

Committee on Streets and Services
June 16, 2021

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
COMMITTEE ON STREETS AND SERVICES

Remote location using Microsoft® Teams
Wednesday, June 16, 2021
9:30 a.m.

PRESENT:

COUNCILMAN ISAIAH THOMAS, CHAIR
COUNCILMAN MARK SQUILLA, VICE-CHAIR
COUNCILWOMAN CINDY BASS
COUNCILWOMAN KENDRA BROOKS
COUNCILWOMAN KATHERINE GILMORE RICHARDSON
COUNCILMAN KENYATTA JOHNSON

ALSO PRESENT:

COUNCILMAN DEREK S. GREEN
COUNCILMAN CURTIS JONES, JR.
COUNCILWOMAN MARIA D. QUINONES-SANCHEZ

BILLS: 200710, 200711, 200712, 210280, 210326,
210327, 210451, 210472, 210478, 210502,
210504, 210506, 210509

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2 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Good
3 morning, everybody. I want to welcome
4 everybody to the Committee on Streets
5 and Services hearing. Today is
6 Wednesday, June 16th.

7 My understanding is that state
8 law currently requires that the
9 following announcement be made at the
10 beginning of every remote public hearing
11 as follows: Due to the current public
12 health emergency, City Council
13 Committees are currently meeting
14 remotely. We are using Microsoft Teams
15 to make these remote hearings possible.

16 Instructions for how the public
17 may view and offer public testimony at
18 public hearings of Council Committees
19 are included in the public hearing
20 notices that are published in the Daily
21 News, Inquirer and Legal Intelligencer
22 prior to the hearings and can also be
23 found on PHLCouncil.com. I note that
24 the hour has come.

25 Mr. Maynard, will you please

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1 call the roll to take attendance.
2 Members that are in attendance, will you
3 please indicate that you are present
4 when your name is called. Also, please
5 say a few brief words when responding so
6 that your image will be displayed on
7 screen once you speak.

8 Mr. Clerk.

9 THE CLERK: Vice-chair Squilla.

10 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Good
11 morning, Mr. Chair. Present.

12 THE CLERK: Thank you. Hey,
13 Councilmember Squilla.

14 Councilmember Bass.

15 (No response.)

16 THE CLERK: Councilmember Oh.

17 (No response.)

18 THE CLERK: Councilmember
19 Brooks.

20 (No response.)

21 THE CLERK: Councilmember
22 Johnson.

23 (No response.)

24 THE CLERK: Councilmember
25 Johnson.

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1 (No response.)

2 THE CLERK: Councilmember
3 Johnson.

4 (No response.)

5 THE CLERK: Mr. Chair, without
6 Councilmember Johnson, we currently lack
7 a quorum.

8 COUNCILMAN JONES: Excuse me,
9 Mr. Chairman. For the record, I'm here
10 in attendance. Curtis Jones.

11 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank you,
12 Councilmember Jones.

13 THE CLERK: Councilmember
14 Jones, you may know this procedure
15 better. Is there a way we can add you
16 to the Committee?

17 COUNCILMAN JONES: Yes.
18 The President --

19 THE CLERK: Quickly.

20 COUNCILMAN JONES: If you can
21 contact the President quickly, he can
22 appoint me to the Committee
23 temporarily --

24 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: I'm here,
25 Mr. Chair.

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1 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank you,
2 Councilman Johnson.

3 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: I had
4 technical difficulty.

5 THE CLERK: Thank you,
6 Councilman Johnson.

7 COUNCILMAN JONES: All right.

8 THE CLERK: Councilmember
9 Gilmore Richardson.

10 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

11 RICHARDSON: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
12 And good morning, colleagues.

13 THE CLERK: And, Chair Thomas.

14 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Present.
15 Thank you. A quorum of the Committee is
16 present and this hearing is now called
17 to order. This is a public hearing of
18 the Committee on Streets and Services
19 regarding Bill Nos. 210710, 210711,
20 210712, 210280, 210326, 210327, 210451,
21 210 --

22 THE CLERK: Mr. -- I apologize.
23 Please go ahead.

24 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: 210472,
25 210502, 210504 and 210509. Bill No.

1 210478 and Bill No. 210506 have been
2 held at the request of the sponsor.

3 Mr. Maynard, will you please
4 read the titles of these bills.

5 THE CLERK: Of course. Bill
6 No. 200710, an ordinance amending
7 Chapter 12-2700 of The Philadelphia
8 Code, entitled "Permit Parking
9 Districts," by amending the boundaries
10 for certain permit parking districts,
11 and by establishing a new permit parking
12 district, all under certain terms and
13 conditions.

14 Bill No. 200711, an ordinance
15 amending Section 12-2705 of The
16 Philadelphia Code, entitled "Issuance of
17 Resident Parking Permits," to address
18 the rules regarding issuance of resident
19 parking permits, all under certain terms
20 and conditions.

21 Bill No. 200712, an ordinance
22 amending Section 12-2705 of The
23 Philadelphia Code, entitled "Issuance of
24 Resident Parking Permits," to address
25 the cost of resident parking permits for

1 certain low-income individuals, all
2 under certain terms and conditions.

3 Bill No. 210280, an ordinance
4 authorizing the Procurement Commissioner
5 to enter into a contract for the
6 construction of a sewer and appurtenant
7 work, required to provide the public
8 sewer service, in the 1600 block of
9 Olive Street.

10 Bill No. 210326, an ordinance
11 establishing no truck parking and tow
12 away zone regulations on both sides of
13 Sackett Street from Cottman Avenue to
14 Ryan Avenue.

15 Bill No. 210327, an ordinance
16 establishing no truck parking and tow
17 away zone regulations on both sides of
18 Saint Vincent Street from Sackett Street
19 to Hawthorne Street.

20 Bill No. 210451, an ordinance
21 amending Chapter 10-700 of The
22 Philadelphia Code, entitled "Refuse and
23 Littering," by amending Section 10-719,
24 entitled "Penalties," by revising the
25 penalty to be assessed for violations of

1 this chapter; all under certain terms
2 and conditions.

3 Bill No. 210472, an ordinance
4 amending Chapter 12-2700 of The
5 Philadelphia Code, entitled "Permit
6 Parking Districts, by amending the
7 boundaries of Permit Parking District
8 16, all under certain terms and
9 conditions.

10 Bill No. 210478, as was
11 announced is being held.

12 Bill No. 210502, an ordinance
13 amending Section 12-701 of The
14 Philadelphia Code, entitled "Designation
15 of Bicycle Lanes," to authorize a
16 bicycle lane on North 13th Street from
17 Spring Garden Street to Green Street,
18 all under certain terms and conditions.

19 Bill 210504, an ordinance
20 authorizing the revision of lines and
21 grades on a portion of City Plan No.
22 167, within the area bounded by 67th
23 Street, Vine Street, 69th Street and
24 Haverford Avenue, by striking portions
25 of certain streets from the City Plan,

1 vacating portions of certain streets
2 from the City Plan, and reserving and
3 placing on the City Plan multiple right-
4 of-ways for gas main purposes and public
5 utility purposes, all under certain
6 terms and conditions.

7 Bill No. 210506, as previously
8 mentioned, is being held.

9 And finally Bill 210509, an
10 ordinance amending Title 12 of The
11 Philadelphia Code, entitled "Traffic
12 Code," by creating a new Chapter
13 12-3500, entitled "Personal Delivery
14 Devices," to regulate the operation of
15 Personal Delivery Devices within the
16 City of Philadelphia, in certain
17 circumstances, all under certain terms
18 and conditions.

19 These are the bills to be heard
20 today by the Committee.

21 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank you,
22 Mr. Clerk.

23 Before we begin to hear
24 testimony from the witnesses we have
25 before us today, everyone who's been

1 invited to the meeting to testify should
2 be aware that the public hearing is now
3 being recorded. Because the hearing is
4 public, participants and viewers have no
5 reasonable expectation of privacy. By
6 continuing to be in the meeting, you are
7 consenting to be recorded.

8 Additionally, prior to
9 recognizing Members for questions or
10 comments they have for the witnesses, I
11 will note for the record at this time
12 that we will use the chat feature
13 available in Microsoft Teams to allow
14 Members to signify that they wish to be
15 recognized. In order to comply with the
16 Sunshine Act, the chat feature must only
17 be used for this purpose.

18 I would also like to note for
19 the record that Councilmember Brooks, a
20 member of the Committee, is also
21 present.

22 Mr. Maynard, will you please
23 call the first witness we have to
24 testify this morning as well as the
25 bill.

1 THE CLERK: Mr. Chair, the
2 first bill we'll hear on is Bill No.
3 210509. The first two witnesses we'll
4 hear from are Chris Puchalsky, OTIS; and
5 Dionne Bracley from the PPA. And we'll
6 then hear public testimony on that same
7 bill.

8 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Mr. Chair,
9 can I be recognized before you take
10 witnesses on this bill?

11 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Absolutely.
12 Thank you, Mr. Maynard.

13 Chair recognizes the sponsor of
14 the bill, Councilmember Green.

15 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you,
16 Mr. Chair. Thank you, members of the
17 Street and Services Committee. Although
18 I'm not a member of the Committee, I am
19 the sponsor of this bill.

20 The concern regarding this
21 bill, the PDD or Personal Delivery
22 Device bill, this was legislation that
23 was passed very quickly last year,
24 signed in law by Governor Wolf. As
25 President of the Pennsylvania Municipal

1 League, we opposed this legislation
2 because it really strips the ability of
3 local jurisdictions like the City of
4 Philadelphia to regulate its own streets
5 as well as vehicles that operate in our
6 streets.

7 Further, the Kenney
8 Administration also was opposed to the
9 personal delivery device legislation,
10 signed in law in Harrisburg based on
11 similar concerns. The concern is that
12 these items or these personal delivery
13 devices, although you may have seen
14 commercials like on Dominos and others,
15 these are small, somewhat benign devices
16 that remind someone of a small little
17 cart or wheelbarrow on a street. The
18 legislation that was passed into law in
19 Harrisburg has a much different
20 perspective. These devices actually can
21 be much large, quite large in reference
22 to the size as well as the speed that
23 they can travel. Plus, under the
24 legislation they are defined as
25 pedestrians and can move throughout our

1 City at a very rapid pace carrying a lot
2 of bulk material.

3 So for someone like myself who
4 has been an advocate for the disability
5 community, I do have some concerns in
6 reference to the ability of these types
7 of vehicles to move around our City, and
8 also the fact that if but for this type
9 of legislation, these vehicles could
10 just start appearing on City streets
11 that are of a large size and go very
12 fast, constituents would have a concern
13 and raise concerns why we as a City have
14 not taken action to properly regulate
15 these types of vehicles.

16 And so, working with the
17 Administration, we're looking to do what
18 we can to address this concern.
19 However, the legislation as drafted is
20 very strict in reference to what it does
21 allow us at the local level to do. And
22 so, this is one step in trying to
23 provide those type of oversight
24 guidelines and safety for the citizens
25 within the City of Philadelphia.

1 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you,
3 Councilmember Green, and thank you for
4 your leadership on this issue. I too am
5 concerned, and I'm curious to hear the
6 testimony of the witnesses as it relates
7 to this particular legislation.

8 Mr. Maynard, can you please
9 call that panel again. Once your name
10 is called, can you please just state
11 your name for the record and you may
12 begin with your testimony.

13 For members of the Committee,
14 we're going to let the entire panel
15 testify first before we open it up for
16 any questions.

17 Mr. Maynard.

18 THE CLERK: Thank you,
19 Mr. Chair. The first two witnesses
20 we'll hear from are Chris Puchalsky from
21 OTIS and Dionne Bracley from the PPA.

