

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
COMMITTEE ON PARKS, RECREATION
AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Tuesday, May 26, 2026
12:23 p.m.

PRESENT:

COUNCILMAN ANTHONY PHILLIPS, CHAIR
COUNCILWOMAN CINDY BASS, VICE-CHAIR
COUNCILMAN CURTIS JONES, JR.
COUNCILWOMAN RUE LANDAU
COUNCILMAN ISAIAH THOMAS

BILLS: 260424, 260430
RESOLUTION: 260346

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COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

Mr. Byrd, will you please call the
roll to take attendance. Members
that are in attendance will please
indicate that you are present when
your name is called.

THE CLERK: Chair

Phillips.

COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

Present.

THE CLERK: Vice-Chair

Bass.

COUNCILWOMAN BASS:

Present.

THE CLERK:

Councilmember Landau.

COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:

Present.

THE CLERK:

Councilmember Jones.

COUNCILMAN JONES:

Present.

THE CLERK:

1 Councilmember Young.

2 (No response.)

3 THE CLERK:

4 Councilmember Thomas.

5 COUNCILMAN THOMAS:

6 Present.

7 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

8 Thank you. A quorum of the
9 committee is present and the
10 hearing is now called to order.
11 This is the public hearing of the
12 Committee of Parks, Recreation and
13 Cultural Affairs regarding Bill
14 Nos. 260430, 260424 and Resolution
15 No. 260346, which was previously
16 recessed on May 11th.

17 Clerk, will you please
18 read the titles of the legislation.

19 THE CLERK: Bill No.
20 260430, authorizing the
21 Commissioner of Parks and
22 Recreation, on behalf of the City
23 of Philadelphia, to enter into a
24 multi-year lease agreement with the

1 Fairmount Park Conservancy, under
2 which the City would lease to the
3 Conservancy portions of the City-
4 owned premises known as Franklin
5 Delano Roosevelt Park for the
6 Conservancy's use, operation,
7 management, maintenance, and
8 repair, all under certain terms and
9 conditions.

10 Bill No. 260424,
11 establishing temporary parking
12 regulations, and enforcement
13 thereof, and temporary residential
14 and guest parking permits for the
15 vicinity of: the area bounded by
16 the intersection of North 21st
17 Street and North College Avenue,
18 North 21st Street, Master Street,
19 North 25th Street, Cecil B. Moore
20 Avenue, North 33rd Street, West
21 Oxford Street, West Glenwood
22 Avenue, North 32nd Street and
23 continuing along the railroad
24 boundary south from North 32nd

1 Street at West Thompson Street to
2 the intersection of Aspen Street,
3 Pennsylvania Avenue, Hamilton
4 Street, North 21st Street,
5 Fairmount Avenue, Corinthian
6 Avenue, Brown Street, North 21st
7 Street, Poplar Street, Corinthian
8 Avenue, South College Avenue,
9 Poplar Street, West College Avenue,
10 North College Avenue to the
11 intersection of North College
12 Avenue and North 21st Street, all
13 under certain terms and conditions.

14 Resolution No. 260346,
15 authorizing Council's Committee on
16 Parks, Recreation and Cultural
17 Affairs to hold public hearings for
18 applicants seeking nomination to
19 serve on the Commission on Parks
20 and Recreation and further
21 authorizing the Committee to
22 recommend for Council's
23 consideration nominations to be
24 forwarded to the Mayor.

1 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

2 Mr. Byrd, will you please call the
3 first panel we have to testify on
4 Bill No. 260430. Please approach
5 the witness stand once he calls the
6 panel.

7 Mr. Byrd, call the
8 panelists.

9 THE CLERK: Panel 1,
10 Susan Slawson, Commissioner of the
11 Department of Parks and Recreation.

12 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:
13 Thank you, Commissioner, for
14 approaching the witness table.
15 Please state your name for the
16 record and please proceed with your
17 testimony.

18 (Witness approached
19 witness table.)

20 COMMISSIONER SLAWSON:
21 Good afternoon, Chairman Phillips,
22 Vice-Chair Bass and members of the
23 Committee on Parks and Recreation,
24 Cultural Affairs. My name is Susan

1 Slawson and I'm Commissioner of
2 Philadelphia Parks and Recreation.
3 I'm here today with Robert Allen,
4 Director of Property and
5 Concessions Management for Parks
6 and Recreation. And I'm here to
7 testify in support of City Council
8 Bill No. 260430, an ordinance
9 authorizing a 26-year lease
10 agreement with the Fairmount Park
11 Conservancy for the management,
12 operation and maintenance of the
13 FDR Park Welcome Center, Anna C.
14 Verna Playground and Gateway Plaza.

15 The Fairmount Park
16 Conservancy is a nonprofit
17 corporation organized and operating
18 for the sole purpose of advancing
19 and supporting the City's park
20 system. The Conservancy has a
21 strong connection to FDR Park,
22 having served as project lead for
23 the creation of a master plan to
24 transform FDR Park into a

1 centerpiece of recreation,
2 ecological art and design.

