

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
STATED MEETING

Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
February 5, 2026
10:00 a.m.

PRESENT:

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

ELIZABETH MCCOLLUM NAZARIO, CHIEF CLERK

- - -

1 2/5/26 - STATED - INVOCATION

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

3 JOHNSON: Members, please take your
4 seats. I note that the hour has
5 come and that a quorum of this
6 Council is present.

7 All visitors, please
8 retire to the seats outside the
9 rails. Please take all
10 conversations outside of the
11 Council chambers. Before
12 proceeding, I will ask all those
13 present to please set your cell
14 phones to sound and/or vibrate.

15 Good morning, everyone.

16 (Good morning.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

18 JOHNSON: Good morning, everyone.

19 (Good morning.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

21 JOHNSON: To give our invocation
22 this morning, the Chair recognizes
23 the Reverend Joseph Campellone of
24 the Oblates of St. Francis De Sales

1 2/5/26 - STATED - INVOCATION
2 and President Emeritus of Father
3 Judge High School. He is here
4 today as the guest of Councilmember
5 Jim Harrity.

6 I will ask all members
7 and guests to please rise.

8 (Councilmembers, guests
9 and visitors rise.)

10 REVEREND CAMPELLONE:

11 Thank you, Council President.

12 Before we say a prayer, I'm going
13 to ask for a moment of silence.

14 Northeast Philadelphia lost an
15 awesome person who was a city
16 activist this week. He was a man
17 who was the founder of the Mayfair
18 CDC and did so much for Mayfair,
19 Northeast Philadelphia. His name
20 is Maurice Hartey. So I ask just
21 for a moment of silence for Maurice
22 and his family. May his soul and
23 all the souls of the faithful
24 departed through the mercy of God,

1 2/5/26 - STATED - INVOCATION

2 rest in peace. Amen.

3 In the name of the Father
4 and of the Son and of the Holy
5 Spirit, our Lord, we are in a house
6 of hope, a house of possibilities,
7 a house of dreams. Standing in
8 front of me and behind me are men
9 and women who will lead us in these
10 possibilities, these hopes and
11 these dreams.

12 For the people of the
13 City of Philadelphia, I ask you to
14 bless them with wisdom, to help
15 those who have no voice, those who
16 have no hope, those who are lost.
17 I ask you to bless them with wisdom
18 to do the right thing for the City
19 of Philadelphia, to bring peace to
20 our streets, that that hope may lie
21 in their brains and their hands and
22 their decisions to help those who
23 are poor, especially now, those
24 without heat.

1 2/5/26 - STATED - APPROVAL OF JOURNAL

2 Almighty God, I ask you
3 to bless the people in this room
4 with a vibrant spirit of not only
5 wisdom and passion, but the spirit
6 in why our city was built, a City
7 of Brotherly Love and Sisterly
8 Affection. And I ask this through
9 all things, through Jesus Christ,
10 who is our Lord and Savior. And
11 together we say Amen. Go Father
12 Judge.

13 (Amen.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

15 JOHNSON: The Chair thanks the
16 Reverend for his invocation.

17 Council will be at ease.

18 (Council at ease.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

20 JOHNSON: The next order of
21 business is the approval of the
22 Journal of the meeting of Thursday,
23 January 29, 2026.

24 The Chair recognizes

1 2/5/26 - STATED - APPROVAL OF JOURNAL

2 Majority Deputy Whip Councilmember

3 Cindy Bass.

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

6 I move that the Journal
7 of the meeting of Thursday, January
8 29, 2026 be approved.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

10 JOHNSON: It has been moved and
11 properly seconded that the Journal
12 of the meeting of Thursday, January
13 29, 2026 stand approved.

14 All in favor will
15 indicate by saying aye.

16 (Aye.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

18 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

19 (No response.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

21 JOHNSON: The ayes have it and the
22 Journal is approved.

23 The next order of
24 business is the request for leave

1 2/5/26 - STATED - LEAVES
2 of absence. And the Chair
3 recognizes Majority Leader
4 Councilmember Katherine Gilmore
5 Richardson.

6 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

7 RICHARDSON: Thank you,
8 Mr. President.

9 On behalf of the
10 Majority, there are no requests for
11 leave of absence today.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

13 JOHNSON: The Chair thanks the
14 Majority Leader.

15 The Chair recognizes
16 Minority Leader Councilmember
17 Kendra Brooks.

18 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS:
19 Good morning, Council President.

20 On behalf of the
21 Minority, there are no requests for
22 leave of absence today.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

24 JOHNSON: The Chair thanks the

1 2/5/26 - STATED - MOTION REGARDING CALENDAR

2 Minority Leader.

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

13 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

14 RICHARDSON: Thank you,
15 Mr. President.

16 I move that any of the
17 following matters, if considered
18 today, may be added to the agenda
19 for this session of Council and, as
20 required by law, subsequently
21 published on an amended agenda
22 after the consideration of those
23 matters: resolutions authorizing
24 hearings, amendments to bills on

1 2/5/26 - STATED - MOTION REGARDING CALENDAR

2 first reading, the reconsideration
3 of a bill vetoed by or re-called
4 from the Mayor, amendments to bills
5 re-called from the Mayor,
6 resolutions taking substantive
7 action to be voted on in this
8 session, a motion to withdraw a
9 bill or resolution that is not on
10 the Calendar, and a motion placing
11 a bill or resolution on or
12 returning a bill or resolution from
13 the Suspension Calendar that is not
14 listed on today's Calendar.

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

22 (Duly seconded.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

24 JOHNSON: It has been moved and

1 2/5/26 - STATED - MOMENT OF SILENCE

2 properly seconded that the
3 legislative matters stated by
4 Majority Leader Councilmember
5 Katherine Gilmore Richardson may be
6 added to the agenda for today
7 should those matters arise during
8 the course of this session of
9 Council.

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

12 (Aye.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

14 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

15 (No response.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

17 JOHNSON: The ayes have it and the
18 motion carries.

19 I want to take a moment
20 of personal privilege to ask
21 everyone to stand as we offer a
22 moment of silence on behalf of
23 Councilmember Jamie Gauthier in
24 honor of the life and memory of

1 2/5/26 - STATED - MOMENT OF SILENCE

2 Timothy D. Sapp, Sr., who was a
3 member of the 3rd Councilmanic
4 District, also a member of District
5 Council 33, lost his life doing
6 what he loved, which is making sure
7 that during this recent winter
8 blizzard, that our streets were
9 clean, our snow was removed and
10 unfortunately lost his life doing
11 that service as it relates to
12 improving the quality of life of
13 our city during this particular
14 period.