22 Chris, if you're ready, please
23 begin your testimony.

24 MR. PUCHALSKY: Yeah. Good
25 morning, Chairperson Thomas and members

1 of the Streets and Services Committee.
2 Thank you for the opportunity to appear
3 before you today. My name is
4 Christopher Puchalsky. I'm the Director
5 of Policy Strategic Initiatives at the
6 Office of Transportation, Infrastructure
7 and Sustainability. I'm here today to
8 offer testimony on Bill 210509. And I
9 would like to thank Councilmember Green
10 for sponsoring this important piece of
11 legislation.

12 This bill authorizes the City
13 of Philadelphia through the Streets
14 Department to regulate the operation of
15 personal delivery devices to the extent
16 allowed by state law. Personal delivery
17 devices or PDDs are small autonomous
18 robots used for parcel and other small
19 package deliveries such as for take-out
20 food. PDDs are being developed by
21 several companies and are in operational
22 trials in several American cities.

23 Act 106 of 2020, that's
24 Pennsylvania Act 106 of 2020, legalized
25 PDDs in Pennsylvania and largely

1 preempted municipalities from regulating
2 their operation. Municipalities may ban
3 operation on certain streets if deemed a
4 hazard, but only under certain terms and
5 conditions. An outright ban of
6 operation means that the City would not
7 survive legal challenge.

8 While PDDs do offer certain
9 benefits, less congestion, lower carbon
10 emissions and cheaper delivery services,
11 they also present concerns at this early
12 stage of development. Act 106 specifies
13 the maximum speed of 25 miles per hour
14 on roads and 12 miles per hour on
15 sidewalks with a maximum weight of 550
16 pounds, and that's before packages are
17 loaded onto the vehicle. This amount of
18 momentum could create dangerous
19 conditions on City sidewalks.

20 Additionally, operation on
21 narrow sidewalks and curb ramps could
22 potentially create problems for
23 residents with limited mobility or use
24 in wheelchairs. Because of the rapidly
25 changing and technical nature of the

1 situation and because of the
2 restrictions placed by Act 106, oTIS
3 believes that a regulatory approach is
4 the best way to ensure that PDDs are not
5 a hazard on Philadelphia sidewalks and
6 streets. Thank you for the opportunity
7 to appear before you today, and I'd be
8 happy to answer any questions you may
9 have.

10 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank you
11 for your testimony.

12 Mr. Clerk, can you please call
13 the next witness for this panel.

14 THE CLERK: Of course. The
15 next witness to testify is Dionne
16 Bracley from the Philadelphia Parking
17 Authority.

18 MR. BRACLEY: Good morning,
19 Council. I did not submit testimony for
20 this Bill 210509. My name's Dionne
21 Bracley from the Philadelphia Parking
22 Authority.

23 THE CLERK: I apologize,
24 Ms. Bracley. That's my error. In that
25 case, the next witness to testify is

1 Daniel Grace from Liberty Resources --
2 excuse me, no. Daniel Grace is the next
3 person to testify though.

4 MR. GRACE: Good morning,
5 Chairman Thomas, members of City
6 Council. My name is Daniel H. Grace.
7 I'm the Secretary Treasurer of Teamsters
8 Local 830. The recent legislation
9 passed by the Pennsylvania legislature
10 regarding personal delivery devices
11 represents a major threat to all
12 Philadelphians. While the Teamsters
13 attempted to explain the massive
14 workforce safety, liability and equity
15 issues to state legislators, our advice
16 was not heeded and the issue is now on
17 your plate.

18 I would like to walk through
19 some of the largest issues that these
20 devices raise for our community. As a
21 labor leader, I would like to start with
22 the impact these devices will have on
23 our community via the workforce. The
24 International Brotherhood of Teamsters
25 alone represent over 21,000 package

1 delivery drivers in the Philadelphia
2 area at companies like UPS and DHL. If
3 the package delivery bots become
4 mainstream in our community, that is,
5 21,000 middle class jobs that are gone
6 or diminished, hurting Philadelphia
7 families, local businesses and
8 decimating the City's tax space.

9 We are nearly out of a pandemic
10 that we got through in large due to the
11 work of our package delivery drivers,
12 who are on the front lines every day
13 making sure that Philadelphia stayed
14 operational. Our Teamster members and
15 other frontline workers delivered the
16 groceries, medicine, essential goods and
17 vaccine that our community needed. To
18 now turn around and automate these jobs
19 with no protections for workers is
20 unconscionable.

21 There are serious safety
22 concerns with these devices. The state
23 law allows for PDD to weigh up to 550
24 pounds plus cargo and move on our
25 sidewalks at a rate of 12 miles per

1 hour. This is a major safety concern
2 for all citizens, but especially
3 Philadelphia's children, senior citizens
4 and individuals with disabilities. To
5 offer a comparison, I bring your
6 attention to another major city that has
7 dealt with this issue, San Francisco,
8 California.

9 In looking at San Francisco's
10 Public Worker Order No. 187703, you will
11 see that these kinds of devices are
12 limited to 3 miles per hour on
13 sidewalks. Compared to other states
14 that have implemented these devices,
15 Pennsylvania is near the top at both
16 maximum weight and speed. Again, for
17 comparison, a similar bill was
18 introduced and defeated in Kansas this
19 year, SB161, where the proposed weight
20 was 150 pounds with 6 miles per hour
21 speed limit versus 550 and 12 miles per
22 hour in Pa. There are state
23 legislatures, both from public and
24 democratic, not moving this kind of
25 legislation due to the concerns about

1 the devices that weigh less than half of
2 what is being proposed here.

3 I also bring to your attention
4 an incident at the University of
5 Pittsburgh where the school was forced
6 to pause a pilot program for these
7 devices in 2019 after the device blocked
8 a wheelchair-bound student in oncoming
9 traffic while blocking the curb cut and
10 the sidewalk. The device crashed and it
11 was less than 100 pounds, much smaller
12 than what has been now approved by the
13 state legislature. Philadelphia
14 citizens should not be the guinea pigs
15 for tech companies to test out how large
16 and how fast these devices can go.
17 Given this knowledge, we ask you to
18 think about whether these devices are
19 safe anywhere in this City.

20 Another major issue was
21 liability. Again, we look to San
22 Francisco's Public Worker Order No.
23 187703 on delivery devices, which
24 recommends a \$1 million general
25 liability policy in addition to

1 automotive liability insurance and
2 Workers' Compensation insurance. With
3 the liability dollar amount in
4 Pennsylvania, the truth is one-tenth of
5 what is in San Francisco's order, only
6 100,000 compared to 1 million. Whether
7 in a rural community or desolately
8 populated Philadelphia, the dollar
9 liability amount is the same, although
10 the risk of accidents, property damage
11 and death is obviously higher in a
12 crowded city like Philadelphia. Again,
13 we ask you to think about whether this
14 artificial liability cap imposed by the
15 state legislature makes it impossible
16 for these devices to be safe anywhere in
17 this City.

18 Finally, there is a question of
19 equity. Philadelphia's sidewalks are
20 not built nor designed to withstand a
21 commercial grade vehicle weighing nearly
22 a half a ton. This is a very real
23 question to consider of whether these
24 devices damage sidewalks and where does
25 that damage occur, to sidewalks that are

1 already damaged in our poorest
2 neighborhoods.

3 If the devices cannot operate
4 on damaged sidewalks and our poorest
5 residents not get the benefits of these
6 devices who ultimately pays for the
7 ongoing damage, this is a very real
8 possibility that these devices continue
9 the already extreme trend of set of
10 advances and rules for the wealthy
11 leaving nothing behind for our
12 low-income residents.

13 In conclusion, the state
14 legislature has dropped an
15 irresponsible, unvetted piece of
16 legislation onto your lap and has at the
17 same time limited your control on how to
18 responsibly regulate this kind of
19 technology. Even compared to states
20 that have passed some kind of
21 legislation on this topic, Pennsylvania
22 remains one of the most hazardous states
23 on this issue given the extremely high
24 weight limit compared with one of the
25 highest speed limits along with the low

1 liability dollar amount. It is our
2 position that given the workforce,
3 safety, liability and equity issues
4 these devices raise, that these devices
5 pose a hazard to the entire City of
6 Philadelphia, both physically and
7 morally.

8 Philadelphia has the
9 opportunity to be an example of many
10 municipalities across the state that
11 have had the issue forced on them
12 without any input, and we encourage the
13 City Council to lead on this issue.
14 Thank you for your time.

15 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank you,
16 Mr. Grace, for your testimony. It's
17 good seeing you this morning. And also,
18 thank you for your tireless advocacy for
19 workers in the City of Philadelphia. We
20 appreciate you.

21 MR. GRACE: Thank you.

22 COUNCILMAN THOMAS:
23 Mr. Maynard, will you please call the
24 next witness.

25 THE CLERK: The next witness

1 the Committee will hear from is Titania
2 Markland, followed by Randy LoBasso.

3 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Please
4 state your name for the record and you
5 may begin with your testimony.

6 MS. MARKLAND: Hi. Good
7 morning. I am Titania Markland. I am a
8 (inaudible) Of the Clean Air Council,
9 Philadelphia's oldest environmental
10 nonprofit dedicated to protect
11 everyone's rights to clean air and a
12 healthy environment, which includes
13 being able to safely walk a road around
14 Philadelphia's sidewalks. I'm also an
15 advocate and work with Clean Air Council
16 as well as the advocacy group Free First
17 Philly, the only advocacy group in
18 Philadelphia dedicated to protecting
19 (inaudible) rights.

20 Personal delivery devices or
21 PDDs only advance the bottom line of
22 delivery companies through automation
23 and endanger pedestrian mobility.
24 Philadelphia prides itself as being a
25 walk of the City, and we ask City

1 Council on taking this important action
2 to maintain health, safety and mobility
3 of pedestrians in our City. But we
4 acknowledge that more action must be
5 taken to ensure pedestrian safety and
6 mobility by rethinking curb-side
7 management all together.

8 Clean Air Council and Free
9 First Philly encourages City Council,
10 Mayor Kenney and City agencies,
11 including OTIS and the Philadelphia
12 Parking Authority to continue preserving
13 and innovating pedestrian safety by
14 tackling curb-side management policies
15 and creating dedicated onstreet loading
16 areas in commercial and residential
17 areas. Crosswalks, sidewalks and bike
18 lanes are frequently being blocked by
19 delivery trucks impeding and impairing
20 all modes of transportation,
21 particularly pedestrians.

22 Personal delivery devices are
23 not the solution and will only make
24 delivery congestion worse unless a
25 comprehensive overview of curb-side

1 management is undertaken, and a focused
2 policy that protects pedestrians is
3 prioritized and put into law. The City
4 of Philadelphia must support safer
5 delivery methods that reduce the amount
6 of space dedicated to walking and
7 rolling. Thank you.

8 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank you
9 for your testimony.

10 Mr. Maynard, will you please
11 call the next witness for this panel.

12 THE CLERK: Of course. The
13 next witness for the panel is Randy
14 LoBasso.

15 MR. LoBASSO: Thanks for having
16 me. My name is Randy LoBasso and I'm
17 the Policy Director of the Bicycle
18 Coalition of the Greater Philadelphia.
19 We opposed this legislation in
20 Harrisburg last year and signed onto a
21 letter with other pedestrian and bicycle
22 and disability rights activists around
23 the Commonwealth in opposition when this
24 came up.