3 In 2022, the Conservancy
4 served as the project manager for
5 the construction, renovation and
6 restoration of the three spaces
7 within FDR Park that comprise the
8 leased premises. The Welcome
9 Center is the anchor of FDR Park,
10 and it sits between the Gateway and
11 the Anna C. Verna Playground. The
12 Welcome Center serves as a hub for
13 all park-related activities and
14 includes a new visitor center,
15 offices for park staff, facilities
16 for three food and beverage
17 operators and community spaces for
18 public and private events.

19 The playground is a very
20 popular two-acre, all-ages
21 inclusive playground that features
22 a 26 swing structure and custom-
23 designed birdhouse structures with
24 slides and climbing areas. The

1 Gateway Plaza is designed to be the
2 front door of FDR Park, facing the
3 Stadium District and several public
4 transit stops.

5 It serves as a meeting
6 point and entryway for park
7 visitors. Parks and Recreation
8 determined that to ensure the
9 premises is preserved for future
10 generations and maintain at the
11 very highest level, it would be
12 desirable to transfer management of
13 the three spaces to an organization
14 that can fundraise for their
15 ongoing maintenance and return the
16 spaces to active use by the public.

17 Parks and Recreation
18 believes that the Conservancy is
19 uniquely prepared and equipped to
20 manage, operate and maintain these
21 spaces due to its close connection
22 with FDR Park and ongoing FDR Park
23 project management. Parks and
24 Recreation is in discussions with

1 the Fairmount Park Conservancy to
2 finalize a proposed lease agreement
3 with the Conservancy with a term of
4 up to 26 years.

5 The requested term is
6 commiserate with the Conservancy's
7 \$5.3 million contribution to the
8 Welcome Center's total project. It
9 will enable the Conservancy to
10 enter into a long-term agreement
11 with a concessionaire or
12 concessionaires in support of the
13 level of capital investment, and
14 concessionaires will be required to
15 make to fit-out the concession
16 spaces.

17 The term also enables
18 Parks and Recreation and the
19 Conservancy to plan for the level
20 of capital investment required for
21 future capital replacements and
22 repairs. Additional key provisions
23 of the agreement include: The
24 Conservancy will maintain, program

1 and operate the premises for the
2 benefit of the public. The
3 Conservancy, with Parks and
4 Recreation participation, will
5 solicit a concessionaire or
6 concessionaires through an RFP
7 process to operate catered events
8 and food and beverage concessions
9 at the Welcome Center.

10 All concession fee
11 income will be used to fund the
12 operations and maintenance of the
13 Welcome Center, the Playground and
14 the Gateway, and an agreed-upon
15 administrative fee to the
16 Conservancy. The Welcome Center
17 will be operated as a public
18 facility, providing visitor
19 information space for park visitors
20 to rest and buy food and beverages,
21 and free meeting space for
22 community organizations on a first
23 come, first serve basis.

24 The Conservancy will

1 develop a capital replacement
2 schedule for replacement of all
3 major capital items on the premise
4 over the full duration of the lease
5 on or before the third anniversary
6 of the lease. The Conservancy will
7 establish a capital reserve account
8 to which funds will be deposited
9 annually in accordance with the
10 requirements of the capital
11 replacement schedule.

12 The lease does not
13 obligate the City to appropriate or
14 spend money at any time during the
15 term of the lease. The Fairmount
16 Park Conservancy has been a valued
17 partner of Parks and Recreation for
18 28 years. We are confident in its
19 ability to provide the highest
20 level of service to the public at
21 the FDR Park Welcome Center
22 Complex.

23 We support this
24 legislation and respectfully ask

1 that City Council approve Bill No.
2 260430. I'm also requesting a
3 suspension of the rules so as to
4 allow for first reading at the next
5 session of City Council.

6 Finally, I would like to
7 thank the bill's sponsor, Council
8 President Kenyatta Johnson, for his
9 ongoing support of FDR Park. And
10 I'm glad to answer any questions
11 you may have.

12 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:
13 Thank you, Commissioner.

14 Can you please state
15 your name for the record? Do you
16 have any testimony or you're good?

17 MR. ALLEN: No, no
18 direct testimony. Thank you.

19 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:
20 Thank you so much.

21 MR. ALLEN: I'm Bob
22 Allen, Director of Property and
23 Concessions.

24 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

1 Thank you, Bob.

2 Are there any questions
3 from members of the committee?

4 The Chair recognizes
5 Vice-Chair Bass.

6 COUNCILWOMAN BASS:

7 Thank you very much. Thank you for
8 your testimony. It sounds like an
9 exciting project. And I was just
10 wondering if you could talk a
11 little bit about minority
12 participation, as to how it will
13 relate in the construction and then
14 the operation of the site?

15 COMMISSIONER SLAWSON:

16 Thank you for that question. We
17 have had extensive conversations
18 with staff, with the Conservancy to
19 ensure that the community can --
20 we're taking actually a page from
21 your insistence on the
22 Horticultural Center, ensuring that
23 we have opportunities for just
24 regular people that don't make

1 millions of dollars to come in and
2 use the facility.

3 We've built in specific
4 days that are not those key days,
5 but there will be days set aside,
6 10 to 12 days every year, where you
7 can come in and you don't have to
8 use the concessionaire that's
9 actually housed inside the
10 facility. That's one of the things
11 that happened as a result of you
12 ensuring that if you're going to
13 use the Hort Center, everybody
14 needs to be able to use it. So we
15 are putting those in place before
16 we even sign a contract to make
17 sure that every day -- this is for
18 community. It is not just for
19 those that are financially capable
20 of coming in and paying \$100 for a
21 plate so we have definitely built
22 that into the lease and we are
23 still having conversations to
24 ensure that we can open our doors

1 to anyone.

