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COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
STATED MEETING

Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Thursday, February 16, 2023
10:40 a.m.

PRESENT:

COUNCIL PRESIDENT DARRELL L. CLARKE
COUNCILWOMAN CINDY BASS
COUNCILWOMAN KENDRA BROOKS
COUNCILMAN MICHAEL DRISCOLL
COUNCILWOMAN JAMIE GAUTHIER
COUNCILWOMAN KATHERINE GILMORE RICHARDSON
COUNCILMAN KENYATTA JOHNSON
COUNCILMAN CURTIS JONES, JR.
COUNCILWOMAN QUETCY LOZADA
COUNCILMAN BRIAN J. O'NEILL
COUNCILMAN ANTHONY PHILLIPS
COUNCILMAN MARK SQUILLA
COUNCILMAN ISAIAH THOMAS
COUNCILWOMAN SHARON VAUGHN

MICHAEL A. DECKER, CHIEF CLERK

- - -

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1 2/16/23 - STATED - INVOCATION

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good
3 morning. Folks, before we get started,
4 just a little bit of housekeeping.

5 As you know, based on the
6 current situation as it relates to COVID,
7 COVID-related activities, there is a
8 capacity in Council. We have gotten lax
9 on that. Individuals are coming in way
10 beyond the capacity. Just for the
11 future, that will be enforced more
12 aggressively at the door.

13 So for our colleagues that have
14 a number of people that want to come in
15 for resolutions or other particular
16 legislative issues, just be aware that
17 the people may have to be in a holdover
18 room until we get to a point when that
19 particular subject matter comes up.

20 We are actually supposed to
21 have separations of seats. I don't see
22 much of that going on anymore. So at
23 some point, we got to get back to the
24 rules that were established based on our
25 current healthcare situation.

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1 2/16/23 - STATED - INVOCATION

2 So I want to thank everybody
3 for their anticipated cooperation. So
4 with that being said, we're going to get
5 started.

6 We have established our quorum.
7 So if all the members will take their
8 seats. Everybody has retired behind the
9 rail.

10 I'd like to give our invocation
11 this morning, and the Chair recognizes a
12 good friend of mine and a former
13 schoolmate with my brother, the Reverend
14 Hubert Barnes, the Pastor of Star Hope
15 Baptist Church. He is here today as the
16 guest of Councilman Driscoll.

17 I would ask all members and
18 guests to please rise.

19 (Councilmembers and guests
20 rise.)

21 REVEREND BARNES: Shall we bow
22 our heads in prayer.

23 Almighty and everlasting God,
24 we thank you for this day and this
25 legislative session. Thank you, Lord,

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2 for the men and the women of this august
3 body, their love, their dedication and
4 service for and to this great City of
5 Philadelphia.

6 Lord, we ask that you would
7 bless them greatly and endow them with
8 the wisdom, understanding, and patience
9 and much more to address the many
10 pressing issues before them as they have
11 assembled here today.

12 Assure, we pray, them that they
13 have your great love and that they are
14 appreciated greatly by us, the
15 constituents, for their many sacrifices
16 as they continue to work tirelessly on
17 behalf of our communities.

18 Lord, we thank you for each of
19 them, the members of their staffs and
20 their families, and we pray that they
21 will be encouraged and assured of your
22 blessings upon each and every one of
23 them.

24 Please, we pray, greatly bless
25 and protect them all, and we pray in the

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1 2/16/23 - STATED - APPROVAL OF JOURNAL
2 name of Jesus.

3 Amen.

4 (Amen.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

6 Thank you so much, Pastor.

7 Counsel will be at ease.

8 (Council at ease.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
10 Chair thanks the Reverend for your
11 spiritual guidance today. We really need
12 it. We appreciate you so much for being
13 here.

14 And our next order of business
15 is the approval of the Journal of the
16 meeting of Thursday, February 9, 2023,
17 and the Chair recognizes Councilwoman
18 Bass.

19 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you,
20 Mr. President. I move that the Journal
21 of the meeting of Thursday, February 9th,
22 2023 be approved.

23 (Duly seconded.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

25 Thank you. It's been moved and properly

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1 2/16/23 - STATED - LEAVES

2 seconded that the Journal of the meeting
3 of Thursday, February 9, 2023 stand
4 approved.

5 All in favor indicate by saying
6 aye.

7 (Aye.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
9 Those opposed?

10 (No response.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
12 ayes have it, and our Journal is
13 approved.

14 And our next order of business
15 is requests for leave of absence, and the
16 Chair recognizes Councilman Jones.

17 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
18 Mr. President. On behalf of the members
19 of Council, there is a request for leave
20 of absence from Member Harrity.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
22 Thank you, Councilman. Leave shall be
23 granted for Councilman Harrity.

24 And the Chair recognizes
25 Councilman Squilla for a motion

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1 2/16/23 - STATED - MOTION CONCERNING CALENDAR
2 concerning certain legislative matters
3 that may arise during the course of the
4 Council session that were not listed on
5 the Calendar or circulated prior to
6 today's session.

7 Councilman Squilla.

8 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Thank you,
9 Mr. President. I move that any of the
10 following matters, if considered today,
11 may be added to the agenda for this
12 session of Council and, as required by
13 law, subsequently published on an amended
14 agenda after the consideration of those
15 matters: resolutions authorizing
16 hearings, amendments to bills on first
17 reading, the reconsideration of a bill
18 vetoed by or re-called from the Mayor,
19 amendments to bills re-called from the
20 Mayor, resolutions taking substantive
21 action to be voted on in this session, a
22 motion to withdraw a bill or resolution
23 that is not on the Calendar, and a motion
24 placing a bill or resolution on or
25 returning a bill or resolution from the

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1 2/16/23 - STATED - MOTION CONCERNING CALENDAR
2 Suspension Calendar that is not listed on
3 today's Calendar.

4 The purpose of this motion is
5 to provide the public with notice
6 concerning possible actions by Council
7 that arose too late to be included in the
8 Calendar that was published prior to
9 today's session.

10 (Duly seconded.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

12 Thank you. It's been moved and properly
13 seconded that the legislative matters
14 stated by Councilman Squilla may be added
15 to the agenda for today, should those
16 matters arise during the course of the
17 Council session.

18 All in favor indicate by saying
19 aye.

20 (Aye.)

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

22 Those opposed?

23 (No response.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
25 ayes have it. The motion carries.

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1 2/16/23 - STATED - COMMUNICATIONS

2 And our next order of business
3 is communications, and the Clerk will
4 please read the messages from the Mayor
5 and any other communications that he may
6 have in his possession.

7 CHIEF CLERK: From the Mayor to
8 the President and members of the Council
9 of the City of Philadelphia, I am pleased
10 to advise you that on February 15, 2023,
11 I signed the following bill, which was
12 passed by Council at its session on
13 February 2, 2023, Bill No. 220918-AA.

14 And I am transmitting for the
15 consideration of your honorable body an
16 ordinance approving the amendment of the
17 Fiscal Year 2023 Capital Budget providing
18 for expenditures for the capital purposes
19 of the Philadelphia Gas Works, including
20 the supplying of funds in connection
21 therewith; and

22 An ordinance authorizing the
23 extension of the program authorized by
24 Bill No. 181043 under which advance
25 approval is given to the Philadelphia

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2 Facilities Management Corporation to
3 enter into certain contracts and
4 transactions arising thereunder for the
5 purchase, storage, distribution,
6 transportation and/or transmission of
7 natural gas or other gas supply on behalf
8 of the Philadelphia Gas Works; and

9 An ordinance adopting an
10 Amendment to Section V of the Articles of
11 Incorporation of the Philadelphia
12 Authority for Industrial Development by
13 increasing the Authority's term of
14 existence to a date fifty years from the
15 date of approval of Articles of Amendment
16 by the Secretary of the Commonwealth, all
17 under certain terms and conditions.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

19 Thank you, Mr. Decker.

20 That concludes our
21 communications, and our next order of
22 business is the introduction of bills and
23 resolutions by our members.

24 I would ask Mr. Decker to
25 please read the titles of the legislation

1 2/16/23 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 that's being offered today by our
3 members.

4 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman
5 Phillips offers one bill and one
6 resolution, entitled "An ordinance
7 amending Chapter 11-700 of The
8 Philadelphia Code, entitled 'Right-of-Way
9 Management,' by authorizing the
10 Department of Streets to install traffic
11 calming measures in the vicinity of
12 School District schools, Charter schools,
13 and private schools."

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: This
15 week's Calendar.

16 CHIEF CLERK: That was an
17 ordinance, Mr. President.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Next
19 week's.

20 CHIEF CLERK: And a privileged
21 resolution honoring Eric Brice, Corrie
22 Brown, Michelle Belser, and the Board of
23 Directors of the Oak Lane Youth
24 Association as Heroes of the 9th Council
25 District for their laudable service to

1 2/16/23 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 the community.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: This
4 week's Calendar.

5 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: Council
6 President?

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
8 Chair recognizes Councilman Phillips.
9 Sorry, Councilman.

10 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: Yes.
11 Good morning, Council President.

12 Good morning, colleagues and
13 viewing members of the public. Thank you
14 for allowing me to speak on today's bill
15 that I introduced, which is I've entitled
16 the Student Pedestrian Safety Bill today.

17 For the past several weeks,
18 I've been visiting schools in the 9th
19 District, and whether or not I'm in
20 Olney, West Oak Lane, Logan, Northeast,
21 I've received some of the same issues
22 from our neighbors.

23 One neighbor in West Oak Lane
24 in particular, a parent, came up to me
25 and said to me, I hear that you're the

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2 new Councilman in the area.

3 And I said, yes.

4 Well, I want to let you know
5 that I have a serious complaint. Our
6 children are not safe here at St.
7 Athanasius. And the principal stood
8 there and said, Anthony -- said, well,
9 ma'am, he's new. He just started on City
10 Council.

11 And she says, I don't care.

12 And I said, you know what? She
13 shouldn't care, because the reality of
14 the matter is that our job and
15 responsibility as Councilmembers every
16 day is to make sure that we're taking a
17 whatever-it-takes approach to get things
18 done for our residents.

19 So with that being said, she
20 mentioned the idea that speed cushions
21 and speed deterrents were really
22 important in her community for the safety
23 of the children where her students
24 resided, and that was St. Athanasius
25 School.

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2 And then I got a report just
3 weeks later from Olney stating that at
4 ASPIRA there was a child that was almost
5 struck by a car. And then when I was at
6 Fels High School in Northeast, the same
7 report came. And then Hill-Freedman,
8 every day I'm watching Mr. Matt Duncan on
9 a daily basis work to make sure our
10 children are safe from reckless drivers.

11 So as a result of my walks in
12 the district, I decided that I wanted to
13 work collaboratively with Council today
14 to introduce a bill supporting the
15 Streets Department in swiftly installing
16 traffic-calming measures near public
17 schools, charter schools, and private
18 schools.

19 As nearly all Philadelphians
20 have experienced, people in the City have
21 a tendency to drive recklessly,
22 threatening the lives of pedestrians,
23 including school students. This is
24 unacceptable. Schools are institutions
25 of learning, growth, and development.

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2 While traveling to these vital
3 institutions in pursuit of their
4 education, students' lives should not be
5 threatened by reckless drivers. I
6 believe we must prioritize bolstering
7 student pedestrian safety, which is why
8 my bill brings this issue into focus.

9 In addressing this issue, I'm
10 proud to have secured the support of
11 Streets Department Commissioner Carlton
12 Williams, and with the help of the
13 Administration and my Council colleagues,
14 I believe we can work to enable and
15 encourage the Streets Department to make
16 our roadways safer for student
17 pedestrians.

18 Finally, I'd like to thank my
19 co-sponsors, Councilmembers Thomas, who
20 first selected to be part of this bill,
21 Councilmember Squilla, Councilmember
22 Driscoll, Councilmember O'Neill,
23 Councilmember Harrity, Councilmember
24 Bass, Councilmember Gilmore Richardson,
25 Councilmember Gauthier, Councilmember

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2 Lozada, Councilmember Jones,
3 Councilmember Brooks, and Councilmember
4 Johnson, pretty much the entire City
5 Council, for supporting this legislation,
6 this bill, because at the end of the day,
7 it is affecting all of us. I look
8 forward to working with all of you in
9 making this happen.

10 Thank you, Council President.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

12 Thank you, Councilman.

13 - - -

14 (Applause.)

15 - - -

16 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Thomas
17 offers four resolutions, a privileged
18 resolution honoring and congratulating
19 Champions of the Week, Cayla Waddington,
20 Ava Jackson, Kevin Leonard, Khyree
21 Cousins, and Antoinette Ellis, for their
22 incredibly hard work writing and
23 performing original speeches for the
24 sixth annual Thomas and Woods Foundation
25 Martin Luther King Jr. Oratorical

1 2/16/23 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 Contest.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: This
4 week's Calendar.

5 CHIEF CLERK: Mr. President,
6 Councilman Thomas would like to be
7 recognized.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
9 Chair recognizes Councilman Thomas.

10 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Good
11 morning, Council President.

12 Good morning, colleagues.

13 I want to just first take a
14 moment to recognize my co-founder of the
15 Thomas and Woods Foundation, Chris Woods,
16 who I know is here in Council somewhere,
17 but every -- he's somewhere. I don't
18 know. But every year we do a MLK Day
19 contest on Martin Luther King Day, and
20 honestly the thought process is Dr. King
21 was somebody who used his voice to
22 advocate for change, and what better way
23 to honor him on his birthday than giving
24 young people an opportunity to use their
25 voice to advocate for change.

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2 So today in Council we have the
3 winners of this year's MLK Day Oratorical
4 Contest, and this being Black History
5 Month, what better group of people to
6 acknowledge and celebrate than young
7 people who are using their voice to make
8 a difference.

9 So with that being said, I'm
10 going to ask the following young people
11 and their parents just to please stand up
12 so we can give them a round of applause.

13 Second runner-up, Mr. Kevin
14 Leonard.

15 Kevin.

16 - - -

17 (Applause.)

18 - - -

19 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Kevin's
20 parents are here, and this is Kevin's
21 second time participating in the
22 Oratorical Contest, and every year Kevin
23 comes in and he does an amazing job and
24 he blows us away with his ability to
25 speak and essentially move the crowd.

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2 The first place runner-up is
3 Khyree Cousins.

4 Is Khyree here?

5 - - -

6 (Applause.)

7 - - -

8 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: This was
9 Khyree's first time participating in the
10 contest, and we hope that Khyree
11 continues to be involved and to stay in
12 the midst of the work that we're doing
13 with Thomas and Woods Foundation.

14 Our third place contest
15 recipient was Ava Jackson.

16 Can Ava please stand up.

17 - - -

18 (Applause.)

19 - - -

20 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Ava gave an
21 amazing speech that I feel like can
22 really speak to a lot of self-esteem
23 issues that young people, especially
24 young women of color, are dealing with,
25 and I challenge every woman of color to

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2 listen to her speech and recognize what
3 she talked about, because it's a speech
4 that I won't forget.

