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COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
COMMITTEE ON LAW AND GOVERNMENT

Remote location using Microsoft Teams
Wednesday, March 1, 2023

PRESENT:
COUNCILWOMAN KATHERINE GILMORE
RICHARDSON, CHAIR
COUNCILMAN CURTIS JONES, JR., VICE-CHAIR
COUNCILMAN BRIAN O'NEILL
COUNCILMAN MARK SQUILLA
COUNCILMAN ANTHONY PHILLIPS
COUNCILMAN DARRELL CLARKE

BILL: 230106
RESOLUTION: 230115

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MR. BROCKENBROUGH: We are ready to go.

MS. GILMORE RICHARDSON:
Good morning. Before we begin the public hearing, I will make the following announcement. Due to the continuing risk of public health from COVID-19, City Council committees are currently meeting remotely. We are using Microsoft teams to make these remote hearings possible. Instructions for how the public may view and offer public testimony at public hearings of Council committees are included in the public hearing notices that are published in The Daily News, Inquirer and Legal Intelligencer prior to the hearings and can also be found on PHLCouncil.com.

I now note that the hour has come. Ms. Alford, will you please

1 call the role to take attendance?
2 Members that are in attendance
3 will please indicate that you are
4 present when your name is called.
5 Also, please say a few brief words
6 when responding so that your image
7 will be displayed on screen when
8 you speak.

9 MS. ALFORD: Council Darrell
10 Clarke.

11 MR. CLARKE: Present and
12 accounted for.

13 MS. ALFORD: Council Member
14 Philips.

15 Oh, I think you're on mute,
16 Council Member Philips.

17 MR. PHILLIPS: Council
18 Member Phillips present.

19 MS. ALFORD: Thank you.

20 MR. PHILLIPS: Thank you.

21 MS. ALFORD: Vice Chair
22 Jones.

23 MR. JONES: Good morning
24 Madam Chair, colleagues. I am

1 present.

2 MS. ALFORD: And Chair
3 Gilmore Richardson.

4 MS. RICHARDSON. I am
5 present. Thank you.

6 A forum on the committee is
7 present and this hearing is now
8 called to order. This is the
9 public hearing of the Committee on
10 Law and Government regarding Bill
11 No. 230106 and Resolution No.
12 230115.

13 Ms. Alford, will you please
14 read the title of the bill?

15 MS. ALFORD: Bill No.
16 230106: An ordinance providing
17 for the submission to the
18 qualified electors of the City of
19 Philadelphia and resolution
20 approved by City Council amending
21 the Philadelphia home rule charter
22 by establishing the Office of the
23 Chief Public Safety Director to be
24 responsible for ensuring public

1 safety by coordinating the
2 resources, personnel and
3 employment property, plant and
4 equipment within the departments
5 of police, prisons, recreations
6 and all other relevant city
7 agencies and authorizing the
8 appropriate officers to public
9 notice and to make arrangements
10 for the special election.

11 Resolution No. 230115: A
12 resolution proposing an amendment
13 to the Philadelphia Home Rule
14 Charter to establish the Office of
15 the Chief Public Safety Director
16 of the City of Philadelphia
17 providing for the method of
18 appointment of the Chief Public
19 Safety Directors and defining the
20 powers, duties and areas of
21 responsibility and providing for
22 the submission of the amendment to
23 the electors of Philadelphia.

24 MS. GILMORE RICHARDSON:

1 Thank you. Before we begin to
2 hear testimony from the witnesses
3 we have for today, everyone who
4 has been invited to the meeting to
5 testify should be aware that this
6 public hearing is being recorded.
7 Because the hearings are public,
8 participants and viewers have no
9 reasonable expectations of
10 privacy. By continuing to be in
11 the meeting you are consenting to
12 being record. Additionally, prior
13 to recognizing members with the
14 questions or comments they have
15 for witnesses, I will note for the
16 record that at this time, we will
17 use the chat feature available and
18 Microsoft Team to allow members to
19 signify that they wish to be
20 recognized. In order to comply
21 with the Sunshine Act, the chat
22 feature must only be used for this
23 purpose.

24 Before we begin to call

1 witnesses and hear testimony on
2 this legislation this morning, I
3 offer the opportunity to our
4 esteemed Council President who is
5 with us today in Council Committee
6 on Long Government to provide
7 remarks on behalf of the
8 legislation that he is offering
9 today.

10 MR. CLARKE: Thank you.
11 Thank you Madam Chair, and thank
12 you members of the committee.
13 Thank you for allowing me to
14 briefly just give a statement as
15 it relates to the proposed Charter
16 Amendment.

