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COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

3

STATED MEETING

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5

Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Thursday, February 7, 2008
10:20 a.m.

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PRESENT:

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COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANNA C. VERNA

11

COUNCILWOMAN JANNIE BLACKWELL

12

COUNCILMAN DARRELL L. CLARKE

13

COUNCILMAN FRANK DiCICCO

14

COUNCILMAN W. WILSON GOODE, JR.

15

COUNCILMAN BILL GREEN

16

COUNCILMAN WILLIAM GREENLEE

17

COUNCILMAN CURTIS JONES, JR.

18

COUNCILMAN JACK KELLY

19

COUNCILMAN JAMES F. KENNEY

20

COUNCILWOMAN JOAN L. KRAJEWSKI

21

COUNCILMAN BRIAN J. O'NEILL

22

COUNCILWOMAN MARIA QUINONES-SANCHEZ

23

COUNCILWOMAN DONNA REED MILLER

24

COUNCILWOMAN BLONDELL REYNOLDS BROWN

25

COUNCILMAN FRANK RIZZO

COUNCILWOMAN MARIAN B. TASCO

PATRICIA RAFFERTY, CHIEF CLERK

26

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V A R A L L O Incorporated

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Litigation Support Services

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Eleven Penn Center

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Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103

215.561.2220 215.567.2670

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COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Good

3

morning. I note that the hour has come

4

and that a quorum of this Council is

5

present.

6

Council will please come to

7

order. Members will take their seats and

8

visitors will retire to the seats outside

9

the rails.

10

To give our invocation this

11

morning, the Chair welcomes Reverend

12

Ellis I. Washington of St. Matthew A.M.E.

13

Church. He is here today as the guest of

14

Councilman Green.

15

I would ask all members and

16

guests to please rise.

17

(Everyone rises.)

18

REVEREND WASHINGTON: Good

19

morning and greetings, Madam President,

20

members of Council. Special thanks to

21

Councilman Bill Green for this

22

invitation.

23

Let us pray.

24

God Almighty, you are known by

25

many names, yet you are one. You are the

1 2/7/08 - STATED - INVOCATION

2 all-seeing, the all-knowing and the
3 all-present God. You are here now with
4 us. You are the source of our strength,
5 of our courage and our wisdom. We appeal
6 to you, oh, God, to provide this session
7 of City Council with the wisdom needed to
8 know the right course of action and the
9 strength and courage to follow through on
10 those convictions.

11 God, we're living in a time
12 when there are masses of jobless and
13 working poor who are crying out for help
14 from those elected to serve them. We
15 pray that the actions of this session of
16 the Philadelphia City Council are a
17 reflection of the fact that we have heard
18 their cries. Help us, oh, God, to help
19 each other.

20 This we pray in your
21 magnificent name.

22 Amen.

23 (Amen.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
25 Chair thanks Reverend Washington for his

1 2/7/08 - STATED - APPROVAL OF JOURNAL

2 very inspiring invocation.

3 Council will be at ease.

4 (Council at ease.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
6 next order of business is the approval of
7 the Journal of the meeting of Thursday,
8 January 31, 2008 and the Journal of the
9 meeting of Monday, February 4, 2008.

10 The Chair recognizes
11 Councilwoman Tasco.

12 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Thank you,
13 Madam President. I move that the Journal
14 of the meeting of Thursday, January 31,
15 2008 and the Journal of the meeting of
16 Monday, February 4, 2008 stand approved.

17 (Duly seconded.)

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: It
19 has been moved and properly seconded that
20 the Journal of the meeting of Thursday,
21 January 31, 2008 and the Journal of the
22 meeting of Monday, February 4, 2008 stand
23 approved.

24 All in favor will indicate by
25 saying aye.

1 2/7/08 - STATED - LEAVES

2 (Aye.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Those
4 opposed?

5 (No response.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
7 ayes have it and the Journals are
8 approved.

9 The next order of business is
10 requests for leave of absence and, again,
11 the Chair recognizes Councilwoman Tasco.

12 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Madam
13 President, there are no requests for
14 leave of absence.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
16 Chair thanks the Councilwoman.

17 The Chair recognizes Councilman
18 Rizzo.

19 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Madam
20 President, there are no requests for
21 leave of absence from the republicans.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
23 Chair thanks the Councilman.

24 The Chair will dispense with
25 the regular order of business to

1 2/7/08 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS
2 recognize the guests and visitors joining
3 us in Chambers this morning. On behalf
4 of all members of City Council, I welcome
5 you to our Council session. We
6 appreciate your taking the time to join
7 us as we attend to the legislative
8 affairs of our city. We certainly invite
9 you to come again.

10 At this time, the Chair
11 recognizes Councilwoman Tasco, who will
12 present a resolution honoring Officer
13 John W. Kenner.

14 Will Officer Kenner and those
15 accompanying him please join the
16 Councilwoman at the podium.

17 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: This is a
18 resolution honoring Philadelphia Police
19 Officer John W. Kenner on his retirement.

20 Whereas, the City of
21 Philadelphia is pleased to recognize and
22 honor Police Officer John W. Kenner on
23 the occasion of his retirement following
24 more than 31 years of service to the
25 Philadelphia Police Department and the

1 2/7/08 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 citizens of Philadelphia; and

3 Whereas, John W. Kenner was
4 appointed to the Police Academy on May
5 24, 1976 and, upon graduation in
6 September 1976, was assigned to the 22nd
7 Police District; and

8 Whereas, in February 1981,
9 Police Officer Kenner was transferred to
10 the Juvenile Aid Division and in March
11 1983, he transferred back to the 22nd
12 Police District. In 1985, he transferred
13 to the Traffic Unit and in 1988, he
14 transferred to the Organized Crime
15 Intelligence Unit; and

16 Whereas, in January 2000,
17 Police Officer Kenner transferred to the
18 Civil Affairs Unit, the department in
19 which he served until his retirement on
20 December the 21st, 2007; and

21 Whereas, during his tenure,
22 Police Officer Kenner has worked
23 diligently to make the Police Department
24 a better law enforcement agency and to
25 improve the quality of life for the

6 Now therefore resolved, by the
7 Council of the City of Philadelphia, that
8 we recognize and honor Police Officer
9 John W. Kenner on the occasion of his
10 retirement after 31 years of service to
11 the City of Philadelphia.

