

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
COMMITTEE ON THE DISABLED AND
SPECIAL NEEDS

Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Tuesday, November 19, 2013
10:00 a.m.

PRESENT:

COUNCILMAN DENNIS O'BRIEN, CHAIR
COUNCILWOMAN CINDY BASS
COUNCILWOMAN JANNIE BLACKWELL
COUNCILMAN BOBBY HENON
COUNCILMAN DAVID OH
COUNCILMAN BRIAN J. O'NEILL
COUNCILWOMAN MARIA D. QUINONES-SANCHEZ

BILL 130723 - An ordinance amending Title 6 (Health Code), Title 17 (Contracts and Procurement), and Title 20 (Officers and Employees) all of The Philadelphia Code, by replacing references to "mental retardation" with references to "intellectual disability"...

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COUNCILMAN O'BRIEN: Could I have your attention, please. This is Dennis O'Brien. I'm Chairman of the Disabled and Special Needs Committee. I would like to inform everyone that the hearing is going to be delayed until 10:30 a.m. The hearing will convene at 10:30 a.m.

Thank you.

(Short recess.)

COUNCILMAN O'BRIEN: Good morning. This hearing is called to order. This is a public hearing of the City Council's Disabled and Special Needs Committee. The purpose of this public hearing is to hear testimony on Bill 1307230.

I recognize the presence of a quorum of the Committee members. Members of the Committee in attendance are Councilman David Oh, Councilwoman Blackwell, Councilwoman Sanchez, and Councilman Henon.

This is a very simple and

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2 straightforward issue. The "R" word is a
3 pejorative term that we use if we want to
4 demean each other. It does not recognize
5 the abilities of those individuals that
6 make us all better by who they are and
7 what they do every day. This is a
8 celebration of those abilities. It's
9 recognized that the Obama Administration
10 on the federal level has stripped this
11 language and that the state has also done
12 it. Arthur Evans has done this with the
13 Department of Behavioral Health, and what
14 we are doing is finalizing that step to
15 strip the "R" word from all of our
16 Philadelphia codes. And I want to thank
17 my colleagues for their enthusiastic
18 support of this. Unfortunately, one of
19 our testifiers is not able to get here
20 today because there was an accident on
21 202. Perhaps if the Legislature had
22 voted for the infrastructure bill a few
23 years ago, we would have had more
24 capacity and that person would have been
25 able to testify here today.

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2 I can't help myself.

3 But I'd like to ask if any of
4 the members would like to be recognized
5 for an opening statement?

6 (No response.)

7 COUNCILMAN O'BRIEN: Seeing
8 none, the Clerk will read the title of
9 the bill.

10 THE CLERK: Bill 130723, an
11 ordinance amending Title 6 (Health Code),
12 Title 17 (Contracts and Procurement), and
13 Title 20 (Officers and Employees) all of
14 The Philadelphia Code, by replacing
15 references to "mental retardation" with
16 references to "intellectual
17 disabilities;" all under certain terms
18 and conditions.

19 COUNCILMAN O'BRIEN: Miriam,
20 would you please call the first panel.

21 THE CLERK: The first witness
22 is Denise Taylor Patterson.

23 COUNCILMAN O'BRIEN: Denise,
24 would you please come forward. And you
25 can begin your testimony when you're

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2 ready.

3 (Witness approached witness
4 table.)

5 MS. PATTERSON: Good morning,
6 Chairman O'Brien and members of the
7 Disabled and Special Needs Committee. I
8 am Denise Taylor Patterson, Acting
9 Director of the Intellectual disAbility
10 Services of the Department of Behavioral
11 Health and Intellectual disAbility
12 Services. Thank you for inviting me to
13 testify on Bill No. 130723, which is an
14 ordinance that was introduced by Chairman
15 O'Brien that will amend Title 6 (Health
16 Code), Title 17 (Contracts and
17 Procurement), and Title 20 (Officers and
18 Employees) all of The Philadelphia Code,
19 by replacing references to "mental
20 retardation" with references to
21 "intellectual disability."

