COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

STATED MEETING

Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Thursday, October 22, 2026
10:00 a.m.

PRESENT:

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

ELIZABETH McCOLLUM NAZARIO, CHIEF CLERK

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10/22/26 - STATED - INVOCATION

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Please clear the floor. Members, please take your seats. Visitors, please retire to the seats outside the rails. Before proceeding, I will ask all those present to please set your cell phones to silent or vibrate. Please take all sidebar conversations out of the City Council chamber.

I note that the hour has come and that a quorum of this City Council is present. This City Council has now come to order.

To give our invocation this morning, the Chair recognizes my Pastor James A. Lovett, II, from the fantastic, fabulous Tasker Street Missionary Baptist Church. He is here today as my guest.

(Councilmembers, guests and visitors rise.)

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PASTOR LOVETT: May we all pray together. Our Father, we thank you for the privilege of rising this morning and coming to pray over this Council and their business. I ask you, our God, to keep my son in wisdom and allow this Council to do what it must do that the city is preserved.

We rejoice, God, that you are alive and that you're real. And we thank you for your amazing grace. In Jesus name, Amen.

(Amen.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The Chair thanks the Pastor for that invocation.

Council will now be at ease. Short and sweet and to the point.

(Council at ease.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The next order of

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business is the Approval of the Journal of the meeting of Thursday, October 15, 2026.

The Chair recognizes Majority Leader Katherine Gilmore Richardson.

COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE RICHARDSON: Thank you, Mr. President.

I move that the Journal of the meeting of Thursday, October 15, 2026 be approved.

(Duly seconded.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: It has been moved and properly seconded that the Journal of the meeting of Thursday, October 15, 2026 stand approved.

All in favor indicate by saying aye.

(Aye.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Those opposed?

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(No response.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The ayes have it and the Journal is approved.

The next order of business is request for leave of absence. The Chair recognizes Councilmember Majority Leader Katherine Gilmore Richardson.

COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE RICHARDSON: Thank you, Mr. President.

On behalf of the Majority, a leave of absence is requested for Councilmember Cindy Bass.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The Chair thanks the Majority Leader. Leave will be granted.

The Chair recognizes Minority Leader Kendra Brooks.

COUNCILWOMAN BASS:

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Thank you, Council President.

On behalf of the Minority, there are no requests for leave of absence today.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The Chair thanks the Minority Leader.

The Chair now recognizes Majority Leader Katherine Gilmore Richardson for a motion concerning certain legislative matters that may arise during the course of today's session of Council, and that will not be listed on the Calendar circulated prior to today's Council session.

COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE RICHARDSON: Thank you, Mr. President.

I move that any of the following matters, if considered today, may be added to the agenda for this session of Council and, as

10/22/26 - STATED - MOTION REGARDING CALENDAR required by law, subsequently published on an amended agenda after the consideration of those matters: resolutions authorizing hearings, amendments to bills on first reading, the reconsideration of a bill vetoed by or re-called from the Mayor, amendments to bills re-called from the Mayor, resolutions taking substantive action to be voted on in this session, a motion to withdraw a bill or resolution that is not on the Calendar, and a motion placing a bill or resolution on or returning a bill or resolution from the Suspension Calendar that was not listed on today's Calendar.

The purpose of this motion is to provide the public with notice concerning possible actions taken by Council that arose too late to be included on the

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Calendar that was published prior to today's session.

(Duly seconded.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: It has been moved and properly seconded that the legislative matters stated by Councilmember Majority Leader Katherine Gilmore Richardson may be added to the agenda for today should those matters arise during the course of this session of Council.

All in favor indicate by saying aye.

(Aye.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Those opposed?

(No response.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The ayes have it and the motion carries.

The Chair will dispense

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with the regular order of business to recognize the guests and visitors joining us in chambers this morning.

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

The Chair recognizes Councilmember Jim Harrity.

COUNCILMAN HARRITY: Thank you, Council President.

I'd like to take a moment to welcome Todd Eagan to the Council chambers today. Todd is a well-known labor lawyer out of Scranton, a fellow DNC member with me and Cindy Bass, and also the father of my Legislative aide, Celia Eagan. Can we all welcome

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Todd Eagan to this Council?

(Applause.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Welcome to City Council, Todd Eagan.

The Chair recognizes Councilmember Dr. Anthony Phillips.

COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: Good morning. Give me one second. Hi. I want to welcome Angel Reese; is that correct? Angel -- come back to me. Come back to me in one minute. All right. Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: At this time -- the Chair recognizes Councilmember Dr. Anthony Phillips.

COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: I'm ready. All right. My apologies. I had the last name wrong. I would like to welcome Gabriella McLoughlin -- Dr. Gabriella McLoughlin and her

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assistant Angel for work for working with me on our school lunch advocacy program here in the city of Philadelphia. We have some serious issues with our school lunches and school breakfasts, and we want to address that. And I just want to acknowledge Dr. McLoughlin. Are you here, if you can stand up? Thank you so much. Give them a round of applause.

(Applause.)

COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: Thanks a lot, Council President.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

At this time, the Chair recognizes Councilmember Rue Landau, who will present a resolution recognizing, congratulating, and honoring the mighty Community Legal Services on

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its 60th anniversary.

Would Debbie Freedman and those accompanying her please join Councilmember Isaiah Thomas -- I'm sorry, Councilmember Rue Landau at the podium. Joining Member Rue Landau are the following Members: Councilmember Kendra Brooks, Councilmember Jim Harrity, Councilmember Cindy Bass, Councilmember Dr. Anthony Phillips, Councilmember Mark Squilla, Councilmember Nicolas O'Rourke, Councilmember Katherine Gilmore Richardson, Councilmember Dr. Nina Ahmad and Councilmember Jamie Gauthier and Councilmember Quetcy Lozada, Councilmember Curtis Jones, Jr.

The floor is yours, Member Rue Landau.

COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU: Thank you. Good morning,

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everybody.

It's an honor to welcome Community Legal Services to City Council today to celebrate their 60th anniversary. To say the least, CLS is very important to me and it makes me so proud to be able to honor the organization that contributed to my journey running for City Council as well as celebrate the hard-working CLS staff standing up here today.

I started my career as a housing organizer, fighting alongside low-income families and individuals for safe and affordable housing in our city. It was there that I met the amazing lawyers from CLS who worked in the public interest, people who knew how to utilize the law to protect people from eviction, to get the public benefits they are entitled to and

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to seek justice.

That's why I went to CLS after law school to work as a public interest lawyer. I wanted to join the ranks of CLS folks, serving tenants and those facing eviction. And it's that background that still drives my work today. I spent a decade at CLS advocating for fair housing in the best interests of tenants.

I'm so honored to be joined here on the podium by my friend and mentor, Debbie Friedman and the many lawyers who do incredible work every single day here in the City of Philadelphia. CLS has had an incredible 60-year legacy of service here in Philadelphia and so much of our work as Councilmembers would simply not be possible without the team at CLS.

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I'm excited for my colleagues to join me up here to honor CLS and to -- let's get started. So now, we're reading the resolution, recognizing, congratulating, and honoring Community Legal Services on its 60th anniversary.

COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE RICHARDSON: And I'd like to take a point of personal privilege to thank Councilmember Landau for honoring Community Legal Services for all of their work. They have been wonderful partners in our work around our wills, deed fraud prevention, and of course, tangled titles.

Whereas, the dedicated advocates of Community Legal Services fight for Philadelphians living in poverty, including children, seniors, immigrants, and

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people with disabilities, ensuring clients have a fair chance to be heard in their quest for justice; and

COUNCILMAN HARRITY:

Whereas, for 60 years CLS has opened its doors to low-income Philadelphians, helping more than 1 million residents who would have otherwise faced devastating consequences of poverty, such as eviction, foreclosure and family separation and loss of employment; and

COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS:

Whereas, CLS is recognized as one of the premier legal services organizations in the nation, representing more than 14,000 Philadelphians each year preventing homelessness, reuniting families, breaking down barriers to employment and keeping our

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residents healthy and our city safe; and

Whereas, CLS led advocacy to create and implement the Philadelphia Eviction Prevention Program, Right to Counsel and Eviction Diversion Program, which are national models for keeping tenants in their homes and preventing homelessness and saving the city's resources; and

COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE: Whereas, CLS conceived and CLS pioneered Pennsylvania's Clean Slate Law, a first-in-the-nation automated criminal record sealing program, which has sold more than 56 million old records and given a fresh start to 1.7 million Pennsylvanians and fought to create and expand Philadelphia's Fair Chance Hiring law so that hard-working Philadelphians can access

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good jobs; and

COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:

And before I read my passage, I just want to express how much I love and appreciate the work of CLS. You are one of my office's most important partners in all of our policy work, and all of our efforts to serve and empower low-income and working-class people in this city. Thank you so much for what you do.

Whereas, CLS conceived Philadelphia's Tiered Assistance Program, another first-in-the-nation program, which ensures that low-income families can afford to pay their water bills each month and break free from water debt, a threat to generational wealth; and

COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA:

Whereas, CLS has been on the frontier of protecting Black and

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Brown homeownership in the City of Philadelphia, creating the mortgage and property tax foreclosure diversion programs, helping more than 10,000 homeowners save their homes, expanding Philadelphia's property tax relief programs, creating more than 1000 wills and unlocking tangled titles in our city; and.

COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:

Whereas, CLS brings tens of millions of dollars into the city each year, expands access to health insurance for the uninsured, keeps low-income people in their homes with the utilities turned on and prevents improper loss of critical benefits like Social Security, SSI, SNAP and cash assistance; and

COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:

Whereas, CLS has been a vital resource and a frequent partner to

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Philadelphia City Council working to help our city thrive, ensure that the city is safer, make Philadelphia a better place to live and ensure that every Philadelphian can access justice now;

COUNCILMAN JONES:

Before I therefore be it, I want to make an official apology to CLS as a young person, 17, Mr. President. Me and a couple of radicals took over their building, barricaded ourselves in with Dr. Palmer, who was our advisor and we wound up -- I wound up giving up the barricade because my father came with a bullhorn and said if I didn't get myself out of there, he was going to do what he does. It was about young people.

But fast-forward, these are my partners that helped produce the mortgage foreclosure program

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that went to a national level. Thank you for your patience; and, therefore, be it

COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU: Resolved, that the Council of the City of Philadelphia hereby recognizes, congratulates and honors the 60 years of excellent work and dedicated service Community Legal Services has given to our city and our community.

(Applause.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes Debbie Freedman for remarks.

MS. FREEDMAN: Good morning, everyone.

(Good morning.)

MS. FREEDMAN: I'm Debbie Freedman. I'm the Executive Director of Community Legal Services. Thank you all so much for that beautiful resolution. We

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have been absolutely thrilled to work with Council for all of our 60 years. And I'm going to just be brief this morning about our work, including our work with City Council.

CLS's mission is to fight poverty, challenge systems that perpetuate injustice and change lives through cutting-edge advocacy and the exceptional legal representation that our clients deserve. Last year CLS represented more than 15,000 low-income Philadelphians who came to us in crisis because their homes, their health, their incomes and their families were at risk.

And, yes, many of them were referred to us by people on this day or people in this room or this building. We also helped tens of thousands more through our high-

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impact litigation and advocacy. This past year has been really, really challenging year for our clients. There have been devastating cuts to Medicaid and SNAP, which I can never speak without mentioning.

There have been an increase in wage theft in Philadelphia, rising food and housing costs that lead to eviction, foreclosure and utility shut-offs. Our clients continue to be wrongly denied jobs due to old and minor records and have their families unnecessarily separated.

As a result of all of this, demand for our services is at an all-time record high. However, CLS will never give up on our clients. Our staff's passion and our and persistence, our many partnerships here in City Hall and

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in the community continue to stabilize families, keep people health healthy, safe and housed, and to provide access to employment and public benefits.

As I look back on the last 60 years at CLS, three things stand out: First of all and foremost, the bravery of our clients as they face injustice head-on, the dedication and passion of our incredible staff, many of whom are here today, and the importance of our partnerships, including our partnership with City Council.

You have passed new laws to help low-income Philadelphians, held clinics with us in every single neighborhood in this city and shared resources to create opportunity for Philadelphians. I want to give special thanks to your

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support for the Philadelphia Eviction Prevention Project and our tangled title and wills work and legislation to ensure affordable utility service, all of which have been monumentally effective and have created a better and stronger city.

I know we do this work jointly together with Council, because we have the shared goal of helping people who are struggling to get by. When your staff hear about problems from constituents, they know we are a phone call away. And when our staff identifies systemic issues facing low-income Philadelphians, we know you will work with us to find policy solutions to make our city fairer and more equitable.

Wrapping it up. Over the last 60 years, our working

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relationship with Council has certainly had its ups and downs and even its moments of tension. But we have had many more moments of celebration, and we have worked together to make a real difference and real change for our clients. Recognition from the people who know you really well means the most. So acknowledgement from the people on this dais and this body means a tremendous amount to us and we are profoundly grateful.

We are excited to keep working with you, to fight for justice and to make our city better. So thank you.

(Applause.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Council will be at ease.

(Council at ease.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Chair recognizes Jeffrey

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Jay Young.

COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Thank you, Mr. President.

I just want to also acknowledge Community Legal Services. During law school, I was the Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network Martin Luther King, Jr., intern at Community Legal Services in the Community Economic Development Unit that was founded by my big sister, former State Rep Donna Bullock. And I worked under Housing Attorney extraordinaire Rashida Phillips while I was at Community Legal Services. So it had a very, very important role in me becoming the attorney that I am today. So I just want to recognize you all for that as well.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

At this time, the Chair

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recognizes Councilmember Majority Whip Isaiah Thomas, who will present a resolution honoring Merrell Reese as the voice of the Philadelphia Eagles and congratulating him on his 50th season as the Eagles radio play-by-play announcer.

Would Mr. Merrill Reese and those accompanying him please join Councilmember Isaiah Thomas at the podium. Joining Member Thomas are the following Members: Councilmember Rue Landau, Councilmember Quetcy Lozada, Councilmember Jim Harrity, Councilmember Mike Driscoll, Councilmember Kendra Brooks, Councilmember Kathy Gilmore Richardson and Councilmember Dr. Anthony Phillips. Go Birds!

The floor is yours, Member Thomas.

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COUNCILMAN THOMAS:

Thank you, Council President.

Good morning, Philadelphia.

Council President, they only respond when you say good morning. I'm not even going to try again. All right. And that's probably because no one wants to hear my voice right now.

When you think about what it means to be the voice of a city, what it means to be the voice of a league, Merrill Reese is someone who not only should we recognize as a gem in the City of Philadelphia, as a graduate of Overbrook High School, but somebody who is -- you heard that, Councilman Jones, right, graduate of Overbrook High School -- Merrill is actually the longest play-by-play announcer in NFL history.

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(Applause.)