5 Antoinette Ellis couldn't be
6 here, but that's our second place winner.

7 And our first place award
8 winner who walked away with the highest
9 cash prize is Ms. Cayla Waddington.

10 Cayla, can you stand up with
11 your family.

12 - - -

13 (Applause.)

14 - - -

15 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Now, Cayla
16 may look familiar, because Cayla actually
17 testified in City Council in our Enough
18 is Enough hearing when young people had
19 an opportunity to talk about the crime in
20 the City of Philadelphia, and if any of
21 my colleagues remember, she was the young
22 sister from Math, Civic and Science whose
23 testimony essentially blew everybody
24 away.

25 We give every young person who

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2 participates in the Oratorical Contest a
3 scholarship, money towards higher
4 academia, and our goal is to help them
5 get through the next phase of their life.
6 So whatever their dream is and however
7 they desire to change the world, we can
8 be a small piece of that path.

9 So can all the young people
10 just please stand up and we give them one
11 more round of applause.

12 - - -

13 (Applause.)

14 - - -

15 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank you,
16 Council President.

17 Thank you, colleagues.

18 And, again, what better way to
19 celebrate Black History Month than
20 celebrating our children who are changing
21 our city.

22 Thank you, Council President.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

24 Thank you, Councilman. Thank you.

25 And congratulations again to

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2 you all.

3 - - -

4 (Applause.)

5 - - -

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

7 Awesome, awesome stuff.

8 Mr. Decker.

9 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Thomas
10 offers a privileged resolution
11 authorizing the Committee on Licenses and
12 Inspections to hold hearings examining
13 the impact of new regulations on the
14 short term rental market in Philadelphia.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

16 Today's Calendar.

17 CHIEF CLERK: And a privileged
18 resolution honoring and congratulating
19 Nicodemus Madehdou, for the success and
20 incredible work of his gaming business
21 JumpButton Studio and JumpButton
22 Animation, which seek to increase
23 person-of-color representation in the
24 gaming and media industries.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

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2 Today's Calendar.

3 CHIEF CLERK: And a privileged
4 resolution authorizing the Philadelphia
5 City Council Committee on Education to
6 hold hearings to examine the impacts of
7 the recent court decision declaring the
8 formula for funding primary and secondary
9 schools in the Commonwealth
10 unconstitutional as the current formula
11 creates have and have nots among
12 students.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
14 Chair recognizes Councilman Thomas.

15 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank you,
16 Council President.

17 A lot of my colleagues spoke
18 about this last week, so I don't want to
19 belabor the point, but it's imperative
20 that we have this conversation and we
21 have this hearing.

22 If you don't know, we discussed
23 the court ruling, but a big part of that
24 ruling is that the judge's statement was
25 over 500 pages. So we need to examine

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2 that statement. We need to analyze the
3 fiscal impact not just on our schools
4 moving forward but also retroactively
5 looking at the impact it's had in the
6 past.

7 So I look forward to the
8 conversation and I'm excited for the
9 Education Committee to hold that hearing.

10 Thank you, Council President,
11 and thank you to all my colleagues who
12 co-sponsored that resolution.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
14 Thank you. And thank you, Councilman.

15 Today's Calendar.

16 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Jones
17 offers four bills and two resolutions.
18 On behalf of Council President Clarke, an
19 ordinance approving the amendment to the
20 Fiscal Year 2023 Capital Budget providing
21 for expenditures for the capital purposes
22 of the Philadelphia Gas Works, including
23 the supplying of funds in connection
24 therewith.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

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2 Referred to committee.

3 CHIEF CLERK: Also on behalf of
4 Council President Clarke, an ordinance
5 authorizing the extension of the program
6 authorized by Bill 181043 under which
7 advance approval is given to the
8 Philadelphia Facilities Management
9 Corporation to enter into certain
10 contracts and transactions arising
11 thereunder for the purchase, storage,
12 distribution, transportation and/or
13 transmission of natural or other gas
14 supply on behalf of the Philadelphia Gas
15 Works.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
17 Referred to committee.

18 CHIEF CLERK: And an ordinance
19 providing for the submission to the
20 qualified electors of the City of
21 Philadelphia of the proposal set forth in
22 a Resolution approved by City Council
23 amending The Philadelphia Home Rule
24 Charter by establishing the Office of the
25 Chief Public Safety Director to be

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2 responsible for ensuring public safety by
3 coordinating the resources (personnel and
4 employment, property, plant and
5 equipment) within the departments of
6 Police, Prisons, Recreation, and all
7 other relevant City agencies.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
9 Referred to committee.

10 Councilman Jones.

11 COUNCILMAN JONES: Yes,
12 Mr. President. Thank you. It's hard for
13 you to be up there and not be able to say
14 the things that need to be said about
15 particular legislation you authored, but
16 I will try my best to say it for you.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
18 Thank you, sir.

19 COUNCILMAN JONES: On your
20 behalf, we have been on a journey. We've
21 been to Camden, we've been to New York,
22 we've been to Chester, we've been to
23 Trenton to look and see, as it was said
24 in the Wizard of Oz, what those folks got
25 that we ain't got. And I use that broken

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2 language. Forgive me, Chair of
3 Education.

4 But the point is, what we
5 discovered is, we have in excess much of
6 what they have. What we need, though, is
7 the straw that stirs the drink to make it
8 come together, and I think this
9 legislation addresses that.

10 It addresses the fact that we
11 got an equity driving bill passed that
12 needs to be enforced, that we have on
13 behalf of Councilwoman Gilmore Richardson
14 a bill that says that conflict resolution
15 should be taught in schools. We have a
16 no chokehold bill that this body passed,
17 and my colleague is about to introduce a
18 resolution called Free Kensington, right,
19 because we realize that until Kensington
20 is safe, no neighborhood is safe.

21 But if no one -- we're about to
22 elect the 100th Mayor. They need that on
23 their tool belt to be able to coordinate
24 all of these activities, including summer
25 jobs and recreation activities. All of

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2 this comes together in a meaningful way
3 if we coordinate, break down silos.

4 And what we discovered in our
5 travels was that in those other cities,
6 they simply got along. They simply
7 coordinated. They simply used resources
8 in a cohesive way to attack a problem.
9 And I'm not saying that we don't do that,
10 because we have task force meetings every
11 week. It is true. But the next Mayor
12 has to elevate that on the priority of
13 things to do so that it is impactful and
14 that we bring it up to code.

15 Recreation centers need to be
16 safe. SEPTA when we ride on it, our kids
17 going back and forth to school or a lady
18 coming from shopping late at night on a
19 shift change, needs to be safe, and what
20 we have to do is coordinate that.

21 My colleague Cindy Bass, and
22 she's going to kill me for always quoting
23 her, but we have to have difficult
24 conversations, what we do when the
25 shooter lives with you, and you have to

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2 take that step to make sure that your
3 household is safe but the community is
4 safe.

5 What I think you've done today,
6 Mr. President, with this Charter change
7 so that irrespective of politics there's
8 a department for public safety, I applaud
9 you. I thank you for that introduction,
10 and we need 12 to make it real, and we're
11 losing members every day.

12 Don't y'all go nowhere.

13 But I thank you, Mr. President,
14 for your swift action.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
16 Thank you, Councilman. I couldn't have
17 said it better myself.

18 The Chair recognizes
19 Councilwoman Gauthier.

20 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Thank
21 you, Council President.

22 I wanted to thank you as well
23 for introducing this legislation. This
24 is in the spirit of what I've been trying
25 to say since 2020 when I asked for the

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2 Mayor to declare a citywide emergency.

3 What I meant by that was that we should
4 be treating gun violence in our
5 neighborhoods in the way that we're
6 treating COVID, in the sense that we are
7 mobilizing all of the resources we have,
8 every single department, to look at -- to
9 send resources towards the people and the
10 neighborhoods that are in crisis right
11 now.

12 And so I am grateful that this
13 new position will bring forward that type
14 of collaboration. I think -- you know, I
15 think if we're only thinking about gun
16 violence as a police enforcement issue,
17 we are losing the ability to bring so
18 many more resources to the issue, right?

19 We should be looking at how we
20 can light up these neighborhoods. We
21 should be looking at how L&I can help us
22 to shut down problem properties that are
23 becoming a locus for crime. We should be
24 looking at recreational opportunities for
25 as many hours of the day as possible,

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2 specifically on blocks and in
3 neighborhoods that have been dealing with
4 gun violence, particularly involving
5 youth.

6 And so I think we have to get
7 smarter about this. Gun violence feels
8 like it's happening everywhere in this
9 city, but it's not. It's happening in
10 very discrete areas over and over and
11 over again, and it's involving a set of
12 folks who are caught in a cycle of
13 violence, and we have to think about that
14 as a police plus issue, right? We have
15 the police resources and we have to join
16 them with every other tool at our
17 disposal to really change what's going on
18 in these neighborhoods.

19 And so I applaud you, and I
20 look forward to being a part of a more
21 collaborative and more urgent effort to
22 really alleviate gun violence in the
23 City.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
25 Thank you, Councilwoman.

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2 I know I'm not supposed to
3 speak up here.

4 COUNCILMAN JONES: Do you want
5 to sit here?

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: No.
7 Real quick, this is a collection of ideas
8 from every member in this Council and
9 every trip we took, every public hearing,
10 every conversation that we've had with
11 people out in the neighborhoods, and
12 hopefully we'll be in a position to like
13 have somebody kind of like in charge,
14 because calling around the departments
15 even for us as elected can be a
16 challenge. So imagine what it is for the
17 everyday citizen that has to call around
18 to different departments to figure out,
19 you know, how can we deal with these
20 issues, be it recreation, be it jobs, or
21 be it law enforcement, you know.

22 So I just want to say this is
23 all about the work that everybody has put
24 in.

25 Councilwoman, did you want --

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2 Councilwoman Lozada.

3 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Yes,
4 Council President. I also want to say
5 thank you to you for taking this step.
6 You know, I agree with my colleagues.
7 Gun violence is a citywide issue, and in
8 communities like mine, we experience that
9 and more.

10 And so I think that as a
11 government, we do all work really hard.
12 I think as public servants we're
13 committed to making Philadelphia a better
14 place to live for our citizens, but often
15 times we do work in silos and we don't
16 know what each other are doing and what
17 resources are in place.

18 So I think that with this
19 legislation and the one that I want to
20 present later on today in this hearing, I
21 think it will bring us together to really
22 focus on what is happening in our city,
23 what services are out there, and it will
24 provide us an opportunity to hold each
25 other accountable and create benchmarks

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2 and allow us some flexibility to adjust
3 what we're doing if those benchmarks are
4 not being met.

5 So I thank all of my Council
6 colleagues in advance, and I appreciate
7 you. Thank you.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
9 Thank you, Councilwoman.

10 That will be referred to
11 committee.

12 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Jones
13 offers on his own behalf an ordinance to
14 amend the Philadelphia Zoning Maps by
15 changing the zoning designations of
16 certain areas of land located within an
17 area bounded by 63rd Street, Callowhill
18 Street, Felton Street and Vine Street.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
20 Referred to committee.

21 CHIEF CLERK: And on behalf of
22 Council President Clarke, a
23 non-privileged resolution proposing an
24 amendment to The Philadelphia Home Rule
25 Charter to establish the Office of the

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2 Chief Public Safety Director of the City
3 of Philadelphia; providing for the method
4 of appointment of the Chief Public Safety
5 Director and defining their powers,
6 duties, and areas of responsibility.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
8 Referred to committee.

9 CHIEF CLERK: And on behalf of
10 Councilmember Harrity, a privileged
11 resolution Celebrating and Honoring the
12 Life and Legacy of Tommie W. St. Hill,
13 Sr. for his activism, civic engagement
14 and service to the City of Philadelphia.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
16 Today's Calendar.

17 Councilman Thomas, did you need
18 to be recognized?

19 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: I was going
20 to let Councilman Jones go.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
22 Chair recognizes Councilman Jones.

23 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you so
24 much, Mr. President.

25 If you've been here in the last

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2 three decades, Tommie St. Hill was many
3 things to many people. If you were his
4 friend, he gave you the truth. He said,
5 what were you thinking about, Councilman,
6 when you introduced that bill? He would
7 tell you.

8 If he were an advocate for a
9 cause, entity, there was no stronger
10 advocate that could be found.

11 If you ever watched those
12 wildlife movies where the bison are going
13 through the tall bush and the lion jumps
14 out, snatches him and takes him away,
15 that was Tommie St. Hill if he was on the
16 other side.

17 But the number one title that I
18 relish is friend. If he was your friend,
19 you knew it. If he was your friend, he
20 would use colorful language, right? Him
21 and Maurice Floyd right outside of
22 Blackwell's office could be heard in
23 debates about nothing and about
24 everything, about sports, policy, and
25 politics.

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2 He will be missed. He will be
3 remembered. And he, if I were to put a
4 definition beside Webster's dictionary,
5 Philadelphian. That's him all day, proud
6 veteran, proud reporter. He wrote my
7 grandfather's obituary.

8 He was many things to many
9 people, a renaissance man, and he will be
10 missed.

11 Thank you, Mr. President.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

13 Thank you. Thank you, Councilman.

14 - - -

15 (Applause.)

16 - - -

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
18 Chair recognizes Councilman Johnson.

19 Councilman Thomas, did you want
20 to speak?

21 Go ahead, Councilman Thomas.

22 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Age before
23 beauty.

24 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Age before
25 beauty. I just want to put that on the

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2 record. That's what Councilman Johnson
3 said.

4 I have a unique lens as it
5 relates to Mr. Tommie, which is what I
6 always called him. I met Mr. Tommie a
7 long time ago, but I actually developed a
8 relationship with the St. Hill family
9 because of Tommie St. Hill, Jr.

10 Tommie St. Hill, Jr. is like a
11 little brother to me, and we developed a
12 great relationship during my time working
13 in the Controller's Office. And for me
14 as a parent now, you know, it's a true
15 testament of your legacy and your life
16 based on what your family says and does
17 about you when you're not around, and the
18 one thing I knew about Mr. Tommie based
19 on my relationship with his family is
20 that they loved him.

21 I had the opportunity to attend
22 Mr. Tommie's funeral, and his funeral was
23 at The Met, and that says something, not
24 just the access to get that space, which
25 is amazing, but, man, that thing was

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2 packed, and people were of course sad,
3 but celebrating his legacy and his life.
4 And when I think about this work in
5 politics and what we do, we all will be
6 honored to have a legacy like what
7 Mr. Tommie had when folks sent him off.

8 So my heart and my prayers and
9 my condolences still goes out to his
10 family, especially his son, Tommie, Jr.,
11 and I just want to thank him, his wife,
12 and everybody in the family that's here
13 today that's giving us an opportunity to
14 honor Mr. Tommie, because they've shared
15 him with us so much that I just
16 appreciate them sharing him with us just
17 another time.

18 So to Councilmember Harrity,
19 who couldn't be here, we hope you feel
20 better, but thank you for your leadership
21 on this issue and thank you to the St.
22 Hill family for being here.

