

2/27/20 - STATED - INVOCATION
COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
STATED MEETING

Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Thursday, February 27, 2020
10:54 a.m.

PRESENT:

COUNCIL PRESIDENT DARRELL L. CLARKE
COUNCILWOMAN CINDY BASS
COUNCILWOMAN KENDRA BROOKS
COUNCILMAN ALLAN DOMB
COUNCILWOMAN JAMIE GAUTHIER
COUNCILWOMAN KATHERINE GILMORE RICHARDSON
COUNCILMAN DEREK S. GREEN
COUNCILWOMAN HELEN GYM
COUNCILMAN KENYATTA JOHNSON
COUNCILMAN CURTIS JONES, JR.
COUNCILMAN DAVID OH
COUNCILMAN BRIAN J. O'NEILL
COUNCILWOMAN CHERELLE L. PARKER
COUNCILWOMAN MARIA D. QUINONES-SANCHEZ
COUNCILMAN MARK SQUILLA
COUNCILMAN ISAIAH THOMAS

MICHAEL A. DECKER, CHIEF CLERK

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2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good
3 morning. Sorry to be a little late. We
4 can take our seats. If the visitors will
5 retire behind the rail, we're going to
6 get started.

7 Before we start, I'd ask if
8 anyone has a cell phone or any other
9 electronic device that makes noise, can
10 you please turn it off, on vibrate or on
11 airplane mode so we don't have any
12 disruptions. Thank you very much for
13 your cooperation.

14 So to give our invocation this
15 morning, the Chair recognizes Reverend
16 Dr. Wilbert S. Richardson of Refuge
17 Evangelical Baptist Church. Reverend
18 Richardson is here today as the guest of
19 Councilwoman Parker.

20 I would ask all guests and
21 members to please rise.

22 (Councilmembers, visitors, and
23 guests rise.)

24 REVEREND RICHARDSON: First, I
25 would just like to just give honor and

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2 thanks to -- first, I'd like to give my
3 great gratitude and thanks to the
4 President of this Council for having me
5 and my Councilperson for inviting me,
6 Cherelle Parker, and all of the
7 distinguished Councilpersons who are
8 represented here today and certainly the
9 audience of this august body who has come
10 to hear the proceedings that follow.

11 Let's pray.

12 Heavenly Father, we are
13 admonished in our word in your Bible that
14 every time we assemble, we are to pray
15 for our elders and those who are in
16 authority over your people. It is for
17 this reason we bow this morning to pray
18 for our elected representatives and those
19 who have ordained for these positions,
20 who preside daily within these sacred
21 walls, this councilmanic assembly today.
22 We give you praise and honor and thanks
23 as they've convened for the business at
24 hand.

25 First, I would like to pray for

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2 our Councilpersons and their staffs, that
3 you would endow them with wisdom to aid
4 the disenfranchised, to give assistance
5 to those who are struggling, the
6 sociological maladjusted, those who are
7 physiological abnormal, and for all of
8 those in this great diverse city that
9 they would give assistance and security
10 to every mosque, every synagogue, every
11 parish, every temple, and every church
12 within their districts.

13 Heavenly Father, we pray for
14 the people that have gathered today. We
15 desperately need their wisdom, their
16 strength, and their courage, for they are
17 elected officials given over to give aid
18 to those of us who may not be able to
19 speak for ourselves.

20 We pray, Lord, for our
21 children, our millennials, our
22 post-millennials, who need better
23 education and the safety of going to
24 school. We pray for their parents, who
25 need higher-paying jobs and the hope of a

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2 future. We pray for affordable housing
3 and security for our elderly.

4 Lastly, we pray for
5 representatives' agenda today. You know
6 their needs and you know what they have
7 on their hearts and minds. Give them
8 great wisdom, and let them be able to
9 lead with passion and courage within the
10 sacred walls, these sacred walls, that
11 they may be able to give the
12 responsibility to those who are
13 responsible, to encourage those who need
14 encouragement.

15 In the mighty and massive name
16 of God, the father, we pray.

17 Amen.

18 (Amen.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

20 Reverend, thank you so much for those
21 inspiring words. We really appreciate
22 it.

23 Council shall be at ease.

24 (Council at ease.)

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

1 2/27/20 - STATED - APPROVAL OF JOURNAL

2 Thank you and, again, thank you,

3 Reverend, for those inspiring words.

4 Our next order of business is
5 approval of the Journal of the meeting of
6 Thursday, February 20, 2020, and the
7 Chair recognizes Councilman Jones.

8 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
9 Mr. President. I move that the Journal
10 of the meeting of Thursday, February
11 20th, 2020 be approved.

12 (Duly seconded.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
14 Thank you. It has been moved and
15 properly seconded that the Journal of the
16 meeting of Thursday, February 20th, 2020
17 stand approved.

18 All those in favor say aye.

19 (Aye.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
21 Those opposed?

22 (No response.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
24 ayes have it, and the Journal is
25 approved.

1 2/27/20 - STATED - LEAVES

2 And our next order of business
3 is requests for leave of absence, and the
4 Chair recognizes Councilwoman Parker.

5 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Thank
6 you, Mr. President. On behalf of the
7 members of Council, there are no requests
8 for leaves of absence.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: I
10 think Councilman Henon.

11 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: There is
12 a request for a leave of absence for
13 Councilmember Bobby Henon.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
15 Thank you. Thank you, Councilwoman. The
16 record shall reflect that.

17 At this time, I would like to
18 dispense with the regular order of
19 business and I would like to thank
20 everyone who has taken time out of their
21 busy day to witness their government in
22 action. We genuinely appreciate you
23 being here. We hope your stay here today
24 is a pleasurable and a knowledgeable one.
25 So, again, thank you so much.

1 2/27/20 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 Any Blackhawks in the house?

3 (Yeah!)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: All
5 right. I didn't recognize you all
6 without your uniforms on.

7 A little point of personal
8 privilege.

9 So at this time, the Chair
10 recognizes Councilman Thomas, who will
11 present a resolution on my behalf
12 honoring The Blackhawks Athletic Club.
13 Would Don Richardson and the nationally
14 ranked Blackhawks and those accompanying
15 them please join the Councilmembers at
16 the podium.

17 (Applause.)

18 (Councilmembers and guests
19 approached podium.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: And
21 joining Councilman Thomas, we have
22 Councilwoman Gilmore Richardson,
23 Councilwoman Gym, Councilwoman Brooks,
24 Councilman Domb, and Councilman Green and
25 I think Councilman Oh.

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2 (Applause.)

3 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Good

4 morning. For me specifically, it's an
5 honor to be here with these phenomenal
6 young people who represent some of the
7 best that we have to offer in the City of
8 Philadelphia as it relates to
9 extracurricular activities and activities
10 that young people participate in out of
11 school.

12 I myself serve as a basketball
13 coach still even to this day. So it's
14 always an honor any time I get a chance
15 and an opportunity to recognize
16 phenomenal student athletes here in the
17 City of Philadelphia.

18 With that being said, honoring
19 and recognizing the nationally ranked
20 Blackhawks Athletic Club on the occasion
21 of being named both 2019 Pop Warner
22 Superbowl Champions and 2019 UYFL, which
23 is the United Football League, Champions.

24 Whereas, The Blackhawks
25 Athletic Club was first established in

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2 1968 as a youth basketball program for
3 children looking for sports as an
4 alternative to neighborhood gang
5 violence; and

6 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: Whereas,
7 operating their home field at 11th Street
8 and Cecil B. Moore Avenue for the past 30
9 years, The Blackhawks Athletic Club has
10 been an enormously positive presence to
11 the surrounding community; and

12 Whereas, The Blackhawks serve
13 over 300 young people each year,
14 supporting both boys and girls ages 5 to
15 15 years old, and is supported by over
16 100 volunteers, made up of dedicated
17 coaches, parents, and supporting members;
18 and

19 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Whereas, The
20 Blackhawks Athletic Club capitalizes on
21 the organization's inherent philosophy of
22 fun and equality through fundamental
23 training and team building experiences by
24 enhancing youth health, safety, and
25 wellness through sports; and

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2 Whereas, the long-term goal of
3 The Blackhawks Athletic Club is to
4 inspire and equip each of their members
5 to be positive and productive members of
6 the community and citizens of the City of
7 Philadelphia as they transition to
8 adulthood; and

9 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON:

10 Whereas, in 2009 The Blackhawks Athletic
11 Club lost their Founding President
12 Mr. Reginald Mtumishi. The following
13 year The Blackhawks Athletic Club
14 clenched its first Pop Warner National
15 Championship in the Pee Wee Division in
16 his honor; and

17 Whereas, as of December 2019,
18 The Blackhawks are proud to have won six
19 local, five regional, and two national
20 championships in football --

21 (Applause.)

22 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: --

23 and three local championships in cheer;
24 and

25 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Whereas,

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2 they begin 2020 celebrating their highest
3 award to date; Blackhawks Pee Wee
4 Football Team and their head coach Reggie
5 Smith, winning the 2019 Pop Warner
6 Superbowl Championship. Furthermore, the
7 Blackhawks 13 Unlimited Elite team and
8 Head Coach Keon Savoy won the 2019 UYFL
9 (United Youth Football League) National
10 Championship. This marks the first time
11 in the history of the City of
12 Philadelphia that one organization
13 garnered two national championships in
14 one season; now, therefore, be it

15 (Applause.)

16 COUNCILWOMAN GYM: Now,
17 therefore, be it resolved, by the Council
18 of the City of Philadelphia, that Council
19 does hereby recognize the extraordinary
20 achievements of the Blackhawks Athletic
21 League and their tremendous fan base.

22 And further be it resolved,
23 that an engrossed copy of this resolution
24 to be presented to The Blackhawks
25 Athletic Club on behalf and with the

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2 sincerest appreciation, honor, and
3 gratitude of this City Council body.

4 Thank you, everybody.

5 Congratulations.

6 (Applause.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: And
8 the Chair now recognizes Coach Don
9 Richardson for remarks.

10 COACH RICHARDSON: Thanks
11 everybody for coming. I'm Coach Don
12 Richardson. I'm the Director of the
13 program. This program wouldn't even go
14 nowhere without the assistance of my
15 coaches, the parents, and the players
16 themselves. Right now we're just trying
17 our best to just keep the kids out of
18 trouble.

19 We'd like to present this right
20 here to City Council. We have some more
21 gifts for the City Council to come. So
22 we appreciate everything you've done for
23 us.

24 Thank you very much.

25 (Applause.)

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2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

3 Council will be at ease.

4 That's what I'm talking about.

5 Where's Mark Squilla at? Where's he at?

6 Council will be at ease.

7 (Council at ease.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

9 Thank you and, again, congratulations.

10 Awesome young people.

11 At this time, the Chair
12 recognizes Councilman Kenyatta Johnson.

13 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you,
14 Council President. Council President, at
15 this moment I want to take a moment to
16 acknowledge a leader in the body of
17 politics on the local level from
18 Evanston, Illinois City Council,
19 Alderwoman Robin Rue Simmons.

20 She was here yesterday as the
21 guest speaker for the National Coalition
22 of Black Reparations America for
23 Reparations Awareness Day at Temple
24 University. But, most importantly, in
25 November of 2019, Alderwoman Simmons was

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2 the lead sponsor of a bill approved by
3 Evanston City Council that will tax the
4 sale of marijuana in the town to fund
5 reparations for its African American
6 residents. It is the first of its kind
7 law in the nation, and her law is
8 expected to generate hundreds of
9 thousands of dollars each year.

10 And I want to also acknowledge
11 my colleague Councilwoman Katherine
12 Gilmore Richardson who also came and
13 joined me with a meet-and-greet reception
14 yesterday in the City Council Caucus
15 Room, and thank you, Council President,
16 for your support as well.

17 So can we all take a moment to
18 acknowledge --

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
20 Councilwoman.

21 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: --
22 Alderwoman Robin Rue Simmons.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
24 Alderwoman.

25 (Applause.)

1 2/27/20 - STATED - COMMUNICATIONS

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

3 Thank you for being here. Appreciate
4 you.

5 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you,
6 Council President.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
8 Thank you, Councilman.

9 Our next order of business is
10 communications, and the Chair requests
11 that the Sergeant-of-Arms delivers the
12 messages to the Chief Clerk from the
13 Mayor.

14 And, Mr. Decker, please read
15 those messages.

16 CHIEF CLERK: To the President
17 and members of the Council of the City of
18 Philadelphia, pursuant to Sections 4-604
19 and 2-307 of the Home Rule Charter, I am
20 today transmitting to the Council the
21 recommendation of the City Planning
22 Commission on the following bills: Bill
23 Nos. 200004, 200009, 200013, 200019,
24 200082, 200092, 200094, 200095, and
25 200120.

