

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
STATED MEETING

Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Thursday, May 16, 2024
10:00 a.m.

PRESENT:

COUNCIL PRESIDENT KENYATTA JOHNSON
COUNCILMEMBER CINDY BASS
COUNCILMEMBER KENDRA BROOKS
COUNCILMEMBER MICHAEL DRISCOLL
COUNCILMEMBER JAMIE GAUTHIER
COUNCILMEMBER KATHERINE GILMORE RICHARDSON
COUNCILMEMBER JIM HARRITY
COUNCILMEMBER CURTIS JONES, JR.
COUNCILMEMBER RUE LANDAU
COUNCILMEMBER QUETCY LOZADA
COUNCILMEMBER NICOLAS O'ROURKE
COUNCILMEMBER ANTHONY PHILLIPS
COUNCILMEMBER MARK SQUILLA
COUNCILMEMBER ISAIAH THOMAS
COUNCILMEMBER JEFFERY YOUNG, JR.

ELIZABETH McCOLLUM NAZARIO,
INTERIM CHIEF CLERK

- - -

1 5/16/24 - STATED - INVOCATION

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

3 Good morning, everyone.

4 (Good morning.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

6 Good morning, everyone.

7 (Good morning.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: I

9 note that the hour has come and that a
10 quorum of this Council is present. This
11 Council will now come to order. Members
12 will please take your seats. Visitors
13 will retire to the seats outside the
14 rails. Any sidebar conversations, we ask
15 that you take them outside the Chambers.

16 Before proceeding, I would ask
17 all those present to please set your cell
18 phones to silent or vibrate. Thank you
19 very much.

20 To give our invocation this
21 morning, the Chair recognizes Pastor
22 Gregory Fleming of St. Joseph's Baptist
23 Church. He is here today as the guest of
24 Councilmember Brooks.

25 I would ask all members and

1 5/16/24 - STATED - INVOCATION

2 guests to please rise.

3 (Councilmembers and guests
4 rise.)

5 PASTOR FLEMING: Let us look to
6 the Lord.

7 Oh, Lord, our God, how
8 excellent is thy name in all of the
9 earth. Before the mountains were brought
10 forth or even before the earth and the
11 world was formed, thou art God.

12 We come to thee, oh God, this
13 morning to give thanks to you for giving
14 us this glorious day. We first say thank
15 you for our last night lying down, for it
16 was then, God, that we chose what time to
17 lay down and rest, but this morning, God,
18 you chose what time to wake us up, and we
19 pause to say thank you.

20 We thank you for your grace and
21 for your mercy. We thank you for life,
22 health, and strength. We ask, God, that
23 now your presence would be in this
24 Chamber, that, God, that everything that
25 will be done will be done first to give

1 5/16/24 - STATED - INVOCATION

2 you glory and to give you honor, and
3 then, God, it will be done that the
4 people may become a better people.

5 We pray, Father, that you would
6 guide and direct every decision; that,
7 God, you would give a clear vision to
8 everyone; that, God, we might come
9 together as one, unifying ourselves as
10 one; that, God, in all that we say and
11 all that we do, God, we would come
12 together with one mind, one heart, and
13 one vision.

14 We pray, Father, in the name of
15 your son, Jesus the Christ, that you
16 would move mightily in this place; that
17 you would touch everyone under the sound
18 of my voice; that, God, you would bless,
19 strengthen, and keep and allow each of
20 us, God, to know that all things are
21 wrought by prayer.

22 So, God, we turn every decision
23 over to you this morning, asking, God,
24 that your spirit would be present in
25 every Councilperson, that, God, you would

1 5/16/24 - STATED - APPROVAL OF JOURNAL
2 allow them to know that it is in you that
3 they have all of their movement and all
4 of their beings. We say thank you, and
5 we ask, God, in the name of Jesus that
6 you would now have your way.

7 We celebrate you. We give you
8 glory and honor, in the name of your son,
9 Jesus the Christ. We pray it all with
10 thanksgiving.

11 And all of the people of God
12 say amen.

13 (Amen.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
15 Chair thanks the Pastor for his
16 invocation.

17 Council will be at ease.

18 (Council at ease.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
20 next order of business is the approval of
21 the Journal of the meeting of Thursday,
22 May the 9th, 2024.

23 The Chair recognizes
24 Councilmember Bass.

25 COUNCILMEMBER BASS: Thank you,

1 5/16/24 - STATED - LEAVES

2 Mr. President. I move that the Journal
3 of the meeting of Thursday, May 9th, 2024
4 be approved.

5 (Duly seconded.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: It
7 has been moved and properly seconded that
8 the Journal of the meeting of Thursday,
9 May the 9th, 2024 stand approved.

10 All those in favor will
11 indicate by saying aye.

12 (Aye.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
14 Those opposed?

15 (No response.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
17 ayes have it, and the Journal is
18 approved.

19 The next order of business is
20 requests for leave of absence, and the
21 Chair recognizes Councilmember Gilmore
22 Richardson.

23 COUNCILMEMBER RICHARDSON:
24 Thank you, Mr. President. On behalf of
25 the majority, a leave of absence is

1 5/16/24 - STATED - MOTION REGARDING CALENDAR
2 requested for Councilmember Ahmad.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
4 Chair thanks the Councilmember. Leave
5 will be granted.

6 The Chair recognizes
7 Councilmember Brooks.

8 COUNCILMEMBER BROOKS: Thank
9 you, Council President. On behalf of the
10 minority, there are no requests for
11 leaves of absence today.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
13 Chair thanks the Councilmember.

14 The Chair now recognizes
15 Councilmember Gilmore Richardson for a
16 motion concerning certain legislative
17 matters that may arise during the course
18 of today's session of Council and that
19 were not listed on the Calendar
20 circulated prior to today's session.

21 COUNCILMEMBER RICHARDSON:
22 Thank you, Mr. President. I move that
23 any of the following matters, if
24 considered today, may be added to the
25 agenda for this session of Council and,

1 5/16/24 - STATED - MOTION REGARDING CALENDAR
2 as required by law, subsequently
3 published on an amended agenda after the
4 consideration of those matters:
5 resolutions authorizing hearings,
6 amendments to bills on first reading, the
7 reconsideration of a bill vetoed by or
8 re-called from the Mayor, amendments to
9 bills re-called from the Mayor,
10 resolutions taking substantive action to
11 be voted on in this session, a motion to
12 withdraw a bill or resolution that is not
13 on the Calendar, and a motion placing a
14 bill or resolution on or returning a bill
15 or resolution from the Suspension
16 Calendar that is not listed on today's
17 Calendar.

18 The purpose of this motion is
19 to provide the public with notice
20 concerning possible actions by Council
21 that arose too late to be included on the
22 Calendar that was published prior to
23 today's session.

24 (Duly seconded.)

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: It

1 5/16/24 - STATED - MOTION REGARDING CALENDAR
2 has been moved and properly seconded that
3 the legislative matters stated by
4 Councilmember Gilmore Richardson may be
5 added to the agenda for today should
6 those matters arise during the course of
7 this session of Council.

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

10 (Aye.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

12 Those opposed?

13 (No response.)

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

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

1 5/16/24 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 We also have with us joining us
3 this morning is the second grade students
4 from Logan Elementary School.

5 - - -

6 (Applause.)

7 - - -

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

9 We're going to ask for them to stand.

10 - - -

11 (Standing ovation.)

12 - - -

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

14 They are guests of Councilmember Kendra
15 Brooks. We welcome our young people here
16 as they get a chance to witness democracy
17 in action.

18 At this time, the Chair
19 recognizes Councilmember Squilla, who
20 will present a resolution honoring Dexter
21 Resta for his acceptance to Yale
22 University and recognizing Dexter's
23 historic achievement as the first Prep
24 Charter High School graduate in the
25 Second Councilmanic District to earn a

1 5/16/24 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 full scholarship to Yale University.

3 Would Dexter Resta and those
4 accompanying him please join the
5 Councilmember at the podium.

6 - - -

7 (Applause.)

8 - - -

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

10 Also joining him will be Councilmember
11 Driscoll, Councilmember Thomas,
12 Councilmember Bass, Councilmember Brooks,
13 Councilmember O'Rourke, and Councilmember
14 Phillips.

15 The Chair at this moment
16 recognizes Councilmember Jones.

17 COUNCILMEMBER JONES: Thank you
18 so much, Mr. President. One other
19 student has joined us today, and in full
20 disclosure, she is my granddaughter.
21 This is Ziva W. Jones from String Theory.

22 - - -

23 (Applause.)

24 - - -

25 COUNCILMEMBER JONES: Scholar

1 5/16/24 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 and an icon lacrosse player and budding
3 track star.

4 - - -

5 (Applause.)

6 - - -

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

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
10 You're welcome.

11 We welcome you to City Council
12 today.

13 Thank you, Chairman Thomas,
14 Chair of Education, for standing in for
15 Councilmember Mark Squilla and presenting
16 this resolution on my behalf. Thank you
17 very much.

18 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: Thank
19 you, Council President.

20 Good morning, everybody.

21 (Good morning.)

22 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: It's not
23 every day that we get an opportunity to
24 brag about the young people in the City
25 of Philadelphia, especially when they

1 5/16/24 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 accomplish something that is historic in
3 nature.

4 When you talk about
5 Philadelphia being a school of eds, meds,
6 and beds, we take a lot of pride in our
7 education system, and as the Chair of the
8 Education Committee, it's always an honor
9 when we can put ourself in a position to
10 recognize a young person for
11 accomplishing something that young people
12 don't necessarily accomplish every single
13 day.

14 And so today we're here to
15 celebrate Dexter. Dexter, who, as you
16 have already heard, has been accepted to
17 Yale University. In order to get
18 accepted to a prestigious institution
19 like that, your academics must be
20 impeccable.

21 So before we even start, can we
22 all give Dexter a round of applause.

23 - - -

24 (Applause.)

25 - - -

1 5/16/24 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: So
3 honoring Dexter Resta for his acceptance
4 to Yale University and recognizing
5 Dexter's historic achievement as the
6 first Prep Charter High School graduate
7 to earn a full scholarship to Yale
8 University.

9 - - -

10 (Applause.)

11 - - -

12 COUNCILMEMBER DRISCOLL: And
13 whereas, Dexter Resta moved to
14 Philadelphia from California with his
15 mother and four younger siblings during
16 his 10th grade year. Dexter's loving,
17 tight-knit family has provided him with
18 the foundation for his academic

19 achievement and his future success; and

20 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: Whereas,
21 after moving to Philadelphia, Dexter's
22 family settled in South Philadelphia --
23 hear that, Council President -- and the
24 young man enrolled at The Preparatory
25 Charter School of Mathematics, Science,

1 5/16/24 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 Technology and Careers, where he found a
3 strong, supportive school community that
4 was dedicated to fostering his
5 intellectual curiosity; and

6 COUNCILMEMBER BASS: Whereas,
7 during his time at Prep Charter, Dexter
8 excelled academically, particularly in
9 math and science classes, and Dexter's
10 stellar academic credentials earned him
11 scholarship offers to several prestigious
12 colleges and universities. From among
13 these offers, Dexter chose to accept a
14 full scholarship to attend Yale
15 University, where he intends to double
16 major in mechanical engineering and
17 economics. When Dexter arrives in New
18 Haven in the fall of 2024, he will be the
19 first Prep Charter graduate to receive a
20 full scholarship to Yale; and

21 - - -

22 (Applause.)

23 - - -

24 COUNCILMEMBER BROOKS: Whereas,
25 Dexter intends to further develop his

1 5/16/24 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 passion for math and science while in
3 college and plans to work at NASA after
4 completing his studies. With his
5 academic gifts and boundless energy,
6 Dexter is sure to make a lasting impact
7 on the field of space exploration in his
8 future career; and

9 COUNCILMEMBER O'ROURKE:

10 Whereas, Dexter Resta's acceptance to
11 Yale University with a full scholarship
12 is a momentous achievement for Dexter and
13 the Resta family, the Prep Charter
14 community, and the entire City of
15 Philadelphia. The Council is pleased and
16 proud to join in celebrating Dexter's
17 accomplishments; now, therefore, be it.

18 COUNCILMEMBER PHILLIPS: Boola,
19 Boola.

20 Resolved, by the Council of the
21 City of Philadelphia, that the Council
22 hereby honors Dexter Resta for his
23 acceptance to Yale University in New
24 Haven, Connecticut and recognizes his
25 historical achievement as the first Prep

1 5/16/24 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 Charter High School graduate to earn a
3 full scholarship to Yale.

4 - - -

5 (Applause.)

6 - - -

7 COUNCILMEMBER PHILLIPS:

8 Further resolved, that an engrossed copy
9 of this resolution be presented to Dexter
10 Resta as evidence of the sincere
11 sentiments of this legislative body.

12 Again, let's give Dexter Resta
13 a round of applause.

14 - - -

15 (Applause.)

16 - - -

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
18 Chair recognizes Dexter Resta and also
19 CEO of Prep Charter School, David Wright.

20 - - -

21 (Applause.)

22 - - -

23 MR. RESTA: Good morning,
24 everybody.

25 (Good morning.)

1 5/16/24 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 MR. RESTA: I would like to
3 thank God for always watching over me and
4 guiding me throughout life, and also I
5 would like to thank the Council of the
6 City of Philadelphia for the recognition.
7 It is an honor for me to stand before all
8 of you here today.

9 Also I would like to thank Prep
10 Charter for providing me with a strong
11 foundation and education and for the
12 support and resources that assisted me
13 throughout my high school career.

14 I would like to thank my
15 family, who is here today. First of all,
16 Aunt LiLi for helping me and my family
17 through tough challenges and also being a
18 second mother to me.

19 Lastly, I would like to thank
20 my mom for always being my superhero, my
21 best friend, and my mentor.

22 - - -

23 (Applause.)

24 - - -

25 MR. RESTA: Thank you for

1 5/16/24 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 sacrificing your life to raise me and my
3 four siblings alone. Thank you for
4 providing a roof over my head, food on
5 the table, and being proud of me even
6 when I had nothing to be proud of.

7 Even with cancer, my mom worked
8 very, very hard to provide me and my
9 siblings. You know, I live with my mom
10 and I still don't know how she does it.
11 As much as this is an accomplishment for
12 me, this is a huge achievement for her.

13 I love you, mom.

14 - - -

15 (Applause.)

16 - - -

17 MR. RESTA: If I had one piece
18 of advice for the next generation, it
19 would be not to let your situation define
20 who you are. We can't change where we
21 begin in this game of life, but we can
22 change how we play it and how we end it.
23 So if you have a goal, pursue it.

24 Furthermore, as you see in my
25 life, I did not achieve this on my own.

1 5/16/24 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 Always remember the people who support
3 you at your lowest. Those are the ones
4 who deserve you at your highest.

5 Thank you so much.

6 - - -

7 (Applause.)

8 - - -

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
10 Chair recognizes the CEO of Prep Charter
11 School, David Wright.

12 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you very
13 much. First of all, I want to thank the
14 Council for this wonderful proclamation
15 and honor. I'd also like to recognize
16 members of our Board, Giangiordano, Sr.
17 with a friend, Wick Savage with a friend,
18 Michael Giangiordano, Jr. with the Prep
19 Board, our Principal, Jo Ann Moore. Fred
20 Musilli is our President.

21 It really does take a village,
22 right, working together, and we couldn't
23 be more proud of Dexter. And when I talk
24 to our staff and our students at Prep
25 Charter about his accomplishment, I'd

1 5/16/24 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 like to be very specific about it.

3 There were 57,465 applicants to
4 Yale for the 2028 graduating class. They
5 only accepted 3.7 percent. That's the
6 lowest percentage of acceptance in the
7 history of Yale University, and Dexter
8 was one.

9 You probably all know Yale has
10 produced five presidents, 19 Supreme
11 Court justices, 31 living billionaires,
12 54 college founders and presidents, ten
13 founders of this country. It's a pretty
14 good school, and we are all excited that
15 one of us at Prep Charter achieved this
16 goal and is going forth. And he has a
17 lot of support here in Philadelphia not
18 only from his Prep Charter family but
19 from the 3,500 Yale alumni who are here
20 in this community.

21 Thank you very much.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

23 Thank you.

24 - - -

25 (Applause.)

1 5/16/24 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 - - -

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
4 Chair recognizes Councilmember Squilla.

5 COUNCILMEMBER SQUILLA: Thank
6 you, Council President. I just want to
7 say that, you know, as a Philadelphia
8 citizen and not as an elected official,
9 this is a really special moment, and it's
10 great to see our young people strive to
11 succeed. We always see the stories and
12 the bad stories of some of what the young
13 folks do, but never really get to
14 celebrate the great achievements of so
15 many of our young people here in our City
16 of Philadelphia that are the majority of
17 them, and to be able to achieve this goal
18 to be accepted into Yale University, it
19 makes us all proud and makes your family
20 proud, I'm sure. And a lot of the --
21 apples don't fall far from the tree.
22 Thank you to the parents for what you
23 have done and the opportunities you have
24 given your children.

25 So God bless you all and

1 5/16/24 - STATED - COMMUNICATIONS

2 congratulations.

3 - - -

4 (Applause.)

5 - - -

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

7 Thank you.

8 Council will be at ease.

9 (Council at ease.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: I
11 want to also take a moment to acknowledge
12 State Representative Rick Krajewski who
13 is joining us today.

14 Rick, could you stand, please.

15 - - -

16 (Applause.)

17 - - -

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

19 Thank you for joining us today, Rick.

20 The next order of business is
21 communications. The Chair requests that
22 the Sergeant-At-Arms deliver the messages
23 from the Mayor to the Chief Clerk.

24 The Chief Clerk will read the
25 messages from the Mayor and any other

1 5/16/24 - STATED - COMMUNICATIONS

2 communications in her possession.

3 CHIEF CLERK: To the President
4 and members of the Council of the City of
5 Philadelphia, I am submitting herewith
6 for the consideration of your honorable
7 body the following proposed ordinance:

8 An ordinance amending Chapter
9 19-3500 of The Philadelphia Code,
10 entitled "Hospital Assessments," to
11 revise provisions relating to hospital
12 assessments; and authorizing the
13 Department of Public Health to enter into
14 an intergovernmental agreement with the
15 Commonwealth, Department of Human
16 Services, relating to such hospital
17 assessments; all under certain terms and
18 conditions; and

19 A resolution appointing Cari
20 Feiler Bender to the Board of Directors
21 for the Old City Special Services
22 District.

23 And to the President and
24 members of the Council of the City of
25 Philadelphia, I am pleased to advise you

1 5/16/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 that on May 15th, 2024, I signed the
3 following bill, which was passed in
4 Council at its session on May 2nd, 2024:
5 Bill No. 240003.

6 There are no other
7 communications in my possession, Council
8 President.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
10 Thank you. The messages will be printed
11 in the Journal.

12 Now we have introduction of
13 bills and resolutions.

14 The Chair recognizes
15 Councilmember Phillips.

16 COUNCILMEMBER PHILLIPS: Thank
17 you, Council President. I have one bill
18 for introduction today.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
20 Will the Clerk please read the title of
21 the bill.

22 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
23 amending Chapter 9-600 of The
24 Philadelphia Code, entitled "Service and
25 Other Businesses," by adding a new

1 5/16/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 section regulating the hours of operation
3 of certain establishments and providing
4 for penalties within an area bounded by
5 Ogontz Avenue, between Haines Street and
6 66th Avenue, all under certain terms and
7 conditions.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

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

11 The Chair recognizes Majority
12 Leader Gilmore Richardson.

13 COUNCILMEMBER RICHARDSON:

14 Thank you, Mr. President. Today I offer
15 one bill on your behalf and one
16 non-privileged resolution on behalf of
17 Councilmember Nina Ahmad.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

19 Thank you very much.

20 Will the Clerk please read the
21 title of the bill and resolution.

22 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
23 amending Chapter 19-3500 of The
24 Philadelphia Code, entitled "Hospital
25 Assessments," to revise provisions

1 5/16/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 relating to hospital assessments; and
3 authorizing the Department of Public
4 Health to enter into an intergovernmental
5 agreement with the Commonwealth,
6 Department of Human Services, relating to
7 such hospital assessments; all under
8 certain terms and conditions.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

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

12 CHIEF CLERK: And a
13 non-privileged resolution Honoring the
14 Life of Christian Hall, Urging the
15 Pennsylvania State Senate to Pass House
16 Bill 1305, and recognizing both Asian
17 Pacific American Heritage Month and
18 Mental Health Awareness Month.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
20 This resolution will be placed on the
21 Final Passage Calendar for consideration
22 at our next session of Council.

23 The Chair recognizes
24 Councilmember Jamie Gauthier.

25 COUNCILMEMBER GAUTHIER: Good

1 5/16/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 morning, Council President. Today I have
3 two bills for introduction.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

5 Thank you very much.

6 Will the Clerk please read the
7 title of the bills.

8 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
9 granting permission to University City
10 Eruv Corporation, in order to demarcate
11 the boundaries of University City eruv
12 district, to construct and maintain a
13 clear nylon cord and/or plastic tubes and
14 other ancillary facilities including a
15 maximum of ten poles along, over, and in
16 certain public rights-of-way and City
17 streets, and/or to attach such
18 demarcation facilities to existing
19 facilities owned by other entities
20 authorized by other City ordinances,
21 subject to such owner's consent; all
22 under certain terms and conditions.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

24 This bill will be referred to the
25 appropriate committee.

1 5/16/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 Council will be at ease.