25 The biggest problem the Bicycle

1 Coalition sees with this legislation is
2 that PDDs are basically allowed the same
3 rights as pedestrians and arguably more.
4 As we've heard, they can travel up to 12
5 miles per hour and weigh 550 pounds
6 before cargo, which is about three times
7 the limit the state of Washington allows
8 their PDDs to carry.

9 The quick passage of the
10 legislation in Harrisburg left several
11 issues unaddressed, many of which are
12 being left up to PennDOT to decide
13 realtime. Plenty of places around the
14 world have personal delivery devices in
15 use, but Pennsylvania has the most
16 pro-business legislation, essentially
17 giving the robots more rights than human
18 beings. Here in Pennsylvania with our
19 small-crowded sidewalks, we need City
20 Council to do everything it can to rein
21 in this law and keep sidewalks for
22 people.

23 The legislation had put a lot
24 of money behind it. There wasn't much
25 debate over it and there was little

1 fanfare to stop the legislation the day
2 before it was signed. Part of what
3 makes this a difficult issue to comment
4 on today in my opinion is that the
5 legislation is extremely vague. But
6 here is what we do know which we have
7 already heard from some witnesses, which
8 is that these things can weigh up to 550
9 pounds, which means we're basically
10 going to have refrigerators rolling down
11 Chestnut Street in addition to all the
12 regular foot traffic.

13 Number two, it's unclear how we
14 will keep them from blocking sidewalks,
15 ADA ramps, which is already a huge
16 problem in the City, especially in
17 winter months. It's also unclear how
18 they will react to people in
19 wheelchairs, children and dogs. The
20 PDDs are allowed to ride on multi-used
21 trails in addition to sidewalks, so that
22 doesn't sound like a huge issue, but
23 more and more side paths are connecting
24 people to business districts in
25 Philadelphia, like the new Delaware

1 River Trail that's under construction,
2 which connects directly to Rivers
3 Casino.

4 Lastly, they're allowed to go
5 12 miles per hour, which I can say is
6 about as fast as I can ride my bicycle
7 on a road. So as many complaints there
8 are about people riding bikes on
9 sidewalks, this legislation actually
10 allows much larger, wider and faster
11 obstructions on those same sidewalks.

12 Lastly, it should be noted that
13 this legislation was opposed by most
14 Democrats in the Pennsylvania General
15 Assembly, who noted that it would hurt
16 job creation throughout the state, and
17 this is a legitimate issue. In addition
18 to the obvious safety and space concerns
19 posed by these robots, the delivery
20 cyclists and drivers that have kept us
21 all fed and safe at home around
22 Philadelphia over the past year are
23 potentially at risk with this
24 legislation.

25 Food delivery apps have boomed

1 in the past year, keeping many bike
2 messengers employed during the pandemic
3 and allowed others to take on part-time
4 jobs on their own schedule. So those
5 are the sorts of jobs that will be
6 quickly affected if these robots were
7 allowed to operate in Philadelphia.
8 Thank you.

9 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank you
10 for your testimony.

11 Mr. Maynard, will you please
12 call the next witness for this panel.

13 THE CLERK: The next witness
14 the panel will hear from is Thomas Earle
15 from Liberty Resources.

16 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Before
17 Thomas goes, I just want to take a
18 moment to acknowledge that Councilmember
19 Bass is present in this hearing.

20 Thomas, please state your name
21 for the record and you may begin with
22 your testimony.

23 MR. EARLE: Thomas Earle, and I
24 am the CEO of Liberty Resources, which
25 is the federally funded center for

1 independent living for Philadelphia, and
2 our role includes advocacy to ensure
3 independent living and the civil rights,
4 including ADA access rights for people
5 with disabilities. I am also legally
6 blind from retinitis pigmentosa and have
7 advocated with the blind community,
8 including the American Council of the
9 Blind and the National Federation of the
10 Blind on various rights under the
11 Americans with Disabilities Act.

12 I want to start just by
13 mentioning that the City of Philadelphia
14 already has very many challenges
15 relating to curb cuts and sidewalks
16 without personal delivery devices. City
17 sidewalks in many areas of the City are
18 in dilapidated condition. Curb cuts are
19 broken or nonexistent. To begin adding
20 additional use of pedestrian
21 right-of-ways by nonpedestrians poses a
22 huge danger to the disabled community.
23 Personal delivery devices that weigh 550
24 pounds and can move at speeds up to 12
25 miles per hour is a recipe for a very

1 dangerous accident.

2 I can imagine myself walking
3 down the street on Chestnut, Market,
4 wherever it might be with my cane and
5 not see a personal delivery device
6 coming at me and colliding with me or
7 colliding with one of my colleagues who
8 use wheelchairs, whether they're a
9 manual wheelchair or a motorized
10 wheelchair. The consequences would be
11 disastrous and potential fatal,
12 especially parents with strollers and
13 rolling down the street with a baby and
14 colliding with a potential personal
15 delivery device.

16 Keep in mind that they weigh
17 550 pounds without the cargo. I'm not
18 clear or it's not clear to me how much
19 cargo can be loaded into one of these
20 delivery devices. But let's say it's
21 500 pounds of boxes or 600 pounds of
22 boxes, whatever it might be, the cargo
23 capacity of the device plus the 550
24 pounds of the device, we're talking
25 about over 1,000 pounds of mass coming

1 at you at 12 miles per hour relying on
2 technology that is not certain and
3 notably not precise, colliding with
4 pedestrians who might weigh 150 pounds,
5 250 pounds. Guess what, the personal
6 delivery device is going to win that
7 accident just like a tractor trailer
8 wins an accident against a small vehicle
9 on the highway.

10 We strongly support the bill
11 that would limit or restrict the use of
12 these devices on City sidewalks, and we
13 fully support the City of Philadelphia
14 having the ability to decide and limit
15 where these devices can be used. I
16 agree with my colleagues in Labor that
17 it also impacts the economics of the
18 City, and good paying jobs for our many
19 working families who are involved in the
20 delivery business. Whether they are UPS
21 drivers and other drivers and delivery
22 drivers, these are important jobs that
23 must be preserved and help our City
24 continue on a path of improved
25 prosperity, and I hope that City Council

1 has the wisdom to pass Councilman
2 Green's bill. I know it's supported by
3 several sponsors already, and I really
4 hope that these protections are put into
5 place to safely help people with
6 disabilities not be run over by personal
7 delivery devices. Thank you.

8 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank you
9 for your testimony.

10 Mr. Clerk, can you please call
11 the next witness for this panel.

12 THE CLERK: That is the next
13 witness to testify on this bill. The
14 next bill we'll hear on is Bill 200710.

15 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Okay.
16 Before we go to the next bill, are there
17 any questions from members of this
18 Committee or members of Council that are
19 here present for this particular panel?

20 Chair recognizes Councilmember
21 Green who is present and the sponsor of
22 the bill.

23 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you,
24 Mr. Chair. I want to thank all of the
25 witnesses that testified on this panel

1 regarding this legislation. As you can
2 tell, based on the diversity of the
3 types of witnesses that testified this
4 morning, a number of concerns and
5 issues --

6 COUNCILMAN THOMAS:

7 Councilmember Green, I'm sorry to
8 interrupt you. We can't hear you that
9 well. If you can speak up a little bit,
10 it's a little hard to hear.

11 COUNCILMAN GREEN: It can be
12 the technology. Give me one second.
13 How about now?

14 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Much
15 better, Councilman Green. Thank you.

16 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Multi-
17 tasking in this COVID world, so thank
18 you for that.

19 As I was saying, that based on
20 the diversity of witnesses that
21 testified this morning on this bill, a
22 number of concerns have been raised,
23 especially in reference to the way this
24 legislation was passed very quickly in
25 Harrisburg, but I do have a few

1 questions for Mr. Puchalsky from the
2 Administration.

3 And my understanding is that a
4 personal delivery device or PDD, there
5 is a maximum weight of 500 pounds, but
6 there's no maximum weight of the amount
7 of cargo. So as a number of witnesses
8 have testified and I think as
9 Mr. LoBasso had stated, a refrigerator
10 coming down a street or a sidewalk, so I
11 will make sure I understand from my own
12 edification and also from the witnesses,
13 there's a maximum weight limit for a
14 personal delivery device, but there's no
15 max on the weight of the cargo; is that
16 correct?

17 MR. PUCHALSKY: Yes, sir, that
18 is correct. The State Act specifies a
19 maximum weight of 550 pounds of the
20 vehicle, but no limit on the amount of
21 cargo it can carry.

22 COUNCILMAN GREEN: And also,
23 the maximum speed of a personal delivery
24 device is 12 miles per hour on a
25 sidewalk and 25 miles per hour on a

1 street. And based on testimony from
2 Mr. Grace, I believe that's a quite
3 faster speed than other jurisdictions
4 where we've seen similar type of
5 legislation.

6 MR. PUCHALSKY: Yeah. And I'll
7 just say that while 25 on a roadway
8 might be keeping pace with your average
9 speed on a Philadelphia street, 12 miles
10 per hour is much faster than the average
11 walking speed. The average walking
12 speed is somewhere around 3 miles an
13 hour.

14 COUNCILMAN GREEN: And as the
15 legislation was introduced and passed in
16 Harrisburg in opposition to numerous
17 cities and also in opposition to the
18 Administration as the legislation was
19 drafted, it basically preempts the City
20 of Philadelphia or cities around the
21 Commonwealth from restricting personal
22 delivery devices unless they can
23 demonstrate a hazard. Can you talk
24 through the process based on your
25 understanding and your conversations

1 with PennDOT how a city like
2 Philadelphia would identify a hazard,
3 and what steps is your office taking now
4 to identify streets within the City of
5 Philadelphia?

6 MR. PUCHALSKY: Yeah. Thank
7 you, sir. We have talked to PennDOT
8 about this. We've also started doing
9 preliminary analysis. We would even
10 look at a number of factors such as
11 adjacent land uses, sidewalk widths,
12 pedestrian volumes in order to determine
13 places where we would ban, we would deem
14 it a hazard to operate, especially on
15 the sidewalk of a given street.

16 And just to be clear, this
17 is -- we're only allowed by the state
18 law to regulate on streets that are
19 under our control, so not on the PennDOT
20 roads, but we think it will be effective
21 if most of the City streets that we see,
22 especially on the sidewalks just
23 initially it looks like a hazard.

24 Just to make a point though,
25 somewhat awkwardly the state law sets up

1 a situation where we can't preemptively
2 put in a ban. We have to meet with the
3 company wishing to operate first.

4 COUNCILMAN GREEN: And it's my
5 understanding that OTIS is in the
6 process of looking at streets around the
7 City of Philadelphia so that way you can
8 identify those streets based on your
9 observation that would be considered a
10 hazard, and using that map as a way to
11 have that information readily apparent.

12 As of this point, are you aware
13 of any permanent requests for the City
14 of Philadelphia for any entities that
15 would like to operate a personal
16 delivery device in the City of
17 Philadelphia?

18 MR. PUCHALSKY: No, we're aware
19 of no permanent requests. There is
20 currently operation in the City of
21 Pittsburgh on a trial basis. They had
22 one trial and they're getting ready to
23 start another trial. There are no
24 current applications for operation in
25 the City of Philadelphia. It's my sense

1 that after getting this bill passed,
2 some of the delivery companies
3 temporarily shifted to focusing on
4 COVID-related vaccine delivery. But
5 once that was over, it was likely they
6 were to get back to this initiative.

