

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
STATED MEETING

Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
February 13, 2025
10:00 a.m.

PRESENT:

COUNCIL PRESIDENT KENYATTA JOHNSON
COUNCILWOMAN NINA AHMAD
COUNCILWOMAN CINDY BASS
COUNCILWOMAN KENDRA BROOKS
COUNCILMAN MICHAEL DRISCOLL
COUNCILWOMAN JAMIE GAUTHIER
COUNCILWOMAN KATHERINE GILMORE RICHARDSON
COUNCILMAN CURTIS J. JONES, JR.
COUNCILWOMAN RUE LANDAU
COUNCILWOMAN QUETCY M. LOZADA
COUNCILMAN BRIAN J. O'NEILL
COUNCILMAN NICOLAS O'ROURKE
COUNCILMAN ANTHONY PHILLIPS
COUNCILMAN MARK SQUILLA
COUNCILMAN ISAIAH THOMAS
COUNCILMAN JEFFREY YOUNG, JR.

ELIZABETH MCCOLLUM NAZARIO, CHIEF CLERK

- - -

1 2/13/25 - STATED - INVOCATION

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

3 JOHNSON: I note that the hour has
4 come and that a quorum of this
5 Council is present.

6 Will all members please
7 take your seats. I'm asking all
8 visitors to please retire to the
9 seats outside the rails. Please
10 take all sidebar conversations out
11 the Council chambers. Please set
12 your cell phones on silent or
13 vibrate. Thank you.

14 To give our invocation
15 this morning, the Chair recognizes
16 Rabbi Shloime Isaacson of
17 Congregation Beth Sholom Synagogue
18 and Community Center. He is here
19 today as my guest, and I will ask
20 all members and guests to please
21 rise.

22 (Councilmembers, guests
23 and visitors rise.)

24 RABBI ISAACSON: Good

1 2/13/25 - STATED - INVOCATION
2 morning. I guess my joke with the
3 oy vey wasn't so bad last time. I
4 really didn't think I was going to
5 be called back again. I'd really
6 like to thank Council President
7 Kenyatta Johnson for asking me to
8 say this morning's benediction.
9 It's an honor and a privilege to do
10 so.

11 I was thinking what
12 would be the most appropriate
13 blessing to bring City Council
14 today. So first, I tried to dress
15 in green but my Eagles jersey from
16 when I was 12 didn't fit. However,
17 I do bring the blessing from the
18 Torah, from the Bible. Each and
19 every week in synagogues throughout
20 the world we read a portion of the
21 Bible. It's broken down into 52
22 portions. This was established
23 2000 years ago.

24 However, when something

1 2/13/25 - STATED - INVOCATION

2 is destined by God, as we all know
3 anything can happen, and happened
4 it did. This week's reading of the
5 Torah, of the Bible, states the
6 following: (Hebrew translation)
7 which means, and I will carry you
8 on eagles wings.

9 This represents two
10 ideas: One, our illustrious team,
11 the Philadelphia Eagles, who when
12 they played did not even seem to
13 have an opponent. They were that
14 strong and overpowering. Mazel tov
15 to them, their staff owners and
16 this amazing city.

17 The second idea is that
18 the eagle is the only bird that
19 carries its children on top of its
20 wings and not underneath its belly.
21 This shows how the mother bird is
22 in constant mode of protection for
23 her children.

24 Listening to City

1 2/13/25 - STATED - INVOCATION
2 Council when I was here a few weeks
3 ago when you so eloquently honored
4 my father the Rabbi's memory, I was
5 hearing voices and concern from
6 individuals who have taken the
7 citizens of this city upon their
8 shoulders as well as the burden of
9 keeping them safe and secure and
10 constantly trying to ensure them a
11 quality chance at life.

12 To this I say, may God
13 grant the City Council, the
14 President, the Mayor and the entire
15 staff the wisdom and strength to
16 lead their flock into the future,
17 the ability to understand their
18 needs and the ability to carry our
19 city on their wings.

20 (Hebrew translation),
21 God should bless you and watch over
22 you. (Hebrew translation), God
23 should enlighten you in showing his
24 favor upon you. And most

1 2/13/25 - STATED - INVOCATION
2 important, (Hebrew translation),
3 God should shine his face upon you
4 and grant peace to you and to the
5 entire city. Amen.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
7 JOHNSON: The Chair thanks the
8 Rabbi for the invocation.

9 Council will now be at
10 ease.

11 (Council at ease.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
13 JOHNSON: Before we move on to the
14 approval of the Journal, I want to
15 take a moment of personal privilege
16 to say happy birthday to our
17 Majority Leader whose birthday is
18 tomorrow. We will not be here to
19 celebrate you.

20 (Applause.)

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
22 JOHNSON: So you get a double
23 whammy tomorrow. You get a triple
24 whammy tomorrow, a trifecta. The

1 2/13/25 - STATED - APPROVAL OF JOURNAL

2 Majority Leader's birthday is the
3 Eagles Super Bowl Championship
4 parade. But for me, most
5 importantly, it's Valentine's Day
6 for those who celebrate.

7 The next order of
8 business is the approval of the
9 Journal of the meeting of Tuesday,
10 February 6th, 2024.

11 The Chair recognizes
12 Councilmember Cindy Bass.

13 COUNCILWOMAN BASS:

14 Thank you, Mr. President.

15 I move that the Journal
16 of the meeting of Thursday,
17 February 6, 2025 be approved.

18 (Duly seconded.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

20 JOHNSON: It has been moved and
21 properly seconded that the Journal
22 of the meeting of Thursday,
23 February 6th, 2025 stand approved.

24 All those in favor will

1 2/13/25 - STATED - LEAVES

2 signify by saying aye.

3 (Aye.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

5 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

6 (No response.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

8 JOHNSON: The ayes have it and the
9 Journal is approved.

10 The next order of
11 business is request for leaves of
12 absence. And the Chair recognizes
13 Majority Leader Gilmore Richardson.

14 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

15 RICHARDSON: Thank you so much,
16 Council President, for the
17 acknowledgement.

18 On behalf of the
19 Majority, a leave of absence is
20 requested for Councilmember Jim
21 Harrity.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

23 JOHNSON: I'm kind of wondering
24 should I grant this leave or not.

1 2/13/25 - STATED - MOTION REGARDING CALENDAR

2 But the Chair thanks the
3 Councilmember. Leave will be
4 granted.

5 The Chair recognizes
6 Councilmember Brooks.

7 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS:
8 Good morning, Council President.

9 On behalf of the
10 Minority, there are no requests for
11 leaves of absence today.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
13 JOHNSON: Thank you very much. The
14 Chair thanks the Councilmember.

15 Will someone please do a
16 health and welfare check on Member
17 Harrity.

18 The Chair now recognizes
19 Councilmember Gilmore Richardson
20 for a motion concerning certain
21 legislative matters that may arise
22 during the course of today's
23 session of Council and that were
24 not listed on the Calendar

1 2/13/25 - STATED - MOTION REGARDING CALENDAR

2 circulated prior to today's

3 session.

4 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

5 RICHARDSON: Thank you,

6 Mr. President.

7 I move that any of the
8 following matters, if considered
9 today, may be added to the agenda
10 for this session of Council and, as
11 required by law, subsequently
12 published on an amended agenda
13 after the consideration of those
14 matters: resolutions authorizing
15 hearings, amendments to bills on
16 first reading, the reconsideration
17 of a bill vetoed by or re-called
18 from the Mayor, amendments to bills
19 re-called from the Mayor,
20 resolutions taking substantive
21 action to be voted on in this
22 session, a motion to withdraw a
23 bill or resolution that is not on
24 the Calendar, and a motion placing

1 2/13/25 - STATED - MOTION REGARDING CALENDAR
2 a bill or resolution on or
3 returning a bill or resolution from
4 the Suspension Calendar that is not
5 listed on today's Calendar.

6 The purpose of this
7 motion is to provide the public
8 with notice concerning possible
9 actions by Council that arose too
10 late to be included on the Calendar
11 that was published prior to today's
12 session.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

14 JOHNSON: It has been moved and
15 properly seconded that the
16 legislative matters stated by
17 Councilmember Gilmore Richardson
18 may be added to the agenda for
19 today should those matters arise
20 during the course of this session
21 of Council.

22 All those in favor of
23 the motion will signify by saying
24 aye.

1 2/13/25 - STATED - GUESTS

2 (Aye.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

4 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

5 (No response.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

7 JOHNSON: The ayes have it and the
8 motion carries.

9 The Chair will dispense
10 with the regular order of business
11 to recognize the guests and
12 visitors joining us in chambers
13 this morning.

14 On behalf of all members
15 of City Council, I welcome you to
16 our Council session. We appreciate
17 your taking the time to join us as
18 we attend to the legislative
19 affairs of our city. We certainly
20 invite you to come again.

21 The Chair recognizes
22 Councilmember Phillips.

23 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

24 Thank you, Council President.

1 2/13/25 - STATED - GUESTS

2 I just want to welcome a
3 guest, a really special guest to
4 chambers. A few weeks ago, Council
5 proudly passed a resolution
6 recognizing the Juvenile Law
7 Center, and today I'm honored to
8 welcome two of its visionary
9 leaders, Marsha Levick, co-founder
10 and Chief Legal Officer, and Riya
11 Shah, CEO.

12 As you know, for 50
13 years the Juvenile Law Center has
14 done landmark work, creating legal
15 victories and systematic change for
16 young people. So we just want to
17 recognize them for the policies
18 that they shape and the lives that
19 they're transforming to ensure that
20 justice is not just a principle but
21 a reality for our youth.

22 So Marsha and Riya, we
23 are grateful for your leadership
24 and commitment. It's a privilege

1 2/13/25 - STATED - GUESTS

2 to have you here today as to
3 celebrate your milestone of 50
4 years and your continued impact.

5 Can we please have you stand, the
6 Juvenile Law Center and all of its
7 staff members. Please stand and be
8 recognized.

9 (Applause.)

10 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

11 Thank you, Council President. And
12 thank you, Juvenile Law Center.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

14 JOHNSON: The Chair thanks the
15 member.

16 The Chair recognizes
17 Councilmember Gilmore Richardson.

18 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

19 RICHARDSON: Thank you, Council
20 President, and thank you for the
21 recognition during the welcome
22 segment of Council today.

23 I would like to
24 recognize Charlie Johnson, who is

1 2/13/25 - STATED - GUESTS

2 an 11th grade student at the
3 Philadelphia High School for Girls.
4 She is class of 270. And she is
5 here today to interview both me and
6 former Councilmember and also
7 fellow Girls High graduate Blondell
8 Reynolds Brown.

9 So, Charlie, please
10 stand and be acknowledged in City
11 Council today.

12 (Applause.)

13 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

14 RICHARDSON: In addition, Council
15 President, I just want to thank our
16 colleague Councilmember Brooks for
17 the resolution in honor of Emma
18 Chappell and recognize the presence
19 of Black Women's Leadership
20 Council. I just had to say hello.
21 But thank you to our colleague
22 Councilmember Brooks for all the
23 work that she did there. Thank
24 you.

1 2/13/25 - STATED - COMMUNICATIONS

2 (Applause.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

4 JOHNSON: The Chair thanks the
5 member.

6 As there are no
7 presentations today, the next order
8 of business is communications. The
9 Chair requests that the Sergeant-
10 at-Arms deliver the messages from
11 the Mayor to the Chief Clerk.

12 The Chief Clerk will
13 read the messages from the Mayor
14 and any other communications in her
15 possession.

16 CHIEF CLERK: To the
17 President and members of the
18 Council of the City of
19 Philadelphia, I am submitting
20 herewith for the consideration of
21 your Honorable body the following
22 proposed ordinance:

23 An ordinance authorizing
24 the Procurement Commissioner, on

1 2/13/25 - STATED - COMMUNICATIONS
2 behalf of the City of Philadelphia,
3 to enter into an agreement with the
4 Philadelphia Energy Authority for
5 coordination of a guaranteed energy
6 savings contract for implementation
7 and evaluation of energy
8 conservation measures designed to
9 reduce energy, water, wastewater or
10 other consumption or operating
11 costs at specified City properties,
12 all under certain terms and
13 conditions.

14 And I am pleased to
15 advise you that on February 12,
16 2025 I signed the following bill
17 which was passed by Council at its
18 session on January 30, 2025: Bill
19 No. 240817.

20 Council President, there
21 are no further communications in my
22 possession.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

24 JOHNSON: Thank you. The messages

1 2/13/25 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 will be printed in the Journal.

3 The next order of
4 business is the introduction of
5 bills and resolutions.

6 The Chair recognizes
7 Councilmember Phillips.

8 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

9 Thank you, Council President.

10 I'm super excited for
11 the Eagles. Right now I have no
12 bills or resolutions. Go Birds.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

14 JOHNSON: Go Birds. Thank you very
15 much.

16 The Chair recognizes
17 Majority Gilmore Richardson.

18 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

19 RICHARDSON: Thank you, Council
20 President.

21 Today I offer two
22 privileged resolutions, one on your
23 behalf.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

1 2/13/25 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

3 Will the Clerk please
4 read the titles of the resolutions.

5 CHIEF CLERK: A

6 privileged resolution

7 (inaudible) -- a privileged

8 resolution honoring and celebrating

9 Philadelphia Eagles Associate

10 Performance Coach Autumn Lockwood,

11 the first Black Woman Coach to win

12 the Super Bowl.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

14 JOHNSON: This resolution will be

15 placed on today's Final Passage

16 Calendar.

17 CHIEF CLERK: And a

18 privileged resolution celebrating

19 and congratulating the NFL

20 Champions, the Philadelphia Eagles,

21 on their triumphant victory and

22 Super Bowl LIX against the Kansas

23 City Chiefs, held at Caesars

24 Superdome in New Orleans on

1 2/13/25 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 February 9, 2025.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

4 JOHNSON: This resolution will be
5 placed on today's Final Passage
6 Calendar.

7 The Chair recognizes
8 Councilman Jamie Gauthier.

9 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:

10 Good morning, Council President.

11 Nothing today.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

13 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes
14 Councilman Isaiah Thomas.

15 COUNCILMAN THOMAS:

16 Morning, Council President. Good
17 morning, colleagues. Good morning
18 to the listening public.

19 Nothing today. Go
20 Birds.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

22 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes
23 Councilmember Curtis Jones. Blow
24 the whistle.

1 2/13/25 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank

3 you, Mr. President. In time.

4 Thank you, Mr. President and

5 colleagues.

6 Today I offer two bills

7 and two privileged resolutions.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

9 JOHNSON: Thank you very much,

10 Member Jones.

11 Will the Clerk please

12 read the titles of the two bills

13 and two privileged resolutions.

14 CHIEF CLERK: An

15 ordinance establishing a two-way

16 regulation on Dupont Street, from

17 the westernmost portion of Baker

18 Street to Smick Street, under

19 certain terms and conditions.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

21 JOHNSON: This bill will be

22 referred to the appropriate

23 committee.

24 CHIEF CLERK: And an

1 2/13/25 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 ordinance authorizing encroachments
3 in the nature of a sidewalk cafe in
4 the vicinity of 177 Markle Street,
5 Philadelphia, PA 19127, under
6 certain terms and conditions.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

8 JOHNSON: This bill will be
9 referred to the appropriate
10 committee.

11 CHIEF CLERK: And a
12 privileged resolution honoring and
13 congratulating the Overbrook High
14 School Girls Volleyball Team for
15 winning the 2024 American
16 Conference Championship.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

18 JOHNSON: This resolution will be
19 placed on today's Final Passage
20 Calendar.

21 CHIEF CLERK: And a
22 privileged resolution honoring and
23 recognizing Philadelphia's living
24 legends during Black History Month

1 2/13/25 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 for their contributions to the
3 African American community and
4 their lasting impact.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

6 JOHNSON: This resolution will be
7 placed on today's Final Passage
8 Calendar.

9 The Chair recognizes
10 Councilmember Landau.

11 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:
12 Good morning, Council President,
13 colleagues and the public.

14 Nothing today. Thank
15 you.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

17 JOHNSON: You're welcome.

18 The Chair recognizes
19 Councilmember Quetcy Lozada.

20 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA:
21 Good morning, Council President.
22 Good morning, everyone.

23 I have no bills and
24 resolutions today.

1 2/13/25 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

3 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

4 The Chair recognizes

5 Councilman Jeffrey Jay Young.

6 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Good

7 morning, Mr. President.

8 Today I offer one bill

9 and two privileged resolutions.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

11 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

12 Will the Chief Clerk

13 please read the titles of the bill

14 and the privileged resolutions.