3 Councilmember Jones, would you
4 like to be recognized?

5 COUNCILMEMBER JONES: Yes,
6 briefly. We have another second grader
7 from Logan Charter School. Will you
8 please stand.

9 And the reason I'm recognizing
10 her, other than her interest in civics,
11 is she wrote a project about me. I
12 haven't read it yet.

13 Would you join me in welcoming
14 her, Lalani.

15 - - -

16 (Applause.)

17 - - -

18 COUNCILMEMBER JONES: Welcome
19 to City Council.

20 Thank you, Mr. President.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
22 You're welcome.

23 Will you Chief Clerk please
24 read the title of the next bill.

25 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance

1 5/16/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 amending Chapter 19-3200 of The
3 Philadelphia Code, entitled "Keystone
4 Opportunity Zone, Economic Development
5 District, and Strategic Development
6 Area," to provide for additional
7 extensions of certain benefits, under
8 certain terms and conditions.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

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

12 The Chair recognizes
13 Councilmember Isaiah Thomas.

14 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: Good
15 morning, Council President.

16 Good morning, colleagues.

17 I have one resolution, and I
18 would ask that after the resolution is
19 read, that we give our guest, another
20 young person who is here, a round of
21 applause for this amazing achievement.

22 CHIEF CLERK: And a privileged
23 resolution recognizing and congratulating
24 the Champion of the Week, Antoinette
25 Ellis, a North Philadelphia native and

1 5/16/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 student at Parkway Center City Middle
3 College, on the occasion of being named
4 as a Gates Scholar.

5 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: Council
6 President, I don't know if she'll go to
7 Yale like Councilmember Phillips and
8 Dexter, but her education will be free
9 for any institution she decides to go to.

10 Antoinette, can you stand up so
11 we can give you a round of applause.

12 - - -

13 (Applause.)

14 - - -

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
16 Congratulations.

17 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: Thank
18 you, Council President. We will be
19 recognizing her at a later date.

20 Thank you.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
22 You're welcome.

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

25 The Chair recognizes

1 5/16/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 Councilmember Curtis Jones.

3 COUNCILMEMBER JONES: Thank
4 you, Mr. President. Three bills, one on
5 behalf of the Administration, three
6 resolutions, two of them co-sponsored by
7 every member of City Council.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
9 Will the Clerk please read the title of
10 the bills and resolutions.

11 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
12 amending Title 4 of the Philadelphia Code
13 ("The Philadelphia Building Construction
14 and Occupancy Code"), by revising Subcode
15 PM ("The Philadelphia Property
16 Maintenance Code") to clarify provisions
17 related to the Necessary Urgent Repair
18 Program and make technical changes, all
19 under certain terms and conditions.

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

23 CHIEF CLERK: And an ordinance
24 authorizing encroachments in the nature
25 of a sidewalk cafe in the vicinity of

1 5/16/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 3743 Midvale Avenue, Philadelphia, PA
3 19129, under certain terms and
4 conditions.

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

8 CHIEF CLERK: And an ordinance
9 amending Chapter 10-2000 of The
10 Philadelphia Code, entitled "Unlawful
11 Manufacture of Firearms," to add
12 restrictions relating to rate-of-fire
13 acceleration devices, all under certain
14 terms and conditions.

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

18 CHIEF CLERK: And a privileged
19 resolution authorizing the City Council
20 Committee on Licenses and Inspection to
21 hold public hearings to examine the
22 progress of implementing Section 906 of
23 the Philadelphia Property Maintenance
24 Code entitled "Necessary Urgent Repair
25 Program," understand the impact it would

1 5/16/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 have if fully funded, and further
3 exploring partnerships and programs that
4 could assist in successfully executing
5 this initiative.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

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

9 CHIEF CLERK: And a privileged
10 resolution honoring, recognizing, and
11 supporting the courage of the residents
12 at Brith Sholom House located at 3939
13 Conshohocken Avenue in their pursuit of
14 safe, fair, accessible, and affordable
15 housing in the City of Philadelphia.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

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

19 CHIEF CLERK: And a privileged
20 resolution honoring Dr. Chad Womack and
21 the United Negro College Fund for their
22 work to advance STEM education in the
23 City of Philadelphia.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

25 This resolution will be placed on today's

1 5/16/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 Final Passage Calendar.

3 The Chair recognizes

4 Councilmember Rue Landau.

5 COUNCILMEMBER LANDAU: Good

6 morning, Council President and

7 colleagues. No bills or resolutions

8 today.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The

10 Chair recognizes Councilmember Quetcy

11 Lozada.

12 COUNCILMEMBER LOZADA: Thank

13 you, Council President. I have no bills

14 and no resolutions today.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The

16 Chair recognizes Councilmember Jeffrey J.

17 Young, Esquire.

18 COUNCILMEMBER YOUNG: Thank

19 you, Mr. President. Today I offer two

20 resolutions.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

22 Will the Clerk please read the title of

23 the resolutions.

24 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged

25 resolution Honoring the Life and Legacy

1 5/16/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 of Doris "Jean" Hackney, "The Grandmother
3 of North Philadelphia."

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

7 CHIEF CLERK: And a privileged
8 resolution authorizing the joint
9 Committees on Public Safety and Streets
10 and Services to hold hearings to
11 investigate illegal street racing meetups
12 in Philadelphia.

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

16 The Chair recognizes Minority
17 Leader Brooks.

18 COUNCILMEMBER BROOKS: Good
19 morning, Council President. I have one
20 privileged resolution and one resolution
21 to introduce today.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
23 Thank you.

24 Will the Clerk please read the
25 title of the resolutions.

1 5/16/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged
3 resolution celebrating May 28 as Women
4 Hygiene Day, recognizing the urgent need
5 for the City to invest in addressing
6 period poverty, and calling for an
7 expanded period equity effort centered on
8 educating and supplying communities
9 across Philadelphia with women's hygiene
10 resources.

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

14 The Chair recognizes --

15 CHIEF CLERK: I'm sorry. The
16 non-privileged resolution, celebrating
17 the removal of cannabis from Schedule I
18 of the Federal Controlled Substances Act
19 and recognizing the urgent need for
20 equitably distributed cannabis sales
21 revenue that restores and repairs
22 communities historically targeted by the
23 war on drugs, and calling on the
24 Legislature of the Commonwealth of
25 Pennsylvania to legalize and equitably

1 5/16/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 tax cannabis.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

4 This resolution will be placed on the
5 Final Passage Calendar for consideration
6 at the next session of Council.

7 The Chair recognizes
8 Councilmember Jim Harrity.

9 COUNCILMEMBER HARRITY: Good
10 morning, Council President. I have one
11 non-privileged resolution I am
12 co-introducing with the gentleman from
13 North Philadelphia, Jeffrey Young.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
15 Will the Clerk please read the title of
16 the non-privileged resolution.

17 CHIEF CLERK: A non-privileged
18 resolution renaming the 2700 block of
19 Germantown Avenue "Leo Rosenblum Way" to
20 honor Leo Rosenblum for his significant
21 contributions to the community and his
22 outstanding legacy in business.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
24 This resolution will be placed on the
25 Final Passage Calendar for consideration

1 5/16/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 at our next session of Council.

3 The Chair recognizes

4 Councilmember O'Rourke.

5 COUNCILMEMBER O'ROURKE: Thank
6 you, Council President. I have no bills
7 or resolutions to introduce today.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
9 Chair recognizes Councilmember Driscoll.

10 COUNCILMEMBER DRISCOLL: Good
11 morning, Mr. President. I have one bill
12 for consideration today.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
14 Thank you.

15 Will the Clerk please read the
16 title of the bill.

17 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
18 amending Chapter 9-600 of The
19 Philadelphia Code, entitled "Service and
20 Other Businesses", by adding a new
21 section regulating the hours of operation
22 of certain establishments and providing
23 for penalties within an area bounded by
24 East Allegheny Avenue, Kensington Avenue,
25 Torresdale Avenue, and Frankford Avenue,

1 5/16/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 all under certain terms and conditions.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

4 This bill will be referred to the
5 appropriate committee.

6 The Chair recognizes
7 Councilmember O'Neill.

8 (No response.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
10 Chair recognizes Councilmember Squilla.

11 COUNCILMEMBER SQUILLA: Thank
12 you, Mr. President. I offer one
13 non-privileged resolution and one bill.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
15 Thank you.

16 Will the Chief Clerk please
17 read the title of the bill and
18 non-privileged resolution.

19 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
20 amending Chapter 12-900 ("Parking
21 Regulations and Penalties") and Chapter
22 12-2800 ("Administrative Adjudication of
23 Parking Violations") of The Philadelphia
24 Code to add prohibitions and penalties
25 related to parking certain large

1 5/16/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 vehicles, including boats, motor homes,
3 house coaches, house trailers, truck
4 campers, recreational cargo trailers, and
5 recreational trailers, under certain
6 terms and conditions.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

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

10 CHIEF CLERK: And a
11 non-privileged resolution appointing Cari
12 Feiler Bender to the Board of Directors
13 for the Old City Special Services
14 District.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

16 This resolution will be placed on the
17 Final Passage Calendar for consideration
18 at the next session of Council.

19 The Chair recognizes Deputy
20 Whip Councilmember Cindy Bass.

21 COUNCILMEMBER BASS: Thank you,
22 Mr. President. I offer one bill on your
23 behalf, one privileged resolution
24 co-introduced with Councilwoman Quetcy
25 Lozada, and one bill co-introduced with

1 5/16/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 Councilman Anthony Phillips.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

4 Will the Clerk please read the title of
5 the bills and resolutions.

6 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
7 amending Chapter 9-600 of The
8 Philadelphia Code, entitled "Service and
9 Other Businesses," by adding a new
10 section regulating the hours of operation
11 of certain establishments and providing
12 for penalties within the vicinity of an
13 area bounded by North Broad Street, North
14 Park Avenue, between West Chew Avenue and
15 West Tabor Avenue, and in the vicinity of
16 Wagner Avenue, between North Broad Street
17 and Old York Road, all under certain
18 terms and conditions.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

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

22 CHIEF CLERK: And an ordinance
23 amending Section 14-303 of The
24 Philadelphia Code, entitled "Public
25 Hearings of the Zoning Board of

1 5/16/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 Adjustment," to change the number of the
3 board members required for a quorum or
4 for action taken at a Zoning Board of
5 Adjustment hearing, all under certain
6 terms and conditions.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

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

10 CHIEF CLERK: And a privileged
11 resolution calling on the Committee of
12 Health and Human Services to conduct a
13 hearing regarding the efficacy and impact
14 of recovery homes and transitional
15 housing and gather input from all
16 stakeholders, including members of
17 affected communities, representatives
18 from recovery homes and transitional
19 housing, and from those in recovery, to
20 better understand the challenges and
21 concerns from all perspectives.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

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

25 The next order of business is

1 5/16/24 - STATED - REPORTS

2 reports from committee.

3 The Chair recognizes

4 Councilmember Gilmore Richardson for a

5 report from the Committee on Finance.

6 COUNCILMEMBER RICHARDSON:

7 Thank you, Mr. President. The Committee

8 on Finance reports out two bills with a

9 favorable recommendation.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

11 Thank you very much.

12 Will the Chief Clerk please

13 read the report.

14 CHIEF CLERK: To the President
15 and members of the Council of the City of
16 Philadelphia, the Committee on Finance,
17 to which was referred Bill No. 240059,
18 entitled "Amending Title 19 of The
19 Philadelphia Code, entitled 'Finances,
20 Taxes and Collection,' by adding a new
21 Chapter 19-4600, entitled 'Low-Income Tax
22 Provisions,' by providing for the refund
23 or forgiveness of real estate tax
24 liability of certain low-income residents
25 attributable to real estate tax increases

1 5/16/24 - STATED - REPORTS

2 and increases in the assessed value of
3 the taxpayer's homestead, under certain
4 terms and conditions," respectfully
5 reports it has considered the same and
6 returns the attached bill to Council with
7 a favorable recommendation.

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

11 CHIEF CLERK: There's one more.

12 The Committee on Finance, to
13 which was referred Bill No. 240376,
14 entitled "Authorizing an increase in the
15 non-electoral indebtedness of the City
16 within the Pennsylvania constitutional
17 limit; authorizing the Bond Committee to
18 sell bonds at public or private
19 negotiated sale, to provide funds towards
20 various capital municipal purposes;
21 providing for appropriations to the
22 Sinking Fund Commission for the payment
23 of such bonds; and authorizing agreements
24 to provide credit or payment or liquidity
25 sources for the bonds in connection with

1 5/16/24 - STATED - REPORTS

2 issuance of bonds, and certain other
3 actions; and rescinding the authorization
4 set forth in Bill No. 230186-A (approved
5 September 15, 2023)," respectfully
6 reports it has considered the same and
7 returns the attached bill to Council with
8 a favorable recommendation.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
10 Chair now recognizes Councilmember
11 Katherine Gilmore Richardson for a
12 motion.

13 COUNCILMEMBER RICHARDSON:
14 Thank you, Mr. President. I move that
15 the rules of Council be suspended as to
16 permit first reading this day of the
17 bills that were just read into the record
18 by the Chief Clerk.

19 (Duly seconded.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: It
21 has been moved and properly seconded that
22 the rules of Council be suspended so as
23 to permit the consideration of the bills
24 just read by the Chief Clerk at today's
25 session of Council.

1 5/16/24 - STATED - REPORTS

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

4 (Aye.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

6 Those opposed?

7 (No response.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
9 ayes have it. The motion carries. These
10 bills will be placed on our First Reading
11 Calendar for today.

12 The Chair recognizes
13 Councilmember Young for a report from the
14 Committee on Streets and Services.

15 COUNCILMEMBER YOUNG: Thank
16 you, Mr. President. The Committee on
17 Streets and Services reports out 16 bills
18 with a favorable recommendation.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

20 Thank you.

21 Will the Chief Clerk please
22 read the report.

23 CHIEF CLERK: To the President
24 and members of the Council of the City of
25 Philadelphia, the Committee on Streets

1 5/16/24 - STATED - REPORTS

2 and Services, to which was referred Bill
3 No. 240119, entitled "An ordinance
4 authorizing encroachments in the nature
5 of two light poles and three existing
6 light poles in the vicinity of the
7 Southeast and Northwest corners of JFK
8 Boulevard and North Broad Streets and the
9 Northeast corner of John F. Kennedy
10 Boulevard and North Juniper Street, all
11 under certain terms and conditions,"
12 respectfully reports it has considered
13 the same and returns the attached bill to
14 Council with a favorable recommendation.

15 And Bill No. 240183, entitled
16 "An ordinance establishing parking
17 regulations in the vicinity of: Hoffman
18 Street between South 19th Street and
19 South 20th Street; Pierce Street between
20 South 17th Street and South 18th Street;
21 Pierce Street between South 21st Street
22 and South 20th Street; Sigel Street
23 between South 22nd Street and South 23rd
24 Street; McClellan Street between South
25 18th Street and South 17th Street;

1 5/16/24 - STATED - REPORTS

2 McClellan Street between South 19th
3 Street and South 18th Street; McClellan
4 Street between South 20th Street and
5 South 19th Street; Jackson Street between
6 South 15th Street and South 16th Street;
7 Jackson Street between South 19th Street
8 and South 20th Street; McKean Street
9 between South 20th Street and South 21st
10 Street," respectfully reports it has
11 considered the same and returns the
12 attached bill to Council with a favorable
13 recommendation.

14 And Bill No. 240184, entitled
15 "An ordinance establishing parking
16 regulations in the vicinity of: South
17 18th Street between Reed Street and
18 Wharton Street; South 18th Street between
19 Dickerson Street and Reed Street; South
20 18th Street between Tasker Street and
21 Dickinson Street; Oakford Street between
22 South 24th Street and South 25th Street;
23 Oakford Street between South 22nd Street
24 and South 23rd Street; South 19th Street
25 between Dickinson Street and Tasker

1 5/16/24 - STATED - REPORTS

2 Street; South 21st Street between Tasker
3 Street and Morris Street; Manton Street
4 between South 20th Street and South 19th
5 Street; Bancroft Street between Tasker
6 Street and Morris Street; Alter Street
7 between South 22nd Street and South 21st
8 Street," respectfully reports it has
9 considered the same and returns the
10 attached bill with a favorable
11 recommendation.

12 And Bill No. 240191, entitled
13 "An ordinance establishing parking
14 regulations in the vicinity of Norris
15 Street between Belgrade Street and Gaul
16 Street; Ritter Street between Dauphin
17 Street and Norris Street; York Street
18 between Mercer Street and Thompson
19 Street; Hagert Street between Cedar
20 Street and Gaul Street; Wishart Street
21 between Frankford Avenue and Emerald
22 Street; Delancey Street between South 2nd
23 Street and Front Street; Front Street
24 between Spruce Street and Pine Street;
25 Spruce Street between South 2nd Street

1 5/16/24 - STATED - REPORTS

2 and South 3rd Street," respectfully
3 reports it has considered the same and
4 returns the attached bill with a
5 favorable recommendation.

6 And Bill No. 240221, a bill
7 entitled "An ordinance authorizing the
8 Procurement Commissioner to enter into a
9 contract for the construction of a sewer
10 and appurtenant work required to provide
11 public sewer service in the 600 and
12 700 blocks of Hendren Street, under
13 certain terms and conditions,"
14 respectfully reports it has considered
15 the same and returns the attached bill
16 with a favorable recommendation.

17 And Bill No. 240239, "An
18 ordinance authorizing encroachments in
19 the nature of a sidewalk cafe in the
20 vicinity of 2201 Christian Street,
21 Philadelphia, PA 19146, under certain
22 terms and conditions," respectfully
23 reports it has considered the same and
24 returns the attached bill to Council with
25 a favorable recommendation.

1 5/16/24 - STATED - REPORTS

2 And Bill No. 240240, "An
3 ordinance amending Section 9-203 of The
4 Philadelphia Code, entitled 'Sidewalk
5 Sales,' to revise and clarify certain
6 provisions related to City parks and
7 recreation facilities and make related
8 technical changes, all under certain
9 terms and conditions," respectfully
10 reports it has considered the same and
11 returns the attached bill to Council with
12 a favorable recommendation.

13 And Bill No. 240243, "An
14 ordinance authorizing an encroachment in
15 the nature of a staircase in the vicinity
16 of 1951 East Monmouth Street,
17 Philadelphia, PA 19134, under certain
18 terms and conditions," respectfully
19 reports it has considered the same and
20 returns the attached bill to Council with
21 a favorable recommendation.

22 And Bill No. 240250, "An
23 ordinance authorizing the installation,
24 ownership, and maintenance of various
25 encroachments along the 700 Block of

1 5/16/24 - STATED - REPORTS

2 Sansom Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106,
3 under certain terms and conditions,"
4 respectfully reports it has considered
5 the same and returns the attached bill to
6 Council with a favorable recommendation.

7 And Bill No. 240282, entitled
8 "An ordinance granting permission to
9 Germantown Jewish Centre to demarcate the
10 boundaries of a Germantown eruv district,
11 to construct and maintain a clear nylon
12 cord and/or plastic tubes and other
13 ancillary facilities including a maximum
14 of ten poles along, over, and in certain
15 public rights-of-way and City streets,
16 and/or to attach such demarcation
17 facilities to existing facilities owned
18 by other entities authorized by other
19 City ordinances, subject to owner's
20 consent; all under certain terms and
21 conditions," respectfully reports it has
22 considered and amended the same and
23 returns the attached bill to Council with
24 a favorable recommendation.

25 Bill No. 240301, "An ordinance

1 5/16/24 - STATED - REPORTS

2 authorizing encroachments in the nature
3 of a sidewalk cafe in the vicinity of
4 6516 Castor Avenue, Philadelphia, PA
5 19149, under certain terms and
6 conditions," respectfully reports it has
7 considered and amended the same and
8 returns the attached bill to Council with
9 a favorable recommendation.

10 And Bill No. 240302, "An
11 ordinance establishing a no parking
12 regulation on the south side of Wises
13 Mill Road between Henry Avenue and
14 Forbidden Drive," respectfully reports it
15 has considered and amended the same and
16 returns the attached bill to Council with
17 a favorable recommendation.

18 And Bill No. 240329, "An
19 ordinance establishing a no parking
20 regulation on the west side of North 34th
21 Street between Indiana Avenue and
22 Clearfield Street," respectfully reports
23 it has considered the same and returns
24 the attached bill to Council with a
25 favorable recommendation.

1 5/16/24 - STATED - REPORTS

2 And Bill No. 240331, "An
3 ordinance amending Section 9-215 of The
4 Philadelphia Code, entitled
5 'Streeteries,' modifying requirements
6 related to the City's revised standards
7 and requirements associated with the use
8 of portions of the Right-of-Way for
9 outdoor dining," respectfully reports it
10 has considered and amended the same and
11 returns the attached bill to Council with
12 a favorable recommendation.