12 Further resolved, that an
13 engrossed copy of this resolution be
14 presented to Police Officer John W.
15 Kenner as evidence of the sincere
16 sentiment of this legislative body.

Certification, that this is a true and correct copy of the original resolution, adopted by the Council of the City of Philadelphia on the 24th day of January 2008, and it is supported by all members of City Council.

23 (Applause.)

24 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: And you
25 will all recognize that he served a lot

1 2/7/08 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 of time in this legislative body, and we
3 congratulate you.

4 OFFICER KENNER: Right in that
5 corner.

6 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Right in
7 that corner over there. And wish you
8 well in your retirement.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
10 Chair recognizes Officer Kenner for
11 remarks.

12 OFFICER KENNER: First of all,
13 I'd like to give thanks to God almighty.
14 If it wasn't for him, wouldn't none of
15 this be possible.

16 Second of all, I'd like to
17 thank my wife for putting up with me for
18 30-some amount of years. And I'd like to
19 thank my captain, Bill Fisher, for eight
20 years of service. And I'd like to thank
21 the FOP, Bobby Herson, the FOP. And I'd
22 like to thank the City Council members,
23 Marian Tasco and the rest of the City
24 Council members, plus my family. They
25 can always be my family, whether I'm

1 2/7/08 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 retired, whether I'm passing by,
3 whatever. I'm still going to stop in to
4 say hello, offer a friendly word or
5 advice. And I'd just like to thank you,
6 God, for these years.

7 Thank you.

8 (Applause.)

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

11 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you,
12 Madam Chair. I beg your indulgence for
13 one moment. I just want to say on behalf
14 of myself and all the members of Council,
15 especially Councilman DiCicco, who he and
16 I have been sometimes the brunt of some
17 pretty crazy activity in here during the
18 years, here and the sixth floor when we
19 were upstairs, you are the epitome of a
20 police officer, strong, honest, tough,
21 but not mean, and we really do appreciate
22 your service. Thank you.

23 (Applause.)

24 OFFICER KENNER: I'd like to
25 add, too, Councilman Goode, every time

1 2/7/08 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 Councilman Goode when he passed by me in
3 the corner, I said, Councilman Goode,
4 every time you put someone in front of
5 you, you always have that person
6 squirming in the chair when they start
7 testifying. He offered me a friendly
8 smile and he said, Look, I don't have
9 nothing else to say.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: You
11 have our best wishes. Congratulations.

12 Council will be at ease.

13 Oh, I'm sorry. Councilwoman
14 Blackwell. I didn't see your light on.

15 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank
16 you very much. I don't know about any
17 special relationships certainly that my
18 colleagues had. And so I applaud him for
19 all the relationships that you've had
20 with so many of us over the years, but in
21 my life, you've always been just warm and
22 friendly and professional. You've always
23 been absolutely great. We'll miss you.
24 Thank you for your years of service.

25 OFFICER KENNER: Thank you.

1 2/7/08 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 feet wide right-of-way for drainage
3 purposes adjacent to the northwesterly
4 side of Bustleton Avenue, all under
5 certain terms and conditions.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
7 you. The messages will be printed in the
8 Journal.

9 I would ask the Chief Clerk to
10 please read any other communications in
11 her possession.

12 CHIEF CLERK: That's all I
13 have, Madam President.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
15 you.

16 The next order of business is
17 the introduction of bills and
18 resolutions, and the Chair recognizes
19 Councilman Kenney.

20 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you,
21 Madam President. I offer one resolution.

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

25 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution

1 2/7/08 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 authorizing the Committee on the
3 Environment to hold public hearings to
4 examine the Procurement Department's
5 purchasing policies and goals related to
6 sustainable and energy-efficient
7 products.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
9 Chair recognizes Councilman Kenney for a
10 motion.

11 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: I move the
12 adoption of the resolution.

13 (Duly seconded.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: It
15 has been moved and properly seconded that
16 the resolution be adopted.

17 All in favor will signify by
18 saying aye.

19 (Aye.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Those
21 opposed?

22 (No response.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
24 ayes have it and the resolution is
25 adopted.

1 2/7/08 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 The Chair recognizes
3 Councilwoman Blackwell.

4 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank
5 you, Madam President. Today I introduce
6 one bill.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
8 Chief Clerk will please read the title of
9 the bill.

10 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
11 granting permission to Sunil Shroff,
12 owner and operator of the newsstand
13 located on the northwest corner of 40th
14 Street and Spruce street, to construct,
15 use and maintain conduits for fiberoptic
16 facilities in, under and across the
17 northwest corner of 40th and Spruce
18 Streets.

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

22 The Chair recognizes Councilman
23 Greenlee.

24 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
25 you, Madam President. I offer one bill.

1 2/7/08 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
3 Chief Clerk will please read the title of
4 the bill.

5 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
6 amending Title 14 of The Philadelphia
7 Code, entitled "Zoning and Planning," by
8 amending Chapter 14-300, entitled
9 "Commercial Districts," by adopting a new
10 Section entitled "Trans-Oriented
11 Development District," to promote
12 mixed-use higher-density development in
13 certain areas in order to encourage the
14 use of public transit and less reliance
15 on automobiles, all under certain terms
16 and conditions.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
18 Chair recognizes Councilman Greenlee.