COUNCILMAN THOMAS: So in the spirit of recognizing his great voice and his amazing energy, him and his wife, he also has no plans on retiring anytime soon, so don't think that today is a send-you-off celebration for Merrill. Today is honoring his first 50 years and looking at how many more years we'll have, recognizing him as the voice of our team.

With that being said, Merrill is one of our biggest treasurers as it relates to the city. Like I said, he was born and raised in the City of Philadelphia. And before I get into the resolution, one interesting thing that we both have in common is we both really love basketball, and we both tried out for our high school basketball team. The only

difference is he was playing at a time in the era where they had people like, I don't know, a guy named Wilt Chamberlain or something like that. So clearly, it was a lot more difficult for him.

But we love Merrill. We love the sports fan that he is. And behind every great man, like our Council President says, is a great woman. So can we give Merrill as well as his wife a round of applause and thank them for being here. (Applause.)

And of course, Mrs. Reese, thank you for lending your husband, I wouldn't say to the City of Philadelphia, this is the Eagles, so it's more like the entire tri-state area. So thank you so much.

With that being said, we are here today honoring Merrill

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Reese as the voice of the Philadelphia Eagles and congratulating him on his 50th season as the Eagles radio play-by-play announcer.

COUNCILMAN HARRITY: Whereas, Merrill Reese was born in Philadelphia in 1942 and grew up in Overbrook Park. He is a lifelong Philadelphian, a proud graduate of Overbrook High School. Before his career in broadcasting, he was a child actor and performer; and

COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE RICHARDSON: And before I begin, I must say it was so wonderful to share the same bus with you for the Eagles Parade in 2025.

Whereas, Reese received his Bachelor's in Communications and Broadcasting from Temple University's Klein College of Media and Communication, where he did

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play-by-play at Temple's WRTI FM student radio station. After college, he served his country through the United States Navy, earning the title of lieutenant, having served at the Pentagon, Naval Academy and in Norfolk, Virginia; and

COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:

Whereas, his passion for the game is as strong as when he first started voicing for the Eagles in 1977. Reese is the longest-serving current play-by-play announcer in the NFL. He was inducted into the Philadelphia Eagles Hall of Fame in 2016. In 2024, he was inducted to the Pro Football Hall of Fame after receiving the Pete Rozelle Radio-Television Award for the same year; and

COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

One of the only radio announcers

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when you're there, you feel like you're at the game. Miracle in the Meadowlands. Thank you so much.

Whereas, alongside his work for the Philadelphia Eagles, Reese has also voiced play-by-play commentary for ESPN's award-winning series, NFL Dream Season, Madison Square Garden Television and the Philadelphia Big 5. He has been named Pennsylvania Sportscaster of the Year by the National Association of Sportscasters and Sportswriters, and was inducted into the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame; and

COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Whereas, outside of his professional accomplishments, Reese is a loving husband to his wife Cindy and father to two children. Each night before a game, Cindy quizzes him on the opposing team,

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their players and their jersey numbers to help him prepare; and now, therefore, be it

COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL: Resolved, that the City Council of Philadelphia, does Hereby honor Merrill Reese as the voice of the Philadelphia Eagles and congratulated him on his 50th season as the Eagles play-by-play announcer

COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: Further resolved, that an Engrossed copy of this resolution will be presented to Merrill Reese and his family as a sincere expression of the City Council of Philadelphia's gratitude and admiration.

(Applause.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes Merrill Reese. Congratulations.

MR. REESE: Wow. Good

morning. It is great to be with you this morning.

(Applause.)

MR. REESE: You know, I think about this honor, and it is an honor, but the real honor, the real honor is being able to broadcast to the most passionate fans in the NFL, and that is all of you, so I appreciate that. You get behind that microphone and your veins tingle you. You get the excitement every single week. It's great.

I think about the career and all of the great games I've done and people say, what are your favorite games. And I can go back to the two Miracles of the Meadowlands and the great moments that I've had. But before Super Bowl VII when the Eagles played the Patriots, people have asked me if

the Eagles win the Super Bowl, will you have something written, will you have something prepared to say at that moment because your words are going to last forever?

And I said to myself, no. And I said to them, no. If that ever happens, I'm going to speak from my heart. I'm going to let my emotions just run the way they felt. And sure enough, I have to tell you that in years before that, people would say to me, if the Eagles win, I hope they win for you because you've done so many great games and you've been through so much and you've been through losing times and you've done games in all kinds of weather, I want them to win a Super Bowl for you.

And I said, no, it's not about me. The Philadelphia fans have been so great. You go out

there whether they're 0 and 10. You go out there whether the rain or the sleet is falling. You let yourself go and you rock that stadium with tremendous enthusiasm, tremendous passion. That's the biggest thing. Your passion is so great.

So of course, the last second of the Super Bowl, the last seconds, you can still remember game being played in Minnesota against the Patriots. But Tom Brady is standing there and he's got one more shot. Eagles up by eight points. And what am I thinking. I'm thinking, I'm scared to death. But you're scared for a different reason.

I was sitting in the corner of the end zone, 110 yards away from where that pass was going to land. And I'm thinking, I just

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don't want to be known as the broadcaster who made the mistake that ended the football game. I didn't want to just fail at that point because I was so far from where it was going to be. I just hoped that I would get it right.

So then Brady goes back and he stumbles forward and he lets it go. And suddenly, I don't know if it were divine intervention or what, everything slowed down. It was like one of those NFL films. And I could see the ball go through the air and head towards the end zone.

And I remember Rodney McKay. Rodney jumped up and Rodney touched the ball and down it went. And as the ball hit the ground I said, it's incomplete. The game is over. The Philadelphia Eagles are Super Bowl champions.

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(Applause.)

MR. REESE: And then the next thing that came into my mind was Eagles fans everywhere, this is for you. Let the celebration begin.

(Applause.)

MR. REESE: So again, I appreciate the honor. I hope to do it for a long time to come. I love every single moment of it. This season isn't over. I know it's tough. It's tough. But if you look at the NFC East, there are a lot of opportunities ahead. So let's hope this week they bounce back on Monday night and beat the Dallas Cowboys.

(Applause.)

MR. REESE: And again, I thank you, I am grateful. And I leave you with two words. I hope you will join me, 1-2-3, Go Birds!

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Thank you.

(Go Birds.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Council will be at ease.

(Council at ease.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The next order of business is communications.

The Chair requests that the Sergeant-at-Arms deliver the messages from the Mayor to the Chief Clerk.

Would the Chief Clerk please read the messages from the Mayor and any other communications in her possession.

THE CLERK: To the President and members of the Council of the City of Philadelphia, I am submitting herewith for the consideration of your Honorable body: An ordinance authorizing the Commissioner of

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Public Property, on behalf of the City, to acquire fee simple title or a lesser interest in real estate by purchase, dedication, donation, condemnation, agreement in lieu of condemnation, or otherwise, in certain parcels of land along the Schuylkill River and Wissahickon Creek, together with all improvements thereon and all associated easements and appurtenances for public recreational purposes, all under certain terms and conditions; and

An ordinance authorizing the Commissioner of Public Property, on behalf of the City of Philadelphia, to enter into an amendment to a sublease agreement with the Philadelphia Municipal Authority for use by the City of a portion of the premises located at 1600-26 John F. Kennedy Boulevard,

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Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, under certain terms and conditions.

An ordinance authorizing the Commissioner of Public Property, on behalf of the City of Philadelphia, to enter into a lease agreement for use by the City of all or a portion of the premises located at 9300 Ashton Road, under certain terms and conditions.

An ordinance authorizing the Commissioner of Public Property, on behalf of the City, to acquire fee simple title or a lesser interest by purchase, dedication, donation, condemnation, agreement, agreement in lieu of condemnation, or otherwise, in certain parcels of land along the Delaware River in the Tacony-Holmesburg area, together with all improvements thereon and all associated easements and

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appurtenances for public recreational purposes, all under certain terms and conditions.

A resolution authorizing the Philadelphia Land Bank to dispose of 1306 South 28th Street located in the 2nd Councilmanic District in accordance with the terms of Chapter 16-700 of The Philadelphia Code.

A resolution authorizing the Philadelphia Land Bank to dispose of 5228, 5230 Chester Avenue located in the 3rd Councilmanic District in accordance with the terms of Chapter 16-700 of The Philadelphia Code.

A resolution authorizing the Philadelphia Land Bank to dispose of 5415 Florence Avenue, Located in the 3rd Councilmanic District in accordance with the terms of Chapter 16-700 of The

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Philadelphia Code.

A resolution authorizing the Philadelphia Land Bank to dispose of 322 North 41st Street located in the 3rd Councilmanic District in accordance with the terms of Chapter 16-700 of The Philadelphia Code.

A resolution authorizing the Philadelphia Land Bank to dispose of 2715 N. Dover Street, 2716, 2718, 2729, 2817, 2820 N. Newkirk Street, 2710, 2720, 2722, 2738, 2758 N. 28th Street, 2719, 2731 N. 29th Street, 2649, 2651, 2655, 2700, 2730, 2738, 2746 W. Silver Street, 2632, 2645, 2646, 2654, 2700, 2703, 2705, 2706, 2710, 2711, 2714, 2715, 2716, 2717, 2719, 2723 2726, 2727, 2729, 2731, 2733, 2747, 2749 W. Sterner Street, 2520, 2532, 2621, 2627, 2635, 2639, 2640, 2651, 2654, 2655 W. Seltzer Street,

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2547, 2621, 2623, 2624, 2626, 2628 W. Silver Street, 2539, 2602, 2608 W. Sterner Street located in the 4th Councilmanic District in accordance with the terms of Chapter 16-700 of The Philadelphia Code.

A resolution authorizing the Commission of Public Property to execute and deliver to the Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority deeds conveying fee simple title to 903 Rising Sun Avenue in the 5th Councilmanic district of the City of Philadelphia, and further authorizing the Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority to transfer to the Philadelphia Land Bank fee simple title to such properties pursuant to Section 16-405 of The Philadelphia Code.

A resolution authorizing

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the Philadelphia Land Bank to dispose of 1936, 1940, 1944, 1952-54 N. 19th Street, 1913, 1943, 1945, 1947, 1949 N. 20th Street, 1907, 1919 W. Berks Street, 1901, 1915, 1919, 1937 W. Norris Street, 1912, 1914, 1918, 1946, 1948, 1950, 1952 N. Uber Street located in the 5th Councilmanic District in accordance with the terms of Chapter 16-700 of The Philadelphia Code.

A resolution authorizing the Philadelphia Land Bank to dispose of 1715, 1717, 1745, 1747, 1749 Belfield Avenue, 4556, 4558, 4560 N. Bouvier Street, 1820, 1822 W. Rockland Street, 1604, 1606, 1608 W. Mentor Street, 1732, 1734, 1736 W. Courtland Street located in the 8th Councilmanic District in accordance with the terms of Chapter 16-700 of The Philadelphia

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Code.

And to the President and members of the Council of the City of Philadelphia, my Administration intends to submit a contract proposal to the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 5, which will start the collective bargaining process under Act 111. I hereby request pursuant to Chapter 17-2300 of The Philadelphia Code, that Council promptly schedule a public hearing concerning the City's contract proposal in order to permit the City to begin the bargaining process.

If unable to schedule such hearing in the next 30 days, I request that Council President certify to the Office of Labor that Council is unavailable to do so, which will satisfy the requirements of Chapter 17-2300 of the Code and

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allow the City to move forward with its proposal and contract negotiations.

And to the President and members of the Council of the City of Philadelphia, pursuant to Section 4-604 and 2-307 of the Home Rule Charter, I am today transmitting to the Council the recommendation of the City Planning Commission on the following bills: Bill No. 260686 approved, 260687 approved, 260688 approved, 260690 approved, 260692 approved, 260693 approved, 260694 approved, 260695 approved, 260700 not for approval, 260703 approved, 260704 approved, 260706 approved, 260707 approved, 260709 approved and 260711 approved.

While the Commission voted to extend its review 45 additional days on Bill No. 260689,

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we recognize we are transmitting this action letter more than 30 days past its introduction.

And to the President and members of the Council of the City of Philadelphia, I'm pleased to advise you that on October 19, 2026, I signed the following bill which was passed by Council at its session September 17, 2026: Bill No. 260691.

And I am pleased to advise you that on October 19, 2026, I signed the following bill, which was passed by Council at its session on October 8, 2026: Bill No. 260429.

There are no more communications in my possession, Council President.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Thank you. The messages from the Mayor will be printed in

the Journal.

The next order of business is introduction of bills and resolutions.

The Chair recognizes Councilmember Dr. Anthony Phillips.

COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: Thank you so much, Council President.

I have no bills or resolutions for today.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Thank you, sir.

Chair recognizes Councilmember Majority Leader Katherine Gilmore Richardson.

COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE RICHARDSON: Thank you, Mr. President.

There are no bills or resolutions for introduction today. Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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JOHNSON: Thank you.

Chair recognizes Councilmember Jamie Gauthier.

COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Thank you, Council President. Today I have three non-privileged resolutions and one bill.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

Chief Clerk, please read the titles of the bill and resolutions.

THE CLERK: An ordinance authorizing the Commissioner of Public Property, on behalf of the City, to acquire fee simple title or a lesser real estate interest by purchase, dedication, donation, condemnation, agreement in lieu of condemnation, or otherwise, in and to all or portions of certain parcels of land located along the west bank of the Schuylkill River

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in and around an area generally bounded by South 58th Street, as extended to the bulkhead line of the west bank of the Schuylkill River; South 61st Street; and West Passyunk Avenue for public park, recreation, and transportation purposes under certain terms and conditions.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: This bill will be referred to the appropriate committee.

THE CLERK: And a non-privileged resolution authorizing the Philadelphia Land Bank to dispose of 5415 Florence Avenue located in the 3rd Councilmanic District in accordance with the terms of Chapter 16-700 of The Philadelphia Code.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: This resolution will be

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placed on the Final Passage Calendar for consideration at the next session of Council.

THE CLERK: And a non-privileged resolution authorizing the Philadelphia Land Bank to dispose of 322 North 41st Street located in the 3rd Councilmanic District in accordance with the terms of Chapter 16-700 of The Philadelphia Code.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: This resolution will be placed on the Final Passage Calendar for consideration at the next session of Council.

THE CLERK: And a non-privileged resolution authorizing the Philadelphia Land Bank to dispose of 5228 and 5230 Chester Avenue located in the 3rd Councilmanic District in accordance with the terms of Chapter 16-700 of

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The Philadelphia Code.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: This resolution will be placed on the Final Passage Calendar for consideration at the next session of Council.

Chair recognizes Councilmember Jones.

COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you, Mr. President.

Today I offer one bill, one privileged and one non-privileged resolution.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

Chief Clerk, please read the titles of the bill and resolutions.

THE CLERK: An ordinance authorizing the Commissioner of Public Property, on behalf of the City, to acquire fee, simple title or a lesser interest in real estate

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by purchase, dedication, donation, condemnation, agreement in lieu of condemnation or otherwise and certain parcels of land along the Schuylkill River and the Wissahickon Creek, together with all improvements thereon and all associated easements and appurtenances for public recreational purposes, all under certain terms and conditions.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: This bill will be referred to the appropriate committee.

