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COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

4

STATED MEETING

5

Thursday, September 25, 1997
10:45 a.m.

6

7

Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

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9 PRESENT:

10

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHN F. STREET

11

COUNCILWOMAN ANNA CIBOTTI VERNA
COUNCILWOMAN JANNIE L. BLACKWELL

12

COUNCILMAN MICHAEL A. NUTTER
COUNCILWOMAN JOAN L. KRAJEWSKI

13

COUNCILWOMAN MARIAN B. TASCO
COUNCILMAN BRIAN J. O'NEILL

14

COUNCILWOMAN AUGUSTA A. CLARK
COUNCILMAN DAVID COHEN

15

COUNCILWOMAN HAPPY FERNANDEZ
COUNCILMAN JAMES F. KENNEY

16

COUNCILMAN W. THACHER LONGSTRETH
COUNCILMAN ANGEL L. ORTIZ

17

COUNCILMAN FRANK RIZZO

18

COUNCILMAN FRANK DiCICCO

COUNCILMAN RICHARD T. MARIANO

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MARIE B. HAUSER, Chief Clerk

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1 INVOCATION

2 P R O C E E D I N G S

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT STREET: Good
4 morning, ladies and gentlemen.

5 The Chair notes that the hour has
6 come and that a quorum is present. Council will
7 come to order, members will take their seats,
8 visitors will retire to the seats outside the rail.

9 To give our invocation this morning,
10 the Chair welcomes Bishop Gilbert Coleman, Jr., who
11 is Pastor of the Freedom Christian Bible
12 Fellowship. And he is here today as the guest of
13 Councilwoman Blackwell.

14 Members and guests will please rise.

15 BISHOP GILBERT COLEMAN: Let us all
16 pray.

17 Heavenly Father, in the name of
18 Jesus, we are so grateful that we have this blessed
19 privilege and opportunity to come before your holy
20 presence. Because we realize that it is in you that
21 we live and move and have our very being.

22 Without you, Father, there is nothing
23 that we could do on this earth. And so we thank you
24 for being so good, so gracious, and so kind.

25 We thank you for blessing us with

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2 this glorious day that was not promised nor
3 guaranteed to us. But yet, Lord, you have given us
4 your divine mercy that we might be able to indulge
5 in the things that you have given for our hands to
6 do.

7 We pray, Father in heaven, for your
8 rich blessing upon this Council, each and every
9 member individually and collectively.

10 We pray, Father, that you will give
11 them wisdom, knowledge, and understanding to make
12 the decisions and choices necessary to guide this
13 city on to greatness.

14 Oh Father in heaven, we pray that you
15 will bless their separate homes. And we pray, oh
16 God, that you would keep them in their endeavors.
17 We pray, oh God, that they might prosper and be
18 successful in all that they do.

19 Oh God, also let your hand be upon
20 the Mayor of this city. We pray, oh God, that you
21 will also endow him and empower him, Father, with
22 the wisdom that he needs to be able to guide this
23 city, that Philadelphia might be the great city that
24 she was destined to be.

25 That she might also, heavenly Father,

be able to be indicative of the name which applies to it, that we might truly be a city of brotherly love.

That it will be a place, Lord, where it will be safe for all men and women, boys and girls to live. And that even those from the outside will welcome the opportunity to come to our city, knowing this is a place where they can flourish and grow.

Father, even in this day, the bills and the resolutions that will be before the Council members, I pray, heavenly Father, that they will make good decisions and good choices and, Father, that these things they will discuss will be able to benefit and profit all who are a part of this city.

Lord, we just pray that you might continually bless Philadelphia; that Philadelphia will be the nation that you have called her to be, oh, God; that she shall be raised up to be one of the great powers across this nation.

And, Father, that with all that you do, with all that you desire for us, that we will always give you praise, we will give you honor, and we will give you glory.

1 APPROVAL OF JOURNAL

2 In Jesus' name we pray with
3 Thanksgiving. Amen.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT STREET: The Chair
5 thanks Bishop Coleman for his inspiring invocation.
6 (Council members greet Bishop
7 Coleman.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT STREET: The next
9 order of business is the Approval of the Journal of
10 the meeting of Thursday, September 18, 1997.

11 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman
12 Augusta Clark.

13 COUNCILWOMAN CLARK: Mr. President, I
14 move for the adoption of the Journal of that date.

15 (Duly seconded.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT STREET: All in
17 favor let it be known by saying aye.

18 Those opposed say nay.

19 It is carried. The Journal of the
20 meeting of Thursday, September 18, 1997, stands
21 approved.

22 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman
23 Verna.

24 COUNCILWOMAN VERNA: Thank you,
25 Mr. President.

1 LEAVES OF ABSENCE/WELCOME VISITORS

2 On behalf of the majority, a leave of
3 absence is requested for Councilwoman Miller.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT STREET: Leave will
5 be granted. The Chair thanks the Councilwoman.

6 The Chair recognizes Council member
7 Longstreth for the purpose of requesting leaves of
8 absence.

9 COUNCILMAN LONGSTRETH:
10 Mr. President, we have no requests for leaves of
11 absence on the part of the minority. I cannot
12 answer for the majority.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT STREET: The Chair
14 thanks the Councilman.

15 At this time we will dispense with
16 the regular order of business to recognize guests
17 and visitors.

18 To all of our visitors and guests
19 with us this morning, we welcome you here and
20 applaud your interest in the civic affairs of the
21 city, and certainly invite you to come again.

22 At this time the Chair recognizes
23 Councilwoman Blackwell for the purpose of
24 introducing a visiting group.

25 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you

1 WELCOME VISITORS

2 very much.