22 My office wholeheartedly
23 supports the change in The Philadelphia
24 Code from "mental retardation" to the
25 more appropriate term of "intellectual

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2 disability," which is gradually gaining
3 momentum nationwide and is preferred.
4 Family members, advocates, and
5 individuals with intellectual disability
6 have rightfully asserted that the term
7 "mental retardation" is disparaging, has
8 become offensive to many people, and
9 often results in misunderstandings about
10 the nature of the disorder and those who
11 have it. Thus, there is a need for
12 replacement of the term, and you may note
13 that our office title has even changed to
14 keep up with current progression. Also
15 at the request of family members,
16 advocates, and individuals with
17 disabilities, we have chosen to
18 capitalize the "A" in disAbility because
19 we want to place an emphasis on a
20 person's ability.

21 As you may know, intellectual
22 disability is a disability characterized
23 by significant limitations in both
24 intellectual functioning and in adaptive
25 behavior, which covers many everyday

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2 social and practical skills. Most often
3 this disability originates before the age
4 of 18. Although a person may have been
5 diagnosed as having an intellectual
6 disability, we know that this does not in
7 any way diminish their value or the
8 magnitude of their contribution to
9 society. We have experienced individuals
10 with intellectual disabilities being
11 employed in the community, making their
12 own choices, serving on committees, and
13 often giving leadership to those
14 committees. Words do have power, and we
15 agree that it is time that the term
16 "mental retardation" be replaced in
17 Philadelphia's Code and contracts.

18 On behalf of our department,
19 the thousands of individuals that we
20 serve, and the countless number of
21 Philadelphians who will come to us for
22 support and services, I wish to thank
23 Chairman O'Brien and the members of this
24 committee for their consideration of this
25 matter and for inviting us to testify on

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2 this significant change in terminology.

3 We are encouraged to know that there is a
4 chance for young children growing up in
5 Philadelphia with intellectual
6 disabilities to never feel the sting and
7 stigma of such a negative term as "mental
8 retardation."

9 I'll be happy to answer any
10 questions that you may have.

11 COUNCILMAN O'BRIEN: Thank you,
12 Denise. I would just like to share
13 briefly a little history. I was honored
14 by Vision for Equality, and as I looked
15 around the room, it doesn't please me to
16 recognize that Maureen Devaney, Dee
17 Coccia, Mike Covone, and Estelle Richman
18 and myself are all aging out, and that
19 these are the individuals that educated
20 me to be sensitive and embrace the
21 disability community. And it's important
22 that we take the "R" word out, because
23 it's another opportunity to recognize the
24 wonderful abilities. But I can't
25 overstate the leadership that

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2 Philadelphia has been in this general
3 conversation, and that has been visibly
4 demonstrated not only in your actions and
5 your vision in what you do, but the
6 self-initiated change in the name before
7 we had to take formal action.

8 So I'm just piggybacking on
9 this, as I said. I want to recognize the
10 wonderful commitment that you and the
11 people you work with under Arthur Evans
12 are demonstrating in a global way. And I
13 have nothing else to say, but thank you.

14 And any questions for this
15 witness?

16 (No response.)

17 COUNCILMAN O'BRIEN: Seeing
18 none, thank you very much.

19 MS. PATTERSON: Thank you.

20 COUNCILMAN O'BRIEN: Miriam,
21 would you introduce the next panel,
22 please.

23 THE CLERK: The next witness is
24 Kathy Foy.

25 (Witness approached witness

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2 table.)

3 COUNCILMAN O'BRIEN: Good
4 morning, Kathy. Would you please state
5 your name for the record and then you can
6 proceed with your testimony.

7 MS. FOY: Sure. My name is
8 Kathy Foy and I'm from Vision for
9 Equality.

10 Good morning, Chairman O'Brien
11 and members of the Committee. I'm the
12 Training Manager at Vision for Equality,
13 which is a non-profit organization here
14 in Philadelphia. More importantly, I'm
15 the mother of a young man with
16 disabilities, and Dee and Maureen, who
17 are the co-Executive Directors of Vision
18 for Equality, are parents of daughters
19 with disabilities. And this issue of
20 offensive language hits very close to
21 home for all of us.

