

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Remote location using Microsoft® Teams
Monday, April 24, 2023
10:00 a.m.

PRESENT:

COUNCILWOMAN KATHERINE GILMORE RICHARDSON, CHAIR
COUNCILWOMAN CINDY BASS, VICE-CHAIR
COUNCILWOMAN KENDRA BROOKS
COUNCILWOMAN JAMIE GAUTHIER
COUNCILMAN MICHAEL DRISCOLL
COUNCILMAN JIM HARRITY
COUNCILWOMAN SHARON VAUGHN

BILL: 230127

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2 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

3 RICHARDSON: Good morning. Good
4 morning. Before we begin the public
5 hearing, I will make the following
6 announcement: Due to the continuing
7 threat to public health from COVID-
8 19, City Council Committees are
9 currently meeting remotely. We are
10 using Microsoft Teams to make these
11 remote hearings possible.

12 Instructions for how the
13 public may view and offer public
14 testimony at public hearings of
15 Council Committees are included in
16 the Daily News, Inquirer and Legal
17 Intelligencer prior to the hearings
18 and can also be found on
19 PHLCouncil.com. I now note that the
20 hour has come.

21 Ms. Alford, will you please
22 call the roll to take attendance.
23 Members that are in attendance will
24 please indicate that you are present
25 when your name is called. Also,

1 please say a few brief words when
2 responding so that your image will be
3 displayed on screen when you speak.

4 THE CLERK: Councilmember
5 Brooks.

6 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: Good
7 morning, Madam Chair and colleagues
8 and Philadelphia. I am present.

9 THE CLERK: Councilmember
10 Vaughn.

11 COUNCILWOMAN VAUGHN: Good
12 morning, everyone. Happy Monday.

13 THE CLERK: Councilmember
14 Driscoll.

15 COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL: Good
16 morning. I am present.

17 THE CLERK: Councilmember
18 Harrity.

19 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: I am
20 present, but not as happy as Sharon.

21 THE CLERK: And, Chair
22 Gilmore Richardson.

23 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE
24 RICHARDSON: I am present. Thank
25 you. A quorum of the Committee is

1 present and this hearing is now
2 called to order. This is the public
3 hearing of the Committee on the
4 Environment regarding Bill No.
5 230127.

6 Ms. Alford, will you please
7 read the title of the bill.

8 THE CLERK: Bill No. 230127,
9 an ordinance amending Section 20-304
10 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled
11 "Compensation for Members of Boards,
12 Commissions, Committees and
13 Councils," by revising the
14 compensation for members of the
15 Environmental Justice Advisory
16 Commission, under certain terms and
17 conditions.

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

1 participants and viewers have no
2 reasonable expectation of privacy.

3 By continuing to being in the
4 meeting, you are consenting to being
5 recorded.

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

17 Before we call up our
18 witnesses for this bill today, I
19 wanted to quickly thank my colleagues
20 for your presence regarding this
21 legislation and quickly give an
22 explainer around this bill. So the
23 current Code language allows for a
24 \$240 stipend for all of the
25 Environmental Justice Advisory

1 Committee members.

2 This legislation would raise
3 the limit to \$1500 for the total
4 stipend. The Office of
5 Sustainability already has the
6 funding available for this increase.
7 When we've been recruiting for
8 Commissioners for the EJAC Committee,
9 we've heard that \$40 per meeting was
10 a barrier to getting people to
11 participate, particularly from the
12 populations that we are targeting,
13 those who have actual lived
14 experience around environmental
15 injustice here in the City of
16 Philadelphia.

17 So I just wanted to let you
18 all know that this legislation would
19 allow us to recruit more people who
20 have lived experience around
21 environmental injustice in our City
22 and help them to have a seat at the
23 table on this very important issue,
24 something that has been happening on
25 the local level for a very long time,

1 but particularly a renewed interest
2 obviously at the federal level under
3 the Biden Administration and the work
4 of the United States EPA, and
5 particularly the Local Government
6 Advisory Committee, of which I am a
7 member, the only member from
8 Philadelphia and the only member from
9 the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. So
10 thank you very, very much.

11 Ms. Alford, will you please
12 call the first panel we have to
13 testify this morning on Bill No.
14 230127.

15 THE CLERK: Genevieve LaMarr
16 LeMee.

17 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

18 RICHARDSON: Okay. Good morning.
19 Genevieve, are you connected and
20 ready to proceed?

21 MS. LAMARR LEMEE:
22 (Gestured).

23 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

24 RICHARDSON: Okay. Excellent.
25 Please state your name for the record

1 and proceed with your testimony.

2 MS. LAMARR LEMEE: Good
3 morning. Genevieve LaMarr LeMee from
4 the Office of Sustainability. Can
5 everyone hear me?

6 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

7 RICHARDSON: Okay. Yes, we can hear
8 you.

9 MS. LAMARR LEMEE: Okay.
10 Perfect. So good morning,
11 Chairperson Gilmore Richardson and
12 members of the Committee on the
13 Environment. Thank you for having me
14 today. As I said, my name is
15 Genevieve LaMarr LeMee. I'm the
16 Senior Advisor for Environmental
17 Justice at the Office of
18 Sustainability.

19 I'm here today to testify in
20 support of Bill No. 230127, as the
21 Councilwoman stated an ordinance that
22 seeks to increase compensation for
23 members of the resident-led
24 Environmental Justice Advisory
25 Commission from \$40 to \$125 for each

1 Commission meeting.

2 Executive Order 223 signed
3 March 15th of this year recognized
4 the need for the Environmental
5 Justice Advisory Commission beyond
6 simply production of an annual
7 report. The increased compensation
8 proposed in Bill No. 230127 would
9 align with the increase in the
10 Commission's activities and expected
11 contribution.