3 I would like to welcome undergraduate
4 students of the University of Pennsylvania who are
5 here with their professor, who is none other than
6 the president and my friend who went to junior high
7 school in West Philadelphia, President Judith Rodan,
8 University of Pennsylvania.

9 Please rise.

10 (Students rise to applause.)

11 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Might I also
12 add, Mr. President, that they will be staying with
13 us a while. And we will be in the Caucus Room at
14 the end of Council.

15 And since it appears that our
16 calendar will be short, may I ask those who have
17 time, if you would just stop in a moment to greet
18 the students so that they can learn who we all are
19 and what makes us all different.

20 Thank you, Mr. President.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT STREET: Thank you
22 very much.

23 We certainly encourage Council
24 members to stop by. I will be stopping by.

25 It is a unique pleasure to have the

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2 superior in their practice of community-above-self
3 philosophy of Rotary.

4 Now therefore resolved by the Council
5 of the City of Philadelphia, that we hereby honor
6 and commend Kenneth W. Benjamin, Peter Binyon, Lamar
7 Brock, Eugene Hosmer, Arthur Judson, and William
8 Stefan for their exceptional personal and
9 professional commitment to the high ethical
10 standards and ideal of service of the Rotary Club of
11 Philadelphia.

12 This Resolution is certified by
13 President John Street, introduced by Councilwoman
14 Fernandez, and co-sponsored by all members of City
15 Council.

16 So I would like to present this
17 official Resolution for the club to Mr. Arthur
18 Judson, excuse me, and also a personal copy for you,
19 and also for Mr. Kenneth Benjamin.

20 (Applause.)

21 COUNCILWOMAN FERNANDEZ: We recognize
22 people individually. Peter Binyon, Lamar Brock,
23 Eugene Hosmer, and William Stefan for his father.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT STREET: Thank you
25 very much.

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2 The Chair recognizes, I think,
3 Mr. Judson for remarks.

4 MR. ARTHUR JUDSON: Mr. President,
5 Happy, and members of City Council, family and
6 friends. This has got to be a great day. We have a
7 Happy and a Bright here, a Happy Fernandez and a
8 Bright Judson, my wife. Happy and Bright.

9 On behalf of the rotarians here, and
10 in fact all the rotarians in the City of
11 Philadelphia -- we have not only the Center City
12 Club, but four other clubs -- I want to thank City
13 Council and Mr. President for these honors to us as
14 Rotary Club and also to individuals.

15 You know, this is really a
16 milestone. This has not happened in over 50 years,
17 that City Council has honored Rotary.

18 Yes, individual members have come out
19 to our clubs. Happy spoke at the Chestnut Hill
20 Club, and yesterday John Street spoke at the Center
21 City Club.

22 And five years ago we were honored to
23 have at our district conference, my district
24 conference as Governor, up at Hershey, one of your
25 members here who twice ran for Mayor and was our

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2 honored guest and speaker.

3 And, Thatch, I don't remember much of
4 what you said, except you were pushing your book and
5 telling us what great service you gave to your
6 family and how they all called you Chief.

7 Well, I am going to upstage you. My
8 grandchildren call me Big Daddy.

9 What do rotarians do, actually? Yes,
10 we get together once a week for lunch. But we
11 really do a lot for the citizens of this city.

12 We help the handicapped. We take
13 them to ball games. We take them to the Franklin
14 Institute, to the Zoo, et cetera, et cetera. As a
15 matter of fact, Tuesday we are going to go on a
16 cruise with the Blind Relief Society and about two
17 or three hundred blind persons.

18 We help in the immunization of our
19 children. I'm talking about the one-year-olds and
20 the two-year-olds.

21 We have worked out of the low-income
22 housing center out in West Philadelphia, West Park,
23 to try to elevate their living standards.

24 Every year we have a Rotary Phillies
25 game where we all bring canned goods so that we can

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2 distribute those to the hungry of the city, and we
3 have helped the homeless.

4 So volunteers for over 85 years.
5 Thousands of us rotarians have done an awful lot for
6 the citizens of this city.

7 And, in conclusion, I would be remiss
8 if I didn't tell you -- and many of you know -- that
9 one of the great things happening in the world today
10 is a program called Polio Plus. Rotary hopes to
11 eradicate polio in the world by the year 2000, or a
12 few years after that. And I am confident that's
13 going to happen.

14 In fact, in Philadelphia, the climax
15 was reached when it was announced that we had raised
16 \$250,000,000 for this purpose. And that money is
17 being used to eradicate polio.

18 So this is the great thing that
19 Rotary is doing around the world, in addition to
20 working for peace.

21 I thank you very much for these
22 honors, we all thank you, and appreciate it.

23 (Applause.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT STREET: Thank you
25 very much. Council will stand at ease.

1 COMMUNICATIONS

2 Will Councilwoman Verna please
3 approach the Chair.

4 (Brief recess.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT STREET: The next
6 order of business is communications.

7 The Chair recognizes the Sergeant at
8 Arms for the purposes of delivering the messages
9 from the Mayor to the Chief Clerk.

10 The Chief Clerk will read the
11 messages from the Mayor.

12 CHIEF CLERK: To the President and
13 Members of the Council of the City of Philadelphia:
14 I am transmitting herewith for the consideration of
15 your Honorable body the following ordinance: An
16 Ordinance creating the Franklin Plaza Tax Increment
17 Financing District and approving the project plan of
18 the Philadelphia Authority for Industrial
19 Development for the redevelopment of the Franklin
20 Plaza Tax Increment Financing District, being the
21 area generally bounded by Vine Street on the north,
22 16th Street on the east, and a recorded driveway
23 easement extending west; relief from a point on the
24 west side of North 16th Street, 119 feet, 11 inches
25 south of Vine Street, to a point on the east side of

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2 north 17th Street, 132 feet, 8 inches south of Vine
3 Street.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT STREET: The
5 messages will be printed in the Journal.