19 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: That's a
20 bill, Madam President.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: I'm
22 sorry. The bill will be referred to the
23 appropriate committee.

24 The Chair recognizes
25 Councilwoman Krajewski.

1 2/7/08 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Thank
3 you, Madam President. I offer one bill.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
5 you.

6 The Chief Clerk will please
7 read the title.

8 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
9 authorizing and directing the revision of
10 lines and grades on a portion of City
11 Plan Nos. 305 and 306 by placing on the
12 City Plan Delaware Avenue from Lewis
13 Street to Buckius Street.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: This
15 bill will be referred to the appropriate
16 committee, and the Chair recognizes
17 Councilwoman Tasco.

18 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Madam
19 President, I offer two resolutions, one
20 co-sponsored by Tasco and Councilwomen
21 Brown and Quinones, and another
22 resolution co-sponsored by Miller, Jones,
23 Reynolds Brown and Quinones, and one bill
24 on your behalf.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The

4 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
5 authorizing and directing the revision of
6 lines and grades on a portion of City
7 Plan Nos. 387 and 340 by striking from
8 the City Plan and vacating the westerly
9 32 feet wide and variable width portion
10 of Island Avenue.

14 CHIEF CLERK: And a resolution
15 authorizing the Council Committee on
16 Public Health and Human Services to hold
17 hearings on the findings and
18 recommendations of the Urban League of
19 Philadelphia's report "The State of Black
20 Philadelphia," and further authorizing
21 the Committee to seek advice and
22 recommendations on how Philadelphia can
23 level the economic playing field for all
24 citizens.

1 2/7/08 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 Chair recognizes Councilwoman Tasco.

3 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: It goes to
4 committee. I move for the adoption of
5 the resolution.

6 (Duly seconded.)

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

10 All in favor will say aye.

11 (Aye.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Those
13 opposed?

14 (No response.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
16 ayes have it, and the resolution will be
17 referred to the appropriate committee.

18 CHIEF CLERK: And a resolution
19 authorizing the Council Committee on
20 Public Health and Human Services to hold
21 hearings to investigate the City funding
22 and operational changes of Philadelphia
23 Safe and Sound and its impact on the
24 delivery of social services in
25 Philadelphia.

1 2/7/08 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna:

3 Again, the Chair recognizes Councilwoman
4 Tasco.

5 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Madam
6 President, I move for the adoption of the
7 resolution.

8 (Duly seconded.)

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

12 All in favor will say aye.

13 (Aye.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Those
15 opposed?

16 (No response.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The
18 ayes have it, and the resolution will be
19 referred to the appropriate committee.

20 The Chair recognizes
21 Councilwoman Miller.

22 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Thank
23 you, Madam President. Today I offer one
24 resolution.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank

1 2/7/08 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 you.

3 The Chief Clerk will please
4 read the title.

5 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
6 proclaiming April 25th to 27th, 2008 as
7 "Global Youth Service Day."

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
9 Chair recognizes Councilwoman Miller.

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

12 (Duly seconded.)

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

16 All in favor will say aye.

17 (Aye.)

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Those
19 opposed?

20 (No response.)

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
22 ayes have it and the resolution is
23 adopted.

24 The Chair recognizes
25 Councilwoman Sanchez.

1 2/7/08 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: I offer
3 one bill on behalf of the Administration.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
5 you.

6 The Chief Clerk will please
7 read the title.

8 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
9 authorizing and directing the revision of
10 lines and grades on a portion of City
11 Plan Nos. 361 and 367 by placing on the
12 City Plan a 15 feet wide right-of-way for
13 drainage purposes adjacent to the
14 northwesterly side of Bustleton Avenue.

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

18 The Chair recognizes Councilman
19 Green.

20 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Madam
21 President, I offer one bill and one
22 resolution co-introduced and co-sponsored
23 by Councilman Goode.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
25 you.

1 2/7/08 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 The Chief Clerk will please
3 read the title of the bill.

4 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
5 amending Section 19-1303 of The
6 Philadelphia Code, entitled
7 "Authorization to Offer Exemptions from
8 Real Estate Taxes on Improvements to
9 Deteriorated Industrial, Commercial or
10 Other Business Properties," by revising
11 the boundaries of the area in which
12 properties are eligible for exemptions,
13 under certain terms and conditions.

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

17 CHIEF CLERK: And a resolution
18 declaring that certain areas of the City,
19 specifically the area bounded by Delaware
20 Avenue, Shackamaxon Street, the Delaware
21 River and Ellen Street and the area
22 bounded by Christopher Columbus
23 Boulevard, Reed Street, the Delaware
24 River, Tasker Street, as a result of the
25 extraordinary act of the Pennsylvania

1 2/7/08 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 Gaming Board in granting gaming licenses
3 to those particular sites, are no longer
4 found to be deteriorated under 19-1303 of
5 The Philadelphia Code.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
7 resolution will be referred to the
8 appropriate committee.

9 The Chair recognizes Councilman
10 Jones.

11 COUNCILMAN JONES: No bills or
12 resolutions, Madam President.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
14 Chair thanks the gentleman.

15 The Chair recognizes Councilman
16 Goode.

17 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you,
18 Madam President. I offer no bills or
19 resolutions today.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
21 you.

22 The Chair recognizes
23 Councilwoman Brown.

24 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you,
25 Madam President. I offer one resolution.

1 2/7/08 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
3 you.

4 The Chief Clerk will please
5 read the title of the resolution.

6 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
7 authorizing the creation of a Special
8 Committee on Gender Parity of the City
9 Council of Philadelphia, to identify
10 problems related to the social,
11 political, educational and economic
12 empowerment of women and to explore and
13 develop initiatives to advance parity for
14 women.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
16 Chair recognizes Councilwoman Brown.

17 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you,
18 Madam President. I move for the
19 adoption.