THE CLERK: And a non-privileged resolution authorizing the Philadelphia Land Bank to dispose of

2715 N. Dover Street, 2716, 2718, 2729, 2817, 2820 N. Newkirk Street, 2710, 2720, 2722,

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2738, 2758 N. 28th Street, 2719, 2731 N. 29th Street, 2649, 2651, 2655, 2700, 2730, 2738, 2746 W. Silver Street, 2632, 2645, 2646, 2654, 2700, 2703, 2705, 2706, 2710, 2711, 2714, 2715, 2716, 2717, 2719, 2723 2726, 2727, 2729, 2731, 2733, 2747, 2749 W. Sterner Street, 2520, 2532, 2621, 2627, 2635, 2639, 2640, 2651, 2654, 2655 W. Seltzer Street, 2547, 2621, 2623, 2624, 2626, 2628 W. Silver Street, 2539, 2602, 2608 W. Sterner Street located in the 4th Councilmanic District in accordance with the terms of Chapter 16-700 of The Philadelphia Code.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: This resolution will be placed on the Final Passage Calendar for consideration at the next session of Council.

THE CLERK: And a

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privileged resolution authorizing the Committee on Transportation and Public Utilities to hold hearings examining Philadelphia Gas Works' residential shutoffs for non-payment and measures to prevent households from losing essential utility service.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: This resolution will be placed on today's Final Passage Calendar.

Chair recognizes Councilmember Rue Landau.

COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU: Good morning, Council President, colleagues.

Today I have one non-privileged resolution on your behalf.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

Chief Clerk, please read

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the title of the non-privileged resolution.

THE CLERK: A non-privileged resolution supporting the workers of UNITE HERE Local 274 and calling on the management of the Hilton Garden Inn to reach a deal as the only unionized hotel in Center City without a new contract.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: This resolution will be placed on the Final Passage Calendar for consideration at the next session of Council.

Chair recognizes Councilmember Quetcy Lozada.

COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Thank you, Council President.

Today I have one privileged resolution on my behalf and a privileged resolution co-introduced with Councilmember

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Gilmore Richardson on your behalf.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

Chief Clerk, please read the title of the resolution.

THE CLERK: A privileged resolution honoring and congratulating Wayne Miller on his more than five decades of service to Sprinkler Fitters Local Union 692 and the Philadelphia Building Trades.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

THE CLERK: And a privileged resolution authorizing the Special Committee on Kensington to hold a hearing to evaluate the progress of last year, the current state of affairs as well as future barriers and goals.

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COUNCIL PRESIDENT

JOHNSON: This resolution will be placed on today's Final Passage Calendar. That's a good one.

Chair recognizes Councilmember Jeffrey Jay Young.

COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Thank you, Mr. President.

Today I offer one non-privileged resolution.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

Chief Clerk, please read the title of the resolution.

THE CLERK: A non-privileged resolution authorizing the Philadelphia Land Bank to dispose of 1936, 1940, 1944, 1952-54 N. 19th Street, 1913, 1943, 1945, 1947, 1949 N. 20th Street, 1907, 1919 W. Berks Street, 1901, 1915, 1919, 1937 W. Norris Street, 1912, 1914, 1918, 1946,

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1948, 1950, 1952 N. Uber Street located in the 5th Councilmanic District in accordance with the terms of Chapter 16-700 of The Philadelphia Code.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Chair recognizes Councilmember Young.

COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Thank you, Mr. President.

I would like to submit an additional privileged resolution that was circulated after the 12 noon deadline on Wednesday, October 21, 2026.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Will the Chief Clerk please read the title of the resolution.

THE CLERK: A resolution authorizing the Committee on Streets and Services and Housing and Neighborhood Development and

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The Homeless to hold joint hearings to investigate the prevalence of unsheltered homelessness and public rights-of-way and examine the City's coordination and utilization of resources to connect individuals experiencing homelessness with appropriate housing, shelter and supportive services.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Chair recognizes Member Young for a motion.

COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Thank you, Mr. President.

I move that the rules of Council be suspended to permit the consideration of this privileged resolution that was just read into the record by the Chief Clerk at today's session of Council.

(Duly seconded.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: It has been moved and

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properly seconded.

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

(Aye.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Those opposed?

(No response.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The ayes have it. The motion carries. The resolution will be placed on today's Final Passage Calendar.

Council will be at ease.

(Council at ease.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Chair recognizes Councilmember Kendra Brooks.

COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: Thank you, Council President.

I have nothing to introduce today.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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JOHNSON: Thank you.

Chair recognizes Councilmember Jim Harrity.

COUNCILMAN HARRITY: Thank you, Council President.

No bills or resolutions today.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

JOHNSON: Chair recognizes Councilmember Nicolas O'Rourke.

COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE: Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning, Philadelphians.

I have one bill and one privileged resolution to introduce today.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

Chief Clerk, please read the titles of the bill and resolution.

THE CLERK: An ordinance amending Title 21 of The

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Philadelphia Code, entitled "Miscellaneous" to add a new chapter creating the Philadelphia Transit Access Fund, to establish the purposes for which appropriations to the Transit Access Fund may be used, and to establish public reporting requirements related to the Fund.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: This bill will be referred to the appropriate committee.

THE CLERK: And a privileged resolution celebrating the national model Zero Fare Program and recognizing the initial findings of the Georgetown University Better Government Lab Report on the program's success.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: This resolution will be placed on today's Final Passage

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Calendar. Good job, Member O'Rourke.

Chair recognizes Councilmember Mike Driscoll.

COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL: Good morning, Mr. President.

I have two bills and one privileged resolution for today.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

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

THE CLERK: An ordinance authorizing the Commissioner of Public Property, on behalf of the City, to acquire fee simple title or a lesser interest by purchase, dedication, donation, condemnation, agreement in lieu of condemnation, or otherwise, in certain parcels of land along the Delaware River in the Tacony-Holmesburg area,

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together with all improvements thereon and all associated easements and appurtenances for public recreational purposes, all under certain terms and conditions.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: This bill will be referred to the appropriate committee.

THE CLERK: And an ordinance authorizing the Commissioner of Public Property, on behalf of the City, to enter into a lease agreement for use by the City of all or a portion of the premises located at 9300 Ashton Road, under certain terms and conditions.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: This bill will be referred to the appropriate committee.

THE CLERK: And a privileged resolution honoring and

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recognizing Dr. Bernice Suddler for her landmark 44-year tenure of leadership, desegregation, trailblazing and community stewardship at Hamilton Disston School.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: This resolution will be placed on today's Final Passage Calendar.

Chair recognizes Councilmember Brian O'Neill.

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

I have no bills and resolutions.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Chair recognizes Councilmember Mark Squilla.

COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Thank you, Mr. President.

I offer two bills.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

Chief Clerk, please read the titles of the bills.

THE CLERK: An ordinance approving a new plan, estimated cost and proposed method of assessment of the Old City Special Services District of Philadelphia for and concerning business improvements and administrative services to the Old City area of the City of Philadelphia, all under certain terms and conditions.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: This bill will be referred to the appropriate committee.

THE CLERK: An ordinance amending Section 14-502 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled "/CTR, Center City Overlay District" by allowing certain uses in Old City Residential Area, Core under

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COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: This bill will be referred to the appropriate committee.

Chair recognizes Councilmember Dr. Nina Ahmad.

COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD: Thank you, Council President.

I have no bills or resolutions today.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The next order of business is reports from committee.

The Chair recognizes Councilmember Lozada for a report from the Committee on Public Property and Public Works.

COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Thank you, Council President.

The Committee on Public Property and Public Works reports out five bills with a favorable

10/22/26 - STATED - REPORTS recommendation.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

Will the Chief Clerk please read the report.

THE CLERK: The Committee on Public Property and Public Works, to which was referred the following bills: Bill No. 260567, an ordinance renaming and designating Girard Fountain Park, located on the 300 block of Arch Street as "Janet Kalter Park."

Bill No. 260638 as amended, an ordinance renaming and designating the building located on the property of the Dorothy Emanuel Recreation Center, commonly referred to as the Dorothy Emanuel Playground Building, located at 8501 Pickering Avenue, as the "Marlene Trice Neighborhood Center" in the City of Philadelphia.

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Bill No. 260763, an ordinance authorizing the Commissioner of Public Property, on behalf of the City of Philadelphia, to enter into a lease or sublease agreements with the Philadelphia Authority for Industrial Development for all or a portion of the premises that includes certain parcels of land, generally referred to as Victory Gardens and Emerson Landfill, for an environmental remediation of the land development of a facility at said premises and use as a training facility, all under certain terms and conditions.

Bill No. 260798, as amended, an ordinance renaming the Penrose Recreation Center to the "Shirley M. Kitchen Recreation Center" to honor the life to honor the life and legacy of Shirley Kitchen, a pioneering public

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servant and civic leader with an immeasurable impact on the Greater North Philadelphia community.

Bill No. 260799, as amended, an ordinance authorizing the Commissioner of Parks and Recreation, on behalf of the City of Philadelphia, to enter into a multi-year agreement with the Broad Street Love Park, LLC for the design, construction, management and operation of a food and beverage concession at the Welcome Center Building in Love Park, all under certain terms and conditions, respectfully reports that it is considered the same and returns the attached bills to Council with a favorable recommendation.

There are no further bills to report out from the Committee on Public Property and Public Works, Council President.

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COUNCIL PRESIDENT

JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

Chair recognizes

Councilmember Lozada for a motion.

COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA:

Thank you, Council President.

I move that the rules of

Council be suspended to permit

first reading on this day of the

bills just read into the record by

the Chief Clerk.

(Duly seconded.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

JOHNSON: It has been moved and

properly seconded that the rules of

Council be suspended so as to

permit the consideration of the

bills just read by the Chief Clerk

at today's session of Council.

All those in favor of

the motion will signify by saying

aye.

(Aye.)

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COUNCIL PRESIDENT

JOHNSON: Those opposed?

(No response.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

The next order of business is the consideration of the Calendar. I note that the bills just reported from committees with suspension of the rules have been deemed to have had a first reading. These bills will be placed on the Second Reading and Final Passage Calendar for the next session of Council.

The Chair recognizes Majority Leader Katherine Gilmore Richardson for a motion concerning resolutions on the Final Passage Calendar and bills on Second

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Reading and Final Passage Calendar.

COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE RICHARDSON: Thank you, Mr. President.

The following resolutions are being called up from the Final Passage Calendar and the following bills are being called up from the Second Reading and Final Passage Calendar today: Resolution Nos. 260847, 260873. Bill Nos. 260692, 260693, 260706 and 260707.

The following resolutions and bills on the Calendar are being held: 260872, 250768, 250807, 260076 and 260462.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Before considering these resolutions and bills, we consider public comments as follows: Your public comment must concern matters on the Second Reading and Final

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Passage Calendars for possible action at today's Council session.

All speakers must sign up in order to testify. If you have not already signed up for today's Council session, please do so now by giving your name to Ms. Hasson at the table outside the rails to my left. Once you have signed up, you will be called in the order in which your name appears on the sign-up sheet.

Under ideal circumstances, public commenters each will have three minutes to speak. However, this time limit may vary from Council session to Council session today. Due to the repetitious comments on the same subject matters, the time limit will be one minute.

In order to be fair to all those wishing to speak, I

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intend to hold faithfully to the one-minute limit. When you begin speaking, you will see a green light on the podium. When there are 30 seconds remaining to your time, the light will turn yellow, which is your reminder to please conclude your remarks.

Once one minute has passed, the light will turn red and the Sergeant-at-Arms will disconnect the microphone. Please do not give the Sergeant-at-Arms a hard time. He's only doing his job. At that point, please yield the podium to the next speaker if you have not done so already.

I also reserve the rights, pursuant to our rules of City Council, to limit repetitious comments on the very same subject matter. The right to comment does not mean the right to disrupt

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proceedings. I ask that all the commenters refrain from using profanity that disrupts the meeting so we can maintain order in the forum through respectful discourse.

I will ask the Chief Clerk to please read the names of our first speakers for public comment today.

THE CLERK: Will Gabriella McLoughlin, Jeremy Blatstein, John McAuley, William Small, David Jenkins, Nico Meyering, Tonya Hendricks, Stephen Bronskill and Jerrett Johnson, please make your way to the podium. And also Julio Rodriguez to the podium.

(Witnesses approached podium.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Council will be at ease for a second.

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(Council at ease.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Just for the record, Councilmember Isaiah Thomas, do you have any bills and resolutions you would like to introduce, sir?

COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Sorry, Council President. No bills and resolutions to introduce today. Thank you, sir.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Thank you very much. Please proceed.

MS. McLOUGHLIN: Okay. Good morning. My name is Gabriella McLoughlin and I'm an Associate Professor at Temple University, where I direct the RISE Lab, which seeks to address inequities in health through pragmatic, community-engaged research. The breakfast and lunch, provided at no

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cost to students every day, have been demonstrated to improve dietary quality, food insecurity and improve attendance and academic achievement.

They also reduce administrative burden for schools and districts so they can focus on what really matters, to feed children. I've worked alongside the school district since 2021 and have seen the struggles that the Office of Food Services faces daily to deliver high-quality meals to students around the city.

Our lab is currently partnering with the district and several schools to co-create and test ways to improve perceptions of school meals, meal participation and capacity within school systems to better implement this program.

I am excited about this resolution

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and in support from the City Council and Councilmember Phillips to collaborate with the school district. So we're excited to partner with evaluation and provide advocacy for this resolution. Thank you.

(Applause.)

MR. BLATSTEIN: Hello. Jeremy Blatstein. Thank you for that resolution for the Kensington hearing on businesses, right, but we need more housing. You heard from Councilman Jones and Councilman Young with the --

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Jeremy, how you doing today? Are we speaking on 260076, which is the amendment to the Home Rule Charter relating to creation of --

MR. BLATSTEIN: Yes.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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JOHNSON: -- public welfare?

MR. BLATSTEIN: I was going to talk about the resolution that got brought up today, right, that was put on the Calendar. Is that allowed? Is that germane to the topic?

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Just was double checking.

MR. BLATSTEIN: Okay. For that one, the Home Rule Charter, sir, put it on the ballot, right. Disband the Philadelphia Sheriff's Office, right. The Home Rule Charter can get changed by putting the resolution by this body and on the ballot and voting on it, right.

The Philadelphia Sheriff's Office found $20 million, and this body has done nothing, nothing to hold them accountable. Hold the hearing on the

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Philadelphia Sheriff's Office and put it on the ballot. And the last thing I'll say, right, is hearings. You want to talk about the Kensington hearing, sir. Put a resolution up for the hearing on the sheriff's office.

And the last thing we're talking about is support the Zero Fare. It's a good program. Ride the ride, grow Philly to 2 milly. Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Please proceed.

