

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Thursday, February 20, 2025
1:10 p.m.

PRESENT:

COUNCILMAN MARK SQUILLA, CHAIR
COUNCILWOMAN KATHERINE GILMORE RICHARDSON,
VICE-CHAIR
COUNCILWOMAN CINDY BASS
COUNCILWOMAN JAMIE GAUTHIER
COUNCILWOMAN QUETCY M. LOZADA
COUNCILMAN BRIAN J. O'NEILL
COUNCILMAN ISAIAH THOMAS

BILLS: 250071, 250072, 250073

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2 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA:

3 Good afternoon, everyone. Thank
4 you for being here. Welcome to the
5 hearing on the Committee of
6 Appropriations.

7 I note that the hour has
8 come and a quorum of the Committee
9 is present. To my left,
10 Councilmember Gilmore Richardson.
11 To my right, Councilmember Cindy
12 Bass and Councilmember Brian
13 O'Neill. We now have a quorum and
14 the hearing is called to order.
15 This is a public hearing on
16 Appropriations regarding Bill Nos.
17 250071, 250072, 250073.

18 Will the Clerk please
19 read the titles of the bills.

20 THE CLERK: Bill No.
21 250071, to amend Bill No. 240182
22 (Approved June 14, 2024) entitled,
23 "An Ordinance to adopt a Capital
24 Program for six Fiscal Years,

1 2025-2030 inclusive," by revising
2 various appropriation amounts and
3 totals to conform to amendments to
4 the FY2025 Capital Budget
5 Ordinance, all under certain terms
6 and conditions.

7 Bill No. 250072,
8 authorizing transfers and
9 appropriations for Fiscal Year 2025
10 from the Grants Revenue Fund
11 certain or all City offices,
12 departments, boards and
13 commissions, to the General Fund,
14 certain or all City offices,
15 departments, boards and
16 commissions, and the Transportation
17 Fund, certain or all City offices,
18 departments, boards and
19 commissions.

20 And Bill No. 250073, to
21 amend Bill No. 240181 (approved
22 June 14, 2024) entitled, "An
23 Ordinance to adopt the Fiscal 2025
24 Capital Budget," by revising

1 various appropriation amounts and
2 totals, all under certain terms and
3 conditions.

4 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA:

5 Thank you. We'll now call our
6 first witness for Bill No. 250071.
7 Sabrina Maynard, please come --
8 state your name for the record and
9 then proceed with your testimony.

10 (Witness approached
11 Witness table.)

12 MS. MAYNARD: Good
13 afternoon. Sabrina Maynard, Budget
14 Director. Going -- all right.
15 Good afternoon, Chair Squilla and
16 members of the Appropriations
17 Committee. I'm Sabrina Maynard,
18 Budget Director. I'm joined by
19 representatives from each
20 department that has a request in
21 the transfer ordinance.

22 I'm here to testify in
23 support of Bill No. 250072, a
24 proposed FY25 spring midyear

1 transfer ordinance; Bill No.
2 250071, amending Bill No. 240182,
3 entitled "An Ordinance to adopt
4 Capital Program for the six Fiscal
5 Years 2025-2030 inclusive," and
6 Bill No. 250073, amending Bill No.
7 240181, entitled "An Ordinance to
8 adopt a Fiscal 2025 Capital
9 Budget," by revising various
10 appropriations amounts and totals,
11 all under certain terms and
12 conditions.

13 The proposed investments
14 are for critical legal needs in
15 FY25 both for outside counsel and
16 for indemnities and on making
17 immediate term event preparedness
18 investments in advance of 2026
19 special events. The operating
20 ordinance is being amended to add
21 additional funds for partner
22 organizations in advance of special
23 events in 2026.

24 The Administration has

1 been working with Philadelphia
2 Soccer to ensure that the Lemon
3 Hill site is prepared to host the
4 World Cup's Fan Fest. The
5 departments included in this
6 request for the World Cup's Fan
7 Fest preparation include the Office
8 of the Director of Finance, the
9 Managing Director's Office, the
10 Office of Innovation and Technology
11 and Philadelphia Parks &
12 Recreation.

13 This work will include
14 tree brush pruning, ADA ramps and
15 pedestrian access improvements,
16 site grading and drainage
17 improvements, design of sidewalk
18 and traffic signal improvements for
19 pedestrian safety and work on the
20 Lemon Hill overlook structure.

21 It's critical that this
22 work begins in FY25 so that any
23 additional construction work can be
24 done in '26 and be ready for the

1 May 2026 kickoff of events. You
2 have my testimony for all three
3 bills laying out the various
4 requests in the operating ordinance
5 and in the two capital ordinances,
6 so I'm happy to take any questions.
7 And we'll call on colleagues if
8 there are questions for colleagues
9 in the audience.