15 CHIEF CLERK: An

16 ordinance amending Chapter 9-800 of

17 The Philadelphia Code, entitled

18 "Landlord and Tenant," to place

19 limits on late fees that may be

20 charged to residential tenants, all

21 under certain terms and conditions.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

23 JOHNSON: This bill will be

24 referred to the appropriate

1 2/13/25 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 committee.

3 CHIEF CLERK: And a
4 privileged resolution honoring and
5 congratulating Philadelphia Eagles
6 quarterback Jalen Hurts for being
7 named Super Bowl LIX MVP.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
9 JOHNSON: This resolution will be
10 placed on today's Final Passage
11 Calendar.

12 CHIEF CLERK: And a
13 privileged resolution authorizing
14 the Committee on Transportation and
15 Public Utilities to hold hearings
16 to investigate the potential
17 locations of new intercity bus
18 terminals in the City of
19 Philadelphia.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
21 JOHNSON: This resolution will be
22 placed on today's Final Passage
23 Calendar.

24 The Chair recognizes

1 2/13/25 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 Councilmember Brooks.

3 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS:

4 Thank you, Council President.

5 I have eight resolutions
6 today.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

8 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

9 Will the Clerk please
10 read the titles of the eight
11 resolutions.

12 CHIEF CLERK: A
13 privileged resolution recognizing
14 and celebrating the Lunar New Year
15 and the Year of the Snake, and
16 honoring Philadelphia's Chinatown
17 as a vibrant, historical and vital
18 neighborhood in our city's fabric.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

20 JOHNSON: This resolution will be
21 placed on today's Final Passage
22 Calendar.

23 CHIEF CLERK: And a
24 privileged resolution celebrating

1 2/13/25 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 and recognizing Alvina Brown for
3 her steadfast commitment to
4 community and to her neighbors, and
5 for her advocacy to improve the
6 lives of people across the City of
7 Philadelphia, on the occasion of
8 Black History Month.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

10 JOHNSON: This resolution will be
11 placed on today's Final Passage
12 Calendar.

13 CHIEF CLERK: And a
14 privileged resolution celebrating
15 and honoring Maggie McCall for her
16 tenacious commitment to organizing,
17 beautifying and connecting with her
18 neighborhood, including serving as
19 Block Captain for 51 years and for
20 improving the lives of people
21 across Philadelphia, on the
22 occasion of Black History Month.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

24 JOHNSON: This resolution will be

1 2/13/25 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 placed on today's Final Passage
3 Calendar.

4 CHIEF CLERK: And a
5 privileged resolution celebrating
6 and recognizing Sheila Hawkins for
7 her insistence on the importance of
8 community, her tireless efforts to
9 make the spaces around her more
10 beautiful, and her understanding
11 that unity is at the heart of
12 activism, on the occasion of Black
13 History Month.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
15 JOHNSON: This resolution will be
16 placed on today's Final Passage
17 Calendar.

18 CHIEF CLERK: And a
19 privileged resolution honoring and
20 celebrating Sandra Murdock, whose
21 love for the people around her
22 nourishes and uplifts the people in
23 spaces that she graces for
24 providing to her community, and for

1 2/13/25 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 her commitment to mentoring young
3 girls and boys across the City of
4 Philadelphia, on the occasion of
5 Black History Month.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
7 JOHNSON: This resolution will be
8 placed on today's Final Passage
9 Calendar.

10 CHIEF CLERK: And a
11 privileged resolution celebrating
12 and honoring Patricia Ford for her
13 tireless advocacy for her
14 community, her love for her
15 children and her devotion to
16 improving the lives of people
17 across Philadelphia, on the
18 occasion of Black History Month.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
20 JOHNSON: This resolution will be
21 placed on today's Final Passage
22 Calendar.

23 CHIEF CLERK: And a
24 privileged resolution celebrating

1 2/13/25 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 and commending Nikki Bagby for her
3 steadfast devotion to using her
4 platform to positively impact the
5 lives of youth and vulnerable
6 communities across the City of
7 Philadelphia, on the occasion of
8 Black History Month.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

10 JOHNSON: This resolution will be
11 placed on today's Final Passage
12 Calendar.

13 CHIEF CLERK: And a
14 privileged resolution honoring and
15 celebrating National Crossing Guard
16 Appreciation Day to highlight, and
17 express gratitude for the critical
18 work that crossing guards do to
19 keep roadway connection safe and
20 intersection safe for all.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

22 JOHNSON: This resolution will be
23 placed on today's Final Passage
24 Calendar.

1 2/13/25 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 The Chair now recognizes
3 Councilmember O'Rourke.

4 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE:

5 Thank you, Council President.

6 I have nothing
7 introduced today.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

9 JOHNSON: The Chair now recognizes
10 Councilmember Driscoll.

11 COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL:

12 Morning, Mr. President.

13 I have two privileged
14 resolutions and one on your behalf.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

16 JOHNSON: Will the Clerk please
17 read the titles of the privileged
18 resolutions.

19 CHIEF CLERK: A

20 privileged resolution honoring and
21 thanking the Philadelphia Police
22 Department, the Philadelphia Fire
23 Department, the Pennsylvania State
24 Police, the National Transportation

1 2/13/25 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 Safety Board, the Federal Aviation
3 Administration, the Department of
4 Environmental Protection, the
5 Office of Emergency Management, the
6 Pennsylvania Emergency Management
7 Agency and the American Red Cross
8 for their heroism and bravery when
9 responding to the Northeast
10 Philadelphia plane crash on January
11 31, 2025.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

13 JOHNSON: This bill -- this
14 resolution will be placed on
15 today's Final Passage Calendar.

16 CHIEF CLERK: And a
17 privileged resolution recognizing
18 and honoring Royal (Gene) E. Brown
19 for his dedicated service to the
20 Philadelphia Gas Commission.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

22 JOHNSON: This resolution will be
23 placed on today's Final Passage
24 Calendar.

1 2/13/25 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 The Chair recognizes
3 Councilmember O'Neill.

4 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL:

5 Thank you, Mr. President.

6 I offer no bills or
7 resolutions today.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

9 JOHNSON: Thank you very much, sir.

10 The Chair recognizes
11 Councilmember Mark Squilla.

12 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA:

13 Thank you, Mr. President.

14 I offer two bills, one
15 on your behalf.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

17 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

18 Will the Chief Clerk
19 please read the titles of the
20 bills.

21 CHIEF CLERK: An
22 ordinance -- amending Section 2 of
23 an Ordinance (Bill No. 220639),
24 approved January 10, 2023, entitled

1 2/13/25 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 "An Ordinance Authorizing the
3 revisions of lines and grades on a
4 portion of City Plan No. 27-S by
5 striking from the City Plan the
6 easterly 20 feet wide portion of
7 Swanson Street from Wolf Street to
8 Snyder Avenue, striking from the
9 City Plan and vacating the legally
10 open portion of Vandalia Street
11 from Wolf Street to Weccacoe
12 Avenue, and reserving and placing
13 on the City Plan a right-of-way for
14 sewage and drainage purposes within
15 the portion of Swanson Street being
16 stricken and authorizing acceptance
17 of the grant to the City of said
18 right-of-way, all under certain
19 terms and conditions, including the
20 dedication to the City of the beds
21 of the remaining unopened portions
22 of Swanson Street from Wolf Street
23 to Jackson Street and from Jackson
24 Street to Snyder Avenue, by

1 2/13/25 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 extending the period for compliance
3 with the terms and conditions
4 stated therein.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

6 JOHNSON: This bill will be
7 referred to the appropriate
8 committee.

9 CHIEF CLERK: And an
10 ordinance authorizing the
11 Procurement Commissioner, on behalf
12 of the City of Philadelphia, to
13 enter into an agreement with the
14 Philadelphia Energy Authority for
15 coordination of a guaranteed energy
16 savings contract for implementation
17 and evaluation of energy
18 conservation measures designed to
19 reduce energy, water, wastewater or
20 other consumption or operating
21 costs at specified City properties,
22 all under certain terms and
23 conditions.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

1 2/13/25 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 JOHNSON: This bill will be
3 referred to the appropriate
4 committee.

5 The Chair recognizes
6 Councilmember Cindy Bass.

7 COUNCILWOMAN BASS:

8 Thank you, Mr. President.

9 I offer one privileged
10 resolution.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

12 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

13 Will the Clerk please
14 read the title of the privileged
15 resolution.

16 CHIEF CLERK: A
17 privileged resolution honoring and
18 celebrating the extraordinary life
19 of Alfred L. Dezzi and his
20 invaluable contributions to public
21 service, environmental policy,
22 criminal justice reform and
23 education, and expressing deep
24 gratitude for his enduring impact

1 2/13/25 - STATED - BILLS ON 2ND READING

2 on the City of Philadelphia.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

4 JOHNSON: This resolution will be

5 placed on today's Final Passage

6 Calendar.

7 The Chair recognizes

8 Councilmember Dr. Nina Ahmad.

9 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:

10 Thank you, Council President.

11 No bills or resolutions

12 today. Go Birds.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

14 JOHNSON: Go Birds.

15 As there are no reports

16 from committees, the next order of

17 business is the consideration of

18 the Calendar.

19 The Chair recognizes

20 Majority Leader Katherine Gilmore

21 Richardson for the purpose of

22 calling up bills and resolutions on

23 the Second Reading and Final

24 Passage Calendars.

1 2/13/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

3 RICHARDSON: Thank you,

4 Mr. President.

5 The following bills and

6 resolutions are being called up

7 from the Second Reading and Final

8 Passage Calendars today: Nos.

9 250030, 250080, 250083, 250084 and

10 250090. The following bills and

11 resolutions on the Calendar:

12 241097, 240427, 240304-A and

13 240665.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

15 JOHNSON: Thank you. Before

16 considering these bills and

17 resolutions, we would consider

18 public comment as follows: Your

19 public comment must concern matters

20 on the Second Reading and Final

21 Passage Calendars for possible

22 action at today's Council session.

23 All speakers must sign

24 up in order to testify. If you

1 2/13/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 have not already signed up for
3 today's session, please do so now
4 by giving your name to Ms. Hasson
5 at the table outside the rails to
6 my left. Once you have signed up,
7 you will be called in the order in
8 which your name appears on the
9 sign-up sheet.

10 Under ideal
11 circumstances, public commenters
12 each will have three minutes to
13 speak. However, this time limit
14 may vary from session-to-session.
15 The time limit today will be two
16 minutes. In order to be fair to
17 all those wishing to speak, I
18 intend to hold faithfully to the
19 two-minute limit.

20 When you begin speaking,
21 you will see a green light on the
22 podium. When there are 30 seconds
23 remaining to your time, the light
24 will turn yellow which is your

1 2/13/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 reminder to conclude your remarks.
3 Once two minutes have passed, the
4 light will turn red and the
5 Sergeant-at-Arms will disconnect
6 the microphone.

7 At that point, please
8 yield the podium to the next
9 speaker if you have not already
10 done so. I also reserve the right,
11 pursuant to our rules of Council,
12 to limit repetitious comments on
13 the same subject matter.

14 I will now ask the Chief
15 Clerk to please read the name of
16 our first speaker.

17 CHIEF CLERK: The
18 Honorable Blondell Reynolds Brown.
19 May Taj Murdock, Jeremy Blatstein,
20 Kate Perez and Avis Wanda McClinton
21 also make their way to the podium.
22 Blondell Reynolds Brown, Taj
23 Murdock, Jeremy Blatstein, Kate
24 Perez and Avis Wanda McClinton.

1 2/13/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 (Witnesses approached
3 podium.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

5 JOHNSON: It's always good to see
6 the honorable Blondell Reynolds
7 Brown. Welcome back to the
8 chambers. Let's give her a round
9 of applause.

10 (Applause.)

11 MS. REYNOLDS BROWN:

12 Good morning --

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

14 JOHNSON: As we celebrate Black
15 History Month, we thank you,
16 Councilmember Blondell Reynolds
17 Brown, for your contribution to
18 this body. Welcome back. Please
19 proceed.

20 MS. REYNOLDS BROWN:

21 Thank you. Thank you,
22 Mr. President. To all of the
23 members of the Philadelphia City
24 Council, to those earshot of the

1 2/13/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 mic and to all of the visitors and
3 guests, welcome. My name is
4 Blondell Reynolds Brown and I had
5 the wonderful opportunity and
6 privilege to serve for 20 years
7 here in the Philadelphia City
8 Council. So I'm delighted to be
9 back today not on my behalf, but to
10 salute, lift up, acknowledge,
11 celebrate the Emma Chappell.

12 I met Emma Chappell when
13 I was in my 20s serving as the
14 Executive Director of the West
15 Philadelphia Partnership in West
16 Philadelphia. And I was one of the
17 few Black women who understood her
18 vision and was unapologetic in
19 making it plain that what she had
20 in mind for us would be a wonderful
21 thing.

22 The record will reflect
23 that under her leadership she
24 established the first Black bank in

1 2/13/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 the city of Philadelphia. That
3 does deserve a round of applause.

4 (Applause.)

5 MS. REYNOLDS BROWN: And

6 I'm thrilled to be a part of the
7 group of women here today, the
8 Black Women's Leadership Council
9 led by the Joanna Bell who's been a
10 mentor to many, including me. So
11 thank you, Joanna Bell. Thank you.
12 Thank you for everything.

13 To you, Mr. President,
14 to those of us who want to know
15 what an eagle looks like, eagles
16 don't flock. You have to find them
17 one at a time. That's leadership.
18 Thank you, Mr. President.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

20 JOHNSON: You're welcome.

21 (Applause.)

22 MR. MURDOCK: Good
23 morning to everyone. Good morning,
24 Council President, to all my other

1 2/13/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 Councilmembers and to everyone who
3 was a laborer in making
4 Philadelphia a better city and a
5 better home. Today I am honored
6 and privileged to stand proxy for
7 my mother Sandra Murdock, who as an
8 individual is known for his work in
9 the community with mentoring young
10 men across the city of
11 Philadelphia, I cannot be who or
12 what I am without this woman that
13 gave birth to me.

14 When you see the passion
15 that I have and the sacrifices that
16 I've made for the past 10 years
17 now, a lot of that comes from what
18 I saw my mother provide. As a
19 child growing up in North
20 Philadelphia, she's raised me, also
21 raised my cousins, always with the
22 home that everyone could come to
23 and leave with something. You
24 never came to 4448 and left with

1 2/13/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 nothing.

3 So the way that I move,

4 a lot of that is from this mother

5 that I saw. And I give the

6 testimony to I remember seeing my

7 mother lose her job as a child.

8 And knowing that I love music so

9 much and wanted a radio for my

10 birthday, and the first words were,

11 you know mommy's struggling right

12 now so she can't get it for you.

13 But I watched this mother of mine

14 sell platters for three weekends

15 straight to make sure that I got

16 that radio that I wanted.

17 So the hard work, the

18 sacrifice, the commitment to not

19 only myself but to every child or

20 every person that has come across

21 her presence is the reason why I

22 stand so firmly in loving the

23 people that I come across as well.

24 So again, Mom, it is an honor to be

1 2/13/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 your son. They don't make them
3 like her no more. They don't make
4 them like her no more.

5 Even growing up in the
6 '80s in North Philadelphia and we
7 know the drug epidemic, everyone
8 respects Sandra Murdock because she
9 respected them first. So again,
10 Mom, I thank you for what you've
11 put in me and being able for me to
12 extend that to the community. I'm
13 not who I am without you. So I
14 thank you now. Thank you to
15 everyone for this opportunity.

16 (Applause.)

17 MR. BLATSTEIN: Hello,
18 City Council. My name is Jeremy
19 Blatstein. What a win, what a win.
20 What are we talking about today?
21 Housing, housing, housing, housing,
22 housing. That's what we're talking
23 about in 2025. But the key to
24 housing is what hap -- a monumental

1 2/13/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 thing got passed this week in
3 Cambridge.

4 Cambridge upzoned their
5 whole district, their whole city.
6 It was a monumental thing to allow
7 six stories byright in their whole
8 city. The only way that we're
9 going to make housing affordable in
10 Philadelphia is by upzoning our
11 transit corridors and allowing
12 development to be built byright.

13 In the last two years or
14 last year, you passed the increase
15 of the Homestead Exemption. That
16 was a tax break that you gave to
17 every single homeowner in the city
18 of Philadelphia. We need to now
19 build for future people who are
20 moving into our communities. That
21 is why we need to build more things
22 byright or allow things to be built
23 byright.