20 (Duly seconded.)

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: It
22 has been moved and properly seconded that
23 the resolution be adopted.

24 All in favor will please say
25 aye.

1 2/7/08 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 (Aye.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Those
4 opposed?

5 (No response.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
7 ayes have it and the resolution is
8 adopted.

9 The Chair recognizes Councilman
10 DiCicco.

11 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: Thank you,
12 Madam President. I offer one resolution
13 and one bill. The bill has been
14 co-sponsored by yourself and Councilman
15 O'Neill.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
17 you.

18 The Chief Clerk will please
19 read the title of the bill.

20 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
21 designating the Family Court Building
22 located at 1801 Vine Street as "The Judge
23 Nicolas Cipriani Family Court Building."

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
25 bill will be referred to the appropriate

1 2/7/08 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 committee.

3 CHIEF CLERK: And a resolution
4 authorizing Philadelphia City Council's
5 Committee of the Whole to investigate the
6 conditions and provisions of the
7 agreements between the City of
8 Philadelphia and HSP, doing business as
9 SugarHouse Casino, and between the City
10 of Philadelphia and Philadelphia
11 Entertainment and Development, doing
12 business as Foxwoods Casino.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Is
14 that to be referred to the Committee of
15 the Whole, Pat?

16 CHIEF CLERK: Committee of the
17 Whole, yes.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The
19 Chair recognizes Councilman DiCicco.

20 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: Thank you,
21 Madam President. I move for the adoption
22 of the resolution.

23 (Duly seconded.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: It
25 has been moved and seconded that the

1 2/7/08 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 resolution be adopted.

3 All in favor will say aye.

4 (Aye.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Those
6 opposed?

7 (No response.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
9 ayes have it, and the resolution will be
10 referred to the Committee of the Whole.

11 The Chair recognizes Councilman
12 O'Neill.

13 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Madam
14 President, I have no bills or
15 resolutions.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
17 you.

18 The Chair recognizes Councilman
19 Clarke.

20 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you,
21 Madam President. I have two bills and
22 one resolution.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
24 you.

25 The Chief Clerk will please

1 2/7/08 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 read the title of the first bill.

3 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
4 authorizing the Free Library of
5 Philadelphia, on behalf of the City of
6 Philadelphia, to accept a grant from the
7 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department
8 of Education for renovations to the
9 Central Library Branch of the Free
10 Library at 1901 Vine Street.

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

14 CHIEF CLERK: And an ordinance
15 amending Chapter 9-600 of The
16 Philadelphia Code, entitled "Service and
17 Other Businesses," to add a new Section
18 9-630 regulating the operation of certain
19 take-out food establishments that have
20 limited seating, all under certain terms
21 and conditions.

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

25 CHIEF CLERK: And a resolution

1 2/7/08 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 authorizing the Commissioner of Public
3 Property to execute and deliver to the
4 Redevelopment Authority deeds located in
5 the 18th, 32nd and 47th Wards of the City
6 of Philadelphia.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
8 Chair recognizes Councilman Clarke.

9 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: I move for
10 the adoption.

11 (Duly seconded.)

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

15 All in favor will say aye.

16 (Aye.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Those
18 opposed?

19 (No response.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
21 ayes have it and the resolution is
22 adopted.

23 The Chair recognizes Councilman
24 Kelly.

25 COUNCILMAN KELLY: Madam

1 2/7/08 - STATED - REPORTS

2 President, I have no bills or resolutions
3 today.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
5 you.

6 The Chair recognizes Councilman
7 Rizzo.

8 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Madam
9 President, no bills or resolutions today.
10 Thank you.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
12 you.

13 The next order of business is
14 reports from committees, and the Chair
15 recognizes Councilwoman Krajewski for a
16 report from the Committee on
17 Appropriations.

18 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Madam
19 President, the Committee on
20 Appropriations reports two bills out with
21 a favorable recommendation.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
23 you.

24 The Chief Clerk will please
25 read the report.

1 2/7/08 - STATED - REPORTS

2 CHIEF CLERK: To the President
3 and members of the Council of the City of
4 Philadelphia, the Committee on
5 Appropriations, to which was referred
6 Bill No. 080009, entitled "An ordinance
7 authorizing transfers in appropriations
8 for Fiscal Year 2008 within the Grants
9 Revenue Fund from the Director of
10 Finance - Provision for other grants to
11 the Police Department, the Law Department
12 and the City Commissioners"; and

13 Bill No. 080010, entitled "An
14 ordinance authorizing transfers in
15 appropriations for Fiscal Year 2008 from
16 the General Fund - Provision for other
17 grants to the General Fund, certain or
18 all City offices, departments, boards and
19 commissions," respectfully reports it has
20 considered the same and returns the
21 attached bills to Council with a
22 favorable recommendation.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
24 you.

25 The Chair recognizes

1 2/7/08 - STATED - REPORTS

2 Councilwoman Krajewski.

3 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Madam
4 President, I move that the rules of
5 Council be suspended so as to permit
6 first reading this day of Bills 080009
7 and 080010.

8 (Duly seconded.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: It
10 has been moved and properly seconded that
11 the rules of Council be suspended so as
12 to permit first reading this day of the
13 bills just reported from committee.

14 All in favor will say aye.

15 (Aye.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Those
17 opposed?

18 (No response.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
20 ayes have it, and the bills just read
21 will be placed on our First Reading
22 Calendar for today.

23 The next order of business is
24 the consideration of the Calendar. The
25 Chief Clerk will please read the bills on

1 2/7/08 - STATED - 1ST READING

2 the First Reading Calendar.

3 CHIEF CLERK: Bill No. 080009,
4 an ordinance authorizing transfers in
5 appropriations for Fiscal Year 2008
6 within the Grants Revenue Fund from the
7 Director of Finance - Provision for other
8 grants to the Police Department, the Law
9 Department and City Commissioners.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
11 Chair agrees.

