

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Tuesday, June 5, 2012
10:12 a.m.

PRESENT:

COUNCILWOMAN MARIAN TASCO, CHAIR
COUNCILMAN WILLIAM GREENLEE
COUNCILMAN W. WILSON GOODE, JR.
COUNCILMAN DENNIS O'BRIEN

ALSO PRESENT(OBSERVING):

COUNCILWOMAN JANNIE BLACKWELL

BILLS NO.: 120049

RESOLUTION: 120222, 120493

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2 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Good morning. The
3 Committee on Public Health and Human Services
4 will come to order. We'll ask the Clerk to read
5 the Bill -- Resolution.

6 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 120493,
7 Resolution authorizing the City Council
8 Committee on Public Health and Human Services to
9 hold hearings concerning the Philadelphia
10 Department of Public Welfare's practices against
11 Master of Human Services graduates of Lincoln
12 University.

13 Ordinance -- Bill No. 120049, an Ordinance
14 amending Chapter 10-100 of The Philadelphia
15 Code, entitled "Animals," to provide for limits
16 on the numbers of dogs and cats, sterilized and
17 unsterilized, permitted on residential
18 properties, all under certain terms and
19 conditions.

20 Resolution No. 120222, Resolution
21 authorizing City Council's Committee on Public
22 Health and Human Services to hold hearings to
23 examine the prevalence and implications of
24 intergenerational households in Philadelphia.

1 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Thank you. Let me
2 note that Resolutions No. 120222 and 120493, are
3 being held. We will now have testimony on Bill
4 No. 120049.

5 And the Chair recognizes Mr. Brian
6 Abernathy.

7 MR. ABERNATHY: Good morning, Chairwoman
8 Tasco and Members of the Committee. My name is
9 Brian Abernathy, and I am the Chief of Staff to
10 the Managing Director.

11 I am here today to testify on Bill No.
12 120049. This bill is a technical change to
13 further clarify how many cats and dogs can be
14 kept on a residential property.

15 Currently, The Code reads that no more than
16 12 animals can be kept in a dwelling. This
17 provision has led to confusion about whether or
18 not animals can be kept on the property but not
19 physically in the dwelling unit. This revision
20 changes the language to clarify that no more
21 than 12 cats and dogs can be kept on a single
22 residential parcel.

23 This concludes my testimony. And I am
24 happy to answer any questions.

1 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Thank you very much.

2 And you're stating that 12 -- no more than 12
3 cats and dogs can be kept on the property inside
4 or outside?

5 MR. ABERNATHY: Correct. Yes, ma'am.

6 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: That does clarify
7 that. All right.

8 MR. ABERNATHY: Yes, ma'am.

9 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: There any other
10 questions?

11 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Yes.

12 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Councilwoman
13 Blackwell.

14 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you very
15 much. I wanted to -- clarification, if you
16 would, Mr. Abernathy, on what "kept on the
17 property" is. There are some people, myself
18 included who feed animals, who feed stray
19 animals. That doesn't mean you keep them.

20 So how do you clarify that or
21 differentiate?

22 MR. ABERNATHY: Sure. The animals would be
23 housed on the property. So, feeding a feral --
24 feeding a feral cat, for example, is very

1 different than having a domesticated cat that
2 comes in and outside.

3 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Okay. Thank you.

4 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Thank you very much.

5 So if 20 cats come up for breakfast, she can
6 feed them but they have to go away?

7 MR. ABERNATHY: Yes, ma'am.

8 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: I don't do more
9 than 12.

10 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Okay. That's your
11 budget, right? Okay. Thank you very much.
12 Anyone else here to testify on this Bill?

13 There being none, we will now adjourn the
14 Hearing and go into the Public Meeting.

15 Chair recognizes Councilman Greenlee for --
16 to move -- want a suspension of the rules --

17 MR. ABERNATHY: Yes, ma'am.

18 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: -- Bill 120049.

19 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank you, Madam
20 Chair. I move that Bill No. 120049 be reported
21 out of this Committee with a favorable
22 recommendation. And the Rules of Council be
23 suspended to allow for first reading at our next
24 session of Council.

1 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Thank you. It has
2 been --

3 COUNCILMAN O'BRIEN: Second.

4 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: It has been moved and
5 seconded. That Bill 120049 be reported out of
6 Committee with a favorable recommendation and a
7 request that the Rules of Council be suspended
8 so that this Bill can be heard at Council's next
9 session.

10 All in favor will say --

11 (Ayes)

12 The motion is carried. Let me note that
13 the Council Members of this Committee here are
14 Councilman O'Brien, Councilman Greenlee, Tasco
15 and we appointed Councilman Goode who was a
16 former member of this committee. And I think
17 we're fine.

18 Thank you very much. This meeting is
19 adjourned.

20 (Committee Meeting concluded at 10:16 a.m.)

