

Stated Meeting

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

STATED MEETING

Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
September 24, 2026
10:00 a.m.

PRESENT:

COUNCIL PRESIDENT KENYATTA JOHNSON
COUNCILWOMAN NINA AHMAD
COUNCILWOMAN CINDY BASS
COUNCILWOMAN KENDRA BROOKS
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 BRIAN J. O'NEILL
COUNCILMAN NICOLAS O'ROURKE
COUNCILMAN ANTHONY PHILLIPS
COUNCILMAN ISAIAH THOMAS
COUNCILMAN JEFFREY YOUNG, JR.

ELIZABETH MCCOLLUM NAZARIO, CHIEF CLERK

- - -

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1 9/24/26 - STATED - INVOCATION

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

3 JOHNSON: Good morning, everyone.

4 (Good morning.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

6 JOHNSON: Good morning, everyone.

7 I am asking all visitors to please
8 retire outside the Council chamber
9 rails. Before proceeding, I will
10 ask all those present to please set
11 your cell phones to silent and/or
12 vibrate. I note that the hour has
13 come and that a quorum of this City
14 Council is present.

15 To give our invocation
16 this morning, the Chair recognizes
17 Rabbi Michael Perice from Keshet
18 Israel. He is here today as a
19 guest of Councilwoman Rue Landau.
20 I will ask all guests and members
21 to please rise.

22 (Councilmembers, guests
23 and visitors rise.)

24 RABBI PERICE: Shalom.

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2 My name is Rabbi Michael Perice.

3 It is an honor to be here both as

4 we are celebrating the Jewish

5 holiday, but also Recovery Month as

6 I am in recovery 15 years from a

7 very serious opiate addiction.

8 (Applause.)

9 RABBI PERICE: Thank

10 you. Thank you. I want to thank

11 Councilmember Harrity for having

12 me. It is truly a great honor.

13 Ten years ago I gave the opening

14 invocation at the Pennsylvania

15 State House of Representatives. I

16 told our legislators no one liked

17 them, and I chided them for not

18 doing a good job. I promise I

19 won't do that again. But it's

20 something I said ten years ago.

21 I believe still

22 resonates to this day, that being

23 an elected official is a unique and

24 special role in our society and

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2 culture, that you could affect more
3 change in one day than most people
4 can in their entire lives. And
5 that makes your work sacred because
6 it touches the lives of so many
7 people. But any job, even powerful
8 jobs, become routine. Mundaneness
9 of life sets in and we forget.

10 So I would ask each
11 Councilmember here today, remember
12 your first campaign. Remember the
13 excitement you felt, the
14 commitments you made, the things
15 you said you would do if only you
16 could sit where you sit today to
17 remind yourself of that
18 authenticity of purpose. It's the
19 corporatization of politics that we
20 disrespect. It's the hyper
21 partisanship that we disrespect.
22 But the authenticity of purpose, we
23 all can respect that whether we
24 agree or not.

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2 So let me offer you this
3 blessing: May God bless and keep
4 you. May God shine God's light
5 upon you and be gracious to you.
6 And may God always be turning
7 toward you and grant you peace, but
8 more. May God grant you a
9 beginner's heart so that you can
10 always remember with humility and
11 compassion why you wanted to be in
12 this chamber to begin with, if you
13 could let that inspire your work.
14 I know you will have truly earned
15 this blessing. And let us all say
16 Amen.

17 (Amen.)

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

19 JOHNSON: The Chair thanks the
20 Rabbi for his invocation.

21 Council will now be at
22 ease.

23 (Council at ease.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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1 9/24/26 - STATED - APPROVAL OF JOURNAL

2 JOHNSON: The next order of
3 business is the Approval of the
4 Journal of the meeting of Thursday,
5 September 17, 2026.

6 The Chair recognizes
7 Councilmember Cindy Bass.

8 COUNCILWOMAN BASS:
9 Thank you, Mr. President.

10 I move that the Journal
11 of the meeting on Thursday,
12 September 17, 2026 be approved.

13 (Duly seconded.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

15 JOHNSON: It has been moved and
16 properly seconded that the Journal
17 of the meeting of Thursday,
18 September 17, 2026 stand approved.

19 All those in favor
20 signify by saying aye.

21 (Aye.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

23 JOHNSON: Anyone opposed?

24 (No response.)

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1 9/24/26 - STATED - LEAVES

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

3 JOHNSON: The ayes have it and the
4 Journal is approved.

5 The next order of
6 business is requests for leaves of
7 absence. And the Chair recognizes
8 Councilmember Katherine Gilmore
9 Richardson.

10 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

11 RICHARDSON: Thank you,
12 Mr. President.

13 On behalf of the
14 Majority, a leave of absence is
15 requested for Councilmember Mark
16 Squilla.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

18 JOHNSON: The Chair thanks the
19 Majority Leader and leave will be
20 granted.

21 The Chair recognizes
22 Minority Leader Kendra Brooks.

23 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS:

24 Good morning, Council President.

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2 On behalf of the

3 Minority, there are no requests for
4 leave of absence today.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

6 JOHNSON: The Chair thanks the
7 Minority Leader.

8 The Chair now recognizes
9 Councilmember and Majority Leader
10 Katherine Gilmore Richardson for a
11 motion concerning certain
12 legislative matters that may arise
13 during the course of today's
14 session of Council, and that were
15 not listed on the Calendar
16 circulated prior to today's Council
17 session.

18 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

19 RICHARDSON: Thank you,
20 Mr. President.

21 I move that any of the
22 following matters, if considered
23 today, may be added to the agenda
24 for this session of Council and, as

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2 required by law, subsequently
3 published on an amended agenda
4 after the consideration of those
5 matters: resolutions authorizing
6 hearings, amendments to bills on
7 first reading, the reconsideration
8 of a bill vetoed by or re-called
9 from the Mayor, amendments to bills
10 re-called from the Mayor,
11 resolutions taking substantive
12 action to be voted on in this
13 session, a motion to withdraw a
14 bill or resolution that is not on
15 the Calendar, and a motion placing
16 a bill or resolution on or
17 returning a bill or resolution from
18 the Suspension Calendar that is not
19 listed on today's Calendar.

20 The purpose of this
21 motion is to provide the public
22 with notice concerning possible
23 actions by Council that arose too
24 late to be included on the Calendar

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2 that was published prior to today's
3 session.

4 (Duly seconded.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

6 JOHNSON: It has been moved and
7 properly seconded that the
8 legislative matters stated by the
9 Majority Leader Katherine Gilmore
10 Richardson may be added to the
11 agenda for today or those matters
12 arise during the course of this
13 session of Council.

14 All those in favor
15 indicate by saying aye.

16 (Aye.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

18 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

19 (No response.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

21 JOHNSON: The ayes have it and the
22 motion carries.

23 The Chair will dispense
24 with the regular order of business

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2 to recognize the guests and
3 visitors joining us in chambers
4 this morning. On behalf of all
5 members of City Council, I welcome
6 you to our Council session. We
7 appreciate your taking the time to
8 join us as we attend to the
9 legislative affairs of our great
10 city. We certainly invite you to
11 come again.

12 At this time, we will be
13 providing presentations and the
14 first individual we would like to
15 call up is Councilmember Mike
16 Driscoll, who will present a
17 resolution recognizing Ambassador
18 John Giordano, United States
19 Ambassador to the Republic of
20 Namibia, and celebrating his
21 distinguished career of public
22 service.

23 Would Ambassador
24 Giordano and those accompanying him

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2 please join the Councilmember at
3 the podium. Joining Councilmember
4 Driscoll are the following
5 individuals: Councilmember
6 O'Neill.

7 (Councilmembers and
8 visitors approached podium.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

10 JOHNSON: Please proceed, sir.

11 COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL:

12 Well, thank you, Mr. President.

13 And good morning all.

14 We have a very special
15 guest among us today. And as
16 Council President said, we have the
17 Ambassador to Namibia. And he's
18 not only an a national figure, but
19 this individual has had a lifelong
20 career in public service, and his
21 family hails from Southwest
22 Philadelphia so he's a native son
23 among us today. And I'm proud to
24 be with John Giordano. And we'll

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2 be with your lovely wife in an hour
3 or so over celebrating the native
4 son's return as Ambassador.

5 It's so exciting when we
6 can have somebody that is an
7 Ambassador of goodwill from America
8 in the South African region not
9 only talking about the wonderful
10 things about America, but
11 Ambassador, talking about the
12 wonderful things about
13 Philadelphia. We talked earlier
14 today. He's actually promoting
15 Philadelphia to try and bring
16 business here.

17 And I will note that he
18 met the President of Community
19 College today. And they're already
20 in conversations about doing some
21 wonderful things. So thank you,
22 Ambassador, for being here. And
23 with that, we'll get on with our
24 recognition of you on this fine

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2 day. So let me begin with
3 recognizing Ambassador John
4 Giordano, United States Ambassador
5 to the Republic of Namibia, and
6 celebrating his distinguished
7 career of public service.

8 Whereas, throughout his
9 distinguished career, Ambassador
10 Giordano served in key leadership
11 capacities across local, state and
12 federal government, including
13 positions in the United States
14 Department of Energy, the United
15 States Department of Justice,
16 Environmental and Natural Resources
17 Division, as Deputy Secretary of
18 the Pennsylvania Department of
19 Conservation and Natural Resources,
20 and as an Assistant Commissioner of
21 the New Jersey Department of
22 Environmental Protection; and

23 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL:

24 Whereas -- excuse me, whereas,

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2 Ambassador Giordano has
3 consistently dedicated himself to
4 educating future generations of
5 leaders. Having served as a
6 lecturer in law at the University
7 of Pennsylvania Law School and an
8 Adjunct Professor at Rutgers
9 University School of Law; and

10 Whereas, in 2019
11 Ambassador Giordano expanded his
12 service to the international arena
13 when he was appointed to represent
14 the United States at the 74th
15 session of the United Nations
16 General Assembly, focusing on
17 critical global issues, including
18 human trafficking, countermeasures,
19 and counterterrorism; and

20 Whereas, in early 2025,
21 he answered the call to public
22 service, once again serving as the
23 United States Attorney for the
24 District of New Jersey, where he

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2 oversaw federal prosecutions and
3 targeted transnational criminal
4 networks, drug trafficking, human
5 trafficking and violent gang
6 operations; and

7 COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL:

8 Whereas, John Giordano was
9 confirmed by the United States
10 Senate as United States Ambassador
11 to the Republic of Namibia on
12 October 7, 2025. Sworn in on
13 October 9, 2025 and presented his
14 credentials to President Netumbo
15 Nandi-Ndaitwah on October 29, 2025;
16 and

17 Resolved, by the Council
18 of the City of Philadelphia, that
19 it hereby recognizes Ambassador
20 John Giordano, United States
21 Ambassador to the Republic of
22 Namibia, and commends him for his
23 decades of dedicated service to our
24 region and nation and wishes him

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2 continued success in representing
3 the United States on the world
4 stage.

5 Further resolved, that
6 an Engrossed copy of this
7 Resolution, be presented to
8 Ambassador John Giordano as
9 evidence of the sincere respect of
10 this legislative body.

11 So on behalf of all 17
12 Councilmembers and Mr. President
13 Johnson, Ambassador, we'd like to
14 present you with this resolution.
15 Congratulations.

16 AMBASSADOR GIORDANO:
17 Thank you, sir. Thank you very
18 much.

19 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL:
20 Congratulations. Thank you for
21 your service.

22 (Applause.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

24 JOHNSON: Chair recognizes

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2 Ambassador Giordano for remarks.

3 AMBASSADOR GIORDANO:

4 This is beautiful. Thank you. Get
5 everybody close here. President
6 Johnson, Councilman Driscoll, all
7 17 members of City Council, family
8 and the many friends that have
9 joined us this morning, thank you
10 for this absolutely extraordinary
11 honor. I've had the privilege, as
12 you've heard, of serving our
13 country in several capacities here
14 in Pennsylvania. Across the river,
15 in New Jersey, in Washington, D.C.,
16 and now as the United States
17 Ambassador in Namibia.

18 But wherever public
19 service has taken me, I have always
20 carried Philadelphia with me. The
21 city teaches you something
22 important, to work hard, to stand
23 your ground and to never, ever
24 forget where you've come from.

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2 Those lessons have served me
3 extremely well. As Ambassador, I
4 represent our country with
5 confidence and purpose to advance
6 American interests, support
7 American companies and workers and
8 demonstrate what the United States
9 and Philadelphia bring to the
10 world. To be recognized for that
11 service here in my hometown of
12 Philadelphia means more to me than
13 I can adequately express this
14 morning.

15 Thank you to Council,
16 again to Councilman Driscoll and
17 especially to my family and friends
18 that are here with us today. I
19 will always be proud to represent
20 the United States and to call
21 Philadelphia home. Thank you.

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 Chair takes a moment
5 of personal privilege to recognize
6 Majority Leader Katherine Gilmore
7 Richardson.

8 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

9 RICHARDSON: Thank you so much,
10 Council President.

11 I appreciate the
12 recognition today. Council
13 President, I wanted to recognize
14 the presence of a very special
15 young person who is joining us here
16 in Council chambers today. Please
17 allow us to welcome Avery Jones.
18 He is a 9th grader at Friere
19 Charter High school. He is here in
20 Council today to see democracy in
21 action. Stand up, Avery.

22 (Applause.)

23 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

24 RICHARDSON: He's here today to

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2 witness democracy in action. But
3 Avery runs track and field. He
4 participates in shot put and field
5 events. And he is an award-winning
6 track star in our city. I think
7 he's a future Olympian. He's a
8 wonderful young man and we are
9 proud to welcome him here to
10 Philadelphia City Council.

11 (Applause.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

13 JOHNSON: Congratulations.

14 Welcome.

15 The Chair recognizes
16 Councilmember Dr. Nina Ahmad.

17 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:

18 Thank you, Council President.

19 I would like to briefly
20 acknowledge a group of amazing
21 women who are here today to show
22 support for the resolution I'm
23 introducing honoring the Miss
24 Philadelphia Scholarship

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2 Organization for it's 105th
3 anniversary, and I appreciate them
4 turning out in force. And I want
5 to just make sure I read out their
6 names because they've been working
7 hard.

8 I'll start with
9 recognizing the current Miss
10 Philadelphia Jenna Anger, if she
11 would stand up. The current Miss
12 Philadelphia Teen, Ksenya Wong, and
13 the current Miss Pennsylvania, who
14 is here with us Stephanie Skinner.
15 I also want to acknowledge and
16 thank a group of former Miss
17 Philadelphia titleholders, Andrea
18 McHenry Duffy, Regina Hines, Kiplee
19 Bell, Cristina Elena Guzman,
20 Veronica Cleary, Diamond Edmonds,
21 Holly Harrar, Nia Andrews and
22 Tynecia Wilson. Thank you so much
23 for all the work you do and
24 representing us so well.

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2 Thank you, Council

3 President.

4 (Applause.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

6 JOHNSON: We welcome you to City

7 Council.

8 At this time, the Chair
9 recognizes Councilmember Jim
10 Harrity, who will present a
11 resolution recognizing September
12 the 26th as National Recovery
13 Month, and honoring the strength of
14 those impacted by addition.

15 Will Gina Harley and
16 those accompanying her please join
17 Councilmember Jim Harrity at the
18 podium. Members who will be
19 joining Councilmember Harrity are
20 the following: Councilmember
21 Brooks, Councilmember Phillips,
22 Councilmember Lozada, Councilmember
23 Ahmad, Councilmember Bass and
24 Councilmember Landau.

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2 (Councilmembers and

3 visitors approached podium.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

5 JOHNSON: You can proceed,

6 Councilmember Jim Harrity.

7 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:

8 Thank you, Council President.

9 Good morning, everyone.

10 Before we get started on reading
11 the resolution, I'd just like to
12 say a few words. I'm not going to
13 bore you with my story. Most of
14 you have already heard that many
15 times. But what I'd like to speak
16 about today starts with the first
17 word in Alcoholics and Narcotics
18 Anonymous.

19 The word is anonymous,
20 right. And for far too long, those
21 of us in long-term recovery have
22 hidden behind the anonymity, right.
23 But what we're facing today calls
24 for us to come out of the shadows,

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2 to stand up, to tell our stories.

3 Not for us, for those who may be
4 struggling so that they know that
5 recovery is possible, right.

6 You can get your life
7 back in the program. We say you'll
8 get back everything you lost and
9 then some. You need to look no
10 further than right here to see
11 that. For me, being in this
12 chamber is unbelievable. I drive
13 up and I look at City Hall every
14 morning as I'm coming in and I
15 think to myself, what did God do,
16 right. Because for me, I know it
17 wasn't me. I know it was something
18 higher than me. Something bigger
19 than me.

20 And for me to hide that
21 or to hide behind my anonymity is
22 not who I am, right. I don't tell
23 my story for me. I tell my story
24 for the other struggling addicts so

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2 that they know that if they put in
3 the time and if they work, they
4 will get amazing things in their
5 life. I have amazing things and
6 the key word that we all use in
7 recovery is grateful, right.

8 I am a grateful,
9 recovering addict. So I'm calling
10 on everyone in recovery to come out
11 of the shadows, to tell your story,
12 to show people what happens when
13 you are in long-term recovery,
14 right. I am a Councilman today.
15 At one point I was homeless, right.
16 You know, God is good.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

18 JOHNSON: All the time.

19 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: So
20 with that, I'm going to read our
21 thing and thank our friends at --

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

23 JOHNSON: He's Baptist Catholic.

24 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: --

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2 yeah. DBHIDS for all the amazing
3 work that they do every day. They
4 are literally doing God's work.
5 That's what I believe. That's what
6 I believe. We here are supposed to
7 do -- we are supposed to be the
8 people who fight for those who have
9 no one to fight for them. So I
10 choose to fight for that struggling
11 addict every day. Because for me,
12 I have no choice. In order to keep
13 what I have, I must give it away.

14 So with that, I'd like
15 to start with recognizing September
16 26, 2026 as National Recovery
17 Month, honoring the strength of
18 those impacted by addiction.

19 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS:

20 Whereas, National Recovery Month is
21 observed every September to
22 increase awareness and
23 understanding of mental health and
24 substance use disorders. The

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2 Substance Abuse and Mental Health
3 Services Administration states that
4 National Recovery Month began in
5 1989 to help recognize and support
6 new recovery practices, with
7 studies to help make recovery safe
8 and available to all; and

9 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

10 Whereas, according to the
11 Philadelphia Department of Public
12 Health since 2020, 6281 people have
13 fatally overdosed in Philadelphia
14 while fatal overdoses in the city
15 peaked in 2022 with 1413 deaths.
16 The numbers remain high through
17 2024, with 1069 fatal incidents in
18 2024. Around 77% of deaths
19 involved opioid use in another
20 decreasing trend -- which was
21 another decreasing trend. However,
22 despite these overall declining
23 trends, from 2023 to 2024 there was
24 an 8.6% increase in overdose deaths

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2 involving stimulants without

3 opioids; and

4 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA:

5 Whereas, around 44%, nearly half of

6 Philadelphians, personally know

7 someone struggling with substance

8 use disorder, according to a study

9 from Pew Research Institute. 1 in

10 4 of that same group of

11 Philadelphians responded to knowing

12 someone who fatally overdosed; and

13 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:

14 Whereas, 47% of Philadelphians

15 believe that the opioid crisis has

16 negatively impacted their

17 neighborhood quality of life, where

18 those Philadelphians in the River

19 Wards were the most highly

20 impacted. Neighborhoods like

21 Kensington, North Philadelphia,

22 Glenwood, Fairhill and others have

23 been hit hardest by the opioid

24 epidemic, marking a dramatic

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2 increase in overdoses over the past
3 decade compared to other major
4 metropolitan cities; and

5 COUNCILWOMAN BASS:

6 Whereas, despite the challenges
7 that persist with regards to
8 substance use disorder and, more
9 specifically, opioid use disorder,
10 public sentiment seems to be
11 shifting. In a 2025 poll from Pew,
12 51% of residents reported
13 understanding opioid use disorder
14 as a medical condition and public
15 health crisis, rather than
16 something someone brings upon
17 themselves, up from 39% in 2019;
18 and

19 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:

20 Whereas, National Recovery Month
21 serves as an opportunity to honor
22 the individuals and learn long-term
23 recovery, their families, treatment
24 providers, harm reduction workers,

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2 first responders and recovery

3 community organizations who work

4 every day to support Philadelphians

5 affected by substance use disorder.

6 We must recognize that recovery is

7 possible and that every person

8 struggling with addiction deserves

9 compassion, dignity and access to

10 care; now, therefore, be it

11 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:

12 Resolved, by the Council of the

13 City of Philadelphia, recognizes

14 September 2026 as National Recovery

15 Month and honors the strength of

16 those impacted by substance use

17 disorder and the ongoing struggle

18 of addiction in our city.

19 So be it Further

20 Resolved, that an Engrossed copy of

21 this Resolution will be presented

22 to the Department of Behavioral

23 Health and Intellectual

24 Disabilities at the future session

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2 of Council as a symbol of our
3 profound respect and admiration
4 felt by the legislative body and
5 the citizens of Philadelphia.
6 Thank you guys.

7 (Applause.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

9 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes Gina
10 Harley and Lawrence Jackson for
11 remarks.

12 MS. HARLEY: Good
13 morning, Council President,
14 Councilmembers and members of the
15 public joining us today. My name
16 is Gina Harley and I am the Chief
17 Program Officer for the Department
18 of Behavioral Health and
19 Intellectual Disabilities, aka
20 DBHIDS. Our Commissioner, Kenny
21 Solanke, unfortunately cannot be
22 here today, but she is thrilled
23 that Council will take out time of
24 their schedules to acknowledge not

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2 only the act of recovery, but the
3 action of recovery.

4 September is an
5 especially significant month for
6 DBHIDS as we join communities
7 across the country recognizing
8 National Recovery Month all year
9 long. Especially this month, we
10 have regular events, initiatives
11 and messages that focus on
12 recovery. We take time to
13 celebrate progress, recognize those
14 who make recovery possible, and
15 invite all of Philadelphia to be
16 part of a building recovery-ready
17 community.

