

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
STATED MEETING

Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Thursday, April 3, 2025
10:00 a.m.

PRESENT:

COUNCIL PRESIDENT KENYATTA JOHNSON
COUNCILWOMAN NINA AHMAD
COUNCILWOMAN CINDY BASS
COUNCILWOMAN KENDRA BROOKS
COUNCILMAN MICHAEL DRISCOLL
COUNCILWOMAN JAMIE 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 ISAIAH THOMAS
COUNCILMAN JEFFREY YOUNG, JR.

ELIZABETH McCOLLUM NAZARIO, CHIEF CLERK

- - -

1 4/03/25 - STATED - INVOCATION

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

3 JOHNSON: Good morning, everyone.

4 (Good morning.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

6 JOHNSON: Good morning, everyone.

7 (Good morning.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

9 JOHNSON: I note that the hour has
10 come and that a quorum of this
11 Council is present. This Council
12 session has now come to order. I
13 will ask for all visitors to please
14 retire to the seats outside the
15 rails. Before proceeding, I will
16 ask all those present to please set
17 your cell phone to silent or
18 vibrate. I ask for all side
19 conversations be taken outside the
20 Council chambers.

21 To give our invocation
22 this morning, the Chair recognizes
23 Reverend Dr. Daniel Kwon, Senior
24 Pastor of the Korean United Church

1 4/03/25 - STATED - INVOCATION
2 of Philadelphia. He is the guest
3 of Councilmember Dr. Anthony
4 Phillips.

5 I will ask all members
6 and guests to please rise.

7 (Councilmembers,
8 visitors and guests rise.)

9 REVEREND KWON: First, I
10 just want to thank our Council
11 President. Thank you very much. I
12 also want to thank our
13 Councilmembers along with all of
14 our guests. Thank you for this
15 wonderful opportunity and a
16 privilege. It truly is an honor.

17 Let us pray. Father, we
18 know you are the God of all
19 creation. We know you created the
20 heavens and the earth and you have
21 given your people the privilege to
22 call you Father.

23 Abba Father, we come
24 before your throne of grace this

1 4/03/25 - STATED - INVOCATION

2 morning. All your servants whom
3 you have called to serve this great
4 city, the city of Philadelphia,
5 have come together for this Council
6 session, and we have bowed our
7 heads in reverence to you, O Lord.

8 We come before you
9 because we know you are the God who
10 brings all things together for the
11 good of those who are called
12 according to your great purpose.
13 Lord, we ask that you remember the
14 dedication and the hard work of
15 those whom you called of your
16 servants, of our Councilmembers who
17 have poured out their lives to
18 making this city great and serving
19 the people without reservation.

20 We pray that you allow
21 your divine wisdom (inaudible)
22 stewards may serve with boldness
23 and courage, knowing that you got
24 their backs. And so, Father, we

1 4/03/25 - STATED - INVOCATION
2 pray that our Councilmembers may
3 continue to know that more than the
4 agendas at hand, more than the
5 daily things and the tasks to do
6 that we come before you first and
7 foremost, because we remember your
8 word when you said, Blessed is the
9 nation whose God is the Lord. And
10 so, bless this nation, God.

11 Bless our city, the
12 great city of Philadelphia, bless
13 our communities and, Lord, bless
14 our City Councilmembers, their
15 families, especially their
16 children, so that we might bless
17 you. May all the glory and honor
18 be lifted to you this morning and
19 we pray all this in Jesus name.
20 Amen.

21 (Amen.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

23 JOHNSON: The Chair thanks the
24 Reverend for the invocation.

1 4/03/25 - STATED - APPROVAL OF JOURNAL

2 Council will be at ease.

3 (Council at ease.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

5 JOHNSON: The next order of

6 business is the approval of the

7 Journal of the meeting of Thursday,

8 March, 27, 2025.

9 The Chair recognizes

10 Councilmember Bass.

11 COUNCILWOMAN BASS:

12 Thank you, Mr. President.

13 I move that the Journal

14 of the meeting of Thursday, March

15 27, 2025 be approved.

16 (Duly seconded.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

18 JOHNSON: It has been moved and

19 properly seconded that the Journal

20 of the meeting of Thursday, March

21 27, 2025 stand approved.

22 All in favor will

23 indicate by saying aye.

24 (Aye.)

1 4/03/25 - STATED - LEAVES

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

3 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

4 (No response.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

6 JOHNSON: The ayes have it and the
7 Journal is approved.

8 The next order of
9 business is request for leaves of
10 absence. And the Chair recognizes
11 Councilmember Majority Leader
12 Katherine Gilmore Richardson.

13 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

14 RICHARDSON: Thank you,
15 Mr. President.

16 On behalf of the
17 Majority, a leave of absence is
18 requested for Councilmember
19 Squilla.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

21 JOHNSON: The Chair thanks the
22 Councilmember. Leave will be
23 granted.

24 The Chair recognizes

1 4/03/25 - STATED - MOTION REGARDING CALENDAR

2 Minority Leader Councilmember

3 Brooks.

4 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS:

5 Thank you, Council President.

6 On behalf of the

7 Minority, there are no requests for

8 leaves of absence today.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

10 JOHNSON: The Chair thanks the

11 Councilmember.

12 The Chair now recognizes

13 Majority Leader Gilmore Richardson

14 for a motion concerning certain

15 legislative matters that may arise

16 during the course of today's

17 session at Council and that were

18 not listed on the Calendar

19 circulated prior to today's Council

20 session.

21 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

22 RICHARDSON: Thank you,

23 Mr. President.

24 I move that any of the

1 4/03/25 - STATED - MOTION REGARDING CALENDAR
2 following matters, if considered
3 today, may be added to the agenda
4 for this session of Council, and as
5 required by law, subsequently
6 published on an amended agenda
7 after the consideration of those
8 matters: resolutions authorizing
9 hearings, amendments to bills on
10 first reading, the reconsideration
11 of a bill vetoed by or re-called
12 from the Mayor, amendments to bills
13 re-called from the Mayor,
14 resolutions taking substantive
15 action to be voted on in this
16 session, a motion to withdraw a
17 bill or resolution that is not on
18 the Calendar and a motion placing a
19 bill or resolution on or returning
20 a bill or resolution from the
21 Suspension Calendar that is not
22 listed on today's Calendar.
23 The purpose of this
24 motion is to provide the public

1 4/03/25 - STATED - MOTION REGARDING CALENDAR

2 with notice concerning possible
3 actions by Council that arose too
4 late to be included on the Calendar
5 that was published prior to today's
6 session.

7 (Duly seconded.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

9 JOHNSON: It has been moved and
10 properly seconded that the
11 legislative matters stated by
12 Councilmember Gilmore Richardson
13 may be added to the agenda for
14 today should those matters arise
15 during the course of this session
16 of Council.

17 All those in favor will
18 indicate by saying aye.

19 (Aye.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

21 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

22 (No response.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

24 JOHNSON: The ayes have it and the

1 4/03/25 - STATED - GUESTS

2 motion carries.

3 The Chair recognizes

4 Councilmember Jim Harrity.

5 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:

6 Thank you, Council President.

7 I ask to be excused to

8 do business outside of Council.

9 And I would like to be marked aye
10 on all bills and resolutions.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

12 JOHNSON: It's granted. Thank you
13 very much, Member Harrity.

14 The Chair will dispense
15 with the regular order of business
16 to recognize the guests and
17 visitors joining us in chambers
18 this morning.

19 On behalf of all members
20 of City Council, I welcome you to
21 our Council session. We appreciate
22 your taking the time to join us as
23 we attend to the legislative
24 affairs of our city. We certainly

1 4/03/25 - STATED - GUESTS

2 invite you to come again.

3 I want to take a moment
4 to acknowledge State Senator Art
5 Haywood who's joining us today as
6 well. We also want to acknowledge
7 world recording artist and guest of
8 Councilwoman Quetcy Lozada, member
9 of Roc-A-Fella, the Roc, recording
10 artist, but most importantly,
11 community activist and leader,
12 Philly's own Freeway. Thank you
13 for joining us.

14 (Applause.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

16 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes
17 Councilmember Jones.

18 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank
19 you, Mr. President and colleagues.

20 Join me in thanking Chip
21 O'Connell from the U.S. Navy who is
22 here watching democracy at a local
23 level. He is the legislative
24 liaison to the United States Navy

1 4/03/25 - STATED - GUESTS

2 and he's joining us. Will you
3 welcome him and thank him for his
4 service.

5 (Applause.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

7 JOHNSON: The Chair now recognizes
8 Councilmember Thomas.

9 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Good
10 morning, Council President. Good
11 morning, colleagues. Good morning
12 to the citizens of Philadelphia.

13 Today's resolution that
14 I will be introducing honoring the
15 Philadelphia Juvenile Justice
16 Center School, specifically the
17 judges who've been working with
18 these young people to deal with
19 issues around mass incarceration.
20 So I just want to take a moment to
21 recognize, first and foremost, the
22 Co-chairs of the program: The
23 Honorable Judge Jackson and the
24 Honorable Judge Chen.

1 4/03/25 - STATED - GUESTS

2 (Applause.)

3 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: If
4 you all could stand up. And also,
5 the Honorable Judge Nichols, the
6 Honorable Judge Forbes, the
7 Honorable Judge Frazier-Lyde, the
8 Honorable Judge Hayden, the
9 Honorable Judge Patrick, the
10 Honorable Judge Pittman, the
11 Honorable Judge Hill, the Honorable
12 Judge Sayeed(ph) and in support of
13 this program, the Honorable Judge
14 Williams. Can we give all of the
15 judges here -- can you all stand
16 up?

17 That's you too, Judge
18 Williams. Can you all stand up so
19 we can acknowledge you and give you
20 a round of applause.

21 (Applause.)

22 COUNCILMAN THOMAS:
23 Thank you so much for all you do
24 for our children and thank you for

1 4/03/25 - STATED - GUESTS

2 joining us in Council today.

3 Thank you, Council

4 President.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

6 JOHNSON: You're welcome.

7 The Chair recognizes

8 Councilwoman Quetcy Lozada.

9 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA:

10 Thank you, Council President.

11 Today I will be

12 introducing a resolution. I want

13 to acknowledge my special guests

14 who are here today. I'd like to

15 thank the Gift of Life Donor

16 Program who today is here. And as

17 we recognize April as National

18 Donate Life Month, please stand all

19 of our volunteers.

20 (Applause.)

21 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA:

22 The Gift of Life Donor Program's

23 mission is to save lives by

24 coordinating the recovery and

1 4/03/25 - STATED - GUESTS
2 logistics of organs and tissues
3 from transplants while providing
4 comfort and care and compassion for
5 its recipients and families. This
6 year they are also celebrating 50
7 years of service. Over 50 years
8 they have facilitated more than
9 55,000 organ transplants and became
10 the nation's leading organ
11 procurement organization.

12 Thank you so much for
13 all of your work and for choosing
14 the city of Philadelphia as your
15 headquarters.

16 (Applause.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
18 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes
19 Councilmember Jamie Gauthier.

20 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:
21 I was just going to recognize my
22 sister but Isaiah did it first, the
23 Honorable Judge Williams. I just
24 wanted to welcome her, but she's

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 already been welcomed.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

4 JOHNSON: I want to take a matter
5 of personal privilege. There's a
6 giant in a legal field by the name
7 of Judge Green, and I see his wife
8 is here. She's also the mother of
9 State Senator Anthony Hardy. I'm
10 going to ask Mrs. Green to please
11 stand.

12 (Applause.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

14 JOHNSON: At this time, the Chair
15 recognizes Councilmember Dr. Nina
16 Ahmad, who will present a
17 resolution recognizing April 2025
18 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month
19 and celebrating extraordinary
20 efforts of WOAR - Philadelphia
21 Center Against Sexual Violence.

22 Would Dr. Indira Henard
23 and those accompanying her please
24 join the Councilmember at the

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 podium. Joining Dr. Ahmad will be

3 Councilmember Rue Landau,

4 Councilmember Cindy Bass,

5 Councilmember Dr. Anthony Phillips,

6 Councilmember Quetcy Lozada and

7 Councilmember Kendra Brooks.

8 (Councilmembers and

9 guests approached podium.)

10 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD: All

11 right. Thank you, Council

12 President. Good morning, everyone,

13 colleagues and guests.

14 Today we recognize April

15 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month

16 and to honor an organization that

17 has stood as a beacon of hope,

18 healing and justice in our city for

19 over 50 years, WOAR - the

20 Philadelphia Center Against Sexual

21 Violence.

22 WOAR is more than a

23 service provider. It is a

24 lifeline. It is Philadelphia's

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 only rape crisis center. And since
3 1971, it has been there for
4 survivors, answering the call in
5 moments of unimaginable pain and
6 walking with them towards healing.

7 In 2024 alone, WOAR
8 provided direct services to nearly
9 3000 adults and over 300 children.
10 But their impact goes beyond crisis
11 response. They are shaping
12 culture, empowering communities and
13 building a future free from sexual
14 violence. One of the ways they do
15 this is through their Healthy
16 Masculinity Initiative, a powerful
17 program that engages men and boys
18 in the work of prevention,
19 challenging harmful norms and
20 offers tools to become allies and
21 changemakers.

22 We know the statistics.
23 We know that sexual violence is
24 underreported and that it

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 disproportionately affects those on
3 the margins, women, children,
4 LGBTQ+ people and communities of
5 color. But we also know that
6 silence enables violence.

7 I'll say that again. We
8 also know that silence enables
9 violence. And today we choose not
10 to be silent. WOAR reminds us that
11 healing is possible, that
12 prevention is possible and that
13 justice, when pursued boldly and
14 compassionately, can transform
15 lives.

16 So on behalf of a
17 grateful city, I am proud to join
18 my colleagues to present this
19 resolution recognizing April as
20 Sexual Assault Awareness Month and
21 celebrating the extraordinary work
22 of WOAR - Philadelphia Center
23 against Sexual Violence. And I
24 want to take a special moment to

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS
2 acknowledge our guests who will be
3 speaking, Dr. Henard is here and I
4 have to take a special moment to
5 acknowledge Laquisha Anthony, who
6 has been at the forefront of this.
7 I have known her. She has been a
8 constant at WOAR, and I'm so glad
9 that we are here and we can
10 acknowledge all of you and the work
11 you're doing.

12 So we're now going to
13 read the resolution and I'm very
14 grateful to my colleagues who are
15 joining me here: Recognizing April
16 2025 as Sexual Assault Awareness
17 Month and celebrating the
18 extraordinary efforts of WOAR -
19 Philadelphia Center against Sexual
20 Violence;

21 Whereas, since 2001
22 April has been observed as National
23 Sexual Assault Awareness Month.
24 This observed month is part of an

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS
2 annual campaign to raise public
3 awareness about sexual assault and
4 educate communities and individuals
5 on how to prevent sexual violence.

6 And my colleague who
7 co-introduced this resolution with
8 me, Rue Landau.

9 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:

10 Thank you. Whereas, in
11 Philadelphia 1721 incidents of
12 sexual assault and rape were
13 reported in 2024. The police made
14 47 arrests in relation to these
15 reports of rape. However, just
16 one-third of sexual assault cases
17 are reported to the police. 63% of
18 sexual assault cases are not
19 reported to the police;

20 Whereas, 1 in 4 women
21 are survivors of sexual violence.
22 1 in 10 children are survivors of
23 sexual violence. And 1 in 6 men
24 are survivors of sexual violence.

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 We still know that sexual assault
3 is the most underreported crime to
4 date. We know that sexual assault
5 disproportionately affects
6 communities that sit at the
7 margins; and

8 COUNCILWOMAN BASS:

9 Whereas, on average there are
10 321,500 victims age 12 and older of
11 rape and sexual assault each year
12 in the United States. Every 98
13 seconds someone in the United
14 States is sexually assaulted; and

15 Whereas, throughout the
16 last 20 years this country has made
17 great strides in bringing awareness
18 to survivors of sexual assault.
19 Historically, we have seen a
20 culture that has been marked by
21 veil, secrecy and silence. Today
22 we see a culture that is marked
23 with empowerment, activism and
24 courage; and

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA:

3 Whereas, WOAR - Philadelphia Center
4 Against Sexual Violence, is a
5 nonprofit organization whose
6 mission is to eliminate all forms
7 of sexual violence through
8 specialized treatment services,
9 comprehensive prevention education
10 programs and advocacy for the
11 rights of victims of sexual
12 assault. Founded in 1971, WOAR is
13 Philadelphia's only rape crisis
14 center and one of the nation's
15 first; and

16 Whereas, WOAR serves
17 individuals from across the city.
18 In 2024 alone, over 2981 adults
19 received direct services, 323
20 children received direct services
21 and 55 volunteers were trained to
22 provide hotline support.
23 Additionally, WOAR provided
24 in-school prevention workshops to

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 11,834 school-aged children in

3 Philadelphia as well as 1719

4 workshops to adult community

5 members and City professionals; and

6 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

7 Whereas, Dr. Indira Henard is the

8 Executive Director of WOAR.

9 Dr. Henard's direct service

10 experience and many gender-based

11 violence programs have helped to

12 inform her policy analysis that has

13 led to coordinating public policy

14 initiatives and organizing and

15 planning spaces for survivor-led

16 advocacy. Spanning over 25 years

17 of dedicated service in the

18 violence against women's movement,

19 Dr. Henard's experience exemplifies

20 her expertise in nonprofit

21 management, organizational

22 development, crisis management,

23 education, training, fundraising

24 and public policy. Dr. Henard has

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 worked nationally and
3 internationally in helping
4 organizations build capacity to
5 respond to the needs of sexual
6 violence in their communities and
7 celebrate the extraordinary efforts
8 of WOAR - Philadelphia Center
9 against sexual violence;

10 Whereas, teal is a color
11 chosen to represent and raise
12 awareness for sexual assault
13 survivors. WOAR is encouraging
14 individuals across the city to wear
15 something teal to show your support
16 for victims of sexual violence and
17 for those working to end violence
18 in our homes, community and nation;
19 and

20 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:

21 Resolved, by the Council of the
22 City of Philadelphia that we,
23 hereby recognize April 2025 as
24 Sexual Assault Awareness Month and

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 celebrate the extraordinary efforts
3 of WOAR - Philadelphia Center
4 Against Sexual Violence;

5 Further Resolved, that
6 an Engrossed copy of this
7 resolution be presented to
8 Dr. Indira Henard and staff in
9 sincere gratitude for their
10 tireless work.

11 (Applause.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

13 JOHNSON: Council will be at
14 ease -- oh, the Chair recognizes
15 Ms. Indira.

16 DR. HENARD: Good
17 morning and thank you. On behalf
18 of the Board of Directors at WOAR,
19 our leadership team at WOAR and our
20 staff at WOAR, thank you to the
21 City Council of Philadelphia for
22 this wonderful recognition.

23 While we recognize and
24 acknowledge sexual assault 365 days

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS
2 a year, in April we take a special
3 moment throughout the month of
4 April to shine a light on an issue
5 that very rarely gets shined on.
6 What we know to be true is that
7 sexual assault is not a single
8 issue because we don't live single
9 issue lives.

10 In a season where there
11 is a lot of uncertainty, when the
12 need is increasing and the
13 resources are decreasing, we are
14 grateful to the City of
15 Philadelphia, to the City Council
16 of Philadelphia for standing with
17 us as we continue to stand with
18 survivors of sexual assault.

19 Our work is sacred. It
20 is unscripted. And for over 50
21 years, we have been providing hope
22 and healing to survivors of sexual
23 assault. So whether it happened 50
24 years ago or 50 days ago or 50

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 minutes ago, WOAR is here to
3 partner with you on your journey.

4 What we also know is
5 that as we continue to move
6 forward, WOAR is going to be
7 anchored in what we know to be true
8 about sexual violence work, which
9 is that there cannot be effective
10 sexual assault services unless
11 there's a direct response to racism
12 and oppression.

13 We've already heard that
14 sexual violence impacts the most
15 vulnerable communities in our
16 society who set up the sharpest
17 edges of our society. And in a
18 season where sexual violence is
19 intersected with so many other
20 basic needs, we know that we cannot
21 do this work alone.