15 (Moment of silence.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

17 JOHNSON: The Chair will dispense
18 with the regular order of business
19 to recognize the guests and
20 visitors joining us in chambers
21 this morning.

22 On behalf of all members
23 of City Council, I welcome you to
24 our Council session. We appreciate

1 2/5/26 - STATED - GUESTS

2 your taking the time to join us as
3 we attend to the legislative
4 affairs of our great city. We
5 certainly invite you to come again.

6 I want to acknowledge
7 Councilmember Dr. Anthony Phillips.

8 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

9 Good morning, colleagues. Thank
10 you so much, Council President.

11 Today I have the honor to
12 welcome to the halls of
13 Philadelphia City Council, the
14 Executive Director of Black Girls
15 Love Math, Atiyah Harmon, who has
16 been proudly supported by 5th
17 District Councilmember Jeffrey
18 Young. This is a citywide
19 organization that helps young
20 people, particularly young women,
21 understand the importance of math,
22 especially in an age where often
23 times young women are directly and
24 indirectly told that certain

1 2/5/26 - STATED - GUESTS

2 careers aren't for them.

3 Atiyah Harmon is changing
4 that narrative through Black Girls
5 Love Math by making sure that young
6 women understand the importance of
7 you can do anything you set your
8 mind to. So welcome to
9 Philadelphia City Council, Atiyah
10 Harmon and the young ladies from
11 South Philadelphia, your district,
12 from Black Girls Love Math, please
13 stand.

14 (Applause.)

15 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: And
16 then lastly, I also am privileged
17 to welcome 85 schools, 56 public
18 high schools and 12 colleges and
19 universities here today. They are
20 leaders of their Student Government
21 Association. As we know, student
22 government teaches young people the
23 importance of collaborating, how to
24 budget, how to advocate and the

1 2/5/26 - STATED - GUESTS
2 importance of civic engagement.
3 And they are not just as your
4 co-grad skills. These are life
5 skills that they're learning and
6 they are here to be honored and
7 recognized by the Philadelphia
8 Youth Commission Director Shania
9 Bennett.

10 And so, we're excited
11 that they are here today. Can all
12 of the students who are
13 representing their student
14 government today please stand.
15 Welcome to Philadelphia City
16 Council.

17 (Applause.)

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

19 JOHNSON: Okay. So, Member
20 Phillips, I want to take this
21 moment to call out the adults in
22 the room, because when celebrities
23 come down here, we stand up and we
24 do all this clapping. And these

1 2/5/26 - STATED - GUESTS

2 are the future of the City of
3 Philadelphia, our future leaders.

4 Could we give our young
5 people a real big round of
6 applause?

7 (Applause.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

9 JOHNSON: These are the young
10 people that will represent all of
11 us. These are the young people we
12 need to encourage. I mean, if I
13 brought Beyonce down here, y'all be
14 going crazy. Bobby Shmurda, too.
15 Thank y'all, everyone. No, we have
16 to encourage and support our young
17 people any time that we can get,
18 y'all.

19 At this time, the Chair
20 recognizes Majority Leader
21 Councilmember Katherine Gilmore
22 Richardson, who will present a
23 resolution honoring the African
24 American Children's Book Project on

1 2/5/26 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 the occasion of its 34th Annual
3 African American Children's Book
4 Fair.

5 Would Vanessa Lloyd-
6 Sgambati and those accompanying
7 her, please join the Councilmember
8 at the podium. Joining
9 Councilmember Katherine Gilmore
10 Richardson, are the following
11 Councilmembers: Councilmember
12 Dr. Anthony Phillips, Councilmember
13 Jamie Gauthier, Councilmember and
14 Majority Whip Isaiah Thomas,
15 Councilmember Curtis Jones,
16 Councilmember Jeffrey Young,
17 Minority Leader Councilmember
18 Kendra Brooks, Minority Whip
19 Councilmember Nicolas O'Rourke and
20 Deputy Whip of the Majority party
21 Councilmember Cindy Bass.

22 (Councilmembers and
23 guests approached podium.)

24 COUNCILMAN JONES: Well,

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2 in a tradition that started with
3 Blondell Reynolds-Brown, our
4 Majority Leader Katherine Gilmore
5 Richardson has continued that work
6 recognizing authors, authors that
7 are Black and Brown that do books
8 that we do once a year and
9 throughout the year to distribute
10 to our young people.

11 Ms. Sgambati,
12 Mr. President, is from the 4th
13 Councilmanic District. And so,
14 what we want to do is continue to
15 raise her up as she continues to
16 raise authors that are writing
17 things that are pertinent to our
18 young minds, and we are very
19 thankful for her continued
20 contribution to literacy. Thank
21 you.

22 (Applause.)

23 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

24 RICHARDSON: Thank you so much,

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2 colleague and my District member,
3 Councilmember Jones. And in the
4 legacy of my forever boss and
5 mentor, former Councilmember
6 Blondell Reynolds-Brown, we are
7 proud to again present this
8 resolution here in Philadelphia
9 City Council.

10 So Whereas, founded in
11 1992, the African American
12 Children's Book Project was created
13 to promote and preserve children's
14 literature written by and about
15 Black Americans, their programs,
16 including book fairs and signings,
17 literary workshops and I Read to
18 See Me highlight the importance of
19 giving children access and choice
20 to what they read, to empower,
21 enrich and enlighten them, and
22 their advocacy work promotes the
23 rich history of Black Americans
24 through literature; and

1 2/5/26 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 COUNCILMAN THOMAS:

3 Whereas, the African American
4 Children's Book Fair is regularly
5 one of the oldest and largest
6 single day events for Black
7 children's books in the country,
8 with an average attendance of more
9 than 3500. It is the leading
10 organization in the region,
11 bringing national award-winning
12 authors and illustrators for
13 children PreK to young adult in
14 Philadelphia; and

15 COUNCILWOMAN BASS:

16 Whereas, Vanessa Lloyd-Sgambati,
17 the founder of the African American
18 Children's Book Project, is a
19 nationally known literary
20 consultant. She believes all
21 children should have choice and
22 access to books that reflect their
23 images. Vanessa's effort put
24 Philadelphia on the literary map as

1 2/5/26 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 an important destination for
3 diverse children's books; and

4 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS:

