The chair recognizes Councilman Kenney.

23 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you, Madam
24 President. Just quickly.

25 I know a number of people speaking today

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2 are trying to minimalize the issue by talking about
3 three little -- minimize the issue, thank you, about
4 three little divisions. Council technical staff
5 knows quite well that those three little divisions
6 could cause, and have caused, when you try to move
7 them, a domino-like affect, affecting not only the
8 district involved but the district to the east, the
9 to the west, the district to the north. I mean,
10 I've seen the Council tech staff go through months
11 and months of hard work and energy, trying to make
12 everyone as happy as possible. Obviously, everyone
13 wasn't as happy as possible.

14 But to cull it down to three little
15 divisions is understating the problem that we face,
16 because as we change these three little divisions
17 other divisions and other areas of the City and
18 other districts change with them. And those
19 District Council people may or may not be happy with
20 those changes.

21 So I know it may amount to three divisions
22 in what people appear it to be, but it could be 60,
23 70, 80 divisions by the time we start moving these
24 lines around again. So three little divisions is an
25 understatement,

1 SPEECHES

2 thank you.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Councilman

4 cohen, your light is on. Do you want to be

5 recognized regarding Bill 629?

6 (Laughter.)

7 COUNCILMAN COHEN: I see it's merely noon.

8 Councilman DiCicco referred to a Council meeting at

9 which he and I had differences of opinion at 2 in

10 the morning. As far as I'm concerned, this can last

11 until then, because I think it's very important to

12 get some things resolved.

13 I disagree strongly and vehemently with

14 Councilwoman Tasco's votes on 629, but I think she's

15 right about one thing: I think this is going to be

16 a very difficult thing, a very, very difficult thing

17 to resolve. And, therefore, I think we as members

18 of Council ought to be planning ahead financially to

19 see how we're going to live, because none of us are

20 going to get paid until this is resolved. And in my

21 opinion, this is going to be an enormously difficult

22 period of time for us financially.

23 Thank you, madam President.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The chair

25 recognizes Councilman Kenney

1 SPEECHES

2 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: In fairness to
3 economic condition over the next few weeks and
4 months and considering the role that the
5 Administration has played in this, perhaps the Mayor
6 would agree not to take his salary for the period of
7 time we're not taking ours.

8 Thank you.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

10 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: As far as the
11 economics, I sell real estate, so I'll be busy. In
12 case anybody would like to move into the 1st
13 Councilmatic district over the next few weeks, I'd
14 be glad to show you some nice properties in my
15 district.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

17 Any other speeches?

18 (No further speeches.)

19 - - -

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: At this time,
21 the Chair recognizes Councilwoman Tasco for a
22 motion.

23 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Madam President, I
24 move that Council stand adjourned until Thursday,
25 October 11th, at 10 a.m, year 2001.

1 ADJOURNMENT

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Do I hear a
3 second?

4 (Duly seconded.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: It has been
6 moved and seconded that Council stand adjourned
7 until Thursday, October 11th, at 10 o'clock a.m.

8 All in favor will say aye.

9 Those opposed?

10 The ayes have it and Council will stand
11 adjourned until October the 11th. Thank you.

12 (Proceedings end at 12:05
13 a.m.)

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Josephine Cardillo

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