10 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA:

11 Thank you, Sabrina. And thank you
12 and your team for working with
13 Council and the Appropriations
14 Committee to go over those
15 amendments. And I appreciate the
16 Administration and Council
17 supporting the amendments to this
18 legislation.

19 Are there any questions
20 from members of Council?

21 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: I
22 just want to second that. I think
23 it was a very healthy negotiation.

24 MS. MAYNARD: Thank you.

1 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA:

2 Thank you.

3 If there's no other
4 questions, is there anyone else
5 here to testify on any of the three
6 bills?

7 Kristen Clark.

8 (Witness approached
9 Witness table.)

10 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA:

11 Kristen, just state your name for
12 the record and you can proceed.

13 MS. CLARK: Not a
14 problem. Kristen Clark spelled
15 K-r-i-s-t-e-n, C-l-a-r-k. Forgive
16 me, guys. I didn't know we were
17 going this quickly. Good
18 afternoon, Chairperson, members of
19 the Committee and Councilmembers.
20 My name is Kristen Clark. I'm the
21 founder and Executive Director of
22 the Germantown Arts District. I'm
23 here today to urge your support for
24 funding for the Germantown 250

1 project. Hi, Councilwoman.

2 This is a vital
3 initiative preserving our city's
4 history while investing in its
5 future. This project is a result
6 of the Germantown 250 Committee's
7 desire to create a plan in
8 alignment with our current Mayor's
9 priority of maximizing the long-
10 term impact, positive impact on
11 residents and businesses.

12 The Germantown Arts
13 District has been a key driver and
14 influencer in uniting our community
15 through arts, culture and narrative
16 building. We were complementary to
17 the historic profile of Germantown
18 by advocating that Germantown is
19 where history of tomorrow is being
20 made today. Our goal is to
21 highlight the Germantown as an arts
22 and culture hub for the city of
23 Philadelphia. We're going to be a
24 beacon for all innovative arts

1 education.

2 We are creating a model
3 ecosystem where community assumes
4 its role in supporting the
5 individual's right to need and
6 create. Germantown is one of the
7 most historically significant
8 neighborhoods in the country. We
9 can all agree home to the first
10 written protest, first bank run by
11 Black Americans. It also has a
12 thriving arts ecosystem.

13 Through Germantown 250,
14 we are not just celebrating
15 history, we're ensuring that arts
16 and culture remain a catalyst for
17 economic and social impact. As
18 Philadelphia prepares for the
19 nation's 250th Anniversary in 2026,
20 Philadelphia has naturally been
21 chosen as a go-to stage for many
22 national and global entities. This
23 is a once-in-a-generation
24 opportunity to ensure Germantown's

1 story is told at the scale it
2 deserves.

3 Germantown 250 will
4 activate historic corridors, engage
5 artists and businesses and draw
6 national attention to
7 Philadelphia's role in shaping
8 America. Without City Council's
9 investment, Germantown, one of
10 Philadelphia's most historic and
11 culturally-rich neighborhoods,
12 risks being left out of the
13 conversation.

14 I urge this Committee to
15 support the funding of the
16 Germantown 250 project. Investing
17 in its initiative is not just about
18 history. It's about equity,
19 tourism and ensuring that all of
20 Philadelphia benefits from the
21 social, economic and cultural
22 impact of all 2026 celebrations in
23 the city of neighborhoods.

24 It is imperative that we

1 honor Germantown in this moment
2 because, as history has proven and
3 my neighbors will confirm,
4 America's story, the culture story,
5 Philadelphia's story are found in
6 Germantown. The story starts here.
7 Thank you for your time.

8 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA:

9 Thank you so much for your
10 testimony. And I do want to say
11 that as we work through our
12 amendments, and we are working with
13 Philadelphia 250 to work with all
14 our community partners in making
15 sure that we have access and then
16 listening to them and they have
17 resources along the way. So thank
18 you for that and thank you for your
19 testimony.

20 Any questions?

21 Councilmember Bass.

22 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: I

23 just really wanted to say thank
24 you, Kristen, for coming down.

1 We've had a lot of conversation and
2 she's been an amazing partner. Her
3 and her entire team have been an
4 amazing partner in terms of making
5 sure that Germantown and Northwest
6 Philadelphia is not forgotten in
7 this big celebration that's going
8 to be happening here in the city,
9 so thank you.

10 MS. CLARK: Thank you so
11 much guys. Thanks for your time.

12 COUNCILWOMAN BASS:
13 You're welcome.

14 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA:
15 Thank you. And also I'd like to
16 recognize present at the hearing
17 are Councilmember Thomas and
18 Councilmember Gauthier.