5 Whereas, the 34th Annual African
6 American Children's Book Fair will
7 kick off a year-long program, 250
8 years of Black excellence as seen
9 through the lens of Black
10 children's books. The program will
11 showcase the rich history and
12 contributions of Black people to
13 the United States through
14 children's books. Over 40 literary
15 creators from around the country
16 will kick off the program; and

17 COUNCILMAN YOUNG:

18 Whereas, Alice Faye Duncan has
19 written 15 picture books, including
20 Memphis, Martin, and the
21 Mountaintop; Yellow Dog Blues and
22 Coretta's Journey. Her book Opal
23 Lee and What It Means To Be Free
24 has sold 100,000 copies since

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2 January 2022. Alice specializes in
3 writing for young readers about the
4 American Civil Rights Movement.
5 Her new book The Dream Builders
6 Blueprint is about Dr. Martin
7 Luther King, Jr.'s visit to South
8 Philadelphia's Barratt Junior High
9 School in October 1967 when he gave
10 Philadelphia students a blueprint
11 to prosper; and

12 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE:

13 Whereas, corporate partner Penn
14 Medicine is one of the leading
15 sponsors in the region, championing
16 literacy. Their work is led by
17 Ajeenah Amir and Laura Kim.
18 Ajeenah Amir serves as Director of
19 Civic Engagement and Community
20 Partnerships for Penn Medicine,
21 advancing the organization's
22 strategic priorities through
23 collaboration with community-based
24 organizations and civic leaders.

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2 Laura Kim serves as Associate
3 Director of Community Relations,
4 where she leads the Penn Medicine
5 Cares Grant Program, providing
6 funding to community organizations
7 that advance health and well-being
8 and overseas volunteer initiatives
9 that connect employees with service
10 opportunities across Philadelphia;
11 and

12 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

13 Whereas, the free 2026 African
14 American Children's Book Fair will
15 take place on Saturday, February 7,
16 2026 at the Pennsylvania Convention
17 Center, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
18 Now, therefore, be it

19 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:

20 Resolved, by the Council of the
21 City of Philadelphia, that we
22 hereby honor the African American
23 Children's Book Project on the
24 occasion of its 34th Annual African

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2 American Children's Book Fair

3 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

4 RICHARDSON: And further resolve,
5 that an Engrossed copy of this
6 resolution be presented to the
7 African American Children's Book
8 Project, further evidencing the
9 sincere respect of this legislative
10 body. Congratulations.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

12 JOHNSON: Before --

13 MS. LLOYD-SGAMBATI: I
14 will keep my remarks brief.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

16 JOHNSON: -- acknowledging you for
17 remarks, we just want to thank you
18 for hosting this event for over 34
19 years --

20 (Applause.)

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

22 JOHNSON: -- and with the national
23 climate in this country to
24 whitewash African American and

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2 Black history, the work that you
3 are doing means so much and this
4 acknowledgement is so fitting for
5 such a time as this.

6 The Chair recognizes
7 Vanessa Lloyd-Sgambati.

8 (Applause.)

9 MS. LLOYD-SGAMBATI:

10 Thank you so very much. And a
11 special thing, before I say
12 anything, I got to give a shout-out
13 to President Kenyatta Johnson, who
14 has supported my work here in the
15 city. He has never, never wavered
16 from understanding my mission to
17 give kids the opportunity to see a
18 world, a broader world than which
19 they live in.

20 But I also want to
21 acknowledge Anthony Phillips, Cindy
22 Bass, Councilmember Anthony
23 Phillips, Councilmember Cindy Bass,
24 Councilmember Jeffrey Young, Jr.,

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2 Councilmember Katherine Gilmore
3 Richardson, because she's been
4 supporting me since she was -- I
5 think she was an intern when she
6 was giving me shout-outs,
7 Councilmember Kendra Brooks,
8 Councilmember Curtis Jones, Jr.,
9 the best Councilmember in the city
10 because I live in his district, and
11 Councilmember Jamie Gauthier, she
12 got a name that's fierce. A name
13 that will always help you get
14 famous in this world.

15 But I'm going to keep my
16 remarks brief. ABC, the National,
17 contacted me and asked me to
18 prepare a list of books for Black
19 history. And the paragraph opens
20 with, Black history is a great
21 opportunity to learn Black history.
22 So people thought I was going to do
23 a lot of books about slavery. I
24 went right to the core of what

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2 Black people are about.

3 I pulled out a book about
4 Paul Williams. He was the
5 architect to the celebrities. He's
6 a Black man. He designed Frank
7 Sinatra's home. Phillip Freeland
8 who was dyslexic, who's from
9 Philadelphia, Germantown, designed
10 the African American Museum in
11 Washington, D.C.

12 Alma Thomas, she is a
13 painter and the only Black person
14 in the White House galleries. And
15 then we can't forget May Reeves,
16 who lived up here on 60th Street,
17 had a hat shop that she was going
18 to Paris and London in the '40s to
19 get the things that she needed to
20 make her hats.

21 And then Augustus
22 Jackson, he was a free person in
23 the 1800s. We did a presentation
24 about him a few years ago here in

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2 City Council. This was a man who
3 created the idea of having a free-
4 standing store to sell ice cream.
5 He's called the Father of Ice Cream
6 in the United States.

7 And then of course, last
8 but not least, a story about Martin
9 Luther King, who in 1967, not many
10 people know that six months before
11 he died, he made a speech to young
12 people here in Philadelphia. And I
13 met one of those people. He became
14 the president of YMCA, USA, Kevin
15 Washington.

16 So I'm doing this not
17 because we got a couple of books.
18 I'm doing this because literacy,
19 reading empowers you. It gives you
20 knowledge. When somebody tells you
21 you're not good enough or you start
22 talking, oh, you got a history of
23 slavery. Don't let them tell you
24 that because we have a rich

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2 history.

3 When we came out of
4 slavery, we said, where we're going
5 to educate our people, where we're
6 going to start our businesses, and
7 they were threatened. So I'm going
8 to pass the mic to Alice Faye
9 Duncan, who came all the way from
10 Tennessee. I know she's going to
11 go back home and say there was a
12 lot of people up in there. But she
13 is a woman who wrote the book and
14 brought the life of the story about
15 Martin Luther King.

16 And finally, if you're in
17 Philadelphia on Saturday, and this
18 is where the young people come down
19 and meet over 40 Best Selling New
20 York Times, American Library
21 Association, only the creme de la
22 creme will be there at 1:00 to
23 4:00 p.m. at the Pennsylvania
24 Convention Center, and give me a

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2 shout-out when you come and it's
3 free.