18 So thank you,
19 Councilmember Harrity, for your
20 partnership and your belief in
21 ensuring that people you serve have
22 sustained access to care and
23 support throughout every stage of
24 their recovery. Your leadership

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2 underscores the city's commitment
3 to walk alongside individuals,
4 reducing barriers and creating
5 conditions where recovery is
6 possible. And that commitment at
7 DBHIDS is grounded in what we call
8 CARE framework, which stands for
9 Connection, Access, Resilience and
10 Equity.

11 Connection reminds us
12 that recovery does not happen
13 alone. The relationships
14 represented in recovery, like
15 peers, families, providers,
16 friends, provide hope,
17 encouragement and a sense of
18 belonging. Access means ensuring
19 that people can find and connect to
20 the resources and supports they
21 need when they need them. Recovery
22 should not depend on the
23 neighborhood you come from, your
24 circumstances or whether you know

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2 where to turn to for help. We must
3 continue building clear and
4 accessible pathways to care,
5 support, housing, employment,
6 community and opportunities so that
7 everyone has a meaningful
8 opportunity to begin and sustain
9 their recovery.

10 Resilience is at the
11 heart of recovery, and it is the
12 courage to begin again to ask for
13 help, to keep moving forward and to
14 recognize that setbacks do not
15 erase progress and equity means
16 ensuring that recovery is possible
17 for everyone.

18 We need to confront the
19 barriers and disparities that
20 prevent people from getting the
21 support that they deserve. That
22 CARE commitment reflects our
23 mission at DBHIDS, which is to
24 educate, strengthen and serve

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2 individuals and communities so that
3 all Philadelphians can thrive. And
4 it moves us toward our vision of a
5 Philadelphia where individuals can
6 achieve health, well-being and
7 self-determination. And that's
8 where Lawrence D. Jackson comes in.

9 Lawrence is not here
10 only to represent DBHIDS, but also
11 a living example of what the
12 Connection, Access, Resilience and
13 Equity can look like in a person's
14 life. Lawrence's journey has not
15 been a straight path. It has
16 twists, turns, challenges and
17 triumphs. And it is that journey
18 that continues today.

19 His story reminds us
20 to -- I'm sorry. His story reminds
21 us that recovery is not always
22 linear, and that the right
23 connections, support, and
24 opportunities can make a meaningful

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2 difference along the way. But
3 rather than tell his story for him,
4 I'd like to give him the
5 opportunity to share a little of
6 his journey on his own. So please
7 help me welcome Mr. Lawrence D.
8 Jackson.

9 (Applause.)

10 MR. JACKSON: All right.
11 Good morning.

12 (Good morning.)

13 MR. JACKSON: I'm a
14 grateful, recovering person from
15 the disease of addiction named
16 Lawrence D. Jackson. I have always
17 been the type of man who likes to
18 set goals for myself and I take
19 pride in being that way. And
20 that's what happened in 1986, when
21 I knew I had what it took to
22 graduate from college and to play
23 professional football.

24 So in 1987, I got a

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2 chance to play in the NFL in my
3 hometown of Atlanta with the
4 Atlanta Falcons. I had reached my
5 goal, but my career would be
6 derailed by an injury. The injury
7 impacted me in ways I could never
8 have predicted. The goal I had set
9 in my mind was gone in a matter of
10 seconds. I had no plan in my mind,
11 no future. I had never touched
12 hard drugs before in my life.

13 But feeling like I had
14 nothing, I turned to drugs and
15 alcohol to ease my pain. I
16 wandered in the wilderness of drug
17 addiction for over 37 years. In
18 October of 2017, I hit my bottom.
19 That was what caused me to come
20 from Atlanta to Philly with the
21 intent to commit bank fraud to feed
22 my addiction. I was caught,
23 arrested and spent 53 days in jail.

24 I was given a signature

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2 bond and four years' probation, and
3 my mental health probation officer
4 was instrumental in helping me to
5 go to my first rehab in March of
6 2018. By completing the rehab
7 program, my pending criminal
8 charges in Georgia were dismissed.
9 However, I relapsed and went
10 through rehab again and I didn't
11 understand. I needed to do more
12 than just get clean.

13 I needed to learn how to
14 stay clean. I had to learn how to
15 actively change my behavior and my
16 attitude. During my second stint
17 in rehab, I went through the DBHIDS
18 Journey of Hope program, the
19 dedicated staff of the City of
20 Philadelphia program, made all the
21 difference in helping me turn my
22 life around to become a productive
23 member of society.

24 I am truly a product of

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2 the Department of Behavioral Health
3 Intellectual Disability Services.

4 I went back to setting personal
5 goals. I knew I wanted a job that
6 would enable me to help people who
7 may feel as hopeless as I had. In
8 April of 2022, I was able to become
9 a Certified Peer Specialist and I
10 am now employed with DBHIDS with
11 the Mobile Outreach Recovery
12 Services Unit.

13 Being on the MORS team
14 has been instrumental in my staying
15 clean and sober. It has helped me
16 to provide the lifeline to people
17 who sometimes are unable to see a
18 way out of what they are really
19 dealing with. While working on the
20 MORS team, I set a goal also to
21 become a Behavioral Health Case
22 Manager and I have held that title
23 for over two years.

24 I set a goal to become a

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2 homeowner. I was able to achieve
3 that goal under the city's Turn the
4 Key program, where I bought a brand
5 new home in May of 2024. Now, my
6 wife and I host watch parties not
7 for the Atlanta Falcons, but for
8 the Philadelphia Eagles.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

10 JOHNSON: Go Birds.

11 MR. JACKSON: Thanks to
12 the continued support I received
13 from my manager, supervisor and
14 co-workers. In January of this
15 year, I set a goal to get my
16 Master's Degree. I'm happy to say
17 that in May of 2027, I will be
18 receiving my Master's Degree in
19 Human Services and you all are
20 invited to the graduation.

21 Finally, I'd like to say
22 every day I set a goal to stay
23 clean and serene. I stand before
24 you today with four years, nine

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2 months, and 11 days clean. My
3 eternal goal is to stay clean for
4 the rest of my life. Thank you for
5 letting me share my little story
6 today of my journey. And look,
7 please don't give up on people in
8 your life who are being challenged
9 right now because I am the
10 personification of resilience.
11 Recovery is real. Thank you.

12 (Applause.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

14 JOHNSON: Council will be at ease.

15 (Council at ease.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

17 JOHNSON: At this time, the Chair
18 recognizes Majority Whip Isaiah
19 Thomas, who will present a
20 resolution honoring and
21 congratulating Dr. Alycia Marshall,
22 as the Community College of
23 Philadelphia celebrates her
24 investiture as the college's

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2 seventh president.

3 Would Dr. Alycia

4 Marshall and those accompanying her

5 please join Councilmember Thomas at

6 the podium. Members of the City

7 Council participating in this

8 presentation are the following:

9 Councilmember Dr. Anthony Phillips,

10 Councilmember Jeffrey Jay Young,

11 Jr., Councilmember Kendra Brooks,

12 Councilmember Jamie Gauthier and

13 Councilmember Katherine Gilmore

14 Richardson and Councilmember

15 Dr. Nina Ahmad.

16 (Councilmembers and

17 visitors approached podium.)

18 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Good

19 morning, everybody.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

21 JOHNSON: Good morning.

22 COUNCILMAN THOMAS:

23 Thank you, Council President. I

24 know somebody's up this morning.

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2 My name is Councilmember
3 Isaiah Thomas and I am the Chair of
4 the Education Committee. And for
5 me to be standing here today to
6 recognize Dr. Marshall is an honor
7 and a privilege. And so, as the
8 person who's been really leading
9 the charge and trying to organize
10 an effort to not just have the
11 Education Committee focus on
12 traditional K through 12 settings,
13 we've actually looked at PreK.

14 If you know about our
15 hearing this past summer, and we've
16 really had a strong focus on higher
17 academia. And when I think about
18 the collaboration with CCP, whether
19 it's the interns who come to
20 counsel the events that we partner
21 with or the CATTO scholarship
22 program I'm going to take a moment
23 of personal privilege to embarrass
24 Jason Lawson. And Jason, stand up

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2 please.

3 (Applause.)

4 COUNCILMAN THOMAS:

5 Jason's an intern technically for
6 you, Council President, and he's a
7 recipient of the great work that's
8 happening at CCP. So with that
9 being said, I want to start today's
10 presentation by passing it to
11 another member of the Education
12 Committee, Dr. Nina Ahmad. And I
13 want to again take a moment of
14 personal privilege to say
15 congratulations to Dr. Marshall.

16 And thank you to the
17 entire team at CCP for being a
18 great partner to the City of
19 Philadelphia and for being an
20 amazing institution for young
21 people all across the Commonwealth
22 of Pennsylvania.

23 Dr. Ahmad.

24 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:

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2 Adding my congratulations to what
3 the Chair of Education Committee
4 said, I'll start with:

5 Whereas, Dr. Alycia
6 Marshall, Ph.D., joined the
7 Community College of Philadelphia
8 in 2022 as Provost and Vice-
9 President for academic and student
10 success, where she provided
11 strategic oversight of academic
12 affairs, workforce development and
13 student support and engagement; and

14 COUNCILMAN YOUNG:

15 Whereas, in May of 2025
16 Dr. Marshall was appointed interim
17 president of the Community College
18 of Philadelphia, providing steady
19 leadership during a period of
20 transition before being selected as
21 the College's permanent President
22 in October of 2025 following a
23 national search, becoming the
24 seventh president in the

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2 institution's history; and

3 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS:

4 Whereas, Dr. Marshall's

5 distinguished career in higher

6 education spans nearly 23 years at

7 Anne Arundel Community College in

8 Maryland, where she rose through

9 the ranks as a tenured Full

10 Professor of Mathematics,

11 Department Chair of Mathematics and

12 the Associate Vice-President for

13 Learning and Academic Affairs. And

14 she earned her Ph.D. in Mathematics

15 Education from the University of

16 Maryland, College Park, a Master of

17 Arts in Teaching from Bowie State

18 University, and a Bachelor of Arts

19 in Mathematics from the University

20 of Maryland, Baltimore County.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

22 JOHNSON: And that's heavy.

23 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: I

24 literally just said the same thing,

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2 Council President. I said
3 mathematics. I didn't know that
4 about you.

5 Whereas, a nationally
6 recognized leader in mathematics,
7 education and equity, Dr. Marshall
8 has been named an Aspen Rising
9 Presidents Fellow and a Charles A.
10 Dana Center Mathematics Pathways
11 Leadership Fellow, while receiving
12 numerous honors for her
13 contributions to STEM, higher
14 education and faculty excellence,
15 and has contributed to national
16 education initiatives through her
17 work with organizations including
18 TPSE Math and Carnegie Math
19 pathways; and

20 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

21 RICHARDSON: Whereas, Dr. Marshall
22 has demonstrated a longstanding
23 commitment to developing future
24 leaders and expanding opportunity,

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2 founding the African American
3 Leadership Institute at Anne
4 Arundel Community College and
5 spearheading the Aspiring Leaders
6 Fellowship Program at Community
7 College of Philadelphia, while also
8 contributing to Philadelphia's
9 educational and workforce ecosystem
10 through service with organizations
11 including Philadelphia Works, the
12 Philadelphia Eds and Meds
13 Collaborative, and the Economy
14 League of Greater Philadelphia;
15 now, therefore; be it

16 COUNCILWOMAN BASS:
17 Resolved, by the Council of the
18 City of Philadelphia, that we
19 hereby honor and congratulate
20 Dr. Alycia Marshall, Ph.D., on her
21 investiture as the seventh
22 president of the Community College
23 of Philadelphia. And we recognize
24 her continued commitment to

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2 academic excellence, student
3 success, and the advancement of
4 higher education in Philadelphia.

5 And be it Further
6 Resolved, that an Engrossed copy of
7 this Resolution be presented to
8 Dr. Alycia Marshall, Ph.D., as
9 evidence of the sincere admiration
10 and respect of our legislative
11 body. Congratulations.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

13 JOHNSON: Chair recognizes
14 Dr. Alycia Marshall.

15 DR. MARSHALL: I'm going
16 to be tall for one moment in time.

17 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS:
18 It's overrated.

19 DR. MARSHALL: I agree.
20 It is my distinct honor and
21 pleasure to be here today in this
22 moment. I want to thank Council
23 President Johnson, Councilmember
24 Thomas, and as CCP resides in his

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2 District, Councilmember Young, and
3 the entire City Councilmembership
4 for this honor.

5 I want to say that a few
6 minutes before this started,
7 Councilmember Thomas said to me, I
8 never do presentations here. I'm
9 doing this one and this is the last
10 one I'm doing. But you're worth
11 it. So he set the bar high. I
12 have to live up to that. So thank
13 you for that.

14 It is a true privilege
15 to serve as the seventh president
16 of Community College of
17 Philadelphia. Yes, it's a true
18 privilege. But it's not lost on me
19 about the timing of this transition
20 and leadership. The Community
21 College of Philadelphia this year
22 is celebrating 60 years of
23 transforming the lives of almost
24 800,000 city residents.

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2 (Applause.)

3 DR. MARSHALL: This
4 institution has done incredible
5 work and we are building on that
6 work. I am working collaboratively
7 with the team, with some incredibly
8 talented faculty and staff at the
9 Community College of Philadelphia
10 every day who show up for our
11 students at CCP. We have created
12 an environment where success is
13 inescapable. It is all a testament
14 to the passion and the commitment
15 of the great people that I work
16 with at the Community College of
17 Philadelphia. But it is not just
18 faculty and staff at Community
19 College of Philadelphia. It is
20 community and it is our partnership
21 with City Council that supports our
22 efforts.

23 One thing that I
24 recognized very quickly in my few

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2 months as the president was the
3 deep commitment of this city
4 Council to the City's college and
5 to this city. Not just the
6 investment in our CATTO Scholarship
7 program, for example, not just the
8 investment, but also the personal
9 investment.

10 When I look around this
11 room, I see that pretty much every
12 member of City Council has been to
13 our campus multiple times. I am
14 going to take a little bit of
15 privilege in mentioning just a few
16 recent visits. Councilmember
17 Young, thank you so much for coming
18 and being with us at our CATTO
19 Family Reunion a few weeks ago
20 where we celebrated 700 new CATTO
21 scholars joining the CCP family.

22 Thank you to
23 Councilmember Thomas for bringing
24 his Drive Equality tour to CCP just

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2 a few days ago and bringing
3 Councilmember Brooks, our very own
4 CCP alumna, with him.

5 (Applause.)

6 DR. MARSHALL: Yes,
7 creating -- they created a
8 wonderful opportunity for our
9 students to learn and to see
10 firsthand what can happen when you
11 put power into an opportunity for
12 students and for this community.
13 City Council, I thank you for your
14 partnership. I thank you for your
15 commitment. I thank you for
16 continuously showing up and showing
17 our students and this community
18 what is possible.

19 I also want to thank
20 Councilmember Jones, who was
21 recently at our current Advanced
22 Technology Center in West
23 Philadelphia, celebrating our
24 launch of the Penn-CCP

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2 Entrepreneurship Academy. I have
3 to take a moment to talk about
4 this, because the Penn-CCP
5 Entrepreneurship Academy will be an
6 opportunity for business owners in
7 West Philadelphia to gain free
8 access to business development
9 services.

10 This is an incredible
11 inaugural partnership and an
12 example of what you can see coming
13 moving forward. The effort around
14 the vision for CCP over the next 60
15 years is to continue to deepen our
16 partnership, create more
17 opportunities for pathways to
18 Bachelor's degree attainment for
19 short-term credentialing so that
20 individuals and city residents can
21 upskill and gain economic mobility,
22 to continue to support small
23 businesses, to collaborate with our
24 school district, and creating

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2 pathways and partnerships for
3 expanding dual enrollment. The
4 list goes on and on, but we do that
5 with your support and your help.
6 So thank you, City Council, for
7 your partnership.

8 And the last thing I
9 want to say about partnership is
10 acknowledging the faculty and staff
11 at the Community College of
12 Philadelphia, and specifically the
13 cabinet and the senior leadership
14 that is standing behind me today.
15 They work collaboratively with me
16 to lead the institution to ensure
17 that we are improving and creating
18 more opportunities for success.
19 And I thank them for their
20 partnership. This has been a true
21 honor. I am privileged to be here.
22 I am thankful for this opportunity,
23 and I accept this on behalf of the
24 faculty, staff and most

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2 importantly, the students at the
3 Community College of Philadelphia.
4 I look forward to working with you
5 in making our next chapter our best
6 chapter for the city's college and
7 for the City of Philadelphia.

8 (Applause.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

10 JOHNSON: Council will be at ease.

11 (Council at ease.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

13 JOHNSON: The next order of
14 business is communications. The
15 Chair requests that the Sergeant-
16 at-Arms deliver the messages from
17 the Mayor to the Chief Clerk.

18 Will the Chief Clerk
19 read the messages from the Mayor
20 and any other communications in his
21 possession.

22 THE CLERK: To the
23 President and the members of the
24 Council of the City of

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2 Philadelphia, I'm submitting
3 herewith for the consideration of
4 your Honorable body the following
5 proposed: An ordinance authorizing
6 the Commissioner of Public
7 Property, on behalf of the City of
8 Philadelphia, to enter into lease
9 or sublease agreements with the
10 Philadelphia Authority for
11 Industrial Development for all or a
12 portion of the premises that
13 includes certain parcels of land,
14 generally referred to as Victory
15 Gardens and Emerson Landfill, for
16 environmental remediation of the
17 land, development of a facility at
18 said premises and use as a training
19 facility, all under certain terms
20 and conditions.

21 And I am pleased to
22 advise you that on September 23,
23 2026, I signed the following bill
24 which was passed by Council at its

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2 session on September 17, 2026:

3 Bill No. 260508.

4 There are no further
5 communications in my possession,
6 Council President.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

8 JOHNSON: Thank you very much. And
9 the messages will be printed in the
10 journal.

11 The next order of
12 business is the introduction of
13 bills and resolutions.

14 The Chair recognizes
15 Councilmember Dr. Anthony Phillips.

16 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:
17 Good morning, Council President.
18 Good morning, everyone here.

19 Council President, I
20 have no bills or resolutions for
21 introduction today.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

23 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

24 Chair recognizes

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2 Councilmember Majority Leader

3 Katherine Gilmore Richardson.

4 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

5 RICHARDSON: Thank you, Council

6 President.

7 This morning I offer

8 three bills on your behalf.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

10 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

11 Will the Chief Clerk

12 please read the titles of the

13 bills. Thank you.

14 THE CLERK: An ordinance

15 regulating the placement of a truck

16 loading zone on South 23rd Street

17 between South Street and Naudain

18 Street, all under certain terms and

19 conditions.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

21 JOHNSON: This bill will be

22 referred to the appropriate

23 committee.

24 THE CLERK: An ordinance

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2 to amend the Philadelphia Zoning
3 Maps by changing the zoning
4 designations of certain areas of
5 land located within an area bounded
6 by Wharton Street, 28th Street,
7 Reed Street and Newkirk Street.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

12 THE CLERK: And an
13 ordinance to amend the Philadelphia
14 Zoning Maps by changing the zoning
15 designations of certain areas of
16 land located within an area bounded
17 by Wharton Street, Broad Street,
18 Reed Street and Carlisle Street.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

20 JOHNSON: This bill will be
21 referred to the appropriate
22 committee.

23 Chair recognizes
24 Councilmember Jamie Gauthier.

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2 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:

3 Good morning, Council President.

4 Today I have two
5 non-privileged resolutions, one
6 bill and one privileged resolution
7 on your behalf.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

9 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

10 Chief Clerk, please read
11 the titles of the bill and
12 resolutions.

13 THE CLERK: An ordinance
14 authorizing encroachments in the
15 nature of planters in the vicinity
16 of 3001 Chestnut Street, under
17 certain terms and conditions.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

19 JOHNSON: This bill will be
20 referred to the appropriate
21 committee.

22 THE CLERK: And a
23 non-privileged resolution also
24 naming the 200 Block of South 50th

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2 Street as Monumental Way to honor
3 the legacy and impact of the
4 monumental Baptist Church on the
5 Walnut Hill community.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

7 JOHNSON: This resolution will be
8 placed on the Final Passage
9 Calendar for consideration at our
10 next session of Council.

11 THE CLERK: And a
12 non-privileged resolution
13 recognizing "Black Bottom" as the
14 first and official name of the
15 neighborhood in West Philadelphia,
16 bounded by 32nd Street to the east,
17 40th Street to the west, University
18 Avenue to the south, and Lancaster
19 Avenue to the north, ensuring that
20 future communication or action on
21 the part of the City of
22 Philadelphia acknowledges this
23 community's importance to our City.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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2 JOHNSON: This resolution will be
3 placed on the Calendar for
4 consideration at the next session
5 of Council.

6 THE CLERK: And a
7 privileged resolution authorizing
8 the Committee on Streets and
9 Services to hold hearings to
10 examine the City's implementation
11 of its Vision Zero Action Plan,
12 evaluate progress towards
13 eliminating traffic fatalities and
14 serious injuries, and to identify
15 opportunities to improve roadway
16 safety throughout Philadelphia,
17 including through daylighting,
18 traffic calming, pedestrian
19 infrastructure and other such
20 measures.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

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2 The Chair recognizes

3 Councilmember Isaiah Thomas.

4 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Good
5 morning, Council President.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

7 JOHNSON: Good morning.

8 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Good
9 morning, colleagues. Good morning
10 to the City of Philadelphia.

11 I have nothing today.

12 Thank you, Council
13 President.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

15 JOHNSON: Thank you.

16 Chair recognizes
17 Councilmember Curtis Jones, Jr.

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

20 Colleagues, in the
21 tradition of John Skief, Baba
22 Skief, I submit one non-privileged
23 resolution.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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2 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

3 Chief Clerk, please read
4 the title of the one non-privileged
5 resolution.

6 THE CLERK: A
7 non-privileged resolution renaming
8 the 5600 Block of Woodbine Avenue
9 as "James A. Reed Way" to honor the
10 life, legacy and lasting
11 contributions of James A. "Jim"
12 Reed to the City of Philadelphia.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
14 JOHNSON: This resolution will be
15 placed on the Final Passage
16 Calendar for consideration at the
17 next session of Council.

