

Stated Meeting

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

STATED MEETING

Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Thursday, October 8, 2026
10:00 a.m.

PRESENT:

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

ELIZABETH MCCOLLUM NAZARIO, CHIEF CLERK

- - -

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1 10/8/26 - STATED - INVOCATION

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

3 JOHNSON: Good morning, everyone.

4 (Good morning.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

6 JOHNSON: Good morning, everyone.

7 (Good morning.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

9 JOHNSON: To give our invocation
10 this morning, the Chair recognizes
11 Bishop Danny Sutton, Senior Pastor
12 of Kingdom Life Church Ministries.
13 He is here today as the guest of
14 Councilmember and Majority Whip
15 Isaiah Thomas. I will ask all
16 those present to please rise.

17 (Councilmembers,
18 visitors and guests rise.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

20 JOHNSON: Good morning, Bishop.

21 BISHOP SUTTON: Good
22 morning.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

24 JOHNSON: The floor is yours, sir.

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2 BISHOP SUTTON: Good

3 morning.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

5 JOHNSON: Good morning.

6 BISHOP SUTTON: I greet
7 you all with grace, mercy and peace
8 from God our Father, through Jesus
9 Christ who is our Lord. Let me
10 just take a brief moment and thank
11 Council Chair and Councilman
12 Thomas, for this invitation to have
13 this moment to offer a word of
14 prayer for this august body.

15 I am reminded of a
16 moment that recently occurred. My
17 wife and I got into our car and she
18 wanted to go somewhere. She
19 immediately put in the address for
20 where we were headed immediately in
21 that GPS system. It prepared a
22 route to that destination. What
23 triggered my attention at that
24 moment wasn't the route to the

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2 destination, but the fact that we
3 didn't have to enter our present
4 location immediately. We were
5 identified based on the network
6 we're connected on and our route
7 was given.

8 I suggest to all of you
9 today, in that same manner, as we
10 look to the Father in prayer, in
11 order for us to gain our route, we
12 don't have to just tell the Father
13 where we are. He knows exactly
14 where we are, what we're dealing
15 with and what our concerns are, and
16 he will guide us and give us what's
17 necessary for where we are called
18 and headed to go.

19 Would you join me, if
20 you don't mind bowing your heads,
21 as we would seek the Father and ask
22 for his blessing, guidance and
23 direction for this great day.

24 Our Father in heaven, we

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2 come to you as humbly as we can,
3 first of all, giving you all
4 thanks, glory, honor and praise.
5 For you are the lifter of our head.
6 You are the King of our life. You
7 are great, good and mighty, and we
8 thank you for everything.

9 We acknowledge that
10 without you, we would have nothing.
11 We are nothing without you, but by
12 you and through you, with you all
13 things are possible. And so, we
14 say thank you for this moment that
15 we have gathered.

16 And for these leaders
17 alike who have come to this moment
18 to lead us, lead our city, we pray
19 for your guidance and government as
20 Solomon sought you, asking for
21 wisdom to discern that which is
22 good from evil. In the same way,
23 we pray now that you would give us
24 not just your presence, but your

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2 wisdom, that we might be able to be
3 clear on that which is necessary,
4 clear on that which we are called,
5 to be clear on that which is needed
6 for our times, our community and
7 our culture.

8 And we would decide, as
9 you have called and saw fit, bless
10 each Councilperson, each tier of
11 leadership in this place and around
12 our city. May you cover us in such
13 a way that we have your warm
14 embrace and your great power.
15 Cover those who lead us. Cover
16 those who protect us. Cover those
17 who have to make great decisions
18 today. And I pray you would guide
19 them with your grace, your goodness
20 and your mercy.

21 And father in all things
22 we'll give you thanks. Forgive us
23 for thinking we can do it without
24 you. And may we humble ourselves

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2 to realize nothing can happen
3 without you. And as you lead and
4 guide us, we make a commitment. We
5 will trust in you with all our
6 heart and lean not to our own
7 understanding, but in all thy ways
8 acknowledge you and we believe you
9 will direct our path.

10 We pray this prayer in
11 faith in the name of the Lord
12 Jesus, who is our Christ, our soon-
13 coming King. It is our desire that
14 our latter would be greater than
15 our past. Our future would be
16 brighter than yesterday. What's
17 coming to us will be better than
18 all we've had and all we left. And
19 with full faith and full assurance.
20 We believe the worst is over. And
21 the best is surely yet to come.

22 In Jesus mighty name and
23 all who agree, would you say Amen.
24 (Amen.)

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2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

3 JOHNSON: The Chair thanks the
4 Bishop for his invocation.

5 Council will now be at
6 ease.

7 (Council at ease.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

9 JOHNSON: The next order of
10 business is the Approval of the
11 Journal of the meeting of Thursday,
12 October 1, 2026.

13 The Chair recognizes
14 Deputy Majority Whip Councilmember
15 Cindy Bass.

16 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Good
17 morning, Mr. President.

18 I move that the Journal
19 of the meeting of Thursday, October
20 1, 2026 be approved.

21 (Duly seconded.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

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2 of the meeting of Thursday, October
3 1, 2026 stand approved.

4 All in favor indicate by
5 saying aye.

6 (Aye.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

8 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

9 (No response.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

11 JOHNSON: The ayes have it and the
12 Journal is approved.

13 The next order of
14 business is the request for leaves
15 of absence. And the Chair
16 recognizes Majority Leader
17 Councilmember Katherine Gilmore
18 Richardson.

19 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

20 RICHARDSON: Thank you,
21 Mr. President.

22 On behalf of City
23 Council, a leave of absence is
24 requested for Councilmembers Young

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2 and O'Neill.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

4 JOHNSON: Leave will be granted.

5 The Chair thanks the Majority
6 Leader.

7 The Chair recognizes
8 Minority Whip Councilmember Nicolas
9 O'Rourke.

10 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE:

11 Thank you, Mr. President.

12 On behalf of the
13 Minority, a leave of absence is
14 asked and requested for
15 Councilmember Brooks.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

17 JOHNSON: Thank you very much. The
18 Chair thanks the Minority Whip and
19 leave will be granted.

20 The Chair now recognizes
21 Majority Leader Katherine Gilmore
22 Richardson for a motion concerning
23 certain legislative matters that
24 may arise during the course of

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2 today's session of Council that
3 were not listed on the Calendar
4 circulated prior to today's Council
5 session.

6 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE
7 RICHARDSON: Thank you,
8 Mr. President.

9 I move that any of the
10 following matters, if considered
11 today, may be added to the agenda
12 for this session of Council and, as
13 required by law, subsequently
14 published on an amended agenda
15 after the consideration of those
16 matters: resolution authorizing
17 hearings, amendments to bills on
18 first reading, the reconsideration
19 of a bill vetoed by or re-called
20 from the Mayor, amendments to bills
21 re-called from the Mayor,
22 resolutions taking substantive
23 action to be voted on in this
24 session, a motion to withdraw a

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2 bill or resolution that is not on
3 the Calendar, and a motion placing
4 a bill or resolution on, or
5 returning a bill or resolution from
6 the Suspension Calendar that was
7 not listed on today's Calendar.

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

15 (Duly seconded.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

17 JOHNSON: It has been moved and
18 properly seconded that the
19 legislative matters stated by
20 Majority Leader Katherine Gilmore
21 Richardson may be added to the
22 agenda for today should those
23 matters arise during the course of
24 this session of Council.

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2 All those in favor

3 signify by saying aye.

4 (Aye.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

6 JOHNSON: Anyone opposed?

7 (No response.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

9 JOHNSON: The ayes have it and the
10 motion carries.

11 The Chair will dispense
12 with the regular order of business
13 to recognize the guests and
14 visitors joining us in chambers
15 this morning. On behalf of all
16 members of City Council, I welcome
17 you to our Council session. We
18 appreciate you taking the time to
19 join us as we attend to the
20 legislative affairs of our great
21 city. We certainly invite you to
22 come again.

23 I want to take a moment
24 of personal privilege to

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2 acknowledge the head of
3 Philadelphia Building Trades who is
4 here with us, Mr. Ryan Boyer.
5 Thank you for joining us, sir.

6 I want to also take a
7 moment to acknowledge also joining
8 us on community leader, Mr. David
9 Hyman and also joined by Ms. Farah
10 Jimenez. Thank you for joining us
11 in the Council's session today.
12 It's my Jewish big brother over
13 there. Appreciate you, sir.

14 The Chair recognizes
15 Councilmember Isaiah Thomas.

16 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Good
17 morning, Council President. In the
18 same -- and good morning,
19 Philadelphia, colleagues and City
20 Council. In the same spirit,
21 Council President, I wanted to take
22 a moment to welcome a couple
23 different guests.

24 First of all, I wanted

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2 to thank Rue Landau --
3 Councilmember Rue Landau,
4 Councilmember Cindy Bass for
5 supporting and standing at our
6 press conference earlier today to
7 advocate for more funding and more
8 support for the arts and culture
9 space and to support different
10 initiatives that's going to be
11 happening as it relates to tours.

12 And I wanted to also
13 thank Tisha K. Smith, a Germantown
14 photographer who was at our press
15 conference that's here today. Can
16 you stand up, Ms. Smith?

17 (Applause.)

18 COUNCILMAN THOMAS:
19 Thank you so much. Thank you for
20 being in City Council. Thank you
21 for advocating for the arts. And
22 also, I'm very excited to welcome
23 the Water Dogs here. If you don't
24 know, the Water Dogs have won their

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2 second PLL championship
3 representing the City of
4 Philadelphia today in City Council.
5 I have both Dox and Michael. Dox
6 is a two-time national champion
7 from the University of Virginia and
8 a graduate of Haverford School.
9 Michael received the Man of the
10 Year -- I'm sorry. Michael
11 received an award for being the
12 league's leader in scoring this
13 season. He's a local graduate of
14 Upper Dublin. And the Water Dogs
15 have also earned a top seed in the
16 Eastern Conference leading up to
17 them winning a championship this
18 year. Can you guys stand up? And
19 can we give a huge congratulations,
20 and thank you to the Water Dogs for
21 winning the Lacrosse championship
22 representing the City of
23 Philadelphia.
24 Thank you, Council

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2 President.

3 (Applause.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

5 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

6 Congratulations and welcome to City
7 Council.

8 Chair recognizes

9 Councilmember Dr. Anthony Phillips.

10 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

11 Thank you, Council President.

12 Today we had the
13 privilege of recognizing October as
14 College Awareness Month. And this
15 month we will be honoring the
16 Philadelphia Education Fund led by
17 Ms. Farah Jimenez. I want to
18 welcome all the individuals who are
19 here from the Philadelphia
20 Education Fund who do work around
21 college access and success. If you
22 can, please stand.

23 (Applause.)

24 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: I

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2 just want to say the Philadelphia
3 Education Fund does a lot of great
4 work in making sure that there's
5 clear understanding for young
6 people to get into college, but
7 also succeed in college. And we
8 want to thank them for all the work
9 that they've done for young people
10 in the city of Philadelphia. Thank
11 you all so much.

12 And I also want to
13 recognize the new Executive
14 Director of Philadelphia for
15 Great -- Philly for Great Schools.
16 Tamir Harper is here and his
17 organization. I want to recognize
18 him. He just launched a program
19 for grade schools. So I want to
20 say thank you all so much for
21 coming today.

22 Thank you, Council
23 President.

24 (Applause.)

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2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

3 JOHNSON: And also joined by Mr.
4 Malik Boyd. Thank you for joining
5 us as well, sir.

6 Chair recognizes
7 Councilmember Rue Landau.

8 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:
9 Good morning, Council President.
10 Thank you.

11 I wanted to just
12 recognize that leadership and
13 members of the Fringe Festival are
14 here today because we are honoring
15 them on their 30th festival, and
16 please stand. We'll give you a
17 round of applause. Welcome.
18 Welcome.

19 (Applause.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

21 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

22 Chair recognizes
23 Councilwoman Jamie Gauthier.

24 THE CLERK: Thank you,

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2 Council President.

3 I wanted to take a
4 moment to recognize Kevin Fennell
5 from the Men of Mill Creek. I'm
6 not sure if he is here yet, but he
7 will be here today speaking
8 about --

9 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE:
10 (Pointing).

11 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:
12 Oh, Kevin -- where?

13 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE: Up
14 top.

15 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:
16 Oh, he's up there. He is here today
17 to speak on a resolution renaming
18 the 700 block of North 47th Street
19 "Men of Mill Creek Way" in honor of
20 all of the contributions that the
21 Men of Mill Creek have made to that
22 section of the 3rd District, giving
23 back to community constantly for
24 decades, mentoring young people.

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2 This street renaming is a small
3 token of our appreciation for all
4 of the service they've performed in
5 our community. Thank you so much
6 and welcome, Kevin.

7 (Applause.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

9 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.
10 Welcome to City Council. Let's
11 give them a round of applause as
12 well.

13 (Applause.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

15 JOHNSON: As there are no more
16 welcoming of guests at this time,
17 the Chair recognizes Councilmember
18 Cindy Bass, who will present a
19 resolution honoring the Black Brain
20 Campaign for a decade of dedicated
21 work to stigmatize mental health in
22 the Black community by providing
23 mental health services and
24 culturally competent training for

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2 clinicians. Would everyone who's
3 joining the CEO and founder Farida
4 Boyer accompany her to the podium.

5 Joining Councilmember
6 Bass, who will be doing this
7 presentation on my behalf, are the
8 following Councilmembers:
9 Councilmember Dr. Anthony Phillips,
10 Councilmember Jamie Gauthier,
11 Councilmember Rue Landau,
12 Councilmember Dr. Nina Ahmed,
13 Councilmember Nicolas O'Rourke and
14 Councilmember Mark Squilla.

15 (Councilmembers and
16 guests approached podium.)

17 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Good
18 morning. Good morning, everyone.
19 So before we begin, I just wanted
20 to give a couple of remarks
21 regarding the Black Brain Campaign
22 and how mental health in our
23 communities, particularly in the
24 African American community, is

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2 just -- so you can't say
3 something's wrong. You can't say
4 I'm depressed. You can't say, you
5 know, mentally I'm feeling off. I
6 don't feel right. I don't feel
7 comfortable within my own skin.
8 And we have to really find ways to
9 embrace the mental health
10 challenges that exist within our
11 community.
12 And so, I really want to
13 give a round of applause to Farida
14 Boyer for really making this happen
15 today. This is so, so important
16 because when we think about all of
17 the challenges in our communities,
18 particularly around violence,
19 around the breakdown of the family
20 and the family structure, so much
21 is related to mental health
22 challenges. And if we know that
23 you can get sick in your body, if
24 you can have a physical ailment

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2 like a cold, why is it that we
3 don't think that we can have some
4 sort of an ailment mentally. It
5 just doesn't make sense.

6 And so, again I just
7 really want to say thank you for
8 all of your work in this realm. So
9 today we're honoring the Black
10 Brain Campaign for a decade of
11 dedicated work to destigmatize
12 mental health in the Black
13 community by providing mental
14 health services and culturally
15 competent training for clinicians;

16 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE:

17 Whereas, nationwide Black
18 individuals are underrepresented in
19 mental health professions, with
20 only 2% of practicing
21 psychiatrists, 4% of psychologists
22 and 22% of social workers in 2017
23 identifying as Black; and

24 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:

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2 Whereas, the Black Brain Campaign
3 was founded in 2016, with the aim
4 to destigmatize and raise awareness
5 about mental health in the Black
6 community through advocacy,
7 community education and providing a
8 holistic approach to therapy,
9 treatment; and

10 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:

11 Whereas, leading this effort as
12 Executive Director and co-founder
13 of the Black Brain Campaign is
14 Farida E. Boyer, check this out,
15 M.S., L.M.F.T., A.S., a licensed
16 marriage and family therapist and
17 an approved supervisor who has
18 dedicated her career to expanding
19 access to culturally competent
20 mental health care; and

21 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

22 Whereas, the Black Brain Campaign
23 offers free, culturally competent
24 therapy, case management and mental

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2 health services, including
3 individual couples, family and
4 group therapy to residents of
5 Pennsylvania; and

6 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA:

7 Whereas, the Black Brain Campaign's
8 Licensure Education Assistance
9 Program (LEAP) is a 12-month
10 training program for social work
11 graduates offering weekly
12 licensure, exam preparations,
13 individual supervision and the
14 opportunity to gain clinical hours
15 towards Licensures. Through LEAP,
16 the Black Brain campaign covers the
17 cost of training, study materials,
18 supervision and exam fees; and

19 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

20 RICHARDSON: Whereas, this
21 legislative body is thankful for
22 the work of the Black Brain
23 Campaign and their efforts to raise
24 awareness about mental health in

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2 the Black community; now,

3 therefore, be it

4 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:

5 Before I read my passage, I just

6 want to take a moment to not only

7 congratulate Dr. Boyer, but to say

8 that I'm incredibly proud to have

9 the headquarters of the Black Brain

10 Campaign in my District at 55th and

11 Chestnut. And I just want to thank

12 you for offering these critical

13 services to my constituents in a

14 way that is so accessible, but not

15 only to my constituents but far

16 beyond. Thank you so much.

17 Therefore, be it

18 Resolved, by the Council of the

19 City of Philadelphia, that we

20 Hereby honor the Black Brain

21 Campaign for a decade of dedicated

22 work to destigmatize mental health

23 in the Black community by providing

24 mental health services and

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2 culturally competent training for
3 clinicians.

4 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: And
5 Further Resolved, that an Engrossed
6 copy of this resolution be
7 presented to Farida E. Boyer as
8 evidence of the sincere
9 appreciation and gratitude of this
10 legislative body and on behalf of
11 the Council and Council President,
12 who was the author of this
13 legislation. Congratulations.

14 (Applause.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

16 JOHNSON: The floor is yours,
17 Mrs. Farida Boyer.

18 MS. BOYER: Good
19 morning, Honorable members of
20 Philadelphia Council. Thank you,
21 Council President, for recognizing
22 me today. Thank you for the
23 opportunity to speak to you all. I
24 stand before you representing the

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2 Black Brain Campaign.

3 And I want to begin by
4 expressing our deep gratitude for
5 your leadership. Your recent
6 investments into community-based
7 organizations have been a lifeline.
8 Because of your commitment, we are
9 beginning to bridge the gap in
10 mental health access, providing our
11 youth and families with the
12 support, safety and constructive
13 outlets they desperately need.

14 You have helped us
15 significantly, significantly step
16 toward our core mission of
17 eradicating the stigma against
18 mental health within the Black
19 community. However, while we
20 celebrate this progress, we must
21 also be clear about the work that
22 remains. The data tells us a story
23 of crisis that is still unfolding
24 in our city. We are a stark

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2 disparity.

3 While documenting the
4 diagnosis rate in majority Black
5 neighborhoods may appear lower, our
6 reliance on emergency and crisis
7 services for mental health care is
8 disproportionately high. We are
9 seeing an alarming rise in overdose
10 deaths, particularly among our
11 Black residents. As this
12 intersection of trauma, substance
13 use and lack of culturally
14 competent care continues to claim
15 lives, we are fighting against a
16 system where clients are often
17 forced to emergency rooms because
18 they cannot find a therapist who
19 understands the life, their lived
20 experience.

21 With less than 5% of
22 Black clinicians nationally
23 identifying as Black, the barrier
24 of culturally competent care is not

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2 just a buzzword, it is a daily
3 reality that prevents our neighbors
4 from seeking help until they are in
5 a state of crisis. Council, you
6 have shown us that you hear us.
7 You have shown us that you are
8 willing to invest, but we need you
9 to do more.

