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COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

3

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

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Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Tuesday, June 16, 1998
10:20 a.m.

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Introduction, Consideration and Enactment of a
resolution authorizing initiation of a lawsuit by
City Council to bring about a resumption of service
by the SEPTA City Transit Division, and commencement
of round-the-clock negotiations to settle the labor
dispute between SEPTA and TWU Local 234.

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13 PRESENT:

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COUNCILMAN JOHN F. STREET, Chair
COUNCILWOMAN ANNA C. VERNA, Vice-Chair

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COUNCILWOMAN HAPPY FERNANDEZ
COUNCILMAN JAMES F. KENNEY

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COUNCILWOMAN AUGUSTA A. CLARK

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COUNCILMAN DAVID COHEN

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COUNCILMAN FRANK RIZZO

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COUNCILMAN ANGEL ORTIZ

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COUNCILMAN FRANK DiCICCO

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COUNCILWOMAN JANNIE L. BLACKWELL

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COUNCILMAN MICHAEL A. NUTTER

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COUNCILWOMAN JOAN L. KRAJEWSKI

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COUNCILMAN RICHARD T. MARIANO

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1 SPECIAL MEETING

2 PRESIDENT STREET: Good morning,
3 ladies and gentlemen. This is a special session of
4 City Council called for Tuesday, June 16, 1998, at 9
5 o'clock a.m.

6 (Audience disruption.)

7 PRESIDENT STREET: At this time, the
8 Chair recognizes Velma Diaz, who will give us a
9 prayer for our Council session.

10 MS. VELMA DIAZ: I would ask that you
11 all rise. Let's take a moment to meditate, to think
12 of all that God has done for us and given us.

13 Father, we come to you this morning
14 thanking you for having placed each one of us in a
15 nation, Commonwealth, and city where we are free to
16 advocate for the benefits to all groups.

17 We ask of you to bind all that is not
18 from you in this room, in this building, in this
19 city.

20 As a loving father, you care for each
21 in your creation. Make yourself manifest through
22 the wisdom you give to this legislative body as
23 individuals and as a corporate body.

24 Help us to find peace in you and
25 trust you for a speedy and equitable resolution to

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2 the issues brought forth.

3 We thank you for hearing us and
4 answering our pleas.

5 For we ask all these things in the
6 beloved name of your son Jesus, and all say amen.

7 (Applause.)

8 PRESIDENT STREET: Will Councilwoman
9 Verna please approach the Chair with the
10 resolution.

11 At this time the clerk will read the
12 notice of the special meeting.

13 THE CLERK: Notice of special
14 meeting.

15 Pursuant to the Rules of the Council
16 of the City of Philadelphia, Chapter 1(2), the
17 President of City Council has issued a call for a
18 Special Meeting of the Council on Tuesday, June 16,
19 1998, at 9:00 a.m., in the Council chambers.

20 The stated purpose of this meeting is
21 the introduction, consideration, and enactment of a
22 resolution authorizing initiation of a lawsuit by
23 the City Council to bring about a resumption of
24 services by the SEPTA City Transit Division and the
25 commencement of round-the-clock negotiations to

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2 settle the labor dispute between SEPTA and the TWU
3 Local 234.

4 PRESIDENT STREET: Thank you very
5 much.

6 At this time the Chair recognizes
7 Councilwoman Verna for the introduction of bills or
8 resolutions.

9 COUNCILWOMAN VERNA: Thank you,
10 Mr. President.

11 On your behalf, I offer one
12 resolution, which has been cosigned by several
13 members of Council.

14 PRESIDENT STREET: The clerk will
15 please read the title of the resolution.

16 THE CLERK: A resolution authorizing
17 the City Council of Philadelphia, on behalf of the
18 citizens and taxpayers of Philadelphia, to file a
19 lawsuit against the Southeastern Pennsylvania
20 Transportation Authority, SEPTA, and the Transport
21 Workers Union, TWU, Local 234, requiring the parties
22 to resume immediately continuous and meaningful
23 collective bargaining until a contract agreement is
24 reached.

25 PRESIDENT STREET: This resolution

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2 will be referred to the Council Committee of the
3 Whole.

4 I would like to point out that at the
5 request of Councilmembers, several Councilmembers,
6 the second page of the resolution, the following
7 language has been added. So if all Councilmembers
8 could get out your resolutions.

9 At the end of the, now therefore, the
10 Resolved clause, at the end of it, the following
11 language is added, "i.e., court-ordered supervision
12 until agreement is reached."

13 There was some question in the minds
14 of Councilmembers that the resolution is calling for
15 court-ordered supervision of the negotiations.

16 The Chair has agreed that the
17 amendment will contain that language which satisfies
18 the members of Council who had a concern.

19 The Chair recognizes Councilman
20 Cohen.

21 COUNCILMAN COHEN: I just wanted to
22 suggest, Mr. President --

23 (Applause.)

24 PRESIDENT STREET: Councilman Cohen,
25 you are going to suggest that those words be added

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2 to the title?

3 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Yes.

4 (Duly seconded.)

5 PRESIDENT STREET: Councilman Cohen,
6 I knew he was going to say that. That is fine. I
7 have no objection to it.

8 We will add that same language to the
9 title of the resolution. So that when it is
10 printed, it is printed with that language in both
11 the title and in the Resolution clause.

