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COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
STATED MEETING

- - -

Thursday, 11/1/01
9:44 a.m.
Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, PA

- - -

PRESENT: COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANNA C. VERNA
COUNCILWOMAN JANNIE L. BLACKWELL
COUNCILWOMAN BLONDELL REYNOLDS BROWN
COUNCILMAN DARRELL L. CLARKE
COUNCILMAN DAVID COHEN
COUNCILMAN FRANK J. DICICCO
COUNCILMAN W. WILSON GOODE, JR.
COUNCILMAN JAMES F. KENNEY
COUNCILWOMAN JOAN L. KRAJEWSKI
COUNCILMAN W. THACHER LONGSTRETH
COUNCILMAN RICHARD T. MARIANO
COUNCILWOMAN DONNA REED MILLER
COUNCILMAN MICHAEL A. NUTTER
COUNCILMAN BRIAN J. O'NEILL
COUNCILMAN ANGEL L. ORTIZ
COUNCILMAN FRANK RIZZO
COUNCILWOMAN MARIAN B. TASCO

PATRICIA RAFFERTY, Deputy Chief Clerk

- - -

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Philadelphia, PA 19103
(215) 561-2220

1 11/1/01 STATED - GREETING/INVOCATION

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Good morning,
3 everyone. I note that the hour has come and that a
4 quorum of this Council is present. The Council will
5 come to order, members will take their seats, and
6 visitors retire to the seats outside the rails.

7 To give our invocation this morning the
8 Chair welcomes Father Augusto Concha, Parochial
9 Vicar of the Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul. He
10 is here today as a guest of Councilman Ortiz.

11 Members and guests will please rise.

12 FATHER CONCHA: Let us pray.

13 Most loving Father, You are gracious and
14 merciful to all. We give You thanks, Lord, and
15 praise Your name because of Your constant love and
16 faithfulness to us.

17 O, God, be with us, guard and sustain us
18 with Your wisdom and love. Help us to change the
19 direction of increasing threats and misfortunes of
20 America and of the world today. Grant us that we
21 may not falter in times of prosperity or adversity.

22 Protect our nation, our president, and all
23 of the leaders of the country. Free us from war,
24 from hatred, from destruction of human lives.

25 God of life and peace, grant us with life

1 APPROVAL OF 10/25/01 JOURNAL

2 and Your peace. Give us the strength to work for
3 reconciliation, unity, and peace.

4 Grant us the power to labor in our nation,
5 in our city with true freedom, with honest
6 creativity, with complete selflessness, and with
7 dedicated love for all.

8 Lord, God, give us a mind to know You, a
9 heart to seek You, a wisdom to find You, and a hope
10 of finally embracing You, You, who are the true and
11 merciful God, who live and reign, world without end,
12 amen.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Amen.

14 The Chair thanks Father Concha for his
15 inspiring invocation.

16 Council will be at ease.

17 (Council stand at ease.)

18 (Proceedings resume.)

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1 APPROVAL OF 10/25/01 JOURNAL

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The next order
3 of business is the approval of the Journal of the
4 meeting of Thursday, October 22, 2001. The Chair
5 recognizes Councilwoman Blackwell.

6 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you, Madam
7 President. I move that the Journal of the meeting
8 of Thursday, October 25, 2001 stand approved.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Is there a
10 second?

11 (Duly seconded.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: It has been
13 moved and properly seconded that the Journal of the
14 meeting of October 25, 2001 stand approved.

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

17 Those opposed?

18 The ayes have it, the motion carries, and
19 the Journal of the meeting of Thursday, October 25,
20 2001 stands approved

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1 REQUESTS FOR LEAVES OF ABSENCE

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The next order
3 of business is requests for leaves of absence and
4 the Chair recognizes Councilwoman Blackwell.

5 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you, Madam
6 President. There are no requests for leaves of
7 absence today on the part of the majority.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair thanks
9 the Councilwoman.

10 The Chair recognizes Councilman O'Neill.

11 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Madam President, on
12 behalf of the Republicans, there are no requests for
13 leaves of absence.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

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1 VISITOR RECOGNITION/PRESENTATIONS

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair will
3 dispense with the regular order of business to
4 recognize guests joining us in chambers this
5 morning. On behalf of all members of City Council I
6 welcome you to our Council session. We appreciate
7 your taking the time to join us as we attend to the
8 legislative affairs of our city. We certainly
9 invite you to come again.

10 At this time, the Chair recognizes
11 Councilwoman Tasco, who will make a presentation
12 recognizing November as "National Alzheimer's
13 Disease Month."

14 Will Mr. Steven A. Feldman and those
15 accompanying him please join the Councilwoman at the
16 podium.

17 (Guests and Councilwoman Tasco
18 come forward.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Councilwoman?

20 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Thank you, Madam
21 President.

22 It gives me pleasure this morning to
23 present this resolution recognizing November 2001 as
24 "National Alzheimer's Disease Month" in the City of
25 Philadelphia.

1 VISITOR RECOGNITION/PRESENTATIONS

2 Whereas, the purpose of National
3 Alzheimer's Disease Month is to raise awareness of
4 this disease and to emphasize the importance of
5 finding treatment, prevention, and ultimately a
6 cure; and

7 Whereas, it is a sad story that National
8 Alzheimer's Disease Month was first proclaimed by
9 President Ronald Regan. The disease is mysterious,
10 elusive, and frustrating. It is degenerative and
11 advances gradually, causing forgetfulness,
12 confusion, impaired judgment, and ultimately total
13 dependency; and

14 Whereas, although the federal government
15 estimates spending \$515 million for Alzheimer's
16 disease research this year alone, there is still no
17 vaccine, no cure, and no treatment for this terrible
18 disease, which costs so much money and physical and
19 emotional distress endured by sufferers, their
20 families, and their friends; and

21 Whereas, the Alzheimer's Association is
22 the major source of information and support for the
23 4 million Americans with this disease and their
24 families. It is a national network of whose members
25 represent the interests of those affected by

1 VISITOR RECOGNITION/PRESENTATIONS

2 Alzheimer's disease on every level of government and
3 with health- and long-term care providers. The
4 association is a strong and effective advocacy group
5 whose members we thank for their continuing efforts.

6 Now, therefore, resolved by the Council of
7 the City of Philadelphia that we hereby recognize
8 November 2001 as "National Alzheimer's Disease
9 Month";

10 Resolved further that an engrossed copy of
11 this resolution be presented to Steven A. Feldman,
12 Esquire, President of the Southeastern Pennsylvania
13 Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association as evidence
14 of our respect for him, the Association's work, and
15 our sincere hope that the dream of prevention and
16 cure will become a reality.

17 Certification that this is a true and
18 correct copy of the original resolution adopted by
19 the Council of the City of Philadelphia on the 18th
20 day of October, 2001, signed by President Verna and
21 all members of City Council.

22 (Applause.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
24 recognizes Mr. Feldman for remarks.

25 MR. FELDMAN: Thank you very much,

1 VISITOR RECOGNITION/PRESENTATIONS

2 Councilwoman.

3 On behalf of the staff and the board and
4 all of the volunteers of the Alzheimer's Association
5 Southeastern Pennsylvania Chapter, I want to thank
6 City Council for this recognition. It is most
7 gratifying to have your support for our efforts in
8 serving those individuals who are coping with this
9 terrible disease.

10 As most of you know, Philadelphia is one
11 of the -- is a -- has one of the highest populations
12 of the elderly in the country, and in our chapter
13 alone, our chapter area alone, there are 156,000
14 families that are suffering from this terrible
15 disorder. And because we have such a high
16 population of the elderly and this disease increases
17 with age, this number is expected to grow in the
18 next 50 year to 550,000 people in our area alone,
19 unless there's a cure.

20 So your support is most gratifying, and I
21 want to thank everyone here for this recognition.

22 (Applause.)

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

25 (Council stands at ease.)

1 VISITOR RECOGNITION/PRESENTATIONS

2 (Proceedings resume.)

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4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The Chair again
5 recognizes Councilwoman Tasco, who will make a
6 presentation of a resolution recognizing November as
7 "Energy Help Awareness Month."

8 Will Mr. Tom Knudsen and those
9 accompanying him please join the Councilwoman at the
10 podium.

11 (Councilwoman Tasco,
12 Mr. Knudsen et al. come forward.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Councilwoman?

14 COUNCILWOMAN TESCO: Thank you, Madam
15 President.

16 This is a very important month, and we're
17 pleased to present this resolution declaring
18 November as "Energy Help Awareness Month."