17 First of all, I want to -- I
18 want to say that the sense of
19 urgency is clear. We must do
20 something and we must do some
21 things differently. We actually
22 got a promising report recently
23 from GVI, focus also on that focus
24 deterrent which is a good thing.

1 But it shows when you have
2 collaboration of all aspect --
3 aspects of the government, you can
4 do some good things albeit in a
5 limited timeframe, and a limited
6 number of individuals that were
7 dealt with in this focus
8 deterrent. It shows that if
9 everyone works together in a
10 collaborative way things can work.
11 This is why we're this particular
12 Amendment.

13 As I talk about the sense of
14 urgency, if people don't think
15 that this whole issue around
16 public safety is the number one
17 issue on everybody's mind, they
18 simply have to pick up the
19 newspaper today and look at what
20 happened in Chicago. For the
21 first time in 40 years, the
22 incumbent mayor was unseated and
23 the number one question on
24 people's mind there in exit poles

1 was the increase level of violence
2 in that city.

3 So I say that to say that
4 the sense of urgency is here. It
5 is now. We must do things
6 differently. I understand that
7 the executive branch is not going
8 to offer formal testimony. I have
9 not seen a letter, but apparently
10 there is some question about delay
11 for whatever reason. The simple
12 matter is, I don't think that the
13 citizens of the City of
14 Philadelphia wanted to delay
15 anything that's going to allow us
16 to move the needle forward and
17 make sure that we can get the
18 appropriate opportunity to tamp
19 down this level of violence.

20 One of the other things I
21 want to thank the members of this
22 committee and other members who
23 have traveled over the period of
24 last two, three, years to multiple

1 cities across the region, and in
2 every case it talked about
3 collaboration. The most recent
4 trip when we went to Trenton, we
5 found that they had a public
6 safety director. That person was
7 responsible for coordinating all
8 aspects. That's when we found out
9 that they had the Department of
10 Recreation in the room. They had
11 the Streets Department in the
12 room. They had agencies that
13 dealt with jobs.

14 Similarly, in Chester when
15 we went there a similar situation,
16 and I must say that before we
17 proceeded with this legislation,
18 we talked to the executive branch
19 particularly -- we actually talked
20 to the Police Commissioner and she
21 indicated that it is done in
22 multiple other cities than we saw
23 in our research.

24 So we have to have somebody

1 responsible that reports directly
2 to the mayor. I know that, all
3 the mayor and the candidates had
4 said that they would support a
5 tsar. We didn't think the word --
6 the language of tsar should be in
7 the charter. So same -- same
8 responsibility but a different
9 name. We thought that Chief
10 Public Safety Director would be a
11 more appropriate name. But it
12 will carry out similar
13 responsibilities to making sure
14 that things are coordinated.

15 So Madam Chair, members of
16 the committee, I want to thank you
17 so much for allowing me to testify
18 briefly and to ask for your
19 support for this charter and
20 members, so the -- would say that
21 they would like to have somebody
22 who will coordinate all aspects
23 and all activities related to gun
24 violation in the City of

1 Philadelphia and all types of
2 violence.

3 Thank you for your
4 indulgence.

5 MS. GILMORE RICHARDSON:

6 Thank you. Well, thank you
7 Council President. It's certainly
8 an honor and a privilege to have
9 you join us today on Council's
10 committee on law and government.

11 And what I heard about was
12 coordination, collaboration and
13 making public safety the job and
14 responsibility and direct
15 authority of every partner in
16 Philadelphia's City Government and
17 really having someone who's sole
18 responsibility is to ensure that
19 that collaboration is working on a
20 daily basis and that that
21 individual reports directly to the
22 mayor recognizing that we have to
23 have a sense of urgency around
24 public safety. And so I also

1 wanted to give our Vice Chair of
2 Law and Government and the Chair
3 of Public Safety an opportunity to
4 give a brief remark if you would,
5 Vice Chair Jones. And then we
6 will move on to hear directly from
7 our witnesses.

8 Thank you again, Council
9 President.

10 MR. JONES: Thank you, Madam
11 Chair. I just want to thank you
12 Council President, for cutting
13 through some of the language
14 issues from city to city. You can
15 call it a tsar, you can call it
16 this, but in each of those cities
17 we visited, there was someone with
18 that function. And then carrying
19 it to Philadelphia. And thank
20 you, Madam Chair.