13 And Bill No. 240334, entitled
14 "An ordinance amending Chapter 12-2700 of
15 The Philadelphia Code, entitled 'Permit
16 Parking Districts,' by changing certain
17 boundaries and establishing new permit
18 parking districts, all under certain
19 terms and conditions," respectfully
20 reports it has considered the same and
21 returns the attached bill to Council with
22 a favorable recommendation.

23 And Bill No. 240335, "An
24 ordinance amending Chapter 12-2700 of The
25 Philadelphia Code, entitled 'Permit

1 5/16/24 - STATED - REPORTS

2 Parking Districts,' by extending the
3 authorized duration of temporary parking
4 permits and setting new permit
5 application fees, all under certain terms
6 and conditions," respectfully reports it
7 has considered and amended the same and
8 returns the attached bill to Council with
9 a favorable recommendation.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
11 Chair recognizes Councilmember Young for
12 a motion.

13 COUNCILMEMBER YOUNG: Thank
14 you, Mr. President. I move that the
15 rules of Council be suspended to permit
16 first reading on this day of the bills
17 that were just read into the record by
18 the Chief Clerk.

19 (Duly seconded.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: It
21 has been moved and properly seconded that
22 the rules of Council be suspended so as
23 to permit the consideration of the bills
24 just read by the Chief Clerk at today's
25 session of Council.

1 5/16/24 - STATED - REPORTS

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

4 (Aye.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

6 Those opposed?

7 (No response.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
9 ayes have it. The motion carries. These
10 bills will be placed on our First Reading
11 Calendar for today.

12 The Chair recognizes
13 Councilmember Squilla for a report from
14 the Committee on Commerce and Economic
15 Development.

16 COUNCILMEMBER SQUILLA: Thank
17 you, Mr. President. The Committee on
18 Commerce and Economic Development reports
19 one bill with a favorable recommendation.

20 CHIEF CLERK: To the President
21 and members of the Council of the City of
22 Philadelphia, the Committee on Commerce
23 and Economic Development, to which was
24 referred Bill No. 240118, entitled
25 "Amending Title 9 ('Regulation of

1 5/16/24 - STATED - REPORTS

2 Businesses, Trades and Professions') of
3 The Philadelphia Code to add a new
4 chapter concerning protections for
5 consumers against unfair methods of
6 competition and unfair deceptive acts or
7 practices, and providing remedies, all
8 under certain terms and conditions,"
9 respectfully reports it has considered
10 and amended the same and returns the
11 attached bill to Council with a favorable
12 recommendation.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
14 Chair recognizes Councilmember Squilla
15 for a motion.

16 COUNCILMEMBER SQUILLA: Thank
17 you, Mr. President. I move the rules of
18 Council be suspended to permit the first
19 reading this day of the bill that was
20 just read into the record by the Chief
21 Clerk.

22 (Duly seconded.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: It
24 has been moved and properly seconded that
25 the rules of Council be suspended so as

1 5/16/24 - STATED - REPORTS

2 to permit the consideration of the bill
3 just read by the Chief Clerk at today's
4 session of Council.

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

7 (Aye.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

9 Those opposed?

10 (No response.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
12 ayes have it. The motion carries. This
13 bill will be placed on our First Reading
14 Calendar for today.

15 The next order of business is
16 the consideration of the Calendar. I
17 note that the bills just reported from
18 the committees with the suspension of
19 rules have been deemed to have had a
20 first reading. These bills will be
21 placed on the Second Reading and Final
22 Passage Calendar for the next session of
23 Council.

24 As there are no additional
25 bills on the First Reading Calendar, the

1 5/16/24 - STATED - BILLS ON 2ND READING
2 Chair recognizes Councilmember Gilmore
3 Richardson for the purpose of calling up
4 bills and resolutions on the Second
5 Reading and Final Passage Calendars.

6 COUNCILMEMBER RICHARDSON:

7 Thank you, Mr. President. The following
8 bills and resolutions are being called up
9 from the Second Reading and Final Passage
10 Calendars today: Nos. 240444, 240445,
11 240446, 240450, 240012, 240247-A, 240281,
12 and 240087-A. The following bills and
13 resolutions on the Calendar are being
14 held: No. 240220.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

16 Thank you.

17 Before considering these bills
18 and resolutions, we will consider public
19 comment as follows:

20 Your public comment must
21 concern matters on the Second Reading and
22 Final Passage Calendars for possible
23 action at today's Council session.

24 All speakers must sign up in
25 order to testify. If you have not

1 5/16/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 already signed up for today's session,
3 please do so by giving your name to
4 Ms. Hasson at the table outside the rails
5 to my left. Once you have signed up, you
6 will be called in the order in which your
7 name appears on the sign-up sheet.

8 Under ideal circumstances,
9 public commenters each will have three
10 minutes to speak. However, this time
11 limit may vary from session to session.
12 Today's time limit will be two minutes
13 based upon the volume of individuals
14 commenting on public comments today.

15 In order to be fair to all
16 those wishing to speak, I intend to hold
17 faithfully to the two-minute limit. When
18 you begin speaking, you will see a green
19 light on the podium. When there are 30
20 seconds remaining to your time, the light
21 will turn yellow, which is your reminder
22 to conclude your remarks.

23 Once two minutes have passed,
24 the light will turn red and the
25 Sergeant-At-Arms will disconnect the

1 5/16/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 microphone. At that point, please yield
3 the podium to the next speaker, if you
4 have not already done so.

5 I also reserve the right
6 pursuant to our rules of Council to limit
7 repetitious comments on the same matter.

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

11 CHIEF CLERK: State
12 Representative Rick Krajewski.

13 (Witness approached podium.)

14 REPRESENTATIVE KRAJEWSKI: Good
15 morning.

16 (Good morning.)

17 REPRESENTATIVE KRAJEWSKI: Good
18 morning, Council President, esteemed
19 colleagues in Council. I'd like to begin
20 by thanking you for giving me the
21 opportunity to provide public comment on
22 Resolution 240450. I especially want to
23 thank my neighbor and
24 Councilmember-at-large, Nicholas
25 O'Rourke, for his leadership in

1 5/16/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 introducing this resolution honoring the
3 vital labor of workers at Penn.

4 As many of you know, my
5 legislative district includes the
6 University of Pennsylvania. I'm also a
7 University of Pennsylvania alum.
8 Attending Penn is what brought me to
9 Philadelphia. And while my constituents
10 may never let me live down my New York
11 roots, it is here in our city that I
12 became the person that I am today.

13 I know, you can laugh. It's
14 all right.

15 I love my city, and every day
16 I'm grateful that I get the opportunity
17 to fight for my West and Southwest Philly
18 neighbors in Harrisburg. And I will also
19 take this opportunity to dispel the
20 rumors once and for all in case you were
21 still wondering, I am not related to Joan
22 Krajewski.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: We
24 can see that.

25 REPRESENTATIVE KRAJEWSKI: You

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2 can see that, can't you? I don't know.

3 Maybe a little confused.

4 So I would like to say that I'm
5 here before you today filled with pride
6 from my alma mater, but I would be lying
7 to you, because today I am ashamed. I am
8 ashamed of the University of
9 Pennsylvania. I am ashamed that my
10 university, our city's largest employer,
11 larger private employer, with an
12 endowment of over \$20 billion, five times
13 the size of the entire budget of the
14 School District of Philadelphia, has
15 continuously nickeled and dimed workers
16 across campus, going so far as to tell
17 bargaining units as small as dozens of
18 workers that they are unable to pay them
19 livable wages.

20 I am ashamed that my
21 university, which recently received
22 royalties of almost \$1 billion from
23 vaccine patents, employed union-busting
24 tactics such as election delays and
25 exclusionary clauses against graduate

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2 student workers. This is especially
3 egregious when you consider that the
4 research done for those patents was
5 supported by the work of graduate student
6 researchers.

7 And I am ashamed that my
8 university called for the violent removal
9 of peaceful student protesters,
10 protesters who demonstrated tremendous
11 courage in demanding our university hold
12 itself accountable for investments
13 complicit in the genocide in Gaza.

14 - - -
15 (Applause.)

16 - - -
17 REPRESENTATIVE KRAJEWSKI: I
18 would like to be here before you filled
19 with pride. I would like to say that
20 Penn has shown up for its workers and its
21 students, but I cannot. And as someone
22 who also represents the workers and
23 students of the University of
24 Pennsylvania, it is my duty to defend
25 their rights. And for us as public

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2 officials, it is our duty to show up for
3 the people that make our institutions
4 run.

5 The reality is, without its
6 workers, Penn would not be the
7 world-class institution that it is.
8 Without the library workers of DC47,
9 students cannot study for their exams or
10 work on their term papers. Without the
11 residential advisors of OPEIU, campus
12 dormitories are unable to run
13 effectively. And without the janitorial
14 workers and resident physicians of 1199C
15 and CIR, respectively, the Hospital of
16 the University of Pennsylvania ceases to
17 function.

18 All we are asking for is for a
19 university that benefits immensely from
20 its relationship to the City of
21 Philadelphia, a city that pays zero, zero
22 with a Z, Councilmember O'Rourke, zero
23 dollars in property taxes. All we are
24 asking for is for Penn to come to the
25 table and value the labor of its workers.

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2 Do not engage in union-busting
3 tactics.

4 - - -

5 (Applause.)

6 - - -

7 REPRESENTATIVE KRAJEWSKI: Do
8 not spread misinformation propaganda. Do
9 not stall and delay contracts while still
10 asking people to show up to work.

11 It is in Penn's interest to
12 negotiate in good faith with the unions
13 advocating for a unified contract,
14 because unions not only make better
15 workplaces, they make better workers,
16 right? They make better workers.

17 - - -

18 (Applause.)

19 - - -

20 REPRESENTATIVE KRAJEWSKI: Penn
21 can provide an example for other
22 employers and I as an alum and those of
23 you on Council, four alums as well, can
24 hold our heads high and say that when the
25 time came, Penn did the right thing.

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2 There's still time to do the
3 right thing. The workers are waiting and
4 they are watching. They could have grad
5 workers made history as the biggest new
6 union in this city in over 50 years,
7 right?

8 - - -

9 (Applause.)

10 - - -

11 REPRESENTATIVE KRAJEWSKI: Over
12 50 years.

13 And then you know who made
14 history before them? The residential
15 physicians at the Hospital of the
16 University of Pennsylvania.

17 Thousands of workers who now
18 have the power of a union are ready to
19 throw down to get what they deserve, and
20 we as elected officials must go to the
21 mat for them as well, because unions
22 belong at Penn and unions belong at every
23 workplace in the City.

24 Thank you for your
25 consideration of residential --

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2 - - -

3 (Applause.)

4 - - -

5 CHIEF CLERK: Bill Hoffman.

6 Can Frances Bourne, Paul Boni,
7 and Paul Elia also make their way to the
8 podium.

9 We have Bill Hoffman, Frances
10 Bourne, Paul Boni, and Paul Elia.

11 (Witness approached podium.)

12 MR. HOFFNER: My name is Bill
13 Hoffner, William Hoffner. I am a former
14 President of the East Falls Community
15 Council.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Can
17 you speak into the mic or lift the
18 microphone up. Kind of can't hear you,
19 sir.

20 MR. HOFFNER: Can I start over?

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
22 There you go. Yes, sir.

23 MR. HOFFNER: Thank you. My
24 name is William Hoffner. I'm a former
25 President of the East Falls Community

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2 Council. On behalf of the more than 150
3 neighbors who gathered on May 1st and of
4 the 382 petitioners, I am opposing Bill
5 240012 in its current form.

6 On April 8th, we appeared
7 before the Rules Committee, and after
8 hearing our testimony, the Committee
9 Chair said our request for protections
10 sounded very reasonable.

11 A direct outcome of the
12 April 8th session was that Councilman
13 Jones undertook to incorporate
14 neighborhood protections into Bill
15 240012. We thank him for his efforts to
16 date. I'm here today with my neighbors
17 because the bill does not yet provide
18 sufficient protections.

19 As I personally gathered dozens
20 of signatures in the petitioning, I feel
21 it was my responsibility to represent the
22 questions I am regularly asked, questions
23 for which I have no answers. If the new
24 water treatment facility's construction
25 will not start until the next decade, why

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2 is this zoning change being rushed
3 through now? If there is a rush to
4 passage that is part of a viable plan,
5 where is the plan? How did the PWD get
6 funding for this project without a plan?

7 So I'm requesting the City
8 Council grant more time for our RCO,
9 Councilman Jones, and the PWD to arrive
10 at a satisfactory, negotiated commitment
11 that protects the residential community.

12 I am presenting a petition
13 signed by 382 East Falls residents. The
14 petitioners are constituents of
15 Councilmember Jones and the at-large
16 Councilmembers.

17 For District Councilmembers,
18 the PWD's infrastructure plan contains
19 400 projects, possibly on your district.
20 Please do not find yourself some day
21 regretting that you didn't use the
22 leverage you're about to give away.

23 Thank you.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

25 Thank you.

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2 Next speaker.

3 CHIEF CLERK: Frances Bourne,
4 Paul Boni, and Paul Elia. And then
5 Connor Emery also make their way to the
6 podium.

7 (Witness approached podium.)

8 MS. BOURNE: Thank you. My
9 name is Frances Bourne and I'm testifying
10 in opposition to Bill 240012, and as I
11 said in my testimony to the Rules
12 Committee, I was told by a wise man, your
13 urgency is not my emergency. That
14 gentleman was East Falls' own Councilman,
15 Curtis Jones.

16 I don't understand why this
17 change to the zoning for the Queen Lane
18 water treatment plant is being treated as
19 an emergency if the planning process will
20 not even begin until 2030.

21 I don't understand why Council
22 is not concerned about the other as yet
23 unknown impacts of a project of this
24 scale and duration may have on all of the
25 residential neighborhoods that border the

1 5/16/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 plant, including Abbottsford, Ridge
3 Avenue, Hunting Park, and Allegheny West.

4 And I don't understand why City
5 Council is not more interested in the
6 Water Department's citywide plans for how
7 it will be spending an estimated two and
8 a half billion dollars over 30 years. I
9 don't understand why you wouldn't want a
10 master plan for this major undertaking.

11 And I don't understand why the
12 community protections that haven't been
13 incorporated into this bill can't be
14 written into an enforceable agreement.
15 Trust us is not an agreement you would
16 accept any more than we should.

17 And I don't understand why the
18 residents of East Falls have to work so
19 hard to make their concerns known and why
20 we are being shut out of further
21 discussions. We deserve to be more than
22 just a checklist on PWD's to-do list.

23 Please explain it to me.

24 - - -

25 (Applause.)

1 5/16/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 - - -

3 CHIEF CLERK: Paul Boni, Paul
4 Elia, and Connor Emery.

5 (Witness approached podium.)

6 MR. ELIA: Good morning. Can
7 everyone hear me? My name is Paul Elia.
8 I'm an architect and a member of the East
9 Falls Zoning Committee. I oppose Bill
10 No. 240012, which would provide a
11 by-right zoning for the reconstruction of
12 the Queen Lane treatment plant.

13 However, I'd like to say we're
14 in favor of that work. It's just not the
15 way it's being mismanaged.

16 In my 35 years of experience as
17 a design professional, I've never seen a
18 project of this scale not have to submit
19 a master plan for approval, a fine
20 example as to why a plan, a master plan,
21 is needed.

22 The Water Department is going
23 to have large generators, emergency
24 generators. We understand that. And
25 they're going to need monthly testing.

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2 We understand that as well. We don't
3 understand why, without a master plan and
4 an agreement, we can't get a
5 hospital-grade acoustical attenuation
6 package included in the zoning. This
7 requirement could be part of the binding
8 contract with the Water Department.

9 We don't understand why there
10 is no requirement for producing a plan.
11 We have the opportunity now, without
12 delay, to impose this type of a
13 requirement and as a condition of the
14 rezoning.

15 Please hold the bill until the
16 Water Department commits in a binding
17 agreement with a master plan. You can
18 amend the building code to require it.

19 We ask you to legislate like
20 you live there.

21 Thank you.

22 - - -

23 (Applause.)

24 - - -

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The

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2 Chair recognizes Councilmember Curtis
3 Jones.

4 COUNCILMEMBER JONES: Thank
5 you, Mr. President. I want to recognize
6 my great constituents from East Falls.
7 The reason why that's a great community
8 is because of their work. And everybody
9 has a right to speak. Everybody doesn't
10 have a right to the truth. And when you
11 say on public record that you haven't had
12 input or there was no discussions, we've
13 had several meetings with the Water
14 Department going back over a year. So
15 let me take you back a little bit so that
16 everybody has context.

17 You remember when we had that
18 water emergency and we had to go buy
19 bottled water? We had to buy bottled
20 water because there was not a system that
21 allowed the Water Department to switch
22 from Belmont to City Avenue to be able
23 to, in a seamless way, cut off
24 contaminants that could have infiltrated
25 our water.

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2 I love the fact that they used
3 my quote, your urgency doesn't constitute
4 my emergency. Like it, love it.

5 However, the urgency is that we are at
6 risk of losing millions, tens of
7 millions, of dollars from the federal
8 government if we do not demonstrate that
9 we are moving this plan.

10 They are right, it's ten years
11 from now. So what we were able to do in
12 the negotiations that we never had was to
13 say, here are the things that you're
14 concerned about, of which we produced
15 about a dozen. All of them could not go
16 into the amendment we are introducing
17 today because the Law Department said we
18 can't do that. So they got things like
19 pathways and the width of it, where the
20 lights can be, where the generators have
21 to be, what type of insulation to keep
22 sound from going into those homes that
23 would devalue the real estate that they
24 purchased.

25 But to say that we haven't had

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2 negotiations, to say that there's no real
3 need for moving this amendment, this
4 amendment doesn't close the door. We can
5 have double A amendments, Mr. President.
6 So we can get more of their concerns into
7 the actual legislation, because that's
8 what it is. They don't want the promise
9 made today to not be kept ten years from
10 now, you know. It will be a different
11 Water Department Commissioner. It will
12 be a different situation, but they want
13 their rights preserved in this bill. To
14 the degree that we could, it's in these
15 amendments, and those amendments have
16 been circulated to all members of
17 Council.

18 And I always found out -- and
19 I'm the second OG here in Council -- that
20 when everybody is a little bit pissed
21 off, it's probably a good piece of public
22 policy. And that's what I have to say.

23 Thank you, Mr. President.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

25 You're welcome, Councilmember Jones.

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2 Will the Clerk please call the
3 next person for public comment.

4 CHIEF CLERK: Connor Emery.

5 Then Paul Birdsong and Regina
6 Abrami also make their way up.

7 (Witness approached podium.)

8 MR. EMERY: Hello, and thank
9 you to the City Councilmembers who
10 sponsored and supported the resolution
11 for workers at Penn. My name is Connor
12 and I have worked for Penn for the past
13 two years as a residential advisor and
14 organized unionization efforts for just
15 over a full year.

16 So our RAs filed for a union in
17 early 2023 and were immediately told by
18 Penn that we were not workers and that we
19 did not deserve the right to a union. We
20 litigated Penn and we eventually won our
21 union with an overwhelming election vote
22 in late 2023.

23 We came to the bargaining table
24 with Penn in December. At our first
25 meeting, we agreed to six out of roughly

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2 20 proposals, which was surprisingly a
3 good first meeting with Penn. But it
4 would not last. From January to roughly
5 March, we agreed to none.

6 RAs were required to file a ULP
7 for surface bargaining and to take
8 several actions ranging from speaking to
9 the press to making online petitions to
10 get Penn to even bargain in good faith.

11 But what's more striking about
12 Penn's union-busting campaign is what has
13 happened just this past week. We held
14 our last bargaining session with Penn on
15 Monday in which we brought federal
16 mediators to make sure Penn would bargain
17 in good faith. They did not. Penn
18 forced us into accepting a low-ball
19 compensation offer in order to make sure
20 RAs who started this movement could see
21 the fruits of their labor. Upon doing
22 so, Penn decided to go mute in the final
23 hour, failing to sign off on a tentative
24 agreement which we could bring to RAs to
25 ratify on Tuesday. This was the last day

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2 when several RAs would be on campus and
3 able to vote. Penn, having agreed to
4 verbally to the last piece of our
5 contract, lied in order to avoid paying
6 RAs to express their democratic
7 preference for a union and for fair
8 compensation. We filed another ULP for
9 regressive bargaining as a result.

10 As the largest employer in the
11 City of Philadelphia, Penn's actions
12 should not just worry the Penn community,
13 but it should worry the whole city. If
14 Penn is willing to stall and lie just to
15 avoid paying its own students fairly, how
16 far is Penn willing to go to avoid paying
17 other Philadelphians who work for the
18 school?

19 This resolution must be passed
20 for the safety of all Philadelphia
21 against a greedy institution which seeks
22 to shelter its wealth from those who need
23 it most.

24 But I also want to remark that
25 City Council's actions cannot stop here.

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2 I ask you, the City Council, to consider
3 further action. Revoke Penn's tax
4 exemption status for City taxes. Lobby
5 the state to do the same for state taxes.
6 These exemptions are meant for
7 institutions which support the public
8 good. Penn refuses to do so, and so
9 these privileges are no longer
10 appropriate for this institution.