19 Whereas, the low-income home energy
20 assistance program (LIHEAP) is a federally funded
21 program which enables the Commonwealth of
22 Pennsylvania to help low-income residents meet their
23 home heating needs; and

24 Whereas, LIHEAP is administered by the
25 Department of Public Welfare and consists of three

1 VISITOR RECOGNITION/PRESENTATIONS

2 components: Cash benefits to help eligible
3 low-income residents pay for their home heating
4 fuel; crisis payments, if needed, to resolve
5 weather-related supply shortage and other household
6 energy-related emergencies; and energy conservation
7 and weatherization measures to address long-range
8 solutions to the home heating problems of low-income
9 households; and

10 Whereas, the State's fiscal year 2002 plan
11 calls for the program to open on November 13, 2001,
12 with the cash component closing on January 31, 2002
13 and the crisis component closing on March 15, 2002;
14 and

15 Whereas, LIHEAP is not a public assistance
16 program. Eligible low-income households will not
17 have liens placed on their property, nor will other
18 assets affect their eligibility for LIHEAP benefits.
19 Eligibility for public assistance and grant amounts
20 is not affected by receipt of LIHEAP benefits; and

21 Whereas, the department of Public Welfare
22 will maintain the minimum cash component benefit of
23 \$50 to allow for the continuation of efforts to
24 provide a meaningful benefit level to Pennsylvania's
25 most needy, LIHEAP households, and a maximum crisis

1 VISITOR RECOGNITION/PRESENTATIONS

2 component benefit of \$300; and

3 Whereas, the Department of public welfare
4 will maintain the income limit of 135 percent of the
5 federal poverty income guidelines, which will allow
6 for the retention of a meaningful benefit level to
7 LIHEAP households and ensure that the most needy are
8 being served; and

9 Whereas, the Philadelphia Gas Works is
10 working with the Philadelphia County Assistance
11 Office, the City of Philadelphia, the Utility
12 Emergency Services Fund, and the Energy Coordinating
13 Agency of Philadelphia to provide consumers with
14 information on the availability of federal grants
15 and ways to conserve energy by holding an annual
16 energy assistance briefing to provide information on
17 grants, available neighborhood resources, PGW
18 payment plans, and energy conservation; and

19 Whereas, the Philadelphia Gas Works will
20 work with elected officials, members of the clergy,
21 Philadelphia public and parochial schools, and
22 various community organizations to communicate the
23 ways in which low-income consumers can get help this
24 winter for their energy bills.

25 Resolved that the Council of the City of

1 VISITOR RECOGNITION/PRESENTATIONS

2 Philadelphia declare November as "Energy Help
3 Awareness Month" and recognize the importance of
4 providing appropriate information to encourage every
5 needy resident to obtain assistance to help pay
6 their utility bills, especially during the winter
7 months.

8 Further resolved that the Council of the
9 City of Philadelphia commends the Philadelphia Gas
10 Works and all organizations that are involved in
11 this effort to provide important information to
12 low-income consumers.

13 Further resolved that an engrossed copy of
14 this resolution be presented to Tom Knudsen, Interim
15 President and CEO of the Philadelphia Gas Works, as
16 an expression of the sincere sentiment of this
17 legislative body.

18 Certification that this is a true and
19 correct copy of the original resolution adopted by
20 the Council of the City of Philadelphia on the 18th
21 day of October, 2001, signed by President Verna
22 introduced by Tasco, and supported by everybody.

23 (Applause.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
25 recognizes Mr. Knudsen for remarks.

1 VISITOR RECOGNITION/PRESENTATIONS

2 MR. KNUDSEN: Councilwoman Tasco and
3 members of the City Council, thank you very much for
4 honoring PGW and the other organizations who are
5 involved in really what is a very critical function,
6 which is to say that people who cannot afford their
7 energy bills in the winter can get help.

8 In this last year, LIHEAP crisis together
9 provided services or helped people to realize and
10 pay their bills to 116,000 Philadelphians. This is
11 a huge number and we hope to work to increase that
12 number even more so. And with this kind of
13 recognition and support, I think we can do so.

14 Thank you very, very much.

15 (Applause.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Council will be
17 at ease.

18 (Council stands at ease.)

19 (Proceedings resume.)

20 - - -

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The next order
22 of business is communications. The Chair requests
23 that the Sergeant-at-Arms deliver the messages from
24 the Mayor to the clerk.

25 The clerk will please read the messages

1 COMMUNICATIONS

2 from the Mayor.

3 THE CLERK: To the President and members
4 of the Council of the City of Philadelphia, I am
5 pleased to advise you that I have signed the
6 following bill that was passed by Council at its
7 session on October 18, 2001: Bill No 010371.

8 And a resolution approving the
9 redevelopment contract and disposition supplement of
10 the Redevelopment Authority of the City of
11 Philadelphia, which includes, inter alia, the urban
12 renewal of a portion of the West Philadelphia Urban
13 Renewal Area.

14 And a resolution approving the
15 redevelopment contract and disposition supplement of
16 the Redevelopment Authority of the City of
17 Philadelphia, which includes the redevelopment and
18 urban renewal of a portion of the West Philadelphia
19 Redevelopment Area.

20 And a resolution approving the
21 redevelopment contract and disposition supplement of
22 the Redevelopment Authority of the City of
23 Philadelphia for the redevelopment and urban renewal
24 of a portion of the West Mill Creek Urban Renewal
25 Area.

1 COMMUNICATIONS

2 And a resolution approving a redevelopment
3 contract and disposition supplement of the
4 Redevelopment Authority of the City of Philadelphia
5 for the redevelopment and urban renewal of a portion
6 of the Model Cities Renewal Area.

7 And an ordinance authorizing the
8 Commissioner of Public Property, on behalf of the
9 City of Philadelphia, to accept a quick-claim deed
10 from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania conveying to
11 the City all of the Commonwealth's interests in a
12 certain parcel of land that is a part of the site of
13 the former Philadelphia Civic Center.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The messages
15 will be printed in the journal.

16 The clerk will please read any other
17 communications in her possession.

18 THE CLERK: That's all I have, Madam
19 President.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank you

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1 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, RESOLUTIONS

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The next order
3 of business is the introduction of bills and
4 resolutions, and the Chair recognizes Councilwoman
5 Blackwell for a motion.

6 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you, Madam
7 President. I move that the rules be suspended so as
8 to permit consideration of resolutions at their time
9 of the introduction.

10 (Duly seconded.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: It has been
12 moved and properly seconded that the rules of
13 Council be suspended so as to permit immediate
14 consideration of resolutions at the time of
15 introduction.

16 All in favor of the motion will say aye.

17 Those opposed?

18 The ayes have it and the motion carries.

19 The Chair recognizes Councilman Kenney

20 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you, Madam

21 President. I have no bills or resolutions.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

23 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman
24 Blackwell.

25 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you, Madam

1 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, RESOLUTIONS

2 President. Today, I introduce two bills on your
3 behalf, one bill and three resolutions on my own.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

5 The clerk will please read the title of
6 the first bill.

7 THE CLERK: An ordinance authorizing the
8 Commissioner of Public Property to acquire fee
9 simple title to certain parcels of property owned by
10 the Redevelopment Authority of the City of
11 Philadelphia known as Parcels 5 and 8 of the
12 Eastwick Urban Renewal Area.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The bill will be
14 referred to the appropriate committee.

15 THE CLERK: And an ordinance to amend the
16 Philadelphia Zoning Maps by changing the zoning
17 designations of certain areas of land located within
18 an area bounded generally by Redwing Place,
19 Meadowlark Place, Lapwing Place, and Longspur Place.

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

22 THE CLERK: And an ordinance authorizing
23 the Commissioner of Public Property, on behalf of
24 the City of Philadelphia, to accept a quick-claim
25 deed from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania conveying

1 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, RESOLUTIONS

2 to the City all of the Commonwealth's interests in a
3 certain parcel of land that is part of the site of
4 the former Philadelphia Civic Center that is
5 commonly known as "The Pennsylvania Hall Parcel."

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: This bill will
7 also be referred to the appropriate committee.

8 The clerk will please read the title of
9 the first resolution.

10 THE CLERK: A resolution approving the
11 redevelopment contract and disposition supplement of
12 the Redevelopment Authority of the City of
13 Philadelphia, which includes, inter alia, the
14 redevelopment and urban renewal of a portion of the
15 West Philadelphia Urban Renewal Area.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
17 recognizes Councilwoman Blackwell.

18 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Madam President,
19 I move for the adoption.

20 (Duly seconded.)

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

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

25 Those opposed?

1 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, RESOLUTIONS

2 The ayes have it and the resolution has
3 been adopted

4 The clerk will please read the title of
5 the second resolution.

6 THE CLERK: A resolution approving the
7 redevelopment contract and disposition supplement of
8 the Redevelopment Authority of the City of
9 Philadelphia, which includes, inter alia, the
10 redevelopment and urban renewal of a portion of the
11 West Philadelphia Urban Renewal Area.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
13 recognizes Councilwoman Blackwell.

14 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Madam President,
15 I move for the adoption.

16 (Duly seconded.)

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

20 All those in favor of the adoption of the
21 resolution will signify by saying aye.

22 Those opposed?

23 The ayes have it and the motion carries.

24 The clerk will please read the last
25 resolution.

1 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, RESOLUTIONS

2 THE CLERK: A resolution approving the
3 redevelopment contract and disposition supplement of
4 the Redevelopment Authority of the City of
5 Philadelphia for the redevelopment and urban renewal
6 of a portion of the West Mill Creek Urban Renewal
7 Area.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
9 recognizes Councilwoman Blackwell.

