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COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

3

STATED MEETING

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5

Thursday, 10/25/01

6

10:15 a.m.

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Room 400, City Hall

Philadelphia, PA

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PRESENT: COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANNA C. VERNA

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COUNCILWOMAN JANNIE L. BLACKWELL

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COUNCILWOMAN BLONDELL REYNOLDS BROWN

COUNCILMAN DARRELL L. CLARKE

14

COUNCILMAN DAVID COHEN

COUNCILMAN FRANK J. DICICCO

15

COUNCILMAN W. WILSON GOODE, JR.

COUNCILMAN JAMES F. KENNEY

16

COUNCILWOMAN JOAN L. KRAJEWSKI

COUNCILMAN W. THACHER LONGSTRETH

17

COUNCILMAN RICHARD T. MARIANO

COUNCILWOMAN DONNA REED MILLER

18

COUNCILMAN MICHAEL A. NUTTER

COUNCILMAN BRIAN J. O'NEILL

19

COUNCILMAN ANGEL L. ORTIZ

COUNCILMAN FRANK RIZZO

20

COUNCILWOMAN MARIAN B. TASCO

21

PATRICIA RAFFERTY, Deputy Chief Clerk

22

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1 10/25/01 STATED - GREETING/INVOCATION

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

7 To give our invocation this morning, the
8 Chair welcomes Father John Kelly of St. Albert The
9 Great Parish. He is here today as the guest of
10 Councilman Brian O'Neill.

11 All members will please rise.

12 FATHER KELLY: Good morning.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Good morning.

14 FATHER KELLY: I will tell you that in the
15 Catholic tradition, it is part and parcel to pray
16 for elected and public officials daily, and so, if I
17 take this opportunity to remind you that throughout
18 the Catholic church, which is throughout the world,
19 you are prayed for on a daily basis. And rightly
20 so, because you hold the seat of power, and
21 consequently, that power can affect the day-to-day
22 living of numbers of people.

23 There are times when power or authority
24 can be misused or misrepresented, and our world
25 since September the 11th, is mindful of that, with

1 10/25/01 STATED - GREETING/INVOCATION

2 the threat of anthrax, with terrorism and violence
3 that has been put upon us. There could be an
4 inclination on the part of some to put aside the
5 fact that that's out there and not us. And if
6 that's the case, then perhaps you are threatened or
7 fearful or concerned about some of the prospects
8 that affect your day-to-day living: Redistricting,
9 school issues, public school issues, the differences
10 in race, religion, creed, personality, and gender.

11 If in fact your peace is threatened,
12 either locally or globally, then I invite you to
13 pray with me a prayer made popular by a man by the
14 name of Francis, who grew up in the Italian town of
15 Assisi. This prayer has been known as "The Prayer
16 of St. Francis." While the church prays for you,
17 it's my privilege to pray with you this day. And so
18 if you are so inclined, I ask you to repeat after me
19 this popular and most effective prayer to issue in
20 peace into your homes, into your heart, and
21 ultimately into our world.

22 Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
23 Where there is hatred, let me so love. Where there
24 is injury, pardon. Where there is doubt, faith.
25 Where there is despair, hope. Where there is

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2 darkness, light. Where there is sadness, joy.

3 O, Divine Master, grant that I may not so
4 much seek to be consoled as to console, to be
5 understood as to understand, to be loved as to love.
6 For it is in giving that we receive, it is in
7 pardoning that we are pardoned, it is in dying that
8 we are born to eternal life.

9 Amen.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair thanks
11 Father Kelly for his very inspiring invocation.

12 Council will be at ease.

13 That was beautiful.

14 (Council stands at ease.)

15 (Proceedings resume.)

16 - - -

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The next order
18 of business is the approval of the Journal of the
19 meeting of Thursday, October 18, 2001. And the
20 Chair recognizes Councilwoman Blackwell.

21 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you, Madam
22 President. I move that the Journal of the meeting
23 of Thursday, October 18, 2001 stand approved.

24 (Duly seconded.)

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: It has been and

1 10/25/01 STATED JOURNAL APPROVAL/LEAVES OF ABSENCE
2 properly seconded that the Journal of the meeting of
3 Thursday October 18, 2001 stand approved.

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

6 Those opposed?

7 The ayes have it, the motion carries. The
8 Journal of the meeting of Thursday, October 18, 2001
9 stands approved.

10 - - -

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The next order
12 of business is requests for leaves of absence, and
13 the Chair recognizes Councilwoman Blackwell.

14 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you, Madam
15 President. This morning, there are no requests for
16 leaves of absence on the part of the Majority.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair thanks
18 the Councilwoman.

19 The Chair recognizes -- is Councilman
20 O'Neill here?

21 (Councilman O'Neill not
22 present at this time.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
24 recognizes Councilman Rizzo. Councilman Rizzo, are
25 there any requests for leaves of absence?

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2 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Madam President, no
3 requests from the Republicans for leaves of absence.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

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6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair will
7 dispense with the regular order of business to
8 recognize the guests and visitors joining us in
9 chambers this morning. On behalf of all City
10 Council, I welcome you to our Council session. We
11 appreciate your taking the time to join us as we
12 attend to the legislative affairs of our city. We
13 certainly invite you to come again.

14 At this time, the Chair recognizes
15 Councilman DiCicco.

16 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Thank you, Madam
17 President. This morning, I have the honor and
18 privilege of introducing a number of folks from
19 Italy. Some of the folks here today I had the
20 pleasure of spending some time with in my trip to
21 Italy back in June of this year; they actually have
22 become my friends as well as just guests today.

23 They are here basically to promote what is
24 considered one of the greatest archeological naval
25 finds in history. In the city of Pisa, they have

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2 uncovered numerous ships that date back somewhere
3 between 1500 and 2,000 years ago, and they're
4 looking to do an exhibit in Philadelphia. They
5 think that Philadelphia is the city that normally
6 they would like to do it but is the city that is
7 most appropriate for that type of exhibit. They are
8 meeting with different folks from the state level as
9 well as the city level, and people from the
10 University of Pennsylvania, and I expect that in
11 very short time, they will announce when that
12 exhibit will take place.

13 With us is today is Lorenzo Mot (ph.),
14 who's been here before. He's the Council general
15 from Italy. Mr. Mot?

16 (Applause.)

17 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Dr. Alberto Giannetti
18 (ph.), who's the president of Central Broker, which
19 is an international insurance company, and he's also
20 a Councilperson, believe it or not, in Pisa, in the
21 region of Umbria.

22 (Applause.)

23 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Also is Mr. Riccardo
24 Spattolini (ph.), who is the president of the
25 Alliance Club of Perrugia -- the women know about

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2 Perrugia; it's where that fantastic chocolate is
3 manufactured. And he's also the executive director
4 of the Society for Incom. Riccardo?

5 (Applause.)

6 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: You got to see his
7 house on the hill in Pisa, it's fantastic.

8 Also Dr. Catia Conti (ph.). She is the --
9 she's similar to a curator of all the museums in the
10 region of Umbria, particularly the region of
11 Perrugia.

12 (Applause.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: We certainly
14 welcome you and we hope you enjoy your visit with
15 us.