22 Vision for Equality is a
23 grassroots organization founded and run
24 by people with disabilities and their
25 families. We lend support to people with

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2 intellectual disabilities and autism

3 through our advocacy, monitoring, and

4 training. We assist people with

5 disabilities to seek quality and

6 satisfaction in their lives as well as

7 equal access to supports and services.

8 Our goal is to work towards a community

9 where everyone is accepted and equal and

10 respected for who they are.

11 We come today to ask the

12 members of the Committee and City Council

13 to end the use of the "R" word in

14 language in all City laws, ordinances,

15 and documents. Mental retardation is an

16 antiquated medical term that had specific

17 clinical connotations that today is no

18 longer in use. This word, like many

19 others that refer to a person or a group

20 of people in a dehumanizing way, must end

21 in official documents and laws like such

22 words as "idiot" and "feeble-mindedness"

23 had been removed in the past. Language

24 that respects the dignity of people with

25 mental disabilities is essential. The

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2 term instead is "intellectual
3 disabilities," and this term has been
4 universally adopted to convey the same
5 diagnosis, but lends to more appropriate
6 terminology as it relates to those with
7 intellectual differences.

8 Too frequently the term
9 "retarded" or "retard" in today's society
10 has and is used not to convey a clinical
11 diagnosis, but as a slur meant to offend.
12 We all know that words have power, and
13 they are often used to denigrate a person
14 or a group of people. They have the
15 power to hurt. The "R" word is seen by
16 people with intellectual disabilities as
17 offensive and derogatory. Unfortunately,
18 many in our society still do not
19 recognize the hurtful and dehumanizing
20 effect of the word "retarded."

21 The use of language that
22 separates or demeans people needs to be
23 addressed. Respectful and inclusive
24 language is important for the dignity and
25 humanity of people with disabilities.

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2 All language adopted to refer to a person
3 should be person-first and used with
4 updated appropriate terminology.

5 President Obama signed Rosa's
6 Law in October 2010 eliminating the use
7 of the word "retarded" and "retardation"
8 in all federal health, education, and
9 labor laws. The bill changed the term
10 "mental retardation" to "intellectual
11 disability" and "mentally retarded
12 individuals" to "individuals with an
13 intellectual disability," person-first.
14 In December 2011, the State of
15 Pennsylvania amended the Mental Health
16 and Mental Retardation Act of 1966
17 updating and modernizing certain
18 terminology to reflect that at a national
19 level. Dr. Arthur Evans, Commissioner of
20 Philadelphia's Department of Behavioral
21 Health and Intellectual disAbility
22 Services, changed the name of the Office
23 of Mental Retardation Services to the
24 Office of Intellectual disAbility
25 Services on March 1st, 2011. It's time

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2 for Philadelphia's governmental documents
3 to read the same.

4 Changing how we refer to people
5 with disabilities is a critical step in
6 promoting and protecting people with
7 intellectual disabilities' basic and
8 civil human rights. Change is good, and
9 Vision for Equality is very pleased to
10 know that City Council recognizes the
11 importance of change in removing the "R"
12 word. This will be a change that
13 symbolizes transformation, a positive
14 change that shows a commitment to make
15 the world a more accepting place for all
16 people.

17 We again would like to thank
18 the members of the Committee and City
19 Council for allowing us to address this
20 with you today. We appreciate your
21 consideration of a very important issue.

22 Thank you.

23 COUNCILMAN O'BRIEN: Thank you,
24 Kathy. And I would like to again thank
25 you for your testimony. I'd like to

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2 thank you and your organization for your
3 advocacy for individuals with
4 intellectual disabilities and autism.
5 Again, I would like to thank you for your
6 testimony before Gene DiGirolamo's
7 committee yesterday in Harrisburg. It
8 involves the waiting list issue. I can't
9 believe that as long as I've been a
10 legislator, we've had a waiting list.
11 And the remarkable thing that our
12 policymakers, we in City Council, at the
13 state level and federal level, have to
14 recognize is that the census data is now
15 available. It's going to be announced in
16 Pennsylvania, and our census is the first
17 census that's been taken in the country,
18 but it's reflective and mirrors all the
19 other data across the country. It's a
20 predictor. And by the year 2017, there
21 are going to be 25,000 individuals who
22 are going to turn 21 and the bus stops
23 coming, and there's not going to be any
24 services. So they're going to be sitting
25 at home with nothing, and that invites

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2 regression, and it's unacceptable for us
3 as a society to let that happen. By the
4 year 2020, there will be 45,000.