10 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you, Madam
11 President. I move for the adoption of the
12 resolution.

13 (Duly seconded.)

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

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

19 Those opposed?

20 The ayes have it and the resolution has
21 been adopted.

22 The Chair recognizes Councilman Cohen.

23 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Madam President, I
24 offer one bill cosponsored by 11 additional
25 Councilmembers.

1 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, RESOLUTIONS

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The clerk will
3 please read the title of the bill.

4 THE CLERK: An ordinance amending Chapter
5 10-800 of the Philadelphia Code, entitled "Safety"
6 to add a new Section 10-828, entitled "Firearms and
7 Other Dangerous Weapons in City Hall."

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: This bill will
9 be referred to the appropriate committee.

10 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman
11 Krajewski.

12 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Madam President,
13 I offer one resolution.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The clerk will
15 please read the title of the resolution.

16 THE CLERK: A resolution honoring Joseph
17 S. Martz.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
19 recognizes Councilwoman Krajewski.

20 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: I move the
21 adoption of the resolution.

22 (Duly seconded.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: It's been moved
24 and properly seconded that the resolution be
25 adopted.

1 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, RESOLUTIONS

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

4 Those opposed?

5 The ayes have it and the resolution has
6 been adopted.

7 The Chair recognizes Councilman Mariano if
8 he's in the room.

9 (Councilman Mariano not
10 present at this time.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
12 recognizes -- do you have a bill there from
13 Councilman Mariano?

14 THE CLERK: Yes.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The clerk will
16 please read the bill being introduced by Councilman
17 Mariano.

18 THE CLERK: An ordinance to amend the
19 Philadelphia Zoning Maps by changing the zoning
20 designations of certain areas of land located within
21 an area bounded by Susquehannah, American Street,
22 Diamond Street, and Third Street.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The bill will be
24 referred to the appropriate committee.

25 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman Tasco.

1 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, RESOLUTIONS

2 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Madam President, I
3 offer one bill.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The clerk will
5 please read the title bill.

6 THE CLERK: An ordinance regulating the
7 direction of movement of traffic on Pickering Street
8 from Greenwood to Vernon Road.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: This bill will
10 be referred to the appropriate committee.

11 And the Chair recognizes Councilwoman
12 Miller.

13 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Thank you, Madam
14 President. I offer one resolution.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The clerk will
16 please read the title of the resolution.

17 THE CLERK: A resolution authorizing City
18 Council's Committee on Education to conduct joint
19 hearings with the Board of Education of the School
20 District of Philadelphia to examine the findings and
21 recommendations set forth in the report of Edison
22 Schools Inc. concerning the future of the
23 Philadelphia School District.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: This resolution
25 will be referred to the appropriate committee.

1 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, RESOLUTIONS

2 The Chair recognizes Councilman Nutter

3 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you, Madam
4 President.

5 I offer one resolution. There are --
6 which I wish to speak on. And I would ask that --
7 it's relatively brief but important for Vietnam
8 veterans, so I would ask if the clerk might be able
9 to read the resolution.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The clerk will
11 please read the resolution in its entirety, please.

12 THE CLERK: Declaring November 8th as
13 "Vietnam Veterans Day" and Honoring Those Who Served
14 In Our Country.

15 Whereas, the Vietnam conflict began in
16 August 1963 and ended in May 1975, and approximately
17 8 million men and women served our country during
18 this conflict, with nearly 3 million serving "in
19 country"over this 12-year period; and

20 Whereas, of those men and women that
21 served, approximately 58,000 were killed or were
22 declared missing in action; and

23 Whereas, over 12,000 Philadelphians served
24 in Vietnam and 645 were killed in action; and

25 Whereas, Philadelphia is also home to both

1 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, RESOLUTIONS

2 the public and parochial high school which
3 experienced the highest number of casualties of any
4 high school in the nation -- those being Thomas
5 Edison High School at 64 fatalities and Father Judge
6 High School with 28; and

7 Whereas, on November 8th, WYBE Channel 35
8 will broadcast Part 1 of a documentary series called
9 "The Weight," which chronicles the lives of 11
10 Vietnam veterans and news correspondent Edward
11 Bradley, who covered the war for CBS; and

12 Whereas, this series was written,
13 produced, and directed by Sid Holmes, a resident of
14 Philadelphia, and features several well-known
15 Philadelphians, including poet Lamont Steptoe, WIP
16 General Manager Butch Foster, Veterans Against Drugs
17 founder Rich Montgomery, crisis intervention worker,
18 Bennie Swans, and army nurse Marsha Four; and

19 Whereas, it is important that we as a
20 nation never forget the lessons learned from this
21 conflict and honor those who sacrificed their lives
22 serving our country during this time.

23 Now, therefore, resolved by the Council of
24 the City of Philadelphia that we declare
25 November 8th as "Vietnam Veterans Day" and honor

1 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, RESOLUTIONS

2 those who served our country.

3 Further resolved that an engrossed copy of
4 this resolution be presented to the Veterans
5 Multiservice Center as a symbol of this legislative
6 body's gratitude for this organization's continuing
7 efforts to provide service and to advocate for the
8 needs of our veterans.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERA: The Chair
10 recognizes Councilman Nutter.

11 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you, Madam
12 President. I wish to move the adoption of the
13 resolution and I wish to be heard briefly on it.

14 (Duly seconded.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERA: It has been
16 moved and seconded that the resolution be adopted.

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

19 Those opposed?

20 the ayes have it and the resolution is
21 adopted.

22 And the Chair recognizes Councilman Nutter

23 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you, Madam
24 President.

25 Very briefly, I wish to thank Sid Holmes

1 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, RESOLUTIONS

2 and also I should have mentioned that the resolution
3 was cosponsored by Councilman Mariano.

4 Sid Holmes asked me to introduce this
5 resolution, given both the importance of his work as
6 a journalist but also the topic at hand. I
7 understand that some of the veterans are here with
8 us this morning, and I wish to ask if they might
9 rise and be recognized at this time.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: If the veterans
11 are here, please rise.

12 (Veterans in chambers stand
13 for recognition.)

14 (Applause.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

16 At this time, the Chair recognizes
17 Councilwoman Brown.

18 COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Thank you,
19 Madam Chair. I have no bills or resolutions this
20 morning.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair thanks
22 the Councilwoman.

23 At this time, the Chair recognizes
24 Councilman Goode.

25 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you, Madam

1 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, RESOLUTIONS

2 President. I have no bills or resolutions.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

4 The Chair recognizes Councilman Ortiz.

5 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Thank you, Madam Chair.

6 I have no bills or resolutions.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

8 The Chair recognizes Councilman DiCicco.

9 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Madam President,
10 there's a change; I have no bills today.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you

12 The Chair recognizes Councilman O'Neill.

13 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Madam President, I
14 have no bills or resolutions.

15 The Chair recognizes Councilman Clarke.

16 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you, Madam

17 President. I have One bill and one resolution

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The clerk will
19 please read the title of the bill.

20 THE CLERK: An ordinance granting
21 permission to Aspen Street Corporation, owner of
22 Rembrandt's, to operate and maintain an open-air
23 sidewalk cafe on the north footway of Aspen Street,
24 adjacent to 741043 North 23rd Street.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: This bill will

1 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, RESOLUTIONS

2 be referred to the appropriate committee.

3 The clerk will please read the title of
4 the resolution.

5 THE CLERK: A resolution approving the
6 redevelopment contract and disposition supplement of
7 the Redevelopment Authority of the City of
8 Philadelphia for the redevelopment and urban renewal
9 of a portion of the Model Cities Urban Renewal Area.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
11 recognizes Councilman Clarke.

12 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Move for the adoption
13 of the resolution.

14 (Duly seconded.)

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

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

20 All those in favor signify by saying aye?

21 Those opposed?

22 The ayes have it and the resolution has
23 been adopted.

24 The Chair recognizes Councilman
25 Longstreth.

1 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, RESOLUTIONS

2 COUNCILMAN LONGSTRETH: Madam President, I
3 have no bills or resolutions.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair thanks
5 the gentleman.

6 The Chair recognizes Councilman Rizzo.

7 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Madam President, I have
8 one resolution and I request that this resolution be
9 read in its entirety.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

11 The clerk will please read the resolution
12 in its entirety.

13 THE CLERK: A resolution mourning the
14 passing of popular KYW TV News anchor Siani Lee.

15 Whereas, KYW TV News anchor Siana lee has
16 brought professionalism and elegance to the field of
17 journalism and her pleasant personality and
18 incredible work ethic, brought a light into the
19 lives of her coworkers and into the homes of viewers
20 and citizens of the Philadelphia area; and

21 Whereas, working for WCAU TV Channel 10
22 and then as coanchor of the 6 p.m. news with Larry
23 Kane of KYW TV, Siani Lee displayed exceptional
24 journalist talents. During her impressive career,
25 she won several awards, including the prestigious

1 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, RESOLUTIONS

2 Dateline Award from the Society of Professional
3 Journalists for her report on race relations between
4 the Korean and African-American communities, an
5 issue to which she devoted much of her professional
6 as well as personal time. She also won a
7 Philadelphia area Emmy award in 1997 for her live
8 special coverage of the 1996 Olympic Torch Run; and

9 Whereas, Siani Lee's impact in the
10 community extended beyond her journalism talents.
11 She served on the board of MANNA, which provides
12 meals to AIDS patients in their homes, and was
13 president of the Philadelphia Chapter of the
14 Asian-American Journalist Association. She has also
15 taken part in many benefits and charitable events
16 that raise money for AIDS and breast cancer
17 research; and

18 Whereas, Siani Lee was an inspiration and
19 role model to many people whose lives she so deeply
20 touched and impacted. We, the people of
21 Philadelphia area, are fortunate for the time we had
22 with her, and we will remember her professionalism,
23 elegance, and energetic personality with sincere
24 respect and admiration.