18 Chair recognizes
19 Councilmember Landau.

20 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:
21 Good morning, Council President,
22 colleagues and the public.

23 Today I have one
24 privileged resolution and one

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2 non-privileged resolution on your
3 behalf.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

5 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

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

9 THE CLERK: A privileged
10 resolution recognizing,
11 congratulating and celebrating
12 Philadelphia VIP for its
13 outstanding contributions to
14 Philadelphia on the occasion of its
15 45th anniversary.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

20 THE CLERK: And a
21 privileged -- and a non-privileged
22 resolution urging the Office of the
23 Comptroller of the Currency and the
24 Federal Deposit Insurance

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2 Corporation to withdraw the
3 proposed amendments to their
4 Community Reinvestment Act rules,
5 which would roll back anti-
6 redlining standards and weaken
7 banking services to low- and
8 moderate-income communities while
9 threatening investments in
10 affordable housing and community
11 development.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

13 JOHNSON: This resolution will be
14 placed on the Final Passage
15 Calendar for consideration at our
16 next session of Council.

17 Chair recognizes
18 Councilwoman Quetcy Lozada.

19 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA:

20 Good morning, Council President.
21 Good morning, everyone.

22 I offer two privileged
23 resolutions and one bill on my
24 behalf, and I offer one bill on

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2 your behalf.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

4 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

5 Chief Clerk, please read
6 the titles of the bills and
7 resolutions.

8 THE CLERK: An ordinance
9 regulating the placement of a truck
10 loading zone on 1716 Frankford
11 Avenue between Palmer Street and
12 East Columbia Avenue, all under
13 certain terms and conditions.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

15 JOHNSON: This bill will be
16 referred to the appropriate
17 committee.

18 THE CLERK: An ordinance
19 authorizing the Commissioner of
20 Public Property, on behalf of the
21 City of Philadelphia, to enter into
22 lease or sublease agreements with
23 the Philadelphia Authority for
24 Industrial Development for all or a

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2 portion of the premises that
3 includes certain parcels of land,
4 generally referred to as Victory
5 Gardens and Emerson Landfill for
6 environmental remediation of the
7 land, development of a facility at
8 said premises and as use as a
9 training facility, all under
10 certain terms and conditions.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

12 JOHNSON: This bill will be
13 referred to the appropriate
14 committee.

15 THE CLERK: And a
16 privileged resolution recognizing
17 and honoring Saint James Lutheran
18 Church on its 100th anniversary and
19 celebrating its centennial as a
20 pillar of faith, community service
21 and providing spiritual guidance.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

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2 Calendar.

3 THE CLERK: And a
4 privileged resolution recognizing
5 and honoring distinguished Latino
6 Leaders and Community Advocates in
7 the City of Philadelphia during
8 Hispanic Heritage Month.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

13 Chair recognizes
14 Councilmember Jeffrey Jay Young.

15 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Thank
16 you, Mr. President. Good morning.

17 Today I offer one bill
18 and one non-privileged resolution.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

20 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

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

24 THE CLERK: An ordinance

Stated Meeting

1 9/24/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 amending Section 14-529 of The
3 Philadelphia Code, entitled "/VDO,
4 Fifth District Overlay District,"
5 to establish use restrictions
6 within a specified area, all under
7 certain terms and conditions.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

12 THE CLERK: And a
13 non-privileged resolution also
14 renaming the 1200 block of North
15 LeCount Street "Derrick 'Phat Geez'
16 Gant Way" to honor the life and
17 legacy of Derrick Tawheed Haleem
18 Gant, a Philadelphia recording
19 artist and beloved member of the
20 North Philadelphia community.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

22 JOHNSON: This resolution will be
23 placed on the Calendar for
24 consideration at the next session

Stated Meeting

1 9/24/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 of Council.

3 Chair recognizes
4 Councilmember Brooks.

5 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS:
6 Good morning, Council President.

7 I have one privileged
8 resolution to introduce today.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
10 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

11 Chief Clerk, please read
12 the title of the resolution.

13 THE CLERK: A privileged
14 resolution honoring the legacy of
15 Black labor in Philadelphia,
16 including the first Colored
17 Convention in 1830, and the Black
18 organizers who for centuries have
19 been at the heart of the American
20 labor movement.

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

Stated Meeting

1 9/24/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 Chair recognizes

3 Councilmember Jim Harrity.

4 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:

5 Good afternoon, Council President.

6 I have one privileged
7 resolution today.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

9 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

10 Chief Clerk, please read
11 the title of the resolution.

12 THE CLERK: A privileged
13 resolution recognizing the third
14 week of September 2026 as National
15 Construction Appreciation Week in
16 the City of Philadelphia, honoring
17 the contribution of the
18 construction industry to the
19 vitality of our City.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

24 Chair recognizes

Stated Meeting

1 9/24/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 Councilmember Nicolas O'Rourke.

3 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE:

4 Good morning, Mr. President. Thank
5 you.

6 I have one
7 non-privileged resolution and two
8 privileged resolutions to introduce
9 today.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

11 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

12 Chief Clerk, please read
13 the titles of the resolutions.

14 THE CLERK: A privileged
15 resolution recognizing September
16 2026 as Hunger Action Month in the
17 City of Philadelphia in order to
18 raise awareness about food
19 insecurity in our communities and
20 to mobilize us to act in the
21 movement to end hunger.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

Stated Meeting

1 9/24/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 Calendar.

3 THE CLERK: And a
4 privileged resolution authorizing
5 the Committee on Legislative
6 Oversight to hold hearings
7 examining the City's oversight of
8 correctional health care
9 contractors and the circumstances
10 leading to disruptions in medical
11 care in Philadelphia jails.

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

16 THE CLERK: And a
17 non-privileged resolution,
18 unequivocally standing with
19 unionized workers by endorsing the
20 boycott of Starbucks call for by
21 Workers United-SEIU by encouraging
22 residents, neighborhood local
23 councils, and Philadelphia City
24 Council to refrain from purchasing

Stated Meeting

1 9/24/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 Starbucks products until Starbucks
3 finally finalizes a fair union
4 contract.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

6 JOHNSON: This resolution will be
7 placed on the Final Passage
8 Calendar for consideration at the
9 next session of Council.

10 Chair recognizes
11 Councilmember Mike Driscoll.

12 COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL:

13 Good morning, Mr. President.

14 I have one
15 non-privileged resolution today.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

17 JOHNSON: Chief Clerk, please read
18 the title of the resolution.

19 THE CLERK: A

20 non-privileged resolution also
21 naming the 3300 block of Solly
22 Avenue as 'Father Judge 27 Way' to
23 honor the 27 graduates of Father
24 Judge High School who lost their

Stated Meeting

1 9/24/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 lives in the Vietnam War.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

4 JOHNSON: This resolution will be

5 placed on the Final Passage

6 Calendar for consideration at the

7 next session of Council.

8 Chair recognizes

9 Councilmember Brian O'Neill.

10 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL:

11 Thank you, Mr. President.

12 I have no bills and

13 resolutions today.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

15 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

16 Chair recognizes

17 Councilmember Cindy Bass.

18 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Good

19 morning, Mr. President.

20 I offer one bill, three

21 privileged resolutions and one

22 privileged resolution on your

23 behalf.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Stated Meeting

1 9/24/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

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

6 THE CLERK: An ordinance
7 amending amending Chapter 12-900
8 ("Parking Regulations and
9 Penalties") of The Philadelphia
10 Code to include the Eighth
11 Councilmanic district in the
12 regulation of parking of certain
13 large vehicles, including boats,
14 motor homes, house coaches, house
15 trainers, truck campers,
16 recreational cargo trainer, and
17 recreational trailers, under
18 certain terms and conditions.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

20 JOHNSON: This bill will be
21 referred to the appropriate
22 committee.

23 THE CLERK: And a
24 privileged resolution recognizing

Stated Meeting

1 9/24/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 September 2026 as "Deaf Awareness
3 Month" in the City of Philadelphia
4 and further honoring Pennsylvania
5 School for the Deaf for its
6 historic leadership, educational
7 excellence, and unwavering
8 commitment to empowering Deaf and
9 hard-of-hearing students and
10 advancing Deaf culture and
11 community.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

13 JOHNSON: This resolution will be
14 placed on today's Final Passage
15 Calendar. Very well done, Member
16 Bass.

17 Chair recognizes --

18 THE CLERK: (Inaudible).

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

20 JOHNSON: -- the Chief Clerk.

21 THE CLERK: And a
22 privileged resolution honoring and
23 celebrating United Lutheran
24 Seminary on its 200th anniversary

Stated Meeting

1 9/24/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 and commemorating the Seminary's
3 longstanding presence and service
4 in the City of Philadelphia.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

9 THE CLERK: And a
10 privileged resolution authorizing
11 the Committee on Licenses and
12 Inspections to hold a hearing to
13 examine the implementation and
14 enforcement of laws and regulations
15 governing nuisance businesses,
16 including Stop and Go
17 establishments, signage, and window
18 coverings, and to assess how
19 enforcement practices can improve
20 public safety, strengthen community
21 trust, ensure due process, and
22 reduce neighborhood conflict

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

24 JOHNSON: This resolution will be

Stated Meeting

1 9/24/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 placed on today's Final Passage
3 Calendar.

4 THE CLERK: And a
5 privileged resolution honoring
6 Dr. Molefi Kete Asante for his
7 distinguished academic career as
8 the founder of the theory of
9 Afrocentricity on the occasion of
10 WURD Radio's feature on his local
11 and global legacy through the
12 Freedom Journeys initiative.

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

17 Chair recognizes
18 Councilmember Dr. Nina Ahmad.

19 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:
20 Thank you, Council President. I'm
21 introducing three privileged
22 resolutions.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
24 JOHNSON: Chief Clerk, please read

Stated Meeting

1 9/24/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 the titles of the resolutions.

3 THE CLERK: A privileged
4 resolution recognizing and honoring
5 the Miss Philadelphia Scholarship
6 Organization on its 105th
7 anniversary, celebrating all
8 current and former title holders
9 and the organization's longstanding
10 commitment to scholarship, service
11 leadership and the empowerment of
12 women in Philadelphia.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

17 THE CLERK: And a
18 privileged resolution recognizing
19 September 2026 as Cerebral Visual
20 Impairment (CVI) Awareness Month in
21 the City of Philadelphia, and
22 commending the Rosenblatt Family
23 CVI Center at Overbrook School for
24 the Blind, for its commitment to

Stated Meeting

1 9/24/26 - STATED - CONSENT AGENDA
2 improving care, education and
3 research for the children with CVI.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

8 THE CLERK: And a
9 privileged resolution recognizing
10 September 22, 2026 as World
11 Perimenopause Day and the month of
12 September 2026 as Perimenopause
13 Awareness Month in the City of
14 Philadelphia.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

19 There being no reports
20 from committees today, we will now
21 have the consideration of the
22 Calendar. The next order of
23 business is the consideration of
24 the Calendar.

Stated Meeting

1 9/24/26 - STATED - CONSENT AGENDA

2 The Chair recognizes the
3 Majority Leader Katherine Gilmore
4 Richardson for a motion concerning
5 bills on the First Reading
6 Calendar.

7 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

8 RICHARDSON: Thank you,
9 Mr. President.

10 The following bill on
11 the First Reading Calendar is being
12 held: Bill No. 260298.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

14 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes
15 Majority Leader Katherine Gilmore
16 Richardson for a motion concerning
17 resolutions on the Final Passage
18 Calendar.

19 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

20 RICHARDSON: Thank you,
21 Mr. President.

22 I move that the rules of
23 Council be suspended as to permit
24 the use of a Consent Agenda to

Stated Meeting

1 9/24/26 - STATED - CONSENT AGENDA
2 consider the following resolutions
3 on the Final Passage Calendar
4 today: Resolution Nos. 260715,
5 260716, 260717, 260718, 260719,
6 260728, 260729, 260739, 260748,
7 260740, 260749 and 260750.

8 The following resolution
9 on the Calendar is being held:
10 260741.

11 (Duly seconded.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

13 JOHNSON: It has been moved and
14 properly seconded -- thank you,
15 Member Jones -- that the rules of
16 Council be suspended to permit the
17 use of a Consent Agenda to consider
18 the resolutions just read by
19 Majority Leader Katherine Gilmore
20 Richardson.

21 All in favor will
22 indicate by saying aye.

23 (Aye.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Stated Meeting

1 9/24/26 - STATED - BILLS ON 2ND READING

2 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

3 (No response.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

5 JOHNSON: The ayes have it and the
6 motion carries and we will consider
7 the Resolution Consent Agenda
8 shortly.

9 The Chair recognizes the
10 Majority Leader Katherine Gilmore
11 Richardson for a motion concerning
12 additional resolutions on the Final
13 Passage Calendar and bills on the
14 Second Reading and Final Passage
15 Calendar.

16 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

17 RICHARDSON: Thank you,
18 Mr. President.

19 The following
20 resolutions are being called up
21 from the Final Passage Calendar and
22 the following bills are being
23 called up from the Second Reading
24 and Final Passage Calendars today:

Stated Meeting

1 9/24/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 Resolution Nos. 260730, 260738 and
3 260747.

4 The following
5 resolutions and bills on the
6 Calendar are being held: 250768,
7 250807 and 260706 -- 076.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
9 JOHNSON: Before considering the
10 resolutions and bills, we would
11 consider public comment as follows:
12 Your public comment must concern
13 matters on the Second Reading and
14 Final Passage Calendars for
15 possible action at today's Council
16 session.

17 All speakers must sign
18 up in order to testify. If you
19 have not already signed up, please
20 do so now by giving your name to
21 Ms. Hasson at the table outside the
22 rails to my left. Once you have
23 signed up, you will be called in
24 the order in which your name

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1 9/24/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 appears on the sign-up sheet.

3 Under ideal circumstances, public
4 commenters each will have three
5 minutes to speak. However, this
6 time limit may vary from session to
7 session.

8 Today, the time limit
9 will be two minutes. In order to
10 be fair to all those wishing to
11 speak, I intend to hold faithfully
12 to the two-minute limit. When you
13 begin speaking, you will see a
14 green light on the podium. When
15 there are 30 seconds remaining to
16 your time, the light will turn
17 yellow, which is your reminder to
18 please conclude your remarks.

19 Once two minutes have
20 passed, the light will turn red and
21 the Sergeant-at-Arms will
22 disconnect the microphone. Please
23 respect the Sergeant-at-Arms. He
24 is only doing his job. At that

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1 9/24/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 point, please yield the podium to
3 the next speaker. If you have not
4 already done so, I also reserve the
5 right, pursuant to our rules of
6 City Council, to limit repetitious
7 comments on the same subject
8 matter.

9 I will now ask the Chief
10 Clerk to please read the name of
11 our first speaker.

12 THE CLERK: Will Melissa
13 Dragnac, Matt Bujak, Anthony
14 De Alba, Evelyn Munguia-Alvarez,
15 Shonda Bear Moralis, Courtney
16 Schulnick.

17 (Witnesses approached
18 podium.)

19 THE CLERK: John
20 McAuley, Jeremy Blatstein, Bethany
21 Nikitenko, Lynn Landes, and David
22 Jenkins. Please make your way to
23 the podium.

24 (Witnesses approached

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1 9/24/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 podium.)

3 MS. DRAGNAC: Good

4 morning, Council President, members

5 of City Council, friends, fellow

6 Philadelphians. My name is Melissa

7 Dragnac. I am the Head of School

8 at the Pennsylvania School for the

9 Deaf. I've been there for 18

10 years. And in four years in this

11 position, on behalf of the School

12 for the Deaf, I want to thank you

13 for this recognition during Deaf

14 Awareness Month.

15 For more than 200 years,

16 the Pennsylvania School for the

17 Deaf has been preparing deaf and

18 hard-of-hearing students to thrive

19 academically, socially and

20 professionally. We provide and

21 very proudly provide a language

22 rich, bilingual environment where

23 American Sign Language and English

24 work together to unlock learning,

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1 9/24/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 confidence and opportunity.

3 At the Pennsylvania

4 School for the Deaf, we believe

5 every student deserves a school

6 where they are fully seen, fully

7 included and fully able to

8 communicate. Access is not a

9 special accommodation. It is a

10 fundamental right. Our students

11 come from diverse backgrounds

12 across Pennsylvania. What unites

13 them is the opportunity to learn in

14 an environment where deaf culture

15 is celebrated.

16 Individual strengths are

17 nurtured and every student is

18 empowered to reach their fullest

19 potential. Today we celebrate not

20 only Deaf Awareness Month and

21 International Week of the deaf, but

22 the achievements. The leadership

23 and the contributions of deaf

24 individuals throughout Philadelphia

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1 9/24/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 and beyond. Thank you to our
3 Representative, Councilwoman Bass
4 and all of City Council for
5 recognizing our students, our
6 families, faculty, staff, alumni
7 and the broader deaf community.
8 Thank you.

9 (Applause.)

10 MS. MUNGUIA-ALVAREZ:

11 Hello and good morning everyone.
12 My name is Evelin. I am a senior
13 at the Pennsylvania School for the
14 Deaf. The community is great for
15 me as a student because I'm much
16 more connected to other deaf
17 people. It is easy to feel
18 isolated with the absence of
19 communication. And that is how it
20 felt before coming to SWD.

21 But using sign language
22 there, I can express myself. I can
23 build friendships, be a part of
24 activities and continue to learn

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1 9/24/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 and grow without barriers. The
3 teachers use American Sign Language
4 with me so I have direct
5 communication with them, not
6 through a third party or an
7 interpreter. They've taught me to
8 be proud of my identity as a deaf
9 person, as a Latinx person too.
10 And I've learned so much. I also
11 know that for deaf students, what's
12 really important is the ability to
13 have full inclusion and access to
14 all of our communication. Thank
15 you to City Council, and we
16 appreciate your recognition of the
17 school and your support for Deaf
18 Awareness Month. Thank you.
19 MR. DE ALBA: Hi. My
20 name is Anthony. I'm a senior at
21 the Pennsylvania School for the
22 Deaf. Thank you for having me here
23 today. It is special to be here.
24 I can talk a little bit about

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1 9/24/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 starting at SDE in the Early
3 Childhood Center as a deaf kid. I
4 didn't use spoken language, so I
5 was signing and the school gave me
6 a chance to learn more about that.
7 I continued to learn and
8 practice there and SDE has given me
9 opportunities to grow in the
10 classroom and outside the
11 classroom. In sports, I've learned
12 and through track and field and in
13 different settings and
14 professionally grown as well, in
15 ways that will support me in the
16 future. Thank you to SDE teachers,
17 to staff, and to the other deaf
18 students. I have access there in
19 sign language and we can overcome
20 communication challenges because
21 the school supports us setting
22 goals and deaf students can have
23 dreams, skills and abilities. Just
24 like all of you, deafness is not

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2 limiting for us.

3 We are able to make our
4 dreams real because we are a part
5 of this community. Thank you for
6 honoring us and celebrating our
7 Deaf Awareness Month and the deaf
8 people in the Philadelphia
9 community.

10 (Applause.)

11 MS. MORALIS: Good
12 morning, Councilmembers. My name
13 is Shonda Moralis. I am a
14 psychotherapist, Menopause Society
15 certified practitioner and
16 consultant working to bring
17 perimenopause education into
18 workplaces across our region.
19 Alongside my friend and colleague
20 Courtney Schulnick, I want to thank
21 Councilmember Ahmad for introducing
22 the resolution to recognize World
23 Perimenopause Day and Perimenopause
24 Awareness Month and for her

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1 9/24/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 leadership on Bill 250849, which
3 requires workplace accommodations
4 for menstruation, perimenopause and
5 menopause starting January 2027.

6 That law lays an
7 important foundation. Real change
8 continues in the day-to-day, in
9 conversations at home, at the
10 workplace, in our doctor's office.
11 And that starts with education. It
12 took me seven years to connect my
13 symptoms sleeplessness, brain fog,
14 joint pain, deep fatigue to
15 perimenopause. And I'm not alone.

16 Nearly half of people
17 report being unaware their symptoms
18 are related to perimenopause, let
19 alone that treatment is available.
20 That experience is why I do this
21 work now educating, advocating and
22 supporting others so they don't
23 lose years to confusion and
24 silence. This resolution gives us

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2 something just as necessary as the
3 law itself. Visibility.

4 It puts perimenopause on
5 the calendar, in the public record,
6 and in open, stigma free
7 conversation on behalf of women and
8 workplaces we serve every day.

9 Thank you, Councilmember Ahmad and
10 your team for your leadership on
11 this issue. I urge Council to
12 support this resolution. Thank
13 you.

14 (Applause.)

15 MS. SCHULNICK: Good
16 morning. My name is Courtney
17 Schulnick. I'm an attorney. Good
18 morning again. My name is Courtney
19 Schulnick. I'm an attorney. I
20 practice as a litigator for nearly
21 two decades right here in
22 Philadelphia before transitioning
23 full-time into my work as a
24 mindfulness teacher, speaker, and

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2 workplace performance consultant.

3 Together with my friend

4 and colleague Shonda Moralis, I

5 work with organizations to deepen

6 awareness and education around

7 perimenopause and menopause in the

8 workplace. This work is also

9 deeply personal to me. I was at

10 the height of my legal career when

11 I began experiencing symptoms

12 related to perimenopause.

13 I credit my mindfulness

14 practice with helping me become

15 more aware of what I was

16 experiencing and giving me

17 practical tools to better manage my

18 symptoms. It allowed me to

19 continue performing at a high level

20 and I honestly believe it helped me

21 to do some of my finest work of my

22 legal career.