2 COUNCILWOMAN BASS:

3 Well, thank you so much. And that
4 means a lot. We had the
5 conversation and we had it with the
6 previous administration about the
7 need for these facilities to really
8 be able to be open and accessible
9 for everyone. And some of the
10 concessionaires that are really
11 good vendors, but also they come at
12 a price point that a lot of
13 Philadelphians really just can't
14 connect to these facilities. So
15 I'm glad to hear that, that there
16 will be opportunities for folks to
17 bring in their own, you know,
18 something that they can afford.

19 COMMISSIONER SLAWSON:

20 Yes, they can bring in their --
21 they're going to be time-set. They
22 can bring in their own caterers.
23 Our goal is to ensure that it's
24 inclusive. And that has to be done

1 on the front end, not the back end,
2 and that's what we're doing.

3 COUNCILWOMAN BASS:

4 Thank you.

5 COMMISSIONER SLAWSON:

6 Thank you.

7 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

8 Thank you. Are there any questions
9 from members of the committee?

10 The Chair recognizes
11 Councilmember Curtis Jones.

12 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank
13 you, Mr. Chairman, for this
14 hearing.

15 Thank you, Commissioner
16 Slawson and your team, for being
17 all about Parks & Rec. For the
18 piece with the FDR, I want to
19 recognize the fact that we have a
20 strip of park that we are looking
21 forward to involvement in, and that
22 is on Parkside Avenue from the
23 fountain that they are restoring.

24 And there's a project to

1 restore these Gothic historic
2 fountains in my district to kind of
3 increasing the available play space
4 throughout the -- can you talk a
5 little bit about that?

6 COMMISSIONER SLAWSON:

7 And so, there is -- and that's one
8 of those partnerships with the
9 Fairmount Park Conservancy that
10 they've been able to raise over
11 \$5 million to ensure that that
12 fountain is restored. In the
13 Centennial District, which is an
14 iconic area, it's right in front of
15 Memorial Hall and it's been out for
16 some time.

17 And so, the Conservancy
18 has worked with the William Penn
19 Foundation. They've raised
20 separate monies to ensure that we
21 will have this fountain up and
22 running, not just up and running,
23 but restored 100%.

24 COUNCILMAN JONES: The

1 second thing that I would like you
2 to speak to, which is one of Member
3 Bass' issues, is the concessions.
4 There's a concession at Belmont
5 Plateau that used to be vibrant.
6 It has been closed I don't know how
7 long. But are there any plans to
8 bring it back?

9 Imagine that concession
10 selling hot dogs and hamburgers at
11 the Roots Picnic? They may have
12 made enough money for the whole
13 year. So is there any plans for
14 that particular -- because I know
15 it's in bad shape.

16 COMMISSIONER SLAWSON:
17 Councilmember Jones, that is a
18 really good question. Right now
19 there are no plans, but I think
20 that's something as I sit here and
21 talk about the partnership -- they
22 are a fundraising tool for Parks
23 and Recreation. That is a
24 conversation that we can begin to

1 have with the Conservancy and begin
2 to look at funding and ideas of how
3 we can bring that back to life.

4 COUNCILMAN JONES: So
5 you might want to consider a rate
6 that says only at Plateau events
7 should this place be open or you
8 could do it year-round. We have
9 track and field, cross country
10 competitions out there on Saturdays
11 and Sundays, so there is an
12 opportunity for them to make some
13 change. So if you would look at
14 that and please tell us what it
15 would cost to bring it up to speed,
16 to make it safe and to open it back
17 up, and there might be some
18 consideration of capital budget
19 that might be lended towards that
20 effort.

21 COMMISSIONER SLAWSON:
22 That would be wonderful. And maybe
23 we could talk about a design
24 initially and we could discuss what

1 that would cost, so we could come
2 up with some actual numbers or what
3 it would cost to restore and to
4 repair that concession area,
5 because it is a beautiful place.

6 I mean, you get to see
7 the entire city from at the Plateau
8 and there's good reason to have
9 that restored, so we can definitely
10 have that conversation with them as
11 well as with you to talk about it.

12 COUNCILMAN JONES:
13 Appreciate you. Thank you,
14 Mr. Chairman.

15 COMMISSIONER SLAWSON:
16 Thank you.

17 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:
18 Thank you, Councilmember Jones.

19 Any other questions for
20 the committee?

21 (No response.)

22 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:
23 Great questions from Councilmember
24 Curtis Jones and Councilmember

1 Cindy Bass. And thank you so much
2 for this incredible new amenity.
3 Hopefully all of our parks can get
4 something similar to this at some
5 point. Thanks, Commissioner.

6 COMMISSIONER SLAWSON:

7 Thank you. Thank you so much for
8 having us.

9 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

10 Thank you.

11 Mr. Byrd, will you
12 please call the next panel.

13 THE CLERK: Kevin Roche,
14 Chief of Staff, Fairmount Park
15 Conservancy.

16 (Witness approached
17 witness table.)