4 Alice, remarks. Brief.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

6 JOHNSON: Let's give her a
7 Philadelphia welcome, y'all.

8 (Applause.)

9 MS. DUNCAN: My name is
10 Alice Faye Duncan. Councilmembers,
11 you all have received I think two
12 of my books, The Dream Builders
13 Blueprint and Blues Boy, the B.B.
14 King Story. I am from Memphis,
15 Tennessee so you got to get that
16 B.B. King book.

17 Repeat after me. I'm not
18 going to be long. Repeat after me:
19 Dream big. Walk tall. Be strong.
20 March on. Don't quit. Don't quit.
21 Don't quit. Never stop. Never
22 stop. Climb up the mountain top.

23 (Audience repeats.)

24 MS. DUNCAN: Now, all of

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2 us, the children, especially -- I
3 don't care nothing about you old
4 people -- but the chillun, I'm
5 talking to the chillun. Chillun,
6 repeat after me. Possess the land.
7 Possess the land.

8 (Audience repeats.)

9 MS. DUNCAN: Thank you.
10 Hope to see you Saturday.

11 (Applause.)

12 MS. LLOYD-SGAMBATI: And
13 quickly, we need to acknowledge
14 Penn Medicine. They are sponsors
15 of the event. And I was begging on
16 bending knees. I thought I had
17 Boyz II Men behind me singing that
18 song to get sponsors this year. So
19 I'm grateful to Councilmembers who
20 supported, but also Ajeenah and
21 Laura Kim. Thank you.

22 (Applause.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

24 JOHNSON: Council will be at ease.

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2 (Council at ease.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

4 JOHNSON: Chair recognizes Member
5 Jones.

6 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank
7 you so much, Mr. President.

8 Colleagues, join me in
9 welcoming Lankenau School in the
10 4th District. They are here to
11 watch us in government, but also to
12 participate in understanding about
13 our plans for a merger of schools.
14 Welcome them to City Council.

15 Lankenau, please stand.

16 (Applause.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

18 JOHNSON: Member Jones, we
19 officially welcome Lankenau back to
20 City Council chambers on February
21 17th for the Committee of the Whole
22 to officially review the School
23 District of Philadelphia
24 recommendations for their

1 2/5/26 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 facilities plan.

3 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank
4 you so much, Mr. President.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
6 JOHNSON: You're welcome, Member
7 Jones.

8 Most of you may or may
9 not know that the City of
10 Philadelphia is approaching a
11 60-year historical low when it
12 comes to homicides and shootings
13 here in the City of Philadelphia.
14 And so, you have individuals who
15 are working on the ground day-in
16 and day-out, which we call boots-
17 on-the-ground organizations to
18 address the issue of youth gun
19 violence.

20 So at this time, the
21 Chair recognizes Councilmember
22 Cindy Bass, who will present a
23 resolution honoring on my behalf,
24 Pushing Progress Philly, P3, and

1 2/5/26 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 its outstanding leadership and
3 staff for their unwavering
4 commitment to youth gun violence
5 prevention and strengthening
6 families and building safer,
7 healthier communities in the city
8 of Philadelphia.

9 Would Jaime Jalil Meekins
10 and those accompanying him, please
11 join the Councilmember at the
12 podium. Joining Member Cindy Bass
13 at the podium are the following
14 individuals: Councilmember Rue
15 Landau, Councilmember Quetcy
16 Lozada, Councilmember Nicolas
17 O'Rourke, Councilmember Kendra
18 Brooks, Councilmember Jamie
19 Gauthier, Councilmember Jim
20 Harrity, Councilmember Dr. Nina
21 Ahmad, Councilmember Anthony
22 Phillips.

23 (Councilmembers and
24 guests approached podium.)

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2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

3 JOHNSON: Mr. Shuler, could you
4 please join us at the podium
5 please. This jawn North Philly
6 heavy too.

7 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Yes.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

9 JOHNSON: We also have joining us,
10 the Head of Public Safety, our
11 Public Safety Advocate here in the
12 City of Philadelphia, Mr. Adam
13 Geer. Thank you.

14 The floor is yours.

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

17 Can we give these
18 organizations, this organization, a
19 round of applause because they are
20 out here on the ground day-in and
21 day-out regardless of the weather,
22 regardless of whatever conditions
23 are going, whatever has happened in
24 their own lives to make sure that

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2 each and every one of us is safe.

3 (Applause.)

4 COUNCILWOMAN BASS:

5 That's their mission. And so, we
6 just really want to say thank you
7 to our Council President for seeing
8 the need and the responsibility,
9 really to recognize all of these
10 folks you see before you here
11 today.

12 And so, today we honor
13 Pushing Progress Philly, but
14 everyone knows them as P3, for
15 meeting our young people where they
16 are, especially in our recreation
17 centers which also serve as safe
18 havens in neighborhoods most
19 impacted by gun violence.

20 Through P3's work, these
21 spaces become more than places to
22 play. They become places of
23 healing, mentorship and whole using
24 a public health approach. P3

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2 interrupts cycles of violence
3 before they reach our children,
4 addressing trauma, instability and
5 lack of opportunity while
6 strengthening families and building
7 safer communities under their
8 leadership and supported by a
9 dedicated team of credible
10 messengers and frontline staff.

11 P3 shows our youth that
12 their lives matter and their
13 futures are worth protecting by
14 showing up consistently, modeling
15 accountability and connecting
16 families to real resources. P3 is
17 helping ensure that our kids can
18 grow, thrive and feel safe and the
19 very place is meant for joy and
20 community.

21 And so, with that being
22 said we want to read a resolution
23 which is honoring and commending --
24 thank you, a resolution honoring

1 2/5/26 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 Pushing Progress Philly, P3, and
3 its outstanding leadership and
4 staff for their unwavering
5 commitment to youth, gun violence
6 prevention, strengthening families
7 and building safer, healthier
8 communities in the City of
9 Philadelphia.