MR. McAULEY: John Alonte McAuley in regard to Resolution 260872, calling on the School District of Philadelphia to re-examine its policies and practices concerning the provision of healthy, nutritious and high-quality meals to Philadelphia public school students.

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At what point do parents say, I want to be responsible for feeding my own children? If you want your children to eat better at school, then it's simply not up to the district. They pick vendors based on reimbursement rates and nutrition standards set by USDA. USDA would need Congress to change the law, raise your taxes to change the reimbursement rates so they could pay vendors to make better quality food. That's why any politician that's not talking about putting more money in your pocket so you can feed your own children is full of crap.

I'd rather discuss why do we allow activist teachers to teach children to hate President Trump, but not Barack Obama when he said every young male needs a gay role model. Tell them messages

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that they really need to hear, like they've never been a slave. They never been through segregation. They never seen Jim Crow. No one has ever tried to hang them from a tree. There is no white oppressor. Never adopt a victim mentality. You live in the greatest country in the world. And if you keep Jesus first --

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Thank you, John. That's your time, sir. Thank you, sir.

MR. McAULEY: (Inaudible).

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: That's just the time. I just said thank you, sir. That's your time. Thank you, beloved. Please call the next speaker please.

MR. McAULEY: (Inaudible).

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COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Thank you, sir. Thank you sir.

Please call the next speaker please.

THE CLERK: Will William --

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Mr. William Small, please begin, sir.

THE CLERK: -- Small, David Jenkins, Nico Meyering, Julio Rodriguez, Tonya Hendricks, Stephen Bronskill, Jerrett Johnson and Jake Lang, please make your way to the podium.

(Witnesses approached podium.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Please proceed.

MR. SMALL: Good morning everybody. My name is William Small. I'm from an organization

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called Flip Philly Red. And today I am with the Resolution 260872. My children are educated in the Philadelphia School District. But if we really care about children, when the gambling machines swept through every store in Philadelphia, you guys tiptoed over the issue with legislation that enabled them to keep 4 or 5 machines, effectively turning these stores into gambling hubs for anyone to play, including elementary school-aged children.

It took the Supreme Court and a Republican, AG Dave Sunday, to step in and put an end to this madness. While some Councilmembers in this chamber tried to legalize them, ignoring the addiction that they plagued on their own people. Now, when it comes to these smoke shops, I'm

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seeing the same exact energy. We don't need legislation that keeps them a certain distance away. That's not the problem. Because these smoke shops in the city are not legal businesses.

These places are trap houses that don't just sell drugs. They sell them to our children. With the overwhelming amount of people in there that are migrants who are from the city of Philadelphia and are operated by illegal immigrants, where are the search warrants? Where are the RICOs? Where is the political pressure for these smoke shops in our city.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: That's your time, Mr. Small. But thank you very much for your commentary today, sir.

Please call the next

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person please. Please proceed, sir.

MR. MEYERING: Thank you. Good morning, Councilmembers. My name is Nico Meyering. I strongly support Councilmember O'Rourke's resolution on Zero Fare. I'm a disabled SEPTA rider from District 1 and a member of the Transit Forward Philadelphia Steering Committee.

I don't drive, so the 47, the 21 and the 42 are my only rides. In fact, for thousands of disabled Philadelphians on fixed incomes, SEPTA is how we reach work, the pharmacy and each other. When fares rose 21.5% last year, something had to give. For me, it was food. I went down to 1 or 2 meals a day so my disabled wife could also eat.

For others, it's

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prescription or staying home. Isolation is its own disability tax. The Transit Access Fund is the ramp to permanent Zero Fare, half of 1% of the General Fund written into the Charter and decided by voters. My ask today is everybody supports the Transit Access Fund. 250 years after this city declared independence, give us transit and give us freedom. Thank you.

(Applause.)

MR. JENKINS: Good morning, Mr. President, members and guests. David Alexander Jenkins and I rise for Member O'Rourke's re-introduction of the Affordable Philly Now Plan Transit Access Fund, a program set to help more of our neighbors access life in this greatest of cities that we call home. I do not need to tell you in

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Philadelphia here, who are burdened with the realities of a hike in cost of living that have presented to a people already strapped for cash.

Alas, many of you in this very room and those listening to the sound of my voice from beyond the rail have received your paychecks today and know the truth of a day late and a dollar short. When it comes to financial security, the decision between rent or groceries is a real one, and the money you spent to get here to school, to church, yes, even here this morning, was a burden worthy of pause.

But I want to tell you that I sat on the 23 between 10th and Diamond Street at 12th and Market last week, I had the opportunity to meet Tajanaye, a

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27-year-old young lady who, on her way downtown, told me where -- I asked where she was going, that she was headed to a shelter before it closed for the night, and having lost her apartment at the beginning of the week and after being fired from a work of last month due to lateness, she was late because she could not get to work because she did not have the $2.50 that was required to get there. This is real. And so, I ask you to pass Member O'Rourke's bill.

(Applause.)

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Good morning. My name is Julio Rodriguez, and I'm here to speak about Councilmember O'Rourke's privileged resolution on the Zero Fare program. I want to start off by thanking Council President, Majority Leader and Minority Leader

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for their support on public transit. I'll be reading brief remarks from one of our members, Helena Gallant.

I'm a proud resident of Northeast Philly in the neighborhood. And speaking as a member of the 215 People's Alliance, a coalition member of Philly, I'm here to speak favorably on the Councilmember's resolution and on the Transit Access Fund. I've been a transit rider ever since I was a student at Temple University, and transit is my preferred method of getting around.

Taking transit, especially Regional Rail, can be very costly. So anything that can be done to support transit is super important. All this to say that transit should be a right, not a privilege. And that Transit Access

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Fund is a necessary step to make that statement a reality. Thank you.

(Applause.)

MS. HENDRICKS: Good morning. My name is Tonya Hendricks and I'm here to support the Zero Fare Act. And I'm also here to speak about the We Make Philly agenda. I've been a member of Power Interfaith for over a year. I'm a lifelong Philadelphian, and I've lived in my home for 28 years. I love our city and couldn't imagine living anywhere else.

My reality is I live off of $1,100 a month after I pay my bills. I'm lucky to have $100 left. I've signed up for every assistance program I could find. Even with that, my daughter still helps me with my utilities. I go

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to food pantries so that we are able to eat. And in the last year, my property taxes and PGW bill have doubled. I'm worried about my future and being able to keep my house and maintain my life.

I've worked my whole life and now I'm tired. You know, I'm disabled. I'm tired of robbing Peter to pay Paul to figure out which bill I'm going to pay each month. So I'm here to ask City Council to support and pass the We Make Philly agenda and make our city stronger and more affordable. Thank you.

(Applause.)

MR. BRONSKILL: Good morning. My name is Stephen Bronskill. I'm also here commenting on the Zero Fare program resolution. A couple of weeks ago, the Better Government report came

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out, studying the Zero Fare program. They said, did this work. And they found two things. They said, first, if you give people transit, they use it. They take it to work, school and medical care.

The second thing and most shocking, they trust their government more, by double-digit margins. Our friends from Power Interfaith are here. Transit riders are here. They are campaigning for a more affordable city. This is something we can do right now by passing this bill by later funding the Transit Access Fund to help low-income Philadelphians, students, workers and tenants get where they need to go.

I want to thank Council President Johnson, Majority Leader Gilmore Richardson, Minority Leader

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Brooks and Transportation Utilities Chair Driscoll and all of the co-sponsors on this legislation. A transit access fund is brotherly love, it's sisterly affection. It says, I may not look like you. I may not travel like you. I may not live like you. But we all have somewhere to go. Thank you for making Philly affordable and the safe, reliable transit we deserve. Thank you.

(Applause.)

THE CLERK: Will Jacob S. Harris, Sharon Weinman, Caleb Scott Joseph, David Gonzalez, Leon Sheena, Santiago Melendez, Julia Rea, please make your way to the podium.

(Witnesses approached podium.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Please proceed, sir.

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MR. JOHNSON: Good morning. My name is Jerrett Johnson. I live in District 4 and I take the 30, 31, 65 and the El lines every day. I'm here to support the Zero Access Fund program. An affordable Philadelphia means every Philadelphian like myself, at or below the poverty level, and the working class that rely on SEPTA will go wherever they want and have a sense of freedom.

It's not just those who are working full-time. It's not just families or single parents with kids. It's those who are working full-time, working 2 or 3 jobs, singles, newlyweds, senior citizens that are also in poverty. As a bus rider myself, I make less than over $16,000 a year, and this would help me because it would help

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continue my success as a representing transit for Philadelphia.

Let me give one example of how it's working. Increased use amongst recipients, especially those who ride the least, have been riding the most ever since the program existed. So let's get this done and finish -- let's cross the finish line and get this bill support and let's get it across the finish line and make this happen. Thank you.

(Applause.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Thank you, sir. Please proceed, sir.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: How y'all doing? I have a question for the room. Is education a human right? Is education a human right?

(Yes.)

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UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:

Is health care?

(Yes.)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:

Is housing?

(Yes.)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:

How will we fund this city? I came here to support the We Make Philly campaign and Nicolas O'Rourke's bill. And what I'd like to say is when I think about my life, I think about my mom, I think about my dad, I think about my sister. Rent is too high.

My sister can hardly find a spot to rent, let alone own. My dad has heart problems. How can a city with no money support people that are sick? My mother, she's a teacher. When does she get to retire in a city that she cannot afford? And I work, I work. There

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is no job protection. That's why I support the We Make Philly campaign and Nicolas O'Rourke's bill, because these are the things that make this city affordable for people like us and the people that make this city. Thank you.

(Applause.)

MS. WEINMAN: Good morning. My name is Sharon Weinman and I'm a member of Power Interfaith as well and I live in District 8. I'm here in support of Councilmember O'Rourke's Transit Access Fund and SEPTA's Zero Fare program. These programs will ensure that there is public transportation for young people in all of us to get to school, jobs and all the places we have to go.

I'm here to urge Council to address the city's affordability crisis by supporting Power

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Interfaith, We Make Philly agenda, to pass a fair wealth tax, lower property taxes and freeze gas. I have the financial resources to pay more in city taxes. If a wealth tax is passed, I will pay more, but it will not impact the way I live.

Ironically, it's wealthy people like me who get big tax breaks. That's money that should be going to our communities. Thank you.

(Applause.)

MR. SCOTT: Good morning, Councilmembers. My name is Caleb Scott Joseph, and I am speaking on behalf of UAW Local 5124 in support of the Zero Fare resolution. Our union represents over 3000 graduate workers at the University of Pennsylvania. Our members live in all corners of the city and provide teaching services

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essential to the university's educational mission as well as perform groundbreaking research in fields across medicine, science and the humanities.

We would like to start by thanking Councilmember O'Rourke for his work advocating for an affordable transit system for all Philadelphians. As graduate workers, the majority of us do not own cars. We rely on SEPTA. We rely instead on alternative means of transportation like SEPTA to commute to work.

SEPTA, in addition to enabling us to commute to our workplace, is our lifeline to the city and our surrounding communities. It enables us to get groceries, see our friends and families, and engage with our neighbors. Protecting SEPTA's

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future is of critical importance to our members and all Philadelphians. That is why the Transit Access Fund is so critical. Hundreds of thousands of Philadelphians rely on SEPTA in much the same way as our members do. Every Philadelphian should have the right to go where they need without hefty economic barriers.

(Applause.)

MR. GONZALEZ: Good evening, Councilmembers. My name is David Gonzalez. I'm also here on behalf of our union, UAW Local 5124, representing the graduate workers of the University of Pennsylvania. I'm here with my colleague Caleb Scott Joseph to finish off what we were saying.

Look, the Zero Fare program makes great strides towards achieving the reality of a

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Philadelphia without economic barriers for all Philadelphians. In addition to this, supporting the continuation of the Key Advantage program for city employees as well as expanding it to other Philadelphia employers, housing providers and educational institutions unlocks a new way for thousands more Philadelphians to engage with our city.

Expanding these programs will lead to increased ridership and economic activity, thus benefiting all Philadelphians. We, on behalf of all of 3000 members that we represent, urge City Council to adopt and pass this resolution. We additionally call on City Council to take direct action toward building a more equitable and accessible Philadelphia, starting with

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transit.

(Applause.)

THE CLERK: Will Katie Ashby, Aaron Young, Janice Tosto, Allegra Dingal, Joy Ahn, Joanne Douglas, Linnea Bond and Jacqueline Green, please make your way to the podium.

(Witnesses approached podium.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Please proceed.

MR. MELENDEZ: Good morning. My name is Santiago Melendez, and I am privileged to be in this room to speak in support of Councilmember O'Rourke's Zero Fare resolution. The evidence presented is strong for the program, even though the program is still young. Philadelphia has built a best in-class reduced fare program that is reaching a greater percentage of

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eligible residents than any other similar initiative in the nation.

It is giving everyone, regardless of age, race or employment history the key to the city and ensuring that they can travel to medical appointments, to work and to the grocery store. As the cost of transportation increases, but wages do not, the Zero Fare program is ensuring that everyone retains access to the opportunities that urban life provides.

With that, I will close by asking you to commit to supporting the Transit Access Fund and the Zero Fare program as we take a step forward to building a stronger, more equitable Philadelphia.

(Applause.)

MS. REA: Hello, my name

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is Julie Rea. I'm also here to speak in support of Councilmember O'Rourke's resolution. I live in Kensington on Front Street with the York Dolphin stop on the El, a half block away from my apartment. SEPTA takes me to doctor appointments, shopping excursions, and all other aspects of local life.

However, this year SEPTA riders faced a 20% increase in fare costs at a time when wages remain stagnant and consumers are contending with burdensome cost increases. The median annual income in Kensington is approximately $29,000, making the cost of a roundtrip on SEPTA $12 for riders with disabilities who use paratransit, a source of significant pain for my neighbors.

The Transit Access Fund

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would address the harms caused by inflation by permanently funding the Zero Fare program. The Zero Fare program provides free SEPTA passes to low-income residents of Philadelphia. Currently, the program is funded through July 27th. If additional funding is not found prior to that time, the Zero Fare program will cease. Thank you for your time.

(Applause.)

MS. ASHBY: My name is Katie Ashby. I want to thank you for introducing the SEPTA Zero Fare program and Transit Access Fund. Making transit accessible to all as we navigate an affordability crisis is a necessity, which is why I'm here with Power Interfaith to ask Council to pass the We Make Philly campaign and extend the Homestead Exemption.

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With property taxes growing more disproportionately unaffordable, our neighbors are being increasingly forced out of their homes, and in their place corporations are taking over. Over a third of all single-family homes in Philadelphia are now purchased by investors. This is double the amount than the national average.

When we've created a financial environment so insidious that renters cannot afford to save for a home due to the steady rise of already unaffordable rents and homeowners cannot afford to lose their property because they can neither afford a home or exorbitant rent, it is up to our elected officials to implement a solution for this affordability crisis.