19 Councilmember Thomas.

20 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Yep.
21 I just wanted to echo the
22 sentiments of my colleague. I do
23 not represent Germantown or the 8th
24 District, but I do live very close

1 and I think our District
2 Councilperson does a phenomenal job
3 at any time we can fight for
4 organizations in the uptown part of
5 the city of Philadelphia,
6 specifically our conversation today
7 around Germantown. I just want to
8 say thank you, colleague, for your
9 leadership.

10 I want to thank you for
11 coming down to City Hall to take
12 the time to advocate, to talk about
13 the importance of not just Center
14 City and some of the areas that's
15 around here as it relates to 2026
16 but making sure neighborhoods are
17 able to take advantage of this
18 opportunity, making sure Black and
19 Brown organizations, making sure
20 women-led organizations are also
21 able to take advantage this
22 opportunity as well too. So I just
23 wanted to take a moment to let you
24 know we appreciate your advocacy.

1 We appreciate your effort. We
2 appreciate you being here.

3 And also, thank my
4 colleague who represents the
5 amazing area of Germantown, because
6 we know Germantown is going to put
7 on a display that's going to make
8 the City of Philadelphia proud in
9 2026. So thank you.

10 MS. CLARK: Yes, we
11 will. Thank you guys so much
12 again.

13 COUNCILMAN THOMAS:
14 Thank you, Mr. Chair. I appreciate
15 you.

16 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: And
17 one other thing I just want to add
18 to that. And you know, listen, I
19 don't really publicly say thank you
20 as much to my colleagues because
21 some of the work that we do I feel
22 like this is what we signed up for.

23 But I do want to
24 especially thank Chairman Squilla

1 because I really had quite a few
2 conversations with him. I really
3 spent a lot of time talking to him
4 about this and working him over,
5 although he wasn't hard to work
6 over for the Northwest. But I
7 really wanted to take a moment and
8 say thank you so much,
9 Mr. Chairman, for being
10 understanding. Thank you.

11 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA:

12 Councilmember Gilmore Richardson.

13 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

14 RICHARDSON: Thank you. Thank you
15 very much, Mr. Chair.

16 And I too just wanted to
17 thank you for coming down to
18 provide testimony and thank our
19 Chairman for all of his work with
20 the Administration on this transfer
21 ordinance and give kudos to
22 Councilmember Thomas for his laser
23 being focused on all activities
24 2026 and to our colleague

1 Councilmember Bass for ensuring
2 that we were paying special
3 attention to our local communities
4 and neighborhoods and ensuring that
5 we have an opportunity to also
6 participate in 2026.

7 Just want to shout out
8 and thank the Budget and Finance
9 team and Michael Newmuis as well.

10 And while I have the
11 opportunity because we are
12 addressing some of the needs of
13 some of the additional departments
14 that are here and represented, I
15 wanted to thank the Office of
16 Emergency Management, the
17 Philadelphia Fire Department, the
18 Philadelphia Police Department and
19 all of the City departments who
20 have worked with our residents
21 around the unfortunate incident
22 that occurred in Northeast
23 Philadelphia with the plane crash.

24 You all acted in

1 excellence in a moment that we have
2 never really seen in our lifetimes
3 here in Philadelphia. So I just
4 wanted to say thank you publicly
5 while each of you are here. While
6 for us to run away from a scene
7 like that, you all had to go to the
8 scene and show up for the
9 community. So for that, we say
10 thank you.

11 And I too wanted to
12 thank Commissioner Slawson for the
13 work that we are working on in our
14 community as well, and just each
15 and every one of you who have been
16 helpful over the last several
17 months. Thank you very much.

18 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA:
19 Thank you, Councilmember.

20 And I too want to thank
21 the City for really dealing with
22 not only the tragedy, but then
23 right back into a parade that was
24 back-to-back. And to be able to

1 turn that around, we were able to
2 do that with our first responders
3 and with our Parks & Rec, Public
4 Property and everybody that was
5 included. An amazing job and kudos
6 to the Administration and the City
7 departments for making that happen.

8 And we want to thank
9 Councilmember Isaiah Thomas for his
10 great leadership on Celebration 250
11 along with Michael Newmuis of the
12 Administration. And really want to
13 thank the Finance team for working
14 with Council and meeting with us.

15 Is there any other
16 questions from members of --

17 (No response.)

18 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA:

19 Seeing none --

20 MS. CLARK: Thank you
21 guys.

22 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA:

23 Thank you so much.

24 That will now conclude

1 our public hearing for the
2 Committee. I just want to -- for
3 the record, Councilmember Lozada is
4 also present for the hearing.

5 That concludes our
6 hearing for the Committee. As we
7 now go into a public meeting to
8 consider action to be taken on
9 these bills before the Committee
10 today, the Chair recognizes Vice-
11 Chair Gilmore Richardson for a
12 motion on Bill No. 250071.