24 And let's do it. Raise

1 2/13/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 your hand if you rode SEPTA in the
3 last week. So we have none, none,
4 none, none, none. But tomorrow
5 we're going to say, hey, ride SEPTA
6 for the parade. But this City
7 Council -- and the reason why I ask
8 about this is that our public
9 transportation system is crucial
10 for a thriving city, so I just
11 encourage each and every member of
12 City Council to ride at least once
13 a week to see the issues that our
14 residents face.

15 And we need to focus
16 on -- and good, Councilman Young.
17 I like your resolution today about
18 the bus terminal. Figuring out
19 where to put that bus terminal is
20 crucial to figure out how we also
21 bring people into the city of
22 Philadelphia. Thank you. Go
23 Birds.

24 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

1 2/13/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 RICHARDSON: Thank you. Prior to
3 recognizing the next witness, the
4 Chair recognizes Councilmember
5 Jamie Gauthier.

6 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:
7 Thank you, Madam Chair.

8 I ask to be excused to
9 handle other official business and
10 I ask to be recorded as voting aye
11 on all bills and resolutions.

12 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

13 RICHARDSON: Thank you very much.
14 Leave shall be granted.

15 Please proceed.

16 MS. PEREZ: I'm Kate
17 Perez. And this week the storms in
18 Gaza are so bad that tents are
19 being ripped out of the ground and
20 sand they slept on has been
21 flooding. There's no dry wood to
22 make fire. Bedding costs more than
23 \$300. And despite the ceasefire
24 agreement, only 10 percent of the

1 2/13/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 agreed-upon 200,000 tents and 0 of
3 the 60 mobile homes have entered
4 the Gaza strip.

5 Businesses in our city
6 and our city itself works directly
7 with the occupation, cross-training
8 PPD with the IOF. In terms of aid,
9 our sister city has only allowed
10 8,500 trucks of food and basic aid
11 items in so far. When, according
12 to the terms, it should have been
13 12,000 trucks by now.

14 Despite free movement
15 being a part of the ceasefire
16 agreement, Israel continues to
17 install new military checkpoints to
18 limit the movement of medical
19 patients and humanitarian aid. Our
20 humanitarian President threatens to
21 release hell over a foreign state
22 if Israeli hostages aren't
23 released, something that Hamas
24 affirmed they will continue to do

1 2/13/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 as of 7:00 a.m. this morning. Our
3 sister city is not conforming to
4 the ceasefire agreement they signed
5 onto.

6 We must either pressure
7 or insist our city to comply with
8 the terms or break off our
9 relationship with the state that
10 has killed at least 110 civilians
11 in Gaza just since the agreement
12 and directly killed thousands more
13 by restricting food, medicine,
14 shelter, inalienable rights as a
15 weapon of collective punishment
16 against the entire population as
17 partners in these war crimes.

18 Our city can either
19 pressure the Israeli government to
20 comply with the ceasefire or break
21 ties with an apartheid state like
22 they should have years ago. 50
23 desperately sick or injured people
24 were supposed to be allowed to

1 2/13/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 leave out of Gaza daily with family
3 members accompanying them. That
4 should have been 1000 people so
5 far. And only 120 patients have
6 been able to leave.

7 Israel has continuously
8 targeted medical infrastructure.
9 Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya, the Hospital
10 Director of Kamal Adwan is still
11 missing. Since his kidnapping on
12 December 27th, he was surrounded
13 with robots like the robot dogs
14 leaving our Council President's
15 District and ghost robotics. He's
16 lost 33 pounds, suffered electric
17 shocks and severe beatings to the
18 chest in Israeli custody. 25 days
19 in all for prison (inaudible) --

20 (Applause.)

21 CHIEF CLERK: Next we
22 have Ava -- Avis Wanda McClinton.
23 May Tracey Chappell Carter, Barbara
24 Scott-Wortham, Eleanor and Chris

1 2/13/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Dezzi also make their way to the
3 podium.

4 (Witnesses approached
5 podium.)

6 MS. McCLINTON: Good
7 morning. I'm so proud and happy to
8 be here to talk about my friend
9 Ava. Can you stand so we know what
10 you look like. Yeah. Thank you to
11 the Philadelphia City Council,
12 Councilwoman Brooks for making this
13 happen. I'm from Montgomery
14 County. I ain't never been in this
15 beautiful building before, and
16 that's a while.

17 Only got two minutes, I
18 think, right. Ms. Brown called me
19 up and said, Avis, I'm being
20 honored. I said, Wow. Then she
21 said, At City Hall. I said,
22 Philadelphia City Hall? She said,
23 Yeah. I said, Do you know how
24 historic that day will be? You're

1 2/13/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 going to be honored. The Mayor of
3 Philadelphia is a Black woman. The
4 lady that's honoring you is a Black
5 Councilwoman, and I'm Black. Woo,
6 we're going to do it. And then the
7 Eagles won so I'm like flying.

8 But I want to say to my
9 ride-or-die buddy, you asked me to
10 be here and I'm here. She's been a
11 faithful servant. That's what my
12 Bible says, a faithful servant to
13 the community of Philadelphia and
14 especially Nicetown. And I don't
15 know why you would do this to me to
16 make me feel like this, but thank
17 y'all people. More people had to
18 volunteer because our world
19 deserved it. Thank you for your
20 time. I didn't use up my time.

21 (Applause.)

22 MS. CHAPPELL CARTER:

23 Good morning, President Johnson and
24 esteemed Councilmembers. My name

1 2/13/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 is Tracey Chappell Carter and I am
3 the eldest daughter of Emma
4 Chappell. This is the grandson.
5 Troy, stand up. We are very
6 appreciative to Councilmember
7 Squilla for bringing this
8 resolution forward. We also would
9 like to thank Councilmember Kendra
10 Brooks and her office for all the
11 support that they gave us in
12 bringing this day to fruition.

13 My mother, Emma Chappell
14 was born, raised and educated in
15 Philadelphia. She attended West
16 Philadelphia High, Berean
17 Institute, Temple University,
18 American Institute of Banking, and
19 ABA Stonier Graduate School of
20 Banking at Rutgers University. She
21 was a pioneer, a visionary banker,
22 a community advocate and civic
23 leader.

24 There is no way we could

1 2/13/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 itemize her life and her
3 contribution to this city,
4 nationally and internationally in
5 this time frame. So I'm just going
6 to let you know that her
7 contributions date back to the '70s
8 when she worked with and helped
9 organize Model Cities at that time.

10 And then in the '80s as
11 she was rising through the bank,
12 she worked as the National
13 Treasurer for Jesse Jackson's
14 campaign. And then if we move
15 forward in the '90s, is what we're
16 here for today, she was the first
17 African American woman to open a
18 commercial bank in the United
19 States from scratch.

20 (Applause.)

21 MS. CHAPPELL CARTER:
22 Despite her over 700 awards, her
23 five honorary Doctorates, this
24 street naming would be the greatest

1 2/13/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 honor that our family could know
3 and Philadelphia residents. We
4 thank you for your time.

5 (Applause.)

6 CHIEF CLERK: We have
7 Barbara Scott-Wortham, Eleanor and
8 Chris Dezzi. May Joann Bell and
9 Sonja Burrus also make their way to
10 the podium.

11 (Witnesses approached
12 podium.)

13 MS. DEZZI: Good
14 morning, members of Council, and
15 good morning especially,
16 Councilwoman Bass, for introducing
17 this. Thank you all members for
18 honoring my husband, Al Dezzi. In
19 Al's private life he had three
20 titles that he cherished, husband,
21 father, grandfather. And in his
22 professional life he had three
23 titles, and that was public
24 administrator, mentor and

1 2/13/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 professor.

3 Al believed the public
4 service was a special calling and
5 he lived up to that for more than
6 two decades. He served in four
7 mayoral administrations. Not many
8 people do that. And then in his
9 decade of service, to the
10 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and
11 the Auditor General's Office and
12 the Office of the Treasury under
13 Bob Casey.

14 At Al's funeral service,
15 my sons and I were so touched by
16 how many of his former employees
17 and students came back to tell us
18 that the impact he had on their
19 lives by the teachings that he did
20 of public administration and
21 criminal justice in all of the
22 universities and colleges here in
23 the Philadelphia area. He
24 certainly did have a lot of impact

1 2/13/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 on the city of Philadelphia and the
3 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and he
4 certainly did on our family.

5 So again, thank you for
6 honoring his memory. We will miss
7 him greatly. My son Chris is here
8 today and my son Jamie is over
9 here. Thank you all.

10 (Applause.)

11 MR. DEZZI: Thank you,
12 Council President Johnson,
13 Councilmember Bass and all members
14 of Council. Thank you for this
15 acknowledgement of my father Al
16 Dezzi and his service to the City
17 of Philadelphia and the
18 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

19 My father loved this
20 city and believed in its endless
21 potential. For him public service
22 was a vocation and he would have
23 been truly honored by this
24 recognition. On behalf of our

1 2/13/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 family, thank you very much.

3 (Applause.)

4 CHIEF CLERK: We have

5 Joann Bell, Sonja Burrus. May

6 Melissa Robbins, Andrea Lawful-

7 Sanders and Melita Jordan also make

8 their way to the podium.

9 (Witnesses approached
10 podium.)

11 MS. BELL: Good morning,
12 Council President, esteemed members
13 of the City Council. My name is
14 Joann Bell and I'm the Chair of
15 Black Women's Leadership Council
16 and also of a weekly radio
17 broadcast on WURD Radio by the same
18 name.

19 I'm here to honor my
20 bestie who I miss so much. I'd
21 like to ask right now for all of
22 the members in the audience that
23 are members of Black Women's
24 Leadership Council to stand.

1 2/13/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 (Applause.)

3 MS. BELL: Given the
4 period and the time that we're in,
5 Emma Chappell started a bank, a
6 full service commercial bank, in
7 the middle of a recession. She was
8 a strong Black woman, and what she
9 wanted most for this city was for
10 economic empowerment for the Black
11 community.

12 She built churches,
13 houses, businesses, and it's
14 something that we're going to
15 strive in her name to continue to
16 do. I'm going to ask Troy to stand
17 up here because I told him I was
18 going to make him stand as a member
19 of Black Women's Leadership
20 Council. Is he out the room,
21 Ernest? Well, you're going to have
22 to stand for him.

23 Troy is our producer and
24 Ernest brings up the rear. But I'm

1 2/13/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 not going to take too much time. I
3 loved Emma. And many of you have
4 worked with her. Thank you,
5 Councilman Squilla, for doing this.

6 And I want to say that
7 Emma loved Councilwoman Kendra
8 Brooks. She loved her. And I want
9 to thank you so much for being the
10 woman that pushed us. Forgive me,
11 my voice is suffering. Thank you.

12 (Applause.)

13 MS. BURRUS: Hello. My
14 name is Sonja Burrus and I am here
15 to advocate for Dr. Emma Chappell.
16 And I want to read this passage of
17 scripture called Ephesians 4:1-3:
18 I therefore, a prisoner of the
19 Lord, beseech you that you walk
20 worthy of the vocation where with
21 ye are called, with all loneliness
22 and meekness, with long suffering,
23 forbearing one another in love,
24 endeavoring to keep the unity of

1 2/13/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 the Spirit and the bond of peace.

3 And on the subject of
4 worthiness, worthy meaning to walk
5 suitably, appropriately and
6 congruously with the vocation or
7 job that you are called to do. And
8 I wanted to read that because that
9 reminds me of Dr. Emma Chappell. I
10 met her coming out of a leadership
11 role, and she mentored me. Just
12 pulled me under her wing. I had no
13 idea that she was a heavyweight in
14 the industry of banking and in
15 commerce. I had no idea because
16 she was so lowly and humble, but
17 she was very serious about the way
18 that she would treat Philadelphia.

19 She was all about
20 empowering Philadelphia,
21 particularly, yes, Black people.
22 I'm not from Philadelphia. I moved
23 here from Columbus, Ohio, but my
24 heart was pricked for this city.

1 2/13/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 And when I met her, I understood
3 why. I hope that you'll consider
4 strongly honoring this woman,
5 Dr. Emma Chappell at 8th and Market
6 Street. Thank you for your time.

7 (Applause.)

8 CHIEF CLERK: We have
9 Melissa Robbins, Andrea Lawful-
10 Sanders. May Melita Jordan,
11 Jennifer Folks and Amber Harrison
12 also make their way to the podium.

13 MS. ROBBINS: Good
14 morning, Council President and
15 members of Council and listening
16 residents throughout the city of
17 Philadelphia. It's an honor to be
18 here to speak on behalf of the
19 Black Women's Leadership Council.
20 Huge thank you to you,
21 Councilmember Kendra Brooks, Mark
22 Squilla, and of course Ms. Joann
23 Bell.

24 Dr. Emma Chappell, a

1 2/13/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 banking pioneer, trailblazer,
3 undeterred, mathematically gifted
4 and Black, Dr. Chappell rose to
5 prominence by sheer determination
6 and influence and advised by the
7 late great Reverend Leon Sullivan.
8 She was encouraged at a young age
9 to pursue banking.

10 Upon high school
11 graduation, she took a clerk role
12 at a bank while attending Temple
13 University at night. She secured
14 an opportunity in the executive
15 training program and catapulted to
16 becoming the first Black woman to
17 hold the role of Vice-president at
18 a major banking institution in the
19 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

20 She supported and
21 secured loans for minority-owned
22 businesses and Black women. She
23 organized the Philadelphia
24 Commercial Development Project to

1 2/13/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 revitalize inner-city commerce.
3 She went on to earn a Master's
4 degree at Rutgers University from
5 serving as the Chair of Operation
6 PUSH Board, the founding Vice-
7 president of the National Rainbow
8 Coalition, to serving as the
9 National Treasurer for Reverend
10 Jesse Jackson in his 1984
11 presidential bid.

12 She was the epitome of
13 Black girl magic and Black
14 excellence. Dr. Chappell was able
15 to raise 6 million in capital. And
16 on March 23, 1992 the United Bank
17 of Philadelphia opened its doors
18 with Dr. Chappell as the CEO. She
19 believed in me. She supported me.
20 She was sweet. She was endearing.

21 When I walked in the
22 room and I saw her, I knew that I
23 was going to learn. I felt safe
24 and secure. She had a beautiful

1 2/13/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 heart and was a constant teacher.
3 She was well-respected and she was
4 a treasure to the city of
5 Philadelphia and the Black
6 community.

7 Tracey, your mother was
8 a gem and you look just like her.
9 Troy, you knew that she loved you,
10 and I will miss Dr. Emma Chappell.

11 (Applause.)

12 MS. LAWFUL-SANDERS: My
13 name is Andrea Lawful-Sanders, and
14 this is my first time addressing
15 this body. I want to thank you all
16 for allowing me to be here. May it
17 not be the last. So, you know, it
18 had to be something for me to stand
19 here. I want -- seriously, because
20 I just don't play those games.

21 So here's the quote,
22 "Without courage we cannot practice
23 any other virtue with consistency.
24 We cannot be kind, true, merciful,

1 2/13/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 generous or honest." That was from
3 poet and author Maya Angelou. I'm
4 standing here this morning because
5 of Dr. Emma Chappell. I did not
6 know her well. I watched her.

7 All these things that
8 Melissa Robbins described is
9 because she had courage. She was a
10 petite woman who exhibited,
11 exemplified leadership in a way
12 that we don't often see today. And
13 so through Joann Bell and the
14 Women's Leadership Council, Black
15 Women's Leadership Council was how
16 I met Dr. Emma Chappell. She was
17 not unkind. She was able to mentor
18 people who didn't know anything
19 about the city of Philadelphia.

20 She mentored me without
21 my having to say a word to her.
22 And so, this morning as you hear
23 everyone stand up here and talk
24 about this pioneer of a woman,

1 2/13/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 please remember that without
3 courage you can't practice any
4 other virtue. And I thank Dr. Emma
5 Chappell for being a part of all of
6 our lives, whether she knew us or
7 not. And may you name that street
8 on Market Street on behalf of her
9 because I don't know another Black
10 woman in my recent memory that
11 started a bank. Thank you.

12 (Applause.)

13 MS. JORDAN: Good
14 morning. My name is Melita Jordan.
15 It is indeed an honor to be here
16 today. I just want to say a few
17 words. Dr. Emma Chappell was, as
18 many have already said, a
19 magnificent woman. But I want to
20 share my personal perspective.