23 Council President, can we ask
24 the family and everybody that's here to
25 celebrate Mr. Tommie just to take a

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2 moment to stand up so we can recognize
3 them.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
5 Absolutely.

6 Please stand up.

7 - - -

8 (Applause.)

9 - - -

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

11 Thank you so much, Councilman.

12 The Chair recognizes Councilman
13 Johnson.

14 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you,
15 Council President.

16 I want to also echo the
17 sentiments of my colleagues in honor and
18 memory of the late, great Mr. Tommie St.
19 Hill. And I remember when I was serving
20 in the State House, I had no plans to
21 come to City Council, and he said, you're
22 going to be the next Councilperson,
23 right?

24 I'm like, I'm not coming to
25 City Council. I'm comfortable doing the

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2 work that I'm doing in Harrisburg. And I
3 wound up getting elected, succeeding the
4 late, great Councilwoman Anne Verna.

5 He said, see, I told you,
6 Councilman, I know what I'm talking
7 about.

8 But that was just the type of
9 guy who Mr. St. Hill was in terms of just
10 encouraging me as a young man.

11 I had a chance to meet Tommie
12 St. Hill, Jr. through his dad, which I
13 know he loved tremendously, right, and
14 that's why I always upheld him in high
15 esteem in making sure you're cool within
16 this body of politics, but it also showed
17 that Mr. St. Hill just had a big heart.
18 He would always pull me aside and talk
19 about the issue around economic
20 development, particularly for Black and
21 brown people here in the City of
22 Philadelphia and how do we close that gap
23 and making sure that we're holding
24 people's feet to the fire when it comes
25 to making sure we have a seat at the

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2 table. That was Mr. Tommie St. Hill.

3 He was a strong veteran, which
4 some of you may or may not know, and when
5 the Council President created that
6 Veterans Parade and we would give out the
7 awards on Veterans Day, that was a
8 program that he was very, very proud of
9 because of the service that he had
10 committed to our country being a former
11 serviceman.

12 So to the family, we just want
13 to thank all of you for allowing Mr. St.
14 Hill to be in our lives.

15 To Ms. St. Hill, we thank you
16 for allowing him to be in our lives. I
17 think the last time I talked to him,
18 y'all were going on vacation. He said,
19 I'm going away with my wife, because I
20 wanted him to come to one of my events
21 and so forth.

22 But nevertheless, we just thank
23 him. We appreciate him.

24 But one thing that Councilman
25 Jones didn't mention, if you was his

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2 friend, he let you know you was his
3 friend, but also if you was on the other
4 side, you was one of his opps, he'll let
5 you know as well, like we ain't on the
6 same page and I don't deal with that
7 person. Let's just keep it real.

8 That's the type of guy that he
9 was. If he was with you, he was with
10 you. If he didn't deal with you, he
11 said, look, stay away from me. I'm going
12 to continue to keep doing the great work
13 of moving the City of Philadelphia
14 forward.

15 And that's what I liked about
16 Mr. St. Hill, because at the end of the
17 day, in this body of politics, to be
18 quite frank with you, it's very few
19 people that their yes's are their yes's
20 and their no's are their no's. Once you
21 have a conversation with him, you ain't
22 got to look back and be like, well, wait
23 a minute, what's going on. I never dealt
24 with that in my time of dealing with
25 Tommie St. Hill. He was just always just

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2 straight up. This is where I'm at. He
3 was a man's man at the end of the day.

4 So thank you. We appreciate
5 you, and God bless. Long live Tommie St.
6 Hill.

7 - - -

8 (Applause.)

9 - - -

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

11 Thank you, Councilman. So true.

12 Mr. Decker.

13 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman
14 Johnson offers one bill and one
15 resolution. On behalf of Council
16 President, an ordinance authorizing the
17 Procurement Commissioner, on behalf of
18 the City, to enter into a concession
19 agreement with Slice Wireless Solutions,
20 Incorporated for the operation,
21 maintenance and expansion of a
22 neutral-host radio, cellular and WiFi
23 system and other wireless services.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

25 Referred to committee.

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2 CHIEF CLERK: And a privileged
3 resolution honoring Paul R. Levy upon the
4 occasion of his retirement, and
5 recognizing him for his hard work and
6 dedication to the City of Philadelphia as
7 the president and CEO of Center City
8 District for 33 years.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

10 Today's Calendar.

11 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman
12 Lozada offers four resolutions, a
13 privileged resolution recognizing and
14 honoring the New Kensington Community
15 Development Corporation (NKCDC) for their
16 eight years of dedicated service to
17 Philadelphia.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: I'm
19 sorry. Today's Calendar.

20 The Chair recognizes
21 Councilwoman Lozada.

22 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Thank
23 you, Mr. President. I move that the
24 rules of Council be suspended to permit
25 consideration of this resolution at

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2 today's Council session.

3 (Duly seconded.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: It's

5 been moved and properly seconded.

6 All in favor of the motion?

7 (Aye.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

9 Well, we've already started down that
10 path.

11 All right. It's been motioned
12 and approved. That will be on today's
13 Final Passage Calendar.

14 CHIEF CLERK: And a resolution
15 recognizing and honoring Impact Services
16 for 49 years of dedicated service to
17 Philadelphia, privileged resolution.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
19 Chair recognizes Councilwoman Lozada.

20 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Thank
21 you, Mr. President. I move that the
22 rules of Council be suspended to permit
23 consideration of this resolution at
24 today's Council session.

25 (Duly seconded.)

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2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: It's
3 been moved and properly seconded.

4 All in favor indicate by saying
5 aye.

6 (Aye.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
8 Those opposed?

9 (No response.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
11 ayes have it, and that will be on today's
12 Final Passage Calendar.

13 CHIEF CLERK: And a privileged
14 resolution authorizing the City Council
15 Committee on Public Safety to hold public
16 hearings to examine the open-air drug
17 market and other barriers to clean, safe,
18 crime-free streets in Kensington.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
20 Today's Calendar.

21 CHIEF CLERK: And a
22 non-privileged resolution calling for the
23 establishment of a "Marshall
24 Stabilization and Recovery Plan" to
25 combat the issues facing Kensington and

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2 the surrounding areas in Philadelphia.

3 Mr. President, Councilwoman
4 Lozada would like to be recognized for a
5 motion on this resolution.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
7 Chair recognizes Councilwoman Lozada.

8 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Thank
9 you, Mr. President.

10 I'd like to say thank you to
11 Councilman Jones. I asked for a meeting
12 with him when I first arrived here and I
13 asked him to make something that was
14 important to me important to him, and he
15 responded immediately.

16 My concern for the community of
17 Kensington has been one that I've had for
18 many years, and during my time as Chief
19 of Staff here under Councilwoman
20 Sanchez's leadership, I had the
21 opportunity to work with community
22 residents on different plans that were
23 presented out of this legislative body
24 out of different community-based
25 organizations that have worked for many

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2 years in that community, and I think that
3 part of what was missing in all of those
4 plans was a community voice, community
5 participation, but there was also a lack
6 of communication on behalf of government.

7 As I mentioned earlier, there
8 are many levels of government working in
9 the Kensington footprint. There are
10 thousands of dollars and thousands of
11 resources going into that particular
12 community, but no one really knows who
13 they are and what they are, because they
14 tend to work alone. And when you meet
15 with them, everyone points a finger a
16 different way, and we can't ever get
17 clear answers regarding the why, if there
18 are so many resources going into that
19 community, why can't we see the
20 difference.

21 Meeting with Councilman Curtis
22 Jones, he was able to get his team, who I
23 have to say Josh was amazing working with
24 with my Legislative Director, Liz, to
25 come up with a Marshall Stabilization

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2 Plan that will allow us to bring all
3 levels of government, not just local
4 government but our counterparts at the
5 federal and the state levels to really
6 look at what those services are and
7 figure out what is really happening, how
8 do we create different buckets of
9 services and start to peel back on them
10 slowly.

11 What has happened in Kensington
12 has occurred over many years, and it's
13 not going to be something that we're
14 going to be able to resolve quickly or
15 overnight, but we have to start and we
16 have to show the residents of that
17 community that we have heard them, that
18 we have listened. And while not all the
19 time have we made them a priority in our
20 plans to try to bring resolution, we have
21 heard them and we want to work towards
22 helping bring them some relief.

23 And so I'm grateful for all of
24 you who have co-sponsored. I am grateful
25 for Councilman Curtis Jones' leadership

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2 and his guidance on this plan, and I look
3 forward to working alongside the
4 Administration and community residents to
5 figure out how we create benchmarks and
6 how do we adjust them, as I mentioned
7 earlier, when things are not working to
8 bring that community some relief.

9 - - -

10 (Applause.)

11 - - -

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
13 Councilwoman, the motion for suspension.

14 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: I move
15 for the rules of Council be suspended to
16 permit consideration of this resolution
17 at today's Council session.

18 (Duly seconded.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: It's
20 been moved and properly seconded.

21 All in favor indicate by saying
22 aye.

23 (Aye.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
25 Those opposed?

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2 (No response.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
4 ayes have it. The motion carries. That
5 will be on today's Final Passage
6 Calendar.

7 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman
8 Brooks offers a privileged resolution
9 honoring and recognizing Mama Maisha, a
10 creative and loving teacher, community
11 leader, and cultural educator, who has
12 nurtured social justice movements in
13 Philadelphia, built and transformed
14 institutions, and shared her wisdom with
15 so many Philadelphians.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
17 Chair recognizes Councilwoman Brooks.

18 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: Thank
19 you, Council President. I wanted to note
20 that I co-introduced this with
21 Councilmember Thomas, so I'm not sure if
22 he has words after I do.

23 So today as I continue my
24 series of resolutions honoring powerful
25 Black women leaders in Philadelphia, by

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2 recognizing Mama Maisha Sullivan-Ongoza
3 or Mama Maisha --

4 - - -

5 (Applause.)

6 - - -

7 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: -- who is
8 from South Philly, today -- you know, she
9 became politically active as a young
10 adult in the '60s, becoming involved in
11 the Black Panthers and Black Freedom
12 Movements, attending and organizing
13 marches and conferences, and fighting for
14 Black students in the Philadelphia School
15 District.

16 She was instrumental in
17 founding the Black Independent Schools,
18 which later become the Summer Freedom
19 Schools in Philadelphia and was the first
20 paid director of the Pan-African Studies
21 Community Education program at Temple and
22 founded the Madeira Family Center, a
23 groundbreaking model for community-based
24 family centers that provided wraparound
25 services to North Philadelphia families.

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2 Mama Maisha made her mark
3 wherever she went. She improved the way
4 students were trained to interact with
5 families at the Penn Graduate School and
6 was a founding member and coordinator of
7 the Pan-African Sisterhood Health
8 initiative, which empowered families and
9 transformed countless lives.

10 While Mama Maisha is many
11 things - a relentless community advocate,
12 an educator, an organizer, a radio host,
13 a workshop facilitator, multiple media
14 artist and so, so much more - many of you
15 know her best for her leading role in
16 educating people about supporting the
17 celebration of Kwanzaa. She has
18 spearheaded Kwanzaa celebrations in
19 teaching for over 50 years, and it is an
20 important aspect of organizing, learning,
21 and community building and
22 re-Africanization. Mama Maisha has
23 accomplished more in a single lifetime's
24 worth of good.

25 I can sit here and talk about

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2 all the inspiring work she has led all
3 day, but I will close with this: While
4 Mama Maisha's work has taken many forms,
5 her approach has remained the same. When
6 faced with injustice, she modeled what
7 true community-based approach could look
8 like, one grounded in love and commitment
9 to bringing others along with her.

10 So I thank her today for her
11 years of work and for being part of
12 Philadelphia's living Black history.

13 Thank you so much, and thank
14 you to her and her community and friends
15 and family.

16 Can you stand up.

17 - - -

18 (Applause.)

19 - - -

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

21 Thank you, Councilwoman.

22 That will be on today's
23 Calendar.

24 Before we proceed, I'd like to
25 recognize a State Representative, Danilo.

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2 There you go, sir.

3 Congratulations and a little bit of
4 condolences, because you got a lot of
5 work ahead of you, a lot of challenges,
6 but it's all good. You're going to
7 handle it in awesome order.

8 And our former Council
9 colleague, Councilwoman Jannie Blackwell.

10 - - -

11 (Applause.)

12 - - -

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

14 Thank you, Councilwoman, for always
15 stopping through and checking on us,
16 making sure -- I assure you we are doing
17 what we're supposed to do. Thank you.

18 Mr. Decker, does that conclude
19 the introductions?

20 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Council
21 President?

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: I'm
23 sorry. The Chair recognizes Councilman
24 Thomas.

25 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Sorry,

1 2/16/23 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 Council President. I know I'm talkative
3 today, but I do want to take a moment to
4 just say congratulations and, more
5 importantly, thank you to Mama Maisha. I
6 don't have her extensive bio here today,
7 so I'm glad my colleague was able to read
8 that, but I don't know if folks know,
9 Mama Maisha has known me since I was
10 14 years old. Mama Maisha is a part of
11 the village -- and I see Mama Newton here
12 as well too and other elders in this
13 community -- that really helped raise me
14 and helped create my perspective of
15 servant leadership.

16 There are hundreds of young
17 people who come out of the Say Yes to
18 Education program whose lives are forever
19 changed because of the work that she's
20 done. These young people are going to
21 college for free. These young people
22 were essentially adopted into the program
23 when they were in elementary school and
24 they carried them all the way through
25 until they got their degree.

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2 Mama Maisha and her daughter,
3 Milele, are a gift to the City of
4 Philadelphia. It's not --

5 - - -

6 (Applause.)

7 - - -

8 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Yeah,
9 absolutely.

10 Milele and I come up in this
11 work together. That's my contemporary.
12 But Mama Maisha is a living legend. And
13 for those who don't know, when we talk
14 about some of the advocacy that we've
15 seen for individual Black-led charter
16 schools, when we talk about
17 African-centered education, of course
18 when we talk about Kwanzaa, but when we
19 just talk about this idea of wrapping
20 your arms around young people and
21 creating a village that assures that they
22 transition from childhood to adulthood
23 into some area of success, Mama Maisha is
24 the epitome of that.

25 So when me colleague told me

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2 last year that this is something that she
3 wanted to do, I was 100 percent on board
4 with it, and I think we need to do this
5 more.

6 I know that folks aren't always
7 big fans of the resolutions that we do in
8 Council, but at the end of the day, these
9 are the narratives that we need told
10 across the City of Philadelphia.

11 I accidentally parked this
12 morning at the same time that
13 Councilmember Jones was here, and
14 Councilmember Jones and I as we were
15 walking in, one of the things that he
16 said is that this work that we do, we're
17 responsible for telling our own story,
18 and sometimes when we bring folks down
19 here, this is an opportunity for us to
20 tell our story but, more importantly, for
21 them to tell their story. And when you
22 talk about the work of Mama Maisha, it's
23 legendary, it's historic.