1 2/27/20 - STATED - COMMUNICATIONS

2 And I am pleased to advise you
3 that on February 26, 2020, I signed the
4 following bills which were passed by
5 Council at its session on February 13,
6 2020: Bill Nos. 200008 and 200015.

7 And I am transmitting for the
8 consideration of your honorable body an
9 ordinance approving the ninth amendment
10 of the redevelopment proposal for the
11 Point Breeze Urban Renewal Area, being
12 the area generally bounded by Washington
13 Avenue, South Twenty-Fifth Street, Reed
14 Street, the rear property lines of the
15 1400 and 1500 blocks of South Taylor
16 Street, Tasker Street, South 25th Street,
17 Moore Street and South Broad Street,
18 including the ninth amendment to the
19 urban renewal plan, which provides, inter
20 alia, for changes that would make it
21 consistent with the Point Breeze
22 Redevelopment Area Plan and generally
23 consistent with the most recent
24 Comprehensive Plan approved by the City
25 Planning Commission of the City of

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2 Philadelphia; and

3 An ordinance authorizing the
4 Commissioner of Public Property to
5 acquire fee simple title or a lesser real
6 estate interest to all or a portion of a
7 parcel or parcels of land located in the
8 vicinity of Calera Road between Red Lion
9 Drive and Chalfont Drive, commonly known
10 as the Liberty Bell Youth Organization
11 Recreation Center; and

12 An ordinance amending Section
13 12-701 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled
14 "Designation of Bicycle Lanes," to
15 authorize bicycle lanes in the vicinity
16 of Passyunk Avenue, from 61st Street to
17 Essington Avenue and Essington Avenue,
18 from Passyunk Avenue to Bartram Avenue;
19 and making associated changes to parking
20 regulations within the same limits; and

21 An ordinance amending Section
22 12-701 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled
23 "Designation of Bicycle Lanes," to
24 authorize bicycle lanes in the Third
25 Council District in the vicinity of South

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2 49th Street, from Paschall Avenue to
3 Grays Avenue; Grays Avenue, from 49th
4 Street to Lindbergh Boulevard; and
5 Lindbergh Boulevard, from Grays Avenue to
6 Elmwood Avenue; and making associated
7 changes to parking regulations within the
8 same limits; all under certain terms and
9 conditions.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
11 Thank you, Mr. Decker. Do you have any
12 additional communications?

13 CHIEF CLERK: I have none,
14 Mr. President.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
16 Thank you very much.

17 And our next order of business
18 is the introduction of bills and
19 resolutions, and the Chair recognizes
20 Councilwoman Parker.

21 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Thank
22 you, Mr. President. I have two bills.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
24 Thank you, Councilwoman.

25 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance

1 2/27/20 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 establishing a no truck parking
3 regulation on the 800 block of East
4 Godfrey Avenue, both sides.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
6 Referred to committee.

7 CHIEF CLERK: And an ordinance
8 amending Section 9-213 of The
9 Philadelphia Code, entitled "Farmers'
10 Markets," by adding a permissible
11 location on Ogontz Avenue.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
13 Referred to committee.

14 The Chair recognizes
15 Councilwoman Gilmore Richardson.

16 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Thank
17 you, Mr. President. Today I introduce
18 two bills and one non-privileged
19 resolution co-sponsored by members Domb,
20 O'Neill, and Parker.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
22 Thank you, Councilwoman.

23 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Thank
24 you.

25 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance

1 2/27/20 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 amending Chapter 20-1100 of The
3 Philadelphia Code, entitled "Civil
4 Service Preferences," to provide for a
5 civil service preference for the children
6 and grandchildren of members of the armed
7 forces of the United States who were
8 killed or who died in the line of duty.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

10 Referred to committee.

11 CHIEF CLERK: And an ordinance
12 providing for the submission to the
13 qualified electors of the City of
14 Philadelphia of an amendment to The
15 Philadelphia Home Rule Charter to provide
16 for a preference in civil service
17 examinations for the children and
18 grandchildren of members of the United
19 States armed forces who were killed or
20 who died in the line of duty.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

22 Referred to committee.

23 CHIEF CLERK: And a
24 non-privileged resolution proposing an
25 amendment to The Philadelphia Home Rule

1 2/27/20 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 Charter providing for a preference in
3 civil service examinations for the
4 children and grandchildren of members of
5 the armed forces of the United States who
6 were killed or who died in the line of
7 duty and providing for the submission of
8 the amendment to the electors of
9 Philadelphia.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Also
11 referred to committee.

12 The Chair recognizes
13 Councilwoman Gym.

14 COUNCILWOMAN GYM: Thank you
15 very much, Council President. I have two
16 privileged resolutions.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
18 Thank you, Councilwoman.

19 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged
20 resolution authorizing the Committee on
21 Children and Youth to conduct hearings
22 regarding the City's investment in
23 expanding developmentally appropriate,
24 trauma-informed, and evidence-based
25 programming for youth experiencing

1 2/27/20 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 violence and gun violence in their
3 communities.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
5 Today's Calendar.

6 CHIEF CLERK: And a privileged
7 resolution authorizing the Committee on
8 Children and Youth to hold hearings on
9 the impact of sonic devices on young
10 people on public property.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
12 Today's Calendar.

13 And the Chair recognizes
14 Councilman Jones.

15 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
16 Mr. President. I have one bill.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
18 Thank you, Councilman.

19 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
20 amending Chapter 12-3000 of The
21 Philadelphia Code, entitled "Use Of An
22 Automated Red Light Enforcement System To
23 Prevent Red Light Violations," by
24 authorizing the installation of red light
25 enforcement systems at the intersection

1 2/27/20 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 of 52nd and Lancaster Avenue.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
4 Referred to committee.

5 The Chair recognizes Councilman
6 Johnson.

7 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Council
8 President, I have three bills.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
10 Thank you, Councilman.

11 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
12 approving the ninth amendment of the
13 redevelopment proposal for the Point
14 Breeze Urban Renewal Area, being the area
15 generally bounded by Washington Avenue,
16 South Twenty-Fifth Street, Reed Street,
17 the rear property lines of the 1400 and
18 1500 blocks of South Taylor Street,
19 Tasker Street, South 25th Street, Moore
20 Street and South Broad Street, including
21 the ninth amendment of the urban renewal
22 plan, which provides, inter alia, for
23 changes that would make it consistent
24 with the Point Breeze Redevelopment Area
25 Plan and consistent with the most recent

1 2/27/20 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 Comprehensive Plan approved by the City
3 Planning Commission of the City of
4 Philadelphia; and

5 An ordinance authorizing
6 Stephen Garafolo to construct, own, and
7 maintain a proposed exterior stairway at
8 3000 South 15th Street; and

9 An ordinance amending Section
10 12-701 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled
11 "Designation of Bicycle Lanes," to
12 authorize bicycle lanes in the vicinity
13 of Passyunk Avenue, from 61st Street to
14 Essington Avenue and Essington Avenue,
15 from Passyunk Avenue to Bartram Avenue.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
17 Those three bills just read by the Chief
18 Clerk will be referred to committee.

19 The Chair recognizes Councilman
20 Green.

21 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you,
22 Council President. I have no bills or
23 resolutions today.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
25 Thank you, Councilman.

1 2/27/20 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 The Chair recognizes

3 Councilwoman Brooks.

4 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: Good

5 morning, Council President. I have no

6 bills or no resolutions today.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

8 Thank you, Councilwoman.

9 The Chair recognizes Councilman
10 Domb.

11 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Good morning,
12 Council President. I have one resolution
13 on behalf of Councilman Henon.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

15 Thank you, Councilman.

16 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged
17 resolution honoring Barry Bessler, on the
18 occasion of his retirement as Director of
19 Policy and Compliance for the Department
20 of Philadelphia Parks and Recreation and
21 recognizing his 40 years of service to
22 the City of Philadelphia.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: And
24 that will be on today's Calendar.

25 The Chair recognizes

1 2/27/20 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 Councilwoman Gauthier.

3 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Good
4 morning, Council President. I have one
5 bill on behalf of the Administration.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
7 Thank you, Councilwoman.

8 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
9 amending Section 12-701 of The
10 Philadelphia Code, entitled "Designation
11 of Bicycle Lanes," to authorize bicycle
12 lanes in the Third Council District in
13 the vicinity of South 49th Street, from
14 Paschall Avenue to Grays Avenue; Grays
15 Avenue, from 49th Street to Lindbergh
16 Boulevard; and Lindbergh Boulevard, from
17 Grays Avenue to Elmwood Avenue; and
18 making associated changes to parking
19 regulations within the same limits.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: That
21 bill will be referred to committee.

22 The Chair recognizes Councilman
23 Thomas.

24 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Good
25 morning, Council President. I have one

1 2/27/20 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 privileged resolution to introduce today
3 on your behalf.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
5 Thank you, Councilman.

6 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
7 establishing a no parking regulation on
8 the east side of North 31st Street,
9 between Jefferson Street and West
10 Thompson Street.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: And
12 that bill will be referred to committee.

13 And the Chair recognizes
14 Councilman Squilla.

15 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Thank you,
16 Mr. President. I offer one bill on
17 behalf of Councilmember O'Neill.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
19 Thank you, Councilman.

20 Councilman, how you like those
21 Blackhawks? I gotta get it in because I
22 know next week you'll be coming back with
23 a champion from South Philly.

24 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Yeah. We
25 got two of them.

1 2/27/20 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
3 authorizing the Commissioner of Public
4 Property, on behalf of the City of
5 Philadelphia, to acquire fee simple title
6 or a lesser real estate interest to all
7 or a portion of a parcel or parcels of
8 land located in the vicinity of Calera
9 Road between Red Lion Drive and Chalfont
10 Drive, commonly known as the Liberty Bell
11 Youth Organization Recreation Center.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
13 Referred to committee.

14 And the Chair now recognizes
15 Councilman Squilla. Do you have any
16 additional for your district?

17 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: No bills
18 or resolutions today.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
20 Thanks, Councilman.

21 The Chair recognizes
22 Councilwoman Bass.

23 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you,
24 Mr. President. No bills or resolutions
25 this week.

1 2/27/20 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

3 Thank you, Councilwoman.

4 The Chair recognizes Councilman

5 Oh.

6 COUNCILMAN OH: Thank you very
7 much, Council President. I offer one
8 privileged resolution co-sponsored by
9 Councilmembers Isaiah Thomas, Kendra
10 Brooks, and Cindy Bass. Another
11 resolution co-sponsored by Councilmembers
12 Kenyatta Johnson, Mark Squilla, Derek
13 Green, Bobby Henon, and Katherine Gilmore
14 Richardson, as well as a bill, and I'd
15 like to be heard after the titles are
16 read. Thank you.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

18 Thank you, Councilman.

19 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
20 amending Chapter 6-1100 of The
21 Philadelphia Code, entitled "Nuisance
22 Health Establishments," by adding a
23 definition for Supervised Injection
24 Sites, creating a presumption that they
25 are Nuisance Health Establishments and

1 2/27/20 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 establishing criteria to obtain the
3 support of the community by requiring a
4 hearing before City Council.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
6 Referred to committee.

7 CHIEF CLERK: And a privileged
8 resolution Honoring and Celebrating the
9 Life of James "Pointman" Abram for his
10 selfless dedication --

11 (Applause.)

12 CHIEF CLERK: -- for his
13 selfless dedication to his Country, his
14 fellow Veterans, his community, and his
15 loving family.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: And
17 that will be on today's Calendar.

18 CHIEF CLERK: And a
19 non-privileged resolution condemning the
20 lack of transparency and community
21 participation in the implementation of
22 supervised heroin injection sites --

23 (Applause.)

24 CHIEF CLERK: -- and urging the
25 Mayor and Safehouse to stop further

1 2/27/20 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 development of supervised injection sites
3 so that the impacted residents --

4 (Applause.)

5 CHIEF CLERK: -- businesses and
6 institutions can be informed and heard.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: And
8 that will be on next week's Calendar.

9 The Chair recognizes Councilman
10 Oh.

11 COUNCILMAN OH: Thank you very
12 much, Council President. The first thing
13 I'd like to do is recognize that last
14 week we had a standing moment of silence
15 for James "Pointman" Abram, Vietnam
16 combat veteran, founder of Pointman
17 Soldier Heart Ministry. We are joined
18 today by members of Pointman as well as
19 his widow, Claudette Abram. She is here
20 with Ari Merretazon.

21 I'd ask her to stand and all of
22 Pointman Soldier Heart Ministry out of
23 Triumph Baptist Church.

24 (Standing ovation.)

25 COUNCILMAN OH: Thank you very

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2 much.

3 I would like to speak on my
4 bill, just to save everybody time. I'll
5 just explain it publicly.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

7 Sure.

8 COUNCILMAN OH: Last week on
9 Friday I was listening to the news and I
10 heard about a memo to the police about
11 what they should do with a supervised
12 safe injection site. The first time I
13 heard of this.