22 And so, we are grateful
23 to all of you. We are grateful to
24 this Council. We look forward to

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS
2 continuing to partnering with you
3 on behalf of survivors of sexual
4 assault. Our work has never been
5 more important than it is now. Our
6 work is under attack. And what we
7 have been clear about is that
8 survivors need a voice and we will
9 continue to be that voice. Sexual
10 assault should be the business of
11 everyone. Sexual assault should be
12 the business of everyone in terms
13 of disrupting and ultimately
14 eliminating sexual violence.

15 I want to take a point
16 of privilege to really acknowledge
17 the amazing team behind me and the
18 team that is in our offices and at
19 home watching us. This is an
20 incredible team. And I'd like to
21 say that teamwork makes dream work
22 and they make my job really, really
23 easy. But when you have a staff
24 who is committed to running 24/7

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS
2 programs at the intersections, it
3 definitely needs to be
4 acknowledged. And so, I want them
5 to know that I am so grateful for
6 your partnership and for your
7 leadership and we look forward to
8 continuing to work with you all.
9 Thank you.

10 (Applause.)

11 MS. ANTHONY: Good
12 morning. My name is Laquisha
13 Anthony and I'm the Senior Manager
14 of Advocacy here at WOAR. I'm
15 deeply honored to accept this
16 resolution on behalf of WOAR, the
17 only rape crisis center in our
18 community.

19 My heartfelt gratitude
20 goes out to City Council and City
21 Councilmembers Ahmad and Landau for
22 introducing this particular
23 resolution and for recognizing the
24 critical importance of Sexual

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 Assault Awareness Month and for
3 supporting survivors of sexual
4 violence in our city.

5 This resolution is more
6 than just paper on the wor -- more
7 than words on paper. It is a
8 commitment to breaking silence, to
9 standing with survivors and
10 building community where safety,
11 dignity and justice are not
12 privileges but rights.

13 It's a testament that
14 work has not gone unnoticed and
15 that the partnerships are not
16 merely face value, that many of you
17 have stood with us canvassing the
18 streets when predators were on the
19 loose. Many of you have called us
20 up to ensure that we provided
21 prevention education services to
22 your Districts.

23 Many of you have stood
24 side-by-side with us, calling when

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 constituents needed services in the
3 middle of the night. And we're
4 grateful that we don't have to do
5 this work alone. Sexual violence
6 affects all people of all
7 backgrounds. And yet too often
8 survivors feel alone, unheard and
9 unsupported.

10 Our work at WOAR is to
11 change that reality. Every day our
12 advocates, counselors, volunteers
13 stand beside survivors offering
14 hope, resources and a path to
15 healing. But we cannot do this
16 alone. It takes all of us, elected
17 officials, community leaders,
18 residents to create real change.
19 By passing this resolution, you are
20 sending a powerful message that our
21 City believes survivors, supports
22 prevention efforts and is committed
23 to ending sexual violence.

24 To every survivor who

1 4/03/25 - STATED - COMMUNICATIONS
2 has shared their story, sought help
3 and continues to heal, you are not
4 alone. And to everyone here today
5 who stands with us in this mission,
6 thank you. Your support
7 strengthens our work and moves us
8 closer to a future free of sexual
9 violence. Together, we can make
10 this future a reality. Thank you.

11 (Applause.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

13 JOHNSON: Council will be at ease.

14 (Council at ease.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

16 JOHNSON: The next order of
17 business is communications. The
18 Chair requests that the Sergeant-
19 at-Arms deliver the messages from
20 the Mayor to the Chief Clerk.

21 Will the Chief Clerk
22 read the messages from the Mayor
23 and any other communications in her
24 possession.

1 4/03/25 - STATED - COMMUNICATIONS
2 CHIEF CLERK: To the
3 President and members of the
4 Council of the City of
5 Philadelphia, I am transmitting for
6 the consideration of your Honorable
7 body a resolution authorizing the
8 Commissioner of Public Property to
9 execute and deliver to the
10 Philadelphia Redevelopment
11 Authority deeds conveying fee
12 simple title to 813 Union Street,
13 6130 Ellsworth Street, 4910
14 Kingsessing Avenue, 5417 Florence
15 Avenue, 5425 Florence Avenue in the
16 3rd Councilmanic District of the
17 City of Philadelphia and further
18 authorizing the Philadelphia
19 Redevelopment Authority to transfer
20 to the Philadelphia Land Bank fee
21 simple title to such properties
22 pursuant to Section 16-405 of The
23 Philadelphia Code; and
24 A resolution authorizing

1 4/03/25 - STATED - COMMUNICATIONS
2 the Commissioner of Public Property
3 to execute and deliver to the
4 Philadelphia Redevelopment
5 Authority deeds conveying fee
6 simple title to 2323-31 North 5th
7 Street, 2322 North Orkney Street,
8 2324, 2326, 2328 and 2330 North
9 Orkney Street in the 7th
10 Councilmanic District of the City
11 of Philadelphia and further
12 authorizing the Philadelphia
13 Redevelopment Authority to transfer
14 to the Philadelphia Land Bank fee
15 simple title to such properties
16 pursuant to Section 16-405 of The
17 Philadelphia Code.

18 And I am pleased to
19 advise you that on April 2, 2025 I
20 signed the following bills which
21 were passed by Council at its
22 session on March 20, 2025: Bill
23 No. 250100 and Bill No. 250147.

24 Council President, there

1 4/03/25 - STATED - COMMUNICATIONS

2 are no further communications in my
3 possession.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

5 JOHNSON: Thank you. The messages
6 will be printed in the Journal.

7 I want to take a moment
8 to acknowledge Councilmember Kendra
9 Brooks.

10 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS:

11 Thank you, Council President.

12 I have to leave on
13 Council business so I ask to be
14 excused and I vote aye on all bills
15 and resolutions.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

17 JOHNSON: Leave is granted. Thank
18 you very much.

19 The Chair recognizes
20 Councilmember Thomas.

21 COUNCILMAN THOMAS:

22 Council President, colleagues, I
23 apologize. I missed a lot of
24 judges that were here earlier. I

1 4/03/25 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 know some of them left. I want to
3 start with the Honorable Tameka
4 Lane, who's actually the Chair who
5 put all of this together. So,
6 Judge Lane, thank you so much. We
7 also had Judge Thomas Street here,
8 Judge Taylor Smith here, Judge
9 Powell, Judge Phillips Thomas,
10 Judge Padilla Wright and Judge
11 Watson. So again, I just wanted to
12 thank all of the judges who do
13 great work with our juveniles and
14 acknowledge their presence here
15 today.

16 (Applause.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

18 JOHNSON: Thank you very much,
19 Member Thomas.

20 The next order of
21 business is the introduction of
22 bills and resolutions.

23 The Chair recognizes
24 Dr. Anthony Phillips.

1 4/03/25 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

3 Good morning. Thank you, Council
4 President.

5 I have one privileged
6 resolution and two privileged
7 resolutions -- my gosh. One
8 privileged resolution and two
9 privileged resolutions on your
10 behalf today.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

12 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

13 Would the Chief Clerk
14 please read the titles of the
15 privileged resolutions.

16 CHIEF CLERK: A
17 privileged resolution honoring the
18 United States Senator Cory Booker
19 for his courageous and historic
20 25-hour Senate floor speech,
21 standing in defense of America's
22 core democratic principles and
23 Constitutional values, while
24 surpassing the previous 24 hour 18

1 4/03/25 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 minute record set by Senator Strom
3 Thurmond in opposition to the Civil
4 Rights Act.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

9 CHIEF CLERK: And a
10 privileged resolution recognizing
11 the Active People, Healthy Nation
12 Initiative, a national effort led
13 by the Centers for Disease Control
14 and Prevention and the American
15 Heart Association and reaffirming
16 the City of Philadelphia's
17 commitment to championing policies,
18 programs and investments that
19 promote physical activity, improve
20 public health, especially for
21 children, and ensure equitable
22 access to recreation for all
23 residents.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

1 4/03/25 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 JOHNSON: This resolution will be
3 placed on today's Final Passage
4 Calendar.

5 CHIEF CLERK: And a
6 privileged resolution honoring,
7 recognizing and celebrating the
8 Omicron Delta Lambda Chapter of
9 Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.
10 for 40 years of service and impact
11 in the City of Philadelphia.

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

16 Chair recognizes
17 Majority Leader Katherine Gilmore
18 Richardson.

19 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE
20 RICHARDSON: Good morning, Council
21 President. Good morning,
22 colleagues.

23 Today I offer one bill
24 and two non-privileged resolutions

1 4/03/25 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 on your behalf.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

4 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

5 Would the Chief Clerk
6 please read the titles of the
7 resolutions.

8 CHIEF CLERK: A
9 non-privileged resolution
10 authorizing the Philadelphia Land
11 Bank to dispose of 1911 Mountain
12 Street located in the 2nd
13 Councilmanic District in accordance
14 with the terms of Chapter 16-700 of
15 The Philadelphia Code.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
17 JOHNSON: This resolution will be
18 placed on the Final Passage
19 Calendar for consideration at our
20 next session of Council.

21 The Chair recognizes
22 Councilmember Jamie Gauthier.

23 CHIEF CLERK: I'm not
24 finished reading the titles,

1 4/03/25 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 Council President.

3 A non-privileged

4 resolution calling on the Trump

5 Administration and the Department

6 of Health and Human Services to

7 preserve funding and administrative

8 support for Head Start, prevent

9 program disruptions and protect

10 access to early childhood education

11 for low-income families.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

13 JOHNSON: This resolution will be

14 placed on the Final Passage

15 Calendar for consideration at our

16 next session of Council.

17 CHIEF CLERK: And a

18 non-privileged resolution calling

19 on the Trump Administration to

20 reverse the termination of an

21 Environmental Protection Agency,

22 EPA, grant awarded to the City of

23 Philadelphia to support efforts to

24 address flooding in Eastwick, a

1 4/03/25 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 community that has been
3 disproportionately impacted by
4 environmental injustice and
5 hardships.

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

11 The Chair recognizes
12 Councilmember Isaiah Thomas.

13 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Good
14 morning, Council President again.
15 Good morning, colleagues -- oh no,
16 Council President, I'm sorry.
17 Three resolutions.

18 Thank you, Council
19 President.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
21 JOHNSON: Will the Chief Clerk
22 please read the titles of the
23 resolutions.

24 CHIEF CLERK: A

1 4/03/25 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 privileged resolution honoring the
3 Philadelphia Juvenile Justice
4 Center School celebrating its 20th
5 bi-annual "Carpe Diem" honoring all
6 the judges and students who
7 participate in this remarkable and
8 beneficial event.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

13 CHIEF CLERK: And a
14 privileged resolution authorizing
15 the Committee on Education to hold
16 hearings investigating the current
17 state of higher education as this
18 pillar of the Philadelphia economy
19 and cultural landscape undergoes
20 generational change.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

1 4/03/25 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 CHIEF CLERK: And a
3 privileged resolution honoring and
4 recognizing the All-Star Labor
5 Classic and Philadelphia's
6 Organized Labor for 37 years of
7 charitable service to students and
8 the community.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

13 The Chair recognizes
14 Councilmember Jamie Gauthier.

15 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:
16 Good morning, Council President.

17 Today I have one
18 privileged resolution and one bill.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

20 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

21 Will the Chief Clerk
22 please read the titles of the bill
23 and resolution.

24 CHIEF CLERK: An

1 4/03/25 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 ordinance amending Section 14-533
3 of The Philadelphia Code, ("MIN,
4 Mixed Income Neighborhoods Overlay
5 District") to exempt from certain
6 requirements of that Section
7 residential development under
8 programs designed to create
9 affordable home ownership, which
10 programs mandate deed restrictions
11 and agreements establishing ongoing
12 affordability requirements, all
13 under certain terms and conditions.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

15 JOHNSON: This bill will be
16 referred to the appropriate
17 committee.

18 CHIEF CLERK: And a
19 non-privileged resolution
20 authorizing the Commissioner of
21 Public Property to execute and
22 deliver to the Philadelphia
23 Redevelopment Authority deeds
24 conveying fee simple title to 813

1 4/03/25 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 Union Street, 6130 Ellsworth
3 Street, 4910 Kingsessing Avenue,
4 5417 Florence Avenue, 5425 Florence
5 Avenue in the 3rd Councilmanic
6 District of the City of
7 Philadelphia and further
8 authorizing the Philadelphia
9 Redevelopment Authority to transfer
10 to the Philadelphia Land Bank fee
11 simple title to such properties
12 pursuant to Section 16-405 of The
13 Philadelphia Code.

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

19 The Chair recognizes
20 Councilmember Curtis Jones, Jr.

21 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank
22 you, Mr. President.

23 Before I introduce those
24 two non-privileged resolutions, the

1 4/03/25 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 author of the Charter change for

3 the Citizens Police Oversight

4 Commission is here, Samantha --

5 Judge, Her Honor, Samantha

6 Williams. Can we recognize her?

7 (Applause.)

8 COUNCILMAN JONES: Two

9 non-privileged resolutions today,

10 Mr. President.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

12 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

13 Could you please read

14 the titles of the non-privileged

15 resolutions.

16 CHIEF CLERK: A

17 non-privileged resolution renaming

18 the 5700 block of West Oxford

19 Street "Fred Rosenfeld Way" to

20 honor and celebrate the life and

21 legacy of Frederick C. Rosenfeld

22 for his outstanding contributions

23 to youth sports in Philadelphia.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

1 4/03/25 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 JOHNSON: This resolution will be
3 placed on the Final Passage
4 Calendar for consideration at our
5 next session of Council.

6 CHIEF CLERK: And a
7 non-privileged resolution
8 appointing Ericka Stewart to the
9 Citizens Police Oversight
10 Commission.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
12 JOHNSON: This resolution will be
13 placed on the Final Passage
14 Calendar for consideration at our
15 next session of Council.

16 And if I didn't make
17 this acknowledgement, I will be
18 remiss. And I thank Councilman
19 Curtis Jones for his leadership for
20 inspiring and empowering, but most
21 importantly, giving an opportunity
22 to welcome back one of his mentees,
23 the Honorable Judge Samantha --
24 let's give her a round of

1 4/03/25 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 applause -- and sister of
3 Councilwoman Jamie Gauthier. Could
4 you stand please?

5 (Applause.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

7 JOHNSON: Welcome back to our
8 chambers. It's good to see you,
9 putting in that hard work on this
10 very same floor. So great job,
11 Councilmember Jones.

12 The Chair recognizes
13 Councilmember Landau.

14 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:
15 Good morning, Council President,
16 colleagues and the public.

17 I have three privileged
18 resolutions and one non-privileged
19 resolution on your behalf.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

21 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

22 Would the Chief Clerk
23 please read the titles of the
24 resolutions.

1 4/03/25 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 CHIEF CLERK: A

3 privileged resolution recognizing
4 April 2025 as Fair Housing Month in
5 the City of Philadelphia and
6 celebrating the passage of the Fair
7 Housing Act of 1968.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

12 CHIEF CLERK: And a
13 privileged resolution recognizing
14 April as Arab American Heritage
15 Month and celebrating the heritage
16 and culture of Arab Americans in
17 Philadelphia.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

22 CHIEF CLERK: And a
23 privileged resolution declaring
24 April 4, 2025 as Women in Tech Day

1 4/03/25 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 in the City of Philadelphia and
3 recognizing the importance of women
4 in technology, emphasizing their
5 contributions, promoting STEM
6 education and careers for women and
7 girls and expanding gender equity
8 in the technology field.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

13 The Chair recognizes
14 Councilmember Quetcy Lozada.

15 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA:

16 Thank you, Council President.

17 Today I offer one bill,
18 one privileged resolution --

19 CHIEF CLERK: One more.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

21 JOHNSON: I'm sorry.

22 CHIEF CLERK: That's
23 okay.

24 A privileged resolution

1 4/03/25 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 declaring April 2025 as National
3 Poetry Month in the City of
4 Philadelphia and recognizing the
5 profound impact of poetry on
6 Philadelphia's cultural,
7 educational and social landscape.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

12 The Chair now recognizes
13 Councilmember Quetcy Lozada.

14 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA:
15 Thank you, Council President.

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

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

20 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

21 Will the Chief Clerk
22 please read the titles of the
23 resolutions.

24 CHIEF CLERK: An

1 4/03/25 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 ordinance amending Chapter 9-600 of
3 The Philadelphia Code (entitled
4 "Service and Other Businesses") add
5 business hour restrictions in the
6 1st, 7th and 8th Councilmanic
7 Districts, all under certain terms
8 and conditions.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

10 JOHNSON: This bill will be
11 referred to the appropriate
12 committee.

13 CHIEF CLERK: And a
14 non-privileged resolution
15 authorizing the Commissioner of
16 Public Property to execute and
17 deliver to the Philadelphia
18 Redevelopment Authority deeds
19 conveying fee simple title to
20 2323-31 North 5th Street, 2322,
21 2324, 2326, 2328 and 2330 North
22 Orkney Street in the 7th
23 Councilmanic District of the City
24 of Philadelphia and further

1 4/03/25 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 authorizing the Philadelphia
3 Redevelopment Authority to transfer
4 to the Philadelphia Land Bank fee
5 simple title to such properties
6 pursuant to Section 16-405 of The
7 Philadelphia Code.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

9 JOHNSON: This resolution will be
10 placed on the Final Passage
11 Calendar for consideration at the
12 next session of Council.

13 CHIEF CLERK: And a
14 privileged resolution recognizing
15 April as National Donate Life Month
16 in the City of Philadelphia and
17 honoring the lifesaving impact of
18 organ, eye and tissue donation, as
19 well as celebrating the 50th
20 anniversary of the Gift of Life
21 Donor Program.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

23 JOHNSON: This resolution will be
24 placed on today's Final Passage

1 4/03/25 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 Calendar.

3 The Chair recognizes
4 councilmember Jeffrey Jay Young.

5 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Thank
6 you, Mr. President.

7 Today I offer one
8 non-privileged resolution.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
10 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

11 Would the Chief Clerk
12 please read the title of the
13 resolution.

14 CHIEF CLERK: A
15 non-privileged resolution
16 requesting the Mayor to return to
17 Council Bill No. 240427-AA,
18 entitled "Amending Section 14-305
19 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled
20 'Nonconformities,' by providing
21 further provisions on changes from
22 nonconforming uses;" all under
23 certain terms and conditions for
24 the purpose of reconsideration by

1 4/03/25 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 the Council of the vote by which
3 said bill passed Council.

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

9 The Chair recognizes
10 Councilmember O'Rourke.

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

13 I want to simply say
14 that I booed earlier at the mere
15 mention of a racist name, Senator
16 Strom Thurmond. And I thank you
17 for what you introduced today
18 related to what Senator Cory Booker
19 did in being a true statesman in
20 the last week. Just wanted to
21 clarify that for the record.

22 That having been said, I
23 have one privileged and one
24 non-privileged resolution to

1 4/03/25 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 introduce as well as a privileged
3 resolution to introduce on behalf
4 of Minority Leader Brooks.

5 Thank you, sir.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

7 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

8 Will the Chief Clerk
9 please read the titles of the
10 resolutions.

11 CHIEF CLERK: A
12 privileged resolution recognizing
13 April 2025 as Autism Acceptance
14 Month in the City of Philadelphia
15 and commending the work of
16 advocates who are people living
17 with autism and who are breaking
18 down barriers to fully inclusive
19 society.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

24 CHIEF CLERK: And a

1 4/03/25 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 privileged resolution celebrating
3 the launch of Philadelphia Fair
4 Lease on the city of Philadelphia's
5 Landlord Gateway.

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

10 CHIEF CLERK: And a
11 non-privileged resolution
12 recognizing the central role of
13 labor organizing and labor unions
14 in the history of Philadelphia,
15 their ongoing importance to the
16 well-being of working class
17 families and condemning the Trump
18 Administration's continued pursuit
19 of anti-labor and anti-worker
20 policies.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
22 JOHNSON: This resolution will be
23 placed on the Final Passage
24 Calendar for consideration at our

1 4/03/25 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 next session of Council.