10 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:

11 Whereas, Pushing Progress Philly,
12 P3, is a city-funded gun violence
13 initiative operating within the
14 Division of Safe Neighborhoods,
15 serving adults at the highest risk
16 of gun violence involvement through
17 messenger outreach, case
18 management, trauma-informed care,
19 workforce development, housing
20 navigation and structured personal
21 development; and

22 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA:

23 Whereas, P3 employs public health
24 strategies to interrupt cycles of

1 2/5/26 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 violence and address root causes,
3 including trauma, economic
4 instability, justice systems
5 involvement and housing insecurity,
6 while promoting long-term community
7 reintegration; and

8 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:

9 Whereas, P3 is led by Program
10 Director, Dr. Kareem Brown, a North
11 Philadelphia native with a
12 Doctorate in Education from Drexel
13 University, whose background in
14 education and community development
15 informs a restorative trauma-
16 informed approach, and Assistant
17 Director Faith Dickey, who has
18 overseen program implementation and
19 partnerships for more than three
20 years, together guiding P3's work
21 toward healing and long-term
22 stability; and

23 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE:

24 Whereas, P3's outreach, operations

1 2/5/26 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 and program management team
3 consists of Jamie Jalil Meekins,
4 Carlton Washington, Kareem Fisher,
5 Khalil Young and John Wilson. They
6 bring decades of experience,
7 credible messenger leadership and
8 nationally-informed models to
9 engage participants with
10 consistency, trust and
11 accountability; and

12 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS:

13 Whereas, P3's frontline staff and
14 facilitators, including Roy Clark,
15 Paul Edward Williams, Jr., Clarence
16 Major, Katisha Simmons and Kevin
17 Cole bring the mission to fruition
18 by mentoring participants,
19 connecting families to vital
20 resources and securing housing and
21 employment outcomes; and

22 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:

23 Whereas, together P3 staff have
24 strengthened individual lives,

1 2/5/26 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 families and communities by
3 interrupting violence, fostering
4 opportunity and advancing dignity
5 across the City of Philadelphia.

6 Now, therefore, be it

7 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

8 Resolved, by the Council of the
9 City of Philadelphia, honors
10 Pushing Progress Philly, P3, and
11 its leadership and staff for their
12 exceptional service and unwavering
13 commitment to preventing gun
14 violence and promoting community
15 safety; and

16 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:

17 Further resolved, that this body
18 express its deep appreciation for
19 the courage, dedication and service
20 demonstrated by P3's team as they
21 advance initiatives, compassionate
22 solutions to gun violence and its
23 root cause.

24 COUNCILWOMAN BASS:

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2 Congratulations. Let's give them a
3 round of applause. Thank you so
4 much.

5 (Applause.)

6 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank
7 you for all of the work that you've
8 been doing in our communities.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

10 JOHNSON: Before I bring up Jalil
11 Meekins, I want to also acknowledge
12 one of the founders of this
13 program. He's always Team Johnson
14 even though he's over there with
15 the Administration. Mr. Joshu
16 Harris. Thank you for joining us
17 as well.

18 (Applause.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

20 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes
21 Jamie Jalil Meekins for remarks and
22 Adam Geer, Public Safety Advocate,
23 for remarks as well.

24 Jalil, the floor is

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2 yours.

3 MR. MEEKINS: Good
4 morning, everyone. I will behoove
5 to say anything, knowing that I
6 have the Program Director
7 Dr. Kareem Brown, who built this
8 program from its inception when it
9 was just a piece of paper. So I
10 would like to pass the mic to
11 Dr. Kareem Brown.

12 DR. BROWN: My man. I
13 first want to thank Council
14 President Kenyatta Johnson and City
15 Council for honoring Pushing
16 Progress Philly. I would also like
17 to thank Chief Public Safety
18 Director Adam Geer for bringing P3
19 under the City's oversight with a
20 special thank you to Councilwoman
21 Cindy Bass.

22 I want to begin by
23 thanking everyone for the
24 resolution and recognition of

1 2/5/26 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 Pushing Progress Philly and for the
3 continued commitment to safety and
4 dignity of our city. There's a
5 line from a Stevie Wonder song that
6 always stayed with me that said, I
7 thought the cold would leave by
8 summer.

9 Growing up in North
10 Philadelphia, that line meant
11 something different because for
12 many of us, summertime didn't bring
13 warmth, it brought fear. As the
14 weather got hotter, the streets got
15 colder. Gun violence increased,
16 sirens replaced ice cream trucks.
17 Too many lives were interrupted
18 before they had a chance to begin.

19 For decades, that was a
20 pattern, predictable, accepted and
21 normalized. But today,
22 Philadelphia is in a different
23 moment. We are now at historic
24 lows in gun violence, and that did

1 2/5/26 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 not happen by accident. It happened
3 because the City chose to invest in
4 evidence-based strategies, credible
5 messengers, cognitive behavioral
6 interventions, relentless outreach,
7 transitional employment and
8 community-centered violence
9 prevention.

10 Community-centered
11 violence prevention happened
12 because --

13 (Applause.)

14 DR. BROWN: It happened
15 because we stopped asking what's
16 wrong with people and started
17 asking what happened and what
18 works. Pushing Progress Philly is
19 proud to be a part of that
20 ecosystem. Our work is rooted in
21 data accountability and, most
22 importantly, relationships. We
23 walk with people through some of
24 their most difficult moments.

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2 Now, this coming summer
3 will be a test, a test of whether
4 we can sustain this momentum, a
5 test of whether we will stay
6 vigilant as the temperatures rise,
7 a test of whether we continue to
8 match investment with intention,
9 because violence reduction is not
10 seasonal work. It requires year-
11 round commitment.

12 Philadelphia is a city
13 rich in history, culture and
14 resilience and we are on the cusp
15 of becoming one of the safest and
16 greatest cities in the United
17 States. But that future depends on
18 whether we continue to invest in
19 the very communities that for too
20 long have been disinvested. If we
21 do that, if we stay focused,
22 coordinated and bold, then this
23 summer doesn't have to get colder.
24 It could finally get warmer. Thank

1 2/5/26 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 you.

3 (Applause.)

4 MR. GEER: Thank you,
5 Council President. Thank you,
6 thank you, thank you, Council
7 President. It's amazing when we
8 have leadership, right, our
9 Council, our Mayor, our Council
10 President, the folks behind me on
11 the ground all rowing in the same
12 canoe, down that same river towards
13 where we know we're going to be the
14 safest major city in the country.

15 We are on that march. We
16 are on that march because of the
17 leadership. We are on that march
18 because the innovation of programs
19 like this, leaders like this and
20 the investment again that our city
21 is making collectively in this kind
22 of work, it is working. We see
23 that it is working.

24 We must keep that

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2 investment up, continue to partner
3 as we do, stand together and make
4 this, again, every single
5 neighborhood, every single
6 neighborhood safe to walk down,
7 safe to live in so that we can
8 enjoy what we know is the greatest
9 city in America. So thank you very
10 much, Council President.

