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2

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

3

STATED MEETING

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5

Room 696, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Thursday, February 6, 2003
10:15 a.m.

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PRESENT:

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COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANNA C. VERNA

12

COUNCILWOMAN JANNIE BLACKWELL
COUNCILWOMAN BLONDELL REYNOLDS BROWN

13

COUNCILMAN DARRELL L. CLARKE
COUNCILMAN DAVID COHEN

14

COUNCILMAN FRANK J. DI CICCO
COUNCILMAN W. WILSON GOODE, JR.

15

COUNCILWOMAN JOAN L. KRAJEWSKI
COUNCILMAN RICHARD T. MARIANO

16

COUNCILWOMAN DONNA REED MILLER
COUNCILMAN MICHAEL A. NUTTER

17

COUNCILMAN BRIAN J. O'NEILL
COUNCILMAN ANGEL L. ORTIZ

18

COUNCILMAN FRANK RIZZO

19

COUNCILWOMAN MARIAN B. TASCO

20

PATRICIA RAFFERTY, CHIEF CLERK

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LITIGATION SUPPORT SERVICES
Eleven Penn Center
1835 Market Street, Suite 600
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103
215.561.2220 215.567.2670

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1 2/6/03 - STATED - INVOCATION

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: May I have
3 everyone's attention, please? I note that the hour
4 has come and that quorum of this Council is present.
5 The Council will please come to order. Members will
6 take their seats.

7 To give our invocation this morning, the
8 Chair welcomes the Reverend D.J. Lawrence, Pastor of
9 the New Psalmist Baptist Church. Rev. Lawrence is
10 here today as the guest of Councilman Clarke.

11 Members and guests will please rise.

12 REV. LAWRENCE: May we bow our heads in
13 humble submission to God.

14 Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed
15 be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Here in City
16 Council we pray that thy would be done. We pray for
17 the government of our city, the government of our
18 state, but most of all, oh, God, we pray for the
19 government of our nation. We pray that you would
20 guide our president. We pray that you would guide
21 not only him, but we pray for those who are
22 overseas. We pray for their families. We pray,
23 Lord, for this august body. We pray for President
24 Verna. We pray for the Fifth Councilmanic District.
25 We pray for Brother Darrell Clarke. Most of all,

1 2/6/03 - STATED - APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL
2 God, we pray that you would unify our hearts with
3 truth. Lord, we pray that you would use each of
4 these Councilmen and Councilwomen to serve this
5 City. God, we pray that you would bless us and in
6 the ultimate end you would say to us, "A job well
7 done." We pray this now in the name of truth. And
8 our hearts say, amen.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
10 thanks Rev. Lawrence for his very inspiring
11 invocation.

12 Council will be at ease.

13 (Council at ease.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The next order
15 of business is the approval of the Journal of the
16 meeting of Tuesday, January 28, 2003. The Chair
17 recognizes Councilwoman Tasco.

18 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Madam Chair, I move
19 for the approval of Journal of Tuesday, January
20 28th.

21 (Duly seconded.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: It has been
23 moved and properly seconded that the meeting of
24 Tuesday, January 28, 2003, stand approved.

25 All in favor will indicate by saying

1 2/6/03 - STATED - LEAVES OF ABSENCE

2 aye.

3 (Aye.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Those opposed?

5 (No response.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The ayes have
7 it, and the Journal of the meeting of Tuesday,
8 January 28, 2003, has been approved.

9 At this time the Chair recognizes
10 Councilwoman Blackwell for requests for leaves of
11 absence.

12 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you,
13 Madam President. This morning a leave is absence is
14 requested for Councilman Kenney.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The Chair
16 thanks the Councilwoman. Leave will be granted.

17 The Chair recognizes Councilman O'Neill.

18 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Madam President, on
19 behalf of the republicans, leave of absence is
20 requested for Councilman Thacher Longstreth.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The Chair
22 thanks the gentleman.

23 The Chair will dispense with the regular
24 order of business to recognize the guests and
25 visitors recognizing Chambers this morning. On

1 2/6/03 - STATED - WELCOME

2 behalf of all Members of City Council, I welcome you
3 to our Council Session today. We appreciate your
4 taking the time to join us as we attend to the
5 legislative affairs of our City. We certainly
6 invite you to come again.

7 We now have a tradition of welcoming the
8 Girl Scouts to City Council during the Annual Girl
9 Scout Cookie Drive which is their primary
10 fund-raiser each year. Today I'm especially pleased
11 to welcome Ms. Sharita Blanding, a senior at West
12 Catholic High School, a resident of Southwest
13 Philadelphia, and a Senior Girl Scout in Troop 517.
14 Ms. Blanding is accompanied by Ms. Kelly Rudick of
15 the Girl Scout organization, and I am pleased to ask
16 both of the young ladies to please step up to the
17 podium for a few brief remarks.

18 Good morning and welcome.

19 MS. BLANDING: Good morning, City
20 Council. My name is Sharita Blanding and I am a
21 Senior Girl Scout in Troop 517. And on behalf of
22 Girl Scouts of Southeastern Pennsylvania, we would
23 like to dedicate this basket of girl scout cookies
24 to you for your support and in the girl scouts.

25 (Applause.)

1 2/6/03 - STATED - COMMUNICATIONS

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank you.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank you very
4 much.

5 Councilmembers can certainly help
6 themselves to the cookies.

7 The next order of business is
8 communications. The Chair recognizes the
9 Sergeant-at-Arms for the purpose of delivering the
10 messages from the Mayor to the Chief Clerk.

11 The Clerk will read the messages from
12 the Mayor.

13 THE CLERK: To the President and Members
14 of the Council of the City of Philadelphia, I am
15 pleased to advise you that on January 31, 2003, I
16 signed the following bill that was passed by Council
17 at its Session on January 28, 2003: Bill No.
18 020758.

19 And I am transmitting herewith for the
20 consideration of your on honorable body the
21 following ordinance entitled, an ordinance
22 authorizing the construction of Dobson Run Storm
23 Water Relief Sewer in portions and Allegheny Avenue.

24 And an ordinance authorizing the
25 Commissioner of Public Property on behalf of the

1 2/6/03 - STATED - COMMUNICATIONS

2 City of Philadelphia to acquire by purchase lease or
3 condemnation a certain temporary easement through
4 3500 Scotts Lane.

5 And an ordinance authorizing the City
6 Solicitor on behalf of the City to enter in a
7 multi-year lease or lease purchase agreement with a
8 provider of personal computers and associated
9 software.

10 And an ordinance to authorize the Water
11 Commissioner on the behalf of the City to enter into
12 agreements with the owners of the properties and
13 their successors of a private street known as
14 Blakeston Lane.

15 And an ordinance authorizing real estate
16 transactions necessary to permit the City of
17 Philadelphia to acquire property needed for the use
18 by the Philadelphia International Airport.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The messages
20 will be printed in the Journal.

21 The Clerk will please read any other
22 communications in her possession.

23 THE CLERK: That's all I have, Madam
24 President.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank you.

1 2/6/03 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

2 The next order of business is the
3 introduction of bills and resolutions, and the Chair
4 recognizes Councilwoman Blackwell.

5 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you,
6 Madam President. I move that the Rules of Council
7 be suspended so as to permit immediate consideration
8 of resolutions at their time of introduction.

9 (Duly seconded.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: It has been
11 moved and properly seconded that the Rules of
12 Council be suspended so as to permit immediate
13 consideration of resolutions at the time of
14 introduction.