11 - - -

12 (Applause.)

13 - - -

14 CHIEF CLERK: Paul Birdsong,
15 then Regina Abrami and Jessica Lubineski.

16 (Witnesses approached podium.)

17 MR. BIRDSONG: Pardon us for a
18 moment. We brought the village with us
19 again.

20 So first I would like to
21 acknowledge that I got a little
22 passionate last time. So, you know, my
23 bad. But when people come to me and
24 complain to me, cry, bring pictures of
25 their dead children to me and show them

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2 to me or asking me to come to their
3 vigil, it makes me kind of mad, and so I
4 had to convey the sentiment.

5 So today I'm speaking on Bill
6 24018 -- first, we got a member of the
7 community, OG Hasson right there. You
8 see he has the walker. He makes his way
9 here to come be part of this, because
10 he's concerned. So I want to acknowledge
11 him before I get to go on the speech that
12 I wrote for y'all. Can y'all clap your
13 hands for Mr. Hasson.

14 - - -
15 (Applause.)

16 - - -

17 MR. BIRDSONG: So now about
18 240185, I actually wrote a speech this
19 time like everybody else.

20 So penalties for operating
21 after hours, I know this is in order to
22 reduce the crime and the people hanging
23 out in front of the stores and doing bad
24 things. We support that. We also
25 support cleaning up the communities, but

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2 we are concerned. We know that fentanyl,
3 heroin, meth, and crack come from
4 cartels, and we want to know if we're
5 preparing for the increase in violent
6 crimes sure to ensue due to clamping down
7 on the open-air drug market there in
8 Kensington.

9 Are we going to give the police
10 the Forensics Lab they need to solve the
11 crimes? As we approach this, are we
12 aware that the certainty of consequences
13 curbs crime? So when people know they're
14 going to get caught, they're less likely
15 to do it, because they know for sure
16 they're going to get caught. It's not
17 that you say, oh, we're going to give you
18 the death penalty, we're going to give
19 you 100 years if we catch you with a
20 certain amount of heroin. It's that
21 we're going to catch you for sure. You
22 ain't going to get away with it. That's
23 what scares them. That's what cleans up
24 our community. That's what protects our
25 people.

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2 Are we aware that there are
3 certainty of consequences contingent on
4 the ability to acquire forensics proof to
5 solve crimes?

6 Now, instead of just running my
7 mouth, I brought an example. In
8 Michigan, they have a new forensics lab
9 in the city called Dimondale, small town,
10 huge forensics lab, the size of a
11 community college. Detroit has reported
12 the lowest rate of homicides in 50 years,
13 because they're solving crimes from 1964
14 and '79 and people are getting locked up
15 and they're plastering them all over the
16 news. You shot this man back then, we
17 caught you now, and we're going to catch
18 you every time now.

19 So now the people are safer.
20 Now they're not as scared. Now they feel
21 like their government actually represents
22 them, but that's because they're able to
23 actually solve the crimes.

24 And so what I'm saying is, as
25 you guys do this, as you guys prepare to

1 5/16/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 do this, we support you and we look --

3 I'm willing to have that conversation.

4 The Panther Party looks for any way that

5 we can to support cleaning up the

6 community and keeping the community safe.

7 However, we want to realize the gravity

8 of the situation and what comes along

9 with the things that you guys are

10 proposing to do.

11 There's going to be a blood

12 bath when you clamp on that drug trade.

13 When you say y'all can't be here, they're

14 going to resort to prostitution and human

15 trafficking and other things, and we got

16 to get ready for that, and we're not

17 ready for that right now.

18 All power to the people.

19 (All power to the people.)

20 MR. BIRDSONG: All power to the

21 people.

22 (All power to the people.)

23 MR. BIRDSONG: The people of

24 Philly. All power to the people.

25 (All power to the people.)

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2 - - -

3 (Applause.)

4 - - -

5 CHIEF CLERK: Regina Abrami.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

7 Excuse me. The Chair recognizes

8 Councilmember Isaiah Thomas.

9 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: Before
10 they leave, I just want to say thank you
11 to not just the testimony that we just
12 heard but the number of people from the
13 community who came out to be a part of
14 that testimony.

15 Last week it was told to a lot
16 of Councilmembers that this space can be
17 somewhat intimidating, so to see that
18 they were able to organize this many
19 people to come down to City Hall who care
20 about this issue, I just want folks to
21 know that we hear you, we see you, you
22 did not waste your time. And I know
23 myself and other Councilmembers are
24 100 percent in support of the Forensic
25 Lab. We've allocated the money for it,

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2 and I personally have written a letter,
3 along with other Councilmembers, to ask
4 for that lab to be placed in the Third
5 Councilmanic District in a facility
6 that's already ready for it to be done as
7 soon as possible.

8 So, Council President, I just
9 want the collective to know that came
10 down here, this is a warm space, this is
11 a welcoming space. We appreciate them
12 taking the time for being here, and we
13 take their advocacy serious.

14 Thank you, Council President.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

16 Thank you.

17 - - -

18 (Applause.)

19 - - -

20 CHIEF CLERK: Regina Abrami.

21 Can Jessica Lubineski and
22 Sterling Johnson also make their way up.

23 (Witness approached podium.)

24 MS. ABRAMI: Good morning,
25 everyone, and thank you for this

1 5/16/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 opportunity to present. Before I speak
3 about my comments related to the
4 Philadelphia Water Department treatment
5 plant in East Falls, I would like as a
6 faculty member at the University of
7 Pennsylvania to acknowledge the great
8 efforts of these individuals and tell you
9 I see you and I appreciate you and I
10 understand what you're doing. We support
11 you.

12 So my name again is Regina
13 Abrami. I am a resident of East Falls.
14 I'm a faculty member at UPenn. I'm a
15 taxpayer, a voter, and a concerned
16 citizen. I do feel like I need to take
17 my notes and maybe not follow them,
18 because I just learned that the person I
19 voted for, Councilman Jones, makes his
20 decisions based on how much it pisses
21 somebody off, and apparently I just
22 learned that if both sides are pissed, he
23 thinks he's winning. So I would like
24 instead to go a little off record and say
25 instead that as someone who voted for

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2 Councilman Jones, I'm deeply disappointed
3 by those comments, because we are
4 essentially being asked to accept an
5 agreement with the Philadelphia Water
6 Department that amounts essentially to
7 paying for a bill before we know what
8 we're getting. That's just bad
9 governance. It's not neighborly. It's
10 not appropriate.

11 And so to his comment that we
12 did not or we have denied that we've had
13 meetings, I am here today as a resident,
14 I am not a member of the East Falls
15 Community Council, I am someone who lives
16 in that part of town, and I have gone to
17 meetings and I have listened to the
18 Philadelphia Water Department and I have
19 consistently seen them essentially nod
20 and handle, but tell us that we need to
21 understand that these are issues that are
22 bigger and beyond that.

23 No, it's not. I have a Ph.D.
24 I think I'm pretty smart. I think I
25 understand big issues, and what I

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2 understand is that you don't pay for
3 bills before you know what you're paying
4 for, and we are essentially being asked
5 to pay for the Philadelphia Water
6 Department without knowing what we're
7 getting. That's just bad business.
8 Nobody does business like that.

9 We know today that we look and
10 try to figure out where some of the money
11 went for Kensington, and we want to look
12 into that, right? We're saying bad
13 business. We want to know where the
14 money goes.

15 So all that we are asking for
16 is for you to look at Bill 240012 and
17 oppose it and oppose it until we know
18 exactly what is going to be done. It
19 just doesn't make sense. And if
20 Councilman Jones is of the mindset that
21 the problem is that the Law Department
22 says we have a problem, then you know
23 what to do. Most of you have law degrees
24 here. Change the law. Because you
25 should not be in a position where you're

1 5/16/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 signing bills and you don't know what
3 you're getting. And we certainly will
4 continue to oppose it until we see a
5 change.

6 Thank you.

7 - - -

8 (Applause.)

9 - - -

10 CHIEF CLERK: Jessica
11 Lubineski.

12 Sterling Johnson, Safiya
13 Elliotte, and Keisha Wilkins also make
14 their way up.

15 (Witness approached podium.)

16 MS. LUBINESKI: Hi. My name is
17 Jessica Lubineski and I'm here to support
18 Resolution 240450. I am a member of the
19 Penn Museum Workers United Union and have
20 worked at the Penn Museum at the
21 University of Pennsylvania for about four
22 and a half years now and pretty quickly
23 became involved in organizing a union at
24 that workplace.

25 When I first started talking to

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2 my colleagues at the Penn Museum, many of
3 whom have worked there for 20, 30, we
4 even have some people who have worked
5 there for 40 years, longer than I've been
6 alive, the main takeaway I had from how
7 people felt about working for the Museum
8 and working at Penn was fear, fear that
9 they would lose their jobs at a moment's
10 notice with no -- for no reason, fear
11 that they wouldn't be able to pay the
12 bills, and especially fear that the
13 Museum and the University would retaliate
14 against them for organizing a union.

15 And, you know, I'm standing up
16 here as a person who put their face and
17 name on pretty much every public account
18 of union organizing at Penn when we first
19 started, you know, and saying that I felt
20 that fear too, but I knew that what I was
21 doing was worth my time, worth my energy,
22 and worth it for my co-workers, because
23 no one should work at the largest
24 employer in the City of Philadelphia,
25 self-professed best employer in the City

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2 of Philadelphia, and be afraid every day
3 that they might just not have a job or
4 not be able to pay their bills.

5 And so I'm really grateful for
6 Councilmember O'Rourke for announcing
7 this bill, and I just want to say Penn
8 needs to listen to their people who work
9 there and take the democratic process
10 seriously.

11 Thank you.

12 - - -

13 (Applause.)

14 - - -

15 CHIEF CLERK: Sterling Johnson,
16 Safiya Elliotte, and Keisha Wilkins.

17 (Witness approached podium.)

18 MR. JOHNSON: Hello. My name
19 is Sterling Johnson. I'm a housing and
20 harm reduction advocate. We support
21 anyone in the City being displaced.

22 I oppose the zoning ordinance
23 240247. Without more eviction
24 protections and focused targeting and
25 saving public housing, this should not go

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2 forward.

3 People who care about the City,
4 we're for development, but not for
5 displacement of current residents that
6 live there. We know that present
7 oriented development, focused development
8 that leads to increased market pressures,
9 that will increase legal and illegal
10 evictions in the surrounding area. It
11 will lead to more police calls that will
12 often target for arrests Black, Latinx,
13 and poor white people simply walking,
14 talking, playing music or just being in
15 public.

16 We know that the jails are
17 already being accused of being in
18 contempt for the way that they manage
19 their space. We know this because of the
20 experience of the UC Townhomes that shows
21 us that the City needs to step in and
22 mitigate those displacement pressures
23 before we get to a place where we can't
24 go back.

25 I can tell you I spent two

1 5/16/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 years of my life fighting to save them.

3 The City does not have \$100 million to

4 actually do that. We need development,

5 we need economic security, but we need

6 the City to actually step in and actually

7 fund those things, and we're talking

8 about in the budget rental assistance,

9 money for repairs, the 14 million for the

10 redevelopment of the townhome site, help

11 out with Brith Sholom, Haverford Square

12 in West Philly. Pressures also will

13 cause more homelessness in North Philly.

14 We can't just sweep people up

15 like encampments that were done on

16 Wednesday in Kensington without leading

17 with services, coordinating with DBH and

18 DHS. You lead with services, not with

19 the police.

20 Police came at 5:30. Outreach

21 was there at 8:00. Where do you think

22 people went? That is not the way that we

23 actually solve this problem.

24 PHA has more properties coming

25 online. DHS has the 1115 waiver coming

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2 up to help with rent and housing search.

3 We have to coordinate with Penn and

4 Jefferson around treatment for people.

5 I'm here as a person that cares

6 about this that has been doing this for a

7 long time. There are solutions that have

8 to be put in place as we put a fire under

9 the market. That is just the truth.

10 Displacement pressure actually occurs and

11 we have to mitigate the displacement that

12 does happen to people.

13 Thank you.

14 - - -

15 (Applause.)

16 - - -

17 CHIEF CLERK: Safiya Elliotte,

18 Keisha Wilkins, Ebony Staton, and Kate

19 Perez.

20 (Witness approached podium.)

21 MS. ELLIOTTE: Good morning.

22 My name is Safiya Elliotte. I work in

23 District 7 at the Linc High School.

24 Thank you, Council President Johnson,

25 Councilmember Lozada, Councilmember

1 5/16/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Thomas, and other members of the City
3 Council for your continued support of
4 schools. Today I'm here to testify on
5 Resolution 240450, which celebrates the
6 labor victory at University of
7 Pennsylvania.

8 Supporting graduate workers
9 will continue Penn's tradition of
10 academic excellence. I'm also here to
11 ask the City Council to increase City
12 investment in schools so that more
13 students from Philadelphia can make it to
14 universities like Penn.

15 The School District needs
16 \$400 million this year to avoid any cuts,
17 and this is why we are asking for the
18 City Council to boost the share of
19 property taxes going to the District to
20 60 percent, which will push our District
21 in the right direction.

22 I'd like to direct your
23 attention to the document on the desk
24 titled Stop Starving Our Schools. This
25 document shows the framework the District

1 5/16/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 uses for its budget. This is the status
3 quo, and this means one teacher to every
4 30 students, one counselor to 649
5 students, three climate staff members for
6 six hours to 449 students. Again, this
7 is the status quo.

8 As a climate manager and/or
9 administrator, my job is to ensure the
10 school -- that our school's environment
11 is conducive for students to learn. This
12 means no matter the lack of human capital
13 and resources, we must do our best to
14 provide the best educational programming
15 possible for our students.

16 The Linc High School's climate
17 and coach statistics look much better
18 than they did last year. School
19 leadership attributes that to our
20 Relationship First programming. We use
21 restorative systems in our schools, like
22 community building, welcome circles for
23 new members to the community, restorative
24 conversations, which includes students
25 and climate staff members, harm and

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2 healing circles that emphasizes peaceful
3 solutions, and circle of support and
4 accountability. Providing such support
5 to our students wouldn't be possible if
6 we didn't receive additional funding to
7 hire more climate staff members.

8 Thank you again, President
9 Johnson, Councilmember Lozada,
10 Councilmember Thomas, and other members
11 of City Council.

12 - - -

13 (Applause.)

14 - - -

15 CHIEF CLERK: Keisha Wilkins,
16 Ebony Staton, and then Kate Perez.

17 (Witness approached podium.)

18 MS. STATON: Good morning.
19 Good morning to City Council and fellow
20 citizens. My name is Ebony Staton and I
21 live in Northwest Philadelphia in
22 Councilmember Bass's district. I'm here
23 to testify on Resolution 240450, which
24 recognizes the labor victory of
25 University of Pennsylvania. Supporting

1 5/16/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 graduate workers will continue Penn's
3 tradition of academic excellence.

4 I'm also here to ask City
5 Council to support access to academic
6 excellence, especially for our youngest
7 Philadelphians. I want to thank
8 Councilmembers who have come out as
9 champions of pre-K, especially my
10 Councilmember, Councilmember Bass,
11 Council President Johnson, Councilmember
12 Phillips, Councilmember Gilmore
13 Richardson, and Councilmember Harrity.

14 Please consider championing
15 pre-K in this year's budget by expanding
16 Philadelphia pre-K by 250 seats. Pre-K
17 is one way to make sure kids are on the
18 right track academically. My son was in
19 a childcare program in my neighborhood,
20 and during his last year in the program,
21 he focused expressly on school readiness.
22 Because of that, he was prepared for
23 kindergarten.

24 My son learned concepts that
25 helped with his social-emotional

1 5/16/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 development. He learned how to socialize
3 with other kids, and he learned routines.
4 All of the structures that helped him
5 succeed in kindergarten were in place in
6 a safe and supportive environment well
7 before he stepped into the kindergarten
8 classroom.

9 My son's father and I were not
10 early childhood educators. We were not
11 experts in child development. We only
12 knew that these early years are important
13 and that we didn't want our son to figure
14 everything out on that first day walking
15 in.

16 Also we worked full-time jobs,
17 paying our taxes here in Philadelphia.
18 Not having a preschool program meant less
19 peace of mind, more stress, and the
20 constant worry that we weren't giving our
21 best to Philadelphia.

22 I want to direct City Council's
23 attention to the paper in front of you
24 entitled Now is the Time. Research and
25 data backs my son's experience, and my

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2 son was more prepared for school because
3 he was in a preschool program. However,
4 the same cannot be said of kids across
5 Philadelphia. Seventy-two percent of
6 kids in District 8 and 68 percent of kids
7 across the City are failing the 3rd grade
8 PSSA. One way to bring this -- Council,
9 I ask for 30 extra seconds -- bring this
10 percentage down is to expand pre-K in the
11 City so that kids can receive the same
12 support that my son received.

13 Councilmember Bass, Council
14 President Johnson, Councilmember
15 Phillips, and Gilmore Richardson and
16 Councilmember Harrity, please continue
17 being champions for PHL pre-K. I'm here
18 today standing with all parents of
19 Philadelphia. Expand PHL pre-K by 250
20 seats to give every family in
21 Philadelphia a fighting chance to live
22 and work in the City.

23 Thank you.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

25 Thank you.

1 5/16/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 - - -

3 (Applause.)

4 - - -

5 CHIEF CLERK: Kate Perez.

6 Can Madison Gray and Steven

7 Kohalml also make their way to the

8 podium.

9 (Witness approached podium.)

10 MS. PEREZ: As I said last
11 week, I fully support the knowledge of
12 how to file taxes under 240087-A. I took
13 it a step further that we should know
14 where our taxes are going. As a city, we
15 should question why 23 million of our
16 federal tax dollars go straight to a
17 foreign military.

18 According to Biden's National
19 Security Memorandum 20, the State
20 Department is required to complete a
21 report on Israel's use of weapons in
22 2023, which is already past due, meaning
23 we have no idea where 300 billion of our
24 tax dollars was spent on.

25 Under Bill 240087-A, the

1 5/16/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 Department of Revenue would provide
3 information publicly regarding no cost
4 tax services provided by the City and
5 other legal aid services. I'm wondering
6 if any anti-war tax workshops will be
7 illustrated in these announcements, the
8 kinds that teach people how to withhold
9 their federal taxes in protest of our
10 taxes directly funding Israel's bombing
11 of Palestine, Syria, Yemen, and Lebanon.
12 This past Tuesday was the 76th
13 anniversary of the Nakba, marking
14 May 15th, 1948 as the day Israel forced
15 the colonization of 78 Palestinians'
16 homelands and mass ethnic cleansing of
17 80 percent of their people. Biden
18 celebrated this by introducing an aid
19 package of \$700 million for tank
20 ammunition, 500 million for tactical
21 vehicles, and \$60 million in mortar
22 rounds to ensure the completion of
23 Israel's colonial project. This is in
24 the name of self-defense against a
25 country that has no Army, no Navy, no Air

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2 Force, and half the population is made up
3 of children. This comes after Biden said
4 he would end all armed sales to Israel if
5 they invaded the last safe zone of Rafah,
6 which they did on May 6th, and have
7 displaced more than 600,000 civilians,
8 attacked three medical complexes and six
9 UN schools in defiance of the Geneva
10 conventions. The average age of a martyr
11 in Gaza is five years old.

12 Philadelphia political prisoner
13 Mumia Abu-Jamal recently said if
14 80 percent of your targets are not
15 members of Hamas, then either you don't
16 know how to shoot or you intend to hit
17 what you hit.

18 CNN just released a report on
19 the Palestinian hostages that are being
20 tortured, starved, beaten, strapped to
21 beds wearing diapers and having forced
22 amputations following days of being
23 zip-tied together.

24 Israel is the only country that
25 tried children in military court, with

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2 the youngest hostage in November coming
3 home with half a skull at 13 years old.

4 This is our sister city. We
5 have to condemn the war bonds, condemn
6 our taxes, condemn the weapon
7 manufacturers in our city, shut down
8 ghost robotics, halt the armed sales to
9 Israel, condemn our ports being used to
10 ship missiles, cut the sister city ties,
11 call for ceasefire.

12 - - -

13 (Applause.)

14 - - -

15 CHIEF CLERK: Madison Gray.

16 Can Steve Kohalmi, Marlene
17 Robinson, and Leslie Wolff also make
18 their way to the podium.

19 (Witness approached podium.)

20 MS. GRAY: Hi. My name is
21 Madison Gray. I'm an attorney and
22 Independence Fellow at the Public
23 Interest Law Center, and we represent the
24 Brith Sholom Tenants Council. I'm here
25 in support of the resolutions and

1 5/16/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 legislation introduced by Councilman
3 Jones and because the City can and must
4 save Brith Sholom House.

5 The infrastructure and
6 essential systems of the building have
7 been degraded by years of neglect by the
8 building's owner, and it is likely that
9 without City intervention, the conditions
10 will become increasingly hazardous.

11 At this point, L&I -- at some
12 point, L&I may have no choice but to
13 order the tenants to vacate and make the
14 elderly residents homeless. The majority
15 of the tenants have nowhere else to go.

