

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
STATED MEETING

Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Thursday, April 20, 2023
10:32 a.m.

PRESENT:

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

MICHAEL A. DECKER, CHIEF CLERK

- - -

1 4/20/23 - STATED - INVOCATION

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good
3 morning. We're going to get started now.
4 We have established our quorum. Council
5 will now come to order. Thank you very
6 much.

7 To give our invocation this
8 morning, the Chair recognizes Pastor
9 Chandra Williams of United Missionary
10 Baptist Church. She is here today as the
11 guest of Councilman Thomas.

12 I would ask all members,
13 guests, and visitors to please rise.

14 (Councilmembers, guests, and
15 visitors rise.)

16 PASTOR WILLIAMS: Let us pray.
17 Oh, thou in whose presence my
18 soul takes the light, in whom in
19 infliction I call, my comfort by day and
20 my song in the night, my hope, my
21 salvation, my all.

22 To the only wise God, our
23 Father, today we come humbled before you
24 lifting up our city and those in
25 authority who govern it. God, we come to

1 4/20/23 - STATED - INVOCATION

2 you this morning recognizing that you are
3 sovereign, you see all, and you can do
4 what you want when you want and how you
5 want.

6 We come to you because you are
7 our mission and omnipotent. God, our
8 city is facing challenges and we are
9 going through unprecedented times. We
10 are facing crucial challenges within our
11 educational system, its buildings, staff,
12 and students.

13 We're facing challenges with
14 homelessness, affordable homeownership,
15 and tangled titles.

16 We are facing challenges with
17 parenting and our young people,
18 challenges with the development in our
19 city and the unification around it. It
20 is affecting every race and every
21 generation.

22 We are facing challenges with
23 the drugs and the open market of heroin,
24 opioids.

25 We're facing challenges with

1 4/20/23 - STATED - INVOCATION

2 mental health in our city, challenges
3 with all violence, whether it be gun
4 violence, domestic, car jackings, home
5 invasions, elder abuse, hate crimes, and
6 more. We are facing challenges.

7 We're facing challenges with
8 supporting our arts and culture,
9 challenges with our small businesses and
10 even challenges with transitioning our
11 local government officials.

12 But the good news this morning
13 is that we can come boldly to you and ask
14 for anything.

15 So today we ask now, God, that
16 you heal our city. We ask that you would
17 give this governing body, the body that
18 represents every corner, block,
19 community, and neighborhood of
20 Philadelphia, give them what they need in
21 order to do what they have been elected
22 to do.

23 Give them the courage, the
24 wisdom, the strategy, the strength, and
25 the right community and corporate

1 4/20/23 - STATED - INVOCATION

2 partners to make the right decisions.

3 We pray that you will touch
4 their individual bodies right now. Give
5 these people whatever they need mentally,
6 physically, spiritually, and financially.

7 Touch their individual
8 families, their spouses, their children,
9 and even those who are amongst us who may
10 be caregivers of their parents.

11 Touch those who are retiring,
12 and we place a special blessing upon
13 their transitions.

14 We need you, God, like we never
15 needed you before. So we ask that you
16 hear and answer our prayers.

17 In the name that is above every
18 name, we ask this prayer, and we say
19 amen.

20 (Amen.)

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

22 Pastor Williams, thank you so much. We
23 really appreciate your spiritual guidance
24 today.

25 Council will be at ease.

1 4/20/23 - STATED - APPROVAL OF JOURNAL

2 (Council at ease.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

4 Thank you very much.

5 And our next order of business
6 is the approval of the Journal of the
7 meeting of Thursday, April 13th, 2023.

8 The Chair recognizes
9 Councilwoman Bass.

10 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you,
11 Mr. President. I move that the Journal
12 of the meeting of Thursday, April 13th,
13 2023 be approved.

14 (Duly seconded.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

16 Thank you. It has been moved and
17 properly seconded that the Journal of the
18 meeting of Thursday, April 13, 2023 stand
19 approved.

20 All in favor indicate by saying
21 aye.

22 (Aye.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

24 Those opposed?

25 (No response.)

1 4/20/23 - STATED - LEAVES

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
3 ayes have it, and the Journal is
4 approved.

5 And our next order of business
6 is requests for leave of absence, and the
7 Chair recognizes Councilman Jones.

8 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
9 Mr. President. On behalf of the members
10 of Council, there are no requests for
11 leaves of absence today.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
13 Chair thanks the gentleman.

14 The Chair recognizes
15 Councilwoman Bass for a motion concerning
16 certain legislative matters that may
17 arise during the course of today's
18 session of Council that were not listed
19 on the Calendar circulated prior to
20 today's session.

21 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you,
22 Mr. President. I move that any of the
23 following matters, if considered today,
24 may be added to the agenda for this
25 session of Council and, as required by

1 4/20/23 - STATED - MOTION CONCERNING CALENDAR
2 law, subsequently published on an amended
3 agenda after the consideration of those
4 matters: resolutions authorizing
5 hearings, amendments to bills on first
6 reading, the reconsideration of a bill
7 vetoed by or re-called from the Mayor,
8 amendments to bills re-called from the
9 Mayor, resolutions taking substantive
10 action to be voted on in this session, a
11 motion to withdraw a bill or resolution
12 that is not on the Calendar, and a motion
13 placing a bill or resolution on or
14 returning a bill or resolution from the
15 Suspension Calendar that is not listed on
16 today's Calendar.

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

23 (Duly seconded.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

25 Thank you. It has been moved and

1 4/20/23 - STATED - COMMUNICATIONS
2 properly seconded that the legislative
3 matters stated by Councilwoman Bass may
4 be added to the agenda for today, should
5 those matters arise during the course of
6 this session of Council.

7 All in favor indicate by saying
8 aye.

9 (Aye.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

11 Those opposed?

12 (No response.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
14 ayes have it. The motion carries.

15 Our next order of business is
16 communications, and I would ask the Clerk
17 to please read the messages from the
18 Mayor and any other communications that
19 he may have in his possession.

20 CHIEF CLERK: I have no
21 communications today, Mr. President.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

23 Thank you very much, Mr. Decker.

24 And our next order of
25 business -- the Chair recognizes

1 4/20/23 - STATED - RECOGNITIONS

2 Councilman Thomas. Did you need to be
3 recognized?

4 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Briefly,
5 Council President, if that's okay with
6 you.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
8 Absolutely.

9 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Good
10 morning, Council President.

11 Good morning, colleagues. Just
12 in the spirit of honoring Philadelphians
13 and keeping some of that positive energy
14 in City Council, I wanted to take a
15 moment today just to recognize Diane
16 Scott, who is here today.

17 Diane, for those who don't
18 know, is somebody who has been a staple
19 in the community for 25 years. She's
20 somebody who operates athletic recreation
21 centers at 26th and Master. She has a
22 lot of fans and folks in the community
23 who appreciate her. And Diane almost a
24 year ago lost her grandson to an
25 unfortunate situation, and despite that

1 4/20/23 - STATED - RECOGNITIONS

2 loss, her and her family have continued
3 to be pillars in the community and
4 continue to do good work.

5 So, Diane, if you're here, can
6 you stand up so we can give you a round
7 of applause as well as the family and
8 friends who came down.

9 - - -

10 (Applause.)

11 - - -

12 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Colleagues,
13 I know we're all very busy, but anybody
14 who could stay after Council today just
15 to take a picture with Diane and thank
16 her for her service and what she
17 continues to do for the City of
18 Philadelphia despite some of the grieving
19 that her and her family has gone through,
20 it will definitely be appreciated.

21 Thank you, Council President.

22 Thank you, colleagues.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

24 Thank you. Thank you, Councilman.

25 Congratulations.

1 4/20/23 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 - - -

3 (Applause.)

4 - - -

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

6 Thank you.

7 And our next order of business
8 is the introduction of bills and
9 resolutions, and I would ask the Clerk to
10 please read the titles of the legislation
11 that's being offered by our members
12 today.

13 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Thomas
14 offers two resolutions, a privileged
15 resolution honoring and congratulating
16 the Champion of the Week, Diana Garcia,
17 the Principal of Willard Elementary in
18 Kensington, for being the recipient of
19 the 2023 Lindback Award for Distinguished
20 Principal Leadership.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

22 Today's Calendar.

23 CHIEF CLERK: And a privileged
24 resolution authorizing the Committee on
25 Streets and Services to hold hearings

1 4/20/23 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 examining the rise of paper tags to
3 thwart criminal and safety measures that
4 allow for the safe use of our city
5 streets by all residents.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
7 Today's Calendar.

8 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Jones
9 offers three bills and two resolutions,
10 entitled "An ordinance to approve a major
11 amendment to the St. Joseph's University
12 Master Plan related to a proposed
13 Residence Hall and Student Center and the
14 addition of six existing buildings to the
15 Master Plan."