3 The Chair recognizes
4 Councilmember Mike Driscoll.

5 COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL:
6 Morning, Mr. President.

7 I have one privileged
8 resolution for today's
9 consideration.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

11 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

12 Will the Chief Clerk,
13 please read the title of the
14 resolution.

15 CHIEF CLERK: A
16 privileged resolution honoring and
17 congratulating the Father Judge
18 High School Boys' Basketball Team
19 for winning the 2025 PIAA 6A
20 championship.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

1 4/03/25 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 The Chair recognizes

3 Councilmember O'Neill.

4 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL:

5 Thank you, Mr. President.

6 I offer one bill

7 co-introduced by Councilman

8 Driscoll, signed by several members

9 of Council.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

11 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

12 Will the Chief Clerk

13 please read the title of the bill.

14 CHIEF CLERK: An

15 ordinance amending Title 14 of The

16 Philadelphia Code, entitled "Zoning

17 and Planning," by revising the One

18 Year Rule, which limits the filing

19 of permit applications that are

20 substantially similar to a prior

21 application with respect to which

22 an appeal to the Zoning Board of

23 Adjustment has been denied or

24 dismissed; and making related

1 4/03/25 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 changes, all under certain terms
3 and conditions.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

5 JOHNSON: This bill will be
6 referred to the appropriate
7 committee.

8 The Chair recognizes
9 Councilmember Bass.

10 COUNCILWOMAN BASS:

11 Thank you, Mr. President.

12 I offer one resolution
13 on your behalf.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

15 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

16 Will the Chief Clerk
17 please read the title of the
18 resolution.

19 CHIEF CLERK: A

20 non-privileged resolution
21 responding to the U.S. Secretary of
22 Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
23 Scott Turner's ill-informed
24 understanding of public housing

1 4/03/25 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 development and call for
3 deregulation by reinforcing the
4 importance of the continued
5 preservation of local control over
6 housing development decisions to
7 ensure development aligns with the
8 needs and desires of our
9 communities, and calling on Turner
10 to preserve the Choice Neighborhood
11 Initiatives Program which enables
12 PHA to preserve and expand its
13 affordable housing stock.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
15 JOHNSON: This resolution will be
16 placed on the Final Passage
17 Calendar for consideration at our
18 next session of Council.

19 The Chair recognizes
20 Councilmember Dr. Nina Ahmad.

21 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:
22 Thank you, Council President.

23 I have one
24 non-privileged resolution on your

1 4/03/25 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 behalf.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

4 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

5 Will the Chief Clerk
6 please read the title of the
7 resolution.

8 CHIEF CLERK: A

9 non-privileged resolution demanding
10 the Trump Administration and the
11 U.S. Department of Agriculture
12 (USDA) to restore the funding that
13 was cut for programs supporting
14 Pennsylvania food banks and schools
15 assessing local produce, which will
16 endanger food security for
17 vulnerable children and families in
18 Philadelphia and further deepening
19 the crisis of hunger in the City.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

21 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

22 There being no reports
23 from committees today, the Chair
24 now recognizes Councilmember

1 4/03/25 - STATED - SPECIAL BUSINESS

2 Jeffrey Jay Young for a motion
3 regarding special business.

4 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Thank
5 you, Mr. President.

6 I move that the rules of
7 Council be suspended to permit
8 consideration for special business
9 at this time.

10 (Duly seconded.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

12 JOHNSON: It has been moved and
13 properly seconded that the rules of
14 Council be suspended so as to
15 permit the consideration of special
16 business at this time.

17 All those in favor of
18 the motion will signify by say aye.

19 (Aye.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

21 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

22 (No response.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

24 JOHNSON: The ayes have it and the

1 4/03/25 - STATED - SPECIAL BUSINESS

2 motion carries.

3 The Chair recognizes
4 Councilmember Young for a motion
5 regarding a resolution introduced
6 today to recall Bill No. 240427-AA.

7 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Thank
8 you, Mr. President.

9 I move to suspend the
10 rules to allow consideration of the
11 resolution today.

12 (Duly seconded.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

14 JOHNSON: It has been moved and
15 properly seconded that the rules of
16 Council be suspended so as to
17 permit the consideration of the
18 resolution.

19 At this time, all those
20 in favor of the motion will signify
21 by saying aye.

22 (Aye.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

24 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

1 4/03/25 - STATED - SPECIAL BUSINESS

2 (No response.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

4 JOHNSON: The ayes have it. The
5 motion carries.

6 The Chair recognizes
7 again Councilmember Jeffrey Jay
8 Young.

9 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Thank
10 you, Mr. President.

11 I move for the adoption
12 of the resolution.

13 (Duly seconded.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

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

21 (Aye.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

23 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

24 (No response.)

1 4/03/25 - STATED - SPECIAL BUSINESS

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

3 JOHNSON: The ayes have it. The
4 motion carries and the resolution
5 is adopted.

6 Will the Clerk please
7 read the letter from the Mayor.

8 CHIEF CLERK: To the
9 President and members of the
10 Council of the City of
11 Philadelphia, I am returning
12 herewith, as requested by your
13 resolution adopted today, Bill No.
14 240427-AA, entitled "Amending
15 Section 14-305, of The Philadelphia
16 Code, entitled 'Nonconformities' by
17 providing further provisions on
18 changes from nonconforming uses;
19 all under certain terms and
20 conditions" for the purpose of
21 reconsideration by the Council of
22 the vote by which said bill passed
23 Council.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

1 4/03/25 - STATED - SPECIAL BUSINESS

2 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes
3 Councilmember Young for a motion
4 that Council reconsider the vote by
5 which Bill No. 240427-AA was
6 passed.

7 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: So
8 moved, Mr. President.

9 (Duly seconded.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

11 JOHNSON: All those in favor of the
12 motion will signify by saying aye.

13 (Aye.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

15 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

16 (No response.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

18 JOHNSON: The ayes have it. A
19 majority of all members having
20 voted in the affirmative, the
21 motion carries. And a vote by
22 which Bill No. 240427-AA was passed
23 has been reconsidered. And the
24 bill will be placed on our Second

1 4/03/25 - STATED - BILLS ON 2ND READING

2 Reading and Final Passage Calendars
3 for our next session of Council.

4 The next order of
5 business is the consideration of
6 the Calendar.

7 The Chair recognizes
8 Councilmember Gilmore Richardson
9 for the purpose of calling up bills
10 and resolutions on the Second
11 Reading and Final Passage
12 Calendars.

13 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

14 RICHARDSON: Thank you,
15 Mr. President.

16 The following bills and
17 resolutions are being called up
18 from the Second Reading and Final
19 Passage Calendars today: Nos.
20 250168 and 250277.

21 The following bills and
22 resolutions on the Calendar are
23 being held: 250250, 250251,
24 250252, 250253, 250254, 240333 and

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 240665.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

4 JOHNSON: Thank you.

5 Before considering these
6 bills and resolutions, we will
7 consider public comment as follows:
8 Your public comment must concern
9 matters on the Second Reading and
10 Final Passage Calendars for
11 possible action at today's Council
12 session.

13 All speakers must sign
14 up in order to testify. If you
15 have not already signed up for
16 today's session, please do so now
17 by giving your name to Ms. Hasson
18 at the table outside the rails to
19 my left.

20 Once you have signed up,
21 you will be called in the order in
22 which your name appears on a sign-
23 up sheet. Under ideal
24 circumstances, public commenters

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 each will have three minutes to
3 speak. However, this time limit
4 may vary from session-to-session.
5 Today the time limit will be two
6 minutes.

7 In order to be fair to
8 all those wishing to speak, I
9 intend to hold faithfully to the
10 two-minute limit. When you begin
11 speaking, you will see a green
12 light on the podium. When there
13 are 30 seconds remaining to your
14 time, the light will turn yellow,
15 which is your reminder to conclude
16 your remarks.

17 Once two minutes have
18 passed, the light will turn red and
19 the Sergeant-at-Arms will
20 disconnect the microphone. At that
21 point, please yield the podium to
22 the next speaker if you have not
23 already done so. I also reserve
24 the right pursuant to our rules of

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 Council to limit repetitious
3 comments with the same subject
4 matter.

5 I will now ask the Chief
6 Clerk to please read the name of
7 our first speaker.

8 CHIEF CLERK: We have
9 Emily Grace Reese. May Kate Perez,
10 Jeremy Blatstein, Sterling Johnson
11 and Laura Coley also make their way
12 to the podium. Emily Grace Reese,
13 Kate Perez, Jeremy Blatstein,
14 Sterling Johnson, Laura Coley.

15 (Witnesses approached
16 podium.)

17 MS. PEREZ: I'm Kate
18 Perez. And recognizing Arab
19 American Month gives us more
20 opportunities to connect and
21 analyze the ways in which our
22 foreign policies affect the Arab
23 worlds and the descendants in our
24 country.

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 It's especially
3 important now as our government and
4 media try to silence Arab stories,
5 and Palestinians in Philadelphia
6 have to fight to even get
7 acknowledgement, as the Mayor's
8 office denied a Palestinian flag-
9 raising.

10 ICE agents are
11 disappearing students that protest
12 their school's genocide
13 investments, primarily Arab
14 students without charges,
15 kidnapping Mahmoud Khalil to
16 shutter free speech and First
17 Amendment retaliation. We should
18 be working to abolish ICE and not
19 expand their holding cells in our
20 city.

21 Heritage months gives us
22 a chance to learn what the
23 oppressors are trying to silence.
24 The IOF that we give a minimum of

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 \$3.8 billion a year since 2019
3 targets Palestinian journalists on
4 the ground, regularly shuttering
5 Internet access and media offices,
6 killing more than 232 journalists
7 and media workers since October '23
8 when compared to the 69 journalists
9 killed in World War I and II.

10 The IOF actually
11 released a hit list and murdered
12 23-year-old journalist Hossam
13 Shabbat on March 24 who wrote his
14 last words in anticipation of his
15 targeting. I ask you now, do not
16 stop speaking about Gaza. Do not
17 let the world look away. Keep
18 fighting. Keep telling our stories
19 until Palestine is free.

20 Yesterday 15 health care
21 workers were discovered executed in
22 a mass grave in Rafah, some
23 handcuffed and shot in the chest
24 with the IOF killing more than 480

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 aid workers in less than two years.
3 Like Ahmad said, silence is
4 violence and a genocide ignored is
5 a genocide denied. Repression we
6 send abroad turns inward, where a
7 U.S. Senator can call a kafir that
8 represents Palestinian fishing nets
9 fields of weeds and historic trade
10 routes a terrorist rag. Where
11 students in Philly are asked to
12 remove them, our projects are taken
13 down and teachers will dock
14 students for wearing Sudanese
15 flags, mistaking Arabic lettering
16 as a threat. Today they're going
17 to be voting on a joint resolution
18 of disapproval. You should be
19 calling your Senators to support
20 this. Arms embargo now. Free
21 Palestine.

22 (Applause.)

23 MR. BLATSTEIN: Hello,
24 City Council. My name is Jeremy

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 Blatstein. I'm here in support of
3 Bill No. 250277 to move land out of
4 the Land Bank. But we're going to
5 talk about another hypothetical
6 situation. We're going to talk
7 about our RCOs.

8 What if the head of the
9 RCO doesn't live in the district or
10 they live in that neighborhood? We
11 ran into a residency issue this
12 week with a judge that got thrown
13 off the ballot because he didn't
14 live technically in Philadelphia.
15 He lived in Bala Cynwyd.

16 So what happens if the
17 RCO leader is your aunt or your
18 sister or your mother and maybe so
19 happens to work on your staff.
20 What happens then? Who's holding
21 you guys accountable? How is the
22 RCO process working? That needs to
23 be looked at, right, because
24 there's a clear conflict of

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 interest when it comes to these RCO
3 groups and whether or not -- and
4 shout-out to Councilwoman Bass with
5 requiring residency requirements
6 for RCOs. It's a great thing that
7 needs to happen, right. There
8 needs to be better, clear
9 instructions for what these are
10 RCOs are able to do --

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
12 JOHNSON: Mr. Blatstein, give me
13 some more about the Land Bank and
14 the RCO process.

15 MR. BLATSTEIN: Oh, it's
16 very much attached to the Land
17 Bank, right, because you're
18 involving these RCOs to move the
19 land and these RCOs are not holding
20 meetings. And again, what happens
21 if a former member of your staff
22 that's not holding a meeting, who's
23 supposed to be holding this up,
24 right. So this is just something

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 to think about.

3 The last thing we're

4 talking about today is SEPTA.

5 Thank you, Councilman O'Rourke,

6 right. SEPTA is very important to

7 be funded. Let's get these free

8 rides back. Thanks for bringing

9 that up last week. I think Mayor

10 Parker is going to use that as a

11 strong arm and figure out how to

12 get this funded.

13 Also, let's ride the

14 ride. Raise your hand if you rode

15 SEPTA in the last week. No hands

16 for members of City Council, right.

17 So each of you have a piece of that

18 \$9 million. So if you're saying

19 let's fund that whole piece of it

20 from the Key Advantage, let's start

21 using it at least once a week,

22 right. So let's ride the ride.

23 And let's grow Philly to 2 Millie.

24 Thank you.

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

3 JOHNSON: Thank you.

4 CHIEF CLERK: We have
5 Sterling Johnson, Laura Coley. May
6 Aaron Befonte, Denise Basile, Jenna
7 Lam, Colleen Ott and Calan Malyn
8 Wilson also make their way to the
9 podium.

10 (Witnesses approached
11 podium.)

12 MR. JOHNSON: Hello,
13 Councilpeople. Sterling Johnson
14 from the Philadelphia Community
15 Land Trust. Just here testifying
16 against Ordinance 240665. I think
17 there have been discussions about
18 it. It needs to be narrowly
19 tailored.

20 I think I was also
21 looking for the Fair Housing Month
22 resolution that was put forth. And
23 I see all these issues as coming
24 together. And I will say for me

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 the balance of it is that street

3 medicine isn't really the answer.

4 We need health care and housing.

5 That's we need to be focusing on.

6 And coming down from

7 D.C., I just went yesterday, I was

8 just thinking about the fact that

9 it needs -- there are cuts to HIV

10 research and treatment and there

11 have to be ways to make that a part

12 of our current budget.

13 For me, treatment is

14 prevention. Of a person living

15 with HIV, they give you medication

16 immediately. So treatment is

17 prevention. If you're

18 undetectable, you cannot pass it

19 on. I do believe there is a

20 similar viewpoint with treatment of

21 substance use disorders.

22 Even I, 15 years in

23 recovery, different types of

24 recovery, using at times, I

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 recently was on Naltrexone. It
3 helps with cravings, helps with
4 drug use, alcohol. It's important
5 to treat people as soon as
6 possible. It needs to be available
7 as soon as possible.

8 I just wanted to say
9 that treatment is prevention. Hold
10 the hospitals and treatment centers
11 accountable. I hope that is
12 happening. The new person at DBH
13 needs to be held accountable. They
14 should be answering your questions.
15 That's all. Thank you.

16 (Applause.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

18 JOHNSON: Thank you.

19 REVEREND COLEY: Good
20 morning. My name is Reverend Laura
21 Coley. I'll be speaking in favor
22 of Bill 25277. I'm a member of
23 POWER Interfaith, 15-year resident
24 of the Port Richmond neighborhood

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 in District 1 and the Pastor of
3 First Presbyterian Church in
4 Philadelphia in District 2.

5 I'm deeply concerned
6 about the rising rent costs,
7 property taxes and increased
8 displacement in our city. I've had
9 conversations with dozens of people
10 in my congregation and they are
11 also concerned. I'm specifically
12 concerned about the strains on our
13 City budget and the risk that the
14 burden of these shortfalls will be
15 placed on Philadelphian renters and
16 homeowners.

17 We know that COVID
18 relief money has run out. We know
19 the potential federal funding cuts
20 from the current presidential
21 administration loom on the
22 horizon --

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

24 JOHNSON: Excuse me, ma'am. I just

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 want to ask a question. Could you
3 tie it into the actual bill that's
4 related to the 4th District Land
5 Bank, the actual bill that's coming
6 out the Land Bank with housing, if
7 you can so please.

8 REVEREND COLEY: Yes.
9 So I am fearful that after we
10 already witnessed serious property
11 tax increases across the city in
12 2025, especially in Black and Brown
13 neighborhoods, that hard-working
14 Philadelphians will have to
15 shoulder these budget restraints
16 while large businesses and
17 developers are offered a break.

18 I don't want
19 Philadelphia to be a rich man's
20 playground. I don't want my
21 22-year-old CCP nephew to have to
22 live in a city apartment that's
23 both wildly expensive and broken
24 down. I do not want my LGBT

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 congregants who have lived in
3 Center City since the 1980s because
4 the suburbs would not take them in
5 to now have to relocate because of
6 skyrocketing costs.

7 I do not want my 3-year-
8 old daughter to learn that big
9 developers have more rights in
10 their neighborhood where she was
11 born than she does. We want to
12 partner with Councilmember Squilla
13 and Councilmember Johnson to lift
14 up the voices of Philadelphian
15 residents, and we invite you to
16 join with us for town halls coming
17 up in the beginning of May.

18 (Applause.)

19 MR. BEFONTE: Good
20 morning.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

22 JOHNSON: Good morning.

23 MR. BEFONTE: My name is
24 Aaron, and I'm a proud member of

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 POWER Interfaith representing Arch
3 Street United Methodist Church in
4 Councilmember Mark Squilla's
5 District. I'm deeply concerned
6 about the rising rent costs,
7 property taxes and increased
8 displacement in our city.

9 I've had conversations
10 with dozens of people in my
11 congregation and neighborhood, and
12 they're concerned too. I stand
13 before you today not just as an
14 advocate, but as someone whose life
15 has been profoundly shaped by
16 Philadelphia's housing crisis,
17 terrified that the lifeline my
18 family found has vanished for those
19 who need it the most.

20 When my family
21 immigrated here from Italy, I was
22 just 9 years old. My earliest
23 memories of the city are filled
24 with both hope and uncertainty. We

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 were lucky. My aunt opened her
3 home to us when we had nowhere else
4 to go, but I remember the tremor in
5 my parents' voices as they stressed
6 over bills, the exhaustion on my
7 mother's eyes after working
8 multiple jobs and the crushing
9 silence of months without my father
10 while he struggled for his visa
11 oceans away.

12 Without that family
13 safety net, I don't know how we
14 would have survived. Later Arch
15 Street United Methodist Church
16 welcomed us with open arms,
17 offering the North Philly Parish
18 as a temporary home at a rate that
19 we could afford. It felt like a
20 miracle. For the first time in my
21 life, my parents could breathe just
22 a little. They still work
23 relentlessly, but we had a roof
24 over our heads that didn't feel

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 temporary.

3 Yet as a kid, I carried
4 a quiet shame. When friends asked
5 me where I lived, I changed the
6 subject. I didn't want them to
7 know what we didn't what I thought
8 was a real home. Everything
9 changed when Habitat for Humanity
10 gave us the keys to our own house.
11 I'll never forget the look on my
12 mother's face; pride, relief,
13 disbelief.

14 For me it was more than
15 just four walls and a door. It was
16 dignity. It was belonging. It
17 meant my parents could finally
18 focus on us, not just survival. It
19 meant I could invite friends over
20 without embarrassment. That home
21 didn't shelter us. It transformed
22 us.

23 But today that kind of
24 opportunity is vanishing. I talked

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 to neighbors in our congregation
3 who are terrified, seniors on fixed
4 incomes watching rent and property
5 taxes eat their savings, parents
6 working three jobs just to keep up
7 with rent, young people who given
8 up on ever owning a home. The
9 stability that saved my family now
10 seems like a lifeline only
11 available to a lucky few. And if
12 we don't act, entire communities
13 will be priced out of their own
14 futures.

15 We cannot let
16 displacement be Philadelphia's next
17 epidemic. Working class families,
18 immigrants and lifelong residents
19 still deserve a place in the city.
20 Housing isn't just a structure.
21 It's a foundation for everything
22 else, for strong families, for
23 future of our kids and our
24 communities that thrive.

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 Councilmember Squilla,
3 we need your leadership. We want
4 to partner with you and try to
5 solve these problems. We'll be
6 hosting a town hall in your
7 District May 15, and we hope that
8 you'll join us to begin this
9 partnership. Thank you.

10 (Applause.)

11 CHIEF CLERK: We have
12 Denise Basile, Jenna Lam, Colleen
13 Ott, Calan Malyn Wilson. And may
14 Amaris Hernandez and Janet Green
15 also make their way to the podium.

16 (Witnesses approached
17 podium.)