7 COUNCILMAN GREEN: And then
8 also, how would you engage the public,
9 because I think one of the concerns that
10 I thought about and I think others have
11 also thought that the way this
12 legislation is drafted, basically an
13 operator could come and decide if they
14 want to operate a personal delivery
15 device in the City of Philadelphia and
16 there really would not be that type of
17 input from the public. And my concern
18 is that how do we provide the
19 opportunity for those in the City of
20 Philadelphia to state that their street
21 where they live or nearby could be a
22 possible hazard?

23 I can think of a situation of a
24 school or a library that's on a very
25 heavily traveled area or a school or

1 library, another type of location like a
2 recreation center that's not on a
3 heavily traveled street. But a lot of
4 people in that community may use that
5 roadway, especially during certain hours
6 of the day like when school lets out
7 like 3 o'clock, so it may not be on an
8 apparent and very busy street, but maybe
9 on the afternoons and most people in
10 that immediate vicinity use that roadway
11 or sidewalk pretty regularly in the
12 afternoon, and that could cause a
13 concern if this is a street removed from
14 a more heavily traveled street and now
15 you're having these very large personal
16 delivery devices possibly on a street
17 that may be near a recreation center or
18 a senior center or a library and could
19 impact those that have a physical or
20 learning difference.

21 MR. PUCHALSKY: Yeah. We would
22 hope to engage the public first through
23 implementing a regulatory process to
24 make sure that we're catching those
25 locations in our initial set of ban list

1 for any given operator. Furthermore,
2 during any ongoing operations, we would
3 want to make use of the 311 system to be
4 nimble so that if we for whatever reason
5 miss a location that is causing a
6 problem, you indicated some possible
7 temporal situations where it's only
8 certain times of day, we would hope to
9 hear that through the 311 system and
10 then revisit and update any ban list
11 based on what we're hearing, if the
12 devices are causing a problem.

13 COUNCILMAN GREEN: And this is
14 my last question: When do you think
15 will be the timeline for when your
16 office will be able to try to have at
17 least a draft list of streets that you
18 would consider as hazards within the
19 City of Philadelphia?

20 MR. PUCHALSKY: Yeah. I think
21 should the bill pass before the summer
22 break, we would hope to have at least
23 some initial set before the end of the
24 summer. I think that depends on
25 staffing need and what else is going on,

1 and if we should hear of an operator
2 wanting to come to town, we can
3 accelerate that timeline, if need be.

4 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Okay. Thank
5 you, Mr. Puchalsky.

6 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank you,
8 Councilmember Green.

9 Are there any other questions
10 from members of this Committee for this
11 panel and this particular legislation?

12 (No response.)

13 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Hearing
14 none, I want to thank everybody on this
15 panel for your testimony. Again, thank
16 you to the sponsor of the bill. We
17 appreciate your leadership and we
18 appreciate your dialogue.

19 Mr. Clerk, can you please call
20 the next set of bills. Before we go on
21 to witnesses, I want to allow the
22 sponsor of the next set of bills to make
23 a few remarks.

24 Mr. Clerk.

25 THE CLERK: The next bills

1 we'll hear are Bills 200710, 200711, and
2 200712. Dionne Bracley from PPA will be
3 testifying on all three and Chris
4 Puchalsky from OTIS will be testifying
5 on 200712.

6 Madam Councilwoman.

7 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

8 Thank you --

9 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Before
10 we -- yup, Chair recognizes
11 Councilmember Sanchez.

12 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

13 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

14 Thank you all so much. I used
15 to be Vice-chair of this Committee, and
16 I forgot all of the work that needs to
17 be done on a Committee like this one.
18 And I want to thank Councilman Green for
19 addressing the particular issue of the
20 previous bill, as we need to make sure
21 it's accessibility throughout this City,
22 at the same time looking at the future
23 workforce challenges that we face, so I
24 want to thank him for that.

25 The next set of bills has been

1 part of our work as all of you know.
2 Particularly in changing and gentrifying
3 neighborhoods, there's this constant
4 pressure between long-term, fixed income
5 residents and some of the new
6 developments. I represent 10 El stops
7 and we have tried to incentivize and
8 encourage dense development as a way of
9 obtaining affordability, but with that
10 comes many, many challenges.

11 I have been working with six
12 RCOs in South Kensington over the last
13 year and a half on many zoning-related
14 land use issues. We just completed a
15 corrective zoning map to help provide
16 predictability and at the same time
17 allow residents to have a say in the
18 types of amenities and developments that
19 they want in the neighborhood.

20 As part of that process, there
21 are 12 agenda items that are not zoning-
22 based, but they do lack quality of life
23 and development in the neighborhood.
24 The three bills before you are one of
25 the issues. Parking around

1 transportation centers, parking with
2 high impact developments coming in the
3 community.

4 I want to thank the Law
5 Department, the Philadelphia Parking
6 Authority and our OTIS Department that
7 you'll hear from for working with our
8 office around these bills. So what are
9 we trying to do, we're trying to strike
10 a balance between residents need for
11 parking and high density impact and at
12 the same time ensuring that long-term
13 residents on fixed incomes do not feel
14 displaced when they have to be part and
15 participate in a residential parking
16 situation to allow the development along
17 the transportation center to continue.

18 So Bill 200710 allows for the
19 7th Councilmanic District to create its
20 own parking grid. As a pilot, this is
21 necessary because we are in the middle
22 of Fishtown, North Liberties and the
23 Temple development area. And what we
24 see many, many times is people who have
25 parking permits in those zones, parking

1 long-term in parking zones in our
2 District at many times spending the
3 whole weekend Ubering while they're
4 parked in front of someone's home, and
5 this is one of the ways we want to
6 address that to create a zone and a
7 pilot so that we can test several
8 things. What doesn't work we will
9 modify, but at least try to address some
10 of these issues.

11 Bill 200711, this is an
12 important piece of the debate around how
13 high impact mixed developments come in
14 the neighborhood. We have many
15 developments who provide onsite parking,
16 but we have discovered that residential
17 parking permits are cheaper, so folks
18 move into these high-rise developments
19 and don't want to utilize the parking
20 provided by the developments, but then
21 get the parking permit on off streets.

22 And so, one of the areas of the
23 RCOs identified is problematic is
24 that -- and again, this is a pilot that
25 we will be working with the Parking

1 Authority and oTIS. This would limit
2 the ability for folks to get a much
3 cheaper parking option when onsite
4 parking is provided.

5 And finally, Bill 200712, one
6 of the things that we heard from
7 long-term residents was I've lived here
8 all my life, I can't go to a doctor's
9 appointment because someone's taking my
10 parking spot, and we wanted to provide a
11 low-income option for these residents.
12 We want to thank Revenue and again, the
13 Law Department and Parking Authority for
14 working with us on this, as we will tie
15 in an affordable parking permit along
16 with some of our other residential
17 options, income-based programs like TAP
18 and other things to permit seniors and
19 fixed-income folks for getting one
20 permit based on income, but then also
21 offsetting that with an increase for
22 second, third cars.

23 Again, this is a pilot. I want
24 to thank the Law Department, Revenue,
25 oTIS and the Parking Authority. We will

1 be working with them on promulgating
2 regulations for its implementation in
3 the next 180 days after the bill passes.
4 And so, I thank the Committee for its
5 consideration. I thank all the folks
6 who have worked with us, and I look
7 forward again to piloting something that
8 may help us balance out some of the
9 issues related to high impact
10 affordability as communities get
11 developed like the ones in South
12 Kensington.

13 So thank you very much,
14 Mr. Chair.

15 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank you,
16 Councilmember. Thank you for your
17 leadership on this issue. It's an
18 important conversation everyone's had,
19 and it's one of those things that
20 sometimes gets brushed under the rug
21 with all the other issues that we're
22 fighting on a consistent basis. So
23 thank you.

24 Mr. Maynard, can you please
25 call the first panel for this particular

1 legislation. When your name is called
2 and your time to testify is here, make
3 sure you say your name for the record.
4 And also for members of this Committee,
5 we will allow the entire panel to
6 testify before taking questions.

7 Mr. Maynard.

8 THE CLERK: So the first
9 witness we're going to hear from is
10 Chris Puchalsky from oTIS in order to
11 let him then head to a different set of
12 meetings.

13 Chris, if you can begin.

14 MR. PUCHALSKY: Hello. I will
15 testify on 711 and 712. Good morning,
16 Chairman Thomas and members of the
17 Streets and Services Committee. My name
18 is Chris Puchalsky. I'm the Director of
19 Policy and Strategic Initiatives at
20 oTIS. I'm here first to offer testimony
21 on 200711.

22 I'll say dense, older City-
23 built around blocking and transit,
24 Philadelphia faces numerous parking
25 challenges. Bill 200711 proposes one

1 method of solving the challenge of
2 increasing the supply of housing without
3 disrupting the quality of life for long-
4 time residents. OTIS appreciates the
5 willingness of Councilmember Quinones-
6 Sanchez to pilot innovative parking
7 policies. OTIS does not oppose 200711.
8 Thank you for the opportunity, and I
9 will be happy to take any questions.

10 Now, moving on to 712, I'm here
11 to offer testimony on 200712, which
12 seeks to amend Section 12-2705 of The
13 Philadelphia Code, entitled "Issuance of
14 Residential Parking Permits," to address
15 the cost of residential parking permits
16 for certain low-income individuals. I'd
17 sincerely like to thank Councilmember
18 Quinones-Sanchez and her staff for the
19 discussion and negotiations on this bill
20 over the last week.

21 OTIS supports the intent of
22 this bill, but the current version has
23 several issues. OTIS cannot support the
24 current version, but looks forward to
25 continuing discussions on the bill

1 related to both the policy and
2 administrative issues. Thank you for
3 the opportunity to appear before you,
4 and I'll be happy to answer any
5 questions you have.

6 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank you.

7 Mr. Clerk, will you please call
8 the next witness for this bill.

9 THE CLERK: The next witness
10 for this group of bills is Dionne
11 Bracley from the PPA.

12 Ms. Bracley, if you can testify
13 in order on 710, 711 and 712, that would
14 be great.

15 MS. BRACLEY: Good day,
16 Council. My name is Dionne Bracley,
17 Deputy Manager for the Philadelphia
18 Parking Authority. Thank you for
19 allowing me to testify before Council
20 regarding Ordinances 200710, 200711,
21 200712, entitled "Permit Parking
22 District and Issuance of Resident Permit
23 Parking."

24 My testimony requested the
25 amendment submitted to the bills read.

1 Therefore, I resend my testimony. And I
2 want to thank you, Councilwoman Sanchez,
3 for the amendment indicating that the
4 bills are effective in 180 days. Thank
5 you again. I will be happy to answer
6 any questions you may have.

7 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank you
8 for your testimony.

9 Mr. Clerk, can you please call
10 the next witness for this panel.

11 THE CLERK: That concludes the
12 witnesses for this panel.

13 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Are there
14 any questions from members of this
15 Committee for this particular panel?
16 I'm thinking about the bill cosponsor
17 first. Councilmember Sanchez, do you
18 have any questions or comments for this
19 particular panel?

20 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
21 No. I just want to again thank the
22 departments and I'll continue to work
23 through the departments in the
24 implementation phase. And again, this
25 is a pilot. And it's one of many

1 toolboxes we need to manage the
2 conversations around neighborhoods that
3 are redeveloping, and I look forward to
4 working with all of the departments.

5 And I want to thank them for working
6 with my office, with Andy Rendon in my
7 office and our legal team through this
8 process.

9 And all of you know, I'm into
10 the operationalizing and I want to make
11 sure it works, and I want to make sure I
12 work with the departments so that this
13 is seamless. Thank you, and I thank the
14 Committee for its consideration.

15 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank you.
16 Thank you.

17 Any other members from this
18 Committee have questions on this
19 particular bill?

20 (No response.)