14 Over the weekend, I learned
15 that there is a site in mind, and by the
16 beginning of this week, there was an
17 address. And the judge's order was
18 finalized Tuesday evening, and by
19 Wednesday, Safehouse announced that they
20 were operating the following week.

21 People find it incredible,
22 unbelievable that Council did not know
23 anything about this. They're very
24 doubtful, how could my Councilmember not
25 know that this was happening, and one of

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2 the reasons is because this was done very
3 secretly. I believe it was done
4 intentionally so that the public could
5 not have input. And what happened is, it
6 was done through an existing portion of
7 the Code because the location is Saint
8 Agnes Hospital.

9 What I am saying through this
10 bill is, there is no such thing
11 contemplated in The Philadelphia Code.
12 There has never been, until that order
13 was finalized, the idea that a location
14 would invite and rely on people,
15 patients, bringing illegal drugs with
16 them, the content of which nobody knows,
17 part fentanyl, fentanyl, rat poison --
18 nobody knows what's in there -- to come
19 on premises and inject themselves under
20 medical supervision, but leave at will,
21 regardless of their condition, whether
22 they're going to walk across the street
23 or get in a car and drive.

24 The community -- so for whoever
25 is in favor who supports safe injection

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2 sites, whoever opposes, I think generally
3 people agree that it's just shocking that
4 this site is opening a week after the
5 federal order, without any hearings,
6 information or knowledge to the public
7 because it is going into an existing
8 health facility.

9 What I am saying is that type
10 of health facility, it's never been done
11 in this country. It is un contemplated in
12 The Philadelphia Code and, therefore,
13 I've introduced a section of Title 6, the
14 Health Code, in Chapter 6, which is a
15 section that deals with identifying
16 nuisance health establishments by stating
17 that unless a process established under
18 Section 3 is followed, a supervised
19 injection site is presumed to be a
20 nuisance health establishment because it
21 relies on drug-addicted individuals
22 bringing illegal controlled substances
23 into the health establishment to consume
24 on premises and depart at will regardless
25 of their condition and safety of

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2 themselves and the public. Any plan to
3 operate a supervised injection site shall
4 be publicized to every resident,
5 business, and institution within a
6 one-mile radius of the proposed location
7 at least six months prior to the planned
8 operation of such a site. The proposed
9 supervised injection site shall provide a
10 detailed plan of operation to the
11 residents, businesses, and institutions
12 three months prior to holding a public
13 hearing. The hearing must be held at
14 least three months prior to the planned
15 date of operation. The proposed
16 supervised injection site may not operate
17 without approval of 90 percent of the
18 residents, businesses, and institutions
19 within the one-mile radius of the
20 facility, and if criteria A through D are
21 satisfied, then City Council shall vote
22 to approve or disapprove the operation of
23 the proposed supervised injection site,
24 unless its operation is already
25 determined to be in violation of the

1 2/27/20 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 Commonwealth or federal criminal laws, in
3 which case such facility shall not
4 operate.

5 Thank you.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

7 Thank you, Councilman.

8 (Applause.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
10 Chair recognizes Councilman Johnson.

11 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you,
12 Council President. I want to also
13 personally thank my colleague and I thank
14 his legal mind for stepping up to the
15 plate and really looking at our Code to
16 address this issue. And I'm the District
17 Councilperson who represents the area in
18 which the proposed safe injection site is
19 being proposed.

20 As I mentioned these last
21 several days, this process has not been
22 transparent. You have the Health
23 Commissioner that actually sits on the
24 Board of Safehouse and have never one
25 time reached out to my office, talked

1 2/27/20 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 about this plan coming to the Second
3 Councilmanic District.

4 More importantly, you have a
5 site that has two daycare centers as well
6 as a senior life center, and down the
7 street is a high school in which children
8 populate day in and day out. We have
9 received thousands of calls -- hundreds
10 of calls from parents and community
11 residents concerned.

12 As a father of two toddlers,
13 it's not even up for debate if I would
14 want my children to go to and from pre-K
15 stepping over needles. God forbid one
16 child finds a pack of heroin, or just to
17 be exposed to the level of that type of
18 lifestyle at such an early age.

19 There has been zero community
20 input in this process, and it's very
21 disrespectful that there was a press
22 conference announcing the opening of the
23 site before the actual community meeting,
24 which will give the residents an
25 opportunity to voice their concerns about

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2 this particular site.

3 And I want to say for the
4 record, this isn't about if you support
5 individuals who are addicted to drugs.
6 I'm an African American. I come from an
7 impoverished neighborhood in South
8 Philadelphia, but there was not a crack
9 safe house for individuals that ravished
10 my community growing up in South
11 Philadelphia, and I want to state that
12 for the record. So it's not about if you
13 support individuals who have
14 drug-addicted problems.

15 There is more than \$100 million
16 that the community -- that the Department
17 of Behavioral Health in the City of
18 Philadelphia receives to address this
19 issue. We have great programs such as
20 Gaudenzia, Northeast Treatment Center,
21 ODAAT that are already providing these
22 type of services, but this particular
23 site in itself is unacceptable just for
24 the simple fact that you have children
25 who are attending school in this facility

1 2/27/20 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 and that whole quality of life in that
3 immediate area can possibly go down as a
4 result of this particular proposal.

5 I'm working very closely with
6 my colleague Councilman Mark Squilla, who
7 borders my district. And so we both have
8 constituents who have been calling us,
9 and so we're working with a legal team to
10 look at all the options that are
11 available.

12 Thank you, Council President,
13 for allowing us and supporting us in this
14 effort. I want to also acknowledge
15 Councilwoman Maria Quinones-Sanchez as
16 well.

17 At the end of the day, rather
18 you're for this site or not, the
19 community deserves to have a voice at the
20 table. And so we'll stay on top of this
21 case as we move forward. But, again, I
22 want to also thank my colleague
23 Councilman David Oh. And I'm also one of
24 the key prime sponsors of the bill.

25 Thank you, Council President.

1 2/27/20 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 (Appause.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

4 Thank you, Councilman.

5 The Chair recognizes Councilman
6 Thomas.

7 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank you,
8 Council President. I first want to
9 recognize and thank my colleagues
10 Councilman David Oh as well as
11 Councilmember Kendra Brooks for
12 co-sponsoring the legislation related to
13 James Abrams. And growing up, we called
14 him Deacon Abrams. Deacon Abrams was
15 married to his wife of 53 years, who is
16 here today, and his Triumph family is
17 here today as well too.

18 So, again, thank you,
19 Councilman Oh, for working with us to
20 push this back.

21 Council President, if it's okay
22 with you and the legislative body, I just
23 would like the members of Triumph Baptist
24 Church that came today specifically to
25 acknowledge the legacy of Deacon Abrams

1 2/27/20 - STATED - REPORTS

2 to just take a moment to stand as we
3 acknowledge his greatness, not just
4 through Pointman services but through
5 Pointman Ministry at Triumph Baptist
6 Church.

7 (Applause.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

9 Thank you. Thank you. Thank you again
10 for being here today.

11 Pointman. I had a lot of
12 interesting conversations with him.
13 Sometimes we weren't necessarily on the
14 same page, but the conversations were
15 very interesting. Thank you again.

16 That concludes our introduction
17 of bills and resolutions, and we will now
18 move to our reports from committee.

19 And the Chair recognizes
20 Councilman Johnson for a report from the
21 Committee on Rules.

22 Councilman Jones, you want
23 to -- thank you.

24 COUNCILMAN JONES: On behalf of
25 Councilman Johnson, thank you,

1 2/27/20 - STATED - REPORTS

2 Mr. President. The Committee on Rules
3 reports two bills with a favorable
4 recommendation.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

6 Thank you.

7 Mr. Decker, please read the
8 report.

9 CHIEF CLERK: To the President
10 and members of the Council of the City of
11 Philadelphia, the Committee on Rules, to
12 which was referred Bill No. 200013,
13 entitled "An ordinance to amend the
14 Philadelphia Zoning Maps by changing the
15 zoning designations of certain areas of
16 land located within an area bounded by
17 Morris Street, 26th Street, Moore Street,
18 and 27th Street"; and

19 Bill No. 200019 entitled "An
20 ordinance amending Chapter 14-500 of The
21 Philadelphia Code, entitled 'Overlay
22 Zoning Districts,' by amending Section
23 14-514 entitled '/FNE, Far Northeast
24 Overlay District,'" respectfully reports
25 it has considered and amended the same

1 2/27/20 - STATED - REPORTS
2 and returns the attached bills to Council
3 with a favorable recommendation.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
5 Thank you.

6 The Chair again recognizes
7 Councilman Jones.

8 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you
9 again, Mr. President. I move that the
10 rules of Council be suspended as to
11 permit first reading on this day Bill
12 Nos. 200013 and 200019.

13 (Duly seconded.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
15 Thank you. It has been moved and
16 properly seconded that the rules of
17 Council be suspended so as to permit
18 first reading this day of Bills No.
19 200013 and 200019.

20 All those in favor say aye.
21 (Aye.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
23 Those opposed?

24 (No response.)

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The

1 2/27/20 - STATED - REPORTS

2 ayes have it, and these bills will be
3 placed on our First Reading Calendar
4 today.

5 The Chair now recognizes
6 Councilman Thomas for a report from the
7 Committee on Streets and Services.

8 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank you,
9 Council President. The Committee on
10 Streets and Services reports 12 bills
11 with a favorable recommendation.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
13 Thank you, Councilman.

14 Mr. Decker, please read that
15 report.

16 CHIEF CLERK: The Committee on
17 Streets and Services, to which was
18 referred Bill No. 200004, entitled "An
19 ordinance authorizing the striking from
20 City Plan No. 120 and abandonment of a
21 certain right-of-way reserved for various
22 public utility purposes extending from
23 Twentieth Street to Twenty-First Street,
24 south of Oxford Street"; and

25 Bill No. 200020, entitled "An

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ordinance establishing no truck parking
and tow-away regulations on Chesterfield
Road"; and

Bill No. 200021, entitled "An
ordinance establishing no truck parking
and tow-away regulations on Grant
Avenue"; and

Bill No. 200023, entitled "An
ordinance establishing parking
regulations in the vicinity of: Olney
Avenue and North 15th Street; Nedro
Avenue and Old York Road; Chew Avenue and
North 18th Street; Abbottsford Avenue and
Schuyler Street; Carlisle Street and
Duncannon Street; Lindley Avenue and
North 15th Street; North 19th Street and
Chew Avenue"; and

Bill No. 200024, entitled "An
ordinance establishing parking
regulations in the vicinity of: Indiana
Street and Broad Street; North 15th
Street and Tioga Street; North 16th
Street and Ontario Street to Butler
Street"; and

2/27/20 - STATED - REPORTS

Bill No. 200087, entitled "An ordinance amending Section 9-205 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled 'Sidewalk Sales,' to permit vending in certain areas in the vicinity of 56th Street between Haverford Avenue and Vine Street, 57th Street between Haverford Avenue and Vine Street, and Vine Street between 56th Street and 57th Street"; and

Bill No. 200091, entitled "An ordinance establishing parking regulations in the vicinity of: South 13th Street and Kimball Street; Juniper Street and Catharine Street; Carpenter Street and South 6th Street; East Passyunk Avenue and Kimball Street; South 12th Street and Catharine Street"; and

Bill No. 200092, entitled "An ordinance authorizing Independence Park Hotel to construct, own, and maintain a proposed exterior building ramp at 235 Chestnut Street"; and

Bill No. 200120, entitled "An ordinance authorizing the striking from

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City Plan No. 185 and abandonment of a certain right-of-way reserved for drainage purposes in the area lying east of Pelham Road and northeast and southeast of Hortter Street and plotting upon the said City Plan of a new right-of-way for sewer and drainage purpose"; and

Bill No. 200145, entitled "An ordinance authorizing the vacating of Charles Street (also known as Markle Street), between Manayunk Avenue and Dexter Street"; and

Bill No. 200146, entitled "An ordinance amending Section 2 of an ordinance (Bill No. 190450) approved July 17, 2019, entitled 'An ordinance authorizing the revision of lines and grades on a portion of City Plan No. 15-S by placing on the City Plan Alter Street from Seventeenth Street to Eighteenth Street in order to conform more closely with existing conditions,' by revising the terms and conditions stated therein

1 2/27/20 - STATED - REPORTS

2 and making certain technical changes";
3 and

4 Bill No. 200148, entitled "An
5 ordinance authorizing the revision of
6 lines and grades on a portion of City
7 Plan No. 359 by relocating the
8 southwesterly houseline of Byberry Road
9 approximately two feet southwestwardly
10 between a point approximately
11 four-hundred one feet northwest of The
12 Roosevelt Boulevard to a point
13 approximately five-hundred fifty feet
14 further northwestwardly therefrom,
15 thereby widening said Byberry Road
16 between such points, including the
17 dedication to the City of the bed of the
18 widened portion of Byberry Road being
19 placed on the City Plan," respectfully
20 reports it has considered the same and
21 returns the attached bills to Council
22 with a favorable recommendation.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

24 Thank you, Mr. Decker.

25 The Chair again recognizes

1 2/27/20 - STATED - REPORTS

2 Councilman Thomas.

3 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank you,
4 Council President. I move that the rules
5 of Council be suspended so as to permit
6 the first reading this day of the 12
7 bills that were just read into the record
8 by the Clerk.