21 From the moment you arrived
22 you have tried to elevate the
23 issue of gun violation, elevate
24 the issue of crime prevention to a

1 height that is meritorious of this
2 place we are today. So thank both
3 very much. As Chair of Public
4 Safety, I know that this position
5 will be the strong and stirs the
6 drink and coordinates the efforts
7 on behalf of any administration.
8 So thank you, Mr. President.

9 MS. GILMORE RICHARDSON:

10 Thank you, Vice Chair Jones. I
11 also would like to acknowledge of
12 the presence of committee members
13 Squilla and also Law and
14 Government Committee Member,
15 Council Member O'Neill. Thank you
16 all for your presence on this
17 committee hearing this morning.

18 Again, I offer the
19 opportunity for any remarks you
20 would like to share prior to
21 hearing from witnesses.

22 MR. SQUILLA: Thank you,
23 Madam Chair. Just one real quick
24 thing, and you know I think that

1 the sad part is that we're looking
2 to actually do this because we
3 believe that there isn't
4 collaboration and coordination
5 that's happening now. And you
6 know, the challenging government
7 is nobody wants to see multiple
8 layers of government to be added.
9 But the concern is if you don't
10 have somebody in charge of it and
11 people are always pointing to
12 other entities of why things
13 aren't happening, then we come up
14 with the "he said, she said" type
15 scenario where nothing gets done.
16 And when you hold somebody
17 accountable, how do you hold
18 somebody accountable? So, you
19 know, it's unfortunate, but at
20 times these challenges have to be
21 met with different ideas on how to
22 address them. And if we -- if
23 there's people out there that
24 could tell us that they're being

1 done now and show us that they're
2 being done now, then, you know,
3 maybe we would think differently.
4 So I -- you know, I'm looking
5 forward to hearing the testimony
6 from folks and hearing what they
7 have to say. But you know, we, as
8 Council, have really stepped up on
9 a lot of measures here. And we
10 need to really represent our
11 constituent interests. And right
12 now it's public safety and how
13 we're coordinating efforts to make
14 sure that that is a main focus and
15 priority. And so thank you for
16 bringing this, Council President
17 and Madam Chair, for bringing it
18 to our attention and looking
19 forward to the hearing.

20 MS. GILMORE RICHARDSON:
21 Thank you for that.

22 MR. O'NEILL: Madam Chair?

23 MS. GILMORE RICHARDSON:
24 Yes. Council Member O'Neill.

1 MR. O'NEILL: My -- my first
2 reaction was, you know, we already
3 had a Deputy Mayor from Public
4 Safety. I didn't see any
5 improvement. That was in the last
6 mayor's term. We have a managing
7 director. The managing director
8 is over -- well, now only nine
9 operating departments. And I
10 really raise a question on that.
11 What do you do, or how do we
12 handle it or future Councils
13 handle it when a mayor, even
14 though the charter says the
15 managing director is over the
16 department of recreation today,
17 the recreation commissioner, parks
18 and rec commissioner, reports to a
19 deputy mayor and not to the
20 managing director? So these are
21 observations and questions that --
22 that and we have a very good
23 managing director. I think
24 everybody on the Council agrees.

1 He's terrific, Tumar Alexander.
2 But it is a compelling argument
3 that somebody being able to pull
4 those various departments together
5 and quickly and on an ongoing
6 basis makes a lot of sense. So I
7 -- I think I fully understand what
8 the Council President is trying to
9 accomplish here. I'm just raising
10 some questions because I've been
11 here a few terms. And the first
12 time the managing director didn't
13 cover all 10 operating
14 departments. And you can -- you
15 can -- you can see there's a
16 disconnect there. So -- and I
17 guess the last question
18 observation is how would the
19 managing director function with a
20 public safety director as opposed
21 to today and that may be clearly
22 laid out, but maybe at the
23 beginning we can -- we can, at
24 least, have that explained.

1 That's it.

2 MS. GILMORE RICHARDSON:

3 Thank you. Thank you, Council
4 O'Neill.

5 Recognizing Council
6 President Clarke for a response.

7 MR. CLARKE: Thank you,
8 Council. And we thought about
9 that during the course of the
10 formulation of the legislation and
11 actually altered it to emphasize
12 the coordination. When I talked
13 to the executive branch, you know,
14 I brought to their attention not
15 only them but prior mayors have
16 gone away from the traditional
17 managing director on down creating
18 these deputy mayors who had
19 responsibility and jurisdiction
20 over various departments that the
21 managing director normally did as
22 you referenced in Recreation.
23 This issue is going back to Mayor
24 Street when George Burrell as you

1 can recall, he was given a title
2 and had jurisdiction over -- over
3 certain aspects of the government
4 separate and aside from the chief
5 of staff and managing director.
6 So our -- the reason why we looked
7 at this, this should be in the
8 chart because one of the
9 challenges as you referenced that
10 these mayors, they change various
11 -- they should have the
12 wherewithal to do that. But
13 somebody has to report directly to
14 the mayor for something this
15 serious as gun violence, and
16 violation in general in the City
17 of Philadelphia. And that person
18 should be in the position to be
19 able to coordinate it. If that
20 person will not be in charge of
21 the managing director, the person
22 will not be in charge of the
23 police division. That person will
24 simply coordinate all activities.