16 This may sound bleak, but
17 fortunately it does not have to be this
18 way if we put to use the laws City
19 Council passed in 2021 for this exact
20 situation, the Necessary Urgent Repair
21 Program. At Brith Sholom, private actors
22 have ignored court orders directing them
23 to repair hazardous conditions, and now
24 they are using those very conditions as a
25 rationale to push tenants out of the

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2 building. But with this law, L&I can be
3 the circuit breaker by using the power
4 this Council provided it to make the
5 building safe and remove the immediate
6 threat of displacement. After making the
7 repairs, L&I can recover the funds used
8 through a priority lien on the property.
9 This takes the will and it takes the
10 funding, which we have not seen so far.

11 But making the repairs is not
12 enough. Year after year, we've watched
13 as affordable housing is sold off,
14 buildings like Penn Wynne, University
15 City Townhomes. Without City
16 intervention, that is the future here,
17 high-priced condos coming in and the
18 seniors of our City scattered to the
19 winds.

20 It doesn't have to be this way.
21 PHA has said it's ready to work with the
22 City to get this property into its hands
23 so that Brith Sholom can stay permanent
24 affordable housing for seniors. That
25 will take work across developments and a

1 5/16/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 commitment to resources from our city and
3 state, but it is worth every penny.

4 The hundreds of affordable
5 units that we will lose at Brith Sholom
6 are the tip of the iceberg of a crisis
7 that will see us potentially lose
8 thousands of affordable housing units in
9 the next decade. This can be a model.

10 Thank you.

11 - - -

12 (Applause.)

13 - - -

14 CHIEF CLERK: Steven Kohalmi.
15 (Witness approached podium.)

16 MR. KOHALMI: Ladies and
17 gentlemen, I should have gone last.
18 Everything that the young lady said. And
19 I would like to thank Councilman Jones
20 who spoke for us on Tuesday, and my
21 understanding is that he's been extremely
22 supportive, so I'm extremely grateful for
23 that.

24 I'm also grateful for this
25 opportunity to address everyone here.

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2 Thank you.

3 What can I say? You know, I've
4 been homeless and I went through the
5 shelter system here in Philadelphia. So
6 if I get thrown out of my home, I can go
7 back to the shelters. I know I'll
8 survive. I survived it already once
9 before. And the last time I looked,
10 Philadelphia was like number six in the
11 nation for their shelters taking care of
12 the homeless. So you guys all should be
13 proud of that. You're doing a really
14 nice job. I guess you could do better,
15 but, hey, what the hell. You know, you
16 take what you get.

17 If you look around, there
18 aren't a whole lot of homeless people out
19 there, you know. I mean, I saw somebody
20 sleeping on a SEPTA bench yesterday, and
21 there is one guy that I run into, his
22 name is Steve also. It's the only reason
23 why I remember his name. And he likes to
24 hang out in front of the Wawa by
25 Independence Hall, and he's a really nice

1 5/16/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 guy.

3 I got to hurry up.

4 Anyway, the bottom line here
5 is, I can survive the shelter system
6 because I've done it, but there's a lot
7 of other people, my neighbors, they're
8 not going to do so well. So pretty
9 please with sugar on top, please help us,
10 whatever you can do. I would follow
11 Councilman Jones. I think he's a good
12 guy. I don't know who else is involved.

13 So thank you, sir.

14 Thank you very much for the
15 opportunity.

16 - - -

17 (Applause.)

18 - - -

19 CHIEF CLERK: Marlene Robinson,
20 then Leslie Wolff and Marguerite Byrd.

21 (Witness approached podium.)

22 MS. ROBINSON: Good morning.
23 My name is Marlene Robinson and I am a
24 resident of Brith Sholom.

25 Being a mother, grandmother,

1 5/16/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 and great-grandmother -- first I wanted
3 to congratulate our resident, our -- no.
4 I wanted to -- no. The young man who
5 received his scholarship. I wanted to
6 recognize him. I don't know if he's
7 still here, but I wanted to recognize him
8 today.

9 - - -

10 (Applause.)

11 - - -

12 MS. ROBINSON: And congratulate
13 him, knowing that -- and what he said,
14 his mother got him to where he is. Well,
15 I want to let him know, don't let your
16 mother become a senior citizen in
17 Philadelphia. Don't let your mother
18 become a senior in Philadelphia. Go to
19 Yale, but don't let your mom become a
20 senior here in Philadelphia, because it's
21 deplorable the way you want to treat us
22 here at Brith Sholom. It's just
23 unimaginable, unimaginable.

24 I had a script, but I can't go
25 through the script. You need to come see

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2 us. You have a wealth of education. I
3 hear the people talking about the
4 schools, the early education. You have
5 young kids come and talk to any of the
6 people at Brith Sholom and you have your
7 history right there. They'll come
8 walking out of Brith Sholom with
9 knowledge, but you're trying to stifle
10 us. We can't even sit in a communal area
11 and just talk amongst ourselves. You
12 can't -- it's just so -- it's terrible.
13 It's terrible.

14 Help us, see us. Come and see
15 us. Get some knowledge from the older
16 people. I look around here and I see
17 some of you aren't going to have to go
18 through this problem because you're not
19 going to be blessed to be 75, 85, and 95
20 the way the people at Brith Sholom are,
21 and 97.

22 - - -

23 (Applause.)

24 - - -

25 MS. ROBINSON: Is that a

1 5/16/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 blessing that you're not going to be able
3 to see this age?

4 Help us. Come to us. Keep us
5 open. We need to stay open. We are a
6 knowledge of education for the younger
7 people. There's so many things we can
8 tell you. So many people here, I know so
9 many people of you don't know what good
10 trouble is. You don't know what it is.
11 Google it. You need to know. You need
12 to know who said that.

13 Thank you very much.

14 - - -

15 (Applause.)

16 - - -

17 CHIEF CLERK: Leslie Wolff,
18 Marguerite Byrd, and John Hogan.

19 (Witness approached podium.)

20 MR. WOLFF: My name is Leslie
21 Wolff and I made a statement the other
22 day. I'm 85, and I'd like to thrive.
23 And I've been a marketing consultant, and
24 there's a client of mine here named Joe
25 Frazier who lived in the City, and Joe

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2 had a phrase, there is no right way to do
3 wrong, there's no wrong way to do right,
4 and it's time management understood that,
5 to do the right thing for the right
6 people for the right reason, and then
7 there would be no problem.

8 That's it.

9 - - -

10 (Applause.)

11 - - -

12 CHIEF CLERK: Marguerite Byrd,
13 John Hogan, and Matteo Hintz.

14 (Witness approached podium.)

15 MS. BYRD: Good morning. First
16 of all, I want to thank you for allowing
17 us to come to talk about our plight at
18 Brith Sholom.

19 I used to work at a prison, San
20 Quentin Prison. I lived there, worked
21 there, and I raised two children there.
22 And I used to wonder why I didn't feel
23 anything because these men have had their
24 rights and freedom taken away, and I
25 think it's because I wasn't a prisoner.

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2 I was just an employee. I could still
3 come and go.

4 Right now I'm a prisoner. I'm
5 a prisoner at Brith Sholom. Okay? Even
6 though I can come and go, I'm still a
7 prisoner. Like Marlene said, we can't
8 even sit in the lobby and converse with
9 our neighbors. We've had privileges
10 taken away from us. All the doors are
11 locked.

12 There's a push pad on the
13 mailroom door. We used to be able to go
14 in any time we wanted to pick up our
15 mail. Now you can't do it. You have to
16 pick it up between 9:00 and 5:00. If I
17 worked every day and I had to leave
18 before 9 o'clock and I didn't get home
19 until after 5:00, I wouldn't be able to
20 get my mail. And if I worked on the
21 weekends, same thing. So when am I
22 supposed to pick up my mail?

23 We had a good time Fridays. We
24 had the oldies but goodies night, and we
25 would go in and dance, another form of

1 5/16/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 communication, another form of
3 socializing. It's been taken away from
4 us because the doors are locked.

5 Our wonderful Ms. Grace, she's
6 one of the residents, she's 97, Ms. Grace
7 is sick. Her doctor told her whatever
8 she's doing, keep on doing it, and
9 Ms. Grace was dancing. She doesn't dance
10 anymore because it's locked up. Okay?

11 The laundry room, I'm fortunate
12 that I can still drive and I have a car.
13 I take my laundry out. I don't go
14 downstairs anymore to the laundry room.
15 The pipes burst. It gets flooded down
16 there. There's mice all over the
17 building, and the washers break down, the
18 dryers break down. So when are the
19 people supposed to do their laundry?
20 Plus there's a time limit on that. You
21 can only do that between 9:00 and 5:00.
22 After 5 o'clock, they have fixed it so
23 the elevator won't even go down to the
24 basement. Okay?

25 Ladies and gentlemen, we are

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2 your precious commodity, seniors. We are
3 your precious commodity.

4 - - -

5 (Applause.)

6 - - -

7 MS. BYRD: We voted you in. We
8 go to the polls. And it's not to say
9 other people didn't vote you in, but
10 we're your precious commodity, because
11 we're going to make sure that we vote,
12 because that's a privilege to be able to
13 do that.

14 So I'd appreciate it if some of
15 you or all of you or whoever would come
16 to Brith Sholom to help us out, because
17 we do not want to lose our housing.

18 - - -

19 (Applause.)

20 - - -

21 MS. BYRD: And before I finish,
22 I want to give the 19th District kudos.
23 They're always at Brith Sholom because of
24 BS that goes on in the building. I want
25 to thank those men and women for coming.

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2 They're there at least two, three, maybe
3 four times a week. That shouldn't be.
4 And I'm fortunate that I don't see police
5 cars riding in our neighborhood. I live
6 in Wynnefield Heights. The police
7 barracks are right on Belmont Avenue. I
8 don't even see them. So I'm going to
9 assume that I live in a safe
10 neighborhood. Okay? I want it to stay
11 that way, please.

12 - - -

13 (Applause.)

14 - - -

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
16 Chair recognizes Councilman Jones.

17 COUNCILMEMBER JONES: Thank
18 you, Mr. President. I'll be brief.

19 You see the residents that have
20 come out here today, some of them
21 75 years old, some of them with
22 disabilities. Some of them are veterans.
23 Many of them are good voters.

24 Let me say this: They are our
25 Gray Panther activists. But Brith Sholom

1 5/16/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 is not alone. This is the tip of the
3 iceberg, that there are many facilities
4 that started out under a HUD contract
5 that had ceilings on rents.

6 Thank God for Jamie Gauthier,
7 who has been through this, was trying to
8 coach me through it, but this is going to
9 be coming to a neighborhood near you, and
10 what will happen is that we need to have
11 in place L&I's ability to come make
12 repairs, because what happened was the
13 owners literally just threw the keys and
14 said, that's y'all problem, after taking
15 out exorbitant loans and not doing
16 repairs. They have begun the process of
17 walking away. This is everywhere from
18 Center City to Wynnefield Heights.

19 And so as a municipality, I
20 want to thank the Mayor for pulling
21 together a team to be able to address
22 this, because we need to create a
23 blueprint on how to do it in South
24 Philadelphia, Germantown, Frankford,
25 Northeast, because it's coming.

1 5/16/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 And so understand this part:

3 There's a village in Italy where people
4 live longer than anywhere on earth, and
5 scientists and anthropologists wanted to
6 know why. They said is it the water? Is
7 it the food? No. It is the fact that
8 this village values its seniors and they
9 treat them as valuable members of the
10 community, so they want to live longer.

11 When you displace them, it's
12 not just finding them new bricks. It's
13 "I know on the second floor we do the
14 pinochle party," "I know on the fifth
15 floor I get my hair done," and "Ms. Smith
16 over on the ninth floor makes a mean
17 fried chicken on Fridays." These are
18 familiar things that make your life worth
19 living.

20 So when you displace them, you
21 shorten their life. So they're fighting
22 life and death.

23 So I want to thank my
24 colleagues, because none of this gets
25 done alone. You know, this ain't your

1 5/16/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 first time up, Brith Sholom, Madam
3 Leader, and I want to bring my at-larges
4 to come see what they're talking about,
5 see what they're talking about.

6 - - -

7 (Applause.)

8 - - -

9 COUNCILMEMBER JONES: Thank
10 you, Mr. President.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
12 Thank you.

13 Council will be at ease for a
14 second.

15 The Chair recognizes
16 Councilwoman Jamie Gauthier.

17 COUNCILMEMBER GAUTHIER: Thank
18 you, Council President. Twenty seconds.

19 I just wanted to acknowledge
20 Councilmember Curtis Jones and his
21 constituents and their righteous fight
22 for housing. And I also wanted to say
23 that thanks to this Council, we did pass
24 First Right of Refusal about a year ago.
25 So that gives the City and affordable

1 5/16/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 housing providers the right to purchase
3 these critical affordable housing units,
4 but, but there needs to be funding to do
5 that. There needs to be funding to do
6 that for Brith Sholom. There needs to be
7 funding to do that for the --

8 (Audience members yelling out.)

9 COUNCILMEMBER GAUTHIER: Right.

10 There needs to be funding to do
11 that for the University City Townhomes
12 site. And it's this City's
13 responsibility to ensure that families
14 are not being kicked out on the streets,
15 and I hope that we show up that way.

16 - - -

17 (Applause.)

18 - - -

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

20 Will the Clerk call the next person for
21 public comment.

22 CHIEF CLERK: John Hogan.

23 Can Matteo Hintz and Sam Samore
24 also make their way to the podium.

25 (Witness approached podium.)

1 5/16/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 MR. HOGAN: Good morning,

3 Council. My name is --

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

5 Good morning.

6 MR. HOGAN: -- John Hogan. I
7 live in East Mount Airy. I'm a recently
8 retired member of AFSCME Local 590, which
9 represents the Penn Library's support
10 staff, has in fact represented them since
11 1969, and I'm here to speak in support of
12 No. 240450.

13 In our years, we have
14 negotiated dozens of contracts with the
15 University of Pennsylvania. We have
16 always tried to share our wisdom and
17 experience in collective bargaining with
18 successive Penn administrations.
19 Apparently it's not helping, so we
20 welcome the efforts of our younger
21 brothers and sisters in teaching Penn
22 lessons about how they treat their
23 workforce.

24 We also welcome the support of
25 Council. Thank you, Councilmember

1 5/16/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 O'Rourke, for bringing this in. Thank
3 you all of Council, and let's make sure
4 all of Philly is a union town, all of
5 Philly.

6 Thank you.

7 - - -

8 (Applause.)

9 - - -

10 CHIEF CLERK: Matteo Hintz, Sam
11 Samore, and Kierra Felton.

12 (Witness approached podium.)

13 MR. HINTZ: Hi. I'm Matteo. I
14 am the Chapter Chair for Penn Museum
15 Workers United, AFSCME District Council
16 47, Local 397.

17 I want to thank Councilmember
18 O'Rourke and all the sponsors of
19 Resolution 240450 for having our backs.
20 It is such a privilege to have you on our
21 side.

22 As the largest employer of the
23 City of Philadelphia, the University of
24 Pennsylvania has a responsibility to
25 participate in good faith as its

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2 employees and community members fight for
3 their democratic right to organize and
4 bargain for fair pay and working
5 conditions.

6 I think that the sheer number
7 of us organizing over the past couple of
8 years should be a testament to how
9 egregious the University's behavior
10 really is. They tried to convince us
11 that we're not deserving of liveable
12 wages and robust protections on the job.
13 Many of us struggle to get by while the
14 University hoards the wealth that it
15 bleeds from this city. This resolution
16 holds their feet to the fire, and it
17 tells them that the City does not condone
18 this behavior.

19 Together, we are not only
20 changing the way that the University
21 operates, but we're changing the culture
22 on campus. Philly is a union town, and
23 if the University wants to stay in all of
24 our good graces, they need to reckon with
25 that.

1 5/16/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Thank you.

3 - - -

4 (Applause.)

5 - - -

6 (Witness approached podium.)

7 MR. SAMORE: Hello, City
8 Council. My name is Sam Samore. I'm a
9 Ph.D. student in the English department
10 at Penn. I'm an instructor at Penn, and
11 I'm a proud member of GETUP-UAW, the
12 newly ratified graduate student worker
13 union at Penn.

14 So we're a union of grad
15 students at Penn who do teaching and
16 research work for the University. GETUP
17 won our recent union election in a
18 landslide victory with 95 percent of the
19 votes cast in favor of forming a union.
20 That huge margin is a sign. Graduate
21 workers, along with all kinds of
22 University employees at Penn and at other
23 universities, want to claim our right to
24 collective bargaining, but in order to
25 win the kinds of truly transformative

1 5/16/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 contracts that our university employees
3 deserve, we need your help. That is why
4 I urge you to pass Resolution 240450, and
5 thanks to Councilmember O'Rourke for
6 introducing this resolution.

7 As the resolution states,
8 graduate workers at Penn have been trying
9 to unionize for about 20 years, with two
10 previous campaigns that did not
11 ultimately succeed. Those two campaigns
12 failed in large part because of the lack
13 of political support for the rights of
14 graduate workers to form a union.

15 In both 2003 and 2017, graduate
16 workers at Penn tried to unionize, but
17 the University administration
18 collaborated with anti-labor NLRB members
19 appointed by Presidents Bush and Trump to
20 quash those efforts. This time, despite
21 their attempts to delay our election and
22 exclude workers from our bargaining unit,
23 Penn couldn't stop us.

24 But our fight is only just
25 beginning. It's obvious based on the

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2 Penn administration's behavior during
3 recent or ongoing contract negotiations
4 with the Museum workers and the
5 residential advisors and other unions,
6 that if they are left to their own
7 devices, they will do everything they can
8 to delay negotiations and prevent change
9 to the status quo.

10 We need you to make it clear to
11 the Penn administration that the kind of
12 behavior they've been exhibiting won't be
13 tolerated from Philadelphia's largest
14 employer.

15 Thanks for your time.

16 - - -

17 (Applause.)

18 - - -

19 CHIEF CLERK: Kierra Felton,
20 Shedrick Felton, and Lynn Landes.

21 (Witness approached podium.)

22 MS. FELTON: Greetings,
23 honorable members of the Philadelphia
24 City Council. My name is Kierra Felton
25 and I stand before you today with a heart

1 5/16/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 full of gratitude, admiration as I
3 advocate for the renaming of the street
4 to honor my grandmother, the incomparable
5 Lana Felton Ghee.

6 - - -

7 (Applause.)

8 - - -

9 MS. FELTON: A beacon of
10 strength, resilience, and a visionary
11 leadership in the heart of our beloved
12 city, Resolution 240444.

13 Lana Felton Ghee's legacy is
14 woven into the very fabric of our city, a
15 testament to her unparalleled
16 contributions as a business icon and
17 trailblazer in our political landscape.

18 Her unwavering commitment to
19 empowering communities and driving
20 economic growth has transformed
21 Philadelphia into the beacon of
22 opportunity for all of its residents.

23 Growing up, my grandmother
24 would have me sit in her corner office of
25 the Wanamaker Building doing my homework

1 5/16/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 and even dragged me along to meetings at
3 City Hall. As she drove me to school at
4 my beloved Girard Academic Music Program,
5 I would hear her take phone meetings that
6 left an indelible implant on my career
7 today. I knew she was calling the shots,
8 but at the time, I didn't comprehend the
9 magnitude of her impact.

10 Just this past December, across
11 the hall we held a celebration for the
12 10th anniversary honoring the life and
13 legacy of Lana Felton Ghee. Some of
14 Philadelphia's political leaders and
15 close family members attended the
16 intimate celebration filled with
17 gratitude and fond memories of her reign.
18 The guest speaker list included
19 Councilmember Cindy Bass, City
20 Councilmember Jim Harrity, former City
21 Councilmember Jannie Blackwell, State Rep
22 Darisha Parker, State Rep Stephen Kinsey,
23 and State Senator Sharif Street.

24 Some of the powerful quotes
25 from that day are: I was amazed to find

1 5/16/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 out that in the early '70s she helped an
3 icon get elected, and that was the late
4 Honorable David P. Henderson, Jr., whose
5 seat I sit in today. So we're talking
6 about back in the '70s this lady was out
7 there making sure that people who were
8 doing great things had the opportunity to
9 continue on. State Rep Stephen Kinsey.

10 City Councilmember Jim Harrity
11 almost shed a tear sharing stories of how
12 she helped donate to his wife's campaign
13 for Traffic Court, graciously remembering
14 her saying, Jimmy, I'm going to take care
15 of her, just like I take care of you.
16 I'm calling all of my people and telling
17 them to support your wife.

18 Senator Sharif Street shared,
19 the idea that we have a Black woman Mayor
20 today who had a campaign run by another
21 Black woman, well, the first woman to run
22 a Mayoral campaign in Philadelphia was
23 Lana Felton Ghee. As he explained the
24 lineage of her impacts going beyond her
25 era as the campaign leader for Mayor John

1 5/16/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 F. Street, he continued, you don't get
3 former Council President Darrell Clarke.
4 He never hires Donna Bullock, who became
5 the Chair of Pennsylvania Legislative
6 Black Caucus. You probably wouldn't have
7 a Senator Sharif Street. If you don't
8 have a Senator Sharif Street, I don't
9 hire Jimmy, and you probably don't have
10 Councilmember Jim Harrity.