5 We have to commit to addressing
6 that situation, and I thank you for that
7 testimony.

8 The other thing I would invite
9 members to do is, it's always said that
10 if you don't recognize the past, you
11 can't go into the future. All one would
12 have to do is walk into the lobby of
13 Pennsylvania Hospital at 8th and Spruce
14 and look in their glass-enclosed relics,
15 and what they memorialize are this
16 terminology, and all one has to do is
17 look at that and the short period of time
18 when we use terminology like this, and it
19 invites us to recognize the importance of
20 what we're doing here today.

21 So thank you for your
22 testimony.

23 Are there any questions or
24 statements from anyone on the panel?

25 (No response.)

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2 COUNCILMAN O'BRIEN: I would
3 like to recognize that we've been joined
4 by Councilwoman Cindy Bass.

5 Cindy, do you have anything
6 you'd like to add?

7 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: I do. I
8 do.

9 I also wanted to thank you for
10 your testimony. I just had an
11 opportunity on Friday to speak at the
12 Points of Transformation award ceremony
13 over at the Kroc Center, and
14 Representative -- I'm sorry. Going back.
15 Councilman O'Brien and I had actually --

16 COUNCILMAN O'BRIEN: That's all
17 right.

18 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: --
19 co-sponsored a citation for that event.
20 And one of the things that I said at that
21 point was that there is a place for all
22 of us in this city, in the City of
23 Philadelphia. We all have a place, and
24 sometimes we as members of Council, we
25 have to fight for the place of some of

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2 our other citizens. And so this is a
3 Council that I think is ready, willing,
4 and able to stand and to say that
5 language like this, which was commonly
6 used, is very offensive and there is no
7 place in a city like Philadelphia today.

8 So I just really wanted to
9 thank you for your comments and for the
10 previous speaker as well.

11 MS. FOY: Thank you.

12 COUNCILMAN O'BRIEN: I'd also
13 like to reiterate Councilwoman Bass's
14 statement on the collegiality and the
15 forward-looking nature of this
16 legislative body. It's not something
17 that I was aware of before I came here,
18 but I'm very proud to serve with my
19 colleagues who are with me today.

20 I would now ask Miriam to
21 announce the next witness.

22 THE CLERK: Matt Aaron.

23 COUNCILMAN O'BRIEN:

24 Councilwoman Blackwell.

25 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank

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2 you. Let me say a thank you to the two
3 witnesses who just testified.

4 (Witness approached witness
5 table.)

6 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Have a
7 seat.

8 And also say that Dr. Evans is
9 always on board. He's such a positive
10 person, and we thank him always for his
11 leadership. And we call on him whenever
12 there's any issue, whether it's his area
13 or not, but he's a person who cares about
14 the community and the people he's
15 committed to representing for his
16 position as well as morally. So we thank
17 him and you, both of you.

18 Thank you.

19 COUNCILMAN O'BRIEN: Thank you.

20 I would like to recognize that
21 Matt will introduce himself, but he is
22 the CEO of the Special Olympics of
23 Pennsylvania, and regretfully, Loretta
24 Claiborne was supposed to be here and
25 she's one of the Special Olympics success

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2 stories. And I would like to find
3 another venue where she can come and give
4 us the benefit of her life experience. I
5 was just sharing sidebar, before the
6 hearing started, stories with Matt. I
7 was invited to participate on a panel
8 with Tim Shriver, who is the head of the
9 Special Olympics internationally, and
10 Matt sponsored a summit in King of
11 Prussia, and the magic of this moment
12 invited us all to celebrate the
13 possibilities instead of the negativity
14 and gridlock that we're experiencing in
15 all levels of government, and it was
16 evidenced by the fact that individuals
17 were designing what their future was to
18 be. They were self-advocating, and they
19 were doing it extraordinarily well.