21 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Hearing
22 none, I want to thank all of the
23 panelists for your testimony today. And
24 again, thank you, Councilmember Sanchez,
25 for your leadership.

1 Mr. Clerk, can you please read
2 the next bill and call the next panel.

3 THE CLERK: The next bill we
4 will hear is Bill 210472. And Dionne
5 Bracley from PPA is the sole witness on
6 this bill.

7 MS. BRACLEY: Good day,
8 Council. My name is Dionne Bracley,
9 Deputy Manager for the Philadelphia
10 Parking Authority. Thank you for
11 allowing me to testify before Council
12 regarding Ordinance 210472, entitled --
13 I'm sorry, entitled "Permit Parking
14 District." The Philadelphia Parking
15 Authority has no objection to the
16 ordinance previously read before Council
17 and recommends favorable consideration.
18 Thank you again for your time. I will
19 be happy to respond to questions at this
20 time.

21 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank you
22 for your testimony.

23 Mr. Clerk, you said that was
24 the only witness for this particular; is
25 that correct?

1 THE CLERK: That is correct,
2 Mr. Chair.

3 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Before I
4 open it up to the Committee, I know that
5 at one point the bill's sponsor was in
6 the hearing today, Councilmember Jones.
7 Councilmember Jones, if you are here, I
8 don't know if you want to make a few
9 remarks about the bill. If you would
10 like to, please queue yourself up.

11 Are there any questions from
12 other members of the Committee for this
13 particular panel on this legislation?

14 COUNCILMAN JONES: Mr. Chair.

15 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Chair
16 recognizes Councilmember Jones.

17 COUNCILMAN JONES: There are no
18 questions for this bill, but I have
19 another bill coming up where I would
20 like to comment on a street striking, I
21 believe it is.

22 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Okay. We
23 got you, Councilmember --

24 THE CLERK: That's coming up in
25 just a few bills. We should get to that

1 relatively quickly.

2 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you so
3 much, Mr. Chair.

4 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank you.
5 Mr. Clerk, hearing there are no other
6 questions from members of this Committee
7 for this particular panel and this bill,
8 Mr. Clerk, I ask that you please read
9 the next bill.

10 THE CLERK: The next bill we'll
11 hear on is Bill 210280, and Laura
12 Copeland from the Philadelphia Water
13 Department is our sole witness to
14 testify.

15 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Please
16 state your name for the record and you
17 may begin with your testimony.

18 MS. COPELAND: Sure. My name
19 is Laura Copeland. Good morning,
20 Chairman Thomas and members of the
21 Committee on Streets and Services. I am
22 Laura Copeland, Assistant Deputy
23 Commissioner for Education, Community
24 Engagement and Government Affairs for
25 the Philadelphia Water Department. I'm

1 here to testify in support of Bill No.
2 210280 sponsored by Council President
3 Clarke, authorizing the Procurement
4 Commissioner to enter into a contract
5 for the construction of a sewer and
6 appurtenant work required to provide
7 public sewer service in the 1600 block
8 of Olive Street. The properties on the
9 1600 block of Olive Street are currently
10 served by a private sewer.

11 The location of the private
12 sewer and the customers' private
13 laterals are in the rear of their homes
14 or run through other properties'
15 basements. These pipes are not
16 accessible by the City or the property
17 owners for maintenance or repair. This
18 situation with the private laterals
19 running through the basements of
20 neighboring houses has resulted in
21 unsanitary conditions within those
22 basements. Installation of a public
23 sewer and connection of those properties
24 currently served by the private sewer
25 will resolve the unsanitary conditions.

1 In accordance with The
2 Philadelphia Code, impacted residents on
3 the 1600 block of Olive Street will be
4 assessed for the installation of the new
5 sewer. These charges will be billed to
6 the individual property owners existing
7 water, sewer and stone water accounts.
8 PWD respectfully requests that this bill
9 be reported favorably out of this
10 Committee and that the rules of Council
11 be suspended to allow for the first
12 reading of this bill at the next session
13 of City Council. Thank you for the
14 opportunity to appear before you today.
15 I'm happy to answer any questions.

16 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank you
17 for your testimony.

18 Mr. Clerk, can you please call
19 the next witness for this bill.

20 THE CLERK: Mr. Chair, that is
21 the only witness for this bill.

22 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank you,
23 Mr. Clerk.

24 Are there any questions from
25 members of this Committee or

1 Councilmembers present for this
2 particular panel?

3 (No response.)

4 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Hearing
5 none, I want to thank you for your
6 testimony here today. We appreciate
7 your insight.

8 Mr. Clerk, can you please read
9 the next bill and call the next panel.

10 THE CLERK: The next bill we'll
11 hear, Mr. Chair, is 210502. And
12 Jeannette Brugger from OTIS is our sole
13 witness.

14 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank you.
15 Please state your name for the record
16 and you may begin with your testimony.

17 MS. BRUGGER: Thank you. Good
18 morning, Chairperson Thomas and members
19 of the Streets and Services Committee.
20 Thank you for the opportunity to appear
21 before you today. My name is Jeannette
22 Brugger and I am the Bicycle and
23 Pedestrian Coordinator in the Office of
24 Complete Streets in the Office of
25 Transportation, Infrastructure and

1 Sustainability. I'm here today to offer
2 testimony in support of Bill No. 210502.

3 This bill will authorize the
4 removal of one block -- I'm sorry, two
5 blocks of no stopping any time curbside
6 space on the west side of North 13th
7 Street from Spring Garden Street to
8 Green Street. This two-block section
9 will extend the continuous northbound
10 bike lane that exists today from South
11 Street to Spring Garden Street.

12 Constructing this two-block bikeway lane
13 is consistent with the Philadelphia 2035
14 Comprehensive Plan, Connect,
15 Philadelphia's Strategic Transportation
16 Plan and the City's Pedestrian and
17 Bicycle Plan. This bikeway provides a
18 safe, sustainable and healthy
19 transportation option for people of all
20 ages and abilities.

21 There is demonstrated support
22 for this project in the 14th Ward
23 Community Group and the adjacent Parkway
24 Center City School. The Office of
25 Transportation, Infrastructure and

1 Sustainability coordinated on this bill
2 with the Department of Streets and the
3 Office of Council President. Thank you
4 for the opportunity to appear before you
5 today. I'd be happy to answer any
6 questions that you may have at this
7 time.

8 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank you
9 for your testimony. We appreciate it.

10 Are there any questions from
11 members of the Committee or
12 Councilmembers present for this panel
13 and this particular bill?

14 (No response.)

15 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Hearing
16 none, I want to say thank you again for
17 your testimony. We appreciate your
18 insight.

19 MS. BRUGGER: Thank you.

20 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Mr. Clerk,
21 can you please read the next bill and
22 call the next set of witnesses.

23 THE CLERK: Of course. The
24 next bill we'll hear is Bill 210451,
25 Keith Warren from Streets is the sole

1 witness to testify on this bill.

2 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank you,
3 Mr. Clerk.

4 Please state your name for the
5 record and you may begin with your
6 testimony.

7 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER WARREN:

8 Good morning, Chairman Thomas, and
9 members of the Streets and Services
10 Committee. My name is Keith Warren. I
11 am the Deputy Commissioner of Streets
12 with Sanitation Operations. I'm pleased
13 to be here to testify on Bill No.
14 210451, authorizing increased
15 shortdumping fines from 300 to 1,000
16 sponsored by Councilman O'Neill.

17 As you know, illegal dumping is
18 a quality-of-life issue that negatively
19 affects cities and communities. It is
20 normally ranked high in the City's
21 residential survey of most pressing
22 issues facing our City. It contributes
23 to decreased property values and
24 neighborhood appearances and leads to
25 other crimes that affect quality of

1 life.

2 Illegal dumping is not only a
3 detriment to our community, but also
4 places a severe financial burden on the
5 City. The Streets Department spends
6 annually \$1.8 million cleaning up and
7 removing illegal dumped materials. Our
8 sanitation crews routinely service the
9 same sites requiring removal of
10 disregarded materials such as
11 mattresses, tires, televisions and other
12 items from vacant lots and desolate
13 quarters and underbridges and
14 underpasses, and placed not normally in
15 high volumes of traffic.

16 During the pandemic, the City
17 experienced an increase in illegal
18 dumping, with many more people spending
19 time at home and doing DIY projects.
20 We've seen tonnage of shortdumping
21 increased to about 30 percent, which
22 also mirrored the increased tonnage of
23 our daily trash collection and
24 recyclables. Many of these materials
25 are being improperly disposed of outside

1 of homes, and we have seen an increase
2 of residential trash being dumped as
3 well as building material in
4 underbridges and remote areas.

5 As a result, an increase in
6 dumping annually disposal costs to \$10.8
7 million. During the early phase of the
8 pandemic, we have temporarily suspended
9 SWEEP enforcement efforts. This
10 significantly impacted illegal dumping
11 because the dumpers who are aware of
12 that, enforcement became even more
13 strenuous than it normally is. While
14 our SWEEP officers have returned to full
15 duty, deployment and citing violators
16 for dumping, the dumpers have become
17 more brazen and the amounts of illegal
18 dumping have increased to widespread
19 areas across the City.

20 To date, the Streets
21 Departments has installed a total of 250
22 illegal dumping cameras to catch
23 violators. We have had success in many
24 of the locations that we are monitoring.
25 Less dumping has been disposed of in

1 these spots. We continue to install
2 cameras to known hotspots as part of a
3 program to seek out and capture illegal
4 dumpers, but the dumpers are becoming
5 more savvy and adjusted to our
6 enforcement efforts.

7 We must take every effort to
8 deter this epidemic of illegal dumping
9 that's plaguing our City. That's why
10 the Streets Department wholeheartedly
11 supports this bill to increase illegal
12 dumping fines from \$300 to \$1,000. It's
13 critical that we work together to
14 increase enforcement efforts, revamp
15 legislations and find better ways to
16 hold violators accountable for their
17 harmful illegal actions. We thank you
18 for introducing this bill and increasing
19 the fines of environmental fines such as
20 illegal dumping. It sends a clear
21 message that polluting our neighborhoods
22 of the City with illegal dumping will
23 not be tolerated, and that severe
24 enforcement measurements will be taken
25 when we catch those in the act. Thank

1 you for the opportunity to testify and
2 support this bill.

3 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank you.
4 Before you go, I have a few questions.

5 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER WARREN:
6 Okay.

7 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Before you
8 go, I have a few questions real quick.
9 You said you guys have installed 250
10 cameras across the City of Philadelphia
11 to address this issue of illegal
12 dumping. Where are those cameras
13 installed? Can you tell us where those
14 cameras are installed and how you picked
15 those locations?

16 I've been doing a number of
17 different initiatives across the City,
18 including the cleanup we did earlier.
19 We were in the Germantown section. And
20 one of the concerns that was
21 communicated to us in the Germantown
22 section was this issue of illegal
23 dumping and there not being enough
24 cameras to address this issue.

25 One of the things that I was

1 informed that people were encouraged to
2 do was to purchase the cameras
3 themselves and be forced to forward that
4 information to us. So I know you might
5 not have this information readily
6 available right now, but I would like to
7 know where those 250 cameras are
8 located. I would like to see them by
9 Councilmanic District. And I would also
10 like to know how we picked those areas.
11 Mr. Warren, is that okay?