21 I grew up here in
22 Philadelphia and I attended Bright
23 Hope Baptist Church. And I
24 remember as I was coming along and

1 2/13/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 needed to purchase a car, I went to
3 several banks to be able to get a
4 loan and I was turned down. Many,
5 I think, could share the same
6 story. As we applied for credit
7 often times at some of our bigger
8 banks that we are frequently turned
9 down for perhaps a lower credit
10 score and/or perhaps a late payment
11 or perhaps being unemployed at one
12 point and there be a space or a gap
13 within our employment history.

14 But Emma Chappell also
15 had a smaller operation, meaning a
16 smaller bank at our church, at
17 Bright Hope Baptist Church. And I
18 remember when I went there and had
19 a conversation with the banker
20 there to assist me in getting a
21 loan. Not only were they more than
22 accommodating to understand my
23 situation as a single mother at
24 that time and needing to get to

1 2/13/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 work and needing a car to do so, I
3 was provided a loan initially to
4 purchase the car and was able to
5 pay off that car.

6 But that is what allowed
7 me to move forward in my life
8 establishing good credit as well as
9 being able to turn around and help
10 others. I just want to say thank
11 you for having me here today and to
12 be speaking about Dr. Emma
13 Chappell.

14 (Applause.)

15 MS. POWELL-FOLKS: Good
16 morning. My name is Jennifer
17 Powell-Folks. I am fortunate to be
18 the second Vice-president of the
19 National Coalition of 100 Black
20 Women Pennsylvania Chapter. I also
21 am a member of the Black Women's
22 Leadership Council. I am an
23 incredibly favorable member of the
24 historic Campbell Church and

1 2/13/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 African Methodist Church in

3 Frankford.

4 But most of all, what I

5 can say is I am the beneficiary of

6 great mentorship by great Black

7 women in this city. As a young

8 person, I was a transplant from New

9 Jersey who decided to go to school

10 here and ended up in the Commerce

11 Department of the Philadelphia City

12 Commerce.

13 And as a young person,

14 you're not quite sure where the

15 Lord will take you. And as my

16 colleagues have given great

17 credentials about the incredible

18 Emma Chappell, I will tell this

19 personal story. And the personal

20 story is because I would not be

21 where I am without individuals like

22 the incredible Dr. Emma Chappell.

23 I have had the advantage

24 of being mentored by sister Joann

1 2/13/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Bell, by my friend and mentor Linda
3 Watson, by folks like the great --
4 of course, it's right out of my
5 head but the incredible work of all
6 my sisters like Marian Tasco, the
7 incredible Councilwoman.

8 And what I can say is
9 what comes to mind and I will quote
10 the great Nelson Mandela, "Money
11 won't create success. The freedom
12 to make it will." I also will say,
13 a good heart -- a good head and a
14 good heart are always a formidable
15 combination. The reason why women
16 like myself have the ability to
17 stand in front of you and do this
18 is because of those great women
19 pouring into us. And I thank them
20 all and most of those, one of those
21 was the incredible and great Emma
22 Chappell. And I thank you, Joann,
23 for giving me the opportunity to
24 testify about how great she was to

1 2/13/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 young women. I was a young woman
3 with no background and no
4 credentials, just her heart to see
5 us grow. Thank you.

6 (Applause.)

7 CHIEF CLERK: We have
8 Amber Harrison. May Nakia
9 Campbell, Pat Albright, Phoebe
10 Jones and Carolyn Hill also make
11 their way to the podium.

12 (Witnesses approached
13 podium.)

14 MS. HARRISON: Good
15 morning, distinguished members of
16 City Council. My name is Amber
17 Harrison and I stand before you
18 today in strong support of honoring
19 a remarkable woman whose legacy has
20 shaped not only Philadelphia but
21 the road beyond our city limit,
22 Dr. Emma Chappell.

23 Emma Chappell's life is
24 a testament to the values we hold

1 2/13/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 dear which are perseverance,
3 empowerment and service to the
4 community. As mentioned, she was
5 Philadelphia's first African
6 American woman to establish a
7 commercial bank. And in doing so,
8 she demonstrated what is possible
9 when visionary leadership meets
10 unwavering commitment to uplifting
11 others.

12 And Ms. Chappell wasn't
13 just about building financial
14 institutions. She was about
15 building a better, more equitable
16 future for generations to come.
17 Her efforts in the financial sector
18 provided invaluable opportunities
19 to underserved communities and her
20 work continues to inspire, as so
21 many have mentioned today, those
22 fighting for equality and justice,
23 particularly for women and people
24 of color.

1 2/13/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 As a trailblazer in
3 business, she also made a mark as a
4 philanthropist and community
5 activist proving time and time
6 again that she was not only
7 interested in financial success but
8 also in transforming the very
9 fabric of our society. Honoring
10 Emma Chappell will not only honor
11 her legacy but will also serve as a
12 powerful reminder that our city
13 thrives when we uplift the voices
14 and contributions of those who are
15 historically overlooked.

16 It will affirm our
17 city's commitment to recognizing
18 and celebrating trailblazing women,
19 especially Black women, who have
20 led with integrity and vision.

21 Thank you.

22 (Applause.)

23 CHIEF CLERK: We have

24 Nakia Campbell, Pat Albright,

1 2/13/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 Phoebe Jones, Carolyn Hill. May
3 Rosemary Barbera, Dr. Nakia Owens
4 and Jonathan Barns also make their
5 way to the podium.

6 (Witnesses approached
7 podium.)

8 MS. ALBRIGHT: Good
9 morning. My name is Pat Albright.
10 I'm a single mother with a
11 disability and a former welfare
12 recipient with the Every Mother Is
13 A Working Mother Network. I'm here
14 today and in support of the
15 resolution on the CTC.

16 As a single mother, I
17 struggled to make ends meet while
18 on Social Security disability
19 insurance. An expanded child tax
20 credit available to those like
21 myself raising children full-time
22 would have made a huge difference
23 for my son and me, allowing us to
24 thrive, not just survive.

1 2/13/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 Benefits like the Child
3 Tax Credit, the Temporary
4 Assistance for Needy Families are
5 TANF general assistance. These are
6 not charities. These are payments
7 for the work of raising children,
8 caring for those who are older or
9 have disabilities and for surviving
10 with a disability. No to work
11 requirements or time limits.
12 There's a bill in
13 Congress, the Worker Relief and
14 Credit Reform Act, that would
15 finally recognize caregivers as
16 workers entitling us to the Earned
17 Income Tax Credit. But the Child
18 Tax Credit expansion ended after
19 one year. The TANF payment of \$403
20 a month for a mother with two
21 children has not been raised since
22 1990 and general assistance was
23 disbanded.
24 Poverty levels,

1 2/13/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 particularly of mothers and
3 children, have soared, with more
4 children torn apart from their
5 mothers and placed in foster care,
6 more women unable to leave domestic
7 violence situations and the numbers
8 of people living on the streets
9 rising.

10 73 percent of the poor
11 in Philadelphia are women and
12 children. As welfare rights
13 activist Johnnie Tillman said, If I
14 were president, "I'd just issue a
15 proclamation that women's work is
16 real work. I'd start paying women
17 a living wage for doing the work we
18 are already doing and the welfare
19 crisis would be over just like
20 that." Every mother is a working
21 mother. Thank you, Councilmember
22 Landau, for pulling forward this
23 resolution to tackle poverty
24 starting with the poverty of

1 2/13/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 mothers and children.

3 (Applause.)

4 DR. OWENS: Good

5 morning. I'm Dr. Nakia Owens, and

6 I am here to support Councilmember

7 Rue Landau's resolution for the

8 Child Tax Credit. I'm the

9 President and CEO of Campaign for

10 Working Families. And each year we

11 serve over 22,000 taxpayers in

12 Philadelphia.

13 And so, what I'm here to

14 say is that you can't underestimate

15 the value and what the Child Tax

16 Credit and how the tax credit shows

17 up in people's lives. I'm also

18 here to share that last year we

19 served over 22,000 unique

20 individuals and put back over \$32

21 million, almost \$33 million back

22 into their pockets with 8 million

23 of that being to the Child Tax

24 Credit.

1 2/13/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 And so, over 50 percent
3 of those individuals that came
4 through our doors made less than
5 \$20,000 a year. And so, that 400,
6 that 1000, whether it's 800,
7 whatever it is that they get back
8 based on their tax liability makes
9 a difference in the lives of those
10 families. It makes a difference in
11 the lives of those children.

12 I know we have 20 sites
13 throughout Philadelphia. People
14 bring their children in with them
15 to get their taxes filed. And
16 contrary to maybe some popular
17 beliefs, these dollars go to help
18 provide and put food on the table,
19 housing. And many times it is a
20 difference between those families
21 and children ending out on the
22 street and out of their homes or
23 having food on their tables.

24 So I just want to

1 2/13/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 encourage you to really support
3 Councilmember Rue Landau's
4 resolution and really knowing that
5 that 1400, 400, whatever it is, it
6 absolutely makes a difference in
7 the lives of those families. And
8 if you have any doubt, you are
9 welcome to visit any one of our 20
10 sites. You're welcome to talk to
11 any one of the 22,000 people that
12 we serve, the 26,000 federal
13 returns that we have each year. So
14 please support, support, support.
15 Thank you.

16 (Applause.)

17 CHIEF CLERK: May we
18 also have Phoebe Jones, Carolyn
19 Hill, Rosemary Barbera, Jonathan
20 Barns and Christine Speidel also
21 make their way to the podium.

22 (Witnesses approached
23 podium.)

24 MS. BARBERA: Good

1 2/13/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 morning, everyone. My name is
3 Rosemary Barbera, a proud native of
4 Philadelphia. Go Birds. I'm a
5 social worker, an Associate
6 Professor of social work at
7 La Salle University and a member of
8 Social Workers Ending Poverty
9 Together. I'm also the mother of
10 two amazing children adopted
11 through the foster care system here
12 in Philadelphia.

13 I'm here to support
14 Councilmember Landau's resolution
15 to expand the Child Tax Credit. In
16 April of 2022, the Philadelphia
17 City Council Special Committee on
18 Child Separations -- thank you,
19 Councilmember Bass -- published its
20 report on ways that Philadelphia
21 needed to move forward to support
22 families rather than separate them.

23 One key recommendation
24 of this report was that neglect

1 2/13/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 shall be removed from state law
3 defining child abuse for CPS
4 investigation and any family
5 condition that can be remedied
6 through the provision of concrete
7 help including, but not limited to,
8 direct cash assistance, food,
9 clothing, housing assistance and/or
10 child care shall not constitute
11 neglect and shall not be cause for
12 a CPS or GPS investigation.

13 Expanding the Child Tax
14 Credit would help families meet
15 their basic needs so that these
16 situations of poverty are not used
17 as grounds for removal of children
18 from their families. Research from
19 the Center on Budget and Policy
20 Priorities shows that providing
21 cash to families reduces
22 involvement in the child welfare
23 system. Let's support families.
24 Thank you, Councilmember Landau,

1 2/13/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 for prioritizing this issue.

3 (Applause.)

4 MS. JONES: Hello. My

5 name is Phoebe Jones and I

6 coordinate the work at the

7 Crossroads Women's Center in

8 Germantown. For the past three

9 years, with the support of the

10 City's Community Empowerment

11 office, we have been doing

12 outreach, awareness and advocacy

13 for the Child Tax Credit and Earned

14 Income Tax Credit.

15 We've been gathering

16 women's stories about what the

17 Child Tax Credit meant to them, and

18 hearing how mothers got out of debt

19 and families spent time together.

20 Statistics show that most of the

21 credit was spent on healthier food,

22 and there was a reduction in kids

23 drinking sugary beverages. But

24 much of that benefit was short-

1 2/13/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 lived as Congress failed to extend
3 the expanded Child Tax Credit.

4 What were the key
5 features of that Child Tax Credit?

6 What made the difference? One, it
7 was fully refundable. Meaning, you
8 didn't have to have a job or an
9 income to get it. And for the
10 first time, full-time moms and
11 grandmothers raising children got
12 it. Two, it was paid monthly so
13 you didn't go into debt. Paying
14 the Child Tax Credit yearly means
15 your creditors get the money, not
16 you or your children.

17 Three, the amount was
18 increased which this resolution
19 does a good job of highlighting.
20 And four, it went to those with
21 ITINs so all children could get it.
22 These features are all included in
23 the American Family Act about to be
24 reintroduced by Representative

1 2/13/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 DeLauro. We urge Philadelphia City
3 Council to make clear that it
4 supports all the features of the
5 expanded Child Tax Credit that
6 lifted half of children out of
7 poverty and that you will throw
8 your full weight behind it, like we
9 mothers and caregivers are throwing
10 ours. Thank you.

11 (Applause.)

12 MS. JONES: If I may,
13 Carolyn Hill did not make it in to
14 testify, but she sent hers. Would
15 that be okay if I read hers? It's
16 very short.

17 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

18 RICHARDSON: (Gestured).

19 MS. JONES: Okay.

20 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

21 RICHARDSON: Ma'am, may you repeat
22 the name of the witness.

23 MS. JONES: Yes.

24 Carolyn Hill and she was also with

1 2/13/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 the Crossroads Women's Center. She
3 was the poster child for the City's
4 Child Tax Credit Awareness
5 campaign, and she was recently at
6 the Mayor's press conference.

7 She writes, My story is
8 I'm a grandmother who stepped in to
9 raise three of my grandchildren. I
10 work hard to make sure those kids
11 get what they need. During the
12 pandemic, I got the Child Tax
13 Credit every month. It meant I
14 caught up on my electric, gas and
15 water bills. It meant we could eat
16 better and do fun things as a
17 family.

18 But when the pandemic
19 was over, we lost those things. If
20 I had gotten the Child Tax Credit
21 back when I had my nieces, maybe
22 they would be with me today instead
23 of taken by the child welfare
24 system. I'm glad for this

1 2/13/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 resolution to support the expanded
3 Child Tax Credit, but it should
4 also come every month, including to
5 grandmothers like me who are
6 working hard to raise children. We
7 are workers too. Thank you.

8 (Applause.)

9 CHIEF CLERK: May we
10 have Jonathan Barns, Christine
11 Speidel, Wei Chen, Vivian Chang and
12 Cynthia Hyd also make their way to
13 the podium. Jonathan Barns,
14 Christine Speidel, Wei Chen, Vivian
15 Chang and Cynthia Hyd. Thank you.

16 (Witnesses approached
17 podium.)

18 MR. CHEN: Good morning,
19 State Council. My name is Wei
20 Chen. I am a Civic Engagement
21 Director with Asian Americans
22 United. I'm so glad to be here
23 today after two months that I have
24 not coming back to this floor.

1 2/13/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 After December 19th, I was forced
3 to be removed from this floor
4 because of oppose the arena.

5 But don't worry, I'm not
6 here to making trouble today. I'm
7 here to celebrate, to celebrate the
8 victory of the Peoples United. I'm
9 here to celebrate with the
10 community united against a three-
11 big developer. I'm here also to
12 celebrate the winning of the Birds.
13 Go Birds. I also want to take
14 opportunity and thank Councilmember
15 Kendra Brooks who introduced a
16 resolution and Councilmember Nic
17 O'Rourke to co-sponsor this
18 resolution to honor Lunar New Year
19 and to honor China history and
20 China's struggle.

21 As a China kid -- can I
22 say that, Harry? As a China kid, I
23 also want to invite all the City
24 Councilmembers to visit Chinatown

1 2/13/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 more and have a frequently
3 communication with the community
4 there to improve the communication,
5 to understand more about this
6 community.

7 I also want to
8 acknowledge the gorgeous Chinatown
9 Lion Dance Parade happened the past
10 two weeks led by Harry Leong.
11 Because he doesn't want to stand
12 here to speak, I want to honor him
13 here too. Thank you, Harry. Also,
14 I want to take this opportunity to
15 say thank you again to the
16 Councilmember who voted against the
17 arena to choose to stand with the
18 people of the Philadelphia. And
19 thank you, Councilwoman Kendra
20 Brooks. And thank you, Councilman
21 Nic O'Rourke. And thank you,
22 Councilman Jeffrey Young. And
23 thank you, Councilwoman Rue Landau
24 and Jamie Gauthier.

1 2/13/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 (Applause.)

3 MS. CHANG: Hello. My

4 name is Vivian Chang, Executive

5 Director of Asian Americans United.

6 And I speak in support of the

7 resolution supported by

8 Councilmember Kendra Brooks,

9 Councilmember Nicolas O'Rourke. We

10 thank them for their courage in

11 supporting our community.