15 All in favor of the motion, please
16 signify by saying aye.

17 (Aye.)

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Those opposed?

19 (No response.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The ayes have
21 it. The motion carries.

22 And the Chair recognizes Councilwoman
23 Blackwell.

24 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Madam
25 President, this morning I have no bills or

1 2/6/03 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS
2 resolutions.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you, and
4 we certainly welcome you back.

5 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
7 recognizes Councilman Cohen.

8 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Madam President, I
9 offer one privileged resolution which requires a
10 vote.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Which what,
12 sir?

13 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Madam President, I
14 offer one resolution which will require a vote by
15 the Council on behalf of the 15 members of City
16 Council.

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

20 THE CLERK: A resolution authorizing the
21 City Council Committee on Law and Government to hold
22 hearings to investigate the state of the air quality
23 in Philadelphia and to recommend ways and means to
24 improve its air quality and, therefore, health of
25 all Philadelphians.

1 2/6/03 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The Chair
3 recognizes Councilman Cohen.

4 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Madam President, I
5 move for the adoption of the resolution.

6 (Duly seconded.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: All in favor
8 will say aye.

9 (Aye.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Those opposed?

11 (No response.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The ayes have
13 it and the resolution will be referred to the Law
14 and Government Committee.

15 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman
16 Krajewski.

17 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Madam
18 President, I offer five bills.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank you.
20 The Clerk will please read the title of the first
21 bill.

22 THE CLERK: An ordinance to amend the
23 Philadelphia zoning maps by changing the zoning
24 designations of certain areas of land located within
25 an area bounded by Bridge Street, Tacony Street, and

1 2/6/03 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

2 the Delaware River and the Frankford Creek.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The bill will
4 be referred to the appropriate committee.

5 THE CLERK: And an ordinance authorizing
6 transfers in appropriations for Fiscal Year 2003
7 within the Grants Revenue Fund.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: This bill will
9 be referred to the appropriate committee.

10 THE CLERK: And an ordinance authorizing
11 transfers in appropriations for Fiscal Year 2003
12 within the Water Fund from certain or all City
13 offices.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The bill will
15 be referred to the appropriate committee.

16 THE CLERK: And an ordinance authorizing
17 transfers in appropriations for Fiscal Year 2003
18 within the Grants Revenue Fund from the Department
19 of Licenses and Inspections.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The bill will
21 be referred to the appropriate committee.

22 THE CLERK: And an ordinance authorizing
23 transfers in appropriations for Fiscal Year 2003
24 within the Aviation Fund.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: This bill will

1 2/6/03 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

2 also be referred to the appropriate committee.

3 The Chair recognizes Councilman Mariano.

4 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Madam President, I
5 have two bills and one resolution.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank you.

7 The Clerk will please read the title of the first
8 bill.

9 THE CLERK: An ordinance establishing a
10 no motor home parking regulation on Nafle Street
11 Loretta Avenue to Summerdale Avenue, both sides.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The bill will
13 be referred to the appropriate committee.

14 THE CLERK: And an ordinance amending
15 Section 19-1502 of the Philadelphia Code entitled,
16 "Imposition of Tax," by providing for the reductions
17 in rate of wage and net profits tax, under certain
18 terms and conditions.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: This bill will
20 be referred to the appropriate committee.

21 The Clerk will please read the title of
22 the resolution.

23 THE CLERK: And a resolution authorizing
24 Commissioner of Public Property to execute and
25 deliver to the Redevelopment Authority of the City

1 2/6/03 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS
2 deeds located in the 18th, 19th, and 23rd Wards of
3 the City of Philadelphia.

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

6 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Move for the
7 adoption.

8 (Duly seconded.)

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

12 All in favor will indicate by saying
13 aye.

14 (Aye.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Those opposed?

16 (No response.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The ayes have
18 it, and the resolution has been adopted.

19 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman Tasco.

20 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Madam President, I
21 offer three resolutions.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.
23 The Clerk will please read the title of the first
24 resolution.

25 THE CLERK: A resolution condemning the

1 2/6/03 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS
2 cynical attempt by the predatory lending industry to
3 undermine the authority of state and local elected
4 officials to effectively respond to the epidemic of
5 predatory lending practices.

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

8 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Madam President,
9 I'd like to speak on the resolution.

10 Madam President, we offer this
11 resolution today because we're concerned about
12 what's happening in Congress. The resolution points
13 out the action by some congressional members to
14 undermine the anti-predatory legislation that has
15 been passed across this country.

16 As you know, this City Council
17 unanimously passed the toughest anti-predatory
18 lending legislation in the United States in April
19 2001. While our efforts were hastily preempted by
20 the Pennsylvania Legislature, cities, counties,
21 municipalities, and states across this country
22 followed our lead and adopted legislative measures
23 patterned after our bill. In the meantime ACORN,
24 Michele Lewis of the Northwest Counseling Service
25 and the Philadelphia Predatory Lending Task Force,

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2 the National Coalition of 100 Black Women and Delta
3 Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., have all been on a
4 mission to educate Philadelphians about the abusive
5 lending practices that are used by predatory
6 lenders. State Senator Vincent Hughes and I, along
7 with these, have been participating in seminars and
8 meetings at local recreation centers, senior
9 citizens centers, churches and many other venues to
10 further educate people about how to protect
11 themselves while borrowing money. But while our
12 education campaign has been touching the lives of
13 many, predatory lending runs rampant in our
14 neighborhoods, camouflaged in many forms exemplified by
15 the well-advertised pay-day loans, sell your houses
16 for cash, get an early loan on your tax refund, and
17 a slew of other examples.

18 With this in mind, I want the record to
19 show that we have been in contact with the
20 Philadelphia Delegation of the US House of
21 Representatives. I will be presenting this
22 resolution along with other educational material to
23 our congressional representatives about the impact
24 that predatory lending has had on the Philadelphians
25 and Pennsylvanians at large. As in the past, I will

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2 also make the case as to why we need them to stand
3 tall and fight against any federal legislation that
4 strips the power of state and local elected
5 officials to enact legislation to protect their
6 constituents from predatory lending home loans and
7 other types of predatory lending.

8 Tomorrow, we will be hosting a meeting
9 with anti-predatory lending advocates from across
10 the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. They come because
11 predatory lending is not just a problem in urban
12 areas, but rural communities as well. Some of our
13 state representatives have reached out to us to
14 discuss this issue because they recognize that
15 predatory lending is class and color blind. As our
16 group will also be working with members of the State
17 Legislature in a effort to gain bipartisan support
18 to address this issue, and I will certainly keep my
19 colleagues informed.