10 We are asking for a
11 continued, prioritized commitment
12 to, one, expanding funding for
13 community-based, culturally
14 competent mental health providers
15 who are already doing the work on
16 the ground; two, standardizing
17 mental health screenings across all
18 city-funded community centers to
19 ensure we are identifying needs
20 before they reach the point of
21 emergency intervention; three,
22 deepening the investment in youth-
23 centered behavioral health programs
24 to break cycles of trauma before

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2 they take route; four, a pathway to
3 ensure we have a mental health
4 therapist in every school in the
5 city of Philadelphia so that we're
6 meeting the needs of our students.

7 The Black Brain Campaign
8 is ready to partner with you to
9 ensure that every resident,
10 regardless of their zip code or
11 background, has access to the high-
12 quality, compassionate mental
13 health care they deserve. Thank
14 you to my team for your hard work.
15 Thank you all for your vision and
16 your continued partnership. We
17 love this city. We're loving on
18 Philly and we believe that by
19 working together, we can build an
20 infrastructure that truly leaves no
21 one behind. Thank you everybody.

22 (Applause.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

24 JOHNSON: Council will be at ease.

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2 (Council at ease.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

4 JOHNSON: The next order of
5 business is communications. The
6 Chair requests that the Sergeant-
7 at-Arms deliver the messages from
8 the Mayor to the Chief Clerk.

9 Would the Chief Clerk
10 please read the messages from the
11 Mayor and any other communications
12 in his possession.

13 THE CLERK: To the
14 President and the members of the
15 Council of the City of
16 Philadelphia, I'm transmitting for
17 the consideration of your Honorable
18 body the following proposed: A
19 resolution confirming the
20 reappointment of James Engler as a
21 member of the Board of Ethics to
22 serve in the term ending November
23 16, 2031.

24 There are no further

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2 communications in my possession,
3 Council President.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

5 JOHNSON: Thank you. The messages
6 will be printed in the Journal.

7 The next order of
8 business is the introduction of
9 bills and resolutions.

10 The Chair recognizes
11 Councilmember Dr. Anthony Phillips.

12 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:
13 Thank you, Council President.

14 I have one privileged
15 resolution recognizing October as
16 College Awareness Month with the
17 Philadelphia Education Fund.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

19 JOHNSON: Will the Chief Clerk
20 please read the title of the
21 resolution.

22 THE CLERK: A privileged
23 resolution recognizing October as
24 College Awareness Month and

20 Today I offer two bills
21 on your behalf and two
22 privileged -- and two resolutions
23 on your behalf, one privileged and
24 one non-privileged.

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2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

3 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

4 Chief Clerk, please read
5 the title of the bills and
6 resolutions.

7 THE CLERK: An ordinance
8 providing for the submission to the
9 qualified electors of the City of
10 Philadelphia of the proposal set
11 forth in a Resolution approved by
12 Council proposing an amendment to
13 the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter
14 relating to the creation of the
15 Office of Food and Nutrition
16 Security and the Food and Nutrition
17 Security Advisory Commission; and
18 authorizing and directing the
19 appropriate officers to publish,
20 notice and to make arrangements for
21 the special election.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

23 JOHNSON: This bill will be
24 referred to the appropriate

Stated Meeting

1 10/8/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 committee.

3 THE CLERK: And an
4 ordinance authorizing encroachments
5 in the nature of a sidewalk cafe in
6 the vicinity of 2655 South 18th
7 Street, under certain terms and
8 conditions.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
10 JOHNSON: This bill will be
11 referred to the appropriate
12 committee.

13 THE CLERK: And a
14 non-privileged resolution proposing
15 an amendment to the Philadelphia
16 Home Rule Charter, providing for
17 the creation of the Office of Food
18 and Nutrition Security and the Food
19 and Nutrition Security Advisory
20 Commission; and providing for the
21 submission of the proposed
22 amendment to the electors of
23 Philadelphia.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Stated Meeting

1 10/8/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

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

5 THE CLERK: And a
6 privileged resolution recognizing
7 the French American Foundation's
8 Young Leaders Program and its 2026
9 cohort convenes as its 2026 cohort
10 convenes in Philadelphia.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
12 JOHNSON: This resolution will be
13 placed on today's Final Passage
14 Calendar.

15 Chair recognizes
16 Councilmember Jamie Gauthier.

17 THE CLERK: Good
18 morning, Council President.

19 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:
20 Today I have one bill and two
21 non-privileged resolutions.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
23 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

24 Chief Clerk, please read

Stated Meeting

1 10/8/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 the titles of the bill and

3 resolutions.

4 THE CLERK: An ordinance

5 authorizing and directing the

6 changing of the name of Osler

7 Circle, from Civic Center Boulevard

8 to a terminus northwestwardly

9 therefrom, and from Curie Boulevard

10 to a terminus southeastwardly

11 therefrom, to Roberts Way, under

12 certain terms and conditions.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

14 JOHNSON: This bill will be

15 referred to the appropriate

16 committee.

17 THE CLERK: And a

18 non-privileged resolution also

19 naming the 1200 Block of 46th

20 Street at the intersection of

21 Kingsessing Avenue "The Links,

22 Incorporated Lane" to honor the

23 service and impact of The Links,

24 Incorporated on the Philadelphia

Stated Meeting

1 10/8/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 community.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

4 JOHNSON: This resolution will be
5 placed on the Final Passage
6 Calendar for consideration at our
7 next session of Council. Very well
8 done, Member Gauthier.

9 Please proceed.

10 THE CLERK: And a
11 non-privileged resolution also
12 naming the 3900 Block of Lancaster
13 Avenue as "Chosen 300 Way" to honor
14 the legacy and impact of the Chosen
15 300 Ministries on the West
16 Philadelphia community.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

18 JOHNSON: This bill -- I mean, this
19 resolution will be placed on the
20 Final Passage Calendar at our next
21 session of Council.

22 Chair recognizes
23 Councilmember Isaiah Thomas.

24 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Good

Stated Meeting

1 10/8/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 morning again, Council President.

3 Today I offer two

4 resolutions.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

6 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

7 Chief Clerk, please read
8 the titles of the resolutions.

9 THE CLERK: A privileged
10 resolution honoring October as
11 Black Male Educators Month in the
12 City of Philadelphia, celebrating
13 the Center for Black Educator
14 Development for their leadership in
15 the recruitment, development and
16 retention of Black male educators.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

21 THE CLERK: And a
22 privileged resolution honoring the
23 Philadelphia Waterdogs on the
24 occasion of their 2026 Premier

Stated Meeting

1 10/8/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 Lacrosse League (PLL) Championship,
3 marking the record second win in
4 the PLL in 4 years and earning top
5 seed of the Eastern Conference.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

10 Councilmember Curtis
11 Jones, Jr.

12 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank
13 you, Mr. President.

14 Today I offer one bill.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

16 JOHNSON: Thank you very much, sir.

17 Chief Clerk, please read
18 the title of the bill.

19 THE CLERK: An ordinance
20 amending Section 14-505 of The
21 Philadelphia Code, entitled "/ENV,
22 Environmental Preservation Overlay
23 District," by expanding the
24 boundaries to include Lankenau High

Stated Meeting

1 10/8/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 School, and creating additional use
3 and dimensional restrictions, all
4 under certain terms and conditions.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

6 JOHNSON: This bill will be
7 referred to the appropriate
8 committee. Well done, Member
9 Jones.

10 Chair recognizes
11 Councilman Rue Landau.

12 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:

13 Good morning, Council President,
14 colleagues and the public.

15 Today I have one
16 privileged resolution and one
17 privileged resolution on your
18 behalf.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

20 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

21 Chief Clerk, please read
22 the titles of the resolutions
23 please.

24 THE CLERK: A privileged

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

13 THE CLERK: And a
14 privileged resolution authorizing
15 the Committee on Technology and
16 Information Services to hold
17 hearings to examine the use of
18 emerging technologies, including
19 surveillance, algorithmic and
20 dynamic pricing systems in the
21 grocery industry to better
22 understand how these technologies
23 are being utilized and their
24 potential impacts for consumers and

Stated Meeting

1 10/8/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 retailers, and to examine
3 opportunities to support
4 transparency, affordability and
5 consumer confidence.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

10 Chair recognizes
11 Councilmember Quetcy Lozada.

12 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA:

13 Good morning, Council President.

14 I offer one privileged
15 resolution today.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

17 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

18 Chief Clerk, please read
19 the title of the resolution please.

20 THE CLERK: A privileged
21 resolution authorizing the
22 Committee on Education to hold
23 public hearings to examine the
24 state of charter education in

Stated Meeting

1 10/8/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 Philadelphia, including charter
3 school funding, authorization and
4 renewal practices, and the role
5 charter schools play in providing
6 educational opportunities for
7 Philadelphia students and families.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

9 JOHNSON: This resolution will be
10 placed on today's Final Passage
11 Calendar. Well done, Member
12 Lozada.

13 Chair recognizes
14 Councilmember Jim Harrity.

15 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:

16 Thank you, Council President.

17 I reluctantly have no
18 bills or resolutions today.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

20 JOHNSON: Thank you very much, sir.

21 Chair recognizes
22 Councilmember Nicolas O'Rourke.

23 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE:

24 Thank you, Mr. President.

Stated Meeting

1 10/8/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 I have one privileged
3 resolution on your behalf, and one
4 privileged resolution on behalf of
5 Minority Leader Kendra Brooks.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

7 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

8 Chief Clerk, please read
9 the titles of the resolutions
10 please.

11 THE CLERK: A privileged
12 resolution authorizing the
13 Committee on Public Health and
14 Human Services to hold hearings to
15 examine the feasibility of
16 establishing City-supported grocery
17 stores and food retailers through
18 public-private and community
19 partnerships to expand access to
20 affordable, nutritious and high-
21 quality food in Philadelphia
22 neighborhoods.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

24 JOHNSON: This resolution will be

Stated Meeting

1 10/8/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 placed on today's Final Passage
3 Calendar.

4 THE CLERK: And a
5 privileged resolution recognizing
6 October 12, 2026 as "Indigenous
7 Peoples' Day" in the City of
8 Philadelphia, honoring and
9 commemorating the achievements,
10 traditions, and contributions of
11 American Indians, also known as
12 "Indigenous peoples"; and affirming
13 the City's commitment to historical
14 truth, cultural respect, education
15 and partnership with Indigenous
16 communities.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

21 Chair recognizes
22 Councilmember Mike Driscoll.

23 COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL:

24 Good morning, Mr. President.

Stated Meeting

1 10/8/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 No bills and resolutions

3 today.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

5 JOHNSON: Chair recognizes

6 Councilmember Squilla.

7 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA:

8 Thank you, Mr. President.

9 No bills or resolutions.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

11 JOHNSON: Chair recognizes

12 Councilmember Cindy Bass.

13 COUNCILWOMAN BASS:

14 Thank you, Mr. President.

15 I offer one

16 non-privileged resolution.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

18 JOHNSON: Chief Clerk, please read

19 the title of the resolution please.

20 THE CLERK: A

21 non-privileged resolution also

22 designating and ceremonially

23 renaming the corner of East Ashmead

24 Street and Wakefield Street as

Stated Meeting

1 10/8/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 "Ennis Way," in recognition of his
3 extraordinary accomplishments in
4 boxing, his representation of
5 Philadelphia on the world stage,
6 and his commitment to inspiring and
7 giving back to the young people of
8 his hometown.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

10 JOHNSON: This resolution will be
11 placed on the Final Passage
12 Calendar for consideration at our
13 next session of Council.

14 Chair recognizes
15 Councilmember Dr. Nina Ahmad.

16 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:

17 Thank you, Council President.

18 I'm introducing two
19 privileged resolutions, and one
20 bill on your behalf and one
21 non-privileged resolution on your
22 behalf.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

24 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

Stated Meeting

1 10/8/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 Chief Clerk, please read
3 the titles of the bill and
4 resolutions.

5 THE CLERK: An ordinance
6 amending Section 20-304 of The
7 Philadelphia Code, entitled
8 "Compensation for Members of
9 Boards, Commissions, Committees and
10 Councils," to provide for
11 compensation for the members of the
12 Food and Nutrition Security
13 Advisory Commission; and amending
14 Title 21 of The Philadelphia Code
15 ("Miscellaneous") by adding a
16 Chapter entitled "Food and
17 Nutrition Security," to provide
18 additional duties of the Office of
19 Food and Nutrition Security, the
20 composition and duties of the Food
21 and Nutrition Security Advisory
22 Commission, for reporting
23 requirements about food and
24 nutrition security, and an online

Stated Meeting

1 10/8/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 portal, all under certain terms and
3 conditions.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

8 THE CLERK: And a
9 non-privileged resolution calling
10 upon the General Assembly of the
11 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to
12 enact Senate Bill 1465, also known
13 as the "Pennsylvania Universal
14 Health Care Act," which would
15 establish the Office of Health Care
16 and the Pennsylvania Care Board
17 with responsibility to implement a
18 comprehensive single-payer
19 healthcare model that would provide
20 healthcare coverage to all
21 Pennsylvanians.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

23 JOHNSON: This resolution will be
24 placed on the Final Passage

Stated Meeting

1 10/8/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 Calendar for consideration at the
3 next session of Council.

4 THE CLERK: And a
5 privileged resolution recognizing
6 October 10, 2026 as World Mental
7 Health Day and October 8, 2026 as
8 National Depression Screening Day
9 in the City of Philadelphia.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

11 JOHNSON: This resolution will be
12 placed on the Final Passage
13 Calendar for today.

14 THE CLERK: And a
15 privileged resolution authorizing
16 the Committee on Public Health and
17 Human Services to hold hearings
18 examining the City's response to
19 sexual violence, including support
20 for survivors, law enforcement
21 response, the investigation and
22 prosecution of sexual assault and
23 prevention in light of recent
24 sexual assault cases in

Stated Meeting

1 10/8/26 - STATED - REPORTS

2 Philadelphia and reopened
3 investigations of school campus
4 sexual assault elsewhere.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

6 JOHNSON: Well done. This bill
7 will be placed -- this resolution
8 will be placed on today's Final
9 Passage Calendar.

10 The next order of
11 business is reports from the
12 committee.

13 The Chair recognizes
14 Councilmember Majority Leader
15 Katherine Gilmore Richardson for a
16 report from the Committee on
17 Finance.

18 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

19 RICHARDSON: Thank you,
20 Mr. President.

21 The Committee on Finance
22 offers one bill out of committee
23 with a favorable recommendation.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Stated Meeting

1 10/8/26 - STATED - REPORTS

2 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

3 Will the Chief Clerk
4 please read the title of the
5 report.

6 THE CLERK: The
7 Committee on Finance, to which was
8 referred the following bill: Bill
9 No. 260691, an ordinance
10 authorizing and approving the
11 execution and delivery of a Service
12 Agreement between The City of
13 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and
14 Philadelphia Authority for
15 Industrial Development relating to
16 the financing of the buildout,
17 construction, equipping,
18 installation and implementation of
19 improvements for the development of
20 a forensics laboratory for the
21 Philadelphia Police Department at a
22 specified property or properties
23 owned or leased, and operated, by
24 the City; approving the issuance by

Stated Meeting

1 10/8/26 - STATED - REPORTS
2 such Authority of bonds, notes or
3 other evidences of indebtedness in
4 one or more series to finance or
5 refinance the costs of such project
6 and authorizing and approving the
7 obligation of the City to pay in
8 full when due the Service Fee and
9 other amounts payable under the
10 Service Agreement; authorizing
11 certain City officers to take
12 certain actions required to issue
13 such bonds, notes or other
14 evidences of indebtedness;
15 covenanting that the City will make
16 necessary appropriations in each of
17 the City's fiscal years to provide
18 for, and will make timely payments
19 of, the Service Fee and other
20 amounts due under the Service
21 Agreement; and authorizing City
22 officials to take other necessary
23 or appropriate actions to
24 effectuate the purposes of this

Stated Meeting

1 10/8/26 - STATED - REPORTS
2 Ordinance; all under certain terms
3 and conditions, respectfully
4 reports that it is considered the
5 same and returns the attached bill
6 to Council with a favorable
7 recommendation.

8 There are no further
9 bills to report from the Committee
10 on Finance, Council President.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
12 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes
13 Majority Leader Katherine Gilmore
14 Richardson for a motion.

15 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE
16 RICHARDSON: Thank you,
17 Mr. President.

18 I move that the rules of
19 Council be suspended as to permit
20 first reading of this bill just
21 read into the record by the Chief
22 Clerk.

23 (Duly seconded.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Stated Meeting

1 10/8/26 - STATED - REPORTS

2 JOHNSON: It has been moved and
3 properly seconded that the rules of
4 Council be suspended so as to
5 permit the consideration of the
6 bill just read by the Chief Clerk
7 at today's session of Council.

8 All those in favor of
9 the motion will signify by saying
10 aye.

11 (Aye.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

13 JOHNSON: Anyone opposed?

14 (No response.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

16 JOHNSON: The ayes have it and the
17 motion carries. This bill will be
18 placed on our First Reading
19 Calendar for today.

20 I want to take a moment
21 of personal privilege to recognize
22 also guests in the chambers today,
23 Mr. Al Spivey representing Omega
24 Psi Phi, Inc., as we celebrate HBCU

Stated Meeting

1 10/8/26 - STATED - REPORTS

2 Month in Divine Nine. Thank you
3 for being here, sir.

4 The Chair recognizes
5 Councilmember Mark Squilla for a
6 report from the Committee on
7 Streets and Services.

8 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA:
9 Thank you, Mr. President.

10 The Committee on Streets
11 and Service reports out 11 bills
12 with a favorable recommendation.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

14 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

15 Chief Clerk, please read
16 the report.

17 THE CLERK: The
18 Committee on Streets and Services
19 to which we referred the following
20 bills: Bill No. 250649, amending
21 Section 12-701 of The Philadelphia
22 Code, entitled "Designation of
23 Bicycle Lanes" to authorize a
24 bicycle lane and removal of a

Stated Meeting

1 10/8/26 - STATED - REPORTS

2 travel lane around City Hall, under
3 certain terms and conditions.

4 Bill No. 260566,
5 authorizing various encroachments
6 in the vicinity of 6238 Bustleton
7 Avenue, under certain terms and
8 conditions.

9 Bill No. 260609,
10 amending section 120701 of the
11 Philadelphia Code, entitled
12 "Designation of Bicycle Lanes," to
13 authorize a bicycle lane and
14 removal of parking on Roberts
15 Avenue from Henry Avenue to King
16 Street, under certain terms and
17 conditions.

18 Bill No. 260692,
19 amending Section 9-208 of The
20 Philadelphia Code, entitled
21 "Sidewalk Cafes," to authorize
22 additional locations for sidewalk
23 cafes, all under certain terms and
24 conditions.

Stated Meeting

1 10/8/26 - STATED - REPORTS

2 Bill No. 260693,
3 authorizing encroachments in the
4 nature of a sidewalk cafe in the
5 vicinity of 4201 Manayunk Avenue,
6 Philadelphia, PA, under certain
7 terms and conditions.

8 Bill No. 260706,
9 authorizing an encroachment in the
10 nature of a staircase in the
11 vicinity of 319-25 North 11th
12 Street, Philadelphia, PA, under
13 certain terms and conditions.

14 Bill No. 260707,
15 authorizing encroachments in the
16 nature of a sidewalk cafe in the
17 vicinity of 544 East Girard Avenue,
18 under certain terms and conditions.

19 Bill No. 260758,
20 regulating the placement of a truck
21 loading zone on South 23rd Street
22 between South Street and Naudain
23 Street, all under certain terms and
24 conditions.