13 COUNCILMAN THOMAS:
14 Mr. Chair, can I give remarks?

15 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA:
16 Sorry. Councilmember --

17 COUNCILMAN THOMAS:
18 Before we vote, I just wanted to
19 take a moment just to give a few
20 remarks and say thank you to all of
21 my colleagues. I know I've been a
22 real pain over the last month or so
23 as it relates to the Appropriations
24 Committee and specifically the

1 midyear transfer.

2 I also want to say thank
3 you to the Administration,
4 especially Michael Newmuis who I've
5 also been a pain to and Rob. Of
6 course, Rob and your team, thank
7 you so much. The reason I've been
8 such a pain is because this is
9 important. I had an opportunity to
10 speak with the leadership from the
11 Mayor's team, and I talked to them
12 about my perspective of 2026 and
13 I'm going to just be very short.

14 A lot of times in
15 government you have the opportunity
16 to make a significant difference
17 that requires a lot of time. I
18 think about my colleagues to my
19 left and my right and the work that
20 you all do around housing, right.

21 When you're talking
22 about housing, that's something
23 that takes sometimes up to a decade
24 to see the impact of the work that

1 you're really doing. When I think
2 about the Neighborhood Preservation
3 Initiatives and other things that
4 we voted on, those things, they
5 take a long time to produce an
6 outcome.

7 2026 is our opportunity
8 where we can have a snapshot impact
9 right away. It's a legacy moment.
10 And at the end of the day if we can
11 get 2026 right, this will be a time
12 when someone's going to look back
13 50 years from now. They're going
14 to look at this City Council,
15 they're going to look at this Mayor
16 and going to say, what did you do
17 at the 250-year celebration.

18 Throughout the course of
19 the last couple months, we've been
20 looking back. We looked at what
21 was done in 1976. We looked at
22 what was done in 1876. And so, in
23 50 years someone's going to look
24 back at 2026 and say what did you

1 do, how was the money spent and
2 what difference did you make for
3 the city of Philadelphia.

4 And I think today's vote
5 is the beginning of a legacy moment
6 for us where someone is going to
7 look back in 50 years and say we
8 got it right in the city of
9 Philadelphia. And today is the
10 first step in that direction.

11 So, colleague, I just
12 wanted to say thank you for your
13 leadership similar to what
14 everybody else said. I know it's
15 been a very difficult last couple
16 of weeks dealing with all the
17 different pools and different
18 directions that people are going
19 in. But as we take this vote
20 today, I'm proud to say that I
21 think the City of Philadelphia is
22 going to get it right.

23 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

24 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA:

1 Thank you, Councilmember.

2 And I too want to thank
3 our Finance team, Helen and Council
4 President Johnson, for their
5 leadership on this as they guided
6 us through the process. So thank
7 you again.

8 We will consider action
9 to be taken. The Chair recognizes
10 Vice-Chair Gilmore Richardson for a
11 motion on Bill No. 250071.

12 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

13 RICHARDSON: Okay. Thank you,
14 Mr. Chair.

15 I move that Bill No.
16 250071 be reported from this
17 committee with a favorable
18 recommendation and further move
19 that the rules of Council be
20 suspended as to permit first
21 reading of this bill at the next
22 session of Council.

23 (Duly seconded.)

24 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: The

1 bill has been moved and properly
2 seconded. The motion has -- the
3 bill has been moved and properly
4 seconded. The motion has been
5 moved.

6 Bill No. 250071 will be
7 reported from this committee with a
8 favorable recommendation and
9 further move that the rules of
10 Council be suspended as to permit
11 the first reading of this bill at
12 the next session of Council.

13 All in favor will
14 signify by saying aye.

15 (Aye.)

16 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA:

17 Those opposed?

18 (No response.)

19 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA:

20 Ayes have it and the motion
21 carries.

22 Chair recognizes Vice-
23 Chair Gilmore Richardson for a
24 motion on Bill No. 250072 as

1 amended.

2 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

3 RICHARDSON: I offer an amendment
4 to Bill No. 250072. A copy of the
5 amendment has been circulated to
6 all members of the Committee. And
7 I move that the amendment to Bill
8 No. 250072 be approved.

9 (Duly seconded.)

10 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA:

11 Chair notes for the record that
12 Councilmember Lozada seconds the
13 motion. It has been moved and
14 properly seconded that the
15 amendment to Bill No. 250072 be
16 approved.

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

19 (Aye.)

20 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA:

21 Those opposed?

22 (No response.)

23 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA:

24 Ayes have it and the motion

1 carries.

2 The Chair now recognizes
3 Vice-Chair Gilmore Richardson for a
4 motion on Bill 250072 as amended.

5 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

6 RICHARDSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7 I move that Bill No.
8 250072 as amended be reported from
9 this committee with a favorable
10 recommendation and further move
11 that the rules of Council be
12 suspended as to permit first
13 reading of this bill at the next
14 session of Council.

