

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
STATED MEETING

Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
May 14, 2026
10:00 a.m.

PRESENT:

COUNCIL PRESIDENT KENYATTA JOHNSON
COUNCILWOMAN NINA AHMAD
COUNCILWOMAN CINDY BASS
COUNCILMAN MICHAEL DRISCOLL
COUNCILWOMAN CINDY GAUTHIER
COUNCILWOMAN KATHERINE GILMORE RICHARDSON
COUNCILMAN JIM HARRITY
COUNCILMAN CURTIS J. JONES, JR.
COUNCILWOMAN RUE LANDAU
COUNCILWOMAN QUETCY M. LOZADA
COUNCILMAN BRIAN J. O'NEILL
COUNCILMAN NICOLAS O'ROURKE
COUNCILMAN ANTHONY PHILLIPS
COUNCILMAN MARK SQUILLA
COUNCILMAN ISAIAH THOMAS
COUNCILMAN JEFFREY YOUNG, JR.

ELIZABETH MCCOLLUM NAZARIO, CHIEF CLERK

- - -

1 5/14/26 - STATED - INVOCATION

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

3 JOHNSON: Good morning, everyone.

4 (Good morning.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

6 JOHNSON: Good morning, everyone.

7 (Good morning.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

9 JOHNSON: I note that the hour has
10 come and a quorum of this City
11 Council is present. This Council
12 session is now in order.

13 To give our invocation
14 this morning, the Chair recognizes
15 Elder Wrenton Wright of Oak Lane
16 Presbyterian Church. He is here
17 today as guest of Councilmember
18 Dr. Anthony Phillips. I will ask
19 all members and guests to please
20 rise.

21 (Councilmembers, guests
22 and visitors rise.)

23 ELDER WRIGHT: Good
24 morning. As introduced, I am

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2 Wrenton Wright, an Elder at Oak

3 Lane Presbyterian Church, here this

4 morning to give the opening prayer.

5 And I bring from my congregation at

6 Oak Lane Presbyterian Church

7 salutations and a great sense of

8 gratitude for you all having us

9 here this morning. Oak Lane

10 Presbyterian Church, being a church

11 in the Northwest section of

12 Philadelphia, in the East Oak Lane

13 neighborhood in the 9th

14 Councilmanic District, where we are

15 happily and wonderfully represented

16 here on Council by Councilman

17 Anthony Phillips, and we thank you

18 all for all the work that you do.

19 The gratitude that I bring comes

20 from two points of origin.

21 First, being our

22 gratitude for the work that City

23 Council, as a governing body, does

24 for this city to make it the

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2 wonderful place that we all live
3 and enjoy and work in, and where
4 many of us have raised our
5 families. And the second point of
6 origin, where that sense of
7 gratitude emanates from, is the
8 fact that we were invited here by
9 Councilman Phillips to present
10 this, and I want to thank him for
11 that. And I want to thank Council,
12 and I personally want to thank you
13 all for giving me the opportunity
14 to present this opening prayer.
15 So, with that, let us pray.

16 Dear Heavenly Father, we
17 gather this morning with thanks and
18 praise in our heart for you
19 awakening us all this morning to
20 allow us to participate in this
21 glorious morning that you have in
22 store for us.

23 Heavenly Father, not
24 only are we appreciative of this

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2 day that we are able to participate
3 in, but, Heavenly Father, we are
4 grateful for all of the days in the
5 past that have brought us to this
6 point, all the days, the weeks, the
7 months, years, and hopeful decades
8 that you have planned for our lives
9 going forward.

10 Heavenly Father, we also
11 thank you for allowing us to
12 assemble in this chamber this
13 morning so that the governing body
14 of Philadelphia, this wonderful
15 City of Philadelphia, can continue
16 to deliberate, discuss, discern and
17 come up with solutions to issues
18 and obstacles that may arise that
19 may stand in the way of their
20 continuing to do their due
21 diligence to make this city the
22 wonderful city that we know that
23 you have in store for it.

24 And, Heavenly Father, we

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2 know that with your leadership and
3 your guidance and us as sheep and
4 you as the shepherd, that the
5 mission of this Council will go in
6 the direction that you have fit,
7 and it will come to the successful
8 conclusion that you have for it.

9 Heavenly Father, we also want you
10 to be with Council as they prepare
11 for the many exciting events that
12 are in store for this city in the
13 upcoming days, weeks, months
14 throughout the rest of the years,
15 with the biggest one probably being
16 the celebration of our 250th
17 birthday of the founding of this
18 wonderful country here on your
19 wonderful planet Earth, Heavenly
20 Father, where literally within a
21 mile or so from where we gather
22 this morning, the founding and the
23 foundation of this country was put
24 in place, whereas we can enjoy it

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2 as we do today.

3 So, Heavenly Father, we
4 thank you for that. We thank you
5 for the work that the City Council
6 does and will continue to do to
7 ensure that this city and the
8 municipality maintains the vibrant
9 city that we all enjoy as we are
10 gathered today. So, Heavenly
11 Father, continue to be with them,
12 lead them as their shepherd, lead
13 us all as the sheep that we are,
14 disciples of yours, following your
15 shepherd lead.

16 Heavenly Father, because
17 we know that everything that you
18 are involved in will have the
19 successful outcome that you have
20 intended it forward. So, Heavenly
21 Father, please be with us all as we
22 move forward today and throughout
23 the days of our lives as we move
24 forward and pray in the name of

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2 Your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

3 (Amen.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

5 JOHNSON: Amen. The Chair thanks
6 the Elder for the invocation.

7 Council will now be at
8 ease.

9 (Council at ease.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

11 JOHNSON: The next order of
12 business is the Approval of the
13 Journal of the meeting of Thursday,
14 May 7, 2026.

15 The Chair recognizes
16 Councilmember Cindy Bass.

17 COUNCILWOMAN BASS:

18 Thank you, Mr. President.

19 I move that the Journal
20 of the meeting of Thursday, May 7,
21 2026 be approved.

22 (Duly seconded.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

24 JOHNSON: It has been moved and

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2 properly seconded that the Journal
3 of the meeting of Thursday, May 7,
4 2026 be approved.

5 All in favor indicate by
6 saying aye.

7 (Aye.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

9 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

10 (No response.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

12 JOHNSON: The ayes have it. And
13 the Journal is approved.

14 The next order of
15 business is request for leave of
16 absence. And the Chair recognizes
17 Majority Leader Katherine Gilmore
18 Richardson.

19 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

20 RICHARDSON: Thank you,
21 Mr. President.

22 On behalf of the
23 Majority, there are no requests for
24 leave of absence today.

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2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

3 JOHNSON: The Chair thanks the
4 Majority Leader.

5 The Chair recognizes
6 Councilmember Nicolas O'Rourke.

7 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE:
8 Thank you, Mr. President.

9 On behalf of the
10 Minority, we request a leave of
11 absence for Minority Leader Kendra
12 Brooks today.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

14 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

15 The Chair thanks the
16 Councilmember. Leave will be
17 granted.

18 The Chair now recognizes
19 Majority Leader Katherine Gilmore
20 Richardson for a motion concerning
21 certain legislative matters that
22 may arise during the course of
23 today's session of Council and that
24 were not listed on the Calendar

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2 circulated prior to today's Council
3 session.

4 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

5 RICHARDSON: Thank you,
6 Mr. President.

7 I move that any of the
8 following matters, if considered
9 today, may be added to the agenda
10 for this session of Council and, as
11 required by law, subsequently
12 published on an amended agenda
13 after the consideration of those
14 matters: resolutions authorizing
15 hearings, amendments to bills on
16 first reading, the reconsideration
17 of a bill vetoed by or re-called
18 from the Mayor, amendments to bills
19 re-called from the Mayor,
20 resolutions taking substantive
21 action to be voted on in this
22 session, a motion to withdraw a
23 bill or resolution that is not on
24 the Calendar and a motion placing a

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2 bill or resolution on or returning
3 a bill or resolution from the
4 Suspension Calendar that is not
5 listed on today's Calendar.

6 The purpose of this
7 motion is to provide the public
8 with notice concerning possible
9 actions by Council that arose too
10 late to be included on the Calendar
11 that was published prior to today's
12 session.

13 (Duly seconded.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

15 JOHNSON: It has been moved and
16 properly seconded that the
17 legislative matters stated by
18 Councilmember Katherine Gilmore
19 Richardson may be added to the
20 agenda for today should those
21 matters arise during the course of
22 this session of Council.

23 All those in favor
24 signify by saying aye.

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2 (Aye.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

4 JOHNSON: Anyone opposed?

5 (No response.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

7 JOHNSON: The ayes have it and the
8 motion carries.

9 The Chair will dispense
10 with the regular order of business
11 to recognize the guests and
12 visitors joining us from chambers
13 this morning.

14 On behalf of all members
15 of City Council, I welcome you to
16 our Council session. We appreciate
17 your taking the time to join us as
18 we attend to the legislative
19 affairs of our great city. We
20 certainly invite you to come again.

21 The Chair recognizes
22 Councilmember Isaiah Thomas.

23 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Good
24 morning, Council President. Good

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2 morning, colleagues. Good morning
3 to the City of Philadelphia.

4 We have some very
5 special guests here with us today.
6 I want to thank my brother in North
7 Philadelphia, Councilmember Young,
8 representing this great
9 organization. Also, I want to say
10 thank you to Rep. Andre Carroll for
11 recommending this organization.

12 Can the Blackhawks
13 Athletic Club please stand?
14 They're in the balcony here. The
15 Blackhawks represented the City of
16 Philadelphia in a very positive
17 way.

18 Council President,
19 hopefully we can get some positive
20 attention because when young people
21 go places and do something
22 negative, they're all over social
23 media. But these young people went
24 to Florida and they defeated the

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2 Ducks of California to win the
3 American Youth Football, 12 and
4 under, Division 1 National
5 Championship. Thank you all for
6 standing for our young people.

7 (Applause.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

9 JOHNSON: Yes, absolutely. Let's
10 encourage them and let's uplift
11 them.

12 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: They
13 finished the season as one of the
14 only teams in the history of
15 Philadelphia to bring a national
16 football championship back to the
17 city, and they are one of the best
18 teams in the entire country, as
19 they finish their season as the No.
20 2 ranked team in the entire
21 country. I just want to say
22 congratulations and thank them for
23 being here, watching their action
24 in government.

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2 But most importantly,
3 let's make sure we highlight these
4 young people for the great things
5 they did, just like we highlight
6 young people when things don't go
7 well. So thank you, young people.
8 We're glad you're here and we
9 appreciate all the parents and
10 adults. Thank you.

11 (Applause.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

13 JOHNSON: And I want to acknowledge
14 one of the coaches is from South
15 Philly, Coach Moot(ph) and thank
16 you for the hard work you're doing
17 for the Blackhawks of North Philly.

18 Let's give a round of
19 applause, y'all. Uplifting our
20 young people. That's what it's all
21 about.

22 (Applause.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

24 JOHNSON: At this time, the Chair

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2 recognizes Councilmember Cindy Bass
3 who will present a resolution
4 recognizing and honoring May 21st
5 of each year as Ona Judge Day in
6 the City of Philadelphia. Will
7 Michael Coard and those
8 accompanying him please join the
9 Councilmember Cindy Bass at the
10 podium.

11 Joining Member Bass is
12 Councilmember Jim Harrity,
13 Councilmember Dr. Anthony Phillips,
14 Councilmember Rue Landau,
15 Councilmember Dr. Nina Ahmad and
16 Councilmember Nicolas O'Rourke and
17 Councilmember Curtis Jones. The
18 floor is yours.

19 (Councilmembers and
20 guests approach podium.)

21 COUNCILWOMAN BASS:

22 Thank you. Good morning, everyone.

23 (Good morning.)

24 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: It

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2 is an honor, and a privilege and a
3 pleasure to be here with you today
4 as we celebrate Ona Judge Day. And
5 because we don't have Council
6 session next week, we're here today
7 to celebrate May 21st of each year
8 as Ona Judge Day in the City of
9 Philadelphia.

10 Ona Judge was an
11 enslaved African woman who was held
12 by George Washington at the
13 President's House right here in the
14 City of Philadelphia. On May 21,
15 1796, she courageously escaped
16 bondage and claimed her freedom.
17 Of the nine enslaved African
18 descendants held by Washington in
19 Philadelphia, Ona Judge was the
20 only one who escaped and was never
21 recaptured. Despite repeated
22 efforts to force her back into
23 slavery, she refused to surrender
24 her freedom and lived the rest of

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2 her life as a freed woman. Her --

3 (Applause.)

4 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: All

5 right now. Yes, yes. Her story

6 reminds us that the struggle for

7 liberty in America was not only

8 written in founding documents, but

9 carried forward by people brave

10 enough to demand freedom for

11 themselves. By honoring Ona Judge,

12 we honor truth, resilience and the

13 ongoing fight for justice. And the

14 resolution reads: Recognizing and

15 honoring May 21st of each year in

16 the City of Philadelphia as Ona

17 Judge Day.

18 Whereas, Ona Judge was

19 one of nine enslaved African

20 descendants held in bondage by

21 George Washington during his

22 presidency from 1790-1797 at the

23 President's House located at 6th

24 and Market Streets in Philadelphia,

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2 the site of America's first White
3 House; and

4 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:

5 Whereas, despite Pennsylvania's
6 1780 Gradual Abolition Act, along
7 with its 1788 amendment and the
8 status of Philadelphia as the City
9 with the largest free Black
10 population in the nation at the
11 time, Ona Judge and others were
12 unlawfully kept enslaved through
13 deliberate efforts to circumvent
14 and actually break the law; and

15 Whereas, on May 21,
16 1796, Ona Judge courageously
17 escaped from bondage, resisting the
18 institution of slavery and
19 asserting her right to freedom,
20 ultimately fleeing to New Hampshire
21 where, as a free woman, she
22 outlived George and Martha
23 Washington by more than 50 years;
24 and

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2 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:

3 Whereas, Ona Judge's life
4 represents a powerful act of
5 resistance, self-determination and
6 courage, as she evaded repeated
7 efforts to be recaptured and
8 refused to return to enslavement
9 despite pressure and pursuit; and

10 Whereas, her story is a
11 critical part of both
12 Philadelphia's and the nation's
13 history, illustrating the
14 contradictions between the ideals
15 of liberty and the realities of
16 slavery in the founding of the
17 United States; and

18 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:

19 Whereas, Ona Judge was one of nine
20 enslaved African descendants held
21 at the President's House, and while
22 this resolution recognizes her
23 specifically, it does not diminish
24 the lives, struggles, and humanity

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2 of the eight others who were also
3 held in bondage, including
4 Hercules, who similarly escaped
5 from George Washington's household;
6 and

7 Whereas, The Avenging
8 The Ancestors Coalition (ATAC),
9 founded in June 2002 by Michael
10 Coard, Esquire, has led sustained
11 advocacy to ensure the truth about
12 slavery at the President's House is
13 told, preserved and publicly
14 recognized; and

15 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE:

16 Whereas, on May 21, 2003 and every
17 year since, The Avenging The
18 Ancestors Coalition has organized
19 commemorations honoring Ona Judge's
20 escape, ensuring that her legacy
21 and the broader history of enslaved
22 African descendants in Philadelphia
23 are remembered and uplifted; and

24 Whereas formally

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2 recognizing May 21st as Ona Judge
3 Day will institutionalize this
4 history within the City of
5 Philadelphia, ensuring continued
6 public education, reflection and
7 recognition of the struggle for
8 freedom and justice; now,
9 therefore, be it

10 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

11 Resolved, by the Council of the
12 City of Philadelphia, that it
13 Hereby recognizes and honors May
14 21st of each year as "Ona Judge
15 Day" in the City of Philadelphia,
16 and encourages residents,
17 educators, institutions and
18 community organizations to
19 commemorate this day through
20 education, reflection and
21 programming that uplifts the
22 history and legacy of Ona Judge and
23 all those who resisted enslavement;
24 and

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2 Further Resolved, that
3 an Engrossed copy of this
4 resolution be presented to The
5 Avenging The Ancestors Coalition,
6 (ATAC) better known, as evidence of
7 the sincere admiration and respect
8 of this legislative body.
9 Congratulations. Thank you all.

10 (Applause.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

12 JOHNSON: Chair recognizes Michael
13 Coard, Esquire, for remarks.

14 MR. COARD: It's a
15 dangerous thing to put a microphone
16 in front of me. How many hours do
17 we have? In all seriousness, let
18 me take about 30 seconds, and 9 of
19 the 30 seconds, I just want folks
20 to pause in honor of the nine
21 enslaved African descendants at 6th
22 and Market, one of which is Ona
23 Judge. So just for nine seconds
24 please, we'll have a nine-second

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2 moment of silence.

3 (Moment of silence.)

4 MR. COARD: And now,
5 with my remaining 21 seconds, I
6 want to thank Council for doing
7 what it did today. Because early
8 on when we began this battle, we
9 had hoped that we'd become
10 legitimate and official and we have
11 become legitimate and official.

12 I say legitimate because
13 ATAC started off as, I don't want
14 to call us a gang, but we were a
15 guerrilla army avenging our
16 ancestors. And now, we've gotten
17 the official sanctioning from this
18 legislative body and we appreciate
19 it.

20 And the final thing I
21 want to say is this: it's not only
22 great that City Council has done
23 this, but it's timely. We're on
24 the eve of the 250th anniversary of

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2 the birth of this country and many
3 people will be parading around
4 saying how much of a patriot they
5 are and how much they love this
6 country. But you can't love
7 something unless you know the good,
8 the bad and the ugly.

9 You might think you love
10 your husband or your wife because
11 he or she or they brings you
12 flowers every morning, but you
13 didn't realize that they were a
14 serial killer at night, so you need
15 to know everything about them. So
16 when I talk about America, you can
17 talk about the good. And the good
18 of America is the battle against
19 tyranny. I'll concede that.

20 But then you got the bad
21 about America, the mistreatment of
22 women, and you have the ugly about
23 America, the genocide of our red
24 brothers and sisters and the

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2 enslavement of the Black ones.

3 Thank you, City Council.

4 (Applause.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

6 JOHNSON: Council will be at ease.

7 (Council at ease.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

9 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes

10 Councilmember Mike Driscoll, who

11 will present a resolution honoring

12 and congratulating someone who is

13 well-deserved of such an honor,

14 that's Sam Rhoads of PIDC, on his

15 retirement after 31 years of

16 distinguished service.

17 PIDC is Philadelphia's

18 public-private economic development

19 corporation and recognizing Sam

20 Rhoads for his transformative

21 impact on the City's economic

22 landscape. Would Sam Rhoads and

23 those accompanying him to the

24 podium please join Councilmember

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2 Mike Driscoll.

3 Joining Councilmember

4 Driscoll are the following

5 Councilmembers: Councilmember Rue

6 Landau, Councilmember Mark Squilla,

7 Councilmember Jim Harrity,

8 Councilmember Dr. Anthony Phillips,

9 Councilmember Quetcy Lozada and

10 Councilmember Cindy Bass. And the

11 floor is yours, Member Driscoll.

12 (Councilmembers and

13 guests approached podium.)

14 COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL:

15 Well, thank you, Mr. President.

16 This is a big day for us

17 to honor Sam Rhoads and his family

18 and his friends. Sam's

19 contributions to the city often go

20 unnoticed, but that will change

21 today because it will be forever

22 engrossed in City Council history.

23 This man has been working since

24 1995 at the Philadelphia Industrial

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2 Development Corporation, working on
3 projects like the Navy Yard, the
4 sports complexes, the Medical
5 District now where CHOP is, the old
6 Schmidt's Brewery site. I can go
7 on and on about the behind-the-
8 scenes work that Sam Rhoads has
9 done, that will be forever etched
10 in our history, both in our economy
11 and in our projects, as we drive
12 throughout the sixth largest city
13 in America.

14 So we're very grateful,
15 Sam, for your contributions and for
16 your family that allowed you to
17 give us so many of your weekends
18 and nights, and you name it. So
19 with that, I'll begin our well-
20 deserved recognition of you, Sam
21 Rhoads.

22 Honoring and
23 congratulating Sam Rhoads on his
24 retirement after 31 years of

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2 distinguished service at PIDC,
3 Philadelphia's public-private
4 economic development corporation,
5 and recognizing his transformative
6 impact on the City's economic
7 landscape;

8 Whereas, Sam Rhoads
9 joined PIDC on January 3, 1995,
10 embarking on a career spanning more
11 than three decades defined by
12 innovation, leadership as Executive
13 Vice-President and brief tenure as
14 Interim President, where he guided
15 the organization's real estate,
16 financing and business support
17 functions through its most pivotal
18 chapters; and

19 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:

20 Whereas, Sam was instrumental in
21 introducing and scaling critical
22 financial tools, including the
23 first local use of Tax Increment
24 Financing (TIF), the HUD Section

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2 108 Loan Guarantee Program, and the
3 launch of PIDC's Community
4 Development Financial Institution
5 (CDFI), which have become essential
6 engines for inclusive local
7 development and capital delivery to
8 underserved communities; and

9 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA:

10 Whereas, Sam's expertise in public-
11 private project finance helped
12 catalyze the revitalization of
13 Philadelphia's most iconic
14 landmarks, including the master-
15 planned transformation of the
16 1200-acre Philadelphia Navy Yard
17 into a global innovation district;
18 his integral role in structuring
19 the development of the Philadelphia
20 current professional sports
21 complex; and his contribution in
22 facilitating the complex financing
23 required to renovate and repurpose
24 several vacant, historic high-rises

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2 into world-class hotel

3 combinations; and

4 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:

5 Whereas, his leadership drove the
6 transformation of industrial sites,
7 like the former Schmidt's Brewery
8 at Second and Girard, a project
9 that jump-started growth in
10 Northern Liberties, Fishtown and
11 Kensington and the evolution of the
12 former Civic Center into a world-
13 class healthcare and life sciences
14 campus, now anchored by leading
15 institutions such as Penn Medicine
16 and the Children's Hospital of
17 Philadelphia (CHOP); and

18 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

19 Whereas, beyond his technical
20 mastery, Sam has dedicated himself
21 to the community through board
22 service at the Wyck House and The
23 Wistar Institute as well as through
24 board service, while serving as a

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2 steadfast mentor to generations of
3 PIDC staff, cultivating a culture
4 of excellence and integrity that
5 will shape the City's economic
6 development for years to come; and

7 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA:

8 Whereas, on May 15, 2026, Sam
9 Rhoads will conclude his 31-year
10 chapter at PIDC, leaving behind an
11 indelible imprint on the city's
12 skyline and economic landscape as
13 he transitions into a well-deserved
14 retirement to focus on his family.
15 Good for you, good for you. Now,
16 therefore, be it

17 COUNCILWOMAN BASS:

18 Resolved, that the Council of the
19 City of Philadelphia, Hereby honors
20 and congratulates Sam Rhoads on his
21 retirement and expresses its
22 sincere gratitude for his decades
23 of visionary service to the City of
24 Philadelphia.