18 MR. ROCHE: Good
19 afternoon.

20 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

21 Good afternoon. Can you please
22 state your name for the record and
23 proceed with your testimony.

24 MR. ROCHE: My name is

1 Kevin Roche. First of all, thank
2 you to the Committee Chair,
3 Councilmember Phillips, Vice-Chair
4 Councilmember Bass and members of
5 the committee for the opportunity
6 to testify today. My name is Kevin
7 Roche. I'm Chief of Staff for
8 Fairmount Park Conservancy.

9 On behalf of the
10 Conservancy, I'm testifying in
11 support of the ordinance to
12 authorize a lease agreement for the
13 Fairmount Park -- sorry, excuse me,
14 the FDR Park Welcome Center and
15 vicinity. Fairmount Park
16 Conservancy is proud to be the City
17 of Philadelphia's partner in
18 implementing the FDR Park Plan.

19 Released in 2019, the
20 Park Plan is a long-term historic
21 investment to ensure that this
22 signature Philadelphia park is
23 accessible and welcoming to 21st
24 century park users and prepared for

1 the immediate and long-term
2 challenges of a changing climate.
3 In 2025, the Conservancy completed
4 the construction of the FDR Park
5 Welcome Center. This space has a
6 \$12 million adaptive reuse of the
7 former park guardhouse that was
8 built in 1919, and the horse
9 stables is made possible through a
10 public-private partnership between
11 the city and the Conservancy.

12 The project preserved
13 the building's historic character
14 while also re-envisioning it to set
15 a new standard for Philadelphia
16 park operations and visitor
17 experiences. The new Welcome
18 Center is LEED Gold-certified and
19 features public restrooms, an open-
20 air courtyard with food and
21 beverage concession spaces, a
22 public terrace overlooking the
23 Pattison Lagoon, a large meeting
24 and event space, offices for park

1 staff and program partners and
2 space for visitor information
3 center and a cafe.

4 The Welcome Center is
5 four distinct spaces. The public
6 terrace, courtyard, event space and
7 park offices are designed with
8 public access as the highest
9 priority. They're equipped to
10 function independently, and access
11 to public-facing amenities and
12 operational spaces will not be
13 affected by private meetings and
14 events.

15 The Welcome Center is
16 designed to meet community needs
17 and address park user concerns
18 identified during the 18-month park
19 planning period. In a robust
20 community engagement process, the
21 project team spoke to over 3000
22 community members and stakeholders
23 through surveys, paid park
24 ambassadors, stakeholder

1 interviews, community meetings and
2 community design workshops.

3 The community engagement
4 process and site assessments
5 highlighted the need for basic
6 amenities in the park that a
7 welcome center could provide, such
8 as restrooms, seating, water
9 fountains and food and drink
10 opportunities that would make
11 longer visits to the park possible.
12 Food and beverages were among the
13 top 10 most requested program
14 elements for the park's redesign.

15 In addition, the
16 planning process identified an
17 absence of centralized park
18 information, leaving room for
19 improvement to create a coherent
20 park-user experience that maximizes
21 the diverse amenities across 348
22 acres and a full calendar of
23 events, activities, and
24 programming.

1 The completed welcome
2 center is designed and equipped to
3 achieve all of these needs and is
4 well-positioned at the park's main
5 gateway to set the tone for the
6 entire park experience. Since the
7 unveiling of the FDR Park Plan in
8 2019, the Conservancy has continued
9 to engage with the park-user
10 community through hands-on
11 workshops, public meetings,
12 stakeholder interviews, surveys,
13 virtual open houses, in-person
14 tours, public programs and
15 volunteer days.

16 The Conservancy is
17 committed to ensuring that the
18 completed capital projects in FDR
19 Park, the Gateway Plaza, the Anna
20 C. Verna Playground and the Welcome
21 Center are maintained and operated
22 to the maximum public benefit. The
23 Conservancy now seeks a long-term
24 lease for the Welcome Center to

1 fulfill the design functions for
2 the facility.

3 Our vision for the
4 Welcome Center is that it is a
5 staffed, well-maintained,
6 accessible and welcoming to all
7 park users. We want to ensure that
8 the Welcome Center provides
9 information, amenities and free and
10 low-cost events to enhance park-
11 user experiences. This will
12 include selling food and beverage
13 options at an inclusive range of
14 price points and offering an event
15 and meeting space.

16 As Philadelphia Parks
17 and Recreation's nonprofit partner,
18 the Conservancy has designed the
19 proposed retail amenities and event
20 space rental program to serve the
21 public and generate revenue that
22 will cover the cost of operating
23 the entire welcome center at a high
24 level of guest experience and

1 provide funding for enhanced park
2 maintenance and operations to
3 benefit all park users.

4 Concessions offered by
5 Philadelphia businesses will have
6 the added benefit of generating
7 positive economic impact through
8 local contracts and job
9 opportunities. We're grateful to
10 be in conversation with
11 Philadelphia Parks and Rec about
12 the future of the park's gateway,
13 including the Plaza, Playground,
14 and Welcome Center.

15 We believe a public-
16 private partnership at the Welcome
17 Center, guided by the community-
18 informed Park Plan, represents an
19 exciting opportunity to fulfill
20 requests from park users and
21 stakeholders and provide excellent
22 park conditions and experiences.