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
17 Referred to committee.

18 CHIEF CLERK: And an ordinance
19 establishing a no semi-truck parking
20 regulation on both sides of North 75th
21 Street between Brookhaven and Brentwood
22 Road.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
24 Referred to committee.

25 CHIEF CLERK: And an ordinance

1 4/20/23 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 discontinuing --

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

4 Mr. Decker, hold on one second.

5 The Chair recognizes Councilman
6 Thomas.

7 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Yes,
8 Council President. I'm sorry. I just
9 wanted to speak a little bit about the
10 resolution I introduced today.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Did
12 you --

13 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Just
14 briefly.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
16 Yeah, sure.

17 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: So first of
18 all, thank you, Council President.

19 Thank you, colleagues and
20 everybody who co-sponsored the
21 resolution.

22 Earlier last week Memphis
23 passed driving equality legislation, and
24 we've been in dialogue with cities all
25 across the country around driving

1 4/20/23 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 equality and other traffic-related
3 measures. As the Chair of the Streets
4 and Services Committee, one of the things
5 that we did back in 2020 was examine some
6 of the issues that we were dealing with
7 as it relates to hit-and-runs, traffic,
8 and other issues that were creating
9 problems as it relates to how we commute
10 and travel across the City of
11 Philadelphia.

12 The purpose of this bill is to
13 do a deeper dive into an issue that's
14 happening in urban areas all across the
15 country. When we went to Camden, they
16 talked about similar issues. When I
17 talked to Councilmembers in Memphis, they
18 talked about similar issues with the fake
19 tags. When we talked to folks in New
20 York as well as in Delaware, similar
21 issues.

22 The purpose of this resolution
23 is to do a deep dive into all of the
24 different parts of government that can
25 have an impact on this catastrophe so we

1 4/20/23 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 can get it under control in Philadelphia
3 and then hopefully make recommendations
4 on what other municipalities across the
5 country could do to address an issue
6 that's perpetuating the crime in the City
7 of Philadelphia but an issue that has
8 nothing to do with the driving equality
9 legislation.

10 So the purpose of this
11 resolution is to make sure that we're
12 able to define what direction we're going
13 in with driving equality as well as
14 ensure that the public understands that
15 the fake tag crisis that we're dealing
16 with has no correlation to the
17 legislation.

18 Thank you, Council President,
19 and thank you, colleagues, for
20 co-sponsoring this resolution.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

22 Thank you.

23 Councilman Jones, did you --

24 COUNCILMAN JONES: I was
25 waiting on the resolutions. He hasn't

1 4/20/23 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 introduced them yet.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
4 Councilman Johnson, you also --

5 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Yeah. I
6 would like a point of personal privilege
7 just for acknowledgment, if that's okay,
8 Council President.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
10 Okay.

11 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: I just
12 want to take a moment to acknowledge an
13 individual who has served more than
14 33 years in this particular body but also
15 recently retired as the Director of
16 Government Affairs for the Philadelphia
17 International Airport but also served as
18 the Clerk and rose to the position of
19 Chief of Staff for former Council
20 President Anne Verna, and she has also
21 been a dedicated and loyal public servant
22 when it came to moving the City of
23 Philadelphia forward but also addressing
24 a variety of issues since I've been a
25 young man working in South Philadelphia

1 4/20/23 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 throughout the Second Councilmanic
3 District, and she hails from Southwest
4 Philadelphia, and I want to welcome her
5 back to this body and give her her
6 acknowledgment for her hard work and her
7 dedication. I just ask if everyone could
8 acknowledge Ms. Maryanne Mahoney.

9 Can you stand, Ms. Maryanne
10 Mahoney, who most of us know. Thank you.

11 - - -

12 (Applause.)

13 - - -

14 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you
15 for your hard work and your dedication,
16 Maryanne, and we appreciate you. You
17 have a lot of relationships that you have
18 built in this body but, most importantly,
19 it was your dedication and your passion
20 and your commitment to improve the
21 quality of life of those that we
22 represented in the Second Councilmanic
23 District as well as those you have
24 supported in the City of Philadelphia as
25 a whole, and you have always had a

1 4/20/23 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 laser-like focus on providing quality,
3 quality constituent services, which most
4 district members know at the end of the
5 day that's their bread and butter that
6 will make sure that you keep coming back
7 to this body if you want to serve, how
8 you serve your constituents.

9 So thank you very much,
10 Maryanne, and continue to keep up the
11 good work, and God bless you in your
12 retirement.

13 Thank you.

14 - - -

15 (Applause.)

16 - - -

17 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you,
18 Council President.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
20 Thank you, Councilman.

21 Mr. Decker.

22 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Jones
23 also offers an ordinance discontinuing a
24 no truck parking regulation on both sides
25 of North 75th Street between Brookhaven

1 4/20/23 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 Road and Brentwood Road.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
4 Referred to committee.

5 CHIEF CLERK: And two
6 resolutions. On behalf of Council
7 President Clarke, a resolution
8 authorizing and ratifying Council
9 President Clarke's participation, on
10 behalf of and as representative of City
11 Council, in all proceedings relating to
12 the decision of the Zoning Board of
13 Adjustment with respect to 1600 East
14 Berks Street.

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

17 CHIEF CLERK: And on his own
18 behalf, a privileged resolution honoring
19 Dr. Kahlila Johnson, Principal of
20 Overbrook High School, for receiving the
21 2023 Lindback Award for Distinguished
22 Principals.

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

25 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,

1 4/20/23 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 Mr. President.

3 Just briefly, Dr. Johnson is
4 for Overbrook the Joe Clark of Overbrook.
5 She loves deeply all of the students that
6 go there and really takes to heart their
7 problems. She is the reason I came up
8 with the two bookbag theory, that the
9 bookbag -- one is filled with books for
10 the lessons of the day and the second
11 bookbag is bringing to school some of the
12 troubles from home, and she every day
13 unpacks that. And for her to receive the
14 Lindback Award is truly appropriate.

15 She's putting that \$20,000 into
16 renovating Overbrook's library, which has
17 fallen in ill repair. Kathy Gilmore
18 Richardson used to teach there, so she
19 knows, and Isaiah Thomas toured Overbrook
20 with us during the pandemic and right
21 after.

22 So it is worthwhile, but for me
23 her fixing that library is important,
24 because I think I was the only person who
25 cut class and hid in the library, where I

1 4/20/23 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 learned how to play chess, where I
3 learned appreciation for books.

4 And so I'm truly, truly
5 thankful to her for making that a safe
6 space for future students that if they
7 want to leave, they don't have to go and
8 leave the building, but they can go and
9 be in a safe space.

10 So, Dr. Johnson, we appreciate
11 you, and keep up the good work.

12 Thank you, Mr. President.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

14 Thank you.

15 The Chair recognizes Councilman
16 Thomas.

17 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank you,
18 Council President, and thank you to
19 Councilmember Jones for your leadership.
20 I didn't know that both of us taught at
21 Overbrook High School for a short stint.
22 Overbrook is producing great people.

23 Councilmember Jones talked
24 about the Lindback Award for principals,
25 and our Champion of the Week, Dr. Diana

1 4/20/23 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 Garcia, just walked in.

3 Doc, can you raise your hand
4 and be recognized for us real quick.

5 - - -

6 (Applause.)

7 - - -

8 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Dr. Diana
9 Garcia is the Principal of Willard
10 Elementary School. She is our Champion
11 of the Week this week. I just wanted to
12 take a moment to acknowledge her, because
13 she clearly has to get back to the
14 business of our children, but she is our
15 Champion of the Week this week. She's a
16 product of the School District of
17 Philadelphia. She does a great job at
18 her school, Willard Elementary, and she
19 is the person who we wanted to honor for
20 the great work that she does serving the
21 City of Philadelphia but, most
22 importantly, mentoring our children.

23 Can we give Principal Garcia a
24 round of applause, please. Thank you for
25 being here today.

1 4/20/23 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 - - -

3 (Applause.)

4 - - -

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

6 Thank you, Councilman.

7 The Chair recognizes

8 Councilwoman Lozada.

9 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Yes. I'd
10 like to also thank Councilmember Isaiah
11 Thomas for recognizing Diana Garcia, who
12 is Principal Garcia to many, but to me
13 she's a sister. She's a friend. She's a
14 mentor. She is present at every single
15 point of every child's life, even after
16 they have left her building. She is
17 someone that people can come to and rely
18 on for good guidance and just an ear to
19 lean on when you're not having a good
20 day.

21 So I appreciate you. I love
22 you. Thank you for all you do, and this
23 is a recognition that is very, very, very
24 much deserved.

25 - - -

1 4/20/23 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 (Appause.)

3 - - -

4 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Thank
5 you, Council President.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
7 Thank you.