1 Right now, we have a thing called
2 the Gun Violence Task Force and
3 they have a person that, kind of,
4 coordinates all of those meetings:
5 The DA, the HEF, the FBI, but
6 they're all law enforcement, and
7 we, know you, cannot get out of
8 this issue with simply law
9 enforcement alone. So this will
10 allow -- that could continue, but
11 it will also bring in the
12 Recreation Department When needed.
13 When a group of young people in
14 the neighborhood, you know if --
15 if they were given an opportunity
16 to be involved in something
17 productive, you could have that
18 person bring something to the
19 table like the recreation and
20 similarly -- similarly in the job
21 part. You see, we put in there
22 all job creation and job training
23 in agencies. You will hear
24 testimony today from some of the

1 members that will be testifying on
2 the panel to talk about, you know,
3 how all the organizations that are
4 doing violence interruption and
5 intervention, how will they be a
6 part of it.

7 Right now there is nobody
8 coordinating all those -- those
9 various entities to bring them
10 together to talk about a strategy.
11 I don't think, unfortunately,
12 we'll get our numbers down to
13 where they were years ago. Next
14 year, the year after, so this is
15 going to be an ongoing issue, but
16 you know, this whole issue about
17 government as I said, Council, and
18 I don't have to tell you all, is
19 the number one issue this violent
20 carjackings, gun violence, you
21 know, ransacking stores. You got
22 to do some things differently.

23 So that's why Council, we
24 propose this. And I just think

1 that based on what we've heard not
2 only from the City of Philadelphia
3 but what we've heard in multiple
4 cities -- and again, it is being
5 done a lot of places and as you
6 thought it was a good idea from
7 the police commissioner.

8 MR. O'NEILL: Thank you, Mr.
9 President. That is very helpful
10 to me in my -- in my evaluation
11 and it's -- the clarity is really
12 appreciated and the thought that
13 went into it. And if anybody
14 disagrees they -- on violence as
15 the number one and something we --
16 a level of which we've never seen
17 before throughout the city, they
18 -- they -- they must live
19 somewhere else. So they don't
20 live in Philadelphia. And I
21 appreciate your efforts and this
22 discussion and trying -- trying to
23 wrap our arms around it a little
24 better than we have up until now,

1 maybe a lot better.

2 MR. CLARKE: Thank you.

3 Thank you, Council.

4 MS. GILMORE RICHARDSON:

5 Thank you. Thank you Council
6 Member O'Neill for your thoughtful
7 questions and feedback, and
8 Council President Clarke for your
9 response.

10 And with that, Ms. Alford,
11 will you please call the first
12 panel that we have to testify this
13 morning on Bill No. 230106 and
14 Resolution No. 230115.

15 MS. ALFORD: Bilal Qayyum
16 and Dan Crawford.

17 Good morning. Are you
18 connected? Are you ready to
19 proceed?

20 Please state your name for
21 the record and proceed with your
22 testimony.

23 MR. QAYYUM: Good morning.
24 I'm Bilal Qayyum, President of the

1 Father's Day Rally Committee.
2 Good morning to Council President
3 Clarke, Madam Chairman of the Law
4 of Government Committee,
5 Councilwoman Gilmore Richardson.
6 I know that Councilman Jones is
7 on. I know that Councilman
8 Phillips is on, who happens to be
9 my Council-person. I heard from
10 O'Neill, Councilman O'Neill and
11 Councilman Squilla. Good morning
12 to everyone.