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2 Further Resolved, that
3 an Engrossed copy of this
4 resolution be presented to Sam
5 Rhoads as a token of this
6 legislative body's profound respect
7 and admiration. And if I could
8 add, as I take a moment of personal
9 privilege and just say, as a Board
10 member of PIDC, congratulations on
11 your retirement. We have some
12 folks joining us here on the
13 podium, and with us getting with
14 the City of Philadelphia getting
15 ready to open up on the world stage
16 with FIFA and so many other things
17 happening, so much of what is
18 happening has been accomplished
19 through Sam Rhoads making it happen
20 for our city.

21 And so, we really
22 wouldn't be the city that we are
23 today without your expertise, input
24 and involvement. Thank you, Sam,

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2 for your years of service. God
3 bless.

4 (Applause.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

6 JOHNSON: Congratulations. Chair
7 recognizes Sam Rhoads.

8 MR. RHOADS: I didn't
9 prepare anything, but I started at
10 PIDC 31 years ago for one reason,
11 which is I was really born and
12 raised in Philadelphia and I was
13 really excited at the opportunity
14 to figure out how to encourage
15 investment into every neighborhood
16 of the city, including the lowest-
17 income neighborhoods of the city
18 that had seen so much disinvestment
19 over such a long period of time.

20 But I will tell you 31
21 years ago, that's why I took the
22 job. I never for a second thought
23 that 31 years later I would be
24 standing in this room in front of

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2 this group, and I thank you to the
3 Councilpeople, I thank you to my
4 family. You do wonderful,
5 wonderful hard work. I appreciate
6 the positions that you're in every
7 day and I thank you for this honor.
8 It's truly an honor.

9 (Applause.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

11 JOHNSON: Council will be at ease.

12 (Council at ease.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

14 JOHNSON: The next order of
15 business is communications. The
16 Chair requests the Sergeant-at-Arms
17 deliver the messages from the Mayor
18 to the Chief Clerk.

19 Would the Chief Clerk
20 please read the messages from the
21 Mayor and any other communications
22 in his possession.

23 CHIEF CLERK: To the
24 President and the members of the

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2 Council of the City of
3 Philadelphia, I am submitting
4 herewith for the consideration of
5 your honorable body the following
6 proposed: An ordinance authorizing
7 the Director of Planning and
8 Development, on behalf of the City,
9 to file applications with the
10 United States Department of Housing
11 and Urban Development for a
12 Community Development Block Grant;
13 to file applications to participate
14 in the HOME Investment Partnership
15 program and the Emergency Solutions
16 Grant program; to apply for a
17 Housing Opportunities for Persons
18 with AIDS grant; to file
19 applications with the Commonwealth
20 to obtain grants under the Act of
21 April 12, 1956, P.L. 1449, Section
22 4, as amended, to prevent and
23 eliminate blight; authorizing the
24 Director of Planning and

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2 Development and the Director of
3 Commerce to file applications to
4 obtain other grants from the
5 Commonwealth; authorizing the
6 Director of Commerce to use the
7 Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program;
8 and authorizing the Director of
9 Planning and Development and the
10 Director of Commerce to enter into
11 all understandings and all
12 assurances contained in such
13 applications, and take all
14 necessary action to accept the
15 grants, all under certain terms and
16 conditions.

17 An ordinance authorizing
18 an increase in the non-electoral
19 indebtedness of the City within the
20 Pennsylvania constitutional limit;
21 authorizing the Bond Committee to
22 sell bonds at public or private
23 negotiated sale, to provide funds
24 toward various capital municipal

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2 purposes; providing for
3 appropriations to the Sinking Fund
4 Commission for the payment of such
5 bonds; and authorizing agreements
6 to provide credit or payment or
7 liquidity sources for the bonds in
8 connection with issuance of the
9 bonds, and certain other actions.

10 An ordinance authorizing
11 the Commissioner of Public
12 Property, on behalf of the City of
13 Philadelphia, to enter into a lease
14 agreement, including a lease
15 amendment, for a portion of the
16 premises at 1341 North Delaware
17 Avenue for general office and
18 administrative use by the City, all
19 under certain terms and conditions.

20 An ordinance authorizing
21 the Commissioner of Public
22 Property, on behalf of the City of
23 Philadelphia, to enter into a
24 sublease agreement with the

1 5/14/26 - STATED - COMMUNICATIONS

2 Philadelphia Municipal Authority
3 for use by the City of a portion of
4 the premises located at 701 Market
5 Street, all under certain terms and
6 conditions.

7 An ordinance amending
8 Chapter 19-1200 of The Philadelphia
9 Code, entitled "Parking Tax," to
10 amend the definition of a parking
11 facility to exclude bus loading
12 facilities from imposition of the
13 parking tax, under certain terms
14 and conditions.

15 An ordinance amending
16 Section 14-702 of The Philadelphia
17 Code, entitled "Floor Area Height
18 and Dwelling Unit Density Bonuses,"
19 to clarify the terms of the public
20 street enhancement bonus and make
21 related technical changes, under
22 certain terms and conditions.

23 An ordinance amending
24 Chapter 19-200 of The Philadelphia

1 5/14/26 - STATED - COMMUNICATIONS

2 Code, entitled "City Funds -
3 Deposits, Investments,
4 Disbursements," by amending Section
5 19-201, entitled "City
6 Depositories," to remove Bank of
7 New York Mellon as an authorized
8 financial institution in which the
9 City Treasurer may deposit funds,
10 all under certain terms and
11 conditions.

12 An ordinance authorizing
13 the City Treasurer, on behalf of
14 the City, to enter into a provider
15 agreement with the Citizens Bank
16 National Association for provision
17 of payroll banking services to the
18 City, under certain terms and
19 conditions.

20 An ordinance authorizing
21 and approving the execution and
22 delivery of a Service Agreement
23 between The City of Philadelphia
24 and The Philadelphia Municipal

1 5/14/26 - STATED - COMMUNICATIONS

2 Authority relating to the financing
3 of the acquisition of 400 North
4 Broad Street and 1501 Callowhill
5 Street (together with certain
6 ancillary property rights), which
7 premises the City has sub-leased
8 for use as the City's police
9 headquarters and certain other
10 uses; approving the issuance by the
11 Authority of bonds, notes or other
12 evidences of indebtedness
13 (including reimbursement
14 obligations related to lines or
15 letters of credit) in one or more
16 series to finance or refinance such
17 acquisition costs and authorizing
18 and approving the obligation of The
19 City of Philadelphia to pay in full
20 when due the Service Fee and other
21 amounts payable under the Service
22 Agreement, authorizing certain City
23 officers to take certain actions
24 required to issue such bonds,

1 5/14/26 - STATED - COMMUNICATIONS

2 notes, or other evidences of
3 indebtedness, covenanting that the
4 City of Philadelphia will make
5 necessary appropriations in each of
6 the City's fiscal years to provide
7 for and will make timely payments
8 of the service fee and other
9 amounts due under the Service
10 Agreement, and authorizing and
11 approving the Director of Finance
12 of the City and other City
13 officials to take other necessary
14 and appropriate actions to
15 effectuate the purposes of this
16 ordinance, all under certain terms
17 and conditions.

18 An ordinance amending
19 section 12 701 of the Philadelphia
20 Code, entitled "Designation of
21 Bicycle Lanes," to authorize a
22 bicycle lane and removal of parking
23 on Roberts Avenue between Henry
24 Avenue and Fox Street, under

1 5/14/26 - STATED - COMMUNICATIONS

2 certain terms and conditions.

3 An ordinance authorizing
4 the Philadelphia Authority for
5 Industrial Development to convey
6 fee simple title to all or a
7 portion of the property known as
8 5501 Tacony Street, for less than a
9 fair market value, under certain
10 terms and conditions.

11 An ordinance authorizing
12 the Commissioner of Public Property
13 of The City of Philadelphia, on
14 behalf of The City of Philadelphia
15 and in cooperation with The
16 Philadelphia Municipal Authority,
17 to undertake a Project to promote
18 the health, safety and welfare of
19 the residents of The City of
20 Philadelphia; authorizing and
21 approving (i) a project including
22 the refunding of bonds issued to
23 refinance the New Youth Center
24 Facility, (ii) one or more

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2 amendments to an existing Ground
3 Lease, as previously amended,
4 between The City of Philadelphia
5 and The Philadelphia Municipal
6 Authority, (iii) one or more
7 amendments to an existing Prime
8 Lease, as previously amended,
9 between The City of Philadelphia
10 and The Philadelphia Municipal
11 Authority and the assignment of
12 such amendments to a trustee, and
13 (iv) the obligation of the City of
14 Philadelphia to pay rent under the
15 Prime Lease as amended, when due,
16 approving the issuance by the
17 Philadelphia Municipal Authority of
18 bonds in one or more series from
19 time to time to pay the cost of
20 such project, authorizing certain
21 officers of the City of
22 Philadelphia to enter into such
23 lease amendments and to take such
24 other actions as may be necessary

1 5/14/26 - STATED - COMMUNICATIONS

2 or appropriate to accomplish the
3 intent and purpose of this
4 ordinance, agreeing to be bound by
5 each and every provision, covenant,
6 and agreement set forth in the
7 Ground Lease and Prime Lease, as
8 amended, covenanting that the City
9 of Philadelphia will make necessary
10 appropriations in each of the City
11 of Philadelphia's fiscal years to
12 provide for and make rental
13 payments when due under the Prime
14 Lease as amended, all under certain
15 terms and conditions.

16 An ordinance approving
17 the Fiscal Year 2027 Capital Budget
18 providing for expenditures for the
19 capital purposes of the
20 Philadelphia Gas Works, including
21 the supplying of funds in
22 connection therewith, and
23 acknowledging receipt of the
24 Revised Forecast of Capital Budgets

1 5/14/26 - STATED - COMMUNICATIONS

2 for Fiscal Years 2028 through 2032,
3 all under certain terms and
4 conditions.

5 An ordinance approving
6 the amendment of the Fiscal Year
7 2026 Capital Budget providing for
8 expenditures for the capital
9 purposes of the Philadelphia Gas
10 Works (including the supplying of
11 funds in connection therewith)
12 subject to certain constraints and
13 conditions and acknowledging the
14 receipt of the Revised Forecast of
15 Capital Budgets for Fiscal Years
16 2027 through 2031, as amended.

17 A resolution confirming
18 the appointment of Layla Bibi to
19 serve on the Zoning Board of
20 Adjustment.

21 And I am pleased to
22 advise you that on May 12, 2026, I
23 signed the following bills which
24 were passed by Council at its

1 5/14/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 session on May 7, 2026: Bill No.
3 251029, Bill No. 251067, Bill No.
4 251100, Bill No. 260242, Bill No.
5 260265, Bill No. 260266, Bill No.
6 260337, Bill No. 260338, Bill No.
7 260339, and Bill No. 260341.

8 There are no further
9 communications in my possession,
10 Council President.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

12 JOHNSON: Thank you very much. The
13 messages will be printed in the
14 Journal.

15 The next order of
16 business is the introduction of
17 bills and resolutions.

18 The Chair recognizes
19 Councilmember Dr. Anthony Phillips.

20 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

21 Good morning, Council President
22 Johnson, and also good morning to
23 everyone here today.

24 I have two privileged

1 5/14/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 resolutions and one bill for
3 introduction today.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

5 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

6 Would the Chief Clerk
7 please read the titles of the bill
8 and resolutions.

9 CHIEF CLERK: An
10 ordinance regulating the direction
11 of movement of traffic on the 6500
12 block of Pine Ridge Road between
13 Cheltenham Avenue and Fariston
14 Drive, and removing the "No Parking
15 Anytime" restriction on the 6500
16 block of Pine Ridge Road, all under
17 certain terms and conditions.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

19 JOHNSON: This bill will be
20 referred to the appropriate
21 committee.

22 CHIEF CLERK: And a
23 privileged resolution honoring and
24 recognizing Ad Prima Charter School

1 5/14/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 for being designated a 2026 State
3 and National School of Character,
4 becoming the first school in
5 Philadelphia to receive this
6 distinction, and celebrating this
7 extraordinary achievement as a
8 testament to the school's
9 commitment to strong culture,
10 ethical leadership, character
11 development, and educational
12 excellence.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

14 JOHNSON: This resolution will be
15 placed on today's Final Passage
16 Calendar.

17 CHIEF CLERK: And a
18 privileged resolution honoring and
19 recognizing Russell Byers Charter
20 School on the occasion of its 25th
21 anniversary, and celebrating 25
22 years of educational excellence,
23 civic purpose, and service to
24 children and families in the City

1 5/14/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 of Philadelphia, and further
3 recognizing Laurada Byers for her
4 visionary leadership and enduring
5 impact.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

7 JOHNSON: This resolution will be
8 placed on today's Final Passage
9 Calendar.

10 Chair recognizes
11 Majority Leader Katherine Gilmore
12 Richardson.

13 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

14 RICHARDSON: Good morning, Council
15 President. Good morning,
16 colleagues.

17 Today I offer seven
18 bills on your behalf.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

20 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

21 Chief Clerk, please read
22 the title of the bills.

23 CHIEF CLERK: An
24 ordinance amending Chapter 19-1200

1 5/14/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled
3 "Parking Tax," to amend the
4 definition of parking facility to
5 exclude bus loading facilities from
6 imposition of the Parking Tax,
7 under certain terms and conditions.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

9 JOHNSON: This bill will be
10 referred to the appropriate
11 committee.

12 CHIEF CLERK: An
13 ordinance authorizing an increase
14 in the non-electoral indebtedness
15 of the City within the Pennsylvania
16 constitutional limit; authorizing
17 the Bond Committee to sell bonds at
18 public or private negotiated sale,
19 to provide funds toward various
20 capital municipal purposes;
21 providing for appropriations to the
22 Sinking Fund Commission for the
23 payment of such bonds; and
24 authorizing agreements to provide

1 5/14/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 credit or payment or liquidity
3 sources for the bonds in connection
4 with issuance of the bonds, and
5 certain other actions.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

7 JOHNSON: This bill will be
8 referred to the appropriate
9 committee.

10 CHIEF CLERK: And an
11 ordinance authorizing the
12 Commissioner of Public Property of
13 the City of Philadelphia, on behalf
14 of the City of Philadelphia and in
15 cooperation with the Philadelphia
16 Municipal Authority, to undertake a
17 project to promote the health,
18 safety and welfare of the residents
19 of the City of Philadelphia;
20 authorizing and approving (i) a
21 project including the refunding of
22 bonds issued to refinance the New
23 Youth Center Facility, (ii) one or
24 more amendments to an existing

1 5/14/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 Ground Lease, as previously
3 amended, between The City of
4 Philadelphia and the Philadelphia
5 Municipal Authority, (iii) one or
6 more amendments to an existing
7 Prime Lease, as previously amended,
8 between the City of Philadelphia
9 and the Philadelphia Municipal
10 Authority and the assignment of
11 such amendments to a trustee and
12 (iv) the obligation of the City of
13 Philadelphia to pay rent under the
14 Prime Lease, as amended, when due;
15 approving the issuance by the
16 Philadelphia Municipal Authority of
17 bonds, in one or more series, from
18 time to time, to pay the cost of
19 such project, authorizing certain
20 officers of the City to enter into
21 such lease amendments and to take
22 such other actions as may be
23 necessary or appropriate to
24 accomplish the intent and purpose

1 5/14/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 of this ordinance, agreeing to be
3 bound by each and every provision,
4 covenant, and agreement set forth
5 in the Ground Lease and Prime
6 Lease, each as amended, and
7 covenanting that the City of
8 Philadelphia will make necessary
9 appropriations in each of the City
10 of Philadelphia's fiscal years to
11 provide for and make rental
12 payments when due under the Prime
13 Lease as amended, all under certain
14 terms and conditions.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

16 JOHNSON: This bill will be
17 referred to the appropriate
18 committee.

19 CHIEF CLERK: An

20 ordinance authorizing the City
21 Treasurer, on behalf of the City,
22 to enter into a provider agreement
23 with Citizens Bank National
24 Association for provision of

1 5/14/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 Payroll Banking Services to the
3 City, under certain terms and
4 conditions.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

6 JOHNSON: This bill will be
7 referred to the appropriate
8 committee.

9 CHIEF CLERK: An

10 ordinance approving the Fiscal Year
11 2027 capital budget, providing for
12 the expenditures for the capital
13 purposes of the Philadelphia Gas
14 Works, including the supplying of
15 funds in connection therewith, and
16 acknowledging receipt of the
17 Revised Forecast of Capital Budgets
18 for Fiscal Years 2028 through 2032,
19 all under certain terms and
20 conditions.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

22 JOHNSON: This bill will be
23 referred to the appropriate
24 committee.

1 5/14/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 CHIEF CLERK: An

3 ordinance approving the amendment
4 of Fiscal Year 2026 capital budget,
5 providing for expenditures for
6 capital purposes of the
7 Philadelphia Gas Works, including
8 the supplying of funds in
9 connection therewith, subject to
10 certain constraints and conditions,
11 and acknowledging the receipt of
12 the Revised Forecast of Capital
13 Budgets for Fiscal Years 2027
14 through 2031, as amended.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

16 JOHNSON: This bill will be
17 referred to the appropriate
18 committee.

19 CHIEF CLERK: An

20 ordinance authorizing the Director
21 of Planning and Development, on
22 behalf of the City, to file
23 applications with the United States
24 Department of Housing and Urban

1 5/14/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 Development for a Community
3 Development Block Grant; to file
4 applications to participate in the
5 HOME Investment Partnership program
6 and the Emergency Solutions Grant
7 program; to apply for a Housing
8 Opportunities for Persons with AIDS
9 grant; to file applications with
10 the Commonwealth to obtain grants
11 under the Act of April 12, 1956,
12 P.L. 1449, Section 4, as amended,
13 to prevent and eliminate blight;
14 authorizing the Director of
15 Planning and Development and the
16 Director of Commerce to file
17 applications to obtain other grants
18 from the Commonwealth; authorizing
19 the Director of Commerce to use the
20 Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program;
21 and authorizing the Director of
22 Planning and Development and the
23 Director of Commerce to enter into
24 all understandings and assurances

1 5/14/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 contained in such applications and
3 take all necessary action to accept
4 the grants, all under certain terms
5 and conditions.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

7 JOHNSON: This bill will be
8 referred to the appropriate
9 committee.

10 Chair recognizes
11 Councilmember Jamie Gauthier.

12 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:

13 Good morning, Council President.

14 Today I have seven
15 bills, five on your behalf and two
16 privileged resolutions.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

18 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

19 Chief Clerk, please read
20 the titles of the bills and
21 resolutions.

22 CHIEF CLERK: An

23 ordinance extending and preserving
24 zoning approvals, density and

1 5/14/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 dimensional bonuses, and mixed
3 income housing bonus entitlements
4 granted to the Village Square on
5 Haverford mixed-use affordable
6 housing development located at 601
7 North 37th Street, 3601 Haverford
8 Avenue, and 3611 Haverford Avenue
9 in the Mantua neighborhood of
10 Philadelphia; and providing for
11 related matters.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

13 JOHNSON: This bill will be
14 referred to the appropriate
15 committee.

16 CHIEF CLERK: An

17 ordinance to amend the Philadelphia
18 Zoning Maps by changing the zoning
19 designations of certain areas of
20 land located within an area bounded
21 by Wyalusing Avenue, Lancaster
22 Avenue, Main Street, Westminster
23 Avenue, and 47th Street.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

1 5/14/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 JOHNSON: This bill will be
3 referred to the appropriate
4 committee.

5 CHIEF CLERK: And an
6 ordinance amending Title 14 of The
7 Philadelphia Code, entitled "Zoning
8 and Planning," by amending certain
9 provisions of the CMX-1, Commercial
10 Mixed Use, zoning district
11 regarding uses, dimensional
12 requirements, and parking, all
13 under certain terms and conditions.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

15 JOHNSON: This bill will be
16 referred to the appropriate
17 committee.

18 CHIEF CLERK: An
19 ordinance amending Title 14 of The
20 Philadelphia Code, entitled "Zoning
21 and Planning" by revising certain
22 provisions of Section 14-513,
23 entitled "/TOD, Transit-Oriented
24 Development Overlay District," to

1 5/14/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 rename it "Transit Oriented
3 Communities Overlay District," to
4 expand its applicability radius and
5 amending various sections to make
6 changes to applicable use,
7 dimensional and parking standards,
8 all under certain terms and
9 conditions.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

11 JOHNSON: This bill will be
12 referred to the appropriate
13 committee.

14 CHIEF CLERK: To amend
15 Title 14 of The Philadelphia Code,
16 entitled "Zoning and Planning," by
17 revising certain provisions related
18 to the Transit Improvement Bonus to
19 clarify its parameters and revise
20 the bonus structure, and by making
21 related changes, all under certain
22 terms and conditions.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

24 JOHNSON: This bill will be

1 5/14/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 referred to the appropriate
3 committee.

4 CHIEF CLERK: An
5 ordinance amending Section 14-513
6 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled
7 "Transit-Oriented Development
8 Overlay District," by exempting
9 certain districts from ground floor
10 use requirements, all under certain
11 terms and conditions.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

13 JOHNSON: This bill will be
14 referred to the appropriate
15 committee.

16 CHIEF CLERK: Amending
17 Section 14-600 of The Philadelphia
18 Code, entitled "Use Regulations,"
19 to allow transit station use in
20 commercial zoning districts, all
21 under certain terms and conditions.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

23 JOHNSON: This bill will be
24 referred to the appropriate

1 5/14/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 committee.

3 CHIEF CLERK: And a
4 privileged resolution declaring May
5 13, 2026 as the 41st Anniversary of
6 the MOVE Bombing, as a day of
7 reflection and remembrance in the
8 City of Philadelphia.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

10 JOHNSON: This resolution will be
11 placed on today's Final Passage
12 Calendar.

13 CHIEF CLERK: And a
14 privileged resolution authorizing
15 the Committee on the Environment to
16 hold hearings on the implementation
17 and progress of vegetated green
18 stormwater infrastructure (GSI)
19 under the Green City, Clean Waters
20 initiative, and to examine the
21 benefits of expanding Green
22 Stormwater Infrastructure
23 throughout the City.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

1 5/14/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 JOHNSON: This resolution will be
3 placed on today's Final Passage
4 Calendar.