23 That's why this

24 resolution matters. By recognizing

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1 9/24/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 World Perimenopause Day and
3 Perimenopause Awareness Month, we
4 bring greater attention to a
5 transition that is natural and
6 impacts so many women. And with
7 greater awareness comes greater
8 opportunity to share education,
9 resources and practical tools with
10 those experiencing perimenopause
11 and with the workplaces that want
12 to better support them. Thank you
13 so much, Councilmember Ahmad, for
14 bringing greater visibility to this
15 important issue and for your
16 continued leadership.

17 MR. McAULEY: Good
18 morning, everyone. My name is John
19 McAuley. I'm with a grassroots
20 organization called Flip Philly
21 Red. We're here to offer you
22 something different because you've
23 been voting Democrat for the
24 mayor's office for the past 70

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2 years. And regarding Resolution
3 No. 260738, this is a resolution
4 asking the Pennsylvania General
5 Assembly to pass House Bill 1678, a
6 bill that taxes big techs like
7 Google, Facebook and Amazon on
8 digital ads that give property tax
9 relief to seniors 65 and up.

10 On its surface, it
11 sounds noble. This is how you tell
12 a politician from a fighter,
13 because who's going to be the first
14 constitutional representative in
15 Philly to fight for the elimination
16 of school property taxes for all
17 ages. Across the board in Philly,
18 we have a 1.5 million population
19 and over 700,000 are living in
20 rental properties, but that's what
21 a poverty pimp does.

22 They don't want you to
23 create generational wealth. They
24 want you to keep you on the hook.

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2 I wish Councilmember Jay Young tell
3 you guys the truth, that Google,
4 Facebook and Amazon will never eat
5 the cost. They'll just raise the
6 price of ads the small businesses
7 use to advertise online, and your
8 local businesses and consumers will
9 eat the tax.

10 It's always a
11 conversation of property tax
12 rebates, property tax relief
13 programs. Never a conversation of
14 property tax elimination. 350,000
15 working adults age 21 to 45, paying
16 rent in a tax system built around
17 homeowner breaks that they don't
18 get. Pew Research has Philadelphia
19 with one of the most regressive tax
20 systems for non-subsidized renters
21 in the entire country.

22 That's the difference
23 between me and these other
24 influencers. I'm not focused on

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1 9/24/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Israel. I'm not focused on Iran.
3 I don't have Trump Derangement
4 syndrome. I understand the
5 politics is local and it's the
6 Democrat politicians that keep us
7 in a chokehold. State Senator Dawn
8 Keefer has a bill to eliminate
9 property taxes. Look her up.

10 MR. BLATSTEIN: Hello,
11 Philadelphia City Council. My name
12 is Jeremy Blatstein. 10,685;
13 10,685, that's how many cars have
14 been stolen in Philadelphia this
15 year. That is 40 cars a day, one
16 every 40 minutes. So let's make
17 sure that we are talking about the
18 people that are actually impacted
19 and helped with these automatic
20 license plate reader cameras.

21 The cameras are a tool
22 that our law enforcement can use to
23 catch people that are stealing
24 cars. Yes, privacy is important.

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2 Yes, there should be guardrails.
3 But just like any tool, we
4 shouldn't just go. If there's
5 people abusing it, we shouldn't say
6 no, stop it. We should be putting
7 the guardrails in place so that
8 they can't be abused.

9 My concern is also about
10 equity. Cameras should not only be
11 for the wealthy, right. The
12 wealthy have cameras. They have
13 gated communities. The people that
14 aren't speaking up are impoverished
15 communities that can actually use
16 these cameras to make them safer.
17 So before we go and ban these
18 cameras, let's have the
19 conversation about what makes
20 Philadelphia a safer place to live.

21 And last, I can't
22 believe none of you talked about
23 the national security issue that's
24 going on in Philadelphia today. I

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1 9/24/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 care about my country,
3 Philadelphia. And they're messing
4 with our tailgates. What are we
5 doing, people? Come on. I can't
6 believe none of you have a
7 resolution today speaking up about
8 the Eagles and the tailgate lots.
9 It's crazy. We need to protect the
10 tailgates.

11 And last but not least,
12 we're talking about SEPTA. We saw
13 the accelerated program. We need
14 to continue to fund SEPTA. We have
15 to continue to build density along
16 our transit corridors. Ride the
17 ride. Grow Philly to 2 Milly.
18 Thank you.

19 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Chair
20 recognizes Councilman Driscoll.

21 COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL:
22 Madam Chair, I ask to be excused to
23 attend to pending business. And
24 I'd like to be voted aye on all

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1 9/24/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 bills and resolutions today.

3 COUNCILWOMAN BASS:

4 Thank you. Thank you, Councilman.

5 Duly noted.

6 Proceed.

7 MS. NIKITENKO: Good

8 morning. My name is Bethany

9 Nikitenko. I'm Vice-president of

10 Philly VIP. A longtime volunteer,

11 an attorney with Feldman Shepherd.

12 And I'm here to talk about Philly

13 VIP's 45th anniversary. Philly VIP

14 has a unique place alongside

15 Philly's amazing legal aid

16 organizations because we focus

17 entirely on training and supporting

18 the private bar in providing pro

19 bono service.

20 We enable lawyers who

21 spend their days on work that

22 rarely reaches a family's kitchen

23 table to dig into something

24 different. They defend homes

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2 against lawsuits and predatory
3 debt. They help families hold onto
4 the wealth that they've worked for.
5 They help small businesses keep
6 growing.

7 In 1981, the federal
8 government cut off legal aid.
9 Philly lawyers decided they would
10 intervene and Philly VIP was born.
11 Thank you to Councilmember Landau
12 and colleagues for honoring what
13 grew from that decision. Philly
14 VIP is one of the most important
15 pro bono legal organizations in the
16 city because we protect ordinary
17 Philadelphians every day. We
18 protect their livelihood, we
19 protect their income, we protect
20 their home and we protect their
21 families. Without Philly VIP, so
22 many would have suffered and fallen
23 by the wayside. Councilmember
24 Landau, thank you for your support

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2 and thank you for supporting this
3 resolution.

4 (Applause.)

5 THE CLERK: Will Callie
6 Perrone, Nikki Grant, Jabina
7 Coleman, Jenna Anger, Alison
8 Macrina, Linnea Bond, Tracey
9 Welson-Rossman, please make your
10 way to the podium.

11 (Witnesses approached
12 podium.)

13 MS. LANDES: Good
14 morning. I'm Lynn Landes of
15 Philly's Republican Network. And
16 while I support the resolution
17 calling on Congress to take action
18 against childhood cancer, what
19 about City Council? For example,
20 City Council has yet to enforce its
21 own 2021 law, the Healthy Outdoor
22 Public Spaces Act, that bans the
23 use of toxic herbicides in our
24 parks and public spaces, but which

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2 our last two mayors have ignored.

3 And what about the toxic
4 artificial turf and its forever
5 chemicals that are in various parks
6 throughout the city, putting
7 children at risk. Also, there's
8 the Mayor and City Council support
9 for almost any vaccine. None of
10 which have been tested for their
11 potential to cause cancer. And
12 particularly the COVID vaccines,
13 which have been linked to what are
14 called turbo cancers. And then
15 there's the incineration of
16 Philadelphia's waste, a process
17 well-known to cause cancer. So
18 rather than wait for Congress to
19 act, why doesn't City Council take
20 action itself. Thank you.

21 MR. JENKINS: Madam
22 Chair and members and guests, David
23 Alexander Jenkins. And I rise for
24 the Resolution 260730 as presented

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2 by Member Landau. To the Hall,
3 bonjour, mes amis; buenos dias, mi
4 amigos; (inaudible) akwaaba,
5 konnichiwa, dobry den,
6 zhongxiao(ph). To the Hall, of the
7 180 different languages that are
8 spoken in this globe of
9 Philadelphia, and the few I could
10 stand before you today and speak
11 with proficiency in the presence of
12 our very own Ambassador Giordano, I
13 have chosen today to deliver this
14 address to you in the communal
15 language of fact.

16 You see, outside of
17 pretty words that can be
18 mistranslated misspoken. When two
19 or more are gathered from different
20 understandings, facts have a way of
21 bringing about a kind of Pentecost
22 into halls of governance, raining
23 down on us like fire with the truth
24 we can call and understand.

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2 Remember, Rue Landau
3 focuses on a set of facts and the
4 kind of truth in her aforementioned
5 resolution about surveillance that
6 I would like to lean into today.
7 Truth, automatic license plate
8 readers treat every single driver,
9 every single neighborhood, and
10 every single citizen like a suspect
11 on a spreadsheet. They turn our
12 vibrant, interconnected public
13 streets into cold, automated
14 checkpoints, fact.

15 Truth, the foundation of
16 this technology is built on a lie.
17 The corporations and governmental
18 agencies selling these systems to
19 us told us that they were here for
20 our protection. Jeremy Blatstein
21 wants us to believe that these
22 cameras are being used primarily to
23 help people track stolen cars.
24 Nevertheless, the truth is these

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2 cameras quietly feed data to
3 federal agencies like ICE and
4 others that behave like the secret
5 police of Nazi Germany, dismantling
6 our communities and our very trust
7 in institutions and governments as
8 a whole.

9 Truth right now, your
10 journey today from your home to
11 this Hall has been painstakingly
12 documented without your permission,
13 and there is absolutely nothing
14 that you can do about it. The
15 digital privacy of every
16 Philadelphian is utterly exposed.
17 So may this resolution serve as a
18 line in the sand, a line that
19 demands that the states either ban
20 these tracking networks entirely or
21 build unbreakable legal binding
22 guardrails around them.

23 I beg this Council,
24 stand firm and pass this resolution

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2 with the clarity of language that
3 needs no translation. Let us
4 protect the privacy of this global
5 Philadelphia and the city and every
6 individual in its place that we
7 call home.

8 (Applause.)

9 MS. PERRONE: Good
10 morning. My name is Callie
11 Perrone, and I'm reading a
12 statement on behalf of
13 Philabundance's Chief Executive
14 Officer, Loree Jones Brown. Good
15 morning, City Councilmembers, and
16 thank you, Councilmember O'Rourke,
17 for introducing this proclamation
18 designating September as Hunger
19 Action Month in the city of
20 Philadelphia.

21 Philabundance, a hunger
22 relief organization serving the
23 Greater Philadelphia area. Our
24 team works tirelessly to serve our

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2 neighbors in need, and this past
3 year distributed nearly 20 million
4 meals in the city alone across more
5 than 200 Philadelphia-based
6 community partners.

7 Each September, Hunger
8 Action Month is recognized around
9 the country as a time to raise
10 awareness and take action in the
11 movement to end hunger. It's a
12 time to encourage everyone to play
13 a part, as every action, big or
14 small, is one step closer to a
15 nation where no one's hungry.

16 This September, it is
17 exceedingly important that we stand
18 together in this common goal. As
19 more of our community members are
20 struggling to put food on the
21 table, 1 in 6 Philadelphians are
22 facing food insecurity and the need
23 for food assistance continues to
24 grow as a result of unprecedented

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2 federal cuts to essential programs
3 like the Supplemental Nutrition
4 Assistance Program, SNAP.

5 As a result of this
6 federal disinvestment, over 40,000
7 Philadelphians have already lost
8 access to SNAP benefits since the
9 start of the year, with even more
10 cuts looming. Our communities are
11 facing a hunger crisis, and food
12 banks like Philabundance are left
13 with less resources to fight it.

14 As the charitable Food
15 Network has also lost access to
16 substantial federal funding, food
17 banks can't do it alone, as federal
18 policy changes have led to
19 increased need and fewer supports.
20 It's even more essential that our
21 city steps up, as City Council and
22 Mayor Parker did during the
23 government shutdown and SNAP lapse
24 last fall, and as Council President

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2 Johnson is doing now through the
3 Food and Nutrition Security Task
4 Force.

5 That's why Philabundance
6 enthusiastically supports a
7 resolution designating September as
8 Hunger Action Month. We're
9 grateful for City Council's
10 commitment and we look forward to
11 our continued partnership in the
12 fight to end hunger. Thank you.

13 (Applause.)

14 MS. GRANT: Good
15 morning, Councilmembers. My name
16 is Nikki Grant and I'm the
17 Co-director at Amistad Law Project,
18 where we fight to end mass
19 incarceration in Pennsylvania and
20 imagined community safety in
21 Philadelphia beyond the current
22 carceral systems. Thank you,
23 Councilmember Landau, for
24 introducing the resolution calling

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2 for the state legislature to ban
3 automated license plate readers or
4 ALPRs, Flock.

5 ALPRs are not just high-
6 tech traffic cameras. They are
7 deeply invasive, AI-powered tools
8 that can track, store, and share
9 data about individuals' travel
10 patterns, and that data can be
11 accessed by any law enforcement
12 agency or private company for the
13 right price. They are also
14 inaccurate 10% of the time, which
15 has meant that innocent people have
16 been pulled over and subject to
17 police violence because of these
18 tools.

19 Until they are banned
20 and this tech is regulated, there
21 are no real safeguards to stop ALPR
22 from being used by known bad
23 actors. We know that they have
24 been used by ICE to kidnap our

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2 neighbors. We know that they have
3 been used by jurisdictions that
4 have stripped people of their
5 reproductive rights to track down
6 women seeking abortion care.

7 We know that ALPR have
8 been abused by police officers to
9 terrorize their exes. From the
10 federal level to the hyper local,
11 ALPRs are bad news for vulnerable
12 communities. What's worse is for
13 every dollar that is spent on this
14 harmful tech, that money is not
15 going to the things that we know
16 keep our communities safe.

17 Mass surveillance does
18 not keep us safe. Investments in
19 health care, in schools and jobs,
20 and in spaces for our young people
21 to gather safely, that's what keeps
22 us safe. As our study calls on the
23 state to do the right thing and ban
24 APLRs, we must also take action

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2 here at home and pass a moratorium
3 on data centers.

4 Now, data centers are
5 the physical place where ALPRs and
6 all the AI tools that surveil us
7 live. Over 200 municipalities have
8 canceled or refused to contract
9 with Flock or similar companies,
10 and over 300 local governments have
11 enacted moratoria to slow the rapid
12 expansion of hyperscale data
13 centers nationwide. Let Philly be
14 next. City Council must act now to
15 protect us from unaccountable
16 developers and billionaires ready
17 to build in the engines of mass
18 surveillance and mass incarceration
19 of our communities. Thank you.

20 (Applause.)

21 MS. ANGER: Good
22 morning, Councilmembers and guests.
23 My name is Jenna Anger. I am a
24 dancer, a researcher, a volunteer,

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2 a dental student at Temple
3 University, Maurice H. Kornberg
4 School of Dentistry and Miss
5 Philadelphia 2026. Today I have
6 the privilege of representing not
7 only the title that I hold, but the
8 105 women who have stood before me
9 and carried the Miss Philadelphia
10 legacy throughout the past 105
11 years.

12 I also represent the
13 young women who continue to see the
14 education opportunities, the
15 opportunities to grow, to serve
16 their community and make a
17 meaningful difference in the city
18 of Philadelphia. This year, the
19 Miss Philadelphia Scholarship
20 organization is celebrating
21 105-year anniversary, a milestone.
22 This represents not just a passing
23 of time, but how it changes lives,
24 creates opportunities for young

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2 women to pursue higher education,
3 develop leadership, professional
4 skills and encourage generations of
5 women to give back to the city that
6 they call home.

7 I'm incredibly honored
8 to be a part of this Miss
9 Philadelphia legacy. This is not
10 just about the scholarship dollars
11 or the crown that I have on my
12 head. I have been surrounded by
13 people who believe in the
14 importance of education, service,
15 leadership, and community, and I am
16 grateful for every person, my
17 former Miss Philadelphia sisters
18 included, who have supported me and
19 the opportunity for this
20 organization to continue to
21 flourish.

22 To the members of City
23 Council and Councilwoman Ahmad,
24 thank you for recognizing the Miss

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2 Philadelphia Scholarship
3 organization and celebrating this
4 incredible 105-year legacy. It
5 means so much to have our
6 organization recognized by the city
7 that we call home. I'm honored to
8 carry this title, grateful to serve
9 the city and excited to write this
10 new chapter in the Miss
11 Philadelphia story. Again, thank
12 you for having us here today and,
13 Councilwoman Ahmad, for this
14 recognition. Thank you.

15 (Applause.)

16 THE CLERK: Will
17 Emaleigh Doley, Rev. Gregory
18 Holston, Campbell Simmons, Todd
19 Reeves, Beth Ramella, Aaron Couch,
20 Jay Finkelstein, Senia Lopez and
21 William Small, please make your way
22 to the podium.

23 (Witnesses approached
24 podium.)

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2 MS. BOND: Hi. My name
3 is Linnea Bond, and I'm here on
4 behalf of Physicians for Social
5 Responsibility Pennsylvania to
6 support Councilmember Landau's
7 resolution on Flock because
8 preventing expansion of
9 surveillance and protecting health
10 go hand-in-hand. Working for a
11 watchdog organization in a fossil-
12 fuel state, I've observed the
13 federal government attacking free
14 speech in order to expand profits
15 for tech and fossil fuel companies,
16 profits that come directly from our
17 pockets and our bodies.

18 PSR works to support the
19 health of communities that are
20 directly impacted by industry, like
21 fracking, gas buildout, plastic
22 production, and garbage
23 incineration. These industries
24 want the least regulation possible,

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2 every interest in protecting
3 themselves at the risk of our
4 rights and they have the current
5 administration's full support. A
6 federal government that just
7 repealed limits on greenhouse gas
8 emissions from coal- and gas-fired
9 power plants, by the way. We're
10 seeing the same use of surveillance
11 to limit First Amendment rights in
12 Philadelphia. The Intercept
13 reported that records show
14 Philadelphia police are tracking
15 social media of people opposed to
16 data centers.

17 Two months ago, I
18 responded to a community ICE watch
19 text that one of my neighbors was
20 ripped from their car and I had to
21 go to the street to investigate to
22 figure out who they were so we
23 could contact the family. And I'm
24 looking at the broken glass,

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2 thinking that I don't know if that
3 person committed a crime or was
4 just not White and speaking with an
5 accent like my in-laws.

6 When my Argentina,
7 Vietnamese, and Iranian friends are
8 telling me how familiar our
9 government's actions look to the
10 fascism they know well, I call on
11 City Council to use its power to
12 oppose expansion of the
13 surveillance state, both through
14 this resolution and by preventing
15 the data centers that enable state
16 violence and fossil fuel expansion
17 through a data center moratorium.
18 Thank you.

19 (Applause.)

20 MR. REEVES: Hello. My
21 name is Todd Reeves and I'm very
22 privileged to be the Executive
23 Director of the Overbrook School
24 for the Blind. Growing up in

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2 Portland, Oregon, one of the first
3 impressions I had of Philadelphia
4 so far away was actually a quote, a
5 very common quote misattributed to
6 William Penn. And that being, that
7 we pass through this world just
8 once, let us not certainly delay,
9 do all the good that we can because
10 we may not pass this way again.

11 And that's particularly
12 meaningful for me, because this is
13 my 10th and final year at the
14 Overbrook School for the Blind.
15 And the most good that I believe I
16 can do right now is express to you
17 ten years' worth of stories and
18 gratitude that fills my heart. The
19 reason why I come before you with a
20 heart full of Thanksgiving, I can't
21 tell you all the stories, but I'll
22 tell you one.

23 And that is that many of
24 you are aware that a microburst

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2 came through our fine city during
3 the summertime. Will that happen
4 during extended school year when
5 our students were going to prepare
6 on that Monday morning to be back
7 in school? If you look at the
8 track of the intensity of that
9 microburst, you will see directly
10 underneath the most intense pathway
11 is the 26 acres of the Overbrook
12 School for the Blind.

13 And when I got up the
14 next morning to do the damage
15 assessment, saw trees down, trees
16 leaning precariously against walls,
17 the evidence of PECO coming in
18 during the dark of night
19 reconnecting wires. And what
20 happened on Monday morning is all
21 of our students attended school on
22 time and that cannot -- what I'm
23 saying next cannot be avoided,
24 cannot be jumped over, gone

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2 underneath or gone around.

3 And the reason why that
4 happened is because we have a City
5 Council working with the Mayor's
6 office, working with other
7 departments in city government,
8 working with private utilities,
9 working with the state on the
10 things that matter most. And one
11 of them is emergency management.

12 I've worked for two
13 governors in Washington state.
14 I've been in Seattle, Portland.
15 I've spent time in Honolulu, and
16 they're great cities. But in those
17 cities on Monday morning, students
18 wouldn't be in school. And what
19 also makes this particularly
20 important is in those great cities,
21 and I'm fortunate to have served in
22 so many different capacities, I was
23 never invited into City Council to
24 be a representative of the students

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2 I serve.

3 And what you do when you
4 have resolutions and you have
5 proclamations is that you resolve
6 and proclaim to my students what I
7 can say to them at the point of
8 graduation that when they leave the
9 Overbrook School for the Blind,
10 they will always be recognized by a
11 great city. Thank you.

12 (Applause.)

13 REV. HOLSTON: Good
14 morning. My name is Rev. Gregory
15 Holston. I'm the Executive
16 Director of Just Nation. I'm here
17 to talk about burning trash in
18 Chester. First, I want to thank
19 Councilmember Gauthier for all of
20 her great advocacy around this
21 issue.

22 I heard the Managing
23 Director say that only 15% of the
24 trash being burned in Chester comes

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2 from Philadelphia, as if that was
3 not that much. 15% of the trash,
4 15% of the toxins, 15% of the
5 poisons, 15% of the asthma attacks,
6 15% of the cancers, 15% of the
7 cancer deaths, 15% of the radiation
8 treatments, 15% of the
9 chemotherapy. 15% is a hell of a
10 lot.

11 And to say that with
12 such a degree of callousness, I
13 simply can't comprehend. For so
14 much of this administration has
15 said that they understand the sense
16 of poor Black people in this city,
17 so much of their policies have been
18 talking about saying over and over
19 that they care deeply about the
20 needs of poor Black people. But
21 when you see poor Black people in
22 Chester being poisoned and
23 Southwest Philadelphia being
24 poisoned, you do nothing but put

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2 the same contract back in and keep
3 on moving.