12 Communities of color, we

13 need support in the hard times, not

14 just the fun celebrations. So I'm

15 excited that everyone's celebrating

16 Lunar New Year. And the end of

17 this period also known as Lantern

18 Festival, which is the conclusion

19 of this two-week celebration. But,

20 you know, celebrations mean nothing

21 if we don't have neighborhoods to

22 live in, if we don't have

23 businesses to go home to, right,

24 families that can thrive in this

1 2/13/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 community.

3 So we thank the members
4 for celebrating this but also thank
5 them for their courage, their
6 steadfastness, for keeping the
7 people in their hearts and in their
8 clear minds, making sure that what
9 matters at the end of the day as
10 elected officials is what the
11 people need and not what they don't
12 need, which was an arena, which was
13 billionaires making money off --

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

15 JOHNSON: Are we talking about
16 celebrating the Lunar Chinese
17 Festival New Year --

18 MS. CHANG: Yes.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

20 JOHNSON: -- or are we talking
21 about the arena?

22 MS. CHANG: Because the
23 new year is all about making
24 resolutions.

1 2/13/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

3 JOHNSON: Just asking to make sure
4 we stay on the topic of the purpose
5 of the resolution.

6 MS. CHANG: Well, I'm
7 glad we defeated the arena so we
8 don't have to talk about it too
9 much more.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

11 JOHNSON: Great.

12 MS. CHANG: But a big
13 piece of Lunar New Year is coming
14 together with family and
15 celebrating and Chinatown can still
16 have an opportunity, so thank you
17 for making that choice.

18 (Applause.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

20 JOHNSON: You're welcome.

21 MS. HU: Hello. My name
22 is Cynthia Hu. Today I want to
23 thank Councilmembers Kendra Brooks
24 and Nic O'Rourke for passing the

1 2/13/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 resolution to recognize Lunar New
3 Year, the Lunar New Year holiday,
4 and also honoring Chinatown as a
5 historical and vital neighborhood
6 in our city. Thank you.

7 I'm relieved and
8 grateful that this Lunar New Year
9 we are able to celebrate this
10 holiday together as a community,
11 being able to freely dance, parade
12 and cheer in the streets of our
13 beloved neighborhood without the
14 shadow of a development project
15 threatening the survival of our
16 community.

17 And although Chinatown
18 is safe for now, we know that there
19 is still work to be done to ensure
20 that all neighborhoods from South
21 Philly, West Philly, North Philly,
22 East Northeast are safe from the
23 threat of destruction. I am
24 grateful for our Councilmembers who

1 2/13/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 continue to listen to their
3 constituents and who continue to
4 stay alongside the people.

5 To the rest of our
6 Councilmembers, we have seen what
7 happened in January that
8 billionaires are not here for the
9 well-being of our communities. We
10 have seen how under this new
11 administration families are being
12 torn apart. We sat here months ago
13 shocked by the lack of resources in
14 our school.

15 I think we were shocked
16 by, what, we had eight plumbers who
17 service over 2000 school bathrooms.
18 These are issues that you should be
19 focusing on. So as we rein in this
20 Lunar New Year, as we celebrate
21 this fresh start, I urge you all to
22 do better for the people that you
23 represent. Do better.

24 (Applause.)

1 2/13/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 CHIEF CLERK: May Lisa
3 Lee, Tara Sanders and David
4 Alexander Jenkins also make their
5 way to the podium.

6 MS. SPEIDEL: Good
7 morning, Mr. President and
8 Councilmembers. My name is
9 Christine Speidel. I direct the
10 Federal Tax Clinic at Villanova
11 University's Charles Widger School
12 of Law, here to take us back one
13 topic to the Child Tax Credit and
14 the resolution introduced by
15 Councilmember Landau.

16 In the Tax Clinic, we
17 represent low-income individuals
18 from throughout Eastern
19 Pennsylvania, and a big part of our
20 work is representing people to
21 fight to get them the credits for
22 which they qualify. So we see
23 through our clients how important
24 these credits are to the well-being

1 2/13/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 of them, their families and their
3 children.

4 A couple of examples.

5 Both Philadelphia taxpayers,
6 Philadelphia residents, two
7 grandparents caring for disabled
8 siblings and three grandchildren.
9 People in the city are resilient
10 and strong and they step up. We've
11 heard testimony about the drug
12 crisis.

13 We know that gun
14 violence also takes away parents
15 from the lives of their children.
16 In our clinic we see the huge
17 support that people need and they
18 get from these tax credits. One of
19 my clients used his tax refund to
20 buy a bed for his grandchild who
21 was 2 years old and had gotten too
22 big for the crib that he had, so
23 these funds are going to
24 necessities.

1 2/13/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 And what we see in our
3 clients' cases is mirrored and
4 supported by the academic research.
5 Tax credits, including the Child
6 Tax Credit, lifted many children
7 out of poverty in 2021 and have the
8 power to do it again. Thank you.

9 (Applause.)

10 CHIEF CLERK: We have
11 Lisa Lee, Tara Sanders and David
12 Alexander Jenkins. May Ogbonna
13 Hagins and Wanda Walker also make
14 their way to the podium.

15 (Witnesses approached
16 podium.)

17 MS. LEE: Hi, everyone.
18 Good morning. I'm here in support
19 of Councilmembers Kendra Brooks and
20 Nic O'Rourke's resolution order
21 honoring Lunar New Year. And Happy
22 New Year everyone. It's always not
23 too early or too late to celebrate
24 a new year. And when we were

1 2/13/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 talking about celebrating Lunar New
3 Year, we were talking about a
4 cycle, the beginning of it, the end
5 of it and also the
6 beginninglessness of it and
7 endlessness of it. We take actions
8 together and we seek stillness in
9 resting, and then we start again.

10 We don't celebrate Lunar
11 New Year together just because we
12 are culturally tied to each other.
13 It is also the intentional choice
14 to come back to each other again
15 and again. That makes us a
16 community. It's an ongoing process
17 that resembles a lunar cycle of
18 light and dark, hope and loss, joy
19 and grief.

20 Cycles are not just
21 repetitive motions. We evolve,
22 gain momentum with every cycle and
23 build joy and resilience that can't
24 be taken away despite the weather.

1 2/13/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 We cycle together nonetheless, and
3 we have so much presence in this
4 room oversaturated even. All of us
5 at this moment in the past and
6 possibly in the future are bearing
7 witness to each other to all the
8 happenings here. I can even hear
9 us now from two months ago loud and
10 clear. I'm glad that honoring a
11 festival that we care deeply about
12 can be part of the story.

13 We also won't forget the
14 rest of it. And to my community, I
15 love you all. I love you all so
16 much. I love us for keeping each
17 other safe and grounded. Today is
18 the first day of a new cycle and
19 will continue to celebrate us.
20 Thank you.

21 (Applause.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

23 JOHNSON: Thank you.

24 MS. SAUNDERS: Good

1 2/13/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 morning, Councilmember and Council
3 President Johnson. My name is Tara
4 Saunders, and I'm the Executive
5 Director for Public Safety Programs
6 for the Department of Streets. I
7 first want to give a special thank
8 you to Councilmember Kendra Brooks
9 for bringing forth this resolution
10 for the crossing guards.

11 Under the streets Public
12 Safety Division is Philadelphia's
13 school crossing guards and the
14 public safety enforcement officers.
15 It is an honor to receive this
16 resolution for National Crossing
17 Guard Appreciation Day and Black
18 History Month. As many of you
19 know, the school crossing guard
20 program fully transitioned from the
21 Philadelphia Police Department to
22 the Department of Streets in July
23 of 2023.

24 Crossing guards play a

1 2/13/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 vital role in our community by
3 ensuring the students and
4 pedestrians have a safe roadway
5 access. Under the direction of the
6 Department of Streets, school
7 crossing guards help to advance the
8 safe routes to school initiatives
9 through the Vision Zero program by
10 their commitment in helping
11 communities create safe, healthy
12 environments for students.

13 Understand that the work
14 they do is critical, as it is not
15 just about stopping traffic but
16 about being the presence that
17 reassures and protects the
18 community. Despite the weather or
19 circumstances, they are happy --
20 they are the happy faces that
21 students see and families trust and
22 are the beacon of light in helping
23 the community and keeping the
24 roadway safe. And let me be the

1 2/13/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 first to say that is no small
3 responsibility.

4 On behalf of the
5 Department of Streets Commissioner
6 Kristen Del Rossi, First Deputy
7 Commissioner of Transportation
8 Richard Montanez, Local Union
9 President Karima Makin and the
10 School Crossing Guard Unit, we
11 would like to say thank you.

12 To our Philadelphia
13 crossing guards, we are grateful to
14 have such a dedicated and committed
15 group of people. It goes without
16 saying -- I got the red light. But
17 I just want to say the last thing,
18 we are One Philly, as stated by
19 Mayor Parker, and we are happy to
20 be a part of that safer, greener
21 and cleaner for the city of
22 Philadelphia. Thank you.

23 (Applause.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

1 2/13/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 JOHNSON: Thank you.

3 CHIEF CLERK: We have
4 David Alexander Jenkins, Ogbonna
5 Hagins, Wanda Walker. And may Lynn
6 Landes and Ebony Smith also make
7 their way to the podium.

8 (Witnesses approached
9 podium.)

10 MR. JENKINS: Good
11 morning, Mr. President,
12 Councilmembers and staff. David
13 Alexander Jenkins. I rise in
14 support of Resolution 250080, which
15 urges Congress to expand the Child
16 Tax Credit, a national issue of
17 urgency. The Childhood Tax Credit
18 is a particular interest to people
19 in Philadelphia and to me.

20 In 2022, the child
21 poverty rate in Philadelphia was
22 28.5 percent, which while down from
23 34 percent the previous year, was
24 still higher than the national

1 2/13/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 average, helping to secure our
3 place as the poorest major city in
4 the United States of America. A
5 monochrome, not as flashy and
6 prideful as the home of the
7 Philadelphia Eagles, not as warm as
8 City of Brotherly Love and Sisterly
9 Affection, yet still as real.

10 The Childhood Tax Credit
11 is instrumental in reducing
12 childhood poverty nationwide and
13 has had a profound impact on all of
14 us here. The 2021 expansion of the
15 bill under the American Rescue Plan
16 temporarily increased the credit
17 from \$2,000 per child and \$3,000
18 per child and \$3600 for children
19 under 5.

20 This significantly
21 reduced child poverty rates in
22 Philadelphia during its
23 implementation, but that expired on
24 December 31, of 2024. The

1 2/13/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 enhancements from the 2007 tax cuts
3 and Jobs Act, which doubled the
4 Child Tax Credit to \$2,000 per
5 child, are set to expire this year.

6 If not extended, the
7 credit will revert to \$1,000 per
8 child increasing financial strain
9 on our families, our friends, our
10 neighbors and for many here today
11 themselves. I am grateful to the
12 Councilmember Landau and her staff
13 for the introduction of this
14 resolution, and I beg you to vote
15 yes with resounding support.

16 Maintaining and
17 expanding the Child Tax Credit
18 would provide the essential support
19 we need to leave that most
20 undesirable, aforementioned
21 monochrome of poverty in our past.
22 Thank you.

23 (Applause.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

1 2/13/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 JOHNSON: Thank you.

3 MR. HAGINS: Good

4 morning, everyone. My name is

5 Ogbonna Hagins, fourth generation

6 chattel slavery survivor. I'm in

7 favor of the Emma Chappell Way

8 legislation. I remember meeting

9 Emma Chappell about maybe 35 years

10 ago with Reverend Moore at 10th and

11 Memorial when they were starting at

12 the Black bank.

13 But this is great to

14 have this sign, but we need

15 something a little bit more. And

16 because there's so much attention

17 being paid to immigrants, I think

18 that I want to make a motion to

19 change Black History Month to

20 Immigrant History Month. And I

21 want to change Juneteenth to be

22 commemorated as the sanctuary city,

23 you know, to recognize the

24 sanctuary city status.

1 2/13/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 This city has no
3 intention to initiate reparative
4 justice for those descended from
5 the emancipated, but it spares no
6 expense to emancipate immigrants
7 from Trump's deportation agenda.
8 I've asked for two years to
9 establish an Office of Freedmen
10 Affairs, and I've introduced
11 legislation to address structural
12 racism, affirmative action and the
13 devaluation of American Freedmen
14 homes, amounting to over \$4 billion
15 and still counting.

16 In light of this benign
17 neglect and the City's commitment
18 to emancipating immigrants, let us
19 just stop playing -- let's just
20 stop playing with the historical
21 appropriation. I move that Martin
22 Luther King Day be renamed to
23 Yasser Arafat Day in honor of the
24 Palestinian struggle. I move that

1 2/13/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 Octavius Catto statue be replaced
3 with a statue of Bruce Lee to honor
4 Chinatown. I offer a motion that
5 we change to --

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

7 JOHNSON: Mr. Ogbonna Hagins,
8 Mr. Ogbonna Hagins --

9 MR. HAGINS: -- right,
10 because we're not focused on the
11 American Freedmen. We're not
12 focused on the American Freedmen --

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

14 JOHNSON: Will the Clerk please
15 call the next speaker.

16 CHIEF CLERK: We have
17 Wanda Walker, Lynn Landes and then
18 Ebony Smith.

19 MS. WALKER: Good
20 morning, beautiful people. My name
21 is Wanda Walker. And as always --

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

23 JOHNSON: Good morning, Ms. Walker.

24 MS. WALKER: Good

1 2/13/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 morning, President. As always, I
3 talk about generational wealth and
4 how it's being stolen in
5 Philadelphia, the importance of
6 protecting our seniors because they
7 hold the largest portion of our
8 generational wealth and how it
9 would be nice to have it where they
10 don't have to pay property taxes or
11 a stormwater bill after 30 years of
12 paying taxes.

13 And I say this because
14 Jeremy comes and he talks about
15 abatements, zoning and build,
16 build, build. We have learned that
17 building new housing units are not
18 affordable. And we understand we
19 want to bring 30,000 units in, but
20 that's not going to solve the
21 problem that we have in
22 Philadelphia with the people that
23 are here that don't make that type
24 of money.

1 2/13/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 So I'm asking you why
3 don't you think about people like
4 me, small landlords that have
5 always supplied 64 percent of your
6 low-income and underprivileged
7 housing. We've always been the
8 people that have supported the
9 people that we most need to serve
10 right now. And I would like to see
11 a landlord safety bill come out of
12 this.

13 But I want you all to
14 remember that rehabbing an old
15 building or an abandoned building
16 is one-third the price of a new
17 unit, so maybe we need to start
18 looking at that. Also, doing the
19 housing units and doing rehabs that
20 ensures small business people like
21 our contractors get work and you
22 keep the money within Philadelphia
23 and recycle the jobs in
24 Philadelphia.

1 2/13/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 When it's a big project
3 or you're talking new units and
4 abatements, those are big projects.
5 And a lot of times people in
6 Philadelphia don't get those jobs.
7 So with the small landlords and
8 rehabbing, I think we could solve a
9 lot of our housing problem in
10 Philadelphia. And what is a Child
11 Tax Credit if you don't have
12 affordable housing. So that's why
13 the two go together. Thank you so
14 much.

15 (Applause.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

17 JOHNSON: Thank you.

18 MS. LANDES: Good
19 morning. I'm Lynn Landes of
20 Safestreetsphilly.org and I support
21 the resolution honoring and
22 designating Emma Chappell Way. I
23 live not too far from there, and
24 it's a great way to educate the

1 2/13/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 public in terms of designating
3 certain streets after important
4 people. But it's also important
5 that these streets be safe, clean
6 and green.

7 And right now that isn't
8 quite the case. It is better than
9 it was. But in our neighborhood
10 which is the Gayborhood and near
11 Midtown Village, we still have on
12 any given day about a dozen
13 homeless people, panhandlers and
14 drug addicts. And it's really
15 between that area and Rittenhouse
16 Park we still have a problem.

17 So on Sunday when the
18 game was won, before that earlier
19 in the day when I saw so many
20 people coming in and visiting
21 Philadelphia, I sent a letter to
22 City Council, the Police
23 Commissioner, DA Krasner and the
24 9th District precinct, police

1 2/13/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 precinct, saying couldn't you do
3 something about the people on the
4 street, that people are actually
5 having to step over our mentally-
6 disabled people.

7 My son is a mentally
8 disabled, on Social Security
9 disability and we take care of him.
10 But for some reason, City Council
11 and the Mayor's Office seem to
12 think that they can make the choice
13 these people who are mentally
14 disabled, they can make the choice
15 to live on the streets. It's
16 uncivilized. We treat stray cats
17 and dogs better. So tomorrow when
18 we have this parade are we still
19 going to have our mentally disabled
20 people living, sleeping, basically
21 slow-dying on our streets or are we
22 going to finally do something about
23 it?