5 Chair recognizes
6 Councilmember Majority Whip Isaiah
7 Thomas.

8 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Good
9 morning, Council President. Good
10 morning, colleagues.

11 Today I offer two
12 resolutions. Thank you, sir.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

14 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

15 Chief Clerk, please read
16 the titles of the resolutions
17 please.

18 CHIEF CLERK: A
19 privileged resolution honoring and
20 congratulating the Blackhawks
21 Athletic Club Under 12 Football
22 Team on winning the 2025 American
23 Youth Football 12U Division I
24 National Championship.

1 5/14/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

3 JOHNSON: This resolution will be
4 placed on today's Final Passage
5 Calendar.

6 CHIEF CLERK: And a
7 privileged resolution recognizing
8 and honoring the month of May as
9 "Youth Mental Health Awareness
10 Month" in the City of Philadelphia
11 to center the well-being of young
12 Philadelphians and urging for
13 youth-led, trauma-informed
14 investments in every neighborhood.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

16 JOHNSON: This resolution will be
17 placed on today's Final Passage
18 Calendar.

19 The Chair recognizes
20 Councilmember Curtis Jones, Jr.

21 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank
22 you, Mr. President.

23 Today I offer three
24 bills, one on your behalf.

1 5/14/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

3 JOHNSON: Thank you very much, sir.

4 Chief Clerk, please read
5 the titles of the bills.

6 CHIEF CLERK: An
7 ordinance amending Title 22 of the
8 Philadelphia Code, entitled "Public
9 Employees Retirement Code," by
10 modifying the circumstances when
11 certain City of Philadelphia
12 employees are entitled to service-
13 connected death benefits, all under
14 certain terms and conditions.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

16 JOHNSON: This bill will be
17 referred to the appropriate
18 committee.

19 CHIEF CLERK: An
20 ordinance amending Title 12 of The
21 Philadelphia Code, entitled
22 "Traffic Code," to designate East
23 Memorial Hall Drive and West
24 Memorial Hall Drive in Fairmount

1 5/14/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 Park as one-way streets, under
3 certain terms and conditions and
4 authorize and/or empower the
5 Department of Streets for the City
6 of Philadelphia to take any and all
7 necessary actions to enforce this
8 Ordinance pursuant to Chapter
9 12-600 of The Philadelphia Code.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

11 JOHNSON: This bill will be
12 referred to the appropriate
13 committee.

14 CHIEF CLERK: An

15 ordinance to amend the Philadelphia
16 Zoning Maps by changing the zoning
17 designations of certain areas of
18 land located within an area bounded
19 by Roberts Avenue, Wissahickon
20 Avenue, Hunting Park Avenue and Fox
21 Street.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

23 JOHNSON: This bill will be
24 referred to the appropriate

1 5/14/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 committee.

3 Chair recognizes

4 Councilmember Rue Landau.

5 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:

6 Good morning, Council President,
7 colleagues and the public.

8 I have one privileged
9 resolution today, with you as a
10 prime co-sponsor. Thank you.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

12 JOHNSON: Thank you.

13 Chief Clerk, please read
14 the title of the resolution please.

15 CHIEF CLERK: A
16 privileged resolution recognizing
17 the month of May as Jewish American
18 Heritage Month in the City of
19 Philadelphia.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

21 JOHNSON: This bill will be
22 referred to the appropriate -- this
23 resolution will be placed on
24 today's Final Passage Calendar.

1 5/14/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 Chair recognizes

3 Councilmember Quetcy Lozada.

4 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA:

5 Thank you, Council President.

6 I have nothing today.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

8 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

9 Chair recognizes

10 Councilmember Jeffrey Jay Young.

11 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Thank
12 you, Mr. President.

13 Today I have four bills.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

15 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

16 Chief Clerk, please read
17 the titles of the bills.

18 CHIEF CLERK: An
19 ordinance authorizing the revision
20 of lines and grades on a portion of
21 City Plan No. 120, by striking from
22 the City Plan and vacating
23 Cleveland Street from Girard Avenue
24 northwardly to Stiles Street, and

1 5/14/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 striking from the City Plan and
3 vacating Stiles Street from 18th
4 Street westwardly to 19th Street,
5 under certain terms and conditions.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

7 JOHNSON: This bill will be
8 referred to the appropriate
9 committee.

10 CHIEF CLERK: An
11 ordinance amending Title 12 of The
12 Philadelphia Code, entitled
13 "Traffic Code," by amending Chapter
14 12-800, entitled "Bicycle
15 Regulations and Penalties," to
16 authorize the Department of
17 Licenses and Inspections to
18 establish an E-Bike Delivery
19 License for persons who use
20 pedalcycles with electric assist to
21 perform commercial delivery
22 services in the City, and providing
23 for license requirements,
24 identification, enforcement, and

1 5/14/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 penalties, all under certain terms
3 and conditions.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

5 JOHNSON: This bill will be
6 referred to the appropriate
7 committee.

8 CHIEF CLERK: An
9 ordinance amending Chapter 9-5100
10 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled
11 "Food Delivery Services," to
12 require third-party food delivery
13 services to register certain
14 delivery workers who use bicycles
15 or pedalcycles with electric assist
16 and autonomous delivery units to
17 perform deliveries in the City, and
18 to require related identification,
19 recordkeeping, reporting, and
20 compliance measures, and fees all
21 under certain terms and conditions.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

23 JOHNSON: This bill will be
24 referred to the appropriate

1 5/14/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 committee.

3 CHIEF CLERK: An

4 ordinance authorizing and approving

5 the execution and delivery of a

6 Service Agreement between The City

7 of Philadelphia and The

8 Philadelphia Municipal Authority

9 relating to the financing of the

10 acquisition of 400 North Broad

11 Street and 1501 Callowhill Street

12 (together with certain ancillary

13 property rights), which premises

14 the City has sub-leased for use as

15 the City's police headquarters and

16 certain other uses; approving the

17 issuance by the Authority of bonds,

18 notes or other evidences of

19 indebtedness (including

20 reimbursement obligations related

21 to lines or letters of credit) in

22 one or more series to finance or

23 refinance such acquisition costs

24 and authorizing and approving the

1 5/14/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 obligation of The City of
3 Philadelphia to pay in full when
4 due the Service Fee and other
5 amounts payable under the Service
6 Agreement; authorizing certain City
7 officers to take certain actions
8 required to issue such bonds, notes
9 or other evidences of indebtedness;
10 covenanting that The City of
11 Philadelphia will make necessary
12 appropriations in each of the
13 City's fiscal years to provide for
14 and will make timely payments of
15 the service fee and other amounts
16 due under the service agreement,
17 and authorizing and approving the
18 Director of Finance of the City and
19 other City officials to take other
20 necessary or appropriate actions to
21 effectuate the purpose of this
22 ordinance, all under certain terms
23 and conditions.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

1 5/14/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 JOHNSON: This bill will be
3 referred to the appropriate
4 committee.

5 Chair recognizes
6 Councilmember Jim Harrity.

7 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:
8 Thank you, Council President.

9 I have no bills or
10 resolutions today.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

12 JOHNSON: Thank you very much, sir.

13 Chair recognizes
14 Councilmember Nicolas O'Rourke.

15 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE:
16 Thank you, Mr. President.

17 I have one privileged
18 resolution and I have two
19 non-privileged resolutions today.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

21 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

22 Chief Clerk, please read
23 the titles of the resolutions.

24 CHIEF CLERK: A

1 5/14/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 privileged resolution recognizing
3 and celebrating Ben Fletcher,
4 Philadelphia's revolutionary labor
5 leader, and honoring Local 8, the
6 1913 Longshoremen's Strike, and the
7 City's Black-led tradition of
8 multiracial solidarity in the fight
9 for dignity and respect at work and
10 in our communities.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

12 JOHNSON: This resolution will be
13 placed on today's Final Passage
14 Calendar.

15 CHIEF CLERK: A

16 non-privileged resolution urging
17 the Trump Administration to remove
18 Cuba from the list of State
19 Sponsors of Terrorism, and urging
20 Congress to vote to end all
21 economic sanctions against Cuba.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

23 JOHNSON: This resolution will be
24 placed on the Final Passage

1 5/14/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 Calendar for consideration at our
3 next session of Council.

4 CHIEF CLERK: And a
5 non-privileged resolution calling
6 on the Pennsylvania General
7 Assembly to enact legislation that
8 would allow local jurisdictions to
9 adopt ranked choice voting.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

11 JOHNSON: This resolution will be
12 placed on the Final Passage
13 Calendar for consideration at the
14 next session of Council.

15 Chair recognizes
16 Councilmember Mike Driscoll.

17 COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL:
18 Morning, Mr. President.

19 I have one privileged
20 resolution and one bill on your
21 behalf.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

23 JOHNSON: Thank you very much, sir.

24 Would the Chief Clerk

1 5/14/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 please read the title of the bill
3 and resolution.

4 CHIEF CLERK: An
5 ordinance authorizing the
6 Philadelphia Authority for
7 Industrial Development to convey
8 fee simple title to all or a
9 portion of property known as 5501
10 Tacony Street, for less than fair
11 market value, under certain terms
12 and conditions.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
14 JOHNSON: This bill will be
15 referred to the appropriate
16 committee.

17 CHIEF CLERK: And a
18 privileged resolution recognizing
19 May 2026 as Brain Tumor Awareness
20 Month, raising awareness of the
21 impact of brain tumors on
22 individuals, families and
23 communities, and promoting
24 education, research and support for

1 5/14/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 those affected.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

4 JOHNSON: This resolution will be
5 placed on today's Final Passage
6 Calendar. And thank you for that
7 resolution, Councilmember Mike
8 Driscoll.

9 Councilmember Brian
10 O'Neill.

11 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL:
12 Thank you, Mr. President.

13 I have no bills or
14 resolutions.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

16 JOHNSON: Thank you, sir.

17 Councilmember Mark
18 Squilla.

19 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA:
20 Thank you, Mr. President.

21 I offer seven bills.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

23 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

24 Chief Clerk, please read

1 5/14/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 the titles of the bills.

3 CHIEF CLERK: An

4 ordinance authorizing the

5 Commissioner of Public Property, on

6 behalf of the City of Philadelphia,

7 to enter into a lease agreement,

8 including a lease amendment, for a

9 portion of the premises at 1341

10 North Delaware Avenue for general

11 office and administrative use by

12 the City, all under certain terms

13 and conditions.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

15 JOHNSON: This bill will be

16 referred to the appropriate

17 committee.

18 CHIEF CLERK: An

19 ordinance amending Section 14-702

20 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled:

21 Floor Area, Height and Dwelling

22 Unit Density Bonuses," to clarify

23 certain terms of public street

24 enhancement bonus and make related

1 5/14/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 technical changes, under certain
3 terms and conditions.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

5 JOHNSON: This bill will be
6 referred to the appropriate
7 committee.

8 CHIEF CLERK: An
9 ordinance authorizing the
10 Commissioner of Public Property, on
11 behalf of the City, to enter into a
12 sublease agreement with the
13 Philadelphia Municipal Authority,
14 for use by the City of a portion of
15 the premises located at 701 Market
16 Street, all under certain terms and
17 conditions.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

19 JOHNSON: This bill will be
20 referred to the appropriate
21 committee.

22 CHIEF CLERK: An
23 ordinance authorizing various
24 encroachments in the vicinity of

1 5/14/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 1639 South 10th Street, under
3 certain terms and conditions.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

5 JOHNSON: This bill will be
6 referred to the appropriate
7 committee.

8 CHIEF CLERK: An
9 ordinance amending Section 9-208 of
10 The Philadelphia Code, entitled
11 "Sidewalk Cafes," to revise
12 remedies and provide for
13 enforcement of sidewalk cafes
14 provisions, all under certain terms
15 and conditions.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

17 JOHNSON: This bill will be
18 referred to the appropriate
19 committee.

20 CHIEF CLERK: An
21 ordinance to amend the Philadelphia
22 Zoning Maps by changing the zoning
23 designations of certain areas of
24 land located within an area bounded

1 5/14/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 by Kensington Avenue, Clearfield
3 Street, Tulip Street and Lehigh
4 Avenue.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

6 JOHNSON: This bill will be
7 referred to the appropriate
8 committee.

9 CHIEF CLERK: An
10 ordinance authorizing various
11 encroachments in the vicinity of
12 2101 South 3rd Street, under
13 certain terms and conditions.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

15 JOHNSON: This bill will be
16 referred to the appropriate
17 committee.

18 Chair recognizes
19 Councilmember Cindy Bass.

20 COUNCILWOMAN BASS:

21 Thank you, Mr. President.

22 I offer one privileged
23 resolution and one bill on your
24 behalf.

1 5/14/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

3 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

4 Chief Clerk, please read
5 the title of the bill and
6 resolution.

7 CHIEF CLERK: An
8 ordinance amending Title 14 of The
9 Philadelphia Code, entitled "Zoning
10 and Planning," to amend certain
11 provisions of Chapter 14-500,
12 entitled "Overlay Zoning
13 Districts," by creating the West
14 Chestnut Street Overlay District,
15 all under certain terms and
16 conditions.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

18 JOHNSON: This bill will be
19 referred to the appropriate
20 committee.

21 CHIEF CLERK: And a
22 privileged resolution honoring the
23 life, legacy and distinguished
24 service of Detective Samuel P.

1 5/14/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 Wyche, Sr., who served on the first
3 all-Black detective unit, the Dick
4 Anderson Squad, in recognition of
5 National Police Week 2026.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

7 JOHNSON: This resolution will be
8 placed on today's Final Passage
9 Calendar.

10 Chair recognizes
11 Councilmember Cindy Bass.

12 COUNCILWOMAN BASS:

13 Thank you, Mr. President.

14 Can we hold that over
15 for next week, please?

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

17 JOHNSON: Yes, we can hold it.

18 COUNCILWOMAN BASS:

19 Thank you.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

21 JOHNSON: Chair recognizes
22 Councilmember Dr. Nina Ahmad.

23 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:

24 Thank you, Council President.

1 5/14/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 I'm introducing four
3 privileged resolutions, one with
4 Councilmember Gauthier and one with
5 Councilmember Bass.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

7 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

8 Chief Clerk, please read
9 the titles of the resolutions.

10 CHIEF CLERK: A

11 privileged resolution recognizing
12 May 2026 to be American Stroke
13 Month in Philadelphia.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

15 JOHNSON: This resolution will be
16 placed on today's Final Passage
17 Calendar.

18 CHIEF CLERK: A

19 privileged resolution recognizing
20 May 2026 as National Tennis Month.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

22 JOHNSON: This bill will be
23 referred -- I'm sorry. This
24 resolution will be placed on

1 5/14/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 today's Final Passage Calendar.

3 CHIEF CLERK: A

4 privileged resolution recognizing

5 May 2026 as Mental Health Awareness

6 Month in the City of Philadelphia.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

8 JOHNSON: This resolution will be

9 placed on today's Final Passage

10 Calendar.

11 CHIEF CLERK: And a

12 privileged resolution authorizing

13 the Committee on Commerce and

14 Economic Development to hold public

15 hearings on the process of starting

16 a microbusiness or pop-up shop in

17 Philadelphia, and on how the City

18 can streamline that process so more

19 microbusinesses grow into small

20 businesses.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

22 JOHNSON: This resolution will be

23 placed on today's Final Passage

24 Calendar.

1 5/14/26 - STATED - REPORTS

2 The next order of
3 business is reports from committee.

4 The Chair recognizes
5 Councilmember Cindy Bass for a
6 report from the Committee on Rules.

7 COUNCILWOMAN BASS:

8 Thank you, Mr. President.

9 The Committee on Rules
10 reports out eight bills with a
11 favorable recommendation.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

13 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

14 Chief Clerk, please read
15 the report.

16 CHIEF CLERK: The
17 Committee on Rules, to which were
18 referred the following bills: Bill
19 No. 260212, an ordinance to amend
20 the Philadelphia Zoning Maps by
21 changing the zoning designations of
22 certain areas of land located
23 within an area bounded by McKinley
24 Street, Leonard Street, Devereaux

1 5/14/26 - STATED - REPORTS

2 Avenue and Bustleton Avenue.

3 Bill No. 260296, an
4 ordinance to approve amendments to
5 the University of Pennsylvania
6 Master Plan in the area bounded by
7 Walnut Street, 36th Street, Spruce
8 Street, and 39th Street, related to
9 the Class of 1920 Commons building
10 at 3800 Locust Walk, and the Stuart
11 Weitzman Theatre addition to the
12 Annenberg Center for the Performing
13 Arts (ACPA) at 3680 Walnut Street.

14 Bill No. 260297, an
15 ordinance to amend the Philadelphia
16 Zoning Maps by changing the zoning
17 designations of certain areas of
18 land located within an area bounded
19 by Spruce Street, 34th Street,
20 Civic Center Boulevard and
21 University Avenue.

22 Bill No. 260301, an
23 ordinance to amend the Philadelphia
24 Zoning Maps by changing the zoning

1 5/14/26 - STATED - REPORTS
2 designations of certain areas of
3 land located within an area bounded
4 by Milnor Street, Cottman Avenue,
5 Cottman Avenue (Extended), the
6 Delaware River, Unruh Avenue
7 (Extended), Unruh Avenue,
8 Wissinoming Street, and New State
9 Road.

10 Bill No. 260302, an
11 ordinance to amend the Philadelphia
12 Zoning Maps by changing the zoning
13 designations of certain areas of
14 land located within an area bounded
15 by Lippincott Street, 20th Street,
16 Toronto Street, and 22nd Street,
17 respectfully reports it has
18 considered the same and returns the
19 attached bills to Council with a
20 favorable recommendation.

21 Bill No. 260238, an
22 ordinance to amend the Philadelphia
23 zoning maps by changing the zoning
24 designations of certain areas of

1 5/14/26 - STATED - REPORTS

2 land located within an area bounded
3 by Ludlow Street, South 41st
4 Street, West Girard Avenue, and
5 North 48th Street.

6 Bill No. 260298, an
7 ordinance to amend the Philadelphia
8 zoning maps by changing the zoning
9 designations of certain areas of
10 land located within an area bounded
11 by Ridge Avenue, Spring Lane,
12 Hagy's Mill Road, Port Royal
13 Avenue, River Road, and the
14 Montgomery County Line.

15 Bill No. 260379, an
16 ordinance amending Section 14-500
17 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled
18 "Overlay Zoning Districts" by
19 amending Section 14-520, entitled
20 "/NDO, Ninth District Overlay
21 District," by making technical
22 changes, all under certain terms
23 and conditions, respectfully
24 reports it has considered and

1 5/14/26 - STATED - REPORTS

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

5 There are no further
6 bills to report out from the
7 Committee on Rules, Council
8 President.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

10 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

11 The Chair recognizes the
12 Chairwoman of the Rules Committee,
13 Councilmember Cindy Bass, for a
14 motion.

15 COUNCILWOMAN BASS:

16 Thank you, Mr. President.

17 I move that the rules of
18 Council be suspended to permit
19 first reading this day of the bills
20 just read into the record by the
21 Chief Clerk, with the exception of
22 Bill No. 260298 to be placed on the
23 First Reading Calendar of our next
24 session of Council.

1 5/14/26 - STATED - REPORTS

2 (Duly seconded.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

4 JOHNSON: It has been moved and
5 properly seconded that the rules of
6 Council be suspended so as to
7 permit the consideration of these
8 bills just read by the Chief Clerk
9 at today's session of Council with
10 the exception of Bill No. 260298.

11 All those in favor of
12 the motion will signify by saying
13 aye.

14 (Aye.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

16 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

17 (No response.)

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

19 JOHNSON: The ayes have it. The
20 motion carries. These bills will
21 be placed on our First Reading
22 Calendar for today.

23 Bill No. 260298 will be
24 placed on the First Reading

1 5/14/26 - STATED - BILLS ON 2ND READING

2 Calendar for consideration at our
3 next session of Council.

4 The next order of
5 business is the consideration of
6 the Calendar. I note that the
7 bills just reported from Committee
8 of Rules with the suspension of
9 rules have been deemed to have had
10 a first reading. These bills will
11 be placed on the Second Reading and
12 Final Passage Calendar for the next
13 session of Council.

14 As there are no
15 additional bills on the First
16 Reading Calendar, the Chair
17 recognizes Majority Leader
18 Katherine Gilmore Richardson for a
19 motion concerning resolutions on
20 the Final Passage Calendar and
21 bills on the Second Reading and
22 Final Passage Calendars.

23 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

24 RICHARDSON: Thank you,

1 5/14/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Mr. President.

3 The following
4 resolutions are being called up
5 from the Final Passage Calendar and
6 the following bills are being
7 called up from the Second Reading
8 and Final Passage Calendar today:
9 Resolution Nos. 260469 and 260480.

10 The following
11 resolutions and bills on the
12 Calendar are being held: 260481,
13 250768, 250807 and 260340. 260063
14 is being amended.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

16 JOHNSON: Before considering these
17 resolutions and bills, we will
18 consider public comment as follows:
19 Your public comment must concern
20 matters on the Second Reading and
21 Final Passage Calendar for possible
22 action in today's Council sessions.

23 All speakers must sign
24 up in order to testify. If you

1 5/14/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 have not already signed up for
3 today's Council session, please do
4 so now by giving your name to
5 Ms. Hasson outside the rails to my
6 left sitting at the table. Once
7 you have signed up, you will be
8 called in the order in which your
9 name appears on the sign-up sheet.

10 Under ideal
11 circumstances, public commenters
12 each will have three minutes to
13 speak. However, this time limit
14 may vary from session to session.
15 The time limit today will be two
16 minutes. In order to be fair to
17 all those wishing to speak, I
18 intend to hold faithfully to the
19 two-minute limit.

20 When you begin speaking,
21 you will see a green light on the
22 podium. When there are 30 seconds
23 remaining to your time, the light
24 will turn yellow, which is your

1 5/14/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 reminder to conclude your remarks.

3 Once two minutes have passed, the

4 light will turn red and the

5 Sergeant-at-Arms will disconnect

6 the microphone. At that time,

7 please yield the podium to the next

8 speaker if you have not already

9 done so.

10 I also reserve the
11 right, pursuant to our rules of
12 City Council, to limit repetitious
13 comments on the same subject
14 matter. I will now ask the Chief
15 Clerk to please read the name of
16 our first speaker.

17 CHIEF CLERK: Will
18 Reverend Gregory Holston, Lynn
19 Landes, Jeremy Blatstein, Adrianna
20 George, Briheem Douglas, David
21 Alexander Jenkins and Tavion
22 Mitchell, please make your way to
23 the podium.

24 (Witnesses approached

1 5/14/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 podium.)