24 Mama, I love you. I appreciate
25 you. And to everybody that came down

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2 here to celebrate her, thank you for
3 being here.

4 Thank you, Council President.

5 Thank you, colleagues.

6 - - -

7 (Applause.)

8 - - -

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

10 Thank you, Councilman.

11 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman
12 Squilla offers, on behalf of Council
13 President Clarke, an ordinance adopting
14 an Amendment to Section V of the Articles
15 of Incorporation of the Philadelphia
16 Authority for Industrial Development by
17 increasing the Authority's term of
18 existence to a date fifty years from the
19 date of approval of the Articles of
20 Amendment by the Secretary of the
21 Commonwealth.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

23 Referred to committee.

24 CHIEF CLERK: There are no
25 other bills or resolutions being offered

1 2/16/23 - STATED - REPORTS

2 today by the members, Mr. President.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

4 Thank you very much, Mr. Decker.

5 That concludes our introduction
6 of bills and resolutions.

7 And our next order of business
8 is reports from committee, and the Chair
9 now recognizes Councilwoman Lozada for a
10 report from the Committee on Public
11 Property and Public Works.

12 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Thank
13 you, Council President. The Committee of
14 Public Property and Public Works reports
15 two bills with a favorable
16 recommendation.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

18 Thank you.

19 Mr. Decker, please read the
20 report.

21 CHIEF CLERK: To the President
22 and members of the Council of the City of
23 Philadelphia, the Committee on Public
24 Property and Public Works, to which was
25 referred Bill No. 220419, entitled "An

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ordinance authorizing the Commissioner of Public Property, on behalf of the City of Philadelphia, to acquire fee simple title or a lesser real estate interest from Philadelphia Authority for Industrial Development (PAID) to all or a portion of a parcel or parcels of land located in and about the area bounded by 56th Street, Lindbergh Boulevard, 61st Street, Passyunk Avenue, and the Schuylkill River"; and

Bill No. 220845, entitled "An ordinance renaming and designating the area of land bounded by 54th Street, Wynnefield Avenue and Woodbine Avenue as 'The Wynnefield Veterans Memorial,'" respectfully reports it has considered the same and returns the attached bills to Council with a favorable recommendation.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

Thank you.

The Chair again recognizes Councilwoman Lozada.

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2 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Thank
3 you, Mr. President. I move that the
4 rules of Council be suspended so as to
5 permit first reading this day of Bills
6 No. 220419 and 220845.

7 (Duly seconded.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
9 Thank you. It has been moved and
10 properly seconded that the rules of
11 Council be suspended so as to permit
12 first reading this day of Bills No.
13 220419, 220845.

14 All those in favor indicate by
15 saying aye.

16 (Aye.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
18 Those opposed?

19 (No response.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
21 ayes have it, and these bills will be
22 placed on our First Reading Calendar for
23 today's session.

24 That concludes our reports from
25 committee, and our next order of business

1 2/16/23 - STATED - BILLS ON 2ND READING
2 is consideration of the Calendar.

3 I note that the bills just
4 reported from committee with a suspension
5 of the rules have been deemed to have had
6 their first reading, and they will be on
7 our Second Reading and Final Passage
8 Calendar at our next session of Council.

9 There are no additional bills
10 on the First Reading Calendar, so the
11 Chair recognizes Councilman Jones for the
12 purpose of calling up bills and
13 resolutions on our Final Passage Calendar
14 today.

15 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
16 Mr. President. The following resolutions
17 and bills are being brought up from
18 Second Reading and Final Passage
19 Calendars today: Nos. 230086, 230087,
20 230092, 230097, 230098, 220743, 220872,
21 22 -- excuse me; correction, 230016,
22 220733, 220864, and 230004. All other
23 bills and resolutions are being held.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
25 Thank you, Councilman.

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2 Before we consider our public
3 comment session for the bills and
4 resolutions, I'll just make a couple of
5 comments.

6 Your public comment must
7 concern matters on the Second Reading and
8 Final Passage Calendar for possible
9 action at today's session.

10 All speakers must sign up in
11 order to testify. If you have not
12 already done so, you can now sign up
13 outside of Council Chamber doors at the
14 Sergeant-at-Arms. If you want to do
15 that, you can do that now.

16 Once you have signed up, you
17 will called in the order in which your
18 name appears on the sign-up sheet. Today
19 we are kind of on the border on the
20 number of individuals, so I'd ask if you
21 can kind of keep it as close to two
22 minutes as possible. If you have to go
23 over a little bit, because we do have a
24 number of -- two pages of individuals.
25 We want to make sure everybody gets a

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2 chance to testify.

3 But once your time is up, you
4 will be notified. There is a device on
5 the podium. When the light on that
6 device turns green, it will be your time
7 to speak. When the light turns yellow,
8 you will have 30 seconds to conclude your
9 remarks. And when the light turns red,
10 we'd ask that as best as possible please
11 conclude your remarks.

12 I want to thank you very much
13 for your anticipated cooperation with the
14 guidelines established in Council in this
15 public comment and, more importantly, I
16 want to thank you for showing interest in
17 your city and the government that is
18 functioned in this particular Chambers.
19 So thank you very much.

20 Mr. Decker, you want to call
21 the first name on the list.

22 CHIEF CLERK: Vincent Feldman,
23 commenting on 200533.

24 (Witness approached podium.)

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good

1 2/16/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 morning.

3 MR. FELDMAN: Good morning. My
4 name is Vince Feldman. I'm the chapter
5 President of Children's Health Defense
6 for Pennsylvania. I do support
7 Councilmember Bass's bill about Wells
8 Fargo and changing the name. I agree
9 with that, but I wanted to take this
10 opportunity to remind City Council that
11 the City is about to face its third
12 anniversary of living under an emergency
13 declaration. These declarations are
14 meant as temporary suspensions of the
15 democratic process to act swiftly within
16 the immediate aftermath of a large
17 crisis.

18 There is no pandemic exception
19 in our Constitution that allows for this
20 declaration to continue to stand. Is
21 this Council comfortable with setting a
22 precedent where the Mayor can initiate a
23 kind of medical martial law where public
24 debate, hearing, and democratic oversight
25 of public health is suspended for not

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2 just a few weeks or a few months but for
3 a few years?

4 This city continues to mandate
5 a first-of-its-kind novel drug
6 intervention to hundreds of thousands
7 that has a health department that also
8 has spent millions in illegal
9 pharmaceutical marketing that fails to
10 mention any associated risks.

11 It is also known that these
12 novel drugs have no public health benefit
13 since they cannot prevent infection or
14 transmission of a virus.

15 The Department of Public Health
16 has made false and illegal claims that
17 the COVID-19 jabs are, quote, extremely
18 safe and effective without any citation.
19 Prior to 2021, no vaccine has ever been
20 released that hasn't had at least seven
21 years of safety analysis.

22 A recent poll by Rasmussen
23 found that 28 percent of Americans
24 personally know someone whose death they
25 believe was caused by the side-effects

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2 from the COVID vaccines. You can't
3 attend a dinner party these days without
4 hearing about the odd medical stories
5 that come out of the blue. Analysis of
6 Pfizer's own data show a 1 in 800 serious
7 adverse reaction profile, making this
8 drug not just the most profitable in
9 history but also the most harmful.

10 You must make efforts to stop
11 the City's COVID vaccine mandates now.
12 Put an end to a gross violation of human
13 rights and restore constitutional
14 governance and protections. History will
15 not forget your record on this, and who
16 else am I to ask to make sure such
17 failures of this magnitude never happen
18 again.

19 Thank you.

20 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you
21 for your comments.

22 Mr. Decker, please call the
23 next name.

24 CHIEF CLERK: The next speaker
25 is Jasmin Velez.

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2 (Witness approached podium.)

3 MS. VELEZ: Good morning,
4 everyone. Good morning to you, City
5 Council. I am a Kensington and
6 Harrowgate resident in support of
7 Councilmember Lozada's resolutions for
8 the Marshall Stabilization and Recovery
9 Plan and for authorizing the City Council
10 Committee on Public Safety to hold public
11 hearings, also known as Free Kensington.

12 As an almost lifelong resident
13 of Kensington, I think it's important
14 that we openly work together with various
15 organizations and departments but, more
16 importantly, have a say in how our
17 community will be stabilized.

18 Our community is traumatized by
19 years of neglect and open drug use, which
20 affects our everyday lives and that of
21 our children. This type of behavior
22 would not be allowed freely in any other
23 neighborhood, so why is it okay in ours?

24 There is no reason that our
25 children need to be observing open drug

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2 use every day or have to step over
3 paraphernalia on their way to school.

4 There is no reason our neighborhood needs
5 to be held hostage by a drug crisis that
6 is not just a Kensington and Harrowgate
7 problem but rather a citywide issue that
8 requires cross collaboration.

9 I support these resolutions
10 because they will bring us one step
11 closer to improving the conditions in our
12 community. We can only free Kensington
13 together.

14 Thank you.

15 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you.

16 - - -

17 (Applause.)

18 - - -

19 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you
20 for your testimony.

21 Mr. Decker.

22 CHIEF CLERK: Alfred

23 Klosterman.

24 (Witness approached podium.)

25 MR. KLOSTERMAN: My name is

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2 Alfred Klosterman. I'm a member of
3 Harrowgate Civic Association.

4 For too many years, any policy
5 from this city, whether it affected us
6 for good or bad, has been dealt from
7 above, never considering the wishes and
8 needs of the public themselves.

9 We've had many strong local
10 groups. We have civic associations. We
11 have other community service groups that
12 struggle daily that keep our communities
13 surviving, and we ask that with the
14 resolutions of the Councilmember, that
15 our Councilmember have a seat at the
16 table, our local groups have a seat at
17 the table, and the public themselves.

18 For too long we've been
19 neglected and abandoned, and we want to
20 be heard.

21 Thank you.

22 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you.
23 Thank you for your testimony.

24 - - -

25 (Applause.)

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2 - - -

3 CHIEF CLERK: The next speaker,
4 Madam Chair, is Milele Sullivan.

5 Milele Sullivan.

6 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: I think
7 they're coming now.

8 (Witness approached podium.)

9 MS. SULLIVAN: Milele Sullivan.

10 Good morning, everyone. And at
11 this time, I'm speaking on behalf of Mama
12 Maisha-Ongoza, but in particular, she is
13 a Philadelphian through and through, and
14 there's some Philadelphians who cannot be
15 here right now. They are upset that our
16 Eagles did not win. They were hoping
17 that we were going to have this session
18 next week, because that would have meant
19 that the parade would have been today.

20 So what I mean by that too is,
21 there is some law students. One in
22 particular is very near and dear to her
23 heart. Her name is Martine Augustin.
24 She is someone who Mama Maisha met when
25 she was in elementary school, as some of

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2 you heard. She is that kind of person.

3 She doesn't just hold onto you
4 and work with you for, say, two years,
5 three years. No. She's like, you're
6 mine for decades. We're going to see you
7 through to that finish line.

8 And so Martine Augustin, she's
9 a law student right now at Emory. She
10 graduated prior to that Hampton
11 University. Before that she graduated
12 from Imhotep. Before that, she went to
13 Bryant School in West Philadelphia.

14 So she was not technically a
15 part of the Say Yes to Education program
16 that Mama Maisha directed that she
17 retired from. However, she was what we
18 called a friendly. She was someone in
19 the neighborhood who needed additional
20 support. She needed that extra
21 out-of-school-time activity, which we
22 called combatting some of the learning
23 loss, which is where Freedom Schools come
24 to play. And Martine Augustin also at
25 one time needed a place to live. She

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2 needed additional family supports. She
3 needed to know even when she was in high
4 school how it is that I potentially could
5 set up and start my own LLC. Martine
6 wanted to know, how can I start a
7 non-profit. Who she came to was Mama
8 Maisha, and she said, Sister Milele --
9 that's how I'm affectionately known --
10 she said, please have my words be heard
11 in this Council Chamber space even though
12 I'm not here or my professors are going
13 to be mad at me.

14 And so I have to say to her in
15 the next time that I have with Mainy
16 (ph), which is we all well know -- and
17 this is in quotes from Martine
18 Augustin -- the African proverb that it
19 takes a village to raise a child.
20 However, it takes a special person to
21 create that village. She is Mama
22 Maisha-Ongoza. I am that village child,
23 and she continues to wrap her arms around
24 us in an intergenerational way, not just
25 for young people like me but for the

1 2/16/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 elders who are in this room today.

3 - - -

4 (Applause.)

5 - - -

6 MS. SULLIVAN: Her success and
7 her well-being looks out for us from
8 birth until the ancestry realm, and she
9 doesn't want for our Philadelphia
10 citizens to continue to leave this earth
11 in a place of hurt and pain. That is
12 what Mama Maisha fights against.

13 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you.

14 MS. SULLIVAN: She is also the
15 one who will attach herself to your hip
16 and take care of you even
17 internationally, and right now there's a
18 group of people here who are helping to
19 do things for people who are suffering
20 even with things where they have
21 menstrual cycle needs, where they can't
22 afford them. We are teaching people
23 right now through the leadership of Mama
24 Maisha how to sell trades, things that
25 were taken out schools.

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2 And out of respect for my time,
3 I just want to say to you, please know
4 with a humble heart, Mama Maisha, that we
5 love you, we admire you, and we thank you
6 for your leadership and your dedication.

7 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you.

8 - - -

9 (Applause.)

10 - - -

11 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you.

12 Mr. Decker.

13 CHIEF CLERK: The next speaker
14 is Maisha Sullivan-Ongoza.

15 - - -

16 (Applause.)

17 - - -

18 MS. SULLIVAN-ONGOZA: I'm
19 Maisha Sullivan-Ongoza, and I want to
20 thank you for the resolution today. It's
21 a great honor. They always say to smell
22 the flowers while you're still here, but
23 the greatest way you can honor me is to
24 continue to find ways to work together in
25 the City and ways that are real.

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2 We have lost so many things, so
3 many things that will be considered best
4 practices that I hope that you will look
5 into. We used to have a system of family
6 centers here that supported families
7 around the City. We had 24 Freedom
8 Schools every summer where children all
9 around the City could go. We had so many
10 different programs that were
11 comprehensive, best practice.

12 Look into the past at some of
13 those practices when you're doing this
14 work you're doing now and make sure that
15 everything -- it's a difference of
16 programs being in the community and of
17 the community. It's a qualitative
18 difference. People can be in it but not
19 of it. So make sure you always work with
20 the people that are of the community,
21 because the ones who are in it are
22 normally tourists. They're there for a
23 short time.

24 So the best way to honor me is
25 to find ways to pull these silos

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2 together, because all my work has been
3 how I can get other people to help me do
4 the work. I've never done anything by
5 myself. I've always brought more people
6 in.

7 So in supporting me and
8 honoring me, you're honoring all the
9 other people, all my friends that are
10 here, my family.