11 I can go on and on. If you go
12 back to the first Black Mayor, Wilson
13 Goode, there are so many ripples. Each
14 of us is like a pebble thrown in the pond
15 and the ripples go on long after you can
16 no longer see us.

17 I save this metaphor for very
18 few people, but Lana Felton Ghee was a
19 boulder thrown in the ocean, and the
20 waves impacted all of our world. It is
21 fitting that in this place where she had
22 such a huge impact, City Hall, we are
23 celebrating her legacy, because we're
24 still basking in her love and warmth and
25 we're still feeling the effects of the

1 5/16/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 waves from the ripples of her life.

3 There were so many profound
4 things shared. State Rep Darisha Parker
5 moved the room with resounding memories
6 of how Lana Felton Ghee raised a lot of
7 funding for a City program during her
8 campaign. However, I'll share one last
9 quote from Councilmember Cindy Bass. She
10 passionately shared, here was this woman
11 who was in a male-dominated business who
12 was a powerhouse. She wasn't a
13 powerhouse who kept her power and
14 authority to herself. She made sure to
15 impart them particularly on young women
16 like myself. We were the kids in the
17 room and she was the mom in the room.
18 You had someone who was supporting you,
19 and like I mentioned, this was a
20 male-dominated business and often Lana
21 Felton Ghee was the only woman in the
22 room.

23 I'll move on to my final
24 paragraph. But thank you, Councilmember.

25 The City of Philadelphia as we

1 5/16/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 know it today would not be without the
3 work of Lana Felton Ghee. The
4 resolutions highlight her
5 accomplishments, but to revel at a few
6 again, she was the first Black woman to
7 run a Mayoral campaign for none other
8 than our own Mayor John Street. She was
9 instrumental in the campaigns of Mayor
10 Wilson Goode, Governor Ed Rendell, and
11 President Al Gore. She created the
12 Welcome America 4th of July Celebration,
13 which laid the foundation for
14 Philadelphia to have festivals in the
15 same spot, such as Made in America, which
16 brings tremendous economic opportunities
17 to our city.
18 She did everything she could to
19 provide productive opportunities to the
20 youth of Philadelphia, such as the Year
21 of the Child celebration, creating the
22 citywide after-school program, and
23 raising millions of dollars for my
24 school, GAMP. She even had me and my
25 cousins interning in City Council where I

1 5/16/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 interned under Councilmember Maria
3 Quinones-Sanchez from 10th through 12th
4 grade. She wanted to make it a program
5 for the entire City for -- I mean, make
6 it a program in the City with more
7 students of Philadelphia, but at that
8 time, her Lou Gehrig's disease had begun
9 to take its toll. She was the co-owner
10 of the hat shop at 29th and Girard, a
11 beloved wife, mom, grandmother, family
12 member, community leader, and so much
13 more.

14 As we honor her legacy, it
15 would be our top honor to rename 29th and
16 Girard to Lana Felton Ghee Way.

17 - - -

18 (Applause.)

19 - - -

20 CHIEF CLERK: Shedrick Felton,
21 Lynn Landes, and then Naderah Griffin.

22 (Witness approached podium.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

24 Council will be ease.

25 The Chair recognizes two

1 5/16/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 acknowledgments, first Councilmember

3 Cindy Bass.

4 COUNCILMEMBER BASS: Thank you,
5 Mr. President. I just really wanted to
6 thank Lana Felton Ghee's granddaughter
7 for being here. I see her son Chief is
8 here as well and her family. And as I
9 was listening to the remarks, it reminded
10 me of how much Lana Felton Ghee did for
11 this city. But I remember her. I
12 remember she was a powerhouse. She was a
13 woman who was in control, in charge, and
14 often she was, as the granddaughter just
15 said, she was often the only woman in the
16 room as significant political decisions
17 were being made here in the City of
18 Philadelphia.

19 So I know she's smiling down on
20 all of us and, listen, we keep her family
21 in our prayers, and we thank you, thank
22 you for your continued service and
23 dedication.

24 And to Chief, I see he's up
25 there doing something. I don't know.

1 5/16/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Preparing for his speech.

3 But thank you, Mr. President,
4 and, most importantly, thank you to the
5 family for being here as we recognize
6 Lana Felton Ghee. She was something
7 special.

8 Thank you.

9 - - -

10 (Applause.)

11 - - -

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

13 You're welcome.

14 The Chair recognizes
15 Councilmember Jamie Gauthier.

16 COUNCILMEMBER GAUTHIER: Thank
17 you, Council President. I need to leave
18 to take care of official Council business
19 and I request to be recorded as aye on
20 all bills and resolutions.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

22 Leave is granted.

23 Will the Chief Clerk please
24 call the next person for public comment.

25 CHIEF CLERK: Shedrick Felton,

1 5/16/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 then Lynn Landes and Naderah Griffin.

3 MR. FELTON: Hello. Good

4 afternoon, everyone.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

6 Chief.

7 MR. FELTON: My good friend,

8 they couldn't have chose a better

9 President, brother. I'm so proud of you.

10 I'm so proud of this whole Council.

11 My name is Shedrick Felton.

12 They call me Chief. I'm Lana's son, her

13 youngest son. And this is my sister,

14 beautiful sister, Petra Felton here.

15 I used to think that I was

16 getting punished, because I just wanted

17 to go play basketball, play football, do

18 the things that young men do, and she was

19 dragged and I was corralled to be born as

20 a Philadelphia citizen and a grassroot

21 legend in Philadelphia.

22 I worked on Curtis's campaign.

23 I worked with Cindy on her campaign. I

24 helped Kenyatta on his campaign. I can

25 go around the room. I just helped

1 5/16/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Mr. Phillips, the beautiful Ms. Gauthier.

3 So I worked from being Lana's
4 son to Philadelphia's first son, and I'll
5 tell you a few stories. I was a Tindley
6 Temple baby. My friends were Birdie
7 Africa, John Africa, Milton, Sr. -- I
8 mean Jr., TomTom, Jr., and when it came
9 to organizing, coordinating, and
10 strategizing, it was done at Tindley
11 Temple. Georgie Woods, David Richardson,
12 Curtis was a young man at that time,
13 grassroot, and I see his growth and
14 development.

15 I'm so proud of you, Curtis. I
16 am, brother. You overcame a whole bunch,
17 and you deserve to be right here where
18 you are.

19 I'm going to get right to the
20 point. My niece told me to get right to
21 the point. We were just blessed to be
22 embraced with the 29th Street Lana Felton
23 Ghee Way, which we wanted to do on her
24 10th anniversary of death, and we needed
25 100 signatures. So they said we need 100

1 5/16/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 signatures in two days. So I thought I
3 was going to go get a team and get these
4 100 signatures, take three people out
5 with me. I went right to 29th and
6 Girard. I went store to store from 29th
7 to 27th, and within two hours, I had 100
8 signatures from that community, and it's
9 just elating me. I was just elated like
10 that these people still remember mom and
11 the things that Lana done.

12 There was a lady that owned a
13 hat store. Her name was Miss Amy, and
14 there was hundreds of people up to bid
15 for that hat store, and Miss Amy said, I
16 want Lana to have that store, because she
17 embraced community. She embraced
18 business. She was one of the starters
19 with Ducky Birts and a couple other
20 people that started UBBA, United Black
21 Business Association.

22 So when you called on Lana, you
23 knew the job was going to get done.
24 There's times this Council was head to
25 head and they had to come to a

1 5/16/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 resolution. They said, we need to call
3 Lana. And you will go to her office and
4 she'll say, Curtis, carry my bag, and by
5 the time Curtis got to John Wanamaker
6 Building, he had some resolution.
7 Kenyatta when he was with David Fattah
8 and the House of Umoja.

9 So the great Lucien Blackwell,
10 my Godfather, David Richardson. I can go
11 on and on. I'm talking about Charlie Lou
12 (ph) Barris. I'm talking about the
13 Marshalls. I'm talking about the great
14 Roxanne Jones. I'm talking about we went
15 to Harrisburg, and we went room to room
16 and we got that welfare rights thing
17 coming. I'm talking about the charter
18 change. And from there, I was a Charlie
19 Bowser baby. And from there, I was a
20 1199C baby. So I was raised by the great
21 Henry Nicholases, the David Richardsons,
22 the Charlie Bowers, the Lucien
23 Blackwells, and I can go on and on, but
24 once we get the street and we can get
25 everybody to come out on June 8th, we're

1 5/16/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 going to put this program together, you
3 can look at the legacy or you can Google
4 the legacy of Lana Felton Ghee.

5 - - -

6 (Applause.)

7 - - -

8 MR. FELTON: Thank everyone for
9 your support, and I just love you all and
10 I love the City of Philadelphia.

11 And let me say my last thing.

12 I moved to Atlanta about two years --
13 about a year and a half ago, and I wanted
14 to get away from Philadelphia. I thought
15 I was done. And I looked at the news and
16 it said Black men -- it was a story about
17 Black men missing in their community and
18 in their children's lives. I got on the
19 next plane. I came back to Philly maybe
20 two days later, and I have never been
21 back to Atlanta since.

22 - - -

23 (Applause.)

24 - - -

25 MR. FELTON: Thank you all.

1 5/16/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 I'm a Philadelphian for life, and I'm
3 about -- any time you guys need me in any
4 kind of way, let me know, because you
5 know I'm outside.

6 - - -

7 (Applause.)

8 - - -

9 CHIEF CLERK: Lynn Landes.

10 (Witness approached podium.)

11 MS. LANDES: Good afternoon.

12 I'm Lynn Landes of
13 smallstreetsphilly.org.

14 This Bill 240220 is an
15 amendment to a zoning designation, and I
16 hope the affected residents were aware of
17 the change. It was an unpleasant
18 surprise in my neighborhood of Washington
19 Square West that we received a letter in
20 March from the Philadelphia Historical
21 Commission basically warning us that as
22 of their upcoming June 14th meeting, they
23 were going to designate us or may
24 designate us a historic district, which
25 means that almost everything we may want

1 5/16/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 to change with the exterior of our houses
3 will need their approval.

4 Make no mistake, many of us
5 support a ban on the destruction of
6 historic buildings and treasures pending
7 the Commission's approval, but it does
8 not mean that we support giving the
9 Historical Commission almost total
10 control over the exterior of our homes.

11 Did you know that if your house
12 is historically designated and you want
13 to change the color of your brick house,
14 the Historical Commission will only
15 approve the color of red brick. Or if
16 you want an additional or enlarged
17 windows, chances are the Historical
18 Commission will not approve that if they
19 can be seen from the street.

20 Why weren't residents notified
21 three years ago of these changes?

22 Also, when these talks first
23 commenced with Washington West Civic
24 Association, which only represents 400
25 residents, but the main problem with the

1 5/16/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 Historical Commission is, as with City
3 Council, the Commission does not allow
4 public comments on non-agenda items and,
5 therefore, has shielded itself from
6 public criticism by censoring the public.
7 This is in violation of the First
8 Amendment and the Pennsylvania Sunshine
9 Act and should be finally rectified.

10 Thank you.

11 - - -

12 (Applause.)

13 - - -

14 CHIEF CLERK: Naderah Griffin.
15 (Witnesses approached podium.)

16 MS. GRIFFIN: Good morning,
17 Councilmen and women. Thank you for
18 allowing me to speak, and thank you for
19 the work that you all are doing for the
20 communities of Philadelphia.

21 My name is Naderah Griffin. I
22 am the Philadelphia Community Ambassador
23 for all ten councilmanic districts. I'm
24 speaking on behalf of the Resolution
25 240446. I am in support of the

1 5/16/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 resolution.

3 Also, on behalf of the
4 community, we are asking that we are
5 provided a parcel of land, a fee simple
6 parcel of land, where I can conduct
7 mental health treatment. We need more
8 facilities, more small -- we need more
9 small safe havens, mental health safe
10 havens.

11 I have community members
12 reaching out for my expertise, and I'm
13 providing free service to our community
14 members, behavioral and mental health
15 treatment. Because of the poverty that
16 we're facing, because of regentrification
17 here in Philadelphia, many members here
18 in Philadelphia are experiencing mental
19 health issues, and it's causing them to
20 be homicidal, suicidal, experience
21 homicidal and suicidal ideations,
22 attempts, and actual homicides and
23 suicides.

24 I'm asking Council, there's 17
25 of you, I know you all have some land.

1 5/16/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 We need for our community a piece of
3 parcel of land that's fee simple so I can
4 conduct these mental health therapies
5 free of service to the people who need it
6 so they can stop raping and killing,
7 robbing and stealing.

8 We need to bring back hope and
9 humanity to our communities. They're
10 dying. I'm born, raised, taught here in
11 Philadelphia, and I have never seen so
12 many people experience mental health
13 issues before, and it's because of the
14 poverty and the regentrification.

15 We need help, and I'm asking
16 you all, we prefer a piece of parcel of
17 land fee simple in the Second and the
18 Fifth Councilmanic District on Broad
19 Street so all ten districts can reach it
20 and it will be easy, accessible until we
21 can get a piece of parcel of land where
22 we can provide treatment in all ten
23 councilmanic districts.

24 We're asking you to provide
25 this service for us and the land

1 5/16/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 somewhere that I can provide treatment
3 now. We don't need it tomorrow. We
4 don't need it next year. All I'm asking
5 is to give me somewhere where I can be
6 safe instead of going to their homes.
7 And if you don't give me the land, I'm
8 still going to go to their homes, because
9 they're crying out for help.

10 We don't have enough doctors
11 and therapists to provide treatment, so I
12 have to provide this so it can bring them
13 a sense of sanity and calm.

14 Please do not cut that off,
15 because we have people speaking that was
16 not as relevant as this mental health and
17 saving lives. Stop it. We're talking
18 about lives here. We're talking about
19 saving lives. And we're all impacted by
20 some kind of trauma, whether it's past
21 trauma, future trauma or current trauma.

22 I'm impacted by trauma. My
23 parents are impacted by trauma. We have
24 lost three brothers and a sister to
25 violence, and this is why I come down

1 5/16/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 here every day. My parents have not been
3 able to grieve for the four children that
4 they've lost here on the streets of the
5 City of Philadelphia to gun violence, and
6 all of this stems from poverty and
7 regentrification.

8 And we want that lab too.

9 (All power to the people.)

10 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you.

11 (All power to the people.)

12 CHIEF CLERK: Ogbonna Hagins.

13 Can Dee Dukes and William

14 Hendricks also make their way to the
15 podium.

16 (Witness approached podium.)

17 MR. HAGINS: Good morning. The
18 people's chair recognizes me as the
19 unseated Council President, and as the
20 unseated President of Philadelphia City
21 Council, I support the renaming of the
22 2300 block of Oakdale Street to Jill
23 Scott Lane. I remember Jill Scott being
24 featured in my publication, Philly Word
25 Magazine, but I also remember her

1 5/16/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 rendition of the Star-Spangled Banner
3 recently where she basically indicated
4 how structurally racist this country is.

5 I'm a fourth-generation chattel
6 slavery survivor. I come to you today to
7 show my appreciation to Councilmember
8 Young for introducing this resolution.
9 In the spirit of the Civil Rights Act of
10 1866, the Thirteenth Amendment, I ask for
11 an expansion, however, of this resolution
12 to name June, I repeat, we want to name
13 June in association with this renaming,
14 we want June to be Structural Racist
15 Prevention Month, Structural Racism
16 Prevention Month, the month of June,
17 Juneteenth, the Thirteenth Amendment.

18 I submit this resolution as an
19 interpretive statement that Philadelphia
20 can and must implement immediate wealth
21 transfer policies and assume a leading
22 advocacy position to heal longstanding
23 injuries of its citizens whose ancestors
24 endured chattel slavery in Philadelphia
25 as far back as 1639.

1 5/16/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 So as your unseated Council
3 President, June, I resolve, we resolve
4 that June is Structural Racism Awareness
5 Month, and we're going to let
6 Philadelphia know exactly what structural
7 racism is, because the Roadmap to Safer
8 Communities said that the root cause of
9 gun violence is structural racism, and
10 the solution is large-scale investments
11 in the areas of crime, violence,
12 unemployment.

13 So if structural racism is the
14 root cause of gun violence, we have to be
15 aware of what structural racism is to
16 address it.

17 Thank you.

18 CHIEF CLERK: Dee Dukes,
19 William Hendricks, and Wick Savage and
20 Hilary Langer.

21 (Witness approached podium.)

22 MS. DUKES: Good afternoon,
23 Council President, Councilmembers, and to
24 everyone here. My name is Dee Dukes.
25 I'm a Wynnefield community leader. I'm

1 5/16/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 the President of the Wynnefield Community
3 Neighborhood Association. I'm also the
4 Vice Chair of the Philadelphia Crosstown
5 Coalition. So I represent a lot of
6 folks. Also sit on a Mastery Charter
7 School Board.

8 I'm here in support of
9 Councilmember Jones's bill -- I don't
10 have the number -- to support anything
11 that we can do to support Brith Sholom.

12 So being a community leader,
13 I've been to that building. Some of you
14 have not. So they're asking you to come.
15 I've been to that building, and very
16 recently I came with donations to try to
17 give to the residents there, and there
18 was no place to leave the donations.

19 These folks are our parents.
20 These are our elderly. My mother will be
21 80 years old this year. My grandmother,
22 God rest her soul, was 94.

23 I support seniors. I support
24 people. We have to give them the funding
25 that they need to be able to live. What

1 5/16/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 is happening at Brith Sholom is
3 disgraceful. If it was your parents, you
4 would not want this. You would not stand
5 by and allow this to happen.

6 So, respectfully, the tenants
7 are asking put Brith Sholom tenants in
8 the negotiation room. Respectfully,
9 Mayor Parker come and meet with the
10 tenants.

11 Number two, find the necessary
12 and urgent repairs that are needed. Our
13 homes need repairs, some of them, and
14 they need repairs to be able to live.
15 The disgracefulness that's happening in
16 that building is horrible.

17 And, lastly, allocate the funds
18 for PHA to buy Brith Sholom. Please
19 support these seniors. They need our
20 help.

21 Thank you.

22 - - -

23 (Applause.)

24 - - -

25 CHIEF CLERK: William

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2 Hendricks, Wick Savage, and Hilary

3 Langer.

4 (Witness approached podium.)

5 MR. HENDRICKS: William

6 Hendricks.

7 I didn't come here with a crowd

8 of people, nor did I come with a script.

9 I'm a radio personality.

10 Is this the mic right here?

11 Well, I'mma speak into it. Thank you,

12 sir.

13 I'm a radio personality and I'm

14 a senior citizen. I'm 73 years old.

15 Seventy-three years is a long, long time.

16 I've been in the music and radio business

17 for more than 54 years. Joe "Butterball"

18 Tamburro is my family. He's my mentor.

19 He trained me as a public servant. And

20 I'm not the only one.

21 WDAS is an institution for

22 public service in this community, because

23 WDAS has served this community for

24 75 years. I was there as Assistant

25 Program Director for 54. Joe

1 5/16/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 "Butterball" Tamburro was there for 50.

3 I don't know what I'm going to
4 say next, because usually when I speak, I
5 speak freestyle. I speak the truth. I'm
6 the most -- I'm one of the most honest
7 men that you'll ever meet. I do what I
8 say and I say what I'mma do. And I do
9 what God and Jesus tell me. God tells me
10 every day when I get up and in my sleep,
11 he say, Bill, go over here. Bill, go
12 over there. And I say, do I have to? He
13 said, don't question me, just keep on
14 going. And that's what I do.

15 The bill that I'm to speak on
16 is about street naming, and as I was
17 coming over here, I was thinking, because
18 I'm responsible for Joe Tamburro's
19 legacy. And so many radio personalities
20 from WDAS -- and I see the light on.
21 Could you please allow me another couple
22 seconds. I won't be long.

23 And there's been many WDAS
24 radio personalities who had street names
25 after them, but Joe "Butterball" Tamburro

1 5/16/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 hasn't.

3 I would like for you, City
4 Council, to consider naming a street
5 after Joe "Butterball" Tamburro, and I'll
6 tell you where and why. Edgley Road and
7 Belmont where WDAS building, half of it,
8 is still there. I'mma try and claim that
9 building and remodel it, because I'm
10 wealthy. I'm wealthy beyond your
11 imagination, beyond my imagination, and
12 I'mma tell you why I'm wealthy. Because
13 when you see me, I'm not an African
14 American. I'm not a Black man. I'm a
15 person of color. I'm a North American
16 Indian chief, and I say that proudly,
17 Cherokee, but I'm not the only one.
18 You're all kings and queens. This city
19 belongs to you. It don't belong to Billy
20 Penn.

21 The Mayor, she came to my house
22 one day on a Sunday. I was sitting by
23 the window and I saw when she walked up.

24 I'mma a wind up.

25 But anyway, the Mayor, she

1 5/16/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 walked up on my porch and I said, that's
3 Cherelle Parker. I ain't planning on
4 voting for her. So she knocked on the
5 door, and I answered it, and when she
6 spoke to me, I told her, I says, you know
7 what, ma'am, you're going to be the next
8 Mayor, because God chose you because
9 women are God's favorite beings. All of
10 you are queens. Dogs, cats are God's
11 favorite beings.