25 Now, therefore, resolved by the Council of

1 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, RESOLUTIONS

2 the City of Philadelphia that it hereby mourns the
3 passing of popular KYW TV News anchor Siani Lee.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
5 recognizes Councilman Rizzo.

6 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Madam President, I
7 request the adoption of this resolution.

8 (Duly seconded.)

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

12 All in favor will say aye.

13 Those opposed?

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

16 The next order of business is reports --

17 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Madam President,
18 is it possible that we do that by a standing
19 affirmation?

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Councilman
21 Rizzo?

22 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: That would be very
23 appropriate.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Those standing
25 will be voting in the affirmative of the adoption of

1 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, RESOLUTIONS

2 the resolution.

3 (All City Councilmembers stand
4 to show vote.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The resolution
6 has been adopted.

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1 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The next order
3 of business is reports from committees.

4 The Chair recognizes Councilman DiCicco
5 for a report from the Committee on Streets and
6 Services.

7 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Thank you, Madam
8 President. The Committee on Streets and Services
9 reports out 29 bills with a favorable
10 recommendation.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The clerk will
12 please read the report.

13 THE CLERK: To the President and Members
14 of the Council of the City of Philadelphia, the
15 Committee on Streets and Services, to which was
16 referred:

17 Bill No. 010091, an ordinance amending
18 Section 9-205 of the Philadelphia Code, entitled
19 "Sidewalk Sales," by prohibiting sidewalk sales
20 within the area bounded by Oregon Avenue and Packer
21 Avenue;

22 and Bill No. 010297, an ordinance
23 establishing a parking regulation on 15th Street,
24 both sides;

25 and Bill No. 010298, an ordinance

1 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

2 establishing a parking regulation on 15th Street,
3 both sides;

4 and Bill No. 010299, an ordinance
5 establishing a parking regulation on Rosewood
6 Street, east side;

7 and Bill No. 010300, an ordinance
8 establishing a parking regulation on Carlyle Street,
9 west side;

10 and Bill No. 010306, an ordinance
11 establishing a parking regulation on American
12 Street, west side;

13 and Bill No. 010307, an ordinance revising
14 parking regulations on Catharine Street, north side;

15 and Bill No. 010308, an ordinance
16 establishing a parking regulation on Memphis Street,
17 west side;

18 and Bill No. 010309, an ordinance revising
19 parking regulations on Tenth Street, both sides;

20 and Bill No. 010311, an ordinance
21 establishing a parking regulation on Third Street,
22 both sides;

23 and Bill No. 010312, an ordinance
24 establishing a parking regulation on Mifflin Street,
25 south side;

1 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

2 and Bill No. 010313, an ordinance
3 establishing a parking regulation on Eighth Street,
4 both sides;

5 and Bill No. 010314, an ordinance
6 establishing a parking regulation on Green Street,
7 both sides;

8 and Bill No. 010315, an ordinance
9 establishing a parking regulation on Fairmount
10 Avenue, south side;

11 and Bill No. 010316, an ordinance
12 establishing a parking regulation on Carpenter
13 Street, both sides;

14 and Bill No. 010317, an ordinance revising
15 parking regulations on Warnock Street, east side;

16 and Bill No. 010318, an ordinance revising
17 parking regulations on Fairmount Avenue, both sides;

18 and Bill No. 010319, an ordinance
19 establishing a parking regulation on 13th Street,
20 both sides;

21 and Bill No. 010320, an ordinance
22 establishing a parking regulation on Durfor Street,
23 south side;

24 And Bill No. 010423, an ordinance
25 establishing a no-parking-anytime regulation on the

1 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

2 south side of Welsh Road;

3 and Bill No. 010495, an ordinance

4 authorizing Anthony Lucidonio, owner of the property

5 40-44 Oregon Avenue, to construct, own, and maintain

6 tables and chairs and an aluminum awning, all under

7 certain terms and conditions;

8 and Bill No. 010503, an ordinance granting

9 permission to Sunesys Inc, its successors and

10 assigns to construct, maintain, and operate a

11 telecommunications system along, over, in, and under

12 the public rights-of-way and City streets;

13 and Bill No. 010506, an ordinance granting

14 permission to Sunesys Inc, its successors and

15 assigns to construct, maintain, and operate a

16 telecommunications system along, over, in, and under

17 the public rights-of-way and City streets;

18 and Bill No. 010544, an ordinance amending

19 Section 4 of an ordinance (Bill No. 000183)

20 authorizing Gino DeJesse, owner of the property 1824

21 East Passyunk Avenue, by extending the period for

22 compliance with the authorization conditions

23 therein;

24 and Bill No. 010570, an ordinance amending

25 Section 5 of an ordinance (Bill No. 000259) granting

1 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

2 permission to Chestnut Hill Academy, 500 Willow
3 Grove Avenue, by extending the period for compliance
4 with the authorization conditions therein;

5 and Bill No. 010572, an ordinance granting
6 permission to CTSI, LLC, a Pennsylvania limited
7 liability company, its successors, assigns and
8 agents, to construct and maintain, operate and
9 replace a telecommunications system along the City
10 Streets and public rights-of-way;

11 and Bill No. 010573, an ordinance granting
12 permission to RCN Telecom Services of Philadelphia,
13 a Pennsylvania corporation, its successors, assigns,
14 and agents to construct, maintain, and operate a
15 telecommunications system along the public rights of
16 way and City streets;

17 and Bill No. 010574, an ordinance granting
18 permission to Level 3 Communication, LLC, a Delaware
19 limited company, registered to do business in
20 Pennsylvania and its successors and assigns to
21 operate and remove a telecommunications system along
22 the public rights-of-way and in City streets;

23 and Bill No. 010607, an ordinance
24 authorizing the Arden Theater Company, 40 North
25 Second Street, owner of the property 40 North Second

1 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

2 Street, to construct and maintain a glass marquee
3 with two electrified icon signs attached to the
4 building projecting over the west footway of Second
5 Street and the north footway of Filbert Street, all
6 under certain terms and conditions.

7 respectfully reports it has considered the
8 same and returns the attached bills to Council with
9 a favorable recommendation.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you
11 The Chair recognizes Councilman DiCicco.

12 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Thank you, Madam
13 President. I move that the rules of Council be
14 suspended so as to permit first reading this day of
15 the 29 bills that have just been read into the
16 record.

17 (Duly seconded.)

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: It has been
19 moved and properly seconded that the rules of
20 Council be suspended so as to permit first reading
21 this day of the 29 bills just read by the Chief
22 Clerk from the Committee on Streets and Services

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

25 Those opposed?

1 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

2 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Nay.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: May I ask why,
4 sir? Do you want each bill --

5 COUNCILMAN COHEN: There's been no showing
6 of the need for the suspension of the rules. The
7 rule exists for the purpose of expediting where
8 expedition is needed. It does not exist for the
9 purpose of cutting a week's deliberation away from
10 City Council unless there's a showing of good cause.

11 Therefore, I will be, in the future,
12 voting nay on motions to suspend the need unless
13 there's a showing of need for the suspension.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you,
15 Councilman.

16 Councilman DiCicco?

17 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: I'll reserve comment.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

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

21 Those opposed?

22 the record will indicate that Councilman
23 Cohen votes nay; all other Councilmen voted aye.

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1 FIRST-READING CALENDAR

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The next order
3 of business is the consideration of the calendar.
4 The clerk will please read the bills on the
5 first-reading calendar.

6 THE CLERK: Bill No. 010492, an ordinance
7 amending Title 19 of the Philadelphia Code, entitled
8 "Finance, Taxes and Collections," by creating a
9 Rainy Day Fund to cushion the impact of
10 unanticipated declines in City revenue, all under
11 certain terms and conditions.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
13 agrees.

14 THE CLERK: And Bill No. 010091, an
15 ordinance amending Section 9-205 of the Philadelphia
16 Code, entitled "Sidewalk Sales," by prohibiting
17 sidewalk sales within the area bounded by Oregon
18 Avenue and Packer Avenue.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
20 agrees.

21 THE CLERK: 010297, an ordinance
22 establishing a parking regulation on 15th Street,
23 both sides.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
25 agrees.

1 FIRST-READING CALENDAR

2 THE CLERK: And Bill No. 101298, an
3 ordinance establishing a parking regulation on 15th
4 Street, both sides.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
6 agrees.