20 And Madam President, what I'd like have
21 to happen is have the Clerk read the resolution in
22 its entirety.

23 THE CLERK: The Clerk will read the
24 resolution its entirety, please.

25 THE CLERK: Whereas, predator lending

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2 abuses that take away homeowners' equality and lock
3 borrowers into high interest rates pervade the
4 subprime mortgage market as evidenced most recently
5 by predatory lending settlements entered into by two
6 of the very largest subprime lenders, and Fannie Mae
7 estimates that are up to half of all borrowers of
8 subprime loans, Grade B and Grade C, should have
9 qualified for Grad A loans with substantively lower
10 rates and fees; and

11 Whereas, the targeting of subprime loans
12 to people of color, low and moderate income
13 families, and senior citizens, cost those who can
14 least afford it billions of dollars each year and
15 reverses hard-won progress that has been made on
16 reducing the racial home ownership gaps; and

17 Whereas, after conducting a
18 comprehensive investigation into the nature of
19 abusive mortgage lending practices in Philadelphia,
20 this Council unanimously enacted our nation's
21 strongest anti-predatory lending ordinance on April
22 the 5, 2001, with republicans joining democrats in a
23 clear and unmistakable message to the financial
24 industry, you have utterly failed to police
25 yourselves and through your failure you have given a

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2 green light to unscrupulous predators to strip the
3 wealth from the hard-working citizens of our City.
4 The only proper and credible response to this crisis
5 was swift and decisive government action; and

6 Whereas, inspired by Philadelphia's bold
7 legislative approach to combatting predatory
8 lending, numerous states and localities have
9 responded to the crisis by protecting their
10 residents with laws that provide crucial safeguards
11 on high-cost home loans without cutting off access
12 to credit, preventing most predatory loans from even
13 being made in the first place; and

14 Whereas, within a few short weeks after
15 the enactment of the Philadelphia anti-predatory
16 lending ordinance, the predatory lending industry
17 successfully lobbied for passage of State
18 Legislation in Harrisburg which stripped the Home
19 Rule powers of Philadelphia and all other
20 Pennsylvania municipalities from enacting
21 anti-predatory lending legislation and eroding
22 existing consumer protections to counter predatory
23 lending under Pennsylvania law; and

24 Whereas, the same forces which
25 successfully stopped Philadelphia from ending this

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2 scourge of predatory lending in our City and are now
3 posed to push legislation through the United States
4 Congress which would nullify all state and local
5 anti-predatory lending laws without providing any
6 meaningful new protections for consumers; and

7 Whereas, this Council is committed to
8 working with the Pennsylvania General Assembly and
9 the United States Congress to restore Philadelphia's
10 Home Rule powers to bring real and immediate relief
11 to the past and future victims of predatory lending.

12 Therefore, be it resolved by the Council
13 of the City of Philadelphia that Council calls upon
14 United States Congress to respect the authority to
15 stat and local elected officials to enact
16 legislation for the protection of their constituents
17 from predatory home loans that strip away
18 hard-earned home equity, trap borrowers in excessive
19 interest rates, and frequently cause families to
20 lose their homes.

21 Be it further resolved that Council
22 calls upon the members of the Pennsylvania
23 Congressional Delegation to strongly oppose the
24 dangerous legislative assault led by the predatory
25 industry against the state and local anti-predatory

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2 lending legislation.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank you.

4 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman Tasco.

5 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Madam President, I

6 move for the adoption of the resolution.

7 (Duly seconded.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: All in favor
9 of the adoption of the resolution will please say
10 aye.

11 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Madam President.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The Chair
13 recognizes Councilman Cohen.

14 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Thank you, Madam
15 President. I think much of the nation and certainly
16 those of us in Philadelphia really owe a great debt
17 to Councilwoman Tasco for her continuing
18 perseverance in the fight against predatory lending.
19 She emphasizes the different techniques that are
20 used, and in that regard I want to point out the
21 very bad influence exerted by two media groups in
22 Philadelphia that are spending a great deal of time,
23 meaning they're making a lot of money because
24 they're publishing ads for the latest pay day
25 practice. They put up to 500 in your checking

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2 account, and their interest is really reasonable,
3 it's 1,040 percent interest charged by them,
4 interest rates that would drive anybody out of their
5 mind. Yet in the interest of profit, the
6 Philadelphia Daily News and KKY, both generally good
7 papers and radio stations that most of us depend on
8 consistently, are making a profit out of predatory
9 lending and they ought to put an end to it.

10 Research indicates that media do not
11 have to publish ads if they feel they're not in the
12 best interest of the public. And these ads are
13 clearly -- as the resolution by Councilwoman Tasco
14 shows, these ads are not in the best interest. They
15 make it sound simple. It's deceptive, it's
16 enticing, it seduces a lot of people to get into
17 debt over their head. And this astronomical
18 interest rate, imagine an interest rate of more than
19 1,000 percent. The going rate is that for a week's
20 loan of \$500, you pay \$100 in interest. That's 20
21 percent for one week. Multiply that one-week rate
22 by 52 and you get an interest rate of 1,040 percent.
23 It would be unfair even if they were charging rich
24 people that, but when they charge poor working
25 people who struggle so hard to earn a dollar an

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2 interest rate like that, they drive people
3 desperate.

4 So I call on cooperation from the
5 Philadelphia media in support of the fine work being
6 done by the coalition assembled by Councilwoman
7 Tasco. And my thanks and I'm sure the thanks of all
8 Philadelphians go to Councilwoman Tasco for her
9 continuing efforts in this direction. Thank you.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you,
11 very much, Councilman.

12 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman Tasco.

13 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: I'd like to thank
14 Councilman Cohen for those comments. And he points
15 out a very graphic example of what's happening. And
16 I would say that as we spend \$350 million on blight,
17 remember what is happening with the predatory
18 lending lends to the blight of the City because it
19 sucks the equity out of our homes in our community
20 and sucks away the equity from people who can least
21 afford it. So I thank you and ask all my colleagues
22 to vote on this resolution.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you. It
24 has been moved and seconded that the resolution be
25 adopted.

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2 All in favor will signify by saying aye.

3 (Aye.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Those opposed?

5 (No response.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The ayes have
7 it, and the resolution has been adopted.

8 The Clerk will please read the second
9 resolution.

10 THE CLERK: A resolution recognizing
11 February 9th to the 15th as Black Family Technology
12 Awareness Week.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The Chair
14 recognizes Councilwoman Tasco.

15 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Madam President, I
16 move for the adoption of the resolution.

17 (Duly seconded.)

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: All in the
19 favor of the adoption of the resolution will
20 indicate by saying aye.

21 (Aye.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Those opposed?

23 (No response.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The ayes have
25 it, and the resolution has been adopted.

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2 The Clerk will please read the title of
3 the third resolution.

4 THE CLERK: A resolution declaring March
5 as Save Your Vision Month.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The Chair
7 recognizes Councilwoman Tasco.

8 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Madam President, I
9 move for the adoption of the resolution.

10 (Duly seconded.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: It has been
12 moved and properly seconded that the resolution be
13 adopted.

14 All in favor will signify by saying aye.
15 (Aye.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Those opposed?
17 (No response.)

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The ayes have
19 it, and the resolution has been adopted.

20 At this time, the Chair recognizes
21 Councilwoman Miller.

22 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Thank you, Madam
23 President. I offer two resolutions.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The Clerk will
25 please read the title of the first resolution.

1 2/6/03 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

2 THE CLERK: A resolution authorizing the
3 Commissioner of Public Property to execute and
4 deliver to the Redevelopment Authority of the City
5 deeds located 11th, 12th, 13th and 59th Wards of the
6 City of Philadelphia.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The Chair
8 recognizes Councilwoman Miller.

9 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: I move for the
10 adoption of the resolution.

11 (Duly seconded.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: It has been
13 moved and properly seconded that the resolution be
14 adopted.

15 All in favor will signify by saying aye.
16 (Aye.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Those opposed?
18 (No response.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The ayes have
20 it, and the resolution has been adopted.

21 The Clerk will please read the title of
22 the third resolution.

23 THE CLERK: A resolution honoring and
24 recognizing the United Negro College Fund for its
25 contributions to American society and education of

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2 America's youth.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The Chair
4 recognizes Councilwoman Miller.

5 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: I move for the
6 adoption of 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 in favor will signify by saying aye.

12 (Aye.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Those opposed?

14 (No response.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The ayes have
16 it, and the resolution has been adopted.