18 MS. LAM: Hi, everyone.
19 My name is Jenna Lam. Thank you so
20 much for having me. I'm part of
21 POWER Interfaith representing
22 Northeast in Councilmember
23 Driscoll's District. I'm deeply
24 concerned about the rising rent

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 costs, property tax, mortgages and
3 utility bills and increasing
4 displacement in our city.

5 I've had conversations
6 with multiple people in my
7 congregation neighborhood and
8 they're concerned too. I'm
9 concerned because I work multiple
10 jobs just to pay for rent to live
11 by and I'm lucky to just even go
12 out and enjoy life. But paying
13 bills month-by-month is the
14 necessities.

15 Sometimes my days are so
16 long from 12 to 14 hours that I
17 sleep my car. I am lucky and
18 privileged to have a car to sleep
19 in, but that should not be the
20 case. I should enjoy the home I
21 live in with my family.

22 And so, I'm here because
23 I cannot lie through my teeth as I
24 am a newly licensed real estate

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 agent. But I cannot take my
3 clients with homes and lie with my
4 teeth and say they can afford the
5 cost, knowing that deposits,
6 closing costs, escrow, renovations
7 cost so much like a mortgage
8 payment as well.

9 Being born and raised in
10 Philadelphia and wanting to have my
11 community members own homes here is
12 really disheartening to know that
13 we cannot afford the mortgages and
14 homes, knowing that people from
15 other cities, D.C., New York,
16 California can come here and take
17 over our homes.

18 So what is quality of
19 living if we cannot even grow our
20 generations here. I don't want to
21 see another generation being house
22 poor. So I ask for Councilman
23 Driscoll to come here and have a
24 town house with us so hopefully we

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 see a change. Thank you all so
3 much.

4 (Applause.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

6 JOHNSON: Hey, Colleen.

7 MS. OTT: I have my
8 accessibility device with me. I
9 just need it pointed down. Hey,
10 Yat. What's up?

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

12 JOHNSON: What's up.

13 MS. OTT: My name is
14 Colleen. I am the autistic
15 founder of the -- okay. My name is
16 Colleen Ott. I'm the autistic
17 founder of: The Autistic Art
18 Coalition in Philadelphia started
19 because I got word that there was
20 an individual who was being
21 believed for having autism.

22 So in true Philadelphia
23 form, I said, oh, hell no. And
24 created the AACOP for all walks of

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 life as it comes to the autistic,
3 neurodivergent and disabled
4 communities of the Delaware Valley
5 of Philadelphia.

6 The following artist
7 could not be here today so I wanted
8 to share with you her words:
9 Hello. My name is Emily Grace
10 Reese. I am a graduate student, a
11 member of the autistic community
12 and a poet. When I was diagnosed
13 with autism in 12th grade, I
14 thought we needed awareness, but I
15 have since learned that acceptance
16 is far more important.

17 In college as a
18 teenager, I saw many attitudes
19 towards disability. My advisor was
20 a shining example of acceptance,
21 eager to teach me and learn from
22 me. One psychology professor was
23 aware of autism but unwilling to
24 accept it. He said I was not smart

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 enough to pass his class and did as
3 little as possible to accommodate
4 me.

5 My advisor knew that
6 differences are not always
7 deficits. As proof of this, I
8 would like to share a poem with
9 you. This is an invitation. Come
10 a little closer, ask a question or
11 to discover for yourself I'm not so
12 different from you. Do you
13 remember being young when your joy
14 would take hold, your whole body
15 would wiggle, when did that grow
16 cold, my joy still runs hot. You
17 see me rock in my seat because I
18 need a way to burn off the heat.
19 Looking off to the side helps me
20 get what you mean, what you find in
21 the eyes always remains for me
22 unseen.

23 I can force my gaze to
24 behave this way, but my chest then

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 gets tight and I lose what you say.

3 Some think of me like a child, with

4 it all still by my side. But

5 wasn't love like a child once a

6 source of great pride.

7 The journey towards

8 acceptance each generation longs to

9 complete, would be no struggle at

10 all if placed at the children's

11 feet. I have the heart of a child,

12 but my mind has grown wise. This

13 should make me an asset. Why does

14 it come as a surprise.

15 It's a feeling we all

16 know I want to be understood. But

17 when I open my mouth, things don't

18 come out as they should. I know

19 you can relate. It's the human

20 condition. But we can ease the

21 pain. We are in the perfect

22 position.

23 I also wanted to share

24 with you the words of our autistic

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 elder from the boomer generation,
3 Ms. Denise Basile, who also could
4 not make it today: If there would
5 be more acceptance with treating
6 people like me with respect,
7 especially those who are of my
8 generation who are autistic.
9 Bullying still feels the same no
10 matter what generation you are
11 from. I am in my early 60s. Just
12 because I do not do things like
13 everyone else, I am still a person.
14 And I'm Jim from
15 Generation X. And I'm just saying
16 thank you for everything.
17 (Applause.)
18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
19 JOHNSON: Just one second, ma'am.
20 Colleen, Ms. Ott. Colleen,
21 Ms. Ott. I just want to say, keep
22 up the good work. Appreciate your
23 advocacy around autism. Thank you
24 very much.

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 (Applause.)

3 MS. WILSON: My name is

4 Calan Wilson. Good morning,

5 everyone. Thank you. Thank you,

6 President. Thank you,

7 Councilmembers. I'm really excited

8 to be here for my first time.

9 So I'm a woman in tech.

10 Shout-out, Councilwoman Rue.

11 Temple alum, artist and founder of

12 a business-friendly startup here in

13 Philly called 69&Sunny. I'm the

14 titleholder of International Grand

15 Cleo Award's winner of Innovation

16 and Design Excellence.

17 Since 1959, there have

18 only been two Black women

19 recipients of this prestigious

20 honor, Doja Cat and I.

21 (Applause.)

22 MS. WILSON: Thank you,

23 thank you. As an autoimmune Type I

24 diabetic Black woman and

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 representative of the invisible
3 leaders, I believe my life is a
4 poem and it's really ironic.

5 Today I was asked to
6 make a public comment for National
7 Poetry Month. And as a lover of
8 language, a new author of a read-
9 aloud book, a storyteller, wife,
10 singer and songwriter and niece of
11 a legendary poet -- shout-out,
12 Uncle Micky -- I'm here to say that
13 the art of sharing your words
14 deserves a yearlong tribute, not
15 just a month.

16 I'd love to share with
17 you the words that I wrote after my
18 keynote address to Creative
19 Philadelphia and the Night Economy
20 this past Monday, if you don't
21 mind: The future of us, a daydream
22 of an artist led economy in
23 Philadelphia. It's 69 and sunny, a
24 weather text came from Michelle. I

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 asked for bliss here and this is
3 true bliss I can tell.

4 Once the artist started
5 making their millions, they shared
6 their secrets out loud. Chaos
7 slowed down. We raised our prices
8 and spent time with one another.
9 No one even remembers our shared
10 feelings of hell. And we painted
11 outside on tapestries and flowers.
12 We gave teenagers the paint brushes
13 too.

14 Quartets started showing
15 up in the courtyards and we played
16 Four Square for hours me and you.
17 We taught Gen Z about goosebumps.
18 In the parks we read choose your
19 own adventure, and it's only been a
20 few days since, since 82-year-old
21 Ms. L grabbed both my hands
22 encouraging and said, Kallan, you
23 did so well. I wish I knew you
24 when I was younger. We needed a

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 teacher like you. Then please keep

3 teaching for the future of us.

4 It's not an if but a when. Thank

5 you.

6 (Applause.)

7 CHIEF CLERK: We have

8 Amaris Hernandez, Janet Green. May

9 Jude Husein, Carlyn Crawley, Tony

10 Alford and Teresa Alexander also

11 make their way to the podium.

12 (Witnesses approached

13 podium.)

14 MS. HERNANDEZ: Good

15 morning. I want to thank Council

16 for having me here today in session

17 to talk about two things. I'm very

18 passionate about women empowerment

19 and technology. My name is Amaris

20 Hernandez and I was born and raised

21 in this beautiful city, and I've

22 been a tech professional for over

23 23 years.

24 When I was in the 7th

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 grade, I had the opportunity to
3 participate in a program at Drexel
4 University, which was designed to
5 expose kids from lower-income
6 communities to STEM. It was
7 through this program that the doors
8 for my career were opened.

9 After high school,
10 Central 259, I went on to pursue my
11 undergraduate at Drexel for
12 Information Technology. In
13 college, I was often the only
14 female in most of my classes,
15 sometimes even the only minority.
16 Through my career, I have navigated
17 working in male-dominated space,
18 but never had a community of people
19 that looked like me in my field.

20 A year ago today right
21 in this building in the law library
22 through the support of Councilman
23 Landau and the support of Luz Colon
24 in the Mayor's office, we were able

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 to launch Latinas in Tech Philly
3 Chapter on International Women's
4 Day.

5 It was an honor to be
6 part of a community, creating a
7 community that I didn't have when I
8 was navigating my early career. In
9 the last year, LIT Philly has
10 hosted over a dozen events, online
11 workshops on topics like AI,
12 building websites, career
13 development and navigating tech
14 layoffs.

15 We have partnered with
16 other amazing tech organizations in
17 the city, like One PHL, Trabaja,
18 Brazilian Coders, Black Girls Code.
19 We've been able to partner with
20 great companies in the area like
21 Comcast, Vanguard and JP Morgan.
22 And we were honored to receive a
23 Community Cultivator Award at 1PHL
24 City Innovation Awards.

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 We have built a
3 community over 75 local Latinas
4 currently working or interested in
5 the tech industry and hundreds of
6 allies in the industry, all in one
7 year. None of this would be
8 possible without the support in the
9 room. On a personal note, I just
10 want to shout out Quetcy Lozada.
11 She was a mentor of mine growing
12 up.

13 As a Latina, my
14 demographic represents just 2% of
15 the tech industry. While I could
16 stand here and give you stats, the
17 disparities in pay and
18 opportunities for women in tech, I
19 implore you to seek out that
20 research and partner with community
21 organizations to bring much-needed
22 programs like the one that I was
23 provided to enter the field.
24 Celebrating a Woman in Tech Day is

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 more about than recognizing women
3 that are currently in tech.

4 It is about supporting
5 and investing in future
6 generations, providing economic
7 growth opportunities for women and
8 families in the city and becoming a
9 world-class city that recognizes
10 that women are needed to ensure
11 that the future of tech is
12 inclusive and represents everyone.
13 Thank you.

14 (Applause.)

15 MS. GREEN: Hello. My
16 name is Janet Green. I'm a member
17 of POWER Interfaith, and I'm also a
18 member of the West Philadelphia
19 Mennonite Fellowship. I'm here
20 today as an aging human being. And
21 I think we're all aging, but we
22 don't know it until it's too late.

23 And I want to just give
24 you some numbers as you're thinking

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 about how to go forward with the
3 housing issues that face this
4 Council. I wanted to first of --
5 the first number is that I'm 78,
6 years old, and I've been taking
7 care of my 80-year-old husband for
8 16 years. He's been disabled.
9 He's on his third cancer. He's got
10 a rare blood cancer, and the
11 Hospital of the University of
12 Pennsylvania has a special
13 treatment program that's here. And
14 that's one reason why we moved to
15 Philadelphia six years ago.

16 The other reason, that
17 is, our daughter lived here. She
18 went to Drexel as a graduate
19 student and she lived in West
20 Philadelphia for more than 10
21 years, including a few of the years
22 after we arrived. The rents were
23 so high that she had to leave. So
24 as we've gotten more frail, we have

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 less support from her and her
3 family as they live further away.

4 The other number that I
5 think is important is that my
6 husband's medicine cost \$16,000 a
7 month. We don't have to pay that
8 because every year we apply to get
9 some help from a foundation that
10 helps support that, but we never
11 know from one year to the next if
12 that money will be available.

13 The other number that I
14 think is important is that although
15 we own our condo, our condo home
16 owners association payments were
17 raised by \$600 a month in the last
18 couple of years. So that's an 81%
19 increase. We are and I and my
20 neighbors are terrified. So I hope
21 that you will think about this as
22 you think about the kind of housing
23 that's needed in our city. Thank
24 you.

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 (Applause.)

3 MR. KREIDIE: Good

4 morning. I'm here instead of Jude

5 Husein. Jude had to leave. Her

6 boss is Senator Haywood. When

7 Senator Haywood leaves, she leaves.

8 So my name is Marwan Kreidie. I'm

9 Executive Director of the

10 Philadelphia Arab American

11 Development Corp. And I'm really

12 honored that the City of

13 Philadelphia has chosen to honor

14 our community.

15 We're a really important

16 part of Philadelphia, as is every

17 other group. I mean, we're all

18 here. We make up the part of the

19 mosaic that is our city. I could

20 go over -- you guys wrote a really

21 nice resolution or proclamation.

22 I'm not going to go over

23 everything, but we're all over the

24 city.

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Where everything, from
3 Uber drivers to heads of unions
4 or -- Danny Bauder is Arab American
5 if you know, AFL's CEO. We are
6 researchers, we're Uber drivers,
7 we're everywhere. We're small
8 business people. Were big business
9 people. So thank you very much.

10 I just want to do two
11 quick things and say it's not a
12 good year for our community. We're
13 collectively suffering through the
14 trauma of the genocide of Gaza. It
15 affects every one of us. I know it
16 affects a lot of you too. So
17 please think of us when we do that.

18 The other thing is with
19 that orange-faced person in D.C. we
20 are in the front line against
21 fascism. They're picking up our
22 community members as they are other
23 people throughout the city.

24 Please, City Council, we want you

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 to have our backs. We need you to
3 have our backs. We need the City
4 to have our backs.

5 So thank you again.

6 We're honored, but this is a
7 commitment that we all should share
8 to protect each other in these
9 really, really dangerous times.
10 Thank you.

11 (Applause.)

12 MS. CRAWLEY: Good
13 morning. Carlyn Crawley. I am
14 here not as a staffer today, but
15 I'm actually welcoming my -- both
16 of my parents are here, but my
17 father received -- come on up,
18 Pop -- he received his kidney
19 donation on December 14 of last
20 year --

21 (Applause.)

22 MS. CRAWLEY: -- and we
23 are so excited. So I'm here as a
24 proud and grateful daughter today

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 because I really watched him fight
3 for his health. And this is his
4 first City Council meeting, so I'm
5 going to yield my time so he can
6 give his remarks.

7 MR. CRAWLEY: Thanks,
8 Carlyn. Good morning. The Donate
9 Life Month Program, I'd like to
10 quickly thank Councilwoman Lozada
11 and her staff for introducing this
12 legislation.

13 On 14 December, I did
14 receive my kidney. Based on my
15 blood type, the average wait time
16 for a kidney transplant is six to
17 eight years. But through the
18 various donor programs that I
19 signed up for, I was able to
20 receive my kidney transplant in
21 three-and-a-half years. This
22 allowed me to go ahead and continue
23 with life and continue to
24 contribute to society. I spent

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 prior to getting the transplant 12
3 hours a week, three nights, four-
4 hour sessions receiving dialysis
5 treatments. And I did that for
6 three-and-a-half years.

7 I was very fortunate to
8 be able to sign up for and be aware
9 of the various donor programs that
10 are out there. And so, I would
11 just like to take the opportunity
12 to thank the team for the
13 legislation being introduced and to
14 stress the importance of being an
15 organ donor going forward. So
16 thank you very much.

17 (Applause.)

18 CHIEF CLERK: We have
19 Antonia Alford, Teresa Alexander,
20 Freeway, Hadeel AlHubaishi and
21 Jacob Zychick also make their way
22 to the podium.

23 (Witnesses approached
24 podium.)

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 MS. ALFORD: Good
3 morning. My name is Antonia
4 Alford. I'm here with Gift of Life
5 as part of the awareness for Donate
6 Life Month for April 2025. My
7 personal story, I have a brother
8 who had a liver transplant 37 years
9 ago, we donated my mother who
10 passed away in 2021.

11 So I'm a current City
12 employee 29 years. My brother is
13 also a sanitation worker of eight
14 and a half years. And to see him
15 thrive in his personal life and
16 through Gift of Life, we appreciate
17 the whole Gift of Life organization
18 and donate life. Thank you.

19 (Applause.)

20 MS. ALEXANDER: Good
21 morning, everyone. My name is
22 Teresa Alexander and I'm here with
23 the Gift of Life recognizing April
24 as National Donor Life Month.

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 National Donor Life is an
3 opportunity to help increase
4 importance of organ tissue donor
5 awareness activity and more people
6 need to register to be donors.

7 Nearly 5000 adults and
8 children are currently waiting for
9 lifesaving transplants with our
10 community. And I was one of those
11 people. You see, I had a heart
12 transplant in 2018 and I only had
13 to wait four days for my heart.
14 And if you know me, you know I'm
15 all about family. And because I
16 received my heart from my donor, I
17 get to spend time with my three
18 grandchildren, 10-year-old twins
19 and a 3-year-old. And if I didn't
20 get my heart transplant, I wouldn't
21 be here today. So I'm so thankful
22 for the Good for Life and for the
23 resolution being passed.

24 Because of my donor, I

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 get to go to different places and
3 speak to people about becoming
4 organ and tissue donors which is
5 what we really need. I found out
6 that over 103,000 people are
7 waiting on the transplant list and
8 17 people die a day. And we can do
9 something about that if we register
10 as organ donors and tissue donors.
11 But in closing, I'd like to thank
12 Councilperson Lozada for your
13 support and the most important
14 cause that I believe we have right
15 now. Thank you very much.

16 (Applause.)

17 MS. DAVIS: Hi,
18 everyone. I'm Charlita Davis. And
19 I stand before you today in support
20 of Councilmember Quetcy Lozada's
21 resolution recognizing April as
22 National Donate Life Month in the
23 City of Philadelphia. I also stand
24 here as a member of the Gift of

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Life Community Advisory Board and a
3 double transplant recipient, having
4 received both a liver and kidney
5 transplant. I am personally
6 touched by the significance of
7 today's recognition.

8 A little bit of my story
9 is on January 28th and 29th, which
10 is 423 days ago, my life changed
11 forever. Those dates marked a
12 turning point when I received a
13 liver transplant on January 28th
14 and a kidney transplant on January
15 29th, both of which were necessary
16 due to my struggle with polycystic
17 liver and kidney disease. Those
18 days are forever etched in my
19 memory, marking a turning point and
20 the beginning of a new chapter.

21 The transplants weren't
22 just a medical procedure. It was a
23 gift of life, a fresh start and the
24 end of a long and challenging

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 journey. I am deeply grateful to
3 the medical team at Jefferson
4 Hospital for me and for the
5 selfless efforts of the donor who
6 gave me a chance to rebuild my
7 health. I thank God every single
8 day for the incredible blessing of
9 a second chance at life.

10 While the journey hasn't
11 always been easy, it has been one
12 of growth, strength and immense
13 gratitude. Each day has been a
14 reminder of how precious life is
15 and I cherish every small moment.
16 Over the last 14 months, I've
17 learned the true meaning of
18 resilience, patience and the
19 importance of taking care of my
20 body.

21 Throughout this journey,
22 Proverbs 3:5-6 has been a guiding
23 light for me. Trust in the Lord
24 with all your heart and lean not to

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 your own understanding, but in all
3 thy ways. Acknowledge him and he
4 will direct your paths. This verse
5 has helped sustain me, especially
6 during the toughest moments,
7 reminding me to trust God's plan
8 even when the road seemed
9 uncertain.

10 It has been a constant
11 source of strength and reassurance,
12 helping me navigate the challenges
13 of faith and hope. I feel
14 incredibly fortunate to live a
15 fuller, healthier life, and I'm
16 forever grateful for this, for my
17 family, my boss and mentor
18 Councilman Curtis Jones Jr., my
19 village and the generous donor
20 whose gift I carry with me each
21 day.

22 Thank you, Councilmember
23 Lozada, for the resolution
24 recognizing the importance of organ

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 donation and for honoring the Gift
3 of Life.

4 (Applause.)

5 MS. ALHUBAISHI: Good
6 morning, everyone. Dear,
7 Councilmembers, honored guests and
8 all Philadelphia community, I stand
9 here as we honor Arab American
10 Heritage Month. My name is Hadeel
11 AlHubaishi. I'm originally from
12 Yemen. And as Senior Manager of
13 Programs and Engagement, I'm proud
14 to represent (inaudible) of culture
15 organization that is deeply
16 committed to promoting Arab arts,
17 language and culture right here in
18 Philadelphia.