13 I am testifying in favor of
14 this resolution and bill. My work
15 over the years -- and there's too
16 many to talk about this morning,
17 but as -- as my work over the
18 years in the City of Philadelphia
19 trying to reduce violence, when we
20 were successful -- and I must say
21 -- say this and Councilman Jones
22 understands it, I used to do --
23 work with the House of Emotion in
24 West Philadelphia, with Queen

1 Mother Falaka Fattah, and her
2 cousin Dave at that time, who is
3 unfortunately no longer with us.
4 We worked to reduce gang deaths in
5 the '70s. And in the early '70s
6 we were in the 80s, 90's gang
7 deaths per year. But because of
8 interventions from communities,
9 House of Emotion and crisis
10 intervention there was a group
11 called Concerned Mothers by a
12 woman, Nadine Hoskins (ph) who was
13 from North Philadelphia and a lot
14 of other groups. We worked
15 together and we reduced gang
16 deaths of the City of Philadelphia
17 to 1979 there was zero, shootings
18 of gang death in the City of
19 Philadelphia because of the
20 coordinated effort. But it was a
21 10-year process to get to that
22 point. The point that Councilman
23 Clarke raised about this is not
24 going to be solved with what we're

1 seeing now over the next couple
2 years. We could definitely lower
3 the shootings and lower the
4 homicide rate. No one has a
5 silver bullet to resolve what
6 we're seeing now. It's not only
7 happening in Philadelphia, but
8 it's happening across every major
9 city in the country. And cities
10 that have used this idea about
11 having a -- public safety director
12 and coordinating all the city's
13 department as well as the
14 community basis, have lowered. I
15 mean, someone talked to me this
16 morning about they're beginning to
17 see changes in Baltimore now
18 because they're doing this same
19 effort in Baltimore. I note that
20 the Council has mentioned,
21 Trenton, Camden and Chester and
22 they are seeing results in those
23 cities. So this idea is on time.
24 So I'm in full support.

1 I'd like to make two
2 recommendations though to the
3 resolution, one about where you
4 have violence prevention agencies.
5 I also would recommend you add the
6 word "organizations" because like
7 a like a group like Father
8 (inaudible) we're a grass-roots
9 organization. We're not an
10 agency. So I would suggest that
11 that would be considered to be
12 added in the language saying
13 violence prevention agencies and
14 organizations.

15 The other issue, and I note
16 Mr. Crawford is going to be
17 testifying next. We talked about
18 this this morning, the public
19 safety directors title might be
20 considered or what his job or who
21 he would be, we -- when I say we,
22 I know Father Crawford is on, I
23 have to meet and talk about this.
24 We would like to see maybe

1 consideration given to that this
2 person not only be a law
3 enforcement professional but maybe
4 an individual who has over the
5 years experience. It could come
6 from government. It could come
7 from academic, I mean, not
8 academic some other source agency
9 that has experience in the law.
10 If you just limit it to law
11 enforcement professional s, some
12 of those professionals don't have
13 really -- to me that I have
14 interacted with over the years in
15 law enforcement the -- the
16 understanding about communities,
17 the understanding about other
18 issues that would be directly
19 affected with this legislation or
20 with this program.

21 So those -- those are the
22 two recommendations I would like
23 to make this morning. But I also
24 want to end by saying that I

1 really appreciate the work that
2 all the Council folks are doing
3 around this issue. And I think
4 this is a move forward into
5 institutionalize is what's more
6 important on the point that
7 Councilman O'Neill raised was
8 real, Councilman Clarke response
9 was right on time. So I am in
10 full support of this legislation
11 and hope that when it's a valid
12 question come the May's election
13 that we really organize to
14 citizens of the city to understand
15 what the position is and get them
16 to vote in favor of this charter
17 change question.

18 MS. GILMORE RICHARDSON:

19 Thank you. Thank you so much, Mr.
20 Bilal Qayyum and thank you for
21 your testimony for your feedback
22 and certainly for the hard work
23 you have done over the years to
24 move the needle on gun violence

1 prevention and intervention in the
2 City of Philadelphia even back in
3 the 70s when we were dealing with
4 the proliferation of gang violence
5 here in the city. So thank you
6 very much for your testimony
7 today.

8 Ms. Alford, will you call
9 the next witness here to testify?

10 MS. ALFORD: Stanley
11 Crawford.

12 MS. GILMORE RICHARDSON: Mr.
13 Crawford are you connected and
14 ready to proceed with your
15 testimony?

16 Mr. Crawford you're on mute.

17 MR. CRAWFORD: Okay. Yes, I
18 am.

19 MS. GILMORE RICHARDSON:
20 Okay. May you please state your
21 name for the record and then you
22 can proceed with the testimony?

23 MR. CRAWFORD: Okay. My
24 name is Stanley Crawford. I have

1 a special interest and I could say
2 good morning to the President and
3 all the Council members. And
4 thank you for this opportunity to
5 testify on this resolution. I
6 looked over and I studied it, and
7 I seen that it is something that
8 is very much needed in the effort
9 to try to curtail the violence.