3 REV. HOLSTON: My name
4 is Rev. Gregory Holston. I'm here
5 on behalf of Just Nation and the
6 Philly Worker Project, these
7 incredible young Black organizing
8 organizations in the City of
9 Philadelphia. If you're wondering
10 where young Black progressive
11 organizers are, look right here at
12 the Philly Worker Project. That's
13 where you'll see them at.

14 And I'm here on the
15 resolution regarding Ben Fletcher.
16 Ben Fletcher was born here in
17 Philadelphia in 1890 and worked the
18 docks as a longshoreman during one
19 of the most racist, exploitive
20 periods in American history. Black
21 workers were shut out of many
22 unions. Immigrant workers were
23 pitted against Black workers.
24 Employers used racism and division

1 5/14/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 to keep workers powerless, but
3 Fletcher helped build something
4 revolutionary through Local 8 of
5 the Industrial Workers of the
6 World.

7 Black workers, Irish
8 workers, immigrants and poor
9 workers came together in one
10 multiracial union in the
11 Philadelphia waterfront. In 1913,
12 at the height Local 8 transformed
13 the docks and became one of the
14 most powerful interracial labor
15 movements in American history. And
16 because of that, Ben Fletcher was
17 attacked, he was surveilled, he was
18 arrested.

19 He was in prison by
20 federal government during the Red
21 Scare and World War I crackdowns
22 against labor organizations. His
23 crime was believing that working
24 people deserve dignity and that

1 5/14/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Black and White workers together
3 had real power. That's a legacy.
4 That's not just history. It's a
5 mirror today in Philadelphia.

6 Thousands of workers
7 still labor under precarious
8 conditions, especially temp
9 workers, domestic workers, low-wage
10 subcontracted workers,
11 non-unionized workers. Many are
12 Black and Brown. Many are justice-
13 impacted. Many perform some of the
14 hardest and most dangerous work in
15 this city, while being treated as
16 disposable.

17 But just like the
18 longshoremen of 1913, the workers
19 today are organizing through the
20 efforts of All Due Respect
21 campaign. Workers are demanding
22 the same things Ben Fletcher fought
23 for 100 years ago, fair wages, safe
24 working conditions, stability,

1 5/14/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 dignity and respect. And here's
3 the deeper challenge for us: We
4 honor people over and over about
5 what they've done in the past, and
6 then we don't do what they live to
7 do in that past in the present.

8 We come here and we
9 share the wonderful stories about
10 what they did, but then we end up
11 putting the same laws in place that
12 continue to oppress and exploit
13 people over and over again. It is
14 time for us to stand up and live
15 true to who we are honoring today
16 in so many different ways. Let's
17 pass the kind of legislation that
18 will end these low wages, that will
19 give people the dignity and respect
20 that they deserve so we can build a
21 beloved community for everyone.
22 This is what these young organizers
23 are coming together to do. They're
24 trying to build it. Let's build it

1 5/14/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 with them today. Thank you so very
3 much.

4 (Applause.)

5 MS. LANDES: Good
6 morning. I'm Lynn Landes of
7 Philly's Republican Network. I'm
8 opposed to Bill 250807 because
9 Center City District, a quasi
10 nonprofit organization that is
11 allowed to tax and condemn
12 property, is not required to hold
13 public meetings nor accept public
14 comments, and that's not fair nor
15 perhaps legal.

16 Meanwhile, City Council,
17 its subcommittees and city
18 departments are restricting public
19 comments to agenda items only,
20 which is definitely in violation of
21 the spirit and intent of the
22 Sunshine Act. City Council also
23 believes that by passing a self-
24 serving resolution at the beginning

1 5/14/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 of its Thursday meetings, that it
3 then has complete freedom to add
4 innumerable bills and resolutions
5 to the agenda, and Council even
6 votes on them at the same meeting
7 at times, thereby denying the
8 public the time necessary to
9 prepare thoughtful public comments,
10 which is another violation of the
11 Sunshine Act.

12 Making matters worse,
13 many of City Council's committees
14 do not have regular monthly
15 meetings, which also denies the
16 public the opportunity to speak and
17 share important information in a
18 timely manner, while some city
19 departments don't hold public
20 meetings at all. As the Democratic
21 Party has made No Kings its
22 unofficial motto, that hasn't
23 stopped their elected officials in
24 Philadelphia from acting like kings

1 5/14/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 themselves, as they have for
3 decades systematically and
4 comprehensively censored and
5 restricted our right to free
6 speech.

7 As we celebrate the
8 250th anniversary of the
9 Declaration of Independence, it is
10 past time for City Council and City
11 officials to finally end this
12 undeniable injustice and bring back
13 free speech to Philadelphia. Thank
14 you.

15 MR. BLATSTEIN: Hello,
16 City Council, City Council
17 President. My name is Jeremy
18 Blatstein. Thank you, Councilwoman
19 Landau, for your resolution today
20 for Jewish American History Month.
21 It's important today than ever to
22 fight anti-Semitism and recognize
23 your Jewish brothers and sisters.
24 So thank you for introducing the

1 5/14/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 resolution today.

3 Next I know last week
4 you guys talked about the Inquirer
5 articles. I was wondering or
6 hoping you guys read the Inquirer
7 this past week regarding the
8 Sheriff's Office, right. So
9 regarding that testimony that
10 happened during your budget
11 hearing --

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

13 JOHNSON: Hey, Jeremy.

14 MR. BLATSTEIN: Yes.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

16 JOHNSON: Can you speak on
17 supporting the proposed Sam Worley
18 Elderly Tax?

19 MR. BLATSTEIN: Of
20 course, of course. I was going to
21 also speak on the other resolutions
22 introduced today, right. And then
23 we're talking about affordability,
24 right. That is really important to

1 5/14/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 protect our seniors. There's city
3 programs already in place to
4 protect longtime seniors in our
5 communities. I think we need to do
6 a better job, as has been mentioned
7 in the past, of getting that
8 information out there to our
9 seniors so they can utilize that
10 information.

11 The other thing we need
12 to kind of talk about when it comes
13 to affordability, right, is
14 obviously Turn the Key. And the
15 information that's out there on
16 Turn the Key is that the housing
17 prices in these neighborhoods that
18 Turn the Key is going into is above
19 the \$280,000 sale price, right. So
20 if we really want to try to help
21 stabilize and allow hard-working
22 Philadelphia residents move into
23 and stay in these neighborhoods,
24 Turn the Key is the option, right.

1 5/14/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Because if you look at
3 the average sale price in these
4 neighborhoods, it's \$400,000
5 \$500,000. Turn the Key is \$280,000
6 and that will really help hard-
7 working Philadelphia residents move
8 into these homes.

9 And last but not least,
10 we're talking about two things,
11 right. One, shout-out to our Mayor
12 and our State Senator, Sharif
13 Street. They were riding the ride
14 this morning. I don't know if you
15 guys caught that. They were
16 handing out some flyers for the
17 election on Tuesday obviously.
18 But, yeah, our Mayor and our State
19 Senator are riding the ride. And
20 the lovely State Senator Kim Ward
21 was here yesterday with Scott
22 Sauer, and Scott Sauer was showing
23 her the system of the improvement
24 of our fare gates to improve our

1 5/14/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 system to fund SEPTA. Ride the
3 ride. Grow Philly to 2 milly.
4 Thank you.

5 MS. GEORGE: Good
6 morning, everyone. My name is
7 Adrianna. And I'm here on behalf
8 of the National Domestic Workers
9 Alliance, in strong support of this
10 resolution honoring the life and
11 legacy of Ben Fletcher, and
12 recognizing the month of May as a
13 month to recognize the
14 contributions of workers fighting
15 for dignity and respect at work.

16 Ben Fletcher's
17 leadership in Local 8 of the
18 Industrial Workers of the World
19 showed us what it means to organize
20 workers who are pushed to the
21 margins at a time when Black
22 workers, immigrants and other
23 marginalized workers were excluded
24 from most unions. Fletcher and his

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2 fellow longshoremen built something
3 different, a multiracial, multi-led
4 movement rooted in dignity,
5 solidarity and collective power.
6 That is not just history. It is a
7 mirror.

8 Today in Philadelphia,
9 thousands of workers labor under
10 similar precarious conditions,
11 especially marginalized workers
12 like temp workers, domestic workers
13 and non-unionized workers. Temp
14 workers specifically are often
15 Black and Brown, disproportionately
16 justice-impacted and employed
17 through staffing agencies that deny
18 them stability, fair wages and
19 basic protections. They are
20 expected to do some of the hardest
21 and most dangerous work in our
22 city, yet are treated as
23 disposable.

24 Like the longshoremen of

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2 1930, temp workers are organizing
3 through efforts like the All Due
4 Respect campaigns. Workers are
5 coming together to demand what
6 Fletcher and local Aid fought for
7 over a century ago. This
8 resolution matters because it
9 connects past to present. It
10 affirms that the fight against
11 exploitation and racial injustice
12 in the workplace is ongoing, and it
13 sends a clear message that this
14 Council recognized the importance
15 of worker leading organizing in
16 Philadelphia. With all due
17 respect, Black workers in this city
18 deserve better.

19 (Applause.)

20 MR. DOUGLAS: Good
21 afternoon -- good morning. I mean,
22 good morning, Council President and
23 Councilmembers. My name is Briheem
24 Douglas. I'm the Vice-President of

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2 UNITE HERE Local 274 and UNITE HERE
3 Philly proudly supports with the
4 Philly Black Worker Project on the
5 resolution in honoring the life and
6 legacy of Ben Fletcher.

7 What can we say about
8 Ben Fletcher? We can say plenty.
9 He came at a time when, as a Black
10 man with opinions, organizing was
11 almost illegal and he was pushing
12 for the working rights of Black
13 people and immigrant workers. He
14 was a dock worker at Local 8. And
15 if you didn't know, was born and
16 raised right here in Philadelphia.
17 That's what makes this thing so
18 special.

19 Ben Fletcher was leading
20 a strike at a time when most unions
21 didn't accept Black members. Let
22 that sink in for a second. He led
23 integrated strikes, showing the
24 true power of solidarity with this

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2 type of union power. You can only
3 imagine what Ben had to deal with
4 in 1917. The U.S. charged Ben
5 Fletcher with treason in World War
6 I.

7 The Industrial Workers
8 of the World opposed the war and
9 capitalism. With Ben Fletcher's
10 leadership, they were gaining too
11 much power. He was sentenced to 10
12 years in prison. They wanted to
13 kill the movement then, much like
14 what they want to do with the
15 Voters' Right Act now. So Ben
16 Fletcher served his time and still
17 came out ten toes down on those
18 same beliefs and went to prison
19 that he went to prison with.

20 He organized even after
21 his time in prison, never folded.
22 He was a strong union leader, a
23 Black radical that saw the system
24 for what it was and wasn't afraid

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2 to challenge it. The Philly Black
3 Worker Project is carrying those
4 same principles through the lens of
5 Ben Fletcher. Black folks have
6 been organizing and demanding a
7 seat at the table. Ben Fletcher
8 was at the center of Black labor
9 history, proving that solidarity
10 only truly works when we all have a
11 seat at the table.

12 This is absolutely with
13 what the All Due Respect campaign
14 is doing, creating those seats at
15 the table for working rights and
16 creating better standards for temp
17 workers. With all due respect,
18 let's honor the great Ben Fletcher.
19 Thank you.

20 (Applause.)

21 COUNCILMAN JONES: Will
22 Gabriell Ballard, Rabbi Lizzie
23 Horne Mozes, Javonnie Newton,
24 Shaleah Williams, Everette Shaw and

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2 Vanisa Mayers, please make your way
3 to the podium.

4 (Witnesses approached
5 podium.)

6 MR. JENKINS: Madam
7 Chair, members, and guests, David
8 Alexander Jenkins. And my
9 patronage of the arts is no secret
10 in this chamber. But this morning,
11 as I was reminded of one of the
12 most quintessentially important
13 narratives as art, I think the city
14 beholds, it is a relatively
15 uncelebrated work tucked away in
16 the shadows of 12th Street, between
17 a garage and the Convention Center,
18 high and lofty, busy at work,
19 holding up a pedestrian bridge.

20 It is there that I would
21 like to rest your minds for just a
22 moment, if you would indulge me.
23 ContraFuerte by Miguel Antonio Horn
24 depicts the struggle of man

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2 collaboratively to support the
3 human bridge betwixt two edifices.
4 Resolution 260481 as presented by
5 Member Bass, asks this body to be
6 the bridge that makes art equitable
7 and accessible.

8 It asks specifically the
9 body to grant the connection point
10 that bridges the cultural and
11 creative divide. To me, this
12 resolution sings to the very fiber
13 of our essence, our primal purpose
14 in life, which, if expressed dimly,
15 can seem rather inconsequential.
16 That is not to say that we have
17 only been a dash, the connection
18 point between two moments in time,
19 past and present.

20 If we, however, truly
21 understand our purpose, brothers
22 and sisters of love, that is, that
23 we are the reflection of that all
24 changes. It seems life is the

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2 bridge betwixt them. Thus,
3 biblically, Brother O'Rourke, if
4 inclined to help me out here, we,
5 who are created in the image of the
6 divine, can call ourselves -- I am
7 the struggle, I am the bridge, I am
8 the problem to be solved, I am its
9 solution.

10 I am, because I am,
11 saith I am. And so, too are you.
12 We, comma, am the bridge our
13 children get to traverse when I
14 think should be expressed through
15 art. Art is not merely decoration.
16 It is civic architecture. Art
17 teaches us how to understand
18 ourselves and others. Therefore,
19 public investment in equitable
20 access to art is an investment in
21 the human development. I am pro
22 this measure, Madam Bass, and I beg
23 Council to pass it. Pass it today.

24 (Applause.)

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2 MR. MITCHELL: Good
3 morning, Councilmembers. My name
4 is Tavion. I'm both a worker and
5 entrepreneur here in Philadelphia,
6 navigating the reality so many of
7 us face, working hard, trying to
8 build something of our own, but
9 still struggling to survive in an
10 economy that makes living every day
11 seem harder and harder.

12 Today I'm here with the
13 Black Worker Project to advocate
14 for the month of May to be a
15 commemorative month for the ongoing
16 work for dignity, respect and
17 safety in the workplace. Workers
18 have been leading this fight
19 together through movements all over
20 the United States, from the
21 Washington Women of 1881 in Atlanta
22 to Ben Fletcher's impact and a
23 local agent here in Philadelphia.

24 These movements not only

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2 show us change is possible, but it
3 gives the building blocks to create
4 it. Today we're fighting many of
5 those same battles. Thousands of
6 workers and citizens continue to
7 face mistreatment because of their
8 position, background and
9 circumstances, including immigrant
10 workers, gay workers and formerly
11 incarcerated people and women.

12 Too often, the people
13 that we rely on the most are the
14 same people being underpaid,
15 overlooked and denied fair
16 opportunities. No one working a
17 full-time job should still struggle
18 to survive because their job fails
19 to meet their basic needs. Over a
20 century ago, the Industrial Workers
21 of the World brought attention to
22 these issues and ever since,
23 worker-led organizations like ours
24 have continued supporting

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2 communities where systems and
3 workplaces have excluded, denied
4 and oppressed marginalized groups.

5 There should not be a
6 debate whether our SEPTA workers
7 deserve fair pay when majority of
8 us use them to get to work. Our
9 kids rely on them to get to school.
10 There shouldn't be a debate between
11 District 7 getting a raise when it
12 only took a week for everybody to
13 feel the absence of their work.

14 The model for the
15 Industrial Workers of the World is
16 an injury to one is an injury to
17 all. I believe the City of
18 Brotherly Love and this Council can
19 resonate with that. Not only --
20 hold on. Sorry. I believe that
21 this Council can resonate with that
22 message, while still staying true
23 to the values our city represents.
24 This resolution matters because it

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2 recognizes and supports the
3 foundation of our society, our
4 workers. It acknowledges workers'
5 needs while aligning with the
6 values of this city.

7 We are workers
8 supporting workers because we know
9 how it feels to be unappreciated.
10 Stand with us. Support the All Due
11 Respect campaign. Help contain the
12 legacy that this city -- this city
13 is and the people work to uphold
14 every day with all due respect.
15 Thank you.

16 MS. BALLARD: Good
17 morning, Councilmembers. My name
18 is Gabriell Ballard, and I'm an
19 organizer with the Philly Black
20 Worker Project. I'm here today in
21 strong support of this resolution
22 honoring the legacy of Ben
23 Fletcher. The power, strategy and
24 coordination exercised under Ben

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2 Fletcher's leadership as a labor
3 organizer, along with his fellow
4 longshoremen, meant the ports here
5 in Philly were essentially
6 controlled by a multinational
7 organization of working-class
8 people for over 10 years. My
9 uncles and cousins work at the
10 ports, so the pride and joy of Ben
11 Fletcher's story honestly feels
12 like a family win.

13 My first union fight was
14 at a prestigious university and
15 unfortunately was not successful.
16 I worked alongside administrative
17 workers and temp workers who were
18 disrespected and even attacked by
19 our bosses. We struggled for
20 almost four years to bring workers
21 together across different
22 backgrounds, and I'm sad to say
23 that we didn't win that fight.

24 So I know a little

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2 something about losing. We lost
3 that fight and it feels like we
4 keep losing more and more. My
5 friends count among the hundreds of
6 thousands of Black women who have
7 lost jobs and fought to keep our
8 children fed and a roof over our
9 heads. We lose our homes to
10 developers. We lose when these
11 racist corporations fire our
12 people, steal our wages and violate
13 our safety.

14 We have lost so much.

15 And with all due respect, we
16 deserve better. This resolution is
17 part of a movement to reinvigorate
18 the legacy of Ben Fletcher. It
19 takes guts to organize over 4000
20 people from all different
21 nationalities into one union,
22 especially in such a racist
23 society. With our members
24 alongside Black temp and formerly

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2 incarcerated workers, the All Due
3 Respect campaign is actively
4 rebuilding the leadership needed to
5 win in the ongoing fight against
6 exploitation and racial injustice.

7 We are walking in the
8 footsteps of Ben Fletcher to build
9 a more just Philadelphia, and we
10 ask you to join us on this path.
11 We strongly urge you to adopt this
12 resolution.

13 (Applause.)

14 RABBI HORNE MOZES: Good
15 morning, Councilmembers. I'm Rabbi
16 Lizzie Horne Mozes from Kol Tzedek
17 Synagogue in West Philadelphia and
18 I'm grateful to Councilmember Rue
19 Landau for introducing a resolution
20 this morning recognizing Jewish
21 American Heritage Month.

22 Jewish American Heritage
23 Month is of course an opportunity
24 to celebrate Jewish history and

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2 past contributions to public life,
3 but Jewish tradition has never
4 asked us exclusively to look to the
5 past. It asks us to consider the
6 kind of society that we are
7 building together now. There's a
8 line in Pirkei Avot, an ancient
9 collection of rabbinic teachings,
10 that says you are not obligated to
11 complete the work, but neither are
12 you free to desist from it.

13 For many Jews in
14 Philadelphia, that teaching is not
15 theoretical. It shapes how we move
16 through public life in this city
17 and at communities like mine, where
18 many members, Councilmember Landau
19 included, are organizers,
20 educators, artists, caregivers and
21 advocates. Jewish life is
22 inseparable from protecting human
23 dignity and building shared life
24 together. That's why we organize

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2 around affordable housing and food
3 access, why we show up for
4 immigrants and asylum seekers, why
5 we understand public transit,
6 public schools, libraries, parks,
7 and social services as reflections
8 of whether a city believes people
9 deserve care, access and belonging.

10 Philadelphia's Jewish
11 community is diverse in every
12 sense, religiously, racially,
13 culturally, politically. And
14 Philadelphia is also the birthplace
15 of Reconstructionist Judaism, the
16 movement I belong to, which teaches
17 that Judaism is not only practiced
18 privately but lived collectively
19 through shared responsibility and
20 communal life.

21 At a moment when every
22 community is being pushed toward
23 fear and separation, this month
24 matters because Jewish safety and

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2 flourishing have never come from
3 isolation. They depend on strong
4 public life and on the
5 understanding that our futures are
6 bound together. Jewish tradition
7 teaches that dignity and safety
8 cannot belong only to some of us.
9 If they are not built collectively,
10 they remain fragile for everyone.
11 So I'm grateful for this resolution
12 and for the chance to say clearly
13 that Jewish heritage is not
14 something we honor in retrospect.
15 It is something we are called to
16 practice today in public life, in
17 relationship to our neighbors and
18 the ongoing work of shaping the
19 city.

20 (Applause.)

21 MR. NEWTON: Good
22 morning, everyone. My name is
23 Javonnie Asante Newton. I am one
24 of the newest members of the

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2 organization called Flip Philly
3 Red. Resolution No. 260480, the
4 reason I'm opposed to that
5 resolution is that not every senior
6 would automatically qualify. The
7 actual legislation would likely
8 include requirements such as
9 minimum age, years of
10 homeownership, income limits and
11 primary residence rules.

12 I also disagree with
13 this resolution, that if tax
14 revenue drops without replacement
15 funding from Pennsylvania,
16 governments may face budget
17 pressure if seniors are accepted.
18 Other taxpayers could eventually
19 face higher taxes, reduce services,
20 or new funding mechanism. The
21 proposal mainly helps homeowners,
22 not seniors who rent.

23 Some critics might argue
24 it favors one group, while younger

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2 homeowners and renters continue
3 paying full taxes. So the biggest
4 question will be for me, how
5 Pennsylvania replaces the lost
6 local tax revenue if the law is
7 enacted. Thank you.

8 MS. WILLIAMS ALLEN:

9 Good morning, Councilmembers. My
10 name is Shaleah Williams Allen and
11 I'm here in support of the
12 resolution honoring Ben Fletcher
13 and the legacy of Local 8. Over a
14 century ago, Ben Fletcher helped
15 lead a movement that proved
16 something radical for its time,
17 that Black workers, immigrant
18 workers and so-called unskilled
19 workers all deserve dignity, fair
20 wages and respect.

21 At a time when many
22 unions excluded Black workers,
23 Local 8 built a real multiracial
24 solidarity and showed what's

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2 possible when workers stand
3 together. That legacy is not just
4 history. It's still urgent today.
5 Through the Philly Black Worker
6 Project's All Due Respect campaign,
7 we are continuing that fight by
8 demanding dignity, safety and fair
9 treatment for Black workers right
10 here in Philadelphia, because the
11 truth is too many workers are still
12 being denied the very respect
13 Fletcher fought for. And for me,
14 this is very personal.