19 Thank you, Councilwoman
20 Landau, and your recognition for
21 Arab American Heritage Month and
22 National Poetry Month.
23 Philadelphia has been long a city
24 of diversity, a place where culture

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 meets, where histories intertwine
3 and where communities thrive by
4 sharing rich traditions.

5 Arab Americans have been
6 an integral part of this tapestry,
7 contributing to the City's
8 cultural, economic and civic life
9 for generations, from scholars to
10 artists to community leaders to
11 businessmen. They all shaped
12 Philadelphia in ways that continue
13 to inspire. At (inaudible) we
14 believe that the power of the arts
15 that bridge cultures and foster
16 understanding and amplify our
17 voices and create spaces where
18 everyone can engage in-depth with
19 the beauty of our culture.

20 This month is not just
21 about recognition. It's about
22 reaffirming the values that unite
23 us, inclusion, resilience and
24 culture pride. It's about telling

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 our stories in our own terms,
3 breaking stereotypes and making
4 sure that Arab Americans in all our
5 diversity are seen, heard and
6 celebrated.

7 We also take a moment to
8 honor National Poetry Month, the
9 power of words in connecting us to
10 one another, bridge between
11 cultures and explore our shared
12 humanities as we voice our deepest
13 emotions, stories and struggles.
14 With that, I would like to invite
15 you all to our upcoming event April
16 22nd for open mic poetry followed
17 by a reading with the poet
18 (inaudible) as one of his
19 contributions to Arab American
20 literature.

21 As we celebrate Arab
22 American Heritage Month and
23 National Poetry Month, let us
24 commit to learning from one

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 another, supporting organizations
3 that champion culture education and
4 ensuring that every Philadelphian's
5 sense of belonging. Thank you to
6 the City of Philadelphia and thank
7 you all and (inaudible).

8 (Applause.)

9 CHIEF CLERK: We have
10 Freeway, Jacob Zychick, David
11 Alexander Jenkins. May Veronica
12 Renee Lee, Dawn Fassett, Raymond
13 Johnson and Wanda Walker also make
14 their way to the podium.

15 (Witnesses approached
16 podium.)

17 MR. PRIDGEN: Good
18 morning, everybody. Good morning,
19 Councilmembers. Good morning,
20 ladies and gentlemen. I'm here in
21 favor of the resolution to make
22 April Donate Life Month. I'm
23 Leslie Pridgen, publicly known as
24 Philadelphia Freeway. I'm the

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 founder of Freedom Thinkers

3 Academy, which is music, health,

4 education and culture. I'm a

5 Muslim. I'm a kidney transplant

6 recipient and I'm a donor dad.

7 (Applause.)

8 MR. PRIDGEN: I'll share

9 a little bit of my story.

10 September 15, 2015 I was diagnosed

11 with end-stage renal failure. The

12 next day, they cut my chest open.

13 They put a Permacath in my chest.

14 I did dialysis from September 16,

15 2015 all the way to February 5,

16 2019 when I received my gift of

17 life, I received my new kidney,

18 which was amazing for me.

19 (Applause.)

20 MR. PRIDGEN: I was able

21 to continue my career. I started

22 the Foundation Freedom Thinkers

23 Academy, which is music, health,

24 education and culture. So I travel

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 the world spreading awareness about
3 kidney health, preaching prevention
4 so people don't get to the place I
5 was at when I needed to get a
6 kidney transplant.

7 So I take you to 2020.

8 September 2020 my daughter Harmony
9 was diagnosed with cancer. October
10 of 2020 my son Jihad passed away
11 when we was in a hospital and the
12 doctors told us that he was no
13 longer going to survive. Someone
14 approached me and they said,
15 listen, I know it's a crucial,
16 critical moment for you right now,
17 but your son can save lives. And
18 being as though I know what it
19 feels like to wait for a life-
20 sustaining organ, it was no choice
21 for me and my family to let him be
22 an organ donor, and he saved four
23 lives. Two people got his kidneys,
24 one person got his lung, one person

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 got his liver, and it's a blessing.

3 Transplantation and

4 organ donation saved my life and it

5 can save plenty more lives. So

6 it's a blessing that this is

7 introduced and God-willing, we

8 continue to fight the good fight.

9 Thank you.

10 (Applause.)

11 MR. JENKINS: Good

12 morning, Mr. President, members,

13 guests of the chamber. David

14 Alexander Jenkins. I rise to

15 address Resolution 250277,

16 introduced by Councilmember Jones.

17 With the words of those who have

18 addressed the privileged resolution

19 before the body, enshrining the

20 importance of poetry in our great

21 city, I lean on the work of

22 Philadelphia's second Poet Laureate

23 Frank Sherlock, who focuses in the

24 city on service by remembering the

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 who before we address the what.

3 You see, as we again in

4 mundane regularity approve the

5 Philadelphia Land Bank disposition

6 of property, transferring ownership

7 of vacant or tax-delinquent land to

8 developers, community groups or

9 individuals, we say with the goal

10 of reactivating the land and

11 advancing City objectives, let us

12 remain and remember, if not

13 ruminate and meditate, on the

14 passage of Sherlock poem Over Here.

15 He says, We are over here now among

16 the alley cats and the broken

17 stoops. Let us reflect on the

18 urban environments and communal

19 experiences of the we over here

20 now.

21 The Parker

22 Administration has placed housing

23 as one of its key focus points,

24 with the largest ever public

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 investment in housing in
3 Philadelphia history. Members of
4 the chamber have spent the better
5 part of the week grappling with the
6 budget as presented and more
7 acutely with the many challenges
8 presented by providing the 30,000
9 units of housing to reach this
10 worthy goal.

11 I am, as are you of
12 course, aware that year-to-date 10%
13 increase in homeless and 38%
14 increase in the rise of those who
15 are unsheltered who now make the
16 streets of Philadelphia home. I do
17 not therefore doubt that the
18 5000-plus properties in the
19 Philadelphia's Land Bank are part
20 of this aforementioned discussion,
21 certainly as the chunk of the
22 30,000 units foretold. It is
23 however that today I beg your
24 prayers for private intention.

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 As you continue to
3 legislate and administrate duties
4 in your chairs, pray, who are the
5 developers that will receive these
6 Land Bank properties. Question:
7 If the principles align with the
8 goals of the communities they
9 serve, ensure that they are held to
10 standards that would make their
11 development affordable for the
12 communities they develop, create
13 the means, laws and programs that
14 keep people, those amid the alley
15 cats and between the broken stoops
16 over here means programs and laws,
17 that as Wanda Walker reiterates
18 every week, keeps people in their
19 homes. Perhaps moreover, provides
20 ways to require and reacquire the
21 properties taken from them in
22 resolutions like this.

23 (Applause.)

24 MR. ZYCHICK: Jacob

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Zychick with the American Heart

3 Association. On behalf of the

4 American Heart Association, we

5 would like to thank Councilmember

6 Phillips for the resolution

7 recognizing Philadelphia's

8 commitment to the CDC's Active

9 People Healthy Nation.

10 Active People, Healthy

11 Nation is an initiative to increase

12 Americans physical activity.

13 Increased physical activity can

14 improve an individual's quality of

15 life and reduce health care costs.

16 The goal of this initiative is to

17 move millions of American adults

18 from inactive to some modern

19 intensity physical activity every

20 day.

21 Heart disease is the

22 leading cause of death in

23 Philadelphia, with more than 4000

24 lives lost each year. Only about 1

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 in 5 adults and teens get enough
3 exercise to maintain good health.
4 Even with risk factors for heart
5 disease such as high blood
6 pressure, diabetes and high
7 cholesterol, people who enjoy
8 physical activity, regular physical
9 activity, have lower death rates
10 than people who have no risk
11 factors but are not physically
12 active.

13 Yesterday was April 2nd,
14 and it was National Walking Day.
15 Research has shown that walking can
16 have a significant impact on your
17 health by lowering your chance of
18 heart disease. Philadelphia has
19 been a champion for improving
20 access to physical activity. This
21 includes programs such as Rebuild,
22 Playstreets, Safe Routes to Schools
23 and expanded summer youth
24 Recreation programs.

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Philadelphia has joined
3 Bucks, Chester, Delaware,
4 Montgomery Counties in this region
5 to confirm their commitment to the
6 CDC's Active People, Healthy
7 Nation. The American Heart
8 Association would like to thank
9 Councilmember Phillips and the
10 entire Philadelphia City Council
11 for confirming their commitment to
12 this important initiative. Thank
13 you very much.

14 (Applause.)

15 CHIEF CLERK: We have
16 Veronica Renee Lee Montgomery, Dawn
17 Fassett. Raymond Johnson, Wanda
18 Walker, Muti Ajamu-Osagboro and
19 Yovana Bustamante, please make your
20 way to the podium.

21 (Witnesses approached
22 podium.)

23 MINISTER LEE MONTGOMERY:
24 Minister Veronica Renee Lee

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Montgomery of the Greater Bibleway

3 Temple of Sharon Hill, PA. I'm

4 also the block captain of 200 South

5 51st Street. And I am also a

6 member of the POWER Interfaith.

7 And also, I want to say

8 that I have lived on 51st Street

9 for 67 years of my life. My

10 parents left the house to me and I

11 live there now and have pretty much

12 lived there all my life. However,

13 what I'm concerned about in the

14 60th Ward and 13th Division is

15 affordable housing. I'm concerned

16 about the property taxes, the

17 increases that are enormous.

18 I'm concerned about the

19 various differences in our

20 community and how it impacts us and

21 how we are affected by different

22 issues that are going on in the

23 community. Gentrification is one

24 of them or another one of them. I

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 am looking at my life. And as I
3 get older and I have aged, it's a
4 big concern for me.

5 I retired when I was 55.
6 As I said, I'm 67 now. So what was
7 then is not what is now. And so,
8 it affects my income. I'm on a
9 budget. I'm concerned also about
10 the home repairs programs that are
11 not working for me in my home.

12 Also, I just want to say
13 that I would appreciate if the
14 elected officials in my community
15 and the West Philadelphia area will
16 come together and work with us so
17 that we can have affordable
18 housing. I hope that the land mark
19 work to move affordable housing for
20 residents of the Philadelphia find
21 not to move more unknown developers
22 in our city. Thank you very much.

23 (Applause.)

24 MS. FASSETT: Good

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 morning. My name is Dawn Fasset.

3 I'm a member of greater

4 St. Matthews Independent Church.

5 My name is Dawn Fasset. I'm

6 deeply concerned about the property

7 taxes increased displacement and

8 Act 135 in our city.

9 I'm here to tell you how

10 my family lost our home, not

11 because we abandoned it, not

12 because we didn't care but because

13 people who were supposed to help

14 used the law to take it from us.

15 Our family home at 5105 Overbrook

16 Avenue was taken under Act 135, a

17 law that's supposed to help clean

18 up truly abandoned blighted

19 properties. But in our case, and

20 then too many others, this law was

21 twisted into a tool for theft.

22 The people who took our

23 home, the Philadelphia Community

24 Development Coalition, PCDC, and

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 their lawyers used lies and half
3 truths to convince the court to
4 hand them our property. And the
5 worst part, the system let it
6 happen.

7 One, it started with a
8 lie. Two, they promised to pay but
9 never did. Three, the system
10 helped them get away with it.
11 Four, the real cost, a family's
12 home, a family's future. It wasn't
13 just about a house. It was about
14 generational wealth, about a family
15 trying to hold on to what was
16 rightfully theirs.

17 In Philadelphia,
18 America's poorest big city, our
19 home was our biggest asset and we
20 lost everything. What needs to
21 change, we need Council and others
22 to investigate the abuse of Act
23 135, hold judges and conservators
24 accountable, make it harder for

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 private groups to profit off of our
3 homes.

4 My family's story is not
5 unique. It's part of a bigger
6 problem in this city. If we don't
7 fix it, more families, especially
8 Black and Brown families, in our
9 city will lose their home in the
10 same way. And side bar, we
11 appreciate you, Curtis Jones,
12 Councilman Jones, for the work of
13 moving properties to the Land Bank.
14 We hope that others will take this
15 action, affordable housing options
16 in the future. Thank you.

17 (Applause.)

18 MR. JOHNSON: Good
19 morning, Council President,
20 Councilmembers. My name is Ray
21 Johnson. I'm the rightful owner of
22 property in Southwest, Center City,
23 Graduate Hospital. I want to
24 piggyback off Ms. Fassett's

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 commentary in reference to Act 135.

3 She and I spoke at a

4 special hearing last year around

5 this time, March 21, 2024. And

6 even at that time, there was some

7 commentary that Act 135 was the new

8 hustle. So when I noticed

9 something with our Honorable Mayor

10 had proposed I think two weeks ago,

11 she laid out what she called seven

12 star goals.

13 And one of the goals in

14 that particular seven star goal was

15 to reduce blight and vacancy. And

16 when I noticed that, I said this is

17 eerily similar to the blight and

18 abandonment. And I said, this

19 couldn't possibly be. If we're

20 talking about stabilizing

21 communities, this is one of the

22 most egregious pillage acts that

23 are happening in the city of

24 Philadelphia.

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 This is by predatory
3 petition meals, and there's just a
4 few of them that are taking the
5 lion's share of petitions in the
6 city of Philadelphia. I can speak
7 to this confidently because I've
8 been a victim -- no, I hate to use
9 the word victim. I have been
10 subjected to at least a \$4.5
11 million haircut and with no
12 resolution. And I'm asking, do
13 something.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

15 JOHNSON: Chair recognizes
16 Councilmember Jones.

17 COUNCILMAN JONES:

18 Colleagues, what you just heard is
19 very true. What you just heard is
20 the new hustle. What you just
21 heard if these individuals under
22 Act 135 really wanted to help and
23 remove blight, there's plenty of
24 low-value neighborhoods they could

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 approach, do something for. But
3 what they do is they go into
4 neighborhoods that are increasing
5 in value and then under the
6 auspices of we just want to remove
7 blight, we want to remove you from
8 your house.

9 And we really have to --
10 we deal with so many issues of
11 varying importance, but none more
12 important than stopping the bank
13 robbery before it happens. And if
14 you look at Wynnefield, that's such
15 a neighborhood where these big
16 houses are left to their heirs and
17 often the cost of renovation is
18 humongous.

19 And the idea there is
20 that they will put their money
21 together and begin the renovation,
22 but they swoop in, start
23 renovations and keep the meter
24 running, often at increased prices

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 so that they can never, ever, ever
3 repay it back.

4 We need to -- and I
5 would ask you, Mr. President, to
6 help us, this body, to do a special
7 committee from the Housing
8 Committee to look at this because
9 it is a hustle, that I think there
10 are multiple conspirators involved
11 in this. If they truly wanted to
12 help remove blight, there are
13 plenty of places where that
14 activity would be welcome. But if
15 the only time you want to help is
16 when it hurts somebody else, we got
17 something for you.

18 Thank you,
19 Mr. President.

20 (Applause.)

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

22 JOHNSON: Thank you, Member Jones.

23 And I'm going to acknowledge the
24 gentleman inside this body who,

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 once he arrived, he led the effort
3 regarding addressing the issue.
4 And I'll be more than welcome to
5 put together a special committee
6 with him at the helm in terms of
7 leadership of leading the effort.

8 And so, Member Young,
9 can you update us on your hearing
10 that you had around this particular
11 issue and inform the public on the
12 work that you are doing to address
13 it.

14 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Thank
15 you, Mr. President.

16 So, yes, one of the
17 first things I did upon the arrival
18 to this body is bring Act 135 to
19 the forefront, because there are
20 folks in the city who don't
21 understand the magnitude of what's
22 happening with Act 135.

23 And I want to echo
24 everything that Councilman Jones

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 has said. This is the new racket.
3 This is the new pay day. This is
4 the new stripping of the equity and
5 wealth of our communities. And I
6 brought that to the attention of
7 this body and others I believe it
8 was last March when we had a
9 hearing, particularly about we
10 talked about a property that was in
11 Fishtown, right.

12 We all know the values
13 that are happening in Fishtown.
14 But these conservatorship hearings
15 are happening all over the city, in
16 places where their property values
17 are rising. Like Councilman Jones
18 said, they are not happening in
19 areas where the values are low,
20 because again these perpetrators of
21 Act 135 are hiding under the guise
22 of being a nonprofit developer who
23 wants to eradicate blight, but
24 essentially all they want to do is

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 strip the wealth and equity from
3 our communities.

4 I've been working on
5 draft legislation to send to the
6 state. We just want to make sure
7 that folks are clear, this is a
8 state law. This is not a City of
9 Philadelphia law. This is a state
10 law that we need our State
11 Representatives, our State Senators
12 and our Governor to address in
13 order to fix the issues.

14 Like I said, I have been
15 working on some draft legislation.
16 I've been talking to the Chair of
17 the Philadelphia Delegation about
18 putting some pressure on our state
19 to amend this law to make it more
20 fair and equitable to residents of
21 the city of Philadelphia. So
22 that's something that I will not
23 stop working on.

24 As an attorney, I've

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 defended people from these cases
3 and I see that even with a lawyer,
4 you're handcuffed. Once an Act 135
5 petition is filed, you are now
6 liable for all the fees of the
7 petitioner. That is insane. It is
8 unfair and it's unjust.

9 And so, we're going to
10 continue to work on this matter to
11 make sure that our communities get
12 the justice that we deserve.

13 (Applause.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

15 JOHNSON: Thank you.

16 Councilmember Bass.

17 COUNCILWOMAN BASS:

18 Thank you, Mr. President.

19 And I just want to
20 applaud my colleagues for their
21 work on this issue. And just as a
22 reminder, we had the same issue
23 happen with a property in
24 Germantown which was clearly not

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 neglected, but a petition was
3 filed. And as a result, the City
4 of Philadelphia or the
5 Redevelopment Authority, who was
6 the property owner, was responsible
7 for paying out the cost. At the
8 end of the day, the petition was
9 dismissed, but not without a very
10 hefty price tag from the taxpayers
11 from the Redevelopment Authority to
12 cover this cost.

13 This is the new hustle
14 as Councilman Jones put it so
15 eloquently. This is something that
16 is happening. If you're in a
17 hustle game, then you can pick up a
18 couple bucks. And there's quite a
19 few tutorials that tell you how to
20 do it.

21 I'm not going to tell
22 anybody where to go to find that
23 information, but this information
24 is out there. It's circulating and

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 we need to do something or actually
3 the state, the Commonwealth, we
4 need your help. We really need
5 your help to address this because
6 it really is a property grab and a
7 hustle.

8 So thank you for
9 bringing this issue to the
10 forefront of our attention to all
11 those who spoke today on it. Thank
12 you.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

14 JOHNSON: Thank you.

15 And we'll explore with
16 Mr. Christmas to look at a joint
17 committee to make sure we have our
18 state partners at the actual table
19 and we can work on this issue
20 together.

21 Thank you very much,
22 Member Jones, for the
23 recommendation and we'll jump on
24 this immediately. Thank you very

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 much.

3 Chief Clerk, please call
4 the next person.

5 CHIEF CLERK: We have
6 Wanda Walker, Muti --

7 MS. WALKER: Good
8 morning, beautiful people. My name
9 is Wanda Wal --

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

11 JOHNSON: Good morning, Wanda.

12 MS. WALKER: Hi.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

14 JOHNSON: Ms. Walker, how are you?

15 MS. WALKER: As always,
16 I'm going to talk about
17 generational wealth so you know
18 where I'm going. And I'm on board
19 with Councilwoman Lozada as far as
20 her mixed-use. And I'm hoping that
21 there's no loopholes in that. And
22 so, therefore it will benefit us.

23 So with me making sure
24 that I pick one of your things on

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 the agenda, we want development in
3 Philadelphia, but we want to make
4 sure that development benefits
5 Philadelphians. It's not supposed
6 to be about outside developers
7 while citizens in Philadelphia are
8 being pushed out. And that's what
9 we see that's going on.