12 CHIEF CLERK: And Bill No.
13 080010, an ordinance authorizing
14 transfers in appropriations for Fiscal
15 Year 2008 from the General Fund -
16 Provisions for other grants to the
17 General Fund, certain or all City
18 offices, departments, boards and
19 commissions.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
21 Chair agrees.

22 There are no bills on the
23 Second Reading and Final Passage Calendar
24 for today.

25 Are there any speeches on the

1 2/7/08 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 part of the minority?

3 (No response.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Are
5 there speeches on the part of the
6 majority?

7 The Chair recognizes Councilman
8 DiCicco.

9 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: Thank you,
10 Madam President. I'd like to have a few
11 remarks concerning the resolution that
12 was introduced by my colleague,
13 Councilman Green, this morning.

14 We all know that for every
15 action there's an equal but opposite
16 reaction and everything we do has
17 consequences. Sometimes we know exactly
18 what those consequences will be and
19 sometimes we actually don't. As
20 legislators, we need to be careful about
21 those unforeseen consequences.

22 Before I say anything else, I'd
23 like to welcome Councilman Green into
24 this casino conversation and debate. As
25 Councilman Clarke and I well know, this

1 2/7/08 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 is a very complicated issue, with no easy
3 answers, that takes up a lot of time and
4 energy, and I'm happy to have another set
5 of eyes. Certainly Councilman Green's
6 relationship with the Building Trades,
7 who have lobbied so hard for these
8 developments, will be beneficial. Having
9 said that, however, I do have some
10 serious concerns about the bill
11 introduced today.

12 When people first get involved
13 in the casino issue, most of it seems in
14 terms of black and white, but all too
15 often we haven't recognized the shades of
16 gray we have to work with. I have to
17 wonder if Councilman Green had been
18 around for a few more months whether or
19 not he would have made the same decision
20 or would he have gone about it in a
21 different way than he did. I think it's
22 unfortunate that he felt it necessary to
23 lobby the developers, the Administration
24 and our colleagues even before he
25 introduced the bill, even after I have

1 2/7/08 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 raised very real and valid concerns.

3 While I disagree with his goal
4 and principle -- while I agree, excuse
5 me, with his goal and principle, in my
6 opinion, this legislation opens up a can
7 of worms. The abatement is a major
8 reason for the construction boom in this
9 city. This bill, in my opinion, raises
10 questions on the validity of abatement as
11 a whole, clears the way for yet another
12 lawsuit, and codifies the current
13 locations for gaming facilities. The
14 first question I have is whether or not
15 this bill violates uniformity.

16 Tax uniformity is guaranteed
17 under the state Constitution. Uniformity
18 is the reason I didn't exclude casino
19 construction from the abatement a few
20 years ago. We couldn't figure out how to
21 get it done without violating state law.
22 Councilman Green's version may avoid that
23 issue, but it will certainly be
24 challenged in the court. I am not
25 confident of Council's chances of winning

1 2/7/08 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 that challenge and can only hope that we
3 don't lose the entire abatement program.

4 I am also uncomfortable
5 declaring that these two parcels are not
6 deteriorated. In fact, they are
7 deteriorated. This land has sat vacant
8 for many years. Admittedly, because the
9 owners have been waiting for gaming to be
10 ushered into the City of Philadelphia.
11 In near proximity, actually adjacent to
12 both of these sites, there are
13 residential and commercial properties
14 that have enjoyed the abatement. I'm not
15 certain how we claim that these two
16 parcels are not deteriorated but across
17 the street is. It just doesn't make
18 sense.

19 How can we declare a property
20 non-deteriorated based on the future use
21 of the property? If so, then no project
22 in the City of Philadelphia should enjoy
23 the abatement. And I wonder what's to
24 stop us from exempting a specific parcel
25 of land because our constituents don't

1 2/7/08 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 not willing to simply void those
3 agreements without full consideration.

4 Finally, despite Councilman
5 Green's efforts to avoid this issue, I
6 think final passage of this bill would be
7 tantamount to admitting that these
8 casinos are going to be built at the
9 current locations. My constituents and I
10 are not willing to admit that yet. If
11 Councilman Green is ready to go down that
12 road, I have a few thousand constituents
13 that he may want to talk to. And
14 Councilman Green, if he is not willing to
15 do that, if he's not willing to do so,
16 face those residents on both sides of
17 this issue, then I suggest he keep his
18 nose out of this issue.

19 Thank you, Madam President.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna:

21 You're welcome.

22 The Chair recognizes Councilman
23 Kenney.

24 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you,
25 Madam President.

1 2/7/08 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 As a resident of the 1st
3 Council District and a citizen of
4 Philadelphia who lives about, I would
5 say, nine blocks from the Foxwoods site,
6 I think I have a right to make a comment
7 about my District Councilperson's efforts
8 over the past three years.

9 This has been an amazingly
10 insane process that was forced upon us by
11 Harrisburg and the Harrisburg
12 representatives in the dead of night,
13 signed by the Governor, with no
14 provisions for neighborhood protection
15 whatsoever. The sites were chosen under
16 a questionable process. The sites are
17 what they are. And there are people who
18 are extremely upset about the future of
19 the port of Philadelphia, about the
20 future of their neighborhoods, while at
21 the same time representatives in
22 Harrisburg are voting to preempt our
23 zoning rights on four separate occasions.

24 I think Frank DiCicco has
25 balanced this process in a meaningful and

21 I trust him. I trust the work
22 that he's done. And what I am fearful
23 of, in echoing Councilman DiCicco's
24 comments, is that this curve ball, that
25 this new dynamic throws a whole new spin

1 2/7/08 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 on three years of a balancing act that he
3 has done quite well. Now we're going to
4 have people reacting to this introduction
5 to this legislation.