15 I'm a social worker, and
16 every day I work with families and
17 workers who are trying their best
18 to survive systems that too often
19 fail them. That's why I'm a part
20 of this work, because I've seen
21 firsthand how employment
22 instability, discrimination, and
23 economic injustice impact entire
24 families and communities. My

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2 husband served as a shop steward
3 for his union and was just recently
4 unjustly terminated from his job.
5 Watching someone who advocated for
6 workers instead of for fairness
7 lose his livelihood reminded me
8 that even today workers can face
9 retaliation simply for speaking up
10 and demanding dignity on the job.

11 My brother is a formerly
12 incarcerated worker. Since coming
13 home, he's done everything right,
14 trying to rebuild his life, find
15 stable work and move forward, but
16 the barriers he faces every day,
17 from limited job opportunities to
18 being treated as disposable, show
19 how far we still have to go.

20 What Fletcher and Local
21 8 understood is that dignity at
22 work should not be conditional.
23 And remember, an injury to one is
24 still an injury to all. By passing

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2 this resolution, you are not just
3 honoring history, you are affirming
4 that Philadelphia is committed to
5 building an economy where all
6 workers, including Black workers,
7 temp workers, and formerly
8 incarcerated workers, are treated
9 with dignity and respect. Show
10 your support and solidarity today.
11 Support the All Due Respect
12 campaign and I urge you to pass
13 this resolution. Thank you.

14 (Applause.)

15 CHIEF CLERK: Will Amy
16 Federer, Schimen Scott, Sterling
17 Johnson, Julie Platt, Crystal
18 Canty, Caleb Tompsett and Jordana
19 Greenwald, please make your way to
20 the podium.

21 (Witnesses approached
22 podium.)

23 MS. FEDERER: Good
24 morning, Amy Federer. Good

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2 morning, esteemed Councilmembers.

3 My name is Amy Federer. And I'm

4 here with Schimen Scott, and we are

5 here on behalf of NAMI

6 Philadelphia, the National Alliance

7 on Mental Illness, where we offer

8 free education, support, advocacy

9 for anyone impacted by mental

10 illness and/or their loved ones.

11 We are proud to support

12 the resolution recognizing May as

13 Mental Health Awareness month in

14 the city of Philadelphia. This

15 resolution does something

16 incredibly important. It

17 solidifies the city's commitment to

18 accessible mental health

19 treatments. Mental health is

20 wealth. It shapes how we think,

21 how we feel, how we connect with

22 one another and how we move through

23 our daily lives. Yet too many

24 Philadelphians are still forced to

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2 navigate that reality in silence.

3 Every day at NAMI

4 Philadelphia, we meet people who

5 are doing everything they can to

6 get well, parents trying to support

7 their children, young people facing

8 anxiety and depression, older

9 adults dealing with isolation,

10 communities who have been

11 historically excluded from care.

12 That is why this resolution

13 matters.

14 It sends a message that

15 Philadelphia is a city where mental

16 health can be talked about openly

17 and safely, where seeking help is a

18 sign of strength and where recovery

19 is possible. But awareness alone

20 is not enough. It must lead to

21 action. That means continued

22 investment in community-based

23 services, stronger connections to

24 care and policies that reflect the

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2 needs of our neighborhoods. We
3 thank Councilmember Ahmad and the
4 broader City Council as a whole for
5 the leadership and acknowledgement.
6 Thank you.

7 (Applause.)

8 MR. JOHNSON: My name is
9 Sterling Johnson and I'm with ACT
10 UP Philadelphia. I'm here to
11 support Resolution 260480. It is
12 to support just the idea that
13 people that are (inaudible) and
14 their seniors are usually the ones
15 becoming homeless. Nowadays we
16 have to understand that people in
17 their 50s and 60s, they're
18 suffering from this economy. Those
19 people are not really taken into
20 account when we're talking about
21 homelessness.

22 I will say I want to
23 thank Councilmember Gauthier for
24 staying with us with the townhome

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2 and we see that that is going
3 forward, but there's still some
4 problems with what I'm seeing on
5 the street, especially at this one
6 place called Camp Chloe in South
7 Philly. Those people have owned
8 homes, they've raised children,
9 they've worked their bodies to the
10 bone. They're not there because
11 they want to be. They're there
12 because that's the only choice they
13 have.

14 The city has only
15 offered a shelter bed, and they
16 just keep saying shelter bed,
17 shelter bed. Then they stopped
18 saying that and they said, now a
19 solution though. But if it's in a
20 congregate housing situation with
21 where you're just sharing a cot
22 next to a person or a bed next to
23 like three other people, that's
24 still a shelter. Just because

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2 you're rebranded, it doesn't mean
3 it's different, and these people
4 are disabled.

5 I will say I was born
6 disabled. And that's the thing,
7 but I will say with people I'm
8 meeting, it's like they're
9 physically disabled because they
10 worked their whole damn lives.
11 They worked and when they come out
12 of it, they got sick or they lost
13 their home or they just can't find
14 a job for any reason and now
15 they're waiting for disability,
16 waiting for a housing voucher. And
17 what we found is that honestly,
18 people are waiting in that Social
19 Security line to die.

20 If anything, they need
21 income support, they need bridge
22 assistance. We've seen other
23 places where there is a way for
24 people to get access to resources

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2 while they're waiting for Social
3 Security. Actually I mean, what
4 we've seen is the people at Camp
5 Chloe, they've been really fighting
6 for their space. And even among a
7 space where people have been
8 against them. Councilman Squilla
9 was against them. He said that
10 they were a nuisance around there.
11 But, no, they've been taking care
12 of their community and they aren't
13 a nuisance just because you say it.

14 It's just really
15 important to know that those people
16 are waiting to be a part of their
17 community and they're not going to
18 let anybody get in the way, but
19 they're not going to die either,
20 you know. They're not going to die
21 just like you want them to.

22 MS. PLATT: Hi. My name
23 is Julie Platt and I wanted to
24 thank members of City Council for

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2 their support of May as Mental
3 Health Awareness Month. I am the
4 Director of Policy and External
5 Affairs for Mental Health
6 Partnerships. And as we know, May
7 is Mental Health Awareness Month
8 and the need has never been more
9 urgent.

10 One in five adults
11 experience a mental health
12 condition each year. And in our
13 city, that reality shows up in our
14 emergency rooms, our schools and
15 our streets. For 75 years, Mental
16 Health Partnerships has stood along
17 individuals and families navigating
18 their most difficult moments and
19 that legacy is proof that
20 community-based services work when
21 we commit to it.

22 A cornerstone of that
23 work is our certified peer
24 specialist. These are credentialed

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2 professionals who draw on their own
3 lived experiences in recovery to
4 help others heal. They build trust
5 where systems have fallen short,
6 and they are among the most
7 effective tools we have. Investing
8 in this workforce is investing in
9 outcomes.

10 I ask this Council to
11 make mental health a year-round
12 priority through sustained
13 investment in community-based
14 services, especially the peer
15 specialist workforce development
16 and real crisis alternatives.

17 After 75 years, Mental Health
18 Partnerships has been the City of
19 Philadelphia's partner and we will
20 continue to be so for another 75
21 years. Thank you.

22 (Applause.)

23 MS. CANTY: Hi. My name
24 is Crystal Canty. I was here to

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2 support Councilmember Young's Act
3 for the Elderly. But after hearing
4 this gentleman and his concerns, I
5 need to read a little bit more into
6 it. I'm a person who serviced the
7 elderly for 27 years and I just
8 want to read a little bit.

9 I'm here today because
10 on January 31st my property at 4131
11 North Broad Street, Hunting Park
12 section of Philadelphia, known as
13 the Purple House, the Queens
14 Towers, caught fire during the
15 tragic event. My fire alarm system
16 notified all residents that there
17 was a fire inside the building.
18 Sadly, due to the incident one of
19 my elderly clients lost their lives
20 before I ever had the opportunity
21 to fully process what happened.

22 The city demolished my
23 building in two days. I stand here
24 not just as a property owner, but

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2 as a human being who experienced
3 trauma, loss, emotional distress
4 and financial devastation all at
5 once. I understand that public
6 safety matters. I understand the
7 city has a responsibility after a
8 fire, but I also believe the
9 property owners deserve due
10 process, communication,
11 transparency and respect before
12 lifechanging decisions are made.

13 My building represents
14 years of hard work, sacrifice,
15 investment, future opportunity.
16 And the demolition affected my
17 livelihood, my financial stability
18 and my ability to rebuild. I've
19 spent 27 years caring for elderly
20 people in this city since 1999. I
21 was 19 years old when I started.

22 My work has been helping
23 vulnerable people live with
24 dignity, care and support so I

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2 stand here asking to rebuild. This
3 is not just a building to me. It
4 is also a purpose, stability,
5 community and continuing to serve
6 people who need help. What
7 happened to my building is bigger
8 than one property. And in
9 Philadelphia, many people already
10 are unheard.

11 Families are worried
12 about schools closing. Elderly
13 residents are struggling with
14 homelessness, raising prices and
15 instability. Communities want
16 safety, fairness and investments
17 that they can trust -- give me a
18 second. That is why what happened
19 to me matters. When a city
20 demolishes a person's property
21 almost immediately after tragedy
22 without making people feel properly
23 informed, supported or included in
24 the process, it damages the public

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2 trust --

3 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

4 RICHARDSON: Please conclude your
5 remarks.

6 MS. CANTY: I want my
7 building back. It was \$1.3 million
8 and your code enforcement guy tore
9 down my building without proper due
10 process. And I'm here to tell the
11 world that you really don't care
12 about homelessness, you don't care
13 about elderly people and you don't
14 care about children or schools --

15 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

16 RICHARDSON: Ma'am, respectfully --

17 MS. CANTY: I will be
18 back.

19 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

20 RICHARDSON: Thank you. I am going
21 to ask if someone from the team can
22 just get her contact information so
23 that they can follow up with her.
24 I'm going to ask if someone from

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2 the team can get her information so
3 that someone can follow up with
4 her, but I have to keep it fair for
5 public comment. Thank you.

6 CHIEF CLERK: Will Kwame
7 Acheampong, Eileen Anne Chavez,
8 LaShawn Bradwell, Terrence Bell,
9 Erica Richardson, Ronald Reed, Wren
10 Ganey and Shevell Higgs, please
11 make your way to the podium.

12 (Witnesses approached
13 podium.)

14 MR. TOMPSETT: Good
15 morning, Councilmembers. My name
16 is Caleb Tompsett, and I am a 7th
17 grader at McCall School. I am here
18 today in support of the resolution
19 recognizing May as Brain Tumor
20 Awareness Month. In April 2020, I
21 was diagnosed with medulloblastoma,
22 a type of brain cancer. I had
23 surgery, six weeks of radiation and
24 then chemotherapy.

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2 I finished treatment at
3 CHOP in December of 2020 with a
4 brain tumor. Finishing treatment
5 doesn't mean that I'm done with
6 doctor's visits or medication.
7 That's because most brain tumor
8 treatment, especially for kids,
9 leave long-term effects on
10 hormones, kidney function and more.
11 Brain tumor awareness is important
12 because it helps people understand
13 that more research and better
14 treatments are still needed. Thank
15 you for helping raise awareness in
16 Philly.

17 (Applause.)

18 MS. GREENWALD: Good
19 morning, Councilmembers. My name
20 is Jordana Greenwald, and I'm here
21 today in my most important job,
22 which is as Caleb's mom. I'm here
23 to support him and his work as an
24 advocate for children with brain

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2 tumors and to support the
3 resolution recognizing Brain Tumor
4 Awareness Month.

5 He has been working
6 really hard to advocate. He's
7 traveled to D.C. to visit with our
8 elected representatives there since
9 they hold so much of the power over
10 whether funding continues for
11 important research initiatives,
12 many of them happening right here
13 in Philadelphia, that can help
14 improve the treatment options for
15 kids and adults with brain tumors.

16 Because whether it's
17 recognized or not -- and brain
18 tumors don't do as great a job of
19 marketing as some other cancer
20 causes, whether it's recognized or
21 not, brain tumors continue to
22 affect both kids and adults at
23 incredible rates. Brain tumors are
24 now the leading cause of cancer-

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2 related death in children, and
3 about 40,000 kids are currently out
4 there right now living with brain
5 or central nervous system tumors.

6 And one of the really
7 important things for us to keep in
8 mind as a family impacted by a
9 brain tumor is that we are very
10 privileged. We are privileged to
11 live here in Philadelphia where we
12 have access to top medical
13 institutions and excellent care.
14 We're privileged to have a kid who
15 came out of treatment relatively
16 healthy and continuing to be an
17 active part of his community.

18 We're privileged that we both have
19 jobs that provide health insurance
20 and privileged to live in a state
21 like Pennsylvania that provides
22 Medicaid for children facing brain
23 tumor diagnosis that cover the gaps
24 that inevitably arise in that

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2 insurance, but we also recognize
3 that the same disparities face
4 families facing a brain tumor
5 diagnosis all over this country, as
6 we see elsewhere in health care,
7 based on race, based on economic
8 status, and a lot of the times just
9 based on where they happen to live.
10 So we thank you for raising
11 awareness here in Philadelphia and
12 across the United States for brain
13 tumors. Thank you very much.

14 (Applause.)

15 MR. ACHEAMPONG: Good
16 morning, Councilmembers. My name
17 is Kwame Acheampong, and I'm an
18 organizer with the Philly Black
19 Worker Project. I'm here in strong
20 support of this resolution honoring
21 the life and legacy of Ben
22 Fletcher. The legacy of Ben
23 Fletcher is a shining example of
24 what it means to build worker

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2 power.

3 As a longshoreman here
4 in Philadelphia, Fletcher
5 co-founded Local 8 of the Marine
6 Transport Workers Industrial Union
7 in 1913. This powerful Black-led
8 longshoreman's union controlled
9 Philadelphia's waterfront for a
10 decade while fighting for the
11 immediate needs of workers and
12 advocating for working-class
13 solidarity. The fight to improve
14 the lives of workers still
15 continues, and that fight is
16 happening in the temp industry.

17 I have spent a decade of
18 my life working for various temp
19 and staffing agencies. I have done
20 work that has had me in various
21 environments, from planting seeds
22 in fields during sweltering heat,
23 handling hazardous chemicals in
24 factories and working with

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2 technology in the offices of some
3 of the largest corporations in the
4 United States.

5 What remained the same
6 with each job was the exploitation
7 that my fellow Black and
8 marginalized workers were subjected
9 to. We have seen wage theft, a
10 lack of concern for our physical
11 well-being and no pathway to full-
12 time work to escape the trap of
13 moving from one temp job to
14 another. We deserve more. With
15 all due respect, we deserve better.

16 Through our All Due
17 Respect campaign, we intend to
18 continue the legacy of Ben Fletcher
19 by building worker power in the
20 temp industry, much like how
21 Fletcher built worker power among a
22 multicultural workforce of
23 longshoremen. This resolution is
24 the start of that work. We want

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2 the city to recognize a legacy that
3 showed with determination and an
4 organized coalition of workers.

5 We can put the ability
6 to change the conditions of harmful
7 workplaces directly in the hands of
8 the people. We urge you to follow
9 us in our fight for a more just
10 city. We strongly urge you to
11 adopt this resolution, because
12 again with all due respect. Thank
13 you.

14 (Applause.)

15 MS. CHAVEZ: Hello,
16 everyone. My name is Eileen Ann
17 Chavez. I'm here today to talk
18 about the problems of the elderly.
19 Expecting the elderly to pay
20 property tax is unbelievable. A
21 lot of elderly people have problems
22 just paying their mortgage and
23 buying food, and I should know, and
24 getting a decent place to live.

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2 Because right now I'm elderly and
3 I'm living in a rooming house with
4 my German Shepherd dog and two
5 cats.

6 And I rent from this
7 kind woman Crystal Canty. Now,
8 Crystal Canty is a very wonderful
9 person. She lets me live there. I
10 used to pay \$600 a month for rent,
11 but what she has done, she lowered
12 my rent to 400 and she's the only
13 person that would rent to me. I've
14 been trying over and over and over
15 to get a place to live. I've tried
16 to get affordable housing, but
17 there's none. All they give me is
18 waiting list.

19 I'm going to be 73 years
20 old, 73 in September. And I might
21 be dead in 10 years, in 5 years,
22 and I can't even get a decent place
23 to live. I'm stuck in a little
24 room, but thanks to God, to Crystal

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2 Canty, she allows me to live there
3 and pay \$400 for rent. It doesn't
4 cover all my bills. I have a lot
5 of bills, pets to take care of, but
6 she helps me.

7 I was sick. I didn't
8 have enough money for food. She
9 came over last summer to feel my
10 forehead. She thought I had a
11 fever. She was so worried. That
12 was 1 o'clock in the morning. And
13 then just recently this past month,
14 I didn't have enough to cover me
15 for the rest of the month for food.
16 She brought me homemade meals and
17 paid meals and got takeout meals
18 for me.

19 I'm in a situation where
20 I'm trying my best to get a place
21 to live, a better place to live for
22 my family, my pet family. I need a
23 yard. I just need a place to live,
24 getting into some affordable

1 5/14/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 housing. My (inaudible) \$1,000 a
3 month, and I can't get any place to
4 live and I'm just stuck in a
5 rooming house. Thank you,
6 everyone. I hope you have a
7 wonderful day. Thank you for
8 allowing me to talk.

9 (Applause.)

10 MR. BRADWELL: Hi. How
11 is everyone? So I kind of didn't
12 really come up here with anything.
13 I didn't come up here with no
14 paper, nothing, just right off the
15 mind. This might be a little bit
16 different for everyone, but I just
17 wanted to plant that seed, I guess,
18 in a way of just like mental
19 health, like conquering your mind.
20 And --

21 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

22 RICHARDSON: Sir, I apologize for
23 the interruption. May you state
24 your name for the record please.

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2 MR. BRADWELL: LaShawn
3 Bradwell.

4 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE
5 RICHARDSON: Thank you.

6 MR. BRADWELL: And what
7 I mean by conquering your mind is
8 just, you know, it's way more than
9 that. It's very broad with just
10 the emotions and vibrations and
11 energy. I mean, I can't really say
12 too much because of the elites in
13 the room, but to a certain degree.
14 I mean, some people in here already
15 know what I'm talking about.

16 It's a lot of power.
17 We're very divine people,
18 especially the people that got my
19 skin color that, you know, do the
20 same things, all of that, like
21 really you need to search and
22 really dig deep into yourself and
23 figure out the divine spiritual
24 gifts that God has given you, Jesus

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2 Christ, Jehovah Christ, that he's
3 giving you, because we are very,
4 very, very strong people.

5 And I mean, at the end
6 of the day all of this is just a
7 mindset thing. They're going to
8 continue to keep having us on a
9 survival mindset. We're going to
10 keep trying to fight. These people
11 is not going to care. It's all
12 like an agenda matrix, all of that.
13 So it's all self-mastery. Once you
14 recognize that it's all really just
15 internal, just the self, you'll
16 find that's where the happiness is
17 at. That's where the peace is at.

18 The peace is not in the
19 material. The peace is not in --
20 it's not in none of that. When you
21 get older, when you get in that
22 death bed, you'll recognize, you'll
23 recognize. That's all I wanted to
24 say.

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2 MR. BELL: Good
3 afternoon, Councilmembers, ladies
4 and gentlemen. My name is Terrence
5 Bell. I'm here with my family, the
6 Black Workers Project, in strong
7 support of the resolution honoring
8 Ben Fletcher. We recognize the
9 ongoing fight for dignity and
10 respect at work.

11 Ben Fletcher, a local
12 aide of the Industrial Worker of
13 the World, showed us that when
14 workers, especially Black, Brown
15 and marginalized workers, stand
16 together, we can build power and
17 demand change. But today 10
18 workers like me still face the same
19 struggles.

20 For 10 months, I worked
21 through First Step Staffing at a
22 place like Manheim Auto Auction,
23 Renew Laboratory and Subaru Park.
24 At every site, we were denied basic

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2 gear for dangerous weather, paid
3 less than full-time workers and
4 doing the same hard labor and given
5 no path to stable jobs. They even
6 stole our wages by not paying for
7 all the hours we work.

8 I put up with it because
9 after 20 years in prison, work is
10 how I stay focused. But when my
11 coworkers was injured in a First
12 Step van with bad brakes, a van we
13 had warned them about, I knew I had
14 to speak up. Enough is enough.
15 The solution is the workers deserve
16 fair pay, safe conditions and
17 respect. That's why we organized
18 through the All Due Respect
19 campaign, just like Fletcher and
20 Local 8 did over a century ago.

21 We provided that the
22 people closest to the problem are
23 closest to the solution. The
24 solution connects past to present.

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2 It affirms that the fight for
3 justice is the work in the
4 workplace is far from over. We
5 urge you to please, please pass the
6 Ben Fletcher resolution and stand
7 with us like the Philly Black
8 Workers Project, who are continuing
9 this legacy, with all due respect.

10 (Applause.)

11 MS. RICHARDSON: Good
12 morning. My name is Erica
13 Richardson, Executive Director of
14 the Blackhawks Athletic Club.
15 Blackhawks, stand up, up there,
16 It's your time to shine. Let's go.
17 Blackhawks is a youth football
18 local program located at 11th and
19 Cecil B. Moore. We're celebrating
20 58 years. It's been established in
21 1968 as a way to get young Black
22 men off the streets during the
23 height of the gang war era.

24 We're still standing

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2 strong today. We have over 300
3 kids yearly, over 80 coaches and
4 volunteers and parents and teen
5 moms. We're a family-oriented
6 program and we're happy that you
7 invited us here today to celebrate
8 us. We appreciate it. We have
9 brought many city championships,
10 many local championships and many
11 national championships, but our
12 goal is to keep young Black men off
13 the streets, keep them from out of
14 this (inaudible) era or whatever
15 you guys call it these days.

16 It's our job down there
17 to make sure we keep them active in
18 sports as a tool to keep them to be
19 productive citizens in times to
20 come. I want to turn it over to
21 Coach Ronnie Flowers, who is the
22 national championship coach of the
23 2025 football team for the
24 Blackhawks. Blackhawks, y'all up

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2 here stand up.

3 (Applause.)

4 MR. REED: Thank you,
5 thank you. The standing ovation is
6 very heartfelt, very warm.

7 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

8 RICHARDSON: I apologize. I didn't
9 hear your --

10 MR. REED: My name is
11 Ronald Flowers Reed, head coach of
12 the Philadelphia Blackhawks. I
13 appreciate everything. The boys
14 deserve everything that they're
15 given. They did an amazing job on
16 and off the field, not only in the
17 field that they reached the
18 pinnacle of being national
19 championships, but they did it in
20 the classroom also. So please give
21 them a round of applause for doing
22 it in the classroom.