10 Mr. Johnson is the man
11 that I mentioned many months ago.
12 This is my first time seeing him.
13 And I've been talking about him and
14 other people. Yes, the Act 135 is
15 horrible, because as one of the
16 people came to speak many months
17 ago, her mother went into the
18 hospital. And when she came out,
19 someone was taking over our house,
20 Act 135. This is the new hustle.
21 We can't get it fixed at City
22 Council, but we need you all to
23 hear us, to partner with us because
24 now we have to go to Harrisburg.

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Thank you, Councilman
3 Jones. Thank you, O'Rourke,
4 because I know you have something
5 up your sleeve for us. Thank you,
6 Jeffrey Young. That's why y'all
7 are part of the Fab 5 or 6, and we
8 really need your help with this.

9 Generational wealth is being
10 stolen. Yes, we need the
11 development, but the way you all
12 are developing and allowing
13 developers to come in is actually
14 creating more unaffordability.
15 Okay. And that's the problem.

16 So we have to start
17 doing our rehabbing first because
18 that creates affordable housing
19 better and creates jobs. Also, you
20 have to support the small landlords
21 like me. If we're not in place,
22 then they have no competition. They
23 can make the price whatever they
24 want to.

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 I want to also bring
3 attention to the fact of the
4 aggressive ticketing by PPA and the
5 street-sweepers. This has to stop.
6 You can't bleed us like potatoes or
7 what have you. Our wonderful
8 Mayors's 15-member Tax Commission
9 Board, they're talking about
10 20-year abatements for developers.
11 So I'm just putting it out there.
12 Don't take my word for it. Read.
13 The Citizens Newspaper and also
14 WHYY always pay attention to what's
15 going on politically.

16 I also spoke about Ray
17 Johnson, Act 135. Court systems
18 are in cahoots with the Act 135
19 policies. This stuff has to stop,
20 also eminent domain. I guess I'll
21 be back next week, but thank you.
22 Okay.

23 (Applause.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 JOHNSON: Thank you, Ms. Wanda
3 Walker.

4 MS. WALKER: I'll start
5 going to Harrisburg next.

6 CHIEF CLERK: We have
7 Muti Ajamu-Osagboro, Yovana
8 Bustamante, Phil Lockett Freeman,
9 Deanna Ramsey and Ogbonna Hagins
10 also make their way to the podium.

11 (Witnesses approached
12 podium.)

13 MR. AJAMU-OSAGBORO: Oh,
14 this is a -- first of all, I'm
15 General Muti Ajamu-Osagboro from
16 the great state of North
17 Philadelphia, city of Richard
18 Allen. This is a beautiful day to
19 be Black, oh my goodness. I'm
20 seeing all this love in the room
21 right now. I'm loving it. We're
22 going to keep pushing though.

23 I'm here to talk about
24 240333. It's an ordinance amending

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 Section 14-533, of The Philadelphia
3 Code, titled /MIN, which is Mixed-
4 Income Neighborhoods Overlay
5 District, to update the
6 illustrative maps to reflect recent
7 redistricting changes, all under
8 certain terms and conditions.

9 Again, it's legislation
10 that uses language that is cryptic.
11 We need to know what's going on.
12 What we've heard in the last maybe
13 half an hour is folks coalescing
14 about this house theft. Again, we
15 got to watch our language.

16 We've heard multiple
17 times folks referring to this as a
18 hustle. No, it's a con, it's
19 fraud, it's theft. And our
20 District Attorney Larry Krasner, is
21 aware of it and we just got to push
22 him even more to actually take
23 full-blown action, because this
24 thing's been going on for a minute

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 and a lot of us been in the
3 trenches for like a year or more.

4 But the language
5 that's -- what we talking about is
6 a disenfranchisement, a death by a
7 thousand cuts of Black and Brown
8 people, pushing those historically
9 in contemporary Black and Brown
10 areas pushing them out, taking
11 their wealth and stopping the
12 process of generational wealth.

13 We're going to --
14 anything that you need,
15 Mr. President, we going to give
16 you. Big up to Councilmember
17 Jones. Big up to Councilmember
18 Young. North Philly in the
19 building representing, holding it
20 down. And always the inimitable,
21 the uncomparable Councilmember
22 O'Rourke. Appreciate you. And
23 that's my time. And we'll be back,
24 and we're going to continue to

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 raise the bar and push hard. Thank
3 you very much.

4 (Applause.)

5 MS. BUSTAMENTE: Good
6 afternoon, everybody. I'm here in
7 full support of Councilmember
8 Brooks' privileged resolution
9 recognizing April as Autism
10 Acceptance Month. Thank you for
11 having me here.

12 My name is Yovana
13 Bustamante, and I'm the founder and
14 Executive Director of Posibilidades
15 Infinitas, a nonprofit organization
16 that uplifts Spanish-speaking
17 Latino families on the spectrum,
18 ensuring their voices are heard and
19 respected.

20 And I'm here today, the
21 more important thing, I'm standing
22 before you as a powerful mother of
23 three incredible individuals, two
24 grown adults, one almost

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 (inaudible) all in the autistic
3 spectrum disorder. And I'm hear in
4 full support of Councilmember
5 Brooks' privileged resolution
6 recognizing April as Autism
7 Acceptance Month.

8 Because we don't just
9 need awareness, we need too
10 acceptance, inclusion and equity.
11 Autism acceptance means policies
12 that protect, uplift and include
13 not just during April but every
14 single day. It means creating a
15 space where autistic individuals
16 and their families are just not
17 working but (inaudible).

18 Some may say they are
19 sick of the (inaudible) when every
20 day or rise are challenged, even by
21 the every system means to protect
22 us. My children and every autistic
23 person in Philadelphia deserve
24 better. They deserve to live in

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 the city where neurodiversity is
3 celebrated, where access and
4 (inaudible) and where their bosses
5 matter.

6 Let this resolution be
7 more symbolic. Let it be a stay
8 forward in the future and will all
9 dignity and respect and belong for
10 all community. Thank you so much
11 for having me here.

12 (Applause.)

13 CHIEF CLERK: We have
14 Phil Lockett Freeman, Deanna
15 Ramsey, Ogbonna Hagins, Keith
16 Crippen, Wick Savage and J.J.
17 El-Far also make their way to the
18 podium.

19 (Witnesses approached
20 podium.)

21 MR. FREEMAN: Good
22 morning, Council. My name is
23 Phillip Lockett Freeman. And I'm
24 here and rise today to support

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 Councilman Jones for keeping his
3 eye on the Citizen Police Oversight
4 Committee and getting involved with
5 the land banking at the bottom of
6 the sheet here about all the
7 hardships and Councilwoman Bass,
8 because it's still going on in my
9 neighborhood.

10 I'm still fighting the
11 gentrifiers. We call them
12 gentrifiers because they're using
13 the same hustle and they're going
14 after senior citizens. I used to
15 be a committee person in that
16 community. And all my seniors are
17 gone and so are their houses.

18 And now that I'm left by
19 myself, I'm Rambo in the
20 neighborhood because the
21 gentrifiers are trying to get my
22 spot now. I got cameras. I got
23 everything running, because I'm
24 going to make the news when they

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 try to come after my spot.

3 But I want to make sure

4 Councilman Jones and them stand

5 behind the Citizens Police

6 Oversight Commission because that's

7 what's keeping me alive in my

8 neighborhood right now. We got a

9 lot of work to do on this

10 generational wealth.

11 To me it's a no-brainer.

12 I want to get out the way. My

13 house is old and I'm old, so I want

14 to get out the way. But they put

15 us at the bottom of table of

16 negotiation. We can't do anything.

17 And I'd be glad to get out the way,

18 but the way that things are set up,

19 I'm going to have to fight.

20 And I told you all I

21 would be back and I'm coming back.

22 And, Councilman Jones, I want to

23 thank you. Cindy Bass, I want to

24 thank you for not throwing me in

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 the trash. And we'll see you both
3 on the battlefield. Thank you,
4 Council. Thank you very much.

5 (Applause.)

6 MR. EL-FAR: Good
7 afternoon, habibis. My name is
8 J.J. El-Far. I am a proud District
9 member of District 2. I want to
10 thank Councilmember Landau for
11 bringing this proclamation today
12 for Arab American Heritage Month.

13 Arab Americans have deep
14 roots in the United States and we
15 continue to face misrepresentation
16 and bias. This month we're
17 celebrating our heritage and we're
18 pushing for accurate representation
19 in media, politics and education.

20 We are really deeply
21 concerned with the ongoing crisis
22 in Gaza. Arab Americans,
23 especially in Philadelphia, are
24 calling for ceasefires,

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 humanitarian aid and Palestinian
3 self-determination. Justice and
4 human rights must be at the
5 forefront of our leaders'
6 decisions.

7 As a community shaped by
8 immigration, we fight for fair
9 immigration policies, refugee
10 protections and the rights of new
11 arrivals seeking safety and
12 opportunity in our city. Arab
13 Americans are Muslim, Christian and
14 beyond. We stand in solidarity
15 with Black and Latino and
16 indigenous and other communities to
17 stand and fight systemic injustice
18 together as allies.

19 Please support your
20 local Arab American businesses. We
21 have a bunch in Philadelphia.
22 There are bookstores and
23 restaurants. Keep supporting them.
24 Advocate for our policies that

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 affect Arab Americans and challenge
3 racial profiling. Stand against
4 injustice and celebrate with us.
5 Attend our cultural events, learn
6 our history, amplify our voices.
7 Watch Mo on Netflix. Go see him
8 when he comes to the Kimmel Center
9 next month.

10 And we are here to say
11 that opposing Israeli Occupation or
12 protesting the genocide is not
13 anti-Semitism. It is not the same
14 thing.

15 (Applause.)

16 MS. EL-FAR: You can be
17 against the occupation and in
18 support of the state. Arabic is
19 not a dangerous language.
20 Palestine is not a bad word. It's
21 pronounced Arab, Arab. Everybody,
22 Arab, Arab. We're Arab. Yes, we
23 invented hummus. Don't forget it.
24 You're welcome. Take a stand and

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 examine the people who fund you,
3 your funders, the influences on
4 your institutions and wonder if you
5 are in a position to speak truth to
6 power, to affirm Palestinians'
7 right to exist, to return and be
8 proud of our culture no matter
9 where our family immigrated to,
10 whether it's Philadelphia or any
11 other city. Heritage Month is our
12 celebration, but justice is a
13 lifelong commitment. Thank you so
14 much.

15 (Applause.)

16 MR. HAGINS: Good
17 morning. Ogbonna Hagins, fourth-
18 generation chattel slavery
19 survivor. I wanted to talk about
20 the Catholic League Championship,
21 the Father Judge Championship. And
22 it's great. I'd like to
23 congratulate them.

24 But there's an issue

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 within our public school system. I
3 went to my son's track meet
4 yesterday and last week. And I
5 found out from one of the coaches
6 that we have two fields, the Gratz
7 field and another field that's not
8 operable.

9 So now, how do we have
10 our youth aspire to be the greatest
11 and to possibly get a scholarship
12 from sports, because of course our
13 academic levels are very, very low.
14 6 out of 10 can't read, write or do
15 math on a high school level.

16 The American Freedmen,
17 that unique group, whose ancestors
18 saved this nation where -- we have
19 the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendment.
20 That's our treaty with the United
21 States government. But most of
22 you, I know, don't know the
23 Reconstruction amendments that
24 specifically deal with that unique

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 group of people that we call Black
3 people.

4 See, all Black people
5 don't have the same rights, you
6 see. So what are we going to do?
7 See -- and the reason I say we
8 don't have the same rights is
9 because under the 13th and 14th and
10 15th Amendments, they were only
11 talking about the slaves. They
12 were not talking about all Black
13 people.

14 So many times you guys
15 may think that I'm against
16 immigrants. I'm not against
17 immigrants, if they come here
18 legally, right. But we have to
19 know that they all don't have the
20 same rights. And it's very
21 important for you guys to
22 understand the rights of the people
23 you're representing. You've made
24 an oath to uphold the Constitution.

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 And if you made an oath, you have
3 to uphold that oath. Ogbonna
4 Hagins, unseated council president,
5 President of the Philadelphia
6 Reparations Coalition and fourth-
7 generation chattel slavery
8 survivor. Over and out.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

10 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes
11 Councilmember Thomas.

12 COUNCILMAN THOMAS:
13 Quick point of information, Council
14 President.

15 I heard the public
16 comment mention issues related to
17 fields and facilities with the
18 School District. I do want to just
19 highlight that that is a
20 significant problem that City
21 Council has been looking to address
22 and we will be having some
23 information coming out by the time
24 we vote on a budget as it relates

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 to what will happen with those
3 facilities, especially looking at
4 Councilmember Jones in track and
5 field spaces.

6 That is a significant
7 problem. It's Gratz field. It's
8 Germantown Supersite in
9 Councilmember Bass' or Phillips
10 District, not sure which one --

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

12 JOHNSON: Olney.

13 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: So
14 we are -- and Olney field. Thank
15 you, Council President. So that is
16 a significant issue that we're
17 looking at and we will have an
18 update for the general public by
19 the time we pass a budget this
20 year. So I do want to thank the
21 public comment.

22 And thank you, Council
23 President, for allowing me to
24 provide a point of information on

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 that particular issue.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

4 JOHNSON: Thank you, Chairman

5 Thomas.

6 Councilmember Bass and

7 Councilmember Quetcy Lozada.

8 COUNCILWOMAN BASS:

9 Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank
10 you, colleague.

11 I did want to make
12 mention to Mr. Hagins and anyone
13 else that Gratz field is in the
14 works for funding, so it's getting
15 ready to happen. Conversations are
16 happening with the School District
17 to make sure that it happens and it
18 has not been lost on our sights. I
19 just want to make sure he was aware
20 of that. Thank you.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

22 JOHNSON: Thank you, Member Bass.

23 Councilmember Quetcy

24 Lozada.

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA:

3 Thank you, Council President.

4 I just want to make a
5 statement, right. We do have to
6 hear from everyone in this chamber
7 and I am respectful. And I'm going
8 to take that personal because I had
9 a direct conversation with the
10 gentleman.

11 But we also have a
12 responsibility in this chamber to
13 secure the safety of everyone and
14 there are certain things that
15 sometimes people say at that podium
16 that can challenge or prevent us
17 from doing so.

18 And so, I've said this
19 once and I'll say it again. While
20 we have to hear everyone's opinions
21 in this chamber, we must do so
22 responsibly and we must do so with
23 respect.

24 Thank you, Council

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 President.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

4 JOHNSON: Thank you, Member Lozada.

5 Will the Clerk please
6 call the next speaker.

7 CHIEF CLERK: We have
8 Keith Crippen and Wick Savage.

9 (Witnesses approached
10 podium.)

11 MR. SAVAGE: Wick
12 Savage. Good afternoon,
13 Councilmembers and Council
14 President and other guests in the
15 chambers. There's been a crisis in
16 Philadelphia for some time. And
17 this week, it brought it very, very
18 personal home to me and my family.

19 I have a son that was
20 murdered. I have a son that was
21 wounded. And throughout the city
22 of Philadelphia, recreation centers
23 are not safe. I have an 8-year-old
24 grandson, great-grandson, that

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 asked me in November to order him a
3 device. And I'm going to display
4 that device to the body, and it's
5 nothing for you to be harmed about.
6 It's no danger to anyone in this
7 chamber.

8 This is a toy weapon.

9 The City of Philadelphia banned
10 these clips. The toy manufacturers
11 are mimicking real weapons, selling
12 them to our community. Thank God
13 that my grandson asked -- my great-
14 grandson asked his grandfather to
15 get him one of these BB guns.

16 I took the effort to
17 spray paint this weapon. You can't
18 tell the difference between a real
19 weapon and this toy. They are
20 starting them at the early age of
21 before 8 years old that this is a
22 game. It's not a game.

23 My dear friend

24 Councilwoman Bass said, hey, the

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 enemy is sleeping with you. It's
3 happening in all your homes. My
4 dear friend Driscoll, simple bad
5 behavior, he said, will not be
6 tolerated in his community. Folks
7 want to drive on a race track, on
8 public streets. It's not happening
9 in Philadelphia.

10 I ask for a little more
11 time, Council President. I have to
12 make this one statement. If people
13 want to enjoy Philadelphia, they
14 have to behave themselves and this
15 should be no different than the
16 Wild Wild West days. You left your
17 guns at home or you would be dealt
18 with. Thank you.

19 (Applause.)

20 MR. CRIPPEN: Hello.
21 This is Keith Crippen. I want to
22 just come off of what he just said
23 and it's very important. That's
24 why I'm here. Because out of

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 years, I've done a lot of
3 afterschool programs in the
4 schools. I've done 81 shows in the
5 schools. And majority of schools
6 could not pay for the shows and I
7 paid for it out my pocket. And
8 that's one of the things I did
9 because I care about these kids.

10 The more afterschool
11 programs we have, the better our
12 kids are. So I took the leap of
13 faith and I'm doing a Germantown
14 Fashion Arts Festival from
15 Germantown of culture, all the way
16 to Germantown of arts, with all of
17 our children, models, kids of arts.
18 And then the afterparty is going to
19 be inside Treasures.

20 One thing I want to say
21 to the people of Philadelphia. We
22 have to understand sports is
23 wonderful, but what about fashion
24 shows. What about playing the

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 harp, the flute, the whole nine
3 yards? But sometimes we don't have
4 that, but we love our sports
5 because the future is already laid
6 out for them.

7 When you become the
8 epitome of the school, a lot of
9 things become very easy for you in
10 the school. But I want to just say
11 like this, this event that we're
12 throwing on June 28th is going to
13 change a lot of children's lives,
14 and I believe it.

15 And I believe with the
16 help of some of y'all in here,
17 y'all know me, y'all see me, I
18 shake your hands. And I want to
19 say to Mr. Kenyatta Johnson, I
20 really want you to appreciate what
21 I sent to you, that you really
22 appreciate it.

23 So I just want to let
24 everybody know that I've shaken

1 4/03/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 majority all of your hands in here.

3 I've talked to y'all. I've been to

4 y'all events, and I just want y'all

5 to know that these kids need stuff

6 of this magnitude. So if we go

7 big, maybe they can be special and

8 go on for the next 30 years.

9 And I just want to say

10 to you I really appreciate

11 everybody I shook their hands with,

12 and thank you for everything.

13 Thank you.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

15 JOHNSON: Thank you.

16 CHIEF CLERK: Council

17 President, there are no further

18 names for public comment.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

20 JOHNSON: That concludes the public

21 comment period.

22 We will now consider the

23 bills and resolutions on the Second

24 Reading and Final Passage

1 4/03/25 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 Calendars.

3 Will the Clerk please
4 read the title of Resolution No.
5 250168.

6 CHIEF CLERK: A
7 resolution honoring the Father
8 Judge High School Boys' Basketball
9 Team for winning the 2025
10 Philadelphia Catholic League
11 Championship and celebrating their
12 remarkable achievement.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
14 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes
15 Councilman Driscoll for a motion
16 regarding Resolution No. 250168
17 honoring and supporting those
18 Father Judge guys.

19 COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL:
20 Big win on Saturday, Mr. President.
21 I enthusiastically move
22 for the adoption of the resolution.

23 (Duly seconded.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

1 4/03/25 - STATED - 2ND READING

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

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

8 (Aye.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

10 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

11 (No response.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

13 JOHNSON: The ayes have it and the
14 resolution is adopted.

15 And for the record,
16 that's Resolution No. 250168.

17 Will the Clerk please
18 read the title of Resolution No.
19 250277.

20 CHIEF CLERK: A
21 non-privileged resolution
22 authorizing the Philadelphia Land
23 Bank to dispose of 2942 and 2944
24 West Wishart Street, 3323 West

1 4/03/25 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 Allegheny Avenue, 3212 North 33rd
3 Street, and 3216 North Newkirk
4 Street located in the 4th
5 Councilmanic District in accordance
6 with the terms of Chapter 16-700 of
7 The Philadelphia Code.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
9 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes
10 Councilman Curtis Jones for a
11 motion regarding Resolution No.
12 250277.

13 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank
14 you, Mr. President.

15 I move for its adoption.
16 (Duly seconded.)

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

21 All those in favor will
22 signify by saying aye.

23 (Aye.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

1 4/03/25 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 JOHNSON: All those in favor will
3 signify by saying aye.