6 The Chief Clerk will read any other
7 communications in her possession.

8 CHIEF CLERK: There are none, Mr.
9 President.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT STREET: The next
11 order of business is the introduction of bills and
12 resolutions.

13 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman
14 Verna for a motion.

15 COUNCILWOMAN VERNA: Thank you,
16 Mr. President.

17 I move that the Rules of Council be
18 suspended so as to permit consideration of
19 resolutions immediately after introduction.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT STREET: All in
21 favor let it be known by saying aye.

22 Those opposed say nay.

23 The motion is adopted. Resolutions
24 will be considered at the time of their
25 introduction.

1 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS & RESOLUTIONS

2 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman
3 Augusta Clark.

4 COUNCILWOMAN CLARK: Thank you,
5 Mr. President.

6 Today I have two privileged
7 resolutions and one bill on your behalf.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT STREET: The clerk
9 will please read the title of the bill.

10 (Chief Clerk read the title of the
11 bill. See Journal of Council.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT STREET: This bill
13 will be referred to the appropriate committee.

14 The clerk will please read the title
15 of the first resolution introduced by Councilwoman
16 Clark.

17 CHIEF CLERK: A Resolution
18 authorizing the Council's Committee on Health and
19 Human Services to investigate and hold public
20 hearings on the systematic problems that permitted
21 the death by starvation of a five year old, Charnie
22 Wise, in the basement of her own home after the case
23 had been closed by the City's Department of Human
24 Services, including but not limited to the level of
25 services provided to families with numerous abuse

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2 reports; the interaction between the department and
3 its contracting agencies; caseload size; the review
4 process for closing cases; and creative and
5 effective mechanisms and strategies that
6 individuals, families, members, neighborhoods, and
7 the community at large can employ to prevent child
8 abuse. And further authorizing the Committee to
9 investigate the impact such incidents may have on
10 the Department of Licenses from the Commonwealth of
11 Pennsylvania.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT STREET: The Chair
13 recognizes Councilwoman Clark.

14 COUNCILWOMAN CLARK: I move the
15 adoption of the resolution.

16 (Duly seconded.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT STREET: All in
18 favor let it be known by saying aye.

19 Those opposed say nay.

20 The resolution is adopted.

21 The clerk will please read the title
22 of the second resolution introduced by Councilwoman
23 Clark.

24 CHIEF CLERK: A Resolution declaring
25 October 1997 as Human Relations Month in the City of

1 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS & RESOLUTIONS

2 Philadelphia.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT STREET: The Chair
4 recognizes Councilwoman Clark.

5 COUNCILWOMAN CLARK: I move the
6 adoption of the resolution.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT STREET: All in
8 favor let it be known by saying aye.

9 Those opposed say nay.

10 The resolution is adopted.

11 Chair recognizes Councilwoman
12 Blackwell.

13 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL:
14 Mr. President, I have no bills or resolutions
15 today.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT STREET: The Chair
17 thanks Councilwoman Blackwell.

18 The Chair recognizes Councilman
19 Cohen.

20 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Mr. President, I
21 offer one resolution.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT STREET: The clerk
23 will please read the title of the resolution.

24 CHIEF CLERK: A Resolution
25 authorizing Council's Committee on Law and

1 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS & RESOLUTIONS

2 Government and Rules to investigate the proposed
3 settlement between the Philadelphia Electric Company
4 and various other parties relating to PECO's
5 proposed rate restructuring plan, now pending before
6 the Public Utility Commission, in order to determine
7 and report to the Council whether the settlement is
8 in the best interests of the City of Philadelphia
9 and its citizens.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT STREET: The Chair
11 recognizes Councilman Cohen.

12 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Mr. President, I
13 move the adoption of the resolution. And I would
14 like to make an explanatory statement and speak on
15 it for just a moment.

16 (Duly seconded.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT STREET: Properly
18 moved and seconded.

19 The Chair recognizes Councilman Cohen
20 for remarks.

21 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Mr. President,
22 following the circulation of this resolution, and at
23 the end of the caucus and before this session began,
24 there was an ad hoc brief meeting between yourself,
25 a representative of PECO, and myself in the Caucus

1 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS & RESOLUTIONS

2 Room, in which we all agreed that before there would
3 be any formal hearings, we would have a briefing or,
4 if necessary, a series of briefings. And that's the
5 manner in which we will proceed.

6 It had been my original intention to
7 move quickly to hearings because I had been under
8 the impression, apparently wrongly so, that PECO was
9 very much interested in quick action.

10 But they did ask for the opportunity
11 to have these briefings first. And I would just
12 like to urge upon everyone that when the briefings
13 are heard -- and we are going to try to have all the
14 different points of view represented -- that every
15 Council member make a real effort to be present.

16 There was a briefing, I understand,
17 on Tuesday of this week. But it was called
18 relatively late, and only a few Council members,
19 plus staff members of other offices, were able to
20 attend.

21 So I will not be requesting any quick
22 hearings; it will be briefings first. And any
23 hearings that may then take place will follow those
24 briefings.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT STREET: Thank you

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2 very much.

3 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Does that express
4 accurately the discussions we had, Mr. President?

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT STREET: Yes, sir,
6 it does.