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

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

ANGELA M. KING, RPR, Notary Public

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A Abernathy 3:6,7 3:9 4:5,8,16,22 5:7,17 accurately 7:6 adjourn 5:13 adjourned 6:19 allow 5:23 amending 2:14 and/or 7:20 ANGELA 7:13 animals 2:15 3:16 3:18 4:18,19,22 answer 3:24 apply 7:18 appointed 6:15 authorizing 2:7 2:21 Ayes 6:11 a.m 1:7 6:20	Chapter 2:14 Chief 3:9 City 1:2,6 2:7,21 clarification 4:15 clarify 3:13,20 4:6,20 Clerk 2:4,6 Code 2:15 3:15 come 2:4 5:5 comes 5:2 committee 1:3 2:3 2:8,21 3:8 5:21 6:6,13,16,20 concerning 2:9 concluded 6:20 concludes 3:23 conditions 2:19 confusion 3:17 contained 7:6 control 7:20 correct 4:5 7:8 Council 1:2 2:7 5:22,24 6:7,13 Councilman 1:11 1:12,12 5:15,19 6:3,14,14,15 Councilwoman 1:11,15 2:2 3:1 4:1,6,9,11,12,12 4:14 5:3,4,8,10 5:18 6:1,4 Council's 2:21 6:8 Currently 3:15	entitled 2:15 evidence 7:6 examine 2:23 example 4:24	2:24 J JANNIE 1:15 JR 1:12 June 1:7	O O 7:1 Okay 5:3,10,11 order 2:4 Ordinance 2:13 2:13 outside 4:4 5:2 O'Brien 1:12 6:3 6:14
B bill 2:5,13 3:3,11 3:12 5:12,18,20 6:5,8 BILLS 1:17 Blackwell 1:15 4:11,13,14 5:3,8 breakfast 5:5 Brian 3:5,9 budget 5:11	D DENNIS 1:12 Department 2:10 different 5:1 differentiate 4:21 direct 7:19 Director 3:10 dogs 2:16 3:13,21 4:3 domesticated 5:1 dwelling 3:16,19	F F 7:1 favor 6:10 favorable 5:21 6:6 feed 4:18,18 5:6 feeding 4:23,24 feral 4:23,24 fine 6:17 first 5:23 foregoing 7:7,17 former 6:16 fully 7:6 further 3:13 G go 5:6,14 Good 2:2 3:7 Goode 1:12 6:15 graduates 2:11 Greenlee 1:11 5:15,19 6:14 H Hall 1:6 happy 3:24 Health 1:3 2:3,8 2:22 heard 6:8 Hearing 5:14 hearings 2:9,22 held 3:3 hold 2:9,22 housed 4:23 households 2:24 Human 1:3 2:3,8 2:11,22 I implications 2:23 included 4:18 inside 4:3 intergenerational	K keep 4:19 kept 3:14,16,18 3:21 4:3,16 KING 7:13 L language 3:20 led 3:17 limits 2:15 Lincoln 2:11 M M 7:13 Madam 5:19 Managing 3:10 MARIAN 1:11 Master 2:11 matter 7:8 ma'am 4:5,8 5:7 5:17 mean 4:19 means 7:19 meeting 5:14 6:18 6:20 member 6:16 Members 3:8 6:13 morning 2:2 3:7 motion 6:12 move 5:16,20 moved 6:4 N N 7:1 name 3:8 Notary 7:13 note 3:2 6:12 noted 7:6 notes 7:7 numbers 2:16	P parcel 3:22 Pennsylvania 1:6 people 4:17 permitted 2:17 Philadelphia 1:2 1:6 2:9,14,24 physically 3:19 practices 2:10 PRESENT 1:10 PRESENT(OB... 1:14 prevalence 2:23 proceedings 7:5 properties 2:18 property 3:14,18 4:3,17,23 provide 2:15 provision 3:17 Public 1:3 2:3,8 2:10,21 5:14 7:13
C C 7:1,1 carried 6:12 cat 4:24 5:1 cats 2:16 3:13,21 4:3 5:5 certain 2:18 certification 7:17 certify 7:5 certifying 7:20 Chair 1:11 3:5 5:15,20 Chairwoman 3:7 change 3:12 changes 3:20	E E 7:1	G go 5:6,14 Good 2:2 3:7 Goode 1:12 6:15 graduates 2:11 Greenlee 1:11 5:15,19 6:14 H Hall 1:6 happy 3:24 Health 1:3 2:3,8 2:22 heard 6:8 Hearing 5:14 hearings 2:9,22 held 3:3 hold 2:9,22 housed 4:23 households 2:24 Human 1:3 2:3,8 2:11,22 I implications 2:23 included 4:18 inside 4:3 intergenerational	N N 7:1 name 3:8 Notary 7:13 note 3:2 6:12 noted 7:6 notes 7:7 numbers 2:16	Q questions 3:24 4:10 R R 7:1 read 2:4 reading 5:23 reads 3:15 recognizes 3:5 5:15 recommendation 5:22 6:6 reported 5:20 6:5

reporter 7:21	today 3:11			
reproduction 7:18	transcript 7:8,18			
request 6:7	Tuesday 1:7			
residential 2:17 3:14,22	U			
Resolution 1:18 2:5,6,7,20,20	unit 3:19			
Resolutions 3:2	University 2:12			
revision 3:19	unsterilized 2:17			
right 4:7 5:11	W			
Room 1:6	W 1:12			
RPR 7:13	want 5:16			
rules 5:16,22 6:7	wanted 4:15			
S	Welfare's 2:10			
Second 6:3	We'll 2:4			
seconded 6:5	we're 6:17			
Services 1:3 2:3,8 2:11,22	WILLIAM 1:11			
session 5:24 6:9	WILSON 1:12			
single 3:21	www.strehlowc... 7:24			
Staff 3:9	1			
stating 4:2	10-100 2:14			
stenographic 7:7	10:12 1:7			
sterilized 2:16	10:16 6:20			
stray 4:18	12 3:16,21 4:2,2 5:9			
supervision 7:20	120049 1:17 2:13 3:4,12 5:18,20 6:5			
Sure 4:22	120222 1:18 2:20 3:2			
suspended 5:23 6:7	120493 1:18 2:6 3:2			
suspension 5:16	2			
T	20 5:5			
T 7:1,1	2012 1:7			
taken 7:7	4			
Tasco 1:11 2:2 3:1,8 4:1,6,9,12 5:4,10,18 6:1,4 6:14	400 1:6			
technical 3:12	5			
terms 2:18	5 1:7			
testify 3:11 5:12				
testimony 3:3,23				
Thank 3:1 4:1,14 5:3,4,11,19 6:1 6:18				
think 6:16				