7 THE CLERK: And Bill No. 010299, an
8 ordinance establishing a parking regulation on
9 Rosewood Street, east side.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
11 agrees.

12 THE CLERK: And Bill No. 010300, an
13 ordinance establishing a parking regulation on
14 Carlyle Street, west side.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
16 agrees.

17 THE CLERK: And Bill No. 010306, an
18 ordinance establishing a parking regulation on
19 American Street, west side.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
21 agrees.

22 THE CLERK: And Bill No. 010307, an
23 ordinance revising parking regulations on Catharine
24 Street, north side.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair

1 FIRST-READING CALENDAR

2 agrees.

3 THE CLERK: And Bill No. 010308, an
4 ordinance establishing a parking regulation on
5 Memphis Street, west side.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
7 agrees.

8 THE CLERK: And Bill No. 010309, an
9 ordinance revising parking regulations on Tenth
10 Street, both sides.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
12 agrees.

13 THE CLERK: And Bill No. 010311, an
14 ordinance establishing a parking regulation on Third
15 Street, both sides.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
17 agrees.

18 THE CLERK: And Bill No. 010312, an
19 ordinance establishing a parking regulation on
20 Mifflin Street, south side.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
22 agrees.

23 THE CLERK: And Bill No. 010313, an
24 ordinance establishing a parking regulation on
25 Eighth Street, both sides.

1 FIRST-READING CALENDAR

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
3 agrees.

4 THE CLERK: And Bill No. 010314, an
5 ordinance establishing a parking regulation on Green
6 Street, both sides.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
8 agrees.

9 THE CLERK: And Bill No. 010315,
10 an ordinance revising parking regulations on
11 Fairmount Avenue, south side;

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
13 agrees.

14 THE CLERK: And Bill No. 010316, an
15 ordinance establishing a parking regulation on
16 Carpenter Street, both sides

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
18 agrees.

19 THE CLERK: And Bill No. 010317, an
20 ordinance revising parking regulations on Warnock
21 Street, east side.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
23 agrees.

24 THE CLERK: And Bill No. 010318,
25 an ordinance revising parking regulations on

1 FIRST-READING CALENDAR

2 Fairmount Avenue, both sides.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERA: The Chair
4 agrees.

5 THE CLERK: And Bill No. 010319, an
6 ordinance establishing a parking regulation on 13th
7 Street, both sides.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERA: The Chair
9 agrees.

10 THE CLERK: And Bill No. 010320, an
11 ordinance establishing a parking regulation on
12 Durfor Street, south side,

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERA: The Chair
14 agrees.

15 THE CLERK: And Bill No. 010423, an
16 ordinance establishing a no-parking-anytime
17 regulation on the south side of Welsh Road.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERA: The Chair
19 agrees.

20 THE CLERK: And Bill No. 010495, an
21 ordinance authorizing Anthony Lucidonio, owner of
22 the property 40-44 Oregon Avenue, to construct, own,
23 and maintain tables and chairs and an aluminum
24 awning, all under certain terms and conditions;

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair

1 FIRST-READING CALENDAR

2 agrees.

3 THE CLERK: And Bill No. 010503, an
4 ordinance granting permission to Sunesys Inc, its
5 successors and assigns to construct, maintain, and
6 operate a telecommunications system along, over, in,
7 and under the public rights-of-way and City streets.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
9 agrees.

10 THE CLERK: And Bill No. 010506, an
11 ordinance granting permission to Sunesys Inc, its
12 successors and assigns to construct, maintain, and
13 operate a telecommunications system along, over, in,
14 and under the public rights-of-way and City streets.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
16 agrees.

17 THE CLERK: And Bill No. 010544, an
18 ordinance amending Section 4 of an ordinance (Bill
19 No. 000183) authorizing Gino DeJesse, owner of the
20 property 1824 East Passyunk Avenue, by extending the
21 period for compliance with the authorization
22 conditions therein.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
24 agrees.

25 THE CLERK: And Bill No. 010570, an

1 FIRST-READING CALENDAR

2 ordinance amending Section 5 of an ordinance (Bill
3 No. 000259) granting permission to Chestnut Hill
4 Academy, 500 Willow Grove Avenue, by extending the
5 period for compliance with the authorization
6 conditions therein.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
8 agrees.

9 THE CLERK: And Bill No. 010572, an
10 ordinance granting permission to CTSI, LLC, a
11 Pennsylvania limited liability company, its
12 successors, assigns and agents, to construct and
13 maintain, operate and replace a telecommunications
14 system along the City Streets and public
15 rights-of-way;

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
17 agrees.

18 THE CLERK: And Bill No. 010573, an
19 ordinance granting permission to RCN Telecom
20 Services of Philadelphia, a Pennsylvania
21 corporation, its successors, assigns, and agents to
22 construct, maintain, and operate a
23 telecommunications system along the public
24 rights-of-way and City streets.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair

1 FIRST-READING CALENDAR

2 agrees.

3 THE CLERK: And Bill No. 010574, an
4 ordinance granting permission to Level 3
5 Communication, LLC, a Delaware limited company
6 registered to do business in Pennsylvania and its
7 successors and assigns to operate and remove a
8 telecommunications system along the public
9 rights-of-way and in the City streets.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
11 agrees.

12 THE CLERK: And Bill No. 010607, an
13 ordinance authorizing the Arden Theater Company, 40
14 North Second Street, owner of the property 40 North
15 Second Street, to construct and maintain a glass
16 marquee with two electrified icon signs attached to
17 the building projecting over the west footway of
18 Second Street and the north footway of Filbert
19 Street, all under certain terms and conditions.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
21 agrees.

22 The bills read by the clerk will be placed
23 on the second-reading and final-passage calendar for
24 our next session.

25 That concludes the first-reading calendar.

1 SECOND-READING CALENDAR - BILL 010368

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair now
3 recognizes Councilwoman Blackwell for calling up
4 bills on the second-reading and final-passage
5 calendar to be considered.

6 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you, Madam
7 President.

8 Today Bill No.'s 010368, 010508, 010541,
9 000316, 010347, 010494, and 010553 are being called
10 up for second reading and final passage.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: All other bills
12 are being held?

13 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: All other bills
14 are being held.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Will the clerk
16 please read the title of Bill No. 010368.

17 THE CLERK: An ordinance amending Title 14
18 of the Philadelphia Code, entitled "Zoning and
19 Planning " by amending Section 14-302.2, entitled
20 "C7 Commercial District," by deleting certain terms
21 from the list of uses that are permitted in C7
22 commercial districts, all under certain terms and
23 conditions.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: This bill having
25 been read on two different days, the question now

1 SECOND-READING CALENDAR - BILL 010368
2 is, shall the bill pass finally?
3 The clerk will please call the roll.
4 THE CLERK: Councilwoman Blackwell?
5 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Aye.
6 THE CLERK: Councilman Clarke?
7 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Aye.
8 THE CLERK: Councilman Cohen?
9 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Aye.
10 THE CLERK: Councilman DiCicco?
11 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Aye.
12 THE CLERK: Councilman Goode?
13 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Aye.
14 THE CLERK: Councilman Kenney?
15 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Aye.
16 THE CLERK: Councilwoman Krajewski?
17 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Aye.
18 THE CLERK: Councilman Longstreth?
19 COUNCILMAN LONGSTRETH: Aye.
20 THE CLERK: Councilman Mariano?
21 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Aye.
22 THE CLERK: Councilwoman Miller?
23 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Aye.
24 THE CLERK: Councilman Nutter?
25 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Aye.

1 SECOND-READING CALENDAR - BILL 010368

2 THE CLERK: Councilman O'Neill?

3 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Aye.

4 THE CLERK: Councilman Ortiz?

5 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Aye.

6 THE CLERK: Councilwoman Reynolds Brown?

7 COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Aye.

8 THE CLERK: Councilman Rizzo?

9 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Aye.

10 THE CLERK: Councilwoman Tasco?

11 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Aye.

12 THE CLERK: Council President Verna?

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Aye.

14 The ayes are 17, the nays are 0. A

15 majority of all members of Council having voted in

16 the affirmative, the bill passes.

17 The next bill to be called for

18 consideration is Bill No. 010508.

19 THE CLERK: An ordinance amending Section

20 19-1303 of the Philadelphia Code, entitled

21 "Authorization to Offer Exemption from Real-estate

22 Taxes on New Construction of Residential Property,"

23 by expanding the time to make an application for an

24 exemption under certain terms and conditions.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: This bill having

1 SECOND-READING CALENDAR - BILL 010508
2 been read on two different days, the question now
3 is, shall the bill pass finally?
4 The clerk will please call the roll.
5 THE CLERK: Councilwoman Blackwell?
6 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Aye.
7 THE CLERK: Councilman Clarke?
8 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Aye.
9 THE CLERK: Councilman Cohen?
10 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Aye.
11 THE CLERK: Councilman DiCicco?
12 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Aye.
13 THE CLERK: Councilman Goode?
14 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Aye.
15 THE CLERK: Councilman Kenney?
16 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Aye.
17 THE CLERK: Councilwoman Krajewski?
18 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Aye.
19 THE CLERK: Councilman Longstreth?
20 COUNCILMAN LONGSTRETH: Aye.
21 THE CLERK: Councilman Mariano?
22 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Aye.
23 THE CLERK: Councilwoman Miller?
24 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Aye.
25 THE CLERK: Councilman Nutter?