7 COUNCILMAN COHEN: And,
8 Mr. President, my motion to adopt the resolution is
9 now in order.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT STREET: I
11 understand, Councilman. I am just having a little
12 trouble with this microphone.

13 All in favor of the motion let it be
14 known by saying aye.

15 Those opposed say nay.

16 The resolution is adopted.

17 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman
18 Krajewski.

19 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI:
20 Mr. President, I have three bills.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT STREET: The clerk
22 will please read the titles of the bills.

23 (The Chief Clerk read the titles of
24 the bills. See Council Journal.)

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT STREET: These

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2 bills will be referred to the appropriate
3 committee.

4 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman
5 Verna.

6 COUNCILWOMAN VERNA: Mr. President, I
7 offer two bills and one resolution on behalf of
8 myself, Council Members DiCicco, Mariano, and Rizzo,
9 which is also cosponsored by all members of Council.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT STREET: The clerk
11 will please read the titles of the bills.

12 (Chief Clerk read the titles of the
13 bills. See Journal of Council.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT STREET: These
15 bills will be referred to the appropriate
16 committee.

17 The Chair recognizes Councilman
18 Kenney.

19 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you,
20 Mr. President.

21 COUNCILWOMAN VERNA: They are
22 resolutions.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT STREET: I'm
24 sorry.

25 The clerk will please read the

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2 resolution introduced by Councilwoman Verna.

3 CHIEF CLERK: A Resolution
4 designating the week of Sunday, October 12, 1997,
5 through Sunday, October 19, 1997, as Christopher
6 Columbus Week in celebration of the festivities
7 commemorating Columbus' historic voyage to the New
8 World.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT STREET: The Chair
10 recognizes Councilwoman Verna.

11 COUNCILWOMAN VERNA: I move the
12 adoption of the resolution.

13 (Duly seconded.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT STREET: All in
15 favor let it be known by saying aye.

16 Those opposed say nay.

17 The resolution is adopted.

18 Now the Chair recognizes Councilman
19 Kenney.

20 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you,
21 Mr. President. I offer one resolution.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT STREET: The clerk
23 will please read the title of the resolution.

24 CHIEF CLERK: A Resolution
25 proclaiming the week of October 20 through October

1 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS & RESOLUTIONS

2 26, 1997, as Philadelphia's Vietnam Veterans
3 Memorial 10th Anniversary Week.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT STREET: The Chair
5 recognizes Councilman Kenney.

6 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: I move the
7 adoption of the resolution.

8 (Duly seconded.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT STREET: All in
10 favor let it be known by saying aye.

11 Those opposed say nay.

12 The resolution is adopted.

13 The Chair recognizes Councilman
14 Nutter.

15 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Mr. President, I
16 have no bills or resolutions today.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT STREET: The Chair
18 thanks the Councilman.

19 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman
20 Fernandez.

21 COUNCILWOMAN FERNANDEZ:
22 Mr. President, I have two resolutions today.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT STREET: The clerk
24 will please read the titles of the resolutions.

25 CHIEF CLERK: A Resolution commending

1 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS & RESOLUTIONS

2 the Tobacco-Free Education and Action Coalition for
3 for Health, TEACH, for their efforts in reducing the
4 illegal sale of tobacco products to minors in the
5 City of Philadelphia.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT STREET: The Chair
7 recognizes Councilwoman Fernandez.

8 COUNCILWOMAN FERNANDEZ:
9 Mr. President, I move the adoption of the
10 resolution.

11 (Duly seconded.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT STREET: All in
13 favor let it be known by saying aye.

14 Those opposed say nay.

15 The resolution is adopted.

16 The clerk will please read the title
17 of the second resolution introduced by Councilwoman
18 Fernandez.

19 CHIEF CLERK: A Resolution
20 remembering Walter Spiro, a talented advertising
21 pioneer, humanitarian, and unfailing supporter and
22 booster of the City of Philadelphia's art, culture,
23 and business communities, who advocated for those
24 less fortunate and who will be sorely missed by all
25 those who have been touched by his kindness and

1 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS & RESOLUTIONS

2 generosity.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT STREET: The Chair
4 recognizes Councilwoman Fernandez.

5 COUNCILWOMAN FERNANDEZ: Mr.
6 President, I would request that members of Council
7 stand to show their support for this resolution and
8 to show respect for the life of Walter Spiro.

9 (Duly seconded.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT STREET: All those
11 standing will be voting in favor of the resolution.

12 (All Council members stand.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT STREET: The
14 resolution is adopted.

15 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman
16 Tasco.

17 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Mr. President, I
18 have no bills or resolutions today.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT STREET: The Chair
20 thanks the Councilwoman.

21 The Chair recognizes Councilman
22 Ortiz.

23 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Mr. President, I
24 have one bill and one resolution.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT STREET: The clerk

1 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS & RESOLUTIONS

2 will please read the title of the bill.

3 (Chief Clerk read the title of the
4 bill. See Council Journal.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT STREET: This bill
6 will be referred to the appropriate committee.

7 The clerk will please read the title
8 of the first resolution introduced by Councilman
9 Ortiz.

10 CHIEF CLERK: A Resolution honoring
11 Johnny Irrisari for his many contributions to the
12 advancement of Puerto Rican Latino art and culture
13 and for his continued advocacy on behalf of all
14 Latinos and minority culture workers in the City of
15 Philadelphia.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT STREET: The Chair
17 recognizes Councilman Ortiz.

18 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Mr. President, I
19 move the adoption of the resolution.

20 (Duly seconded.)

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT STREET: All in
22 favor let it be known by saying aye.