9 (Duly seconded.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

11 Thank you. It has been moved and
12 properly seconded that the rules of
13 Council be suspended so as to permit the
14 first reading of the 12 bills just read
15 by the Chief Clerk.

16 All those in favor say aye.

17 (Aye.)

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

19 Those opposed?

20 (No response.)

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

25 The Chair now recognizes

1 2/27/20 - STATED - REPORTS

2 Councilwoman Gilmore Richardson for a
3 report from the Committee on the
4 Environment.

5 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Thank
6 you, Mr. President. The Committee on the
7 Environment reports one bill with a
8 favorable recommendation.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
10 Thank you, Councilwoman.

11 Mr. Decker, please read that
12 report.

13 CHIEF CLERK: The Committee on
14 the Environment, to which was referred
15 Bill No. 200090, entitled "An ordinance
16 amending Chapter 9-3400 of The
17 Philadelphia Code, entitled 'Energy
18 Conservation,' by amending Section
19 9-3403, entitled 'Solar Panel
20 Incentives,' amending certain
21 definitions, under certain terms and
22 conditions," respectfully reports it has
23 considered the same and returns the
24 attached bill to Council with a favorable
25 recommendation.

1 2/27/20 - STATED - REPORTS

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
3 Chair again recognizes Councilwoman
4 Gilmore Richardson.

5 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Thank
6 you, Mr. President. I move that the
7 rules of Council be suspended so as to
8 permit first reading this day of Bill No.
9 200090.

10 (Duly seconded.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
12 Thank you. It has been moved and
13 properly seconded that the rules of
14 Council be suspended so as to permit
15 first reading this day of Bill No.
16 200090.

17 All those in favor say aye.

18 (Aye.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
20 Those opposed?

21 (No response.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
23 ayes have it, and this bill will be
24 placed on our First Reading Calendar
25 today.

1 2/27/20 - STATED - BILLS ON 2ND READING

2 That concludes our reports from
3 committee, and our next order of business
4 is consideration of the Calendar.

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

11 As there are no additional
12 bills on the First Reading Calendar
13 today, the Chair recognizes Councilwoman
14 Parker for the purpose of calling up
15 resolutions and bills that are on the
16 Second Reading and Final Passage Calendar
17 today.

18 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Thank
19 you, Mr. President. The following
20 resolutions and bills are being called up
21 from the Second Reading and Final Passage
22 Calendars today: Nos. 200174, 200176,
23 200006, 200016, 200117. Thank you.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
25 Thank you, Councilwoman, very much.

1 2/27/20 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 So before we have our Final
3 Passage action on any bills and
4 resolutions that are on our Final Passage
5 Calendar today, we will have our public
6 comment session. It will go as follows.
7 And before I say that, we are currently
8 in the process of altering the Final
9 Passage Calendar. The way the rules
10 read, if there is significant number of
11 testimony on the same bill, the Council
12 President, based on the rules, has the
13 ability to pare that back significantly.
14 What we're currently doing is attempting
15 to have a list pared back and have
16 individuals speak. Because you all are
17 speaking on behalf, we will allow
18 individuals to be there as the speaker
19 speaks. So I want to do this in a fair
20 and equitable way, give everybody a
21 chance to be at the podium. So we're
22 trying to pare that back to try to get
23 accommodation for members who speak about
24 this particular program.

25 So that being said, if you have

1 2/27/20 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 signed up, when your name is called, you
3 will go to the middle of the Council
4 Chambers. The podium is there. There's
5 a device on that podium. When the light
6 turns green, it will be your time to
7 speak. When the light turns yellow, you
8 will have 30 seconds to conclude your
9 remarks, and when the light turns red,
10 we'd ask that you adhere to our
11 guidelines and please conclude your
12 remarks. You will be given three minutes
13 to testify based on our ability to pare
14 back that list.

15 I want to thank you very much
16 for your anticipated cooperation.

17 And, Mr. Decker, please call
18 the first name on the list.

19 I'm sorry. Mr. Decker, hold on
20 one second.

21 The Chair recognizes
22 Councilwoman Gym.

23 COUNCILWOMAN GYM: Thank you
24 very much, Council President. I have
25 business that takes me outside of City

1 2/27/20 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Council and would like to be requesting a
3 leave, but recorded as voting aye on all
4 bills and resolutions.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

6 Thank you, Councilwoman. Leave shall be
7 granted. Thank you very much.

8 Mr. Decker.

9 CHIEF CLERK: Joe Eastman,
10 commenting on 200006.

11 (Witness approached podium.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good
13 morning.

14 MR. EASTMAN: Good morning. My
15 name is Joe Eastman. I think most of you
16 know, I'm retired military, live in South
17 Philadelphia, and a taxpayer.

18 Before I start, I'd like to ask
19 every veteran in this room, every family
20 member of a vet who wishes to do so,
21 every supporter of a vet to get up and
22 stand up. Just let us recognize you.

23 (Applause.)

24 MR. EASTMAN: It's my honor to
25 be here with every one of you. Thank you

1 2/27/20 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 all for your service.

3 I want to start by quoting or
4 actually paraphrasing President Barack
5 Obama's former Commander of course who is
6 in Afghanistan and Iraq as well as his
7 deputy -- or as his Director of Central
8 Intelligence, four-star General David
9 Patraeus. He wrote a long letter as a
10 West Point graduate to a group of
11 freshmen up at West Point. I'm not going
12 to read that letter. It's pretty long.
13 I can forward it to anybody if they want
14 to read it. But I'm going to go over the
15 last sentence real quick, and it kind of
16 gets in my mind what we are, veterans up
17 here, fighting for.

18 General Patraeus said, Just by
19 the fact that you're one of the half a
20 percent that is willing to go in harm's
21 way, put your life on the line and serve
22 this country, that in and of itself makes
23 you part of an elite organization.

24 Now, I doubt anybody back here
25 thinks they're elite, but I think it's

1 2/27/20 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 well worth it to kind of play on what
3 General Patraeus said.

4 The other thing is, what I'm
5 worried about when all this stuff goes
6 forward in November, because I think
7 we've seen it kind of happen over the
8 last 24 hours, is that as sure as I'm
9 standing here, somebody is going to come
10 forward with something else saying let's
11 put another group in that bill so they
12 can get the same thing that we have.
13 Well, my response to that is, if you want
14 what I have, go out and earn it. Do what
15 we did. If not, find something else to
16 do.

17 The third thing I want to talk
18 about, third thing I want to talk about,
19 there was an article that was floated
20 around last Saturday by a lady by the
21 name Jenny DeHuff, and it quoted somebody
22 in this body as what we're just -- and
23 I'm paraphrasing here. If I get it
24 wrong, I apologize, but I think you'll
25 get the understanding, that we're just

1 2/27/20 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 trying to help kids in a tough economy.

3 I'm almost 70 years old. This is the
4 best economy, best job market I've seen.

5 As many of you know, I was a
6 job developer for Greater Philadelphia
7 Urban Affairs Coalition, and I kind of do
8 it in the veterans community kind of as a
9 hobby. In the last 11 months, I have
10 sent to the veterans community 110
11 organizations, businesses, in
12 Philadelphia that are looking to hire. I
13 am here to tell you finding a company
14 that's willing to hire is not difficult.
15 If I can find that, just kind of doing it
16 as a hobby, why can't the School District
17 of Philadelphia do it? And if they don't
18 know how, I'll be glad to show them.

19 There are jobs out there for
20 our young people, and I would say to any
21 young person, if you want what I got, you
22 go out and earn it just like I did.

23 Thank you, sir.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

25 Thank you for your testimony.

1 2/27/20 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 (Applause.)

3 CHIEF CLERK: Tom Campanaro.

4 (No response.)

5 CHIEF CLERK: Tom Campanaro.

6 (No response.)

7 CHIEF CLERK: Monty Wilson,
8 commenting on 200016.

9 (Witness approached podium.)

10 MR. WILSON: Thank you.

11 My name is Montgomery Wilson.

12 Some of you know me. I'm a Senior
13 Attorney with Community Legal Services in
14 Philadelphia where we serve low-income
15 Philadelphians with their civil legal
16 issues. I personally have represented
17 hundreds of homeowners who are dealing
18 with preserving their homes. We all
19 remember the predatory lending days and
20 the bill that City Council passed over a
21 decade ago to fight predatory lending and
22 the actions that you took in Common Pleas
23 Court to help homeowners, and my most
24 recent project has been focused on
25 helping people to pay their property

1 2/27/20 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 taxes and both allow them to stay in
3 their homes and pay their property taxes.

4 My mother warned me never to
5 follow children and animals, and I think
6 I've also learned today don't follow
7 football players. So let's hear it for
8 the Blackhawks. I'd like to say that on
9 a personal note.

10 What I'm here today for,
11 though, is to urge you to put money back
12 in the pockets of Philadelphia's working
13 families. One of the bills today
14 relating to the City wage tax refund,
15 Bill 200016, is essentially a local
16 version of the earned income tax credit.
17 It currently exists on the books, but as
18 the amendment proposes, it would increase
19 the amount of the refund for a family of
20 four from about \$171 per year up to about
21 \$800 a year. That is their wages put
22 back in working families' pockets for
23 eligible low-income families. It's very
24 similar to the earned income tax credit
25 that benefits millions of Americans, and

1 2/27/20 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 we have the same program here in
3 Philadelphia, but few, few families take
4 advantage of it.

5 At CLS every year, we see over
6 10,000 low-income homeowners and families
7 who come to us for advice. About 3,300
8 of those are wage earners. Those are my
9 clients, my constituents who could
10 benefit with an extra \$600 a year in
11 their pockets. That's a bill that will
12 pay for their groceries. That's a bill
13 that will pay their property taxes.
14 That's a bill that will pay for their
15 SEPTA pass.

16 And also when you expand that
17 to the entire City, that is thousands
18 upon thousands of your constituents who
19 will benefit from your investing in the
20 wages they worked for.

21 I urge you to pass this bill
22 unanimously today.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

24 Thank you for your testimony, sir.

25 (Applause.)

1 2/27/20 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 CHIEF CLERK: Joe Danihel,
3 commenting on 200016 and 200176.

4 (Witness approached podium.)

5 MR. DANIHEL: Good morning.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good
7 morning.

8 MR. DANIHEL: This is an
9 official decree of the people in writ of
10 mandamus quo warranto and, as such,
11 requires immediate action and remedy.

12 Every week, Council, Mayor,
13 Governor, and others transfer private
14 property to the government, probably
15 unlawfully.

16 Paul Robeson and Martin Luther
17 King fought against those violating
18 officials stealing the people's property
19 and denying God-given rights. In the
20 decades since their struggles, the race
21 and sex of these oath-violating officials
22 has changed, but their unlawful actions
23 have not.

24 In the most diverse Council in
25 City government ever, bullying of the

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2 people appears worse than ever.

3 Aaron v. Cooper, 358 U.S. 1
4 requires your prosecution for violating
5 your oath to God. Would Martin Luther
6 King approve of your apparent unlawful
7 behavior?

8 If violating one law one time
9 would send your constituents to jail, why
10 hasn't the Attorney General prosecuted
11 your oath violators in my case?

12 The constitutions require
13 immediate remedy of this breach of law,
14 breach of close, breach of fiduciary
15 duty. Your oath of office requires you
16 to act or face prison.

17 42 USC 1982, 1983, 1985, 1986,
18 1987; 18 USC 241, 242, 2381, 2384; PA
19 Constitution, Article I, Sections 1
20 through 28; 26 PA CSA 703, 705, 708, 709,
21 711, 712, 713, 716, 902, and other laws
22 listed in SCOTUS 15-8965, 14-1330,
23 14-4056 appear violated.

24 I call on the federal and
25 Commonwealth governments to perform their

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2 constitutional obligations to investigate
3 and prosecute all involved in the theft
4 and illegal deed transfer of my home,
5 1038 West Wyoming Avenue.

6 The denial of God-given 42 USC
7 1982 property rights for 26 years is
8 egregious, extraordinary, oath-violating,
9 and requires immediate remedy.

10 A just government must obey the
11 rule of law. This color of law
12 government must have its Charter to
13 govern revoked until a constitutionally
14 compliant government is installed.