Stated Meeting

1 10/8/26 - STATED - REPORTS

2 And Bill No. 260762,
3 regulating the placement of a truck
4 loading zone on 1716 Frankford
5 Avenue between Palmer Street and
6 East Columbia Avenue, all under
7 certain terms and conditions,
8 respectfully reports it has
9 considered the same and returns the
10 attached bills to Council with a
11 favorable recommendation.

12 There are no further
13 bills to report out from the
14 Committee on Streets and Services,
15 Council President.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

17 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

18 The Chair recognizes
19 Councilmember Mark Squilla for a
20 motion.

21 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA:

22 Thank you, Mr. President.

23 I move that the rules of
24 Council be suspended as to permit

Stated Meeting

1 10/8/26 - STATED - REPORTS

2 the first reading this day the
3 bills just read into the record by
4 the Chief Clerk.

5 (Duly seconded.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

7 JOHNSON: It has been moved and
8 properly seconded that the rules of
9 Council be suspended so as to
10 permit the consideration of the
11 bills just read by the Chief Clerk
12 at today's session of Council.

13 All those in favor of
14 the motion will signify by saying
15 aye.

16 (Aye.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

18 JOHNSON: Anyone opposed?

19 (No response.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

21 JOHNSON: The ayes have it. The
22 motion carries. These bills will
23 be placed on the First Reading
24 Calendar for today.

Stated Meeting

1 10/8/26 - STATED - BILLS ON 2ND READING

2 The next order of
3 business is the consideration of
4 the Calendar. I note that the
5 bills just reported from committees
6 with the suspension of the rules
7 have been deemed to have had a
8 first reading. These bills will be
9 placed on the Second Reading and
10 Final Passage Calendars for the
11 next session of Council.

12 The Chair recognizes
13 Majority Leader Katherine Gilmore
14 Richardson for a motion concerning
15 bills on the First Reading
16 Calendar.

17 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

18 RICHARDSON: Thank you,
19 Mr. President.

20 We call up Bill No.
21 260298 on the First Reading
22 Calendar.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

24 JOHNSON: Would the Clerk please

Stated Meeting

1 10/8/26 - STATED - BILLS ON 2ND READING

2 read Bill No. 260298.

3 THE CLERK: An ordinance

4 to amend the Philadelphia Zoning

5 Maps by changing the zoning

6 designations of certain areas of

7 land located within an area bounded

8 by Ridge Avenue, Spring Lane,

9 Hagy's Mill Road, Port Royal

10 Avenue, River Road, and the

11 Montgomery County Line.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

13 JOHNSON: This bill will be placed

14 on the Second Reading and Final

15 Passage Calendar for our next

16 session of Council.

17 As there are no

18 additional bills on the First

19 Reading Calendar, the Chair

20 recognizes Majority Leader

21 Katherine Gilmore Richardson for a

22 motion concerning resolutions on

23 the Final Passage Calendar and

24 bills on the Second Reading and

Stated Meeting

1 10/8/26 - STATED - BILLS ON 2ND READING

2 Final Passage Calendar.

3 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

4 RICHARDSON: Thank you,

5 Mr. President.

6 The following

7 resolutions are being called up

8 from the Final Passage Calendar and

9 the following bills are being

10 called up from the Second Reading

11 and Final Passage Calendar today:

12 Resolution Nos. 260766-A, 260819,

13 260821, 260822, 260825, 260826,

14 260827 and Bill No. 260429. The

15 following resolutions and bills on

16 the Calendar are being held:

17 260823 and 260824; Bill Nos.

18 250768, 250807, 260076 and 260462.

19 Bill Nos. 260342, 260343, 260344

20 and 260345 are being amended.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

22 JOHNSON: Before considering these

23 resolutions and bills, we would

24 consider public comment as follows:

Stated Meeting

1 10/8/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Your public comment must concern
3 matters on the Second Reading and
4 Final Passage Calendars for
5 possible action at today's session
6 of Council. All speakers must sign
7 up in order to testify.

8 If you have not already
9 signed up for today's Council
10 session, please do so now by giving
11 your name to Ms. Hasson at the
12 table outside the rails to my left.
13 Once you have signed up, you will
14 be called in the order in which
15 your name appears on the sign-up
16 sheet.

17 Under ideal
18 circumstances, public commenters
19 each will have three minutes to
20 speak. However, this time limit
21 may vary from session to session.
22 Today, the time limit will be two
23 minutes. In order to be fair to
24 all those wishing to speak. I

Stated Meeting

1 10/8/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 intend to hold faithfully to the
3 two-minute limit.

4 When you begin speaking,
5 you will see a green light on the
6 podium. When there are 30 seconds
7 remaining to your time, the light
8 will turn yellow, which is your
9 reminder to conclude your remarks.
10 Once two minutes have passed, the
11 light will turn red and the
12 Sergeant-at-Arms will disconnect
13 the microphone. Please do not give
14 our Sergeant-at-Arms a hard time.
15 He is only doing his job. At that
16 point, please yield the podium to
17 the next speaker if you have not
18 already done so.

19 I also reserve the
20 right, pursuant to our rules of
21 City Council, to limit repetitious
22 comments on this very same subject
23 matter. The right to comment does
24 not mean the right to disrupt

Stated Meeting

1 10/8/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 proceedings. I ask that all
3 commenters refrain from using
4 profanity that disrupts the meeting
5 so we can maintain order in this
6 forum through respectful discourse.

7 I will now ask the Chief
8 Clerk to please read the names of
9 our speakers for public comment
10 today.

11 THE CLERK: Will William
12 Small, John McAuley, Jeremy
13 Blatstein, Ben Miller, Carolyn
14 Mejia, Meredith Elizalde, Brittany
15 Barbato, and Janice Stacy, please
16 make your way to the podium.

17 (Witnesses approached
18 podium.)

19 MR. MCAULEY: John
20 Alonte McAuley. In regard to
21 Resolution 260825, honoring the
22 Citywide tenant Union of the
23 Philadelphia Democratic Socialists
24 of America and tenants, tenant

Stated Meeting

1 10/8/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 leaders and tenant organizers, when
3 did Black people go from talking
4 about private ownership towards
5 embracing what leads to communism?
6 Booker T. Washington must be
7 turning over in his grave.

8 A man who talked about
9 private ownership, learning trades
10 and embracing commerce to a
11 generation of Black people crying
12 over tenant issues and more
13 government control. This tenant
14 union made up a fake term like junk
15 fees, a \$25 charge on top of your
16 rent that nobody made you take.
17 Crying about affordability when
18 illegal aliens take your jobs
19 during deliveries for Uber,
20 sticking their translator apps in
21 the cashier's face.

22 The Democrats and the
23 DSA job is to make you sick and
24 keep you poor. One out of every

Stated Meeting

1 10/8/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 four Blacks are on food stamps.

3 All that processed food led to one
4 out of every two Black people being
5 obese, which leads to chronic
6 disease. Now, you're disabled and
7 rely on government subsidies.

8 Since the beginning, it
9 was the Democrat Party that fought
10 for slavery. Same party that
11 reversed our 40 acres and a mule
12 and gave it back to Confederate
13 soldiers. Same party that fought
14 for Jim Crow and segregation. Same
15 party that created the Ku Klux
16 Klan. Same party who opposed Black
17 civil rights.

18 They tell me to party
19 switch. How, when out of the 21
20 Democrat senators who opposed Black
21 civil rights, only one switched.
22 The Democrat Socialists of America
23 now run the Democrat Party. Same
24 party that Hasan Piker supports.

Stated Meeting

1 10/8/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 The Democrat -- and said that
3 Americans deserve what happened on
4 9/11. Same party Councilmember
5 O'Rourke supports. Your Christian
6 Mayor wearing hijabs, (inaudible)
7 for Muslim votes. Those women in
8 Iran and Gaza don't get to take off
9 their hijabs. They get beat or in
10 prison for it. That's who DSA
11 supports. Robin Byrd for state
12 representative in the 177th
13 district.

14 THE CLERK: Will Sean
15 Rio make your way to the podium.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
17 JOHNSON: This is Jeremy Blatstein
18 at the podium.

19 MR. BLATSTEIN: Hello.
20 My name is Jeremy Blatstein. I'm
21 going to read a statement from
22 yesterday. Today we remember --

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
24 JOHNSON: Mr. Blatstein, just real

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2 quick, just for the record state
3 your name and then also the actual
4 topic on the agenda that you're
5 going to be --

6 MR. BLATSTEIN: Yes, I
7 am.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

9 JOHNSON: Just for the record.

10 MR. BLATSTEIN: Oh, for
11 the record. Hello. My name is
12 Jeremy Blatstein. I'm speaking
13 about the DSA comment from
14 yesterday, right. So today we
15 remember the victims --

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

17 JOHNSON: Are you referring to the
18 DSA resolution?

19 MR. BLATSTEIN: Yeah,
20 the DSA resolution that were at the
21 rally yesterday, sir. They were
22 organizing the rally. They were
23 there. Today we remember the
24 victims of October 7th, innocent

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2 civilians who were murdered,
3 kidnapped and taken hostage.
4 Holding a rally in Rittenhouse
5 Square that glorifies the massacre
6 as a resistance is unacceptable.

7 The murder of civilians
8 is not resistance and it should
9 never be celebrated. We should
10 honor the victims, reject political
11 violence and work towards peace,
12 dignity and safety for Israelis and
13 Palestinians alike. That was a
14 statement put out by State Rep Amen
15 Brown yesterday. DSA was at this
16 rally yesterday in Rittenhouse
17 Square.

18 They were walking
19 through the streets chanting, Long
20 live the Intifada, Intifada
21 Revolution. They were chanting, No
22 two states, we won 48. That is
23 completely unacceptable. And it's
24 really disappointing and disgusting

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2 that this body and these members
3 put out no statement. It's really
4 hurtful to the Jewish people of
5 Philadelphia that this rally was
6 allowed to happen and it was not
7 denounced by this body. Thank you,
8 thank you, thank you to the
9 Philadelphia Police Department for
10 the job they did yesterday during
11 the rally.

12 The other thing that
13 maybe you didn't realize was going
14 on last week or this week was the
15 \$20 million, right? \$20 million
16 was found by the Philadelphia
17 Sheriff's Office. Where's the
18 hearing --

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

20 JOHNSON: I don't mind you speaking
21 on the topic.

22 MR. BLATSTEIN: Yes,
23 sir.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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2 JOHNSON: Also, make it germane to
3 what's on the agenda.

4 MR. BLATSTEIN: We're
5 talking about the budget, right.
6 We're talking about some money
7 that's on the budget today on this
8 hearing, all bills and
9 resolutions --

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

11 JOHNSON: What budget number that
12 you're referring to the budget?

13 MR. BLASTEIN: We're
14 moving money, on the PIDC thing
15 today, right. We're moving money.
16 So in terms of the \$20 million,
17 where is this hearing on the
18 Sheriff's Office? And the last
19 thing, the Land Bank. That's
20 definitely on this -- the Land Bank
21 is on the agenda today, right,
22 we're moving land from the Land
23 Bank, sir.

24 There's rules and

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2 process that need to be followed.
3 Some members of this body don't
4 want to follow those rules and
5 processes when it comes to the
6 Philadelphia Land Bank. They want
7 to hold RCO meetings ahead of time.
8 Be careful. You might get yourself
9 in trouble.

10 Last but not least,
11 we're talking about SEPTA. Not a
12 single person participated in the
13 Week Without Driving. It would
14 have been nice to see more members
15 participate. Shout-out to State
16 Rep -- I mean State Senator Saval
17 who participated. Ride the ride,
18 Grow Philly to 2 Milly. And I
19 really, really, really would like
20 there to be a hearing on the
21 Philadelphia Sheriff's Office to
22 disband the Sheriff's Office.
23 Thank you.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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2 JOHNSON: Please proceed, sir.

3 MR. RIO: My name is

4 Sean Rio and I live in West

5 Philadelphia, Ward 27. I'm here to

6 speak in support of Resolution

7 260825. This is a resolution

8 honoring the Citywide Tenant union

9 of the Philadelphia Democratic

10 Socialists of America and tenants,

11 tenant leaders and tenant

12 organizers at the Emerson and

13 Florence Gardens who are organizing

14 to end rental junk fees and secure

15 basic tenants' rights and

16 protections in the City of

17 Philadelphia.

18 I am a tenant at the

19 Emerson and a member of the

20 Citywide Tenant Union. First, I

21 want to thank Councilmembers

22 O'Rourke, Brooks, Landau, Gauthier

23 and Phillips for introducing this

24 resolution. By passing this

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2 resolution, the City Council of
3 Philadelphia will stand strongly on
4 the side of tenants as we exercise
5 our rights to organize against a
6 greedy corporate landlord known as
7 New Age Realty Group.

8 I'm a proud
9 Philadelphian excited to live and
10 contribute to this beautiful city.
11 I deserve to live a dignified,
12 affordable life. I deserve to have
13 my rights respected. We all
14 deserve those things.
15 Unfortunately, corporate landlords
16 don't seem to care about us, our
17 quality of life, our financial
18 stability. All they care about is
19 making money. That's just what
20 corporations do. They will squeeze
21 as much money out of us as they
22 possibly can.

23 When I moved into the
24 Emerson, I had no idea there was

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2 organizing going on. But when I
3 learned about the union, I was
4 happy to join. It's the first time
5 I've ever lived in a building with
6 a tenant union, and it felt good
7 that I share a building with others
8 who recognize that the only way to
9 get our needs met is to come
10 together and build power.

11 We faced high utility
12 bills, prolonged elevator outages,
13 and egregious junk fees and we're
14 fed up. One week ago on October
15 1st, myself and over 40 tenants
16 across two New Age properties
17 launched a junk fee strike and
18 began withholding the mandatory
19 \$25-a-month charge. We are
20 demanding the elimination of junk
21 fees, which New Age Realty
22 Management has so happily named the
23 resident benefits package, for
24 which we are forced to pay \$300 per

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2 tenant each year for minimal
3 so-called benefits. Not only are
4 we asserting the right to withhold
5 the benefits package, we are asking
6 tenants to not rent from New Age
7 Realty Group in solidarity with
8 tenants and in support of our
9 demand for New Age to end junk fees
10 without increasing our rent.

11 It has been one week
12 since we launched our junk fee
13 strike, and we have heard nothing
14 from New Age groups, so our work
15 continues. Thank you to
16 Philadelphia City Council for
17 uplifting our struggle honoring our
18 work. I urge the Council to
19 support Resolution 260825. Thank
20 you.

21 MR. MILLER: Ben Scott
22 Miller. (Navajo translation), the
23 Delaware Tribe of Indians in
24 Bartlesville, Oklahoma. Hi. My

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2 name is Ben Scott Miller. I'm a
3 citizen of the Delaware Tribe of
4 Indians in Bartlesville, Oklahoma.
5 We're a fairly recognized tribe.
6 This is Lenapehoking, our homeland.

7 I've approached the
8 Council to ask you to adopt the
9 resolution to have Indigenous
10 Peoples' Day here in Philadelphia.
11 This is the birthplace of the
12 nation and it's time to build a
13 bridge to our communities. It will
14 open opportunities for not only the
15 Delaware people, but the community
16 here in Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania
17 and Philadelphia to work together,
18 to be together as a community.

19 It's very important that
20 we continue what our forefathers
21 started off at. I am the direct
22 lineage of Chief Tamanend and Chief
23 Killbuck, who fought in the
24 Revolutionary Army here in

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2 Pennsylvania. I'm here to speak
3 for my people and ask you to bring
4 and adopt Indigenous Peoples' Day
5 here in Pennsylvania, in
6 Philadelphia and lead the nation in
7 the rebirth. Wanishi.

8 MS. MEJIA: Hello. My
9 name is Carolin Mejia. I live and
10 work in Jamie Gauthier's 3rd
11 District, specifically the West
12 Powelton/North Haverford area. I'm
13 here in support of Councilmember
14 Brooks' privileged resolution
15 recognizing Indigenous Peoples'
16 Day, because recognizing this
17 important day is an opportunity for
18 Philadelphia to acknowledge the
19 Indigenous people, the histories,
20 the cultures and communities that
21 are part of this city that
22 contribute to its future as well.

23 I'm a proud Afro-
24 Caribbean young woman, born to

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2 loving parents from the Dominican
3 Republic and across the Latino
4 Diaspora, from my Puerto Rican
5 cousins to my Dominican siblings
6 that are somehow lighter than J-Lo,
7 but we have the same parents. I
8 don't know how that happened.

9 To my Mexican partner,
10 we are all a beautiful concoction
11 of African, European and Indigenous
12 ancestry. The European ancestry
13 that comes from colonization, the
14 African ancestry of the people who
15 were enslaved and brought to the
16 Americas through the Transatlantic
17 slave trade and the Indigenous
18 peoples who were here the whole
19 time and whose descendants,
20 cultures and communities are still
21 here today.

22 Here in Philly, we have
23 over 23,000 Indigenous people, a
24 large part of which are Puerto

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2 Ricans who really identify with
3 their roots. So I just want to
4 name that the history matters to me
5 and it matters to how we understand
6 ourselves and our communities and
7 the place that we call home.

8 Recognizing Indigenous Peoples' Day
9 also creates an opportunity for
10 education, community dialogue, and
11 continued partnership throughout
12 the year.

13 So I'm here with the
14 campaign to reinstate Indigenous
15 Peoples' Day. And we want this to
16 not just be one day that we
17 recognize it, but that we restore
18 it as an official city holiday
19 recognized every second Monday of
20 October. We have a petition signed
21 by over 1300 people in the Philly
22 area that also want a permanent
23 resolution or ordinance to
24 recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day.

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2 So please consider that. Yeah,
3 viva Puerto Rico libre. Gracias.

4 MS. STACY: My name is
5 Janice Stacy. I'm Dakota and
6 Cherokee descent. I also have
7 European ancestors. I'm a member
8 of the Indigenous Two-Spirit
9 Society and on the Board of
10 Directors of IPD Philly, which is
11 run out of here in Philadelphia.

12 I'm here today in
13 support of the privileged
14 resolution introduced by
15 Councilperson Brooks, recognizing
16 October 12, 2026 as Indigenous
17 Peoples' Day and in the City of
18 Philadelphia. I may not look it,
19 but I was born in the '50s, late
20 '50s. I'm only 12, right. I grew
21 up separated from my culture,
22 unlike many of the people you hear
23 from today that are registered
24 members of different nations. I'm

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2 a descendant thereof, right.

3 I learned practices,
4 words, and learned things from my
5 culture growing up and was told not
6 to tell someone so that my dad
7 could keep his job, so that the
8 family wouldn't be discriminated
9 against. Growing up that way
10 degraded my sense of self-worth,
11 and it degrades I think everybody's
12 sense of self-worth that grows up
13 that way. I found a way to deal
14 with it myself, but still live with
15 the impact. Got my engineering
16 degree and I work in fair housing
17 now.

18 Not everybody I know
19 have found a way to separate
20 society as a culture. We teach the
21 culture's life. Connecting our
22 people with our traditions and
23 ancestors is, in a good way, helps
24 us build a sense of self-worth. We

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2 can find ways of managing ever-
3 present cultural oppression.
4 Rather than internalizing that
5 oppression and bringing our people
6 back to the circle is one of the
7 ways the Two-Spirit Society helps
8 to heal people. And I'm on the
9 thing here in Philadelphia.

10 I'll skip that one. We
11 can do better. All right. Here in
12 Philadelphia, we still have people
13 telling me that I don't exist or my
14 people are extinct. And I've been
15 called inferior left and right. We
16 can do better. And I want to thank
17 you again for this resolution and
18 hope that we can pass a permanent
19 resolution in the future. Thank
20 you.