24 I would think the

1 2/13/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 Americans with Disabilities Act
3 would kick in at some point so we
4 can protect these people from
5 themselves. And for the others,
6 the panhandlers and the drug
7 dealers, they need to get into the
8 legal system and get the justice
9 they deserve. Thank you very much.
10 And Go Eagles.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
12 JOHNSON: Before my last speaker, I
13 just want to acknowledge Joann
14 Bell, leader of the Black Women's
15 Leadership Council. And thank you
16 for your leadership around the
17 various issues as it relates to
18 particularly Black people in the
19 city of Philadelphia. Thank you
20 for your presence today.

21 (Applause.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
23 JOHNSON: Appreciate you and your
24 encouragement, empowerment of young

1 2/13/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 people. Thank you.

3 Ms. Williams, please
4 begin.

5 MS. SMITH: My name is
6 Ebony Smith. Hello.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

8 JOHNSON: Go ahead, Ms. Smith. I'm
9 sorry.

10 MS. SMITH: I'm here
11 today to speak on behalf of my
12 sister, but I also want -- I am so
13 glad that I'm here to be a part of
14 Ms. Emma Chappell being honored.
15 She was also a mentor of mine. She
16 pulled me out when I just wanted to
17 stay in the corner and she wouldn't
18 allow it. So I'm honored that I'm
19 here for that.

20 But my name is Ebony
21 Smith and this is Nikki's daughter,
22 Ebony Zamani. Her son is also in
23 the corner here, Nathaniel Bagby.
24 We are here today speaking on

1 2/13/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 behalf of our mom and family
3 members, on behalf of our mentor,
4 prayer partner, friend and sister
5 Nikki Bagby.

6 As Nikki's sister, I've
7 always firsthand witnessed her
8 passion to help and serve others.
9 Anything she put her mind to with
10 prayer and trust in God, she
11 accomplishes and continuously
12 extend those blessings to others.
13 I have watched her our entire life
14 and I am constantly in awe of her
15 determination to serve others, even
16 when those have been determined to
17 come against her, and there has
18 been.

19 I am truly blessed to
20 have witnessed her life firsthand
21 and to have been a part of it. If
22 you don't know Nikki Bagby, you
23 should get to know her. You will
24 leave blessed. Nikki, you are here

1 2/13/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 today because you deserve it. No
3 other reason. I love you. Thank
4 you.

5 (Applause.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

7 JOHNSON: I just want to also just
8 commend and support the family of
9 Nikki Bagby. I remember when I
10 first got elected she invited a
11 group of men to speak at one of the
12 schools up in the Northeast
13 regarding leadership in the city of
14 Philadelphia. So can we just give
15 the life and legacy of Nikki Bagby
16 a round of applause as well. That
17 I do remember.

18 (Applause.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

20 JOHNSON: Council President, there
21 are no further names for public
22 comment.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

24 JOHNSON: Okay. We will now

1 2/13/25 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 consider bills and resolutions on
3 the Second Reading and Final
4 Passage Calendars.

5 Will the Clerk please
6 read the title of Resolution No.
7 250030.

8 CHIEF CLERK: A
9 resolution also naming Market
10 Street from 7th Street to 8th
11 Street as "Emma Chappell Way."

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
13 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes
14 Councilmember Mark Squilla for a
15 motion regarding Resolution No.
16 240030.

17 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA:
18 Thank you, Mr. President.
19 I move for the adoption
20 of the resolution.

21 (Duly seconded.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
23 JOHNSON: It has been moved and
24 properly seconded that Resolution

1 2/13/25 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 No. 250030 will be adopted.

3 All those in favor of
4 the motion will signify by saying
5 aye.

6 (Aye.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

8 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

9 (No response.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

11 JOHNSON: The ayes have it, the
12 motion carries and the resolution
13 is adopted.

14 Council will be at ease.

15 (Council at ease.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

17 JOHNSON: Will the Clerk please
18 read the title of Resolution No.
19 250080.

20 CHIEF CLERK: A
21 resolution urging Congress to
22 expand the Child Tax Credit, an
23 essential anti-poverty initiative
24 that has drastically cut child

1 2/13/25 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 poverty and benefited millions of
3 families.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

5 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes
6 Councilmember Rue Landau for a
7 motion regarding Resolution No.
8 250080.

9 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:

10 Thank you, Council President.

11 I move for the adoption
12 of the resolution.

13 (Duly seconded.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

15 JOHNSON: It has been moved and
16 properly seconded that Resolution
17 No. 250080 be adopted.

18 All those in favor will
19 signify by saying aye.

20 (Aye.)

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

22 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

23 (No response.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

1 2/13/25 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 JOHNSON: The ayes have it, the
3 motion carries and the resolution
4 is adopted.

5 Will the Clerk please
6 read the title of Resolution No.
7 250083.

8 CHIEF CLERK: A
9 resolution authorizing the
10 Commissioner of Public Property to
11 execute and deliver to the
12 Philadelphia Redevelopment
13 Authority deeds conveying fee
14 simple title to 2406, 2434, 2440,
15 2444 North 6th Street, 2425, 2427
16 North 7th Street, 2400, 2403, 2455
17 North 15th Street, 2424, 2460 North
18 16th Street, 2415 North Bancroft
19 Street, 1509 West Boston Street,
20 1500 and 1507 West Cumberland
21 Street, 1501-03, 1510 West First
22 Street, 1422 and 1437 West Hagert
23 Street, 1422 and 1430 Letterly
24 Street, 2434, 2438, 2440, 2445

1 2/13/25 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 North Marshall Street, 2452 North
3 Mole Street, 2418, 2419, 2421, 2428
4 and 2433 North Sydenham Street in
5 the 5th Councilmanic District of
6 the City of Philadelphia and
7 further authorizing the
8 Philadelphia Redevelopment
9 Authority to transfer to the
10 Philadelphia Land Bank fee simple
11 title to such properties pursuant
12 to Section 16-405 of The
13 Philadelphia Code.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
15 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes
16 Councilmember Young for a motion
17 regarding Resolution No. 250083.

18 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Thank
19 you, Mr. President.

20 I move for the adoption
21 of the resolution.

22 (Duly seconded.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

24 JOHNSON: It has been moved and

1 2/13/25 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 properly seconded that Resolution
3 No. 250083 be adopted.

4 All those in favor of
5 the motion will signify by saying
6 aye.

7 (Aye.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

9 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

10 (No response.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

12 JOHNSON: The ayes have it, the
13 motion carries and the resolution
14 is adopted.

15 Will the Clerk please
16 read the title of Resolution No.
17 250084.

18 CHIEF CLERK: A
19 resolution authorizing the
20 Philadelphia Land Bank to dispose
21 of 2271 North Philip Street located
22 in the 7th Councilmanic District in
23 accordance with the terms of
24 Chapter 16-700 of The Philadelphia

1 2/13/25 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 Code.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

4 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes

5 Councilmember Quetcy Lozada for a

6 motion regarding Resolution No.

7 250084.

8 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA:

9 Thank you, Council President.

10 I move for the adoption

11 of the resolution.

12 (Duly seconded.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

14 JOHNSON: It has been moved and

15 properly seconded that Resolution

16 No. 250084 be adopted.

17 All those in favor of

18 the motion will signify by saying

19 aye.

20 (Aye.)

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

22 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

23 (No response.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

1 2/13/25 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 JOHNSON: The ayes have it and the
3 resolution is adopted.

4 Will the Clerk please
5 read the title of Resolution No.
6 250090.

7 CHIEF CLERK: A
8 resolution authorizing the
9 Philadelphia Land Bank to dispose
10 of 2248 Ruffner Street located in
11 the 8th Councilmanic District in
12 accordance with the terms of
13 Chapter 16-700 of The Philadelphia
14 Code.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
16 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes
17 Councilmember Cindy Bass for a
18 motion regarding Resolution No.
19 250090.

20 COUNCILWOMAN BASS:
21 Thank you, Mr. President.
22 I move for the adoption
23 of the resolution.

24 (Duly seconded.)

1 2/13/25 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

3 JOHNSON: It has been moved and
4 properly seconded that Resolution
5 No. 250090 be adopted.

6 All those in favor of
7 the motion will signify by saying
8 aye.

9 (Aye.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

11 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

12 (No response.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

14 JOHNSON: The ayes have it and the
15 motion carries.

16 The Clerk will please
17 read any additional resolutions on
18 today's Calendar.

19 CHIEF CLERK: A
20 privileged resolution honoring and
21 celebrating the Philadelphia Eagles
22 Associate Performance Coach Autumn
23 Lockwood, the first Black Woman
24 Coach to win a Super Bowl.

1 2/13/25 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 Introduced by Councilmember Gilmore
3 Richardson.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

5 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes
6 Councilmember Gilmore Richardson
7 for a motion regarding the
8 resolution.

9 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

10 RICHARDSON: Thank you, Council
11 President.

12 I move the adoption of
13 the resolution.

14 (Duly seconded.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

16 JOHNSON: It has been moved and
17 properly seconded that the
18 resolution be adopted.

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

22 (Aye.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

24 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

1 2/13/25 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 (No response.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

4 JOHNSON: The ayes have it and the
5 resolution is adopted.

6 Will the Clerk please
7 read the title of the next
8 resolution.

9 CHIEF CLERK: A
10 privileged resolution celebrating
11 and congratulating the NFL
12 Champions, the Philadelphia Eagles,
13 on their triumphant victory in
14 Super Bowl LIX against the Kansas
15 City Chiefs held at Caesars
16 Superdome in New Orleans on
17 February 9, 2025. Introduced by
18 Councilmember Gilmore Richardson on
19 behalf of Council President
20 Johnson.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

22 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes
23 Councilmember Gilmore Richardson
24 for a motion on the resolution.

1 2/13/25 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

3 RICHARDSON: Thank you, Council
4 President.

5 I move the adoption of
6 the resolution.

7 (Duly seconded.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

9 JOHNSON: It has been moved and the
10 whistle for the second. Now, the
11 resolution is adopted.

12 All those in favor will
13 signify by saying aye.

14 (Aye.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

16 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

17 (No response.)

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

19 JOHNSON: The ayes have it. I
20 thought I heard Harrity somewhere
21 but -- the resolution is adopted.
22 Go Birds.

23 Will the Clerk please
24 read the title of the next

1 2/13/25 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 resolution.

3 CHIEF CLERK: A

4 privileged resolution honoring and

5 congratulating the Overbrook High

6 School Girls Volleyball Team for

7 winning the 2024 American

8 Conference Championship.

9 Introduced by Councilmember Jones.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

11 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes

12 Councilmember Jones for a motion on

13 the resolution.

14 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank

15 you, Mr. President.

16 It's also introduced by

17 the coach, Member Thomas. I move

18 for the adoption of the resolution.

19 (Duly seconded.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

21 JOHNSON: It has been moved and

22 properly seconded that the

23 resolution be adopted.

24 All those in favor of

1 2/13/25 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 the motion will signify by saying
3 aye.

4 (Aye.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

6 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

7 (No response.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

9 JOHNSON: The ayes have it and the
10 resolution is adopted.

11 Will the Clerk please
12 read the title of the next
13 resolution.

14 CHIEF CLERK: A
15 privileged resolution honoring and
16 recognizing Philadelphia's living
17 legends during Black History Month
18 for their contributions to the
19 African American community and
20 their lasting impact. Introduced
21 by Councilmember Jones.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

23 JOHNSON: I was waiting for this
24 one, Councilmember Jones. This is

1 2/13/25 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 a good one. The Chair recognizes
3 Councilman Curtis Jones for a
4 motion on the resolution.

5 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank
6 you so much. These are living
7 icons. You will know we're going
8 to get them in here before the
9 short month of February is over. I
10 move for the adoption.

11 (Duly seconded.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

13 JOHNSON: It has been moved and
14 properly seconded that the
15 resolution be adopted.

16 All those in favor will
17 signify by saying aye.

18 (Aye.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

20 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

21 (No response.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

23 JOHNSON: The ayes have it and the
24 resolution is adopted.

1 2/13/25 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 Will the Clerk please --

3 COUNCILMAN JONES:

4 (Inaudible) President Kenyatta

5 Johnson.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

7 JOHNSON: Thank you, sir.

8 Will the Clerk please

9 read the title of the next

10 resolution.

11 CHIEF CLERK: A

12 privileged resolution honoring and

13 congratulating Philadelphia Eagles

14 quarterback Jalen Hurts for being

15 named Super Bowl LIX MVP.

16 Introduced by Councilmember Young.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

18 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes

19 Councilmember Jeffrey Young for a

20 motion on the resolution.

21 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Thank

22 you, Mr. President.

23 I move for the adoption.

24 (Duly seconded.)

1 2/13/25 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

3 JOHNSON: It has been moved and the
4 whistle is the second. This
5 resolution is adopted.

6 All those in favor of
7 the motion will signify by saying
8 aye.

9 (Aye.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

11 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

12 (No response.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

14 JOHNSON: The ayes have it and the
15 resolution is adopted. Go Birds.

16 Will the Clerk please
17 read the title of the next
18 resolution.

19 CHIEF CLERK: A
20 privileged resolution authorizing
21 the Council Committee on
22 Transportation and Public Utilities
23 to hold hearings to investigate the
24 potential locations of new

1 2/13/25 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 intercity bus terminals in the City
3 of Philadelphia.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

5 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes
6 Councilmember Jeffrey Jay Young.

7 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Thank
8 you, Mr. President.

9 I move for the adoption
10 of the resolution.

11 (Duly seconded.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

13 JOHNSON: It has been moved and
14 properly seconded that the
15 resolution be adopted.

16 All those in favor will
17 signify by saying aye.

18 (Aye.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

20 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

21 (No response.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

23 JOHNSON: The ayes have it and the
24 resolution is adopted.

1 2/13/25 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 Will the Clerk please
3 read the title of the next
4 resolution.

5 CHIEF CLERK: A
6 privileged resolution recognizing
7 and celebrating the Lunar New Year
8 and the Year of the Snake in
9 honoring Philadelphia's Chinatown
10 as a vibrant, historical and vital
11 neighborhood in our City's fabric.
12 Introduced by Councilmember Brooks.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
14 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes
15 Councilmember Brooks for a motion
16 on the resolution.

17 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: I
18 move for the introduction of the
19 res -- I mean, for the resolution.

20 (Duly seconded.)

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
22 JOHNSON: It has been moved and
23 properly seconded that the
24 resolution be adopted.

1 2/13/25 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 All those in favor will
3 signify by saying aye.

4 (Aye.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

6 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

7 (No response.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

9 JOHNSON: The ayes have it and the
10 resolution is adopted.

11 Will the Clerk please
12 read the title of the next
13 resolution.

14 CHIEF CLERK: A
15 privileged resolution celebrating
16 and recognizing Alvina Brown for
17 her steadfast commitment to
18 community and to her neighbors, and
19 for her advocacy to improve the
20 lives of people across the City of
21 Philadelphia, on the occasion of
22 Black History Month. Introduced by
23 Councilmember Brooks.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

1 2/13/25 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes
3 Councilmember Brooks for a motion
4 on the resolution.

5 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: I
6 move for the adoption of the
7 resolution.

8 (Duly seconded.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

10 JOHNSON: It has been moved and
11 properly seconded that the
12 resolution be adopted.

13 All those in favor will
14 signify by saying aye.

15 (Aye.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

17 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

18 (No response.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

20 JOHNSON: The ayes have it and the
21 resolution is adopted.

22 Will the Clerk please
23 read the title of the next
24 resolution.

1 2/13/25 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 CHIEF CLERK: A

3 privileged resolution celebrating
4 and honoring Maggie McCall for her
5 tenacious commitment to organizing,
6 beautifying and connecting with her
7 neighborhood, including serving as
8 Block Captain for 51 years and for
9 improving the lives of people
10 across Philadelphia, on the
11 occasion of Black History Month.
12 Introduced by Councilmember Brooks.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

14 JOHNSON: The Clerk recognizes --
15 the Chair recognizes Councilmember
16 Brooks for a motion on the
17 resolution.

18 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: I
19 move for the adoption of the
20 resolution.

21 (Duly seconded.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

23 JOHNSON: It has been moved and
24 properly seconded that the

1 2/13/25 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 resolution be adopted.

3 All those in favor will

4 signify by saying aye.