15 Public servants cannot refuse
16 their sworn duty to act any more than a
17 fireman can refuse to fight a fire. The
18 sovereign people require oath,
19 Constitution, and law be enforced, and
20 jail is required for all who violate
21 oath, Constitution or law.

22 I remind Council, it takes a
23 lot of cooperation to create and allow
24 all of this monumental corruption. And
25 these veterans that are here in this room

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2 did not fight overseas or in any war to
3 allow you to violate the Constitution,
4 and demand that you obey your oath.

5 (Applause.)

6 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Thank
7 you.

8 The Chief Clerk will please
9 read the name of our next speaker.

10 CHIEF CLERK: Darryl Johnson,
11 commenting on 200006.

12 (Witness approached podium.)

13 MR. JOHNSON: Good afternoon,
14 City Council of City of Philadelphia. My
15 name is Darryl Johnson. Thank you again
16 for this opportunity to address you.

17 As a retired teacher, I am not
18 opposed to school-to-employment
19 opportunities for our city's youth, but
20 as a veteran, I am still opposed to Bill
21 200007 as written.

22 I have an academic-only diploma
23 from the School District of Philadelphia.
24 This bill does not benefit graduates like
25 me. My nephew's parents are City law

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2 enforcement officers. He attends a
3 Catholic vocational high school in the
4 City. This bill does not benefit future
5 CTE graduates like him.

6 Dr. Hackney, Director of the
7 Mayor's Office of Education, reported in
8 this very room last week before the Labor
9 Committee that the bill is exclusive and
10 does not cast a wide enough net.

11 The bill also lacks clarity for
12 the qualified electors. Voters will
13 assume that this is a desire by the City
14 to connect and capitalize on the over
15 1,000 hours of industrial skills and
16 certifications these graduates have, or
17 why else would they select this group for
18 preference?

19 Dr. Hackney said again in this
20 location that this preference should be
21 aligned to industrial skills.
22 Unfortunately, this assumption is wrong.
23 In fact, the CTE preference is broad
24 based, and it's not aligned to skill
25 sets. The proof of this is in the

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2 amendments. Notice that there's a
3 movement to increase the number of points
4 for Philadelphia Police Explorer cadets
5 from three to five. This Charter change
6 would have placed a CTE preference over
7 these cadets, who have been trained for
8 years for this position. I don't think
9 this is fair.

10 There is also another major
11 oversight. The amendment lists or limits
12 CTE preference to eligibility of three
13 years after graduation, and it is
14 believed that a smaller number of CTE
15 graduates will stay in the City to seek
16 employment. In comparison, we veterans
17 have lifetime preference. So what is the
18 problem? Here is what is not being said:
19 Each year a new group of CTE graduates
20 will start their three years of
21 eligibility. Starting year three and
22 beyond, veterans, legacy parents -- I
23 mean, legacy families and others will
24 have to compete with three, not one, CTE
25 graduating class every year indefinitely.

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2 This is no small number.

3 Even the Human Resource
4 Director mentioned in this very room that
5 this is not necessary. In all due
6 respect, this bill should be better
7 vetted.

8 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER:

9 Mr. Johnson, we're going to ask you to
10 wind down your testimony. The time is
11 up.

12 MR. JOHNSON: Yes. Almost
13 done.

14 Okay. In closing, freedom is
15 not free. Veterans preference was never
16 given. It was earned and is an
17 exception.

18 Thank you.

19 (Applause.)

20 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Thank you
21 for your comments, sir.

22 Clerk will call the next
23 witness.

24 CHIEF CLERK: Tyrone Love,
25 commenting on 200006.

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2 (Witness approached podium.)

3 MR. LOVE: Good morning, Madam
4 President, City Council, veterans, good
5 morning.

6 Ma'am, to piggyback off of what
7 Dr. Johnson -- my name is Tyrone A. Love,
8 last name L-O-V-E. I am the Commander of
9 VFW Post 3090's local located at 5212
10 Race Street. I am the past Commander of
11 American Legion Post 682 located at 159
12 East Sharpnack Street. I am the Director
13 of Veterans Affairs for the State of
14 Pennsylvania for the Most Worshipful
15 Prince Hall Grand Lodge in Pennsylvania.

16 The reason for my coming today
17 was in reference to the veterans
18 preference.

19 Ma'am, I ask you, I beg you at
20 this time if City Council can understand
21 that, again, what we do, we earn what we
22 have done. The veterans, some have given
23 their lives for the freedom that a lot of
24 people take for granted.

25 To give the children and/or

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2 others the preference that we have
3 earned, as stated by my colleagues here,
4 I ask at this time please do not take our
5 preference. We're not against the
6 children receiving certain things, but at
7 the same time, ma'am, I ask them to
8 please don't forget the sacrifice that
9 many men and women like myself have made,
10 and when we come home, sometimes we're
11 forgotten.

12 So I ask you, Madam President,
13 you know me and many people here in the
14 Council know who I am. I am an advocate
15 for veterans preference and/or veterans
16 being taken care of, homeless veterans,
17 because we have earned certain rights.
18 And I ask you and I applaud you if you
19 can look over this bill and please
20 remember the freedoms that we have given
21 so many of you and so many take for
22 granted.

23 Thank you, ma'am. Have a great
24 day.

25 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Thank

1 2/27/20 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 you. Thank you.

3 (Applause.)

4 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Clerk

5 will please call the next speaker.

6 CHIEF CLERK: David Pearl,

7 commenting on 200006.

8 (Witness approached podium.)

9 MR. PEARL: Good afternoon.

10 This time I made it by three minutes the
11 other way. It was three minutes of last
12 time.

13 My name is David Pearl. I am
14 the State of Pennsylvania appointee to
15 the National Legislative Committee for
16 the Veterans of Foreign Wars. I was here
17 last week, as you know, and told you I
18 was here representing our Commander in
19 Chief and told you that their interest in
20 what's going on here in Philadelphia is
21 real. So what they sent me was, they
22 wanted me to point out to everybody here
23 in Chambers that under the U.S.
24 Constitution, the 14th Amendment is
25 something you might want to look at,

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2 because it's going to defend the right of
3 veterans and focuses on what you're
4 trying to do here. Also, Title 42 of the
5 U.S. Code, Subsection 1983 also
6 specifically addresses what you're going
7 to do or what you're attempting to do
8 here.

9 So what I want to do, I'd like
10 all the comrades that are in the room
11 here with me, everybody who served as a
12 veteran, please stand up. I want to
13 point something out to everybody.

14 So members of Council, to
15 yourself, ma'am, everybody that's here,
16 including myself, when they went into the
17 military put up their hand to protect and
18 defend this Constitution. Everybody
19 you're looking at signed a blank check
20 saying they would take a bullet to defend
21 this Constitution. That's how they
22 earned that right for that veterans
23 preference.

24 I've been in discussion with a
25 lot of you. You all support veterans.

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2 Don't ever lessen the value of that thank
3 you that you give us, because like the
4 people before me had said, they earned
5 it.

6 This can be dealt with another
7 way, but to lessen the ten point
8 preference for veterans is a slap in our
9 face.

10 I want to thank all of you.

11 Thank you.

12 (Applause.)

13 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Thank
14 you.

15 Clerk, please call the name of
16 the next speaker.

17 CHIEF CLERK: Nathaniel Smith,
18 commenting on 200006.

19 (Witness approached podium.)

20 MR. SMITH: Nathaniel Smith.

21 Good afternoon, Council
22 President and Councilmembers of the great
23 City of Philadelphia. My name is
24 Nathaniel Smith. I am the State Junior
25 Vice Commander for the Veterans of

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2 Foreign Wars, the oldest combat
3 organization consisting of 25 districts,
4 440 posts, and approximately 72,000 VFW
5 members.

6 I'm here on behalf of my
7 Commander, Wayne Perry, and to echo the
8 sentiments of our National Legislative
9 Chairman, David Pearl, representing
10 Pennsylvania VFW and 60,000 veterans of
11 the City of Brotherly Love to oppose this
12 Resolution 200006 and 7, amendment of the
13 Charter of the Civil Service Commission.

14 I'm a retired U.S. Navy
15 veteran, served 24 years, retired in 1999
16 as an E-9, which is the highest rank you
17 can achieve in the enlisted community.
18 My base pay after 24 years was \$32,000,
19 which looking back at it, if I was a
20 civilian and I had a civilian job, I
21 could have probably made that at
22 McDonald's. I would probably have made
23 twice that amount.

24 I just recently retired from
25 the Department of Labor and Industry,

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2 Bureau of Occupational and Industrial
3 Safety as the Director of the Boiler
4 Division and Chief Boiler Inspector for
5 the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania after 20
6 years. If it wasn't for the extra ten
7 points as a veteran for my military
8 service, I would have never got hired.

9 I am not opposed to giving
10 career and technical education graduates
11 extra credits, as I was one myself. My
12 mother was a single parent. There was
13 eight of us left out of 12. I was the
14 only one who graduated high school. She
15 couldn't afford to send me to college, so
16 I joined the U.S. Navy, and I'm very
17 proud of what I've done.

18 I applaud Councilwoman
19 Richardson for her reference and concerns
20 for these students. However, it
21 shouldn't be on the backs of the veterans
22 of Philadelphia, who have made sacrifices
23 for our freedom.

24 The veterans have earned the
25 ten points due to their education,

1 2/27/20 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 experience, and training, whether they
3 served four years or 30 years.

4 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Thank
5 you, sir. Sir, I'm going to ask you to
6 please wind down your testimony.

7 MR. SMITH: Okay.

8 So specifically if you pass
9 this ordinance, you're in violation of PA
10 State Veterans Preference Act Title 51
11 Subsection 7104(b) and 7109.

12 Thank you.

13 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Thank you
14 for your testimony, sir.

15 (Applause.)

16 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Will the
17 Clerk please call the name of our next
18 speaker.

19 CHIEF CLERK: Louis Lanni,
20 commenting on 200006.

21 (Witness approached podium.)

22 MR. LANNI: Mr. President, my
23 name is Louis Lanni. I was born, like
24 many people in this room, I was born,
25 bred, educated here in the public schools

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2 of this city and still standing.

3 Furthermore, I was a policeman here in
4 Philadelphia, separated by injury some
5 years ago.

6 I come here today to speak in
7 opposition of the bill being considered
8 that would offer a preference to the CTE
9 students of the Philadelphia public
10 schools, a bill that I'm sure is very
11 well intended.

12 I think that singling out and
13 offering a boutique preference to this
14 small group of an entire group of
15 Philadelphia public school students does
16 a disservice to the other students, the
17 many thousands of students that attend
18 our public schools.

19 Furthermore, I believe that
20 preference should only be offered under
21 two circumstances. One being to
22 recognize the extraordinary service to
23 our community offered by a group, in my
24 mind veterans and police officers or
25 firefighters or other City employees who

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2 were killed or murdered many times in the
3 course of their employment or veterans
4 who are injured on the battlefield or
5 killed.

6 So I would urge you to
7 reconsider on what I'm sure was a
8 well-intended bill and think about the
9 injustice that's being done to the many
10 thousands of men and women who have put
11 on the uniform of this country and of
12 this city and have done their duty and
13 have many times been injured and murdered
14 in so doing and to the exclusion,
15 speaking about the students of the
16 Philadelphia public schools, all others
17 who weren't beneficiaries of the CTE
18 program.

19 The public school students that
20 didn't go through that program are
21 equally valuable to us, and they deserve
22 the same chance that anybody else gets.

23 So I would urge you to rethink
24 this well-intended but I think premature
25 offering.

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2 Thank you.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

4 Thank you for your testimony.

5 (Applause.)

6 CHIEF CLERK: Larry Holman,
7 commenting on 200006.

8 (Witness approached podium.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good
10 afternoon.

11 MR. HOLMAN: Good afternoon,
12 Council President Clarke and all the
13 other Councilmen and all my fellow
14 veterans that are here today.

15 First of all, I just want to
16 remind you of my testimony that I offered
17 a couple of weeks ago. It seems like
18 here in Philadelphia, the birthplace of
19 our nation, that we need to be cognizant
20 of what it means to preserve this great
21 nation and what it takes, and a lot of
22 people have stepped forward to answer the
23 call when our nation was threatened.

24 Now, I want to keep my remarks
25 brief just by reminding you that there

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2 was a fellow named Steve Mason that wrote
3 in the 1980s a book called Johnny's Song:
4 Poetry of a Vietnam Veteran, and in that
5 there was a poem called The Casualty, and
6 that poem acknowledges that the poorer
7 males were more likely to become
8 veterans, only to find when we get home,
9 somebody moved the town.

10 Now, the young vets suffered a
11 loss of time and opportunity that can
12 never be returned. Therefore, I object
13 to putting high school graduates on a par
14 with veterans.