21 MS. ELIZALDE: My name
22 is Meredith Elizalde. This is my
23 son Nick Elizalde. He deserves
24 everyone to not be on their phones.

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2 Good afternoon. My name is
3 Meredith Elizalde and I'm here in
4 support of recognizing Indigenous
5 Peoples' Day in Philadelphia.
6 Today is my son Nick's birthday.
7 He would be 19. Nick was 14 when
8 he was killed in the mass shooting
9 at Roxborough High School.

10 His last birthday on
11 this earth fell on the long weekend
12 for Indigenous Peoples' Day. We
13 went to the Poconos. We had his
14 favorite dairy Queen Oreo blizzard
15 cake, and he told me how proud he
16 was that his birthday fell at that
17 time. Nick was proud of his
18 Indigenous heritage.

19 On his first 9th grade,
20 All About Me homework assignment at
21 Saul High School just weeks before
22 he was killed, he wrote about
23 Indigenous beliefs in our
24 interconnectedness with the more

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2 than human world. While Nick
3 attended Saul, he played football
4 for Roxborough High School, whose
5 mascot was the Indians. Nick
6 couldn't wrap his mind around why a
7 racist stereotype that would not be
8 tolerated for other groups was
9 still acceptable for Indigenous
10 people in sports. So I'm the
11 mascot, he asked me.

12 He died in that uniform.
13 I didn't know how to respond to him
14 while he was alive, but I surely
15 knew how after he was murdered.
16 After a vote, we successfully
17 changed the Roxborough Indians to
18 the Roxborough Wolves, next spirit
19 animal.

20 We also created a mural
21 and native plant garden at
22 Roxborough and I invite you to go
23 see it. I deliberately chose not
24 to put an image of Nick on that

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2 wall. Instead, the mural is made
3 of the things that he was, his
4 Indigenous, Latino, Arab and Muslim
5 heritage, the wolf, the sea turtle,
6 and nature so that other people
7 could find themselves there too.
8 No one lost anything by making room
9 for Nick.

10 We let go of a
11 stereotype and gained relationship,
12 knowledge and belonging. I saw
13 what that could look like on a much
14 larger scale. While teaching and
15 studying at the University of
16 Montana, Indian education for all
17 was required for educators and
18 mandated curriculum for all
19 students coming from the East
20 Coast. The difference was
21 extraordinary. Indigenous history,
22 knowledge, cultures and people were
23 visible throughout my community,
24 and everyone benefited from knowing

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2 more about the place where they
3 lived.

4 Colonialism and
5 capitalism have taught us to think
6 in terms of scarcity, that
7 recognizing one people somehow
8 takes something from another. The
9 distance colonialism created
10 between Indigenous peoples and
11 settler descendants does not have
12 to remain so wide. Knowledge and
13 relationship can narrow it. No
14 matter where your ancestors came
15 from before they became Americans,
16 they belonged to particular lands
17 and waters, communities and
18 traditions.

19 Those histories remind
20 us that relationship to place is
21 not foreign to any of us.
22 Indigenous peoples of the Americas
23 have faced centuries of deliberate
24 erasure, and yet they are still

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2 here in Philadelphia today, with
3 roots in Lenape, Hoking, the
4 Caribbean, Mexico, Central America
5 and South America.

6 Indigenous Peoples' Day
7 can recognize thousands of
8 Philadelphians whose identities
9 have too often been rendered
10 invisible. When more of us are
11 seen, our collective story gets
12 bigger, not smaller.

13 Philadelphia's public schools
14 already recognize Indigenous
15 Peoples' Day. Our children are
16 being taught that Indigenous
17 people, history and cultures
18 deserve recognition. What are we
19 teaching them if that recognition
20 ends when they walk out the school
21 doors.

22 I'm grateful for this
23 resolution, but it cannot be the
24 end of this conversation.

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2 Philadelphia must take the next
3 step and establish Indigenous
4 Peoples' Day permanently through
5 this ordinance. Indigenous
6 presence should not have to be
7 reaffirmed year after year. It
8 should simply -- my son has earned
9 this.

10 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS:

11 You --

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

13 JOHNSON: Let her wrap up, Lopez.
14 Go ahead, ma'am.

15 MS. ELIZALDE: I am
16 grateful for this resolution, but
17 it cannot be the end of this
18 conversation. Philadelphia must
19 take the next step and establish
20 Indigenous Peoples' Day permanently
21 through ordinance. Indigenous
22 presence should not have to be
23 reaffirmed year after year. It
24 should simply be part of who we

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2 understand ourselves to be as a
3 city.

4 Nick did not get to
5 decide what happened to him, but
6 those of us who walked the earth
7 with him do get to decide what we
8 carry forward from the life he
9 lived. I tried to answer the
10 question he asked me, so I'm the
11 mascot. My answer now is no, you
12 were never a mascot. You were a
13 child with a history, a culture, a
14 relationship to the living world,
15 and a way of understanding your
16 place within it. And you deserve
17 to see those things respected by
18 the institutions around you today.

19 On what would have been
20 Nick's 19th birthday, I'm asking
21 Philadelphia to offer that same
22 recognition to every Indigenous
23 child who comes after him and to
24 make it permanent. Thank you.

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2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

3 JOHNSON: Chair recognizes

4 Councilmember Isaiah Thomas.

5 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Oh,

6 I'm sorry, Council President. I

7 just would like to be recorded as

8 voting aye on all bills and

9 resolutions and amendments that I

10 may have missed.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

12 JOHNSON: It shall be recorded.

13 COUNCILMAN THOMAS:

14 Thank you, Mr. President.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

16 JOHNSON: Please proceed.

17 MS. FORD: Hi. My name

18 is Gabrielle Ford. Thank you for

19 hearing me speak today. I am a New

20 Jersey resident living just five

21 minutes away from the Walt Whitman

22 Bridge. Philadelphia is a city

23 that is very near and dear to my

24 heart as well as my families. I

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2 often work in Queen Village and I
3 volunteer with different nonprofits
4 around Philadelphia.

5 I am here representing
6 Indigenous Peoples' Day in Philly.
7 I am in support of Councilmember
8 Brooks' privileged resolution
9 recognizing Indigenous Peoples'
10 Day, reinstating Indigenous
11 Peoples' Day as a permanent city
12 holiday is meaningful to me. For
13 these reasons, this is my son, I am
14 raising a son with beautiful brown
15 skin, and I want him to know that
16 people who look like him deserve to
17 be represented and celebrated just
18 as much as people who do not.

19 I have been deeply
20 saddened to witness history
21 repeating itself, such as forced
22 removals. I truly believe that if
23 our governmental leaders serve
24 their community by holding equality

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2 to a higher bar, our communities
3 will be more welcoming and safe to
4 our children. I want my son to be
5 surrounded by cultures that value
6 integrity, sustainability, history,
7 equality and kindness. These are
8 some incredible values that I have
9 witnessed in the Indigenous
10 communities, and I want my son to
11 know and to grow up in a country
12 that values him, true history and
13 its people.

14 I would love to see the
15 City of Philadelphia recognize,
16 value, learn from Indigenous
17 communities that have been here for
18 thousands of years, and can
19 contribute so much from their
20 beautiful cultures to this country.
21 Thank you.

22 THE CLERK: Will Marie
23 Manski, Sonya Hough, Sonoma Hough,
24 Mabel Negrete Alfaro, Eugene.

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2 Black Crow, Ogbonna Paul Hagins,
3 Lynn Landes, Jared Winters and
4 Areyonna Adavia Tompkins, please
5 make your way to the podium.

6 (Witnesses approached
7 podium.)

8 MS. MANSKI: Good
9 morning, Council. My name is Marie
10 Manski. I am of European and
11 Middle Eastern heritage. I'm a
12 resident of Point Breeze in
13 District 2, Lenape Land. And I'm
14 testifying today in full support of
15 making Indigenous Peoples' Day an
16 official holiday, a permanent city
17 holiday on the second Monday of
18 every October.

19 We are living through a
20 unique moment defined by
21 overlapping crises in our
22 environment and our education
23 system and how we navigate
24 information and truth. These

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2 crises are deeply rooted in
3 centuries of colonial frameworks
4 that prioritized extraction over
5 stewardship, displacement over
6 belonging and hierarchy over care.

7 We simply cannot solve
8 our modern challenges using the
9 very mindsets that created them.
10 Indigenous communities hold
11 centuries of lived wisdom,
12 environmental balance, community
13 care and sustainable leadership.
14 Establishing this holiday is far
15 more than a symbolic gesture. It
16 is an active commitment to center
17 Indigenous voices and follow their
18 lead.

19 Supporting the original
20 stewards of this land is not merely
21 appropriate. It is the bare
22 minimum we owe them. Every culture
23 carries a story, but progress
24 begins when we choose to listen.

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2 We truly listen, we honor history,
3 we restore dignity, we plant the
4 seeds for genuine collaboration.
5 There's a proverb that tells us the
6 best time to plant a tree was 20
7 years ago. The second best time is
8 now.

9 We are all in this room
10 today because we share a call to
11 build a better, more just
12 Philadelphia. We get to choose
13 what side of history we stand on.
14 Making Indigenous Peoples' Day an
15 official permanent city holiday is
16 an essential step towards truth,
17 respect and healing. And the time
18 to plant that seed is now. Thank
19 you.

20 MS. HOUGH: Good
21 morning. My name is Sonoma Hough.
22 I'm a 10th grade student and I'm
23 here today to support the
24 privileged resolution of by

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2 Councilmember Brooks recognizing
3 Indigenous Peoples' Day. I am here
4 as an Indigenous young person and
5 as someone who has grown up
6 surrounded by my culture, my family
7 and the Indigenous community.

8 On October 12th,
9 Indigenous people from many
10 different tribal communities will
11 come together at Penn Treaty Park.
12 They will bring their own stories,
13 traditions, clothing, art, food and
14 culture to share with the
15 Philadelphia community. My
16 personal favorite part is the fry
17 bread, which is homemade by a
18 Native family every year.

19 But what I love most is
20 seeing hundreds of Indigenous and
21 non-indigenous people who come
22 together to celebrate. Throughout
23 my childhood, I've watched my mom
24 who put her soul into advocating

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2 for Native communities. And I've
3 grown up seeing how important it is
4 to speak up and make sure
5 Indigenous people are represented
6 to keep our cultures visible.

7 Now, I feel like it's my
8 turn to be an activist. Every year
9 elementary school students,
10 Indigenous and non-Indigenous come
11 to our celebration. They learn,
12 ask questions, participate, and
13 experience Indigenous cultures, as
14 something Living in present, not
15 simply something from a history
16 book.

17 Recognizing Indigenous
18 Peoples' Day tells Indigenous young
19 people like me, our cultures, our
20 communities and our history
21 matters. I'm asking City Council
22 to support this resolution to
23 ensure that Indigenous Peoples' Day
24 continues to be recognized on the

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2 second Monday of October. Thank
3 you.

4 MS. HOUGH: I'm so proud
5 of my baby. She's only 15 and that
6 was a good job. I'm a lobbyist by
7 trade so I'm so proud of her. Good
8 morning, Council President and
9 members of the Council. My name is
10 Sonya Hough and today I am
11 supporting of course, everybody
12 else behind me, the Councilmember
13 Brooks' privileged resolution to
14 instate Indigenous Peoples' Day.
15 So this land is Lenape --

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
17 JOHNSON: Could you speak into the
18 microphone please.

19 MS. HOUGH: -- the land
20 of my people. I am a member of the
21 Delaware Tribe of Indians. I was
22 raised in Oklahoma on Cherokee
23 Nation Reservation. I ended up
24 back in the Homelands, which my

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2 grandparents would be so proud of
3 me. I currently live in Chester
4 County, and then I work in advocacy
5 in Philadelphia.

6 So I just want to say,
7 you know, Philadelphia has really
8 tried to get this right. The city
9 designated Indigenous Peoples' Day
10 in 2021. And then last year, we
11 all know the Commonwealth Court
12 ruled that the change was an
13 exercise of legislative authority
14 that belongs to you, the City
15 Council. And that's where the
16 decision is now and where it should
17 be, with you.

18 So I've spent 25 years
19 working in government and public
20 policy. So I know resolutions and
21 holidays can sometimes be dismissed
22 as symbolic, but symbols actually
23 matter and they're a really good
24 step in the right direction. They

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2 tell people whose history is
3 recognized, whose presence is
4 acknowledged and whose story is
5 considered part of the public
6 record. And Indigenous people are
7 not simply part of Philadelphia's
8 history. We are here now. This
9 resolution recognizes Lenape, my
10 people on whose homeland this city
11 was built, and the many Native
12 people who call Philadelphia home
13 today.

14 Native kids in the city
15 are watching what you honor. Tell
16 them, their neighbors, not just
17 footnotes in history. I
18 respectfully urge you to pass this
19 resolution and to make it a
20 permanent annual recognition.
21 Thank you.

22 MR. BLACK: Good
23 morning, Councilmembers, and thank
24 you for allowing me to speak today.

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2 My name is Eugene Black and I'm a
3 Lakota from Oglala Sioux Tribe. I
4 live and work in North Philadelphia
5 in Councilmember Young's 5th
6 District. I'm a Board member of
7 the Indigenous Peoples' Day. I am
8 here to support Councilmember
9 Brooks' resolution recognizing
10 October 12, 2026 as Indigenous
11 Peoples' Day in Philadelphia.

12 I believe this
13 resolution is an important step.
14 It cannot be the final step.
15 Permanent recognition should be
16 more than a date on the calendar.
17 Let it be a doorway, a doorway to
18 deeper education, stronger
19 relationships with tribal nations,
20 and a Philadelphia where Indigenous
21 people are welcomed, respected and
22 part of the life of this day of the
23 city throughout the entire year.
24 We thank Councilmember Brooks,

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2 Councilmember O'Rourke,
3 Councilmember Johnson,
4 Councilmember Phillips,
5 Councilmember Gauthier,
6 Councilmember Thomas, Councilmember
7 Jones, Councilmember Landau,
8 Councilmember Lozada, Councilmember
9 Young, Councilmember Harrity,
10 Councilmember Squilla,
11 Councilmember Bass for standing
12 with the resolution and helping
13 open that door for our community.
14 This is about more than
15 recognition. It's about truth,
16 dignity, belonging, and
17 relationship.
18 Our ancestors carried
19 these teachings through
20 generations. They endured, they
21 survived, and they kept our
22 knowledge alive so that we could
23 stand here today. Now, it is our
24 responsibility to carry the

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2 knowledge forward, not only for
3 ourselves, but for the generations
4 who will come after us. Let this
5 be the beginning of a new chapter
6 in Philadelphia, one where the
7 Lenape are not simply remembered as
8 the people of the past, but
9 welcomed as Indigenous people with
10 living presence and right place in
11 the future of the city.

12 We ask you walk with us
13 and make your recognition
14 permanent, open the door wider,
15 build a relationship, teach the
16 youth and together let us take the
17 next step towards truth and
18 reconciliation. (Navajo
19 translation). Thank you.

20 MS. NEGRETE: Good
21 morning, Councilmembers, and thank
22 you for allowing me to speak today.
23 My name is Mabel Negrete and I'm a
24 Chilean of Inca heritage. I live

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2 and work in North Philadelphia in
3 Councilmember Young's 5th District.
4 I am the Executive Director and
5 co-founder of Indigenous Peoples'
6 Day Philly. I am here to support
7 Councilmember Brooks' resolution
8 recognizing October 12, 2026 as
9 Indigenous Peoples' Day in
10 Philadelphia.

11 For nearly ten years,
12 our organizations have worked to
13 make Indigenous Peoples' Day
14 visible, heard and recognized in
15 the city we call home. Our annual
16 celebration at Penn Treaty Park
17 honors the Lenape, the Delaware
18 Tribes, the People of this land as
19 well as the Indigenous peoples from
20 across America who live here today.

21 This is not simply about
22 one day. It is about recognizing
23 Indigenous peoples in our history
24 as a permanent part of Philadelphia

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2 history. Today I'm also here on
3 behalf of the 1300 people who have
4 signed a petition supporting the
5 permanent reinstatement of
6 Indigenous Peoples' Day as a
7 Philadelphia city holiday.

8 We respectfully ask
9 Council to take this next step
10 beyond this year's resolution to
11 introduce and pass a permanent
12 ordinance reestablishing Indigenous
13 Peoples' Day as an official city
14 holiday every year observed on the
15 second Monday of October. But this
16 step is only one part of the larger
17 work for truth and reconciliation.

18 We must ensure that the
19 Lenape represented today by the
20 Delaware Tribe are welcome. We
21 also need to move forward toward a
22 future where every school in
23 Philadelphia teaches the history,
24 cultures and contemporary lives of

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2 Native peoples in Philadelphia.
3 Indigenous peoples are not only
4 part of the past. Indigenous
5 peoples from across the island of
6 the Caribbean created and organized
7 and contributed to the city today.

8 MR. HAGINS: Good
9 morning. My name is Ogbonna Hagins
10 and I'm a fourth-generation chattel
11 slavery survivor. I really want to
12 say how inspired I was by
13 Councilwoman Quetcy Lozada. Last
14 week when I was speaking about the
15 minimum wage and how you came out
16 and told me how much in support you
17 really are of that \$25 minimum
18 wage, so I wanted to let you know
19 how you inspired me about that.

20 But I want to ask
21 Council President if his office is
22 willing to work with my
23 organization to develop with the
24 proper legislative language,

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2 constitutional framing, and
3 community support necessary to
4 advance the minimum wage structure
5 that reflects Philadelphia's actual
6 cost of living. So that's the
7 question that I'm posing to Council
8 President this morning.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

10 JOHNSON: On a topic or a
11 particular question?

12 MR. HAGINS: I wanted to
13 ask that question.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

15 JOHNSON: Oh, you can speak to my
16 Tech team and then I will follow up
17 with you in regards to if we decide
18 to engage you or not at all. You
19 can talk to my Chief of Staff by
20 the name of John Christmas on any
21 legislative matters.

22 MR. HAGINS: Got you.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

24 JOHNSON: Thank you. Thank you

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2 very much, sir.

3 MS. LANDES: Hi. I'm

4 Lynn Landes of the Phillies

5 Republican Network. I want to

6 support Councilman Phillips'

7 Resolution 260819. But I do want

8 to correct the record a little bit.

9 The infestation of rats and mice

10 are everywhere in this city and

11 it's in my neighborhood behind my

12 house. And we put all our trash

13 away. There's no illegal dumping.

14 But one thing I want to

15 say is that the neighborhoods that

16 have outdoor cats don't seem to

17 have this problem. And we used to

18 have outdoor cats, but somehow they

19 disappeared over time.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

21 JOHNSON: And the rats, like in

22 South Philly we have raccoons and

23 it has never been like that all my

24 life.

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2 MS. LANDES: Yeah. So
3 at any rate, the idea is to use
4 nature against nature and some of
5 the organizations that provide
6 working cats, they're called only
7 to provide them to farms or big
8 businesses and warehouses and
9 things like that and not for
10 neighborhoods like ours. I did
11 notice that it is legal to have an
12 outdoor cat in Philadelphia, as
13 long as it's neutered and a good
14 idea to have it shipped.