12 So in closing, I'mma say to
13 you, City Council, when you leave your
14 house every morning, think, say I'm going
15 to be the best public servant. Serve the
16 City of Philadelphia, because that's who
17 you are.

18 Thank you for your time.

19 - - -

20 (Applause.)

21 - - -

22 CHIEF CLERK: Wick Savage and
23 Hilary Langer.

24 (Witness approached podium.)

25 MR. SAVAGE: Good afternoon,

1 5/16/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 President of City Council and City
3 Councilmembers. I first want to thank
4 you, President of City Council, for being
5 in such a support of Prep Charter, along
6 with other Councilmembers in this body.

7 I'm here to vote yes for Bill
8 240185. That's the bill to regulate
9 hours along the Kensington Avenue
10 corridor. If we don't start as a city
11 taking care of the little things, the
12 little crimes, the big crimes will be at
13 your doorstep, as of this past Monday
14 with Council President Kenyatta Johnson,
15 three blocks away from his home. A man
16 working for a living had two young ladies
17 come in and murder him less than 300 feet
18 from a police station. It is a serious
19 matter to put this genie in check.

20 If you commit crimes in the
21 City of Philadelphia, the City of
22 Philadelphia, along with this Mayor that
23 is doing a great job, will use every tool
24 in its toolbox to apprehend you.
25 Councilman Michael Driscoll started with

1 5/16/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 the simple lawbreaking spinning in the
3 middle of intersections to pass a bill,
4 the simple bill of tenant windows, the
5 simple bill of plates being hidden by
6 some form of device.

7 You break a window, you get
8 punished. You commit a crime, you get
9 punished. You murder someone, we are
10 going to get you as the citizens of
11 Philadelphia.

12 Thank you.

13 - - -

14 (Applause.)

15 - - -

16 CHIEF CLERK: Hilary Langer.
17 (Witness approached podium.)

18 MR. LANGER: Good afternoon,
19 City Councilmembers. My name is Hilary
20 Langer and I'm here to provisionally
21 oppose Bill 240012, the rezoning of the
22 reservoir at Queen Lane and Henry.

23 I've been a resident of East
24 Falls since 1982. I'm Chair of the East
25 Falls Community Zoning Committee. I'm a

1 5/16/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 registered architect and have worked as a
3 lead project architect on very large
4 projects, many in excess of the size of
5 this reservoir.

6 As a community, we have been in
7 support of the rezoning to expedite the
8 funding approval, planning, and
9 reconstruction of the plan. The
10 understanding was, we were to be given a
11 binding commitment by the Water
12 Department to accompany our support. All
13 along we have wanted to be team players,
14 as we have developed the protections the
15 community has requested.

16 Instead, when time is running
17 out, our list of protections have been
18 reviewed over months and months, filtered
19 and then denied, while we have not been
20 in the room to negotiate those points.

21 We have requested four, five,
22 six, seven times include us in the room,
23 we want to meet, we want to get into the
24 weeds. If you got a question, we can
25 answer. We want to collaborate. That

1 5/16/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 has not happened.

3 So it's simple. This is all we
4 want. We want you to agree to those
5 protections -- I'm talking about the
6 Water Department now -- that have already
7 been provided and installed at a time
8 when the plant was zoned residentially.
9 We want to discuss further face-to-face
10 those protections we believe can be added
11 into the zoning bill.

12 We appreciate Councilman Jones
13 for getting the bill to this point, but
14 there's a couple of other things we'd
15 like to negotiate in that and we'd like a
16 face-to-face in order to do that.

17 We want to discuss face-to-face
18 your resistance to a master plan review.
19 There's four elements to the master plan.
20 There's two ponds, filtration,
21 sedimentation, some accessory uses. I
22 think my cat could master plan this.

23 We want to do this now, as your
24 month-long reviews have brought us to the
25 11th hour. We can do this next week. We

1 5/16/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 can meet next week. We can get this
3 done.

4 So we're requesting that the
5 bill is held until such time we can have
6 a reworded zoning bill that incorporates
7 negotiated simple protections, that we
8 have a signed binding agreement
9 commitment and agree to the review of a
10 simple master plan.

11 Thank you.

12 - - -

13 (Applause.)

14 - - -

15 CHIEF CLERK: Council
16 President, there are no other names for
17 public comment.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: We
19 will now consider the bills and
20 resolutions on Second Reading and Final
21 Passage Calendar.

22 Will the Clerk please read the
23 title of Resolution 240444.

24 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution also
25 naming the 2900 block of Girard Avenue as

1 5/16/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 "Lana Felton Ghee Way."

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
4 Chair recognizes Councilmember Young for
5 a motion regarding Resolution No. 240444.

6 COUNCILMEMBER YOUNG: Thank
7 you, Mr. President. I move for adoption
8 of the resolution.

9 (Duly seconded.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: It
11 has been moved and properly seconded that
12 Resolution No. 240444 be adopted.

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

15 (Aye.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
17 Those opposed?

18 (No response.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
20 ayes have it, the motion carries, and the
21 resolution is adopted.

22 Congratulations.

23 - - -

24 (Applause.)

25 - - -

1 5/16/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
3 Clerk will please read the title of
4 Resolution No. 240445.

5 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution also
6 naming the 2300 block of Oakdale Street
7 as "Jill Scott Lane."

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
9 Chair recognizes Councilmember Young for
10 a motion regarding Resolution No. 240445.

11 COUNCILMEMBER YOUNG: Thank
12 you, Mr. President. I move for its
13 adoption.

14 (Duly seconded.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: It
16 has been moved and properly seconded that
17 Resolution No. 240445 be adopted.

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

20 (Aye.)

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
22 Those opposed?

23 (No response.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
25 ayes have it, the motion carries, and the

1 5/16/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 resolution is adopted.

3 The Clerk will please read the
4 title of Resolution No. 240446.

5 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
6 authorizing the Commissioner of Public
7 Property to execute and deliver to the
8 Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority
9 deeds conveying fee simple title to 928
10 French Street in the Fifth Councilmanic
11 District of the City of Philadelphia and
12 further authorizing the Philadelphia
13 Redevelopment Authority to transfer to
14 the Philadelphia Land Bank fee simple
15 title to such properties pursuant to
16 Section 16-405 of The Philadelphia Code.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
18 Chair recognizes Councilmember Young for
19 a motion regarding Resolution No. 240446.

20 COUNCILMEMBER YOUNG: Thank
21 you, Mr. President. I move for its
22 adoption.

23 (Duly seconded.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: It
25 has been moved and properly seconded that

1 5/16/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 Resolution No. 240446 be adopted.

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

5 (Aye.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

7 Those opposed?

8 (No response.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
10 ayes have it, the motion carries, and the
11 resolution is adopted.

12 Will the Clerk please read the
13 title of Resolution No. 240450.

14 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
15 honoring the University of Pennsylvania
16 workers whose organizing has resulted in
17 a wave of labor victories and who are now
18 represented by AFSCME DC 47, CIR-SEIU,
19 OPEIU, and UAW, and calling upon the
20 University of Pennsylvania to come to the
21 bargaining table, without delay, and
22 negotiate contracts in good faith with
23 the workers.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
25 Chair recognizes Councilmember O'Rourke

1 5/16/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 for a motion regarding Resolution No.

3 240450.

4 COUNCILMEMBER O'ROURKE: Thank
5 you, Council President. I move for the
6 adoption of that resolution.

7 (Duly seconded.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: It
9 has been moved and properly seconded that
10 Resolution No. 240450 be adopted.

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

13 (Aye.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
15 Those opposed?

16 (No response.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
18 ayes have it, the motion carries, and the
19 resolution is adopted.

20 Will the Clerk please read the
21 title of Bill No. 240012.

22 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance to
23 amend the Philadelphia Zoning Maps by
24 changing the zoning designations of
25 certain areas of land located within an

1 5/16/24 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 area bounded by Queen Lane, Wissahickon
3 Avenue, Roosevelt Boulevard (Extended),
4 and Henry Avenue, and to amend Section
5 14-524 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled
6 "/FDO, Fourth District Overlay District,"
7 and make related changes, all under
8 certain terms and conditions.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
10 Chair recognizes Councilmember Jones for
11 a motion.

12 COUNCILMEMBER JONES: Thank
13 you, Mr. President. I offer an
14 amendment, I think. Yeah, thank you. I
15 offer an amendment to Bill No. 240012. A
16 copy of that amendment has been
17 circulated to all members of Council. I
18 move for the adoption.

19 (Duly seconded.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: It
21 has been moved and properly seconded that
22 the amendment to Bill No. 240012 be
23 adopted.

24 All in favor will indicate by
25 saying aye.

1 5/16/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 (Aye.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

4 Those opposed?

5 (No response.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
7 ayes have it, and the bill has been
8 amended. This bill will be placed on our
9 Final Passage Calendar for the next
10 session of Council.

11 Will the Clerk please read the
12 title of Bill No. 240247-A.

13 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance to
14 amend the Philadelphia Zoning Maps by
15 changing the zoning designations of
16 certain areas of land located within an
17 area bounded by Kensington Avenue,
18 Buckius Street, Frankford Avenue, and
19 Tioga Street.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
21 This bill having been read on two
22 different days, the question now is shall
23 the bill pass finally.

24 Will the Chief Clerk please
25 call the roll.

1 5/16/24 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
3 Phillips.
4 COUNCILMEMBER PHILLIPS: Aye.
5 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
6 Gilmore Richardson.
7 COUNCILMEMBER RICHARDSON: Aye.
8 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
9 Gauthier voted aye.
10 Councilmember Thomas.
11 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: Aye.
12 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
13 Jones.
14 COUNCILMEMBER JONES: Aye.
15 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
16 Landau.
17 COUNCILMEMBER LANDAU: Aye.
18 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
19 Lozada.
20 COUNCILMEMBER LOZADA: Aye.
21 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
22 Young.
23 COUNCILMEMBER YOUNG: Aye.
24 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
25 Brooks.

1 5/16/24 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 COUNCILMEMBER BROOKS: Aye.
3 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
4 Harrity.
5 (No response.)
6 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
7 O'Rourke.
8 COUNCILMEMBER O'ROURKE: Aye.
9 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
10 Driscoll.
11 COUNCILMEMBER DRISCOLL: Aye.
12 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
13 Squilla.
14 COUNCILMEMBER SQUILLA: Aye.
15 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
16 Bass.
17 COUNCILMEMBER BASS: Aye.
18 CHIEF CLERK: And Council
19 President Johnson.
20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
21 Aye.
22 The ayes are 14; the nays are
23 zero. A majority of all members having
24 voted in the affirmative, the bill
25 passes.

1 5/16/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 13. For the record, that's 13
3 and nays are zero. The record is
4 corrected.

5 Will the Clerk please read the
6 title of Bill No. 240281.

7 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance to
8 amend the Philadelphia Zoning Maps by
9 changing the zoning designations of
10 certain areas of land located within an
11 area bounded by Montgomery Avenue, 10th
12 Street, Girard Avenue, and 13th Street.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
14 This bill having been read on two
15 different days, the question now is shall
16 the bill pass finally.

17 Will the Chief Clerk please
18 call the roll.

19 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
20 Phillips.

21 COUNCILMEMBER PHILLIPS: Aye.

22 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
23 Gilmore Richardson.

24 COUNCILMEMBER RICHARDSON: Aye.

25 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember

1 5/16/24 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 Gauthier voted aye.
3 Councilmember Thomas.
4 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: Aye.
5 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
6 Jones.
7 COUNCILMEMBER JONES: Aye.
8 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
9 Landau.
10 COUNCILMEMBER LANDAU: Aye.
11 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
12 Lozada.
13 COUNCILMEMBER LOZADA: Aye.
14 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
15 Young.
16 COUNCILMEMBER YOUNG: Aye.
17 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
18 Brooks.
19 COUNCILMEMBER BROOKS: Aye.
20 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
21 Harrity.
22 (No response.)
23 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
24 O'Rourke.
25 COUNCILMEMBER O'ROURKE: Aye.

1 5/16/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember

3 Driscoll.

4 COUNCILMEMBER DRISCOLL: Aye.

5 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember

6 Squilla.

7 COUNCILMEMBER SQUILLA: Aye.

8 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember

9 Bass.

10 COUNCILMEMBER BASS: Aye.

11 CHIEF CLERK: And Council

12 President Johnson.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

14 Aye.

15 The ayes are 13; the nays are
16 zero. A majority of all members having
17 voted in the affirmative, the bill
18 passes.

19 Will the Clerk please read the
20 title of Bill No. 240087-A.

21 Yeah. I just counted that too,
22 correct. For the record, that's 13 on
23 Bill No. 240281 -- I'm sorry; 14 on Bill
24 No. 240281.

25 Will the Clerk please read the

1 5/16/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 title of Bill 240087-A.

3 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance

4 amending Chapter 9-600 of The

5 Philadelphia Code, entitled "Service and

6 Other Businesses", by adding a new

7 section regulating the operation of

8 establishments providing tax preparation

9 services and providing for remedies, all

10 under certain terms and conditions.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

12 This bill having been read on two

13 different days, the question now is shall

14 the bill pass finally.

15 Will the Chief Clerk please

16 call the roll.

17 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember

18 Phillips.

19 COUNCILMEMBER PHILLIPS: Aye.

20 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember

21 Gilmore Richardson.

22 COUNCILMEMBER RICHARDSON: Aye.

23 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember

24 Gauthier voted aye.

25 Councilmember Thomas.

1 5/16/24 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: Aye.
3 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
4 Jones.
5 COUNCILMEMBER JONES: Aye.
6 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
7 Landau.
8 COUNCILMEMBER LANDAU: Aye.
9 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
10 Lozada.
11 COUNCILMEMBER LOZADA: Aye.
12 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
13 Young.
14 COUNCILMEMBER YOUNG: Aye.
15 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
16 Brooks.
17 COUNCILMEMBER BROOKS: Aye.
18 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
19 Harrity.
20 (No response.)
21 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
22 O'Rourke.
23 COUNCILMEMBER O'ROURKE: Aye.
24 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
25 Driscoll.

1 5/16/24 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 COUNCILMEMBER DRISCOLL: Aye.
3 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
4 Squilla.
5 COUNCILMEMBER SQUILLA: Aye.
6 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
7 Bass.
8 COUNCILMEMBER BASS: Aye.
9 CHIEF CLERK: And Council
10 President Johnson.
11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
12 Aye.
13 The ayes are 14; the nays are
14 zero. A majority of all members having
15 voted in the affirmative, the bill
16 passes.
17 - - -
18 (Applause.)
19 - - -
20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
21 Good job.
22 The Clerk will please read any
23 additional resolutions on today's
24 Calendar.
25 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged

1 5/16/24 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 resolution, introduced by Councilmember
3 Thomas, recognizing and congratulating
4 the Champion of the Week, Antoinette
5 Ellis, a North Philadelphia native and
6 student at Parkway Center City Middle
7 College, on the occasion of being named
8 as a Gates Scholar.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
10 Chair recognizes Councilmember Thomas for
11 a motion on the resolution.

12 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: Thank
13 you, Council President.

14 Thank you, colleagues.

15 I move for the adoption.

16 (Duly seconded.)

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

20 All those in favor signify by
21 saying aye.

22 (Aye.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

24 Those opposed?

25 (No response.)

1 5/16/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

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

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

7 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged
8 resolution, introduced by Councilmember
9 Jones, authorizing the City Council
10 Committee on Licenses and Inspection to
11 hold public hearings to examine the
12 progress of implementing Section 906 of
13 the Philadelphia Property Maintenance
14 Code entitled "Necessary Urgent Repair
15 Program," to understand the impact it
16 would have if fully funded, and further
17 exploring partnerships and programs that
18 could assist in successfully executing
19 this initiative.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
21 Chair recognizes Councilmember Jones.

22 COUNCILMEMBER JONES: Thank
23 you, Mr. President. I move for its
24 adoption.

25 (Duly seconded.)

1 5/16/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

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

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

7 (Aye.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
9 Those opposed?

10 (No response.)

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

14 - - -

15 (Applause.)

16 - - -

17 CHIEF CLERK: And a privileged
18 resolution, introduced by Councilmember
19 Jones, honoring, recognizing, and
20 supporting the courage of the residents
21 at Brith Sholom House located at 3939
22 Conshohocken Avenue in their pursuit of
23 safe, fair, accessible, and affordable
24 housing in the City of Philadelphia.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The

1 5/16/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 Chair recognizes Councilmember Jones for
3 a motion on the resolution.

4 COUNCILMEMBER JONES: Thank
5 you, Mr. President. On behalf of the
6 Gray Panthers, I move for the adoption.

7 (Duly seconded.)

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

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

13 (Aye.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
15 Those opposed?

16 (No response.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
18 ayes have it, and the resolution is
19 adopted.

20 - - -

21 (Applause.)

22 - - -

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

24 Excuse me one second, Chief Clerk.

25 The Chair recognizes

1 5/16/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 Councilmember Jim Harrity.

3 COUNCILMEMBER HARRITY: Council
4 President, I'd just like to be recorded
5 as voting aye on all bills I missed while
6 I was out.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
8 You're welcome. Thank you very much.

9 COUNCILMEMBER HARRITY: Thank
10 you, sir.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
12 Thank you very much.

13 Will the Chief Clerk please
14 read the title of the next resolution.

15 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged
16 resolution, introduced by Councilmember
17 Jones, honoring Dr. Chad Womack and the
18 United Negro College Fund for their work
19 to advance STEM education in the City of
20 Philadelphia.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
22 Chair recognizes Councilmember Jones for
23 a motion on the resolution.

24 COUNCILMEMBER JONES: The mind
25 is a terrible thing to waste.

1 5/16/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 I move for the adoption.

3 (Duly seconded.)

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

7 All those in favor will signify
8 by saying aye.

9 (Aye.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
11 Those opposed?

12 (No response.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
14 ayes have it, and the resolution is
15 adopted.

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

18 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged
19 resolution, introduced by Councilmember
20 Young, honoring the life and legacy of
21 Doris "Jean" Hackney, "The Grandmother of
22 North Philadelphia."

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
24 Chair recognizes Councilmember Young.

25 COUNCILMEMBER YOUNG: Thank

1 5/16/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 you, Mr. President. I move for its
3 adoption.

4 (Duly seconded.)

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

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

10 (Aye.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
12 Those opposed?

13 (No response.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
15 ayes have it, and the resolution is
16 adopted.

17 CHIEF CLERK: And a privileged
18 resolution, introduced by Councilmember
19 Young, authorizing the joint Committees
20 on Public Safety and Streets and Services
21 to hold hearings to investigate illegal
22 street racing meetups in Philadelphia.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
24 Council will be at ease.

25 The Chair recognizes

1 5/16/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 Councilmember Young for a motion on the
3 resolution.

4 COUNCILMEMBER YOUNG: Thank
5 you, Mr. President. I move for its
6 adoption.

7 (Duly seconded.)

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

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

13 (Aye.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
15 Those opposed?

16 (No response.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
18 ayes have it, and the resolution is
19 adopted.

20 CHIEF CLERK: And a privileged
21 resolution, introduced by Councilmember
22 Brooks, celebrating May 28 as Women's
23 Hygiene Day, recognizing the urgent need
24 for the City to invest in addressing
25 period poverty, and calling for an

1 5/16/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 expanded period equity effort centered on
3 educating and supplying communities
4 across Philadelphia with women's hygiene
5 resources.

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

9 COUNCILMEMBER BROOKS: Thank
10 you, Council President. I move for the
11 adoption of the resolution.

12 (Duly seconded.)

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

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

18 (Aye.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
20 Those opposed?

21 (No response.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
23 ayes have it, and the resolution is
24 adopted.

25 CHIEF CLERK: And a privileged

1 5/16/24 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 resolution, introduced by Councilmember
3 Bass, calling on the Committee of Health
4 and Human Services to conduct a hearing
5 regarding the efficacy and impact of
6 recovery homes and transitional housing
7 and to gather input from all
8 stakeholders, including members of
9 affected communities, representatives
10 from recovery homes and transitional
11 housing, and from those in recovery, to
12 better understand the challenges and
13 concerns from all perspectives.

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

17 COUNCILMEMBER BASS: Thank you,
18 Mr. President. I move for adoption of
19 the resolution.

20 (Duly seconded.)

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

24 All those in favor will signify
25 by saying aye.

1 5/16/24 - STATED - MOMENT OF SILENCE

2 (Aye.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

4 Those opposed?

5 (No response.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
7 ayes have it, and the resolution is
8 adopted.

9 CHIEF CLERK: Council
10 President, there are no other resolutions
11 in my possession.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
13 Before we go on to speeches, I want to
14 ask if we can have a standing moment of
15 silence for lifelong City Hall,
16 particularly City Council, photographer,
17 Mark Brooks.

18 I'm sure most of the members
19 who have been around and even the new
20 members as well have had an opportunity
21 to meet Mark. He played a pivotal role
22 in helping us archive a lot of the
23 memories that we have had serving in this
24 Council body. He suddenly passed away
25 this week. And so I'm just going to ask

1 5/16/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 for a moment of silence, standing moment
3 of silence, on his behalf.