15 Thank you.

16 (Applause.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

18 Thank you for your testimony.

19 CHIEF CLERK: Louis Gibson.

20 (Witness approached podium.)

21 MR. GIBSON: I'm a United
22 States Marine. I'm honorably retired
23 Lance Corporal Louis Gibson. Have no
24 sympathy for me. I earned this.

25 My name is Louis Gibson and I'm

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2 an American because I'm brave. Not
3 because I was born in the United States
4 of America. I was born in Liberia, Nimba
5 County, Liberia, and I served the United
6 States Marine Corps and earned
7 everything, this wheelchair and every
8 disability that I suffer from, and I
9 embraced it. And the preferences give me
10 a little bit of an advantage to even out
11 the playing field in the job market. So
12 when you give me a little bit of
13 preference, I appreciate it, but I really
14 don't want nothing. I earned everything.
15 I earned that. And if you give it to
16 anybody, don't ever tell me thank you for
17 serving, because you're an Indian giver.

18 (Applause.)

19 MR. GIBSON: That's an American
20 phrase when somebody gives you something
21 and then they take it back.

22 What y'all doing?

23 I came to America. My father
24 and my mother brought me here for a
25 better life. I'm 44 years old. I left

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2 the military under the age of 30
3 catastrophically injured, but I'm still
4 good looking. I'm a class clown.
5 Everybody know me. I'm a comedian.

6 But this is a serious topic.
7 That's why I'm here. And I'm
8 representing the United States Marine
9 Corps and anybody who calls themselves an
10 American, not because you was born here.
11 Because you brave. It's the home of the
12 brave. That's who I protect, not the
13 home of the cowards.

14 Take a look at me. Look at
15 this African American. There really was
16 born in Africa a real dude. Look what
17 America did to me. They gave me so many
18 benefits. I'm rich, but I earned that.
19 I'm Puff Daddy with a government check,
20 for real, and everybody in this city know
21 me. And I was born in Nimba County,
22 Liberia.

23 Thank you, America, the
24 greatest country in the whole world.
25 Look at me. Look at me. I'm 100 percent

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2 service-connected total and permanent,
3 and all of my disabilities are static,
4 and the VA told me I would never walk
5 again. The greatest country in the
6 world.

7 I got to wait until I get my VA
8 check at the end of the month a little
9 bit. Anybody needs anything for your
10 non-profit, y'all call me,
11 LouisGibson.us. I'm the guy in the
12 wheelchair sitting next to Michelle
13 Obama. She smell good.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
15 Thank you for your testimony, sir. Thank
16 you for your service.

17 (Applause.)

18 CHIEF CLERK: Scott Sigman.

19 (Audience member talking
20 without microphone.)

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: He's
22 not here?

23 (Audience member talking
24 without microphone.)

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

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2 Okay.

3 Mr. Decker, is that it?

4 CHIEF CLERK: No other
5 speakers, Mr. President.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
7 Thank you very much, and thank you all
8 for your service.

9 (Audience member speaking
10 without microphone.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Hold
12 on. Hold on one second. Hold on one
13 second. So I told you all early on
14 before we started this, we were going to
15 pare the names back because we can't have
16 25 speakers on the same subject matter,
17 and we pared that list back. So this
18 concluded that list. But if I let one
19 person and then the next person and it
20 goes on, then we end up having 25
21 speakers on one issue. That's just
22 not --

23 (Audience member speaking
24 without microphone.)

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: I'm

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2 just saying, ma'am, I got to have some
3 structure here, and it may be unpopular,
4 but we understand. This will be an issue
5 for a number of weeks, so people will
6 have an opportunity to weigh in on this.
7 Thank you.

8 Ma'am, if you have written
9 testimony, ma'am, if you have written
10 testimony, you can submit it and we can
11 put it in the record for you. Okay?
12 Just make sure your name is on there and
13 we will make it a part of the record.

14 Okay. Our next order of
15 business is our Calendar. Before we move
16 on with our Calendar, the Chair
17 recognizes Councilwoman Gilmore
18 Richardson. You good? All right. Thank
19 you.

20 All right. Mr. Decker, can you
21 please read the title of 200174.

22 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution also
23 naming East Passyunk Avenue between South
24 Street and Bainbridge Street, as "Avenue
25 of The Roots."

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2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
3 Chair recognizes Councilman Squilla.

4 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Thank you,
5 Mr. President. I move for the adoption
6 of the resolution.

7 (Duly seconded.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: It's
9 been moved and properly seconded.

10 All those in favor say aye.

11 (Aye.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
13 Those opposed?

14 (No response.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
16 ayes have it. Resolution 200174 is
17 adopted.

18 Mr. Decker, 200176.

19 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
20 authorizing the creation of the
21 Philadelphia Fashion and Garment Industry
22 Task Force.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
24 Chair recognizes Councilman Oh.

25 COUNCILMAN OH: Thank you very

1 2/27/20 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 much. I move for the adoption of the
3 resolution.

4 (Duly seconded.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: It's
6 been moved and properly seconded.

7 All those in favor say aye.

8 (Aye.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
10 Those opposed?

11 (No response.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
13 ayes have it. Resolution 200176 is
14 adopted.

15 Mr. Decker, 200006.

16 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
17 providing for the submission to the
18 qualified electors of the City of
19 Philadelphia of an amendment to The
20 Philadelphia Home Rule Charter to provide
21 for a preference in civil service
22 examinations for any qualified graduate
23 of a Career Technical Education program
24 in the School District of Philadelphia,
25 as approved by Resolution of the City

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2 Council; fixing the date of a special
3 election for such purpose; prescribing
4 the form of ballot question to be voted
5 on; and, authorizing the appropriate
6 officers to publish notice and to make
7 arrangements for the special election.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
9 Chair recognizes Councilwoman Gilmore
10 Richardson.

11 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Thank
12 you, Mr. President. Today after much
13 conversation with a number of the
14 veterans that are represented here,
15 including some that are here in the
16 gallery, I would like to offer an
17 amendment to Bill No. 200006. A copy of
18 the amendment has been circulated to all
19 members of Council, and I move for the
20 adoption of the amendment.

21 (Duly seconded.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: It's
23 been moved and properly seconded for the
24 amendment to 200006.

25 All those in favor say aye.

1 2/27/20 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 (Aye.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

4 Those opposed?

5 (No response.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
7 ayes have it. 200006 has been amended.
8 It will be placed on our Second Reading
9 and Final Passage Calendar at our next
10 session of Council.

11 Mr. Decker, 200016.

12 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
13 amending Section 19-1508 of The
14 Philadelphia Code, entitled "Refunds and
15 Forgiveness for Poverty Income," to
16 revise the tax rate.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: This
18 bill has been heard on two separate days.
19 The question is shall the bill pass
20 finally.

21 Mr. Decker, call the roll.

22 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman
23 Bass.

24 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Aye.

25 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman

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2 Brooks.

3 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: Aye.

4 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Domb.

5 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Aye.

6 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman

7 Gauthier.

8 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Aye.

9 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman

10 Gilmore Richardson.

11 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Aye.

12 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Green.

13 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Aye.

14 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman Gym

15 is voting aye.

16 Councilman Johnson.

17 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Aye.

18 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Jones.

19 COUNCILMAN JONES: Aye.

20 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Oh.

21 COUNCILMAN OH: Aye.

22 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman

23 O'Neill.

24 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Aye.

25 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman

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2 Parker.

3 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Aye.

4 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman

5 Quinones-Sanchez.

6 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Aye.

7 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman

8 Squilla.

9 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Aye.

10 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman

11 Thomas.

12 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Aye.

13 CHIEF CLERK: Council President

14 Clarke.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Aye.

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

20 Mr. Decker, 200117.

21 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
22 approving the amendment of the Fiscal
23 Year 2020 Capital Budget providing for
24 expenditures for the capital purposes of
25 the Philadelphia Gas Works (including the

1 2/27/20 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 supplying of funds in connection
3 therewith) subject to certain constrains
4 and conditions, and acknowledging the
5 receipt of the Revised Forecast of
6 Capital Budgets for Fiscal Years 2021
7 through 2025, as amended.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: This
9 bill has been heard on two separate days.
10 The question is shall the bill pass
11 finally.

12 Mr. Decker, call the roll.

13 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman
14 Bass.

15 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Aye.

16 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman
17 Brooks.

18 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: Aye.

19 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Domb.

20 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Aye.

21 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman
22 Gauthier.

23 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Aye.

24 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman
25 Gilmore Richardson.

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2 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Aye.

3 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Green.

4 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Aye.

5 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman Gym
6 is voting aye.

7 Councilman Johnson.

8 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Aye.

9 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Jones.

10 COUNCILMAN JONES: Aye.

11 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Oh.

12 COUNCILMAN OH: Aye.

13 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman
14 O'Neill.

15 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Aye.

16 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman
17 Parker.

18 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Aye.

19 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman
20 Quinones-Sanchez.

21 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Aye.

22 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman
23 Squilla.

24 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Aye.

25 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman

1 2/27/20 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 Thomas.

3 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Aye.

4 CHIEF CLERK: Council President

5 Clarke.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Aye.

7 The ayes are 16; the nays are
8 zero. A majority of members present
9 voting in the affirmative, the bill
10 passes.

11 Mr. Decker, do you have any
12 additional resolutions?

13 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
14 authorizing the Committee on Children and
15 Youth to hold hearings on the impact of
16 sonic devices on young people on public
17 property, introduced by Councilwoman Gym.

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

20 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Thank
21 you, Mr. President. On behalf of
22 Councilwoman Gym, I move for the
23 adoption.

24 (Duly seconded.)

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: It's

1 2/27/20 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 been moved and properly seconded.

3 All those in favor say aye.

4 (Aye.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

6 Those opposed?

7 (No response.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
9 ayes have it. That resolution is
10 adopted.

11 CHIEF CLERK: And a resolution
12 authorizing the Committee on Children and
13 Youth to conduct hearings regarding the
14 City's investment in expanding
15 developmentally appropriate,
16 trauma-informed, and evidence-based
17 programming for youth experiencing
18 violence and gun violence in their
19 communities, introduced by Councilwoman
20 Gym.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
22 Chair again recognizes Councilwoman
23 Parker.

24 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Thank
25 you, Mr. President. On behalf of

1 2/27/20 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 Councilwoman Gym, I move for the
3 adoption.

4 (Duly seconded.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: It's
6 been moved and properly seconded.

7 All those in favor say aye.

8 (Aye.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
10 Those opposed?

11 (No response.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
13 ayes have it, and that resolution is
14 adopted.

15 CHIEF CLERK: And a resolution
16 honoring Barry Bessler, on the occasion
17 of his retirement as Director of Policy
18 and Compliance for the Department of
19 Philadelphia Parks and Recreation and
20 recognizing his 40 years of service to
21 the City of Philadelphia, introduced by
22 Councilman Domb on behalf of Councilman
23 Henon.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
25 Chair recognizes Councilman Domb.

1 2/27/20 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Thank you,
3 Council President. On behalf of
4 Councilman Henon, I move for the
5 adoption.

6 (Duly seconded.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: It's
8 been moved and properly seconded.

9 All those in favor say aye.

10 (Aye.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
12 Those opposed?

13 (No response.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
15 ayes have it, and that resolution is
16 adopted.

17 CHIEF CLERK: And a resolution
18 Honoring and Celebrating the Life of
19 James "Pointman" Abram for his selfless
20 dedication to his Country, his fellow
21 Veterans, his community, and his loving
22 family, introduced by Councilman Oh.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
24 Chair recognizes Councilman Oh.

25 COUNCILMAN OH: Thank you very

1 2/27/20 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 much. I move for the adoption of the
3 resolution.

4 (Duly seconded.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: It's
6 been moved and properly seconded.

7 All those in favor say aye.

8 (Aye.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
10 Those opposed?

11 (No response.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
13 ayes have it, and that resolution is
14 adopted.

15 CHIEF CLERK: There are no
16 other resolutions on the Final Passage
17 Calendar, Mr. President.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

19 Thank you very much, Mr. Decker.

20 That concludes our Calendar for
21 today.

22 Are there any speeches on
23 behalf of the minority?

24 The Chair recognizes Councilman

25 Oh.

1 2/27/20 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 COUNCILMAN OH: Thank you very
3 much, Council President. I do understand
4 that as a result of my resolution and
5 bill today, I will be entertaining
6 conversation. I think that's a great
7 thing. People have different opinions.

8 I've spoken to a lot of folks.
9 I would say I'm pretty familiar with the
10 subject matter. The only thing I'm going
11 to say is when people -- when you
12 approach me to talk about me, I'm going
13 to start with these numbers: 120,000
14 murdered in Mexico between 2006 and 2012,
15 all related to providing heroin to the
16 United States. 120,000 estimated
17 murdered in Mexico. 27,000 still
18 missing.