16 Thank you.

17 at this time, the Chair recognizes
18 Councilman Cohen. Who will make a presentation
19 regarding the birthday of William Penn. Will
20 Miss Elaine Peden and Jay Meyers and those
21 accompanying them please join the Councilman at the
22 podium.

23 (Councilman Cohen and guests
24 come forward.)

25 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Thank you, Madam

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2 President.

3 (Inaudible) ... Germantown in the heart
4 of Philadelphia and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
5 to join me in making the official presentation.
6 Councilwoman Miller, would you be good enough to
7 join me?

8 (Councilwoman Miller comes
9 forward.)

10 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Good morning.
11 Recognizing the legacy of William Penn on the
12 anniversary of his birth, October 24th.

13 Whereas, Philadelphians recognize the
14 founding by William Penn of our city, birthplace of
15 the nation; and

16 Whereas, William Penn extended friendship
17 and fair dealing to the Native-American Indians and
18 established our city and state as a haven for
19 oppressed people of the world to whom he offered
20 religious and civil liberties and high standards of
21 justice; and

22 Whereas, William Penn was far ahead of his
23 time as an untiring advocate of representative city
24 government, city planning, penal reform, humane
25 mental institutions, and public education for

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2 everyone, and one of the first statesmen to envision
3 the unification of the American colonies; and

4 Whereas, William Penn. Through his holy
5 experiment, introduced into our city and state a
6 humanitarian code of law, which was honored in 1751
7 by the casting of the Liberty Bell; and

8 Whereas, William Penn's belief in the
9 non-violent settlement of disputes among
10 individuals, states, and nations continues to guide
11 and inspire us today;

12 Now, therefore, resolved by the Council of
13 the City of Philadelphia that we hereby recognize
14 the legacy of William Penn, founder of this city and
15 citizen of the first order, on the anniversary of
16 his birth, October 24th.

17 Resolved that an engrossed copy of this
18 resolution be presented to Jay Meyers and Elaine
19 Penden, co-chairs of the Friends of William Penn, as
20 evidence of the sincere sentiments of this
21 legislative body.

22 Certification that this is a true and
23 correct copy of the original resolution adopted by
24 the Council of the City of Philadelphia on the 4th
25 day of October, 2001, Anna C. Verna, President of

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2 City Council, introduced by David Cohen for Anna C.
3 Verna, and sponsored by all members of City Council.

4 (Applause.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
6 recognizes Miss Penden for remarks.

7 MS. PENDEN: Good morning, Madam
8 President.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Good morning.

10 MS. PENDEN: Members of the Council and
11 our visitors, for the last 25 years, Council has
12 honored us by allowing us to celebrate William
13 Penn's birthday in City Council.

14 Yesterday, October the 24th, was United
15 States Nations Day, and William Penn talked about
16 the formation of the United Nations over 250 years
17 ago. William Penn indeed is a man worth
18 remembering.

19 Today, we have with us Sandra Sadowski;
20 she's from the Society of Friends. She will say a
21 few words. And also Brian Sullivan from the Old
22 City Civic Association. So without further adieu,
23 Sandra.

24 (Applause.)

25 MS. SADOWSKI: Thank you, Elaine. Thank

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2 you, Madam President. Thank you, one and all of the
3 Council and honored guests.

4 I am representing the Philadelphia yearly
5 meeting of the religious Society of Friends and to
6 share in this wonderful celebration of the 300th
7 anniversary of William Penn, charter of privileges.

8 William Penn wrote to the Marquis of
9 Halifax, "I have led the greatest colony into
10 America with the most happiest, the most prosperous
11 beginnings found anywhere. Here in Pennsylvania
12 would be a Utopia, a place where peace, prosperity,
13 health, happiness, and just would prevail."

14 In 1701, William Penn wrote to James
15 Logan: "Let us do our duty and leave the rest up to
16 God."

17 william Penn felt responsible for
18 everybody who came to Penn's Woods, or Pennsylvania.
19 Without a war, without a revolution, people were
20 assured for the first time in the world a --
21 individual rights, the religious tolerance, being
22 able to assemble, and also political
23 self-determination.

24 What is this all saying to us today? We
25 must question whether we are living up to the ideals

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2 established by William Penn 300 years ago. From the
3 looks of this Council, I would say you're doing a
4 pretty good job.

5 (Applause.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The chair now
7 recognizes --

8 MR. SULLIVAN: Thank you, Elaine Peden and
9 Council President Verna. My name is Brian Sullivan
10 and I am a board member of the Old City Civic
11 Association, but also in this 300th, this
12 tricentennial year of Philadelphia, I am functioning
13 as the director of the 300th anniversary project,
14 which is a consortium of 40 different cultural and
15 educational institutions throughout Delaware Valley.

16 And what I would like to remind you of is
17 that, in fact, this is the tricentennial of the City
18 Council and city incorporation of Philadelphia. So
19 you, ladies and gentlemen, as of today,
20 October 25th, are celebrating your 300th
21 anniversary. It was on this day that William Penn
22 signed the Philadelphia City Charter, the copy of
23 which is in City Hall. And also, he signed two
24 other charters, which are very important not only to
25 Pennsylvanians, but also to this country, to the

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2 foundation of this country.

3 The second charter that he signed also on
4 this day was his plan for the education of
5 Pennsylvania's youth, and this means that
6 Pennsylvania has an educational plan that is 300
7 years old as of today, making it the third oldest
8 educational plan for the children of Pennsylvania
9 and the third oldest plan in the country.

10 The third charter which he signed, which
11 has implications to us as citizens of the United
12 States, is the Charter of Privileges, and that date
13 we are celebrating on the 28th, this Sunday. And I
14 wanted to let you know a little bit what is being
15 done throughout the Delaware Valley to be able to
16 celebrate this.

17 We have been able to bring together
18 educational institutions and schools. All of the
19 school children have been able to benefit by having
20 enrichment programs for their teachers that have
21 been conducted by the Constitution Center -- even
22 though they don't have a building, they are doing
23 educational programs -- by the American
24 Philosophical Society, by the Pennsylvania Academy
25 of Fine Arts, and there are many other programs that

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2 have been also implemented for enrichment.

3 The Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts,
4 together with the Mural Arts Program, was able to
5 design and paint a mural which is a depiction of
6 "The Peaceable Kingdom," which was originally
7 painted by Edward Hicks, inspired by William Peen's
8 idea of living a peaceable life, and that is in the
9 Fair Hill of Philadelphia. I invite you all to go
10 to see that mural.

11 And what is also very interesting is that
12 this mural is painted by the great- great- great-
13 great-grandson of Edward Hicks, Charles Henkin. And
14 so it is a tradition of not only art but also a
15 tradition of Quaker values that has been passed on
16 in this family from generation to generation.

17 There have been other programs, and I
18 encourage you to support the educational programs
19 that will continue. Yesterday and today, there are
20 supplements to the Philadelphia Inquirer, which are
21 available to school children throughout the Delaware
22 Valley, a 16-page supplement for the benefit of the
23 teachers as well as the children to enhance their
24 curriculum and to better teach them about what the
25 meaning of these three different charters are.