17 The Chair again recognizes Councilwoman
18 Miller.

19 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Thank you, Madam
20 President. I'm requesting that this body have a
21 standing moment of silence mourning the death and
22 honoring the memory of Jean Christine William Smith
23 who was Granddaughter Ruler of the Improved
24 Benevolent Protection Order of Elks of the World, a
25 Philadelphia resident who died last week.

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2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

3 Everyone will stand for a moment of silence, please.

4 (Moment of silence.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair

6 recognizes Councilman Nutter.

7 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you, Madam

8 President. I offer three bills.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

10 The Clerk will please read the title of
11 the first bill.

12 THE CLERK: An ordinance authorizing the
13 Commissioner of Public Property on behalf of the
14 City of Philadelphia to acquire by purchase, lease,
15 or condemnation a certain temporary easement through
16 3500 Scotts Lane.

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

19 THE CLERK: And an ordinance the
20 construction of sanitary sewers and appurtenant work
21 in portions in the Fairmount Park property.

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

24 THE CLERK: And an ordinance authorizing
25 the construction of Dobson Run Storm Water Relief

1 2/6/03 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

2 Sewer all appurtenant work in portions of Allegheny
3 Avenue and 32nd Street.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The bill will
5 be referred to the appropriate committee.

6 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman Brown.

7 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you, Madam
8 President. It is with a great sense of sadness and
9 yet a sincere honor for me to introduce one bill on
10 behalf of myself and all members of this legislative
11 body.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank you.

13 The Clerk will please read the title of
14 the bill.

15 THE CLERK: An ordinance naming and
16 designating the West Philadelphia Regional Branch of
17 the Free Library of Philadelphia, located 125 South
18 52nd Street as Lucien E. Blackwell Regional Branch
19 of the Free Library of Philadelphia.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: This bill will
21 be referred to the appropriate committee.

22 The Chair recognizes Councilman Goode.

23 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you, Madam
24 President. I have no bills or resolutions.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The Chair

1 2/6/03 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

2 thanks the gentleman.

3 The Chair recognizes Councilman Ortiz.

4 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: I have no bills or
5 resolutions today, Madam President.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

7 The Chair recognizes Councilman DiCicco.

8 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Thank you, Madam
9 President. I offer one bill.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Clerk will
11 please read the title of the bill.

12 THE CLERK: An ordinance amending
13 Section 12-2703 of the Philadelphia Code entitled
14 "Designation of Permit Parking Districts," by
15 amending definition of District 5, the area
16 generally bounded by Market Street the Delaware
17 River, South Street, and 7th street.

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

20 The Chair recognizes Councilman O'Neill.

21 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Madam President, I
22 have no bills or resolutions.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

24 The Chair recognizes Councilman Clarke.

25 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you, Madam

1 2/6/03 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

2 President. I have two bills, one cosponsored by
3 Councilman DiCicco and myself.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

5 The Clerk will please read the title of the first
6 bill.

7 THE CLERK: An ordinance amending
8 Chapter 12-400 of the Philadelphia Code entitled
9 "Right of Way Regulations and Penalties," by
10 increasing the penalty for violations of Section
11 12-407 which prohibits the operator of a vehicle
12 from entering an intersection or crosswalk unless
13 there is sufficient space beyond the intersection or
14 crosswalk.

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

17 THE CLERK: And an ordinance declaring
18 that it is desirable for the health, safety, and
19 welfare of the people in the area served by Temple
20 University Hospital, a Pennsylvania non-profit
21 cooperation, in the vicinity of 3401 North Broad
22 Street of Philadelphia to undertake the project
23 whereby the Authority will finance the cost of the
24 development and construction of the multi-level
25 ambulatory healthcare building and other hospital

1 2/6/03 - STATED - REPORTS

2 improvements and related costs.

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

5 And the Chair recognizes Councilman
6 Rizzo.

7 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Madam President. No
8 bills or resolution. But I do have something, Madam
9 President. I'd like to ask you if it's appropriate
10 to remember -- ask this Council to remember, I
11 think, a person that affected us all and did a great
12 job in the City of Philadelphia who died suddenly
13 this week, Reilly Harrison. A moment of silence,
14 please.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: We will all
16 stand for a moment of silence for Reilly Harrison.

17 (Moment of silence.)

18 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thank you, Madam
19 President.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Councilman,
21 thank you for remembering that.

22 Our next item of business is reports
23 from committees. And the Chair recognizes
24 Councilman Nutter for a report from the Rules
25 Committee.

1 2/6/03 - STATED - REPORTS

2 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you, Madam
3 President. The Committee on Rules reports six bills
4 with a favorable recommendation.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Clerk will
6 please read the report.

7 THE CLERK: To the President and Members
8 of the Council of the City of Philadelphia, the
9 Committee he Rules to which was referred Bill No.
10 020649, entitled, an ordinance to amend the
11 Philadelphia Zoning Maps by changing the zoning
12 designations of certain areas of land located within
13 an area bounded by Norris Street, Broad Street,
14 Diamond Street and 15th Street;

15 And Bill No. 020689, entitled, an
16 ordinance amending Title 14 of the Philadelphia
17 Code, relating to "Zoning and Planning," by adding a
18 new Section 14-1626 entitled, "Logan Square Special
19 District Controls."

20 And Bill No. 020733, entitled, an
21 ordinance to amend the Philadelphia Zoning Maps by
22 changing the zoning designations of certain areas of
23 land located within an area generally bounded
24 Annsbury Street, H Street, Ramona Street and G
25 Street;

1 2/6/03 - STATED - REPORTS

2 And Bill No. 020760, entitled, an
3 ordinance amending Chapter 14-1600 of the
4 Philadelphia Code entitled, "Miscellaneous," by
5 adding a new section prohibiting the demolition of
6 buildings or other structures located with an area,
7 and providing that such prohibition shall expire
8 after a specified period of time;

9 And Bill No. 020811, entitled, an
10 ordinance approving the redevelopment proposal of
11 the Redevelopment Authority of the City of
12 Philadelphia for the redevelopment of the
13 Kingsessing Urban Renewal Area;

14 And Bill No. 020812, entitled, an
15 ordinance approving redevelopment proposal of the
16 Redevelopment Authority of City of Philadelphia for
17 the redevelopment of the Logan Urban Renewal Area
18 and declaring the redevelopment undertakings in the
19 project to be an important part of the City's
20 program to remove and prevent the spread of urban
21 blight;

22 Respectfully reports it has considered
23 the same and returns the attached bills to Council
24 with a favorable recommendation.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERA: Thank. You

1 2/6/03 - STATED - REPORTS

2 the Chair recognizes Councilman Nutter.

3 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you, Madam
4 President. I move the Rules of Council be suspended
5 so as to permit first reading this day of Bills No.
6 020649 and 020689, 0203733, 020760, 020811 and
7 020812.

8 (Duly seconded.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: It has been
10 moved and properly seconded that the Rules be
11 suspended as to permit first reading this day of
12 Bill Nos. 020649, 020689, 020733, 020760, 020811,
13 and 020812.

14 All in favor will indicate by saying
15 aye.

16 (Aye.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Those opposed?

18 (No response.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The ayes have
20 it, and the bills just read will be placed on
21 Today's First Reading Calendar.