8 And that will be on today's
9 Calendar.

10 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman
11 Johnson offers an ordinance approving
12 three multiyear agreements with the
13 Federation Internationale de Football
14 Association and any amendments and
15 addenda thereto, as well as ancillary
16 agreements with other parties, concerning
17 the participation of the City in hosting
18 and staging the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
20 Referred to committee.

21 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman
22 Lozada offers a non-privileged resolution
23 authorizing the Philadelphia Land Bank to
24 dispose of 3418, 3420, and 3422
25 Kensington Avenue located in the 7th

1 4/20/23 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 Councilmanic District.

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

5 CHIEF CLERK: And a
6 non-privileged resolution authorizing the
7 Philadelphia Land Bank to dispose of 2032
8 East Boston Street located in the 7th
9 Councilmanic District.

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

12 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman
13 Gauthier offers one bill and two
14 resolutions, an ordinance authorizing the
15 installation, ownership, and maintenance
16 of various encroachments in the vicinity
17 of 3931 Walnut Street.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
19 Referred to committee.

20 CHIEF CLERK: And a
21 non-privileged resolution renaming the
22 700 Block of North 39th Street "Honorable
23 Charles L. Durham Way."

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Next
25 week's Calendar.

1 4/20/23 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 CHIEF CLERK: And a privileged
3 resolution honoring and thanking Gweny
4 Love Owens, on the occasion of Earth Day,
5 for her work on environmental justice and
6 sustainability.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: This
8 week's Calendar.

9 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman
10 Driscoll offers one bill and one
11 resolution, an ordinance amending Section
12 9-208 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled
13 "Sidewalk Cafes," by permitting sidewalk
14 cafes to be maintained on Frankford
15 Avenue, both sides, from Harbison Avenue
16 to Sheffield Avenue; Cottman Avenue, both
17 sides, from Erdrick Street to Leon
18 Street; Ryan Avenue, both sides,
19 Frankford Avenue to Leon Street; Robbins
20 Avenue, both sides, from Frankford Avenue
21 to Mulberry Street; Sackett Street, both
22 sides, from Frankford Avenue to Levick
23 Street; and the area bounded by Frankford
24 Avenue, Levick Street, Hawthorne Street
25 and Hellerman Street.

1 4/20/23 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

3 Referred to committee.

4 CHIEF CLERK: And a privileged
5 resolution proclaiming May 2023 as Asian
6 American and Pacific Islander Heritage
7 Month in Philadelphia to pay tribute to
8 the rich history and significant
9 contributions made by generations of
10 Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to
11 our Country, Commonwealth, and City.

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

14 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman
15 Squilla offers an ordinance amending
16 Section 14-502 of The Philadelphia Code,
17 entitled "/CTR, Center City Overlay
18 District," by amending the South
19 Street/Head House Square Area.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
21 Referred to committee.

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

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

1 4/20/23 - STATED - REPORTS

2 Thank you very much, Mr. Decker.

3 That concludes our introduction
4 of bills and resolutions.

5 And our next order of business
6 is reports from committee, and the Chair
7 recognizes Councilwoman Bass for a report
8 from the Committee on Parks, Recreation
9 and Cultural Affairs.

10 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you,
11 Mr. President. The Committee on Parks,
12 Recreation and Cultural Affairs reports
13 one bill with a favorable recommendation.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
15 Thank you.

16 Mr. Decker, please read that
17 report.

18 CHIEF CLERK: To the President
19 and members of the Council of the City of
20 Philadelphia, the Committee on Parks,
21 Recreation and Cultural Affairs, to which
22 was referred Bill No. 220969, entitled
23 "An ordinance authorizing the
24 Commissioner of Public Property, on
25 behalf of the City of Philadelphia, to

1 4/20/23 - STATED - REPORTS

2 accept a historically-designated building
3 from 2000 Arch Associates Limited
4 Partnership, which will move and
5 reinstall the building on City property,"
6 respectfully reports it has considered
7 the same and returns the attached bill to
8 Council with a favorable recommendation.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

10 Thank you.

11 The Chair again recognizes
12 Councilwoman Bass.

13 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you,
14 Mr. President. I move that the rules of
15 Council be suspended so as to permit
16 first reading this day of Bill No.
17 220969.

18 (Duly seconded.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

20 Thank you. It has been moved and
21 properly seconded that the rules of
22 Council be suspended so as to permit
23 first reading this day of Bill No.
24 220969.

25 All in favor indicate by saying

1 4/20/23 - STATED - 1ST READING

2 aye.

3 (Aye.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

5 Those opposed?

6 (No response.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
8 ayes have it, and this bill will be
9 placed on our First Reading Calendar
10 today.

11 That concludes our reports from
12 committee, and our next order of business
13 is consideration of the Calendar.

14 I note that the bill just
15 reported from committee with a suspension
16 of the rules has been deemed to have had
17 its first reading. It will be on our
18 Second Reading and Final Passage Calendar
19 at our next session of Council.

20 Mr. Decker, will you please
21 read any other bills of the First Reading
22 Calendar today.

23 CHIEF CLERK: Bill No. 230150,
24 entitled "An ordinance authorizing
25 transfers in appropriations for Fiscal

1 4/20/23 - STATED - 1ST READING

2 Year 2023 from the General Fund, certain
3 or all City offices, departments, boards
4 and commissions, and the Grants Revenue
5 Fund, certain or all City offices,
6 departments, boards and commissions, to
7 the General Fund, certain or all City
8 offices, departments, boards and
9 commissions, the Hotel Room Rental Tax
10 Fund, certain or all City offices,
11 departments, boards and commissions and
12 the Grants Revenue Fund, certain or all
13 City offices, departments, boards and
14 commissions."

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

16 Thank you. The Chair agrees.

17 This bill will be placed on our
18 Second Reading and Final Passage Calendar
19 at our next session of Council.

20 The Chair now recognizes
21 Councilman Jones for the purpose of
22 calling up bills and resolutions on our
23 Second Reading and Final Passage Calendar
24 today.

25 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,

1 4/20/23 - STATED - BILLS ON 2ND READING
2 Mr. President. The following resolutions
3 and bills are being brought up from
4 Second Reading to Final Passage Calendars
5 today: Nos. 230282, 230283, 230284,
6 230285, 230287, 230288, 230289, 230292,
7 and 230009-AA. All other bills and
8 resolutions are being held.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

10 Thank you very much.

11 We will now move to our public
12 comment session, but before considering
13 the resolutions and bills we will
14 consider on public comment, we will have
15 certain guidelines.

16 Your public comment must
17 concern matters on the Second Reading and
18 Final Passage Calendar today. All
19 speakers must sign up in order to
20 testify. If you have not already signed
21 up for today's session, you can do so now
22 by giving your name to the
23 Sergeant-At-Arms at the table set up
24 outside of the Council Chamber.

25 Once you have signed up, you

1 4/20/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 will be called in the order in which your
3 name appears on the sign-up sheet.

4 We have a relatively
5 significant number of individuals
6 testifying today, so I would like to
7 alter the timeline to two minutes.
8 Please address your testimony to reflect
9 a two-minute timeline.

10 Once you have signed up, you
11 will be called in the order in which you
12 will speak. In order to be fair to all
13 those wishing to speak, we intend to hold
14 faithfully to that timeline.

15 So when you begin to speak, you
16 will see a green light on the device on
17 the podium. When the light turns yellow,
18 you will have 30 seconds to conclude your
19 remarks, and when the light turns red,
20 we'd ask that you please adhere to our
21 guidelines and conclude your remarks.

22 We also reserve the right
23 pursuant to our rules to alter
24 repetitious comment to ensure that
25 everyone has an opportunity to speak.

1 4/20/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Mr. Decker, please call the
3 first name on the list.

4 CHIEF CLERK: The first speaker
5 today, Mr. President, is Kay Yoon,
6 commenting today on Resolution No.
7 230317.

8 (Witness approached podium.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good
10 morning.

11 MS. YOON: My name is Kay Yoon.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
13 Please proceed.

14 MS. YOON: My name is Kay Yoon
15 and I'm a longtime Philadelphia resident
16 and volunteer at Asian Americans United.
17 I'm here today to show my support for
18 Councilmember Mike Driscoll's Resolution
19 230317 regarding making May 2023 AAPI
20 Heritage Month.

21 Asian Americans are one of the
22 fastest growing demographic groups in the
23 United States and it is important that
24 our history and diverse heritages in this
25 country are honored, taught, and

1 4/20/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 celebrated.

3 I'll be honest with you,
4 though. I'm far too impatient to be okay
5 with only having heritage month for
6 demographic groups such as ours, as I
7 believe strongly that the history of all
8 groups in this country should be a
9 permanent, fully accepted part of our
10 children's and youth's education and
11 cultural landscape.