15 (Duly seconded.)

16 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA:

17 Chair notes for the record that
18 Councilmember Gauthier seconds the
19 motion.

20 (Duly seconded.)

21 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: It
22 has been moved and properly
23 seconded that Bill No. 250072 as
24 amended be reported from this

1 committee with a favorable
2 recommendation and further move
3 that the rules of Council be
4 suspended as to permit the first
5 reading of this bill at the next
6 session of Council.

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

9 (Aye.)

10 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA:

11 Those opposed?

12 (No response.)

13 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: The
14 ayes have it and the motion
15 carries.

16 And the Chair recognizes
17 Kath -- Vice-Chair Councilmember
18 Gilmore Richardson for a motion on
19 Bill No. 250073.

20 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

21 RICHARDSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

22 I move that Bill No.

23 250073 be reported from this

24 committee with a favorable

1 recommendation and further move
2 that the rules of Council be
3 suspended as to permit first
4 reading of this bill at the next
5 session of Council.

6 (Duly seconded.)

7 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA:

8 Thank you. I note for the record
9 Councilmember Thomas seconds the
10 motion. It has been moved and
11 properly seconded that Bill No.
12 250073 be reported from this
13 committee with a favorable
14 recommendation and further moves
15 that the rules of Council be
16 suspended to permit the first
17 reading of this bill at the next
18 session of Council.

19 All in favor will
20 signify by saying aye.

21 (Aye.)

22 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA:

23 Those opposed?

24 (No response.)

1 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: The
2 ayes have it and the motion
3 carries.

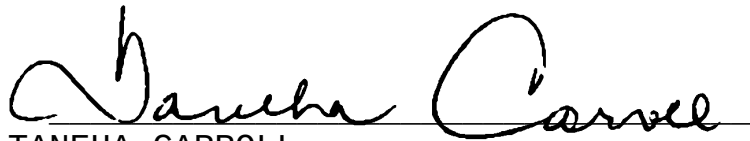
4 There are no additional
5 remarks from the Committee. Thank
6 you to the guests and people
7 testifying. This concludes our
8 business for the Committee on
9 Appropriations today. Thank you
10 for your attendance. Have a great
11 day.

12 (Committee on
13 Appropriations concluded at
14 1:30 p.m.)

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

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Taneha Carroll". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "T" and "C".

TANEHA CARROLL
Court Reporter - Notary Public

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	250-year	17:24	advocacy	America'	24
1	22:17	action	14:24	s	10:12,
1876	250071	20:8	advocate	12:4	15
22:22	4:6 5:2	24:8	14:12	American	assumes
1976	20:12	activate	advocati	s	10:3
22:21	24:11,	11:4	ng	10:11	attendan
1:30	16 25:6	activiti	9:18	amounts	ce
30:14	250072	es	afternoo	4:1	30:10
	4:23	16:23	n	5:10	attentio
2	25:24	ADA	4:13, 15	Annivers	n
2025	26:4, 8,	6:14	8:18	ary	11:6
5:8	15	add	agree	10:19	17:3
2025-	27:4, 8,	5:20	10:9	approach	audience
2030	23	15:17	alignmen	ed	7:9
5:5	250073	addition	t	4:10	aye
2026	5:6	al	9:8	8:8	25:14,
5:18, 23	28:19,	5:21	amazing	appropri	15
7:1	23	6:23	13:2, 4	ation	26:18,
10:19	29:12	17:13	15:5	4:1	19
11:22	250th	30:4	19:5	appropri	28:8, 9
14:15	10:19	addressi	amended	ations	29:20,
15:9	26	ng	5:20	4:16	21
16:24	6:24	17:12	26:1	5:10	ayes
17:6		Administ	27:4, 8,	7:13	25:20
21:12	5	ration	24	20:23	26:24
22:7,	50	5:24	amending	30:9, 13	28:14
11, 24	22:13,	7:16	5:2, 6	approved	30:2
240181	23 23:7	16:20	amendmen	26:8, 16	
5:7		19:6, 12	t	area	B
240182	8	21:3	26:3, 5,	15:5	back
5:2	8th	adopt	7, 15	areas	18:23
250	13:23	5:3, 8	amendmen	14:14	22:12,
8:24		advance	ts	artists	20, 24
9:6	A	5:18, 22	7:15, 17	11:5	23:7
10:13	access	advantag	12:12	arts	back-to-
11:3, 16	6:15	e	America	8:22	back
12:13	12:15	14:17,	11:8	9:12,	18:24
19:10	acted	21		15, 21,	bank
					10:10