15 That's what our
16 neighborhood is looking at because
17 we have a neighbor who came from
18 Brooklyn in New York City and they
19 had outdoor cats and they didn't
20 have any mice or rat problems at
21 all. So that's what I would
22 suggest, is that the city look at
23 this issue of using outdoor cats
24 and let's learn about this together

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2 because it did work for us. Some
3 people behind us did have an
4 outdoor cat, but one of the
5 neighbors sued it and then it was
6 gone. And also from personal
7 experience, a very expensive bottle
8 of bobcat urine spray does not
9 work. We need the cats in our
10 neighborhoods. Thank you.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

12 JOHNSON: Thank you, Lynn.

13 Chair recognizes
14 Councilmember Cindy Bass.

15 COUNCILWOMAN BASS:

16 Thank you, Mr. President.

17 As a Board member of
18 ACCT Animal Care and Control here
19 in the city of Philadelphia, I felt
20 compelled to respond to that. Very
21 well meaning, but in my opinion
22 misinformed, the statement around
23 outdoor cats. There's no such
24 thing as outdoor cats, but they are

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2 stray cats. And we know that in
3 the city of Philadelphia, we have a
4 lot of populations of stray cats
5 that are much more likely to be
6 injured or killed and have very
7 short life expectancy.

8 So we don't want to
9 encourage the proliferation of
10 "outdoor cats or stray cats." But
11 I'd be happy to talk to Lynn to
12 help her find some remedy. But I
13 certainly want to be clear that
14 that's not something that's a good
15 remedy for our neighborhoods.

16 Thank you,
17 Mr. President.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

19 JOHNSON: You're welcome, Member
20 Bass.

21 Sir, please proceed.

22 MR. WINTERS: Hello. My
23 name is Jared Winters. I am here
24 in support of Resolution 260825

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2 about the junk fees and tenants'
3 rights. I just have a little
4 speech I prepared. How are you all
5 doing today? Doing good, cool
6 cool, cool. So roughly a month
7 ago, I received an email from New
8 Age Realty, the company that
9 manages my building.

10 And the email read that
11 with -- or when a 55-inch Samsung
12 flat screen TV to share your
13 residence benefits experience.
14 That email described all of the
15 benefits included within the
16 \$25-a-month package that I am
17 unable to opt out of regardless of
18 whether or not I am receiving those
19 benefits. And I can win a fancy TV
20 if I tell them how much I love it.

21 Well, some of those
22 benefits include damage
23 reimbursement, which is funny
24 considering that we also are

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2 required to have a rental insurance
3 as well, \$250 towards emergency
4 hotel stays -- something I've never
5 seen, I'll get to that later --
6 late fee forgiveness twice per
7 month, which when our human side
8 catches up to us and we have been
9 late, we have never seen that
10 either, and my favorite, a discount
11 on property brokerage, if we were
12 to ever buy a house through New
13 Age, because why not advertise to
14 the poor people that you take
15 advantage of.

16 The irony for me was
17 that as I received this email, me
18 and my roommate were in the process
19 of moving from one apartment in the
20 Florence Garden building to another
21 as a result of our basement unit
22 having dangerous levels of mold,
23 tested by a private company hired
24 by New Age. And we didn't see \$250

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2 or a hotel. We were just -- or
3 when the mold was discovered, we
4 were instead asked do you have a
5 friend you can stay with or do you
6 just want to end the lease now.

7 We asked if there was a
8 different apartment nearby that we
9 could move to and they did end
10 up -- sorry, I lost my place. I'm
11 very nervous. Living situation,
12 nearly a month and a half. We have
13 been in that other apartment and
14 they told us 30 days at most.
15 Although I don't see that ending
16 any time soon. I've hit my time,
17 but my speech isn't over. But
18 again, thank you for letting me
19 speak and thank you for your
20 consideration.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

22 JOHNSON: Thank you, sir.

23 THE CLERK: Will Brett
24 Ashley Robinson, Eve Hyppolite,

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2 Michael Wise, Kevin Fennell, Tierra
3 Murray and Christian Gant Madison,
4 please make your way to the podium.

5 (Witnesses approached
6 podium.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

8 JOHNSON: Please proceed.

9 MS. TOMPKINS: Hello,
10 everybody. My name is Areyonna
11 Adavia Tompkins and I'm a youth
12 peer specialist with the National
13 Alliance on Mental Illness or NAMI
14 Philadelphia. And I am here in
15 support of the resolution
16 recognizing World Mental Health Day
17 and National Depression Screening
18 Day.

19 So in both my personal
20 life and my work life, working with
21 youth and families across
22 Philadelphia, I see every day how
23 early recognition, access to care
24 and mental health awareness can

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2 change and just truly save lives.

3 When I share my own journey, people
4 tend to listen. They listen or
5 lean in. They listen and they see
6 that strength and resilience are
7 possible and that talking openly
8 about mental health helps break the
9 stigma for everyone.

10 And let's be honest, we
11 all go through something, right.
12 But what I'm experiencing does not
13 lessen what you are experiencing.
14 So it's important to have the
15 avenues of support and access to
16 care that we need. And that's why
17 these conversations matter.
18 Depression screenings and education
19 are not just clinical tools. They
20 are pathways to safety, connection
21 and hope. So this resolution
22 matters because it benefits
23 community members in every
24 neighborhood across Philadelphia,

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2 whether someone lives in North
3 Philly, West Philly, South, the
4 Northeast and even Center City.

5 Mental health challenges
6 touch every block and every family.
7 So by uplifting mental health
8 awareness citywide, we can help
9 ensure that no young person, adult
10 or caregiver feels alone or unsure
11 where to turn. Recognizing these
12 days sends a powerful message.
13 Speaking up is strength. Help is
14 available, and Philadelphia is
15 committed to destigmatizing mental
16 health so all residents can get the
17 access and the support that they
18 deserve. And thank you all for
19 your time, support and willingness
20 to support a good cause. Thank
21 you.

22 MS. ROBINSON: My name
23 is Brett Ashley Robinson and I'm
24 speaking on the resolution

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2 celebrating the 30th anniversary of
3 Fringe Arts. I'm a 2021 Pew
4 fellow, a member of the HotHouse,
5 the resident acting company at the
6 Tony Award-winning Wilma Theatre, a
7 company member of Applied
8 Mechanics, an immersive theatre
9 company based here in Philadelphia
10 and one of the current Greenfield
11 resident artists here at Fringe
12 Arts.

13 The Fringe Festival
14 isn't just an arts organization or
15 a program, it's a civic
16 infrastructure for Philly artists.
17 No other arts event involves such a
18 huge percentage of Philadelphia's
19 creative community. Over 1000
20 performers, designers and
21 technicians all bringing their work
22 to the public fringe creates a hub
23 of cross-pollination.

24 Younger artists are

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2 creating and performing in some of
3 their first original works, seeing
4 their teachers meeting with more
5 established artists and their peers
6 in the same buildings while they
7 produce work as well. It's an
8 opportunity to develop and create
9 new ideas and experiment with new
10 styles. All art needs a space for
11 incubation, a place to move a
12 creative idea into a performance.
13 Fringe is that space, and it has
14 been for me as an artist.

15 My solo work has been
16 performed at Jack New York, Ars
17 Nova and Portland Center Stage and
18 had its first performance here in
19 Philadelphia. Fringe is a
20 powerful, creative moment. It
21 creates the opportunity to perform,
22 see and support work in a way that
23 breaks down the traditional silos
24 of Philadelphia arts.

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2 The atmosphere of the
3 festival makes Fringe incredibly
4 special. The potential of running
5 into friends unexpectedly grabbing
6 a last-minute ticket to a show you
7 were dying to see, being shocked by
8 how you love something or delighted
9 by a sleeper hit the electricity in
10 the air is created by this event.
11 Fringe acts both as a platform for
12 Philadelphians to tell their own
13 stories and as an amplifier,
14 building awareness for these
15 artists among a huge and still
16 growing audience. Thank you all so
17 much.

18 MS. HYPPOLITE: Hi. My
19 name is Eve Hyppolite and I too am
20 speaking on the resolution
21 celebrating the 30th year of Fringe
22 Arts. I'd like to first thank
23 Councilmember Rue Landau for
24 recognizing Fringe Arts and the

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2 30th year anniversary of the
3 Philadelphia Fringe Festival.

4 And one of the things I
5 value most about Fringe is the way
6 that it helps build the next
7 generation of arts and audiences.
8 As you just heard from Brett, it's
9 an incredible platform to really
10 not only foster a space of
11 community, but an experience that
12 is memorable, meaningful and
13 extremely fringy.

14 More than 50% of our
15 audience is made up of Millennials,
16 Gen Zs, and nearly twice the
17 average of performing arts
18 organizations in Philadelphia.
19 Fringe offers an accessible,
20 inclusive and genuinely fun entry
21 point for people who may be
22 experiencing Philadelphia's
23 performing arts scene for the first
24 time, but its impact extends beyond

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2 the audience.

3 It also gives artists
4 and performers a space to take
5 creative risks, reach new people
6 and build deeper connections within
7 the Philadelphia's creative
8 community. The exchange between
9 artists and audiences is what makes
10 Fringe so special. A first
11 performance can become a long life
12 relationship with the arts, which
13 is extremely important, as we all
14 know.

15 I'm sure we've all had
16 interfaces with arts, music and all
17 of the creative aspects of life.
18 So by investing in both artists and
19 audiences, Fringe is helping ensure
20 that Philadelphia remains a vibrant
21 arts city for generations to come.
22 Thank you.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

24 JOHNSON: Thank you.

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2 MR. MADISON: Good

3 morning, everyone. My name is

4 Christian Madison and I'm the

5 founder of Change the Narrative, a

6 nonprofit focused on advancing AI

7 literacy and civic education to

8 empower Philly residents. I want

9 to start by thanking everyone,

10 regardless of your political

11 affiliation, for being present here

12 today, civically engaged, because

13 this is what keeps our city and our

14 country going.

15 I rise here today to

16 express my support for Resolution

17 No. 260825. The tenants affected

18 deserve recognition for organizing,

19 but I also want to respectfully

20 challenge this Council because a

21 resolution is not legislation. The

22 resolution calls upon the landlord

23 to negotiate with the tenants,

24 which is worthwhile. But if

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2 Council believes that "junk fees
3 are fundamentally unfair," then why
4 should Philadelphia's tenants have
5 to win this fight?

6 Building by building
7 Council has the ability, through
8 legislation, to establish a clear,
9 citywide standard for landlords and
10 tenants alike, to remove any
11 ambiguity. And I think this
12 question goes beyond junk fees. We
13 are living through a moment of
14 historical juncture, a battle for
15 the soul of the country, along with
16 the existential threats posed by
17 artificial intelligence.

18 Although I disagree with
19 the broader political ideology of
20 the DSA, I empathize with the
21 sentiments behind their advocacy,
22 along with those of other groups
23 across the ideological spectrum.
24 They have made their voices heard

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2 in this chamber. People are
3 frustrated. And right now, that
4 frustration is increasingly
5 manifested in ideological extremes
6 due to the ineffectiveness of
7 establishment governance.
8 Politics, as usual, won't suffice
9 for the challenges of our day.

10 I argue that local
11 government matters more than ever,
12 precisely because so much is
13 uncertain at the federal level and
14 across the globe. At a time when
15 cities across the country are
16 confronting issues of
17 affordability, technological
18 disruption brought on by AI, and
19 declining faith in institutions,
20 Philadelphia can demonstrate what
21 effective local governance looks
22 like, whether it's input from
23 Democrats, DSA members, Republicans
24 or the Working Families Party.

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2 We can show that

3 ideological differences don't have
4 to prevent practical action.

5 Prudence should be exercised to
6 translate communal input into
7 policy and institutions that move
8 the city forward and protect
9 everyone, not just those who have
10 the ability to organize. And I'll
11 end here. Philadelphia, the
12 birthplace of our great nation, 250
13 years in the making, has the
14 opportunity to be a model for the
15 country and by extension, the
16 world, as we enter into this new
17 historical epoch. But that will
18 require more than resolutions. It
19 will require the courage to
20 legislate and the urgency to meet
21 the demands of the moment. Thank
22 you.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

24 JOHNSON: Very well said. Thank

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2 you, young man. He might be
3 running for office one day. Very
4 well said.

5 Please proceed.

6 MR. MURRAY: Hello. My
7 name is Tariq Murray and I'll be
8 reflecting on Bill 250768,
9 presented by Jamie Gauthier last
10 year. This bill is reflecting on
11 how we're going to be disposing of
12 waste and basically terminating any
13 possibility that we could ever use
14 waste fuel resources.

15 I want to start by
16 mentioning something that I saw
17 this morning. I did see an
18 advisory this morning that the
19 Wissahickon rivers and waterways
20 are no longer able to fish in
21 because of contamination by forever
22 chemicals. That is a fact, that
23 our airways and our waterways are
24 being contaminated. But it is also

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2 a fact that Singapore and Japan are
3 ranked No. 7 and No. 8 eight in the
4 quality of life per current U.S.
5 News reports. And Japan is
6 actually rated No. 1 for life
7 expectancy.

8 These nations heavily --
9 well, let me not overexceed myself.
10 They regularly utilize waste-to-
11 energy resources as well as
12 Australia and many other high-
13 performing nations when it comes to
14 the quality of life and longevity
15 of their people. My concern with
16 this bill is that I love the idea
17 that we are finally addressing
18 major corporations like ReWorld,
19 but this bill sadly lacks
20 specificity. It lacks deadlines
21 and it lacks parameters.

22 Now, I understand that
23 this bill has been introduced last
24 year. I totally need and I think

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2 we all need to be stopped. But I
3 do believe that we should not
4 proverbially shoot ourselves in the
5 foot for our bills that we all know
6 are getting higher. The fossil
7 fuels that we currently use to
8 source our fuel as well as our
9 electricity as well as pretty much
10 so many different things under the
11 sun, which is a vicious beast that
12 compounds upon itself.

13 I only have a little bit
14 of time left, but I need us to
15 recognize that this also is not
16 necessarily have to be a costly
17 endeavor. I can already hear this
18 brainstorming and suddenly the
19 dollar signs start to come up. I
20 really hope that we can look at
21 this as a matter of effort and
22 attention focus, and that we can
23 get something done somewhat in the
24 spirit of what Councilman Squilla

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2 presented of preventing, providing
3 alternatives to traditional waste
4 management. That is my time.
5 Thank you.

6 MR. SMALL: Good
7 morning, everybody. My name is
8 William Small and I am a member of
9 Philly Red. I'm challenging
10 legislation 260825. Something
11 about the tenants union and the
12 Democrat Socialists of America put
13 together in the same sentence just
14 doesn't sit right with me. This
15 seems like another political ploy.

16 Now, I understand we
17 have two members on our Council
18 that align themselves with the
19 Democratic Socialists of America.
20 And because of that, that's why I
21 oppose this bill. The Democratic
22 Socialists of America, Megan Romer,
23 that is their Chair. She came out
24 and she said that sexual offences

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2 against women and children were
3 crimes of poverty.

4 Now, the Councilman that
5 put this legislation forward, he's
6 with them and that just doesn't sit
7 right with me because I've been in
8 poverty my entire life. I know
9 people that was in poverty and
10 they've never committed a sexual
11 crime against women and children
12 because they were in poverty.

13 These people are very radical, and
14 you see what's going on in New
15 York.

16 All the Councilmembers
17 here that align themselves with the
18 Democratic Party beware because
19 they are coming for your seats.
20 You guys let the fox in the
21 henhouse and now he's running wild.
22 And it's nothing that you can do
23 about it. They're bringing
24 socialists from all over our

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2 country to come here and take all
3 of your seats. So I advise any
4 legislation that these two
5 Councilmembers O'Rourke and Kendra
6 Brooks put forward, I advise you
7 guys to go against it because it
8 will come back to bite you in the
9 end. Thank you.

10 THE CLERK: Honor to our
11 Council President, that concludes
12 our listing for the public comment
13 for today.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
15 JOHNSON: We will now consider
16 resolutions on the Final Passage
17 Calendar and bills on the Second
18 Reading and Final Passage Calendar.

19 Will the Clerk please
20 read the title of Resolution No.
21 260766-A.

22 THE CLERK: A resolution
23 also naming the 200 block of South
24 50th Street as "Monumental Way" to

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2 honor the legacy and impact of the
3 Monumental Baptist Church on the
4 Walnut Hill community.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

6 JOHNSON: Chair recognizes the
7 Majority Leader Katherine Gilmore
8 Richardson who will provide a
9 motion on behalf of Councilmember
10 Jamie Gauthier regarding Resolution
11 No. 260766-A.

12 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

13 RICHARDSON: Thank you,
14 Mr. President.

15 On behalf of
16 Councilmember, I move the adoption
17 of the resolution.

18 (Duly seconded.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

20 JOHNSON: It has been moved and
21 properly seconded that Resolution
22 No. 260766-A be adopted.

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

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2 aye.

3 (Aye.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

5 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

6 (No response.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

8 JOHNSON: The ayes have it. The
9 motion carries. The resolution is
10 adopted.

11 Will the Clerk please
12 read the title of Resolution No.
13 260819.

14 THE CLERK: A resolution
15 urging the Philadelphia Department
16 of Public Health, Department of
17 Licenses and Inspections,
18 Department of Sanitation, and other
19 appropriate city agencies to
20 immediately prioritize and
21 coordinate efforts to address the
22 growing rodent infestation in the
23 Lower Northeast section of
24 Philadelphia, and to treat the

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2 current conditions as an urgent
3 public health and quality-of-life
4 emergency requiring immediate City
5 action.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
7 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes
8 Councilmember Dr. Anthony Phillips
9 for a motion regarding Resolution
10 No. 260819.

11 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:
12 For the residents of Lower
13 Northeast, I enthusiastically move
14 for the adoption of this
15 resolution.

16 (Duly seconded.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
18 JOHNSON: It has been moved and
19 properly seconded that Resolution
20 No. 260819 be adopted.

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

24 (Aye.)

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2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

3 JOHNSON: Anyone opposed?

4 (No response.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

6 JOHNSON: The ayes have it. The
7 motion carries. The resolution is
8 adopted.

9 Will the Clerk please
10 read the title of Resolution No.
11 260821.

12 THE CLERK: A resolution
13 also naming the 700 block of North
14 47th Street as "Men of Mill Creek
15 Way" to honor the legacy and impact
16 of the Men of Mill Creek on the
17 Mill Creek community.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

19 JOHNSON: Chair recognizes
20 Councilmember Majority Leader
21 Katherine Gilmore Richardson to
22 make a motion on behalf of
23 Councilmember Jamie Gauthier on
24 Resolution No. 260821.

Stated Meeting

1 10/8/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

3 RICHARDSON: Thank you,

4 Mr. President.

5 On behalf of

6 Councilmember Gauthier, I move the

7 adoption of the resolution.

8 (Duly seconded.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

10 JOHNSON: It has been moved and

11 properly seconded that Resolution

12 No. 260821 be adopted.

13 All those in favor of

14 the motion will signify by saying

15 aye.

16 (Aye.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

18 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

19 (No response.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

21 JOHNSON: The ayes have it. The

22 motion carries. The resolution is

23 adopted.

24 Would the Clerk please

Stated Meeting

1 10/8/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 read the title of Resolution No.

3 260822.

4 THE CLERK: A resolution

5 renaming the 5200 block of

6 Lancaster Avenue "Sharif El-Mekki

7 Way" to honor Sharif El-Mekki and

8 his decades of distinguished

9 service to Philadelphia students,

10 educators, schools and communities.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

12 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes

13 Councilmember Curtis Jones, Jr. for

14 a motion regarding Resolution No.

15 260822.

16 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank

17 you, Mr. President.

18 In the tradition of

19 people like Bob, as an early

20 educator in the Charter school

21 movement, always fought for

22 inclusion of minority teachers, I

23 move for the adoption.