12 Asian American history
13 continues to be unknown by many
14 Philadelphians and Americans, and
15 stereotypes and the perpetual foreigner
16 status persists for members of our Asian
17 communities here in Philly and across the
18 U.S. In fact, children and young adults'
19 books about Asian American history and
20 the Asian American cultures and families
21 are being banned in many school
22 districts.

23 Therefore, until we live in a
24 world where Asian American heritage and
25 history are integrated and a

1 4/20/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 non-marginalized part of American
3 history, then we will need a month like
4 AAPI Heritage Month.

5 If Philadelphia City Council is
6 to rightfully pass a resolution honoring
7 Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders,
8 then it is also -- it should also take
9 critical steps in ensuring that
10 predominantly Asian American
11 neighborhoods like Chinatown are
12 protected and preserved.

13 I strongly urge you to speak
14 out and vote no against the proposed
15 basketball arena that the Sixers want to
16 build at 10th and Cuthbert Streets. The
17 arena would destroy the cultural fabric
18 of Chinatown and drive out longtime small
19 businesses and multi-generational
20 families.

21 Chinatown is one of the few
22 neighborhoods in Philadelphia where I and
23 many other Asian American Philadelphians
24 feel safe and accepted for who we are.
25 But this isn't just about our feelings.

1 4/20/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 It's about doing what's right.

3 Philadelphia's Chinatown is over

4 150 years old and has a strong community

5 of residents of all ages, and various

6 languages are spoken and different

7 religions are practiced there. It's a

8 physical home and cultural and spiritual

9 center for many Asian Americans in the

10 City and in the Philadelphia region.

11 If we want to be a better, more

12 vibrant city, we need to start by

13 standing up against billionaire interests

14 that seek to build an arena that over

15 90 percent of residents, business owners,

16 and visitors in Chinatown don't even

17 want.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

19 Thank you.

20 MS. YOON: And standing up for

21 a longtime community of hardworking,

22 tax-paying Asian American residents who

23 have a history of being marginalized by

24 government and society.

25 So please help all of

1 4/20/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 Philadelphia walk the walk by using your
3 voice and power to stop the Sixers arena
4 in the heart of our city and to save
5 Chinatown.

6 Thank you.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
8 Thank you. Thank you for your testimony.

9 - - -

10 (Appause.)

11 - - -

12 CHIEF CLERK: The next speaker
13 is Will Gross, commenting on Resolution
14 230317.

15 (Witness approached podium.)

16 MR. GROSS: Good morning.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good
18 morning.

19 MR. GROSS: My name is Will
20 Gross. I'm a small business owner, a
21 democratic committee person, and a member
22 of the Asian Pacific Islander Political
23 Alliance of Pennsylvania. I'm here to
24 testify on Resolution 230317.

25 I am the son of a Chinese

1 4/20/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 immigrant. My mother emigrated to
3 Philadelphia from Taiwan in 1973, and I
4 am pleased to see Council recognizing
5 AAPI Heritage Month.

6 As the son of a Chinese
7 immigrant, Chinatown has always been a
8 place for me and my family to connect
9 with our culture. Chinatown is vital to
10 my life and is vital to the cultural
11 fabric of our city.

12 The proposed Sixers arena is an
13 existential threat to the ecosystem of
14 this 150-year-old community, and to be
15 clear, if destroyed, Chinatown cannot be
16 replaced.

17 It seems each generation of
18 Philadelphians is tasked with protecting
19 our Chinatown from devastating
20 development, whether it's a casino or a
21 baseball park, an arena or the expressway
22 that my parents protested in the 1970s
23 which tore the neighborhood in two. It
24 is now our turn.

25 Will we protect the working

1 4/20/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 families and working people of Chinatown
3 or will we stand by?

4 Chinatown and the people of
5 Philadelphia are united against this
6 arena. We have been clear time and time
7 again that a project like this would
8 destroy the ecosystem of our community.

9 It is paramount that AAPI
10 Heritage Month not only be recognized in
11 name but also in action. To preserve
12 AAPI culture and its community, we must
13 stand with Chinatown and with the people
14 of Philadelphia. We must oppose this
15 arena.

16 Thank you.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

18 Thank you for your testimony.

19 - - -

20 (Applause.)

21 - - -

22 CHIEF CLERK: The next speaker
23 is Ling Tran, commenting on Resolution
24 230317.

25 (Witness approached podium.)

1 4/20/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 MS. TRAN: Hello. My name is
3 Ling Tran.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good
5 morning.

6 MS. TRAN: Good morning. My
7 name is Ling Tran. I am a Philly
8 resident and volunteer with the Asian
9 Pacific Islander Political Alliance. I'm
10 here to testify on Resolution 230317.

11 I do not live in Chinatown, yet
12 in my heart I call it home, and I am
13 pleased to see that Council recognizing
14 AAPI Heritage Month.

15 Chinatown as a community
16 matters a great deal to me. Living in
17 Philly, I've experienced racism that AAPI
18 folks can testify and identify with.
19 Chinatown is the only place where I feel
20 safe visiting to just breathe and be me.

21 My family came to the U.S. as
22 refugees of Chinese descent. In my
23 youth, Saturdays in Chinatown were a
24 family affair. My cousin, sister, and I
25 attended Chinese school there while my

1 4/20/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 parents and relatives ran errands.

3 Going to Chinatown was special.

4 This was the day of the week where I got

5 to see my family own their space with

6 ease and dignity. My parents and

7 relatives also had weddings at

8 neighborhood venues, like Joy Tsin Lau

9 and Ocean Harbor.

10 In Chinatown, I love hearing

11 the symphony of languages spoken, Chinese

12 dialect, Vietnamese, Cambodian, or some

13 remix of those languages with English.

14 My first job and how I learned

15 Asian American history was there. These

16 experiences imbued in me cultural pride

17 and education, establishing Chinatown as

18 a sanctuary. It is integral to my AAPI

19 cultural heritage to my belonging, which

20 is why the proposal for the arena is a

21 kiss of death to this community and my

22 sense of place.

23 Chinatown and Philadelphia are

24 united against the arena. It said no

25 time and again. A project like this

1 4/20/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 would destroy our community.

3 Recognizing AAPI heritage in
4 name only is virtue signalling. To
5 preserve AAPI culture and community, we
6 are counting on you to stand with
7 Chinatown, to stand with Philly, and to
8 oppose the arena.

9 Thank you.

10 - - -

11 (Applause.)

12 - - -

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

14 Thank you.

15 The Chair recognizes Councilman
16 Johnson.

17 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you,
18 Council President. I would like to be
19 excused to leave to do district Council
20 business, and I'd like to be recorded as
21 voting aye on all bills and resolutions.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

23 Thank you, Councilman. Leave shall be
24 granted.

25 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you.

1 4/20/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Let
3 the record reflect.

4 CHIEF CLERK: The next speaker
5 is Jenny Zhang, commenting on Resolution
6 230317.

7 (Witness approached podium.)

8 MS. ZHANG: Good morning. My
9 name is Jenny Zhang.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good
11 morning.

12 MS. ZHANG: And I am a
13 Philadelphia resident and I'm also with
14 APIPA. I'm also here to support
15 Resolution 230317 presented by
16 Councilmember Driscoll about honoring
17 AAPI Heritage Month in Philadelphia.

18 I'm an Asian American who has
19 called Philadelphia home for the last
20 eight years, and I am really, really glad
21 to see Council recognizing AAPI Heritage
22 Month.

23 The AAPI community is one of
24 the fastest growing communities here, and
25 it's essential to the cultural fabric of

1 4/20/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Philadelphia and its history and should
3 be celebrated, so thank you.

4 Growing up in the Philadelphia
5 suburbs, it was hard for me to find a
6 community or a place where I could see my
7 heritage represented, and my family often
8 came to Philadelphia's Chinatown to find
9 that. We went there because we could
10 find familiar foods and we are accepted
11 for who we are as Asian Americans. My
12 parents are Chinese immigrants.

13 And today it's still a place
14 that feels like home. It's where, you
15 know, I get my groceries and it's also
16 where I go to church every Sunday.

17 And we might have heard
18 already, you know, there's this proposed
19 arena at the doorstep of Chinatown. It's
20 a direct threat to the 150 years of
21 Chinatown history and heritage in
22 Philadelphia, and it would annihilate
23 that community space for Asian Americans
24 here in Philadelphia.

25 And I'm not -- like we said,

1 4/20/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 I'm clearly not the only one who feels
3 this way. Residents and businesses in
4 Chinatown are united against the arena,
5 and it's clear that we don't want an
6 arena to destroy Chinatown, and this
7 arena would destroy our city as well.

8 Again, I'm very, very grateful
9 that AAPI Heritage Month is being
10 recognized in Philadelphia. Asian
11 Americans and Pacific Islanders in
12 Philadelphia are so, so important to our
13 city. They have contributed so much.
14 But it cannot only be symbolic. It is
15 crucial that we protect the physical
16 spaces in Philadelphia that celebrate our
17 AAPI heritage.