Bass 12:21, 22 13:12 15:16 17:1	Brown 14:19 brush 6:14 Budget 4:13, 18 5:9 17:8 building 9:16 business 30:8 business es 9:11 11:5	13:7 19:10 22:17 celebrat ions 11:22 Center 14:13 Chair 4:15 15:14 16:15 20:10, 11, 14 24:9, 14 25:22, 23 26:11 27:2, 6, 17 28:16, 21	11, 14 15:8 17:19 18:21 19:6 22:14 23:3, 8, 21 city's 9:3 Clark 8:7, 13, 14, 20 13:10 15:10 19:20 close 13:24 colleagu e 13:22 14:8 15:4 16:24 23:11 colleagu es 7:7, 8 15:20 20:21 21:18 Commissi oner 18:12 committe e 4:17 7:14 8:19 11:14	20:2, 6, 9, 24 24:17 25:7 26:6 27:9 28:1, 24 29:13 30:5, 8, 12 Committe e's 9:6 communit ies 17:3 communit y 9:14 10:3 12:14 18:9, 14 compleme ntary 9:16 conclude 19:24 conclude d 30:13 conclude s 20:5 30:7 conditio ns 4:3 5:12	confirm 12:3 construc tion 6:23 conversa tion 11:13 13:1 14:6 conversa tions 16:2 copy 26:4 corridor s 11:4 Council 7:13, 16, 20 19:14 22:14 24:3, 19, 22 25:10, 12 27:11, 14 28:3, 6 29:2, 5, 15, 18 Council' s 11:8 COUNCILM AN 4:4 7:10, 21
beacon 9:24 beginnin g 23:5 begins 6:22 benefits 11:20 big 13:7 bill 4:6, 23 5:1, 2, 6 20:12 24:11, 15, 21 25:1, 3, 6, 11, 24 26:4, 7, 15 27:4, 7, 13, 23 28:5, 19, 22 29:4, 11, 17 bills 7:3 8:6 20:9 Black 10:11 14:18	C C-L-A-R- K 8:15 call 4:5 7:7 capital 5:4, 8 7:5 carries 25:21 27:1 28:15 30:3 catalyst 10:16 celebrat ing 10:14 celebrat ion	Chairman 15:24 16:9, 19 23:23 Chairper son 8:18 chosen 10:21 circulat ed 26:5 city 9:22 11:8, 23 13:8 14:5,			

8:1,10 12:8 13:14, 20 15:13 16:11 18:18 19:18, 22 20:13, 15,17 23:24 24:24 25:16, 19 26:10, 20,23 27:16, 21 28:10, 13 29:7,22 30:1 Councilm ember 12:21 13:17, 18,19 16:12, 22 17:1 18:19 19:9 20:3,16 24:1 26:12 27:18 28:17 29:9 Councilm embers 8:19	Councilp erson 14:2 Councilw oman 9:1 12:22 13:12 15:16 16:13 24:12 26:2 27:5 28:20 counsel 5:15 country 10:8 couple 22:19 23:15 crash 17:23 create 9:7 10:6 creating 10:2 critical 5:14 6:21 cultural 11:21 cultural ly-rich 11:11 culture 9:15,22 10:16	12:4 Cup's 6:4,6 current 9:8 D day 22:10 30:11 dealing 18:21 23:16 decade 21:23 departme nt 4:20 17:17, 18 departme nts 6:5 17:13, 19 19:7 deserves 11:2 design 6:17 desire 9:7 differen ce 21:16 23:2 difficul t 23:15	directio n 23:10 directio ns 23:18 Director 4:14,18 6:8 8:21 Director 's 6:9 display 15:7 District 8:22 9:13 13:24 14:1 drainage 6:16 draw 11:5 driver 9:13 duly 24:23 26:9 27:15, 20 29:6 E echo 13:21 economic 10:17 11:21	ecosyste m 10:3,12 educatio n 10:1 effort 15:1 Emergenc y 17:16 end 22:10 engage 11:4 ensure 6:2 10:24 ensuring 10:15 11:19 17:1,4 entire 13:3 entities 10:22 entitled 5:3,7 equity 11:18 event 5:17 events 5:19,23 7:1 excellen ce 18:1	Executiv e 8:21 F Fan 6:4,6 favor 25:13 26:17 28:7 29:19 favorabl e 24:17 25:8 27:9 28:1,24 29:13 feel 15:21 Fest 6:4,7 fight 14:3 Finance 6:8 17:8 19:13 24:3 Fire 17:17 Fiscal 5:4,8 focused 16:23 Forgive 8:15
---	--	--	--	--	--