23 Thank you to the committee for your
24 leadership and commitment to our

1 city's public spaces and for your
2 consideration of this bill.

3 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

4 Thank you so much for your
5 testimony, Kevin.

6 Are there any questions
7 from members of the committee?

8 The Chair recognizes
9 Councilmember Rue Landau.

10 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:

11 Thank you so much for coming to
12 testify for us today. I think this
13 welcome center is going to be a
14 very great addition to FDR Park.
15 One of the things I love the most
16 about FDR is how diverse the people
17 are who use it.

18 Will the Welcome Center
19 have signs and information
20 translated into many languages?
21 And are you keeping this in mind
22 when you are looking at who would
23 be available for food concessions
24 and types of foods and stuff?

1 MR. ROCHE: Yeah, great
2 question. Certainly, we want to
3 design all elements of the user
4 experience to reach a multitude of
5 users. We're very aware of the
6 range of user groups that operate
7 in the park and depend on
8 information. So while we're still
9 in the process of negotiating the
10 lease with Philadelphia Parks &
11 Rec, we certainly intend to have
12 information communicated in a
13 number of languages to communicate
14 to the park user groups. So
15 information that will be available
16 to the Welcome Center, upcoming
17 events, things of that nature, our
18 park programming would certainly
19 want to include all those user
20 groups.

21 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:
22 Thank you.

23 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:
24 Thank you so much.

1 The Chair recognizes
2 Councilmember Curtis Jones.

3 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank
4 you so much, Mr. Chairman.

5 Thank you for what you
6 do and thank you for being the
7 deep-pocketed philanthropic end of
8 the Commissioner's ability to
9 support our parks. We truly
10 appreciate what you're going to do
11 in different sections other than
12 FDR Park. I know our President
13 represents that. But I just want
14 you to know as a District
15 Councilperson, we appreciate what
16 you do in the 4th District in
17 conjunction with some of our
18 institutions.

19 Those fountains out
20 there are going to be iconic, are
21 iconic but when they're fully
22 operational, iconic. That and the
23 Welsh Fountain is another fountain
24 that we want to begin restoring

1 them. Imagine not having to have
2 52 weeks' worth of shutting down
3 the Parkway and being able to pull
4 some of that up into the western
5 end of the park, which is Concourse
6 East and West. So your planning,
7 your philanthropic fundraising is
8 the reason we're looking
9 optimistically at that. So thank
10 you.

11 MR. ROCHE: Well, thank
12 you so much. As mentioned, we're
13 also very hard at work on the Welsh
14 Fountain project and very excited
15 at some recent funding from the
16 state and are super excited to get
17 started on that project to deliver
18 or revitalize Welsh Fountain for
19 the community there.

20 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank
21 you, Mr. Chairman.

22 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:
23 Thank you so much for your
24 testimony.

1 Again, any other
2 questions from members of the
3 committee?

4 (No response.)

5 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

6 Seeing none, thank you so much.

7 Mr. Byrd, will you call
8 the next panel.

9 THE CLERK: There are no
10 more panels to call.

11 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

12 Okay. Thank you. That concludes
13 testimony on Bill No. 260430.

14 We will now move to Bill
15 No. 260424. Mr. Byrd, will you
16 please call the first panel to
17 testify on Bill No 260424.

18 THE CLERK: Corrine
19 O'Connor, Deputy Executive
20 Director, Philadelphia Parking
21 Authority, PPA.

22 (Witness approached
23 witness table.)

24 MS. O'CONNOR: Good

1 afternoon. As already spoken, my
2 name is Corinne O'Connor. I'm
3 Deputy Executive Director of the
4 Philadelphia Parking Authority.
5 I'm here to testify on Bill No.
6 260424. In preparation of FIFA's
7 Fan Fest being hosted in Lemon Hill
8 from June 11, 2026 until July 19,
9 2026, this ordinance is presented
10 to Council to support surrounding
11 community in this area.

12 The City of Philadelphia
13 plans are not only (inaudible) all
14 World Cup games but also hosting
15 variety of events every day during
16 this time, a time frame for
17 Philadelphia residents and visitors
18 to enjoy. Bill No. 260424 is
19 designed to minimize the impact on
20 the parking needs of those living
21 within the design boundaries of
22 Council Bill 260424, in reference
23 to Residential Permit Parking
24 District No. 17 and District 6.

1 The virtual permits will
2 be supplied to vehicles registered
3 within these two zones, along with
4 two physical day passes and no cost
5 to the resident. Any vehicle not
6 assigned a virtual pass or a
7 physical visitor pass will be
8 enforced.

9 By making these
10 temporary amendments to the traffic
11 code, the Authority believes that
12 this will create a much smoother
13 commute for the residents living in
14 the Lemon Hill area during this
15 very important time in Philadelphia
16 history. We are therefore in
17 support of this legislation. I'm
18 happy to answer any questions from
19 the committee.

20 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:
21 Thank you so much for your
22 testimony.

23 Are there any questions
24 from members of the committee?

1 The Chair recognizes
2 Councilmember Curtis Jones.

3 COUNCILMAN JONES: So we
4 are so very excited -- you can hear
5 the sirens in the background --
6 about Lemon Hill, and the
7 experience that for 40 days, people
8 will be able to come out, and I
9 invite my colleagues to come out,
10 to have some lemonade on Lemon Hill
11 with your Councilman to watch any
12 of the games, these soccer matches
13 from around the world.