18 So thank you all to the City
19 Councilmembers who are already opposing
20 the arena, but I continue to call on all
21 of you to fight against this arena to
22 protect our history here.

23 Thank you.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

25 Thank you. Thank you for your testimony.

1 4/20/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 - - -

3 (Applause.)

4 - - -

5 CHIEF CLERK: The next speaker
6 is Kenneth Wood, commenting on 210800.

7 (Witness approached podium.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good
9 morning.

10 MR. WOOD: Good morning. My
11 name is Kenneth Wood. I'm here to speak
12 on Bill 210800.

13 I'm a 60-plus year resident of
14 this city all at the same location,
15 Kensington, now known as Olde Richmond.
16 I have nothing against teachers having
17 parking. We need the teachers. Some of
18 them are from outside the City and
19 younger than us elderly.

20 I feel more needs to be done
21 for the elderly residents that have been
22 here for 40, 50, 60-plus years. It's not
23 right that they can't park near their
24 homes. After going to doctor
25 appointments, food shopping, they have to

1 4/20/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 park blocks away.

3 We are at an age with health
4 issues and our bike riding days are over,
5 not like the new people coming into the
6 City now. And one day their bike riding
7 days will be over also.

8 You have recently had
9 shootings, at least two people shot dead
10 over parking in this city and numerous
11 fights. It's all documented. Check 911.

12 I feel more emphasis should be
13 placed on parking for the longtime
14 elderly residents of this city. We feel
15 we are being forced out of our lifelong
16 homes. It's not our fault we can't
17 afford \$800,000, \$900,000 homes with
18 off-street parking. It's just not right.

19 I feel this Council has not --
20 I feel this Council and city has let the
21 longtime elderly residents down. You's
22 can do better here.

23 Also, Engine 6, Belgrade Street
24 and Huntingdon Street, needs to be
25 restored and placed back into service.

1 4/20/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 We are the only fire station out of 61
3 fire stations in the City of Philadelphia
4 without a pumper, water to put out fires.

5 We have all this
6 overdevelopment going on in our community
7 right now and it's all lightweight wood
8 construction, multi-family, multi-story
9 high-rises. Engine 2 is my first in
10 engine from 1.2 miles away and has to
11 race down to my community to put out a
12 fire.

13 Two weeks ago, coming down to
14 put out a fire on the riverfront, only
15 blocks away from our station that had
16 Engine 6, they were involved in an
17 accident. So now you're putting
18 firefighters' lives in danger also, and
19 had to wait for another truck, because
20 that was put out of service.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

22 Thank you.

23 MR. WOOD: Engine 6 needs to be
24 restored. If the City can find money for
25 street sweeping material and hire street

1 4/20/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 sweepers, they can also get us our fire
3 truck. We don't have to rely on a grant.
4 Here's where the City ended last year's
5 budget: \$492 million plus.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
7 Okay.

8 MR. WOOD: And we're waiting
9 for grants to come.

10 It's wrong. You's have the
11 money. Put the fire truck back.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
13 Thank you. Thank you for your testimony.

14 MR. WOOD: Hire firefighters.

15 - - -

16 (Applause.)

17 - - -

18 CHIEF CLERK: The next speaker
19 is Horace Clouden, commenting on 221015.

20 (Witness approached podium.)

21 MR. CLOUDEN: Good morning. My
22 name is Horace Clouden. I'm a member of
23 Mama Gail's Education Community Network
24 and a member of Parent Community Advisory
25 Council to the Board of Education.

1 4/20/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 You know, we have three groups
3 in this city. Group A, all of your
4 developers east of the river. Are they
5 paying taxes or receiving abatements, all
6 in the name of jobs? If yes, no problem.
7 If no, then there's a problem. But how
8 do we make up the difference?

9 Then we have Group B, your
10 developers west of the river waiting for
11 a ten-year tax abatement in the name of
12 affordable housing. If the bill is
13 passed and paying no taxes, again, how do
14 we make up the difference?

15 Now you have Group C, long- and
16 short-term residents paying taxes for
17 City services and School District. And
18 for those who are paying no taxes, we
19 make up the difference by doubling their
20 taxes. In other words, they doubled the
21 taxes of Group C and then just going to
22 tell them, well, your properties have
23 doubled in value.

24 Now, we have the City -- if the
25 City wants this formula -- and the City

1 4/20/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 wants this formula for the next ten
3 years. Who can afford this?

4 Now we have the involvement of
5 the School District who has to sign off
6 on their portion of the tax abatement, if
7 approved. No money goes to the schools.

8 I'll be testifying at the
9 School Board meeting later today to open
10 up five indoor pools that the School
11 District owns to offer swimming as a
12 curriculum, free access and training
13 facility for the community year round.
14 The School District only wants one pool.
15 The tax abatement will not help this.
16 You know, making everybody pay their fair
17 share of taxes will help. Vote no.

18 You know, here's what's so
19 funny about it. You say these schools
20 are grossly underfunded. You know, you
21 say that the schools have asbestos. You
22 have all the ills of the schools. Then
23 you want to take away money from them,
24 you know, and then the School District is
25 going to come to you next week and ask

1 4/20/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 for money, and then all of this coming
3 off the backs of the long- and short-term
4 homeowners who in this group only are
5 paying the taxes right now.

6 This tax abatement thing,
7 really you have to say no and --

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
9 Thank you.

10 MR. CLOUDEN: That's it.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
12 Thank you. Thank you for your testimony,
13 sir.

14 - - -
15 (Applause.)

16 - - -
17 CHIEF CLERK: The next speaker
18 is Mama Gail Clouden, commenting on
19 221015.

20 (Witness approached podium.)

21 MS. GAIL CLOUDEN: Peace and
22 love, family.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good
24 morning.

25 MS. GAIL CLOUDEN: City

1 4/20/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 Councilmembers -- and I don't know the
3 gentleman's name here, but I know that
4 he's really busy while we're talking. I
5 know that he has things that he has to
6 talk to his associate about while we're
7 here, but because some of us took their
8 time to come here to speak, I'm asking
9 for some respect, please.

10 City Councilmembers, on this
11 day of our Lord, Thursday, April 20th,
12 2023, I stand here remembering a great
13 brother, a great friend, Brother
14 Omadasusi Kintu (ph), who is very, very
15 committed to our community and to
16 Philadelphia. I sat by him, stood by
17 him, walked with him many times.

18 And so I'm standing here as I
19 stand for those that don't speak for
20 themselves in Philadelphia, that can't
21 speak for themselves, that won't speak
22 for themselves, knowing that many
23 decisions they make at this time affect
24 those that have the least the most, and
25 that's those people.

1 4/20/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Abatement, abatement,
3 abatement. Where will it end? Where
4 does it end? Enough is enough. Where is
5 the oversight? Where is the quality?
6 Where is the equity? Enough is enough.

7 I stand here on this day of our
8 Lord saying enough is enough. Everything
9 is class, everything is race in this
10 city. You speak about generational
11 wealth. How do you have generational
12 wealth if people are hanging on with
13 nothing or close to nothing?

14 Reparations is what the
15 conversation should be about. You speak
16 about again generational wealth.
17 Reparations, reparations, reparations.
18 Stop allowing people to take from those
19 that have the least the most.

20 Stop these abatements now.
21 Enough is enough. Under-education,
22 medical apartheid, and now abatements.
23 Enough is enough.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
25 Thank you.

1 4/20/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 - - -

3 (Applause.)

4 - - -

5 CHIEF CLERK: The next speaker
6 is Leah Clouden, commenting on 221015.

7 (Witness approached podium.)

8 MS. LEAH CLOUDEN: Good
9 morning.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good
11 morning.

12 MS. LEAH CLOUDEN: Leah
13 Clouden.

14 I'd like to say vote no for the
15 abatements, and I'll say that it's
16 because we have no quality in service.
17 You charge property owners double, triple
18 in some places where you have the
19 neighbor that's building up, that's
20 developing. You have a developer that
21 comes in and builds up this property and
22 they're not paying any taxes. So that
23 means you have taken their taxes and
24 transferred it over to the neighbors.
25 That's the best way I can explain it.

1 4/20/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 We are not benefiting --

3 low-income residents, people who need
4 homes are benefiting, but the people who
5 are actually paying are not benefiting
6 from this, unless it just so happens they
7 have the homestead. For those that don't
8 have the homestead, we're inconvenienced
9 by the streets that are being dug up for
10 pipelines. We're being inconvenienced by
11 now triple and quadrupling of new
12 residents and their parking. We're being
13 inconvenienced by the designs of the
14 streets that makes no sense, because
15 somebody from another place came into the
16 neighborhood and decided this makes
17 sense, and I can speak on Chestnut Street
18 and Walnut Street. The adding of parking
19 spaces, people can't even understand
20 where the bike lane and the parking space
21 separates or which side is which.