20 Not only that, Special Olympics
21 has taken it upon themselves to
22 structurally incorporate individuals with
23 intellectual disabilities into leadership
24 roles in their own organization. That is
25 a forward-looking statement. It's

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2 followed with action, and it gave me
3 great hope for positive policy dialogue
4 in the future.

5 So Matt, I welcome you here,
6 and you have big shoes to fill, but
7 you've empowered so many people like
8 Loretta. So you can begin your
9 testimony.

10 MR. AARON: Good morning.
11 Thank you, Councilman O'Brien and members
12 of Council, for your past support and
13 thank you for the opportunity to join you
14 this morning.

15 As Councilman O'Brien said,
16 Loretta Claiborne, one of our athletes
17 from York County, was scheduled to
18 testify this morning. Unfortunately she
19 was delayed by an accident, which
20 fortunately she was not involved in the
21 accident, but was unable to join us. So
22 it's sort of like having U2 scheduled to
23 play your event, only to find out at the
24 last minute that their plane couldn't
25 make it and you get your kid's garage

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2 band instead. So I'm sorry. I will do
3 my best to fill in for Loretta this
4 morning. She is truly an amazing,
5 amazing woman. She was involved in the
6 very first Special Olympics event here in
7 Pennsylvania in 1970. Before that, she
8 graduated from high school in York
9 County, where she was denied an
10 opportunity to be on her high school
11 track team because of her disability.

12 Loretta went on from there and
13 competed in not one but 26 marathons and
14 finished in the top 100 women at Boston.
15 So she has an amazing story, both in her
16 athletic accomplishments and abilities
17 but, more importantly, as a leader and an
18 advocate.

19 Loretta, in addition to
20 competing today still at the age of 60
21 with our program in York County, she also
22 serves as a member of the Board of
23 Directors for Special Olympics
24 International. So Tim Shriver is the
25 Chairman of that Board and Loretta is one

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2 of the Board members serving
3 internationally in that movement.

4 As Councilman O'Brien
5 introduced me, my name is Matt Aaron.
6 I'm the President and CEO of Special
7 Olympics Pennsylvania, an organization
8 that serves 20,000 athletes in 56 local
9 programs around the state. I came here
10 as the CEO in 2008. Prior to that, I
11 served at Special Olympics International
12 in Washington for three years. Over that
13 period of time, I have learned an
14 incredible amount. Prior to joining
15 Special Olympics, I didn't have
16 experience training with people with
17 disabilities. I don't have a member of
18 my family with intellectual disability.
19 I don't have professional training. In
20 fact, I spent the first part of my career
21 as an officer in the Navy, and my
22 training is in aerospace engineering. So
23 a very different field, but I have
24 learned an incredible amount in my eight
25 years in this organization. I have

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2 learned much more from our athletes than
3 they have gained from me. And one of
4 those important lessons I would like to
5 share with all of you this morning, and
6 that is, our Special Olympics athletes
7 don't want to be special. They just want
8 the same opportunities that anyone else
9 has. And so what I would like to say in
10 my remarks this morning, you've heard
11 from my colleagues, the other witnesses
12 this morning eloquently speak about why
13 the term "mental retardation" is the
14 wrong term and why it needs to be
15 changed. I'd like to speak instead -- I
16 certainly agree with their comments, but
17 I would like to use my time and my
18 remarks to focus on the positive aspects
19 of why this is the right change.

20 Special Olympics athletes, as I
21 mentioned, and people with intellectual
22 disabilities don't want special
23 treatment. They want the same
24 opportunities that anyone else has, an
25 opportunity to get a job, an opportunity

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2 to drive, an opportunity to vote, an
3 opportunity to live independently, and at
4 the most basic level, an opportunity to
5 have friends, to interact socially, and
6 to be part of a team. And when
7 terminology such as "retard" and
8 "retardation" is prevalent and out there,
9 it puts up a barrier. It puts up an
10 obstacle. It gets in the way of them
11 being an equal participant or having
12 those opportunities.