12 COUNCILMAN COHEN: That's right,
13 sir.

14 Thank you very much.

15 PRESIDENT STREET: Thank you very
16 much.

17 Now, I would like to announce that
18 this resolution has been pre-advertised.

19 A Public Hearing on it will be held
20 on Friday morning at 9:00 a.m. in this Council
21 chamber, at which time the members of the general
22 public and others will be invited to come and to
23 testify on the resolution.

24 I will also note that in our Council
25 caucus, Councilman Nutter made the recommendation

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2 that if negotiations among the parties are not
3 taking place, he recommends that the two negotiating
4 teams come to City Council and listen to the
5 testimony of the people who may have some concern
6 about the strike and what it is doing.

7 And if they are available, we
8 certainly welcome them.

9 At this time the Chair recognizes
10 Councilwoman Fernandez.

11 COUNCILWOMAN FERNANDEZ: Mr.
12 President, could you just read for the record what
13 the revised wording was? Can you just read that
14 last paragraph?

15 PRESIDENT STREET: All I you simply
16 do is period at the end, "until agreement is
17 reached."

18 And now at the Resolved clause, "i.e.
19 Court-ordered supervision until agreement is
20 reached." And that same language would be added to
21 the title of the resolution.

22 COUNCILWOMAN FERNANDEZ: Again, where
23 does that go? The last line?

24 PRESIDENT STREET: It goes after the
25 last word of the last paragraph on the last page of

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2 the Resolution.

3 And it goes after the last word in
4 the last line in the first paragraph on the first
5 page of the Resolution.

6 The Chair recognizes Councilman
7 Cohen.

8 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Mr. President, I
9 think the Notice of this hearing and the session on
10 Friday marks a three-day period in which, in the
11 language of the day, at least in the basketball
12 language of the day, full court press is required.

13 I think the next three days are
14 vital. And I think it urgent that unless results
15 are reached in the next three days, that we as a
16 public body must put full pressure on another public
17 body, meaning SEPTA, to come and bargain fairly at
18 the table.

19 (Applause.)

20 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Mr. President,
21 tomorrow the Council calendar calls at 9 o'clock for
22 a series of Council actions involving appointments
23 to various Boards. Among those are the SEPTA,
24 Philadelphia SEPTA, appointments.

25 I think it imperative that we get

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2 full agreement from the nominees who represent the
3 City of Philadelphia on the SEPTA Board, we get full
4 support from them to make certain that they do
5 everything possible to see to it that SEPTA stops
6 playing games.

7 (Applause.)

8 COUNCILMAN COHEN: I would urge
9 everybody in the chambers to be present tomorrow,
10 when the Council hearings are held on the
11 appointments of the Philadelphia members of the
12 SEPTA Board, so that we can hear what their position
13 will be on this matter.

14 And I hope that each of us,
15 particularly the President of City Council,
16 representing this body, makes it very, very clear to
17 SEPTA that we want this strike settled on fair
18 terms. And fair --

19 (Applause.)

20 COUNCILMAN COHEN: And fair terms do
21 not include union busting.

22 (Applause.)

23 PRESIDENT STREET: The Chair
24 recognizes Councilwoman Blackwell.

25 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you,

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2 Mr. President.

3 With regard to the language just
4 added to the Resolved clause and in the title, the
5 language should read, "Court-ordered Court
6 supervision until an agreement is reached."

7 We would certainly like to amend the
8 language to include, "Court-ordered Court
9 supervision until an agreement is reached."

10 PRESIDENT STREET: Does anybody have
11 any objection to that?

12 Councilwoman Blackwell wants to be
13 sure that it is even clearer. She wants to say,
14 "Court-ordered Court supervision."

15 (Applause.)

16 PRESIDENT STREET: So now we have,
17 "i.e., Court-ordered Court supervision until
18 agreement is reached."

19 (Applause.)

20 PRESIDENT STREET: The Chair
21 recognizes Councilwoman Verna.

22 COUNCILWOMAN VERNA: Thank you,
23 Mr. President.

24 I move that the special session
25 remain in recess until Friday, the 19th, at noon.

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2 (Duly seconded.)

3 PRESIDENT STREET: Thank you very
4 much.

5 All in favor let it be known by
6 saying aye.

7 Those opposed say nay.

8 The Chair recognizes Councilman
9 Nutter.

10 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you,
11 Mr. President.

12 With all the enthusiasm in the room,
13 I want to just remind my colleagues that there was a
14 10 o'clock Commerce and Economic Development
15 Committee hearing on Resolution 970684. All of the
16 witnesses for that hearing are here.

17 I would just ask my colleagues if
18 they could stay, just to establish a quorum. I
19 would greatly appreciate it. And everyone else who
20 is here, you can stay, as well.

21 PRESIDENT STREET: Thank you very
22 much, Councilman. I think some people may be
23 leaving, however.

24 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: It is my
25 impression that they didn't come for that hearing.

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2 PRESIDENT STREET: This special
3 session of Council stands in recess until Friday,
4 June 19, at 12:00.

5 That has no bearing on our regular
6 session session for Thursday.

7 (Special Meeting adjourned at 10:35
8 a.m. 1035 a.m.)

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

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing
proceedings of the Council of the City of
Philadelphia of Tuesday, June 16, 1998, were
reported fully and accurately by me, and that this
is a correct transcript of same.

RE: SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

DEBRA A. WHITEHEAD, RPR