4 And if not for the
5 Councilmembers here pushing, you
6 would have just put that contract
7 in and kept on moving. Yes,
8 absolute shame when your policies
9 are not matching your rhetoric. I
10 was told by some leader in this
11 city that they should be challenged
12 on that. Well, I'm challenging you
13 on that. Your policies are not
14 matching your rhetoric. You say
15 you care for the least of these,
16 but your policies keep saying
17 something else and we have to stop.
18 Thanks so much.

19 (Applause.)

20 DR. RAMELLA: Hello. My
21 name is Dr. Beth Ramella and I'm
22 the superintendent and CVI
23 specialist at the Overbrook School
24 for the Blind. Cortical visual

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2 impairment is the leading cause of
3 visual impairment for children in
4 the United States. CVI can affect
5 people through premature birth,
6 stroke, seizures, brain injury and
7 other neurological conditions, a
8 person.

9 And I say a person
10 because unfortunately it can affect
11 any one of us in this room, may
12 impact your ability to see an
13 object, not recognize it,
14 especially in a cluttered space, in
15 a busy background, in a classroom.
16 And that's what we do at the
17 Rosenblatt Family CVI Center.
18 That's important because we work
19 with those children in clinics and
20 in classrooms with children birth
21 to 22 to create accessible
22 materials, technology create
23 environments where they are
24 successful.

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2 We specialize

3 assessments, practical strategies

4 for families and provide guidance

5 to educators and professionals.

6 Most importantly, we empower

7 families. We teach them to

8 advocate for what their child needs

9 to be successful learners, and we

10 provide those clinics at no cost to

11 children outside of our own

12 students. So please check out our

13 website because it's -- we have a

14 brand new website, but also because

15 we can do that for kids throughout

16 Philadelphia. We are doing this

17 every day. Our work directly

18 benefits our kids.

19 And our reach, like I

20 said, is not just throughout

21 Philly, but across the country. We

22 want to make sure that we thank you

23 for the recognition that you

24 provide us, but also for the work

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2 that you're doing every day. Thank
3 you.

4 MS. DOLEY: Good
5 afternoon. My name is Emaleigh
6 Doley and I am the Deputy Director
7 of the Neighborhood Gardens Trust.
8 Walk through almost any
9 Philadelphia neighborhood and
10 you'll find it, a vacant lot that
11 was abandoned and blighted for
12 years until the neighbors decided
13 enough was enough. They cleared
14 it, planted it, and made the whole
15 block a better place to live.

16 Some of these green
17 spaces in our neighborhoods have
18 been in existence so long that
19 people assume they're official city
20 parks. They aren't. Many of the
21 gardeners and the land stewards
22 don't control the land. And after
23 years of work, access can be
24 restricted and it can be taken for

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2 development or other uses.

3 Neighborhood Gardens

4 Trust was founded in 1986 to solve

5 this exact problem and we've

6 preserved 63 gardens since. And

7 today I'm here to support two more

8 on your agenda. Resolution No.

9 260749 from Councilmember Squilla

10 will protect the Huntingdon Emerald

11 in Kensington. And right now, a

12 graffiti-covered fence locks out

13 the very neighbors who turned this

14 large, vacant lot into a gathering

15 place.

16 Once NGT takes ownership

17 of the land, we will take the fence

18 down and give that space back to

19 the community that it belongs to.

20 Sorry, I lost my other Resolution

21 No. But it is in Councilwoman

22 Gauthier's office and it supports

23 the preservation of Leidy Avenue in

24 Parkside at a garden that has been

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2 in existence since 1985, which is
3 only two years younger than me.
4 And I want to thank Councilman --
5 both Councilmembers here today for
6 supporting the permanent
7 preservation of both of these
8 spaces. And I look forward to
9 returning here and doing the same
10 thing with all of the other
11 Councilmembers in your districts.
12 Thank you very much.

13 (Applause.)

14 MR. COUCH: My name is
15 Aaron Couch, and I'm here to
16 support Councilwoman Landau's
17 resolution to ban Flock and other
18 ALPR cameras as well as introduce
19 and pass a moratorium on data
20 centers in Philadelphia. I come to
21 you not only as a Philadelphia
22 native, but also as an expert in
23 government cyber security.

24 As an engineer, I have

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2 directly contributed to
3 whitehouse.gov under Obama
4 Healthcare, healthcare.gov,
5 data.gov and many other federal
6 level websites. I've worked
7 directly on building secure
8 infrastructure and systems, having
9 obtained authority to operate on
10 FedRAMP, moderate and high systems,
11 I not only object to ALPR for the
12 obvious reasons, I'm horrified that
13 my daughter is growing up in the
14 type of surveillance state that I
15 used to read about in science
16 fiction books as a kid.

17 However, given my
18 background and experience in
19 government technology, I'd add that
20 I have zero trust in companies like
21 Flock to keep this incredibly
22 sensitive surveillance data secure.
23 We've already seen cases of abuse
24 in which unauthorized individuals

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2 have gained access to Flock cameras
3 to stalk and track.

4 Recently, a 404 Media
5 article detailed how easily it is
6 for white hat, in which white hat
7 hackers were able to gain access to
8 a camera and its footage. Not only
9 should this data not be collected,
10 but I have zero trust in companies
11 like Flock to secure it. These
12 companies are driven by investment
13 capital to extract value from us as
14 citizens. They have shown that the
15 security of their surveillance data
16 is an afterthought.

17 Flock in particular, has
18 shown that they are not up to the
19 task. However, I call on Council
20 to ban all ALPRs. Additionally, we
21 need an immediate moratorium on
22 data centers. Yeah, the city is
23 better than this. We have the
24 resources to say no to companies

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2 like Flock and data centers. Thank
3 you.

4 (Applause.)

5 THE CLERK: Will Diana
6 Murray, Anita Dixon, Brittany
7 Alston, Leah Allen, Ogbonna Paul
8 Hagins and Wick Savage please make
9 your way to the podium.

10 (Witnesses approached
11 podium.)

12 MS. BELL: Okay. Good
13 morning, Councilman and President.
14 I am Veronica Bell and I am a part
15 of Make the Road. I'm here today
16 to speak in favor of Resolution
17 260730 because I am against Flock
18 cameras in our neighborhood. Our
19 Flock cameras are being used to
20 monitor our communities without our
21 knowledge and our consent.

22 Flock Safety collect
23 information about our travel,
24 stores that information in a

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2 database and allow law enforcement
3 agencies with Flock contracts to
4 access it. Think about that for a
5 moment. People you have never met
6 could potentially have access,
7 information about where you go,
8 where you are, when you are there
9 and what places you visit,
10 information that in some cases, not
11 even your family or friends may not
12 know.

13 This is bigger than just
14 a few cameras and a few streets.
15 These cameras are a part of a
16 growing system of mass surveillance
17 and we need to ask ourselves how
18 much privacy we are willing to give
19 up in the name of public safety.
20 We have already heard concerns
21 about misuse of this system,
22 including reporting involving
23 people using surveillance to tools
24 to monitor their ex-partners and

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2 concerns about information being
3 used in immigrant enforcement.

4 These are examples that
5 should make us stop and ask who has
6 protected who have information and
7 how are they being used and what
8 safeguards are actually being in
9 place to protect ordinary people.
10 We should not wait until our
11 privacy disappear before we decide
12 enough is enough. We're the people
13 of the birthplace of democracy.
14 That means we should be setting an
15 example when it comes to protecting
16 our rights, privacy and our
17 freedom.

18 Our community deserves
19 safety but should not require to
20 give up our right to privacy. I
21 urge the city leaders to take a
22 serious look at the Flock cameras,
23 the data collected, they collect
24 and who can access the data and

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2 safeguard our surrounding. And
3 those safeguards should not --
4 should be strong enough. And if
5 they're not, they should not be
6 allowed in our City of
7 Philadelphia. Thank you.

8 (Applause.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

10 JOHNSON: Can you say your name?
11 Excuse me. Can you just say your
12 name again for the record please?

13 MS. BELL: I'm Veronica
14 Bell. I'm with Make the Road
15 organization of PA.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

17 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

18 MS. LOPEZ: Hello. My
19 name is Senia Lopez and I will be
20 speaking in support of
21 Councilmember Landau's resolution
22 to block Flock and other automatic
23 license plate readers across
24 Pennsylvania. And as a deeply

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2 concerned resident of Northeast
3 Philly in District 10, I am asking
4 Council to introduce a moratorium
5 on data centers in Philadelphia.

6 These surveillance tools
7 are weaponized by ICE to kidnap our
8 neighbors, abused by police and put
9 in our communities under 24/7
10 watch. Five officers were just
11 charged for misuse yesterday in
12 Indianapolis. Automatic license
13 plate readers are more invasive
14 than traditional traffic cameras.

15 They are constantly
16 recording and saving data to be
17 shared with mass surveillance
18 databases. Hyperscale data centers
19 are the physical home where these
20 surveillance technologies like
21 Flock Live. Data centers raise our
22 utilities. Pennsylvania has
23 already paid \$1.2 billion in extra
24 energy costs because of data

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2 centers alone in the past year.

3 Personally, I learned
4 that my home, which is just two
5 miles from the potential site that
6 the Planning Commission identified,
7 would be affected by constant low
8 frequency sound. These are
9 physical vibrations that I would
10 feel are linked to things like
11 sleep deprivation, ear damage and
12 general irritability, and I am
13 already irritable enough.

14 Frankly, I am just tired
15 of constantly learning about new
16 big tech companies or massive
17 corporations trying to come into
18 our neighborhoods, usually under
19 our noses and without community
20 input. Don't get me started on
21 Waymo. We don't want our home, our
22 city to be a playground for big
23 tech. Please push pause on all of
24 this. I am calling on Council to

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2 support Resolution No. 260730 to
3 ban automated license plate reader
4 cameras. I also beg for Council to
5 listen to the thousands of
6 Philadelphians who have already
7 signed a petition to protect our
8 city from data centers with a
9 moratorium. Thank you so much.

10 (Applause.)

11 MS. MURRAY: Good
12 afternoon, Council President and
13 members of Council. My name is
14 Diana Nicole Murray, and I am the
15 founder and president of Barren
16 Fruit, a Philadelphia organization
17 supporting women affected by
18 infertility and reproductive health
19 challenges. I thank Councilmember
20 Ahmad for bringing this resolution
21 forward concerning perimenopause
22 awareness, and I speak in support
23 of it.

24 I am 45 years old and in

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2 the age range when perimenopause
3 often begins. I have spent years
4 advocating for women living with
5 endometriosis, fibroids,
6 infertility and other reproductive
7 health conditions. We live in a
8 world that has normalized our pain
9 and made a poor quality of life
10 seem acceptable. Many women suffer
11 in silence, with little knowledge
12 of what they are experiencing or
13 where to turn for answers and care.

14 Too often reproductive
15 health conversations focus on
16 whether someone can have a child.
17 But our health matters before,
18 during and long after childbearing
19 years. We matter, our quality of
20 life matters. Awareness is a first
21 step. We should not have to prove
22 our pain before someone can take it
23 seriously. As we learn more about
24 women's bodies as we should

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2 already, we are also bringing into
3 the open what too many have endured
4 in silence for far too long. We
5 deserve answers and care, not
6 another reason to doubt what we
7 feel.

8 This resolution names
9 gaps in education and the
10 disparities affecting Black women
11 and others who have too often been
12 left out of these conversations. I
13 hope this recognition leads to more
14 opportunities for people to
15 understand and can ask more
16 questions and advocate for
17 themselves. On behalf of Bearing
18 Fruit, I support recognizing World
19 Perimenopause Day and Perimenopause
20 Awareness Month in Philadelphia.
21 Thank you.

22 (Applause.)

23 MS. DIXON: Greetings.

24 My name is Donita Dixon, a member

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2 of the Philly Black Workers
3 Project. Here to support the
4 resolution to honor the legacy of
5 Black labor history. We must
6 recognize that our most
7 underappreciated and overexploited
8 Black workers deserve better.

9 Temp worker laborers
10 labor for months and years without
11 any guarantee of job security and
12 we can no longer stand for it. My
13 late husband worked for a law
14 firm -- a temp agency at a law
15 firm. After graduating from the
16 University of Penn Wharton School
17 after two and a half years of
18 outstanding work, he was not
19 granted a permanent position.

20 While he was searching
21 for work, he was arrested on a
22 murder charge, which later turned
23 out to be mistaken identity.
24 However, he spent 18 months in

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2 lockup before being completely
3 exonerated. Well, while ship
4 clergyman Isaac Myers and Black
5 workers were pushed out of the
6 labor force during the Civil War.

7 They founded the
8 Chesapeake Marine Railway and Dry
9 Dock Company. Following in those
10 footsteps, my husband and I opened
11 our own newsstand. One night when
12 he was on his way home from the
13 stand, he was mugged and shot five
14 times. He became a paraplegic
15 where he later moved down South and
16 lived. But I often wondered how
17 our lives would have been if he had
18 a permanent position in a firm. We
19 demand that the City Council
20 supports our resolution because we
21 deserve better.

22 (Applause.)

23 MS. ALSTON: Good
24 afternoon, Council President and

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2 Councilmembers. My name is
3 Brittany Alston, organizer and
4 Executive Director of the Philly
5 Black Worker Project. We're a
6 worker center that builds power
7 alongside Black workers. I
8 appreciate Councilmember Brooks and
9 your support of the resolution
10 honoring the legacy of Black labor
11 organizers.

12 And it is not only our
13 role to honor them. It is also our
14 duty to advance the groundwork that
15 they laid down and continue
16 fighting for Black workers. At the
17 project, we talked to thousands of
18 workers. You all got boxes with a
19 thousand signatures from those
20 workers. And we hear so much of
21 the same. While one job should be
22 enough to sustain a family, for too
23 many workers it simply is not.

24 As wages stagnate in,

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2 the cost of living continues to
3 rise. More workers are turning to
4 the contingent workforce, taking
5 temp jobs through staffing
6 agencies, gig work and other forms
7 of non-traditional jobs. For some
8 workers, temp work is a short-term
9 bridge in between jobs or just some
10 extra money. But for far too many
11 temp workers, temp work becomes the
12 only work available.

13 Staffing agencies often
14 market these jobs with promises of
15 flexibility, opportunity, pathways
16 to permanent employment only for
17 those promises to never
18 materialize. So who is being asked
19 to tolerate instability,
20 uncertainty and low wages in the
21 temp industry? Overwhelmingly that
22 who was Black workers who is
23 formerly incarcerated workers.
24 It's immigrants and it's moms

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2 trying to provide for their
3 families.

4 This is an industry that
5 concentrates its model around
6 workers with the fewest options and
7 the least economic security. And
8 because (inaudible). This is an
9 industry that concentrates its
10 motto around workers with the
11 fewest options and the least
12 economic security. Because of this
13 worker exploitation, it runs wild
14 and without clear industry
15 standards, meaningful oversight and
16 strong worker protections.

17 We are allowing Black
18 workers to be treated as disposable
19 and kept in a second-tier
20 employment structure. If we are
21 truly living in the legacy of the
22 Freedom Fighters who we're
23 honoring, then we know that these
24 conditions facing temp workers must

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2 change. That's why we've launched
3 our All Due Respect campaign.

4 You have information
5 about that in the boxes, fighting
6 for dignity and respect for temp
7 workers in the city. Raising the
8 standard for temporary work means
9 refusing to accept a two-tiered
10 workforce and fighting for bold
11 legislation that protects Black
12 workers and holds employers
13 accountable.

14 We need your support to
15 make that happen and we hope that
16 you'll walk alongside us as we
17 carry the torch for Black workers
18 organizing in light of so many
19 people who came before us. Thank
20 you so much.

21 (Applause.)

22 MS. ALLEN: Hi,
23 Councilmembers and Council
24 President. My name is Shelia Allen

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2 and I am a member of the Philly
3 Black Worker Project. I'm also a
4 social worker. So advocacy for me
5 is not only a part of my
6 profession, it's a value I carry
7 with me every day. And I believe
8 people deserve support when they
9 may not feel like they're able to
10 advocate for themselves.

11 Today too many temporary
12 and formerly incarcerated workers
13 face unequal pay, unsafe working
14 conditions, limited benefits, and
15 inadequate worker protections.
16 Black and Brown workers are often
17 represented in these types of jobs.
18 And when your paycheck is your
19 livelihood, speaking up about
20 unfair or unsafe conditions can
21 feel like risking everything.

22 And my first connection
23 to this work goes back to my very
24 first job. At 15, I worked for

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2 Philadelphia Freedom Schools as a
3 junior servant leader. And I
4 thought I was going to be a summer
5 camp counselor. Instead I was
6 introduced to organizing political
7 education and youth advocacy. That
8 summer, our theme was Pipelines-to-
9 Prison. We studied, reflected in
10 creative projects and organized a
11 march with hundreds of young people
12 around the Youth Study Center.

13 At 15, I learned that
14 young people can organize and I
15 learned that our voices matter. I
16 later worked several minimum wage
17 jobs alongside many Black and Brown
18 workers, including people who were
19 formerly incarcerated. The jobs
20 were physically demanding and
21 stressful and they offered little
22 flexibility or support. At that
23 time, I didn't have the language
24 for everything I was saying.

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2 But today as a social
3 worker and key leader in this
4 project, I understand those
5 experiences differently. I
6 understand how important it is to
7 create space for workers to be
8 heard, and that's what I see in the
9 All Due Respect campaign. It
10 advocates equal pay for equal work,
11 safer working conditions, benefits
12 and meaningful worker protections.
13 This work also continues a long
14 Philadelphia tradition.

15 In 1830, Philadelphia
16 hosted the first Colored Convention
17 at Mother Bethel AME Church, Black
18 leaders like Isaac Myers organized
19 workers and fought for economic
20 opportunity. A. Philip Randolph
21 later organized with the
22 Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters
23 and helped Black workers secure a
24 collective bargaining agreement

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2 with Pullman. I urge City Council
3 to formally honor the legacy of
4 Black labor in Philadelphia. With
5 all due respect, we deserve better.

6 (Applause.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

8 JOHNSON: I just want to take a
9 moment to acknowledge Isaiah Thomas
10 and the work that he has done with
11 the Freedom Schools. And I know
12 he's sitting there like a proud
13 papa, listening to this young lady
14 give a very outstanding
15 presentation and testimony
16 regarding her role in Freedom
17 Schools and how it helped her
18 become a key organizer.

19 Please proceed, sir.

20 MR. SMALL: William
21 Small and I am a member of Flip
22 Philly Red, and today I am opposed
23 to Resolution 260076 because I
24 really just want to get straight to

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2 the point. I see a lot of property
3 being moved to the Land Bank. I
4 see a lot of priorities being put
5 before our public school system.

6 Now, during the primary
7 elections, there was a lot of talk
8 about schools. We was down Broad
9 Street. We was kicking doors in
10 and all that. But since the
11 primaries is over, I don't hear no
12 energy about these schools. We got
13 museums closing. That should be
14 priority. These schools -- and
15 quite frankly, 260076, I mean,
16 we're talking about any -- and
17 respectfully, Councilwoman Ahmad,
18 we're talking about anything to do
19 with elections, I don't trust
20 anyone who wasn't born in America
21 talking about anything, about
22 anything to do with elections --
23 (inaudible).

24 MR. HAGINS: Good

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2 morning. My name is Ogbonna
3 Hagins, President of the
4 Philadelphia Reparations Coalition
5 for American Freedmen. I'm
6 speaking in regards to 260730 for
7 American Freedmen, government
8 surveillance and the ability to
9 monitor our movements must be
10 understood in the context of
11 history.

12 When government is
13 surveilling and monitoring the
14 progeny of the emancipated, that is
15 a badge of slavery. It is a
16 continuation of the kind of
17 governmental control over movement
18 that American Freedmen have
19 historically experienced. So we
20 have to ask, what is being
21 collected, who has access? This is
22 precisely why we need an Office of
23 Freedmen Affairs.

24 Councilmember Curtis

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2 Jones introduced Resolution 250781
3 to establish the Office of Freedmen
4 Affairs in Philadelphia. The city
5 needs to address what has already
6 been put before it and live up to
7 the intent of that resolution at
8 the state level. Senator Sharif
9 Street will be introducing
10 legislation to establish an Office
11 of American Freedmen Affairs when
12 the General Assembly reconvenes.

13 We are asking the
14 Commonwealth to get on board,
15 because American Freedmen need an
16 agency specifically equipped to
17 address surveillance and other
18 badges of slavery. Philadelphia
19 has already been presented with the
20 opportunity through Resolution
21 250781. Now, the Commonwealth has
22 the opportunity to do the same. We
23 need an Office of Freedmen Affairs
24 at the city level and at the state

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2 level to protect the rights of the

3 progeny of the emancipated.

4 Ogbonna Hagins. Over and out.

5 Thank you.

6 (Applause.)

7 THE CLERK: Honor to our

8 Council President, this concludes

9 our list for public comment today.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

11 JOHNSON: That concludes today's

12 public comment period. Thank you.

13 We will now consider today's

14 resolutions on the Consent Agenda.

15 I will ask the Clerk to

16 read the titles of all the

17 resolutions on the Consent Agenda.

18 After each title is read, any

19 member may object to the inclusion

20 of the resolution on the Consent

21 Agenda.

22 Upon such an objection

23 and without debate, the resolution

24 will be immediately removed from

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2 the Consent Agenda and placed on
3 our regular Final Passage Calendar.

4 The Clerk will now read
5 the titles of the resolutions on
6 the Consent Agenda.

7 THE CLERK: Resolution
8 260715, a resolution honoring
9 public servant Frances Adams by
10 renaming the 1800 Block of South
11 22nd Street to "Frances Adams Way"
12 in recognition of her dedication to
13 violence prevention in South
14 Philadelphia.

15 Resolution 260716, a
16 resolution authorizing the
17 Philadelphia Land Bank to dispose
18 of 7120 Yocum Street located in the
19 2nd Councilmanic District in
20 accordance with the terms of
21 Chapter 16-700 of The Philadelphia
22 Code.