24 (Duly seconded.)

Stated Meeting

1 10/8/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

3 JOHNSON: It has been moved and
4 properly seconded that Resolution
5 No. 260822 be adopted.

6 All those in favor
7 signify by saying aye.

8 (Aye.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

10 JOHNSON: Anyone opposed?
11 (No response.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

13 JOHNSON: The ayes have it. The
14 resolution is adopted.

15 Chief Clerk, please read
16 the title of Resolution No. 260825.

17 THE CLERK: A resolution
18 honoring the Citywide Tenant Union
19 of Philadelphia Democratic
20 Socialists of America and tenants,
21 tenant leaders and tenant
22 organizers at the Emerson and
23 Florence Gardens, who are
24 organizing to end rental junk fees

Stated Meeting

1 10/8/26 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 and secure basic tenants' rights
3 and protections in the City of
4 Philadelphia.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

6 JOHNSON: Chair recognizes
7 Councilmember Nicolas O'Rourke for
8 the adoption of the resolution.

9 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE:

10 Thank you, Mr. 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. 260825 be adopted.

18 All those in favor
19 signify by saying aye.

20 (Aye.)

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

22 JOHNSON: Anyone opposed?

23 (No response.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Stated Meeting

1 10/8/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

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

5 Will the Clerk please
6 read the title of Resolution No.
7 260826.

8 THE CLERK: A resolution
9 authorizing the Philadelphia Land
10 Bank to dispose of 2751 Kensington
11 Avenue located in the 1st
12 Councilmanic District in accordance
13 with the terms of Chapter 16-700 of
14 The Philadelphia Code.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

16 JOHNSON: Chair recognizes
17 Councilmember Mark Squilla for a
18 motion on the resolution.

19 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA:

20 Thank you, Mr. President.

21 I move for adoption of
22 the resolution.

23 (Duly seconded.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Stated Meeting

1 10/8/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 JOHNSON: It has been moved and
3 properly seconded that Resolution
4 No. 260826 be adopted.

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

8 (Aye.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

10 JOHNSON: Anyone opposed?

11 (No response.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

13 JOHNSON: The ayes have it. The
14 resolution is adopted.

15 Will the Clerk please
16 read the title of Resolution No.
17 260827.

18 THE CLERK: A resolution
19 designating the week of Sunday,
20 October 11 through Saturday,
21 October 17, 2026, as "Italian
22 American Heritage Week" in the City
23 of Philadelphia. This is done in
24 celebration of the countless

Stated Meeting

1 10/8/26 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 contributions Italian Americans
3 have given to our country and
4 honoring Bob Pantano as Grand
5 Marshall of the 2026 Philadelphia
6 Italian American Heritage Parade.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

8 JOHNSON: Chair recognizes
9 Councilmember Mark Squilla for a
10 motion regarding Resolution No.
11 260827.

12 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA:

13 Thank you, Mr. President.

14 I move for the adoption
15 of the resolution.

16 (Duly seconded.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

18 JOHNSON: It has been moved and
19 properly seconded that Resolution
20 No. 260827 be adopted.

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

24 (Aye.)

Stated Meeting

1 10/8/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

3 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

4 (No response.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

6 JOHNSON: The ayes have it. The
7 motion carries. The resolution is
8 adopted.

9 Will the Chief Clerk
10 please read the title of Bill No.
11 260342.

12 THE CLERK: An ordinance
13 to amend the Philadelphia Zoning
14 Maps by changing the zoning
15 designations of certain areas of
16 land located within an area bounded
17 by East Washington Lane, Crittenden
18 Street, East Tulpehocken Street,
19 East Haines Street, and Ardleigh
20 Street.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

22 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes
23 Councilmember Cindy Bass for a
24 motion.

Stated Meeting

1 10/8/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCILWOMAN BASS:

3 Thank you, Mr. President.

4 I would like to offer an
5 amendment to Bill No. 260342. A
6 copy of the amendment has been
7 circulated to all members of
8 Council, and I move for the
9 adoption of the amendment.

10 (Duly seconded.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

12 JOHNSON: It has been moved and
13 properly seconded that the
14 amendment to Bill No. 260342 be
15 adopted.

16 All those in favor
17 signify by saying aye.

18 (Aye.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

20 JOHNSON: Anyone opposed?

21 (No response.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

23 JOHNSON: The ayes have it and the
24 bill has been amended. This bill

Stated Meeting

1 10/8/26 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 will be placed on the Final Passage
3 Calendar for our next session of
4 Council.

5 Will the Clerk please
6 read the title of Bill No. 260343.

7 THE CLERK: An ordinance
8 to amend the Philadelphia Zoning
9 Maps by changing the zoning
10 designations of certain areas of
11 land located within an area bounded
12 by East Washington Lane, Stenton
13 Avenue, East Haines Street and
14 Ardleigh Street.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
16 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes
17 Councilmember Bass for a motion.

18 COUNCILWOMAN BASS:
19 Thank you, Mr. President.

20 I would like to offer an
21 amendment to Bill No. 260343. A
22 copy of the amendment has been
23 circulated to all members of
24 Council and I move for the adoption

Stated Meeting

1 10/8/26 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 of the amendment.

3 (Duly seconded.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

5 JOHNSON: It has been moved and
6 properly seconded that the
7 amendment to Bill No. 260343 be
8 adopted.

9 All in favor signify by
10 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 bill has been amended. This bill
18 will be placed on the Final Passage
19 Calendar for our next session of
20 Council.

21 Will the Clerk please
22 read the title of Bill No. 260344.

23 THE CLERK: An ordinance
24 to amend the Philadelphia Zoning

Stated Meeting

1 10/8/26 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 Maps by changing the zoning
3 designations of certain areas of
4 land located within an area bounded
5 by North 18th Street, Colonial
6 Street, North 17th Street and
7 Chelten Avenue.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
9 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes
10 Councilmember Bass for a motion.

11 COUNCILWOMAN BASS:
12 Thank you, Mr. President.
13 I would like to offer an
14 amendment to Bill No. 260344. A
15 copy of the amendment has been
16 circulated to all members of
17 Council and I move for the adoption
18 of the amendment.

19 (Duly seconded.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
21 JOHNSON: It has been moved and
22 properly seconded that the
23 amendment to Bill No. 260344 be
24 adopted.

Stated Meeting

1 10/8/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 All in favor signify by

3 saying aye.

4 (Aye.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

6 JOHNSON: Anyone opposed?

7 (No response.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

9 JOHNSON: The ayes have it and the
10 bill has been amended. This bill
11 will be placed on the Final Passage
12 Calendar for our next session of
13 Council.

14 Will the Clerk please
15 read the title of Bill No. 260345.

16 THE CLERK: An ordinance
17 to amend the Philadelphia Zoning
18 Maps by changing the zoning
19 designations of certain areas of
20 land located within an area bounded
21 by West Seymour Street, Knox
22 Street, West Logan Street and
23 Keyser Street.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Stated Meeting

1 10/8/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 JOHNSON: Chair recognizes
3 Councilmember Bass for a motion.

4 COUNCILWOMAN BASS:

5 Thank you, Mr. President.

6 I would like to offer an
7 amendment to Bill No. 260345. A
8 copy of the amendment has been
9 circulated to all members of
10 Council and I move for the adoption
11 of the amendment.

12 (Duly seconded.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

14 JOHNSON: It has been moved and
15 properly seconded that the
16 amendment to Bill No. 260345 be
17 adopted.

18 All in favor signify by
19 saying aye.

20 (Aye.)

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

22 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

23 (No response.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Stated Meeting

1 10/8/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 JOHNSON: The ayes have it and this
3 bill has been amended and will be
4 placed on the Final Passage
5 Calendar for our next session of
6 Council.

7 Chair recognizes
8 Councilmember Jamie Gauthier.

9 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:
10 Thank you, Council President.

11 I'd like to be recorded
12 as voting aye on all bills and
13 resolutions that I missed.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

15 JOHNSON: Thank you. Thank you
16 very much. It shall be recorded.

17 Will the Clerk please
18 read Bill No. 260429.

19 THE CLERK: An ordinance
20 to amend the Philadelphia Zoning
21 Maps by changing the zoning
22 designations of certain areas of
23 land located with. In an area
24 bounded by Frankford Creek,

Stated Meeting

1 10/8/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 Aramingo Avenue, Butler Street, and
3 Frankford Avenue.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

5 JOHNSON: This bill having been
6 read on two different days, the
7 question now is shall the bill pass
8 finally.

9 Chief Clerk, please call
10 the roll.

11 THE CLERK: Councilmember
12 Phillips.

13 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:
14 Aye.

15 THE CLERK: Councilmember
16 Gilmore Richardson.

17 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE
18 RICHARDSON: Aye.

19 THE CLERK:
20 Councilmember Gauthier.

21 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:
22 Aye.

23 THE CLERK:
24 Councilmember Thomas.

Stated Meeting

1 10/8/26 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Aye.
3 THE CLERK: Councilmember
4 Jones.
5 COUNCILMAN JONES: Aye.
6 THE CLERK:
7 Councilmember Landau.
8 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:
9 Aye.
10 THE CLERK:
11 Councilmember Lozada.
12 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA:
13 Aye.
14 THE CLERK:
15 Councilmember Harrity.
16 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:
17 Aye.
18 THE CLERK:
19 Councilmember O'Rourke.
20 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE:
21 Aye.
22 THE CLERK:
23 Councilmember Driscoll.
24 COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL:

Stated Meeting

1 10/8/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 Aye.

3 THE CLERK:

4 Councilmember Squilla.

5 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA:

6 Aye.

7 THE CLERK:

8 Councilmember Bass.

9 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Aye.

10 THE CLERK:

11 Councilmember Ahmad.

12 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:

13 Aye.

14 THE CLERK: And, Council
15 President Johnson.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

17 JOHNSON: Aye. The ayes are 14 and
18 the nays are 0. A majority of all
19 members having voted in the
20 affirmative, the bill passes.

21 Will the Clerk please
22 read any additional resolutions on
23 today's Calendar.

24 THE CLERK: A privileged

Stated Meeting

1 10/8/26 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 resolution recognizing October as
3 College Awareness Month and
4 honoring the Philadelphia Education
5 Fund and the College Access and
6 Success Ecosystem (CASE) for their
7 commitment to ensuring Philadelphia
8 students are informed, prepared,
9 and supported throughout the
10 college application process.
11 Introduced by Councilmember Anthony
12 Phillips.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
14 JOHNSON: Chair recognizes the good
15 Dr. Anthony Phillips,
16 Councilmember, for a motion.

17 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:
18 Thank you so much. You have a good
19 voice, young man, over there.
20 Appreciate it.

21 Council President, I
22 move for the adoption of the
23 resolution.

24 (Duly seconded.)

Stated Meeting

1 10/8/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

6 All those in favor
7 signify by saying aye.

8 (Aye.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

10 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

11 (No response.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

15 Chief Clerk, please read
16 the title of the next resolution.

17 THE CLERK: A privileged
18 resolution recognizing the French
19 American Foundation's Young Leaders
20 Program as its 2026 cohort convenes
21 in Philadelphia. Introduced by
22 Councilmember Katherine Gilmore
23 Richardson on behalf of Council
24 President Johnson.

Stated Meeting

1 10/8/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

3 JOHNSON: Chair recognizes
4 Councilmember Majority Leader
5 Katherine Gilmore Richardson for a
6 motion.

7 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

8 RICHARDSON: Thank you,
9 Mr. President.

10 On your behalf, I move
11 the adoption of the resolution.

12 (Duly seconded.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

17 All those in favor
18 signify by saying aye.

19 (Aye.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

21 JOHNSON: Anyone opposed?

22 (No response.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

24 JOHNSON: The resolution is

Stated Meeting

1 10/8/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 adopted.

3 Chief Clerk, please read
4 the title of the resolution.

5 THE CLERK: A privileged
6 resolution honoring October is
7 Black Male Educators Month in the
8 City of Philadelphia, celebrating
9 the Center for Black Educator
10 Development for their leadership in
11 the recruitment, development, and
12 retention of Black male educators.
13 Introduced by Councilmember Isaiah
14 Thomas.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

16 JOHNSON: Chair recognizes
17 Councilmember Isaiah Thomas for a
18 motion on the resolution.

19 COUNCILMAN THOMAS:

20 Thank you, Council President.

21 I move for the -- the
22 irony of doing the resolution at
23 the same time as the street
24 renaming. I move for the adoption

Stated Meeting

1 10/8/26 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 of the resolution.

3 (Duly seconded.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

8 All those in favor
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 Chief Clerk, please read
18 the title of the resolution.

19 THE CLERK: A privileged
20 resolution honoring the
21 Philadelphia Water Dogs on the
22 occasion of their 2026 Premier
23 Lacrosse League (PLL) championship,
24 marking their second win in the PLL

Stated Meeting

1 10/8/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 in 4 years and earning top seed of
3 the Eastern Conference, introduced
4 by Councilmember Isaiah Thomas.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

6 JOHNSON: Chair recognizes
7 Councilmember Isaiah Thomas for a
8 motion on the resolution.

9 COUNCILMAN THOMAS:

10 Thank you, Council President.

11 Philly is a sports town
12 and this is just another example of
13 the great sports teams we have
14 here. And with that being said, I
15 move for the adoption of the
16 resolution.

17 (Duly seconded.)

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

19 JOHNSON: It has been moved and
20 properly seconded that the
21 resolution be adopted.

22 All those in favor
23 signify by saying aye.

24 (Aye.)

Stated Meeting

1 10/8/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

3 JOHNSON: Anyone opposed?

4 (No response.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

6 JOHNSON: The ayes have it. The
7 resolution is adopted.

8 Chief Clerk, please read
9 the title of the resolution.

10 THE CLERK: A privileged
11 resolution honoring and recognizing
12 the Philadelphia Fringe Festival on
13 the occasion of its 30th Festival
14 and recognizing its extraordinary
15 contributions to Philadelphia's
16 artists, audiences, neighborhoods
17 and cultural life. Introduced by
18 Councilmember Rue Landau.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

23 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:

24 Thank you, Council President.

Stated Meeting

1 10/8/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 I move for the adoption
3 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
10 signify by saying aye.

11 (Aye.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

13 JOHNSON: Anyone opposed?

14 (No response.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

18 Chief Clerk, please read
19 the title of the next resolution.

20 THE CLERK: A privileged
21 resolution authorizing the
22 Committee on Technology and
23 Information Services to hold
24 hearings to examine the use of

Stated Meeting

1 10/8/26 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 emerging technologies, including
3 surveillance, algorithmic and
4 dynamic pricing systems in the
5 grocery industry to better
6 understand how these technologies
7 are being utilized and their
8 potential impacts for consumers and
9 retailers, and to examine
10 opportunities to support
11 transparency, affordability and
12 consumer confidence. Introduced by
13 Councilmember Rue Landau on behalf
14 of Council President Johnson.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

16 JOHNSON: Chair recognizes
17 Councilmember Rue Landau.

18 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:

19 Thank you, Council President.

20 On your behalf, I move
21 for the adoption of the resolution.

22 (Duly seconded.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

24 JOHNSON: It has been moved and

Stated Meeting

1 10/8/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 properly seconded that the

3 resolution be adopted.

4 All in favor signify by

5 saying aye.

6 (Aye.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

8 JOHNSON: Anyone opposed?

9 (No response.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

11 JOHNSON: The ayes have it. The

12 resolution is adopted.

13 Chief Clerk, please read

14 the title of the next resolution.

15 THE CLERK: A privileged

16 resolution authorizing the

17 Committee on Education to hold

18 public hearings to examine the

19 state of charter education in

20 Philadelphia, including charter

21 school funding, authorization and

22 renewal practices, and the role

23 charter schools play in providing

24 educational opportunities for

Stated Meeting

1 10/8/26 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 Philadelphia students and families.
3 Introduced by Councilmember Quetcy
4 Lozada.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

6 JOHNSON: Chair recognizes
7 Councilmember Quetcy Lozada for a
8 motion on the resolution.

9 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA:

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 the
17 resolution be adopted.

18 All those in favor
19 signify by saying aye.

20 (Aye.)

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

22 JOHNSON: Anyone opposed?

23 (No response.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Stated Meeting

1 10/8/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

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

4 Chief Clerk, please read
5 the title of the resolution.

6 THE CLERK: A privileged
7 resolution authorizing the
8 Committee on Public Health and
9 Human Services to hold hearings to
10 examine the feasibility of
11 establishing City-supported grocery
12 stores and food retailers through
13 public, private and community
14 partnerships to expand access to
15 affordable, nutritious and high-
16 quality food in Philadelphia
17 neighborhoods. Introduced by
18 Councilmember Nicolas O'Rourke on
19 behalf of Council President
20 Johnson.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

22 JOHNSON: Chair recognizes
23 Councilmember Nicolas O'Rourke for
24 a motion on the resolution.

Stated Meeting

1 10/8/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE:

3 Thank you, Mr. President.

4 On your behalf, I do
5 move for the adoption of the
6 resolution.

7 (Duly seconded.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

9 JOHNSON: Thank you very much. It
10 has been moved and properly
11 seconded that the resolution be
12 adopted.

13 All those in favor
14 signify by saying aye.

15 (Aye.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

17 JOHNSON: Anyone opposed?

18 (No response.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

22 Chief Clerk, please read
23 the title of the resolution.

24 THE CLERK: A privileged

Stated Meeting

1 10/8/26 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 resolution recognizing October
3 12th, 2026 as "Indigenous Peoples'
4 Day" in the City of Philadelphia,
5 honoring and commemorating the
6 achievements, traditions, and
7 contributions of American Indians,
8 also known as "Indigenous peoples";
9 and affirming the City's commitment
10 to historical truth, cultural
11 respect, education and partnership
12 with Indigenous communities.
13 Introduced by Councilmember Nicolas
14 O'Rourke on behalf of Councilmember
15 Kendra Brooks.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
17 JOHNSON: Chair recognizes
18 Councilmember Nicolas O'Rourke for
19 a motion.

20 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE:
21 Thank you, Mr. President.
22 On behalf of the
23 Minority Leader, in her absence I
24 move for the adoption of the

Stated Meeting

1 10/8/26 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 resolution.

3 (Duly seconded.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

8 All those in favor
9 signify by saying aye.

10 (Aye.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

12 JOHNSON: Anyone 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 THE CLERK: A privileged
21 resolution recognizing October 10,
22 2026 as World Mental Health Day and
23 October 8, 2026 as National
24 Depression Screening Day in the

Stated Meeting

1 10/8/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 City of Philadelphia. Introduced
3 by Councilmember Nina Ahmad.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

5 JOHNSON: Chair recognizes
6 Councilmember Dr. Nina Ahmad for a
7 motion on the resolution.

8 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:

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 the
16 resolution be adopted.

17 All those in favor
18 signify by saying aye.

19 (Aye.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

21 JOHNSON: Anyone opposed?

22 (No response.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

24 JOHNSON: The ayes have it and the

Stated Meeting

1 10/8/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 resolution is adopted.

3 Chief Clerk, please read
4 the title of the resolution.

5 THE CLERK: A privileged
6 resolution authorizing the
7 Committee on Public Health and
8 Human Services to hold hearings
9 examining the City's response to
10 sexual violence, including support
11 for survivors, law enforcement's
12 response, the investigation and
13 prosecution of sexual assault and
14 prevention in light of recent
15 sexual assault cases in
16 Philadelphia and reopen
17 investigations of schools, school
18 campus sexual assault elsewhere.
19 Introduced by Councilmember Nina
20 Ahmad.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
22 JOHNSON: Chair recognizes
23 Councilmember Dr. Nina Ahmad for a
24 motion on the resolution.

