

5/5/2023

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Remote location using Microsoft® Teams
Friday, May 5, 2023
9:30 a.m.

PRESENT:

COUNCILMAN MARK SQUILLA, CHAIR
COUNCILMAN CURTIS JONES, JR., VICE-CHAIR
COUNCILWOMAN JAMIE GAUTHIER
COUNCILMAN KENYATTA JOHNSON

BILLS: 230152, 230305

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COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Today is
May 5th, the Committee on
and Economic Development.
ning.

Before we begin the public hearing, I would like to make the following announcements: Due to continued threat to public health from COVID-19, City Council Committees are currently meeting remotely. We're using Microsoft Teams to make these remote hearings possible.

Instructions for how the public may view and offer public testimony and public hearings at Council Committees are included in the public hearing notices that are published in the Daily News, the Inquirer and Legal Intelligencer prior to the hearings and can also be found on PHLCouncil.com. I now note that the hour has come.

Mr. McMonagle, please call

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1 the roll to take attendance. For the
2 Members that are in attendance,
3 please say a few words so your image
4 appears on the screen.

5 THE CLERK: Councilwoman
6 Brooks.

7 (No response.)

8 THE CLERK: Councilwoman
9 Gauthier.

10 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:
11 Present.

12 THE CLERK: Councilwoman
13 Gilmore Richardson.

14 (No response.)

15 THE CLERK: Councilman
16 Johnson.

17 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Good
18 morning, Mr. Chair. Present.

19 THE CLERK: Councilman Jones.

20 COUNCILMAN JONES: Good
21 morning, Mr. Chairman, colleagues and
22 Philadelphia viewers.

23 THE CLERK: Councilman
24 Squilla.

25 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Good

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1 morning. Present. Thank you. A
2 quorum of the Committee is present
3 and the hearing is now called to
4 order. This is a public hearing on
5 the Committee on Commerce and
6 Economic Development regarding Bill
7 No. 230152. Bill No. 230305 is being
8 held.

9 Mr. McMonagle, can you please
10 read the title of Bill No. 230152.

11 THE CLERK: Bill No. 230152,
12 amending Section 9-1132 of The
13 Philadelphia Code, entitled "Cashless
14 Retail Prohibition," by providing an
15 exemption for gym membership
16 transactions, under certain terms and
17 conditions.

18 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Thank
19 you. Before we begin hearing
20 testimony from the witnesses we have
21 today, everyone who has been invited
22 to the meeting to testify should be
23 aware that this public hearing is
24 being recorded. Because the hearing
25 is public, participants and viewers

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1 have no reasonable expectation of
2 privacy. By continuing to be in the
3 meeting, you are consenting to being
4 recorded.

5 Additionally, prior to
6 recognizing Members for their
7 questions or comments they have for
8 witnesses, I would note for the
9 record at this time we will have to
10 use the chat feature available on
11 Microsoft Teams to allow Members to
12 signify that they wish to be
13 recognized. In order to comply with
14 the Sunshine Act, the chat feature
15 must only be used for this purpose.

16 Mr. McMonagle, can you please
17 call the panel we have to testify
18 this morning on Bill No. 230152.

19 THE CLERK: Yes. Can we
20 please have Karen Fegley.

21 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Good
22 morning, Karen. Just state your name
23 for the record and proceed with your
24 testimony.

25 MS. FEGLEY: Good morning,

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1 Chairman Squilla and members of the
2 Committee. My name is Karen Fegley,
3 Deputy Commerce Director. I'm here
4 to testify in support of Bill No.
5 230152. The ordinance had required
6 all retail operators to accept cash
7 so they can be accessible to those
8 who may not have a bank account or
9 credit card. But since the cashless
10 retail prohibition was added in 2019,
11 many gyms and fitness centers have
12 struggled to comply with the cashless
13 retail prohibition because they
14 traditionally require a card or bank
15 account on file for ongoing
16 membership. During the height of
17 COVID, many of these businesses also
18 tried to operate as contactless as
19 possible.