23 Resolution 260717, a
24 resolution authorizing the

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2 Philadelphia Land Bank to dispose
3 of 2045, 2047, 2051 South 56th
4 Street located in the 3rd
5 Councilmanic District in accordance
6 with the terms of Chapter 16-700 of
7 The Philadelphia Code.

8 Resolution 260718, a
9 resolution authorizing the
10 Philadelphia Land Bank to dispose
11 of 4203 Leidy Avenue located in the
12 3rd Councilmanic District in
13 accordance with the terms of
14 Chapter 16-700 of The Philadelphia
15 Code.

16 Resolution 260719, a
17 resolution authorizing the
18 Philadelphia Land Bank to dispose
19 of 225 South 52nd Street located in
20 the 3rd Councilmanic District in
21 accordance with the terms of
22 Chapter 16-700 of The Philadelphia
23 Code.

24 Resolution 260728, a

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2 resolution authorizing the
3 Philadelphia Land Bank to dispose
4 of 1718-26 North 52nd Street,
5 located in the 4th Councilmanic
6 District in accordance with the
7 terms of Chapter 16-700 of The
8 Philadelphia Code.

9 Resolution 260729, a
10 resolution renaming the 6000 block
11 of Market Street "Sharif El-Mekki
12 Way" to honor Sharif El-Mekki and
13 his decades of distinguished
14 service to Philadelphia's students,
15 educators, schools, and
16 communities.

17 Resolution 260739, a
18 resolution authorizing the
19 Philadelphia Land Bank to dispose
20 of 916, 920, 922, 924 West Auburn
21 Street located in the 5th
22 Councilmanic District in accordance
23 with the terms of Chapter 16-700 of
24 The Philadelphia Code.

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2 Resolution 260740, a
3 resolution authorizing the
4 Philadelphia Land Bank to dispose
5 of 855 North Orkney Street located
6 in the 5th Councilmanic District in
7 accordance with the terms of
8 Chapter 16-700 of The Philadelphia
9 Code.

10 Resolution 260748, a
11 resolution also naming Fourth
12 Street between Hoffman and Dudley
13 streets in honor of Henry "Hank"
14 Gonski, III.

15 Resolution 260749, a
16 resolution authorizing the
17 Philadelphia Land Bank to dispose
18 of 1941-47 East Huntingdon Street
19 located in the 1st Councilmanic
20 District in accordance with the
21 terms of Chapter 16-700 of The
22 Philadelphia Code.

23 And Resolution 260750, a
24 resolution also naming the 1100

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2 block of West Rockland Street in
3 the Logan neighborhood as "Officer
4 Melvin Kilgore Way" in honor of the
5 life, legacy and extraordinary
6 community service of Officer Melvin
7 "Kil" Kilgore.

8 There are no further
9 resolutions on the Consent Agenda,
10 Council President.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

12 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

13 The Chair recognizes
14 Councilmember Katherine Gilmore
15 Richardson for a motion to adopt
16 each of the resolutions on the
17 Resolution Consent Agenda.

18 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

19 RICHARDSON: Thank you,
20 Mr. President.

21 I move for the adoption
22 of each of the resolutions on the
23 Resolution Consent Agenda.

24 (Duly seconded.)

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2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

3 JOHNSON: It has been moved and
4 properly seconded that each of the
5 resolutions on the Resolution
6 Consent Agenda be adopted.

7 All those in favor
8 signify by saying aye.

9 (Aye.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

11 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

12 (No response.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

14 JOHNSON: The ayes have it and each
15 of the resolutions on the
16 Resolution Consent Agenda has been
17 adopted.

18 We will now consider
19 resolutions on the regular Final
20 Passage Calendar.

21 Would the Clerk please
22 read the title of Resolution No.
23 260730.

24 THE CLERK: A resolution

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2 calling on the General Assembly and
3 the Senate of the Commonwealth of
4 Pennsylvania to pass bipartisan
5 legislation to ban the use of
6 Automatic License Plate Reader
7 (ALPR) cameras like Flock cameras
8 across the Commonwealth and ban or
9 develop strong guardrails for the
10 use of automatic license plate
11 reader technology.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

13 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes
14 Councilmember Landau for a motion
15 regarding Resolution No. 260730.

16 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:

17 Thank you, Council President.

18 I move for the adoption
19 of the resolution.

20 (Duly seconded.)

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

22 JOHNSON: It has been moved and
23 properly seconded that Resolution
24 No. 260730 be adopted.

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

5 (Aye.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

7 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

8 (No response.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

10 JOHNSON: The ayes have it. The
11 motion carries. The resolution is
12 adopted.

13 Would the Clerk please
14 read the title of Resolution No.
15 260738.

16 THE CLERK: A resolution
17 urging the Pennsylvania General
18 Assembly to enact House Bill 1678
19 to tax digital advertising receipts
20 and provide additional property-tax
21 relief for eligible senior
22 households.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

24 JOHNSON: Chair recognizes

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1 9/24/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 Councilman Jeffrey Jay Young for a
3 motion regarding Resolution No.
4 260738.

5 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Thank
6 you, Mr. President.

7 I move for its adoption.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

9 JOHNSON: It has been moved and
10 properly seconded that Resolution
11 No. 260738 be adopted.

12 All those in favor
13 signify by saying aye.

14 (Aye.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

16 JOHNSON: Anyone opposed?

17 (No response.)

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

22 Would the Clerk please
23 read the title of Resolution No.
24 260747.

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1 9/24/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 THE CLERK: A resolution
3 urging the United States Congress
4 to support and enact the Ahmad
5 Butler Pediatric Cancer HOPE for a
6 Cure Act and calling for federal
7 action to recognize and respond to
8 pediatric cancer with national
9 emergency-level urgency while also
10 calling upon the President of the
11 United States to consider declaring
12 a national emergency concerning
13 pediatric cancer under the National
14 Emergencies Act.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

16 JOHNSON: Chair recognizes Majority
17 Leader Katherine Gilmore Richardson
18 to make a motion on Resolution No.
19 260747 on behalf of Councilman Mark
20 Squilla who isn't here today.

21 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

22 RICHARDSON: Thank you,
23 Mr. President.

24 On behalf of

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2 Councilmember Squilla, I move for
3 the adoption of the resolution.

4 (Duly seconded.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

6 JOHNSON: It has been moved and
7 properly seconded that Resolution
8 No. 260747 be adopted.

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

12 (Aye.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

14 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

15 (No response.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

17 JOHNSON: The ayes have it. The
18 motion carries. The resolution is
19 adopted.

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

23 THE CLERK: A

24 privileged --

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1 9/24/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

3 JOHNSON: Excuse me one second.

4 Council will be at ease.

5 The Chair recognizes

6 Councilmember Dr. Anthony Phillips

7 and then Councilmember Jim Harrity.

8 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

9 Thank you, Council President.

10 I just want to be
11 recorded as aye on all bills and
12 resolutions that I just missed on
13 the Consent Agenda as well as the
14 others.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

16 JOHNSON: Thank you very much,
17 Dr. Phillips.

18 Chair recognizes

19 Councilmember Jim Harrity.

20 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:

21 That was earlier. I wanted to
22 respond to --

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

24 JOHNSON: I think your light is

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1 9/24/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 still on, sir.

3 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: Oh,

4 I'm sorry.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

6 JOHNSON: Press that button, sir.

7 Thank you very much, sir.

8 Will the Clerk please
9 read any additional resolutions on
10 today's Calendar.

11 THE CLERK: A privileged
12 resolution authorizing the
13 Committee on Streets and Services
14 to hold hearings to examine the
15 City's implementation of its Vision
16 Zero Action Plan, evaluate progress
17 toward eliminating traffic
18 fatalities and serious injuries,
19 and identify opportunities to
20 improve roadway safety throughout
21 Philadelphia, including through
22 daylighting, traffic calming,
23 pedestrian infrastructure, and
24 other such measures. Introduced by

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2 Councilmember Jamie Gauthier on
3 behalf of Council President
4 Johnson.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

6 JOHNSON: Chair recognizes
7 Councilmember Jamie Gauthier for a
8 motion on the resolution.

9 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:

10 Thank you, Council President.

11 On your behalf, I move
12 for the adoption 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 of
19 the motion will signify by saying
20 aye.

21 (Aye.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

23 JOHNSON: Anyone opposed?

24 (No response.)

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1 9/24/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

3 JOHNSON: The resolution has been
4 adopted.

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

7 THE CLERK: A privileged
8 resolution recognizing,
9 congratulating and celebrating
10 Philadelphia VIP for its
11 outstanding contributions to
12 Philadelphia on the occasion of its
13 45th anniversary. Introduced by
14 Councilmember Rue Landau.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

16 JOHNSON: Chair recognizes
17 Councilwoman Landau for a motion on
18 the resolution.

19 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:

20 Thank you, Council President.

21 I move for the adoption
22 of the resolution.

23 (Duly seconded.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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1 9/24/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

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

5 All those in favor
6 signify by saying aye.

7 (Aye.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

9 JOHNSON: Anyone opposed?

10 (No response.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

14 Chief Clerk, please read
15 the title of the resolution.

16 THE CLERK: A privileged
17 resolution recognizing and honoring
18 Saint James Lutheran Church on its
19 100th anniversary and celebrating
20 its centennial as a pillar of
21 faith, community service and
22 providing spiritual guidance.

23 Introduced by Councilmember Quetcy
24 Lozada.

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2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

3 JOHNSON: Chair recognizes

4 Councilmember Quetcy Lozada for a
5 motion on the resolution.

6 (Duly seconded.)

7 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA:

8 Thank you, Council President. I
9 move for the adoption.

10 (Duly seconded.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

15 All those in favor
16 signify by saying aye.

17 (Aye.)

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

19 JOHNSON: Anyone opposed?

20 (No response.)

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

22 JOHNSON: The ayes have it. The
23 resolution is adopted.

24 Chief Clerk, please read

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1 9/24/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 the title of the resolution.

3 THE CLERK: A privileged
4 resolution recognizing and honoring
5 distinguished Latino leaders and
6 community advocates in the City of
7 Philadelphia during Hispanic
8 Heritage Month. Introduced by
9 Councilmember Quetcy Lozada.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

11 JOHNSON: Chair recognizes
12 Councilmember Quetcy Lozada for a
13 motion on the resolution.

14 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA:
15 Thank you, Council President.

16 I move for the adoption
17 of the resolution.

18 (Duly seconded.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

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

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1 9/24/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 aye.

3 (Aye.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

5 JOHNSON: Anyone opposed?

6 (No response.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

10 Chief Clerk, please read
11 the title of the resolution.

12 THE CLERK: A privileged
13 resolution honoring the legacy of
14 Black labor in Philadelphia,
15 including the first Colored
16 Convention in 1830, and the Black
17 organizers, who for centuries have
18 been at the heart of the American
19 Labor movement. Introduced by
20 Councilmember Kendra Brooks.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

22 JOHNSON: Chair recognizes
23 Councilmember Kendra Brooks for a
24 motion on the resolution.

Stated Meeting

1 9/24/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: I
3 move for the adoption of the
4 resolution.

5 (Duly seconded.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

10 All those in favor
11 signify by saying aye.

12 (Aye.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

14 JOHNSON: Anyone opposed?

15 (No response.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

17 JOHNSON: The ayes have it and the
18 resolution has been adopted.

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

22 THE CLERK: A privileged
23 resolution recognizing the third
24 week of September 2026 as National

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1 9/24/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 Construction Appreciation Week in
3 the City of Philadelphia, honoring
4 the contribution of the
5 construction industry to the
6 vitality of our city. Introduced
7 by Councilmember Jim Harrity.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

9 JOHNSON: Chair recognizes
10 Councilmember Jim Harrity for a
11 motion on the resolution.

12 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:

13 Thank you, Council 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 the
20 resolution be adopted.

21 All those in favor
22 signify by saying aye.

23 (Aye.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Stated Meeting

1 9/24/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 JOHNSON: Anyone opposed?

3 (No response.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

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

9 THE CLERK: A privileged
10 resolution recognizing September
11 2026 as Hunger Action Month in the
12 City of Philadelphia in order to
13 raise awareness about food
14 insecurity in our communities and
15 to mobilize us to act in the
16 movement to end hunger. Introduced
17 by Councilmember Nicolas O'Rourke.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

19 JOHNSON: Chair recognizes
20 Councilmember Nicolas O'Rourke for
21 a motion on the resolution.

22 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE:

23 Thank you, Mr. President.

24 I move for the adoption

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1 9/24/26 - 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 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 Chief Clerk, please read
18 the title of the resolution.

19 THE CLERK: A privileged
20 resolution authorizing the
21 Committee on Legislative Oversight
22 to hold hearings examining the
23 City's oversight of correctional
24 health care contractors and the

Stated Meeting

1 9/24/26 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 circumstances leading to
3 disruptions in medical care in
4 Philadelphia's jails. Introduced
5 by Councilmember Nicolas O'Rourke.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
7 JOHNSON: Chair recognizes
8 Councilmember Nicolas O'Rourke for
9 a motion on the resolution.

10 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE:
11 Thank you, Mr. President.
12 I move for the adoption
13 of the resolution.

14 (Duly seconded.)

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

19 All those in favor
20 signify by saying aye.

21 (Aye.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

23 JOHNSON: Anyone opposed?
24 (No response.)

Stated Meeting

1 9/24/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

3 JOHNSON: The ayes have it. The
4 resolution has been adopted.

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

7 THE CLERK: A privileged
8 resolution recognizing September
9 2026 as "Deaf Awareness Month" in
10 the City of Philadelphia and
11 further honoring Philadelphia --
12 Pennsylvania School for the Deaf
13 for its historical leadership,
14 educational excellence, and
15 unwavering commitment to empowering
16 deaf and hard-of-hearing students
17 and advancing deaf culture and
18 community. Introduced by
19 Councilmember Cindy Bass.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

21 JOHNSON: Chair recognizes
22 Councilmember Cindy Bass for a
23 motion on the resolution.

24 COUNCILWOMAN BASS:

Stated Meeting

1 9/24/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 Thank you, Mr. President.

3 I move for the adoption
4 of the resolution.

5 (Duly seconded.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

10 All those in favor
11 signify by saying aye.

12 (Aye.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

14 JOHNSON: Anyone opposed?

15 (No response.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

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

21 THE CLERK: A privileged
22 resolution honoring and celebrating
23 United Lutheran Seminary on its
24 200th anniversary and commemorating

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1 9/24/26 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 the Seminary's longstanding
3 presence and service in the City of
4 Philadelphia. Introduced by
5 Councilmember Cindy Bass.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
7 JOHNSON: Chair recognizes
8 Councilwoman Cindy Bass for a
9 motion on the resolution.

10 COUNCILWOMAN BASS:
11 Thank you, Mr. President.
12 I move for the adoption
13 of the resolution.

14 (Duly seconded.)

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

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

22 (Aye.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

24 JOHNSON: Anyone opposed?

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1 9/24/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 (No response.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

6 Chief Clerk, please read
7 the title of the next resolution.

8 THE CLERK: A privileged
9 resolution authorizing the
10 Committee on Licenses and
11 Inspections to hold a hearing to
12 examine the implementation and
13 enforcement of laws and regulations
14 governing nuisance businesses,
15 including Stop and Go
16 establishments, signage, and window
17 coverings, and to assess how
18 enforcement practices can improve
19 public safety, strengthen community
20 trust, ensure due process, and
21 reduce neighborhood conflict.
22 Introduced by Councilmember Cindy
23 Bass.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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1 9/24/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 JOHNSON: Chair recognizes
3 Councilwoman Cindy Bass for a
4 motion on the resolution.

5 COUNCILWOMAN BASS:

6 Thank you, Mr. President.

7 I move for the adoption
8 of the resolution.

9 (Duly seconded.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

14 All those in favor
15 signify by saying aye.

16 (Aye.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

18 JOHNSON: Anyone opposed?

19 (No response.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

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

Stated Meeting

1 9/24/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 THE CLERK: A privileged
3 resolution honoring Dr. Molefi Kete
4 Asante for his distinguished
5 academic career as the founder of
6 the theory of Afrocentricity on the
7 occasion of WURD Radio's feature on
8 his local and global legacy through
9 Freedom Journeys initiative.

10 Introduced by Councilmember Cindy
11 Bass on behalf of Council President
12 Johnson.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

14 JOHNSON: Chair recognizes
15 Councilwoman Cindy Bass for a
16 motion on the resolution.

17 (Duly seconded.)

18 COUNCILWOMAN BASS:

19 Thank you, Mr. President.

20 I move for the adoption
21 of this resolution.

22 (Duly seconded.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

24 JOHNSON: It has been moved and

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1 9/24/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 properly seconded that the

3 resolution be adopted.

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

7 (Aye.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

9 JOHNSON: Anyone opposed?

10 (No response.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

14 Chief Clerk, please read
15 the title of the resolution.

16 THE CLERK: A privileged
17 resolution recognizing and honoring
18 the Miss Philadelphia Scholarship
19 Organization on its 105th
20 anniversary, celebrating all
21 current and former title holders
22 and the organization's longstanding
23 commitment to scholarship, service,
24 leadership and the empowerment of

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2 women in 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 of
18 the motion will signify by saying
19 aye.

20 (Aye.)

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

22 JOHNSON: Anyone opposed?

23 (No response.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Stated Meeting

1 9/24/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

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

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

6 THE CLERK: A privileged
7 resolution recognizing September
8 2026 as Cerebral Visual Impairment
9 (CVI) Awareness Month in the City
10 of Philadelphia, and commending the
11 Rosenblatt Family CVI Center at
12 Overbrook School for the Blind, for
13 its commitment to improving care,
14 education, and research for
15 children with CVI. Introduced by
16 Councilmember Nina Ahmad.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

18 JOHNSON: Chair recognizes
19 Councilmember Dr. Nina Ahmad for a
20 motion on the resolution.

21 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:

22 Thank you, Council President.

23 I move for the adoption
24 of the resolution.

Stated Meeting

1 9/24/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 (Duly seconded.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

7 All those in favor
8 signify by saying aye.

9 (Aye.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

11 JOHNSON: Anyone opposed?

12 (No response.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

14 JOHNSON: The ayes have it and the
15 resolution has been adopted.

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

18 THE CLERK: A privileged
19 resolution recognizing September
20 22, 2026 as World Perimenopause Day
21 and the month of September 2026 as
22 Perimenopause Awareness Month in
23 the City of Philadelphia.

24 Introduced by Councilmember Nina

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1 9/24/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 Ahmad.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

7 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:

8 Thank you, Council President.

9 I move for the adoption
10 of the resolution.

11 (Duly seconded.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

16 All those in favor of
17 the motion will signify by saying
18 aye.

19 (Aye.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

21 JOHNSON: Anyone opposed?

22 (No response.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

24 JOHNSON: The ayes have it and the

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1 9/24/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 resolution is adopted.

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

5 THE CLERK: There are no
6 further resolutions in my
7 possession, Council President.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

9 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.
10 That completes our Calendar for
11 today.

12 Any speeches on behalf
13 of the Minority? Chair recognizes
14 Councilmember Kendra Brooks.

15 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS:
16 Thank you, Council President.

17 As we head into this
18 fall season, Philly families are
19 facing record-high prices for basic
20 necessities like energy, groceries
21 and medical care. I want to thank
22 Minority Whip Nicolas O'Rourke for
23 stepping up to tackle our city's
24 affordability crisis with the Cost

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2 of Living Task Force and Affordable
3 Philly Now Report.

4 The report gives us
5 facts, analyses and concrete
6 solutions from Philadelphia's
7 foremost experts on housing,
8 utilities, transit and food access.
9 I applaud Councilmember O'Rourke
10 and I look forward to working with
11 my City Council colleagues to
12 implement some of these valuable
13 proposals in the report.

14 Today I introduced a
15 resolution to honor the legacy of
16 Black labor in Philadelphia. The
17 resolution points to centuries of
18 Black organizing for equal wages
19 and dignity in the workplace. The
20 latest chapter of that story is
21 taking shape here in Philadelphia
22 with the Philly Black Worker
23 Project and the All Due Respect
24 campaign.

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2 This campaign is very
3 personal to me. I know what it's
4 like to be at a job where you're
5 not respected. Before I was
6 elected into City Council, I worked
7 temporary jobs, part-time jobs and
8 jobs where I was doing the work
9 that no one else wanted to do. I
10 know about the exploitation of temp
11 workers, Black workers and formerly
12 incarcerated workers. It is a
13 major problem here in Philadelphia.

14 With all Due Respect
15 Campaign, Black workers are coming
16 together to demand better equal pay
17 for equal work and an end to
18 discrimination against formerly
19 incarcerated workers and clear
20 health and safety standards for
21 temp workers. I am honored to join
22 them today in recognizing and
23 celebrating the centuries of Black
24 labor organizing that has led us to

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2 this moment we are here today and
3 to this campaign. Thank you so
4 much.

5 (Applause.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

7 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

8 Councilmember Nicolas
9 O'Rourke.

10 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE:

11 Thank you, Mr. President.

12 A couple of things that
13 I wanted to lift today. First, I
14 want to just state that Starbucks
15 workers have been fighting against
16 the odds for nearly five years.
17 And I'm just talking about the
18 workers. I feel like I have been a
19 part of some struggle related to
20 Starbucks for the better part of
21 ten years at some point.

22 I think it's high time
23 that their employer did what decent
24 employers are supposed to do and

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2 negotiate a fair union contract.

3 Until then --

4 (Applause.)

5 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE: As
6 you can tell, some of the folks are
7 in the room. Until then, I don't
8 see how one could call Starbucks a
9 decent employer or why anyone would
10 support them. This has gone on far
11 too long and I would definitely --
12 we definitely need to see an end to
13 this matter. And I'm happy to
14 stand with workers today and every
15 day we will continue to struggle on
16 and see what the end will be.

17 I also want to say that
18 today I introduced legislation
19 calling for hearings focused on our
20 Department of Prisons, because they
21 face some major changes that have
22 hardly been discussed in public,
23 and which I know the Administration
24 hasn't fully briefed this body on

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2 yet.