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2 And I would like to point out that there
3 are some important references that are brought out
4 by that charter that really make the charter
5 privileges very important, and that is the first
6 article which William Penn maintained that of all
7 the articles in this chart could not be changed.
8 And that is first, because no people can be truly
9 happy, though under the greatest enjoyments of civil
10 liberties if a bridge of the freedom of their
11 consciences as to their religious profession and
12 worship.

13 This indeed is an article that we should
14 all keep in mind, that we should think of children
15 across Pennsylvania as knowing and knowing well,
16 knowing as well as even the Declaration of
17 Independence because, indeed, it was a forerunner to
18 our Bill of Rights and our founding documents.

19 William Penn, in that sense, is truly one
20 of America's founding fathers.

21 Thank you.

22 (Applause.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

24 The Chair recognizes --

25 MR. MEYERS: I'm Jay Meyers, and on behalf

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2 of my co-chair, Elaine Peden, I want to thank again
3 the President of City Council and all members of the
4 City Council and all of our attendee here today.

5 I'm sure that William Peen would say
6 today, in view of our national situation, the United
7 States forever and Philadelphia forever.

8 Thank you.

9 (Applause.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Council will be
11 at ease.)

12 (Council stands at ease.)

13 (Proceedings resume.)

14 - - -

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
16 recognizes Councilman Kenney

17 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you, Madam
18 President.

19 I asked to be recognized this morning to
20 recognize someone who is in the room today who has
21 been a good friend of the Council here. Many
22 members of Council have relied on him in his
23 position of government affairs person over at SEPTA.
24 He is the brother of Judge Fran Kelly at Traffic
25 Court and Father Kelly, who gave our invocation

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2 today.

3 Joe Kelly, I want to recognize him not
4 only for the work he does at SEPTA, but even more
5 importantly, through a lot of hard work and effort
6 and going to school at night, he is our newest
7 member of the Pennsylvania Bar; he just passed his
8 test.

9 I just want to acknowledge him and give
10 him our congratulations.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.
12 Welcome.

13 (Applause.)

14 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you, Madam
15 President.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

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1 10/25/01 STATED - COMMUNICATIONS

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERA: The next order
3 of business is communications.

4 The Chair requests that the
5 Sergeant-at-Arms deliver the messages from the Mayor
6 to the clerk. The clerk will please read the
7 messages from the Mayor.

8 THE CLERK: To the President and Members
9 of the Council of the City of Philadelphia, I am
10 pleased to advise you that today, October 25, 2001,
11 I signed all of the bills that were passed by
12 Council at its session on October 11, 2001.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERA: The messages
14 will be printed in the Journal.

15 The clerk will please read any other
16 communications in her possession.

17 THE CLERK: That's all I have, Madam
18 President.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERA: Thank you.

20 - - -

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERA: The next order
22 of business is the introduction of bills and
23 resolutions, and the Chair recognizes Councilwoman
24 Blackwell for a motion.

25 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you, Madam

1 10/25/01 - INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, RESOLUTIONS

2 President. I move that the rules of Council be
3 suspended so as to permit immediate consideration of
4 the resolutions at the time of their introduction.

5 (Duly seconded.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: It has been
7 moved and properly seconded that the rules of
8 Council be suspended so as to permit immediate
9 consideration of resolutions at the time of
10 introduction

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

13 Those opposed?

14 The ayes have it and the motion carries.

15 The Chair recognizes Councilman Kenney.

16 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you, Madam
17 President. I offer one resolution.

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

20 THE CLERK: A resolution recognizing and
21 commending the Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order of
22 Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, which annually holds
23 one of the largest African-American national
24 conventions for its recent decision to hold its
25 110th Imperial Council session in Philadelphia from

1 10/25/01 - INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, RESOLUTIONS
2 August 17 to 21, 2001.

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

5 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: I move the adoption of
6 the resolution

7 (Duly seconded.)

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

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

13 Those opposed?

14 The ayes have it and the resolution has
15 been adopted

16 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman
17 Blackwell.

18 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you, Madam
19 President. This morning I introduce one bill on
20 your behalf.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you
22 the clerk will please read the title of
23 the bill.

24 THE CLERK: An ordinance amending Title 14
25 of the Philadelphia Code, entitled "Zoning and

1 10/25/01 - INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, RESOLUTIONS
2 Planning," by amending Chapter 14-1800, entitled
3 "Zoning Board of Adjustment," by amending Section
4 14-1807, entitled "Appeals to the Courts," by
5 amending language regarding appeals under certain
6 terms and conditions.

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

9 The Chair recognizes Councilman Cohen.

10 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Madam President, I have
11 no bills or resolutions.

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

14 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman
15 Krajewski.

16 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Madam President,
17 I offer one bill.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The clerk will
19 please read the title of the bill.

20 THE CLERK: An ordinance authorizing Ben
21 Franklin Foods Inc., tenant of the property 3801
22 Salmon Street, Philadelphia, to construct, use, and
23 maintain two one-story building additions and a
24 fence on and over the south footway of Salmon
25 Street.

1 10/25/01 - INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, RESOLUTIONS

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: This bill will
3 be referred to the appropriate committee.

4 The Chair recognizes Councilman Mariano.

5 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Madam President, I
6 have no bills or resolutions.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
8 recognizes Councilwoman Tasco.

9 (Councilwoman Tasco not
10 present at this time.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
12 recognizes Councilwoman Miller.

13 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Thank you, Madam
14 President. I offer three resolutions.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The clerk will
16 please read the title first resolution.

17 THE CLERK: A resolution recognizing
18 October as "Breast Cancer Awareness Month" and
19 emphasizing the importance early detection in
20 African-American women.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
22 recognizes Councilwoman Miller.

23 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: I move for the
24 adoption of the resolution.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Do I hear a

1 10/25/01 - INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, RESOLUTIONS

2 second?

3 (Duly seconded.)

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

7 All in favor will signify by saying aye

8 Those opposed?

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

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

13 THE CLERK: A resolution commending Jay
14 and Elsa Effren for Halloween productions that have
15 captivated both the young and old alike for over 30
16 years.

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

19 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: I move for the
20 adoption of the resolution.

21 (Duly seconded.)

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

25 All those in favor will signify by saying

1 10/25/01 - INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, RESOLUTIONS

2 aye.

3 Those opposed?

4 The ayes have it and the resolution has
5 been adopted

6 The clerk will please read the third
7 resolution.

8 THE CLERK: A resolution authorizing the
9 Commissioner of Public Property to execute and
10 deliver to the Redevelopment Authority of the City
11 deeds located in 12th, 13th, and 59th wards of the
12 City of Philadelphia.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
14 recognizes Councilwoman Miller.

15 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: I move for the
16 adoption of the resolution.

17 (Duly seconded.)

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

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

23 Those opposed?

24 The ayes have it and the resolution has
25 been adopted.

1 10/25/01 - INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, RESOLUTIONS

2 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman Tasco.

3 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Madam President, I
4 have no bills or resolutions today.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

6 The Chair recognizes Councilman Nutter.

7 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you, Madam
8 President. I offer four bills and one resolution.