23 Those opposed say nay.

24 The resolution is adopted.

25 The Chair recognizes Councilman

1 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS & RESOLUTIONS

2 DiCicco.

3 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: Thank you,
4 Mr. President. I have four bills.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT STREET: The clerk
6 will please read the titles of the bills.

7 (The Chief Clerk read the titles of
8 the bills. See Journal of Council.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT STREET: These
10 bills will be referred to the appropriate
11 committees.

12 The Chair recognizes Councilman
13 O'Neill.

14 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Mr. President, I
15 have no bills or resolutions.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT STREET: The Chair
17 thanks the Councilman.

18 The Chair recognizes Councilman
19 Mariano.

20 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Mr. President, I
21 have six bills and one resolution.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT STREET: The clerk
23 will please read the titles of the bills.

24 (The Chief Clerk read the titles of
25 the bills. See Journal of Council.)

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2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT STREET: These
3 bills will be referred to the appropriate
4 committees.

5 The clerk will please read the title
6 of the resolution introduced by Councilman Mariano.

7 CHIEF CLERK: A Resolution approving
8 an amendment to the redevelopment contract and
9 disposition supplement of the Redevelopment
10 Authority of the City of Philadelphia for the
11 redevelopment and urban renewal of an additional
12 portion of Model City's urban renewal area by
13 including an additional property identified by house
14 number and street address for as 1918 North 5th
15 Street, and authorizing the Redevelopment Authority
16 to execute the amended redevelopment contract with
17 Association Un De Puerto Ricanos in Marcha, Inc.,
18 and to take such action as may be necessary to
19 effectuate the amended redevelopment contract.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT STREET: The Chair
21 recognizes Councilman Mariano.

22 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Mr. President, I
23 move for the adoption of this resolution.

24 (Duly seconded.)

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT STREET: All in

1 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS & RESOLUTIONS/REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

2 favor let it be known by saying aye.

3 Those opposed say nay.

4 The resolution is adopted.

5 The Chair recognizes Councilman
6 Longstreth for the purpose of introducing bills and
7 resolutions.

8 COUNCILMAN LONGSTRETH: I have no
9 bills or resolutions.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT STREET: The Chair
11 thanks the Councilman.

12 The Chair recognizes Councilman
13 Rizzo.

14 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: No bills or
15 resolutions, Mr. President.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT STREET: The Chair
17 thanks Councilman Rizzo.

18 Next order of business is reports
19 from committees.

20 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman
21 Verna for the purpose of offering the report of the
22 Council Committee on Finance.

23 COUNCILWOMAN VERNA: Mr. President,
24 the Committee on Finance reports Bill Nos. 970515
25 and 970517 out of Committee with a favorable

1 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

2 recommendation.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT STREET: The clerk
4 will please read the report.

5 CHIEF CLERK: "To the President and
6 Members of the Council of the City of Philadelphia:
7 The Committee on Finance, to which was referred Bill
8 No. 970515, entitled An Ordinance constituting the
9 Third Supplemental Ordinance to the General Water
10 and Wastewater Revenue Bond Ordinance of 1989, as
11 supplemented; authorizing the Bond Committee, or a
12 majority of them, to issue and sell either at public
13 or private sale in one or more series or subseries,
14 Water and Wastewater Revenue Bonds of the City of
15 Philadelphia; authorizing approval of the form or
16 forms of Bonds; providing that the Bonds shall bear
17 interest at a prescribed fixed rate or rates or at
18 variable rates which may be payable in different
19 modes, and authorizing agreements to provide credit
20 enhancement or payment or liquidity sources or swap
21 payments for the Bonds and certain other actions;
22 authorizing the Director of Finance of the City to
23 take certain actions with regard to the sale of such
24 Water and Wastewater Revenue Bonds, the investment
25 of proceeds thereof and the City's continuing

1 CONSIDERATION OF CALENDARS

2 disclosure obligation; designating the projects to
3 be financed and setting forth the use of proceeds
4 and providing for the application of interest and
5 income earned on such proceeds; determining the
6 sufficiency of the Project Revenues; covenanting the
7 payment of interest and principal; and amending and
8 supplementing the General Water and Wastewater Bond
9 Ordinance of 1989;

10 And Bill No. 970515, An Ordinance
11 amending Section 19-203 of the Philadelphia Code
12 entitled Payroll Deductions by authorizing payroll
13 deductions for certain benefits, including
14 deductions payable to Colonial Life & Accident
15 Insurance Company, represented by Benefits
16 Consulting Group, Inc., under certain terms and
17 conditions, respectfully reports it has considered
18 the same and returns the attached bills to Council
19 with a favorable recommendation."

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT STREET: The bills
21 reported favorably will be printed and placed on the
22 first reading calendar for our next session.

23 The next order of business is
24 consideration of the calendar.

25 The Chief Clerk will read the bills

1 CONSIDERATION OF CALENDARS/SPEECHES

2 on the first reading calendar.

3 CHIEF CLERK: We have no bills on
4 first reading calendar, Mr. President.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT STREET: Council
6 will now consider bills on the second and final
7 reading passage calendar.

8 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman
9 Verna.

10 COUNCILWOMAN VERNA: Thank you,
11 Mr. President.

12 There are no bills on the second
13 reading or final passage calendar for
14 consideration.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT STREET: The Chair
16 thanks Councilwoman Verna.

17 Are there any speeches on the part of
18 members of the minority?

19 Are there any speeches on the part of
20 members of majority?

21 The Chair recognizes Councilman
22 Kenney.

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

25 Last week Councilman Mariano made a

1 SPEECHES

2 speech relative to automobile insurance, and the
3 uninsured and unlicensed drivers in the city.