3 In June, we shifted jail
4 health care providers for the first
5 time in 30-odd years because Yes
6 Care, the old contractor, went
7 bankrupt. Because of the
8 bankruptcy, the city terminated its
9 contract with Yes Care five weeks
10 early and transferred local medical
11 staff to the payroll of CFG Health,
12 PDP's new provider.

13 Health care workers on
14 the inside went without pay for
15 weeks. Staffing was dangerously
16 low for days. And one night back
17 in May, there wasn't a single nurse
18 on the overnight shift in CFCF, not
19 one, not a single nurse. Court
20 records say that the city had to
21 "engage administrative staff to
22 cover medical triage."

23 Once Yes Care's
24 bankruptcy was announced in early

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2 May, the city moved quickly. But I
3 was asking about whether this was a
4 vendor Philly could trust a whole
5 year before even that. In April in
6 2025, I asked our Prisons
7 Commissioner if, given all the
8 lawsuits against them and the
9 health care challenges documented
10 in reports on our prisons, this was
11 a partner we should continue
12 working with. That was the
13 question.

14 Since we stuck with them
15 until the bitter end unfortunately,
16 you can imagine that he didn't
17 share my concerns at that time.
18 Now, we know that those concerns
19 were timely and we've waited too
20 long to have this discussion
21 openly.

22 Thank you, Member
23 Thomas, for continuing to advance
24 the work of prison oversight on

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2 this body and in this city and
3 allowing me to do that with you.
4 I'm looking forward to bringing
5 this issue to the Committee on
6 Legislative Oversight because we
7 need a transparent breakdown of how
8 this transition was managed, why we
9 stuck with Yes Care for so long,
10 despite many warning signs that had
11 been raised, and what the future of
12 health care in our presence looks
13 like.

14 Colleagues, I've said it
15 before. I'll say it again. Our
16 incarcerated constituents don't
17 just rely on us. They are at our
18 mercy. I use that word
19 intentionally. They are at our
20 mercy. We set the conditions for
21 their lives on the inside, we do.
22 And frankly, we contract a lot of
23 that work out.

24 If that's the route

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2 we're going to take, these should
3 be the most scrutinized contracts
4 signed by the most scrupulous
5 providers. Anything less is
6 playing with people's lives, as too
7 many people's deaths have shown us.
8 We need real prison oversight in
9 the City of Philadelphia. It's the
10 moral and ethical thing to do, for
11 sure, for our neighbors on the
12 inside.

13 Continuing on with a few
14 other things. This is a bracing
15 moment in the fight against hunger.
16 Many folks are aware of what's
17 happening at the federal level
18 because the federal government is
19 fighting to be less accountable for
20 feeding neighbors in need. At the
21 same time, we all know that
22 groceries are facing steady
23 inflation.

24 Mr. President, you are

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2 fully aware of this. So I want to
3 thank Philabundance for working
4 with my office to introduce this
5 resolution, to make sure that we
6 dwell on these facts. I applaud
7 our Governor for increasing what
8 our state spends on SNAP, but we
9 are still facing a steep struggle,
10 particularly with next year's
11 supposed "reforms" in mind.

12 To all the organizations
13 fighting to end hunger in
14 Philadelphia, for the smaller acts
15 of care Philadelphians perform
16 every day across all of our
17 neighborhoods, I want to say thank
18 you. I believe that God smiles on
19 you for being mindful to feed those
20 who are hungry. Few things are
21 holier than feeding those who are
22 hungry and we are a better city,
23 thanks to Philadelphians who join
24 into that holy work.

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2 My team recently joined
3 sharing excess in that work at one
4 of their food giveaways. And I'm
5 proud to say that food access is
6 one of the points of focus in the
7 Philadelphia Cost of Living Task
8 Force's report. George Matysik and
9 the Share Food Program led that
10 piece of the report for us and
11 included the insight he gained
12 through his work and participation
13 on Philly's Food and Nutrition
14 Security Task Force.

15 Again, shout-out to the
16 President for your unwavering focus
17 on this issue for some time.
18 George was one of the nine experts
19 who helped my office draft this
20 report and I want to share some
21 more about it before I wrap up.

22 Everybody's talking
23 about fighting the affordability
24 crisis. But my office wanted to do

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2 what the WFP does and make that
3 very material, not just lip
4 service, make it very concrete. So
5 every proposal in the report is
6 something that the City of
7 Philadelphia can do unilaterally.
8 No waiting on Harrisburg, no
9 waiting on Washington.

10 And for that reason,
11 colleagues, I hope that you give
12 the report a thorough read. We put
13 a copy on everyone's desk last
14 week. I know we had an eventful
15 last week. But hopefully, you can
16 find that somewhere in the pile of
17 your notes and give it a gander,
18 because there are so many steps
19 that we can take to continue to
20 address the cost of living in
21 Philadelphia.

22 I just want to recount
23 that some of the task force members
24 included; Sister Mary Scullion, Art

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2 Steinberg, Professor Ash Richards,
3 Eva Gladstein, Dr. Tyra Bryant-
4 Stephens, Marianne Fray, Dr. Najja
5 Orr, Vikram Patel, George Matysik.
6 If that resonates with any of you,
7 their work, their intellects, their
8 mind, their expertise, experience
9 went into putting this together.
10 This is real good material and good
11 reading for those of us who are in
12 the business of making law.

13 I want to thank the
14 members of the Committee on Global
15 Opportunities and the Creative
16 Innovative Economy and their staff
17 for your early input and feedback,
18 and I want to thank the entire task
19 force for their participation. And
20 I want to thank my colleagues in
21 advance for reading and considering
22 the proposals in the report. Our
23 hearing on this report comes next
24 week, so this won't be the last

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2 that you hear of it.

3 Lastly, I want to thank
4 my team for your hard work over the
5 summer finalizing the report. And
6 an extra note of gratitude is due
7 to Sara Rivera, a former intern in
8 our office, who has led the design
9 for the entire Affordable Philly
10 Now initiative to date, and also
11 formatted and designed the entire
12 report for us. Even when she
13 didn't have to do that and she was
14 gone about her business, she
15 thought it not robbery to put forth
16 her artistic skills, to make sure
17 that what you were reading also
18 looked appealing to the eye. So
19 thank you, Sara. I know that you
20 hear us.

21 Thank you, Mr.
22 President, for the time. I'll see
23 you all next week.

24 (Applause.)

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2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

3 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

4 Speeches on behalf of
5 the Majority. The Chair recognizes
6 Councilmember Curtis Jones.

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

9 Colleagues and listening
10 audience, every now and then, if
11 we're patient enough, if we're
12 persistent enough, if we stay on
13 our grind enough, good things
14 happen. We have come to the end of
15 the road for illegal gambling
16 machines in the City of
17 Philadelphia.

18 The City Solicitor's
19 office through the Mayor, this body
20 standing steadfast, Governor
21 Shapiro not wavering on the issue,
22 we have come to the conclusion that
23 they are not games of skill. They
24 are games of chance and deserve to

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2 be out of our neighborhoods. And
3 as of the second week of October,
4 we get to work with the Nuisance
5 Business Task Force to begin the
6 removal, the removal of those
7 machines.

8 Mr. President, there is
9 not a district, not a district in
10 the City of Philadelphia that has
11 not been dealt with, had to deal
12 with these machines, some worse
13 than others. In a VFW, that's all
14 right. I'm okay with people of
15 adult-consenting age, but in a
16 corner store 500 feet away from a
17 school, it's unacceptable.

18 When Mrs. Johnson,
19 Grandma Johnson, who is on Social
20 Security, goes in there and the ATM
21 is right next to the gambling
22 machine where they take a stool and
23 don't have to move and watch their
24 Social Security go down the drain

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2 on a pipe dream, that's criminal.

3 And it is now really criminal. So

4 I look forward to being a part. If

5 any of you have ever watched The

6 Untouchables, there's a scene where

7 Eliot Ness goes in and starts

8 removing gambling machines. I

9 intend to be a part of that, be a

10 part of that party.

11 But I would say to you

12 and to all of you, we have to deal

13 with a number of issues all the

14 time. But if we stay persistent

15 and stay on it, good things happen.

16 Quetcy Lozada, who had to deal with

17 that, she could have easily ignored

18 it, but she stood ten toes down to

19 improve the quality of life of her

20 neighborhood.

21 Kathy Gilmore Richardson

22 walked in those doors and you don't

23 want to really walk in stores with

24 Kathy, I warn you. She is a

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2 Wynnefield girl that is unafraid
3 and goes toe to toe about what is
4 right for the conditions of the
5 school.

6 Cindy Bass, who fought
7 against Liquor by the Drink. All
8 of this is a continuation of that.
9 And if we are patient enough, the
10 heroes become the villains and the
11 villains become the heroes.

12 Thank you very much.

13 (Applause.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

15 JOHNSON: Very well said, Member
16 Jones.

17 Chair recognizes
18 Councilmember Jim Harrity.

19 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:

20 Thank you, Council President.

21 First, I want to thank
22 Quetcy too for yesterday. I had
23 been in such a good mood from
24 yesterday morning all day.

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2 Nobody's ruined it yet except that
3 idiot that just got up and messed
4 with me. He got lucky. I would
5 have been suspended again or
6 something because I was about to
7 light him up. But the Council
8 President seeing fit to be the
9 higher power didn't recognize me.

10 But just want to let
11 people know that we had to postpone
12 the Wellness Expo this week because
13 of the rain, but we did get a new
14 date. It will be Tuesday, October
15 13th from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
16 in City Hall Courtyard. All the
17 vendors will still be out there.
18 We've had over 30 vendors sign up.
19 So please come out and check us out
20 Tuesday. Thank you.

21 (Applause.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

23 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

24 Chair recognizes

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2 Councilmember Jeffrey Jay Young.

3 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Thank
4 you, Mr. President.

5 First, I want to echo
6 some of the sentiments of my
7 colleague Councilmember O'Rourke
8 when it comes to Starbucks. Folks
9 know last year on this floor I
10 called Starbucks the world's
11 largest legal drug dealer, right.
12 And they make a whole lot of money
13 selling drugs to our community, to
14 our people. And so, I think they
15 should do right by the people who
16 sell their product ultimately.

17 I want to thank my
18 colleagues for passing a resolution
19 today where we are transferring
20 land to historic Fairhill to
21 preserve for open space in North
22 Philadelphia. They're going to use
23 this open space for a lot of their
24 programming. They have the great

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2 programming for our youth of North
3 Philly and that Fairhill section.
4 Just glad to be able to support
5 that community.

6 I know last week we had
7 a day so I didn't get a chance to
8 say everything that I wanted to say
9 last week, but I want to just talk
10 about some of the things that we
11 did over the summer. Throughout
12 the summer, our office hosted
13 Quality of Life town halls
14 throughout the district bringing
15 residents together with community,
16 with city departments to address
17 issues like sanitation, public
18 safety, parking, vacant properties,
19 development and everyday issues
20 that shape how people experience
21 their communities.

22 We also partnered with
23 organizations to host housing
24 resource workshops, helping

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2 residents navigate rising property
3 assessments, tax relief programs,
4 appeals and other resources that
5 help them maintain their homes. Of
6 course, Philadelphia welcomed the
7 world to FIFA Fan Fest, which is in
8 the 4th District, but I share that
9 interest in that neighborhood with
10 Councilmember Jones.

11 We've also had the
12 Summer Night Light series in the
13 22nd Police District, which created
14 positive spaces for young people
15 and our families in North
16 Philadelphia. We celebrated major
17 investments in our public spaces
18 after seven-plus years of closures.
19 We spent money to open up two pools
20 in our district at 12th & Cambria
21 and Amos. These are more than just
22 swimming pools. These are places
23 where children can learn, families
24 can gather and seniors can stay

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2 active. Amos Rec Center
3 specifically has a senior swim time
4 where the seniors were able to
5 enjoy the pool.

6 Over the summer, we also
7 celebrated renaming Jake & Sarah
8 Adams Way near the new Barbers Hall
9 to recognize a family legacy that
10 is deeply connected to North
11 Philly. This past Labor Day we
12 honored Samuel Staten, Jr., with
13 which we will be passing that
14 resolution next week. Our
15 neighbors continue to demonstrate
16 what community looks like through
17 celebrations like the Spring Garden
18 Sunflower Fest.

19 We also had Strawberry
20 Mansion Day. We have also moved
21 into a different phase in the
22 development of the Cecil B. Moore
23 Library, right. We held a meeting
24 to talk about those improvements.

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2 And I'm urging the community to
3 stay active in that. We want to
4 make sure that this building can
5 remain safe, accessible and open to
6 the public for years to come.

7 We had a meeting with
8 the Free Library capital projects
9 capital programs office. And I
10 want to thank everyone who
11 attended, everyone who asked
12 questions and everyone who
13 continues to be an advocate for the
14 future of this essential
15 neighborhood institution. I know
16 the community wants more for this
17 library and so do I, right. Our
18 residents deserve a 21st century
19 welcoming space that supports
20 literacy, education, technology,
21 and opportunity. And I'm glad that
22 we are continuing this important
23 conversation and moving forward
24 with the critical improvements for

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2 this library.

3 And on a personal note,
4 one of my staffers over the summer
5 left our office. And I just want
6 to say congratulations to Haley
7 Anderson. From the beginning,
8 Haley has been one of my office's
9 most dedicated and impactful
10 advocates for residents. Haley is
11 a native of Fairmount in the 5th
12 Council District. She brought
13 compassion, professionalism, and
14 persistence to her work and the
15 countless constituents benefited
16 from her commitment to helping
17 people navigate very, very
18 difficult situations.

19 While I'm sad to see her
20 leave, I'm proud that she has moved
21 on to my alma mater, to Girard
22 College, an institution that helped
23 shape my own life. And I'm
24 especially glad to know that she

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2 will remain nearby and continue to
3 serve young people here in the 5th
4 Council District community.

5 Today we also introduce
6 legislation that would amend the
7 5th District Overlay in the areas
8 near the Ben Franklin Parkway,
9 including a parcel where the
10 Academy of Natural Sciences to
11 restrict land usage to cultural and
12 civic purposes. This legislation,
13 in addition to the hearing that was
14 introduced with my colleague
15 Councilmember Nina Ahmad, is part
16 of our commitment to explore every
17 available path to preserve the
18 Academy as a place where
19 Philadelphia can learn, discover
20 and connect with our natural
21 history.

22 It's important that we
23 preserve our history, right. Over
24 the weekend, I had the opportunity

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2 to take my son on a neighborhood
3 tour that was sponsored by the
4 Philadelphia Cultural Center. This
5 was a North Philly Civil Rights
6 History and Freedom Tour, and we
7 rode through North Philadelphia
8 learning about all the different
9 spaces in North Philly that are
10 historic specifically for Black
11 Philadelphians. And we ended the
12 tour at the museum on Girard
13 College's campus.

14 And it's so crazy that
15 they have an exhibit on me in that
16 museum where my son was able to see
17 that, right. That's history.
18 That's culture, right. So if we
19 continue to take away these
20 learning spaces from our babies,
21 how will they learn this history,
22 how will they learn this culture,
23 right, if it's gone.

24 The Academy has been

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2 here for over 200 years, right.
3 It's dedicated to civic and
4 cultural education, to science. If
5 we take that away, how will our
6 kids learn. And so, I'm going to
7 continue to be an advocate,
8 continue to fight for the public
9 good that the Academy brought to
10 our City of Philadelphia. And
11 we're going to again explore every
12 avenue, every option that is
13 available to us to make sure that
14 we maintain learning spaces in the
15 City of Philadelphia.

16 I want to thank my
17 colleagues for passing the
18 resolution today, urging the
19 General Assembly to enact House
20 Bill 168. We've heard commentary
21 from some folks today about this
22 legislation, but ultimately it's to
23 provide our seniors who are being
24 priced out of neighborhoods that

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2 they help build, opportunity and
3 relief from property taxes. And
4 just to be bipartisan with those
5 folks too, this body, you know, I
6 introduced a resolution that this
7 body passed supporting a proposed
8 bill by Republican Doug Mastriano
9 that would exempt eligible seniors
10 from having to pay property taxes
11 at all, right.

12 I am a supporter of our
13 seniors not paying taxes. Because
14 for the most part when they're
15 retired, they're on Social
16 Security, they will never earn
17 another dime again. So to have
18 their taxes continue to go up, I
19 think is criminal. So I do think
20 we need to work on ways to help our
21 seniors out. I do think our Senior
22 Tax Freeze that we have here in
23 this city is too low. We should
24 explore other programs that we can

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2 base that program off of, because
3 our seniors are literally the
4 backbone of our communities.
5 They've helped build this city up
6 and they deserve the honor and
7 dignity to stay in their homes as
8 long as they choose to.

9 And last but not least,
10 Mr. President, I have a couple of
11 announcements. Last week we held
12 our Intergenerational Game Night at
13 The LENNI on Ridge Avenue. It was
14 a great time. There were young
15 people as young as 4 years old and
16 our seniors as old as you can think
17 of as a senior at this place all
18 together, playing games,
19 interacting, talking.

20 I mean, my son was
21 playing bingo, right. It was
22 amazing. It was a great time to be
23 there, to see different generations
24 of people interacting and building

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2 community. I look forward to our
3 future intergenerational game
4 nights that we have in North
5 Philadelphia.

6 Today we are continuing
7 our Quality of Life Town Hall
8 series in Strawberry Mansion hosted
9 by the Strawberry Mansion Faith-
10 Based Coalition. This will be at
11 5:30 today at 31st and Cumberland.
12 We will be outside today talking to
13 community, providing them
14 information to help them maintain
15 their communities. That's again
16 today at 5:30 at 31st and
17 Cumberland.

18 This weekend we will be
19 at Broad and Green to rename Green
20 Street after Coach Kenneth Ham, who
21 was a legendary coach, mentor and
22 educator for Ben Franklin High
23 School. And at the time of his
24 retirement, he had the most wins

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2 out of any coach in the
3 Philadelphia Public League history.
4 So we want to honor that history at
5 Ben Franklin.

6 And of course, next
7 weekend, October 3rd, Norf Philly
8 Day The Family Reunion is taking
9 over Chalmers Playground. I look
10 forward to joining residents,
11 businesses, the artists, the
12 community organizations, the
13 families to help celebrate North
14 Philadelphia culture, history and
15 what makes North Philly special.
16 Again, that's October 3rd, Norf
17 Philly Day, 29th and Chalmers. We
18 hope everyone can come and make it
19 out.

20 Thank you,
21 Mr. President.

22 (Applause.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

24 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

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2 Chair recognizes

3 Councilmember Dr. Nina Ahmad.

4 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:

5 Thank you, Council President and
6 colleagues.

7 Happy World

8 Perimenopause Day and Perimenopause
9 Awareness Month. As we get closer
10 to January 1, 2027, when my Bill
11 No. 250849, which guarantees
12 reasonable accommodations for those
13 of us who silently suffer from
14 menstruation, perimenopause and
15 menopause as well as protection
16 from discrimination when seeking
17 those accommodations, goes into
18 effect.

19 I want to continue to
20 uplift this often unacknowledged
21 condition that so many of us go
22 through between our late 30s and
23 early 50s. World Perimenopause Day
24 and Perimenopause Awareness Month

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2 both happen in September and
3 they're established to raise
4 awareness and to share knowledge
5 about this transitional phase many
6 people experience. I also want to
7 shout out all my colleagues who
8 read through my legislation and
9 voted unanimously in favor of the
10 legislation.

11 We are the first
12 municipality in the country to take
13 action on menstruation,
14 perimenopause and menopause, and
15 that is in part because of your
16 support of this bill. I am so very
17 grateful. I would also like to say
18 that today was a beautiful day in
19 Council chambers, especially
20 beautiful because we were joined by
21 many current and former powerful
22 and engaging Miss Philadelphias.

23 These incredible women
24 are an example of what it looks

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2 like to be your whole self. These
3 are women who do it all. They're
4 accomplished, have pursued
5 education and careers and are
6 leaders in their communities. They
7 are role models. And I want to
8 thank the Miss Philadelphia
9 Scholarship Organization on its
10 105th anniversary for supporting
11 these women with longstanding
12 commitment to scholarship, service,
13 leadership and empowerment of
14 women.

15 I also introduced a
16 resolution recognizing September
17 2026 as Cerebral Visual Impairment
18 Awareness Month in the City of
19 Philadelphia and commend the
20 Overbrook School for the Blind,
21 which officially launched this in
22 2025 for your commitment to
23 improving care, education and
24 research for children with CVI.

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2 Many people don't quite
3 understand CVI. It is a brain-
4 based vision condition where the
5 eyes can see, but the brain
6 struggles to process and interpret
7 the visual signals. This is often
8 an underrecognized condition, and
9 10.5% of all children with
10 developmental disabilities have
11 CVI. Early detection and
12 intervention are crucial for
13 improving outcomes, as CVI impacts
14 learning, social relationships and
15 quality of life.

16 This week I had the
17 privilege of attending the Special
18 Committee on Gun Violence that the
19 Council President convened. It was
20 an honor to participate in this
21 conversation and to hear from our
22 gun violence experts in the city.
23 I was proud to also raise up in the
24 conversation of the intersection of

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2 gun violence and sexual assault and
3 domestic abuse. We cannot talk
4 about gun violence without
5 exploring all the ways that it
6 harms Philadelphians, and I look
7 forward to working with my
8 colleagues and city officials to
9 better protect residents from
10 violence.

11 I have also continued to
12 work behind the scenes on the
13 closure of the Academy of Natural
14 Sciences. And I want to commend my
15 colleague Councilmember Jeffrey
16 Young for introducing the Overlay
17 bill today. And we are still
18 fighting. And we will save the
19 Academy. I plan to share updates
20 on our next steps for this critical
21 work soon and I encourage everyone
22 to stay tuned for more.

23 Thank you, Council
24 President and my colleagues. And I

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2 yield back my time.