4 (Moment of silence.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

6 Thank you.

7 Are there any speeches on the
8 part of the minority?

9 The Chair recognizes
10 Councilmember Kendra Brooks.

11 COUNCILMEMBER BROOKS: Thank
12 you so much, Council President, and thank
13 you for doing that moment of silence. We
14 had a great loss.

15 This morning we had a very
16 special guest with us here today in City
17 Hall and I was proud to welcome the
18 second graders from Logan Elementary
19 School and their teacher, Ms. Morgan
20 Washington-Leslie, Logan students -- oh,
21 they left. Let me skip that.

22 My official: My office has
23 established a partnership with Logan
24 Elementary, along with four other
25 Philadelphia public high schools. The

1 5/16/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 partnership is a way for me to stay
3 connected to what's going on in our
4 school communities, share resources and
5 opportunities for the students and the
6 staff.

7 Last December Carla Gamble and
8 I visited the school for a holiday story
9 time and giveaway. I also connected to
10 the school with the Office of Community
11 Engagement at Jefferson University, who
12 donated a hydroponic garden system for
13 year-round indoor gardening at the
14 school. Today's visit is another piece
15 of that partnership, and I'm looking
16 forward to what's next to come.

17 And I also want to thank
18 Welcome America, Mural Arts, Visit
19 Philadelphia for making sure these
20 students leave with some awesome swag,
21 and some of my Council colleagues who
22 also made sure they had a bag full of
23 treats.

24 Last night I hosted Breaking
25 Free from Eviction Records community

1 5/16/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 conversation at Yesha Ministries in the
3 Second District, and I want to thank
4 Council President, alongside State
5 Representative Ismail Smith Wade-El,
6 Chairman Jordan Harris, State Rep Rick
7 Krajewski, State Rep Elizabeth Fielder,
8 Holly Beck from Community Legal Services,
9 and a host of amazing community leaders.
10 The event included a small group
11 conversation and highlighted the impact
12 of housing insecurity on young people,
13 our seniors and shared legislative
14 solutions as we listened to the hopes and
15 concerns of community members, and I look
16 forward to more community conversation
17 and with Council's involvement. And also
18 I would like to connect more with
19 Councilmember Jones on Brith Sholom.

20 The National Organization of
21 Women estimates the average woman spends
22 roughly \$18,000 on period-related
23 products over the course of their lives.
24 For nearly half of low-income women in
25 the United States, that means having to

1 5/16/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 choose between buying food and menstrual
3 products.

4 Thousands of women and girls in
5 Philadelphia cannot afford this basic
6 necessity. This has serious consequences
7 on their physical and emotional health,
8 including forcing women to stay home from
9 work and school.

10 At the forefront of combatting
11 this problem is Lynette Medley, the CEO
12 and founder of No More Secrets and a
13 creator of the nation's first menstrual
14 hub, The SPOT Period, which distributes
15 free menstrual products to people in
16 need, and I'm so grateful that they're
17 both doing this amazing work.

18 I also want to highlight three
19 hearings coming up next week. On
20 Tuesday, in partnership with Minority
21 Whip Nicholas O'Rourke, I will be holding
22 a hearing on overdose crisis in Black
23 communities across Philadelphia. Deaths
24 by accidental overdose are getting worse
25 in Philadelphia, and the rate of overdose

1 5/16/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 is the highest in the Black communities,
3 specifically Black men ages 45 to 65.

4 And we will be hearing from community
5 members and experts about the state of
6 public health infrastructure in our city
7 and a range of evidence-based strategies
8 that we can use to combat this crisis.

9 And I want to thank Councilmember Nina
10 Ahmad, the Chair of Committee on Public
11 Health, for working with our office to
12 host Tuesday's hearing.

13 On Wednesday, we will be
14 holding a hearing on the priority bid
15 legislation that I introduced on Council
16 President's behalf. For years I've been
17 advocating to protect and expand
18 community gardens, and at our hearing
19 next week -- I mean, our hearing last
20 week, we heard about the many benefits
21 for decreasing crime and stabilizing
22 neighborhoods to provide healthy food and
23 increasing climate resilience.

24 Rising property values and
25 pressure from developers are threatening

1 5/16/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 the limited green space in our city. In
3 1996, Philadelphia was home to over 500
4 community gardens, but over the past
5 25 years, we have lost over a third of
6 those gardens, and once the land is sold,
7 we will never get it back and we lose the
8 opportunity to make Philadelphia a
9 greener, more beautiful city for our
10 children.

11 Granting a priority bid to the
12 Land Bank is a necessary step to allow
13 community gardeners to take ownership of
14 the land that they have been tending to
15 for years. I would like to thank
16 Councilmember Quetcy Lozada for her
17 leadership as the Chair of Public
18 Property Committee, which will be hosting
19 the hearing on Wednesday morning.

20 Also on Wednesday in
21 partnership with Councilmember Gauthier,
22 O'Rourke, and Landau, I will be holding a
23 hearing on legislation to make the
24 Eviction Diversion Program permanent.

25 Eviction filings can destroy

1 5/16/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 someone's chances of finding safe,
3 affordable housing in the future, and the
4 lasting harm of eviction records falls
5 most heavily on Black women and their
6 children. Of the people who enter the
7 Eviction Diversion Program, nearly half
8 reach an agreement without filing for
9 eviction.

10 At the hearing Wednesday
11 afternoon, we will be hearing from
12 tenants, landlords, and legal experts
13 about the many successes of the program,
14 which has been hailed as a national model
15 for keeping families in their homes. We
16 will also be examining the need for
17 targeted financial assistance, also known
18 as rental assistance.

19 Under the leadership of
20 then-Councilmember Johnson, we secured
21 \$30 million a year in rental assistance
22 over the past two years. As noted in
23 Mayor Parker's Five Year Plan, that
24 funding has helped nearly 38,000
25 landlords recoup an average of about

1 5/16/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 \$4,000 in rental arrears. In total,
3 nearly 10,000 landlord-tenant pairs have
4 benefited from either mediation or rental
5 assistance since 2020. By including
6 \$50 million in rental assistance in next
7 year's budget, we will ensure that
8 families can continue to access this
9 critical financial support during our
10 city's unprecedented housing crisis.

11 Thank you so much, Council
12 President.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
14 You're welcome.

15 The Chair recognizes -- you got
16 a lot going on next week.

17 The Chair recognizes
18 Councilmember O'Rourke.

19 COUNCILMEMBER O'ROURKE: Thank
20 you, Council President. I'll be quick.
21 Just a couple of things I wanted to hit
22 on.

23 First, I was disturbed, deeply
24 disturbed, to have to go on Monday night
25 due to the update from my Director of

1 5/16/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 Constituent Services who is classmates
3 with Ms. Ondria Glaze, someone who was
4 murdered. I was disturbed because I
5 heard this was the third case of domestic
6 violence this past month, I think, that
7 has come up. And so that was alarming to
8 me and certainly a downer.

9 The next morning my spirit was
10 lifted just a bit as I had the
11 opportunity to see the renovations that
12 are taking place at Ameya's Place. Much
13 kudos to Women Against Abuse and the
14 renovations that took place there, a
15 shelter that is for those who are fleeing
16 domestic abuse, and that's something that
17 we need to keep our eyes on and continue
18 to raise points about.

19 Also in that spirit of
20 celebration about good things, I had the
21 honor of nominating, I guess appointing,
22 Ms. Abena Ruiz to the new Philadelphia
23 Commission for Women. She's a proud
24 immigrant from Trinidad who works as a
25 nanny and doula with a deep concern for

1 5/16/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 children and families, and that was a big
3 deal for me to be able to make that
4 appointment because of her organizing
5 work with the National Domestic Workers
6 Alliance. Special place in my heart, as
7 my grandmother was a domestic and I grew
8 up in other people's homes that she was
9 helped raising their children and
10 families, and I know how important they
11 are to the fabric of our society.

12 And in conclusion, I wanted to
13 send one more note of congratulations and
14 appreciation for the workers that are
15 organizing our city's largest employer,
16 UPenn. It seems like when it comes to
17 Penn, everything is big. They're not
18 just the biggest employer, but they're
19 also the City's largest property owner,
20 private property owner. So the ripple
21 effects of their workforce continually
22 organizing and unionizing, it's fair to
23 say, are sure to be big as well.

24 I also want to thank my
25 colleagues, all of you, for joining me in

1 5/16/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 that effort in saying that unions belong
3 at Penn, something that's become clearer
4 and clearer as more workers realize their
5 collective power, the power and
6 solidarity. Graduate student workers
7 came to that realization earlier this
8 month when they came together to win
9 their union certification election.

10 Now the question is what that
11 union as part of the larger coalition of
12 Penn workers can actually achieve going
13 forward. I certainly look forward to the
14 impact this will have at the University
15 and citywide, and I hope that we as
16 members of this body remain in steadfast
17 solidarity with the coalition of workers
18 at Penn.

19 I want to say once more, unions
20 belong at Penn. So we as a body expect
21 timely, timely contract negotiations in
22 good faith from the University, because
23 anything less than that I think is
24 unbecoming of an institution that anchors
25 our city and doesn't pay too many taxes

1 5/16/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 but owns a lot of property. After all,
3 Philly is a union town. As they say in
4 the streets, get up, get down, Philly is
5 a union town. We can't just talk about
6 it, but we got to be about it.

7 Thank you, Mr. President.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

9 You're welcome.

10 Speeches on behalf of the
11 majority?

12 Councilmember Phillips.

13 COUNCILMEMBER PHILLIPS: Two
14 weeks ago I -- thank you, Council
15 President. Two weeks ago I introduced
16 legislation to rename the West Oak Lane
17 Library the Dwight Evans Library West Oak
18 Lane. Well, today is Congressman Dwight
19 Evans' 70th birthday. So I just want to
20 say happy 70th birthday to Congressman
21 Dwight Evans from all of us in the City
22 of Philadelphia and thank you for being a
23 trailblazing community servant and
24 Philadelphian, but especially in
25 Northwest.

1 5/16/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 So from all of us in City
3 Council, happy 70th birthday, Dwight
4 Evans.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

6 Thank you.

7 The Chair recognizes
8 Councilmember Jones.

9 COUNCILMEMBER JONES: Thank
10 you, Mr. President. Today on behalf of
11 the Administration, the Parker
12 Administration, we introduced a bump
13 stock prohibition. There's an African
14 proverb that says how do you eat an
15 elephant, and the answer is one bite at a
16 time.

17 You won't stop gun violence,
18 you won't stop the proliferation of
19 weapons in our city until you take it on
20 one bite at a time, being oblivious to
21 and not fearful of being sued.

22 You proved that if we persist,
23 we prohibited ghost guns. Matter of
24 fact, we got a couple of dollars back for
25 it. So fighting the good fight is what

1 5/16/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 this Council should do.

3 It is unfair to the citizens of
4 Philadelphia but to our officers on the
5 street that every day go out to protect
6 us, and with this piece of trigger
7 mechanism, imagine this, as fast as you
8 can pull your trigger, it fires twice as
9 fast, because it pulls it, shoots. When
10 you let it go, it shoots again, almost
11 creating a weapon that is on automatic.

12 Our officers come out with
13 their standard issued guns, face all
14 kinds of unknowns, but what they should
15 not have to face is trigger enhancements.

16 The secret is it's not as much
17 the caliber of the gun, it's how many
18 pieces of lead come at you quickly, and
19 it's not uncommon for us to see 100 spent
20 shells at a crime scene because of these
21 trigger mechanisms.

22 You, I, and former President
23 Darrell Clarke went up to a gun show, and
24 it was like the movie scene in Jaws. We
25 all backed up gaping and said, we need a

1 5/16/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 bigger boat, because I never saw that
3 many tables full of guns in my life and,
4 more importantly, some of the parking lot
5 transactions that happen after it.

6 So this city, this
7 Administration, our Mayor is doing what
8 she can in the way that she can to
9 protect citizens and police officers in
10 the City of Philadelphia. So I would
11 hope you will consider this prohibition
12 favorably.

13 Thank you, Mr. President.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
15 You're welcome.

16 The Chair recognizes
17 Councilmember J. Young.

18 COUNCILMEMBER YOUNG: Thank
19 you, Mr. President. This past Tuesday,
20 the Fairmount Civic Association hosted an
21 emergency town hall to discuss the
22 proposal for 2100 Girard Avenue. It was
23 a well-attended meeting. Over 200, close
24 to 300 residents attended this meeting
25 because they are concerned about their

1 5/16/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 community and they want to have answers
3 to some of these questions.

4 We are fortunate, and I want to
5 thank the Mayor for sending the Managing
6 Director and her Chief of Staff to this
7 meeting to try to answer some questions,
8 but there are many, many questions that
9 were left unanswered, and as we continue
10 this process, I want the folks in
11 Fairmount and the Fifth District as a
12 whole to know that we are here fighting
13 for you and we will make sure that you
14 get every answer you deserve, because
15 when something has a negative impact in
16 your quality of life, it's up to us as
17 your Councilmembers to fight for you and
18 to make sure that your rights, your
19 safety, and your welfare is protected.

20 This evening I will also be
21 back in the Fairmount community. Today
22 is Bache in Bloom, which is Bache
23 Martin's annual fundraiser. So I will be
24 at the Bache Martin Elementary School
25 this evening from 4:00 to 7:00, is the

1 5/16/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 event time. So if anyone is able to
3 come, please attend.

4 This Saturday is also the
5 Girard Avenue Festival sponsored by
6 myself, State Representative Donna
7 Bullock, and the Fairmount CDC. And so
8 if anyone wants to come out, there are
9 performances, there are resources.
10 Please bring your family and enjoy this
11 Girard Avenue Festival for the Fairmount
12 and Brewerytown communities. And that
13 will be between 26th and 29th Street on
14 Girard Avenue.

15 For my Girard College alumni,
16 happy Founders' Day. Founders' Day is
17 Saturday, so please come out as well to
18 fellowship with your fellow Girardians.

19 And I will also be at a town
20 hall this Sunday at Makkah Masjid on 13th
21 and Susquehanna talking about the state
22 of the Muslim community here in
23 Philadelphia. So please come out if you
24 are in that particular area this Sunday
25 from 1 o'clock until 4 o'clock.

1 5/16/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 Thank you, Mr. President.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

4 You're welcome.

5 The Chair recognizes

6 Councilmember Rue Landau.

7 COUNCILMEMBER LANDAU: Thank
8 you, Council President.

9 Good afternoon, everybody.

10 It's a late one. I want to start by
11 thanking my colleagues for your support
12 on my tax preparation transparency bill.
13 It passed today. It will mean that next
14 year during tax season, tax preparers
15 will have to disclose their fees up
16 front. This means no more hidden fees
17 for consumers to go to big tax preparers
18 who go through sometimes hours-long
19 process just to be hit with high fees in
20 the end.

21 In Philadelphia, there's over
22 50,000 eligible Philadelphians who are
23 not -- who are eligible for and not
24 receiving the Earned Income Tax Credit,
25 which is the greatest anti-poverty

1 5/16/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 initiative in the country. That's free
3 money for our neighbors and for our
4 family members. Tax prep can be
5 expensive and confusing, and free
6 services with IRS-accredited tax
7 preparers are available in Philadelphia.

8 We estimate that \$64 million
9 could be returned to low-income
10 Philadelphians if they use free tax prep
11 services. And one big reason for the
12 lack of participation is that some
13 unscrupulous corporate for-profit tax
14 preparers don't disclose their prices up
15 front and they use tricky ads to lure
16 consumers in.

17 While there's plenty of work to
18 be done on consumer protection in
19 Philadelphia, I'd like to again thank my
20 colleagues for the rich conversation
21 about this bill and for the work we were
22 able to do to get it across the finish
23 line. I'm confident that the disclosure
24 of these fees will lead to not only more
25 money in the pockets of Philadelphians

1 5/16/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 but also to more Philadelphians
3 considering and learning about free tax
4 prep services alternatives like VITA.

5 And, second, I'd just like to
6 give a shout-out to Councilmember Curtis
7 Jones and his office for their work with
8 Brith Sholom and the continued work on
9 fighting for safe, habitable, and
10 affordable housing there, and also for
11 the swift implementation of the Necessary
12 Urgent Repair Program of L&I. I look
13 forward to working with my colleagues so
14 we can find a positive resolution to the
15 situation soon.

16 And, finally, I'd like to shout
17 out Councilmember Jones for his bill
18 which I co-sponsored banning bump stocks
19 on guns. This is a commonsense
20 regulation. With gun violence still
21 raging here in Philadelphia, this is one
22 of the steps we must take as a
23 legislative body to move closer to
24 mitigating gun violence in Philadelphia.

25 Thank you.

1 5/16/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

3 Thank you. Very good bill. Young people
4 call them switches. That's what they
5 call them in the streets these days, but
6 definitely need to be prohibited.

7 The Chair recognizes
8 Councilmember Cindy Bass.

9 COUNCILMEMBER BASS: Thank you,
10 Mr. President. I'll be brief. I just
11 wanted to say just a couple of things.

12 The first is that in my tenure
13 here in City Council, you come across a
14 lot of different people, and we've sort
15 of seen them come and seen them go. Mark
16 Brooks was a class act. He was a great
17 guy. He was a part of the City Council
18 family, and he was here from day one when
19 I arrived, and he was just a joy and a
20 pleasure to work with, always smiling,
21 always positive, always friendly, never
22 having a bad day despite, you know,
23 whatever his physical or health
24 limitations and challenges were. And so
25 he is going to be missed, because he was

1 5/16/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 just such a good guy and, you know, he
3 was really a special individual, so he's
4 going to be missed.

5 I just wanted to say just a
6 couple of things really briefly. I
7 wanted to thank everyone who came out to
8 our expungement clinic and Family Fun Day
9 at Panati Playground on North 22nd Street
10 this past Saturday. We had about 400 or
11 500 folks who showed up, and we wanted to
12 give much thanks to Keisha Hudson and the
13 Public Defender's Office and also
14 Community Legal Services, Darrell
15 Schuler, Herb Beans and the crew, and
16 everyone who contributed to making it
17 such a success, Allegheny West Foundation
18 and so many others. It was just a great
19 turnout, and it's a reminder of the need
20 for such services, that people really do
21 want to get their situations in order.
22 We want more, we want better for our
23 community, and this is something that we
24 have to provide on a more regular basis.
25 So I look forward to working

1 5/16/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 with you, Mr. President, as we work to
3 formalize these kinds of events
4 throughout the entire City of
5 Philadelphia, because they came from near
6 and far and wide to be able to get some
7 service. So I just wanted to say this.

8 And I also just wanted to
9 remind everybody before we let go of
10 today's Council session --

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

12 That's a good one.

13 COUNCILMEMBER BASS: Right. I
14 got more. I got more. Before we let go
15 of today's Council session, that we're
16 going to have a very important street
17 renaming this coming Saturday for Frankie
18 Beverly, Philadelphia's own. It's going
19 to be this coming Saturday, and the
20 location was just recently moved from
21 Germantown to the Dell to accommodate the
22 enormity of the crowd that we expect to
23 attend.

24 It's going to be from 12:00 to
25 2:00 p.m., and the event will be held

1 5/16/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 whether the weather is sunshine or rain,
3 which can be joy or pain. So let us come
4 together. We are one in honoring this
5 Philadelphia native. And, again, 12:00
6 to 2:00 Saturday will be the golden time
7 of day as we stir up happy feelings and
8 say to Frankie Beverly, I want to thank
9 you. And so let's get together and come
10 out and celebrate him.

11 - - -

12 (Applause.)

13 - - -

14 COUNCILMEMBER BASS: Thank you,
15 Mr. President.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
17 You're welcome.

18 I don't know, Councilman
19 O'Rourke. You're getting your run for
20 your money. I don't know.

21 Before we adjourn, just good
22 work, everyone. Very robust group of
23 initiatives that everybody is either
24 working on or upcoming. So it just shows
25 that we're all working collectively to

1 5/16/24 - STATED - ADJOURNMENT

2 move the City of Philadelphia forward.

3 So I just wanted to publicly acknowledge

4 that.

5 At this time, the Chair

6 recognizes Councilmember Isaiah Thomas

7 for a motion to adjourn.

8 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: Thank

9 you, Council President. I move that

10 Council stand adjourned until Thursday,

11 May 23rd, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. sharp.

12 (Duly seconded.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: It

14 has been moved and properly seconded that

15 Council stand adjourned until Thursday,

16 May the 23rd, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

17 All those in favor of the

18 motion will signify by saying aye.

19 (Aye.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

21 Those opposed?

22 (No response.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The

24 ayes have it, and the motion carries.

25 - - -

1 5/16/24 - STATED - ADJOURNMENT
2 (Stated Meeting adjourned at
3 1:12 p.m.)

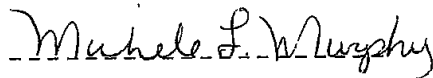
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CERTIFICATE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the
proceedings, evidence and objections are
contained fully and accurately in the
stenographic notes taken by me upon the
foregoing matter, and that this is a true and
correct transcript of same.



MICHELE L. MURPHY
RPR-Notary Public

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