1 SECOND-READING CALENDAR - BILL 010508

2 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Aye.

3 THE CLERK: Councilman O'Neill?

4 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Aye.

5 THE CLERK: Councilman Ortiz?

6 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Aye.

7 THE CLERK: Councilwoman Reynolds Brown?

8 COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Aye.

9 THE CLERK: Councilman Rizzo?

10 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Aye.

11 THE CLERK: Councilwoman Tasco?

12 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Aye.

13 THE CLERK: Council President Verna?

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Aye.

15 The ayes are 17, the nays are 0. A

16 majority of all members of Council having voted in

17 the affirmative, the bill passes

18 The next bill to go called for

19 consideration is Bill No. 010541.

20 THE CLERK: An ordinance amending Chapter

21 19-2600 of the Philadelphia Code, entitled "Business

22 Privilege Taxes," by establishing a pilot program

23 under which a credit against business privilege

24 taxes will be given to certain City businesses that

25 contribute monies to community development

1 SECOND-READING CALENDAR - BILL 010541

2 corporations, undertaking economic development
3 activities within the City of Philadelphia, all
4 under certain terms and conditions.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: This bill having
6 been read on two different days, the question now
7 is, shall the bill pass finally?

8 The clerk will please call the roll.

9 THE CLERK: Councilwoman Blackwell?

10 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Aye.

11 THE CLERK: Councilman Clarke?

12 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Aye.

13 THE CLERK: Councilman Cohen?

14 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Aye.

15 THE CLERK: Councilman DiCicco?

16 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Aye.

17 THE CLERK: Councilman Goode?

18 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Aye.

19 THE CLERK: Councilman Kenney?

20 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Aye.

21 THE CLERK: Councilwoman Krajewski?

22 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Aye.

23 THE CLERK: Councilman Longstreth?

24 COUNCILMAN LONGSTRETH: Aye.

25 THE CLERK: Councilman Mariano?

1 SECOND-READING CALENDAR - BILL 010541

2 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Aye.

3 THE CLERK: Councilwoman Miller?

4 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Aye.

5 THE CLERK: Councilman Nutter?

6 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Aye.

7 THE CLERK: Councilman O'Neill?

8 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Aye.

9 THE CLERK: Councilman Ortiz?

10 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Aye.

11 THE CLERK: Councilwoman Reynolds Brown?

12 COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Aye.

13 THE CLERK: Councilman Rizzo?

14 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Aye.

15 THE CLERK: Councilwoman Tasco?

16 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Aye.

17 THE CLERK: Council President Verna?

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Aye.

19 The ayes are 17, the nays are 0. A

20 majority of all members of Council having voted in

21 the affirmative, the bill passes.

22 The next bill to be called for

23 consideration is Bill No. 000316.

24 THE CLERK: An ordinance authorizing the

25 Commissioner of Public Property, on behalf of the

1 SECOND-READING CALENDAR - BILL 000316

2 City of Philadelphia, to purchase fee simple title
3 to certain properties bounded by Buttonwood Street,
4 North Ninth Street, North Tenth Street, all under
5 certain terms and conditions.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: This bill having
7 been read on two different days, the question now
8 is, shall the bill pass finally?

9 The clerk will please call the roll.

10 THE CLERK: Councilwoman Blackwell?

11 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Aye.

12 THE CLERK: Councilman Clarke?

13 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Aye.

14 THE CLERK: Councilman Cohen?

15 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Aye.

16 THE CLERK: Councilman DiCicco?

17 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Aye.

18 THE CLERK: Councilman Goode?

19 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Aye.

20 THE CLERK: Councilman Kenney?

21 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Aye.

22 THE CLERK: Councilwoman Krajewski?

23 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Aye.

24 THE CLERK: Councilman Longstreth?

25 COUNCILMAN LONGSTRETH: Aye.

1 SECOND-READING CALENDAR - BILL 000316

2 THE CLERK: Councilman Mariano?

3 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Aye.

4 THE CLERK: Councilwoman Miller?

5 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Aye.

6 THE CLERK: Councilman Nutter?

7 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Aye.

8 THE CLERK: Councilman O'Neill?

9 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Aye.

10 THE CLERK: Councilman Ortiz?

11 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Aye.

12 THE CLERK: Councilwoman Reynolds Brown?

13 COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Aye.

14 THE CLERK: Councilman Rizzo?

15 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Aye.

16 THE CLERK: Councilwoman Tasco?

17 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Aye.

18 THE CLERK: Council President Verna?

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Aye.

20 The ayes are 17, the nays are 0. A

21 majority of all members of Council having voted in

22 the affirmative, the bill passes.

23 The next bill to be called for

24 consideration is Bill No. 010347.

25 THE CLERK: An ordinance approving the

1 SECOND-READING CALENDAR - BILL 010347

2 sale of a certain lot or piece of City-owned ground
3 with the building improvements thereon erected if
4 any situate at 826-28 New Market Street, all under
5 certain circumstances.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: This bill having
7 been read on two different days, the question now
8 is, shall the bill pass finally?

9 The clerk will please call the roll.

10 THE CLERK: Councilwoman Blackwell?

11 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Aye.

12 THE CLERK: Councilman Clarke?

13 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Aye.

14 THE CLERK: Councilman Cohen?

15 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Aye.

16 THE CLERK: Councilman DiCicco?

17 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Aye.

18 THE CLERK: Councilman Goode?

19 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Aye.

20 THE CLERK: Councilman Kenney?

21 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Aye.

22 THE CLERK: Councilwoman Krajewski?

23 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Aye.

24 THE CLERK: Councilman Longstreth?

25 COUNCILMAN LONGSTRETH: Aye.

1 SECOND-READING CALENDAR - BILL 010347

2 THE CLERK: Councilman Mariano?

3 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Aye.

4 THE CLERK: Councilwoman Miller?

5 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Aye.

6 THE CLERK: Councilman Nutter?

7 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Aye.

8 THE CLERK: Councilman O'Neill?

9 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Aye.

10 THE CLERK: Councilman Ortiz?

11 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Aye.

12 THE CLERK: Councilwoman Reynolds Brown?

13 COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Aye.

14 THE CLERK: Councilman Rizzo?

15 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Aye.

16 THE CLERK: Councilwoman Tasco?

17 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Aye.

18 THE CLERK: Council President Verna?

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Aye.

20 The ayes are 17, the nays are 0. A

21 majority of all members of Council having voted in

22 the affirmative, the bill passes

23 The next bill to be called for

24 consideration is Bill No. 010494.

25 THE CLERK: An ordinance amending Section

1 SECOND-READING CALENDAR - BILL 010494
2 9-601, entitled "Garages, Parking Lots, Sales Lots
3 and Sales Showrooms" of the Philadelphia Code to
4 provide for the posting of signs listing accepted
5 methods of payment, all under certain terms and
6 conditions.
7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: This bill having
8 been read on two different days, the question now
9 is, shall the bill pass finally?
10 The clerk will please call the roll.
11 THE CLERK: Councilwoman Blackwell?
12 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Aye.
13 THE CLERK: Councilman Clarke?
14 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Aye.
15 THE CLERK: Councilman Cohen?
16 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Aye.
17 THE CLERK: Councilman DiCicco?
18 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Aye.
19 THE CLERK: Councilman Goode?
20 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Aye.
21 THE CLERK: Councilman Kenney?
22 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Aye.
23 THE CLERK: Councilwoman Krajewski?
24 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Aye.
25 THE CLERK: Councilman Longstreth?

1 SECOND-READING CALENDAR - BILL 010494

2 COUNCILMAN LONGSTRETH: Aye.

3 THE CLERK: Councilman Mariano?

4 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Aye.

5 THE CLERK: Councilwoman Miller?

6 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Aye.

7 THE CLERK: Councilman Nutter?

8 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Aye.

9 THE CLERK: Councilman O'Neill?

10 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Aye.

11 THE CLERK: Councilman Ortiz?

12 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Aye.

13 THE CLERK: Councilwoman Reynolds Brown?

14 COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Aye.

15 THE CLERK: Councilman Rizzo?

16 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Aye.

17 THE CLERK: Councilwoman Tasco?

18 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Aye.

19 THE CLERK: Council President Verna?

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Aye.

21 The ayes are 17, the nays are 0. A

22 majority of all members of Council having voted in

23 the affirmative, the bill passes.

24 The next bill to be called for

25 consideration is Bill No. 010553.

1 SECOND-READING CALENDAR - BILL 010553

2 THE CLERK: An ordinance authorizing the
3 Commissioner of Public Property, on behalf of the
4 City of Philadelphia, to execute a quick-claim deed,
5 or such other document or documents, to convey some
6 or all of the City's interests in a certain property
7 commonly known as 3600-3700 South 26th Street near
8 Penrose Avenue, all under certain terms and
9 conditions.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: This bill having
11 been read on two different days, the question now
12 is, shall the bill pass finally?