forgotten 13:6	Gilmore 16:12, 13	15:11 19:21	10:15 11:18 12:2	include 6:7, 13	investments 5:13, 18
found 12:5	20:11 24:10, 12	H Hall 14:11	home 10:9	included 6:5 19:5	Isaiah 19:9
founder 8:21	25:23 26:2	happen 19:7	honor 12:1	inclusive 5:5	J
funding 8:24 11:15	27:3, 5 28:18, 20	happening 13:8	host 6:3	indemnities 5:16	job 14:2 19:5
funds 5:21	give 16:21	happy 7:6	housing 21:20, 22	individual's 10:5	Johnson 24:4
future 9:5	20:14, 19	hard 16:5	hub 9:22	influence 9:14	joined 4:18
FY25 4:24 5:15 6:22	global 10:22	healthy 7:23	I impact 9:10 10:17 11:22 21:24 22:8	initiative 9:3 11:17	K K-R-I-S-T-E-N 8:15
G	goal 9:20	hearing 13:16 20:1, 4, 6	imperative 11:24	Initiatives 22:3	Kath 28:17
Gauthier 13:18 27:18	Good 4:12, 15 8:17	Helen 24:3	importance 14:13	Innovation 6:10	key 9:13
Germantown 8:22, 24 9:6, 12, 17, 18, 21 10:6, 13 11:3, 9, 16 12:1, 6 13:5, 23 14:7 15:5, 6	government 21:15	helpful 18:16	important 21:9	innovative 9:24	kickoff 7:1
	grading 6:16	highlight 9:21	improvements 6:15, 17, 18	investing 9:4 11:16	Kristen 8:7, 11, 14, 20 12:24
	great 19:10 30:10	Hill 6:3, 20	incident 17:21	investment 11:9	kudos 16:21 19:5
	guests 30:6	historically 10:7			L
	guided 24:5	history 9:4, 19			laser 16:22
Germantown's 10:24	guys 8:16 13:11				laying

7:3	looked	Mayor	motion	negotiat	offer
leadersh	22:20,	22:15	20:12	ion	26:3
ip	21	Mayor's	24:11	7:23	Office
14:9	lot	9:8	25:2, 4,	Neighbor	6:7, 9,
19:10	13:1	21:11	20, 24	hood	10
21:10	16:3	meeting	26:13,	22:2	17:15
23:13	21:14,	19:14	18, 24	neighbor	once-in-
24:5	17	20:7	27:4, 19	hoods	a-
left	Lozada	members	28:8,	10:8	generati
11:12	20:3	4:16	14, 18	11:11,	on
21:19	26:12	7:20	29:10	23	10:23
legacy		8:18	30:2	14:16	operatin
22:9	M	19:16	move	17:4	g
23:5	made	26:6	24:15,	neighbor	5:19
legal	9:20	Michael	18 25:9	s	7:4
5:14	make	17:9	26:7	12:3	opportun
legislat	15:7	19:11	27:7, 10	Newmuis	ity
ion	21:16	21:4	28:2, 22	17:9	10:24
7:18	23:2	midyear	29:1	19:11	14:18,
Lemon	making	4:24	moved	21:4	22
6:2, 20	5:16	21:1	25:1, 3,	Northeas	17:5, 11
lifetime	12:14	model	5 26:13	t	21:9, 15
s	13:4	10:2	27:22	17:22	22:7
18:2	14:16,	moment	29:10	Northwes	opposed
listen	18, 19	12:1	moves	t	25:17
15:18	19:7	14:23	29:14	13:5	26:21
listenin	Manageme	16:7		16:6	28:11
g	nt	18:1	N	note	29:23
12:16	17:16	20:19	narrativ	29:8	ordinanc
live	Managing	22:9	e	notes	e
13:24	6:9	23:5	9:15	26:11	4:21
local	maximizi	money	nation's	27:17	5:1, 3,
17:3	ng	23:1	10:19		7, 20
long	9:9	month	national	O	7:4
22:5	Maynard	20:22	10:22	O'NEILL	16:21
long-	4:7, 12,	months	11:6	7:21	ordinanc
9:9	13, 17	18:17	naturall	occurred	es
	7:24	22:19	y	17:22	7:5
			10:20		