22 This stuff is insane. There's
23 no quality in service. You got to
24 rethink this abatement for these people
25 coming in. It's not like the residents

1 4/20/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 can benefit off of somebody building a
3 home. There's no spaces for renting up
4 commercial properties for residents who
5 may have their home and need an extra
6 income, because now you're doubling the
7 taxes.

8 Things need to be changed. You
9 have to think about it. I don't care if
10 they give that 30 percent or 20 percent
11 of their units. It's not enough, because
12 those people will never be homeowners as
13 long as you keep just giving them rent.

14 Thank you.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

16 Thank you. Thank you for your testimony.

17 - - -

18 (Applause.)

19 - - -

20 CHIEF CLERK: The next speaker
21 is Karen Melton, commenting on 230283.

22 (Witness approached podium.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good
24 morning.

25 MS. MELTON: Good morning. My

1 4/20/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 name is Karen Melton. I've lived in
3 Philadelphia since 1979.

4 With Earth Day coming up this
5 weekend and your vote today on Resolution
6 230283 to appoint Councilman Driscoll to
7 the Gas Commission, I wanted to take the
8 opportunity to talk about the significant
9 impact climate change is already having
10 and will continue to have on our city and
11 the critical role that PGW, the biggest
12 municipally owned gas utility in the
13 country, will play in whether we can meet
14 our city's climate goals and help to
15 preserve a livable planet for future
16 generations.

17 Philadelphia's progress toward
18 meeting our climate goals has been
19 painfully slow, but our collective
20 ownership of PGW gives us a unique
21 opportunity to turn that around. We can
22 replace fossil fuels with renewable
23 energy at a pace that matches the urgency
24 of the crisis. But we need creative,
25 bold leadership from the Gas Commission

1 4/20/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 and City Council to do that.

3 Clearly, the need to transition
4 PGW away from fossil fuels as quickly as
5 possible involves two additional
6 objectives - protecting consumer energy
7 needs at an affordable rate and
8 protecting PGW workers. Both of these
9 latter objectives, protecting consumers
10 and workers, are routinely used as
11 excuses to do nothing about PGW's
12 contributions to the climate crisis, as
13 if a livable planet is the one thing we
14 can afford to be without. But all three
15 objectives must be addressed, and I hope
16 that Councilman Driscoll will be a voice
17 helping to involve union workers be part
18 of a solution that preserves good jobs
19 while transitioning our city away from
20 fossil fuels. Heat pumps and geothermal
21 systems, for example, use many of the
22 skills that PGW workers already have.

23 Thank you.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

25 Thank you. Thank you for your testimony.

1 4/20/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 - - -

3 (Applause.)

4 - - -

5 CHIEF CLERK: The next speaker
6 is Gweny Love Owens, commenting on
7 230316.

8 (Witness approached podium.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good
10 morning.

11 MS. OWENS: Good morning. I'd
12 like to first acknowledge my Lord and
13 savior, Jesus Christ. Without him, I
14 wouldn't be here, without the prayers of
15 my mother, my father, both deceased, and
16 friends who have supported me from the
17 community of Mantua. I represent the
18 community of Mantua. I want to
19 acknowledge my cousin Sheila Owens,
20 Brenda Bryant, Gwendolyn Austin, Tina
21 Richards, my sisters and brothers who are
22 absent, my pastor James Moore Sr. of
23 Second Mount Zion Baptist Church, and
24 most definitely Councilwoman Jamie
25 Gauthier.

1 4/20/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 We are in Mantua, through
3 Mantua-wide community, bringing together
4 university students, youth,
5 professionals, and long-term residents to
6 clean up our community, to make it a more
7 green community, to make it serene
8 through our Clean, Green and Serene
9 Program and our Garden Adventures
10 Program. We are bringing people out. We
11 are having our neighbors interacting, get
12 to know each other.

13 We're encouraging people to be
14 more environmentally conscious. We're
15 planting trees and tulips. We're looking
16 at how we can stop the illegal dumping
17 happening in our community, how we can
18 become more aware of lead paint and
19 asbestos that's not only in our soil but
20 also in our schools and our places of
21 worship.

22 We're also looking at how we
23 can stop all of the droppings from people
24 walking their animals, how we can prevent
25 standing water, how we can acknowledge

1 4/20/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 what trees are being decayed, because all
3 of these things attract mosquitoes and
4 flies, parasites, mold, and bacteria.

5 We want to have a community
6 that's more safe, because a community
7 that looks beautiful attracts beauty. As
8 we are able to inspire beauty inside each
9 other, we're able to welcome newcomers to
10 our community, and they also will follow
11 the same suit.

12 But basically we want to
13 inspire this new transformation that's
14 taking place. It doesn't have to be
15 anything negative. It's all about how do
16 we transform our minds, how do we make a
17 community that's welcoming, how do we
18 make a community that could be a
19 blueprint for the rest of the City.

20 And so I'm just grateful for
21 the opportunity. Thank you very much.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

23 Thank you. Thank you for your testimony.

24 - - -

25 (Applause.)

1 4/20/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 - - -

3 CHIEF CLERK: The next speaker
4 is Christina Richards, commenting on
5 230316.

6 (Witness approached podium.)

7 MS. RICHARDS: Good morning,
8 everyone.

9 Good morning, Council.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good
11 morning.

12 MS. RICHARDS: I too would like
13 to first acknowledge my Lord and savior,
14 Jesus Christ, who is the beginning and
15 the end.

16 I stand in agreement with
17 everything Gweny Love spoke on. We are
18 loving Mantua, and we hope that other
19 neighboring communities in the City of
20 Philadelphia will follow suit.

21 We love Gweny Love worldwide
22 community because Gwen have started
23 numerous gardens in our community to get
24 us away from vacant lots. Vacant lots,
25 yes, they are deteriorating, they are

1 4/20/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 nasty, they are gross, and we don't want
3 them.

4 People come into our
5 neighborhoods and dump litter. They let
6 their animals drop feces around. We
7 don't want that.

8 Cleanliness is next to
9 godliness and godliness is next to
10 cleanliness. When we look at our
11 neighborhoods and we see gardens, we
12 paint the vacant properties. We have
13 numerous art projects that Gweny Love
14 starts. The children get involved. We
15 all feel better. We all look at the
16 community. We see bright colors on the
17 buildings that was once ugly and you
18 couldn't take pictures of it, and we look
19 at the gardens and it's something that we
20 did.

21 In December, Gweny Love came
22 and we planted buds in the gardens, and
23 now this spring and this summer we look
24 forward to looking at our plants.

25 So, again, Gweny Love is

1 4/20/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 awesome with what she does. I
3 congratulate you, Gwen, on your citation,
4 and I'm standing with you and in
5 agreement with you to keep Mantua looking
6 its best.

7 Thank you.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

9 Thank you.

10 - - -
11 (Applause.)

12 - - -

13 CHIEF CLERK: The next speaker
14 is Ogbonna Hagins, commenting on 210800.
15 (Witness approached podium.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good
17 morning.

18 MR. HAGINS: Hey, great
19 morning, everyone. Ogbonna Hagins,
20 H-A-G-I-N-S. 210800 is what I'm speaking
21 on.

22 Of course public school
23 employees should have parking, but what
24 about what the actual students need?

25 If I were sitting in one of

1 4/20/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 those seats as a Councilperson, I would
3 be more concerned with the fact that
4 there are no form of education being
5 taught in Philadelphia schools to
6 eliminate the racial wealth gap or stave
7 off the fact that Afro Americans' wealth,
8 according to studies, will be at zero by
9 2053.

10 Does this data bother any of
11 you in Council?

12 If I were in one of those
13 seats, I couldn't ignore this, for this
14 body to ignore this reality, it actually
15 repudiates the Thirteenth, Fourteenth,
16 and Fifteenth Reconstruction Amendments.

17 Dr. Amos Wilson stated that
18 each culture has a time dimension. Proof
19 of today's time dimension for the
20 descendents of the emancipated, otherwise
21 known as the Afro American, is confirmed
22 by the racial wealth gap, and as I
23 stated, economic researchers calculate
24 Afro Americans' wealth will be zero by
25 2053.

1 4/20/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 I want this body to know that
3 for you to concern yourself with parking
4 is good, but are you just as concerned
5 with the amount of revenue that the PPA
6 is collecting and not coming to
7 Philadelphia and not being -- and not to
8 mention how the Parking Authority is
9 literally hurting people in Philadelphia?