10 I have a special interest in
11 this area of activity because my
12 son was murdered in 2018. And as
13 a result of his murder, rather
14 than going out and getting revenge
15 or trying to get revenge as far as
16 murdering people as result of the
17 murder of my son, we created the
18 organization called the Black Male
19 Community Council of Philadelphia.
20 We have been in the vineyard of
21 trying to help redirect our
22 brothers from this murder mayhem
23 that's taken place. And as a
24 result of the work that we're

1 doing, I recognize that there is a
2 lot of these young brothers that
3 can be redirected with right
4 resources and the right
5 organizations working with them.
6 And as a result of reading this
7 resolution, no matter what we do,
8 if we don't do nothing we know
9 we're going to get the same
10 results. If this resolution can
11 bring an opportunity to curtail,
12 and save just one life, in my
13 estimate is worth trying. I agree
14 with Brother Bilal that the two
15 things that we talked about this
16 morning was the violence
17 prevention agencies and the
18 organizations like myself and
19 other organizations should also be
20 included within this resolution.
21 And also the stipulation that the
22 individual be -- have at least
23 five years law enforcement and so
24 forth. It's because of the broad

1 aspects of what's taken place
2 this -- withered it down to this
3 one category of a personnel, I
4 think we are being short sighted.
5 We should be looking for a person
6 that has number one, the humanity
7 that is connected with our
8 situation and also the expertise
9 -- and it might not just be in the
10 law enforcement individual. So
11 that's -- that's the two things
12 that I think that need to be
13 looked at, reviewed and thought
14 about because in the City of
15 Philadelphia, we have also within
16 the families of -- the black
17 committee Council a committee that
18 is around families of unsolved
19 murders projects. And what we are
20 finding out is the lack of
21 coordination between the city
22 departments and agencies that need
23 to be brought into a congruency.
24 Because if I send out a -- a

1 letter to just one individual, but
2 when I cc that every other people
3 know what's going on within that
4 structure. So that's why I think
5 it's very important that this --
6 this resolution be incorporated so
7 it can be a broader look with
8 broader insight and even input for
9 whatever the -- the decisionmaking
10 is about. That's my testimony for
11 today.

12 MS. GILMORE RICHARDSON:

13 Well, thank you for Mr. Crawford,
14 not only for your testimony but
15 for your steadfast advocacy and
16 leadership on this issue. I know
17 I met you back in 2019 when you
18 were advocating on behalf of gun
19 violence prevention and
20 intervention shortly after the
21 death of your son. And I just
22 want to commend you for your
23 dedication on this issue.

24 I'd like to recognize Vice

1 Chair Jones for remarks.

2 MR. JONES: I get choked up
3 when I think your journey and what
4 you went through within your
5 family. But what I applaud you
6 on, Brother Crawford, is that you
7 changed it into something
8 positive, that you decided to take
9 a high road, if you would, that
10 might save other lives.

11 I recall conversations with
12 you and some of the things that
13 you put together offered and put
14 my hand and I never felt so, kind
15 of, stymied, as to who's hand it
16 should go into next. One of the
17 reasons why this position is so
18 important is because what you gave
19 me, which I won't go into, has so
20 many different ramifications. It
21 had law enforcement, it had
22 intervention, it had aspects on
23 mental health, and if you put it
24 in one entity's hands, it would

1 have to be passed around any way
2 in order to touch all of the
3 things it complied. And, you
4 know, exactly what you gave me.
5 We wound up giving it to one
6 person, but it could have easily
7 been duplicated into 12 different
8 offices. But what I hope to come
9 out of this, is that there's one
10 ending that instead of us running,
11 you running around, spending
12 energy finding out, you know,
13 which department covered what,
14 that that individual would have
15 the skill set, knowledge base, to
16 know where and how to connect
17 people to the resources needed.
18 So again, thank you. Thank you.
19 Thank you, and you've been
20 steadfast in turning your grief
21 into triumph. So thank you,
22 Brother.

23 MR. CRAWFORD: You're
24 welcome.

1 MS. GILMORE RICHARDSON:

2 Thank you. Thank you, Vice Chair
3 Jones and thank you again Mr.
4 Crawford. As you stated, doing
5 nothing is not an option. And so
6 we must continue to do everything
7 we can to tackle this issue of gun
8 violence in City of Philadelphia
9 and overall public safety.

10 I just wanted to put on the
11 record relative to some of the
12 amendments that have been
13 circulated to all the members of
14 the committee that violence
15 prevention programs are included
16 under the operational guidance for
17 this position. So I just wanted
18 to mention that to you,
19 Mr. Crawford, that that has been
20 added and addressed.