5 (Aye.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

7 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

8 (No response.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

10 JOHNSON: The ayes have it and the

11 resolution is adopted.

12 Will the Clerk please

13 read the title of the next

14 resolution.

15 CHIEF CLERK: A

16 privileged resolution celebrating

17 and recognizing Sheila Hawkins for

18 her insistence on the importance of

19 community, her tireless efforts to

20 make the spaces around her more

21 beautiful, and her understanding

22 that unity is at the heart of

23 activism, on the occasion of Black

24 History Month. Introduced by

1 2/13/25 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 Councilmember Brooks.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

4 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes

5 Councilmember Brooks for a motion

6 on the resolution.

7 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: I

8 move for the adoption of the

9 resolution.

10 (Duly seconded.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

12 JOHNSON: It has been moved and

13 properly seconded that the

14 resolution be adopted.

15 All those in favor will

16 signify by saying aye.

17 (Aye.)

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

19 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

20 (No response.)

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

22 JOHNSON: The ayes have it and the

23 resolution is adopted.

24 Will the Clerk please

1 2/13/25 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 read the title of the next

3 resolution.

4 CHIEF CLERK: A

5 privileged resolution honoring and

6 celebrating Sandra Murdock, whose

7 love for the people around her

8 nourishes and uplifts the people in

9 spaces that she graces for

10 providing to her community, and for

11 her commitment to mentoring young

12 girls and boys across the City of

13 Philadelphia, on the occasion of

14 Black History Month. Introduced by

15 Councilmember Brooks.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

17 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes

18 Councilmember Brooks for a motion

19 on the resolution.

20 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: I

21 move for the adoption of the

22 resolution.

23 (Duly seconded.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

1 2/13/25 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 JOHNSON: It has been moved and
3 properly seconded that the
4 resolution be adopted.

5 All those in favor will
6 signify by saying aye.

7 (Aye.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

9 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

10 (No response.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

12 JOHNSON: The ayes have it and the
13 resolution is adopted.

14 Will the Clerk please
15 read the title of the next
16 resolution.

17 CHIEF CLERK: A
18 privileged resolution celebrating
19 and honoring Patricia Ford for her
20 tireless advocacy for her
21 community, her love for her
22 children and her devotion to
23 improving the lives of people
24 across Philadelphia, on the

1 2/13/25 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 occasion of Black History Month.
3 Introduced by Councilmember Brooks.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
5 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes
6 Councilmember Brooks for a motion
7 on the resolution.

8 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: I
9 move for the adoption of the
10 resolution.

11 (Duly seconded.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
13 JOHNSON: It has been moved and
14 properly seconded that the
15 resolution be adopted.

16 All those in favor will
17 signify by saying aye.

18 (Aye.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

20 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

21 (No response.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

23 JOHNSON: The ayes have it and the
24 resolution is adopted.

1 2/13/25 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 Will the Clerk please
3 read the title of the next
4 resolution.

5 CHIEF CLERK: A
6 privileged resolution celebrating
7 and commending Nikki Bagby for her
8 steadfast devotion to using her
9 platform to positively impact the
10 lives of youth and vulnerable
11 communities across the City of
12 Philadelphia, on the occasion of
13 Black History Month. Introduced by
14 Councilmember Brooks.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
16 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes
17 Councilmember Brooks for a motion
18 on the resolution.

19 (Duly seconded.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
21 JOHNSON: It has been moved and
22 properly seconded that the
23 resolution be adopted.

24 All those in favor will

1 2/13/25 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 signify by saying aye.

3 (Aye.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

5 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

6 (No response.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

8 JOHNSON: The ayes have it and the
9 resolution is adopted.

10 Will the Clerk please
11 read the title of the next
12 resolution.

13 CHIEF CLERK: A
14 resolution honoring and celebrating
15 National Crossing Guard
16 Appreciation Day to highlight and
17 express gratitude for the critical
18 work that crossing guards do to
19 keep roadway connection safe and
20 intersection safe for all.

21 Introduced by Councilmember Brooks.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

23 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes

24 Councilmember Brooks for a motion

1 2/13/25 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 on the resolution.

3 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: I

4 move for the adoption of the

5 resolution.

6 (Duly seconded.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

8 JOHNSON: It has been moved and

9 properly seconded that the

10 resolution be adopted.

11 All those in favor of

12 the motion will signify by saying

13 aye.

14 (Aye.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

16 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

17 (No response.)

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

19 JOHNSON: The ayes have it and the

20 resolution is adopted.

21 Will the Clerk please

22 read the title of the next

23 resolution.

24 CHIEF CLERK: A

1 2/13/25 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 privileged resolution honoring and
3 thanking the Philadelphia Police
4 Department, the Philadelphia Fire
5 Department, the Pennsylvania State
6 Police, the National Transportation
7 Safety Board, the Federal Aviation
8 Administration, the Department of
9 Environmental Protection, the
10 Office of Emergency Management, the
11 Pennsylvania Emergency Management
12 Agency and the American Red Cross
13 for their heroism and bravery when
14 responding to the Northeast
15 Philadelphia plane crash on January
16 31, 2025. Introduced by
17 Councilmember Driscoll on behalf of
18 Council President Johnson.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
20 JOHNSON: Thank you for your
21 leadership, Councilmember Driscoll.
22 The Chair recognize you for a
23 motion on the resolution.

24 COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL: On

1 2/13/25 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 your behalf, Mr. President, I move
3 for the adoption of the resolution.

4 (Duly seconded.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

6 JOHNSON: It has been moved and
7 properly seconded that the
8 resolution be adopted.

9 All those in favor will
10 signify by saying aye.

11 (Aye.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

13 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

14 (No response.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

16 JOHNSON: The ayes have it and the
17 resolution is adopted.

18 Will the Clerk please
19 read the title of the next
20 resolution.

21 CHIEF CLERK: A
22 privileged resolution recognizing
23 and honoring Royal (Gene) E. Brown
24 for his dedicated service to the

1 2/13/25 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 Philadelphia Gas Commission.

3 Introduced by Councilmember

4 Brooks -- I mean, Councilmember

5 Driscoll. Excuse me.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

7 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes

8 Councilmember Driscoll for a motion

9 on the resolution.

10 COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL:

11 Mr. President, on behalf of

12 Councilman Jones and I move for the

13 adoption of the resolution.

14 (Duly seconded.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

16 JOHNSON: It has been moved and

17 properly seconded that the

18 resolution be adopted.

19 All those in favor will

20 signify by saying aye.

21 (Aye.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

23 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

24 (No response.)

1 2/13/25 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

3 JOHNSON: The ayes have it and the
4 resolution is adopted.

5 Will the Clerk please
6 read the title of the next
7 resolution.

8 CHIEF CLERK: A
9 privileged resolution honoring and
10 celebrating the extraordinary life
11 of Alfred L. Dezzi and his
12 invaluable contributions to public
13 service, environmental policy,
14 criminal justice reform and
15 education, and expressing deep
16 gratitude for his enduring impact
17 on the City of Philadelphia.
18 Introduced by Councilmember Bass.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

20 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes
21 Councilmember Bass for a motion on
22 the resolution.

23 COUNCILWOMAN BASS:

24 Thank you, Mr. President.

1 2/13/25 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 I move for the adoption.

3 (Duly seconded.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

5 JOHNSON: It has been moved and

6 properly seconded that the

7 resolution should be adopted.

8 All those in favor will

9 signify by saying aye.

10 (Aye.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

12 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

13 (No response.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

15 JOHNSON: The ayes have it and the

16 resolution is adopted.

17 Will the Clerk please

18 read the title of the next

19 resolution.

20 CHIEF CLERK: Council

21 President, there are no further

22 resolutions in my possession.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

24 JOHNSON: That completes our

1 2/13/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 Calendar for today.

3 Are there any speeches
4 on behalf of the Minority?

5 The Chair recognizes
6 Councilmember Brooks.

7 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS:

8 Thank you, Council President.

9 So before we leave City
10 Hall today and get ready to
11 celebrate the Eagles, I want to
12 wish a happy birthday to
13 Councilmember Katherine Gilmore,
14 Richardson and Ms. Dee Dee. They
15 share a birthday, so I did not want
16 to miss without saying happy
17 birthday to them both.

18 (Applause.)

19 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS:

20 And I hope your birthdays are
21 filled with so much joy, the joy
22 also that the Eagles brought this
23 city so I'm so excited about that.

24 And today I want to pay

1 2/13/25 - STATED - SPEECHES
2 tribute to some of the unseen
3 sheroes in my neighborhood in
4 Nicetown. Sheila Hawkins, Sandy
5 Murdock, Nikki Bagby, Maggie
6 McCall, Patricia Ford and Alvina
7 Brown are all Black women who look
8 out for their neighbors, fight for
9 resources for young people, hold
10 our community together deep for
11 decades, whether they were mentors
12 to me or sisters in the struggle.
13 Nikki and I have been
14 together for many years. We have
15 kids that are adults and we have
16 kids that are children and we met
17 in the fight for quality public
18 education, and I want to make sure
19 that we give our flowers while
20 people are still living and not
21 wait until they're sick or unable
22 to receive it.
23 So one of the things I
24 just want to bring out about these

1 2/13/25 - STATED - SPEECHES
2 dedications for women in Black
3 History Month and why I feel like
4 it's so important is because these
5 unsung heroes, every time we reach
6 out to them to be recognized, they
7 don't feel like they deserve it.
8 But these are the folks that are
9 taking care of our young people and
10 our seniors, unpaid, unrecognized,
11 and they're doing it out the
12 kindness of their heart. And I
13 just want to make sure when we're
14 in an era now where our history is
15 being erased, that we need to make
16 sure that we're uplifting and
17 putting people's names in the book
18 so they can make sure that they're
19 remembered for years to come.

20 So I just want to
21 celebrate these women that have
22 brought me so much hope and
23 encouragement in my community and
24 help me pave the way towards

1 2/13/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 politics, even though that was not
3 the path when I came into contact
4 with each one of these women.

5 And I also want to thank
6 Councilmember Mark Squilla for
7 collaborating with my office on a
8 resolution to rename the 700 block
9 of Market Street in honor of
10 Dr. Emma Chappell, the first Black
11 woman to establish and run a bank
12 here in Philadelphia.

13 And you saw today I got
14 very emotional because I entered
15 politics very differently, and most
16 folks didn't even want to talk to
17 me. And this is not shade, but a
18 lot of people that were established
19 in politics wouldn't give me the
20 time of day. And Dr. Emma Chappell
21 took her time, we did breakfast
22 together. And she just helped me
23 in a way that I cannot ever repay,
24 so her loss was deep for me.

1 2/13/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 And a time where her
3 funeral wasn't as it could be
4 because it was during COVID, so
5 I've been committed to making sure
6 that she's recognized at this time.
7 Another thing, like I have admired
8 this woman since I was a small
9 child growing up in Triumph Baptist
10 Church when we created the credit
11 union and Dr. James S. Hall was
12 good friends with Jesse Jackson,
13 which means that Dr. Emma Chappell
14 and Jesse Jackson used to be in the
15 church with us all the time when my
16 grandmom ran the kitchen.

17 And then fastforward for
18 me to be in graduate school and her
19 life was part of the study around
20 my business program. And then
21 fastforward again for her to decide
22 to take me on, you know, like a
23 person out of nowhere to help me
24 navigate these politics. So I am

1 2/13/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 forever grateful for the time that
3 I had to spend with her, and I
4 still get very emotional because
5 she didn't have to do it and I'm so
6 honored that she chose me.

7 And I also want to say
8 thank you to Joann Bell and Melita
9 Jordan who were her good friends,
10 and she kind of gave them to me,
11 like look after my girls. So I
12 want to thank them for always
13 showing up and being available for
14 me and to me. So this is what it's
15 about, celebrating Black History
16 Month.

17 And the other thing is
18 Women's History Month is where
19 we're going to kind of finally
20 finish this celebration for
21 Dr. Emma Chappell when the sign
22 goes up, so I look forward to that.

23 And lastly, I also have
24 a resolution today recognizing the

1 2/13/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 Lunar New Year and to celebrate the
3 strength and resilience of our
4 Chinatown community. And 2025 is
5 the Year of the Snake which
6 symbolizes wisdom, transformation
7 and perseverance.

8 And this year we will
9 need all three, the wisdom of
10 historic communities like Chinatown
11 who know how to stand up against
12 billionaires who are ready to stand
13 up to billionaires taking over the
14 federal government. The
15 transformation starts when we
16 listen to working families and make
17 local government work for them, and
18 the perseverance to push through
19 chaos and distraction and stay
20 focused on a path forward to
21 Philadelphia.

22 So I want to thank you
23 all for allowing me in this moment
24 to kind of celebrate first all

1 2/13/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 these Black women that made me and
3 keep me grounded, and see you
4 tomorrow at the parade.

5 (Applause.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

7 JOHNSON: Go Birds. And I just
8 want to -- I think the remarks are
9 great and I remember the late great
10 Emma Chappell through my mentor,
11 the late great Harley Williams.
12 And I remember he had an account up
13 there off on Lancaster Avenue where
14 the United Bank used to be located.

15 But also, I think it's
16 great in this body that the
17 District Councilmember, the
18 District Councilmember who has the
19 prerogative of introducing
20 legislation in his own District,
21 and he can and may not, based upon
22 his own prerogative, decide to
23 introduce legislation to do a
24 street naming on behalf of Ms. Emma

1 2/13/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 Chappell and working in partnership
3 with his colleague who represents
4 the Working Families Party. And
5 so, I think it's great how we can
6 come together to get stuff done.
7 That's democracy in action.

8 (Applause.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

10 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes, on
11 behalf of the Majority, the
12 gentleman from the 4th Councilmanic
13 District, Big Bro Councilman Curtis
14 Jones.

15 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank
16 you so much, Mr. President.

17 Ms. Bagby, North Philly
18 Ms. Bagby, who was part of the NAC,
19 Neighborhood Advisory Council, my
20 job when I worked for OHCD was to
21 deliver newsletters to her and
22 other sheroes and heroes around
23 Philadelphia. And every time you
24 did so, you got a little piece of

1 2/13/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 wisdom given to you. If it was
3 nothing more than, boy, tie your
4 shoes or keep your head up, it's
5 okay, kind of things that
6 encourages young people to keep on
7 keeping on. So thank you.

8 Ms. Emma Chappell, had
9 the opportunity to put a quarter of
10 a million dollars in her bank when
11 I was at the Philadelphia
12 Commercial Development Corporation
13 and I was never so proud to make
14 that kind of deposit to try to make
15 that bank a success. But these are
16 little things and interactions that
17 you don't know are going to be
18 special until some time later in
19 the future. So relish them and
20 listen to them and take in their
21 wisdom.

22 Today I rise for two
23 reasons: Number one is to let
24 everyone know that on May 3rd at

1 2/13/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 St. Joe's University at 10:00 a.m.
3 the much anticipated 14th Annual
4 Block Captains Boot Camp will
5 happen, and we want everyone to
6 mark your calendars.

7 This is a time for
8 educating the fundamental building
9 block of any good community, which
10 is a block captain. They know more
11 than we do and know it before we do
12 and we want to empower them.

13 (Applause.)

14 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank
15 you so much. With all of those
16 secret numbers that we as elected
17 officials have, I'm giving them all
18 out so that they can make the
19 calls, so that many hands will make
20 work few. And I invite my
21 colleagues to come out, as they
22 have in the past, to celebrate
23 that.

24 And the final thing is

1 2/13/25 - STATED - SPEECHES
2 to update you on CPOC. We have
3 worked very hard. And I want to
4 shout out my Legislative Director
5 Ms. Stack over there, who sat
6 through -- I sat through 12 hours
7 of interviews with these potential
8 candidates. Ms. Stack sat through
9 16 hours of interviews to try to
10 get from 50 down to 5, and we have
11 done that.

12 It will be a public
13 hearing for them to be vetted by
14 the public, but then a resolution
15 will be introduced so that my
16 colleagues can take a look at the
17 resumes that are being submitted so
18 that we can reinforce the work that
19 is being done with CPOC. And we
20 want to keep our fingers crossed
21 and our minds and souls in prayer
22 that the negotiations on the
23 contract go well allowing CPOC to
24 have investigatory powers.