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

11 THE CLERK: An ordinance providing that no
12 agreement, memorandum of understanding or other
13 commitment for the operation and financing or
14 management of the School District of Philadelphia
15 which will substitute for or supersede the functions
16 of the Board of Education or its successors or
17 assigns.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: This bill will
19 be referred to the appropriate committee.

20 THE CLERK: And an ordinance amending
21 Section 9-403 of the Philadelphia Code entitled
22 "Motor Buses," by adding a provision which prohibits
23 the loading and unloading of passengers at
24 off-street locations on City Avenue from 47th Avenue
25 to Belmont Avenue.

1 10/25/01 - INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, RESOLUTIONS

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: This bill will
3 also be referred to the appropriate committee.

4 THE CLERK: And an ordinance amending
5 Section 10-722 of the Philadelphia Code, entitled
6 "Use of Dumpsters," by adding a new subsection
7 providing for hours of collection on City Avenue
8 from 47th Street to Belmont Avenue.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The bill will be
10 referred to the appropriate committee.

11 THE CLERK: And an ordinance establishing
12 a no-truck-parking and tow-away zone regulation on
13 Haverford Avenue from 68th Street to Brockford Road,
14 both sides.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: This bill will
16 also be referred to the appropriate committee.

17 The clerk will please read the title of
18 the resolution.

19 THE CLERK: And a resolution authorizing
20 the Commissioner of Public Property to execute and
21 deliver to the Redevelopment Authority of the City
22 of Philadelphia deeds located in the 4th and 38th
23 Wards of the City

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
25 recognizes Councilman Nutter.

1 10/25/01 - INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, RESOLUTIONS

2 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Madam President, I
3 move the adoption of resolution.

4 (Duly seconded.)

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

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

10 Those opposed?

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

13 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman Brown.

14 COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Thank you,
15 Madam President. I have one resolution today, and
16 because of the magnitude of the issue, I would like
17 the resolution read in its entirety.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

19 The clerk will please read resolution the
20 resolution in its entirety.

21 THE CLERK: A resolution calling on
22 Governor Mark Schweiker to insist that Edison
23 Schools, Inc. include in their report on the
24 Philadelphia School District an assessment of where
25 the School District stands currently with the Fattah

1 10/25/01 - INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, RESOLUTIONS

2 principles and that any plan for the future
3 incorporate steps to improve the School District in
4 terms of those principles.

5 Whereas, improving the lives and education
6 of the 215,000 public and charter school students in
7 Philadelphia will have profound positive impact on
8 the future of Pennsylvania; and

9 Whereas, Edison Schools Inc. has been
10 hired by the Governor to assess the Philadelphia
11 School District and will produce a report in the
12 near future; and

13 Whereas, an appropriate solution to
14 today's problems must address the opportunity gap
15 and resources that is encountered by not only the
16 Philadelphia School District but by urban and rural
17 districts throughout the Commonwealth and the
18 country; and

19 Whereas, seven basics of quality education
20 have been identified by Congressman Chaka Fattah
21 that should be examined when determining the level
22 of opportunities students are receiving from a
23 school district; and

24 Whereas, the seven basics of education
25 that need to be measured for all students are:

1 10/25/01 - INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, RESOLUTIONS

2 Qualified teachers, smaller class sizes, rigorous
3 academic standards, educational technology,
4 up-to-date school libraries and textbooks, and
5 school counselors; and

6 Whereas, any report or plan that does not
7 address these basics of education will be considered
8 incomplete and flawed; and

9 Whereas, Congressman Chaka Fattah has
10 developed principles that must be examined,
11 assessed, and planned for in order to adequately
12 measure the state of opportunity and education for
13 the students of the Philadelphia School District;
14 and

15 Whereas, the seven Fattah principles for a
16 quality education are: 1) access to instruction and
17 core courses from a fully qualified teacher; 2)
18 access to rigorous academic curriculums, both basic
19 and advanced; 3) access to textbooks and
20 instructional supplies as current as their suburban
21 counterparts; 4) classroom sizes substantially equal
22 to their suburban counterparts; 5) access to a
23 school with an up-to-date library staffed by
24 certified librarian; 6) a student-to-computer ratio
25 similar to suburban counterparts; and 7) access to

1 10/25/01 - INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, RESOLUTIONS
2 guidance in a ratio that is compatible with that of
3 other students in suburban districts; now,
4 therefore, be it
5 Resolved by the City of City Council calls
6 on Governor Mark Schweiker to insist Edison Schools,
7 Inc. include in their report on the Philadelphia
8 School District an assessment of where the School
9 District stands currently with the Fattah principles
10 and that any plan for the future incorporates steps
11 to improve the School District in terms of those
12 principles.
13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
14 recognizes Councilwoman Brown.
15 COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: I thank you,
16 Madam President. I move for the adoption.
17 (Duly seconded.)
18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: It has been
19 moved and properly seconded that the resolution be
20 adopted
21 All those in favor will signify by saying
22 aye.
23 Those opposed?
24 The ayes have it and the resolution has
25 been adopted.

1 10/25/01 - INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, RESOLUTIONS
2 The Chair recognizes Councilman Goode.
3 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you, Madam
4 President. I have no bills or resolutions.
5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you
6 The Chair recognizes Ortiz.
7 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Thank you, Madam
8 President. No bills or resolutions.
9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you
10 The Chair recognizes Councilman DiCicco.
11 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Thank you, Madam
12 President. I offer one resolution.
13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The clerk will
14 please read the title of the resolution.
15 THE CLERK: A resolution recognizing
16 November 2001 as "The Month of Ramadan."
17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
18 recognizes Councilman DiCicco.
19 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Thank you, Madam
20 President. I move for the adoption of the
21 resolution
22 (Duly seconded.)
23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: It has been
24 moved and properly seconded that the resolution be
25 adopted.

1 10/25/01 - INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, RESOLUTIONS

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

4 Those opposed?

5 The ayes have it and the resolution has
6 been adopted

7 The Chair recognizes Councilman O'Neill.

8 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Madam President, I
9 have no bills or resolutions.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

11 The Chair recognizes Councilman Clarke.

12 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you, Madam
13 President. I have one bill.

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

16 THE CLERK: An ordinance amending Section
17 2 of an ordinance (Bill No. 990306) approved
18 June 24, 1999, an ordinance authorizing the revision
19 of lines and grades on a portion of City Plan No.
20 120 by striking from the City Plan and vacating
21 Sharswood Street from 22nd Street to 23rd Street

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

24 The Chair recognizes Councilman
25 Longstreth.

1 10/25/01 STATED - COMMITTEE REPORTS

2 COUNCILMAN LONGSTRETH: No bills or
3 resolutions.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

5 The Chair recognizes Councilman Rizzo.

6 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Madam President, no
7 bills or resolutions.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

9 - - -

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The next order
11 of business is reports from committees, and the
12 Chair recognizes Councilwoman Blackwell for a report
13 from the Committee on Finance.

14 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you, Madam
15 President. The Committee on Finance reports out
16 three bills with a favorable recommendation.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The clerk will
18 please read the report.