6 I've heard already that maybe
7 if they don't get their tax abatement,
8 that they're going to maybe not do the
9 amenities and do the river walk and the
10 park land and the type of greenery that
11 they've been saying. I don't want an
12 ugly box casino in my neighborhood on
13 Delaware Avenue because they didn't get a
14 tax abatement, if that in fact happens.

15 I think that Frank DiCicco has
16 done a great job under unbelievable
17 circumstances in balancing this issue and
18 dealing with neighbors and dealing with
19 developers and dealing with the state
20 Legislature and dealing with the
21 Governor's office. And, frankly, as a
22 member of this Council at-large, as a
23 resident of the 1st Council District and
24 as a neighbor to the casino, I think he
25 deserves more respect.

1 2/7/08 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 Thank you.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERA: Thank
4 you.

5 The Chair recognizes Councilman
6 Green.

7 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Yes. Point
8 of personal privilege, Madam President.

9 I have tremendous respect for
10 Councilman DiCicco and Councilman Clarke
11 and everybody else who has been deeply
12 involved in this issue for the last two
13 years, and I would welcome the
14 opportunity to come to Councilman
15 DiCicco's district at any time and speak
16 to people about the casino issue, hear
17 their concerns about the current sites.

18 My resolution specifically is a
19 tax measure. It is intended to increase
20 revenue to the City of Philadelphia at a
21 time when we are told by the
22 Administration that we are running out of
23 revenue.

24 In this morning's Daily News, I
25 note "Drop in housing sales means cities

1 2/7/08 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 losing tax dollars." Finance Department,
3 "Slump could cost \$10 to \$15 million by
4 July."

5 So what my bill, although some
6 people say it is raising shades of gray,
7 it's really shades of green, and, that
8 is, how many dollars is the City of
9 Philadelphia going to get from casinos.

10 The state Gaming Act itself,
11 when they proposed casinos, limited the
12 ability of casinos to receive any tax
13 abatements at the state level. I can't
14 understand why the Administration didn't
15 deal with this three years ago and
16 suggest that we limit abatements.

17 Specifically, two years ago,
18 three years ago, the sites hadn't been
19 chosen yet. This legislation couldn't
20 have been introduced. The Supreme Court
21 has acted with SugarHouse. What we have
22 here is an unfortunate timing issue.

23 And Councilman DiCicco
24 mentioned consequences. The consequences
25 of not introducing this bill today or

1 2/7/08 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 very shortly are that the City will lose
3 the ability to end the abatement, should
4 it decide to do so, because actions will
5 be taken by the casinos that could vest
6 their right in that abatement. I am
7 advised by the Law Department that time
8 is of the essence.

9 I have worked with Councilman
10 DiCicco's office for two weeks trying to
11 find a bill or resolution that would be
12 acceptable to him. I don't intend to
13 step on his territory. I have tremendous
14 respect for everything he has done, and I
15 look forward to working with him on this
16 issue in the future.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
18 you.

19 The Chair recognizes
20 Councilwoman Brown.

21 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you,
22 Madam President. I'd simply like to
23 shift gears here, but if there's
24 continued remarks that desire to be made
25 on Councilman Green's bill, we should

1 2/7/08 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 first address those before I go to this
3 final announcement.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
5 you.

6 Councilman DiCicco, your light
7 was on.

8 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: No.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:
10 Councilwoman Brown, you can proceed,
11 please.

12 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Yes. I
13 wanted to bring to everyone's attention
14 another matter of great concern to many
15 of us. Today immediately following
16 Council at 11:30 there will be a briefing
17 on the RFP surrounding the golf courses
18 here in the City of Philadelphia. A
19 number of questions have been raised.
20 The briefing will be our first step
21 towards seeking answers, followed by a
22 hearing, which will take place next week,
23 February 12th.

24 Thank you, Madam President.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank

1 2/7/08 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 you.

3 Are there any other speeches on
4 the part of the majority?

5 The Chair recognizes Councilman
6 Green.

7 COUNCILMAN GREEN: I just want
8 to make one final point on this issue,
9 and, that is, I believe that we'll get
10 additional revenue if we remove the
11 abatement. I also believe that this
12 measure can be used by the Administration
13 or Councilmen DiCicco or Clarke in their
14 negotiations with the casino.

15 We're not passing this today.
16 We're proposing it to reserve our rights
17 to remove the abatement, should we decide
18 to do so.

19 But I do represent the public
20 school children of Philadelphia, who
21 would have 60 million more dollars over
22 the next ten years if casinos did not
23 have the abatement. I represent the
24 people who live on trash-strewn streets
25 because we have 1,200 fewer sanitation

1 2/7/08 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 workers than we had 10 or 15 years ago.

3 I represent the people in Northeast

4 Philadelphia and Southwest Philadelphia

5 that die because ambulances don't arrive

6 on time because the City doesn't have the

7 resources. And it is those people who

8 also need a voice on this issue in order

9 to maximize the revenue to the City of

10 Philadelphia from gaming.

11 Thank you.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna:

13 You're welcome.

14 The Chair recognizes Councilman

15 Clarke.

16 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you,

17 Madam President.

18 Madam President, before I close

19 the session, I just wanted to say to

20 Councilman Green, thank you for the offer

21 for giving this opportunity to use this

22 as leverage during the course of the

23 negotiations, but I don't particularly

24 need this one. So thank you.

25 Madam President, I move that

1 2/7/08 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 Council stand adjourned --

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:

4 Excuse me. We have Councilman DiCicco
5 that would like to be recognized.

6 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: I
7 apologize. I changed my mind, obviously.
8 I didn't want to comment, but after the
9 last remarks by my colleague, Councilman
10 Green, I think I need to say a few
11 things.