21 Okay. We will now hear from
22 our next witness. Ms. Alford,
23 will you please name the next
24 witness that's here to testify?

1 MS. ALFORD: I believe the
2 last witness is not able to join
3 us. So I don't think there are
4 any other witnesses. Unless I
5 just can verify that she is here
6 but I don't believe so.

7 MS. GILMORE RICHARDSON:
8 Okay. Okay. So I would like to
9 acknowledge that the
10 administration has submitted
11 written testimony of via their
12 Chief of Staff, to myself as Chair
13 Members of this committee that a
14 written testimony has been
15 circulated for the committee's
16 review. But again, I thank you
17 all so much for your testimony
18 today.

19 Are there any additional
20 questions or comments from members
21 of this committee for the
22 witnesses that we heard from this
23 morning?

24 Okay. Well, there being no

1 further questions from the members
2 of the committee and no other
3 witnesses to testify, are there
4 any witnesses for public comments
5 Eliza, Madam Clerk?

6 MS. ALFORD: No comment
7 today.

8 MS. GILMORE RICHARDSON:
9 Okay. All right. And no other
10 witnesses to testify on Bill No.
11 230106 and Resolution No. 230115.
12 I will ask if there's anyone else
13 present in this hearing who's name
14 we have failed to call and that
15 wishes to offer testimony on the
16 bills and resolutions being
17 considered today?

18 All right. Hearing none, I
19 want to thank the panels and
20 witnesses for their participation.
21 We value your opinions and
22 certainly your work. I now invite
23 all panels and witnesses to please
24 disconnect from the hearing before

1 we go into our public meeting on
2 the bills -- on the bill and
3 resolution.

4 We will now pause the
5 proceedings briefly as multiple
6 participants leave the hearing.

7 - - -

8 (At this time, a short pause
9 was taken on the record.)

10 - - -

11 MS. GILMORE RICHARDSON:

12 This concludes the public hearing
13 of the committee. We will now go
14 into a public meeting to consider
15 the action to be taken on the bill
16 and resolution before this
17 committee today. We will now
18 convene the public meeting.

19 Ms. Alford, will you please
20 call the role to take attendance?
21 Members that are in attendance
22 will please indicate that you are
23 present when your name is called.
24 Also, please say a few brief words

1 when responding so that your image
2 will be displayed on screen when
3 you speak.

4 MS. ALFORD: Council Member
5 O'Neill.

6 - - -

7 (At this time, Council
8 Member complied.)

9 - - -

10 MS. ALFORD: Council Member
11 Phillips.

12 MR. PHILLIPS: Good morning,
13 Madam Chair. Good morning,
14 viewing public, Council Member,
15 Anthony Phillips present.

16 MS. ALFORD: Council Member
17 Squilla.

18 - - -

19 (At this time, Council
20 Member complied.)

21 - - -

22 MS. ALFORD: Council
23 President Clarke.

24 - - -

1 (At this time, Council
2 Member complied.)

3 - - -

4 MR. O'NEILL: Madam Chair
5 Brian O'Neill, I'm here.

6 MS. ALFORD: Thank you.
7 Vice President Jones.

8 MR. JONES: Madam Chair, I
9 am present.

10 MS. ALFORD: And Chair
11 Gilmore Richardson.

12 MS. GILMORE RICHARDSON: I
13 am present. Thank you all so much
14 for being here. The Chair now
15 recognizes Vice Chair Jones for a
16 motion on Bill No. 230106.

17 MR. JONES: Thank you, Madam
18 Chair. I move that Bill No.
19 230106 be moved from this
20 committee with a favorable
21 recommendation and further move
22 that the Rules Council be
23 suspended as to allow first
24 reading at our next session of

1 Council.

2 MR. O'NEILL: Second.

3 MS. GILMORE RICHARDSON: The
4 Chair notes for the record that
5 Council Member O'Neill seconds the
6 motion. It has been moved and
7 properly seconded to Bill No.
8 230106 be reported from this
9 committee with a favorable
10 recommendation. I further move
11 that the rules of Council be
12 suspended to permit first reading
13 this bill at the next session of
14 Council.

15 All those in favor of the
16 motion will signify by stating
17 "aye."

18 - - -

19 (At this time, all Council
20 members stated confirmation.)

21 - - -

22 MS. GILMORE RICHARDSON:
23 Those opposed.

24 The ayes have it, and the

1 motion carries. The Chair now
2 recognizes Vice Chair Jones for a
3 motion on the amendment to
4 Resolution No. 230115.