19 Start with those numbers, then
20 move to the number of people murdered in
21 Philadelphia, incarcerated in
22 Philadelphia, all involved in the drug
23 trade, human trafficking from minors,
24 women, go through the list. If you want
25 to show me studies, include all of those

1 2/27/20 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 numbers and we'll talk about the harms
3 done because of illegal drug trade, and
4 that's a conversation we can have about
5 prolonging and extending the use of drugs
6 by people who are addicted and unable to
7 take action themselves.

8 There are proven ways to help
9 addicted persons, and I will disagree
10 that this is a good way to do it, and we
11 can have that conversation.

12 Thank you.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

14 Thank you, Councilman.

15 (Applause.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

17 Speeches on behalf of the majority?

18 The Chair recognizes Councilman
19 Johnson.

20 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you,
21 Council President. This evening in the
22 Southwest part of my district at Myers
23 Recreation Center from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00
24 p.m., we'll be hosting a Peace Not Guns
25 town hall meeting to focus on what I

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2 consider the number one issue that we're
3 addressing here in the City of
4 Philadelphia, and that's the issue of gun
5 violence. The number one murder of
6 African American men between the ages of
7 18 and 34 is homicide by guns.

8 And so we're not only going to
9 talk, but we're going to establish a task
10 force for the Southwest part of my
11 district so they can work as a community.
12 And we empower them to come up with their
13 own strategies and solutions to reduce
14 gun violence in Southwest Philadelphia.

15 And, again, that's this
16 evening, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. I'll be
17 joined by my colleague Councilman Curtis
18 Jones, and this is an initiative under
19 Special Committee on Gun Violence, and I
20 will encourage any of my other colleagues
21 that want to join not only the
22 discussion, but be a part of the strategy
23 and plan to reduce gun violence, so
24 you're more than welcome to attend.

25 Thank you very much, Council

1 2/27/20 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 President.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

4 Thank you, Councilman.

5 The Chair recognizes Councilman
6 Domb.

7 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Thank you,
8 Council President. I'd like to speak
9 briefly on the wage tax refund
10 legislation that we unanimously voted
11 today to adopt. I want to thank
12 everyone. This bill will help 150,000
13 low-income Philadelphians and aid our
14 city in combatting poverty that has
15 plagued us for too long.

16 I want to thank all my
17 colleagues for their ongoing support. I
18 especially want to thank you, Council
19 President Clarke, and Councilmember Derek
20 Green and Councilmember Maria
21 Quinones-Sanchez who stood with me last
22 month at the Finance Committee meeting,
23 along with several community supporters,
24 including CLS, Campaign for Working
25 Families, Benefits Data Trust, and The

1 2/27/20 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 Reinvestment Fund to support the
3 reintroduction of this legislation.

4 I also want to thank additional
5 co-sponsors such as Councilmembers
6 Johnson, Gauthier, Jones, Squilla, Oh,
7 Thomas, Gilmore Richardson, Councilmember
8 Bass and Parker.

9 This bill will allow low-income
10 residents to apply for a refund that
11 would give them back the hard-earned
12 wages they paid the City in taxes. It
13 will allow a family of four earning an
14 income of 34,000 to receive about \$810
15 per year, and by 2024, it could be as
16 much as 1,300. It will give immediate
17 assistance to pay their bills, buy
18 groceries, and help with the day-to-day
19 financial burden they face.

20 It's not a silver bullet to
21 curing our city's poverty problem, but
22 this is a necessary tool that we need to
23 help fix a problem that's lasted far too
24 long.

25 It's time that we make our tax

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2 system fairer. We have a lot of work yet
3 to do, and I look forward to working with
4 all of you as we finally reduce poverty
5 in Philadelphia.

6 One other comment, I want to
7 remind all my colleagues and staff to
8 join me tomorrow from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30
9 in the Caucus Room to learn about the
10 latest policy solutions for opioid use
11 disorder. The discussion and
12 presentation is being held by the experts
13 at the Pew Charitable Trust, and I look
14 forward to seeing everyone there
15 tomorrow.

16 Thank you very much.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

18 Thank you, Councilman.

19 The Chair recognizes Councilman
20 Green.

21 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you,
22 Council President. I want to remind my
23 colleagues that we'll be having a lunch
24 briefing immediately after Council with
25 Mental Health Partnerships talking about

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2 the great work that they do and how they
3 can partner with members of City Council.

4 I also want to bring members of
5 Council -- I want to inform them
6 regarding an issue I learned about.

7 Council President, you also were
8 supportive of this issue. Last Friday
9 afternoon in the Mayor's Reception Room,
10 I, along with State Senator Sharif
11 Street, Senator Tony Williams, State
12 Senator Tina Tartaglione, as well as
13 members of the House of Representatives,
14 State Representative Mary Isaacson,
15 Representative Malcolm Kenyatta,
16 Representative Danilo Burgos. We were
17 also joined by Ryan Boyer, Business
18 Manager for Laborers District Council,
19 and also Mel Wells from One Day At A
20 Time.

21 The purpose of the press
22 conference and the reason why I'm
23 bringing attention, because this
24 afternoon and this morning we've had a
25 lot of conversations regarding the opioid

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2 epidemic and various attempts to address
3 that issue.

4 Last Thursday, Senator Street
5 was in a Senate Appropriations Committee
6 hearing and learned that at the state
7 level, the Department of Drug and Alcohol
8 Programs under the leadership of
9 Secretary Jennifer Smith is going to be
10 adopting a regulatory change that going
11 forward -- and we're still trying to get
12 the exact date and time for when this
13 will go into effect -- that if you are a
14 program that deals with any type of
15 addiction services, if you do not allow
16 medically assisted treatment individuals
17 into your program, you will be de-funded.
18 Not only will you be de-funded, but
19 de-listed, which when you think of
20 organizations like One Day At A Time
21 started by Mel Wells' father who have
22 really received scraps in reference to
23 dollars providing treatment during the
24 crack cocaine epidemic, you think about
25 Dr. Tommy Reid from Nu-Stop in Southwest

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2 Philadelphia, a number of programs around
3 this city who have been really providing
4 a resource for people who have been
5 dealing with all kinds of addictions,
6 from alcohol to drugs to opioid
7 addictions, heroin addictions, and the
8 fact that at the state level they are
9 talking about removing funding, the
10 little bit of funding that these
11 organizations receive, if they do not
12 accept medically assisted treatment
13 individuals in their programs.

14 I've had a chance to attend and
15 visit a number of programs around the
16 City of Philadelphia. In the recovery
17 community, one size does not fit all.
18 You have some organizations that focus
19 strictly on abstinence. Others focus on
20 medically assisted treatment. And for
21 each individual that's going through some
22 type of recovery, they have to find the
23 path that works best for them. And the
24 fact that at the state level they're even
25 contemplating talking about removing

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2 funding from programs who already do not
3 get enough funding as it is if they don't
4 accept medically assisted treatment
5 individuals into their programs, it's
6 just simply wrong.

7 I know Senators Street,
8 Williams, Tartaglione, as well as
9 Representatives Isaacson, Kenyatta, and
10 Burgos are talking with the Governor's
11 Office to get this resolved. This would
12 have a very major impact in the City of
13 Philadelphia. These programs have done
14 phenomenal work for decades, and for them
15 to be forced to a closure just because
16 they focus on abstinence -- and there
17 needs to be all kinds of programs here in
18 the City of Philadelphia, those who do
19 need medical assisted treatment, but also
20 there are programs that are needed for
21 those who need abstinence, and we need
22 not to have a one-size-fit-all model in
23 the City of Philadelphia.

24 And this is not just an issue
25 for Philadelphia. In my role as First

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2 Vice President of the Pennsylvania
3 Municipal League, I will also be letting
4 my colleagues know in other cities, like
5 Harrisburg and Norristown and Erie and
6 Scranton who are already dealing with
7 these same issues.

8 I look forward to this ongoing
9 conversation and how we deal with these
10 issues in our city, and I'm hopeful that
11 our leaders in Harrisburg will resolve
12 this issue.

13 Thank you, Council President.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

15 Thank you, Councilman. Thank you for
16 bringing that to everyone's attention.

17 The Chair recognizes Councilman
18 Thomas.

19 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank you,
20 Council President. I just want to take a
21 minute to thank my colleagues
22 Councilmember Parker, Councilmember
23 Gilmore Richardson, Councilmember Domb,
24 Councilmember Brooks, Councilmember
25 Squilla, Councilmember Johnson,

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2 Councilmember Quinones-Sanchez, as well
3 as you, Council President, for joining me
4 yesterday at the culmination of my Black
5 History celebration. We have had a
6 number of different initiatives, from the
7 Black Business Crawl as well as
8 recognizing those who create paths for
9 heroes of tomorrow.

10 The last thing that we've done
11 is recognize those heroes of tomorrow.
12 So joining us in Council -- and they've
13 been here since 10 o'clock, so I commend
14 them, and I have lunch for them -- are
15 three young people who we actually have
16 citations for that are heroes of
17 tomorrow, and they're here with their
18 family. So if they wouldn't mind
19 standing, Ms. Aviannah Mitchell, Ms.
20 Mikayla Newkirk, and Mr. Ramier Jones.

21 Can you all just stand up,
22 please.

23 (Applause.)

24 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: All three
25 young people participated in a phenomenal

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2 oratorical contest on Martin Luther King
3 Day. They talked about how they can use
4 their intellect and their oratorical
5 skills to be the change that they want to
6 see.

7 So immediately after Council, I
8 have their citations. Any of my
9 colleagues who can take a couple minutes
10 after Council to take a picture with us,
11 we definitely appreciate it.

12 Thank you, and thank you, young
13 people, and thank you for your parents.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

15 Thank you, Councilman. Thank you.

16 (Applause.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

18 Congratulations.

19 The Chair recognizes Councilman
20 Squilla.

21 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Thank you,
22 Mr. President. I usually don't give
23 speeches, but this week we found out
24 about Safehouse going into a site,
25 without any input from the community, and

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2 I sort of lost my cool a little bit at a
3 press conference. It's usually not my
4 style, but understanding --

5 (Applause.)

6 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Thank you.

7 Understanding that we represent
8 both the people who are in addiction and
9 the surrounding communities who are
10 impacted by addiction, and it's a sad
11 situation, it's a hard situation, but we
12 have to stand up to protect both issues.
13 And what happened this week is just
14 outright wrong to be able to put
15 something in the community without any
16 input, whether you call it a medical
17 emergency, whether you call it something
18 that is necessary to save lives. We all
19 want to save lives, and our goal is to
20 save lives.

21 To pit people against each
22 other to say that people are against
23 saving lives is just wrong, and what the
24 Administration is doing here by selecting
25 a site that is not only in an area that

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2 has a daycare center, a preschool in
3 it --

4 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Two.

5 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: -- two
6 preschools, this is something that we
7 need to address, because to have this --
8 we can't have a billiards hall 500 feet
9 from a daycare or school. We have a high
10 school one block away. We can't have a
11 tattoo parlor 500 feet from a school or a
12 daycare, and yet we think it's okay to
13 put a safe injection site in the same
14 facility with the same building. And
15 whether you support these safe injection
16 sites or you don't, you have to be upset
17 at the process, and we as a Council I
18 think have to stand united.

19 I want to thank my colleagues
20 for reaching out and supporting that we
21 believe a process has to be done, and we
22 never have to get 50 percent support, 100
23 percent support to move these things
24 forward. We have to make tough
25 decisions, and that's why we're elected,

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2 but then we could have that decision and
3 that conversation with these communities
4 that these sites are going in.

5 I'm very disappointed on how
6 this played out. We, Councilmember
7 Sanchez and myself, actually went on a
8 trip with some of these folks and we
9 thought we had a great rapport with them,
10 working with them, talking with them, not
11 that we agree with everything that they
12 say or do, but we are willing to work
13 with them and look for best practices,
14 look for ways to help more people, give
15 us more tools in the tool shed to help
16 people who are addicted to opioids, and
17 to do this was just wrong. And I want to
18 say that we'll do whatever we can as a
19 Council to help protect our citizens and
20 help to protect the people who are in
21 addiction, and we want to continue to
22 work with all of the people to make sure
23 we right this wrong.

24 Thank you.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

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2 Thank you, Councilman.

3 The Chair recognizes
4 Councilwoman Quinones-Sanchez.

5 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank
6 you, Mr. President. I want to join in on
7 Councilman Squilla and I know Councilman
8 Kenyatta Johnson. We've done a lot of
9 work over the last decade and definitely
10 over the last three years as this opioid
11 addiction has gotten out of control, and
12 it's very concerning when we send
13 competing messages or contradictory
14 messages. On the one hand, we want to
15 meet people where they are. We want to
16 destigmatize this issue. We want to talk
17 about -- well, some of us want to talk
18 about the injustices about how this
19 problem is dealt with when the majority
20 of the folks affected were white versus
21 when it was black and brown people, all
22 of those nuances to this discussion. And
23 the one thing I've always appreciated
24 about Councilman Squilla is that he's
25 always been open-minded, and we've

1 2/27/20 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 attempted to be very open-minded in this
3 process.