4 And very much in agreement with
5 Councilman Mariano's statements last week, but I
6 wanted to personalize his comments by giving the
7 body an experience that I just recently went through
8 as early as today.

9 Back on September 6 of 1997, my wife
10 and I were sleeping in the front bedroom of our
11 house, to be awoken at 6:00 a.m. by a large crash, a
12 glass-breaking and metal-screeching crash outside
13 the house.

14 And before I got to the window my
15 wife said, "Don't bother looking. I know it is our
16 car." And sure enough, it was our car, along with
17 the gentleman who lives down the street from us, his
18 car was behind us. His car absorbed the bulk of the
19 accident.

20 And as we got down to our car to make
21 sure the driver was okay, we discovered a young --
22 not young woman, but maybe a woman my age coming
23 back from a night of partying.

24 We determined that she was uninjured,
25 called 911, the police arrived. But we also

1 SPEECHES

2 discovered that not only was our party lady
3 uninjured, but she was unlicensed, unregistered,
4 uninsured, the tag from her car didn't match the car
5 she was driving, the car was registered to a leasing
6 company in Mechanicsburg that hadn't had the lease
7 in effect for a number of years.

8 And I have, and my wife's car -- it
9 was actually my wife's car -- have both liability
10 and collision.

11 My neighbor, who was recently
12 dislocated from his job at the Navy Yard, does not
13 have collision on his 1985 car, the only car in his
14 family.

15 He is without a car now, even to go
16 out and try to find a job for himself.

17 Today my wife is going up to pick up
18 our car from the body shop with a check from the
19 insurance company for \$4,800 and a \$500 check from
20 us to pay the deductible.

21 This is an example, for me, as to
22 what Councilman Mariano was talking about last
23 week.

24 Our party lady that was driving the
25 uninsured, unlicensed car had a number of tickets, a

1 SPEECHES

2 large number of tickets, that came up on the MDT
3 computer screen.

4 The police have been doing its job
5 with this woman for a long, long time. They have
6 been stopping her and ticketing her and doing what
7 they are supposed to do.

8 And I guess my concern today is, has
9 the city been doing what they are supposed to be
10 doing to get her and her unlicensed, unregistered,
11 and uninsured car off the street.

12 Because I may be able to afford
13 \$500. I know my wife is not too happy about having
14 to write the check. But the guy down the street,
15 who just lost his job and now lost his car, can't
16 afford it.

17 And I believe that this is the kind
18 of situation that makes the City of Philadelphia in
19 many ways unlivable for many people.

20 I have no doubt that this Friday
21 night the disco queen will be back in her car,
22 driving somewhere to party, with money in her pocket
23 to drink, but not money in her pocket to pay her
24 insurance bills or to get a valid license.

25 The police may stop her again. They

1 SPEECHES

2 will issue her probably the sixth or seventh ticket
3 for driving while suspended.

4 And not having the proper financial
5 responsibility, she will get back in her car and
6 drive away.

7 And what I am concerned about is that
8 the residents of the city are now driving away to
9 the suburbs and to New Jersey because of situations
10 like this.

11 Thank you, Mr. President.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT STREET: Thank you
13 very much.

14 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman
15 Blackwell.

16 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you,
17 Mr. President.

18 Certainly I would like to say how
19 sorry I am to hear that my colleague went through
20 such an experience, an emotional experience and an
21 expensive experience.

22 And I listened to my colleague last
23 week as he talked about his experiences also in
24 dealing with uninsured motorists.

25 But I dare say that we have talked

1 SPEECHES

2 about this in Council before. And I do believe that
3 the minority of the people involved in not having
4 insurance are people who are driving drunk, are
5 people who do not want insurance.

6 The problem is that we do not have
7 affordable insurance rates. And as long as we do
8 not have affordable insurance rates, people will
9 drive uninsured.

10 They will do what they have to to
11 drive the car out of the shop, and then they will
12 drive around uninsured because they cannot pay the
13 rates.

14 I dare say that I believe that as
15 members of a legislative body who can pass laws to
16 fine people, to lock people up, to regulate conduct,
17 that we have to keep in mind, ours is not as easy to
18 say, "Here is another rule, and you can lock
19 somebody up. But it is hard to get to the cause," as
20 Lucian used to say all of the time, "the cause of
21 crime, the cause of the problems that create them."

22 And we cannot here solve the problems
23 of insurance rates, as we realize. And I would only
24 ask that, more and more I hear my colleagues talk
25 about locking people up, about paying somebody

1 SPEECHES

2 else's bill.

3 And I daresay that we need to keep in
4 mind the times we live in, that everything goes up
5 and that people can't pay the freight.

6 My staff just came to me this
7 morning, for example, with information on the
8 Grant. And we all know this is the grant that will
9 allow people of low income to get money to pay
10 toward their utility bills.

11 They tell me that the moratorium this
12 year for cutoffs is from December 1 to April 1.
13 Now, I haven't checked with our colleagues on the
14 Gas Commission, but that is what my office tells
15 me.

16 That the moratorium, it used to be
17 September, then October, I don't know what happened
18 to November, now we are up from December 1 to April
19 1.

20 And yet the grants, the cash
21 assistance programs, don't come into effect until
22 November 17. So, therefore, between November 17 and
23 December 1, people are in trouble.

24 And if that is in fact true, if this
25 is the way it will go this year, that means that

1 SPEECHES

2 there is no intent to try to find a way for
3 low-income people to get the grants that they need
4 to pay these utility bills.

5 As I said in the hearing yesterday,
6 when there was talk about water rates, and we were
7 talking about a bond action, and my colleague also
8 mentioned that many people pay for people who can't
9 pay their water bills, I said at that hearing that
10 water is a common denominator.