5 MR. JONES: Thank you again,
6 Madam Chair. I offer an amendment
7 to Resolution No. 230115, a copy
8 of that amendment has been
9 circulated to all members of
10 Council. I move for the adoption
11 of the Amendment to Bill No. -- to
12 Resolution No. 230115.

13 MR. O'NEILL: Second.

14 MS. GILMORE RICHARDSON: The
15 Chair notes for the record that
16 Council Member O'Neill seconds the
17 Notice. It has been moved and
18 properly seconded that the
19 Amendment to Resolution No. 230115
20 be approved.

21 All those in favor of the
22 motion will signify by stating
23 "aye."

24 - - -

1 (At this time, all Council
2 members stated confirmation.)

3 - - -

4 MS. GILMORE RICHARDSON:
5 Those opposed?

6 The ayes have it. And the
7 Amendment to Resolution No. 230115
8 has been approved. The Chair now
9 recognizes Vice Chair Jones for a
10 motion on Resolution No. 230115 as
11 amended.

12 MR. JONES: Thank you, Madam
13 Chair. I move that Resolution No.
14 230115, as amended, be reported
15 from this committee with a
16 favorable recommendation.

17 MR. O'NEILL: Second.

18 MS. GILMORE RICHARDSON: The
19 Chair notes for the record that
20 Council Member O'Neill seconds the
21 motion. It has been moved and
22 properly seconded that the
23 Resolution No. 230115, as amended,
24 be reported from this committee

1 with a favorable recommendation.

2 All those in favor of the
3 motion will signify by stating
4 "aye."

5 - - -

6 (At this time, all Council
7 members stated confirmation.)

8 - - -

9 MS. GILMORE RICHARDSON:

10 Those opposed?

11 The ayes have it, and the
12 motion carries.

13 Before we conclude this
14 meeting this morning, I'd like to
15 recognize the presence of our
16 colleague and committee member
17 Council Member Bask. Thank you,
18 Council Member Bask.

19 Now, this concludes. Thank
20 you.

21 MR. CHRISTMAS: Oh, Council
22 Lady. This is John Christmas.

23 MS. GILMORE RICHARDSON:

24 Yes, Mr. Christmas.

1 MR. CHRISTMAS: It could
2 have been that I missed it, but
3 did that resolution get a
4 suspension for first reading, or
5 maybe am I missing the rule
6 whereby I need that? It's missing
7 resolution --

8 MS. GILMORE RICHARDSON:
9 Understand. Understand. So for
10 the record. Thank you, Mr.
11 Christmas. For the record, we
12 will redo the motion on the
13 amended version of the resolution.
14 Okay. I don't believe the
15 resolution --

16 MS. ALFORD: I don't --

17 MS. GILMORE RICHARDSON:
18 Apologies. I don't think it can
19 be suspended. I don't think.

20 MS. ALFORD: Correct.

21 MS. GILMORE RICHARDSON: I
22 don't think it can be suspended;
23 right?

24 MR. CHRISTMAS: Okay. We

1 don't need it.

2 MS. GILMORE RICHARDSON: I
3 think just the bill needs to be
4 suspended. I think the resolution
5 is okay.

6 MS. ALFORD: That's correct,
7 Councilwoman.

8 MS. GILMORE RICHARDSON: All
9 right. I just -- I had to go
10 back.

11 MR. CHRISTMAS: Sorry.
12 Thank you.

13 MS. GILMORE RICHARDSON:
14 It's no problem at all, Mr.
15 Christmas. We want to make sure
16 that we get this correct. And I
17 thank all the committee members
18 and team members who were here
19 today to help us through this
20 meeting. But there being no
21 additional business before this
22 committee this morning, this now
23 concludes the business before the
24 Committee on Law and Government

1 today. I thank you very all for
2 your attendance. Have a wonderful
3 day.

4 MR. JONES: Thank you, Madam
5 Chair.

6 MR. PHILLIPS: Thank you,
7 Madam Chair. Good job.

8 MR. SQUILLA: Thank you.

9 MS. GILMORE RICHARDSON:
10 Thank you very, very much.

11 - - -

12 (Committee on Law and
13 Government concluded at
14 10:44 a.m.)

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

I, ALEXANDRA ALVARADO, Court
Reporter, Certified Court Reporter,
License No. 30XT00006400, and
Notary Public, do hereby certify
that the foregoing is a true and
accurate transcript of the
stenographic notes taken by me in
the aforementioned matter.

DATE:

Alexandra Alvarado
Notary Public
My Commission expires
on August 31, 2023

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