13 The clerk will please call the roll.

14 THE CLERK: Councilwoman Blackwell?

15 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Aye.

16 THE CLERK: Councilman Clarke?

17 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Aye.

18 THE CLERK: Councilman Cohen?

19 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Aye.

20 THE CLERK: Councilman DiCicco?

21 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Aye.

22 THE CLERK: Councilman Goode?

23 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Aye.

24 THE CLERK: Councilman Kenney?

25 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Aye.

1 SECOND-READING CALENDAR - BILL 010553

2 THE CLERK: Councilwoman Krajewski?

3 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Aye.

4 THE CLERK: Councilman Longstreth?

5 COUNCILMAN LONGSTRETH: Aye.

6 THE CLERK: Councilman Mariano?

7 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Aye.

8 THE CLERK: Councilwoman Miller?

9 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Aye.

10 THE CLERK: Councilman Nutter?

11 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Aye.

12 THE CLERK: Councilman O'Neill?

13 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Aye.

14 THE CLERK: Councilman Ortiz?

15 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Aye.

16 THE CLERK: Councilwoman Reynolds Brown?

17 COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Aye.

18 THE CLERK: Councilman Rizzo?

19 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Aye.

20 THE CLERK: Councilwoman Tasco?

21 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Aye.

22 THE CLERK: Council President Verna?

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Aye.

24 The ayes are 17, the nays are 0. A

25 majority of all members of Council having noted in

1 SECOND-READING CALENDAR - BILL 010553

2 the affirmative, the bill passes.

3 That concludes our calendar for today.

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1 SPEECHES

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Are there
3 speeches on the part of the Minority?

4 (No speeches on the part of
5 the Minority.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Are there
7 speeches on the part of the Majority?

8 The Chair recognizes Councilman Kenney.

9 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you, Madam
10 President. If you'll allow me to make a few
11 comments this morning -- it's still this morning --
12 about issues relative to our public schools that
13 have happened within the last few days.

14 I believe that Philadelphians believe in
15 living up to their responsibilities, and they want
16 their City officials to do the same. And that is
17 why I gladdened supported Councilman Nutter's Charter
18 change in 1999 giving more responsibility to the
19 Mayor over the School Board. The overwhelming
20 support for this Charter change demonstrated that
21 the public wants its city government to be held
22 fully responsible and accountable for our city's
23 schools, and that is why I recently proposed a
24 \$75 million appropriation to the School District,
25 because the City of Philadelphia should and must do

1 SPEECHES

2 more if we are to expect any others to ante up and
3 follow suit.

4 But I want to now call attention to the
5 public two critical decisions that were made that
6 brought us to this unprecedented point where
7 Philadelphia now may lose control of its own
8 schools. The first decision was made by Mayor
9 Rendell and then-Council President Street with this
10 Council's mistaken silent acquiescence back in 1995.
11 That year, Mayor Rendell, the School Board, and his
12 superintendent approved a School District budget as
13 if they had all of the money to fund all of the
14 reforms they proposed in their Children Achieving
15 Agenda, resulting in a \$100 million deficit that
16 year and many hundreds of millions more in
17 subsequent budget deficits.

18 I am not making the argument the elements
19 of the Children Achieving Agenda weren't worthwhile,
20 because they were indeed important reforms. But
21 this new budgetary voodoo was fully endorsed by
22 Mayor Rendell and then-Council President Street, and
23 yet, they didn't approach budgeting for the City
24 this way, as they shouldn't have.

25 If Council believes we need more police,

1 SPEECHES

2 more park rangers, more fire engines, we don't
3 budget it as if we can afford them and then the
4 money will just magically appear; that would be
5 shortsighted and irresponsible. But that's what
6 Mayor Rendell's school board did back then and Mayor
7 Street's school board has continued to do so now.

8 As a result of this, Act 46 and the
9 Educational Empowerment Act were passed, because the
10 legislature in Harrisburg, in my opinion, were
11 provoked by this irresponsible budgetary voodoo and
12 some unfortunate rhetoric from the superintendent.
13 These were, as we know, Draconian bills that allowed
14 for Draconian measures to occur, including a
15 takeover, privatization, possible tax increase,
16 elimination of jobs, and union contracts.

17 Every one of the State's proposals that my
18 colleagues are condemning now have been legal for
19 over three years, and we should have all seen this
20 coming.

21 When Mayor Rendell and Mayor Street first
22 started us down this road, we had a Republican
23 governor and a Republican legislature, as we do
24 today. Now it's no secret take ideals like
25 takeovers, vouchers, privatization and downsizing

1 SPEECHES

2 are ideas that many legislators in Harrisburg would
3 love to implement.

4 What is surprising is that when two
5 big-city Democratic leaders invite them to do it,
6 instead of stepping up and using their power and
7 taking full responsibility themselves, which brings
8 me to the second decision, which will have an even
9 more drastic consequence for our city's right of
10 self-determination.

11 This past July 30th, Mayor Street signed a
12 memorandum of understanding with Governor Ridge,
13 which changed the future of our schools and our home
14 rule forever. In that memorandum, the Mayor agreed
15 to allow a State takeover to occur if increased
16 funding was not provided by the State. While I
17 applaud him, the Mayor, for requesting more State
18 funding, I strongly disagree with his decision to
19 allow a takeover to occur as a backup plan. The
20 cost of more funds should not be a loss of our own
21 accountability.

22 Further, I'm confused as to why the Mayor
23 is now saying he's opposed to privatizing the
24 management of our public schools since there has
25 never been any doubt that this is what the

1 SPEECHES

2 Republicans in Harrisburg would eventually demand
3 after the Mayor signed that document. Our mayor has
4 known all along that the Republicans in Harrisburg
5 would only give additional funding if they could
6 demand control of its use and implement their own
7 pet projects and ideas.

8 So if the State of Pennsylvania is about
9 the to take over the district and eliminate our
10 school board and cut jobs and privatize schools and
11 completely shred our educational supplement to our
12 Home Rule Charter, please don't blame Harrisburg.
13 The Governor and legislature were just doing what
14 they were begged to do and what we have all known
15 for years they have wanted to do all along.

16 The blame lies, in my opinion, with former
17 Mayor Rendell and current Mayor Street because they
18 made very intentional decisions to turn over our
19 public schools to the State. And now that it has
20 actually occurred, they have decided to cry foul and
21 point fingers and pass the buck. That's
22 unfortunate, it's inaccurate, and it's dishonest.

23 The State is taking over and privatizing
24 our school district because our elected leadership
25 basically asked them to do so. And this Council and

1 SPEECHES

2 all of the public sat by and watched it happen over
3 the last six years. And in my mind, that's perhaps
4 the worst crime of all, and I'll plead guilty to
5 that.

6 Well, today I say to our mayor, "Be
7 careful what you wish for because you may just get
8 it."

9 We all -- we have to wonder why the Mayor
10 now claims the process was flawed when, in fact, he
11 and the former mayor created this process and the
12 desired result. Perhaps it is because he knows that
13 that takeover will not work and the parents of our
14 children will be outraged. So now he wants to
15 pretend he never agreed to this three months ago.
16 He now wants to distance himself from this hot
17 potato.

18 The public, Madam President, is not that
19 stupid. Our schools should be operated by
20 Philadelphians and overseen by Philadelphia's
21 elected officials, all acting in the best interests
22 of Philadelphia's children. Once that slimy rock is
23 lifted, the light of day is allowed to expose all of
24 this. They will remember Mayor Street's role and
25 they will remember Mayor Rendell's role.

1 SPEECHES

2 But in the meantime, another quarter of a
3 million of our children will again be denied decent
4 basic education because their mayors simply really
5 didn't care about them and instead were concerned
6 only about assigning blame and protecting their
7 political futures. That is unforgivable. And we in
8 Council can, and must do better for our children,
9 despite what our mayors have failed to do for them.

10 Thank you.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

12 The Chair recognizes Councilman Cohen.

13 COUNCILMAN COHEN: The apology for the
14 state has been made; let me try to make the case for
15 the City.

16 Undeniably, the State has taken advantage
17 of the fact that over a period of time, this Council
18 and the mayors have been at loggerheads with each
19 other over numerous issues. I'm not going to sit
20 here and say that the mayor of Philadelphia has not
21 made serious mistakes, but I also will say that this
22 Council has made mistakes. I believe that the time
23 for pointing fingers should be over. We have never
24 faced the threat before of the loss of the public
25 school system in Philadelphia, and I think instead

1 SPEECHES

2 of preparing preliminary speeches that one would
3 feel is appropriate for a mayoral race or a
4 governor's race, I think we ought to be dealing with
5 the problems of the City of Philadelphia, and that
6 first problem is saving the public school system for
7 Philadelphians to control, as Councilman Kenney
8 stated in his very last paragraph, the only part of
9 which I agree with.