12 I appreciate what he's talking
13 about in terms of revenue. I'm not
14 suggesting that we should forego all
15 those anticipated revenues. Under the
16 agreement by the Street Administration,
17 there have been some concessions that
18 have already been made voluntarily by the
19 two operators. They're not getting away
20 with a flat free ten-year tax abatement.
21 They have made some concessions that they
22 would pay a portion of the real estate
23 tax, but in return, as Councilman Kenney
24 was alluding to, there are other
25 improvements that they were not required

1 2/7/08 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 to do that they would do on behalf of the
3 City of Philadelphia in terms of not only
4 streetscape improvements but
5 infrastructure improvements. As an
6 example, the sewer systems that are
7 directly across from the Foxwoods site,
8 the casino operators agreed to replace
9 and upgrade those systems to the tune of
10 over \$7 million. That's \$7 million that
11 the taxpayers of Philadelphia would not
12 have to pay.

13 So there has been this
14 discussion. The problem is that, with
15 all due respect, Councilman Green wasn't
16 here, hasn't been around -- I don't mean
17 just in this Chamber, but in
18 Philadelphia -- long enough to understand
19 the things that myself and my colleague,
20 Councilman Green (sic), and the previous
21 Administration have been dealing with.

22 So this is not just giving them
23 an opportunity and say, You're not going
24 to get the abatement. We have to take
25 into consideration some of the givebacks.

1 2/7/08 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 So it's a parallel track, fighting on
3 re-siting, trying to convince them to go
4 somewhere else, while at the same time
5 understanding that if we lose that
6 battle, getting the best return for the
7 investment on behalf of all the citizens
8 of Philadelphia. And we talk about EMS
9 units. That's one of the issues that's
10 on the table and has been discussed with
11 the operators. We don't want the City of
12 Philadelphia's EMS units responding to
13 situations that occur in their casinos.
14 We want the casinos to provide for that
15 service.

16 So we actually do know what
17 we're talking about here, and we have
18 been, because, again, for three years we
19 have been working on this issue.

20 I just thought I had to make
21 that point. It's not just about taxes.
22 It seems like you want to promote
23 yourself citywide to the people in
24 Southwest Philadelphia. That's kind of
25 like a red herring in this situation.

1 2/7/08 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 We know what we're doing. The
3 prior Administration, I think, did some
4 things in their community benefits
5 agreement that I would not agree to.
6 That's why we're going to have a full
7 public disclosure and hearings, to talk
8 about what they did and see if we can
9 fine tune that so that we do protect the
10 citizens of Philadelphia and get the best
11 return.

12 He fails to mention that
13 Senator Fumo did an amendment to the act
14 that says the first \$5 million that is
15 generated by the casinos goes to the
16 School District. So it's \$5 million a
17 year for perpetuity.

18 Thank you, Madam President.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:

20 You're welcome.

21 The Chair recognizes Councilman
22 Green.

23 COUNCILMAN GREEN: I just have
24 to say that if my comments in any way
25 demonstrated that I believe that

1 2/7/08 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 Councilman DiCicco does not know what
3 he's doing on this issue or hasn't worked
4 hard on it, I certainly didn't intend it.
5 I have the tremendous admiration and
6 respect for Councilman DiCicco and his
7 efforts on this matter, and I'm glad we
8 can continue this debate on a substantive
9 policy ground. I certainly have no
10 personal agenda here.

11 Thank you, Madam President.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:

13 You're welcome.

14 The Chair recognizes Councilman
15 Goode.

16 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you,
17 Madam President. I was actually pleased
18 to co-sponsor this bill by Councilman
19 Green. He talked to me about it a couple
20 weeks ago and he talked to me about it
21 actually in the context of his broader
22 economic development agenda. So this is
23 not a new Councilman just seeking an
24 issue. He talked about a broad agenda
25 that will deal with development of

1 2/7/08 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 industrial land and things he has in mind
3 regarding that, that deals with how we
4 use tax incentives to spur job and
5 economic growth and what we should and
6 what we should not be doing.

7 I have not just been around for
8 a few weeks. I've been around for over
9 eight years. I've been around for the
10 entire debate of this issue, and I've had
11 the opportunity to speak with Councilman
12 DiCicco on this issue last evening and in
13 the past. And as Councilman DiCicco
14 said, this is about what the best return
15 on our investment is going to be, and I
16 simply believe, as I believed a couple
17 weeks ago when I discussed it with
18 Councilman Green, that we cannot forego
19 those tax dollars.

20 My position is consistent with
21 the position I've taken over the last
22 eight or nine years with regard to tax
23 increment financing and the fact that we
24 actually were giving tax incentives where
25 they were not needed. In many cases, in

1 2/7/08 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 other parts of Councilman DiCicco's
3 district. While we were giving tax
4 forgiveness to build buildings within
5 Center City, parking garages sometimes
6 across from other major developments and
7 those type of things, and the amount of
8 money we were losing in terms of City
9 revenue and in terms of School District
10 revenue, I complained about it for eight
11 or nine years. There simply is no need
12 to do tax incentives where they're not
13 needed to spur development.

14 So this is a case in time where
15 they're not needed to spur development in
16 these areas. This is a very serious
17 discussion that I launched in terms of
18 the use of tax incentives and economic
19 development several years ago, and
20 remains consistent with my thought that
21 there are concerns about casinos, but if
22 they're going to be built, then
23 essentially they should be taxed fully,
24 and that probably outweighs any of the
25 plans and deals that have been struck

1 2/7/08 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 considered seriously.

3 Thank you.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:

5 You're welcome.

6 The Chair recognizes Councilman
7 Kenney.

8 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you,
9 Madam President. I totally agree with
10 Councilman Goode. The only difference
11 between his comments and this particular
12 legislation is that it's a specific area
13 that's being targeted. I agree with his
14 holistic approach to a citywide
15 examination of TIFs and tax abatements.
16 I think it's a long time coming and I
17 think it's important that we do it, and I
18 think we probably wouldn't be having this
19 debate if there were not specific parcels
20 of land that were discussed in specific
21 legislation.