12 Furthermore, as stated when
13 recruiting four Commissioners, we
14 received resident feedback that the
15 \$40 compensation per meeting was a
16 barrier to participation, especially
17 for the population being targeted,
18 those with lived experience of
19 environmental injustice. The Office
20 of Sustainability currently has the
21 funding available to support this
22 increase in compensation, and we will
23 continue to have that funding for the
24 next five years under the Mayor's
25 proposed budget.

1 The Office of Sustainability
2 supports this measure, and
3 accordingly I respectfully request
4 that this Committee approve Bill No.
5 230127. Thank you. And if there's
6 any questions, I'm happy to answer
7 them.

8 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

9 RICHARDSON: Thank you. Thank you so
10 much, Genevieve, not only for your
11 testimony but for your great work.

12 Are there any questions from
13 members of this Committee?

14 (No response.)

15 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

16 RICHARDSON: Are there any questions
17 from members of the Committee for
18 Genevieve?

19 (No response.)

20 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

21 RICHARDSON: All right. Well, seeing
22 none we thank you, Genevieve, for
23 your work. You know that we have
24 worked closely with you all just
25 around the formation of EJAC and

1 really funding and resourcing this
2 very important work, which I know we
3 will have to ensure that we resource
4 additionally in the months and years
5 to come. So I thank you for your
6 great work and look forward to
7 continuing to work with you.

8 Okay. For the record, I'd
9 like to recognize the presence of our
10 Vice-Chair of this Committee.
11 Councilmember Cindy Bass is present
12 for this hearing. Thank you so much,
13 colleague and Vice-Chair
14 Councilmember Cindy Bass.

15 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you
16 very much, Madam Chair. I am honored
17 to be here and I thank you for
18 holding it down as usual. Thank you,
19 Madam Chair.

20 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

21 RICHARDSON: Thank you.

22 Are there any additional
23 questions for this panel?

24 (No response.)

25 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

1 RICHARDSON: Hearing no further
2 questions for members of this panel
3 and there being no other panels to
4 testify, we will take a brief break
5 to connect to our public meeting.

6 Okay. So there being no
7 further questions from members of
8 this Committee and no other witnesses
9 to testify on Bill No. 230127, I will
10 ask if there is anyone else present
11 in this hearing whose name we failed
12 to call and that wishes to offer
13 testimony on the bills and
14 resolutions being considered today?

15 (No response.)

16 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

17 RICHARDSON: Hearing none, I want to
18 thank all the panels and witnesses
19 for their participation. We value
20 your opinions and now invite all
21 panels and witnesses to please
22 disconnect from the hearing before we
23 go into our public meeting on the
24 bills and resolutions. We will now
25 pause the proceedings briefly as

1 multiple participants leave the
2 hearing.

3 And this concludes the public
4 hearing of the Committee. We will
5 now go into a public meeting to
6 consider the action to be taken on
7 the bills and on the bill before this
8 Committee today. We will now convene
9 the public meeting.

10 Ms. Alford, will you please
11 call the roll to take attendance.
12 Members that are in attendance will
13 please indicate that you are present
14 when your name is called. Also,
15 please say a few brief words when
16 responding so that your image will be
17 displayed on screen when you speak.

18 THE CLERK: Councilmember
19 Brooks.

20 (No response.)

21 THE CLERK: Councilmember
22 Brooks.

23 (No response.)

24 THE CLERK: We'll circle back
25 to her.

1 Councilmember Vaughn.

2 COUNCILWOMAN VAUGHN: I am
3 here.

4 THE CLERK: Councilmember
5 Driscoll.

6 COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL: I am
7 present.

8 THE CLERK: Councilmember
9 Harrity.

10 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: I am
11 here.

12 THE CLERK: Vice-Chair Bass.

13 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: I am
14 here. Present.

15 THE CLERK: Chair Gilmore
16 Richardson.

17 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE
18 RICHARDSON: I am present. Thank
19 you, Ms. Alford.

20 The Chair now recognizes
21 Councilmember Bass for a motion on
22 Bill No. 230127.

23 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank
24 you, Madam Chair.

25 I move that the

1 aforementioned bill be moved from
2 this Committee with a suspension of
3 the rules and a favorable
4 recommendation.

5 COUNCILWOMAN VAUGHN: Second.

6 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

7 RICHARDSON: Thank you. The Chair
8 notes for the record that
9 Councilmember Vaughn seconds the
10 motion.

11 It has been moved and
12 properly seconded that Bill No.
13 230127 be reported from this
14 Committee with a favorable
15 recommendation and further move that
16 the rules of Council be suspended to
17 permit first reading of this bill at
18 the next session of Council.

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

21 (Aye.)

22 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

23 RICHARDSON: Those opposed?

24 (No response.)

25 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

1 RICHARDSON: The ayes have it. The
2 motion carries.

3 This concludes the business
4 before the Committee on the
5 Environment today. Thank you all so
6 very much for your attendance and
7 participation. Have a great day.

8 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: Take
9 care, Councilwoman.

10 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank
11 you, Madam Chair.

12 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

13 RICHARDSON: Thank you so much, Madam
14 Vice-Chair. Thank you, colleagues
15 and members of this Committee.

16 (Committee on the Environment
17 concluded at 1:12 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 this is a correct transcript of the
same.

TANEHA CARROLL
Court Reporter - Notary Public

(The foregoing certification of this
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