If Council passes the We Make Philly agenda, that would mean

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our neighborhoods could stay in the hands of our neighbors. And at a time of unmatched financial precarity, increasing the Homestead Exemption could mean the difference between housed and homeless. Thank you.

(Applause.)

MR. YOUNG: Hi. I'm speaking in support -- my name is Erin Young. I'm speaking on the Nicolas O'Rourke Zero Fare resolution in support of the Transit Access Fund. I'm a member of Transit Forward Philadelphia and I live in District 3. I am speaking in support of the Transit Access Fund because it would protect programs like Zero Fare from funding cuts and put them on the path to permanent funding.

This would create stability for Zero Fare

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participants who will currently see their coverage expire in July next year. I fully depend on SEPTA and I take it everywhere. I'm disabled and can't walk or bike long distances, so I need to buy a monthly pass. Last year, fares increased 21.5%, but wages in Philly did not.

I pay more for worse, more unreliable service and myself and other Philadelphians who are financially insecure are all affected by this fare increase. While the state of PA has refused to fully fund public transit, the city should step in to help residents afford the cost of transit. So I ask you, will you support the Transit Access Fund in Philadelphia.

(Applause.)

MS. TOSTO: Good

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morning. My name is Janice Tosto and I'm a transit rider and a volunteer for Transit for Philadelphia. And I'm speaking on behalf of Councilmember O'Rourke's Zero Fare proposal resolution. Last year's 21.5% fare hike was excessive and burdensome for us transit riders, people that lost jobs, continue to lose jobs and face considerable financial pressure.

The Zero Fare program will ensure that riders with the greatest need can access our public transportation system. Money should not be a barrier to getting around our city. I urge passage of the Transit Access Fund bill, including permanent funding for the Zero Fare program. Thank you.

(Applause.)

MS. DINGAL: Hello. My

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name is Allegra Dingal. I am here in support of expanding Zero Fare and the Transit Access Fund. I work as a Southwest Philadelphia Fellow at Transit Forward Philadelphia. I am also low-income. I am also chronically ill. There are days when I am able to work a full day and then there are others when I am so exhausted, I am in bed all day. I am that rider that takes the 42 three blocks to connect to the 52.

We all know that disabled people overwhelmingly rely on public transit. I cannot stress enough how much my life has improved now that I do not have to worry about paying $2.90 every time I get on a bus. I think that everyone deserves this level of care. I'm excited to continue engaging in discussions about how

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we can make this city more affordable for the people that make it run. Thank you.

(Applause.)

MS. AHN: Good morning. Thank you, Council and Council President, for hearing us today. My name is Joy Ann. I'm a Nurse Advocacy Manager at the National Nurse-led?? Care Consortium or NCC, where I work with other registered nurses and parent coaches who provide free home visiting for pregnant families and families with young children in all of the neighborhoods in Philadelphia.

I'm here to comment on Councilmember O'Rourke's privileged resolution on the Zero Fare program. For years, we at NCC have strived to create workarounds for the families we serve. Regarding transportation, families use

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transportation for a number of reasons, getting to school and work, job searching, grocery shopping, adult and pediatric doctors' visits, connecting with family, friends and other support, people going to therapy appointments safely, delivering young children to school, taking their children to parks, the zoo, the aquarium, etc.

The unaffordability of public transportation for families creates a barrier for accessing any of these things. As nurses and home visitors, we know that this is a public health issue. Social service organizations cannot afford to continue carrying the cost of transportation. A zero fare system would improve the health and lives of the families we serve by making it affordable to access healthy

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foods and health services. Thank you.

(Applause.)

MS. DOUGLASS: Hi. My name is Joanne Douglass and I work for Clean Air Council as a sustainable transportation outreach coordinator. Our organization works in solidarity with several organizations to reduce pollution across the city. We fully support Councilman O'Rourke's Transit Fund initiative.

It is vital that public transit be affordable and accessible to all. The Zero Fare program ensures that the most vulnerable populations can move around the city, getting to appointments, food services and jobs without further pushing them into poverty or a tough spot burdening their limited finances.

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Subsidizing small businesses to adopt the SEPTA Key Advantage program helps with employee retention, assisting with cost of living due to stagnant city wages, and keeping the hard-working people who make the city great inside of Philadelphia. I want to thank you for your time and for hearing myself and my fellow advocates. We look forward to seeing the Transit Access Fund in action.

(Applause.)

THE CLERK: Will Nazbi Chowdhury, Owen Taylor, Kyle Baptist, Autumn Fingerhood, Gloria Cartagena Hart, Eden MacDougall, please make your way to the podium.

(Witnesses approached podium.)

MS. BOND: Hello. My name is Linnea Bond and I'm the Director of Education for

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Physicians for Social Responsibility Pennsylvania. Fund the Transit Fund obviously. But go beyond that to support health and SEPTA through a data center moratorium.

On each of your desks and, Council President, I have yours, is a report written by Nobel Prize-winning economist Paul Krugman. He argues that $8.2 billion, which is the amount of money typically invested in a data center in any other investment, is 10,000 jobs. Non-construction jobs, compared to 100 jobs from that amount of investment in a data center. He argues further that that investment is happening, not beside other investment, but at the expense --

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Can you also talk about

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the transit?

MS. BOND: Oh, yeah. I will. I will tie it together. So if a data center gets built in Philadelphia, that's a 9900-job gap in the job market. Across the state, there's 135 proposed data centers, which means 1,336,500 fewer jobs. So that money is enriching private equity, which buys up more of our housing and hospitals and prices out. And Pennsylvania exempts data centers from sales tax, which funds the General Fund --

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Can you tie the data centers into the transit --

MS. BOND: -- which funds SEPTA and our schools. Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: There you go. Thank you.

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Appreciate you.

(Applause.)

MS. GREEN: Good morning, President Johnson, Councilmembers and everyone here. My name is Jacqueline Green and I'm a member of Second Baptist Church of Germantown. I'm here with Power this morning in support of Councilman O'Rourke's resolution regarding Transit Access Fund and Zero Fare program, which makes public transportation an essential public service, affordable service.

And I'm here as a senior homeowner today to shed light on the many, many ways that Philadelphians of all ages are looking for relief from affordability, crisis and urge City Council to support the Make Philly agenda. Seniors face a major challenge related to the ability of

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maintaining our homes.

And what we're asking for is assistance from City Council to -- I can keep going?

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: (Nodded affirmatively).

MS. GREEN: Okay. To make sure that we have means to maintain our homes with contractors who are vetted by a group that makes sure that we're not using tradesmen that are charging us more than we should pay. I am interested in making sure that we save -- okay. I just ask you to support O'Rourke's bill. Thank you.

(Applause.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Thank you, ma'am.

MR. CHOWDHURY: Good morning, Council President and members of City Council. My name

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is Nazbi Chowdhury, and I'm here in support of Councilmember O'Rourke's privileged resolution on the Zero Fare program and the establishment of a permanent Transit Access Fund.

In 2024, I moved from Florida to Philadelphia to support my partner while she attended grad school. During that time, I relied heavily on SEPTA Regional Rail and experienced firsthand the uncertainty of service cuts and fare increases. This September, we moved into the city. Now, your constituent, Council President, and downsized from two vehicles to one, intentionally choosing to rely more on SEPTA.

My partner and I work in Philadelphia's performing arts industry and takes SEPTA to work every day. Unfortunately, her employer doesn't participate in

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SEPTA Key Advantage, meaning transportation comes directly out of her paycheck. But affordability is also a public safety issue. Recently a young woman approached me at a station asking whether I could pay her fare or let her follow me through the accessible fare gates. I paid her fare and she laughed at me, but that's Philly.

But then there's not-so-common interactions. A man was stabbed last week after intervening when individuals pushed a woman through a turnstile to avoid paying. Thankfully police was there entering the station and was able to help. But usually they aren't. What happens when the cost of transportation becomes a barrier to accessing it safely. I'm asking Council to make Zero Fare permanent

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and establish a dedicated Transit Access Fund. Thank you so much.

(Applause.)

MR. TAYLOR: Hi. My name is Owen Taylor. I'm with St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, where my family are members. As many of us here today, I live and work in the 8th City Council District in Germantown. My partner and I have a 10-year-old son. He runs the farm at Bartram's Garden. I run a farm at the Schuylkill Center. We're both farmers. We're neither low-income nor high-income.

And I wanted to talk about supporting Councilmember O'Rourke's Zero Fare program. Thank you for introducing an affordability program and affordability in general. We own our home in Germantown. Our

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property taxes doubled, as another speaker said. Our monthly payments have gone up 40%. We also had an increase in our gas, water and electricity, almost 50% for electricity, 30 for the other two. So our prices are going up.

We're supporting families who are in more economic need than us. Constantly we're now dipping into our savings and getting second jobs to cover the increases. So we highly support any measure that's going to impact the affordability for Philadelphians. So thank you.

(Applause.)

MR. BAPTISTE: Thank you everybody for having me here today. My name is Kyle Baptiste. I'm a member of Power Interfaith and a resident of the 8th District. I'm here today to speak in support of

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the SEPTA Zero Fare program. And I want Philly to be able to pass this agenda. I believe it is urgent that City Council take steps to address the affordability crisis in our city.

I'm currently a postal carrier in the 14th district and I've been a lifelong resident. I fear of being priced out and being outed by outside forces. I take pride in my community and see long-term value from the local residents that have roots here. The financial burdens are so heavy that I can barely take care of myself, creating a real fear of me not being able to start a family or having to move out altogether. Passing an increase in the Homestead Exemption is critical so that young people like myself can stay here for years to come. I

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would love for City Council to pass the We Make Philly campaign. Thank you.

(Applause.)

MS. CARTAGENA: Good morning. My name is Gloria Smooches Cartagena Hart. I'm here speaking on behalf of my Kensington families that are struggling and getting to and from work. Also, the children, how are they going to provide for their families if they can get to work in the doctor's offices.

I appreciate you all for taking the lead and fighting for us. This is a city problem, but it's a Kensington family hard-working problem. So how are we going to thrive and succeed in life for the future of our children to get to and from where they need to go. It's more of us than it is

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SEPTA. So I appreciate if you have compassion and have a heart and support us in the Kensington area and overall Philadelphia. Thank you.

(Applause.)

THE CLERK: Will Aaron Barbagallo, Jeremiah Morrell, Daniel DeCastro, Edward Lang, Paul Ogbonna Hagins, Wanda Walker and Tariq Murray, please make your way to the podium.

(Witnesses approached podium.)

MR. MacDOUGALL: My name is Eden MacDougall. I'm a District 2 resident and a reading tutor in Philly. I want to thank Councilmember O'Rourke for his privileged resolution on Zero Fare. I spent the last two years teaching in Nicetown and I currently tutor in Kensington. I took the Broad

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Street Line to Nicetown every day, and I currently take the El to Kensington and I actually get to walk by KCT on my way to school.

Money is tight for a lot of people in my school life, including teachers, staff and students families. People need every bit of relief they can get. Zero Fare recipients are more likely to ride SEPTA to work and school than the Control group in the Better Government Lab report. So transit is really important for making sure people can get to school, have money to take care of their kids.

My first year tutoring I had a kindergarten student whose parents switched schools because transportation was a barrier for them. Investing in SEPTA is investing in our communities. And

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we can do that through Zero Fare and through the Transit Access Fund. Thank you.

(Applause.)

MR. BARBAGALLO: My name is Aaron Barbagallo. This is my first testimony. I'm a frequent rider of SEPTA and a student of Temple University. I know a lot of people who use and rely on SEPTA every day. One of my friends that the 2025 budget cuts went through wouldn't have been able to continue their education. People rely on this to survive and things are getting more and more expensive.

If this is made permanent, people will be able to budget this in. They will be able to budget lower costs permanently for the long-term and so will SEPTA. SEPTA -- this is one of the best ways for the city to be able

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to help fund SEPTA through its inevitable 2027 budget crisis, by giving it a reliable fund for part of its revenue for tickets.

It will also encourage people to tap instead of hop, which increases the reliability of ridership statistics and will strengthen its SEPTA ability in order to get proper funding for any expansion and improvement projects. There's significant economic benefits as well as the social benefits by everyone else. Thank you.

(Applause.)

MR. MORRELL: Hello. My name is Jeremiah Morrell. I am a Temple sophomore. I am a member on the Youth Advisory Council and I'm here today to talk about the Transit Access Fund. For so many, the Transit Access Fund is an

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opportunity of hope, for too many young people, for too many people within the city, for too many people throughout the country. It feels like there isn't a lot of hope in that.

Government can do things that are positive for people that really need it the most. I believe the Transit Access Fund is an opportunity for low-income people, for people that really need transportation in the city to get access to where they work, where they go to school, to the grocery store. I feel like this piece of legislation is very needed. And your support and all the co-sponsors and the advocates here today that are in support of it, you guys are doing really great work. And, yeah, I just thank you guys so much for your time.

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(Applause.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Good job.

MR. DeCastro: Good morning. My name is Daniel DeCastro and I'm commenting today on the Zero Fare resolution. I am a Philadelphia resident and I live in Washington Square West. I'm a substitute teacher in the School District of Philadelphia and I do not have access to a vehicle. I, along with many other staff members of the School District of Philadelphia, rely on SEPTA in order to get to and from assignments across over 200 schools across the district.

Having reliable access to transit is not only a lifeline for school staff members, but it is essential for the almost 200,000 public school students within the

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School District of Philadelphia to have reliable access to education. I am asking you today to please support the Transit Access Fund to guarantee public transit is a priority here in Philadelphia.

At a time when transit funding is not a guarantee in the Commonwealth, it is vital that support comes from City Hall to help ensure programs such as Zero Fare and SEPTA Key Advantage remain an option for Philadelphians. I appreciate your time and consideration and thank you for your service.

(Applause.)

MR. LANG: Hello. My name is Jake Lang. Philadelphia, Philadelphia, do we truly believe that putting an extra piece of fruit in a child's school lunch is going to solve the 90% of Black

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students here who cannot pass a math test? Do we believe that putting an extra piece of fruit inside the school lunch --

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Jason, real quick, could you speak on the actual topic of the resolution?

MR. LANG: Yeah, this is about the school lunches that are obviously not nutritious enough because your young Black students are murdering White people in the street --

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: All right. You can cut him. Thank you very much, sir. It's not tolerated. Thank you. You can go viral. It's all right. Thank you, sir.

MR. LANG: (Inaudible).

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Please call the next

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person please. Thank you very much. Thank you, sir.

Could you please proceed, sir?

MR. HAGINS: Good morning. My name is Ogbonna Hagins. I'm the President of the Philadelphia Reparations Coalition for American Freedom. And I'm glad everybody's in a great mood right now because I am too. I would like to commend Councilman Nicolas O'Rourke.

(Applause.)

MR. HAGINS: Yes. That Zero program for SEPTA and the task force, invaluable information. People in Philadelphia are not being paid what they should be paid. My organization, the Philadelphia Reparations Coalition for American Freedmen, we have a constitutional remedy to make sure

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that what your study said, which is that it takes $29 an hour to live in Philadelphia, I want to ask you, Councilman, are you willing to work with the Philadelphia Reparations Coalition to make that a reality? I would love for you to respond, sir, please.

COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE: (Inaudible).

MR. HAGINS: That you're willing to work with my organization?

COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE: In the words of Councilman Jim Har -- thank you, Council President. Addressing our commenter, the 18th unseated Councilmember, respectfully. First of all, I appreciate your kindness in acknowledging that --

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Chair recognizes

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Councilmember Nicolas O'Rourke.

COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE: Thank you, sir.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: You're welcome, sir.

COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE: I simply just want to say that, like Councilman Harrity, both of us wanted to work with you early on because we both recognize the importance of a Department of Freedmen Affairs. The Bureau, I have recognized, reading W.E.B. Du Bois, talking about the necessity of having that particular piece in the effort towards reconstruction, so there is a desire I think across this body, evidenced by the hearing that was held in this chamber that we all attended and listened, related to that particular body, to want to realize it and make it real.

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What I think all of us desire is some collegiality as we try to work together to make something like that happen. So, yes, absolutely support the initiative and hope to see it realized.

MR. HAGINS: So you will be willing to work with my organization?

COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE: Again, we have certainly worked with you, tried to work with you in time past. Would love to work with you. You and I have some issues we probably need to work out about how that went --

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: So I'm going to do this, so we don't have a back and forth, right, as we take care of Council business. I would respectfully ask that Councilmember O'Rourke and

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Ogbonna Hagins have this conversation as a sidebar after Council as well as he has office hours where you can join him and engage in the dialogue, as he is responding to your request.

MR. HAGINS: Thank you. Appreciate it.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Thank you very much, sir. Please call the next person to testify please to provide public comment.

MS. WALKER: Good morning, beautiful people. My name is Wanda Walker and I'm going to talk about this transit, whatever you're talking about. I don't agree. Before we start talking about free stuff --

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Just for the record, Wanda, you're talking about the

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Transit Action Fund and also Zero Fare?

MS. WALKER: What everybody's talking about today, they shouldn't be talking about --

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Just want to clarify for the record. That's all.

MS. WALKER: No problem, President. I don't agree. Before we talk about free stuff, we need to talk about audits, investigations and where all our money goes. Philadelphia pays more taxes than any other city in the entire United States, the sixth largest city. Yet we're the second poorest big city. Giving people free rides isn't going to make this situation better. Audits and accountability will.

And if City Council did a better job at figuring out where

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all this money is going, we wouldn't have people begging for free rides. Free does not solve a problem of affordability when you have so many things going on like PPA, utility bills, the taxes going up. These are the things that we really need to address. It should not be about free rides. We need to fix the systems that we have in place so everybody can have accessibility. Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Thank you.

Please call the next person to testify please.

MR. MURRAY: Hi there. My name is Tariq Murray for the record. I'm here to talk about Bill 250768 to prohibit contractors from incinerating collected waste. This is the second time I've come up here. The last time I

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referenced how the top nations for longevity, being Japan and I believe Singapore, heavily utilized and regularly utilize waste-to-energy incinerators.

My issue with this bill is that it is kind of all encompassing and kind of removes any possibility for us to ever be able to utilize this on a citywide level, which would be the most impactful way to utilize it currently. This would now allow a centralization of energy and fuel resources to then be coordinated and monopolized, essentially by fossil fuel and other types of energy utilizations like that, aside from other big corporations that utilize -- now, I understand that the world is not a good organization.

I believe that this bill

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has a lot of merit, but I believe that it should be re-examined and, you know, added upon or edited. That is the only thing I request. This is the final passage. I really appreciate and would hope that you guys consider my words today. Thank you for your time.

(Applause.)

THE CLERK: Honor to the Council President, that concludes our listing for public comment.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Thank you very much. That concludes today's public comment.

We will now consider resolutions on the Final Passage Calendar and bills on the Second Reading and Final Passage Calendar.

Will the Clerk please read the title of Resolution No. 260847.

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THE CLERK: A resolution also naming the 3900 block of Lancaster Avenue as "Chosen 300 Way" to honor the legacy and impact of the Chosen 300 Ministries on the West Philadelphia community.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Chair recognizes Councilmember Jamie Gauthier for a motion regarding Resolution No. 260847.

COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Thank you, Council President.

I move for the adoption of the resolution.

(Duly seconded.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: It has been moved and properly seconded that Resolution No. 260847 be adopted.

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

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(Aye.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

JOHNSON: Anyone opposed?

(No response.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

The Chief Clerk, please read the title of Resolution No. 260873.

THE CLERK: A resolution confirming the reappointment of James Engler as a member of the Board of Ethics, to serve in the term ending November 16, 2031.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

JOHNSON: Chair recognizes the Majority Leader Katherine Gilmore Richardson for a motion regarding Resolution No. 260873.

COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

RICHARDSON: Thank you,

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Mr. President.

On your behalf, I move the adoption of the resolution.

(Duly seconded.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: It has been moved and properly seconded that Resolution No. 260873 be adopted.

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

(Aye.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Anyone opposed?

(No response.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The ayes have it. The motion carries. The resolution is adopted.

Will the Clerk please read Bill No. 260692.

THE CLERK: An ordinance amending Section 9-208 of The

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Philadelphia Code entitled "Sidewalk Cafes," to authorize additional locations for sidewalk cafes, all under certain terms and conditions.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: This bill having been read on two different days, the question is shall the bill pass finally.

Chief Clerk, please call the roll.

THE CLERK: Councilmember Gilmore Richardson.

COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE RICHARDSON: Aye.

THE CLERK: Councilmember Gauthier.

COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Aye.

THE CLERK: Councilmember Thomas.

COUNCILMAN THOMAS:

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Emphatically aye.

THE CLERK:

Councilmember Landau.

COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:

Aye.

THE CLERK:

Councilmember Lozada.

COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA:

Aye.

THE CLERK:

Councilmember Young.

COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Aye.

THE CLERK:

Councilmember Harrity.

COUNCILMAN HARRITY:

Aye.

THE CLERK:

Councilmember O'Rourke.

COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE:

Aye.

THE CLERK:

Councilmember Driscoll.

COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL:

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Aye.

THE CLERK:

Councilmember O'Neill.

COUNCILMAN O'NEILL:

Aye.

THE CLERK:

Councilmember Squilla.

COUNCILMAN SQUILLA:

Aye.

THE CLERK: And,

Councilmember Ahmad.

COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:

Aye.

THE CLERK: And, Council

President Johnson.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

JOHNSON: Aye.

Chair recognizes Councilmember

Jones.

COUNCILMAN JONES: I

would like to be recorded as voting

aye on all bills and especially

mine.

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COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Thank you very much. The ayes are 14. The nays are 0. Majority of all members having voted in the affirmative, the bill passes.

Chief Clerk, please read the title of Bill No. 260693.

THE CLERK: An ordinance authorizing encroachments in the nature of a sidewalk cafe in the vicinity of 4201 Manayunk Avenue, Philadelphia, PA, under certain terms and conditions.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: This bill having been read on two different days, the question now is shall the bill pass finally.

Chief Clerk, please call the roll.

THE CLERK: Councilmember Gilmore Richardson.

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COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE RICHARDSON: Aye.

THE CLERK:

Councilmember Gauthier.

COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:

Aye.

THE CLERK:

Councilmember Thomas.

COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Aye.

THE CLERK:

Councilmember Jones.

COUNCILMAN JONES: Aye.

THE CLERK:

Councilmember Landau.

COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:

Aye.

THE CLERK:

Councilmember Lozada.

COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA:

Aye.

THE CLERK:

Councilmember Young.

COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Aye.

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THE CLERK:

Councilmember Harrity.

COUNCILMAN HARRITY:

Aye.

THE CLERK:

Councilmember O'Rourke.

COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE:

Aye.

THE CLERK:

Councilmember Driscoll.

COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL:

Aye.

THE CLERK:

Councilmember O'Neill.

COUNCILMAN O'NEILL:

Aye.

THE CLERK:

Councilmember Squilla.

COUNCILMAN SQUILLA:

Aye.

THE CLERK:

Councilmember Ahmad.

COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:

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Aye.

THE CLERK: And, Council President Johnson.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The ayes are 14. The nays are 0. Majority of all members having voted in the affirmative, the bill passes.

Chief Clerk, please read the title of Bill No. 260706.

THE CLERK: An ordinance authorizing an encroachment in the nature of a staircase in the vicinity of 319-25 North 11th Street, Philadelphia PA, under certain terms and conditions.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: This bill having been read on two different days, the question now is shall the bill pass finally.

Chief Clerk, please call the roll.

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THE CLERK:

Councilmember Phillips.

COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

Aye, and also I'd like to be recorded as aye on all bills prior to this.

THE CLERK:

Councilmember Gilmore Richardson.

COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE RICHARDSON: Aye.

THE CLERK:

Councilmember Gauthier.

COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:

Aye.

THE CLERK:

Councilmember Thomas.

COUNCILMAN THOMAS:

Emphatically aye.

THE CLERK:

Councilmember Landau.

COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:

Aye.

THE CLERK:

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Councilmember Lozada.

COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA:

Aye.

THE CLERK:

Councilmember Young.

COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Aye.

THE CLERK:

Councilmember Harrity.

COUNCILMAN HARRITY:

Aye.

THE CLERK:

Councilmember O'Rourke.

COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE:

Aye.

THE CLERK:

Councilmember Driscoll.

COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL:

Aye.

THE CLERK:

Councilmember O'Neill.

COUNCILMAN O'NEILL:

Aye.

THE CLERK:

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Councilmember Squilla.

COUNCILMAN SQUILLA:

Aye.

THE CLERK: And,

Councilmember Ahmad.

COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:

Aye.

THE CLERK: And, Council

President Johnson.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

JOHNSON: The ayes are 15 and the

nays are 0. Majority of all

members having voted in the

affirmative, the bill passes.

Chief Clerk, please read

the title of Bill No. 260707.

THE CLERK: An ordinance

authorizing encroachments in the

nature of a sidewalk cafe and in

the vicinity of 544 East Girard

Avenue, under certain terms and

conditions.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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JOHNSON: This bill having been read on two different days, the question now is shall the bill pass finally.

Chief Clerk, please call the roll.

THE CLERK:

Councilmember Phillips.

COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

Aye.

THE CLERK:

Councilmember Gilmore Richardson.

COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE RICHARDSON: Aye.

THE CLERK:

Councilmember Gauthier.

COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:

Aye.

THE CLERK:

Councilmember Thomas.

COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Aye.

THE CLERK:

Councilmember Landau.

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COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:

Aye.

THE CLERK:

Councilmember Lozada.

COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA:

Aye.

THE CLERK:

Councilmember Young.

COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Aye.

THE CLERK:

Councilmember Harrity.

COUNCILMAN HARRITY:

Aye.

THE CLERK:

Councilmember O'Rourke.

COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE:

Aye.

THE CLERK:

Councilmember Driscoll.

COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL:

Aye.

THE CLERK:

Councilmember O'Neill.

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COUNCILMAN O'NEILL:

Aye.

THE CLERK:

Councilmember Squilla.

COUNCILMAN SQUILLA:

Aye.

THE CLERK:

Councilmember Ahmad.

COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:

Aye.

THE CLERK: And, Council President Johnson.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Aye. The ayes are 16. The nays are 0. Majority of all members having voted in the affirmative, the bill passes.

Will the Clerk please -- Chair recognizes Councilmember Kendra Brooks.

COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS:

Thank you, Council President.

I wanted to be voted aye

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on any bills and resolutions I missed while I was out. Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Thank you very much. Shall be recorded.

Will the Clerk please read any additional resolutions on today's Calendar.

THE CLERK: A privileged resolution authorizing the Committee on Transportation and Public Utilities to hold hearings examining the Philadelphia Gas Works' residential shutoffs for nonpayment and measures to prevent households from losing essential utility service. Introduced by Councilmember Curtis Jones, Jr.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Chair recognizes Councilmember Curtis Jones, Jr. for a motion.

COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank

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you so much, Mr. President and colleagues.

This is a continuation of all of our work. We're looking at affordability in a serious way. We're looking at trying to prevent people from being dislodged from their homes due to lack of utility. That goes for this utility, that goes for PECO --

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Member, could you call the motion and save your speech during the time of the speeches please?

COUNCILMAN JONES: I call for the passage of this resolution.

(Duly seconded.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Thank you very much, sir. Is there a second?

(Duly seconded.)

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COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

All those in favor signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

JOHNSON: Anyone opposed?

(No response.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

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

THE CLERK: A privileged resolution honoring and congratulating Wayne Miller on his more than five decades of service to Sprinkler Fitters Local Union 692 and the Philadelphia Building Trades. Introduced by Councilmember Quetcy Lozada and

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Councilmember Katherine Gilmore Richardson on behalf of Council President Johnson.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Chief recognizes Councilwoman Quetcy Lozada for a motion on the resolution.

COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Thank you, Council President.

On behalf of Councilmember Gilmore Richardson and your behalf, I move for the adoption of the resolution.

(Duly seconded.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: It has been moved and properly seconded that the resolution be adopted.

All those in favor signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Anyone opposed?

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(No response.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

Chief Clerk, please read the title of the resolution.

THE CLERK: A privileged resolution authorizing the Special Committee on Kensington to hold a hearing to evaluate the progress of the last year, the current state of affairs as well as future barriers and goals. Introduced by Councilmember Quetcy Lozada.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

JOHNSON: Chair recognizes Councilmember Quetcy Lozada for a motion on the resolution.

COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Thank you, Council President.

I move for the adoption of the resolution.

(Duly seconded.)

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COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

All those in favor signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

JOHNSON: Anyone opposed?

(No response.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

Chief Clerk, please read the title of the resolution.

THE CLERK: A privileged resolution authorizing the Committees on Streets and Services and Housing and Neighborhood Development and The Homeless to hold joint hearings to investigate the prevalence of unsheltered homelessness in public rights-of-

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way, and examine the City's coordination and utilization of resources to connect individuals experiencing homelessness with appropriate housing, shelter and supportive services. Introduced by Councilmember Jeffrey Jay Young.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Chair recognizes Councilmember Jeffrey Jay Young for a motion on the resolution.

COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Thank you, Mr. President.

I move for its adoption.

(Duly seconded.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: It has been moved and properly seconded that the resolution be adopted.

All those in favor signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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JOHNSON: Anyone opposed?

(No response.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

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

THE CLERK: A privileged resolution celebrating the national model Zero Fair Program and recognizing the initial findings of the Georgetown University Better Government Lab Report on the program's success. Introduced by Councilmember Nicolas O'Rourke.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I move for the adoption of the resolution.

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(Duly seconded.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: It has been moved and properly seconded that the resolution be adopted.

All those in favor signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Anyone opposed?

(No response.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The ayes have it. The resolution is adopted.

Chief Clerk, please read the title of the resolution.