23 Last but not least, I
24 want to give a big shout-out to the

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2 parental support. Without the
3 parents, man, we couldn't have did
4 it. They stood by us. They
5 watched us work hard. And without
6 them, we couldn't reach the levels
7 we reached without the parental
8 support and my coaching staff. So
9 again, thank you for everything.
10 Thanks for having us and appreciate
11 everything.

12 (Applause.)

13 CHIEF CLERK: Will Betty

14 Un, Jake Zychick, Melba Terelle,
15 William Small, Ogbonna Hagins and
16 Antoni Matt, please make your way
17 to the podium.

18 (Witnesses approached
19 podium.)

20 MR. GANEY: Good

21 morning, Philadelphia City
22 Councilmembers. My name is Wren
23 Ganey, and I'm here in strong
24 support of the resolution

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2 authorizing a hearing on green
3 stormwater infrastructure or GSI in
4 Philadelphia. As the advocacy
5 manager for Penn Future, I work to
6 advance the quality of life for
7 Philadelphians, especially when it
8 comes to ensuring healthy, clean
9 and resilient water systems.

10 I want to especially
11 thank Councilmember Gauthier for
12 introducing this legislation and
13 for her steadfast leadership on
14 water issues, including the
15 essential role of GSI. GSI uses
16 nature-based designs like trees,
17 plants and green spaces that
18 naturally soak up our rain water
19 and keep pollutants out of our
20 waterways.

21 It reduces sewage
22 overflows during storms, protects
23 rivers, cools our neighborhoods and
24 strengthens communities. Along

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2 with Green City Clean Waters, GSI
3 targets other city goals, such as
4 the Philly Tree Plan and the
5 Climate Action Plan. To get the
6 full benefits of green solutions,
7 we have to expand our nature-based
8 designs in new areas across our
9 city. It needs to be easier for
10 private property owners to install
11 these GSI projects and ensure
12 steady funding so they can
13 experience the value of
14 environmental practices.

15 PWD has made strong
16 progress with GSI on our public
17 lands, but the next big opportunity
18 to expand these green solutions is
19 on the city's commercial,
20 industrial and institutional
21 properties, additionally private
22 land and six in all of our
23 neighborhoods, including
24 communities that have historically

1 5/14/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 been left out of environmental
3 investments. This is not just
4 about greening our city. It's also
5 about equitable access to those
6 green spaces.

7 This resolution will
8 open the door to a (inaudible) on
9 Philly's progress in nature-based
10 designs, and the opportunities
11 ahead for expanding this work. I
12 ask and thank you in the support of
13 this adoption for the resolution so
14 we may continue the conversation on
15 safeguarding our city's water
16 future. On behalf of Penn Future,
17 thank you all for your time and
18 thank you again to Councilmember
19 Gauthier for her championship.

20 (Applause.)

21 MS. HIGGS: Good
22 morning, Council President and
23 Philadelphia Councilmembers. My
24 name is Shevell Higgs and I'm here

1 5/14/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 with my colleague Wren as the
3 Philadelphia Civic Engagement
4 Coordinator for Penn Future. I'm
5 proud to stand in strong support of
6 the resolution on green stormwater
7 infrastructure, as I ask you to
8 vote yes for its passage.

9 Thank you to
10 Councilmember Gauthier for her
11 advocacy and commitment to
12 protecting Philadelphia's
13 environment. It's an honor to
14 speak on behalf of Penn Future
15 today. Stormwater runoff in our
16 city doesn't just disappear. It
17 sweeps up pollutants, overwhelms
18 our aging combined sewer system and
19 sends untreated sewage straight
20 into our rivers and creeks.

21 Green stormwater
22 infrastructure, such as rain
23 gardens, green roofs and stormwater
24 planters keep that pollution out of

1 5/14/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 our waterways by capturing and
3 filtering stormwater before it
4 reaches the drain. These tools
5 improve water quality, protect
6 public health and improve safe
7 access to our rivers. This
8 legislation also opens the door to
9 a critical conversation about how
10 GSI can deliver clean water
11 solutions that are affordable and
12 don't place additional burdens on
13 ratepayers. As civic engagement
14 coordinator, I see every day how
15 environmental burdens fall hardest
16 on Philadelphia's neighborhoods.
17 Residents tell me about how the air
18 they breathe, the extreme heat they
19 endure and the flooding and sewage
20 overflows they face, conditions
21 they did nothing to create.

22 This legislation sends a
23 clear message: Their city leaders
24 see them, hear them and are taking

1 5/14/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 action. In Philadelphia, GSI
3 doesn't just manage stormwaters, it
4 cools our blocks, greens our
5 neighborhoods, improves public
6 health and strengthens our climate
7 resistance. The Green City, Clean
8 Waters program has already shown
9 vegetated GSI is a smart, long-term
10 solution and investment that
11 delivers for both our environment
12 and our communities, and we need to
13 keep that momentum going.

14 On behalf of the
15 neighbors I've spoken with across
16 the city, I say thank you to
17 Councilmember Gauthier for your
18 leadership and thank you to all
19 members for voting yes on the
20 resolution.

21 (Applause.)

22 MS. UN: Good morning,
23 Councilmembers. Hi. My name is
24 Betty Un and I am involved with the

1 5/14/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Water Center at Penn and the
3 Hawthorne community's greening
4 efforts within the Hawthorne
5 Empowerment Coalition and the
6 Friends of Hawthorne Park Group.

7 I want to first say
8 thank you for the opportunity to
9 speak here and I also want to thank
10 Councilmember Gauthier for
11 introducing the Green StormWater
12 Infrastructure resolution. I'm
13 here today to support the
14 resolution and the continued
15 investment for green stormwater
16 infrastructure.

17 I've seen how these GSI
18 projects can do a lot more than
19 just manage stormwater. They can
20 improve public spaces, reduce
21 pollution and urban heat, and build
22 stronger communities through the
23 Hawthorne community's greening
24 efforts. I've seen how even small

1 5/14/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 investments in green space can
3 change how people experience the
4 neighborhood.

5 I've seen my neighbors
6 come together around shared
7 projects and heard community
8 members talk about how spaces like
9 parks and gardens bring them peace,
10 comfort and relief during stressful
11 times of their days. To me, that
12 shows me that green stormwater
13 infrastructure supports not only
14 environmental goals, but also
15 supports stronger and healthier
16 communities.

17 With that, it's been
18 inspiring to see how investments in
19 green infrastructure can both help
20 address flooding and sewage
21 overflow in Philadelphia and create
22 spaces that people genuinely care
23 about and feel connected to. As
24 Philadelphia continues working

1 5/14/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 toward its Green City, Clean Waters
3 goals, I think continued investment
4 in GSI, especially across more
5 neighborhoods, is really important.

6 Thank you again,
7 Councilmember Gauthier, for
8 introducing this resolution and I
9 hope we can continue to support
10 green stormwater infrastructure for
11 not only our environments but for
12 our communities. Thank you for
13 your time.

14 (Applause.)

15 MR. ZYCHICK: Jake
16 Zychick. Thank you, Councilmember
17 Ahmad, and the entire Philadelphia
18 City Council for recognizing May as
19 Stroke Awareness Month. Stroke is
20 the fifth leading cause of death in
21 the United States and a major cause
22 of long-term disability for adults,
23 but is preventable and treatable.

24 One in five women have a

1 5/14/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 stroke. About 55,000 more women
3 than men have a stroke each year.
4 And among women, Black women have
5 the highest prevalence of stroke.
6 About one in four stroke survivors
7 are at risk for another. May is
8 also Blood Pressure Awareness
9 Month. People with high blood
10 pressure have an increased risk of
11 having a stroke.

12 Unfortunately, more than
13 one in three American adults with
14 high blood pressure don't even know
15 they have it. High blood pressure
16 is a major risk factor for stroke.
17 That is why the American Heart
18 Association is committed to
19 improving access to self-monitored
20 blood pressure machines. Access to
21 these machines can help make and
22 ensure pressure is checked and kept
23 in checked, that can help reduce
24 the risk of stroke.

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2 The American Heart
3 Association continues to work
4 closely with stakeholders in the
5 city like you all and the Health
6 Department, to improve access to
7 these blood pressure machines in
8 the clinical and community setting.
9 Once again, we'd like to thank
10 Councilmember Ahmad for recognizing
11 May as Stroke Awareness Month, and
12 thank all of you in City Council
13 for a commitment to addressing
14 heart disease and stroke. Have a
15 wonderful day.

16 (Applause.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

18 JOHNSON: Thank you, Member Ahmad.
19 Number one killer of all people,
20 all people, no matter what your
21 background is, is heart disease.
22 Thank you.

23 MR. SMALL: Good
24 afternoon. My name is William

1 5/14/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Small and I am the Republican
3 candidate for United States
4 Congress in Pennsylvania's Third
5 District. I oppose Bill 250807
6 because Councilmember Bass sneaked
7 260242 off of there, even though my
8 entire neighborhood wants to know
9 what's going on with that building.
10 The people of Philadelphia are
11 tired of being ignored while our
12 city falls apart around us.

13 You want to sell public
14 property while Kensington is
15 drowning in addiction, crime,
16 homelessness, hopelessness.
17 Veterans who fought for this
18 country are struggling to survive.
19 Our children are trapped in failing
20 schools. Working families can
21 barely afford rent, groceries or
22 safety anymore.

23 Look at the Philly Black
24 Workers here today, advocating for

1 5/14/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 the people, you know, and yet this
3 city continues to prioritize
4 illegal immigrants and policies
5 that put our citizens last. So let
6 me ask why. Why do taxpayers keep
7 getting pushed to the back of the
8 line while our resources,
9 protections and benefits are
10 constantly being allocated to
11 people who are not even citizens,
12 while our own communities collapse?

13 You swore an oath to the
14 people of Philadelphia, not to
15 political agendas --

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

17 JOHNSON: Mr. Small --

18 MR. SMALL: I'm telling
19 you why I'm opposed to the bill.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

21 JOHNSON: Okay. Just wanted to
22 keep you on --

23 MR. SMALL: -- and not
24 the people who enter this country

1 5/14/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 illegally. And while this city
3 faces real problems, Councilmembers
4 like Quetcy Lozada spends time on
5 TikTok scrolling to lock kids up
6 while ignoring the drug epidemic in
7 her own community --

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

9 JOHNSON: Mr. Small, could you stay
10 on the bill, sir.

11 MR. SMALL: Smoke shops
12 from illegal immigrants with
13 fentanyl-laced weed are flooding
14 our communities. Families are
15 terrified. The people see it, the
16 people feel it and the people do
17 not trust this Council. And now --

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

19 JOHNSON: Let's just focus on the
20 bill, sir.

21 MR. SMALL: -- the
22 Department of Justice is launching
23 investigations to illegal
24 immigration policies. Oh, I've

1 5/14/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 been cut off again. Y'all a trip.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

4 JOHNSON: We didn't cut you off.

5 We just said stay on the message.

6 That's all, on the bill.

7 Understood. Thank you very much

8 for your comments, sir. Appreciate

9 your comments, sir.

10 Call the next person

11 please. Got the West Powelton

12 Steppers in here today, Antoine

13 Mapp.

14 MS. TERRELL: Happy

15 amazing day, all.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

17 JOHNSON: Hello.

18 MS. TERREL: Amazing

19 day. I am Melba Terrell and I live

20 in West Philadelphia. My question

21 is I live next door to a lot. I

22 don't know whose bright idea it was

23 to not put something over the land.

24 My basement is flooded each time it

1 5/14/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 rains outside. I requested to do a
3 community property. I was told I
4 had to pay a million dollars for a
5 lot. It's messing up the
6 foundation where I am. And I'm
7 just trying to see if we can come
8 up with a resolution.

9 It's for any lot, that
10 any lot that y'all have around the
11 city, y'all wonder why houses is
12 collapsing. It's because it's
13 messing up the foundation. And I
14 don't want the house that this
15 older lady is paying the taxes
16 every year, I don't want her house
17 to fall on me. So I'm asking
18 y'all -- I mean, that goes for any
19 lot. I asked to make it a
20 community garden.

21 I couldn't even make it
22 a community garden and me and my
23 neighbors clean it up. Curtis
24 Jones don't send nobody out to

1 5/14/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 clean up the neighborhood I'm in --

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

4 JOHNSON: I can't even hear you.

5 MS. TERRELL: I know you
6 don't like it, Kenyatta.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

8 JOHNSON: I ain't saying nothing.
9 I said I can't hear you. I don't
10 even know you, ma'am, to not like
11 you.

12 MS. TERRELL: Yes, you
13 do, Kenyatta.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

15 JOHNSON: I don't have a clue who
16 you are. I was just about to
17 recommend that you talk to
18 Councilmember Jeffrey Jay Young who
19 actually has a bill to address your
20 needs, ma'am. I'm trying to be
21 supportive of what you're talking
22 about, because we do have members
23 working on addressing individual
24 contractors who are doing

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2 development in our communities
3 that's having significant impact on
4 the people who live next door to
5 them. Just wanted to give you some
6 resources so we can follow up on
7 your issue, ma'am. That's all.

8 MS. TERRELL: All right,
9 Kenyatta. Thank you.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

11 JOHNSON: You're welcome, ma'am.
12 But I want you to speak to this
13 young man right here, Jeffrey Jay
14 Young. Jeffrey, could you just
15 talk to her for a minute, please,
16 if you don't mind, your staff, if
17 you don't mind, sir.

18 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Okay.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

20 JOHNSON: Mr. Obama Hagins, go
21 ahead, sir. The floor is yours.

22 MR. HAGINS: Actually
23 pronounced Ogbonna.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

1 5/14/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 JOHNSON: Okay.

3 MR. HAGINS: Yes. All
4 right. My name is Ogbonna Paul
5 Hagins. I'm a fourth-generation
6 chattel slavery survivor. As
7 Philadelphia remembers the MOVE
8 Bombing, we are reminded that
9 people who do not confront their
10 history are destined to repeat its
11 failures. The MOVE Bombing was not
12 just a tragedy, it was a warning, a
13 warning about what happens when
14 government becomes disconnected
15 from the people it is supposed to
16 serve, especially communities
17 descended from chattel slavery.

18 People died in that
19 bombing. Children died in that
20 bombing. An entire neighborhood
21 was destroyed. And for decades,
22 many people wanted the city to move
23 on without fully confronting the
24 deeper meaning of what happened.

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2 But today does not disappear -- the
3 history does not just disappear
4 simply because politicians stop
5 talking about it. And that is why
6 the current closing of 17
7 Philadelphia public schools cannot
8 be separated from the larger
9 history.

10 Once again, the burden
11 falls heavily on the same American
12 Freedmen communities that have
13 endured generations of
14 disinvestment, redlining, economic
15 exclusion and institutional
16 neglect. Once again, we are
17 hearing language of necessity,
18 budget crisis and reorganization,
19 but our communities have heard that
20 language before.

21 After Reconstruction,
22 Freedmen schools were dismantled
23 using the same logic: underfunded
24 institutions serving our people.

1 5/14/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Declare them unsustainable, then
3 close them while calling it
4 progress. The MOVE Bombing taught
5 us what happens when government
6 stops seeing certain communities as
7 worthy of protection and
8 investment.

9 That is why remembering
10 history matters. Because if we
11 don't remember the past, we
12 continue the future. And that is
13 why I have decided in 2027 point of
14 order, point of order, point of
15 order --

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

17 JOHNSON: Can you wrap up, sir?

18 MR. HAGINS: Why are you
19 bothering me? Let me finish.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

21 JOHNSON: Your time is up, sir.

22 MR. HAGINS: No, my time
23 is not up. Can I finish?

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

1 5/14/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 JOHNSON: Thank you, sir.

3 MR. HAGINS:

4 (Inaudible).

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

6 JOHNSON: Thank you, sir.

7 MR. HAGINS:

8 (Inaudible).

9 MR. MAPP: What's up,
10 y'all? On a lighter note --

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

12 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes
13 Mr. Antoine Mapp, sir. Please
14 begin your testimony.

15 MR. MAPP: Yes, sir. My
16 name is -- first of all, good
17 afternoon, everyone. My name is
18 Antoine Mapp. I'm the Director of
19 the West Powelton Steppers and Drum
20 Squad. And as of June 25th, we'll
21 be celebrating 35 years straight of
22 keeping kids off the streets. So I
23 just want to say, you know, I hope
24 you guys -- thank you to Ms. Jamie.

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2 Thank you so much, introducing --
3 we want to get the street renamed
4 after us.

5 After 35 years, we done
6 sent over 1000 kids to college we
7 done paid for it out our own
8 pockets. We are infected with --
9 first of all, thank you again for
10 you guys standing up to the school
11 district. I know y'all tried your
12 best. I was out there with you,
13 Ms. Jamie. We tried our best, but
14 my school that we practice at, Paul
15 Robeson is one of the schools being
16 affected as well so we don't have
17 nowhere to practice.

18 I got over 50 kids in my
19 program. My youngest member is 4.
20 My oldest member is 47. This is
21 how we combat the gun violence.
22 Every kid in my program is on honor
23 roll. I just hope that you guys
24 vote to help honor us on June 27th

1 5/14/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 that we can rename the street after
3 us. And hopefully one day, you
4 guys can make us the official team,
5 the official team of the City of
6 Philadelphia, because I see all you
7 guys' faces and I perform for every
8 last one of you guys in here, so
9 it's only right that we should
10 become the official City drill team
11 to help me keep these kids off the
12 streets and please help us get a
13 building.

14 Once Paul Robeson
15 closed, I don't know where I'm
16 going to take these kids. But I
17 take over five to seven
18 performances a day. I know I'm in
19 a Sixer uniform, the same inner
20 city kids are the Sixers drumline,
21 the same inner city kids are the
22 Philly drumline, the same inner
23 city kids are the official drumline
24 of the airport, the official

1 5/14/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 drumline of the Sheriff's
3 Department.

4 So listen, I'm doing my
5 best to help save the city, y'all.
6 I'm doing my best to keep these
7 kids from robbing and killing
8 people. All they're doing is
9 entertaining and I'm mentoring
10 them. They're learning so much. So
11 just please help us and please vote
12 so we get the street renamed after
13 us. And you guys are doing a good
14 job. I don't care what nobody say.
15 You guys are doing your best at
16 what y'all can do. Ken, you know,
17 it's all love, baby.

18 (Applause.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

20 JOHNSON: Keep up the good work for
21 our young people.

22 MR. ALLEN: Peace and
23 greetings, Council President
24 Johnson and the rest of City

1 5/14/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Council. My name is Marcus Allen
3 and I'm a temp worker, and I'm here
4 with Philly Black Worker Project.
5 I'm also here in strong support of
6 the resolution honoring the life
7 and legacy of Benjamin Fletcher,
8 and recognizing the month of May as
9 a month recognizing as a tribute of
10 workers fighting for dignity and
11 respect at work.

12 Ben Fletcher, a Philly
13 born slave of -- a Philly-born son
14 of formerly enslaved parents,
15 organized brilliantly and
16 committed -- to racial commitment
17 to racial justice made him one of
18 the most permittable Black labor
19 leaders in the United States
20 history. Ben Fletcher, as a worker
21 himself, recognized and seen for
22 himself that workers were being
23 objectified as if they weren't
24 people, so he decided to take a

1 5/14/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 stand and help the people.

3 Well, today I'm also
4 ready to take a stand for our Black
5 and Brown people. For workers of
6 today, it's now time again, of the
7 people, for the people, as temp
8 workers to get their due respect
9 and what we deserve. I can give a
10 list of problems with being a temp
11 worker. Yet I'm only going to name
12 a few. Unfair treatment, meaning
13 being treated with some -- being
14 treated with the same respect as
15 direct hires. When we are temp
16 workers doing the same work as they
17 do, if not working better or harder
18 because we have to prove ourselves.
19 Being underpaid means we know that
20 the direct hires are making two to
21 four more dollars than the temp
22 workers.

23 Where's the extra money
24 going? We're not getting it and

1 5/14/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 we're doing all the work. I'm
3 standing here today asking you to
4 stand with us and join us in our
5 All Due Respect campaign to start a
6 new movement to get temp workers
7 what we deserve and what we work
8 hard for, like health benefits,
9 better pay and the respect we
10 deserve. Let's start our own
11 legacy and begin another powerful
12 movement in the City of Brotherly
13 Love, with all due respect.

14 (Applause.)

15 CHIEF CLERK: Council
16 President, this concludes our
17 listing for public comment today.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

19 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.
20 This concludes our public comment
21 period.

22 I'm going to ask for
23 some very special guests that we
24 have in our balcony, and always

1 5/14/26 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 remember that the future of our
3 city is always observing this body.
4 So I'm going to ask for the
5 children from Universal Institute
6 Charter School to please stand.
7 Let's give them a round of
8 applause.

9 (Applause.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

11 JOHNSON: We will now consider
12 resolutions on the Final Passage
13 Calendar and bills on the Second
14 Reading and Final Passage Calendar.

15 Would the Clerk please
16 read the title of Resolution No.
17 260469.

18 CHIEF CLERK: A
19 resolution also naming the 4100
20 block of Powelton Avenue as West
21 Powelton Steppers Way to honor the
22 legacy and impact of the West
23 Powelton Steppers and Drum Squad on
24 the community.

1 5/14/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

3 JOHNSON: Chair recognizes
4 Councilmember Jamie Gauthier.

5 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:

6 Thank you, Council President --

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

8 JOHNSON: For a motion regarding
9 Resolution No. 260469.

10 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:

11 Thank you, Council President.

12 If I can add a very
13 brief comment, I just wanted to
14 note that as a result of Robeson
15 closing, the West Powelton Steppers
16 have no place to practice even
17 though they are keeping young
18 people off of the street. And as
19 they are the official drumline of
20 the Sixers, who you know are very
21 wealthy, I'm hoping that they will
22 come to the table to help find
23 these kids a place to practice.
24 And thank you, Antoine, for coming

1 5/14/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 to City Council today. And with
3 that, I move for the adoption of
4 the resolution.

5 (Duly seconded.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

7 JOHNSON: I expect to see them on
8 that budget priority list. It has
9 been moved and properly seconded
10 that Resolution No. 260469 be
11 adopted.

12 All those in favor of
13 the motion will signify by saying
14 aye.

15 (Aye.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

17 JOHNSON: Anyone opposed?

18 (No response.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

20 JOHNSON: The ayes have it. The
21 motion carries and the resolution
22 is adopted. And I second that. I
23 hope the Sixers do step up. I
24 don't know, that last performance I

1 5/14/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 don't even know if they deserve a
3 hearing.