11 (Applause.)

12 MR. GEER:

13 Congratulations, y'all.

14 COUNCILWOMAN BASS:

15 Mr. President, before we adjourn to
16 the front to take a picture, I just
17 really wanted to acknowledge from
18 my office Kenneth Thompson, who has
19 worked so much with the gentlemen
20 in this group and who has really
21 been on the ground doing violence
22 prevention work in my district. So
23 I just want to make that
24 acknowledgement. Thank you, Kenny.

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2 (Applause.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

4 JOHNSON: Mr. Meekins.

5 MR. MEEKINS: I would
6 also like to acknowledge Kenneth
7 Thompson as well. He's been a
8 magnificent force when it comes to
9 making relationships between city
10 government and those on the ground.
11 So I would acknowledge you as well.

12 Also, obviously I would
13 like to thank the leadership of --
14 I would like to thank the
15 leadership of Dr. Kareem Brown.
16 Obviously, I lost a son to gun
17 violence so this is personal to me.
18 Obviously, I would like to thank
19 the leadership of Council
20 President. He's been --

21 (Applause.)

22 MR. MEEKINS: He's been a
23 magnificent force when championing
24 this work. Obviously, this type of

1 2/5/26 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 work needs champions. Obviously,
3 Councilwoman Cindy Bass, she's done
4 so much for me. I can't forget
5 Assistant Director Faith Dickey. A
6 lot of times the women in this
7 space they don't get a lot of
8 credit. And we got some powerful
9 women in this work.

10 (Applause.)

11 MR. MEEKINS: We got
12 people -- I'm 49 years old and I'll
13 end with this. I can't remember
14 the last time that we created a
15 comprehensive ecosystem with city
16 government, grassroots
17 organizations, law enforcement,
18 community-based organizations
19 that's making sure that the voice
20 is being heard of the people. This
21 is the first time that I've ever
22 seen that everybody is on the same
23 path at the same time creating what
24 you see today. Thank you.

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2 (Applause.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

4 JOHNSON: Council will be at ease.

5 (Council at ease.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

7 JOHNSON: I see a couple

8 individuals who are here supporting

9 some of the boots-on-the-ground

10 violence prevention organizations.

11 I see Frontline Dads, Mr. Rueben

12 Jones. Give him a round of

13 applause.

14 (Applause.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

16 JOHNSON: I see Mel Wells from

17 ODAAT. Give him a round of

18 applause.

19 (Applause.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

21 JOHNSON: Philadelphia Motivation,

22 give him a round of applause as

23 well. We see you here.

24 (Applause.)

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2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

3 JOHNSON: Re-entry Advocate,
4 Ms. Saudia Moneybags. Where Sye
5 at. Give her a round of applause
6 as well.

7 (Applause.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

9 JOHNSON: That's what supports look
10 like, and it's a community of
11 individuals who are out there
12 day-in and day-out on the front
13 line, trying to make sure our
14 streets are safe for our young
15 people and people in general.

16 As I mentioned before, we
17 had a 60-year historical low when
18 it comes to gun violence,
19 particularly homicides and
20 shootings, and that comes from
21 investing in boots-on-the-ground
22 organizations who are on the front
23 line doing this work day-in and
24 day-out.

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2 At this time, the Chair
3 recognizes Councilmember Cindy Bass
4 who is presenting a resolution, on
5 my behalf, honoring and commending
6 Endangered Kind, it's Founder and
7 Executive Director John Solomon and
8 his leadership team, Nakim Higgins,
9 Jalil Martin, Gary Hill and Eric
10 Knight-Lane for their commitment to
11 fighting youth gun violence and
12 their profound grassroots
13 leadership, uplifting vulnerable
14 young men, families and communities
15 throughout the city of
16 Philadelphia.

17 (Applause.)

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

19 JOHNSON: Would John Solomon and
20 those accompanying him, please join
21 the Councilmember at the podium.
22 Joining Member Bass at the podium
23 are the following individuals:
24 Councilmember Dr. Nina Ahmad,

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2 Councilmember Rue Landau,
3 Councilmember Quetcy Lozada,
4 Councilmember Mike Driscoll,
5 Councilmember Kendra Brooks,
6 Councilmember Dr. Anthony Phillips,
7 Councilmember Jim Harrity, the
8 Honorable Jannie L. Blackwell,
9 Councilmember Nicolas O'Rourke.

10 (Councilmembers and
11 guests approached podium.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

13 JOHNSON: The floor is yours,
14 Member Bass.

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

17 Councilmember Mel Wells,
18 how are you. I'm very excited to
19 honor, on Council President's
20 behalf, Endangered Kind and the
21 extraordinary leadership of its
22 founder, John Solomon, along with
23 Nakim Higgins, Jalil Martin, Gary
24 Hill and Eric Knight-Lane and the

1 2/5/26 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 whole team who joined us today.

3 Endangered Kind is not

4 just an organization, it's a

5 lifeline in our neighborhoods.

6 They meet young people where they

7 are with honesty, compassion and,

8 most importantly, hope through

9 street-level outreach, mentorship

10 and violence interruption. They

11 work directly with children and

12 young men who are too often written

13 off but never given up on. They're

14 credible messengers who are people

15 with lived experience, build trust,

16 mediate conflicts and help young

17 people see a future beyond

18 survival.

19 They connect families to

20 resources, promote healing and

21 strengthen entire blocks, not just

22 individuals. By investing in

23 dignity, opportunity and community

24 leadership, this group is helping

1 2/5/26 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 our children grow up safer and our
3 neighborhoods grow stronger. And
4 for that work, we proudly honor and
5 recognize them today with a
6 resolution.