12 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER WARREN:

13 Yes. I can certainly get the list
14 forwarded to you where we installed
15 illegal dumping cameras. They are added
16 to a city-wide network of cameras that
17 involve the police, SEPTA, other
18 agencies, so there's a network. But of
19 that network, 250 of them were installed
20 specifically for illegal dumping. We
21 are increasing that network on our own
22 by about 50 cameras per year. Some
23 Councilmembers have contributed funds to
24 us to help us grow that number of
25 installation. It's driven by the most

1 significantly frequently dumping spots,
2 and we're working on -- in fact, we're
3 hoping to have the whole City covered
4 eventually. It involves some
5 infrastructure. Some fiber cables have
6 to be laid and some other IT stuff, so
7 we can't necessarily put them where we
8 want them exactly at all times, but it
9 is our plan to do 50 a year on our own,
10 and we will --

11 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: We want to
12 see that. We would want to see that
13 plan. I'm very skeptical when I think
14 about some of the places that I know.
15 Again, we just did a clean-up this past
16 weekend that have been recurring sites
17 for illegal dumping. I'm wondering how
18 do you put cameras in some places that
19 don't have any buildings near them, so
20 where would the cameras go, what would
21 that look like. I have a ton of
22 questions on this issue.

23 First of all, I want to thank
24 the sponsor of the bill, Councilmember
25 O'Neill, because I agree with this bill

1 and I will be voting in favor of it. I
2 do think we need to have an ongoing
3 conversation about this illegal dumping
4 issue and what is being done as it
5 relates to the Streets Department.

6 I'm going to stop right there
7 because I'm the Chair of the Committee,
8 and I'm going to allow my colleagues to
9 ask questions that they may have. So
10 the Chair recognizes Councilmember
11 Johnson.

12 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you
13 very much, Mr. Chair.

14 Deputy Commissioner Keith
15 Warren, first and foremost, I want to
16 thank you for your hard work, your
17 dedication and your leadership as it
18 relates to sanitation and addressing the
19 issue of illegal dumping throughout the
20 City of Philadelphia, but more
21 specifically in the 2nd Councilmanic
22 District.

23 And so, I want to take the time
24 to publicly acknowledge that your
25 efforts have been Herculean in

1 addressing this issue. Because at the
2 end of the day no matter how many times
3 I have called you out in the Eastwick
4 part of my District, we still have
5 individuals who still prey on our
6 communities by bringing down the quality
7 of life of our communities by illegal
8 dumping, so I have a couple of questions
9 that I want to ask in following up along
10 the lines of the Chairman's question.

11 I know we are looking at
12 expanding cameras, right. And so, I
13 want to get an idea of how effective are
14 cameras when it comes to enforcement in
15 deterring illegal dumping. So the
16 camera is there, but tell me the
17 follow-up. Who's monitoring the
18 cameras, how many people are fined for
19 the illegal dumping based upon pulling
20 information from the cameras. Give me
21 an idea of how many people have been
22 fined over the last four to five years,
23 who's monitoring the cameras, how often
24 does that process actually take place.

25 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER WARREN: So

1 the shortdump cameras are monitored by
2 the Streets Department. I have a team
3 that monitors cameras 16 hours a day,
4 but they record 24 hours a day. The
5 camera network is monitored in the DVIC
6 and the Traffic Center, and they have a
7 police monitor on a difference pace and
8 the traffic folks monitor on a different
9 pace, but they're all tied into one
10 network. But the shortdump cameras
11 specifically are monitored 16 hours a
12 day, and then we review the footage from
13 the other 8 hours a day.

14 What happens after we catch
15 somebody. Well, that's the tricky part,
16 because the threshold for arresting and
17 finding somebody for shortdumping is
18 very high, very high. There's a high
19 threshold. What we do is take anything
20 that's actionable and we turn it over to
21 the police, and sometimes we turn it
22 over to the Inspector General based on
23 the nature of the dumping, and we've had
24 some success with that process but it's
25 a tremendous lift. Because even if the

1 police finds something that they think
2 can be prosecuted, then they have to
3 take it to the DA and they make the
4 final determination. So I don't have
5 the numbers in front of me of how many
6 cases have been prosecuted fully, but I
7 can get that information and get it back
8 to you. I can tell you that cameras
9 from my perspective as a person cleaning
10 up shortdumping are more of a deterrent.
11 There are more people who see them and
12 they think better of dumping, so they're
13 more of a deterrent than a tool that
14 would actually have people arrested and
15 prosecuted. But we are working in a
16 subcommittee through all the enforcement
17 agencies in the City to try to put more
18 teeth into that part of it, but I can
19 forward the numbers to you.

20 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: I'm sorry.
21 This is Councilmember Thomas. Just for
22 clarity purposes, and I'm sorry to
23 interrupt, what do you mean that they're
24 used more as a deterrent. So are we
25 saying that we're expecting that people

1 know the camera is there and will say,
2 oh, there's a camera here so I'm not
3 going to dump illegally here; is that
4 what we're suggesting?

5 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER WARREN:

6 Yeah, that does happen. Places where we
7 have put cameras, we've seen decreased
8 dumping. When we capture video of
9 people dumping, it has to be -- it's a
10 very specific set of checkboxes that
11 have to be checked off before somebody
12 can be prosecuted based on what the
13 police and the DA have to take to court.

14 But again, we still put cameras
15 in spots where there's a lot of dumping.
16 It does deter people. When they see
17 that camera, we notice that the dumping
18 has decreased.

19 COUNCILMAN JONES: Point of
20 infor --

21 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: As Chair of
22 the Committee, I just want to reiterate
23 what Councilmember Johnson said, his
24 request when he asked for how many
25 people are actually being fined and how

1 effective these cameras are. I think
2 that what you just communicated to me
3 specifically is very concerning. I
4 don't know if this is the most effective
5 way to spend millions of dollars to
6 monitor an area to catch people doing
7 things illegal, but we're suggesting
8 that once we catch them, we can't
9 guarantee that there will be some level
10 of consequence. So I just want to make
11 sure we clarify that for the record.

12 Councilmember Johnson, I'm
13 sorry. I will return --

14 COUNCILMAN JONES: Point of
15 information --

16 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: I'm sorry.
17 Chair recognizes Councilmember Jones.

18 COUNCILMAN JONES: And thank
19 you, Member Johnson, for allowing my
20 point of information. There is a
21 notorious shortdumping street called
22 Marion Avenue in West Philly. It runs
23 from Girard Avenue to 52nd Street, and
24 everything from trash to dead bodies
25 have been found on Marion Avenue. And

1 at one point, there was a shortdumping
2 of approximately -- and, Commissioner
3 Warren, you may remember, close to 100
4 tires on that back street. Do you
5 remember that?

6 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER WARREN:
7 Yes.

8 COUNCILMAN JONES: And we were
9 able to find out allegedly who dumped
10 those tires. And when I asked the guy,
11 well, why do you continue to shortdump,
12 why do you -- you know we're going to
13 keep coming out. The two reasons he
14 said was because we're going to clean it
15 up and it is cheaper to accept the fine
16 versus the dumping fee that it would
17 cost to get rid of those tires. And
18 it's just mathematics. And so, you work
19 very hard. I must call you 100 times a
20 year about Marion Avenue, but people
21 keep coming and keeping dumping because
22 of those business decisions in
23 mathematics.

24 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

25 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank you,

1 Councilmember Jones.

2 Councilmember Johnson, did you
3 want to continue your line of
4 questioning? We apologize.

5 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: No, that's
6 okay. Because this is good information
7 as we move forward, and I think we're
8 all rolling in the right direction
9 around this issue.

10 And so, Mr. Warren, if you can
11 provide that information, that would be
12 helpful. I do understand the concept of
13 the cameras certainly as a deterrent
14 from the perspective that if somebody
15 sees that camera, they may think once or
16 twice before they decide to actually do
17 the dumping. And so, I do understand
18 that aspect. But I just also want to
19 make sure that in the event that an
20 individual is caught, that person is
21 prosecuted to the full extent of the
22 law, simply for the fact that as
23 Councilman Jones just mentioned, a lot
24 of these individuals, right, from an
25 economical standpoint understand that --

1 you know this already, Keith -- it's
2 easier to dump and get it cleaned up by
3 the City as opposed to taking it to the
4 dumpsite where you have to pay.

5 And a lot of times it's mainly
6 contractors for the most part who are
7 engaging -- not all the time, but for
8 the most part at least in my District
9 and Eastwick are individuals who find
10 back alleyways or areas where it's dark
11 or there's a bunch of trees and no
12 lighting to dump. And I call on you.

13 And I will say for the record
14 you and your team, and hopefully -- I
15 can't speak for all the other districts
16 but I'm sure y'all do it, but elaborate
17 on the new task force that has been
18 established by Carlton Williams that
19 allow community people to be at the
20 table to help address quality-of-life
21 issues around illegal dumping. And then
22 also, Keith, don't be shy, talk about
23 how y'all have a -- I know in my
24 District, y'all have a process where
25 y'all have particularly the illegal

1 dumping hotspots. Y'all have a system
2 where your team go every so often to
3 check those sites to remove the illegal
4 dumping. Elaborate just for the record
5 on that particular program.

6 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER WARREN:

7 Okay. So let me try to back up and
8 maybe I can hopefully answer some of
9 Councilman Thomas' questions here. We
10 are -- the cameras are a deterrent, but
11 we are finding people and we have a
12 process which has a lower threshold
13 where we give restitution and we do
14 clean-ups, which is what generally
15 happens.

16 To prosecute somebody, the DA
17 has a standard of law where they can
18 prosecute somebody and be able to speak
19 intelligently about what it all entails,
20 but we turn over everything we get. It
21 doesn't always get prosecuted, so I just
22 want to make that clear. We do monitor
23 cameras. We do go after each and every
24 person that we see. Again, the dumpers
25 are savvy. They don't wear identifying

1 clothing. You can't get a picture of
2 their license plate. The vehicle
3 doesn't have a name on the side, so it's
4 a tough battle to identify them. But
5 when we do identify them, we get a
6 dumper with a pattern.

7 We sit on them and we catch
8 them in the act, and we've had some
9 success. I just don't know what those
10 numbers are, but it's not a
11 catch-all-be-all. The way we -- what
12 Councilman Johnson is referring to is
13 the hotspots and how we determine where
14 the cameras are going to go is the spots
15 where people frequently go. We have a
16 list of hotspots that we call the Dirty
17 30. In actuality, it's probably up to
18 about 50 locations since the pandemic
19 started, but those are the known spots.
20 One of those spots as Councilman Jones
21 spoke about, that as fast as we clean it
22 up, somebody is dumping there again.

23 As he said to me earlier, I
24 remember the 100 tires because we took
25 another 100 or so off of there about

1 four days ago. Those spots are
2 frequently dumped and people know that
3 we clean those spots and they come there
4 and they dump, and they look at dumping
5 as part of the fees that they pay when
6 we do catch them as the cost of doing
7 business, which is why we're here today
8 hoping that the fines are increased to
9 make the penalty for doing it more than
10 the cost of disposing of the property
11 yourself. That's the spirit of what
12 we're trying to do with the legislation.
13 We're trying to hopefully make the fines
14 when we catch people stringent enough
15 that the next time they will go and
16 legally pay to dispose of what they're
17 dumping. And so --

18 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: And I just
19 want to wrap up on this one last part if
20 that's okay, Mr. Chair, for the sake of
21 timing.

22 One, I just want to acknowledge
23 the increasing of fines is great, so I
24 want to say good job to the sponsor of
25 the bill, Councilman O'Neill. And then

1 also, I hope that as we move forward,
2 maybe the part of y'all strategy, Keith,
3 would be maybe a campaign and
4 partnership with the community to
5 encourage community members to take
6 pictures when they see people illegally
7 dumping, and maybe a process where the
8 police and the DA's Office is working in
9 partnership with Streets to filter that
10 information.