4 Will the Clerk please
5 read the title of Resolution No.
6 260480. Thank you, Coach Thomas.

7 CHIEF CLERK: A
8 resolution supporting the proposed
9 Sam Worley Elderly Tax Relief Act,
10 legislation to exempt qualifying
11 long-term elderly homeowners from
12 school, county and municipal
13 property taxes on their primary
14 residences in Pennsylvania.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
16 JOHNSON: Chair recognizes
17 Councilmember Jeffrey Jay Young for
18 a motion regarding Resolution No.
19 260480.

20 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Thank
21 you, Mr. President.

22 And for the record, this
23 proposed legislation is being
24 proposed by a Republican in

1 5/14/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 Harrisburg. So for the record for
3 those who were speaking earlier,
4 but I move for its adoption.

5 (Duly seconded.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

7 JOHNSON: It has been moved and
8 properly seconded that Resolution
9 No. 260480 be adopted.

10 All those in favor of
11 the motion will signify by saying
12 aye.

13 (Aye.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

15 JOHNSON: Anyone opposed?

16 (No response.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

18 JOHNSON: The ayes have it. The
19 motion carries. The resolution is
20 adopted.

21 Clerk, please read the
22 title of Bill No. 260063.

23 CHIEF CLERK: An

24 ordinance renaming and designating

1 5/14/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 the property commonly referred to
3 as Panati Playground, located at
4 3100 North 22nd Street, to the
5 Allegheny West Recreation Center,
6 in recognition of the community and
7 neighborhood that it serves.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

9 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes
10 Councilmember Cindy Bass for a
11 motion.

12 (Duly seconded.)

13 COUNCILWOMAN BASS:

14 Thank you, Mr. President.

15 I would like to offer an
16 amendment to Bill No. 260063. A
17 copy of the amendment has been
18 circulated to all members of
19 Council and I move for the adoption
20 of the amendment.

21 (Duly seconded.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

23 JOHNSON: It has been moved and
24 properly seconded that the

1 5/14/26 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 amendment to Bill No. 260063 be
3 adopted.

4 All those in favor
5 signify by saying aye.

6 (Aye.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

8 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

9 (No response.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

11 JOHNSON: The ayes have it and the
12 bill has been amended. This bill
13 will be placed on our Final Passage
14 Calendar for our next session of
15 Council.

16 Would the Clerk please
17 read any additional resolutions on
18 today's Calendar.

19 CHIEF CLERK: A
20 privileged resolution honoring and
21 recognizing Ad Prima Charter School
22 for being designated as a 2026
23 state and national school of
24 character, becoming the first

1 5/14/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 school in Philadelphia to receive
3 this distinction and celebrating
4 this extraordinary achievement as a
5 testament to the school's
6 commitment to strong culture,
7 ethical leadership, character
8 development and educational
9 excellence. Introduced by
10 Councilmember Phillips.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

12 JOHNSON: Chair recognizes
13 Councilmember Dr. Anthony Phillips
14 for a motion.

15 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

16 Thank you, Council President.

17 In partnership with
18 Councilmember Jones, who shares the
19 school, I move for the adoption of
20 the resolution.

21 (Duly seconded.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

23 JOHNSON: It has been moved and
24 properly seconded that the

1 5/14/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 resolution be adopted.

3 All those in favor
4 signify by saying aye.

5 (Aye.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

7 JOHNSON: Anyone opposed?

8 (No response.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

10 JOHNSON: The ayes have it and the
11 resolution is adopted.

12 Chief Clerk, please read
13 the title of the next resolution.

14 CHIEF CLERK: A
15 privileged resolution honoring and
16 recognizing Russell Byers Charter
17 School on the occasion of its 25th
18 Anniversary and celebrating 25
19 years of educational excellence,
20 civic purpose and service to
21 children and families in the City
22 of Philadelphia, and further
23 recognizing Laurada Byers for her
24 visionary leadership and enduring

1 5/14/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 impact. Introduced by
3 Councilmember Phillips.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

5 JOHNSON: Chair recognizes
6 Councilmember Phillips for a motion
7 on the resolution.

8 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: In
9 honor of Laurada Byers, who's been
10 an inspiration to myself, and also
11 in partnership with the district,
12 Council President, for Russell
13 Byers, Jeffrey Young, I proudly
14 move for the adoption of the
15 resolution.

16 (Duly seconded.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

21 All those in favor
22 signify by saying aye.

23 (Aye.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

1 5/14/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 JOHNSON: Anyone opposed?

3 (No response.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

5 JOHNSON: The ayes have it. The
6 resolution has been adopted.

7 Will the Chief Clerk
8 please read the title of the next
9 resolution.

10 CHIEF CLERK: A
11 privileged resolution declaring May
12 13, 2026 as the 41st Anniversary of
13 the MOVE Bombing as a day of
14 reflection and remembrance in the
15 City of Philadelphia. Introduced
16 by Councilmember Gauthier.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

18 JOHNSON: Chair recognizes
19 Councilmember Gauthier for a motion
20 on the resolution.

21 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:

22 Thank you, Council President.

23 I move for the adoption
24 of the resolution.

1 5/14/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 (Duly seconded.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

7 All those in favor
8 signify by saying aye.

9 (Aye.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

11 JOHNSON: Anyone opposed?

12 (No response.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

14 JOHNSON: The ayes have it. The
15 resolution is adopted.

16 Chief Clerk, please read
17 the title of the next resolution.

18 CHIEF CLERK: A
19 privileged resolution authorizing
20 the Committee on the Environment to
21 hold hearings on the implementation
22 and progress of vegetated Green
23 Stormwater Infrastructure, GSI,
24 under the Green City, Clean Waters

1 5/14/26 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 Initiative, and to examine the
3 benefits of expanding green
4 stormwater infrastructure
5 throughout the City. Introduced by
6 Councilmember Gauthier.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

8 JOHNSON: Chair recognizes
9 Councilmember Gauthier for a motion
10 on the resolution.

11 (Duly seconded.)

12 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:

13 Thank you, Council President.

14 I move for the adoption
15 of the resolution.

16 (Duly seconded.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

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

23 (Aye.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

1 5/14/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 JOHNSON: Anyone opposed?

3 (No response.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

5 JOHNSON: The ayes have it. The
6 resolution is adopted.

7 Chief Clerk, please read
8 the title of the next resolution.

9 CHIEF CLERK: A
10 privileged resolution honoring and
11 congratulating the Blackhawks
12 Athletic Club Under 12 Football
13 Team on winning the 2025 American
14 Youth Football 12U Division I
15 National Championship. Introduced
16 by Councilmember Thomas.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

18 JOHNSON: Chair recognizes
19 Councilmember Isaiah Thomas for a
20 motion on the resolution.

21 COUNCILMAN THOMAS:

22 Thanks, Council President.

23 Congratulations again,
24 Councilmember Young, North

1 5/14/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 Philadelphia. Thank you, sir. I
3 move for the adoption of the
4 resolution.

5 (Duly seconded.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

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

12 (Aye.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

14 JOHNSON: Y'all want to be on the
15 record?

16 (Aye.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

18 JOHNSON: I'm being serious though.
19 All those signify by saying aye.

20 (Aye.)

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

22 JOHNSON: Anyone opposed?

23 (No response.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

1 5/14/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 JOHNSON: The ayes have it. And
3 the resolution is adopted.

4 Chief Clerk, please read
5 the title of the next resolution.

6 CHIEF CLERK: A
7 privileged resolution recognizing
8 and honoring the month of May as
9 "Youth Mental Health Awareness
10 Month" in the City of Philadelphia
11 to center the well-being of young
12 Philadelphians and urging the
13 youth-led, trauma-informed
14 investments in every neighborhood.
15 Introduced by Councilmember Thomas.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

17 JOHNSON: Chair recognizes
18 Councilmember Isaiah Thomas for a
19 motion on the resolution.

20 COUNCILMAN THOMAS:

21 Thank you, Council President.

22 I move for the adoption
23 of the resolution.

24 (Duly seconded.)

1 5/14/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

3 JOHNSON: All those in favor
4 signify by saying aye.

5 (Aye.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

7 JOHNSON: All City Councilmembers
8 signify by saying aye.

9 (Aye.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

11 JOHNSON: Anyone opposed?

12 (No response.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

14 JOHNSON: The ayes have it. The
15 resolution is adopted.

16 Chief Clerk, please read
17 the title of the next resolution.

18 CHIEF CLERK: A
19 privileged resolution recognizing
20 the month of May as Jewish American
21 Heritage Month in the City of
22 Philadelphia. Introduced by
23 Councilmember Landau.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

1 5/14/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 JOHNSON: Chair recognizes
3 Councilmember Rue Landau for a
4 motion on the resolution.

5 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:

6 Thank you, Council President.

7 I move for the adoption
8 of the resolution.

9 (Duly seconded.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

11 JOHNSON: All those in favor of the
12 motion will signify by saying aye.

13 (Aye.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

15 JOHNSON: Anyone opposed?

16 (No response.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

18 JOHNSON: The ayes have it. The
19 resolution is adopted.

20 Chief Clerk, please read
21 the title of the next resolution.

22 CHIEF CLERK: A
23 privileged resolution recognizing
24 and celebrated Ben Fletcher,

1 5/14/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 Philadelphia's revolutionary labor
3 leader, and honoring Local 8, the
4 1913 Longshoreman Strike, and the
5 City's Black-led tradition of
6 multiracial solidarity in the fight
7 for dignity and respect at work and
8 in our communities. Introduced by
9 Councilmember O'Rourke.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

11 JOHNSON: Chair recognizes
12 Councilmember Nicolas O'Rourke for
13 a motion on the resolution.

14 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE:

15 Thank you, Council President.

16 I move for the adoption
17 of the resolution.

18 (Duly seconded.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

20 JOHNSON: All those in favor of the
21 motion will signify by saying aye.

22 (Aye.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

24 JOHNSON: Anyone opposed?

1 5/14/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 (No response.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

4 JOHNSON: The ayes have it and the
5 resolution is adopted.

6 Chief Clerk, please read
7 the title of the next resolution.

8 CHIEF CLERK: A
9 privileged resolution recognizing
10 May 2026 as Brain Tumor Awareness
11 Month, raising awareness of the
12 impact of brain tumors on
13 individuals, families and
14 communities, and promoting
15 education, research and support for
16 those affected. Introduced by
17 Councilmember Driscoll.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

19 JOHNSON: Chair recognizes
20 Councilmember Mike Driscoll for a
21 motion on the resolution.

22 COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL: I
23 move for its adoption.

24 (Duly seconded.)

1 5/14/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

3 JOHNSON: All those in favor of the
4 motion will signify by saying aye.

5 (Aye.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

7 JOHNSON: Anyone opposed?

8 (No response.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

10 JOHNSON: The ayes have it. And
11 the resolution is adopted. Chief
12 Clerk, please read the title of the
13 next resolution.

14 CHIEF CLERK: A
15 privileged resolution recognizing
16 May 2026 to be American Stroke
17 Month in Philadelphia. Introduced
18 by Councilmember Ahmad.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

20 JOHNSON: Chair recognizes
21 Councilmember Dr. Nina Ahmad for a
22 motion on the resolution.

23 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD: I
24 move for the adoption of the

1 5/14/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 resolution.

3 (Duly seconded.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

5 JOHNSON: It has been moved and
6 properly seconded.

7 All those in favor of
8 the motion being adopted signify by
9 saying aye.

10 (Aye.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

12 JOHNSON: Anyone opposed?

13 (No response.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

15 JOHNSON: The ayes have it. The
16 resolution is adopted.

17 Chief Clerk, please read
18 the title of the next resolution.

19 CHIEF CLERK: A
20 privileged resolution recognizing
21 May 2026 as National Tennis Month.
22 Introduced by Councilmember Ahmad.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

24 JOHNSON: Chair recognizes

1 5/14/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 Councilmember Dr. Nina Ahmad for a
3 motion on the resolution.

4 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:

5 Thank you, Council President.

6 I move for the adoption
7 of the resolution.

8 (Duly seconded.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

10 JOHNSON: It has been moved and
11 properly seconded that the
12 resolution be adopted.

13 All those in favor will
14 signify by saying aye.

15 (Aye.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

17 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

18 (No response.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

20 JOHNSON: The ayes have it and the
21 resolution is adopted.

22 Chief Clerk, please read
23 the title of the next resolution.

24 CHIEF CLERK: A

1 5/14/26 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 privileged resolution recognizing
3 May 2026 as Mental Health Awareness
4 Month in the City of Philadelphia.
5 Introduced by Councilmember Ahmad.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

7 JOHNSON: Chair recognizes
8 Councilmember Dr. Nina Ahmad for a
9 motion on the resolution.

10 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:

11 Thank you, Council President.

12 I move for the adoption
13 of the resolution.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

15 JOHNSON: It has been moved and
16 properly seconded that the
17 resolution be adopted.

18 All those in favor
19 signify by saying aye.

20 (Aye.)

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

22 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

23 (No response.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

1 5/14/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 JOHNSON: The ayes have it. The
3 resolution is adopted.

4 Would the Chief Clerk
5 please read the title of the next
6 resolution.

7 CHIEF CLERK: A
8 privileged resolution authorizing
9 the Committee on Commerce and
10 Economic Development to hold public
11 hearings on the process of starting
12 a microbusiness or a pop-up shop in
13 Philadelphia, and on how the City
14 can streamline that process so more
15 microbusinesses grow into small
16 businesses. Introduced by
17 Councilmember Ahmad.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

19 JOHNSON: Chair recognizes
20 Councilmember Dr. Nina Ahmad for a
21 motion on the resolution.

22 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:

23 Thank you, Council President.

24 I move for the adoption

1 5/14/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 of the resolution.

3 (Duly seconded.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

8 All those in favor
9 signify by saying aye.

10 (Aye.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

12 JOHNSON: Anyone opposed?

13 (No response.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

15 JOHNSON: The ayes have it. And
16 the resolution is adopted.

17 Chief Clerk, please read
18 the next resolution.

19 CHIEF CLERK: Council
20 President, there are no further
21 resolutions in my possession.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

23 JOHNSON: That completes our
24 Calendar for the day.

1 5/14/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 Are there any speeches
3 on behalf of the Minority?

4 Chair recognizes
5 Councilmember Nicolas O'Rourke.

6 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE:

7 Thank you, Council President.

8 I want to thank the
9 Philly Black Worker Project, the
10 whole crew that came out to
11 commemorate what can happen when
12 Black workers unite. I want to
13 thank Minority Leader Brooks in her
14 absence as I'm introducing that
15 resolution on her behalf today.

16 What excites me about
17 the Black Worker Project is how it
18 takes a certain politic that's
19 concerned with the formerly
20 incarcerated directly into the
21 workplace, not only fighting
22 against employment discrimination,
23 which is critical, but fighting for
24 worker conditions, for proper labor

1 5/14/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 rights. This is what we call
3 democratizing the workplace. And
4 in that spirit, this is in fact
5 also what democracy looks like.

6 It's always an honor to
7 collaborate with them, especially
8 as they honor local history that
9 isn't told enough. And I think to
10 that point, when Philadelphians
11 who've been around a while think
12 about desegregating workforces,
13 when they think about any of that
14 sort of work, you're probably
15 rightly to remember the late
16 Reverend Leon Sullivan, and I know
17 I have a few witnesses in the room.

18 Ben Fletcher and his
19 comrades enforced a desegregated
20 workplace on Philly's docks years
21 before Reverend Sullivan was born,
22 and did it through militant labor
23 action 113 years ago, right,
24 history that we don't always know

1 5/14/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 or tell often.

3 Fletcher did this

4 radical work in an era when

5 America's Civil Rights Movement was

6 rebuilding itself, while reeling

7 from the first Gilded Age and the

8 demise of Reconstruction and trying

9 to survive the deceptively titled

10 Progressive Era that y'all probably

11 heard Clarence Thomas recently

12 exploit in his bizarre revisionist

13 lecture at the University of Texas.

14 Don't encourage you to listen to

15 it, but if you know, you know.

16 Today we're living

17 through a second Gilded Age,

18 through the demise of our second

19 Reconstruction, and I believe,

20 along with the Philly Black Worker

21 Project, that there's a wellspring

22 of wisdom that Ben Fletcher and his

23 comrades have for us to survive and

24 thrive, dare I say, in our own

1 5/14/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 trying era in time, then as now.

3 When it really comes

4 down to it, our power is in our

5 numbers. It's in our labor. It's

6 in our organizing, in our

7 organization, the structure of our

8 economy. It has changed, but this

9 system cannot run without us. And

10 I know that I have colleagues here

11 who also want to resist the

12 automations and robots that want to

13 try to make it so to operate

14 without us. They need our labor.

15 I'm an elected official, but the

16 Wobblies' firm belief in worker

17 power above and beyond the

18 electoral realm doesn't offend me,

19 not even in the slightest.

20 Endeavoring collectively

21 towards true governance by the

22 people must be our aim, even as we

23 fight for a representative

24 democracy worth the name. To that

1 5/14/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 point, as Black representation is
3 snuffed out across the South, I
4 don't want to underplay the
5 significance of three Black
6 candidates who have run, in my
7 opinion view, a clean race for a
8 congressional seat, a race swift,
9 at least between them, little
10 backbiting or disrespect, vying for
11 the support of a very diverse
12 electorate here in our city.

13 As some parts of the
14 country go backward, I continually
15 and increasingly see Philadelphia
16 as one of the bastions, one of the
17 outposts, as it were, of the
18 America our ancestors dared to
19 dream of during that first and
20 second Reconstruction. So whatever
21 happens on Tuesday, I want Philly's
22 next representative to know and
23 know well that that's the America
24 we are sending them to Washington

1 5/14/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 to defend with every ounce of their
3 strength.

4 Whoever's in that seat
5 needs to deeply understand that the
6 gloves are all the way off now. So
7 do not expect a job where you
8 aren't punching back. Punch back.
9 They punch, punch back hard. Your
10 city will have your back if you do
11 that. We are in a trying time. So
12 to get you started on having your
13 back, y'all don't make me foolish
14 now, know the details on what
15 Tuesday allows you to do.

16 You have to return a
17 mail-in ballot to a City satellite
18 office or drop box by 8:00 p.m. on
19 Tuesday, the latest. If you need
20 to know your polling site, because
21 I know folks may have been moved
22 around a bit, you can look up your
23 address on atlas.phila.gov. That's
24 a-t-l-a-s.phila.gov and scroll to

1 5/14/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 the voting section.

3 Polls are open from

4 7:00 a.m. They close at 8:00 p.m.

5 Philadelphia, do what we do best.

6 Whoever you support, for whatever

7 your reasons, you can start having

8 their back by making sure that you

9 vote and you talk to someone who

10 you know ain't thought about voting

11 and get out to vote that day as

12 well.

13 So, thank you,

14 Mr. President. Let's get out to

15 vote on Tuesday, y'all. Let's win

16 for our people.

17 (Applause.)

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

19 JOHNSON: Speeches on behalf of the

20 Majority?

21 The Chair recognizes

22 Councilmember Rue Landau.

23 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:

24 Thank you, Council President.

1 5/14/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 Just a quick one today.

3 Today I co-introduced a resolution
4 with you recognizing May as Jewish
5 American Heritage Month in
6 Philadelphia. This month is an
7 opportunity for all of us to
8 encourage all residents to learn
9 more about Jewish heritage in
10 Philadelphia.

11 As Rabbi Lizzie Horne
12 Mozes told us today, this month is
13 not just about looking back, but
14 it's very important to look at what
15 we're doing now and what we're
16 doing in the future. And as a
17 proud member of Kol Tzedek
18 Synagogue, that is exactly what we
19 do when we are organizing with our
20 neighbors, when we are advocating
21 against injustices.

22 It's very important to
23 lift that work up today though. So
24 thank you to all my colleagues for

1 5/14/26 - STATED - SPEECHES
2 co-sponsoring this resolution. I
3 invite you to join us downstairs in
4 the Mayor's reception room right
5 after Council for a brief
6 resolution reception. Thank you.

7 (Applause.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

9 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

10 Chair recognizes
11 Councilmember Jeffrey Jay Young.

12 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Thank
13 you, Mr. President.

14 And it's in the spirit
15 of Councilmember Thomas' Youth
16 Mental Health Awareness Month, I
17 want to let you all know that on
18 Saturday, May 30, my office is
19 hosting, along with an organization
20 in North Philadelphia called As I
21 Plant the Seed, we're hosting a
22 youth mental health awareness
23 conference entitled "All About
24 Youth" for ages 12 to 18 years old

1 5/14/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 at the Martin Luther King
3 Recreation Center in North
4 Philadelphia from 10:00 to
5 3:00 p.m.

6 We're asking all young
7 people to be accompanied by a
8 parent, guardian or organization.
9 But again, that will be on May 30,
10 the All About Youth Mental Health
11 Awareness conference from 10:00 to
12 3:00 at Martin Luther King Rec
13 Center this Saturday.

14 My office is hosting,
15 along with Park to Broad Business
16 District, the Girard Avenue
17 Festival in Brewerytown. It's a
18 free community celebration from
19 11:00 to 5:00 along the Girard
20 Avenue business corridor from 29th
21 Street to College Avenue, and it is
22 rain or shine. There will be 100
23 local vendors, live music across
24 stages, community performances,

1 5/14/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 great food, family-friendly fun,
3 including the bounce houses for the
4 kids. So let's bring them on out.

5 Events like this bring
6 our neighborhoods together, support
7 the small businesses along those
8 corridors, celebrate culture,
9 creativity, and the energy that
10 makes our community strong.

11 Along that same note,
12 there will be a briefing that's
13 being held or info session being
14 held by the Administration, the
15 Office of Special Events, OTIS and
16 Streets Department along with the
17 Parking Authority and our office on
18 the temporary parking permits that
19 will be required during the 2026
20 FIFA Fan Fest period.

21 We know that many
22 neighbors have questions and
23 concerns about parking, traffic,
24 accessibility, quality-of-life

1 5/14/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 impacts, so hopefully this info
3 session on Monday at 5 o'clock will
4 answer some of these questions. It
5 is a virtual session. Our goal is
6 to work hand in hand with the
7 community to make sure that
8 residents are informed, protected
9 and able to enjoy the excitement
10 and the economic opportunity that
11 this global event brings
12 Philadelphia. And so, we encourage
13 again all residents if you live in
14 Fairmount, live in Brewerytown, you
15 live in the southern part of
16 Strawberry Mansion, you live in
17 Spring Garden, we encourage you to
18 log on to this info session.
19 Again, it'll be Monday, May 18th
20 from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. You can
21 contact my office or the Parking
22 Authority to get more information
23 on the registration permits.