4 I was practicing crime
5 reduction before it became the term. I
6 took a needle exchange program that was
7 in a van, put it in a building, worked
8 with the community. We educated the
9 community, we informed them, and we
10 created a full-fledged clinic. We asked
11 the community, we have a homeless
12 addiction problem. We worked with the
13 community. We had many meetings, and I
14 can tell you some of those meetings were
15 very difficult. Councilman Squilla and I
16 sat there, we took it, we worked with
17 folks, and the Administration promised
18 the community that they were going to
19 take care of all of the issues around the
20 respite centers. All of the community
21 has in one way or another in their
22 families have experienced the issues
23 around opioid addiction, having lost
24 someone in their lives. And they told
25 us, okay, okay, and we promised them we

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2 were going to take care of them. All you
3 have to do is go to Kensington and
4 Allegheny to know that what was
5 historically a poor community that has
6 always had drug problems, but nothing,
7 nothing like we've allowed to fester
8 there.

9 I'm really concerned when we
10 start talking about best practices.
11 Councilman Green talks about this move to
12 medical assisted treatment and it being
13 evidence-based best practices. I'm
14 usually not a conspiracist, but the
15 pharmaceutical industry created this
16 problem. Now they spent millions of
17 dollars on studies to tell us they can
18 fix the problem, that we will now give
19 them billions of dollars to, for the rest
20 of their lives, have people on their
21 medications to counter what they did when
22 they addicted them in the first place.

23 Folks, I'm usually -- and I
24 said this 18 months ago in this Council.
25 I knew this conversation around the safe

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2 injection site was coming, and I said
3 from day one, if this is a medical
4 intervention, it has to be in a hospital.
5 If this is a practice that this
6 Administration wants to support, what
7 made the needle exchange program
8 successful -- and I've had this debate on
9 radio with Governor Rendell -- you lead
10 it, you own it, you accept liability.
11 You don't do an arm's length and put a
12 non-profit of very well-intentioned
13 people that I have the highest respect
14 for. Jose Benitez is my personal friend,
15 and we have not always agreed on
16 everything, but I've always listened.

17 In the last six months, we've
18 spent time in Kensington trying to get
19 folks motivated around what we agree as
20 we restore Kensington. We've had
21 advocates on both sides of this talk to
22 each other, listen to each other, and I
23 feel like all of the ground we gained
24 around understanding was blown up because
25 one or two people decided I'd rather beg

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2 for forgiveness than ask for permission.

3 This is disrespectful. It is
4 disrespectful for an Administration that
5 continuously talks about Trump and how
6 the federal government is disrespectful
7 and it has lost its humanity, and we do
8 the same thing.

9 Whether it's the Northeast,
10 whether it's South Philadelphia, whether
11 it's Kensington, people deserve a
12 process. They deserve to have every
13 question answered. Will a pregnant woman
14 be allowed to go in there? Will a minor
15 be allowed to go in there? Will people
16 be allowed to leave fully drugged and get
17 in a car and drive away? People have the
18 right to listen to those answers. They
19 may not agree with us at the end.
20 Councilman Squilla and I know most of the
21 time, 80 percent of the time they don't
22 agree, but we've respected them. We've
23 respected their role in the community,
24 and we have allowed them to ask those
25 questions, and ultimately, again, focus

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2 people on the part that we agree.

3 I have been told I have blood
4 on my hands. I've been told all of those
5 things, and we've moved away from that
6 discussion. We've moved to a discussion
7 about in all of these services, methadone
8 clinics -- I get tweeted that I'm the
9 methadone queen because we have methadone
10 clinics in our community that I have
11 supported because 60 percent of the folks
12 who visit it live in that community. So
13 that is not someone coming from outside.
14 That is your neighbor who is going for
15 services.

16 We need to be able to talk to
17 our community about the reality of this
18 is lifetime recovery for folks, right?
19 But now we tell them you can't smoke in
20 recovery. Now we tell them you have to
21 take MAT. It's contradictory messages.

22 And so over the next few weeks,
23 everything that we've gained over the
24 last few months has gotten blown up, and
25 you're going to see divisions with a

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2 racial undertone that is extremely
3 dangerous, when you have a President that
4 we continually talk about who has divided
5 this country.

6 Be a leader. If Dr. Farley and
7 Mayor Kenney want this, own it, lead it,
8 fund it, accept responsibility. Do not
9 use Safehouse and a board of private
10 citizens, all who are very
11 well-intentioned, take all of the
12 responsibility for this. Do not say that
13 it's an arm length relationship. That is
14 not leadership, and that's not going to
15 bring people together. It's going to
16 create the kind of division that we've
17 seen over the last 48 hours. People of
18 Philadelphia deserve better.

19 This work is going to take us
20 years. We have a decade of restoration
21 that we have to do in Kensington. This
22 is not going to be successful.

23 The run to be the first is also
24 the run to be the worst. It is not going
25 to help people in addiction and it is not

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2 going to help our communities
3 destigmatize a lifetime journey for folks
4 who have a mental health disease.

5 You have blown up all of the
6 goodwill, all of the credibility of the
7 stakeholders and the advocates on both
8 sides of this aisle.

9 I call on Safehouse, don't put
10 yourself in the middle. Do not lose all
11 of your credibility around AIDS work,
12 needle exchange work, all that we've been
13 part of, that I have been part of for 20
14 years, even before getting into Council,
15 for the race for the first. The
16 residents all over the City deserve
17 better.

18 If eventually this becomes a
19 model that we want to adopt all over the
20 City to take care of our residents, let
21 it be one where there is a process and
22 there is respect and humanity in the
23 discussion.

24 Thank you, Council President.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

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2 Thank you, Councilwoman.

3 The Chair recognizes Councilman
4 Jones.

5 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
6 Mr. President. I stand and join the
7 concern that my colleagues have. This is
8 not a Kensington or Frankford issue.
9 It's not a North Philly or South Philly
10 issue. It's a citywide issue. And they
11 want 20 more sites.

12 So we are cautious, concerned
13 that without a process, we can wake up
14 and it's decided for us and our
15 constituents as to where these facilities
16 will be housed. Do not make the mistake
17 of thinking -- and I can speak for my
18 colleagues -- that some of my best
19 friends have been addicted. Some of my
20 very best friends have succumbed to this
21 drug.

22 We in my district have a
23 methadone clinic, which when the
24 community at the time wanted to raise up
25 and close it, I stood in the middle of

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2 Parkside and said no, because these are
3 our family members, loved ones, and
4 friends that need this treatment. We
5 went through a process, and I underline
6 the word "process," to develop a good
7 neighbor policy where you weren't going
8 to loiter, you weren't going to just blow
9 smoke in kids' faces that are walking
10 down the street that we came up with, and
11 it works.

12 What we experienced the other
13 day was not a process. It was put upon
14 people. And when I say to you it's not
15 just a Kensington, Frankford issue, we
16 have in West Philly, Katherine Gilmore
17 and I dealt with the issue of pill mills
18 that were supposed to be drug stores. We
19 have dealt with medical marijuana that is
20 the one shoe to fall before legalization
21 because the state and others preempt
22 local decision-makers to be able to vet
23 these things, and when you do that, you
24 alienate not only the elected officials
25 of the area but the community itself.

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2 So the process is as important
3 as the program. The process is as
4 important as the program. And I know I
5 can't speak for independent elected
6 officials. We vary on this issue, but if
7 you're a District Councilperson, you have
8 to stand up for your district and you
9 have to have a process that includes
10 them. You'd be surprised how liberal
11 some people can be, but you give them the
12 choice to do that. You don't impose upon
13 them.

14 Thank you, Mr. President.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

16 Thank you, Councilman.

17 The Chair recognizes
18 Councilwoman Parker.

19 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Thank
20 you, Mr. President. Let me as well take
21 this opportunity to say to Councilmembers
22 Squilla, Johnson, and Quinones-Sanchez,
23 you are, in essence, on the front line
24 here as your districts have been
25 immediately impacted and Councilman

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2 Johnson with the first proposed location
3 going into your district.

4 My message is for those
5 residents in the City of Philadelphia who
6 are looking at that 20 number that said
7 20 more. So I want to just state for the
8 record that when you hear Councilman
9 Jones and myself and other members who do
10 not represent those specific areas but
11 you hear us communicate as passionately
12 as we would for the districts that we
13 represent, we know that it is those
14 neighborhoods today, but it could be our
15 neighborhoods tomorrow, the respective
16 districts represented by each District
17 Councilmember.

18 In addition to that -- and I've
19 got to say this because many of my
20 colleagues who were with us during the
21 last term remember that I had just a tad
22 bit of experience in knowing what it's
23 like when you have to fight an issue like
24 this, and I want to say to the residents
25 who live in your district, Councilman

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Johnson, don't you let anybody shame you or guilt you or say that you don't have any empathy for anyone suffering from the crisis relative to opioids that is impacting our city because you say not at this location and not in this neighborhood. Don't you do that. People are going to try to guilt your people. They're going to try to say that they don't have any compassion, they don't have any empathy, but when you are a homeowner and what is going there will have an impact not just on your quality of life but on the value of what could be your only asset, you have a right to speak and you have a right to have a role. So until we've developed -- and I know from a legal perspective, you, Councilman Squilla, Maria Quinones-Sanchez and Johnson, are working through that process, but I need to know because all of the District Councilpeople, with all due respect, who don't have the ability to walk away after

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2 something is there because everything --
3 all of the unintended consequences that
4 come from a facility like this, we will
5 be the individuals who people say we
6 specifically pushed that button for you
7 to make sure that you address these
8 issues. And so you can't walk away when
9 the cameras are off and other people get
10 a chance to flex their progressive
11 muscles, as I like to call them. I don't
12 know if they're the little P's or the big
13 P's. They may be the little P's when the
14 cameras and social media got active.

15 But nevertheless, you stay
16 strong. We're going to stand with you.
17 And to the about 15 residents in my
18 district who called and said how many are
19 being proposed for our area, we don't
20 know. We're waiting on process, but
21 we're going to use every vehicle that we
22 have to stand up to make sure that the
23 people of this city have a right to have
24 their voices heard.

25 Thank you very much,

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2 Mr. President.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

4 Thank you, Councilwoman.

5 Stay tuned.

6 So real quick, I had an
7 opportunity to serve here a long, long
8 time in various capacities and watch
9 members come and go, and the simple
10 reality is is that there's always been
11 some consistency in terms of the people
12 who actually don't have their names on
13 the doors like we do and don't
14 necessarily have city cars and all that
15 good stuff, but at the end of the day,
16 without these people, we don't get to do
17 what we do. We don't get to talk about
18 the issues as we have done.

19 Today I'd like to recognize all
20 of us a person who is that person, a
21 person that actually worked here longer
22 than me, if you can believe that. And
23 it's a bittersweet moment. We had the
24 pleasure of having an opportunity to
25 serve with her for not a lot of years,

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2 but Denise Osborne has been a class act
3 ever since I've known her, from the 5th
4 floor to the 4th floor.

5 And, Denise, we just want to
6 say on the occasion of -- I guess your
7 last day is tomorrow and your ability to
8 experience retirement, which every time I
9 talk to somebody who has retired, it's
10 like, yes, I love this. So hopefully you
11 will be in a position to say the same
12 thing. We'd just like to recognize you
13 and ask you to stand up so we can give
14 you a round of applause.

15 (Standing ovation.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

17 Thank you so much.

18 Denise has worked and made sure
19 that that Chief Clerk's Office ran like
20 the trains were on time every day, the
21 clocks ticked.

22 And, Denise, we just want to
23 thank you. You've been awesome. We are
24 still trying to figure out how in the
25 world we're going to replace you, but I

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2 know that you got to do what you got to
3 do. But just thank you so much, and God
4 bless you. We really appreciate you so
5 much, Denise. Thank you. Thank you.

6 (Appause.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: And
8 with that, that concludes our speeches on
9 behalf of the majority and the minority,
10 and the Chair recognizes Councilman Jones
11 for a motion to adjourn.

12 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
13 Mr. President. I move that Council stand
14 adjourned until Thursday, March 5th, 2020
15 at 10:00 a.m.

16 (Duly seconded.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: It's
18 been moved and properly seconded that
19 Council stand adjourned.

20 All those in favor say aye.

21 (Aye.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
23 Those opposed?

24 (No response.)

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The

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2 ayes have it. Motion approved.
3 Thank you all very much.
4 (Stated Meeting adjourned at
5 12:56 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

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

MICHELE L. MURPHY
RPR-Notary Public

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