13 So making this change here in
14 the code in Philadelphia is the right
15 change to remove an obstacle, to remove a
16 barrier. Not to give them something
17 special, not to give them a handout or
18 special treatment, but instead to remove
19 a barrier and allow them to go on and do
20 and be and achieve their full potential
21 just as any other citizen would do. And
22 so that's why I believe this is the right
23 change.

24 We're very honored. Special
25 Olympics for several years has been

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2 leading a movement of several
3 organizations around something called The
4 R-Word Campaign, and there's actually a
5 website out there, r-word.org, where
6 anyone can go sign on to a global
7 grassroots movement to stop the use of
8 the term "retard."

9 We're honored that one of the
10 co-founders of that movement who started
11 The R-Word Campaign actually when he was
12 a high school student did so in reaction
13 to what he saw as a negative treatment of
14 his sister who has an intellectual
15 disability and who participates in
16 Special Olympics. That co-founder,
17 Soeren Palumbo, is now a graduate student
18 at Penn. So he is right here with us
19 here in Philadelphia.

20 So this is the right time and
21 this is the right change for the Council
22 to make. So Special Olympics
23 Pennsylvania certainly supports it. I
24 applaud your leadership on this issue,
25 and I thank you for the time this morning

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2 to be with you and share these comments.

3 Thank you.

4 COUNCILMAN O'BRIEN: Thank you,
5 Matt. I would just like to reflect when
6 we get into strategic planning sessions
7 on individuals with disabilities, someone
8 always comes up with the term, when you
9 say what do you want for individuals with
10 disabilities, they say a normal life. I
11 don't know how to define that, because I
12 don't have a normal life. I don't know
13 anybody that would consider themselves
14 having a normal life. But your
15 articulation of inviting individuals with
16 disabilities to have the same challenges
17 but again the same opportunities to
18 display their abilities is really what
19 this hearing and our mission should
20 really be about.

21 I also would like to suggest
22 that your naval training allows us to --
23 it helps us navigate through the troubled
24 waters of discrimination and chart a
25 course for opportunity, which is what

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2 you're doing so wonderfully well, and
3 maybe you can describe your activities
4 with the School District and the
5 opportunities in PIAA and what you've
6 done in Frankford High School and what
7 opportunities that is going to progress
8 into a statewide conversation.

9 MR. AARON: Great. Thank you
10 for that opportunity. A little more than
11 a year ago Special Olympics Pennsylvania
12 embarked on an initiative with the School
13 District of Philadelphia around something
14 that we call Unified Sports. Unified
15 Sports being team sports activities that
16 include athletes with an intellectual
17 disability, our Special Olympics
18 athletes, along with what we call
19 partners, fellow athletes without
20 intellectual disabilities on the same
21 team competing as teammates. And we've
22 been working with the School District for
23 several years in growing our activities
24 with the School District, and last year
25 in the spring semester, the School

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2 District of Philadelphia created a very
3 innovative curriculum course around a
4 Unified soccer program where they
5 included general education students and
6 general education students in a rostered
7 elective course for soccer, and we were
8 very pleased that ten high schools
9 participated, with a culminating
10 championship game at the end of May, May
11 31st, at Frankford High School at
12 Memorial Stadium. At that game, we
13 announced a statewide partnership with
14 PIAA to help us grow Unified Sports
15 around the State of Pennsylvania,
16 expanding and growing the success we've
17 had here in Philadelphia.

18 So we started with ten high
19 schools last year here in Philadelphia.
20 Our hope is this year to grow it to 15.
21 We've been doing other Unified programs
22 here in the City, operating in a total of
23 25 schools. We are hoping that our total
24 grows this year in the City to 38, and
25 we're also expanding our Unified Sports

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2 program, again, building on the success
3 here in Philadelphia to two other areas,
4 Northampton and Adams this year, and our
5 hope is that with working with the PIAA,
6 we will continue to grow that around the
7 state, with a vision that we will begin
8 to create statewide tournaments. In
9 fact, we met with the Executive Director
10 of PIAA recently, and one of our hopes
11 and aspirations is that we might grow to
12 a state Unified Sport track tournament
13 that will actually be a part of the
14 statewide PIAA track and field
15 championships, and we're working with
16 them to try to make that a reality.