19 THE CLERK: To the President and Members
20 of the Council of the City of Philadelphia: The
21 Committee on Finance, to which was referred Bill No.
22 010492, an ordinance amending Title 19 of the
23 Philadelphia Code, entitled "Finance, Taxes and
24 Collections," by creating a Rainy Day Fund to
25 cushion the impact of unanticipated declines in City

1 10/25/01 STATED - COMMITTEE REPORTS

2 revenues, all under certain terms and conditions;
3 and

4 Bill No. 010508, an ordinance amending
5 Section 19-1303 of the Philadelphia Code, entitled
6 "Authorization to Offer Exemption From Real-Estate
7 Taxes on New Construction of Residential Property,"
8 all under certain terms and conditions; and

9 Bill No. 010541, an ordinance amending
10 Chapter 19-2600 of the Philadelphia Code, entitled
11 "Business Privilege Taxes," by establishing a pilot
12 program under which a credit against business
13 privilege taxes will be given to certain businesses
14 that contribute monies to community development
15 corporations, undertaking economic development
16 activities within the City of Philadelphia

17 respectfully reports it has considered and
18 amended the same and returns the attached bills to
19 Council with a favorable recommendation.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
21 recognizes Councilwoman Blackwell.

22 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you, Madam
23 President. I move that the rules of Council be
24 suspended so as to permit first reading this day of
25 Bill No.'s 010508 and 010541.

1 10/25/01 STATED - COMMITTEE REPORTS

2 (Duly seconded.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: It has been
4 moved and properly seconded that the rules of
5 Council be suspended so as to permit first reading
6 this day of Bill No.'s 010508 and 010541.

7 All in favor will say aye.

8 Those opposed?

9 The ayes have it, and Bill No.'s 010508
10 and 010541 will be placed on today's first-reading
11 calendar. Bill No. 010492 will be placed on our
12 first-reading calendar at our next session of
13 Council.

14 The Chair recognizes Councilman Kenney for
15 a report from the Committee on Public Property and
16 Public Works.

17 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you, Madam
18 President. The Committee on Public Property and
19 Public Works reports out four bills with favorable
20 recommendations.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The clerk will
22 please read the report.

23 THE CLERK: To the President and Members
24 of the Council of the City of Philadelphia: The
25 Committee on Public Property and Public Works, to

1 10/25/01 STATED - COMMITTEE REPORTS

2 which was referred Bill No. 000316, an ordinance
3 authorizing the Commissioner of Public Property, on
4 behalf of the City of Philadelphia, to purchase fee
5 simple title to certain properties located in the
6 5th Ward; and

7 Bill No. 010347, an ordinance approving
8 the sale of a certain lot or piece of City-owned
9 ground with the buildings and improvements thereon
10 erected, if any, situated at 826-28 New Market
11 Street, all under certain terms and conditions; and

12 Bill No. 010494, an ordinance amending
13 Section 9-601, entitled "Garages, Parking Lots,
14 Sales Lots and Sales Showrooms," of the Philadelphia
15 Code to provide for the posting of signs listing the
16 accepted methods of payments; and

17 Bill No. 010553, an ordinance authorizing
18 the Commissioner of Public Property, on behalf of
19 the City of Philadelphia, to execute a quick-claim
20 deed or such other document or documents to convey
21 some or all of the City's interest in a certain
22 property commonly known as 3600-3700 South 26th
23 Street, near Penrose, to American Premier
24 Underwriters

25 respectfully reports it has considered the

1 10/25/01 STATED - COMMITTEE REPORTS

2 same and returns the attached bills to Council with
3 a favorable recommendation.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
5 recognizes Councilman Kenney.

6 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Madam President, I
7 move the rules of Council be suspended so as to
8 permit first reading this day of Bill No. 000316,
9 010347, 010494, and 010553.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Do I hear a
11 second?

12 (Duly seconded.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: It has been
14 moved and properly seconded that the rules of
15 Council be suspended so as to permit first reading
16 this day of Bill No.'s 00316, 010347, 010494, and
17 010553.

18 All in favor will signify by saying aye.
19 Eye

20 Those opposed?

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

23 - - -

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The next order
25 of business is consideration of the calendar, and

1 10/25/01 STATED - FIRST-READING CALENDAR

2 the clerk will please read the bills on the
3 first-reading calendar.

4 THE CLERK: Bill No, 010508, an ordinance
5 amending Section 19-1303 of the Philadelphia Code,
6 entitled "Authorization to offer exemption from
7 real estate taxes on new construction of residential
8 properties," under certain terms and conditions.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair agrees

10 THE CLERK: And Bill No. 010541, an
11 ordinance amending Chapter 19-2600 of the
12 Philadelphia Code, entitled "Business Privilege
13 Taxes," by establishing a pilot program under which
14 a credit against business privilege taxes will be
15 given to certain businesses that contribute monies
16 to community development, all under certain terms
17 and conditions.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair agrees

19 THE CLERK: And Bill No. 000316, an
20 ordinance authorizing the Commissioner of Public
21 Property, on behalf of the City of Philadelphia, to
22 purchase fee simple title to properties bounded by
23 Buttonwood Street, North Ninth Street, and North
24 Tenth Street, under certain terms and conditions.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair agrees

1 10/25/01 STATED - FIRST-READING CALENDAR

2 THE CLERK: And Bill No. 010347, an
3 ordinance approving the sale of a certain lot or
4 piece of City-owned ground, with the building
5 improvements situated at 826-28 New Market Street in
6 the City of Philadelphia, under certain terms and
7 conditions.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair agrees

9 THE CLERK: And Bill No. 010494, an
10 ordinance amending Section 9-601, entitled "Garages,
11 Parking Lots, Sales Lots and Sales Showrooms" of the
12 Philadelphia Code to provide for the posting of
13 signs listing accepted methods of payment of parking
14 fees at public parking garages and public parking
15 lot entrances, under certain terms and conditions.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
17 agrees.

18 THE CLERK: And Bill No. 010553, an
19 ordinance authorizing the Commissioner of Public
20 Property, on behalf of the City of Philadelphia, to
21 execute a quick-claim deed, or such other document
22 or documents, to convey some or all of the City's
23 interest in a certain property commonly known as
24 3600-3700 South 26th Street, near Penrose Avenue,
25 all under certain terms and conditions.

1 10/25/01 STATED - SECOND READING - BILL 010542

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair

3 agrees.

4 The bills read by the clerk will be placed
5 on the second-reading and final-passage calendar for
6 our next session.

7 That concludes the first-reading calendar.

8 - - -

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair now
10 recognizes Councilwoman Blackwell for the purpose of
11 calling up bills on the second-reading and
12 final-passage calendar.

13 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you, Madam
14 President. Today Bill No.'s 010542, 010569, and
15 010555 are being called up for second reading and
16 final passage. All other bills are being held.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you the
18 clerk will please read the title of Bill No. 010542.