22 The Chair recognizes Councilman DiCicco
23 for a report from the Committee on Streets and
24 Services.

25 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Thank you, Madam

1 2/6/03 - STATED - REPORTS

2 President. The Committee on Streets and Services
3 reports out seven bills with a favorable
4 recommendation.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

6 The Clerk please read the report.

7 THE CLERK: To the President and Members
8 of the Council of the City of Philadelphia, the
9 Committee on Streets and Services to which was
10 referred Bill No. 020437, entitled, an ordinance
11 amending Chapter 12-400 of the Philadelphia Code
12 entitled "Right-of-Way Regulations and Penalties,"
13 including not limited to intersections on South
14 Street, from Front street to Broad Street as Don't
15 Block The Box intersections;

16 And Bill No. 020762, entitled, an
17 ordinance granting permission to Cogent
18 Communications, its successors and assigns and
19 remove telecommunications service connections and
20 fiber cables in and under the public rights-of-way
21 and city streets;

22 And Bill No. 020763, entitled, an
23 ordinance amending Title 12 of the Philadelphia Code
24 entitled "Traffic Code," to revise the penalties for
25 certain parking violations and making certain

1 2/6/03 - STATED - REPORTS

2 technical changes, all under certain terms and
3 conditions;

4 And Bill No. 020815, entitled, an
5 ordinance authorizing Tenet HealthSystems Hahnemann,
6 known as the Hahnemann University Hospital, Broad
7 and Vine Streets, to construct own and maintain 11
8 precast concrete planters, all under certain terms
9 and conditions;

10 And Bill No. 020822, entitled an
11 ordinance authorizing the Business Association of
12 West Parkside to construct, own and maintain various
13 encroachments, all under certain terms and
14 conditions;

15 And Bill No. 020825, entitled, an
16 ordinance authorizing the revision of lines and
17 grades on a portion of City Plan No. 27S by striking
18 from the City plan and vacating Water Street from
19 Jackson Street;

20 And Bill No. 030011, entitled an
21 ordinance authorizing Lawrence Goldfarb and Gerda
22 Paumgarten of 630 West Cliveden Street to construct
23 and maintain a privately owned water main and
24 electrical service conduit in the roadway of Rex
25 Avenue and Navajo Street;

1 2/6/03 - STATED - REPORTS

2 Respectfully reports it has considered
3 the same and returns the attached bills to Council
4 with a favorable recommendation.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The Chair
6 recognizes Councilman DiCicco.

7 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Thank you, Madam
8 President. I move that the Rules of Council be
9 suspended so as to permit first reading this day of
10 the seven bills that have just read into the record.

11 (Duly seconded.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: It has been
13 moved and properly seconded that the rules of
14 Council be suspended so as to permit first reading
15 this day of Bill Nos. 020437, 020762, 020763,
16 020815, 020822, 020825, and 030011.

17 All in favor will signify by saying aye.

18 (Aye.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Those opposed?

20 (No response.)

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The ayes have
22 it, and the bills just read will be placed on
23 today's First Reading Calendar.

24 The Chair at this time recognizes
25 Councilman Mariano for a report from the Committee

1 2/6/03 - STATED - REPORTS

2 on Licenses and Inspections.

3 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: The Committee and
4 Licenses and Inspections reports one bill with a
5 favorable recommendation.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank you.
7 The Clerk will please read the report.

8 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: To the President
9 and Members of the Council of the City of
10 Philadelphia, the Committee on Licenses and
11 Inspections to which was referred Bill No. 020732,
12 entitled, an ordinance amending Title 4 of the
13 Philadelphia Code, the Philadelphia Building
14 Construction and Occupancy Code, by adding
15 provisions relating to the maintenance of exterior
16 property areas, respectfully reports it has
17 considered and amended the same and returns the
18 attached bill to Council with a favorable
19 recommendation.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank you.
21 Bill No. 020732 will be placed on the First Reading
22 Calendar for the next Session of Council.

23 That concludes from reports committees.

24 Our next order of business is the
25 consideration of the calendar. The Clerk will

1 2/6/03 - STATED - FIRST READING

2 please read the bills on the First Reading Calendar.

3 THE CLERK: Bill No. 020649, an
4 ordinance to amend the Philadelphia Zoning Maps by
5 changing the zoning designations of certain areas of
6 land located within an area bounded by Norris
7 Street, Broad Street, Diamond Street and 15th
8 Street.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The Chair
10 agrees.

11 THE CLERK: Bill No. 020689.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The Chair
13 agrees.

14 THE CLERK: And Bill No. 020689, an
15 ordinance amending Title 14 of the Philadelphia
16 Code, relating to "Zoning and Planning," by adding a
17 new Section 14-1626 entitled, "Logan Square Special
18 District Controls."

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The Chair
20 agrees.

21 THE CLERK: And Bill No. 020733,
22 entitled an ordinance to amend the Philadelphia
23 Zoning Maps by changing the zoning designations of
24 certain areas of land located within an area
25 generally bounded by Annsbury Street, H Street,

1 2/6/03 - STATED - FIRST READING

2 Ramona Street and G Street.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The Chair
4 agrees.

5 THE CLERK: And Bill No. 020760,
6 entitled an ordinance amending Chapter 14-1600 of
7 the Philadelphia Code, entitled "Miscellaneous," by
8 adding a new section prohibiting the demolition of
9 buildings or other structures located within an area,
10 and providing that such prohibition shall expire
11 after a specified period of time.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The Chair
13 agrees.

14 THE CLERK: And Bill No. 020811, an
15 ordinance approving the redevelopment proposal of
16 the Redevelopment Authority of the City of
17 Philadelphia for the redevelopment of the
18 Kingsessing Urban Renewal Area.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The Chair
20 agrees.

21 THE CLERK: And Bill No. 020812,
22 entitled an ordinance approving the redevelopment
23 proposal of the Redevelopment Authority of City of
24 Philadelphia for the redevelopment of the Logan
25 Urban Renewal Area.

1 2/6/03 - STATED - FIRST READING

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The Chair
3 agrees.

4 THE CLERK: Bill No. 020437, entitled an
5 ordinance amending Chapter 12-400 of the
6 Philadelphia Code entitled, "Right-of-Way
7 Regulations and Penalties," by increasing the
8 penalty for violations of Section 12-407 as Don't
9 Block The Box intersection and by designating
10 certain intersections in the City, all under certain
11 terms and conditions.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The Chair
13 agrees.

14 And Bill No. 020762, an ordinance
15 granting permission to Cogent Communications, to
16 construct, maintain, operate, replace and remove
17 telecommunications services in and under the public
18 rights-of-way and city streets, all under certain
19 terms and conditions.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The Chair
21 agrees.

22 THE CLERK: And Bill No. 020763, an
23 ordinance amending Title 12 of the Philadelphia Code
24 entitled, "Traffic Code," to revise the penalties
25 for certain parking violations and making certain

1 2/6/03 - STATED - FIRST READING

2 technical changes, all under certain terms and
3 conditions.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The Chair
5 agrees.

6 THE CLERK: And Bill No. 020815, an
7 ordinance authorizing Tenet HealthSystems Hahnemann,
8 known as the Hahnemann University Hospital, Broad
9 and Vine Streets, to construct, own, and maintain 11
10 precast concrete planters.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The Chair
12 agrees.

13 THE CLERK: And Bill No. 020822, an
14 ordinance authorizing the Business Association of
15 West Parkside to construct, own, and maintain
16 various encroachments between Belmont Avenue and
17 Parkside Avenue.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The Chair
19 agrees.

20 THE CLERK: And Bill No. 020825, an
21 ordinance authorizing the revision of lines and
22 grades on a portion of City Plan No. 27S by striking
23 from the City plan and vacating Water Street, under
24 certain terms and conditions.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The Chair

1 2/6/03 - STATED - 2ND READING AND FINAL PASSAGE

2 agrees.