17 So thank you for the
18 opportunity to share that work as well.

19 COUNCILMAN O'BRIEN: Thank you,
20 Matt. And I'd like to give a shout-out
21 to the Creighton family, who literally
22 grew up ten houses from where I live now,
23 and in Philadelphia that's like falling
24 out your front door onto their step. But
25 they're partners in this wonderful

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2 effort.

3 And I'd like to recognize we've
4 been joined by Councilman Brian O'Neill.

5 Are there any questions for
6 this witness?

7 (No response.)

8 COUNCILMAN O'BRIEN: Seeing
9 none, thank you so much for your
10 testimony.

11 MR. AARON: Thank you.

12 COUNCILMAN O'BRIEN: Is there
13 anyone else who wishes to testify today?

14 (No response.)

15 COUNCILMAN O'BRIEN: Seeing
16 none, that concludes the testimony on
17 Bill No. 1307230.

18 Councilwoman Blackwell.

19 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: We
20 want to thank our colleague Councilman
21 O'Brien who has been so committed. The
22 first thing we learned about him when he
23 came to this body from the state was
24 about his commitment to autism and to all
25 people who may have disabilities, and

1 11/19/13 - DISABLED - BILL 130723

2 he's been focused from the inception of
3 his coming on this issue. He doesn't let
4 anybody forget it, and makes us all
5 better by always doing what he can to
6 challenge us to do what we can to improve
7 the lives of those who need us.

8 Thank you, Councilman.

9 COUNCILMAN O'BRIEN: Well,
10 thank you for those kind words. And with
11 the Department of Behavioral Health,
12 we're going to do some extraordinary
13 things with education, DHS, CBH, and
14 Behavioral Health in the future, in the
15 very near future, but that will be an
16 announcement for another day.

17 So thank you. Any concluding
18 remarks?

19 (No response.)

20 COUNCILMAN O'BRIEN: That
21 concludes the testimony of Bill 130723.
22 That also concludes the public hearing on
23 the Disabled and Special Needs Committee.
24 We will now go into our public meeting.

25 The Chair recognizes Councilman

1 11/19/13 - DISABLED - BILL 130723

2 Bobby Henon for a motion on the amendment
3 to Bill 130723.

4 COUNCILMAN HENON: Thank you,
5 Mr. Chairman. I move that the amendment
6 to Bill No. 130723 be adopted.

7 (Duly seconded.)

8 COUNCILMAN O'BRIEN: That bill
9 has been moved and properly seconded, the
10 amendment to Bill 130723. The question
11 is shall it be adopted.

12 Those in favor of the motion?

13 (Aye.)

14 COUNCILMAN O'BRIEN: Those
15 opposed?

16 (No response.)

17 COUNCILMAN O'BRIEN: Hearing
18 none, the motion carries and the
19 amendment to Bill No. 130723 has been
20 adopted.

21 The Chair now recognizes
22 Councilman Henon for a motion on Bill
23 130723.

24 COUNCILMAN HENON: Thank you
25 again, Mr. Chair. I move that Bill No.

1 11/19/13 - DISABLED - BILL 130723
2 130723, as amended, be reported from this
3 committee with a favorable recommendation
4 and further move that the rules of
5 Council be suspended as to permit first
6 reading of this bill at the next Council
7 session.

8 (Duly seconded.)

9 COUNCILMAN O'BRIEN: It has
10 been moved and properly seconded that
11 Bill No. 130723 amended be reported from
12 this committee with a favorable
13 recommendation and further moved that the
14 rules of Council be suspended to permit
15 first reading at the next scheduled
16 session of City Council.

17 All those in favor say aye.

18 (Aye.)

19 COUNCILMAN O'BRIEN: Those
20 opposed?

21 (No response.)

22 COUNCILMAN O'BRIEN: The motion
23 carries. Bill No. 130723, as amended,
24 will be reported from the committee with
25 a favorable recommendation with a request

1 11/19/13 - DISABLED - BILL 130723

2 that the rules of Council be suspended to
3 permit first reading at the next session
4 of Council.

5 Thank you all. This meeting is
6 adjourned.

7 (Committee on the Disabled and
8 Special Needs concluded at 11:15 a.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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