19 THE CLERK: An ordinance authorizing
20 transfers in appropriations for Fiscal Year 2002
21 from the General Fund-the Director of Finance
22 Provision for Other Grants to the General Fund to
23 all City offices, boards, and commissions.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: This bill having
25 been read on two different days the question now is,

1 10/25/01 STATED - SECOND READING - BILL 010542
2 shall the bill pass finally?
3 The clerk will please call the roll.
4 THE CLERK: Councilwoman Blackwell?
5 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Aye.
6 THE CLERK: Councilman Clarke?
7 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Aye.
8 THE CLERK: Councilman Cohen?
9 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Aye.
10 THE CLERK: Councilman DiCicco?
11 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Aye.
12 THE CLERK: Councilman Goode?
13 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Aye.
14 THE CLERK: Councilman Kenney?
15 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Aye.
16 THE CLERK: Councilwoman Krajewski?
17 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Aye.
18 THE CLERK: Councilman Longstreth?
19 COUNCILMAN LONGSTRETH: Aye.
20 THE CLERK: Councilman Mariano?
21 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Aye.
22 THE CLERK: Councilwoman Miller?
23 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Aye.
24 THE CLERK: Councilman Nutter?
25 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Aye.

1 10/25/01 STATED - SECOND READING - BILL 010542

2 THE CLERK: Councilman O'Neill?

3 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Aye.

4 THE CLERK: Councilman Ortiz?

5 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Aye.

6 THE CLERK: Councilwoman Reynolds Brown?

7 COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Aye.

8 THE CLERK: Councilman Rizzo?

9 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Aye.

10 THE CLERK: Councilwoman Tasco?

11 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Aye.

12 THE CLERK: Council President Verna?

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Aye.

14 The ayes are 17, the nays are 0. A

15 majority of all members having voted in the

16 affirmative, the bill passes.

17 The next bill to be called for

18 consideration is Bill No. 010569.

19 THE CLERK: An ordinance authorizing

20 transfers in appropriations for Fiscal Year 2002

21 within the General Fund from certain or all City

22 offices, departments, boards and commissions to

23 certain or all City offices departments boards or

24 commissions.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: This bill having

1 10/25/01 STATED - SECOND READING - BILL 010569
2 been read on two different days the question now is,
3 shall the bill pass finally?
4 The clerk will please call the roll.
5 THE CLERK: Councilwoman Blackwell?
6 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Aye.
7 THE CLERK: Councilman Clarke?
8 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Aye.
9 THE CLERK: Councilman Cohen?
10 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Aye.
11 THE CLERK: Councilman DiCicco?
12 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Aye.
13 THE CLERK: Councilman Goode?
14 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Aye.
15 THE CLERK: Councilman Kenney?
16 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Aye.
17 THE CLERK: Councilwoman Krajewski?
18 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Aye.
19 THE CLERK: Councilman Longstreth?
20 COUNCILMAN LONGSTRETH: Aye.
21 THE CLERK: Councilman Mariano?
22 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Aye.
23 THE CLERK: Councilwoman Miller?
24 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Aye.
25 THE CLERK: Councilman Nutter?

1 10/25/01 STATED - SECOND READING - BILL 010569

2 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Aye.

3 THE CLERK: Councilman O'Neill?

4 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Aye.

5 THE CLERK: Councilman Ortiz?

6 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Aye.

7 THE CLERK: Councilwoman Reynolds Brown?

8 COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Aye.

9 THE CLERK: Councilman Rizzo?

10 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Aye.

11 THE CLERK: Councilwoman Tasco?

12 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Aye.

13 THE CLERK: Council President Verna?

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Aye.

15 The ayes are 17, the nays are 0. A

16 majority of all members having voted in the

17 affirmative, this bill passes

18 The final bill to be called for

19 consideration is Bill No. 010555.

20 THE CLERK: An ordinance amending Title 9

21 of the Philadelphia Code, entitled "Regulation of

22 Businesses, Trades and Professions," by amending the

23 provisions in Section 9-618 relating to the sale of

24 spray paint containers and indelible markers to

25 include the sale of etching acid to be made certain

1 10/25/01 STATED - SECOND READING - BILL 010555
2 technical changes.
3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: This bill having
4 been read on two different days, the question now
5 is, shall the bill pass finally?
6 The clerk will please call the roll.
7 THE CLERK: Councilwoman Blackwell?
8 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Aye.
9 THE CLERK: Councilman Clarke?
10 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Aye.
11 THE CLERK: Councilman Cohen?
12 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Aye.
13 THE CLERK: Councilman DiCicco?
14 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Aye.
15 THE CLERK: Councilman Goode?
16 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Aye.
17 THE CLERK: Councilman Kenney?
18 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Aye.
19 THE CLERK: Councilwoman Krajewski?
20 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Aye.
21 THE CLERK: Councilman Longstreth?
22 COUNCILMAN LONGSTRETH: Aye.
23 THE CLERK: Councilman Mariano?
24 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Aye.
25 THE CLERK: Councilwoman Miller?

1 10/25/01 STATED - SECOND READING - BILL 010555

2 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Aye.

3 THE CLERK: Councilman Nutter?

4 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Aye.

5 THE CLERK: Councilman O'Neill?

6 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Aye.

7 THE CLERK: Councilman Ortiz?

8 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Aye.

9 THE CLERK: Councilwoman Reynolds Brown?

10 COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Aye.

11 THE CLERK: Councilman Rizzo?

12 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Aye.

13 THE CLERK: Councilwoman Tasco?

14 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Aye.

15 THE CLERK: Council President Verna?

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Aye.

17 The ayes are 17, the nays are zero. A

18 majority of all members having voted in the

19 affirmative, this bill passes.

20 That concludes our calendar for today.

21 - - -

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Are there

23 speeches on the part of the Minority?

24 (No speeches on the part of

25 the Minority.)

1 10/25/01 STATED - SPEECHES

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Are there
3 speeches on the part of the Majority?

4 The Chair recognizes Councilman Ortiz.

5 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Thank you, Madam Chair.

6 Madam Chair, last week, I spoke about

7 629 -- no.

8 (Laughter.)

9 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: I spoke about done
10 deals. And my speech was about everything that I
11 was hearing out in the street in terms of the
12 process that was going on behind closed doors about
13 the public schools of Philadelphia. And that
14 everywhere you turn, everyone said it was a done
15 deal.

16 I'm naive: I really refused to believe
17 that it was a done deal. And, lo and behold, in the
18 early part of this week, we read the stories -- not
19 being consulted as a legislative body who
20 appropriates money, but we read about it in the
21 newspapers. That it was a done deal. That people
22 met, the Governor came in, sat down with the Mayor
23 and other folks, and said, This is it, we're taking
24 over, we're going to name people until umpteen years
25 into the next governor and the next governor's

1 10/25/01 STATED - SPEECHES

2 election, and the people of Philadelphia will not be
3 consulted about this drastic change.

4 I mean, we're taking half, half of our
5 charter, half of our Home Rule Charter, tearing it
6 up, throwing it in the waste paper basket, and not
7 consulting the parents or the people of Philadelphia
8 about this change. Not consulting, not even asking.
9 It's going to be done, whether you like it or not,
10 because we deem it that you cannot govern yourself.
11 And we take it. We take it. We're docile.