THE CLERK: A privileged resolution honoring and recognizing Dr. Bernice Suddler for her landmark 44-year tenure of leadership, desegregation, trailblazing and community stewardship at Hamilton Disston

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School. Introduced by Councilmember Mike Driscoll.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Chair recognizes Councilmember Mike Driscoll for a motion on the resolution.

COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL: I move for its adoption.

(Duly seconded.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: It has been moved and properly seconded that the resolution be adopted.

All those in favor signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Anyone opposed?

(No response.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The ayes have it. The resolution is adopted.

Chief Clerk, please read

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the title of the resolution.

THE CLERK: There are no further resolutions in my possession, Council President.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: That completes our Calendar for the day.

Any speeches on behalf of the Minority?

Chair recognizes Councilmember Kendra Brooks.

COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: Thank you, Council President.

I want to take a moment to thank everyone who joined me at Wingohocking Neighbors Day earlier this month. It was a wonderful day and my neighbors truly appreciated the resources, the food, the performances, and just a chance to come together and celebrate our community. Not that long ago, the police department wouldn't even let

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us have a block party on Wingohocking Street because of concerns of violence. But now, we host one of the biggest annual street festivals in Nicetown, and that's something that we're really proud of. Wingohocking Neighbors Day would not have been made possible without the generous support of so many partners.

In particular, I want to thank my colleagues Councilmember Isaiah Thomas and Councilmember Jim Harrity for helping make that day possible.

I also want to thank my colleagues for participating in this year's Spooktacular at the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge, Councilmembers Gilmore Richardson, O'Rourke, Landau, Thomas and Harrity. My team and I are looking forward for a really

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fun evening with costumes, fall crafts, a trail of treats and archery for the children. That will be next Thursday, October 29th from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. All are welcome. Thank you so much.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

Chair recognizes Councilmember Nicolas O'Rourke.

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

I want to begin by thanking Member Jones for forwarding the call for hearings into the rising debts that our neighbors owe to PGW. I'll be watching that conversation with intent, good brother, and we need to find a fix that doesn't involve shutting off service nearly as much as we currently do. It is a shame that we have gotten to this point.

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Thanks for shouting out the Cost of Living Report in the resolution as well. You know I'm always down to turn the words into action, so thank you for doing that through this resolution. It really is an encouragement to see how not just yourself, but others across this body have been trying to figure out how we tackle this affordability issue and how exploitation is afoot in our city.

Making a shift to what turned out to be kind of the public comment theme of the day, I am excited to reintroduce the Transit Access Fund, colleagues, and to have your support and the support of the Transit Forward, Philadelphia and so many other organizations, as I do this.

This restructured version authorizes creating the

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fund and requires the City to publish an annual Transit Access Plan to be introduced alongside the operating budget and Five Year Plan. The plan will lay out all the city operations, including capital spending that increased SEPTA's affordability and accessibility over the coming five years. And our experience, colleagues, shows why this is important I would say.

I hope you can recall when the future of the Zero Fare program was at risk. 20,000 Philadelphians who struggle to afford the benefits of riding transit had a taste of true access to the system, and preliminary results from the Better Government Lab show that our neighbors leapt at that chance. Recipients who initially used transit less than

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once a week became more than twice as likely to use public transit on a weekly basis. Daily riders took more rides. Infrequent riders began to rely on the system with some regularity, which is a good thing.

And here's the finding that matters so much: Zero Fare participants say the program, as Stephen mentioned in his comments, increased their trust in their local, in their local government, key word local government, not necessarily in the federal system, but us here in City Hall. So it helps people look at us and smile as opposed to frown.

And we know how important Key Advantage is for the city's workforce, for our staff. I think all of us have staff that has admitted that, and we just saw Key

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Advantage help to win the Burlington deal over there in, I believe, Member Gauthier's District. That's a wonderful addition to our city's base.

I'm so grateful to Transit for Philadelphia's organizing because they've really helped to show how we have to wield SEPTA's affordability and accessibility together. So I know we're all excited to build a transit authority that meets the mark on both of those fronts. Thank you all again for supporting this. Let's run on and see what the end will be.

Thank you, Mr. President.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

Speeches on behalf of the Majority.

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Chair recognizes Majority Leader Katherine Gilmore Richardson.

COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE RICHARDSON: Very briefly. Thank you so much, Council President.

I wanted to take this opportunity just to remind everyone about a very important event we'll be having tomorrow in partnership with my District colleague, my Councilmember Curtis Jones, Jr., and also the Salvation Army Ray and Joan Kroc Center. We are bringing our annual Senior Resource Fair back to the Salvation Army Kroc Center at 4200 Wissahickon Avenue.

We have over 40 vendors together, services, light refreshments, music and fun activities. So join us tomorrow at the Kroc Center for our Senior Resource Fair, Friday, October 23rd

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COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

Councilmember Quetcy Lozada.

COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Thank you, Council President.

First, I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to introduce the bill recognizing Wayne Miller, who has been one of the first people and a consistent supporter of mine and the work that I've been doing in the community. He's a neighbor of Juniata, a neighborhood he grew up in and still actively plays a role in ensuring that young people in that

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community are connected to services. So thank you very much for that privilege.

Today I also introduced a resolution authorizing the Special Committee on Kensington to hold a hearing to evaluate the progress from the past year and the current state of affairs, future barriers and the goals in the Kensington community. We are in a strong position to build upon the work and the momentum. I want to continue to strengthen the efforts we have made in Kensington by applying and learning the lessons we've learned during the process. And I also want to work on improving coordination.

Everyone believes that our residents deserve safe, clean streets, and the people who are struggling and living in addiction

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deserve access to treatment and recovery services. In order for us to continue the work that we've done, we need a clear picture of the work that we've done, what still needs attention and how do we continue to progress in order to give the residents of the Kensington community a better quality of life. I'm looking forward to listening and learning more and figuring out how we continue to work together to give the residents of Kensington the quality of life they deserve.

Thank you, Council President.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

Chair recognizes Councilmember Jones.

COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you, Mr. President.

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Just really brief. Shout-out to Member Phillips for his recognition of the gambling machines that are in our community and keeping that before us as an issue. Shout-out to my -- which is not my At-large, but everyone's At-large Member Gilmore Richardson for her constant diligence on nuisance businesses, and we are working together on the 54th Street curfew to keep our senior citizens face. But the hero of the day is Member Driscoll, for his standing up for us for gas shut-offs. He is a member of the Gas Commission, but he doesn't forget where he comes from. Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Thank you very much, Member Jones. Waiting for that gas moratorium bill to come out.

Chair recognizes

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Councilmember Jeffrey Jay Young.
COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Thank you, Mr. President.
This past weekend was a powerful reminder that North Philly's legacy is built by people who give our neighborhoods their character, their culture and their pride. This past Saturday, we honored Derrick Phat Geez Gant, a North Philadelphia recording artist who used his music to represent his community and speak out against gun violence.
His song Life with Meek Mill helped bring him writer recognition, while his song No Gun Zone called for an end to violence affecting our neighborhoods. But unfortunately, Phat Geez was murdered at the hands of gun violence in front of his own door in North Philly. And so, we wanted

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to honor him. And this is a story that is all too common in North Philly.

Even this past week, again my family is dealing with the trauma of gun violence again. It's just the same story over and over again. While I was at Temple University Hospital, I was there when they brought in the three victims who were shot yesterday morning. I mean, that was two days ago. I was there, I saw them. The cops -- shout-out to the police, they scoop them up, they bring them in. And again, it's just a Black body after a Black body after a Black body that's affected by gun violence.

And so, I'm going to continue to keep speaking on that. And I don't know what these other speakers are speaking of. He must

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not look at data and statistics and see the things that's actually happening in the City of Philadelphia. And so, yes, that apple can help prevent someone from going out and shooting someone because that apple may give them that nutrition they need to fill their stomach up to keep them from having a bad day. Because that's what happened to my family the other day. Somebody was having a bad day and just decided to start shooting, which is crazy, crazy.

So I'm going to continue to speak up and talk about the gun violence that plagues our community in North Philadelphia. And if you're not talking about gun violence, I don't know what you're talking about.

On Sunday, we gathered to honor coach Kenneth Ham

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Hamilton, whose decades of dedication to Ben Franklin High School athletics helped shaped generations of young people. With over 30 years of teaching and 28 years of coaching at Ben Franklin, he accomplished 456 wins. And at the time, he had the most wins of any public league coach when he retired, which included four championships and countless professional basketball players that came from Ben Franklin High School during his era.

These celebrations reflect something I deeply believe in, that our communities deserve to see their hometown heroes recognized, their contributions celebrated and their legacies preserved for future generations. I'm proud to help ensure that people who pour so much into North

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Philly receive the recognition and honor.

And speaking of that, Mr. President, I want to thank you for allowing me and also the Honorable Judge Crystal Bryant-Powell for the opportunity to speak at the portrait unveiling ceremony for Judge Raymond Pace Alexander, the first African American Councilmember in the City of Philadelphia, the first African American judge on the Court of Common Pleas and also former 5th District Councilmember representing North Philadelphia.

It was an honor and privilege to be there, to speak to his legacy and how his legacy is continued. For those who don't know, he was one of the first voices in the city to fight for the desegregation of Girard College,

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which allowed me all the privileges and advantages that I have today.

Today we also introduced a resolution alongside Majority Leader Katherine Gilmore Richardson to authorize joint hearings to examine unsheltered homelessness in our public right-of-ways and more importantly, how effectively the city is connecting our vulnerable residents to housing, shelter and supportive services.

Now, I'm just going off anecdotal information being the 5th District Councilmember going around my district. But it seems like when we welcomed the world to our city during Fan Fest and all these other celebrations, that the issues that we see now, particularly in the Logan Square communities and others just weren't there, right. It seems like the amount of

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homelessness, street homelessness that we see was not seen during that time. The amount of violence that we're experiencing in the city right now, for 40 days it seemed like just disappeared, right.

So I want to make sure we want to examine what is the root causes, what are the solutions to these causes, because it seemed like for 40 days we had a solution. And so, I want to make sure that we continue those solutions. I want to make sure that folks know that homelessness is not a crime. And experiencing homelessness does not make someone any less deserving of dignity, compassion or respect. Any one of us can be housing insecure at any moment.

And I was one of them at one point in my life too. We lost our home to mortgage foreclosure at

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one point, right. So these are our neighbors, and every person deserves to be treated with humanity, regardless of their housing situation across Philadelphia. Individuals are living on sidewalks, under bridges and in other public spaces. That should concern us all, not simply because of how our public spaces are being used, but because no one should have to call a sidewalk home.

The goal of these hearings is to not criminalize homelessness or to simply move people from one block to another block. We want to understand what resources are available, where the gaps exist, and whether our city departments and service providers are coordinating effectively to help people find stable housing and

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access to support that they need. We must examine whether our current investments and outreach strategies are producing meaningful results. And if someone is ready to accept help, are we making it easy for them to get it. And if they aren't, then are we doing enough to build that trust to address the barriers that are in their way? We cannot address homelessness through enforcement alone and we cannot solve it by shifting the problem from one neighborhood to the next.

We need a coordinated, compassionate and accountable approach that addresses the underlying challenges and creates a real pathway to housing stability. I want to thank Majority Leader Katherine Gilmore Richardson for partnering with me on this important issue. I look forward to

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bringing together city agencies, service providers and community stakeholders, but most importantly, individuals with lived experiences of homelessness to identify solutions that work.

And, Mr. President, over this past week I've been getting a lot of attention regarding a bill we introduced last week regarding parking amnesty. And I've heard a lot of questions about why we are prioritizing people with outstanding parking violations. But most concerning to me is certain media outlets villainizing people, right. These comments feel very anti-Philadelphia, right.

Equating laws to being ethical just because they're laws ignores the history that many people have to face, right. Just because it's a law doesn't mean

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it's not predatory on how it's enforced, right. It reminds me of folks who say, well, if you just comply with the government's overreach, you won't get hit over the head. We know how that works out for a lot of people, right, Mr. President, so I understand the importance of parking enforcement.

It helps keep our streets safe, ensures accessibility and keeps traffic moving. And I'm not suggesting people shouldn't be held accountable. But there are certain members of the media who want you to believe that thousands of Philadelphians in a majority-minority city are criminals, right. Scofflaws, they're going to call them, right. And I wonder why, right.

I wonder why the majority-minority city the media

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wants to paint these people as being not worthy, right. When we live in the poorest big city in the country, right, these people aren't worthy of relief from their city government. It could be a mother rushing into a 15-minute doctor's appointment who can't afford to park in a $25 garage, a worker making a delivery, a caregiver checking on an elderly parent or someone who simply just couldn't read a faded or missing parking sign, right. These are everyday people navigating challenges.

And literally, Mr. President, this past weekend just look at the approximately 40 Eagles fans whose vehicles were recently towed despite inadequate parking signage, right. They just towed them because they said to tow then. Anyone can find themselves

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in a position in this city with a ticket, sometimes even without realizing they violated a parking restriction. And we're not talking about a ticket someone received yesterday.

This program addresses older debts dating back to 2021. A ticket that originally cost $40 to $50 may have grown into hundreds of dollars after years of accumulated penalties and fees. And maybe someone couldn't afford the original ticket. Maybe they never received a notice, which happens, right.

Maybe they didn't know how to pay it, which also happens, right. You can't even have an appeal of a ticket in person anymore with the Parking Authority. It's all online. My mom doesn't know how to do that unfortunately,

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right. We have to do that for them. Whatever the circumstances, we should recognize the difference between holding someone accountable and allowing a financial burden to follow them for years.

This program is not about rewarding violations. It's about giving people a reasonable opportunity to make things right. And it also allows the city to recover older debts that become increasingly difficult. And nine times out of ten, according to their own data, right, eight times out of ten, unlikely to collect.

So with all the cost of living continuing to rise and Council has a responsibility to provide relief wherever we have authority to do so, and we can support responsible parking enforcement, recover outstanding

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revenue and give people a fresh start. Those things are not mutually exclusive, Mr. President.

And last but not least, I want to announce our continuing Quality of Life Town Hall series, where we bring city government directly to our neighborhoods, hear residents' concerns and connect our communities with resources and city departments. Our next stop is October 27th at Celestial Word Ministries at 28th and Thompson from 6:00 to 7:30. Will we bring the conversation to neighbors to discuss those quality of life issues.

Then on November 4th, we'll be at Midtown Parish United Methodist Church in the 20th Ward, 7th and Norris, to continue building on these conversations and ensuring residents have a direct

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line to their Council office. These town halls are more about listening. They're about connecting residents with the people, the resources and the follow-up, which is the most important, the follow-up needed to move concerns toward solutions.

I also want to give a shout-out to Councilmember Katherine Gilmore Richardson for hosting an event in the 29th Ward at Celestial Word Ministries as well, talking about wills and making sure that we can protect our generational wealth in our communities.

So with that, Mr. President, I thank you so much.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Thank you.

Chair recognizes Councilmember Rue Landau.