11 If you don't have water, then you
12 might as well sleep in the park, you might as well
13 sleep outside. Water is a common denominator.

14 Some people try to sleep without
15 heat, and some people try to sleep without lights,
16 unless they are ill and you have to plug in various
17 facilities in order to survive.

18 But you can't live without water, as
19 so many people are, because you might as well live
20 in the streets. You have got to have functioning
21 water facilities.

22 So I say that we must keep in mind --
23 I say this to all my colleagues in Council -- that
24 it is the challenge of us as legislators, and as
25 people who represent the citizenry of this city, to

1 SPEECHES

2 try to come up with ways to try to alleviate
3 suffering, to make life better for them, and not
4 just to pass laws that say, lock them up, put them
5 away. Because something is wrong.

6 Thank you, Mr. President.

7 PRESIDENT COLEMAN: Thank you very
8 much.

9 The Chair recognizes Councilman
10 DiCicco.

11 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: Thank you, Mr.
12 President.

13 I really was not going to get
14 involved in the debate on automobile insurance at
15 this time. But having been the former Court
16 Administrator of Philadelphia Traffic Court, and one
17 of the principal persons involved in actually
18 drafting the boot and tow legislation back in 1992
19 or '93, which was subsequently introduced to this
20 Council by former Councilperson McIlhenny, I have a
21 lot of statistics.

22 In fact, I think Mark McDonald, the
23 reporter who is here today, did some in-depth
24 stories on the problems with uninsured motorists.

25 And, yes, it is true that certain

1 SPEECHES

2 groups of people may be more affected than others.
3 But I can say for one thing, that during those
4 discussions I was having with the police department
5 and the insurance industry as to what effect the
6 boot and tow legislation may have on the responsible
7 citizens of Philadelphia, the insurance company took
8 a very light attitude towards it and said, "Well,
9 really, Mr. DiCicco, you are really not going to be
10 saving people that much money. If we were able to
11 get all the uninsured, unlicensed motorists off the
12 street in the city, they won't really be saving that
13 much money."

14 And I asked him, I said, "Well, how
15 much money do you think they would save?"

16 He said, "Well, we're probably
17 looking at, conservatively, a 20 percent reduction
18 in their insurance bill."

19 Well, for the typical individual in
20 South Philadelphia, West Philadelphia, North
21 Philadelphia, who may be paying around \$3,000 a year
22 for automobile insurance, that adds up to about \$600
23 a year.

24 Could be a week down the shore, could
25 be a week in the mountains. It could be paying for

1 SPEECHES

2 tuition. It could be paying for anything. \$600 is
3 a considerable amount of money in savings.

4 When we get to the hearings, I will
5 be more than glad to work with my colleague,
6 Councilman Mariano, to provide you with some of the
7 statistics.

8 I don't want to frighten anybody, but
9 there are probably around 300,000 unlicensed drivers
10 in the City of Philadelphia today. And these are
11 people who buy a car without a license, without the
12 insurance.

13 And the one thing they fail to
14 remember is, driving is not a right, but a
15 privilege.

16 And I think we would be protecting
17 some of the very people who we think we are hurting,
18 people in economically depressed communities, who
19 are responsible people, people who aren't making all
20 that much money but would like to have a car, they
21 are being forced out of the market in order to be
22 able to afford insurance because of some of the
23 people in those communities.

24 And one other thing I did when I was
25 running these tests, I took a list of several

1 SPEECHES

2 hundred of the unlicensed, uninsured motorists who
3 had accumulated 20, 30, or more moving violations,
4 and I cross-referenced those people with the voter
5 registration list. None of those people were even
6 registered to vote.

7 I think we ought to be paying
8 attention to the responsible people, to the people
9 who go out and vote, who are trying to make a decent
10 living and trying to make a good life for
11 themselves, who want to have a car.

12 You look at those voter
13 registrations. You will see that the people we
14 think we are protecting could care less about the
15 City of Philadelphia.

16 And, by the way, if you go outside
17 the city, in the four county regions surrounding
18 Philadelphia, there are about 12 to 15 million
19 dollars of uncollected moving violations.

20 So people who are coming in from the
21 suburbs on a daily basis, or on the weekends to
22 party here, those are the people we would like to
23 take the cars away from, also.

24 I mean, when you think about it, if
25 someone is arrested for carrying an unlicensed gun,

1 SPEECHES

2 do we give them the gun back after they went through
3 the court process?

4 Why should we give somebody the right
5 to have a car after they have been in traffic court,
6 if we even get them there, and they are found
7 guilty, and they are given a fine that they don't
8 pay, we give them the keys back to the car and say
9 "Okay, you can go on, continue to drive. Have a
10 nice day."

11 So I think it is much more serious
12 than some of us realize, and I am really looking
13 forward to the hearings on this.

14 Thank you.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT STREET: Thank you
16 very much.

17 At this time the Chair recognizes
18 Council members in this order: Councilwoman
19 Fernandez, Councilman Kenney, Councilwoman
20 Blackwell.

21 Councilwoman Fernandez.

22 COUNCILWOMAN FERNANDEZ: Thank you,
23 Mr. President.

24 Following up on Councilman DiCicco's
25 comments, I remember very clearly when this City

1 SPEECHES

2 Council was holding hearings on the boot and tow
3 bill that was passed, where anyone in the city who
4 was driving without a proper registration, license,
5 or insurance, if stopped by the police, their car
6 could be booted and towed, and they would not get it
7 back until they had the proper license,
8 registration, insurance.