12 Well, last night, I attended a rally, a
13 meeting at Edison High School organized by students
14 from Strawberry Mansion, Olney High School, Edison
15 High, Kensington. They had parents. And they said
16 they were not going to sit idly by and see their
17 schools being taken over. In essence, they carried
18 signs with them that said "We Are Not For Sale."

19 The governor, or this new guy who is
20 holding the chair for the next few months, said that
21 he's got to put a little bit of money in there.
22 Well, Blondell Reynolds just talked about -- in her
23 resolution about, the issues that constitute reform
24 in the public schools: Smaller classrooms, a
25 curriculum that includes the arts, music, libraries

1 10/25/01 STATED - SPEECHES

2 in the schools, books and technology, computers.
3 New schools. Because we have schools that are over
4 a hundred years old.

5 They didn't talk about those things.
6 They're not talking about those things. They're not
7 talking about reforming and supplying their
8 resources to educate our kids. They're talking
9 about a grab for power and governance. Nothing
10 else.

11 And let us not fool ourselves that the
12 system of Philadelphia is so bad off that we can
13 make it better by Balkanizing it and dividing it
14 into different fiefdoms.

15 One public school system here governed by
16 this corporate entity, another public school system
17 over here governed by this public entity, one over
18 here. Accountable to no one, only thing that body
19 that the governor is going to name, but definitely
20 accountable -- will not be accountable to the people
21 of Philadelphia, to the citizens of Philadelphia
22 whose taxes will go towards funding that system.

23 It can't be a done deal. Yogi Barra said
24 it's not a done deal until it's a done deal. That's
25 right.

1 10/25/01 STATED - SPEECHES

2 (Laughter.)

3 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: So I say, it ain't a
4 done deal. This body has not spoken, the citizens
5 of Philadelphia have not spoken, the parents of
6 Philadelphia have not spoken, and definitely the
7 students of Philadelphia have not spoken.

8 So whoever thinks that this change is
9 going to occur without us rising up -- I mean rising
10 up, organizing, because this is the one issue, this
11 is the one issue that is most primordial and
12 important if we're going to make this city and turn
13 this city around. The governor wants and he's
14 putting a line of demarkation in the sand -- well,
15 let's walk it and cross it.

16 They have to reform the system and fund
17 the system. Not divide it, Balkanize it, and
18 destroy it. And definitely not giving it up to
19 those individuals who put forward the lowest bid.
20 We are not up for sale to the lowest bidder.

21 If the governor wants to reform the public
22 schools -- Jim Kenny put forward a resolution of
23 about \$75 million, they were willing to put some
24 money up, let him put some really money up and
25 reform the public schools, but the public schools of

1 10/25/01 STATED - SPEECHES

2 Philadelphia, not the public school system in the
3 corporate entity of North Philadelphia or West
4 Philadelphia or South Philly -- of Philadelphia,
5 with one city.

6 Madam Chair, it ain't a done deal because
7 we haven't spoken.

8 Thank you.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

10 (Applause.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
12 recognizes Councilman Cohen.

13 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Thank you, Madam
14 President.

15 After the invocation this morning, I spoke
16 to the good father for a moment and said, "I don't
17 feel too much like being a peaceful person today. I
18 think maybe I'd rather be battling and be at war."
19 But during the session of the Council, I think I've
20 changed a little bit in my perspective, for today at
21 least.

22 You know, Governor Ridge, I thought, tried
23 to be a kindly man. I felt sorry for him, for his
24 clear limitations, but I was sympathetic to him. He
25 came from a part of Pennsylvania so far away from

1 10/25/01 STATED - SPEECHES

2 Philadelphia that I could understand that he knew
3 nothing about Philadelphia. And so for many of his
4 comments and observations, I forgave him on the
5 ground of ignorance.

6 Then like me, and my esteemed colleague
7 Councilman Longstreth, he wore hearing aids openly,
8 did not try to hide it, and I thought that was
9 great. And so I felt very kindly toward him. And
10 so when he left, I wished him well.

11 And I thought Well, now we're having a new
12 governor, somebody who comes from one of the
13 adjoining counties of Philadelphia, a Bucks County
14 commissioner, a rich county compared to
15 Philadelphia, a county whose people enjoy the fruits
16 of Philadelphia. They come to visits us constantly
17 for our great treasures, for our museums, for our
18 theaters, for our art, for our zoo, for all of the
19 historical richness that exists in Philadelphia.

20 And I said, Here is a person who surely
21 would understand Philadelphia and would know that
22 there are no real mysteries about education and how
23 young people good educated. It takes two things:
24 It takes a good home life generally and it takes a
25 good school system, and the two are intertwined.

1 10/25/01 STATED - SPEECHES

2 And he comes from a county that spends the proper
3 amount of money for education and they get good
4 results, and he must wonder at how Philadelphia,
5 despite so many of its people living in poverty, he
6 must wonder about how we produce the wonderful
7 schools that we do that win national acclaim and win
8 national awards year after years.

9 And he must say to himself, By God, I've
10 got to help the other schools in Philadelphia
11 because they deal with poverty, with kids that have
12 broken homes, with kids whose parents are so busy at
13 work -- if they have two parents, generally there's
14 one parent and that parent is so busy trying to earn
15 a living that that parent, usually a poor woman,
16 doesn't have time to give the proper support.

17 And so I'm sure this man from Bucks
18 County, who bears an honorable name, because once
19 there was a Senator Schweiker -- unfortunately, only
20 a fifth cousin of the Governor; were he a first
21 cousin, maybe this governor would be more sensitive.
22 But I thought that the Schweiker name indicated some
23 knowledge, some sensitivity, some understanding of
24 urban issues, but apparently, none of that was
25 present. Maybe this governor was picked for

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2 Lieutenant Governor through the same political basis
3 that many other lieutenant governors are picked,
4 because they're nice people don't know enough or are
5 not interested enough to care too much.

6 But it turns out that even though he came
7 from Bucks County, he seems to be very ignorant
8 about Philadelphia. I thought this governor was
9 going to not take advantage of the naivety of our
10 mayor in making the suggestion that if an agreement
11 is not reached, the State should take over the
12 schools. I think Mayor Street made a severe error.
13 He judged the Commonwealth to be interested really
14 in the school system in Philadelphia, and I think he
15 was dead-wrong, as Governor Schweiker's actions
16 showed yesterday.

17 But our mayor has shown he can recover
18 from mistakes. After all, he had his administration
19 testify in favor of Bill 629 and then he vetoed the
20 bill --

21 (Laughter.)

22 COUNCILMAN COHEN -- which shows the Mayor
23 can learn from his mistakes and correct them.

24 And I hope this mayor again learns and
25 again corrects a mistake and decides this time that

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2 there will be no willingness to turn over the school
3 system to Harrisburg, that it's got to remain part
4 and parcel of Philadelphia.

5 It's outrageous to think that the Board of
6 Education, which has been the bedrock of
7 Philadelphia educational history for so many years,
8 is suddenly going to disappear, that people are not
9 going to have anybody from Philadelphia to talk to
10 when they have problems about schools. Even though
11 the Board of Education sometimes did not listen to
12 the people, at least we could keep banging them,
13 they were our people. But instead, the Governor
14 apparently plans to appoint State people having no
15 contact with Philadelphia to run the school system.