10 I believe that the public schools belong
11 to Philadelphians and that we must never permit the
12 State to carry out its devious and, in my opinion,
13 illegal plan to take away the school system from
14 Philadelphia. I believe that if efforts are made to
15 carry out the Schweiker plan or the legislative plan
16 or however you name it, I think Philadelphians will
17 demonstrate that the Boston Tea Party was just a
18 neighborhood peaceful gathering compared to what
19 will be taking place on the streets of Philadelphia,
20 because I think the public school system's the core
21 of what makes Philadelphia great. I'm a product of
22 it, every member of my family was a product of it,
23 except for my wife, who had the misfortune of being
24 born in New York instead of Philadelphia, but she's
25 since repented for it many times over.

1 SPEECHES

2 I believe we've got to work together and I
3 think we ought to put fault aside until after we
4 correct the situation and the return to the public
5 school system to Philadelphia control is made
6 appropriate.

7 I happen to disagree also with Councilman
8 Kenney's assessment of that resolution that changed
9 the school Home Rule Charter. I opposed it from the
10 beginning on because I felt that the Mayor was not
11 willing to assume responsibility for the school
12 systems and that forcing it upon him was an unwise
13 decision. But, again, that's in the past. Let's
14 forget the past, let's try to find bases for uniting
15 together to defeat this terrible onslaught by a
16 state legislative body and by a new governor who
17 apparently think only in ways of how to harm
18 Philadelphia instead of ways to take advantage of
19 Philadelphia.

20 It's the State's greatest asset, it's the
21 most important city. It contributes most in the way
22 of taxes, it contributes most in the way of culture.
23 Its contribution -- you can't possibly exaggerate
24 the importance of Philadelphia as a city to the
25 State of Pennsylvania.

1 SPEECHES

2 I think it's time that warfare stop and
3 that we begin moving in a direct, positive way, and
4 number one is to assure the fact that the public
5 school system stays alive, vital, and under the
6 control of the Philadelphians.

7 To ever conceive of the abolition of the
8 school board is a monstrous idea and we've got to
9 guarantee that it never happens.

10 Thank you, Madam President.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

12 The Chair recognizes Councilman Ortiz.

13 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Thank you, Madam Chair.

14 I'm not going to point fingers, but for
15 the last two weeks, I've spoken on the issue of the
16 deal and on Edison and the public school system of
17 Philadelphia. I have two kids in the public school
18 system.

19 The issue is -- and I said it over and
20 over again during the last few weeks -- that the
21 people of Philadelphia didn't sign the agreement,
22 the people of Philadelphia were not consulted on any
23 agreement. The parents were not consulted on any
24 agreement. The School Board, during the last phase
25 of what these negotiations were supposed to be

1 SPEECHES

2 about, they have stated that they were not consulted
3 in terms of the Schweiker takeover.

4 And the thing is that whether whose fault
5 it was and under whose watch, it is now our problem,
6 it is now our problem. And it is for us to join the
7 battle as a Council. As a legislative body, as the
8 people's representatives, it is time for to us join
9 to join the battle.

10 It is time for us to ask Governor
11 Schweiker to come down to this body. I want a
12 briefing directly from him. I want Edison to come
13 to this body and explain fully what they mean in
14 each one of those little things that we have been
15 presented with. What is a responsible leader, what
16 is this, and where is the money coming from, and
17 who's going to appropriate the taxes that is going
18 to fund the system that we will no longer have a say
19 over? Who's going to do the taxation in order to
20 put books, pay teachers, cleaning, building new
21 schools? Who's going to have a say in all of that?

22 And when Schweiker's leaving in a few
23 months, we're going to be stuck with a board that
24 we're going to have to call an 800 number for.

25 Now it's time for to us join the people.

1 SPEECHES

2 It isn't easy. And whatever it takes, whether it
3 takes civil disobedience, whether it takes boycotts,
4 it isn't easy to run and come in and take over a
5 city urban school system. And it should not be easy
6 and we should not make it easy, even though it was
7 done and we could point the fingers as to who did it
8 and who allowed it.

9 But I think that now it's this body who
10 was elected by people across the City in different
11 districts to come in and lead. They're asking for
12 that, they're waiting for that. I have not heard
13 one citizen in any school that I've gone to talk
14 that they want Edison to come in and take over.

15 'Cause Edison doesn't talk about the
16 problem kids, Edison doesn't talk about smaller
17 classes, Edison doesn't talk about providing
18 different settings for education in terms of
19 equipment and so on down the line. Edison doesn't
20 talk about accountability.

21 And when Edison writes a report on the
22 state of the school, who are they going to submit it
23 to, Edison? For their approval or disapproval?

24 We have -- and I think the largest battle
25 we have ever been faced as a government right in our

1 SPEECHES

2 hands. Councilman Cohen talks about the Boston Tea
3 Party, but this is about governance, the takeover is
4 about governance, it's about patronage and politics.
5 It is not, from what I have read so far in that
6 little snippet that they gave us, about education,
7 it is not about reform, it is about power, who has
8 it, who wields it, who gives the contracts, who
9 hires. It is not about education.

10 So we got to decide as a legislative body
11 that we are going to be with those people that are
12 outside the School Board yesterday and that we're
13 going to be with them all the way through this
14 struggle, and that this plan, however it's been
15 hatched up, will not bear fruition, that this plan
16 will not take place. Because the people, the
17 parents, the teachers together say no to Schweiker,
18 say no to the takeover.

19 And maybe we will lose and maybe they will
20 impose it, but it will be imposed. It will not be
21 acquiesced, it will not be negotiated, there is no
22 room for negotiation. They have made that very
23 clear, very clear. There's only room right now for
24 opposition.

25 The State does have a responsibility to

1 SPEECHES

2 fund an equitable school system. The State does not
3 have a responsibility to Balkanize and divide into
4 three or four different divisions, separate and
5 unequal, our public school system as we've known it
6 since almost the existence of this city.

7 So, no, the parents, the people have to
8 rise up, have to begin to move it and say no to
9 Schweiker. Let us not leave the decision just in
10 the hands of the politicians.

11 Thank you, Madam Chair.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

13 The Chair recognizes Councilman Goode.

14 COUNCILMAN GOODE: I concur with my
15 colleagues that have spoken so far, and I am
16 particularly troubled by this issue.

17 In the 1999 election in the primary, I was
18 not endorsed by the Inquirer; in the general
19 election I was. And in the primary, the editorial
20 board essentially said that my focus on community
21 economic development was not enough for me to take
22 that next step into City Council.

23 In my interview in the fall, I talked a
24 lot about education, and the things I talked about
25 mirror a lot of things that are in the governor's

1 SPEECHES

2 plan, they mirror a lot of reforms that have been
3 put forth by the Administration.

4 I think that while we want to jump on one
5 sides of this or the other side politically, at some
6 point in this process, we have to get down to
7 policy. So I was proud to support Councilwoman
8 Miller's call for hearings along with the School
9 Board.

10 But in the end, I think as responsible
11 public officials, in the end, this is not going to
12 be about Edison versus no Edison; it's not going to
13 be Democrat versus Republican; it's not going to be
14 Kenny Gamble and Dwight Evans and Tony Williams
15 versus Veronica Joyner and Dr. Karen Bivins (ph).
16 In the end, it's going to be very different; it's
17 going to have to be about radical reform versus the
18 status quo.

19 I'm not going to take the time of day to
20 say all of the rest of the (indiscernible). I think
21 that both sides have made mistakes. But I will say
22 in the end that I do support the community
23 partnerships that have been proposed. I support
24 Kenny Gamble, I support Dwight Evans, I support Tony
25 Williams before I support Debra Kahn, Phil

1 SPEECHES

2 Goldsmith, the School Board, and the status quo.

3 Thank you very much

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

5 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman Miller.

6 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Thank you, Madam

7 President.

8 I would like to announce that the hearings
9 that will be held by Council's Committee on
10 Education and the School District, the Board of
11 Education, will be Thursday, November 8th, at
12 2:00 p.m. And at that time, we're certainly going
13 to invite Edison and also Governor Schweiker or his
14 designee or "nees." So I just wanted to make sure
15 people knew that in advance. Next Thursday we won't
16 be having a Council session, but we will be having
17 those hearings, the Education Committee hearings,
18 right here in Council chambers.

19 Thank you.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

21 Are there any other speeches on the part
22 of the Majority?

23 (No further speeches.)

24 - - -

25

1 ADJOURNMENT

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Seeing none, the
3 Chair recognizes Councilwoman Tasco.

4 COUNCILWOMAN TESCO: Thank you, Madam
5 President. Madame President, I move that Council
6 stand in recess until Monday, November the 5th at 10
7 a.m.

8 (Duly seconded.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: It has been
10 moved and seconded that Council stand in recess
11 until Monday, November the 5th, at 10 a.m.

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

14 Those opposed?

15 The ayes have it and the motion carries.

16 Thank you.

17 (Proceedings end at 11:56
18 a.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

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10 RE: STATED MEETING

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I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing

proceedings of the Council of the City of

Philadelphia of Thursday, 11/1/01 2001, are

contained fully and accurately in the stenographic

notes taken by me upon, and that this is a true and

correct transcript of same.

_____,

Josephine Cardillo

Registered Professional Reporter
and Notary Public

(The foregoing certification of this
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