9 I remember so clearly one of the
10 mothers who came to testify in those hearings. Her
11 daughter had been killed by a young man driving an
12 unlicensed, uninsured, unregistered car.

13 And she eloquently and painfully made
14 it clear that she was very strongly in support of
15 this bill. Because there are innocent people
16 getting injured and killed by these kinds of
17 reckless drivers.

18 I would say the other ingredient to
19 add to this discussion is, the City of Philadelphia
20 has one of the largest and most extensive public
21 transit systems in the city.

22 And I think my response to some
23 people who feel they maybe need to buy a car and
24 then drive it uninsured because they can't afford
25 it, maybe they need to do like many other

1 SPEECHES

2 responsible citizens, who either choose not to have
3 a car or cannot afford a car and insurance; they use
4 public transit.

5 Thank you, Mr. President.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT STREET: Thank you
7 very much.

8 The Chair recognizes Councilman
9 Kenney.

10 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you,
11 Mr. President.

12 With all due respect to my Council
13 colleague, Councilwoman Blackwell, who I admire and
14 respect dearly, and echoing Councilwoman Fernandez'
15 comments, I am not suggesting, as I do in other
16 instances, that people should be locked up for
17 this. What I am suggesting is that we take the
18 car.

19 And when it comes to the issue of an
20 automobile and the loss of an automobile, it does go
21 to many, many other areas of problems that we are
22 facing in the city.

23 Could you imagine the man who is
24 soliciting a prostitute or attempting to do so at
25 Kensington and Frankford losing his car, and having

1 SPEECHES

2 to explain to his family or to his wife what he was
3 doing there, what happened to his car, and that he
4 has to now go find his way home and come back and
5 get his car bailed out.

6 I think that is a disincentive, or an
7 obstacle, to make people change the pattern of their
8 behavior.

9 Could you imagine Southwest
10 Philadelphia, or parts of Councilwoman Krajewski's
11 district that experience this continual drag racing,
12 that if 10 or 12 or 15 cars per night were taken
13 from suburban young people who come here to drag
14 race, do you think that young man from Delaware
15 County is going to want to take a chance of losing
16 his or her Camaro, that they work on all week, to
17 come and drag race in Southwest Philadelphia? I
18 don't think so.

19 I am not suggesting that we lock
20 people up and throw away the key for not having auto
21 insurance. But what I do suggest is that the city
22 do its part, and its responsible part, to protect
23 the people who follow the rules.

24 We have a set of rules who people in
25 our neighborhood in our city follow. They are good

1 SPEECHES

2 people who raise their kids the right way, pay their
3 taxes, do what they are supposed to do.

4 And they stand on the corner, when
5 they can't afford to drive a car or to insure it,
6 and take the bus to work. They take the subway to
7 work. They take the El to Center City and go to
8 work.

9 And people find a way, as I did until
10 I was 21 years of age, until I could afford to buy a
11 car and to buy auto insurance, took the subway and
12 took the El.

13 It is not as if we are living in
14 Oklahoma, and the only way to get from one point to
15 another is by a truck or an automobile.

16 And what I think this body and this
17 government needs to do is to pay as much attention
18 to the people who follow the rules and do the right
19 thing, and protect them, as we do in trying to
20 protect people who don't either follow the rules
21 because of choice or because of circumstance.

22 And I think that if we start paying
23 attention to those people, the loss of families and
24 residents in our city will come to at least a slower
25 pace than they are today.

1 SPEECHES

2 Thank you.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT STREET: Thank you
4 very much.

5 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman
6 Blackwell.

7 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you.

8 I would like to conclude the subject
9 by saying two things: One, and that is that some of
10 these people that my colleague mentioned who aren't
11 registered maybe would be interested in
12 registering. That's a great voter registration
13 solicitation list. And certainly I, for one, would
14 like to -- and if he had a list from various
15 districts, all of us, I think, would like to -- have
16 that list so that we could ask those people to
17 register to vote.

18 And maybe they are not registered
19 because they are so frustrated with government and
20 all that we can't do, even in the best of our
21 intentions, that they do not participate in
22 government.

23 And the other thing is that, we speak
24 of transportation as if it is free. We all know
25 that we have the highest carfare in the nation. I

1 MEETING ADJOURNED

2 mean, I know families who have to choose which child
3 can go to school because of carfare costs. So there
4 is not a simple solution to these questions.

5 Certainly we want all law-abiding
6 citizens, who do their best, who come out and clean
7 their porches ON the weekend, WHO work hard every
8 day and want peace in their homes, certainly we want
9 to protect and provide for them, as is our mandate.

10 But we also have to be a Council that
11 cares about the least of those who cannot afford to
12 continue to maintain the lifestyle that they would
13 need.

14 Thank you, Mr. President.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT STREET: Thank you
16 very much.

17 Are there any other speeches by any
18 other member of this Council?

19 If not, the Chair recognizes
20 Councilwoman Verna.

21 COUNCILWOMAN VERNA: Mr. President, I
22 move that Council stand adjourned until Thursday,
23 October 9, 1997, at 10:00 a.m.

24 (Duly seconded.)

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT STREET: All in

1 MEETING ADJOURNED

2 favor let it be known by saying aye.

3 Those opposed say nay.

4 The ayes have it. The motion
5 passes.

6 This Council stands adjourned until
7 Thursday, October 9, 1997, at 10 o'clock in this
8 chamber.

9 (Meeting concluded at 11:35 a.m.)

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

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing
proceedings of the Council of the City of
Philadelphia of Thursday, September 25, 1997, were
reported fully and accurately by me, and that this
is a correct transcript of same.

RE: STATED MEETING

DEBRA A. WHITEHEAD, RPR