4 (Aye.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

6 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

7 (No response.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

9 JOHNSON: The ayes have it, the
10 motion carries and the resolution
11 is adopted.

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

15 CHIEF CLERK: A
16 privileged resolution honoring the
17 United States Senator Cory Booker
18 for his courageous and historic
19 25-hour Senate floor speech,
20 standing in defense of America's
21 core democratic principles and
22 constitutional values, while
23 surpassing the previous 24 hour 18
24 minute record set by Senator Strom

1 4/03/25 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 Thurmond in opposition to the Civil
3 Rights Act. Introduced by
4 Councilmember Phillips on behalf of
5 Council President Johnson.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
7 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes
8 Councilmember Dr. Anthony Phillips
9 for a motion on the resolution.

10 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:
11 Thank you, Council President.
12 On your behalf, I move
13 for the adoption of the resolution.

14 (Duly seconded.)

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

19 All those in favor will
20 signify by saying aye.

21 (Aye.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

23 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

24 (No response.)

1 4/03/25 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

3 JOHNSON: The resolution is
4 adopted.

5 Will the Clerk please
6 read the title of the next
7 resolution.

8 CHIEF CLERK: A
9 privileged resolution recognizing
10 the Active People, Healthy Nation
11 Initiative, a national effort led
12 by the Centers for Disease Control
13 and Prevention, CDC, and the
14 American Heart Association and
15 reaffirming the City of
16 Philadelphia's commitment to
17 championing policies, programs and
18 investments that promote physical
19 activity, improve public health,
20 especially for children, and ensure
21 equitable access to recreation for
22 all residents. Introduced by
23 Councilmember Phillips.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

1 4/03/25 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes
3 Councilmember Dr. Phillips for a
4 motion on the resolution.

5 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

6 Thank you, Council President.

7 I move for the adoption
8 of the resolution.

9 (Duly seconded.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

14 All those in favor will
15 signify by saying aye.

16 (Aye.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

18 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

19 (No response.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

21 JOHNSON: The ayes have it and the
22 resolution is adopted.

23 Will the Clerk please
24 read the title of the next

1 4/03/25 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 resolution.

3 CHIEF CLERK: A

4 privileged resolution honoring,

5 recognizing and celebrating the

6 Omicron Delta Lambda Chapter of

7 Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

8 for 40 years of service and impact

9 in the City of Philadelphia.

10 Introduced by Councilmember

11 Phillips on behalf of Council

12 President Johnson.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

14 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes

15 Councilmember Dr. Anthony Phillips

16 for a motion on the resolution.

17 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: I

18 move for the adoption of the

19 resolution.

20 (Duly seconded.)

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

22 JOHNSON: It has been moved and

23 properly seconded that the

24 resolution be adopted.

1 4/03/25 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 All those in favor will
3 signify by saying aye.

4 (Aye.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

6 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

7 (No response.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

9 JOHNSON: The ayes have it and the
10 resolution is adopted.

11 Will the Clerk please
12 read the next resolution.

13 CHIEF CLERK: A
14 privileged resolution honoring the
15 Philadelphia Juvenile Justice
16 Center School celebrating its 20th
17 bi-annual "Carpe Diem" honoring all
18 the judges and students who
19 participate in this remarkable and
20 beneficial event. Introduced by
21 Councilmember Thomas.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

23 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes
24 Councilmember Isaiah Thomas for a

1 4/03/25 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 motion on the resolution.

3 COUNCILMAN THOMAS:

4 Thank you, Council President.

5 I'm actually going to
6 hold that resolution.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

8 JOHNSON: Okay. The resolution
9 will be held.

10 Will the Clerk please
11 read the title of the next
12 resolution.

13 CHIEF CLERK: A
14 privileged resolution authorizing
15 the Committee on Education to hold
16 hearings investigating the current
17 state of higher education as this
18 pillar of the Philadelphia economy
19 and cultural landscape undergoes
20 generational change. Introduced by
21 Councilmember Thomas.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

23 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes
24 Councilmember Thomas.

1 4/03/25 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCILMAN THOMAS:

3 Thank you, Council President.

4 And I want to thank a
5 lot -- almost all of my colleagues
6 for agreeing to co-sponsor this.
7 I'm going to explain it when we do
8 speeches on the floor. But I move
9 for the adoption of the resolution.

10 (Duly seconded.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

15 All those in favor will
16 signify by saying aye.

17 (Aye.)

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

19 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

20 (No response.)

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

22 JOHNSON: The ayes have it and the
23 resolution is adopted.

24 Member Phillips, your

1 4/03/25 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 light is on. Would you like to be
3 recognized?

4 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

5 No, sorry.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

7 JOHNSON: Would the Clerk please
8 read the title of the next
9 resolution.

10 CHIEF CLERK: A
11 resolution honoring and recognizing
12 the All-Star Labor Classic and
13 Philadelphia's Organized Labor for
14 37 years of charitable service to
15 students and the community.
16 Introduced by Councilmember Thomas
17 on behalf of Council President
18 Johnson.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

20 JOHNSON: Chair recognizes
21 Councilmember Isaiah Thomas.

22 COUNCILMAN THOMAS:

23 Thank you, Council President. And
24 congratulations to all of the young

1 4/03/25 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 people who've been selected to play
3 in this phenomenal event.

4 And I move for the
5 adoption of the resolution.

6 (Duly seconded.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

11 All those in favor will
12 signify by saying aye.

13 (Aye.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

15 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

16 (No response.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

18 JOHNSON: The ayes have it and the
19 resolution is adopted.

20 Will the Clerk please
21 read the title of the next
22 resolution.

23 CHIEF CLERK: A

24 resolution recognizing April 2025

1 4/03/25 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 as Fair Housing Month in the City
3 of Philadelphia and celebrating the
4 passage of the Fair Housing Act of
5 1968. Introduced by Councilmember
6 Landau on behalf of Council
7 President Johnson.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

9 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes
10 Councilmember Landau for a motion
11 on the resolution.

12 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:

13 Thank you, Council President.

14 On your behalf, I move
15 for the adoption of the resolution.

16 (Duly seconded.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

21 All those in favor will
22 signify by saying aye.

23 (Aye.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

1 4/03/25 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

3 (No response.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

5 JOHNSON: The ayes have it and the
6 resolution is adopted.

7 Will the Clerk please
8 read the title of the next
9 resolution.

10 CHIEF CLERK: A
11 resolution recognizing April as
12 Arab American Heritage Month and
13 celebrating the heritage and
14 culture of Arab Americans in
15 Philadelphia. Introduced by
16 Councilmember Landau.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

18 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes
19 Councilmember Rue Landau for a
20 motion on the resolution.

21 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:

22 Thank you, Council President.

23 I move for the adoption
24 of the resolution.

1 4/03/25 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

6 All those in favor will
7 signify by saying aye.

8 (Aye.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

10 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

11 (No response.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

13 JOHNSON: The ayes have it and the
14 resolution is adopted.

15 Will the Clerk please
16 read the next resolution.

17 CHIEF CLERK: A
18 resolution declaring April 4, 2025
19 as Women in Tech Day in the City of
20 Philadelphia and recognizing the
21 importance of women in technology,
22 emphasizing their contributions,
23 promoting STEM education and
24 careers for women and girls and

1 4/03/25 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 expanding gender equity in the
3 technology field. Introduced by
4 Councilmember Landau.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

6 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes
7 Councilmember Landau for a motion
8 on the resolution.

9 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:

10 Thank you. I move for the adoption
11 of the resolution.

12 (Duly seconded.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

17 All those in favor will
18 signify by saying aye.

19 (Aye.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

21 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

22 (No response.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

24 JOHNSON: The ayes have it and the

1 4/03/25 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 resolution is adopted.

3 Will the Clerk please
4 read the next resolution.

5 CHIEF CLERK: A
6 resolution declaring April 2025 as
7 National Poetry Month in the City
8 of Philadelphia and recognizing the
9 profound impact of poetry on
10 Philadelphia's cultural,
11 educational and social landscape.
12 Introduced by Councilmember Landau.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
14 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes
15 Councilmember Landau for a motion
16 on the resolution.

17 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU: I
18 move for the adoption of the
19 resolution.

20 (Duly seconded.)

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

1 4/03/25 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 All those in favor will
3 signify by saying aye.

4 (Aye.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

6 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

7 (No response.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

9 JOHNSON: The ayes have it and the
10 resolution is adopted.

11 Will the Clerk please
12 read the title of the next
13 resolution.

14 CHIEF CLERK: A
15 resolution recognizing April as
16 National Donate Life Month in the
17 City of Philadelphia, and honoring
18 the lifesaving impact of organ, eye
19 and tissue donation as well as
20 celebrating the 50th Anniversary of
21 the Gift of Life Donor Program.
22 Introduced by Councilmember Lozada.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

24 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes

1 4/03/25 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 Councilmember Quetcy Lozada for a
3 motion on the resolution.

4 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA:

5 Thank you, Council President.

6 I move for the adoption
7 of the resolution.

8 (Duly seconded.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

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

16 (Aye.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

18 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

19 (No response.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

21 JOHNSON: The ayes have it and the
22 resolution is adopted.

23 Will the Clerk please
24 read the title of the next

1 4/03/25 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 resolution.

3 CHIEF CLERK: A

4 resolution recognizing April 2025

5 as Autism Acceptance Month in the

6 City of Philadelphia and commending

7 the work of advocates who are

8 people living with autism and who

9 are breaking down barriers to a

10 fully inclusive society.

11 Introduced by Councilmember

12 O'Rourke on behalf of Councilmember

13 Brooks.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

15 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes

16 Councilmember O'Rourke for a motion

17 on the resolution.

18 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE:

19 Thank you, Mr. President.

20 I move for the adoption

21 of the resolution.

22 (Duly seconded.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

24 JOHNSON: It has been moved and

1 4/03/25 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 properly seconded that the
3 resolution be adopted.

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

6 (Aye.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

8 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

9 (No response.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

11 JOHNSON: The ayes have it and the
12 resolution is adopted.

13 Will the Clerk please
14 read the title of the next
15 resolution.

16 CHIEF CLERK: A
17 resolution celebrating the launch
18 of Philadelphia Fair Lease on the
19 City of Philadelphia's Landlord
20 Gateway. Introduced by
21 Councilmember O'Rourke.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

23 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes
24 Councilmember O'Rourke for a motion

1 4/03/25 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 on the resolution.

3 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE:

4 Thank you, Mr. President.

5 I move for the adoption
6 of the resolution.

7 (Duly seconded.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

12 All those in favor will
13 signify by saying aye.

14 (Aye.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

16 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

17 (No response.)

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

19 JOHNSON: The ayes have it and the
20 resolution is adopted.

21 Will the Clerk please
22 read the title of the next
23 resolution.

24 CHIEF CLERK: A

1 4/03/25 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 resolution honoring and
3 congratulating the Father Judge
4 High School Boys' Basketball Team
5 for winning the 2025 PIAA 6A
6 Championship. Introduced by
7 Councilmember Driscoll.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

9 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes
10 Councilmember Driscoll for a motion
11 on the resolution.

12 COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL: I
13 move for the adoption of the
14 resolution, Mr. President.

15 (Duly seconded.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

20 All those in favor will
21 signify by saying aye.

22 (Aye.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

24 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

1 4/03/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 (No response.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

4 JOHNSON: The ayes have it and the
5 resolution is adopted.

6 Will the Clerk please
7 read the next resolution.

8 CHIEF CLERK: Council
9 President, there are no further
10 resolutions in my possession.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

12 JOHNSON: That completes our
13 Calendar for today.

14 Are there any speeches
15 on behalf of the Minority?

16 The Chair recognizes
17 Councilmember Nicolas Nic O'Rourke.

18 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE:
19 Thank you for your indulgence,
20 Mr. President.

21 Zero Fare is a Philly
22 special, if you will. It was built
23 from the ground up. In just under
24 two years, this City has been able

1 4/03/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 to get SEPTA passes in the hands of
3 22,000 neighbors. What's ironic is
4 that there's talk, as we all know,
5 about cutting the program in the
6 same month when the program plans
7 to distribute an additional 12,000
8 more fully-loaded Key cards.

9 This means that the
10 program can actually serve 35,000
11 Philadelphians when it's running at
12 full capacity. That's efficient.
13 That's straightforward service
14 delivery for people who need it the
15 most. It's a significant
16 investment in SEPTA, particularly
17 at a time when our transit system
18 has told us and that we've had to
19 take action to help facing its dire
20 fiscal situation. But more
21 importantly, at least to me, it's
22 an actual anti-poverty strategy.

23 The pilot program is
24 changing lives, saving lives. I

1 4/03/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 don't mean that as a flourish. One
3 program participant who reached out
4 to my office this week after being
5 homeless for two years told us and
6 I quote, "This program helped me
7 get back and forth to work and to
8 appointments. It saved my life."

9 We shouldn't be talking
10 about cutting this program. We
11 should be talking about expanding
12 it. I'm committed to fighting for
13 the program this budget season,
14 showing why it matters. And if
15 you've benefited from Zero Fare, as
16 I mentioned a couple of nights ago,
17 please share your testimony with
18 us. We want to hear from you.

19 You can call our office
20 at 215-686-3452. Again, that
21 number is 215-686-3452. We want to
22 hear from you. Stop by City Hall
23 in Room 319A. Come talk to us.
24 Fill out a short Google form. We

1 4/03/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 want to hear the stories. A number
3 of us have made this point in the
4 course of our hearings.

5 But why is the plan to
6 nix this program before we know its
7 benefits? Why would that make
8 sense? I believe that we'll see a
9 tremendously positive impact
10 outlined in Zero Fare's pilot
11 report when it comes out next year,
12 that is.

13 But even as we await the
14 results of that report, we should
15 note we've logged over 6 million
16 Zero Fare rides since this thing
17 started. By that figure alone, 6
18 million. Isn't Zero Fare worth
19 keeping around until we have more
20 data about it?

21 We know that stable
22 access to housing is the bedrock of
23 economic stability, and we do try
24 to legislate that way. I have the

1 4/03/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 honor of serving in a body that
3 seems to take this seriously. We
4 ought to acknowledge that access to
5 transit, access to SEPTA is the
6 foundation of economic mobility in
7 Philadelphia, and we ought to write
8 laws to reflect that.

9 So that's why I am
10 planning to introduce legislation
11 to create a Transit Access Fund,
12 which will create a dedicated
13 funding source for the Zero Fare
14 program and any future initiatives
15 that provide public transit access
16 for households at or below 150% of
17 the federal poverty level.

18 As the name suggests,
19 we're using our existing Housing
20 Trust Fund as a model. That
21 crucial fund is a half of a
22 percentage of the General Fund,
23 0.5% that we contribute every year.
24 I think transit access for those

1 4/03/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 who truly can't afford it is worth
3 that same cut, 0.5%, half of a
4 percentage point.

5 You add that up, 1%,
6 one. Beyond political headwinds
7 and shifting administrations, I'm
8 proposing that we set aside 1% in
9 this One Philadelphia. Every year
10 for the pillars of economic
11 survival, particularly for our most
12 vulnerable residents, 1% set aside
13 for the 23% of Philadelphians that
14 we always remind ourselves are
15 sitting in poverty in the poorest
16 big city in the USA. Whether
17 they're working or not, I don't
18 think it's too much to ask. In
19 fact, considering what public
20 transit means to any city,
21 certainly the poorest big city in
22 the USA, I believe it's the right
23 thing to do.

24 Colleagues, my team will

1 4/03/25 - STATED - SPEECHES
2 share more information about our
3 plans after this Council session
4 and I invite your collaboration. I
5 invite your support. I've already
6 seen it happening on this floor as
7 we've continued for the saving of
8 Zero Fare. Thank you for your
9 labor. Thank you for your service
10 to the City. This effort will take
11 all of us.

12 Thank you,
13 Mr. President.

14 (Applause.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

16 JOHNSON: Thank you, Member
17 O'Rourke. Very well said.

18 Speeches on behalf of
19 the Majority?

20 Councilmember Phillips,
21 Dr. Phillips.

22 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

23 Thank you, Council President.

24 I just want to remind

1 4/03/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 people that directly after session
3 today in conjunction with
4 Councilwoman Quetcy Lozada and
5 Curtis Jones, there's going to be a
6 Legacy luncheon with Big Brothers
7 and Sisters in the caucus room. So
8 looking forward to seeing everybody
9 to learn more about Big Brothers
10 and Sisters.

11 In addition to that, I
12 just want to thank everyone in our
13 community who showed up to Finley
14 Recreation Center on Tuesday night
15 for our meeting. It was an
16 emergency meeting. We had City
17 officials there, but most
18 importantly we had all of our
19 neighbors there who had ideas on
20 how they can help a family remain
21 safe.

22 Rec centers are
23 notoriously safe. Contrary to what
24 people may see, it is one of the

1 4/03/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 safest places in the city. We want
3 to keep people under -- to keep
4 people to understand that fact,
5 that that we will find ways to make
6 sure that it becomes an incredible
7 public space at all times.

8 And also, I just want to
9 say lastly I've been doing a lot of
10 reflection. And I'm really
11 interested in learning more from
12 the community about things that we
13 can do to keep our young people
14 engaged. We have a lot of programs
15 in the city of Philadelphia. I'm
16 going to be doing some work around
17 making sure that folks know these
18 programs exist for young people.

19 But most importantly, we
20 have to do a better job in making
21 sure folks understand that even in
22 our rec centers where there were --
23 it's a state-of-art rec center, a
24 shooting took place, right. And

1 4/03/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 so, it's not just the idea of they
3 need something to do. It's also
4 about how do we get more support
5 around families, parents, adult
6 mentors.

7 There's going to be a
8 lot more that's going to be needed
9 than just they need something to
10 do. So I just want to throw that
11 out there for everyone to know.
12 And I look forward to listening to
13 our neighbors. Thank you all so
14 much.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

16 JOHNSON: Thank you, Dr. Phillips.
17 And just commend you for the
18 outstanding emergency meeting to
19 address the issue of gun violence,
20 particularly amongst our young
21 people in your District. We've got
22 to keep the pressure on to make
23 sure we're doing a better job as a
24 City to protect our most vulnerable

1 4/03/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 assets, which is our students.

3 The Chair recognizes

4 Member Jones, Chairman of Public

5 Safety.

6 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank

7 you for that introduction,

8 Mr. President.

9 I had the privilege of

10 hosting a town hall with my

11 colleague Cindy Bass one Saturday

12 up at Dare to Imagine. I raise

13 this because sitting there for the

14 hours that we were there, certain

15 things came through.

16 There was a feeling of

17 anger about what's going on with

18 No. 47 in Washington. There was a

19 sense of confusion about the

20 300-plus executive orders that were

21 coming down the pike. It was like

22 throwing 50 tennis balls trying to

23 hit them and they're getting by.

24 There was a sense of need for a

1 4/03/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 gameplan offered by cities and
3 chambers like this to counteract
4 what they feel is an assault on
5 their way of life, not just
6 individual, a whole wave of anti-
7 urban life.

8 And what I sensed when
9 we sat up there was that we have to
10 do a better job of articulating
11 that gameplan. They don't need us
12 to lay down in the streets. That
13 old playbook he's ready for. We
14 try that again, he wants us to have
15 civil unrest like that because he
16 can then justify his next move.

17 We have to create some
18 new playbooks. And what I would
19 say to the people that Member Bass
20 and I talked to is to remember the
21 five Cs. We're going to fight them
22 in chambers just like this. And if
23 you look at what we did today, a
24 lot of that is that kind of

1 4/03/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 reaction to the unfair treatment
3 that we are receiving.

4 We are doing what we're
5 supposed to do. We just need to
6 kind of be intentional in our focus
7 that this is why we are doing it.
8 That's number one, in chambers like
9 this and at the State House.

10 The second C is in
11 courtrooms. We got all these well-
12 paid lawyers. I love them. God
13 loves lawyers because he made so
14 many of them, right. But they got
15 to start coming together. Whether
16 you are with the NAACP, whether you
17 are with Education, Department of
18 Education, these lawyers have to
19 get together and say, which of
20 these moves can we counteract in
21 court and should we put together
22 our collective intelligence towards
23 that effort, saving money, saving
24 effort and causing at least a

1 4/03/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 slowdown in the implementation of
3 those 300-plus executive orders.

4 The other C is in
5 commerce. If you move away from
6 DEI, it's okay for me to take my
7 wallet and move away from you.