16 I'm hoping the Mayor, as I said before,
17 changes his view, but if not, heed the words that
18 Councilman Ortiz said: Philadelphians will not
19 lightly surrender their right to control their
20 schools.

21 And I can tell you, when Councilman Ortiz
22 goes out on the streets of Philadelphia, if such an
23 effort is made by the Governor to take the school
24 system away from Philadelphia, Councilman Ortiz will
25 not be alone. My steps maybe a little rickety from

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2 time to time, but I'm going to tell you,
3 Philadelphia is not going to permit anybody to take
4 away the right of Philadelphia to make its
5 determinations about the school system.

6 And, yes, in addition, it's time we
7 understand that the school system does not stand
8 apart from every other aspect. We've got to
9 understand that poverty, low wages, bad housing
10 discrimination, all of that is part and parcel of
11 the educational problem that we have in
12 Philadelphia.

13 And if necessary, Madam President, it may
14 be that some of us are going to be thinking of not
15 merely as a city, as part of the Commonwealth of
16 Pennsylvania. But like our brothers and sisters in
17 Puerto Rico, we may be fighting for Philadelphia
18 separately for statehood.

19 Thank you. Thank you, Madam President.

20 (Applause.)

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERA: The Chair
22 recognizes Councilwoman Tasco.

23 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Thank you, Madam
24 President.

25 Madam President, what I find very sad is

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2 the way government is operating in Harrisburg. In
3 the past, when legislation was offered, there was an
4 opportunity for the public to have input, have its
5 say. And what is very painful for us is that
6 legislation is passed, passed in the dead of night,
7 passed in one day, and the public doesn't have an
8 opportunity to comment.

9 It seems to me that our elected officials
10 are elected by the people to represent the people
11 and their views. Certainly, we understand that the
12 public is not in favor of the notion of the State
13 takeover or privatization, but no one is paying
14 attention to what the public is saying. They're
15 just, you know, taking action on their own, without
16 input from the parents. Our effort here to engage
17 the public in the debate was (indiscernible), which
18 I think was a serious mistake.

19 So therefore, Angel, I do believe it's a
20 done deal. And the uprising is probably going to be
21 too late.

22 But it is a sad day when the elected
23 officials, particularly those from Philadelphia who
24 failed to listen to their constituents on an issue
25 that is so important, and they hear no, a loud no,

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2 but they're voting something different, yes, to
3 legislation that's not supported by the public.

4 Thank you.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you

6 The Chair recognizes Councilman Nutter.

7 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you, Madam

8 Chair. I'll be very brief.

9 I just want to point out to my colleagues
10 that we have witnessed today, and you should mark
11 this day as a day in which we have all had the
12 opportunity to see oratorical Houdiniism at its
13 finest. And I want to commend Councilman Cohen. I
14 continue to learn from him as the days and weeks go
15 by the ability to interweave two totally and
16 distinctly different topics into the same speech.

17 (Laughter.)

18 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: My hat is off to you
19 Councilman. I have deep appreciation for your
20 oratorical skills.

21 Thank you, Madam President.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

23 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman Miller.

24 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Thank you, Madam

25 President. I also will be brief.

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2 But I know for the past couple of days,
3 I've been home with my daughter, dealing with some
4 illness and whatnot and reading the paper and just
5 talking to people on the phone about the actions of
6 the Pennsylvania House of Reps and the Pennsylvania
7 Senate as it relates to the amendments to Act 46 and
8 the potential, the strong potential, for
9 implementation of those amendments and a total
10 takeover of the Philadelphia school system.

11 As the parent of a public school child and
12 as an aunt and friend and a family member of a lot
13 of public school children, I certainly am somewhat
14 very appalled that there was no opportunity for
15 public input. And I don't even know whether they
16 really cared whether we had input or not or what our
17 opinion was.

18 But I'm sure this morning, when we were
19 presenting the citation resolution to the William
20 Penn group, to the Friends of William Penn, when he
21 would wrote that charter 300 years ago and put
22 together the educational plan for Pennsylvania, I'm
23 sure that that plan did not say that public opinion,
24 public -- the lack of public opinion or public
25 comments, as it relates to a public institution such

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2 as the school system, was something that any of our
3 legislators would not desire.

4 So I, too, will figure out as a parent
5 first and as an elected official second what type of
6 action I personally want to take and help to
7 organize and make sure that the people do have a
8 voice and that the issue of accountability is one
9 that will absolutely be considered if there is a
10 takeover of the Philadelphia public school system.

11 Thank you.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you

13 At this time, the Chair recognizes
14 Councilman Ortiz.

15 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Thank you, Madam Chair.

16 I left out one thing. It is incredible
17 that through this process, the members of the School
18 Board, the people most intimately related to the
19 public school system, were kept in the dark about
20 what was going on. And from what I read in the
21 newspapers, they were not even consulted, they were
22 not even interviewed. And I think Christine
23 James-brown said that the time for being polite is
24 over.

25 I think it might be a done deal, it could

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2 be a done deal but, goodness gracious, I don't want
3 to use one of the words some of my other individuals
4 used, we can't go down without a struggle. This
5 cannot end without a fight. We cannot just turn
6 over the system of education. We might as well turn
7 over the government of Philadelphia, we might as
8 well turn over this City Council, this mayor because
9 they will be running and controlling all of the
10 different institutions that we have.

11 And if it's a done deal, when does it end
12 and when do we say "enough." And when do we stand
13 up to Harrisburg and say, "You are responsible for
14 the public schools of this Commonwealth, public
15 schools of this Commonwealth."

16 The time for politeness, as Christine
17 James-Brown said, is over.

18 So it may be a done deal, but it's only a
19 done deal if we accept it without a struggle. I
20 think if the people of Philadelphia come up, and we
21 with them, we with them, I don't think it's a done
22 deal.

23 Thank you, Madam.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

25 Are there any other speeches on the part

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2 of the majority?

3 (No further speeches.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Seeing none, the
5 Chair recognizes Councilwoman Tasco

6 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Thank you, Madam
7 President. I move that Council stand adjourned
8 until Thursday, November the 1st, 2001, 10 a.m.

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

11 (Duly seconded.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: It has been
13 moved and properly seconded that Council stand
14 adjourned until Thursday, November 1, 2001 at 10
15 a.m.

16 All those in favor will signify by saying
17 aye.

18 Those opposed?

19 the ayes have it and the motion carries

20 Thank you.

21 (Proceedings end at 11:20

22 a.m..)

23 - - -

24

25

2 CERTIFICATE

3 I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing
4 proceedings of the Council of the City of
5 Philadelphia of Thursday, October 25, 2001, are
6 contained fully and accurately in the stenographic
7 notes taken by me upon, and that this is a true and
8 correct transcript of same.

9

10 RE: STATED MEETING

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12

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14

15

Josephine Cardillo

17 Registered Professional Reporter
18 and Notary Public

19

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21 transcript does not apply to any reproduction of the
22 same by any means, unless under the direct control
23 and/or supervision of the certifying reporter.)

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