10 If I were a City Councilperson,
11 I would not only want to provide parking
12 for the school employees, but I would
13 want to make sure that all of the money
14 collected would go to the School District
15 first, would come to the City and not to
16 the state for the state to divvy it out.
17 That's what I would do if I was a
18 Councilperson.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
20 Thank you. Thank you for your testimony.

21 - - -
22 (Applause.)

23 - - -

24 CHIEF CLERK: There are no
25 other speakers on the public comment

1 4/20/23 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 list, Mr. President.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

4 Thank you, Mr. Decker.

5 We will now consider the bills
6 and resolutions on the Second Reading and
7 Final Passage Calendar.

8 Mr. Decker, please read the
9 title of Resolution No. 230282.

10 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
11 recognizing the appointment of Albert W.
12 Newman to the Veterans Advisory
13 Commission.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
15 Chair recognizes Councilman Jones for a
16 motion.

17 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
18 Mr. President. On your behalf, I move
19 for the adoption of the resolution.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Can
21 I get a second?

22 (Duly seconded.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

24 Thank you. It's been moved and properly
25 seconded that the resolution be adopted.

1 4/20/23 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 All in favor indicate by saying
3 aye.

4 (Aye.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
6 Those opposed?

7 (No response.)

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

11 Mr. Decker, 230283.

12 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
13 appointing Councilmember Mike Driscoll to
14 the Philadelphia Gas Commission.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
16 Chair recognizes Councilman Jones for a
17 motion on the resolution.

18 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you
19 again, Mr. President. And I
20 enthusiastically move for the adoption of
21 this resolution.

22 (Duly seconded.)

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

25 All in favor indicate by saying

1 4/20/23 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 aye.

3 (Aye.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

5 Those opposed?

6 (No response.)

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

10 Mr. Decker, 230284.

11 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
12 authorizing the Commissioner of Public
13 Property to execute and deliver to the
14 Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority
15 deeds conveying fee simple title to 1736
16 North 22nd Street in the Fifth
17 Councilmanic District of the City of
18 Philadelphia.

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

21 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you
22 again, Mr. President. On your behalf, I
23 move for the adoption of the resolution.

24 (Duly seconded.)

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: It's

1 4/20/23 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 been moved and properly seconded.

3 All in favor indicate by saying
4 aye.

5 (Aye.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

7 Those opposed?

8 (No response.)

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

12 Mr. Decker, 230285.

13 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
14 calling on the Pennsylvania House of
15 Representatives and the Pennsylvania
16 State Senate to pass HB776 prohibiting
17 untraceable firearms and HB777 banning
18 "ghost gun" parts.

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

21 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
22 Mr. President. I move for the adoption
23 of this resolution and pray for our city
24 that it is passed in Harrisburg.

25 (Duly seconded.)

1 4/20/23 - STATED - 2ND READING

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

4 All in favor indicate by saying
5 aye.

6 (Aye.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
8 Those opposed?

9 (No response.)

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

13 Mr. Decker, 230287.

14 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution also
15 naming 60th Street between Market Street
16 and Arch Street as "E. Paul Sandidge
17 Way", in honor of E. Paul Sandidge, his
18 100th Birthday, and his more than
19 70 years of service to West Philadelphia.

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

22 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you
23 again, Mr. President. I move for the
24 adoption.

25 (Duly seconded.)

1 4/20/23 - STATED - 2ND READING

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

4 All in favor indicate by saying
5 aye.

6 (Aye.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
8 Those opposed?

9 (No response.)

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

13 Mr. Decker, 230288.

14 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution also
15 naming the 2100 block of Federal Street
16 "Claudia Smith Sherrod Way," to honor the
17 legacy of Claudia Sherrod.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
19 Chair recognizes Councilman Jones.

20 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you.
21 On behalf of Member Johnson, I move for
22 the adoption.

23 (Duly seconded.)

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

1 4/20/23 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 All in favor indicate by saying
3 aye.

4 (Aye.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

6 Those opposed?

7 (No response.)

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

11 Mr. Decker, 230289.

12 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution also
13 naming the 1500 block of Wharton Street
14 "James Mtume Way", to honor the life and
15 legacy of renowned musician, activist,
16 and Philadelphia native James Mtume.

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

19 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you.
20 On behalf of Member Johnson, I move for
21 the adoption.

22 (Duly seconded.)

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

25 All in favor indicate by saying

1 4/20/23 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 aye.

3 (Aye.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

5 Those opposed?

6 (No response.)

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

10 Mr. Decker, 230292.

11 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
12 authorizing the Philadelphia Land Bank to
13 execute and deliver to the Philadelphia
14 Housing Authority a deed conveying fee
15 simple title to 1 through 49 Rudy
16 Robinson Way in the Third Councilmanic
17 District.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
19 Chair recognizes Councilwoman Gauthier.

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

23 (Duly seconded.)

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

1 4/20/23 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 All in favor indicate by saying
3 aye.

4 (Aye.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

6 Those opposed?

7 (No response.)

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

11 Mr. Decker, please read the
12 title of Bill No. 230009-AA.

13 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
14 amending Chapter 12-2800 of The
15 Philadelphia Code, entitled
16 "Administrative Adjudication of Parking
17 Violations," by further providing with
18 respect to monetary penalties for
19 on-street parking of semitrailers and
20 truck tractors.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

22 Councilwoman, did you need to be
23 recognized?

24 Never mind. Your name was
25 still up. I didn't know if you needed to

1 4/20/23 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 be recognized.

3 All right. This bill having
4 been read on two different days, the
5 question now is shall the bill pass
6 finally.

7 Mr. Decker, call the roll.

8 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman
9 Bass.

10 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Aye.

11 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman
12 Brooks.

13 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: Aye.

14 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman
15 Driscoll.

16 COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL: Aye.

17 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman
18 Gauthier.

19 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Aye.

20 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman
21 Gilmore Richardson.

22 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Aye.

23 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman
24 Harrity.

25 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: Aye.

1 4/20/23 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman

3 Johnson is voting aye.

4 Councilman Jones.

5 COUNCILMAN JONES: Aye.

6 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman

7 Lozada.

8 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Aye.

9 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman

10 O'Neill.

11 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Aye.

12 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman

13 Phillips.

14 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: Aye.

15 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman

16 Squilla.

17 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Aye.

18 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman

19 Thomas.

20 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Aye.

21 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman

22 Vaughn.

23 COUNCILWOMAN VAUGHN: Aye.

24 CHIEF CLERK: Council President

25 Clarke.

1 4/20/23 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Aye.

3 The ayes are 15; the nays are
4 zero. A majority of members present
5 voting in the affirmative, the bill
6 passes.

7 Mr. Decker, do you have any
8 additional resolutions?

9 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
10 honoring and congratulating the Champion
11 of the Week, Diana Garcia, the Principal
12 of Willard Elementary in Kensington, for
13 being the recipient of the 2023 Lindback
14 Award for Distinguished Principal
15 Leadership, introduced today by
16 Councilman Thomas.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
18 Chair recognizes Councilman Thomas.

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

23 (Duly seconded.)

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

1 4/20/23 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 All in favor indicate by saying
3 aye.

4 (Aye.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

6 Those opposed?

7 (No response.)

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

11 CHIEF CLERK: And a resolution
12 authorizing the Committee on Streets and
13 Services to hold hearings examining the
14 rise of paper tags to thwart criminal and
15 safety measures that allow for the safe
16 use of our city streets by all residents,
17 introduced today by Councilman Thomas.

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

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

23 (Duly seconded.)

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

1 4/20/23 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 All in favor indicate by saying
3 aye.

4 (Aye.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

6 Those opposed?

7 (No response.)

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

11 CHIEF CLERK: And a resolution
12 honoring Dr. Kahlila Johnson, Principal
13 of Overbrook High School, for receiving
14 the 2023 Lindback Award for Distinguished
15 Principals, introduced today by
16 Councilman Jones.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
18 Chair recognizes Councilman Jones.

19 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
20 Mr. President. I move for the adoption.

21 (Duly seconded.)

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

24 All in favor indicate by saying
25 aye.

1 4/20/23 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 (Aye.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

4 Those opposed?

5 (No response.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
7 ayes have it, and the resolution is
8 adopted.

9 CHIEF CLERK: And a resolution
10 honoring and thanking Gweny Love Owens,
11 on the occasion of Earth Day, for her
12 work on environmental justice and
13 sustainability, introduced today by
14 Councilwoman Gauthier.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
16 Chair recognizes Councilwoman Gauthier.

17 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Thank
18 you, Council President. Before I move
19 for the adoption of the resolution, I'd
20 like to speak for a few moments about the
21 extraordinary woman we are honoring here
22 today.