8 (Applause.)

9 COUNCILMAN JONES: We
10 have the purchasing power that
11 exceeds the country and nation of
12 Canada. Black and Brown people
13 spend a lot of money. There once
14 was a report that was done by the
15 U.S. Department of Commerce that
16 broke down ethnically who bought
17 the most grits, who bought the most
18 cornflakes, who spent money on this
19 type of car. They stopped that
20 document. They stopped publishing
21 that document because it gave
22 people like Jesse Jackson too much
23 guidance and too much power to say,
24 where is your commitment to the

1 4/03/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 market, no matter what the color,

3 that's bringing you your profit.

4 To whom much is given, much is

5 expected. They stopped. So that

6 is with our commerce.

7 The final is what WURD

8 does on a daily basis,

9 communication. That's another sin.

10 If you don't know what you don't

11 know, then you just don't know.

12 And the more we know, if we know

13 better, we can do better. And so,

14 that's another form of C,

15 communications that we have to

16 maintain, because everybody from

17 WURD to Jimmy Kimmel, they're

18 coming after. And we need to be

19 cognizant of that.

20 If we do those things, I

21 am always optimistic we're going to

22 be all right. But we have to be

23 intentional, again, from these

24 chambers to the courtrooms to the

1 4/03/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 communication vessels to keep an
3 intentional focus on we're not
4 taking this.

5 The Republicans, my
6 bestie back here, you know, you got
7 to give credit where credit is due.
8 They beat our behinds in every
9 state. If we were using an analogy
10 from the neighborhoods we hail
11 from, they came in, took our lunch,
12 dared us to move while they ate it
13 all way through the dessert and
14 said, you gonna like it.

15 But it's time for us to
16 raise up. It's time for us to
17 organize. We can't be self-
18 destructive and start pointing at
19 it's your fault, your fault. No.
20 If we hang separately -- we should
21 hang together or we will all hang
22 separately. And we just got to get
23 our gameplan.

24 I thank Cindy Bass for

1 4/03/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 allowing me up to the 8th District,
3 the Mighty 8th District, which
4 outvotes most Districts in this
5 city, to start to quell the fears
6 of the constituents that both of us
7 share.

8 Thank you,
9 Mr. President.

10 (Applause.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

12 JOHNSON: Well said, Member Jones.
13 Thank you for your leadership.

14 Councilmember Quetcy
15 Lozada.

16 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA:

17 Thank you, Council President.

18 I want to circle back to
19 my resolution earlier today and I
20 want to thank everyone who gave
21 public comment today. It was very
22 moving to hear the stories about
23 the impact the organization has had
24 in their lives and about organ

1 4/03/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 donation.

3 I'd like to especially
4 thank my Chief of Staff, Carlyn
5 Crawley and her dad, who is a
6 retired Lieutenant Colonel after
7 serving 20 years in the U.S. Army.
8 Thank you so much, sir, for your
9 service. Thank you.

10 (Applause.)

11 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: My
12 office has put together a one-pager
13 on how you can sign up to be an
14 organ donor. This action could
15 save several lives and I encourage
16 everybody to consider joining the
17 National Organ Donor Registry
18 today.

19 Immediately following
20 this meeting, Big Brothers and Big
21 Sisters' Power Up Program is
22 hosting a legislative lunch in the
23 caucus room. Everyone is welcome.
24 This is a fantastic program that I

1 4/03/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 got to see the merits of firsthand
3 when I sat in one of their breakout
4 groups earlier this year. I
5 encourage all of my colleagues and
6 their staff to attend so they can
7 learn more about their resources.

8 And lastly, my office is
9 hosting our Second Annual
10 Philadelphia Your Future Fair.
11 It's a teen resource fair which
12 will equip students with all of the
13 documents they need to enter the
14 workforce, along with resume
15 clinics, mock interviews and
16 opportunities to connect with
17 employers, schools and
18 apprenticeship programs. I invite
19 all of you to stop by this Friday
20 at the Feltonville Recreation
21 Center.

22 Thank you, Council
23 President.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

1 4/03/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 JOHNSON: You're welcome, Member
3 Lozada.

4 Chair recognizes
5 Councilmember Isaiah Thomas.

6 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: It's
7 correct, Council President, I know
8 I don't normally do big speeches,
9 but I got a couple of things I have
10 to address today.

11 Number one, I want to
12 start by discussing -- well, first
13 of all, thanking my Councilman,
14 Councilman Phillips, for his
15 leadership in the 9th District.
16 For those who don't know, there was
17 a series of unfortunate shootings
18 involving young people across the
19 city of Philadelphia this past
20 weekend once it got nice. And we
21 know that that's something we'll
22 have to continue to think about as
23 we prepare for the summer.

24 But the good thing is

1 4/03/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 we're not starting that planning
3 right now. We've already been
4 talking to PYN and other youth
5 providers to make sure that support
6 systems and resources are available
7 for the young people. But thank
8 you, Councilmember Phillips. We
9 appreciate that.

10 Outside of just the gun
11 violence that happened in the 9th
12 District, it was also incidents in
13 the 8th District. So I want to
14 thank my colleague Councilmember
15 Bass for her leadership in that
16 part of the city, and also announce
17 that myself, along with
18 Councilmember Bass and State Rep
19 Carroll, we will be having a food
20 giveaway and a resource fair.

21 This is something I do
22 every quarter. We try to do it
23 four times a year. So this year
24 we're starting off in the 8th

1 4/03/25 - STATED - SPEECHES
2 Councilmanic District. And we will
3 be at Lonnie Young Rec Center,
4 which is the same rec center that
5 unfortunately was victims to some
6 of the violence that I was
7 referencing earlier. We will be
8 starting at 10:00 a.m., and then
9 we'll go until supplies last. So
10 this is a great event, an
11 opportunity to give away some food
12 and share some resources. And
13 again, I want to thank my colleague
14 Councilmember Bass as well as State
15 Rep Carroll for partnering for that
16 particular initiative.

17 Also on Saturday, and I
18 didn't plan on mentioning this, but
19 since it was brought up in public
20 comment I want to thank Dr. Oz Hill
21 as well as Dr. Watlington and the
22 entire team over at the School
23 District because this Saturday
24 we'll be having an important

1 4/03/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 meeting to make some pivotal
3 decisions around the future of
4 facilities here in the city of
5 Philadelphia.

6 And I heard somebody in
7 public comment talk a little bit
8 about our athletic spaces. And
9 we'll be looking to have dialogue
10 and make decisions about not just
11 athletic spaces but the facilities
12 in general. So please know that
13 that's an important topic and the
14 work is going to continue on that.
15 We have \$6 billion with a B worth
16 of damages to our facilities. And
17 while none of us in this body
18 created this problem, we did
19 inherit it and it's ours to fix.

20 April 14th, I want to
21 plant this seed now. A lot of
22 folks have been talking about 2026,
23 so the next 2026 Preparedness
24 hearing will be April 14th at

1 4/03/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 1:00 p.m. We're asking folks to
3 arrive at 12:30. We'll be at the
4 Museum of the American Revolution.

5 The reason that we're
6 there is because we really want to
7 highlight the historical context of
8 2026. Yes, there will be a lot of
9 events and parties and things of
10 that capacity and we've done a good
11 job of highlighting that. But we
12 also want to recognize the history
13 of not just the country, but the
14 City of Philadelphia and those who
15 made our city what it is.

16 With that being said,
17 Council President, I introduced a
18 resolution today, specifically
19 looking to create a task force.
20 And I haven't done a task force in
21 a long time so I'm not necessarily
22 excited about the workload that
23 comes with it.

24 But the reality is, is

1 4/03/25 - STATED - SPEECHES
2 that -- I think Councilman Jones
3 said it earlier when he was
4 speaking -- we do have a lot of
5 problems that we're dealing with.
6 And just listening to the speeches
7 today, you heard folks talking
8 about gun violence. We heard folks
9 talk about issues related to
10 housing. I see a couple other
11 people queued up. I'm sure they'll
12 talk about other issues.

13 But the issues related
14 to higher academia are serious
15 problems to a city who brands
16 ourselves as a city of eds, meds
17 and beds. Recently, we've seen
18 University of Science merge with
19 St. Joe's University. We watched
20 the announcement of the closing of
21 not just the University of Arts,
22 which we all know about, but also
23 Rosemont College is closing.
24 Cabrini University is closing.

1 4/03/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 These are schools that are pillars
3 to not Philadelphia, but more or
4 less to the region.

5 And when we think about
6 the revenue that we collect in the
7 City of Philadelphia, specifically
8 the wage tax that all of these
9 universities pay, when we think
10 about the fact that the
11 universities are the biggest driver
12 to increase population in the city
13 of Philadelphia.

14 Had an opportunity to
15 visit Paul Robeson High School
16 yesterday, and I had a chance to
17 talk to the young people about
18 voting and the importance of
19 voting. And I try to go to as many
20 high schools as I can across the
21 city of Philadelphia to talk to
22 seniors about voting, not just when
23 we're voting for President, but
24 every year, twice a year.

1 4/03/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 And I had the
3 opportunity to learn about a young
4 man at Paul Robeson who had planned
5 on going to Rosemont University.

6 Well, his entire plans have now
7 changed because Rosemont University
8 athletically is going to be totally
9 different now because of the merger
10 with Villanova.

11 Also had a chance to
12 talk to leaders at St. Joe's
13 University as well as Drexel
14 University. And I was able to
15 listen to St. Joe's as they
16 discussed with me the important
17 decisions that they have to make
18 around NIL. If you don't know, all
19 of the universities have to choose
20 what they're going to do or not do
21 as it relates to opting in or out
22 with the NCAA.

23 Its new protocol in NIL
24 has completely changed the

1 4/03/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 landscape of collegiate athletics,
3 which in turn has a direct impact
4 on the finances of the university.
5 I'm not speaking about this because
6 I'm a coach and because I love
7 sports. I'm speaking about it
8 because I care about the economics
9 of our city.

10 And when our
11 universities stand up and wave the
12 red flag and they say, we are
13 concerned about our present and our
14 future, I, Council President,
15 understand the direct correlation
16 between the work that they do and
17 the impact that they have on the
18 City of Philadelphia.

19 As I close out, I think
20 about Drexel University. And I had
21 a chance to talk to the folks at
22 Drexel University. And I listened
23 to them talk about the rape program
24 that they have there, that they

1 4/03/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 know that they could no longer keep
3 at the university.

4 I think about the work
5 that Councilmember Lozada and
6 before Councilmember Lozada,
7 Councilmember Sanchez. I think
8 about the work that they did to
9 help save St. Christopher Hospital.
10 If you don't know, St. Christopher
11 Hospital comes under the umbrella
12 of Drexel University. So when our
13 universities talk about the fact
14 that they're in trouble, it's not
15 just the status of the institution.
16 It's the impact that these
17 universities have on the City and
18 on the region.

19 So with that being said,
20 Council President, I want to put
21 out there an open invitation to my
22 colleagues in City Council, not
23 just members of the Education
24 Committee, to our state partners,

1 4/03/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 to our local universities in the
3 region, and I want to ask you to
4 join forces with this task force to
5 assess the issues that local
6 universities are facing and
7 collectively brainstorm how do we
8 survive this crisis, because we
9 know as Philadelphians we will
10 survive because that's what we do.

11 Thank you, Council
12 President. And thank you,
13 colleagues, for entertaining me.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

15 JOHNSON: Very well said, Member
16 Young. Thank you very much for
17 your leadership on this very
18 critical issue.

19 The Chair now recognizes
20 Councilmember Landau.

21 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:

22 Thank you, Council President.

23 I first want to just nod
24 to all my colleagues and just lift

1 4/03/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 you up for all of your amazing
3 comments today. Particularly just
4 want to say to Councilmember
5 O'Rourke, the Fair Lease has been a
6 project so many of us have been
7 working on for so long. Thank you
8 for acknowledging it.

9 Today is finally being
10 up on the gateway. It is
11 essential. And also, to
12 Councilmember Thomas as somebody
13 who has a son who's a junior in
14 high school starting to look at
15 colleges that are now facing cuts
16 to their funding just based on
17 their DEI initiatives. We're
18 really shrinking the pot and it's
19 an emergency and something we have
20 to look at. So thank you so much
21 for that.

22 Council President, today
23 we made April Fair Housing Month in
24 Philly, marking the anniversary of

1 4/03/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 the landmark Fair Housing Act of
3 1968. I was pleased to introduce
4 this on behalf of you, Council
5 President. And I've always said
6 and will continue to say, housing
7 is a human right.

8 Throughout my career, I
9 fought for housing justice because
10 I understand that having a safe,
11 stable home impacts every part of
12 our lives, our health, education,
13 career opportunities and overall
14 well-being. That's why we in
15 Philadelphia remain steadfast in
16 our commitment to creating fair
17 housing policies that not only
18 prioritize but also expand access
19 to affordable housing for everyone
20 in our city, especially for those
21 who have been impacted by historic
22 policies that racially segregated
23 our city and, yes, that includes
24 the modern day hustles that are

1 4/03/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 coming in, trying to do the same
3 thing just looking differently.

4 The work that we do is not just
5 about building and preserving
6 homes. It's about building
7 opportunities for a better, more
8 equitable future for all
9 Philadelphians.

10 Today I also introduced
11 a resolution recognizing April as
12 Poetry Month here in Philadelphia.
13 We are a city that has produced
14 literary giants like one of my
15 faves, Sonia Sanchez and Kai Davis,
16 and often we only think about
17 visual arts when we talk about arts
18 and culture. But artistry can take
19 on so many forms and faces.

20 In fact, the artist
21 behind the famous love statue in
22 LOVE Park, Robert Indiana, himself
23 described his art piece as a
24 one-sentence poem. I encourage

1 4/03/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 everyone to take time this month to
3 embrace the poetry of Philadelphia
4 no matter how it comes to you.

5 It's also Arab American
6 Heritage Month in Philadelphia.
7 Thank you to Councilmember Squilla,
8 who is not available today, for
9 introducing this resolution with
10 me. Philadelphia's Arab American
11 community has made and continues to
12 make countless important
13 contributions that have deeply
14 impacted the culture of the city.
15 City Council is proud to honor you
16 this month.

17 And finally, tomorrow we
18 recognize Women in Tech Day, a
19 moment to highlight the
20 extraordinary contributions of
21 women, nonbinary and those who
22 identify as women, who are shaping
23 the future through technology and
24 innovation.

1 4/03/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 As Chair of the

3 Technology and Information Services

4 Committee, I know how valuable it

5 is to ensure that tech innovators,

6 especially individuals of color,

7 are represented in their field.

8 Representation matters, equity

9 matters and we must continue to

10 uplift the brilliant individuals

11 leading this way in tech, from

12 classrooms to boardrooms, from

13 coding labs to start-ups. Cheers

14 to all those leading change in the

15 field and thank you for listening.

16 Appreciate you.

17 (Applause.)

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

19 JOHNSON: You're welcome, Member

20 Landau.

21 Councilmember Jeffrey

22 Jay Young.

23 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Thank

24 you, Mr. President.

1 4/03/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 I just want to reiterate
3 what was said earlier today about
4 the Act 135 stuff. So I really
5 think that remediating blight
6 should be provided by the public
7 sector, and that's what this Act
8 was formed under, the guise of
9 remediating blight. But it's
10 extremely rare that when the public
11 service is shifted to the private
12 sector, that it lowers costs for
13 the public. That is extremely,
14 extremely rare, right. So we want
15 to continue to work on this issue
16 to help our citizens regain their
17 equity and allow them to have
18 transferable wealth.

19 But I want to also thank
20 the residents of the 15th Ward, the
21 residents of Fairmount,
22 Francisville and the Spring Garden
23 communities for attending our town
24 hall that we held a couple days

1 4/03/25 - STATED - SPEECHES
2 ago. It was very, very well-
3 attended. I want to thank the
4 Mayor's Administration for
5 representing. We had the Office of
6 Clean and Green, Sanitation, the
7 9th Police District, L&I, DBHIDS,
8 Streets. We also had the Police
9 Public Nuisance Enforcement Unit
10 there that gave critical
11 information to that community
12 regarding some quality-of-life
13 things that they're experiencing.
14 We're holding the same
15 town hall in the 47th Ward. I
16 believe it is on April 8th. I just
17 want to get the exact information
18 for the constituents who are
19 listening. That town hall will be
20 April 8th, from 6:00 p.m. to
21 7:00 p.m. at General George G.
22 Meade School located at 1600 North
23 18th Street. So that's 18th and
24 Oxford in North Philadelphia.

1 4/03/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 We'll be discussing the same
3 quality-of-life issues that you may
4 have talking about streets, public
5 safety, trash. Any of your
6 community concerns, we want to
7 address them there to make sure
8 that we continue to improve your
9 public health, safety and welfare
10 in the 5th Council District.

11 My office is also
12 holding a shredding event at our
13 District office located at 2815
14 Ridge Avenue. So if you have any
15 documents you need shredded, if you
16 have any e-waste, any electronic
17 waste that you would like to
18 dispose of, you can bring them to
19 my District office on Saturday,
20 April 19th from 9:00 a.m. to
21 1:00 p.m. That's Saturday, April
22 19th, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Our
23 office is located again at 2815
24 Ridge Avenue in Sedgley Plaza.

1 4/03/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 On April 12th, my office
3 is in partnership with United
4 Missionary Baptist Church and
5 Christian Hope Partnership will be
6 doing an Easter egg hunt Athletic
7 Rec Center. Athletic Rec Center is
8 located at 1400 North 26th Street,
9 and that event is from 1:00 to
10 4:00 p.m. Please bring your
11 families out to that wonderful
12 event. Again, that's April 12th
13 from 1:00 to 4:00 at Athletic Rec
14 Center.

15 And just talking about
16 rec centers, the Department of
17 Parks and Rec is having a job fair
18 at the Dell on April 12th as well
19 from 10:00 to 2:00 p.m. So we talk
20 about a need to have folks and
21 workers at our rec centers.

22 If you are committed to
23 your community, please sign up.
24 Please apply for a job with our

1 4/03/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 Department of Parks and Rec. We
3 need you. Our children need you.
4 Our city needs you. Please come to
5 that job fair April 12th from 10:00
6 to 2:00 p.m. held at the Dell.

7 Again, there are plenty
8 of opportunities where you can get
9 involved in your city if you do not
10 like what you're seeing, please,
11 please, please. This is the first
12 step that you can make to help
13 change your city for the better.
14 And again, if anyone has any other
15 issues in the community, they can
16 always reach out to my office.
17 Give us a call at 215-686-3442.
18 We'll be happy to serve you.

19 Thank you,
20 Mr. President.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

22 JOHNSON: Thank you.

23 As there are no more
24 speeches, the Chair recognizes

1 4/03/25 - STATED - ADJOURNMENT

2 Councilmember Bass for a motion to
3 adjourn.

4 COUNCILWOMAN BASS:

5 Thank you --

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

7 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes

8 Council -- wait, I got this.

9 Chair recognizes

10 Councilmember Bass for a motion to
11 adjourn.

12 COUNCILWOMAN BASS:

13 Thank you, Mr. President.

14 I move that Council
15 stand adjourned until Thursday,
16 April 10, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

17 (Duly seconded.)

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

19 JOHNSON: It has been moved and
20 properly seconded that Council
21 stand adjourned until Thursday,
22 April 10, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

23 All those in favor will
24 signify by saying aye.

1 4/03/25 - STATED - ADJOURNMENT

2 (Aye.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

4 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

5 (No response.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

7 JOHNSON: The ayes have it. The
8 motion carries.

9 I want to thank
10 everybody for their hard work.

11 - - -

12 (Stated Meeting
13 adjourned at 1:03 p.m.)

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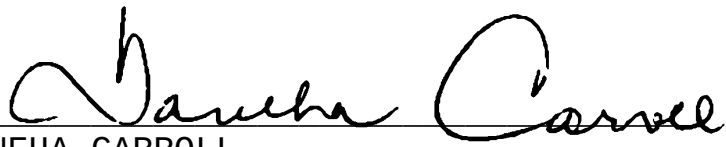
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C E R T I F I C A T I O N

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


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Court Reporter - Notary Public

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	23:10	14-533	17	2	21
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21	2328	71:23	24:18		128:13
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