7 And the resolution reads:

8 A resolution honoring and
9 commending Endangered Kind, its
10 Founder and Executive Director John
11 Solomon, and its leadership team,
12 Nakim Higgins, Jalil Martin, Gary
13 Hill and Eric Knight-Lane for their
14 commitment to fighting youth gun
15 violence and their profound
16 grassroots leadership uplifting
17 vulnerable young men, families and
18 communities throughout the city of
19 Philadelphia

20 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:

21 Whereas, Endangered Kind is a
22 community-aligned organization
23 founded in 2016 by John Solomon, a
24 lifelong Philadelphia resident

1 2/5/26 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 whose lived experience with
3 community violence profoundly
4 shaped the organization's mission
5 and vision; and

6 COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL:

7 Whereas, at age 15 John Solomon
8 survived a gunshot injury and later
9 served nearly five years in prison
10 for a gun-related offense, during
11 which he embraced personal growth
12 and faith, committing himself to
13 service and community
14 transformation; and

15 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:

16 Whereas, after his release John
17 Solomon dedicated his life to
18 uplifting others and building safer
19 communities by addressing the root
20 causes of violence, ultimately
21 founding Endangered Kind where he
22 now serves as Executive Director;
23 and

24 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE:

1 2/5/26 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 Whereas, the organization's
3 leadership team, Nakim Higgins,
4 Jalil Martin, Gary Hill and Eric
5 Knight-Lane has been instrumental
6 in guiding Endangered Kind's
7 outreach programs and community
8 initiatives, deepening its impact
9 throughout Philadelphia
10 neighborhoods; and

11 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS:

12 Whereas, through community outreach
13 Endangered Kind works directly with
14 residents and neighborhoods
15 experiencing the highest rates of
16 violence by engaging in street-
17 level outreach, canvassing peer
18 support and connecting individuals
19 and families to critical resources
20 and support networks that promote
21 stability, healing and trust; and

22 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:

23 Whereas, through its violence
24 intervention efforts, Endangered

1 2/5/26 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 Kind deploys trained, credible
3 messengers with lived experience to
4 identify individuals at highest
5 risk of harm, they assist in
6 mediating conflicts, interrupting
7 cycles of retaliation and providing
8 ongoing mentorship and support
9 aimed at preventing shootings and
10 saving lives; and

11 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

12 Whereas, through community
13 development initiatives, Endangered
14 Kind invests in long-term
15 neighborhood strength by supporting
16 grassroots leadership, expanding
17 economic and social opportunity and
18 addressing the root causes of
19 violence and divestment;

20 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:

21 Whereas, Endangered Kind's holistic
22 and community-centered model aligns
23 with evidence in forum best
24 practices in violence prevention

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2 and reflects the City of
3 Philadelphia's commitment to
4 investing in solutions that center
5 dignity and opportunity rather than
6 punishment. Now, therefore, be it;

7 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA:

8 Resolved, by the City Council of
9 Philadelphia, hereby honors and
10 commends Endangered Kind, its
11 Founder and Executive Director John
12 Solomon and its leadership team for
13 their commitment to fighting youth
14 gun violence and their profound
15 grassroots leadership uplifting
16 vulnerable young men, families and
17 communities throughout the City of
18 Philadelphia.

19 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: And

20 Further resolve that an Engrossed
21 copy of this resolution be
22 presented to Endangered Kind as an
23 expression of the sincere
24 admiration and gratitude of the

1 2/5/26 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 Council of the City of
3 Philadelphia. Congratulations
4 and --

5 (Applause.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

7 JOHNSON: Chair recognizes
8 Executive Director John Solomon.

9 MR. SOLOMON: Greetings,
10 ladies and gentlemen, City Council
11 and every family member, friend and
12 supporter who decided to come out
13 here in support of our
14 organization. I also would like to
15 acknowledge our leadership team,
16 Mr. Jalil Martin, Mr. Gary Hill,
17 Mr. Nakim Higgins, Mr. Eric Knight-
18 Lane for doing such an awesome job
19 that's supporting this work.

20 For those who don't know,
21 my name is John Solomon. I am the
22 Founder and Executive Director of a
23 local nonprofit organization called
24 Endangered Kind, which was founded

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2 back in 2016 with the focus on
3 improving community safety on the
4 grassroots and systemic level,
5 because we understand that beyond
6 gun violence, there are other
7 systemic issues that exist, and gun
8 violence is just a byproduct of
9 that.

10 In fact, we understand
11 that beyond gun violence we have
12 other threats to our community
13 right, threats such as housing,
14 threats such as joblessness and
15 living wages, threats such as lack
16 of access to health care and
17 education and other social,
18 economic and political disparities
19 that exist within low-income
20 communities, which is why during a
21 time where SNAP benefits were
22 frozen, our organization decided to
23 respond and feed and help hundreds
24 of families across the North

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2 Philadelphia Section.

3 But what we realized
4 while we were serving these
5 families is that we had to move
6 beyond our pocket of the city,
7 which is North Philly. We
8 understood that if our goal is to
9 advocate for people, if our goal is
10 to serve people, we have to serve
11 beyond our pocket, which is why we
12 decided to launch what we call the
13 Project Toward 2026, where we'll be
14 visiting 13 different sections of
15 the city because we believe we
16 can't help what we don't hear. We
17 have to hear from the people that
18 we want to serve if we want to
19 advocate for them thoroughly.

20 And I'll close with this,
21 because I think we have a great
22 opportunity for the people that we
23 represent, which is the community,
24 specifically low-income

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2 communities, right, in the year of
3 the 250th year anniversary in the
4 city of democracy, we have an
5 opportunity to help those that are
6 most in need, that's most impacted.

7 We have world-class
8 events coming to the city of
9 Philadelphia. We have events that
10 people can take advantage of in
11 terms of opportunities, in terms of
12 jobs, in terms of business
13 opportunities, in terms of
14 contracting opportunities. And I
15 think that if we truly want to
16 serve all Philadelphians,
17 especially those that have been
18 struggling generationally with
19 poverty, then as a body, as City
20 Council, the Mayor's administration
21 and everybody that's invested into
22 helping people have that
23 opportunity to do so.

24 I also would add, as we

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2 invest into housing, this is also
3 an opportunity for people to be
4 trained up, whether we got to put
5 them in trade schools so they can
6 be trained up and put in unions for
7 them to have the opportunity to
8 intern or take apprenticeships. We
9 also want to give them the
10 opportunity to take advantage of
11 the economic opportunities coming
12 to the city.

13 So again, I'll close by
14 just thanking Council President
15 Johnson. He's been very supportive
16 of the work that we've been doing
17 over the last few years. And also
18 want to thank the City Council.
19 All those that said yes to this
20 resolution, we appreciate you. And
21 I hope that we can continue to do
22 this work and continue to work with
23 Council and other leaders in the
24 city that's willing to do this

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2 work, which is why I made it my
3 business to invite people with
4 other organizations to come here,
5 because they too need to be
6 acknowledged. So again, I thank
7 you. But I wanted to take the time
8 out to allow some of our team
9 members to say a few words.

10 (Applause.)