14 For 40 days, we are
15 going to be watching and rooting
16 for your -- and I'm really scared
17 about which team to root for
18 because they take it very
19 seriously. But the experience is
20 juxtaposed with the impact of the
21 community. Like in South
22 Philadelphia when they have a big
23 event at one of the stadiums, the
24 Phillies, the Eagles, the Flyers,

1 the Sixers, that neighborhood is
2 protected. Red cups won't appear
3 on their lawns, people won't be
4 parking in their spots and that
5 plan is one that they just whip out
6 and you have it prepared, correct?

7 MS. O'CONNOR: Yes.

8 COUNCILMAN JONES: How
9 is that compared to what we will
10 experience on Lemon Hill?

11 MS. O'CONNOR: So Lemon
12 Hill, being that it's a much larger
13 map, it's about 400 blocks. We're
14 going to have staff assigned to
15 those areas every day. So
16 depending on the event, some events
17 are larger, as we know. Some games
18 will be more popular than
19 others.

20 COUNCILMAN JONES: We're
21 expecting 15,000 per day.

22 MS. O'CONNOR: Correct.
23 And some days it could be 20,000.
24 Then some days where there aren't

1 any games and there's other
2 activities going on, they expect
3 maybe 5,000 to 10,000. So based on
4 what event is planned in Lemon
5 Hill, then we'll have the staffing.
6 We've instituted a no-vacation
7 policy on a couple days with staff
8 that are going to be needed to
9 support all these programs, such as
10 our park and enforcement officers
11 and our tow truck operators, and
12 they'll be assigned for that
13 specific district to make sure
14 they're out there patrolling and
15 that the residents -- we also
16 expanded it to include businesses,
17 who will get a certain amount of
18 passes. That way it doesn't affect
19 people that are in there and
20 they've been in there for years
21 selling coffee or a hair salon.
22 They still get to operate and have
23 their normal business.

24 COUNCILMAN JONES: So

1 imagine, Mr. Chairman, Ogontz
2 Avenue Festival for 40 days.
3 That's what we will be facing. So
4 I'm thankful that there is a plan.
5 I'm thankful to Commissioner
6 Slawson, who will be briefing
7 stakeholders in the community today
8 and coming up with any tweaks that
9 we might need to the plan. So
10 thank you for your testimony.

11 MS. O'CONNOR: You're
12 welcome.

13 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank
14 you, Mr. Chairman.

15 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:
16 Thank you so much, Councilman.
17 Yes, Ogontz Avenue having a
18 festival for 30 days would be a
19 lot. I don't think it will be
20 manageable at all so I understand
21 your concern.

22 All right. Thank you
23 for your testimony. Any questions
24 from members of the committee?

1 (No response.)

2 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

3 Thank you. Seeing none, Mr. Byrd,
4 will you please call the next
5 panel.

6 THE CLERK: There are no
7 more panels to call.

8 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

9 Okay. That concludes testimony of
10 Bill No. 240430 -- I'm sorry. That
11 was 424. That concludes testimony
12 on Bill No. 260424.

13 We will now move to
14 public comment. We ask that all
15 speakers keep their comments to 60
16 seconds or less. Mr. Byrd, will
17 you please read the names for
18 public comment. Is there anyone
19 for public comment?

20 THE CLERK: There are
21 none to call.

22 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

23 Thank you. That concludes the
24 public hearing on Bill Nos. 260430

1 and 24 -- is there anyone in the
2 rostrum for public comment?

3 (No response.)

4 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

5 Okay. That concludes the public
6 hearing on Bill Nos. 260430 and
7 260424 and Resolution No. 260346.

8 There being no further
9 questions from members of the
10 committee and no other public
11 witnesses to testify on Bill Nos.
12 260430, 260424 and Resolution
13 260346, I will ask if there's
14 anyone else present in the hearing
15 whose name we have failed to call
16 that wishes to offer testimony on
17 the bills and resolutions being
18 considered today?

19 (No response.)

20 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

21 Hearing none, I want to thank the
22 panels and witnesses for their
23 participation today and we value
24 your opinions. I now invite all

1 panels and witnesses to please
2 disconnect from the hearing
3 before -- that concludes the public
4 hearing on the committee.

5 We will now go into a
6 public meeting to consider the
7 action to be taken on bills and
8 resolutions before the committee
9 today. We will now convene the
10 public meeting.

11 Clerk, will you please
12 call the roll to take attendance.
13 Members that are in attendance will
14 please indicate that you are
15 present when your name is called.
16 Also, please say a few brief words
17 when responding so that your image
18 will be displayed on the -- wow,
19 this is the wrong one. My
20 apologies.

21 Clerk, will you please
22 call the roll to take attendance.
23 Members that are present, please
24 indicate that you are present when

1 your name is called.

2 THE CLERK: Chair

3 Phillips.

4 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

5 Present.

6 THE CLERK: Vice-Chair

7 Bass.

8 COUNCILWOMAN BASS:

9 Present.

10 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:

11 Councilmember Landau.

12 (No response.)

13 THE CLERK:

14 Councilmember Jones.

15 COUNCILMAN JONES:

16 Present.

17 THE CLERK:

18 Councilmember Young.

19 (No response.)