11 And then the other part is I'm
12 a big fan of if you're caught dumping
13 and you have a business, your business
14 privilege license should be suspended
15 from the City of Philadelphia forever,
16 period, like not have the opportunity to
17 do business with our City anymore. And
18 the reason why we have to take those
19 type of drastic measures is because at
20 the end of the day, this issue of
21 illegal dumping is a public health
22 epidemic.

23 And it's tearing the quality of
24 life of our neighborhoods across the
25 City of Philadelphia. And if we don't

1 respond accordingly, then we're going to
2 continuously see people doing the same
3 thing that they already have been doing
4 in the past. And obviously, if we don't
5 change, we're going to always see the
6 same results.

7 Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.

8 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank you,
9 Councilmember Johnson.

10 Chair recognizes Councilmember
11 Sanchez.

12 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
13 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

14 I too wanted to kind of weigh
15 in a little bit around this issue, and I
16 thank this bill's sponsor Councilman
17 O'Neill for increasing the fines. This
18 is about toolboxes that we can
19 establish. We've been working with the
20 Streets Department and the Police
21 Department, because all of you know that
22 the dumping aligns with blight and then
23 aligns with public safety. So it's
24 really important that when we're looking
25 at this work, we're being very strategic

1 about the fact that there's a connection
2 and intersection with all of those
3 pieces.

4 So we have in my District in
5 particular, because of our challenges in
6 Kensington, really worked with the
7 Police Department, Streets Department to
8 provide them with as many cameras as
9 necessary to help us navigate that, and
10 I hope the fines will be helpful.

11 But ultimately -- and,
12 Mr. Chair, as Chair of this Committee,
13 we need to have a bigger conversation
14 around going back to some of the
15 services we provided in the past that we
16 eliminated or modified which was bulk
17 trash at home, particularly during this
18 pandemic we saw people were making home
19 improvements and some of those other
20 issues. We used to pick that up before,
21 right. And the Streets Department had
22 aligned its budget based on the
23 resources we've given it.

24 I subscribe to you that we are
25 now in a place where deliveries are

1 going to continue to increase, home
2 improvement is going to continue to be
3 an issue, and we should be encouraging
4 people to make those home improvements,
5 but should begin to have a conversation
6 around our litter indexes and then our
7 ability to modify and go back to some of
8 those services that I believe helped us
9 get a better handle on our trash
10 situation.

11 The bad actors are the bad
12 actors and that's why we're here fining
13 them, but they're also realistically
14 home improvement and other situations
15 where folks don't have access to go to
16 the dumpsters and they don't have those
17 things. So it's about that broader
18 conversation. I, you know, in
19 particular for districts like mine, I
20 know that just like Councilman Jones, we
21 are always tapping the Department and
22 they do the best they can in responding,
23 but we need to take a breather and step
24 back and say, we need all the toolboxes,
25 cameras, fines but we also need to look

1 at the reality of what a COVID world
2 looks like and respond accordingly,
3 because I think if we can't get public
4 safety and sanitation right in the City,
5 it doesn't matter what else we do.
6 People are frustrated with us, and I
7 think it's time -- and I know this
8 budget enhances the Streets Department
9 budget to a certain degree and that
10 we're going to go back to some of the
11 street cleaning. But I would say that
12 bulk pickup is also something that has
13 to be reconsidered in the future as we
14 move forward.

15 So thank you to the Streets
16 Department. Thank you to all their team
17 for doing what you can with what you
18 have, and folks have worked incredibly
19 hard. But now we got to take a big
20 picture and view around how we want the
21 Department to help us improve the
22 quality of life for folks, so thank you.

23 Thank you, Commissioner.

24 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank you,
25 Councilmember Sanchez. I appreciate

1 your commentary. I think you're spot
2 on. We're going to take note on what
3 you said around bulk trash and make sure
4 that we work with the Commissioners to
5 be able to do something about that.

6 And thank you, Commissioner
7 Warren, for being here today and the
8 entire Department. Like the
9 Councilmembers said, I too and my team
10 call on you guys often and you often
11 deliver for us, so we appreciate the
12 support and we look forward to
13 continuing this conversation as well as
14 working with you in the future, so thank
15 you for being here today.

16 And of course, thank you to the
17 bill's sponsor Councilmember O'Neill for
18 taking leadership on this issue and
19 creating the dialogue.

20 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER WARREN:
21 Thank you for allowing me to testify,
22 Chairman Thomas. And I just do want to
23 make one quick note about our citywide
24 task force that the Commissioner did
25 establish that partners with community

1 groups and stakeholders to address these
2 quality of life and blight issues. It
3 meets monthly, and we take input from
4 the community and from Council office
5 about where we should be better
6 concentrating our efforts back to what
7 you said on how the spots are picked.

8 We do encourage the public to
9 report illegal shortdumping. Keep in
10 mind they say, please don't engage those
11 people. That's for the police, but any
12 information you can pass forward, time
13 of day that it's happening, type of
14 vehicles that they're using, license
15 plates if you can get it, description of
16 the individuals doing it, we encourage
17 those things short of you, the public,
18 engaging shortdumpers themselves and
19 putting yourself in harm's way. We ask
20 that you not do that, but we will gladly
21 take all of the information that we can
22 get to try to combat those shortdumpers.

23 And I want to publicly thank
24 Councilwoman Sanchez, Councilman
25 Squilla, President Clarke, Councilman

1 Jones, Councilwoman Gauthier,
2 Councilwoman Richardson and Councilman
3 Johnson for sponsoring cameras in their
4 districts, which went a long way to help
5 us get to the network we're trying to
6 build.

7 Without that help from City
8 Council, our budget can't support it.
9 Those cameras are \$6,000 a piece and the
10 installation is another 1500 more, I
11 think. So all of those Councilpeople
12 and the whole Council, Councilman
13 Thomas, you're also very helpful in
14 helping us build a network faster than
15 our budget would allow us, and hopefully
16 the deterrent will lead to elimination
17 of shortdumping. So thank you and thank
18 you for allowing me to testify.

19 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank you.
20 We appreciate it. We appreciate your
21 testimony, and thank you for the
22 commentary.

23 Mr. Clerk, can you please call
24 the next witness -- the next panel for
25 the next bill. I'm sorry.

1 THE CLERK: The next bill we'll
2 hear on is Bill 210504. And before I
3 call the witnesses, the sponsor of the
4 bill had indicated he wanted to speak.
5 Councilmember Jones.

6 COUNCILMAN JONES: Yes. Thank
7 you, Mr. Chairman.

8 And I want you to excuse my
9 track suit because I have come out of
10 retirement. I used to be a track coach,
11 Member Thomas, and I've been convinced
12 to this summer volunteer my time to do
13 some of that, so we're going to have our
14 first practice this afternoon. So I'm
15 excited. You know how that is.

16 I wanted to rise today,
17 Mr. Chairman, to talk to this bill.
18 Otherwise, it would be nondescript, an
19 ordinance that strikes the street, but
20 its connectivity to what I think is
21 something that you hold near and dear is
22 to ACES Charter, West Philly ACES
23 Charter, which is an African
24 American-owned charter school, which is
25 making a remarkable difference in my

1 District and throughout the City. They
2 have a waiting list of people looking to
3 get into that school and need to make
4 plans for expansion. So the striking of
5 that street leads to an expansion. The
6 expansion leads to more bodies that are
7 able to take advantage of their unique
8 presentation of educational information.

9 I think it's also important
10 that their location there is right
11 adjacent, Member Thomas, to a golf
12 course. We're putting close to \$60
13 million, not of City dollars, but of
14 private dollars into that golf course.
15 At that golf course, they have decided
16 to sponsor a team at West Philly ACES
17 Charter School. They have also agreed
18 to take five students from their school
19 a year to train them on golf course
20 management so that they can learn not
21 just how to be a caddy, but caddies make
22 a lot of money these days, but how to
23 tend to the shrubbery and deal with
24 insecticides and deal with how to make
25 sure that shrubbery is maintained.

1 So all of these benefits come
2 from a nondescript piece of ordinance
3 that's under your Committee that isn't
4 sexy. You're not going to get it on the
5 front page of the paper. But to the
6 students in that area, it's
7 life-changing. And so, I wanted to
8 thank you for agreeing to be Chair of
9 this Committee or being drafted,
10 whichever way you tend to look at it,
11 but to make sure that everybody knows
12 that this is the work that matters
13 day-to-day. And thank you,
14 Mr. Chairman.

15 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank you,
16 Councilmember Jones, and thank you for
17 your leadership. One of the things that
18 I say all the time when we do this work
19 is we'll never be able to quantify how
20 many lives we save by the decisions that
21 we make. This is just another example,
22 so thank you. Some young person will
23 benefit years from now from this and
24 they don't even know it. So thank you,
25 Councilmember Jones.

1 Mr. Clerk, can you please call
2 the first panel for this particular
3 bill.

4 THE CLERK: The Clerk calls
5 Noelle Marconi from Streets and Sarah
6 Chiu from Planning. And
7 congratulations, Councilmember Jones,
8 for taking up the track suit and
9 whistle.

10 MS. MARCONI: Good morning,
11 Chairperson Thomas and members of the
12 Streets and Services Committee. My name
13 is Noelle Marconi and I'm the Director
14 of Legislative Affairs for the
15 Department of Streets. I'm here to
16 offer testimony on Bill No. 210504
17 introduced by Councilmember Jones. This
18 is not an Administration ordinance, but
19 an ordinance requested by Peter Kelsen,
20 Esquire of Blank Rome, LLP representing
21 West Philadelphia Achievement Charter
22 Elementary School.

23 The purpose of this proposed
24 bill is to authorize the striking from
25 the City Plan and vacating the legally

1 open portion of Callowhill Street from
2 67th Street to 68th Street and the
3 striking and vacating of 68th Street
4 from Girard Avenue to Callowhill Street.
5 68th Street is not paved or in use by
6 public street and Callowhill Street
7 extends to a dead-end.

8 A right-of-way for gas main
9 purposes within a portion of 68th Street
10 and a right-of-way for gas main and
11 public utilities purposes within a
12 portion of Callowhill Street will be
13 reserved to accomplish existing
14 underground utilities and overhead
15 wires, which will remain in place. This
16 action has been requested by the
17 adjacent West Philadelphia Achievement
18 Charter Elementary School to clear land
19 area for a proposed expansion and
20 improvement of the existing school
21 buildings.

22 Several additional unopened and
23 unapproved streets lying wholly within
24 the land of Cobbs Creek Park owned by
25 the City are also proposed to be

1 stricken in order to avoid dead-end
2 streets on the City Plan. This
3 ordinance is supported by the Department
4 of Streets and is recommended to your
5 Committee for favorable action. Thank
6 you for the opportunity to appear before
7 you today. I will be happy to answer
8 any questions you have.

9 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank you.
10 For the next panelist, please state your
11 name for the record and you may begin
12 with your testimony.

13 MS. CHIU: Good morning,
14 Chairmember Thomas and members of the
15 Committee on Streets and Services. I'm
16 Sarah Chiu, City Planner with the
17 Philadelphia City Planning Commission.
18 I'm here to testify on Bill No. 210504,
19 which was introduced by Councilmember
20 Jones on May 27, 2021.

21 Bill No. 210504, authorizes
22 striking and vacating the legally
23 portion of Callowhill Street from 68th
24 Street to 67th Street, striking and
25 vacating 68th Street from Girard Avenue

1 to Callowhill Street and strike Girard
2 Avenue to 68th Street to 69th Street and
3 to strike Callowhill Street from 68th
4 Street to 69th Street and then strike
5 67th Street from Callowhill to Vine.