3 THE CLERK: And Bill No. 030011, an
4 ordinance authorizing Lawrence Goldfarb and Gerda
5 Paumgarten of 630 West Cliveden Street, owners of
6 the property 8605 Navajo Street, to construct and
7 maintain a privately owned water main, under certain
8 terms and conditions.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERA: The Chair
10 agrees.

11 The bills read by the Clerk will be
12 placed on the Second Reading and Final Passage
13 Calendar for our next Session of Council.

14 That concludes the First Reading
15 Calendar.

16 The Chair now recognizes Councilwoman
17 Blackwell for the purpose of calling up bills on the
18 Second Reading and Final Passage Calendar to be
19 considered today.

20 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you,
21 Madam President. Today Bill No. 020761A is being
22 called up for second reading and final passage.
23 Bill No. 020808A will be called up for an amendment,
24 as well as Bill No. 020496 for amendment. Thank you
25 very much.

1 2/6/03 - STATED - 2ND READING AND FINAL PASSAGE

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

3 All other bills will be held.

4 At this time the Clerk will please read
5 the title of Bill No. 020761A.

6 THE CLERK: An ordinance amending Bill
7 No. 010519, entitled an ordinance Section 2501 of
8 the Philadelphia Code relating to boundaries of
9 Councilmanic districts by revising the boundaries of
10 Councilmanic districts, under terms and conditions.

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

14 The Clerk will please call the roll.

15 THE CLERK: Councilwoman Blackwell.

16 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Aye.

17 THE CLERK: Councilman Clarke.

18 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Aye.

19 THE CLERK: Councilman Cohen.

20 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Aye.

21 THE CLERK: Councilman DiCicco.

22 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Aye.

23 THE CLERK: Councilman Goode.

24 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Aye.

25 THE CLERK: Councilwoman Krajewski.

1 2/6/03 - STATED - 2ND READING AND FINAL PASSAGE

2 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Aye.

3 THE CLERK: Councilman Mariano.

4 (No response.)

5 (Councilman Mariano recorded as voting

6 aye. See Page 48, Line 3.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Continue.

8 THE CLERK: Councilwoman Miller.

9 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Aye.

10 THE CLERK: Councilman Nutter.

11 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Aye.

12 THE CLERK: Councilman O'Neill.

13 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Aye.

14 THE CLERK: Councilman Ortiz.

15 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Aye.

16 THE CLERK: Councilwoman Reynolds-Brown.

17 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Aye.

18 THE CLERK: Councilman Rizzo.

19 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Aye.

20 THE CLERK: Councilwoman Tasco.

21 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Aye.

22 THE CLERK: Council President Verna.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Aye.

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

25 majority of all Members of Council having voted in

1 2/6/03 - STATED - 2ND READING AND FINAL PASSAGE

2 the affirmative, the bill passes.

3 The Clerk will please read the title of
4 Bill No. 020808A.

5 THE CLERK: An ordinance extending the
6 discount period and the due date for payment of real
7 estate taxes due in 2003 and enacting special
8 provisions for addition to tax, penalties, and
9 interest if such real estate taxes are paid after
10 the due date, all under certain terms and
11 conditions.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank you.
13 Chair recognizes Councilman DiCicco.

14 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Thank you, Madam
15 President. I offer an amendment.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The amendment
17 has been circulated, however, Councilman, I think it
18 would be very helpful to everyone if you would
19 simply explain what the amendment would do to this
20 bill.

21 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: What the amendment
22 does is it will now offer for those folks who have
23 filed an appeal on their real estate taxes a minimum
24 of 60 days from the date that the BRT renders its
25 final decision on that appeal to entitle those

1 2/6/03 - STATED - 2ND READING AND FINAL PASSAGE
2 property owners the 1 percent discount. In effect,
3 they will have between 60 and 90 days to qualify for
4 that discount period without any penalties being
5 imposed. And the reason for this is, as you know,
6 there have been an extremely high number of folks
7 who have filed real estate appeals this year and
8 many of those hearings will not be heard until the
9 end of March, early April, and quite possibly May.
10 If we do not support this amendment, those folks who
11 have exercised their rights to appeal, many of them
12 at the urging of many City Councilmembers, would
13 basically loss the opportunity to qualify for the
14 1 percent discount. So in fairness to those folks,
15 I think this bill is a fair way to go affording
16 people who have exercised their right to appeal to
17 have the same benefit of the 1 percent discount as
18 well.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank you. At
20 this time would you move the motion, please.

21 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: I make a motion
22 that the amendment to Bill No. 020808 be approved.

23 (Duly seconded.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: It has been
25 moved and seconded that the amendment be adopted.

1 2/6/03 - STATED - 2ND READING AND FINAL PASSAGE

2 All in favor will signify by saying aye.

3 (Aye.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Those opposed?

5 (No response.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The ayes have
7 it, and the amendment has been adopted.

8 The Chair recognizes Councilman Mariano.

9 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Thank you, Madam
10 President. Madam President, I was out of the room
11 and I want to be recorded as voting yes for Bill
12 020761A.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank you.

14 The record will so reflect that Councilman Mariano
15 voted in the affirmative on that bill.

16 The Clerk will please read the title of
17 Bill No. 020496.

18 THE CLERK: An ordinance amending
19 Section 9-205 of the Philadelphia Code entitled
20 "Sidewalk Sales," by prohibiting sidewalk sales on
21 portions of 18th Street and Callowhill Street.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank you.

23 The Chair recognizes Councilman Clarke.

24 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you, Madam
25 President. Madam President, I'd like to offer an

1 2/6/03 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 amendment to Bill No. 020496. This amendment has
3 been circulated to all Members of the Council.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

5 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: I'd like to make a
6 motion for an amendment to Bill No. 020496.

7 (Duly seconded.)

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

11 All in favor will signify by saying aye.

12 (Aye.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Those opposed?

14 (No response.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The ayes have
16 it, and Bill No. 020496 has been amended and it will
17 be placed on next week's Calendar.

18 This concludes our Calendar for today.

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

21 (No response.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Are there any
23 speeches part of the majority?

24 At this time the Chair recognizes
25 Councilman Cohen.

1 2/6/03 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Madam President, the
3 papers and radio and TV are having a good time, and
4 I think people in Philadelphia are very much
5 interested in what's going on at the Convention
6 Center. I don't offer at this time very much, but
7 there's some things that kind of seem clear to me
8 without making final conclusions about the political
9 aspects of the situation or even the financial
10 aspects.

11 One thing seems clear to me, there are a
12 lot of important players that all have to come
13 together no matter who's on the board, no matter
14 who's running the show, unless the Governor or the
15 Mayor or the Convention Center Board all get
16 together at some point, and this is one area where I
17 do believe that bipartisanship is essential. Both
18 parties are going to have to come together or
19 nothing can be served. And since public monies are
20 involved, I think it's very important that all the
21 parties get over their feelings, whatever they may
22 be, whether they're celebrating or whether they're
23 unhappy, and finally decide that each of them is a
24 principal player and they've got to work together.
25 And since labor organizations are very much

2/6/03 - STATED - SPEECHES

1
2 concerned about what's going to happen, I think
3 there are certain standards at least that become
4 clear no matter who makes what decisions. One is
5 that all of the labor organizations must be treated
6 fairly, and in return, the public that uses the
7 Convention Center and the businesses that use it are
8 also entitled to be treated fairly. And to me, in
9 one area where there have been charges -- I don't
10 know the truth or not -- about something called
11 featherbedding, which means getting paid for work
12 that you do not do, has to be eliminated. And I
13 think it should be across the board. Labor should
14 be willing to do that because it makes no sense to
15 spend public monies for work that's not being done.
16 But at the same time, each of the unions has to be
17 treated equally and fairly.