11 But I'm just asking you to look
12 in these best -- we have some great best
13 practice models in the City that need to
14 be resurrected and refunded. The Scott
15 program that funded just drill teams.
16 This funding -- the mamas on the street
17 who gave the children the peanut butter
18 and jelly sandwiches. They the ones are
19 with the children 24/7. They need the
20 support. They're the ones dealing --
21 when these agencies close at 6 and
22 7 o'clock, it's the drill team captain
23 who knows where the kids are at. They
24 need to be funded. You need to
25 strengthen them. They are our best

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2 practice models. When those programs was
3 funded, we didn't have these kind of
4 problems we have now. We had more eyes
5 on the children, right?

6 And so I'm just asking you,
7 make sure you do this work from people of
8 the community. Help them to do the work,
9 because everybody wants the City to be
10 better, and we got people -- one person
11 on the block now keeping the whole street
12 clean, just one mama or papa still
13 sweeping the streets.

14 You know, support that person.
15 Make sure they have brooms. Make sure
16 they have trash bags. There's ways you
17 can help the people who want to do the
18 work.

19 That's all I'm asking. Don't
20 forget about the people on the ground
21 that are really of the community.

22 Thank you.

23 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you.

24 - - -

25 (Applause.)

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2 - - -

3 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you
4 for your service.

5 Mr. Decker.

6 CHIEF CLERK: Wendy Burton.

7 (Witness approached podium.)

8 MS. BURTON: Is it afternoon
9 yet? No, not yet. So good morning. I
10 am Wendy Elder Burton, and I just want to
11 congratulate Mama Maisha. I met her some
12 years ago, and I always admired
13 everything that she's done in the
14 community, in our cultural community as
15 well. And so I'm just here because I
16 just want to congratulate her and show
17 her love that's in my heart. I've always
18 just admired her.

19 Right now I'm in a group with
20 her, two groups, Poshì (ph) group and the
21 Sad (ph) group, which is one is the
22 autistic group and the other one is a
23 group -- it's a volunteer group that we
24 work in every week, and I'm so pleased to
25 be a part of that.

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2 So thank you and
3 congratulations again, Mama Maisha.

4 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you.

5 - - -

6 (Applause.)

7 - - -

8 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: And the
9 next speaker, Mr. Decker.

10 CHIEF CLERK: Mary Anderson.
11 (Witness approached podium.)

12 MS. ANDERSON: Good morning.
13 My name is --

14 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Good
15 morning.

16 MS. ANDERSON: -- Mary Anderson
17 and I became a Philadelphian 60 years
18 ago, and I'm retired from the City. I'm
19 a retired City employee.

20 Several years ago I was in a
21 third-world country, didn't know anyone,
22 and I had my two grand-kids with me, and
23 they were sending messages back to the
24 schools that they attended.

25 I became very ill, and in that

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2 country I didn't know anyone, and when I
3 became ill, I asked my grandson and
4 pointed to a woman and asked him to tell
5 her that I was ill and to come and help
6 me.

7 This woman came and helped me
8 so I could return back to the states and
9 take care of my grandchildren.

10 Several years ago when I
11 retired, I started looking for something
12 to do in the community, and someone
13 directed me to the program that I'm in
14 now with Maisha. I didn't know her name
15 until I walked in that door to do
16 volunteer work. She looked at me and
17 said, I know you, and I said, I know you
18 too. You saved me in the third-world
19 country.

20 I didn't know her name then,
21 but then I found out her name last year
22 when I went to volunteer for the
23 community, and I am so grateful to be in
24 her presence at this time in my life.

25 My grandson has now graduated

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2 and I asked him to come here, but his
3 schedule was too busy, but he sent his
4 love to her and he was grateful that she
5 took care of his grandmother.

6 Thank you.

7 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you.

8 - - -

9 (Applause.)

10 - - -

11 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you
12 for your testimony. Thank you for your
13 testimony.

14 Mr. Decker.

15 CHIEF CLERK: Darlene Burton.

16 (Witness approached podium.)

17 MS. BURTON: Good morning. My
18 name is Darlene Burton. I'm here in
19 support of the Jones/Lozada resolution.

20 I have been a resident of
21 Kensington for 27 years. I moved to
22 Kensington for a better life for me and
23 my children, coming from 12th and
24 Cambria, also known as the badlands.

25 I'm here to tell you the

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2 badlands was a cake walk as compared to
3 Kensington's current condition.

4 I am very upset that the City
5 has turned a blind eye to the residents
6 of Kensington and the trials and
7 tribulations that we endure on the daily
8 basis. Not only do we have to dodge
9 bullets from drug dealers, we also myself
10 currently is going HIV testing, because I
11 got stuck with a needle simply sweeping
12 outside of my house.

13 No one should live the way we
14 do in Kensington. It is deplorable. I
15 see women going to work with their
16 children walking through addicts nodding
17 out. I've seen people do things that no
18 one should see. We should not suffer the
19 fate that we suffer because the City has
20 failed to act.

21 So I stand here in support of
22 the resolutions, because no one deserves
23 to live in the conditions that we live in
24 every day. We work, we love, we play,
25 and the conditions we have to do it all

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2 in should be unacceptable to everybody in
3 power to make change.

4 So I ask you to please consider
5 this resolution, because the residents
6 need help desperately.

7 Thank you.

8 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you.

9 - - -

10 (Appause.)

11 - - -

12 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Mr. Decker.

13 CHIEF CLERK: Martine Augustin.

14 MS. SULLIVAN: I spoke for her.

15 Thank you.

16 CHIEF CLERK: The next speaker
17 is Ryan Richardson.

18 (Witness approached podium.)

19 MR. RICHARDSON: Good morning.

20 My name is Ryan Richardson. I'm an 8th
21 grader for Mathematics, Civics, Science
22 Charter School. I was a part of Mr. St.
23 Hill's mentoring group, so are my friends
24 here.

25 Can y'all stand up for me.

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2 - - -

3 (Applause.)

4 - - -

5 MR. RICHARDSON: What Mr. St.
6 Hill was to me, he was like a
7 grandfather. He taught me right from
8 wrong, and he really showed me how to be
9 a man for my future life, and I respect
10 him for that.

11 Rest in peace, Mr. St. Hill.
12 And, you know, I really did like the guy.
13 Even though I met him just -- you know, I
14 met him just this year. Mr. Tommie St.
15 Hill had a special place in my heart.

16 - - -

17 (Applause.)

18 - - -

19 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you.
20 Thank you for being here.

21 Mr. Decker.

22 CHIEF CLERK: The next speaker
23 is Menki Graves.

24 (Witness approached podium.)

25 MR. GRAVES: My name is Makai

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2 Graves. I'm a student at Mathematics,
3 Civics and Sciences Charter School.

4 Mr. St. Hill, he was like a
5 mentor to me. He taught me -- like he
6 taught me a lot of important life
7 lessons, and even though I just met him
8 this year, he really helped me a lot,
9 because he guided me. He guided me in
10 times where nobody else could. And he
11 was just an all-around good person, and
12 he was like a ball of energy. He like --
13 every time we had him, he would make
14 everybody laugh. Everybody had fun in
15 his class, and he was like a great
16 teacher.

17 That's it.

18 - - -

19 (Applause.)

20 - - -

21 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you.
22 Thank you for your testimony.

23 Mr. Decker.

24 CHIEF CLERK: The next speaker
25 is former Councilmember Jannie Blackwell.

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2 - - -

3 (Applause.)

4 - - -

5 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Good
6 afternoon.

7 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Good
8 afternoon.

9 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: As
10 always, let me first thank God for the
11 privilege of being here. You know,
12 having been here, thank you, Katherine
13 Gilmore Richardson, a Blackwell sat in
14 that seat from 1976 until 2020. So I'm
15 at home.

16 It is a pleasure to be here to
17 honor Tommie St. Hill. Lu loved him like
18 a son. I want to thank your Councilman,
19 who is out sick today, especially for
20 this privilege to speak for Tommie St.
21 Hill.

22 I want to ask all his family
23 members to come next to me. I'd like
24 them to introduce themselves and all the
25 friends and family of Tommie to please

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2 stand. If his sons are still here,
3 Jetta, I'd like you all to say hello and
4 who you are so the people can see you and
5 know when they hear your name all the
6 time who you are. Come forward. Thank
7 you.

8 (Witnesses approached podium.)

9 MR. ST. HILL: Hello,
10 everybody. I'm Tommie St. Hill, Jr., and
11 I just want to thank you guys for
12 honoring my father today. I actually
13 wrote a little something.

14 Tommie St. Hill, Sr. was a man
15 of service, honor, and great humor. I
16 want to thank Philadelphia's legislative
17 body, especially Councilman Curtis Jones,
18 Councilman Isaiah Thomas, and Councilman
19 Kenyatta Johnson, for honoring the life
20 of my father.

21 He treated everyone with love
22 and respect. Tommie St. Hill, Sr. could
23 go from the streets of North Philadelphia
24 to the corridors of City Hall
25 energetically shaking hands, spreading

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2 laughter, and bestowing his unique
3 wisdom.

4 I am grateful to celebrate my
5 father's impact and contributions that he
6 made on the City of Philadelphia. May he
7 rest in eternal peace and happiness.

8 MS. ST. HILL: Good morning,
9 everyone. My name is Jetta St. Hill, and
10 I'd like to thank each and every one of
11 you for coming out to honor my husband
12 and thank you for this beautiful
13 resolution.

14 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you.

15 - - -

16 (Applause.)

17 - - -

18 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank
19 you very much. I don't know if
20 there's -- we'll try to -- yes.

21 DEBORAH: Good morning,
22 everyone. I just want to thank you so
23 much for all the love that you have
24 showed the family. I am his sister,
25 Deborah. I'm a year older than he was.

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2 We were very, very, very close, and I
3 miss him so much, but just thanking you
4 all for the love.

5 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you.

6 MS. JONES: Hi. My name is
7 Akenya Jones and this is?

8 MS. BACK: Tanya Back.

9 MS. JONES: We are also Tommie
10 St. Hill's kids, and we just want to say
11 thank you. Thank you so much.

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'd like
13 to thank Council for honoring somebody
14 who is so important and such a wonderful
15 person. He was certainly my best and
16 closest friend for several years, and he
17 will be sorely missed. It was just a
18 blessing to have him as such a friend and
19 confidant.

20 MR. JOHNS: My name is Wayne
21 Johns. Councilman Jones and Councilman
22 Johnson summed it up. That was Tommie
23 St. Hill. And, yes, if he was your
24 friend, he was your friend to the end.
25 He had your back.

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2 Rest in peace.

3 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank
4 you all. Thank you, all members of City
5 Council, for this honor.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank
7 you, City Council, Council President
8 Clarke, Council Majority Leader Jones,
9 and the rest of the Councilmembers,
10 Councilman Harrity for introducing this
11 resolution on behalf of Tommie's
12 longstanding work in this chamber here
13 and throughout the City of Philadelphia.
14 We welcome all opportunity to have his
15 legacy remembered, so for this moment
16 here to beginning of that process.

17 So thank you very, very much.
18 Have a blessed day.

19 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you.

20 - - -

21 (Applause.)

22 - - -

23 CHIEF CLERK: The next speaker
24 is Lynn Landes, commenting on 210913.

25 (Witness approached podium.)

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2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good
3 morning.

4 MS. LANDES: Good afternoon.
5 I'm Lynn Landes, founder of
6 HealthAlertPhilly.org. I support
7 Resolution 210913, but today I'm also
8 here to talk about the ongoing COVID
9 nightmare.

10 Dr. Fauci, the federal
11 government's leading proponent of COVID
12 vaccines, has recently co-authored a
13 paper that admits that the COVID vaccines
14 have been a failure. What he didn't
15 admit is that these vaccines are still
16 mandated for some and are experimental,
17 extremely unsafe, and deadly.

18 Shockingly, days after Fauci's
19 paper was published, the CDC put these
20 very same COVID vaccines on the childhood
21 vaccine schedule for children as young as
22 six months. As if that wasn't horrific
23 enough, the CDC also recommended even
24 more vaccines to the childhood schedule,
25 which brings the total up to 72 vaccines

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2 by the age of 18.

3 None of these vaccines,
4 including COVID vaccines, have been
5 tested for their potential to cause
6 cancer, damage DNA, or impair fertility,
7 as stated in Section 13 of the FDA
8 required vaccine package insert. Yet,
9 the CDC continues to claim that all
10 vaccines are safe and effective.
11 Meanwhile, adults and children alike are
12 still using toxic hand sanitizers and
13 wearing unhealthy face masks.

14 The masks that City Council is
15 currently handing out are made of
16 polypropylene, a petrochemical that can
17 adversely affect the lungs, puberty,
18 reproductive health, and body
19 development. Nonetheless, here we are
20 submitting to these insane and sickly
21 policies brought to us by our federal
22 public health agencies.

23 The COVID nightmare is clearly
24 the result of greed, corruption, and
25 incompetence, but also by an almost

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2 religious belief in federal public health
3 authorities, and the branding of anyone
4 who disagrees with the federal
5 government, a conspiracy theorist.

6 We all need to wake up from
7 this medical nightmare, use our common
8 sense, and reclaim our medical freedom.

9 Thank you.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

11 Thank you for your testimony.

12 CHIEF CLERK: The next speaker
13 is Ogbonna Hagins, commenting on 200533.

14 (Witness approached podium.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good
16 afternoon.

17 MR. HAGINS: Good afternoon,
18 everyone. Ogbonna Hagins, H-A-G-I-N-S.
19 I'm speaking on 20053 [sic], resolution
20 calling for Comcast Spectacor to
21 reconsider its naming rights agreements
22 with Wells Fargo.

23 I think that many, if not all
24 of you Councilmembers, should reconsider
25 your choice of jobs based on the fact

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2 that you are presiding over one of the
3 worst cities in the nation, and to be
4 honest with you, you and your advisors
5 seem to be happy with this fact.

6 I come in these Chambers week
7 after week hoping that I would see some
8 new, innovative legislation on decreasing
9 gun violence, decreasing the economic
10 wealth gap, creating jobs, improving
11 education, cleaning the streets, and all
12 I see are these wimpy bills and
13 resolutions that sound good but are just
14 as flimsy as the paper that they're
15 printed on.

16 Last week there was time and
17 energy spent on celebrating our
18 Philadelphia Eagles, but it seems that
19 your celebrations brought them bad luck,
20 as well as the Phillies last year.

21 From a spiritual level, maybe,
22 just maybe, the Gods don't want
23 Philadelphia to have sports champions
24 based on this not being a championship
25 city in relationship to education, safety

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2 standards of living, cleanliness, and the
3 wealth gap with Afro Americans.

4 This is the election season,
5 and based on the failure of this body,
6 maybe many of you should reconsider
7 reelection. Maybe, just maybe, you
8 should consider going back to being a
9 regular civilian, to regular civilian
10 life to see what it's like not to be
11 protected by your titles as
12 Councilmembers, because based on the
13 hundreds of people who I've spoken with
14 over the past few days, this body is
15 doing a bad job at making people feel
16 love in the City of Brotherly Love and
17 Sisterly Affection.