20 THE CLERK:

21 Councilmember Thomas.

22 COUNCILMAN THOMAS:

23 Present.

24 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

1 Thank you. We will now go into a
2 public meeting to consider the
3 action to be taken on bills and
4 resolutions on today's agenda.

5 The Chair recognizes
6 also the attendance of
7 Councilmember Rue Landau.

8 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:

9 Thank you.

10 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

11 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
12 Bass for a motion on Bill No.
13 260430.

14 THE CLERK: Vice-Chair
15 Bass.

16 COUNCILWOMAN BASS:

17 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

18 I move that Bill No.
19 260430 be reported from this
20 committee with a favorable
21 recommendation, and further move
22 that the rules of Council be
23 suspended to permit first reading
24 of this bill at the next session of

1 Council.

2 (Duly seconded.)

3 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

4 The Chair notes for the record that
5 Councilmember Curtis Jones seconds
6 the motion. It has been moved and
7 properly seconded that Bill No.
8 260430 be reported from this
9 committee with a favorable
10 recommendation, and further move
11 that the rules of Council be
12 suspended to permit first reading
13 of this bill at the next session of
14 Council.

15 All those in favor of
16 the motion will signify by saying
17 aye.

18 (Aye.)

19 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

20 Those opposed?

21 (No response.)

22 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

23 The ayes have it and the motion
24 carries.

1 The Chair now recognizes
2 Vice-Chair Bass for a motion on
3 Bill No. 260424.

4 COUNCILWOMAN BASS:

5 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

6 I offer an amendment to
7 Bill No. 260424. A copy of the
8 amendment has been circulated to
9 all members of the committee, and I
10 move that the amendment to Bill No.
11 260424 be approved.

12 (Duly seconded.)

13 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

14 Thank you. The Chair notes for the
15 record that Councilman Isaiah
16 Thomas and Councilman Jones seconds
17 the motion. It has been moved and
18 properly seconded that the
19 amendment to Bill No. 260424 be
20 approved.

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

24 (Aye.)

1 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

2 Those opposed?

3 (No response.)

4 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

5 The ayes have it. An amendment to

6 Bill No. 260424 has been approved.

7 The Chair recognizes

8 Councilmember Vice-Chair Bass for a

9 motion on Bill No. 260424 as

10 amended.

11 COUNCILWOMAN BASS:

12 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

13 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

14 Yeah, it's thank you, Mr. Chair. I

15 moved the bill as amended.

16 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: I'm

17 sorry. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

18 I move that Bill No.

19 260424 as amended be reported from

20 this committee with a favorable

21 recommendation and further move

22 that the rules of Council be

23 suspended to permit first reading

24 of this bill at the next session of

1 Council.

2 (Duly seconded.)

3 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

4 Thank you. The Chair notes for the
5 record that Councilmember
6 Vice-Chair Bass seconds --
7 Councilmember Jones seconds the
8 motion.

9 It has been moved and
10 properly seconded that Bill No.
11 260424 as amended be reported from
12 this committee with a favorable
13 recommendation, and further move
14 that the rules of Council be
15 suspended to permit first reading
16 of this bill at the next session of
17 Council.

18 All those in favor of
19 the motion will signify by saying
20 aye.

21 (Aye.)

22 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

23 Those opposed?

24 (No response.)

1 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

2 The ayes have it. The motion
3 carries. Thank you -- so the eyes
4 have it. The motion carries.
5 Thank you.

6 The Chair notes for the
7 record that -- sorry about that.
8 One second.

9 The Chair recognizes
10 Councilmember Thomas for a motion.

11 COUNCILMAN THOMAS:

12 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

13 I move that Bill No.
14 260424 as amended be reported from
15 this committee with a favorable
16 recommendation and further move
17 that the rules of Council be
18 suspended to permit the first
19 reading of this bill at the next
20 session of Council.

21 COUNCILWOMAN BASS:

22 Didn't we just do that?

23 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

24 You know what, thank you so much.

1 We did it already. Carry on.

2 Disregard, that was my error.

3 Don't worry about that.

4 We're going to move
5 forward. On May 11th, the
6 Committee met in executive session
7 for the purpose of discussing the
8 applications for the Commission on
9 Parks and Recreation. The
10 Committee is now ready to vote on
11 the nominations that we will submit
12 to the full Council for
13 consideration.

14 Before we proceed with
15 the remainder of today's hearing, I
16 would like to take a moment to
17 recognize the strength of the
18 applicant pool for the Commission.
19 This process brought forward a wide
20 range of individuals from across
21 the city who are deeply committed
22 to our parks, recreation centers
23 and public spaces.

24 The level of experience,

1 passion and community engagement
2 demonstrated by the applicants has
3 been truly impressive. The pool
4 reflects a diverse cross-section of
5 Philadelphia and we are confident
6 that the nominees selected today
7 represent the skills, perspectives,
8 and commitment necessary to help
9 guide the future parks and
10 recreation in our city. It has
11 been an honor for this Committee to
12 review these applications and hear
13 directly from many of the
14 candidates.

15 At this time, I
16 recognize Vice-Chair Bass to
17 announce the individuals selected
18 by this Committee to be recommended
19 for nomination to the Commission on
20 Parks and Recreation.