22 So I do agree with Councilman
23 Goode as far as our probably overuse of a
24 lot of tax incentives and a way of kind
25 of reining that back in and maximizing

1 2/7/08 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 our tax revenues when it comes to
3 development, but I think part and parcel
4 of this debate today and a big part of it
5 is that it's a specific two pieces of
6 land in a Councilmember's district.

7 Thank you.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:

9 You're welcome.

10 The Chair recognizes Councilman
11 Goode.

12 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you,
13 Madam President. Just about every tax
14 incentive we've done, particularly TIFs,
15 have been specific parcels of land,
16 sometimes just projects or just
17 buildings, and most of them have been in
18 the 1st District. So to suggest that an
19 at-large member can't take on an issue of
20 a TIF because it's in a district is
21 something that just doesn't fly, because
22 that's money that would be going to the
23 operating budget and/or to the School
24 District.

25 Furthermore, a lot of what we

1 2/7/08 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 do around tax incentives and economic
3 development, aside from just being about
4 whether they actually create incentives
5 or don't create incentives, has to be
6 about whether it's actually fair and
7 uniform, and we have not done that with
8 fairness and uniformity. We have
9 consistently already in the past said
10 that we will offer tax breaks to this
11 building or this project, but not the
12 people across the street.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
14 you.

15 The Chair recognizes Councilman
16 Green.

17 COUNCILMAN GREEN: I just want
18 to make two comments quickly, one with
19 respect to the locations.

20 I talked to the Law Department
21 about eliminating the tax abatement on
22 the basis of a zoning designation, on
23 lots of other bases. I am told that the
24 way to make it most enforceable is to
25 specifically, under the state statute

1 2/7/08 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 that allows us to do abatements, is to
3 specifically mention the streets and
4 boundaries, and I'm certainly sensitive
5 to the issue that Councilman Kenney
6 raises. However, I will note that no one
7 in the City of Philadelphia chose those
8 areas of land. It's the extraordinary
9 act of the state Gaming Board that chose
10 those acts of land, and in so doing, they
11 took that land from deteriorated to
12 non-deteriorated. Somebody just paid \$70
13 million for the Foxwoods site. That's
14 not deteriorated. There is no incentive
15 needed to develop that land, and we
16 shouldn't be providing incentives to
17 people who are going to operate licensed
18 gaming facilities.

19 I made a campaign promise to
20 try to maximize the revenue from casino
21 gaming, and I'm keeping it today.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERA: Thank
23 you.

24 The Chair recognizes Councilman
25 Kenney.

1 2/7/08 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Madam

3 President, I agree with Councilman Goode.
4 An at-large Councilmember can do anything
5 they'd like. I mean, they're an equal
6 member of this body and can introduce
7 anything that they choose. We are not
8 the executive branch of government and we
9 do not make unilateral decisions. We are
10 supposed to be a collegial body that
11 deliberates together and comes up with
12 nine to 12 votes to pass legislation, and
13 I don't believe necessarily that this
14 method of introduction of bills around or
15 against the wishes of a person that has
16 been working on the issue for three years
17 is a way to be collegial and get nine
18 votes.

19 I mean, certain people have
20 different styles and they'll have
21 different results. And, again, I want to
22 make it clear, I agree with Councilman
23 Goode, an at-large member can come in
24 here and introduce anything they want,
25 but I do believe that it does at times

1 2/7/08 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 and can really hamper the process, make
3 it more complicated. And although it's
4 Frank DiCicco's district that we're
5 dealing with now, it could be any
6 District Councilmember's district that
7 we're dealing with in the future.

8 I'm not saying we can't all
9 work together, but I don't see why
10 jumping in front of the parade and trying
11 to change the dynamic of the discussion
12 that's been going on for three years is
13 in anybody's best interest. Certainly
14 all of us want to maximize revenues in
15 the City, but simply putting a bill out
16 there that the person who has been
17 working on it for three years says, Wait
18 a minute, this could cause lots of
19 problems that we need to investigate,
20 without investigating them first, I think
21 putting it forward is not in the best
22 interest of coming to an amicable
23 conclusion.

24 Thank you.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:

1 2/7/08 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 Councilman Green.

3 COUNCILMAN GREEN: I just want
4 to say I have tremendous respect for
5 Councilman Kenney and the advice he's
6 giving me and for Councilman Frank
7 DiCicco, and it is not my intent to make
8 this a personal issue. It's simply a
9 matter of public policy that I think
10 needs to be advanced at this time in
11 order to preserve the City's rights to
12 move the abatement, should nine members
13 choose to do so.

14 Thank you.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
16 you.

17 Does anyone else want to be
18 recognized?

19 (No response.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:
21 Seeing no one, the Chair recognizes
22 Councilman Clarke for a motion to
23 adjourn.

24 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you,
25 Madam President. I move that Council

1 2/7/08 - STATED - ADJOURNMENT
2 stand adjourned until Thursday, February
3 the 14th, 2008, 10:00 a.m.

4 (Duly seconded.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: It
6 has been moved and properly seconded that
7 Council stand adjourned until Thursday,
8 February 14th at 10:00 a.m.

9 All in favor will say aye.

10 (Aye.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Those
12 opposed?

13 (No response.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
15 ayes have it and the motion carries.

16 Thank you.

17 (Stated Meeting adjourned at
18 11:15 a.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the
proceedings, evidence and objections are
contained fully and accurately in the
stenographic notes taken by me upon the
foregoing matter on February 7, 2008, and that
this is a true and correct transcript of same.

MICHELE L. MURPHY
RPR-Notary Public

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