18 Unethical banking practices of
19 Wells Fargo? Yeah, I agree with not
20 giving them the naming rights, but what
21 about the unethical practices of doing
22 nothing about making Philadelphia
23 citizens -- by not making Philadelphia
24 citizens feel that all politicians want
25 to do is get paid, wear nice clothes, and

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2 that's it.

3 But --

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

5 Thank you.

6 MR. HAGINS: -- I'm saying to
7 you, reconsider your ethics as it relates
8 to the City of Philadelphia and doing
9 your job as City Councilmembers.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

11 Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Hagins. Thank
12 you for your testimony. We have been
13 accused of not getting potholes filled
14 and been accused of not getting abandoned
15 buildings taken down, but it's the first
16 time I've ever gotten accused of a sports
17 team losing a championship game.

18 But it's all good. It's a part
19 of the job. So we will be silent during
20 the 76ers run. Thank you, Mr. Hagins.
21 Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Hagins.

22 Okay. That concludes our
23 public comment for today -- oh, you have
24 three more. I'm sorry. Mr. Decker, call
25 the next name.

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2 CHIEF CLERK: The next speaker
3 is Neyda Rios.

4 (Witness approached podium.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good
6 afternoon.

7 MS. RIOS: Good afternoon. My
8 name is Neyda Rios. Good morning --
9 sorry. I wrote stuff down, but I'm not
10 the type of person to write things down.
11 I just always talk from the heart.

12 I thank you for giving us this
13 opportunity to come before you this
14 morning. Good morning to everyone here.
15 Thank you for this time and this space.

16 I was supposed to go be in
17 surgery this morning, but my heart
18 weighed so heavy about my community and
19 about the bill -- the resolution that I
20 am here to support, Free Kensington
21 resolution.

22 I'm a long-term resident of
23 Kensington. I bought my house way back
24 in 1995 before everything started
25 changing, so I've been on the streets for

1 2/16/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 a very long time in the neighborhood
3 Kensington, Harrowgate. I've been out
4 there picking up needles. I've been out
5 there cleaning the playground, McPherson,
6 what people call Needle Park. That is
7 not Needle Park. It is McPherson
8 Playground, where our kids -- Stacy,
9 raise up the board, please.

10 I don't know if you can see the
11 pictures clearly, but anyone who wants to
12 see them, they're here so you can see
13 them. Where the kids find a safe place
14 to be. They want to be able to play in
15 the playground. They want to be able to
16 walk to school without having to watch
17 where they step, where they step on
18 feces, where they step on needles.

19 They are tired of having to
20 look out. They want to be children. We
21 are traumatizing our children on a daily
22 basis. For what? For what? So that
23 people can go sell drugs on the street?
24 So that they can be out there getting
25 high?

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2 We have to walk over. We have
3 to like be careful, everything that we
4 do.

5 The people who are in our
6 community do not belong there. They are
7 not residents. They are not from
8 Philadelphia. They're from the suburbs.
9 They're from different areas.

10 I've been doing service in
11 Salvation Army, which is no longer open.
12 It was closed down because of funding.
13 I've been doing services. I'm community
14 connected with Impact Services, also at
15 CHW training. I just finished in August
16 with NKCDC.

17 There are resources out there.
18 There are things out there, and we have
19 to be educated, but the first step that
20 needs to be taken is to get the drug
21 dealers off of our streets.

22 There are so many of them.
23 They do not live in Kensington, these
24 drug dealers. You see them of the train
25 in the morning, getting on their train

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2 with their lunches and their cell phones
3 and their guns hiding underneath their
4 jackets coming into Kensington from West
5 Philadelphia, from other places.

6 I'm constantly on my street
7 corner having to stand on my street
8 corner and be out there fighting for my
9 corner. There's a corner garden that I
10 started, a lot, an old lot.

11 There's something else to
12 belong to, gentlemen.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: If
14 you can wrap it up, please.

15 MS. RIOS: Okay. I'm sorry.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
17 That's okay.

18 MS. RIOS: I apologize. But
19 the most important thing is that you hear
20 us, hear our cries, the people who cannot
21 come out, who have not been able to come
22 out here because single moms that have to
23 go to work, children that have to go to
24 school. Hear our cries as a resident, as
25 neighbors.

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2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

3 Thank you.

4 MS. RIOS: We are here
5 together, and thank you.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

7 Thank you. Thank you for your testimony.

8 - - -

9 (Applause.)

10 - - -

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: We
12 hear you. We hear you.

13 CHIEF CLERK: The next speaker
14 is Daisie Cardona.

15 (Witness approached podium.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good
17 afternoon.

18 MS. CARDONA: Good afternoon.

19 My name is Daisie Cardona. I'm a
20 20-year-old Afro indigenous Latina queer
21 woman. I am here to support
22 Councilmember Lozada and the Kensington
23 resolution bill.

24 I was born in Kensington and
25 have lived and worked here my whole

1 2/16/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 entire life. When I was three years old,
3 two things happened. My dad left and my
4 mom took my brother and I to eat at the
5 now closed Salvation Army Pioneer Corps
6 building. That one meal changed our
7 lives forever.

8 One thing led to another, and
9 soon my mom, brother, and I were not only
10 volunteering but helping run nearly every
11 program in that building. That
12 upbringing not only taught me some very
13 important lessons but shielded us from
14 the violence happening outside.

15 Some of the people of the kids
16 that we grew up with are dead. Some sell
17 drugs, others teeter-tottering between
18 what is around us and living. Most do it
19 with a blunt in their hands. Some have
20 been doing it since they were very young.

21 One of our neighborhood kids,
22 he just turned 15, has been smoking weed
23 since he was eight years old. He now
24 sells drugs and is on the run because he
25 pissed off the wrong person.

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2 It isn't just them. My best
3 friend's baby brother has been able to
4 spot needles and guide the other children
5 around them since he was five years old.

6 And I'm sure most of you know
7 McPherson Square. You look it up on your
8 computer, on YouTube, and there's tons of
9 videos of the addicted camping on the
10 park. What most outsiders don't know is
11 that rotting old building on top is a
12 library and probably -- honestly,
13 probably the only reason most kids and
14 teens around aren't dead.

15 Kids as young as two spend
16 every moment there, the library giving
17 kids extra lunches to take home to
18 siblings and even parents who would
19 starve without the extra food. This has
20 to stop. This cannot be allowed to
21 continue.

22 The open-air drug market in
23 Kensington is not only killing the users,
24 it is killing innocent kids, teens,
25 adults, elderly. Why has this been

1 2/16/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 allowed to continue?

3 I can tell you why. Because we
4 are a predominantly low-income colored
5 community. The truth is, what's
6 happening in Kensington is an act of
7 racism, of segregation.

8 Most people who live in
9 Kensington never leave. They die
10 thinking Kensington is the whole world.

11 To put a stop to this, first we
12 must make them see us, see that we are
13 not just numbers, statistics, cannon
14 fodder. The people here, the kids,
15 teens, young adults, the adults, and
16 elderly, are some of the kindest, most
17 bravest, brilliant people I have ever
18 met, and if I had a choice, I'd roll up
19 here all over again.

20 City Council, I stand here
21 pleading for the lives of my people, my
22 family. I could have come here,
23 straightened my hair, in a suit,
24 conformed to look like you and paint a
25 picture that simply isn't true, paint a

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1 2/16/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 government that like most but of this
3 very Council hasn't turned their backs on
4 my people, my neighborhood.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: If
6 you can summarize, please.

7 MS. CARDONA: We do not want
8 your condos. We do not want your storage
9 facilities. We want answers, solutions,
10 real solutions and answers.

11 I stand before you, again,
12 representing my people, for the children
13 whose whole lives have been nothing but a
14 war zone, who deserve more, for the 200
15 victims of shootings in 2023 alone, for
16 the 159 who have been fatal, but 41
17 deaths we've had, the seven-year-old girl
18 who was shot four days into 2023.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
20 Thank you. Thank you, ma'am. We hear
21 you.

22 - - -

23 (Applause.)

24 - - -

25 CHIEF CLERK: The final speaker

1 2/16/23 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 is Anthony Erace.

3 (Witness approached podium.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good
5 afternoon.

6 MR. ERACE: Hi. My name is
7 Anthony Erace. It's okay. Nobody ever
8 gets it right.

9 Thank you for the opportunity
10 to testify in support of Resolution
11 230016. I will be brief and hopefully
12 persuasive.

13 This resolution would exempt
14 employees of the Citizens Police
15 Oversight Commission from civil service.
16 This is an important step for
17 independence, impartiality, and agency
18 legitimacy.

19 Virtually all of CPOC's work
20 can impact the policies and practice of
21 policing and day-to-day work with police
22 officers in Philadelphia. Independence
23 from civil service is crucial to maintain
24 impartiality and legitimacy.

25 The public should be able to

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2 rely on CPOC's ability to pursue issues,
3 facts, and reforms wherever they lead,
4 without common or shared interests
5 between the employees of either agency.
6 In sum, we expect the public to trust us
7 to act independently, and for that, the
8 agency must actually be independent.

9 Additionally, the passage of
10 this bill allows us to cast a wide net in
11 the community to hire effectively, to be
12 fluid and flexible outside of the
13 Byzantine bureaucracy. It allows us to
14 seek and find the best qualified
15 candidates, even if those qualifications
16 are non-traditional.

17 Our goal is to reduce barriers
18 and become an apprentice agency and
19 provide a path to development and success
20 for the people that are of and by our
21 community.

22 Thank you very much.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

24 Thank you for your testimony. We
25 appreciate it.

1 2/16/23 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 And that now concludes our
3 public comment session, and we will now
4 consider the bills and resolutions on the
5 Second Reading and Final Passage
6 Calendar.

7 I would ask the Clerk to please
8 read the title of Resolution No. 230086.

9 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
10 expressing Philadelphia City Council's
11 support for graduate student workers at
12 Temple University and urging Temple
13 University to return to the table and
14 bargain a fair and equitable contract
15 with its graduate student workers.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
17 Chair recognizes Councilman Thomas.

18 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank you,
19 Council President. We're still not
20 seeing the progress that we would like to
21 see to support our students at Temple, so
22 I energetically move for the adoption of
23 the resolution.

24 (Duly seconded.)

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: It's

1 2/16/23 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 been moved and properly seconded.

3 All in favor indicate by saying
4 aye.

5 (Aye.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

7 Those opposed?

8 (No response.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
10 ayes have it. The resolution is adopted.
11 Mr. Decker, 230087.

12 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
13 authorizing the Philadelphia Land Bank to
14 dispose of 1736 North 22nd Street located
15 in the 5th Councilmanic District.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
17 Chair recognizes Councilman Jones.

18 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
19 Mr. President. I move for its adoption.

20 (Duly seconded.)

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: It's
22 been moved and properly seconded.

23 All in favor indicate by saying
24 aye.

25 (Aye.)

1 2/16/23 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

3 Those opposed?

4 (No response.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
6 ayes have it, and that resolution is
7 adopted.

8 Mr. Decker, 230092.

9 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
10 honoring and recognizing Chris DeShields,
11 a SEPTA bus operator, for his heroism and
12 the bravery he exhibited while stopping a
13 carjacking and protecting his fellow
14 citizens.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
16 Chair recognizes Councilman Johnson.

17 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you,
18 Council President. I move for the
19 adoption of the resolution.

20 (Duly seconded.)

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: It's
22 been moved and properly seconded.

23 All in favor indicate by saying
24 aye.

25 (Aye.)

1 2/16/23 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

3 Those opposed?

4 (No response.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
6 ayes have it and the motion carries. The
7 resolution is adopted.

8 Mr. Decker, 230097.

9 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
10 authorizing the Commissioner of Public
11 Property to execute and deliver to the
12 Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority
13 deeds conveying fee simple title to 4993
14 West Girard Avenue in the Third
15 Councilmanic District.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
17 Chair recognizes Councilwoman Gauthier.

18 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Thank
19 you, Council President. I move for the
20 adoption of the resolution.

21 (Duly seconded.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: It's
23 been moved and properly seconded.

24 All in favor indicate by saying
25 aye.

1 2/16/23 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 (Aye.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

4 Those opposed?

5 (No response.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
7 ayes have it. The resolution is adopted.
8 Mr. Decker, 230098.

9 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
10 initiating action to continue a
11 neighborhood improvement district, known
12 as the Northern Liberties Business
13 Improvement District, in an area that
14 generally includes both sides of North
15 2nd Street from the north side of
16 Callowhill Street to the south side of
17 Girard Avenue, both sides of North 3rd
18 Street from Spring Garden Street to the
19 south side of Wildey Street, Spring
20 Garden Street from North 2nd Street to
21 the eastern side of North 5th Street, and
22 certain blocks of streets that intersect
23 portions of these streets; for which the
24 Northern Liberties Business Improvement
25 District, Incorporated, which has

1 2/16/23 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 organized itself as a Pennsylvania
3 non-profit corporation, serves as the
4 Neighborhood Improvement District
5 Management Association for the District.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
7 Chair recognizes Councilman Squilla.

8 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Thank you,
9 Mr. President. I move for the adoption
10 of the resolution.

11 (Duly seconded.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: It's
13 been moved and properly seconded.

14 All in favor indicate by saying
15 aye.

16 (Aye.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
18 Those opposed?

19 (No response.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
21 ayes have it, and that resolution is
22 adopted.

23 Mr. Decker, please read the
24 title of Resolution No. 220743.

25 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution

1 2/16/23 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 proposing an amendment to The
3 Philadelphia Home Rule Charter changing
4 the requirement for contributions and
5 minimum balance of the Budget
6 Stabilization Reserve and making other
7 technical changes; and providing for the
8 submission of the amendment to the
9 electors of Philadelphia.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
11 Chair recognizes Councilwoman Gilmore
12 Richardson.

13 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Thank
14 you, Mr. President. I move the adoption
15 of the resolution.

16 (Duly seconded.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: It's
18 been moved and properly seconded.

19 All in favor indicate by saying
20 aye.

21 (Aye.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
23 Those opposed?

24 (No response.)

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Oh,

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1 2/16/23 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 two-thirds -- yeah. Let the record
3 reflect because this is a Charter change
4 amendment, it shall require a two-thirds
5 vote.

6 Mr. Decker, call the roll.

7 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman

8 Bass.

9 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Aye.

10 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman

11 Brooks.

12 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: Aye.

13 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman

14 Driscoll.

15 COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL: Aye.

16 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman

17 Gauthier.

18 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Aye.

19 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman

20 Gilmore Richardson.

21 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Aye.

22 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman

23 Harrity.

24 (No response.)

25 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman

1 2/16/23 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 Johnson.

3 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Aye.

4 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Jones.

5 COUNCILMAN JONES: Aye.

6 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman

7 Lozada.

8 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Aye.

9 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman

10 O'Neill.

11 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Aye.

12 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman

13 Phillips.

14 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: Aye.

15 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman

16 Squilla.

17 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Aye.

18 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman

19 Thomas.

20 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Aye.