3 (Applause.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

5 JOHNSON: Thank you.

6 Chair recognizes

7 Councilmember Lozada.

8 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA:

9 Thank you, Council President.

10 I'd like to begin by

11 thanking my colleague Councilmember

12 Jimmy Harrity as well as

13 Representative Danilo Burgos,

14 members of the Philadelphia Police

15 Department and the Peace Day Philly

16 Committee for joining our schools

17 John Welsh, Esperanza Charter,

18 Julia de Burgos and Pan American

19 Charter School for our

20 International Day of Peace, an

21 event that I have had the honor of

22 coordinating and planning and

23 participating in for over 15 years,

24 long before I became a

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2 Councilmember.

3 My colleagues often
4 times tell me, Quets, don't read
5 the social media comments, don't
6 read the posts because it's going
7 to -- it's not going to make you
8 happy. But I can't help it,
9 because just like I read the posts,
10 young people in my community read
11 the posts as well. Many of those
12 comments, while many were positive,
13 some were really frustrating,
14 right. Many of the comments asked,
15 you know, who's raising those kids,
16 why are those bad kids or those
17 bad-behind kids walking for peace
18 when they're creating havoc in
19 other places, right.

20 It's easy to be a
21 keyboard bully. It's easy for you
22 to stand up in certain spaces and
23 talk about what somebody is doing
24 and they're not doing. And it's

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2 easy to point the finger, right. I
3 will say publicly to those
4 individuals who have so much to say
5 about what our youth is and is not
6 doing, to get up off their tush,
7 turn off the computer, go find a
8 young person or two in your
9 community and be the light for
10 them, mentor them, have
11 conversations with them, provide
12 them guidance with positive things
13 to do and connect them with
14 opportunities that will allow them
15 to be better future leaders of our
16 community.

17 The kids in my
18 community, many of whom live within
19 a block or two from where we
20 walked, experience many, many
21 challenges, like many other young
22 people in this community in our
23 city, but in that community
24 specifically where the homicide and

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2 the shootings were up for a really
3 long time, every day experiencing
4 challenges. And for them to stand
5 up and decide that they are going
6 to choose peace over violence,
7 regardless of what is happening
8 around them, says a lot about them.

9 I can't wait to see what
10 those young people will do in the
11 future with all that they have
12 experienced. All they need is a
13 little bit of light. All they need
14 is a little bit of guidance. And
15 so, I will continue to stand with
16 them and fight for peace in our
17 community, regardless of what those
18 who are cyber bullies have to say.

19 I also would like to
20 invite all of you, you all have
21 this flyer on your desk, it shows
22 all of the upcoming events for this
23 weekend while we're celebrating
24 Hispanic Heritage Month until

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2 October 15th. This weekend is
3 Puerto Rican Festival Week. You
4 will see many beautiful Puerto
5 Rican flags in the community.

6 I invite you to join me
7 this evening for our Puerto Rican
8 Festival Mass at St. Peter and Paul
9 at the Cathedral at 6:00 p.m. You
10 don't have to be a Catholic to
11 participate. It is a beautiful
12 Mass to partake in. I also invite
13 all of you to stand with me
14 tomorrow as we raise the Puerto
15 Rican flag right here in the North
16 Apron with many of our brothers and
17 sisters from all around Latin
18 America.

19 And I also invite you to
20 join me for the parade in the
21 morning on the Benjamin Franklin
22 Parkway at 12:00 p.m. We're going
23 to line up and then our After
24 Parade concert on 4th and Lehigh,

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2 where you will be able to enjoy
3 food, music, culture and dance
4 until 8:00 p.m. It is a vibe, it
5 is a whole vibe. So you want to
6 make sure that you don't miss it.
7 Please let me know if you're coming
8 and I'll make sure that we make the
9 appropriate accommodations for
10 that.

11 We are also working with
12 the office of the Mayor's Office of
13 Community Engagement on Latinos in
14 Government, an event that will take
15 place on October 15th right here in
16 City Hall from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
17 And so, I invite you all to take
18 the opportunity to get to know some
19 of the Latinos who are working in
20 city government and all of the
21 contributions that we make, not
22 just to government, but to the City
23 of Philadelphia.

24 Thank you, Council

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2 President.

3 (Applause.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

5 JOHNSON: Thank you.

6 Chair recognizes

7 Councilmember Dr. Anthony Phillips.

8 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

9 Thank you, Council President.

10 Greetings to all of our
11 colleagues here today and most
12 importantly to the neighbors across
13 Philadelphia. We and I am for sure
14 absolutely tired of hearing people
15 say there is nothing out there for
16 young people to do. I'm absolutely
17 tired of hearing from parents and
18 caregivers who want to connect
19 their children with opportunities,
20 but do not know where to begin.

21 One year ago, we
22 released a report of our Parent and
23 Guardian Engagement Task Force.
24 The report was shaped by direct

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2 conversations with families about
3 what they needed to help their
4 children thrive. One of the
5 clearest messages we heard was that
6 programs and resources may exist,
7 but families often struggle to find
8 them, access to them and get their
9 children there. So we listened.
10 And Philly After School Hype was
11 born from that work.

12 So this Saturday,
13 September 26th, in partnership with
14 Councilmember Isaiah Thomas, the
15 School District of Philadelphia and
16 Philadelphia Youth Basketball, and
17 also thanks to all of the members
18 of Philadelphia City Council who
19 have been supportive of this, we
20 are proud to present the second
21 annual Philly After School Hype,
22 Philadelphia's largest Out-of-
23 School Time fair.

24 It's going to be from

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2 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at the
3 Sixth Man Center, located at 4250
4 Wissahickon Avenue. Families are
5 going to be able to connect with
6 afterschool programs that include
7 mentorship, athletics, arts,
8 culture, academic enrichment,
9 workforce development and other
10 opportunities for our young people.
11 There will be activities for
12 families to engage in workshops,
13 food and plenty of opportunities to
14 explore.

15 Last year families told
16 us transportation was a barrier.
17 And so, we heard you and this year
18 we delivered a free roundtrip bus
19 transportation from five locations
20 across Philadelphia, that is free
21 roundtrip bus transportation from
22 five locations across Philadelphia.
23 Thanks to other Councilmembers who
24 helped us.

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2 We extended the transit
3 transportation registration
4 deadline and there are still seats
5 available at Edison High School in
6 Councilmember Quetcy Lozada's 7th
7 District, West Philadelphia High
8 School in Councilmember Jamie
9 Gauthier's 3rd District, McDaniel
10 School in Council President
11 Kenyatta Johnson's 2nd District,
12 the Lowell School in our district,
13 and West Oak Lane Charter School
14 also in our district.

15 So I want to thank all
16 of our colleagues for helping us
17 connect families across the city
18 with this opportunity. Parents and
19 caregivers take advantage of the
20 remaining seats. Register for
21 transportation. Bring your
22 children and make sure our young
23 people are in the building this
24 Saturday, September 26th, from

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2 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the
3 Sixth Mann Center.

4 I will now just conclude
5 by saying this: We will be having
6 most likely a special guest making
7 an appearance for our young people
8 that you don't want to miss. Also,
9 as the Chair of Committee Children
10 and Youth, I believe we have a
11 responsibility to listen to
12 families and turn what we hear into
13 action.

14 Philadelphia After
15 School Hype is what that commitment
16 looks like. Colleagues and
17 neighbors, please help spread the
18 word. Let's fill the building this
19 Saturday and show our young people
20 that Philadelphia is ready to
21 invest in them.

22 Thank you, Council
23 President.

24 (Applause.)

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2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

3 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

4 Chair recognizes

5 Councilmember Rue Landau.

6 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:

7 Thank you, Council President.

8 Today I introduced a
9 resolution recognizing Philadelphia
10 VIP for their 45th anniversary.

11 This organization has served as a
12 beacon of community empowerment,
13 whether it's housing, family income
14 or so many more basic needs.

15 They've been there to serve as the
16 necessary civil servants, giving
17 their legal expertise to those most
18 in need. Our Majority Leader
19 Katherine Gilmore Richardson has
20 worked so hard on tangled title
21 work with VIP as well. So thank
22 you to the Board Vice-President for
23 being here. And their anniversary
24 party is this weekend.

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2 Additionally, I'd like
3 to remind everyone that I'll be
4 holding a briefing immediately
5 after Council session, very soon,
6 in the Caucus room. This briefing
7 is held in partnership with
8 Community Legal Services and will
9 cover the impending changes to
10 Medicaid in 2027. We're seeing
11 major infrastructure changes and
12 what those changes will be, a lot
13 of confusion from constituents. So
14 I hope to see you all there as we
15 learn how to navigate these new
16 waters.

17 And finally, my
18 resolution calling for guardrails
19 at the state level around the use
20 of automated license plate readers
21 like Flock passed today. Thank
22 you, colleagues. Emerging
23 technologies are huge risks to our
24 civil liberties if left unchecked.

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2 Flock is just one of the names
3 we've seen in this space. But
4 there are more out there and more
5 coming. This technology is widely
6 unregulated, unknown and
7 unencumbered. It's here and
8 Harrisburg needs to step up to the
9 plate to control it. Thank you.

10 (Applause.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

12 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

13 Chair recognizes
14 Councilmember Cindy Bass.

15 COUNCILWOMAN BASS:

16 Thank you, Mr. President. And good
17 afternoon, everyone.

18 I wanted to remind
19 everyone about a few events taking
20 place this weekend. And the first
21 is that we're going to have a
22 ribbon-cutting for Happy Hollow
23 Playground at 10:00 a.m. And Happy
24 Hollow is the oldest playground in

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2 the City of Philadelphia, so we're
3 very much looking forward to that.

4 We're going to follow
5 that with a street renaming
6 ceremony honoring our former
7 Councilwoman Donna Miller at
8 1:00 p.m. That's going to be at
9 the intersection of Haines and
10 Morton Street. So we want to
11 encourage folks to come out and
12 please keep an eye out on our
13 social media for any weather-
14 related updates, as it might rain.
15 We think we'll be fine, that the
16 rain will come later. But just in
17 case, please check our social media
18 throughout the day.

19 We do intend to be at
20 Haines and Morton in Germantown for
21 the Donna Reed Miller Street
22 renaming ceremony. And I also just
23 wanted to take a second and give
24 thanks to It Takes a Village. Last

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2 night they had their Hunger Village
3 awards and I received their Civic
4 Award, myself and Mayor Parker.

5 Both were acknowledged
6 for our work in government around
7 food insecurity and hunger issues,
8 primarily for myself stemming from
9 the pandemic when we jumped into
10 action and started giving peanut
11 butter and Bologna sandwiches and
12 anything and everything to make
13 sure that when the city shut down,
14 when things shut down, that there
15 were opportunities to make sure
16 that there were food resources in
17 North Philadelphia and throughout
18 our neighborhoods.

19 And so, I just wanted to
20 give thanks to the founder, the
21 Mr. Mark Wainwright and his
22 Executive Director Brian Williams.
23 So big shout-out to them and thank
24 them for acknowledging our work

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2 yesterday.

3 And also, thanks to the
4 Pennsylvania School for the Deaf.
5 We're proud to have this historic
6 institution in our district and
7 grateful for the dedicated
8 educators and staff who served deaf
9 and hard-of-hearing students. And
10 today, we recognize September 2026
11 as Deaf Awareness Month in
12 Philadelphia. And we honor the
13 school for its historic leadership,
14 educational excellence, and
15 commitment to empowering students
16 and advancing deaf culture and
17 community.

18 Also, a shout-out to
19 other United Lutheran Seminary
20 celebrating its 200th anniversary.
21 Philadelphia has been central to
22 the Seminary's history since 1864.
23 And for generations, its Mt. Airy
24 campus have prepared pastors,

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2 chaplains, educators, advocates,
3 and public leaders who serve
4 Philadelphia and communities around
5 the world.

6 And finally, we
7 introduced a resolution today
8 authorizing hearings on chronic
9 nuisance businesses, signage and
10 window covering laws. These
11 hearings will examine how these
12 regulations are being implemented
13 and enforced, including issues
14 involving repeated violations,
15 business signage, window coverings,
16 neighborhood appearance, pedestrian
17 visibility and public safety.

18 The Committee on
19 Licenses and Inspections will also
20 examine current enforcement
21 practices and potential legislative
22 or administrative changes.

23 Mr. President, I know
24 the stop-and-gos, these nuisance

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2 businesses have been a real problem
3 in our communities for a very long
4 time. We passed our Nuisance
5 Business bill back in 2016. We
6 passed our Stop-and-Go legislation
7 in 2017, and we're still at this
8 fight. We still have not been able
9 to sort of crack this code to be
10 able to figure out how do we, as a
11 city, get in front of this issue
12 that really plagues a lot of our
13 neighborhoods and stops other
14 businesses from wanting to come in
15 on commercial corridors because of
16 what they see happening in these
17 particular businesses.

18 I was at a meeting last
19 night, a community meeting, and
20 heard from residents about why we
21 can't do certain things on some of
22 our corridors. And to be quite
23 honest, one of the reasons is if
24 they see open narcotic sales from

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2 what looks like a convenience store
3 grocer, you know, a corner store,
4 whatever, if they see these
5 narcotic sales are happening,
6 people are coming on a regular
7 basis. It's a steady flow of
8 traffic. They don't want any parts
9 of that. And it's hard to recruit
10 businesses when they see that kind
11 of activity. So we've been working
12 closely with the Philadelphia
13 Police Department.

14 We want to bring L&I
15 back to the table, and we also want
16 to bring the Health Department back
17 to the table, because some of these
18 folks have restaurant licenses.
19 And the products that are being
20 sold are definitely detrimental to
21 our community. So we look forward
22 to having that conversation.

23 So thank you,
24 Mr. President.

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2 (Applause.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

4 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

5 This concludes speeches for the
6 day.

7 The Chair recognizes
8 Councilmember Isaiah Thomas for a
9 motion to adjourn.

10 COUNCILMAN THOMAS:

11 Thank you, Mr. President.

12 I move that Council
13 stands adjourned until Thursday,
14 October 1, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

15 (Duly seconded.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

17 JOHNSON: It has been moved and
18 properly seconded that City Council
19 stand adjourned until Thursday,
20 October 1, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

21 All those in favor will
22 signify by saying aye.

23 (Aye.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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2 JOHNSON: Anyone opposed?

3 (No response.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

5 JOHNSON: The ayes have it and the
6 motion carries. Thank you all very
7 much.

8 - - -

9 (Stated Meeting
10 adjourned at 1:25 p.m.)

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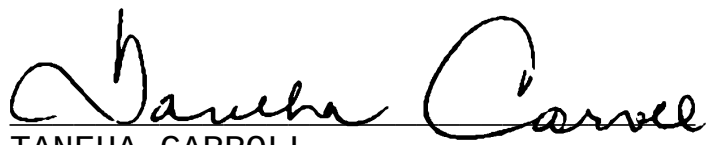
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I, hereby certify that the proceedings
and evidence noted are contained fully and
accurately in the stenographic notes taken
by me in the foregoing matter, and that
this is a correct transcript of the same.


TANEHA CARROLL
Court Reporter - Notary Public

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City of Philadelphia
City Council Calendar
Thursday, September 24, 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**260715****INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Gilmore Richardson for Council President Johnson

Resolution honoring public servant Frances Adams by renaming the 1800 Block of South 22nd Street to "Frances Adams Way" in recognition of her dedication to violence prevention in South Philadelphia.

260716**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Gilmore Richardson for Council President Johnson

Resolution authorizing the Philadelphia Land Bank to dispose of 7120 Yocum Street located in the 2nd Councilmanic District in accordance with the terms of Chapter 16-700 of The Philadelphia Code.

260717**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Gauthier

Resolution authorizing the Philadelphia Land Bank to dispose of 2045, 2047, 2051 S. 56th Street located in the 3rd Councilmanic District in accordance with the terms of Chapter 16-700 of The Philadelphia Code.

260718**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Gauthier

Resolution authorizing the Philadelphia Land Bank to dispose of 4203 Leidy Avenue located in the 3rd Councilmanic District in accordance with the terms of Chapter 16-700 of The Philadelphia Code.

260719**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Gauthier

Resolution authorizing the Philadelphia Land Bank to dispose of 225 S. 52nd Street located in the 3rd Councilmanic District in accordance with the terms of Chapter 16-700 of The Philadelphia Code.

260728**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Jones

Resolution authorizing the Philadelphia Land Bank to dispose of 1718-26 N. 52nd Street located in the 4th Councilmanic District in accordance with the terms of Chapter 16-700 of The Philadelphia Code.

260729**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Jones

Resolution renaming the 6000 Block of Market Street “Sharif El-Mekki Way” to honor Sharif El-Mekki and his decades of distinguished service to Philadelphia's students, educators, schools, and communities.

260730**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Landau

Resolution calling on the General Assembly and Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to pass bipartisan legislation to ban the use of Automatic License Plate Reader (ALPR) cameras like Flock cameras across the Commonwealth and ban or develop strong guardrails for the use of automatic license plate reader technology.

260738**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Young

Resolution urging the Pennsylvania General Assembly to enact House Bill 1678 to tax digital advertising receipts and provide additional property-tax relief for eligible senior households.

260739**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Young

Resolution authorizing the Philadelphia Land Bank to dispose of 916, 920, 922, 924 W. Auburn Street located in the 5th Councilmanic District in accordance with the terms of Chapter 16-700 of The Philadelphia Code.

260740**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Young

Resolution authorizing the Philadelphia Land Bank to dispose of 855 N. Orkney Street located in the 5th Councilmanic District in accordance with the terms of Chapter 16-700 of The Philadelphia Code.

260741**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Young

Resolution also naming the 1400 Block of Thompson Street as “Samuel Staten Jr. Way” to honor the life, leadership, and enduring contributions of Samuel Staten Jr. to organized labor, working families, and the City of Philadelphia.

260747**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Squilla

Resolution urging the United States Congress to support and enact the Ahmad Butler Pediatric Cancer HOPE for a Cure Act and calling for federal action to recognize and respond to pediatric cancer with national emergency-level urgency while also calling upon the President of the United States to consider declaring a national emergency concerning pediatric cancer under the National Emergencies Act.

260748**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Squilla

Resolution also naming 4th Street between Hoffman and Dudley Streets in honor of Henry “Hank” Gonski, III.

260749**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Squilla

Resolution authorizing the Philadelphia Land Bank to dispose of 1941-47 E. Huntingdon Street located in the 1st Councilmanic District in accordance with the terms of Chapter 16-700 of The Philadelphia Code.

260750**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Bass

Resolution also naming the 1100 Block of West Rockland Street in the Logan neighborhood as “Officer Melvin Kilgore Way” in honor of the life, legacy, and extraordinary community service of Officer Melvin “Kil” Kilgore.

BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS 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.

RESOLUTIONS

260768**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Gauthier for Council President Johnson

Resolution authorizing the Committee on Streets and Services to hold hearings to examine the City's implementation of its Vision Zero Action Plan, evaluate progress toward eliminating traffic fatalities and serious injuries, and to identify opportunities to improve roadway safety throughout Philadelphia, including through daylighting, traffic calming, pedestrian infrastructure, and other such measures.

260770**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Landau for Council President Johnson

Resolution urging the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation to withdraw the proposed amendments to their Community Reinvestment Act rules, which would roll back anti-redlining standards and weaken banking services to low- and moderate-income communities while threatening investments in affordable housing and community development.

260771**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Landau

Resolution recognizing, congratulating, and celebrating Philadelphia VIP for its outstanding contributions to Philadelphia on the occasion of its forty-fifth anniversary.

260772**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Lozada

Resolution recognizing and Honoring Saint James Lutheran Church on its 100th Anniversary and celebrating its centennial as a pillar of faith, community service, and providing spiritual guidance.

260773**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Lozada

Resolution recognizing and honoring distinguished Latino Leaders and Community Advocates in the City of Philadelphia during Hispanic Heritage Month.

260775**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Brooks

Resolution honoring the legacy of Black labor in Philadelphia, including the first Colored Convention in 1830, and the Black organizers who for centuries have been at the heart of the American labor movement.

260776**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Harrity

Resolution recognizing the third week of September 2026 as National Construction Appreciation Week in the City of Philadelphia, honoring the contribution of the construction industry to the vitality of our City

260777**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember O'Rourke

Resolution recognizing September 2026 as Hunger Action Month in the City of Philadelphia in order to raise awareness about food insecurity in our communities and to mobilize us to act in the movement to end hunger.

260778**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember O'Rourke

Resolution authorizing the Committee on Legislative Oversight to hold hearings examining the City's oversight of correctional healthcare contractors and the circumstances leading to disruptions in medical care in Philadelphia's jails.

260781**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Bass

Resolution recognizing September 2026 as "Deaf Awareness Month" in the City of Philadelphia and further honoring Pennsylvania School for the Deaf for its historic leadership, educational excellence, and unwavering commitment to empowering Deaf and hard-of-hearing students and advancing Deaf culture and community.

260782**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Bass

Resolution honoring and celebrating United Lutheran Seminary on its 200th Anniversary and commemorating the Seminary's longstanding presence and service in the City of Philadelphia.

260783**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Bass

Resolution authorizing the Committee on Licenses and Inspections to hold a hearing to examine the implementation and enforcement of laws and regulations governing nuisance businesses, including Stop and Go establishments, signage, and window coverings, and to assess how enforcement practices can improve public safety, strengthen community trust, ensure due process, and reduce neighborhood conflict

260784**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Bass for Council President Johnson

Resolution honoring Dr. Molefi Kete Asante for his distinguished academic career as the founder of the theory of Afrocentricity on the occasion of WURD Radio's feature on his local and global legacy through the Freedom Journeys initiative.

260785**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Ahmad

Resolution recognizing and honoring the Miss Philadelphia Scholarship Organization on its 105th anniversary, celebrating all current and former title holders and the organization's longstanding commitment to scholarship, service, leadership, and the empowerment of women in Philadelphia.

260786**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Ahmad

Resolution recognizing September 2026 as Cerebral Visual Impairment (CVI) Awareness Month in the City of Philadelphia, and commending the Rosenblatt Family CVI Center at Overbrook School for the Blind, for its commitment to improving care, education, and research for children with CVI.

260787**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Ahmad

Resolution recognizing September 22, 2026 as World Perimenopause Day and the month of September 2026 as Perimenopause Awareness Month in the City of Philadelphia.