1 2/13/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 Thank you,

3 Mr. President.

4 (Applause.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

6 JOHNSON: Thank you, Councilmember

7 Jones.

8 The Chair recognizes

9 Councilmember Rue Landau.

10 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:

11 Thank you, Council President.

12 First, I wanted to thank

13 those who came to speak about my

14 resolution urging the federal

15 government to expand the Child Tax

16 Credit. As you heard today, it's a

17 critical tool that effectively

18 improves the economic security of

19 millions of low-to-moderate-income

20 families with their children. And

21 just a reminder, even if you earned

22 very little last year, file your

23 taxes to get this credit money

24 back.

1 2/13/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 Then I just wanted to
3 tell you that earlier this week I
4 visited Jefferson Health's David
5 Farber ASPIRE Center. For those
6 unfamiliar, ASPIRE takes an
7 evidence-based approach to prevent
8 suicides, especially in the LGBTQ+
9 community and especially among our
10 youth, by expanding innovative
11 research, clinical training and
12 evidence-based learning for
13 professionals and community
14 members.

15 The center is leading
16 the way in lifesaving efforts for
17 those who are disproportionately at
18 risk as queer youth, especially
19 Black and Brown, queer and
20 transgender youth. As Trump's
21 policies targeting vulnerable
22 communities including against the
23 LGBTQ+ community become more
24 aggressive, we must continue to

1 2/13/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 uplift our organizations and
3 Philadelphians who are doing the
4 crucial lifesaving work to fill in
5 the gaps created by our federal
6 government.

7 I know there's a lot of
8 fear and confusion in the community
9 right now, but I'm now taking this
10 day, the day before Valentine's
11 Day, to let you all know that I
12 love you. And that as the only
13 openly LGBTQ Councilperson, I have
14 your backs always. Thank you.

15 (Applause.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

17 JOHNSON: Thank you.

18 The Chair recognizes
19 Councilmember Isaiah Thomas.

20 COUNCILMAN THOMAS:

21 Morning, Council President.

22 Real quick, so first of
23 all I want to thank my colleagues
24 for some of the most amazing

1 2/13/25 - STATED - SPEECHES
2 resolutions between the people
3 that's being honored and the causes
4 that folks are advocating for. I
5 just think that despite all of the
6 things going on this week with the
7 Super Bowl and other issues across
8 the city of Philadelphia, folks
9 still remain steadfast as it
10 relates to advocating for what we
11 know is best and as it relates to
12 moving Philadelphia forward. So,
13 colleagues, thank you all. It's
14 been a very productive Council
15 session.

16 I just want to remind
17 everybody that February 18th at
18 1:00 p.m. we will be having our
19 next hearing. We've been doing a
20 series of hearings around Vision
21 Zero, looking at the hit-and-run
22 crisis, looking at issues related
23 to infrastructure investment,
24 looking at issues related to

1 2/13/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 traffic and traffic congestion, and
3 that conversation will continue
4 next week.

5 So February 18th at
6 1:00 p.m. right here in these
7 Council chambers we will be having
8 our next Vision Zero hearing. We
9 look forward to the conversation.
10 And I want to say thank you already
11 to all of the people who agreed to
12 be a panelist, and thank you to my
13 staff for coordinating this effort.

14 Last but not least,
15 Council President, I got to say
16 happy birthday to my sister to my
17 right. I'm not going to embarrass
18 her right now. I'll save that for
19 the parade tomorrow. But Happy
20 birthday, Sis. We love you. We
21 appreciate you.

22 And for the record,
23 especially to a lot of the newer
24 Councilmembers, what our Majority

1 2/13/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 Leader does is long and far beyond
3 the call of duty. She does a lot
4 for us as it relates to members of
5 City Council just to make sure that
6 we're on our job.

7 And I just want y'all to
8 know there's no knock to other
9 people who've been in leadership in
10 the past, right, but it's just
11 similar to what Councilmember
12 Brooks said, giving her her flowers
13 while she can smell them. So I
14 want to say happy birthday to my
15 sis and thank you for all you do.

16 Thank you, Council
17 President.

18 (Applause.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

20 JOHNSON: Happy birthday.

21 The Chair recognizes
22 Councilmember Jay Young.

23 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Thank
24 you, Mr. President.

1 2/13/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 So today I just want to
3 speak on some things that I
4 introduced today. So one, I want
5 to thank my colleagues for passing
6 the resolution honoring Jalen
7 Hurts. Jalen Hurts is the ultimate
8 professional, very hard-working.
9 He always says the right things.
10 And I think that he is an excellent
11 sports role model for kids in our
12 city and in our region.

13 Today I also introduced
14 a resolution calling for hearings
15 to explore opportunities for
16 intercity bus terminal. I think
17 that since we lost our Greyhound
18 Station due to proposed
19 development, I think we leave our
20 most vulnerable population
21 literally out in the cold and in
22 the rain and in the snow because
23 there is no shelter for some of the
24 most low-income travelers between

1 2/13/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 cities.

3 And so, we need to
4 really explore where we can place a
5 terminal because it is good for the
6 economics of this city. And so, we
7 must we have to keep in mind that
8 when we find a location for this
9 terminal, that it needs to be near
10 and have access to mass transit and
11 public transportation here in our
12 city to be able to move those
13 people in and throughout our city
14 as quickly as possible.

15 I believe that the
16 location that we had was a perfect
17 location for it. Unfortunately,
18 now things happen, but we will be
19 exploring those opportunities and I
20 look forward to hearing from the
21 public and all stakeholders on this
22 particular issue of our exploring a
23 new inner city bus terminal.

24 And lastly -- not

1 2/13/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 lastly, Mr. President. I'm sorry.
3 I spoke on introducing legislation
4 today. In the spirit of ensuring
5 that our laws are just and fair, I
6 introduced a bill that will
7 prohibit landlords from charging
8 late fees when the tenant has
9 legally withheld or deducted rent
10 due to habitability issues.

11 So I want to thank my
12 colleagues, Councilmembers Brooks,
13 Landau, O'Rourke and Driscoll for
14 sponsoring it. Essentially, we
15 have gotten calls, I've gotten
16 calls about landlords charging fees
17 when a tenant has the legal right
18 to deduct rent or to withhold rent
19 because of issues that are in their
20 units. They should not be charged
21 late fees for something they have
22 the legal right to do.

23 And I think in the
24 spirit of justice and fairness, I

1 2/13/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 think it's up to us on this
3 legislative body to advance
4 legislation that helps again some
5 of the most vulnerable populations
6 in our city. So I look forward to
7 working with my colleagues on
8 moving this legislation forward.

9 And last but not least,
10 to the residents of the Hunting
11 Park neighborhood on February 19th,
12 at 5:00 p.m., my office will be
13 holding a meeting at Little Flower
14 High School, 1000 Lycoming Street,
15 to discuss zoning remapping of the
16 5th District portion of the Hunting
17 Park neighborhood. So I'm advising
18 all residents to come out, to learn
19 about zoning, to learn about your
20 community and learn about how you
21 can help preserve some of the
22 housing stock in your neighborhood.
23 So please come out to that.

24 Thank you,

1 2/13/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 Mr. President.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

4 JOHNSON: Thank you.

5 So we'll do it jointly.

6 All right. She's part of my
7 leadership team. The Chair
8 recognizes Councilmember Cindy
9 Bass.

10 COUNCILWOMAN BASS:

11 Thank you, Mr. President.

12 Just a couple of things
13 before we get to the other matter.
14 So the first thing is I wanted to
15 say happy birthday, Kathy Gilmore
16 Richardson, my good friend. Kathy
17 has --

18 (Applause.)

19 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

20 RICHARDSON: You know, Kathy is
21 really special to me, and she knows
22 why. She really has left a mark on
23 me personally that I just really
24 have to thank you because I know

1 2/13/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 that she did something for me
3 really special. Thank you so much.
4 I love you.

5 One of the things about
6 City Council I was saying to
7 someone earlier is that the hardest
8 thing about this job is that we
9 make it look easy, but we really
10 can't do this job without the
11 support and the help of people in
12 our community, in our neighborhoods
13 and those who work around us every
14 single day. And so, I wanted to
15 give a shout-out to all of the
16 folks who were recognized from
17 Nicetown, from my part of town from
18 8th District, and give them
19 recognition.

20 And I also wanted to
21 recognize and I want to say that I
22 know these ladies and they are
23 really a force, like they are not
24 to be played with. But I also have

1 2/13/25 - STATED - SPEECHES
2 a list of people last week that we
3 honored in my District through
4 North Philly Civics, which is a
5 community-based organization that
6 Kenny Thompson from my office, he's
7 here somewhere -- Kenny, wave --
8 has an organization called North
9 Philly Civics and we've recognized
10 a number of people who aren't here
11 today, but I also wanted to shout
12 them out as well that we recognize
13 for the work that they do. Because
14 again, the work we do we can't do
15 without having boots on the ground,
16 and that's what they are.

17 And so, I wanted to
18 recognize Dolores Kirkland, Hans E.
19 Gadson, Quibila Divine, Regina
20 Smith, Vernotis Edwards, Robert
21 Black, Keith Harris, William
22 Thompson, Linda Robinson, Tiffany
23 Fulton, Kevin Todd, Henry Hunter
24 from State Senator Sharif Streets'

1 2/13/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 office, Charles Carn, our 13th Ward
3 leader, Terry Gaskins, the one and
4 only Saudia Shuler, Ruthie Brown,
5 Joyce Smith and Kevin Upshaw. And
6 so, all of these are the people on
7 the ground in North Philadelphia.

8 Some are in the 8th
9 District. Some are in Councilman
10 Jeffrey Young's District, but
11 they're just North Philadelphians
12 that we wanted to reach out,
13 recognize and honor and say how
14 much we appreciate all of their
15 hard work. And thanks again to
16 North Philly Civics.

17 I also wanted to just
18 briefly mention the resolution that
19 I introduced today honoring and
20 celebrating the extraordinary life
21 of Alfred L. Dezzi and his
22 invaluable contributions to public
23 service, environmental policy,
24 criminal justice reform and

1 2/13/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 education, and expressing deep
3 gratitude for his enduring impact
4 on the city of Philadelphia.

5 If you knew Mr. Dezzi,
6 you knew he was a man who dedicated
7 himself to making Philadelphia a
8 better place. His commitment to
9 fairness, efficiency and innovation
10 shaped criminal justice reform,
11 environmental policy and public
12 administration for two decades.

13 Al Desi's leadership
14 transformed Philadelphia's
15 recycling program into a national
16 success, proving sustainability and
17 smart economics can co-exist. His
18 impact extended beyond City Hall to
19 state government and academia,
20 where he mentored future public
21 servants more than a policy expert.
22 Al Dezzi was a writer, a mentor and
23 a friend whose influence continues
24 to shape the city. We express our

1 2/13/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 deepest gratitude to his family for
3 his service and his legacy.

4 And to his family,
5 Eleanor and Chris and all those
6 others who we heard from today, we
7 offer our appreciation for sharing
8 him with us, and his work lives on
9 through the countless lives that he
10 touched. And we thank you, Al
11 Dezzi, and your city salutes you.

12 And those who know the
13 Dezzi family know that, you know
14 listen, they are true public
15 servants. And so, we wanted to
16 recognize them on that passing as
17 well. When I heard that Al Dezzi
18 had died, he had passed away, there
19 was very little mention. It wasn't
20 in the papers that I saw. It
21 wasn't well-known. And the family
22 just carried on with their public
23 service, but I did feel like I
24 wanted to recognize Mr. Dezzi for

1 2/13/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 all of his hard work.

3 And last but certainly
4 not least, Mr. President, again the
5 work we do is not possible without
6 those who support us and our
7 support staff. And, Michael Cook,
8 who we are losing has been just an
9 invaluable part.

10 (Applause.)

11 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: And
12 we love you, Michael. He has done
13 an outstanding job in helping each
14 and every one of us for years now.
15 And so, we just really want to say
16 thank you. We wish you well on
17 your future journeys and much
18 success.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

20 JOHNSON: Let's give Mike another
21 round of applause.

22 (Applause.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

24 JOHNSON: Appreciate Mike. I got

1 2/13/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 one member calling me like, you
3 know, Mike called me and I was
4 working with him at 1 o'clock in
5 the morning. And we appreciate
6 your hard work and dedication,
7 Mike. Once a part of Team Johnson
8 always a part of Team Johnson. But
9 we need good hard workers like
10 that, particularly when it comes to
11 government.

12 The Chair recognizes
13 Councilmember O'Neill.

14 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL:

15 Thank you, Mr. President.

16 I've been through here
17 through a few Majority Leaders. I
18 guess people know that, more than a
19 few. They've all been great, but
20 Councilman Thomas is right. I
21 don't know if it's because she
22 spent 20 years preparing to come
23 here as a member. But she didn't
24 just get it right, she gets

1 2/13/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 everything really, really right,
3 and she's something special. And I
4 just want to wish her happy
5 birthday and echo Councilman
6 Thomas' remarks. Thank you.

7 (Applause.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

9 JOHNSON: Happy Birthday, Majority
10 Leader.

11 I just ate my piece of
12 chocolate. She always leaving some
13 treats and gifts or text messages.
14 I just ate my chocolate though.
15 But thank you, Majority Leader
16 Gilmore Richardson.

17 And as mentioned and
18 echoed by everyone, we appreciate
19 your hard work and your dedication
20 and really taking your job
21 seriously as a Majority Leader, but
22 also just your beautiful character.
23 And, you know, in this body of
24 politics, your yeses are your

1 2/13/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 yeses, your nos are your nos and,
3 most importantly, your caring and
4 your compassion is exemplifying who
5 you are. And so, keep up the good
6 work as well.

7 (Applause.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

9 JOHNSON: There are no more
10 speeches. And with that being
11 said, as we prepare for the parade
12 tomorrow, the Chair recognizes
13 Councilmember Curtis Thomas. But
14 before we say -- I said Curtis
15 Thomas?

16 Well, at the Mayoral
17 luncheon yesterday they called me
18 Council President Street. It's
19 something in the air right now.
20 But before I call on Councilmember
21 Thomas for a motion to adjourn, you
22 know, to all the listening public
23 that can't hear us, we want
24 everybody to enjoy themselves and

1 2/13/25 - STATED - ADJOURNMENT

2 have a good time tomorrow in all
3 seriousness.

4 It's a time to celebrate
5 our Super Bowl Eagles. But also as
6 Dr. Nina Ahmad talked about last
7 week, this is a time where our city
8 has come together irregardless of
9 your zip code, irregardless of your
10 ethnic background. We truly are
11 united as a city during this moment
12 and hopefully we can keep that
13 momentum as we move forward. But
14 also, we want people to enjoy
15 themselves in a safe manner
16 tomorrow. And I can see this is a
17 kickoff for the whole weekend. And
18 also Happy Valentine's Day weekend
19 for those that celebrate
20 Valentine's Day.

21 With that being said,
22 the Chair recognizes Councilmember
23 Thomas for a motion to adjourn.

24 COUNCILMAN THOMAS:

1 2/13/25 - STATED - ADJOURNMENT

2 Thank you, Council President.

3 And shout-out to former

4 State Rep Curtis Thomas; is that

5 right?

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

7 JOHNSON: That's right.

8 COUNCILMAN THOMAS:

9 Yeah, so that was your colleague.

10 So --

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

12 JOHNSON: That was my colleague,

13 that's correct.

14 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: -- I

15 got your back, Council President.

16 You know what I mean, great North

17 Philly man. And his son is a

18 triumphant man too.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

20 JOHNSON: Oh, yeah.

21 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: So

22 we'll continue that, Councilmember

23 Phillips.

24 With that being said, I

1 2/13/25 - STATED - ADJOURNMENT
2 make a motion that Council stands
3 adjourned until Thursday, February
4 20, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. sharp.

5 (Duly seconded.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

7 JOHNSON: It has been moved and
8 properly seconded that Council
9 stand adjourned until Thursday,
10 February 20, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

11 All those in favor will
12 signify by saying aye.

13 (Aye.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

15 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

16 (No response.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

18 JOHNSON: The ayes have it and the
19 motion carries. Thank you very
20 much. And Go Birds.

21 - - -

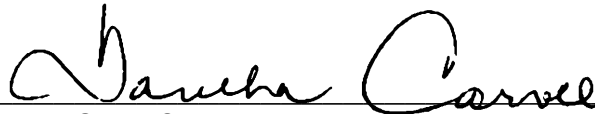
22 (Stated Meeting
23 adjourned at 12:15 p.m.)

24 - - -

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

I, hereby certify that the proceedings
and evidence noted are contained fully and
accurately in the stenographic notes taken by
me in the foregoing matter, and that this is
a correct transcript of the same.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Taneha Carroll", is written over a horizontal line.

TANEHA CARROLL
Court Reporter - Notary Public

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