21 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman

22 Vaughn.

23 COUNCILWOMAN VAUGHN: Aye.

24 CHIEF CLERK: Council President

25 Clarke.

1 2/16/23 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Aye.

3 The ayes are 15; the nays are
4 zero. Two-thirds of all members of
5 Council voting in the affirmative,
6 Resolution No. 220743 has been adopted.

7 Mr. Decker, please read the
8 title of Resolution No. 220872.

9 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
10 proposing an amendment to The
11 Philadelphia Home Rule Charter to create
12 the Division of Workforce Solutions
13 within the Department of Commerce, to
14 promote workforce development activity
15 serving Philadelphians seeking jobs and
16 training opportunities in the public or
17 private sectors; and providing for the
18 submission of the amendment to the
19 electors of Philadelphia.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
21 Thank you.

22 The Chair again recognizes
23 Councilwoman Gilmore Richardson.

24 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Thank
25 you, Mr. President. On your behalf, I

1 2/16/23 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 move the adoption of the resolution.

3 (Duly seconded.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

5 Thank you. It's been moved and seconded
6 that the resolution be adopted. Because
7 Resolution No. 220872 is an amendment to
8 the Home Rule Charter, it requires
9 two-thirds vote. Therefore, the question
10 shall be, shall the resolution be
11 adopted.

12 Mr. Decker, please call the
13 roll.

14 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman
15 Bass.

16 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Aye.

17 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman
18 Brooks.

19 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: Aye.

20 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman
21 Driscoll.

22 COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL: Aye.

23 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman
24 Gauthier.

25 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Aye.

1 2/16/23 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman

3 Gilmore Richardson.

4 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Aye.

5 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman

6 Johnson.

7 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Aye.

8 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Jones.

9 COUNCILMAN JONES: Aye.

10 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman

11 Lozada.

12 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Aye.

13 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman

14 O'Neill.

15 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Aye.

16 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman

17 Phillips.

18 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: Aye.

19 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman

20 Squilla.

21 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Aye.

22 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman

23 Thomas.

24 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Aye.

25 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman

1 2/16/23 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 Vaughn.

3 COUNCILWOMAN VAUGHN: Aye.

4 CHIEF CLERK: Council President
5 Clarke.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Aye.

7 The ayes are 15; the nays are
8 zero. A majority of members present,
9 two-thirds, Resolution No. 220872 has
10 been adopted.

11 Mr. Decker, please read the
12 title of Resolution No. 230016.

13 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
14 proposing an amendment to the
15 Philadelphia Home Rule Charter to provide
16 for exemption from civil service for
17 staff of the Citizens Police Oversight
18 Commission; and providing for the
19 submission of the amendment to the
20 electors of Philadelphia.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
22 Chair recognizes Councilman Jones.

23 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
24 Mr. President and colleagues. Right now
25 Bill Greenlee would be flipping desks

1 2/16/23 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 over for all the Charter amendments we've
3 introduced today. He was an opponent of
4 messing with a document that he thought
5 was pretty solid, but I think in today's
6 climate, in today's world environment and
7 nationally, we have to redo things and
8 think differently.

9 Tyre Nichols was murdered. He
10 was beaten to death, and it has become a
11 national issue. It's not even a debate,
12 but it's become a national issue. And I
13 am not a perfect servant. I am a public
14 servant, and I pray every day to learn
15 from my mistakes. But this is not a
16 mistake.

17 If that happened here in
18 Philadelphia, we would not be ready to
19 deal with all that comes with that,
20 because our Commission has been hamstrung
21 from hiring the best and brightest of a
22 talent pool to be ready for not -- I pray
23 every day that it never happens here,
24 that we get a pass, but we have to be
25 prepared for when it happens here. Why?

1 2/16/23 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 Because it has rippling effects
3 throughout our city.

4 There's not a neighborhood that
5 was not affected by the uprising, from
6 Chestnut Hill to South Philadelphia. We
7 have to be prepared so that people,
8 citizens, know that you're not always
9 going to get every decision you want, but
10 those decisions are considered fairly.

11 So right now the vote before
12 us, if we were not to do it, would only
13 slow the process down. And I think
14 sometimes that analysis paralysis is a
15 tactic. As long as they can keep it from
16 being totally functional, they can keep
17 it from being relevant to public policy
18 in the City of Philadelphia.

19 So I need you to think about
20 what would have happened had that traffic
21 stop, Isaiah Thomas, for equitable laws
22 for trafficking, what would have happened
23 in Philadelphia? Would we have been
24 ready to review, to analyze what
25 happened? I would tell you no. But I

1 2/16/23 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 tell you by a vote affirmative today,
3 we're getting closer to being able to say
4 and look people in the eye from the
5 community and say that we put the best
6 possible fair plan forward.

7 Thank you, Mr. President.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
9 Thank you, Councilman.

10 Councilman, can I get a motion
11 on the resolution.

12 COUNCILMAN JONES: I move for
13 the adoption. I got into it. I move for
14 the adoption of the resolution.

15 (Duly seconded.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
17 Thank you, Councilman.

18 It's been moved and seconded
19 that the resolution be adopted. Because
20 Resolution No. 230016 is an amendment to
21 the Home Rule Charter, it requires
22 two-thirds vote. Therefore, the question
23 shall be, shall the resolution be
24 adopted.

25 Mr. Decker, please call that

1 2/16/23 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 roll.

3 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman

4 Bass.

5 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Aye.

6 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman

7 Brooks.

8 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: Aye.

9 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman

10 Driscoll.

11 COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL: Aye.

12 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman

13 Gauthier.

14 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Aye.

15 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman

16 Gilmore Richardson.

17 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Aye.

18 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman

19 Johnson.

20 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Aye.

21 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Jones.

22 COUNCILMAN JONES: Aye.

23 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman

24 Lozada.

25 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Aye.

1 2/16/23 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman

3 O'Neill.

4 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: No.

5 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman

6 Phillips.

7 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: Aye.

8 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman

9 Squilla.

10 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Aye.

11 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman

12 Thomas.

13 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Aye.

14 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman

15 Vaughn.

16 COUNCILWOMAN VAUGHN: Aye.

17 CHIEF CLERK: Council President

18 Clarke.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Aye.

20 The ayes are 13; the nays are

21 one. Two-thirds of all members of

22 Council voting in the affirmative,

23 Resolution No. 230016 has been adopted.

24 Let the record reflect, as was

25 said earlier, Councilman, we have people

1 2/16/23 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 seemingly leaving every week, so I want
3 to change the vote on Resolution No.
4 220872 and 220743. Those votes are 14;
5 zero and not 15; zero.

6 Thank you.

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

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
10 Mr. Decker, please read the title of Bill
11 No. 220733.

12 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
13 providing for the submission to the
14 qualified electors of the City of
15 Philadelphia of an amendment to The
16 Philadelphia Home Rule Charter to change
17 the requirements for contributions and
18 minimum balance of the Budget
19 Stabilization Reserve and make other
20 technical changes; fixing the date of a
21 special election for such purpose;
22 prescribing the form of ballot question
23 to be voted on; and, authorizing the
24 appropriate officers to publish notice
25 and to make arrangements for the special

2/16/2023

1 2/16/23 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 election.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

4 Thank you.

5 This bill having been read on
6 two different days, the question now is
7 shall the bill pass finally.

8 Mr. Decker, call the roll.

9 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman
10 Bass.

11 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Aye.

12 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman
13 Brooks.

14 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: Aye.

15 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman
16 Driscoll.

17 COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL: Aye.

18 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman
19 Gauthier.

20 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Aye.

21 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman
22 Gilmore Richardson.

23 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Aye.

24 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman
25 Johnson.

1 2/16/23 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Aye.
3 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Jones.
4 COUNCILMAN JONES: Aye.
5 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman
6 Lozada.
7 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Aye.
8 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman
9 O'Neill.
10 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Aye.
11 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman
12 Phillips.
13 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: Aye.
14 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman
15 Squilla.
16 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Aye.
17 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman
18 Thomas.
19 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Aye.
20 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman
21 Vaughn.
22 COUNCILWOMAN VAUGHN: Aye.
23 CHIEF CLERK: Council President
24 Clarke.
25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Aye.

1 2/16/23 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 The ayes are 14; the nays are
3 zero. A majority of members present
4 voting in the affirmative, the bill
5 passes.

6 Mr. Decker, please read the
7 title of Bill No. 220864.

8 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
9 providing for the submission of the
10 qualified electors of the City of
11 Philadelphia of the proposal set forth in
12 a Resolution approved by Council an
13 amendment to The Philadelphia Home Rule
14 Charter relating to the creation of the
15 Division of Workforce Solutions within
16 the Department of Commerce, to promote
17 workforce development activities serving
18 Philadelphians seeking jobs and training
19 opportunities in the public or private
20 sectors; and, authorizing the appropriate
21 officers to publish notice and to make
22 arrangements for the special election.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
24 Chair recognizes Councilwoman Gilmore
25 Richardson.

1 2/16/23 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Thank
3 you, Council President. I just wanted to
4 pause to say thank you for your work on
5 this legislation and for the work that
6 we've done together in reaching this
7 legislation to this point in the process
8 and all the work that we've done over the
9 summer just to look at every facet and
10 every line of this bill.

11 I just wanted to say thank you
12 for the opportunity and thank Jenaye on
13 your team as well, who did a lot of
14 diligent work on this legislation.

15 Thank you.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
17 Thank you, Councilwoman, and thank you
18 for your awesome input and work on this
19 issue, and I want to thank the
20 Administration and Commerce Department
21 for their contributions also.

22 This bill having been read on
23 two different days, the question now is
24 shall the bill pass finally.

25 Chief Clerk will please call

1 2/16/23 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 the roll.

3 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman

4 Bass.

5 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Aye.

6 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman

7 Brooks.

8 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: Aye.

9 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman

10 Driscoll.

11 COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL: Aye.

12 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman

13 Gauthier.

14 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Aye.

15 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman

16 Gilmore Richardson.

17 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Aye.

18 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman

19 Johnson.

20 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Aye.

21 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Jones.

22 COUNCILMAN JONES: Aye.

23 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman

24 Lozada.

25 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Aye.

1 2/16/23 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman

3 O'Neill.

4 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Aye.

5 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman

6 Phillips.

7 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: Aye.

8 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman

9 Squilla.

10 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Aye.

11 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman

12 Thomas.

13 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Aye.

14 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman

15 Vaughn.

16 COUNCILWOMAN VAUGHN: Aye.

17 CHIEF CLERK: Council President

18 Clarke.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Aye.

20 The ayes are 14; the nays are
21 zero. A majority of members present
22 voting in the affirmative, the bill
23 passes.

24 Mr. Decker, 230004.

25 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance

1 2/16/23 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 providing for the submission to the
3 qualified electors of the City of
4 Philadelphia of the proposal set forth in
5 a Resolution approved by Council
6 proposing an amendment to The
7 Philadelphia Home Rule Charter relating
8 to civil service exemptions for staff of
9 the Citizens Police Oversight Commission;
10 fixing the date of a special election for
11 such purpose; prescribing the form of
12 ballot question to be voted on; and
13 authorizing the appropriate officers to
14 publish notice and to make arrangements
15 for the special election.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

17 Thank you.

18 This bill having been read on
19 two different days, the question now is
20 shall the bill pass finally.

21 Mr. Decker, call the roll.

22 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman
23 Bass.

24 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Aye.

25 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman

1 2/16/23 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 Brooks.

3 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: Aye.

4 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman

5 Driscoll.

6 COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL: Aye.

7 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman

8 Gauthier.

9 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Aye.

10 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman

11 Gilmore Richardson.

12 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Aye.

13 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman

14 Johnson.

15 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Aye.

16 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Jones.

17 COUNCILMAN JONES: Aye.

18 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman

19 Lozada.

20 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Aye.

21 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman

22 O'Neill.

23 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: No.

24 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman

25 Phillips.

1 2/16/23 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: Aye.

3 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman

4 Squilla.

5 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Aye.

6 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman

7 Thomas.

8 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Aye.

9 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman

10 Vaughn.

11 COUNCILWOMAN VAUGHN: Aye.

12 CHIEF CLERK: Council President

13 Clarke.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Aye.

15 The ayes are 13; the nays are
16 one. A majority of members present
17 voting in the affirmative, the bill
18 passes.

19 Mr. Decker, do you have any
20 additional resolutions?

21 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
22 honoring and congratulating Champions of
23 the Week, Cayla Waddington, Ava Jackson,
24 Kevin Leonard, Khyree Cousins, and
25 Antoinette Ellis, for their incredibly

1 2/16/23 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 hard work writing and performing original
3 speeches for the sixth annual Thomas and
4 Woods Foundation Martin Luther King Jr.
5 Oratorical Contest, introduced today by
6 Councilman Thomas.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
8 Chair recognizes Councilman Thomas.

9 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank you,
10 Council President. Thank you,
11 colleagues. I move for the adoption of
12 the resolution.

13 (Duly seconded.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: It's
15 been moved and properly seconded.

16 All in favor indicate by saying
17 aye.

18 (Aye.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
20 Those opposed?

21 (No response.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
23 ayes have it, and that resolution is
24 adopted.

25 CHIEF CLERK: And a resolution

2/16/2023

1 2/16/23 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 authorizing the Committee on Licenses and
3 Inspections to hold hearings examining
4 the impact of new regulations on the
5 short term rental market in Philadelphia,
6 introduced today by Councilman Thomas.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
8 Chair again recognizes Councilman Thomas.

9 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank you,
10 Council President. I move for the
11 adoption of the resolution.

12 (Duly seconded.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: It's
14 been moved and properly seconded.

15 All in favor indicate by saying
16 aye.

17 (Aye.)

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
19 Those opposed?

20 (No response.)

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
22 ayes have it, and that resolution is
23 adopted.

24 CHIEF CLERK: And a resolution
25 honoring and congratulating Nicodemus

1 2/16/23 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 Madehdou, for the success and incredible
3 work of his gaming business JumpButton
4 Studio and JumpButton Animation, which
5 seek to increase person-of-color
6 representation in the gaming and media
7 industries, introduced today by
8 Councilman Thomas.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
10 Chair again recognizes Councilman Thomas.

11 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank you,
12 Council President.

13 I want to take a second to
14 remind everybody of our gaming event
15 that's happening at the end of the month.
16 I talked about it in Council last week,
17 and I appreciate Nicodemus for partnering
18 with us. And I move for the adoption of
19 the resolution.

20 (Duly seconded.)

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: It's
22 been moved and properly seconded.

23 All in favor indicate by saying
24 aye.

25 (Aye.)

1 2/16/23 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

3 Those opposed?

4 (No response.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
6 ayes have it, and that resolution is
7 adopted.

8 CHIEF CLERK: And a resolution
9 authorizing the Philadelphia City Council
10 Committee on Education to hold hearings
11 to examine the impacts of the recent
12 court decision declaring the formula for
13 funding primary and secondary schools in
14 the Commonwealth unconstitutional as the
15 current formula creates have and have
16 nots among students, introduced today by
17 Councilman Thomas.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
19 Chair recognizes Councilman Thomas.