6 This bill was requested by West
7 Philadelphia Achievement Charter
8 Elementary School as they're sitting on
9 6700 block of Callowhill. It is
10 currently a dead-end street, which only
11 abuts the school and adjacent public
12 golf course. There are no outlets to
13 the streets, and 68th Street is a
14 nonimproved paper street that is not
15 used by either adjacent property owner
16 for access. Other streets mentioned in
17 this legislation are nonimproved paper
18 streets as well.

19 The Planning Commission at its
20 meeting of June 10, 2021 recommended
21 Bill 210504 for approval. This
22 concludes my testimony. I'll be happy
23 to answer any questions you may have.

24 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank you
25 for your testimony.

1 Are there any questions from
2 members of Council or members of this
3 Committee that's present today for this
4 particular panel?

5 (No response.)

6 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Hearing
7 none, I want to say again thank you,
8 Councilmember Jones, for your
9 leadership. And please make sure you
10 stretch before you go out there with the
11 young people. You can't call in injury
12 to Council. So make sure you're safe
13 out there. Thank you for your
14 leadership. We appreciate all the work
15 you're doing.

16 Mr. Clerk, can you call the
17 next panel for the next bill.

18 THE CLERK: The next two bills
19 we'll hear are the final two bills that
20 the Committee will hear today. They are
21 Bills 210326 and 210327. The sole
22 witness on both bills is Noelle Marconi
23 from the Streets Department.

24 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank you,
25 Mr. Clerk.

1 If you can just say your name
2 for the record and begin with your
3 consecutive testimony, we will
4 definitely appreciate it.

5 MS. MARCONI: Good morning,
6 Chairperson Thomas and members of the
7 Streets and Services Committee. My name
8 is Noelle Marconi, and I'm the Director
9 of Legislative Affairs for the
10 Department of Streets. I'm here today
11 to offer testimony on Bill No. 210326
12 introduced by Councilmember Henon. This
13 ordinance establishes no truck parking
14 and tow away zone regulations on both
15 sides of Sackett Street from Cottman
16 Avenue to Ryan Avenue.

17 The Department of Streets have
18 no objection to this bill. The
19 regulations can be posted within 30 days
20 of the bill's passage. Thank you for
21 the opportunity to appear before you
22 today. I will be happy to answer any
23 questions you may have.

24 Good morning, Chairperson
25 Thomas and members of the Streets and

1 Services Committee. My name is Noelle
2 Marconi and I'm the Director of
3 Legislative Affairs for the Department
4 of Streets. I'm here today to offer
5 testimony on Bill No. 210327 introduced
6 by Councilmember Henon. This ordinance
7 establishes no truck parking and tow
8 away zone regulations on both sides of
9 St. Vincent Street from Sackett Street.
10 The Department of Streets has no
11 objections to this bill. The
12 regulations can be posted within 30 days
13 of the bill's passage. Thank you for
14 the opportunity to appear before you
15 today. I will be happy to answer any
16 questions you may have.

17 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank you
18 for your testimony.

19 Are there any questions from
20 members of the Committee or
21 Councilmembers present for this panel on
22 this particular bill or these bills? I
23 apologize.

24 (No response.)

25 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Hearing

1 none, I want to say thank you for your
2 testimony. We appreciate it.

3 Mr. Clerk, can you please call
4 the next panel.

5 THE CLERK: Mr. Chairman, that
6 concludes the bills to be heard by the
7 Streets Committee for this hearing.

8 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Okay.
9 Thank you, Mr. Clerk.

10 Are there any other questions
11 or comments from members of this
12 Committee?

13 (No response.)

14 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: There being
15 none, Mr. Maynard -- no, I'm sorry.
16 That's wrong.

17 There being no further
18 questions and comments from members of
19 the Committee and no other witnesses to
20 testify, I will ask if there is anyone
21 else present in this hearing whose name
22 we have failed to call and that wishes
23 to offer testimony on any of the bills
24 being considered today?

25 (No response.)

1 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Hearing
2 none, I want to thank all of the
3 panelists and witnesses for their
4 participation today. We value your
5 opinions. I now invite all of the
6 panelists and witnesses to please
7 disconnect from the meeting before we go
8 into the public meeting. We will now
9 pause the proceedings briefly as
10 multiple participants leave the hearing.
11 I'm going to give folks a couple of
12 minutes.

13 This concludes the public
14 hearing of the Committee. We will now
15 go into the public meeting to consider
16 the actions to be taken on the bills
17 before the Committee today.

18 Mr. Maynard, will you please
19 call the roll to take attendance.
20 Members that are attendance, will you
21 please indicate that you are present
22 when your name is called. Also, please
23 say a few brief words when responding so
24 that your image is displayed on the
25 screen when you speak.

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1 Mr. Maynard.
2 THE CLERK: Vice-chair Squilla.
3 (No response.)
4 THE CLERK: Vice-chair Squilla.
5 (No response.)
6 THE CLERK: Councilmember Bass.
7 (No response.)
8 THE CLERK: Councilmember Oh.
9 (No response.)
10 THE CLERK: Councilmember
11 Brooks.
12 (Background interruption.)
13 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: Hello.
14 I'm present.
15 THE CLERK: Just a moment.
16 Okay. Councilmember Brooks.
17 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: Hello.
18 I'm present. Can you hear me?
19 THE CLERK: Yes.
20 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: It sounds
21 like there's some type of glitch.
22 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: We're good,
23 Mr. Clerk. Can you please continue to
24 call the roll.
25 THE CLERK: Of course.

1 Councilmember Johnson.

2 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Present,
3 Mr. Chair.

4 THE CLERK: Councilmember
5 Gilmore Richardson.

6 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

7 RICHARDSON: I'm present, Mr. Chair and
8 colleagues. Thank you so much.

9 THE CLERK: And, Chair Thomas.

10 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: I'm
11 present. Thank you. A quorum of the
12 Committee members is present.

13 The Chair recognizes
14 Councilmember Squilla for a single
15 motion to approve the amendments to the
16 bills that are being considered today.
17 Councilmember Squilla is currently not
18 available.

19 Councilmember --

20 COUNCILMAN JONES: Johnson.

21 COUNCILMAN THOMAS:

22 Councilmember Johnson, are you
23 available? Can you offer the amendment?
24 Can you do that?

25 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Yeah. If

1 you send them to me, I'll do it.

2 THE CLERK: Councilmember
3 Johnson, what I'm going to do is throw
4 the Bill Nos. in the -- actually, yeah,
5 I'll alter the script. We're going to
6 pause for just a minute and I will send
7 you an altered script that you can then
8 read from.

9 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: All right.
10 Mr. Clerk, what we'll do is just pause
11 for a minute. And, Councilmember
12 Johnson, we'll get that information to
13 you right away.

14 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Sure.

15 COUNCILMAN JONES: Hold on,
16 Mr. Chair. I have President Clarke on
17 the call, who if you need a quorum will
18 temporarily appoint me to your
19 Committee.

20 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: We have a
21 quorum, Councilmember Jones. What we
22 need is someone to make a motion on the
23 amendments and a motion on the bills.

24 COUNCILMAN JONES: So if he
25 appoints me --

1 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

2 You're duly authorized --

3 COUNCILMAN JONES: I'm duly
4 authorized, he said.

5 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Okay.
6 We're going to get that information over
7 to you and Councilmember Johnson right
8 away.

9 COUNCILMAN JONES: You got it.
10 Thank you.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
12 Okay.

13 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
14 Pres.

15 (Background interruption.)

16 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Dave,
17 please mute yourself while you're
18 sending the information over. Thank
19 you.

20 THE CLERK: I apologize,
21 Mr. Chair.

22 Councilmember Jones and
23 Johnson, you should have the script in
24 your inbox right now. The Clerk
25 apologizes for the delay. The script

1 needed to be changed during the middle
2 of the hearing.

3 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: So what
4 we'll do is start from the top.

5 THE CLERK: So we'll start
6 from --

7 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: I'm ready.

8 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: All right.
9 Thank you. So what we'll do is, again
10 we've concluded the public meeting.
11 We've already established a quorum. And
12 now that we've established a quorum, the
13 Chair recognizes Councilmember Johnson
14 for a single motion to approve the
15 amendments to the bills that are being
16 considered today.

17 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you,
18 Mr. Chair.

19 I offer an amendment to Bill
20 No. 200710, 200711 and 210712. A copy
21 of the amendments have been circulated
22 to all members of the Committee. I move
23 that these amendments be approved.

24 COUNCILMAN JONES: Second.

25 THE CLERK: Mr. Johnson, I

1 apologize for the interruption. You
2 read 210712. It's 200712. I apologize
3 for the issue.

4 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Okay. So
5 let's take it back from the top.

6 Mr. Chairman, I offer
7 amendments to Bill Nos. 200710, 200711
8 and 200712. A copy of the amendments
9 have been circulated to all members of
10 the Committee. I move that these
11 amendments be approved.

12 COUNCILMAN JONES: Second.

13 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: It's been
14 moved and properly seconded that the
15 amendments to the bills just read by
16 Councilmember Johnson be approved.

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

20 (Aye.)

21 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Those
22 opposed?

23 (No response.)

24 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: The ayes
25 have it and the motion carries, and

1 these amendments have been approved.

2 The Chair recognizes
3 Councilmember Johnson for a single
4 motion on the bills that are being
5 considered today.

6 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you,
7 Mr. Chairman.

8 I move that Bill Nos. 200710,
9 200711, 200712, 210280, 210326, 210327,
10 210451, 210472, 210502, 210504 and
11 210509, including any amendments that
12 have just been approved be reported from
13 this Committee with a favorable
14 recommendation and further move that the
15 rules of Council be suspended to permit
16 first reading of these bills at the next
17 session of Council.

18 COUNCILMAN JONES: Second.

19 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: It's been
20 moved and properly seconded that the
21 bills just read by Councilmember Johnson
22 including any amendments that have been
23 approved today be reported from
24 Committee with a favorable
25 recommendation and further move that the

1 rules of Council be suspended to permit
2 first reading of these bills at the next
3 session of Council.

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

6 (Aye.)

7 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Those
8 opposed?

9 (No response.)

10 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: The ayes
11 have it and the motion carries.

12 This concludes our Streets
13 Committee hearing for the day. I want
14 to say thank you to everybody for your
15 patience as well as your flexibility. I
16 appreciate the dialogue. This was some
17 very important bills and legislation
18 that was introduced today. The Streets
19 Committee normally doesn't have this
20 type of fun, but this was a very
21 informative session.

22 I also want to say thank you to
23 the Clerk for your flexibility as well.
24 I know that there was some confusion,
25 but I appreciate your patience and your

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1 flexibility.

2 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Mr. Chair.

3 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Yes.

4 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: This is
5 Mark Squilla. I apologize. I did step
6 away, but I'm thankful for the Committee
7 to be able to pick that up. Great job
8 today. Sorry about that.

9 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: No
10 problem. Thank you, Councilmember
11 Squilla. We got a great team and we had
12 your back.

13 Thank you, Councilmember
14 Johnson and Councilmember Jones, for
15 pitching in for us. Everybody have a
16 good rest of your day.

17 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
18 Mr. Chairman.

19 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: Thank
20 you, Mr. Chairman.

21 (Committee on Streets and
22 Services concluded at 11:19 a.m.)

23

24

25

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 this is a correct transcript of the
same.

TANEHA C. CARROLL
Court Reporter - Notary Public

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

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