24 And at the Girard Avenue

1 5/14/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 Festival this weekend, if you live
3 in that community, if you're
4 affected by the parking permit
5 regulations, the Parking Authority
6 will be out issuing the permits on
7 the spot. So if you live in that
8 community, make sure you come out
9 to the Girard Avenue Festival.

10 You'll get your temporary parking
11 permit for the FIFA Fan Fest on the
12 spot this Saturday at the Girard
13 Avenue Fest.

14 We introduced a couple
15 bills today, Mr. President. I know
16 folks -- saw some folks' faces when
17 the titles were read. We
18 introduced two bills I think that
19 will bring safety to Philadelphia's
20 rapidly growing e-bike delivery
21 industry. The first bill will
22 allow L&I to establish an official
23 e-bike delivery license to create
24 clear standards and improve

1 5/14/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 enforcement, particularly here in
3 Center City, where that is an
4 issue.

5 The second bill will
6 require app delivery companies to
7 maintain formal records of e-bike
8 delivery workers on their
9 platforms, and it also creates a
10 fee for autonomous delivery robots,
11 as we see that these robots are
12 vehicles that are driving on our
13 streets -- on our sidewalks, excuse
14 me. So if we are going to give
15 these vehicles permission to drive
16 on our sidewalks, then I think we
17 need to regulate that a little bit
18 more.

19 We need to have smart,
20 balanced legislation that protects
21 the public safety, supports workers
22 and ensures that these corporations
23 take responsibility for the systems
24 and technologies they profit from.

1 5/14/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 And on that same note,
3 Election day being next Tuesday, I
4 want to encourage people in North
5 Philadelphia to get out and vote.
6 You look at numbers from some of
7 the wards in North Philadelphia
8 over the years, it has not been
9 something to be proud of. But I'm
10 asking you, all those who are
11 listening, to please let's hit the
12 streets on Election day, May 19.
13 Let's show Philadelphia that North
14 Philadelphia is worth your
15 attention during these election
16 cycles.

17 So thank you,
18 Mr. President.

19 (Applause.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

21 JOHNSON: Thank you very much,
22 Councilmember Isaiah Thomas.

23 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Good
24 afternoon, everybody.

1 5/14/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 Very quickly, first and
3 foremost, during Council session
4 today a student was hit by a car.
5 And normally, we don't do this, but
6 this is the second time, and the
7 Council knows this is the second
8 time in eight days, that a student
9 from Swenson High School
10 specifically has been hit by a car,
11 so I just wanted to offer our
12 thoughts and prayers to the
13 Administration, to the entire
14 Swenson family.

15 We will be reaching out,
16 and we have to think about what we
17 do as it relates to some of the
18 things that we've already done with
19 speed cameras and other things
20 around school zones to keep people
21 safe, so that's the first thing.

22 Second thing, I wanted
23 to take a moment of personal
24 privilege, as a City Council, we're

1 5/14/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 all a family and I know Team Thomas
3 and everybody who's on Team Thomas,
4 there's no exception to that rule.

5 And for us, I wanted to take a
6 moment to acknowledge, and if you
7 could stand up, my friend, somebody
8 who I've known forever, Preston
9 Tillman.

10 Preston's last day in
11 City Council is tomorrow, and he's
12 been a phenomenal servant to the
13 City of Philadelphia. Clearly,
14 he's going on to great things, but
15 I do want to let him know that his
16 service to the City of Philadelphia
17 is appreciated. Team Thomas
18 appreciates him and he is always a
19 family member to this legislative
20 body. Thank you for your service.

21 (Applause.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

23 JOHNSON: Thank you for your
24 service.

1 5/14/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 Chair recognizes

3 Councilmember Quetcy Lozada.

4 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA:

5 Thank you, Council President.

6 I just want to take an
7 opportunity to respond to some of
8 the noise that is happening out
9 there. And I know that sometimes
10 we, and you laugh, but I really
11 find it frustrating and I'm going
12 to tell you why, Council President.

13 We allow for people to
14 come in here and express themselves
15 and freedom of speech, and
16 everybody is like rah, rah, rah.
17 But then they all are gone when we
18 are responding to them holding us
19 accountable when we're responding
20 to issues that are happening in our
21 own communities, because the
22 loudest noise-makers are the people
23 that don't live in the
24 neighborhood.

1 5/14/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 I do not want children
3 in anybody's neighborhood to be
4 locked up, but the reality is that
5 what children see in their
6 neighborhood determines who they
7 become as adults. What they see in
8 their neighborhood responds to
9 their behavioral health condition,
10 their emotional condition, their
11 social skills. It determines the
12 kind of citizen that they're going
13 to be in the future, right.

14 In the City of
15 Philadelphia, we've invested \$24
16 million in gun violence prevention
17 programs. Yet you have all these
18 people talking about you just want
19 them arrested because they're
20 walking around in your
21 neighborhoods with a certain type
22 of weapon.

23 So I said an automatic,
24 I don't want to see an automatic, I

1 5/14/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 don't want to see a pistol, I don't
3 want to see a rifle, because
4 responsible gun owners do not walk
5 around in neighborhoods with their
6 gun or with their weapons strapped
7 to their chest. We have worked
8 really, really hard as a
9 legislative body and as an
10 administration and as a group of
11 public safety officials to change
12 the narrative in communities like
13 Kensington and across the City of
14 Philadelphia. We've worked really
15 hard.

16 Homicides and shootings
17 are down because of the collective
18 effort that we have had in
19 responding directly to gun violence
20 and to violence in general in our
21 neighborhoods. Yet there are
22 certain individuals that insist on
23 the negatives of communities like
24 mine, right. And if we put up

1 5/14/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 videos, if we put up photos, we're
3 press-thirsty. If we speak up,
4 we're angry, we're just talking.

5 If we fight, we're angry
6 and pissed off. If we cry, we're
7 weak. If we complain, they want us
8 to shut up, right. I don't
9 understand what people want from us
10 as elected officials. I don't
11 understand what they want from us.
12 At the end of the day, why are they
13 not talking about the fact that in
14 communities like mine, the people
15 that live there are resilient, the
16 people that are conducting
17 businesses there are just trying to
18 survive, the children that are
19 being raised there are just trying
20 to grow up in a place where they
21 could be joyful in their rec
22 centers, where they can play.

23 But people like me and
24 other electeds can't speak up when

1 5/14/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 we see things that are outright
3 wrong. We're supposed to just sit
4 back and allow for people to treat
5 our neighborhoods like we're
6 cowboys and Indians back in the
7 day. I don't understand that we
8 have children in our chamber, we
9 invite children to come and talk
10 and tell us how they feel. Yet
11 when people in this chamber respond
12 to the negatives that they
13 witnessed in their neighborhoods,
14 then we are the problem. We're the
15 problem.

16 Why are these people not
17 talking about the fact that through
18 those \$24 million we should be
19 working with organizations to
20 connect young people to mentorship
21 programs, to job opportunities, to
22 sports opportunities, to financial
23 literacy programs, to employment
24 opportunities, to mental health

1 5/14/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 wellness programs, to violence
3 prevention programs, to art
4 programs, conflict resolution,
5 apprenticeship programs.

6 Why are we so focused on
7 whether we said a word that didn't
8 match what they liked on the street
9 or whether this individual was
10 legally or illegally carrying.
11 What we should be talking about is
12 what our children are exposed to
13 every day that affects who they can
14 become in the future. My children
15 deserve all of that.

16 All of our neighborhood
17 children deserve to be able to live
18 in communities that are safe, where
19 they're not walking around and
20 seeing this stuff and being afraid.
21 My message to those individuals who
22 have a whole lot to say, those
23 keyboard bullies, we're going to
24 keep fighting.

1 5/14/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 We're going to keep
3 fighting for neighborhoods like
4 Kensington. We're going to keep
5 fighting for the good people that
6 are just trying to survive there.
7 We're going to keep connecting
8 young people to all of those
9 programs that I mentioned, and we
10 also need to fight to change how
11 the state determines how long it
12 takes for people to respond to
13 their food insecurity and food
14 stamps compared to how long it
15 takes you to get a gun permit,
16 because they don't balance out.

17 It takes people 30 days
18 to be able to get food stamps
19 approved for food stamps. It takes
20 you less than two days to get a gun
21 permit. How are we supposed to
22 check the mental stability, the
23 responsibility and whether this
24 person is capable of handling a

1 5/14/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 weapon? How are we supposed to do
3 that? And why are we not talking
4 to our counterparts about how
5 lopsided this is?

6 We have to do better.

7 We have to do better. Our children
8 deserve better. Our communities
9 deserve better. Our city deserves
10 better. There's no neighborhood
11 that deserves to witness what my
12 community continues to witness. We
13 are tired. We're tired. It has to
14 stop.

15 (Applause.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

17 JOHNSON: Chair recognizes
18 Councilmember Dr. Nina Ahmad.

19 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:

20 Thank you, Council President.

21 Thank you, Councilmember
22 Lozada, for reminding us what our
23 job is. I appreciate your passion
24 and understand your frustration,

1 5/14/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 and we are going to keep working
3 and keep fighting. I stand with
4 you.

5 I wanted to talk about
6 the stress and trauma
7 Philadelphians are feeling every
8 day, particularly now we have a war
9 being fought in our name far away.
10 We have wars being fought right
11 here, and Councilmember Lozada just
12 referenced that, and we have so
13 many other stressors in our life.
14 And that's why, in partnership with
15 Councilmember Bass, I co-introduced
16 a resolution recognizing May as
17 Mental Health Awareness Month, and
18 make sure that the stigma in an
19 ongoing barrier to mental health
20 care, that we can remove it. This
21 stigma, especially prevalent among
22 men, older adults, immigrant
23 communities, communities of color
24 and LGBTQ+ residents, and today's

1 5/14/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 resolution works to combat that.

3 In addition to Mental
4 Health Awareness Month designation,
5 I want to thank the National
6 Alliance on Mental Health for your
7 service, providing free education,
8 support and advocacy for people
9 impacted by mental illness. I look
10 forward to speaking on their panel
11 tomorrow.

12 Continuing in the vein
13 of public health, I introduced a
14 privileged resolution to recognize
15 May as American Stroke Month in
16 Philadelphia. Approximately
17 800,000 people suffer a stroke in
18 the U.S. annually. This resolution
19 acknowledges the role of the
20 American Heart Association in
21 combating this and encourages
22 Philadelphians to familiarize
23 themselves with the risk factors
24 associated with stroke.

1 5/14/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 With this in mind, I
3 also co-introduced a resolution
4 with Councilmember Gauthier
5 recognizing May as National Tennis
6 Month, so we can get moving and not
7 get a stroke. Philadelphia has a
8 long history with tennis being the
9 birthplace of Ora Mae Washington,
10 an African American woman who won
11 her first national title in tennis
12 in 1925 after only a year of
13 playing.

14 Philadelphia also hosted
15 the first U.S. Women's Lawn Tennis
16 Championship at the Philadelphia
17 Cricket Club in 1887 and will be
18 hosting a new WTA 125 event at the
19 University of Pennsylvania,
20 bringing professional tennis back
21 to our city for the first time in
22 20 years. I thank the United
23 States Tennis Association for your
24 local work in Philadelphia,

1 5/14/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 promoting the sport. And I
3 encourage everyone to get out and
4 get active.

5 I also introduced a
6 resolution authorizing the
7 Committee on Commerce and Economic
8 Development to hold public hearings
9 on the process of starting a
10 microbusiness or pop-up shop. I
11 have spoken to so many folks who
12 have been having cottage industry
13 that they want to put out and see
14 if it's a viable business,
15 microbusiness entrepreneurs,
16 crafters, flea market vendors, that
17 the process of selling their wares
18 is confusing. We need to
19 streamline the process to help
20 pop-ups eventually move into a
21 permanent sustainable business,
22 whether it be brick-and-mortars
23 online. And I look forward for
24 them to contribute to our economy.

1 5/14/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 I want to personally
3 thank Councilmember Jones for
4 including me as a co-sponsor on
5 Bill 260298 this week. The bill
6 changes the zoning designation for
7 areas surrounding Lankenau High
8 School, and I'm so pleased that the
9 bill, as amended, has been reported
10 favorably out of the Rules
11 Committee.

12 Despite the school
13 district's decision to move forward
14 with their facilities plan, I have
15 not given up on Lankenau or any of
16 the other schools on this closure
17 list, and I'll continue to use all
18 tools at my disposal to change this
19 closure plan.

20 And I want to thank
21 Councilmember Gilmore Richardson,
22 our Majority Leader, for continuing
23 hearings on the Black women's
24 economic health. Your leadership

1 5/14/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 in this space is so important. Not
3 only do we have to talk about the
4 barriers Black women face, but what
5 those barriers cause
6 physiologically.

7 I made a point of
8 talking about something called
9 weathering that has an impact, the
10 stress, the trauma, all of the
11 things that you face when you're
12 trying to do things in an
13 inhospitable environment has a toll
14 on you physiologically. So it's
15 important that we remove these
16 barriers for everyone to
17 participate in our economy.

18 I also want to thank
19 Council President for inviting me
20 to this week's Mother's Day
21 luncheon. It was an uplifting
22 event, and I was glad to connect
23 with so many amazing mothers in our
24 city. Also, the food was

1 5/14/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 fantastic, Council President.

3 And lastly -- oh, before
4 the reminding about the election, I
5 wanted to make sure you all knew we
6 have a hearing on a Charter change
7 to create a Philadelphia Child
8 Welfare Commission. This is going
9 to be on Wednesday, May 27th at
10 10:00 a.m. in this room. I invite
11 everyone to come and testify and we
12 would like to hear from you.

13 And finally, don't
14 forget, May 19th is the Primary
15 Election. Polling places are open
16 from 7:00 to 8:00. You can go to
17 the City Commissioner's website
18 @votephila.gov to find your closest
19 polling place. And I want to thank
20 all of you every day for what you
21 do. And you know we are still
22 having to fight for reversing the
23 closure of the schools that are on
24 the list.

1 5/14/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 I want to thank Council
3 Councilmember Isaiah Thomas, who is
4 the Chair of the Education
5 Committee, for standing with us in
6 that fight, and fighting and not
7 giving up on this. Our children
8 are watching. They're watching how
9 we're responding to a crisis, just
10 like Quetcy Lozada, Councilmember
11 Lozada said, we are doing this for
12 our future generations. And once
13 again, I will be sending another
14 letter to the board outlining all
15 different ways that this plan makes
16 no sense, particularly for
17 Lankenau. So I thank you all for
18 listening.

19 And thank you, Council
20 President. I yield back to you.

21 (Applause.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

23 JOHNSON: Thank you very much for
24 your remarks.

1 5/14/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 As there are no more
3 speeches, the Chair recognizes
4 Councilmember Isaiah Thomas for a
5 motion to adjourn.

6 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Have
7 a good holiday, everybody. Thank
8 you, Mr. President.

9 I move that Council
10 stands adjourned until Thursday,
11 May 28, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

12 (Duly seconded.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

14 JOHNSON: It has been moved and
15 properly seconded that Council
16 stands adjourned until Thursday,
17 May 28th at 10:00 a.m.

18 All those in favor
19 signify by saying aye.

20 (Aye.)

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

22 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

23 (No response.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

1 5/14/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 JOHNSON: The ayes have it and the
3 motion carries. Thank you all very
4 much.

5 - - -

6 (Stated Meeting
7 adjourned at 1:45 p.m.)

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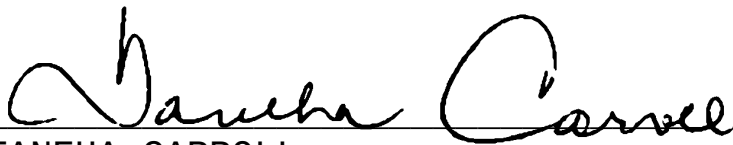
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C E R T I F I C A T I O N

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


TANEHA CARROLL
Court Reporter - Notary Public

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

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City of Philadelphia
City Council Calendar
Thursday, May 14, 2026

PUBLIC COMMENT

City Council receives public comment on bills and resolutions that are printed on this agenda for the meeting. Speakers will have up to three minutes to speak; please prepare your comments to fit within that time limit. The Council President, may, depending on circumstances, establish a lower time limit. The Council President will announce the applicable time limit at the beginning of the public comment portion of the agenda. The Council President may also limit repetitious comments on the same agenda item or defer comments to the next meeting of Council.

Speakers for public comment can sign up in advance, submit comments electronically, or sign up to speak the day of the meeting. To sign up in advance, speakers may call 215-686-3406 or email chiefclerk@phila.gov by no later than 3 p.m. the day before the meeting. Speakers who sign up in advance will be added to the list. Speakers must sign up individually, not on behalf of others or groups, and provide the following information:

- Full name (including proper pronunciation and spelling)
- The bill number or resolution number that will be addressed
- Whether you support or oppose that particular bill or resolution
- Telephone number where you can be reached
- Street address

Speakers may also submit public comment electronically by email to chiefclerk@phila.gov no later than 3 p.m. the day before the meeting, preferably as a PDF attachment to the email. Electronic submissions become part of the written record of the proceedings but they are not read aloud in Council. To sign up the day of the meeting, come to Room 400, City Hall and check in at the desk by the entrance.

***If you require an accommodation or service to fully participate, please let the Chief Clerk's Office know when signing up for Public Comment.**

***If you need an interpreter for these events, please call or email the Chief Clerk's office for information about our language services.**

***Please note that this is an in-person meeting, and open to the public. This meeting may also be viewed on Xfinity Channel 64, Fios Channel 40, or <http://phlcouncil.com/watch-city-council/>.**

ORDER OF BUSINESS IN A COUNCIL SESSION

Note: Some items do not occur at every session:

Invocation.

Approval of the journal of the preceding meeting.

Requests by Councilmembers for permission to be absent from the session.

Reading of communications from the Mayor.

Introduction of bills and resolutions (to be referred to appropriate Committees of Council).

Reports from Committees of Council.

Special business.

Bills on first reading.

**Public comment on bills and resolutions on the Second Reading and Final Passage
Calendars - titles are printed below.**

Bills that Council passed but that need to be returned by the Mayor for reconsideration.

**Consideration of bills and resolutions on the Second Reading and Final Passage
Calendars.**

Bills and resolutions on the Suspension Calendar.

Speeches by Councilmembers.

RESOLUTIONS ON FINAL PASSAGE**260469****INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Gauthier

Resolution also naming the 4100 Block of Powelton Avenue as “West Powelton Steppers Way” to honor the legacy and impact of the West Powelton Steppers and Drum Squad on the community.

260480**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Young

Resolution supporting the proposed Sam Worley Elderly Tax Relief Act, legislation to exempt qualifying long-term elderly homeowners from school, county, and municipal property taxes on their primary residences in Pennsylvania.

260481**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Bass

Resolution calling for the expansion of equitable cultural opportunities for children enrolled in childcare facilities throughout the City of Philadelphia through membership access to the Art-Reach ACCESS Program, particularly during the summer season when the City welcomes visitors from around the world.

BILLS ON SECOND READING AND FINAL PASSAGE**250768****INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Gauthier

An Ordinance amending Title 17 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled “Contracts and Procurement,” to prohibit contractors providing solid waste, recycling or composting services to the City from incinerating discarded matter, under certain terms and conditions.

250807**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Squilla

An Ordinance authorizing the Commissioner of Public Property to acquire, on behalf of the City, fee simple title or a lesser interest, by purchase, dedication, donation, condemnation, agreement in lieu of condemnation or otherwise, for the purpose of making, enlarging, connecting, extending, operating, and maintaining public parks for recreational use, certain parcels of land, generally bounded and located between Vine Street, Fairmount Avenue, 8th Street and 12th Street, together with all improvements thereon and all associated easements and appurtenances; and to lease the property, or a portion thereof, to the Center City District; all under certain terms and conditions.

260063-A**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Bass

An Ordinance renaming and designating the property commonly referred to as Panati Playground, located at 3100 N 22nd Street, to the “Allegheny West Recreation Center” in recognition of the community and neighborhood that it serves.

260340**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Squilla

An Ordinance authorizing various encroachments in the vicinity of 323 N. Broad St., Philadelphia, PA 19107, under certain terms and conditions.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTIONS

260537**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Phillips

Resolution honoring and recognizing Ad Prima Charter School for being designated a 2026 State and National School of Character, becoming the first school in Philadelphia to receive this distinction, and celebrating this extraordinary achievement as a testament to the school’s commitment to strong culture, ethical leadership, character development, and educational excellence.

260538**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Phillips

Resolution honoring and recognizing Russell Byers Charter School on the occasion of its 25th anniversary, and celebrating 25 years of educational excellence, civic purpose, and service to children and families in the City of Philadelphia, and further recognizing Laurada Byers for her visionary leadership and enduring impact.

260539**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Gauthier

Resolution declaring May 13th, 2026, the 41st Anniversary of the MOVE Bombing, as a day of reflection and remembrance in the City of Philadelphia.

260540**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Gauthier

Resolution authorizing the Committee on the Environment to hold hearings on the implementation and progress of vegetated green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) under the Green City, Clean Waters initiative, and to examine the benefits of expanding Green Stormwater Infrastructure throughout the City.

260541**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Thomas

Resolution honoring and congratulating the Blackhawks Athletic Club Under 12 Football Team on winning the 2025 American Youth Football 12U Division I National Championship

260542**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Thomas

Resolution recognizing and honoring the month of May as "Youth Mental Health Awareness Month" in the City of Philadelphia to center the well-being of young Philadelphians and urging for youth-led, trauma-informed investments in every neighborhood.

260543**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Landau

Resolution recognizing the month of May as Jewish American Heritage Month in the City of Philadelphia.

260544**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember O'Rourke

Resolution recognizing and celebrating Ben Fletcher - Philadelphia's revolutionary labor leader - and honoring Local 8, the 1913 Longshoremen's Strike, and the city's Black-led tradition of multiracial solidarity in the fight for dignity and respect at work and in our communities.

260547**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Driscoll

Resolution recognizing May 2026 as Brain Tumor Awareness Month, raising awareness of the impact of brain tumors on individuals, families, and communities, and promoting education, research, and support for those affected.

260549**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Ahmad

Resolution recognizing May 2026 as American Stroke Month in Philadelphia

260550**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Ahmad

Resolution recognizing May 2026 as National Tennis Month

260551**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Ahmad

Resolution recognizing May 2026 as Mental Health Awareness Month in the City of Philadelphia.

260552**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Ahmad

Resolution authorizing the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development to hold public hearings on the process of starting a microbusiness or pop-up shop in Philadelphia, and on how the City can streamline that process so more microbusinesses grow into small businesses.