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

23 (Duly seconded.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: It's
25 been moved and properly seconded.

1 2/16/23 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 All in favor indicate by saying
3 aye.

4 (Aye.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

6 Those opposed?

7 (No response.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
9 ayes have it, and that resolution is
10 adopted.

11 CHIEF CLERK: And a resolution
12 celebrating and honoring the life and
13 legacy of Tommie W. St. Hill, Sr. for his
14 activism, civic engagement and service to
15 the City of Philadelphia, introduced
16 today by Councilman Jones on behalf of
17 Councilman Harrity.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
19 Chair recognizes Councilman Jones.

20 COUNCILMAN JONES: On behalf of
21 Councilmember Harrity, I move for the
22 adoption.

23 (Duly seconded.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: It's
25 been moved and properly seconded.

1 2/16/23 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 All in favor indicate by saying
3 aye.

4 (Aye.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

6 Those opposed?

7 (No response.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
9 ayes have it, and that resolution is
10 adopted.

11 CHIEF CLERK: And a resolution
12 honoring Paul R. Levy upon the occasion
13 of his retirement, and recognizing him
14 for his hard work and dedication to the
15 City of Philadelphia as the president and
16 CEO of the Center City District for
17 33 years, introduced today by Councilman
18 Johnson.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
20 Chair recognizes Councilman Johnson.

21 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you,
22 Council President. I move for the
23 adoption of the resolution.

24 (Duly seconded.)

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: It's

1 2/16/23 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 been moved and properly seconded.

3 All in favor indicate by saying
4 aye.

5 (Aye.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

7 Those opposed?

8 (No response.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
10 ayes have it, and that resolution is
11 adopted.

12 CHIEF CLERK: And a resolution
13 recognizing and honoring the New
14 Kensington Community Development
15 Corporation (NKCDC) for 38 years of
16 dedicated service to Philadelphia,
17 introduced today by Councilwoman Lozada.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
19 Chair recognizes Councilwoman Lozada.

20 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Thank
21 you, Mr. President. I move for the
22 adoption of the resolution.

23 (Duly seconded.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: It's
25 been moved and properly seconded.

1 2/16/23 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 All in favor indicate by saying
3 aye.

4 (Aye.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

6 Those opposed?

7 (No response.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
9 ayes have it, and that resolution is
10 adopted.

11 CHIEF CLERK: And a resolution
12 recognizing and honoring Impact Services
13 for 49 years of dedicated service to
14 Philadelphia, introduced today by
15 Councilwoman Lozada.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
17 Chair again recognizes Councilwoman
18 Lozada.

19 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Thank
20 you, Council President. Before I move --
21 I make a move, I'd like to recognize
22 Casey O'Donnell and Bill McKinney, who
23 both had to leave, but I want to make
24 sure that as a body we recognize them for
25 their hard work and dedication not only

1 2/16/23 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 to the organizations that they serve as
3 executive directors for but to the
4 communities of Harrowgate and Kensington
5 and their commitment to ensuring that
6 community residents are included in the
7 conversation all the time.

8 With that, I'd like to move for
9 the adoption of the resolution.

10 (Duly seconded.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: It's
12 been moved and properly seconded.

13 All in favor indicate by saying
14 aye.

15 (Aye.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
17 Those opposed?

18 (No response.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
20 ayes have it, and that resolution is
21 adopted.

22 CHIEF CLERK: And a resolution
23 authorizing the City Council Committee on
24 Public Safety to hold public hearings to
25 examine the open-air drug market and

1 2/16/23 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 other barriers to clean, safe, crime-free
3 streets in Kensington, introduced today
4 by Councilwoman Lozada.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
6 Chair recognizes Councilwoman Lozada.

7 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Thank
8 you, Council President. I move for the
9 adoption of the resolution.

10 (Duly seconded.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: It's
12 been moved and properly seconded.

13 All in favor indicate by saying
14 aye.

15 (Aye.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
17 Those opposed?

18 (No response.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
20 ayes have it, and that resolution is
21 adopted.

22 CHIEF CLERK: And a resolution
23 calling for the establishment of a
24 "Marshall Stabilization and Recovery
25 Plan" to combat the issues facing

1 2/16/23 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 Kensington and the surrounding areas in
3 Philadelphia, introduced today by
4 Councilwoman Lozada.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
6 Chair again recognizes Councilwoman
7 Lozada.

8 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Thank
9 you, Council President. I move for the
10 adoption of the resolution.

11 (Duly seconded.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: It's
13 been moved and properly seconded.

14 All in favor indicate by saying
15 aye.

16 (Aye.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
18 Those opposed?

19 (No response.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
21 ayes have it, and that resolution is
22 adopted.

23 CHIEF CLERK: And a resolution
24 honoring and recognizing Mama Maisha, a
25 creative and loving teacher, community

1 2/16/23 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 leader, and cultural educator, who has
3 nurtured social justice movements in
4 Philadelphia, built and transformed
5 institutions, and shared her wisdom with
6 so many Philadelphians, introduced today
7 by Councilwoman Brooks.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
9 Chair recognizes Councilwoman Brooks.

10 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: Thank
11 you, Council President. I move for the
12 adoption of this resolution.

13 (Duly seconded.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: It's
15 been moved and properly seconded.

16 All in favor indicate by saying
17 aye.

18 (Aye.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
20 Those opposed?

21 (No response.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
23 ayes have it, and that resolution is
24 adopted.

25 CHIEF CLERK: There are no

1 2/16/23 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 other resolutions on the Final Passage
3 Calendar, Mr. President.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

5 Thank you very much.

6 That concludes our bills and
7 resolutions for today. We will now move
8 to our speeches.

9 Speeches on behalf of the
10 minority?

11 (No response.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: I
13 only have one left -- two left. I'm
14 sorry. Ever-changing Council.

15 Speeches on behalf of the
16 majority?

17 The Chair recognizes
18 Councilwoman Gauthier.

19 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Thank
20 you, Council President.

21 I'd like to take a moment to
22 thank you and Councilmember Gilmore
23 Richardson as well as our other
24 colleagues who supported the Home Rule
25 Charter amendment to create the Division

1 2/16/23 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 of Workforce Solutions and improve
3 reporting on workforce development to
4 City Council.

5 One of my focuses this Council
6 session is workforce development within
7 the life sciences industry, because as
8 the life sciences sector explodes across
9 Philadelphia, we need to be doing
10 everything we can to ensure that this
11 industry grows alongside rather than
12 without working-class Black and brown
13 residents. And nowhere are the life
14 sciences growing more than in areas of
15 West and Southwest Philadelphia, the
16 areas I represent.

17 Just last week, we broke ground
18 on a new life sciences development at
19 32nd and Cuthbert Street. Not only will
20 3201 Cuthbert be the largest life
21 sciences development in Philadelphia, it
22 will also be the most high tech life
23 sciences building on the entire Eastern
24 Seaboard.

25 Almost half of the over 500,000

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rentable square feet in this facility was spoken for before a shovel was even in the ground, because life sciences companies know that Philadelphia is the place to be.

And I could not be more excited, because the life sciences industry is particularly suited to uplift our city because it generates high-paying jobs for residents from all educational backgrounds. Even neighbors without a college degree can obtain a family-sustaining job as a lab technician, for example.

But this will only happen if the City establishes and expands high-quality job training opportunities that prepare our residents to be competitive applicants for these jobs before they even come online.

We must also create opportunities to expose young people to the life sciences industry, support GED programs with ties to the life sciences,

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2 and link training programs to specific
3 job opportunities.

4 Escalating workforce
5 development within the life sciences
6 industry is crucial work, and we must
7 start right now if we want to maximize
8 this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to
9 lift working-class Black and brown
10 Philadelphians out of poverty and into
11 prosperity. That's why I could not be
12 more excited about the creation of the
13 Division of Workforce Solutions within
14 the Commerce Department.

15 So, once again, thank you,
16 Council President and Councilmember
17 Gilmore Richardson, and I share your
18 sense of urgency around workforce
19 development and taking bold steps to give
20 our residents the resources they need to
21 thrive.

22 I look forward to continuing to
23 work with all of you to promote workforce
24 development in the life sciences sector
25 and beyond, and I urge voters to vote yes

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2 on the Home Rule Charter amendment
3 approving the creation of the Division of
4 Workforce Solutions this May.

5 Thank you so much.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

7 Thank you, Councilwoman. Thank you.

8 The Chair recognizes Councilman
9 Phillips.

10 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: Thank
11 you, Council President.

12 I just want to say that I was
13 really extremely moved by the tribute for
14 Tommie St. Hill. I met him one time
15 briefly right before he passed away. So
16 I wish I could have known him even
17 better, as you all knew him.

18 I also want to say I want to
19 thank our Councilmember, Quetcy Lozada,
20 for her resolution today around
21 Kensington and the troubles that are
22 happening there. I'm looking forward to
23 working closely with you to resolve those
24 issues that is really important. Thanks
25 to everyone for their testimony.

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2 But I also just wanted to
3 quickly note for those of you who live --
4 residents who live in East Oak Lane and
5 Olney, on February 23rd, our office is
6 hosting Table Talks with Councilmember
7 Anthony Phillips. It is from 6 to
8 8 o'clock. It is at PASSI located at
9 6926 Old York Road. And then also on
10 February 27th, we're doing a table talk
11 as well at the Masjidullah at 7401
12 Limekiln Pike. Both are from 6 to 8
13 o'clock. Come get some food, meet some
14 City resources, and come meet your new
15 Councilmember. So looking forward to
16 seeing you all.

17 Thank you.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

19 Thank you. Thank you, Councilman.

20 The Chair recognizes Councilman
21 Driscoll.

22 COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL: Thank
23 you, Mr. President.

24 Philadelphia is open for
25 business. We have jobs. We talked about

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2 them last week. L&I is looking to hire.
3 So encourage people that are looking for
4 jobs in License and Inspection, please go
5 to that website.

6 We have two other opportunities
7 I want to highlight briefly. There's
8 seasonal bus drivers for special needs
9 summer camp through Parks and Rec. The
10 hourly pay, \$25 an hour.

11 Responsibilities: Drive various program
12 vehicles, including, but not limited to,
13 program buses, wheelchair-accessible
14 vans, and other vehicles; transport
15 participants to and from trips and summer
16 camp programming; assist participants on
17 and off vehicles as needed; assure safety
18 for all during trips and summer camp
19 pickup and drop-off assists in
20 transporting vehicles to various PPR
21 locations; and perform related work as
22 required. Qualifications: Education
23 experience equivalent to Grade 12; CDL
24 license with passenger endorsement;
25 ability to physically perform the duties

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and to work in the environmental conditions required for a position in this class; completion of a CPR and a first aid program; and possession of a current CPR and first aid certification at the time of application and during the tenure of employment as a recreational specialty instructor.

Interested candidates must submit a resume and cover letter to PPR.hr@phila.gov.

Any questions can be directed to Parks and Recreation, telephone No. 215-683-3600. Again, 215-683-3600.

And then, once again, the L&I inspectors. We're still accepting applications for code enforcement and building inspectors. Pay for code enforcement inspectors range from \$47,787 to \$66,130. Pay for building inspectors range from \$56,222 to 67,690. If interested, you should go to <https://urldefense.com> and search "inspector" for the job postings and more

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2 information.

3 So please if you have any
4 questions, if you didn't get all this
5 information, you can call my office here
6 in City Hall at 215-686-3444. We'll help
7 assist. Please, we're open for business.
8 We have jobs available. We need
9 applicants.

10 Thank you, Mr. President.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

12 Thank you, Councilman. Great
13 information. We appreciate it.

14 The Chair recognizes
15 Councilwoman Brooks.

16 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: No. I'm
17 sorry.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

19 You're good?

20 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: I'm good.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

22 Okay. The Chair recognizes Councilwoman
23 Lozada.

24 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Thank
25 you, Council President.

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2 This week I learned that the
3 staff of the Please Touch Museum recently
4 filed a petition to unionize and fight
5 for their rights. They seek fair pay and
6 benefits to sustain a career at the
7 museum they love; a transparent process
8 of on-boarding, scheduling, training, and
9 promotion; a safe, inclusive workplace
10 free of discrimination and harassment,
11 and systems of accountability where
12 discrimination, harassment occur; a say
13 in policies that affect them the most.

14 I'm told that early
15 conversations were cordial, but that the
16 organization's leadership is now engaging
17 in the same union bussing tactics seen in
18 other instances where a union is not
19 voluntarily recognized.

20 A supermajority of staff
21 express intent to unionize, putting their
22 jobs on the line to fight for their
23 rights and to grow the institution as a
24 whole. That is a powerful indicator that
25 the union will form soon or after a

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2 drawn-out process that will weigh heavily
3 on all involved.

4 We saw the effects of that at
5 last year's strike at the Art Museum when
6 leadership delayed coming to the table,
7 and we are seeing them now while the
8 Temple University grad students
9 association is on strike.

10 City Council allocated
11 2.1 million to the Please Touch Museum
12 from this fiscal year. I call on the
13 museum to voluntarily recognize this
14 union or, at minimum, to not obstruct the
15 union vote so that everyone can make the
16 best use of that money and focus on
17 supporting the growth of the children of
18 Philadelphia, the state, and the country.

19 I will post more information
20 about this on my social media and invite
21 my colleagues to join me in supporting
22 the workers of Please Touch Museum.

23 Thank you, Council President.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

25 Thank you. Thank you, Councilwoman.

1 2/16/23 - STATED - ADJOURNMENT

2 Thank you so much.

3 The Chair recognizes Councilman
4 Johnson.

5 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Yeah,
6 Council President. I just want to make
7 an announcement that immediately after
8 Council session, at 1:00 p.m. we will be
9 having a Transportation and Public
10 Utilities Committee hearing. And so all
11 of the members, I just wanted to ask you
12 to please be prompt so we can get in and
13 get out addressing the people's business
14 for today.

15 Thank you, Council President.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

17 Thank you, Councilman.

18 That concludes our speeches on
19 behalf of the majority and the minority
20 today.

21 So with that, the Chair
22 recognizes Councilman Squilla for a
23 motion to adjourn.

24 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Thank you,
25 Mr. President. I move that Council stand

1 2/16/23 - STATED - ADJOURNMENT

2 adjourned until Thursday, February 23rd

3 at 10:00 a.m.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Can

5 I get a second?

6 (Duly seconded.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

8 Thank you. It's been moved and seconded

9 that Council stand adjourned until

10 Thursday, February 23rd, 2023, 10:00 a.m.

11 All in favor indicate by saying

12 aye.

13 (Aye.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

15 Those opposed?

16 (No response.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The

18 ayes have it.

19 Thank you very much. Please be

20 safe.

21 - - -

22 (Stated Meeting adjourned at

23 12:50 p.m.)

24 - - -

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CERTIFICATE

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

MICHELE L. MURPHY
RPR-Notary Public

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