23 The Black and brown communities
24 I represent experience a disproportionate
25 amount of the climate injustices plaguing

1 4/20/23 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 Philadelphia, and it is no coincidence
3 that these are also the neighborhoods
4 that endure the most gun violence and
5 poverty, because wrongs like illegal
6 dumping do not just damage the
7 environment, they breed violence. That's
8 why the City needs community leaders like
9 Gweny Love Owens, who are unafraid to
10 champion sustainability and empower
11 neighbors to harness the power of nature
12 to better their lives and community.

13 Gweny's accomplishments speak
14 for themselves. Much of her life's work
15 centers around developing and promoting
16 programming that heals the earth and her
17 community at the same time. This
18 includes urban farming and gardening,
19 honoring nature, community clean-ups, and
20 environmental preservation.

21 Gweny has established Mantua
22 Worldwide Community Incorporated to make
23 her community and others across the City
24 more healthy, beautiful, and sustainable.
25 She also planted hundreds of tulips and

1 4/20/23 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 trees, participates in the Mantua Urban
3 Peace Garden, spearheads youth gardening
4 programs across the region, and helped to
5 found the Sustainable Business Network,
6 which I led at one point in time.

7 Just last week Gweny received a
8 grant to expand her program Clean, Green,
9 and Serene into Powelton Village and Mill
10 Creek. Through this program, she teaches
11 neighbors the most sustainable way to
12 dispose of trash and how to keep their
13 sidewalks and lots cleaned.

14 I could go on and on, but it
15 would take all day to list all of Gweny's
16 work and accomplishments.

17 Thanks to Gweny Love's ability
18 to demonstrate nature's power to heal and
19 bring people together, young people in
20 Mantua and beyond will be able to carry
21 on the tradition of sustainability and
22 community building. I am so grateful for
23 everyone that she has touched in the
24 community and everything that she has
25 done to promote environmental justice and

1 4/20/23 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 sustainability, and I cannot wait to see
3 what she does next.

4 I can think of few better ways
5 to acknowledge Earth Day than by honoring
6 this true home-grown hero of
7 environmental justice.

8 Gweny, can you please stand so
9 that we can honor you properly.

10 - - -

11 (Applause.)

12 - - -

13 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: And
14 with that, I move for the adoption of the
15 resolution.

16 (Duly seconded.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: It's
18 been moved and properly seconded.

19 All in favor indicate by saying
20 aye.

21 (Aye.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
23 Those opposed?

24 (No response.)

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The

1 4/20/23 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 ayes have it, and that resolution is
3 adopted.

4 CHIEF CLERK: And a resolution
5 proclaiming May 2023 as Asian American
6 and Pacific Islander Heritage Month in
7 Philadelphia to pay tribute to the rich
8 history and significant contributions
9 made by generations of Asian Americans
10 and Pacific Islanders to our Country,
11 Commonwealth, and City, introduced today
12 by Councilman Driscoll.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
14 Chair recognizes Councilman Driscoll.

15 COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL:
16 Mr. President, I move for the adoption of
17 the resolution.

18 (Duly seconded.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: It's
20 been moved and properly seconded.

21 All in favor indicate by saying
22 aye.

23 (Aye.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
25 Those opposed?

1 4/20/23 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 (No response.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
4 ayes have it, and that resolution is
5 adopted.

6 CHIEF CLERK: There are no
7 other resolutions on the Final Passage
8 Calendar, Mr. President.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
10 Thank you very much, Mr. Decker.

11 And any speeches on behalf of
12 the minority?

13 (No response.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
15 Speeches on behalf of the majority?

16 The Chair recognizes
17 Councilwoman Gauthier.

18 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Thank
19 you, Council President.

20 Yesterday the City and I
21 announced a settlement with IBID
22 regarding the University City Townhomes
23 and my Affordable Housing Preservation
24 Overlay legislation. This has been one
25 of the biggest fights I have taken on

1 4/20/23 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 since assuming office, and no one in
3 government worked harder to protect the
4 rights of the tenants than I and the City
5 Law Department.

6 I began advocating for the UC
7 Townhomes residents in late 2020 and
8 never stopped, even when our lawyer told
9 me I had to remain publicly silent. In
10 fact, I did the math and discovered that
11 my team and I have spent well over 1,000
12 hours engaging the residents,
13 participating in negotiations, and
14 meeting with officials from all levels of
15 government.

16 And even though true equity
17 means no one gets displaced from their
18 home, the settlement is a historic win.
19 IBID will give the City a portion of the
20 townhome site, where we will build a
21 100 percent permanently affordable
22 housing property and community green
23 space in the heart of an amenity-rich
24 area of opportunity undergoing rapid
25 gentrification. And since the City will

1 4/20/23 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 own the land the new affordable housing
3 site will be built on, we will never see
4 low-income residents displaced from this
5 valuable site again.

6 The settlement also gives
7 tenants of the UC Townhomes \$3 and a half
8 million over and above their relocation
9 costs for housing needs. While no amount
10 of money can make up for losing your home
11 and community, I am pleased the residents
12 will have the financial resources they
13 need to help them settle in an area of
14 their choosing.

15 The monumental victory would
16 not be possible without the strength of
17 the UC Townhomes residents, who refused
18 to be bulldozed by corporate interests
19 and never stopped fighting for what they
20 deserve.

21 To the UC Townhomes residents
22 and all of my constituents, know that I
23 hear you, I see you, and I have not and
24 will not stop fighting for what you
25 deserve, no matter how long it takes or

1 4/20/23 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 how many interests stand in our way.

3 The UC Townhomes is just one of
4 many temporary affordable housing
5 complexes at risk of going offline in the
6 next decade. In fact, as many as 13,000
7 families across Philadelphia may lose
8 their homes because of expiring
9 affordability contracts in the next
10 decade.

11 That is why, if nothing else,
12 this settlement proves it is vital that
13 the City take a bolder and more proactive
14 approach to affordable housing
15 preservation. And I look forward to
16 working with you all to do just that
17 through the People's Preservation
18 Package, which we will consider in
19 Monday's Housing Committee hearing.

20 I also call on our state and
21 federal partners to invest in permanent
22 deeply affordable housing. The City
23 cannot and should not stand alone.

24 Thank you to the City Law
25 Department, the Department of Planning

1 4/20/23 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 and Development, and the Kenney
3 Administration for helping to achieve
4 this historic outcome.

5 Thank you to the UC Townhomes
6 residents and neighbors for their
7 unwavering activism around this issue.
8 You inspire me each and every day, and I
9 will always stand with you.

10 And thank you to my Council
11 colleagues who stood by me as I took on
12 this unprecedented fight.

13 No matter how many years it
14 takes, I'll never stop pushing back
15 against the immense economic forces that
16 seek to catapult working-class Black and
17 brown residents out of the neighborhoods
18 their families have called home for
19 generations. We are not disposable, and
20 it is time we are treated with the
21 consideration we deserve.

22 Thank you so much.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

24 Thank you, Councilwoman.

25 - - -

1 4/20/23 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 (Applause.)

3 - - -

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: And
5 congratulations.

6 There appears to be no
7 additional speeches on behalf of the
8 majority, going once, going twice.

9 Councilwoman?

10 COUNCILWOMAN VAUGHN: Yes.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
12 Chair recognizes Councilwoman Vaughn.

13 COUNCILWOMAN VAUGHN: Yes.
14 Good morning, everyone.

15 American Red Cross, give blood
16 to help save lives. Philadelphia City
17 Council will be holding a blood drive on
18 Friday, May the 12th from 11:00 to 4:00
19 p.m. at 1400 JFK Boulevard in Room 201.
20 Please come and support this extremely
21 important endeavor. And if you want to
22 schedule an appointment, you can contact
23 my office at 215-686-3450. They are
24 really in need of blood types O, B, and
25 A.

1 4/20/23 - STATED - ADJOURNMENT

2 Thank you.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

4 Thank you, Councilwoman.

5 That concludes the speeches on
6 behalf of the minority and the majority.
7 With that, the Chair recognizes
8 Councilman Squilla for a motion to
9 adjourn.

10 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Thank you,
11 Mr. President. I move that Council stand
12 adjourned until Thursday, April 27th,
13 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

14 (Duly seconded.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
16 Thank you. It has been moved and
17 properly seconded that Council stand
18 adjourned until Thursday, April 27, 2023,
19 10:00 a.m.

20 All in favor indicate by saying
21 aye.

22 (Aye.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

24 Those opposed?

25 (No response.)

1 4/20/23 - STATED - ADJOURNMENT
2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
3 ayes have it. The motion carries.
4 Thank you all very much.

5 - - -

6 (Stated Meeting adjourned at
7 11:45 a.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the
proceedings, evidence and objections are
contained fully and accurately in the
stenographic notes taken by me upon the
foregoing matter, and that this is a true and
correct transcript of same.

MICHELE L. MURPHY
RPR-Notary Public

(The foregoing certification of this
transcript does not apply to any reproduction
of the same by any means, unless under the
direct control and/or supervision of the
certifying reporter.)

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