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COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:

Thank you, Council President.

Today I was honored to celebrate 60 years of Community Legal Services who fight tirelessly every day for Philadelphians living in poverty and ensuring that they have a right to legal counsel and justice. They serve more than 14,000 residents every year. And I know firsthand, as a former lawyer, where they work, they do the work they do is essential and all consuming. So I'm glad we had the opportunity to celebrate CLS here today in Council and the dedicated staff that does this work every single day.

We got to uplift their work and see even more great things for them in the future. And let me be clear, CLS doesn't just solve the problems of the individual

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cases that come to them. They try to solve the systemic problems just as what we're doing here in Council today. So the real solutions here in Philadelphia is we have to eradicate poverty, eradicate racism and all other forms of oppression. And when we do that, Philadelphia is going to be in a much better place.

I also introduced on your behalf a resolution supporting the workers of UNITE HERE Local 274, and calling on the management of the Hilton Garden Inn to reach a deal as the only unionized hotel in Center City without a new contract. Thank you, Council President, for speaking up in solidarity with the workers of UNITE HERE, who are fighting for a fair contract and fair wages as the cost of living continues to rise in our city.

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This resolution will be up for a vote next week and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Additionally, I want to commend my colleague Councilmember Jones, not only on his looking at the PGW costs and the shut-offs, but also for his decision to include more outdoor dining options in his district, spanning from City Avenue to Overbrook Avenue, making it easier for small businesses to expand their dining rooms with sidewalk cafes and something I'm glad we are supporting here in City Council. I'm looking forward to dining out in the 4th district very soon. It's a date.

Lastly, I want to end my speech by reminding the public that we are only a few weeks away from the November 3, 2026 general election. If you haven't yet made

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a plan to vote, visit vote.gov to find your polling place. See what's on your ballot. Make sure that you make a plan to vote on or before November 3rd. Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

Chair recognizes Councilmember Dr. Nina Ahmad.

COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD: Thank you, Council President.

Good afternoon, everyone. I wanted to echo my colleague's comments about Community Legal Services. I was proud to join her and everybody else in congratulating them for having served faithfully for six decades. CLS is a trusted referral service for so many of us here in Council because of their attention to detail, the fact that they meet people where they are, where

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they're at and because they center accessibility in everything they do. So here's to another 60 years.

I also wanted to introduce another young talent who's joining our team as an intern, Kennedy Brooks from the Community College of Philadelphia. I just want to underscore why it is essential to have young people as part of my team for two reasons. It is a way for me to support the next generation of leaders. And secondly, it keeps my team and me aware of what our youth think and feel about what City Council does and what is happening in our city.

And speaking about youth, tomorrow I am attending the Philadelphia Society for Promoting Agriculture's induction ceremony at Lankenau High School. I have not forgotten about Lankenau and

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continue to call on the district to evaluate the decision to close this school and all the schools on their closure list. So save Lankenau.

Lastly, I wanted to share some items on my agenda for next week. Monday, October 26th from 2:00 to 5:00 the hearing on the Academy of Natural Sciences is finally happening. This is a heavily anticipated conversation, and I want to thank Committee Chair Isaiah Thomas and fellow Councilmember Jeffrey Young for their partnership in getting this off the ground.

I look forward to getting to hear all of the immense amount of testimony that we are getting ready to hear about and to see how we can save the Academy and put all of this on the public record. I'm also proud of hosting

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an inperson community forum about my bill, No. 250849, regarding workplace accommodations and protections for those suffering from symptoms of menstruation, perimenopause and menopause.

The forum is next week, Wednesday, October 28th from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Vare Recreation Center, 2601 Moore Street. We will have panelists to educate residents on my bill and resource tables for attendees. I want to thank, Council President, for your support of this initiative.

Lastly, I wanted to remind my colleagues of today's briefing right after this to changes from Medicaid as well as the City's One Medicaid Access project in response to these changes. The briefing will be held in Room 576 at 1:00 p.m., and it's

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And thank you, Council President.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

And the Chair recognizes Councilmember Dr. Anthony Phillips.

COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: Thank you, Council President. And greetings to my colleagues again, and most importantly, to neighbors across Philadelphia.

I want to address two issues that directly impact the health and well-being of our families. It's the growing rodent infestation in our neighborhoods and the quality of meals being served to our children in schools. While these issues may seem

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separate, they speak to a fundamental responsibility we have as public officials, ensuring that every Philadelphian across Philadelphia has a clean home, a safe, safe neighborhood, a clean neighborhood, nutritious food that supports their health and success.

Earlier this month I introduced a resolution declaring the growing rodent infestation in Lower Northeast, a public health and quality-of-life emergency. Since then, a new ranking released by Terminix placed Philadelphia third among U.S. cities for rodent problems, behind only Los Angeles and New York, New York.

But our neighbors did not need a national ranking to tell them what they had been experiencing firsthand. Far too many families in our city are

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experiencing this nuisance. It's not an occasional nuisance. It has become a daily concern that threatens their quality of life and their ability to feel safe in their homes.

I've been on record for the past couple of years calling out the Philadelphia Public Health Department saying, please address this and resolve this issue. However, instead of that being an issue being addressed, we continue to approach this issue with the same strategies and expect different results. This resolution came at my wit's end because at this point, I don't believe I should be the person to have to work to solve this particular problem. This should be something that should be an urgency.

And so, that means I'm

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asking the severity of this problem demands a more coordinated, proactive and sustainable response. That means strengthening prevention efforts, improving sanitation practices and addressing the conditions that attract rodents, ensuring responsible treatment, holding property owners accountable when necessary.

I'm urging the Philadelphia Department of Public Health to work with the Department of Sanitation and the Department of Licenses and Inspections to identify immediate interventions and long-term solutions. Our goal is not to simply do what has been happening, responding to complaints as they arise, but to address the underlying conditions that allow for these infestations to persist and spread.

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I've both publicly and privately asked for this to happen. Our neighbors deserve more than temporary fixes. They deserve a city response that is coordinated, consistent and capable of delivering meaningful results. I encourage our neighbors to continue documenting what they are experiencing, submitting reports 311 and the Department of Public Health's Vector Control Program and sharing their block information and case numbers with our office.

If you live in our district, we also want to hear directly from those living with this problem. Your reports help us understand the extent of these infestations, identify areas requiring media attention and hold the appropriate city agencies accountable.

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The same commitment to listening to our neighbors and addressing their concerns is guiding our work on school meals. Let me begin by making one thing clear. I have tremendous respect for the food service employees working in our schools. These individuals show up every day, often under difficult circumstances, to ensure our children are fed.

Our efforts are not intended to diminish their work or place blame on the very people responsible for serving our children. However, many of our staff, through no fault of their own, need better food resources to deliver quality meals to our children. I also want to acknowledge and thank Gabrielle McLoughlin of Temple University's

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College of Public Health for sharing her research with us here today at Philadelphia City Council. And I really appreciate her research, as Professor McLoughlin seeks to inform those individuals most directly impacted by this situation. I also want to emphasize that our concerns are not based on a single visit to Olney High School nor are they limited to one school.

We are hearing directly from students across Philadelphia, and their experiences deserve our attention. One student told me, if there is a way our food can be fixed, I would do whatever it takes to make it happen. Another student said, Students have reported sandwiches that leave their stomachs upset, breakfast foods that start their mornings off

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poorly. One student said, Some of the food is so dry that it feels like a choking hazard. Others have reported spoiled fruit cups, spoiled milk and rotten fruit. This is unacceptable. This statement should resonate with every one of us. Our students are not simply complaining. They are asking to be heard and they want to be a part of the solution.

So lastly, I just want to say our children deserve meals that are nutritious, appealing and safe, and our food service employees deserve the staffing, equipment, ingredients, training and support necessary to help them achieve that milestone. Supporting our workers and advocating for better meals are not competing priorities. They go hand in hand. That is why my office continues to

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engage students, parents, caregivers, educators, food service employees and other members of our school communities. We want to hear what is working, what is not and where improvements can be made. Something is wrong with our food services and to our children, and we have to figure out how to make it better.

So as I close, I want our neighbors to understand one thing: Your voice matters and your concerns deserve action. So please contact our office regarding these issues, whether you're a neighbor dealing with rodent infestations on your block, a parent concerned about meals, your child is a student asking for better food or a school employee seeking resources to do your job more effectively. You deserve to be heard. Our

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neighbors deserve better. Our children deserve better. And together we can do better, because no family should have to accept rats as a normal part of living in Philadelphia. And no child should be expected to sit in a classroom hungry, because the meal that they wish to eat is not there.

Thank you, Council President.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

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

COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank you, Council President.

Thank you to the Tech team and everybody for making today a success. I move that Council stands adjourned until Thursday,

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October 29, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.
(Duly seconded.)
COUNCIL PRESIDENT
JOHNSON: It has been moved and properly seconded that Council session is adjourned until Thursday, October 29, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.
All those in favor signify by saying aye.
(Aye.)
COUNCIL PRESIDENT
JOHNSON: Anyone opposed?
(No response.)
COUNCIL PRESIDENT
JOHNSON: The ayes have it and the motion carries. Thank you all very much. Great job today.
- - -
(Stated Meeting adjourned at 12:42 p.m.)
- - -

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

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

TANEHA CARROLL
Court Reporter - Notary Public

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

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City of Philadelphia
City Council Calendar
Thursday, October 22, 2026

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

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

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

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

***If you require an accommodation or service to fully participate, including language services, please call or email the Chief Clerk's office.**

***Please note that this is an in-person meeting, and open to the public. This meeting may also be viewed on Xfinity Channel 64, Fios Channel 40, or http://phlcouncil.com/watch-city-council/.**

ORDER OF BUSINESS IN A COUNCIL SESSION

Note: Some items do not occur at every session:

Invocation.

Approval of the journal of the preceding meeting.

Requests by Councilmembers for permission to be absent from the session.

Reading of communications from the Mayor.

Introduction of bills and resolutions (to be referred to appropriate Committees of Council).

Reports from Committees of Council.

Special business.

Bills on first reading.

Public comment on bills and resolutions on the Second Reading and Final Passage Calendars – titles are printed below.

Bills that Council passed but that need to be returned by the Mayor for reconsideration.

Consideration of bills and resolutions on the Second Reading and Final Passage Calendars.

Bills and resolutions on the Suspension Calendar.

Speeches by Councilmembers.

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BILLS ON FIRST READING

RESOLUTIONS ON FINAL PASSAGE

260847

INTRODUCED BY: Councilmember Gauthier

Resolution also naming the 3900 Block of Lancaster Avenue as "Chosen 300 Way" to honor the legacy and impact of the Chosen 300 Ministries on the West Philadelphia community.

260872

INTRODUCED BY: Councilmember Phillips

Resolution calling on the School District of Philadelphia to reexamine its policies and practices concerning the provision of healthy, nutritious, and high-quality meals to Philadelphia public school students.

260873

INTRODUCED BY: Councilmember Gilmore Richardson for Council President Johnson

Resolution confirming the reappointment of James Engler as a member of the Board of Ethics, to serve in the term ending November 16, 2031.

BILLS ON SECOND READING AND FINAL PASSAGE

250768

INTRODUCED BY: Councilmember Gauthier

An Ordinance amending Title 17 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled "Contracts and Procurement," to prohibit contractors providing solid waste, recycling or composting services to the City from incinerating discarded matter, under certain terms and conditions.

250807

INTRODUCED BY: Councilmember Squilla

An Ordinance authorizing the Commissioner of Public Property to acquire, on behalf of the City, fee simple title or a lesser interest, by purchase, dedication, donation, condemnation, agreement in lieu of condemnation or otherwise, for the purpose of making, enlarging, connecting, extending, operating, and maintaining public parks for recreational use, certain parcels of land, generally bounded and located between Vine Street, Fairmount Avenue, 8th Street and 12th Street, together with all improvements thereon and all associated easements and appurtenances; and to lease the property, or a portion thereof, to the Center City District; all under certain terms and conditions.

260076

INTRODUCED BY: Councilmember Ahmad

An Ordinance providing for the submission to the qualified electors of the City of Philadelphia of the proposal set forth in a Resolution approved by Council proposing an amendment to the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter relating to the creation of the Philadelphia Child Welfare Commission; and authorizing and directing the appropriate officers to publish notice and to make arrangements for the special election.

260462

INTRODUCED BY: Councilmember Young

An Ordinance to amend the Philadelphia Zoning Maps by changing the zoning designations of certain areas of land located within an area bounded by Thompson Street, 17th Street, Girard Avenue, Ridge Avenue, 19th Street, Cabot Street, and 18th Street, and amending Section 14-500 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled "Overlay Zoning Districts" by amending Section 14-529, entitled "/VDO, Fifth District Overlay District," all under certain terms and conditions.

260692

INTRODUCED BY: Councilmember Jones

An Ordinance amending Section 9-208 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled "Sidewalk Cafés," to authorize additional locations for sidewalk cafés, all under certain terms and conditions.

260693

INTRODUCED BY: Councilmember Jones

An Ordinance authorizing encroachments in the nature of a sidewalk café in the vicinity of 4201 Manayunk Ave, Philadelphia, PA, under certain terms and conditions.

260706

INTRODUCED BY: Councilmember Squilla

An Ordinance authorizing an encroachment in the nature of a staircase in the vicinity of 319-25 N 11th St, Philadelphia, PA, under certain terms and conditions.

260707

INTRODUCED BY: Councilmember Squilla

An Ordinance authorizing encroachments in the nature of a sidewalk café in the vicinity of 544 E. Girard Ave., under certain terms and conditions.

RESOLUTIONS

260897

INTRODUCED BY: Councilmember Jones

Resolution authorizing the Committee on Transportation and Public Utilities to hold hearings examining Philadelphia Gas Works' residential shutoffs for nonpayment and measures to prevent households from losing essential utility service.

260898

INTRODUCED BY: Councilmember Council President Johnson

Resolution honoring and congratulating Wayne Miller on his more than five decades of service to Sprinkler Fitters Local Union 692 and the Philadelphia Building Trades.

260899

Resolution authorizing the Special Committee on Kensington to Hold a Hearing to Evaluate the Progress of the Last Year, the Current State of Affairs, as Well as Future Barriers and Goals

260900

INTRODUCED BY: Councilmember Young

Resolution authorizing the Committees on Streets and Services and Housing, Neighborhood Development and the Homeless to hold joint hearings to investigate the prevalence of unsheltered homelessness in public rights-of-way and examine the City's coordination and utilization of resources to connect individuals experiencing homelessness with appropriate housing, shelter, and supportive services.

260901

INTRODUCED BY: Councilmember O'Rourke

Resolution celebrating the national model Zero Fare Program and recognizing the initial findings of the Georgetown University Better Government Lab Report on the program's success.

260902

INTRODUCED BY: Councilmember Driscoll

Resolution honoring and recognizing Dr. Bernice Suddler for her landmark 44-year tenure of leadership, desegregation trailblazing, and community stewardship at Hamilton Disston School