18 And the last thing that I'm ready to
19 comment on is the papers have been full of comments
20 about the two new appointments, Councilman Nutter as
21 Chairman of the Convention Center Board, and Al
22 Mezzaroba, an alumnus of City Council, is an
23 attorney. And all I can say is they happen to be
24 two people I've worked with very, very closely. I
25 don't think I've ever met anyone that was smarter,

1 2/6/03 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 wiser, more judicial than either one of them or even
3 as cooperative as either one of them. And I don't
4 think, in any event, that their appointments ought
5 to be regarded as in any way creating problems. I
6 think they offer a great opportunity for settling
7 the matter, but I just wanted to speak of my own
8 personal experience with those two men. I don't
9 think this City Council, if we're held responsible
10 since they come from our body originally, I think we
11 can be proud of the work they've done in City
12 Council. And I think before it's all over, we'll be
13 probably very proud of the work they do for the
14 Convention Center. Thank you, Madam President.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: You're
16 welcome.

17 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman
18 Blackwell.

19 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you,
20 Madam President. I would like to say thank you to
21 the thousands and thousands of people who joined
22 with me in celebrating the life of Lucien Blackwell.
23 Certainly, I haven't even read all of the
24 commendations, the letters, the cards yet, but I
25 will. I received so many mass cards with

1 2/6/03 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 contributions from here to the Vatican and back.

3 I'd like to thank all my colleagues and all elected
4 and appointed officials and so many of you in this
5 room who called me and who reached out to certainly
6 extend condolences.

7 I'd like to apologize for those who were
8 not able to get in at the end. Certainly, it was
9 not choice. I asked them to cut the program, but
10 certainly not the people who wanted to say their
11 good-byes. We had people who came from across the
12 country who wanted to see Lucien, and some few were
13 not an afforded or some hundreds were not afforded
14 that opportunity. I apologize. It was certainly
15 not my choice.

16 I would like to say thank you to all the
17 labor leaders, the boxers, Bernard Hopkins and every
18 local boxer who carried Lu to his final resting
19 place.

20 I would like to remark about all the
21 prisoners who wrote me, hundreds of prisoners who
22 wrote. And I'm reminded of one in particular, a
23 lifer that we've been communicating with since the
24 early '70s who reached out who wrote me a letter and
25 sent me a card.

1 2/6/03 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 I'd like to say thank you to all the
3 people in wheelchairs and people who hobbled up who
4 wanted to say something to Lu. I thank you all as
5 well.

6 I'd like to say that Lu always talked
7 about the proverbial little old lady. He always
8 dealt with the haves and have-nots, and certainly we
9 feel that we must carry on that battle and certainly
10 thank them who were there. We had people who came
11 who said -- you know, one of my regulars, who said
12 he didn't have a suit but he wanted to come to
13 serves.

14 I'd like to thank all the ethnic groups,
15 the Africans who gave a ceremony because really we
16 had services on two days so we could get some
17 remembrances in. The Korean community and so many
18 ethnic groups; the masons, so many groups who came
19 and who made special efforts to uplift us as a
20 family and also to say their final good-byes.

21 Let me conclude by saying the Asian
22 community told me that sometimes when a man is good,
23 God will not let him suffer but God will take him
24 with him. And that is the way we want to remember
25 him.

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2 So, again, to each and every one of you
3 and all who can hear me, we'll reach out and we will
4 do that but we say thank you, thank you, thank you,
5 and God bless.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you,
7 Councilwoman.

8 (Applause.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
10 recognizes Councilman Ortiz.

11 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Madam Chair, this
12 weekend, actually, yesterday and the day before on
13 Channel 10 I saw Berks County Commissioner
14 expressing some disgusting theories and ideas about
15 Puerto Ricans. And what surprised me the most also
16 was that Channel 10 then did a poll as to the issue
17 that this bigoted Berks County Commissioner was
18 talking about. The issue in Berks County is that
19 Puerto Ricans and other Latinos are being denied
20 their right to vote because the Berks County
21 Commissioners have violated the Voting Rights Act
22 and by violating the Voting Rights Act in the method
23 that they have refused to print ballots and
24 information in Spanish in order to be able to keep
25 the electorate, which now numbers 37 percent of the

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2 City of Reading, informed. The County Commissioners
3 have refused to go along with the Federal Voting
4 Rights Act, have refused to do what other cities
5 across the country have done and as we do here in
6 Philadelphia, which is to print election information
7 in Spanish and English and other languages. I'm not
8 satisfied with that. They have actually in public
9 and in meetings disparage, insulted and gave outward
10 bigoted comments as to Puerto Ricans and what Puerto
11 Ricans would do if they become Mayor of the City of
12 Reading, something that is not a matter or a
13 question of whether there is going to be a Puerto
14 Rican Mayor of Reading, it is just a matter of when.

15 Channel 10 then did a poll by computer
16 as to whether ballots and election information
17 should be printed in different languages. And the
18 question was kind of loaded. But 87 percent of the
19 people or 80-something percent of the people
20 answered through their computer and some of the
21 comments that were then printed on the screen
22 through their e-mail really gives us a lot of
23 thinking to do. It gives us a situation that we
24 have to pause for thought. This is the year 2003
25 and we thought that bigotry and comments as to

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2 people who were different ethnically, culturally,
3 and linguistically was gone. And 80-something
4 percent of the people that answered in that poll
5 stated that if we didn't know any English, we should
6 not be allowed to vote; that if we didn't know any
7 English, we could not participate. These were
8 thoughts that used to be prevalent in this society,
9 and they still are, it seems. But it's not present,
10 as that poll indicates, it is not just present in
11 the minds of the Berks County Commissioners; it
12 seems that it's present in a lot of people within
13 the viewing area of Channel 10.

14 Bigotry is something that is hiding just
15 below the radar. It is something that we have to be
16 very much aware of. Sometimes we have idiots like
17 the Berks County Commissioners who let out their
18 bigotry in public. Others express it through
19 e-mails in the anonymity of their homes and their
20 own computers.

21 I actually want to thank Channel 10 for
22 the poll and the way it was expressed because it
23 should make us a little bit uncomfortable that there
24 are a lot of people out there among us that still
25 hold these feelings.

1 2/6/03 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 The United States Civil Rights

3 Commission and United States Attorney are taking a
4 hand in the Berks County issue. Ed Rendell has
5 already told his Secretary of State Ramos and he has
6 started through his office to intervene on the
7 issue. But we have to do something other than just
8 take care of their commissioners. As those
9 80-something percent people indicate, we have to
10 begin and be very much aware of the bigotry, racism,
11 that is still out there. Thank you.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank you very
13 much.

14 The Chair recognizes Councilman DiCicco.
15 (Applause.)

16 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: I expect the
17 applause was for Councilman Ortiz and not for my
18 introduction.

19 Thank you, Madam President. I just
20 would like to take a brief moment to congratulate
21 the two gentlemen who have been recently appointed
22 to the Convention Board. I've known Al Mezzaroba
23 and his family just about all of my adult life. Al
24 has always considered to be, as Councilman Cohen
25 said, a very intelligent and wise man, and I can

1 2/6/03 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 speak to that on a more personal note because back
3 in 1995 Al Mezzaroba was considering running for 1st
4 Councilmanic seat. He decided to withdraw, so I
5 know he was very intelligent. I know him to be a
6 very intelligent man because he decided not to run
7 against me.