21 COUNCILWOMAN BASS:

22 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

23 The list of applicants
24 selected for nominations include

1 Anthony Meadows; Dustin Dove;
2 Elaine Smith Holton; Elizabeth
3 Class-Maldonado; Gregory Allen;
4 James Williams; Jim Marino; Joseph
5 Meiman; Josephs Dafils; Kadafi
6 El-Kardah; Khalil Salaam; Kiasha
7 Huling; Krystal Dillard; Leroy
8 Fisher; Melissa Young; Michael
9 Shipp; Nadiyya McGill; Nafissa
10 Bizo; Olivia Scanlon; Pamia
11 Coleman; Quentin Ellison; Rebecca
12 Cordes Chan; Saphangela Hill; Sarah
13 Stevenson; and Shannon Wink.

14 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:
15 Thank you, Vice-Chair Bass. I now
16 recognize you, Vice-Chair Bass, for
17 a motion on the nominations.

18 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: I
19 move that this Committee's
20 recommendation -- I move that this
21 Committee recommends the following
22 nominees to the full Council, and
23 we already read the names.

24 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

1 Yes.

2 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: So
3 that's a motion. Can we get a
4 second?

5 (Duly seconded.)

6 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: It
7 has been moved and properly
8 seconded that nominees be
9 recommended to the full Council --
10 to the full Commission. All those
11 present in favor of the motion will
12 signify by saying aye.

13 (Aye.)

14 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:
15 Those opposed?

16 (No response.)

17 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

18 The ayes have it. The motion
19 carries.

20 The next step in this
21 process is for these
22 recommendations to be introduced by
23 resolution before the full City
24 Council. Upon adoption by Council,

1 the nominations will then be
2 forwarded to the Mayor, who will
3 appoint members of the Commission
4 in accordance with the City
5 Charter.

6 We thank all applicants
7 who participated in this process
8 for their time, commitment and
9 willingness to serve Philadelphia.
10 Your interest and engagement is a
11 testament of the importance of this
12 work in the future of our public
13 spaces.

14 There being no further
15 business before the Committee
16 today, this concludes the business
17 of the Committee on Parks,
18 Recreation and Cultural Affairs.
19 Thank you all so much for your
20 attendance.

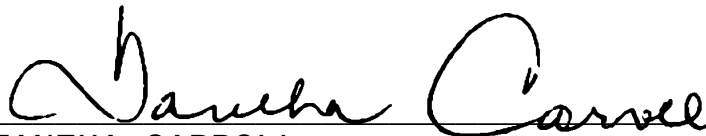
21 COUNCILMAN JONES: Good
22 job, Mr. Chairman.

23 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:
24 Thank you.

1 (Committee on Parks,
2 Recreation and Cultural Affairs
3 concluded at 1:10 p.m.)
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C E R T I F I C A T I O N

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



TANEHA CARROLL
Court Reporter - Notary Public

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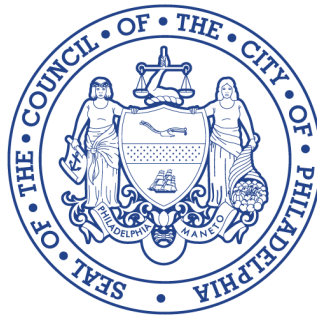
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City of Philadelphia

*City Council
Chief Clerk's Office
402 City Hall
Philadelphia, PA 19107*



Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, May 26, 2026

12:00 PM

Room 400, City Hall

Committee on Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs

The Committee on Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs of the Council of the City of Philadelphia will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, May 26, 2026, at 12:00 PM, in Room 400, City Hall, to hear testimony on the following items:

260346

Resolution Authorizing Council's Committee on Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs to hold public hearings for applicants seeking nomination to serve on the Commission on Parks and Recreation and further authorizing the Committee to recommend for Council's consideration nominations to be forwarded to the mayor.

Attachments: [Signature26034600](#)

260424

An Ordinance Establishing temporary parking regulations, and enforcement thereof, and temporary residential and guest parking permits for the vicinity of: the area bounded by the intersection of North 21st street and North College avenue, North 21st street, Master street, North 25th street, Cecil B. Moore avenue, North 33rd street, West Oxford street, West Glenwood avenue, North 32nd street and continuing along the railroad boundary south from North 32nd street at West Thompson street to the intersection of Aspen Street, Pennsylvania avenue, Hamilton street, North 21st street, Fairmount avenue, Corinthian avenue, Brown street, North 21st street, Poplar street, Corinthian avenue, South College avenue, Poplar street, West College avenue, North College avenue to the intersection of North College avenue and North 21st street, all under certain terms and conditions.

Attachments: [Bill No. 26042400](#)

260430

An Ordinance Authorizing the Commissioner of Parks and Recreation, on behalf of the City of Philadelphia, to enter into a multi-year lease agreement with the Fairmount Park Conservancy, under which the City would lease to the Conservancy portions of the City-owned premises known as Franklin Delano Roosevelt Park for the Conservancy's use, operation, management, maintenance, and repair, all under certain terms and conditions.

Attachments: [Bill No. 26043000](#)

Immediately following the public hearing, a meeting of the Committee on Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs, open to the public, will be held to consider the action to be taken on the above listed items. Copies of the foregoing items are available in the Office of the Chief Clerk of the Council, Room 402, City Hall.