organiza tions 5:22 14:4, 19,20 outcome 22:6 overlook 6:20	30:6 permit 24:20 25:10 27:12 28:4 29:3,16 perspect ive 21:12 phenomen al 14:2 Philadel phia 6:1,11 9:23 10:18, 20 11:20 12:13 13:6 14:5 15:8 17:17, 18,23 18:3 23:3,9, 21 Philadel phia's 11:7,10 12:5 plan 9:7 plane 17:23 Police 17:18	pools 23:17 positive 9:10 preparat ion 6:7 prepared 6:3 prepared ness 5:17 prepares 10:18 present 13:16 20:4 Preserva tion 22:2 preservi ng 9:3 Presiden t 24:4 priority 9:9 problem 8:14 proceed 4:9 8:12 process 24:6 produce 22:5	profile 9:17 Program 5:4 project 9:1,5 11:16 properly 25:1,3 26:14 27:22 29:11 Property 19:4 proposed 4:24 5:13 protest 10:10 proud 15:8 23:20 proven 12:2 provide 16:18 pruning 6:14 public 19:3 20:1,7 publicly 15:19 18:4 put 15:6	Q question s 7:6,8, 19 8:4 12:20 19:16 quickly 8:17 R ramps 6:14 reading 24:21 25:11 27:13 28:5 29:4,17 ready 6:24 real 20:22 reason 21:7 Rec 19:3 recogniz e 13:16 recogniz es 20:10 24:9 25:22 27:2 28:16	recommen dation 24:18 25:8 27:10 28:2 29:1,14 record 4:8 8:12 20:3 26:11 27:17 29:8 Recreati on 6:12 relates 14:15 20:23 remain 10:16 remarks 20:14, 20 30:5 reported 24:16 25:7 27:8,24 28:23 29:12 represen t 13:23 represen tatives 4:19 represen ted
--	---	--	--	---	---

17:14	26:3	seconds	site	18:18	10:4
represent	27:3, 6	26:12	6:3, 16	19:18,	suspende
ts	28:18,	27:18	Slawson	22	d
15:4	21	29:9	18:12	20:15	24:20
request	risks	sentimen	snapshot	23:24	25:10
4:20	11:12	ts	22:8	24:24	27:12
6:6	Rob	13:22	Soccer	25:16,	28:4
requests	21:5, 6	session	6:2	19	29:3, 16
7:4	role	24:22	social	26:10,	
requires	10:4	25:12	10:17	20, 23	T
21:17	11:7	27:14	11:21	27:16,	table
resident	rules	28:6	someone'	21	4:11
s	24:19	29:5, 18	s	28:10,	8:9
9:11	25:9	shaping	22:12,	13	takes
17:20	27:11	11:7	23	29:7, 22	21:23
resource	28:3	short	speak	stage	talk
s	29:2, 15	21:13	21:10	10:21	14:12
12:17	run	shout	special	starts	talked
responde	10:10	17:7	5:19, 22	12:6	21:11
rs	18:6	show	17:2	state	talking
19:2	S	18:8	specific	4:8	16:3
response	Sabrina	sidewalk	ally	8:11	21:21
19:17	4:7, 13,	6:17	14:6	step	team
25:18	17 7:11	signal	20:24	23:10	7:12
26:22	safety	6:18	spelled	story	13:3
28:12	6:19	signed	8:14	11:1	17:9
29:24	scale	15:22	spent	12:4, 5,	19:13
result	11:1	signific	16:3	6	21:6, 11
9:5	scene	ant	23:1	structur	24:3
revising	18:6, 8	10:7	spring	e	Technolo
Richards	seconded	21:16	4:24	6:20	gy
on	24:23	signify	Squilla	support	6:10
16:12,	25:2, 4	25:14	4:4, 15	4:23	term
14	26:9, 14	26:18	7:10	8:23	5:17
20:11	27:15,	28:8	8:1, 10	11:15	9:10
24:10,	20, 23	29:20	12:8	supporti	terms
13	29:6, 11	similar	13:14	ng	4:2
25:23		23:13	15:24	7:17	5:11
			16:11		13:4

testify 4:22 8:5	20:10 23:9, 20 30:9	uptown 14:4	work 6:13, 19, 22,
testifyi ng 30:7	today's 23:4	urge 8:23 11:14	23 12:11, 13
testimon y 4:9 7:2 12:10, 19 16:18	told 11:1	V	15:21 16:5, 19 18:13 21:19, 24
thing 15:17	tomorrow 9:19	Vice- 20:10 25:22	worked 17:20
things 22:3, 4	totals 4:2 5:10	Vice- chair 24:10 27:3 28:17	working 6:1 7:12 12:12 16:4 18:13 19:13
Thomas 13:17, 19, 20 15:13 16:22 19:9 20:13, 17 29:9	tourism 11:19	vital 9:2	World 6:4, 6
thriving 10:12	traffic 6:18	vote 20:18 23:4, 19	written 10:10
time 12:7 13:11 14:3, 12 16:3 21:17 22:5, 11	tragedy 18:22	voted 22:4	Y
times 21:14	transfer 4:21 5:1 16:20 21:1	W	years 5:5 22:13, 23 23:7
today 8:23 9:20 14:6	tree 6:14	wanted 12:23 13:21 14:23 16:7, 16 17:15 18:4, 11 20:18 23:12	
	turn 19:1	weeks 23:16	
	U	women- led 14:20	
	understa nding 16:10		
	unfortun ate 17:21		
	uniting 9:14		