8 (Laughter.)

9 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: But I would also
10 really like to say that I want to congratulate a
11 person whom I'm proud to call my friend, Councilman
12 Nutter, our colleague, on his appointment as Chair
13 of the Board. All of us know Michael's hard work
14 ethic. He's a very fair man. And the one thing
15 about Michael we all can attest to is that he is
16 very thorough. So I think that Michael's
17 appointment to the Convention Center Board will get
18 through some of the problems that have been existing
19 for a long period of time.

20 The one thing about Michael, he will
21 never make the personal. There were some comments
22 made by some the folks in the paper yesterday about
23 not liking Al Mezzaroba. And those are the kinds of
24 things that I think have gotten us into trouble at
25 the Convention Center. Too many personalities, both

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political and personal, have interfered with that process. And I know that Michael, again, from my experience working with him here in City Council for the better part of seven years, will avoid all those childish things that probably go on on a day-to-day basis there and will get through that and will be a blessing to all of us, because I know that Michael will always have one thing in mind when he makes decisions, and that is for the betterment for all the citizens of Philadelphia, not just for Michael Nutter's political future.

So congratulations, Michael, on your appointment.

(Applause.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair recognizes Councilwoman Blackwell.

COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you, Madam President. I would be remiss if I didn't say a special thank you, not only to the Mayor and Governor, but former President Clinton and Hilary Clinton last night when an alarm was going off, I was on the phone with Senator Hilary Clinton who talked about the mutual battles on health reform, et cetera, that we shared with her in the City when she

(Applause.)

COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Thank you, Madam

I'd just like to say, on another note,

1 2/6/03 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 that Councilman Cohen and his comments about
3 everybody trying to work together is very important.
4 And I support Councilman DiCicco in his comments
5 about the two gentlemen who were working at the
6 Convention Center. But I would seriously say that
7 if all parties don't begin to take seriously the
8 issues around the Convention Center, we're going to
9 have a serious ripple effect in this City with the
10 loss of business because the conventioners who come
11 to this City, spend their money in our local
12 restaurants, our local hotels, and the decline is
13 down. And then what happens? We begin to layoff
14 employees. And what happens with that? You begin
15 to lose revenue in the City.

16 So everyone who has a stake in the
17 success of the Convention Center, I call on to take
18 fully their responsibility to note that they have a
19 commitment and a responsibility to the citizens of
20 this City of Philadelphia to work together to make
21 sure that we do not have a ripple effect and have
22 our citizens lose their jobs because of the
23 in-fighting. Let's put aside all of our petty
24 differences.

25 And I leave with this, in the words of

1 2/6/03 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 Rodney King, "Can't we just all get along?"

3 Thank you very much.

4 (Applause.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair

6 recognizes Councilman Nutter.

7 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you, Madam

8 President. Two things.

9 One, I, similar to Councilwoman Tasco,
10 want to say to our friend and colleague Councilman
11 Blackwell, Jannie Blackwell, that I was certainly
12 personally touched by her grace and demeanor in
13 dealing with the events surrounding Councilman and
14 Congressman Blackwell's passing. We also know that
15 the Councilwoman suffered another personal loss a
16 number of months ago with her mother. We see people
17 at times, at least in this business, under some of
18 the most trying and difficult circumstances, and we
19 learn lessons from them as we try to live our lives.
20 And I had to chance to privately express but now
21 publicly express to Councilwoman Blackwell, Jannie
22 Blackwell, my admiration for her in being the strong
23 person that she has been over this very difficult
24 period.

25 Secondly, and to all of my colleagues

2/6/03 - STATED - SPEECHES

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2 for the comments that were made by Councilman Cohen,
3 Councilman DiCicco, and Councilwoman Tasco, I will
4 certainly do my best in taking on this new challenge
5 and responsibility. I will give it everything that
6 I have and also, I'm sure at times, continue to
7 drive many of you crazy at various hearings and
8 budget hearings and the like. I may cut back to 25
9 questions per witness as opposed to usual 50.
10 There's an immediate benefit to me going over there.

11 But as Councilwoman Tasco, and I've
12 tried to maintain this over the past few days of
13 controversy, which I'm hoping will die down, I have
14 a singular focus about this and one interest and one
15 interest only. It's the customers, the work force,
16 and the hospitality industry. I do not claim to
17 have all the answers. There are 13 people on the
18 Board who I believe are all committed to the same
19 goals. There are some very important players in
20 this. First and foremost is the Chief Executive
21 Officer and the Mayor of our City, Mayor Street,
22 plays an important role in making sure that things
23 turn around over there. The Chief Executive Officer
24 of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Governor
25 Rendell, plays a very important role. The

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2 legislative leaders in Harrisburg, and regardless of
3 how anyone may feel about the actions that we're
4 taking, all of them play an important role, as well
5 as the union leadership that provides the job
6 opportunities for people at the center and the
7 rippling effect that Councilwoman Tasco talked about
8 into the surrounding industries that are dependent
9 on the proper functioning and operation of that
10 facility. My only interest here is in working with
11 all those individuals and see if we can bring a
12 positive turn-around to the center, and that's where
13 I'm going to dedicate my efforts.

14 I appreciate the comments. And more
15 importantly, I would appreciate any support that can
16 be directed toward making this thing work. And I
17 thank all of you for your encouraging comments.

18 Thank you, Madam President.

19 (Applause.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

21 The Chair recognizes Councilman O'Neill.

22 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Madam President,
23 thank you. The other day I learned for the first
24 time that not only had Councilman Nutter been
25 appointed Chair of the Convention Center Board but

1 2/6/03 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 he had also gotten a law degree this week. One of
3 the newspapers noted that in an editorial. I just
4 wish they hadn't made it sound like an accusation.
5 Thank you.

6 (Laughter.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank you.
8 Are there any other speeches?

9 The Chair recognizes Councilman Cohen.

10 COUNCILMAN COHEN: I notice that a group
11 of 25 or so people walked into the Chambers a bit
12 late on the subject matter that they were most
13 concerned about and for the placards displaying
14 predatory lending. We want you to know that this
15 Council took action on a resolution introduced by
16 Councilwoman Tasco and commended her and the group
17 that she's working with including ACORN for the
18 wonderful work they're doing in that area.

19 (Applause.)

20 COUNCILMAN COHEN: I see my count is
21 wrong, Madam President, there are far more than 25
22 representatives here. We're delighted that you're
23 here and hope you continue your activities. Thank
24 you.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank you.

1 2/6/03 - STATED - ADJOURNMENT

2 Are there any other speeches?

3 (No response.)

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

6 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Madam President, I
7 move that Council stand adjourned until Thursday,
8 February 13 at 10:00 a.m.

9 (Duly seconded.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: It has been
11 moved and properly seconded that Council stand
12 adjourned until Thursday, February 13, 2003.

13 All in favor will indicate by saying
14 aye.

15 (Aye.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Those opposed?

17 (No response.)

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The ayes have
19 it. Council will stand adjourned until Thursday
20 February 13th.

21 (Council adjourned at 11:25 a.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing
proceedings of the Council of the City of
Philadelphia of February 5, 2003, were reported
fully and accurately by me, and that this is a
correct transcript of the same.

RE: STATED MEETING

Lisa C. Bradley, RPR
and Notary Public