20 So this additional exemption
21 under consideration would only apply
22 to gym membership transactions,
23 meaning fitness centers would still
24 accept cash for other retail goods
25 and services such as prepackaged

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1 snacks and bottled waters. So we
2 remain dedicated to supporting all
3 sectors of our economy and support
4 this bill. And thank you for the
5 opportunity to testify. Here for any
6 questions.

7 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Thank
8 you so much for your testimony.

9 Are there any questions from
10 members of the Committee?

11 (No response.)

12 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Seeing
13 none, is there anyone else here to
14 testify on Bill No. 230152?

15 (No response.)

16 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Seeing
17 none, do we have any public testimony
18 today for this bill?

19 THE CLERK: We do not have
20 any public testimony.

21 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Okay.
22 Thank you for your testimony.

23 We can get ready to conclude
24 the hearing for today. There being
25 be no further questions from members

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1 of the Committee and no other
2 witnesses to testify, I'll ask a last
3 time is there anyone present at the
4 hearing whose name has not been
5 called that wish to offer testimony
6 for the bill considered today?

7 (No response.)

8 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Hearing
9 none, I want to thank all the panels
10 and witnesses for the participation
11 today. We value your opinions and
12 now invite all panels and witnesses
13 to please disconnect from the meeting
14 before we go into a public meeting.
15 We will now pause the proceedings
16 briefly to allow people to leave.

17 This concludes the public
18 hearing on the Committee and we'll
19 now go into a public meeting to
20 consider the action to be taken on
21 bills before the Committee today. We
22 will now continue in the public
23 meeting.

24 Mr. McMonagle, please call
25 the roll.

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1 THE CLERK: Councilwoman
2 Brooks.

3 (No response.)

4 THE CLERK: Councilwoman
5 Gauthier.

6 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:
7 Present.

8 THE CLERK: Councilwoman
9 Gilmore Richardson.

10 (No response.)

11 THE CLERK: Councilman
12 Johnson.

13 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Present,
14 Mr. Chair.

15 THE CLERK: Councilman Jones.

16 COUNCILMAN JONES: I'm
17 present.

18 THE CLERK: Councilman
19 Squilla.

20 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Present.
21 Thank you. A quorum is present.

22 Today we'd like to recognize
23 Councilmember Jones for a motion on
24 Bill No. 230152.

25 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,

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1 Mr. Chairman.

2 I move that Bill No. 230152
3 be moved from this Committee with a
4 favorable recommendation and the
5 rules of Council be suspended to
6 permit first reading at our next
7 session of Council.

8 Second?

9 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:

10 Second.

11 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: All
12 right. I believe that was
13 Councilmember Johnson. For the
14 record, Councilmember Johnson seconds
15 the bill.

16 It has been moved and
17 properly seconded that Bill No.
18 230152 be reported from this
19 Committee with a favorable
20 recommendation and further move that
21 the rules of Council will be
22 suspended to submit the first reading
23 of this bill at the next session of
24 Council.

25 All those in favor will

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1 signify by saying aye.

2 (Aye.)

3 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Those
4 opposed?

5 (No response.)

6 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: The ayes
7 have it and the motion carries.

8 Thank you all. This
9 concludes the meeting for the
10 business for the Committee on
11 Commerce and Economic Development
12 today. Thank you for your attendance
13 and time.

14 COUNCILMAN JONES: Well done,
15 Mr. Chair. I think this might be a
16 record.

17 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: In and
18 out.

19 COUNCILMAN JONES: In and
20 out. Thank you, sir.

21 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: All
22 right. Take care, everybody. Have a
23 great day.

24 (Committee on Commerce and
25 Economic Development concluded at

5/5/2023

1 9:38 a.m.)

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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 this is a correct
transcript of the same.

TANEHA CARROLL
Court Reporter - Notary Public

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

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