Stated Meeting

1 10/8/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:

3 Thank you, Council President.

4 I move for the adoption
5 of the 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
12 signify by saying aye.

13 (Aye.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

15 JOHNSON: Anyone opposed?

16 (No response.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

18 JOHNSON: The ayes have it and the
19 resolution is adopted.

20 THE CLERK: There are no
21 further resolutions in my
22 possession, Council President.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

24 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

Stated Meeting

1 10/8/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 Any brief speeches on
3 behalf of the Minority?

4 Chair recognizes
5 Councilmember Nicolas O'Rourke.

6 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE:

7 Thank you, Mr. President.

8 Tenants have been
9 fighting for safe, secure and
10 affordable housing across the city
11 with the support from the
12 Philadelphia Democratic Socialists
13 of America. I rallied with tenants
14 at the Emerson Building in West
15 Philly back in March. As we emerge
16 from a very cold winter where they
17 dealt with frequent power and heat
18 outages, it is high time that their
19 property manager, in this case, New
20 Age Realty, negotiates in good
21 faith with tenants who are tired of
22 paying monthly fees on top of the
23 rent for services they never
24 actually receive.

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2 When tenants are
3 suffering from power outages in the
4 dead of winter, elevator doors are
5 bolted shut for months, if not
6 years, in some cases, if they're
7 still being asked to pay outrageous
8 junk fees, you better bet I'm going
9 to back their organizing and their
10 demands for accountability.

11 Emerson tenants are now
12 part of an effort that's going
13 citywide and I'm excited to see the
14 movement actually grow. Now,
15 there's plenty of synergy between
16 the Citywide Tenants Union's
17 demands and Philly's Cost of Living
18 Task Force Report, namely, we both
19 highlight RUBS or ratio utility
20 billing system as an issue that's
21 driving up utility costs for
22 renters in a way that doesn't align
23 with what they actually use.

24 Third-party companies

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1 10/8/26 - STATED - SPEECHES
2 are setting individual tenant
3 utility bills through opaque
4 algorithms, splitting up the entire
5 building's usage. And we don't
6 have any regulations on that in
7 Philly, none. So I love the mutual
8 focus on a problem that we need to
9 solve.

10 Speaking of mutual
11 focus, as a member of the Public
12 Health Committee chaired by
13 Dr. Nina Ahmad, I was very excited
14 to introduce legislation calling
15 for hearings on municipal grocery
16 stores on your behalf,
17 Mr. President. And I know I'm not
18 alone in taking great interest in
19 the Philly Affordable -- excuse me,
20 the Philly Food Affordability Act.
21 Great interest, that's reflected in
22 the great need that exists across
23 our city.

24 So thank you, President

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2 Johnson, for your steadfast focus
3 on food and nutrition, security and
4 for advancing the package
5 introduced today. I'm excited to
6 advocate for its different parts as
7 we deliberate and consider them
8 further. The separation of church
9 and state is reflective of the
10 institution of the church and the
11 institution of the state, not to be
12 conflated, or to suggest that
13 values and virtues should not
14 inform the law-making process. And
15 that's the reason why I say and
16 said to you that night that that is
17 holy work that you are doing,
18 recognizing where there's a need
19 and bridging that particular gap.

20 In our office, we always
21 remind ourselves that the people's
22 needs are holy and whatever we're
23 putting forward should be
24 reflective of seeing their need,

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2 being sensitive to it, treating it
3 as if it's sacred because we
4 believe that it is.

5 As I said last week, my
6 colleagues, our city wants to see
7 us act together on the issues of
8 pressing concern to them. So any
9 of the ideas that you find in the
10 Cost of Living Task Force report
11 that appealed to you are grounds
12 for partnership. I would love to
13 partner with you. Please see them,
14 take a grab at it, take what you
15 like. Let's work together. I
16 think that we understand that
17 affordability is not a buzzword.
18 It's a longstanding, genuine
19 concern in the lives of working
20 people.

21 So let's not let
22 affordability be a buzzword here.
23 Let's make something material of
24 affordability for the love of

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1 10/8/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 Philly, as the Sixers say. I think
3 the Philly Food Affordability Act
4 is another good step in that
5 particular direction.

6 And one last thing
7 because it feels right to say, I
8 know that today is the 8th of
9 October, but I'm cognizant that
10 many of us, from folks on my team
11 and across Council, to
12 Philadelphians of all stripes, now
13 feel a certain sensitivity whenever
14 the calendar swings around to
15 October 7th. There's a lot that
16 could be said. There's a lot of
17 pain, genuine pain, being felt for
18 reasons that vary widely.

19 But above and beyond it
20 all, my prayer as a disciple of the
21 Prince of Peace is to pray for
22 peace, not the kind that papers
23 over, but the kind that reveals the
24 kind of peace that actually heals

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1 10/8/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 in the hurting places. Peace
3 doesn't exist in a vacuum and
4 paradoxically, is often fought for
5 in the course of reaching peace.
6 Sides are taken, lines are drawn.
7 So no easy peace without justice
8 and freedom also.

9 But in the wake of three
10 years of genocide, I continue to
11 pray for the better angels of our
12 nature to prevail. Because where
13 life is precious, as has been said,
14 life is precious. I pray we can
15 make our city, first off, one such
16 place and that our influence can be
17 infectious. I hope those who feel
18 a certain pain when October 7th
19 comes around, the second most
20 deadly year for Jews since the
21 Holocaust, know that I am praying
22 for all of y'all too. May there be
23 peace on earth. Let it begin with
24 us.

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1 10/8/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 Thank you,

3 Mr. President.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

5 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

6 Any brief speeches on
7 behalf of the Majority?

8 Councilmember

9 Dr. Anthony Phillips.

10 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

11 Thank you, Council President, and
12 greetings to all of my colleagues
13 again, and most importantly, to
14 neighbors across Philadelphia.

15 Today I introduced a
16 resolution recognizing October as
17 College Awareness Month and
18 honoring the Philadelphia Education
19 Fund and the College Access and
20 Success Ecosystem for their work to
21 help Philadelphia students prepare
22 for life after high school.

23 Now, many of you know
24 that before serving on City

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2 Council, I helped more than a
3 thousand students access high-
4 quality, affordable college
5 education at top-tier schools,
6 knowing that hard work and
7 education are pathways to
8 opportunities. I spent years
9 leading a nonprofit I founded
10 called Youth Action and also
11 leading a nonprofit I directed in
12 college access called Teen Sharp,
13 two educational nonprofits
14 committed to building leaders and
15 helping young people prepare for
16 college and achieve their goals.
17 Through that experience,
18 I learned that talent is
19 everywhere, but access is not. A
20 student's ability to pursue higher
21 education should not depend on
22 whether someone in their family
23 already understands the process or
24 whether their school has enough

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2 resources. Every student deserves
3 clear information, trusted guidance
4 and meaningful support.

5 The Philadelphia
6 College -- the Philadelphia
7 Education Fund is helping close
8 those gaps. Last year,
9 approximately 3000 Philadelphia
10 students participated in the
11 Philadelphia Education Fund's
12 programs. Its College Access
13 program provides full-time college
14 and career advising in six
15 Philadelphia public high schools
16 with low graduation rates.

17 While its Philadelphia
18 post-secondary success program has
19 indeed helped 15 public schools
20 build stronger cultures of college
21 readiness and career success, the
22 organization is helping students
23 overcome financial barriers. This
24 year alone Philadelphia Education

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2 Fund distributed \$650,000 in
3 financial aid to 140 students
4 through its scholarship program.

5 And since the 1990s, the
6 Philadelphia Scholars Program has
7 awarded \$18 million in scholarships
8 to undergraduate students. Its
9 PhillyGoes2College portal makes
10 college and career guidance
11 available to every Philadelphia
12 high school student and has already
13 received approximately 57,000
14 visits this year.

15 During the last school
16 year, 42% of the School District of
17 Philadelphia students submitted at
18 least one college application
19 through the Watch Your Plan
20 campaign. Students and families
21 will have access to college fairs,
22 college fit workshops, application
23 and fast assistance, fee waivers
24 and career exploration. So,

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1 10/8/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 therefore, this year the goal is to
3 increase the number of young people
4 to 60% who submit at least one
5 college application and the What's
6 Your Plan campaign should help with
7 that.

8 So as someone who has
9 spent much of my career helping
10 young people access educational
11 opportunities and now as Chair of
12 the Committee of Children and Youth
13 and Vice-Chair of the Committee on
14 Education, I believe our
15 responsibility is not simply to
16 tell young people to aim high. We
17 must make sure they have the
18 information, resources and support
19 to reach those goals.

20 I encourage students and
21 families across Philadelphia to use
22 College Awareness Month to ask
23 questions, explore options,
24 complete an application and take a

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1 10/8/26 - STATED - SPEECHES
2 meaningful step towards their
3 future.

4 Thank you, Council
5 President.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
7 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

8 Chair recognizes
9 Councilmember Isaiah Thomas.

10 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Good
11 afternoon, Council President.

12 Very briefly, I wanted
13 to first and foremost say
14 congratulations to all of the Black
15 male educators and to remind people
16 that we are recognizing Black male
17 educators this month because the
18 annual conference is taking place
19 this month. So for those who don't
20 know, the annual Black Educators
21 Conference is taking place a little
22 later this month.

23 We encourage educators
24 across, really across the

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2 country -- I'm sorry, the
3 conference is next month, November
4 14th to the 16th. But we recognize
5 Black educators this month, and we
6 encourage educators across the
7 country to come to Philadelphia,
8 enjoy our city and have a great
9 time.

10 Council President, I'm
11 also excited for next week. And
12 so, for those who don't know, next
13 week is the week where I celebrate
14 or we celebrate as a city five
15 years of driving equality. And for
16 those who don't know, driving
17 equality was passed out of this
18 legislative body October 14th, five
19 years ago. And since then, the
20 legislation has been replicated by
21 over ten cities and states all
22 across the country. It's something
23 that inspired me to run for office.

24 As a person who grew up

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2 during the era I grew up, we were
3 basically the experimental
4 generation for stop-and-frisk, not
5 just in Philadelphia, but in major
6 cities all across the country. And
7 when I think about what inspired me
8 to run for office, there's really
9 two things: It's the lack of
10 support and funding for public
11 education, which is something that
12 a lot of us witness on a firsthand
13 basis. And it was the fact that I
14 was constantly pulled over by
15 police my entire young adult life.

16 I vividly remember being
17 sworn into City Council and having
18 been pulled over more times by
19 police officers than years I had
20 been on this earth. And that's a
21 real story that I experienced and
22 so many other people experience
23 growing up in urban cities across
24 the country. So I'm very proud of

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2 driving equality. I'm very proud
3 of the legislation. I'm looking
4 forward to celebrating with other
5 elected officials across the
6 country who've replicated the
7 legislation.

8 And I want to just take
9 a moment to thank Councilmember
10 Brooks, Gauthier, Gilmore
11 Richardson, Jones, Squilla, Bass
12 and of course, you, Council
13 President, because you all were
14 here as well as Mayor Parker, you
15 all were here and helped me, at a
16 very difficult time, vote that bill
17 out.

18 And when we passed that
19 law, they said that it would make
20 the city more violent. And over
21 the last five years, crime has
22 dropped significantly since the law
23 has been in place. Now, I'm not
24 saying that the law is the reason

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2 that crime has been reduced. I'm
3 saying that the law clearly is not
4 one that creates more crime in the
5 City of Philadelphia. So I'm so
6 excited about what we were able to
7 accomplish. And if you --

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

9 JOHNSON: (Clapping).

10 COUNCILMAN THOMAS:

11 Thank you, Council President. And
12 if you don't know, next week,
13 October 13th we'll be at the
14 library right here at City Hall for
15 a Fireside Chat about Driving
16 Equality. And then October 14th,
17 we will do a screening of the film
18 Living in America. If you don't
19 know, they made a documentary on
20 driving equality. So we'll be
21 showing that Driving Equality and
22 having a panel discussion on the
23 day of the anniversary.

24 I know it was a little

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2 longer than what you wanted, but
3 thank you, Council President. I
4 appreciate the flexibility and I'll
5 be quiet next week for speeches.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

7 JOHNSON: Oh, you good.
8 Congratulations though on the
9 Driving Equality bill. You put a
10 lot of hard work into that and I do
11 remember the resistance as well.
12 So thank you for staying steady
13 because I too have two African
14 American boys growing up in this
15 city and I wouldn't know what I
16 would do. I still perk up though
17 when they get behind me. Anyway,
18 it is what it is, but keep up the
19 good work.

20 Chair recognizes
21 Majority Leader Katherine Gilmore
22 Richardson.

23 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

24 RICHARDSON: Thank you. Thank you

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2 so much, Mr. President.

3 I wanted to take a
4 moment just to recognize a very
5 special guest who will be joining
6 us in Council after she concludes
7 her speech here in the City of
8 Philadelphia. But I wanted to
9 formally recognize Councilmember
10 Tiffany Thomas, who represents
11 District F in Houston, Texas.

12 She is the first Black
13 woman and first woman under 40
14 elected to represent District F in
15 Houston, Texas. Like you,
16 Councilmember Gauthier, she's the
17 Chair of the Housing and
18 Affordability Committee. Other
19 committees are set up a little
20 differently than ours here and we
21 share a lot in common. Of course,
22 I'm a member of Zeta Phi Beta
23 Sorority, Inc., and she's a
24 Devastating Diva, Delta Sigma Theta

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2 Sorority, Inc.

3 But most importantly, we
4 both share a commitment to helping
5 families protect their homes and
6 preserve their generational wealth.
7 We know that that's a major issue
8 here, not only in the city of
9 Philadelphia, but across our nation
10 where they call it heir properties
11 in other localities. But I am
12 grateful to our partners at Pew for
13 all the work that we've done
14 together on this issue and for
15 connecting me with Councilmember
16 Thomas.

17 We have had the
18 opportunity to have a meeting and
19 collaborate on legislation, to
20 continue to work together to
21 address this issue of tangled
22 titles, and we have been working
23 together on legislation to figure
24 out how we continue to move this

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1 10/8/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 issue forward. Councilmember
3 Thomas has worked to protect family
4 homes and historic communities in
5 Houston like Piney Point and
6 continue to raise awareness around
7 heirs property.

8 She also successfully
9 championed the Community
10 Development Block Grant, what we
11 know as CDBG. But their Disaster
12 Recovery 2024 amendment, she
13 secured \$100 million in disaster
14 recovery housing funds for the city
15 of Houston. Through her work, she
16 has a signature initiative that I'm
17 working to replicate here in the
18 City of Philadelphia called the
19 Annual Faith and Affordable Housing
20 Summit, which is really bridging
21 the gap between faith institutions
22 and development partners and
23 bringing community education around
24 heir properties and generational

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1 10/8/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 land retention in historically
3 Black and Brown communities.

4 She is a dynamic member
5 of Council, another Councilmember
6 Thomas, yet serving in the city of
7 Houston, and I'm looking forward to
8 welcoming her officially to
9 Philadelphia City Council and also
10 to our chambers in a few moments.

11 Thank you, Council
12 President.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

14 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

15 Chair recognizes
16 Councilmember Quetcy Lozada.

17 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA:
18 Thank you, Council President.

19 Today I introduced a
20 resolution calling for the
21 Education Committee to help us gain
22 more clarity on the effects of not
23 just the School Board, but the
24 School District and the limited

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1 10/8/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 charter renewals. And I want to be
3 make sure that I state for the
4 record that the public school
5 system has my full support.

6 I believe in the public
7 school education system. But we
8 have to accept the fact that the
9 reality is that there are charter
10 schools -- and many of our
11 neighborhoods and charter schools
12 are public schools. There are
13 questions that have consistently
14 come up when we're talking to some
15 of these providers, at least in the
16 7th Council District. And they
17 seem to be the same questions and
18 concerns across the City of
19 Philadelphia.

20 And so, I want to thank
21 Councilmember Thomas, the Chair of
22 the Education Committee for
23 agreeing to at least allow us to
24 ask those questions publicly.

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1 10/8/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 Because we believe that the 63,964
3 young people who attend a
4 traditional charter school deserve
5 answers as well as the 14,252 cyber
6 school charter. Children deserve
7 answers too.

8 And so, we're just
9 calling for basic transparency, a
10 fair process and with as little
11 disruption as possible. But the
12 fact that some of these charter
13 schools don't get a typical five-
14 year renewal makes it really
15 difficult for them to plan ahead.
16 And so, our children deserve that
17 and I'm looking forward to a
18 hearing and some of their questions
19 being resolved.

20 I also want to celebrate
21 the fact that one of my residents
22 in the 7th Council District who was
23 unjustly deported by ICE, Vicente
24 Calderon is back in Philadelphia.

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1 10/8/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 He's back home with his family
3 thanks to the advocacy of many of
4 my colleagues and their work as
5 well as the work of Enerolina
6 Melendez & Associates, who is an
7 on-the-ground community
8 organization that really helps
9 those who are going through the
10 citizenship process. They make it
11 easier and they hold their hand
12 through the process. Had it not
13 been for their work, Mr. Calderon
14 would not be home today.

15 I'd also like to, on
16 your behalf and myself as well as
17 with Creative Philadelphia and the
18 city's Office of Arts and Culture,
19 invite everyone to join us tomorrow
20 for Art in City Hall. The opening
21 reception will showcase 32 Hispanic
22 artists. The exhibit features 32
23 arts, including participants from
24 Photography Without Borders. It's

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1 10/8/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 a group that is made up of very
3 young artists as well as artists
4 from our Square Neighborhoods
5 projects. The reception begins at
6 5:00 in the Caucus Room. And we
7 also invite you to check out all of
8 the art that is displayed in the
9 cases on the second, third and
10 fourth floor. The art will be
11 displayed through December 4th.

12 Thank you, Council
13 President.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

15 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

16 Also, I want to
17 acknowledge the presence of Antoine
18 Little, Vice-President of District
19 Council 33 AFSCME. Thank you for
20 joining us here today as well.

21 Chair recognizes
22 Councilmember Dr. Nina Ahmad.

23 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:

24 Thank you, Council President.

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1 10/8/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 Good afternoon,

3 everyone. Yesterday I joined my
4 colleagues on the Finance Committee
5 for a hearing to recommend
6 authorization of a \$40 million bond
7 for a new police forensic lab in
8 West Philadelphia. I am so excited
9 that we are finally at a place
10 where we're going to have a state-
11 of-the-art forensic lab, and that
12 is going to make a huge difference
13 in clearance of crimes,
14 particularly be very satisfactory
15 to the victims of violent crime to
16 actually understand how their cases
17 can proceed.

18 And so, we've made this
19 huge commitment. I want to make
20 sure we're also staffing this new
21 lab appropriately so they can do
22 the work that is critical for our
23 community. However, despite that
24 victory, I got fire in my belly on

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2 this, that we have seen a
3 disturbing rise in public cases of
4 sexual violence. And this is
5 connected to having a forensic lab
6 that can process these crimes.

7 So from the ongoing
8 investigation of the Raymond
9 Horsch, which has been going on
10 from 2004 in Olney, we have a whole
11 series of women who have
12 disappeared. I don't understand
13 how we are here today in 2026, when
14 these people have been identified
15 and been implicated in a whole
16 series of misconduct, and yet we
17 still don't have a resolution on
18 knowing what happened to those
19 women.

20 And we're just hearing
21 in the news around the Cornell 7
22 and so much more. And then
23 locally, more recently, there is a
24 case of sexual assault that

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1 10/8/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 happened in a spa on 9th and
3 Callowhill and somehow we haven't
4 heard anything about it. We
5 haven't heard what is happening to
6 the perpetrators who were
7 identified on camera. We have
8 their faces. So this is extremely
9 disturbing.

10 So what I'm seeing is a
11 growing culture of negligence and a
12 real lack of understanding on what
13 is rape culture and how to support
14 victims and most importantly,
15 prevent it, right. And we can't
16 talk about declining gun violence,
17 homicide numbers in Philadelphia
18 which is great. But as of October
19 6, 2026, the Philadelphia Police
20 Department reports there were 463
21 cases of rape reported, and this
22 doesn't even account for the
23 underreporting when it comes to the
24 cases of sexual violence.

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1 10/8/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 So that's why I
3 introduced a privileged resolution
4 authorizing the Committee on Public
5 Health and Human Services to hold
6 hearings examining the city's
7 response to sexual violence,
8 including support for survivors,
9 law enforcement response and the
10 investigation and prosecution of
11 sexual assault and prevention of
12 sexual violence. I look forward to
13 scheduling this hearing. We have a
14 very busy roster in front of us,
15 but this is going to be our
16 priority.

17 I also wanted to quickly
18 comment on an update on the Academy
19 of Natural Sciences, the closure.
20 I'm very grateful to the Chair of
21 the Legislative Oversight Committee
22 for rescheduling, very promptly,
23 the hearing to look into and get on
24 public record Drexel's decision to

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2 do the public closure of the public
3 part of the museum and what they're
4 planning for the rest of the
5 Academy there. And that is
6 scheduled for October 26th from
7 2:00 to 5:00 right here in City
8 Hall. Advocates from all over the
9 country are clamoring for this
10 hearing, and I'm excited to show
11 that City Council responds to the
12 needs of our residents.

13 And finally, I would
14 like to remind everyone I'm holding
15 a hearing on Small Business next
16 week, Wednesday, October 14th from
17 2:00 to 5:00. The hearing
18 coincides perfectly with this
19 weekend's Made in Philadelphia
20 Market right here in Dilworth Park.
21 I encourage everyone today to drop
22 by the market and to support our
23 entrepreneurs. And please reach
24 out to my office if you would like

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1 10/8/26 - STATED - SPEECHES
2 to provide testimony for next
3 week's hearing.

4 With that, thank you,
5 Council President. I yield back my
6 time.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

8 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

9 Chair recognizes
10 Majority Leader Katherine Gilmore
11 Richardson.

12 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

13 RICHARDSON: Thank you very much,
14 Council President.

15 I wasn't certain it
16 would work this week, but I'm so
17 happy that our Councilmember Thomas
18 from District F in Houston, Texas
19 was able to join us here in Council
20 chambers. You all heard her bio
21 that I shared earlier in our
22 session, but I am so excited to
23 welcome my sister Councilmember
24 from the great city of Houston,

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1 10/8/26 - STATED - ADJOURNMENT

2 Texas. Please rise and recognize
3 Councilmember Thomas.

4 (Applause.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

6 JOHNSON: Welcome. Welcome. Now,
7 Majority Leader, just make sure
8 during her visit she gets a
9 cheesesteak. I think we got a
10 couple Rita Water Ice stands
11 available as well. But welcome to
12 the City of Philadelphia as well.

13 With that being said,
14 there are no more speeches. The
15 Chair recognizes Majority Whip
16 Councilmember Isaiah Thomas for a
17 motion to adjourn.

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

20 I move that Council
21 stands adjourned until Thursday,
22 October 15, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

23 (Duly seconded.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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2 JOHNSON: It has been moved and
3 properly seconded that Council
4 stands adjourned until Thursday,
5 October 15th at 10:00 a.m.

6 All in favor signify by
7 saying aye.

8 (Aye.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

10 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

11 (No response.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

13 JOHNSON: The ayes have it. The
14 motion carries. Thank you all very
15 much. Great job today.

16 - - -

17 (Stated Meeting
18 adjourned at 12:35 p.m.)

19 - - -

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24

Stated Meeting

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

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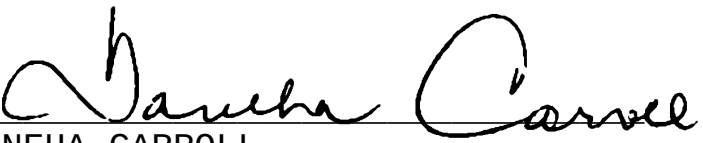
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I, hereby certify that the proceedings
and evidence noted are contained fully and
accurately in the stenographic notes taken
by me in the foregoing matter, and that
this is a correct transcript of the same.


TANEHA CARROLL
Court Reporter - Notary Public

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City of Philadelphia
City Council Calendar
Thursday, October 8, 2026

PUBLIC COMMENT

City Council receives public comment on bills and resolutions that are printed on this agenda for the meeting. Speakers will have up to three minutes to speak; please prepare your comments to fit within that time limit. The Council President, may, depending on circumstances, establish a lower time limit. The Council President will announce the applicable time limit at the beginning of the public comment portion of the agenda. The Council President may also limit repetitious comments on the same agenda item or defer comments to the next meeting of Council.

Speakers for public comment can sign up in advance, submit comments electronically, or sign up to speak the day of the meeting. To sign up in advance, speakers may call 215-686-3406 or email chiefclerk@phila.gov by no later than 3 p.m. the day before the meeting. Speakers who sign up in advance will be added to the list. Speakers must sign up individually, not on behalf of others or groups, and provide the following information:

- Full name (including proper pronunciation and spelling)
- The bill number or resolution number that will be addressed
- Whether you support or oppose that particular bill or resolution
- Telephone number where you can be reached
- Street address

Speakers may also submit public comment electronically by email to chiefclerk@phila.gov no later than 3 p.m. the day before the meeting, preferably as a PDF attachment to the email. Electronic submissions become part of the written record of the proceedings but they are not read aloud in Council. To sign up the day of the meeting, come to Room 400, City Hall and check in at the desk by the entrance.

***If you require an accommodation or service to fully participate, including language services, please call or email the Chief Clerk's office.**

***Please note that this is an in-person meeting, and open to the public. This meeting may also be viewed on Xfinity Channel 64, Fios Channel 40, or <http://phlcouncil.com/watch-city-council/>.**

ORDER OF BUSINESS IN A COUNCIL SESSION

Note: Some items do not occur at every session:

Invocation.

Approval of the journal of the preceding meeting.

Requests by Councilmembers for permission to be absent from the session.

Reading of communications from the Mayor.

Introduction of bills and resolutions (to be referred to appropriate Committees of Council).

Reports from Committees of Council.

Special business.

Bills on first reading.

Public comment on bills and resolutions on the Second Reading and Final Passage Calendars – titles are printed below.

Bills that Council passed but that need to be returned by the Mayor for reconsideration.

Consideration of bills and resolutions on the Second Reading and Final Passage Calendars.

Bills and resolutions on the Suspension Calendar.

Speeches by Councilmembers.

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BILLS ON FIRST READING**260298****INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Jones

An Ordinance to amend the Philadelphia Zoning Maps by changing the zoning designations of certain areas of land located within an area bounded by Ridge Avenue, Spring Lane, Hagy's Mill Road, Port Royal Avenue, River Road, and the Montgomery County Line.

RESOLUTIONS ON FINAL PASSAGE**260766-A****INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Gauthier

Resolution also naming the 200 Block of South 50th Street as "Monumental Way" to honor the legacy and impact of the Monumental Baptist Church on the Walnut Hill community.

260819**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Phillips

Resolution urging the Philadelphia Department of Public Health, Department of Licenses and Inspections, Department of Sanitation, and other appropriate City agencies to immediately prioritize and coordinate efforts to address the growing rodent infestation in the Lower Northeast section of Philadelphia and to treat the current conditions as an urgent public health and quality-of-life emergency requiring immediate City action.

260821**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Gauthier

Resolution also naming the 700 Block of North 47th Street as "Men of Mill Creek Way" to honor the legacy and impact of the Men of Mill Creek on the Mill Creek community.

260822**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Jones

Resolution renaming the 5200 Block of Lancaster Avenue "Sharif El-Mekki Way" to honor Sharif El-Mekki and his decades of distinguished service to Philadelphia's students, educators, schools, and communities.

260823**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Young

Resolution authorizing the Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority to execute and deliver to the Philadelphia Land Bank a deed conveying title to 1811 W. Stiles Street, located in the 5th Councilmanic District, pursuant to the requirements of the Commonwealth Land Bank Act.

260824**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Young

Resolution authorizing the Commissioner of Public Property to execute and deliver to the Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority deeds conveying fee simple title to 1808, 1809, 1810, 1812, 1819 N. Bailey Street, 2611 Cecil B. Moore Avenue, 2438, 2442, 2456, 2648, 2651 N. Corlies Street, 1816, 1838, 1839, 1841, 1843, 1845, 1848, 1851, 1861, 1862, 1866 N. Etting Street, 2519, 2600, 2611, 3019, 3021, 3027, 3029, 3031, 3039 W. Oakdale Street, 2423, 2425, 2437, 2446, 2501, 2504, 2506, 2513, 2516, 2517, 2526, 2539, 2556 N. Stanley Street, 1726 N. 26th Street, 1735, 1747 N. 27th Street in the 5th Councilmanic District of the City of Philadelphia and further authorizing the Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority to transfer to the Philadelphia Land Bank fee simple title to such properties pursuant to Section 16-405 of The Philadelphia Code.

260825**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember O'Rourke

Resolution honoring the Citywide Tenant Union of the Philadelphia Democratic Socialists of America and tenants, tenant leaders, and tenant organizers at the Emerson and Florence Gardens, who are organizing to end rental junk fees and secure basic tenants' rights and protections in the City of Philadelphia.

260826**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Squilla

Resolution authorizing the Philadelphia Land Bank to dispose of 2751 Kensington Avenue located in the 1st Councilmanic District in accordance with the terms of Chapter 16-700 of The Philadelphia Code.

260827**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Squilla

Resolution designating the week of Sunday, October 11 through Saturday, October 17, 2026, as “Italian American Heritage Week” in the City of Philadelphia. This is done in celebration of the countless contributions Italian Americans have given to our country and honoring Bob Pantano as Grand Marshall of the 2026 Philadelphia Italian American Heritage Parade.

BILLS ON SECOND READING AND FINAL PASSAGE

250768**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Gauthier

An Ordinance amending Title 17 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled “Contracts and Procurement,” to prohibit contractors providing solid waste, recycling or composting services to the City from incinerating discarded matter, under certain terms and conditions.

250807**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Squilla

An Ordinance authorizing the Commissioner of Public Property to acquire, on behalf of the City, fee simple title or a lesser interest, by purchase, dedication, donation, condemnation, agreement in lieu of condemnation or otherwise, for the purpose of making, enlarging, connecting, extending, operating, and maintaining public parks for recreational use, certain parcels of land, generally bounded and located between Vine Street, Fairmount Avenue, 8th Street and 12th Street, together with all improvements thereon and all associated easements and appurtenances; and to lease the property, or a portion thereof, to the Center City District; all under certain terms and conditions.

260076**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Ahmad

An Ordinance providing for the submission to the qualified electors of the City of Philadelphia of the proposal set forth in a Resolution approved by Council proposing an amendment to the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter relating to the creation of the Philadelphia Child Welfare Commission; and authorizing and directing the appropriate officers to publish notice and to make arrangements for the special election.

260342**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Bass

An Ordinance to amend the Philadelphia Zoning Maps by changing the zoning designations of certain areas of land located within an area bounded by East Washington Lane, Crittenden Street, East Tulpehocken Street, East Haines Street, and Ardleigh Street.

260343**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Bass

An Ordinance to amend the Philadelphia Zoning Maps by changing the zoning designations of certain areas of land located within an area bounded by East Washington Lane, Stenton Avenue, East Haines Street, and Ardleigh Street.

260344**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Bass

An Ordinance to amend the Philadelphia Zoning Maps by changing the zoning designations of certain areas of land located within an area bounded by N. 18th Street, Colonial Street, N. 17th Street and Cheltenham Avenue.

260345**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Bass

An Ordinance to amend the Philadelphia Zoning Maps by changing the zoning designations of certain areas of land located within an area bounded by West Seymour Street, Knox Street, West Logan Street and Keyser Street.

260429**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Driscoll

An Ordinance to amend the Philadelphia Zoning Maps by changing the zoning designations of certain areas of land located within an area bounded by Frankford Creek, Aramingo Avenue, Butler Street, and Frankford Avenue.

260462**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Young

An Ordinance to amend the Philadelphia Zoning Maps by changing the zoning designations of certain areas of land located within an area bounded by Thompson Street, 17th Street, Girard Avenue, Ridge Avenue, 19th Street, Cabot Street, and 18th Street, and amending Section 14-500 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled “Overlay Zoning Districts” by amending Section 14-529, entitled “/VDO, Fifth District Overlay District,” all under certain terms and conditions.

RESOLUTIONS**260834****INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Phillips

Resolution recognizing October as College Awareness Month and honoring the Philadelphia Education Fund and the College Access and Success Ecosystem (CASE) for their commitment to ensuring Philadelphia students are informed, prepared, and supported throughout the college application process.

260835**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Gilmore Richardson for Council President Johnson

Resolution recognizing the French American Foundation’s Young Leaders Program as its 2026 cohort convenes in Philadelphia.

260836**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Thomas

Resolution honoring October as Black Male Educators Month in the City of Philadelphia, celebrating the Center for Black Educator Development for their leadership in the recruitment, development, and retention of Black male educators.

260837**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Thomas

Resolution honoring the Philadelphia Waterdogs on the occasion of their 2026 Premier Lacrosse League (PLL) championship, marking their second win in the PLL in 4 years and earning top seed of the Eastern Conference.

260838**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Landau

Resolution honoring and celebrating the Philadelphia Fringe Festival on the occasion of its 30th Festival, and recognizing its extraordinary contributions to Philadelphia's artists, audiences, neighborhoods, and cultural life.

260839**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Landau for Council President Johnson

Resolution authorizing the Committee on Technology and Information Services to hold hearings to examine the use of emerging technologies, including surveillance, algorithmic, and dynamic pricing systems, in the grocery industry to better understand how these technologies are being utilized and their potential impacts for consumers and retailers, and to examine opportunities to support transparency, affordability, and consumer confidence.

260840**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Lozada

Resolution authorizing the Committee on Education to hold public hearings to examine the state of charter education in Philadelphia, including charter school funding, authorization and renewal practices, and the role charter schools play in providing educational opportunities for Philadelphia students and families.

260841**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember O'Rourke for Council President Johnson

Resolution authorizing the Committee on Public Health and Human Services to hold hearings to examine the feasibility of establishing City-supported grocery stores and food retailers through public-private and community partnerships to expand access to affordable, nutritious, and high-quality food in Philadelphia neighborhoods.

260842**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember O'Rourke for Councilmember Brooks

Resolution recognizing October 12, 2026 as "Indigenous Peoples' Day" in the City of Philadelphia, honoring and commemorating the achievements, traditions, and contributions of American Indians, also known as "Indigenous peoples"; and affirming the City's commitment to historical truth, cultural respect, education, and partnership with Indigenous communities.

260843

INTRODUCED BY: Councilmember Ahmad

Resolution recognizing October 10, 2026 as World Mental Health Day and October 8, 2026 as National Depression Screening Day in the City of Philadelphia

260844**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Ahmad

Resolution authorizing the Committee on Public Health and Human Services to hold hearings examining the City's response to sexual violence, including support for survivors, law enforcement's response, the investigation and prosecution of sexual assault, and prevention, in light of recent sexual assault cases in Philadelphia and reopened investigations of school campus sexual assault elsewhere.

WHEREAS, Sexual violence is a term that encompasses a variety of acts that range from verbal harassment, or sexual harassment, to forced sexual intercourse, including rape and sexual assault, and multiple types of coercion, like social pressure, intimidation and physical force; and

WHEREAS, Sexual assault is a violent and heinous criminal action, in which a perpetrator abuses their power by violating a victim's bodily freedom, and safety; and

WHEREAS, Sexual assault is an umbrella term used to describe a variety of abhorrent behaviors, like rape, sodomy, touching an intimate body part clothed or unclothed, including when a victim lacks the ability to consent; and

WHEREAS, While sexual assault is one of the most underreported crimes, with estimates of only 20 to 25% of rapes resulting in a police report, a national study estimates 443,634 rapes and sexual assaults occur among victims age 12 or older, and at least 56,575 children are sexually abused every year in the United States, highlighting the prevalence, frequency and discreet nature of this violent crime; and

WHEREAS, 45.1% of women, which is nearly half, in the United States experienced some type of sexual violence in their lifetimes, and women are two to three times more likely than men to experience sexual violence globally, however men can experience and be victims to sexual violence given 1 in 6 men or 16.9% have experienced some form of sexual violence in their lifetimes; and

WHEREAS, Marginalized and underserved communities are disproportionately impacted by sexual violence with nearly 1 in 5 Black and Brown women being survivors of rape, and 48% of LGBTQ+ individuals experienced their first rape between ages of 11 and 17; and

WHEREAS, According to Philadelphia Police Department crime data statistics, as of October 6, 2026, there were 463 rapes reported, which is a 1% decrease from 2025, and underscores the importance of law enforcement's response to sexual assault related crimes; and

WHEREAS, Identifying and preventing gender bias in police practices is a critical aspect to addressing sexual assault crimes because police frequently have initial contact with victims and gender bias can result in misclassifying and underreporting sexual assault; and

WHEREAS, During the last three decades, several police departments in cities like Baltimore, New Orleans, Philadelphia and St. Louis have been exposed for substantially undercounting and reclassifying reported rapes; and

WHEREAS, The history of law enforcement agencies misclassifying rape and other sex crimes is documented in a 1990 Philadelphia Inquirer article which revealed the 20-year long history of the Philadelphia Police Department downgrading rape cases to a noncriminal category; and

WHEREAS, Police reclassification of rape complaints diminishes the probability that perpetrators will be arrested, prosecuted and convicted and fails to prevent potential future offenses. An incident that occurred early this year in our City, in which six men sexually assaulted several women at a spa highlights the prevalence of sexual assault in Philadelphia; and

WHEREAS, Gun violence is a pervasive public safety challenge in our City, and intersections between gun violence and sexual assault must be analyzed to protect residents. Data shows the coercive nature of guns can facilitate sexual assault and is the weapon most frequently used in rape victimizations; and

WHEREAS, The recent local investigation of Raymond Horsch, who police suspect to be connected to the cases of several missing women , demonstrates how law enforcement's response to gender-based violence and sexual assault is crucial to protecting Philadelphia residents; and

WHEREAS, Despite the term sexual harassment being coined at Cornell University in 1975, a recent reopening of a criminal investigation of an alleged 2024 rape incident involving seven Cornell students from the Chi Phi fraternity's Xi chapter emphasizes the importance for succinct collegiate sexual assault investigation and adjudication policies; and

WHEREAS, A recent opening of a criminal investigation regarding an alleged rape incident that occurred at the Louisiana State University, and was allegedly perpetrated by a student athlete exposed complications between a university's Title IX process and the criminal justice system underscores the need for a coordinated system between institutions, their Title IX policies and law enforcement to protect victims; and

WHEREAS, In Philadelphia, we must stand with victims, stand against perpetrators of sexual assault and have a clear comprehensive response to address this violent crime, because there is no room for sexual predators in our City; now therefore,

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, Hereby authorizes the Committee on Public Health and Human Services to hold hearings to investigate the City's response to sexual assault and condemns the violent crime of sexual assault in Philadelphia.