11 MR. MARTIN: Real quick,
12 I'm not going to be too long. I
13 just want to say thank God, number
14 one. And most importantly, without
15 him none of this would be possible.
16 Thank you to all our friends and
17 family that's been supporting us
18 along our journey and the City
19 Councilmembers that voted for us to
20 be able to receive this resolution.
21 So many emotions running through
22 me, right.

23 I just want to say, yeah,
24 thank you to everyone and every

1 2/5/26 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 day. Just try to fight to be the
3 person that you needed when you
4 were younger, every single day,
5 man. That's all we doing. We
6 fighting to be the person that we
7 needed when we was young, when we
8 was out there, you know what I'm
9 saying. If we don't do it, who's
10 gonna do it.

11 (Applause.)

12 MR. HILL: How y'all
13 doing. My name Gary Hill. I
14 appreciate my friends, my family,
15 everybody who here supporting us.
16 I just want to really give this
17 moment to my man, John. I just
18 appreciate him just adding me to
19 his vision and believing in me and
20 giving me the opportunity just to,
21 you know, save people's lives.
22 I've been shot, I've been in jail
23 and just get my story out to people
24 looking for somebody who I was

1 2/5/26 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 looking for when I was younger.

3 That's all I'm gonna say.

4 But we're gonna continue. We're

5 gonna keep working. Y'all gonna

6 see us again and again and again.

7 Appreciate you, John.

8 (Applause.)

9 MR. SOLOMON: So sorry to
10 interrupt, but I'm very important
11 in including people. Also, the
12 amazing Ms. Makita Hill. She does
13 a great job at administration and
14 logistics and operations when it
15 comes to our business. And that's
16 my lady.

17 (Applause.)

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

19 JOHNSON: That's what's up. Smart
20 man.

21 MR. SOLOMON: Had to get
22 right. And our youngest recruit
23 which is Kahim Hunter. We call him
24 150. He's 19 years old. We got

1 2/5/26 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 him on the right path.

3 (Applause.)

4 MR. SOLOMON: And this is
5 a moment where he gets to have the
6 exposure and really see what it's
7 like to do things the right way and
8 get support from people that's
9 often times lacking. So I just
10 wanted to make sure I acknowledge
11 them. Again, I thank you Council
12 President as well as City Council
13 for acknowledging us. I'm not
14 sure. Mr. Nakim?

15 MR. HIGGINS: (Shaking
16 head).

17 MR. SOLOMON: He's good.
18 I appreciate y'all for coming out.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

20 JOHNSON: So hold on. Before
21 Council is at ease, right, young
22 men, I want y'all to stand there.
23 It's five of y'all, right, part of
24 leadership team. So five positive

1 2/5/26 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 Black men in the City of
3 Philadelphia doing the right things
4 for the right reasons, right.
5 Channel 10 -- look at that camera,
6 y'all.

7 You see that press box
8 over there? Make sure you are
9 paying attention, because often
10 times when you turn on the news, we
11 don't see the images of positive
12 Black young men in the streets of
13 Philadelphia doing the right things
14 for the right reasons. We see the
15 opposite. But just want to make
16 sure we continue to memorialize
17 this moment and also create and
18 tell our own narrative. So, press,
19 check them out, y'all.

20 Council will be at ease.

21 (Council at ease.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

23 JOHNSON: On behalf of
24 Councilmember Dr. Anthony Phillips,

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2 who has several schools here during
3 the Student Government Citywide Day
4 here in City Council, the following
5 schools are joining us, Boys Latin,
6 Universal Audenreid, Constitution
7 High, Community College of
8 Philadelphia, West Chester
9 University, Drexel University,
10 Russell Byers Charter School,
11 Harambee Charter School, Temple
12 University, Esperanza Charter
13 School, Frankford High School,
14 Abraham Lincoln High School, West
15 Philadelphia High School, Friends
16 Central, Independence Charter
17 School, Tacony Charter School,
18 Franklinton and Mastbaum High
19 School, welcome to City Council.

20 (Applause.)

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

22 JOHNSON: The next order of
23 business is communications. The
24 Chair requests that the Sergeant-

1 2/5/26 - STATED - COMMUNICATIONS

2 at-Arms deliver the messages from
3 the Mayor to the Chief Clerk.

4 Will the Chief Clerk
5 please read the messages from the
6 Mayor and any other communications
7 in her possession.

8 CHIEF CLERK: To the
9 President and members of the
10 Council of the City of
11 Philadelphia, I am pleased to
12 advise to you that on February 2,
13 2026 I signed the following bills
14 which were passed by Council at its
15 session on January 22, 2026: Bill
16 No. 250986 and Bill No. 250990.

17 There are no further
18 communications in my possession,
19 Council President.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

21 JOHNSON: Thank you very much. The
22 messages will be printed in the
23 Journal.

24 The next order of

1 2/5/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 business is the introduction of
3 bills and resolutions.

4 The Chair recognizes
5 Councilmember Dr. Anthony Phillips.

6 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

7 Thank you, Council President.

8 Today I'm introducing
9 four privileged resolutions. Two
10 on your behalf.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

12 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

13 Would the Chief Clerk
14 please read the titles of the
15 resolutions.

16 CHIEF CLERK: A
17 privileged resolution honoring and
18 recognizing Black Girls Love Math
19 for its work in eliminating racial
20 and gender inequality in
21 mathematics by cultivating a
22 positive math identity for Black
23 girls through culturally responsive
24 enrichment, mentoring and community

1 2/5/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 in Philadelphia.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

7 CHIEF CLERK: It's
8 privileged.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

13 CHIEF CLERK: A
14 privileged resolution declaring
15 February 5, 2026, as Citywide
16 Student Government Day in the City
17 of Philadelphia.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

22 CHIEF CLERK: And a
23 privileged resolution declaring
24 February 2026 as "Black History

1 2/5/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 Month" in the City of Philadelphia,
3 and recognizing the 100th
4 anniversary of its observance.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

9 CHIEF CLERK: And a
10 privileged resolution
11 congratulating Donna Cooper on her
12 retirement and recognizing her
13 transformational leadership and
14 lifelong advocacy for children in
15 Philadelphia and across the state
16 of Pennsylvania.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

21 The Chair recognizes the
22 Majority Leader Katherine Gilmore
23 Richardson.

24 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

1 2/5/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 RICHARDSON: Good morning, Council
3 President. Good morning,
4 colleagues.

5 Today I offer two
6 privileged resolutions, one of
7 which is on your behalf.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

9 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

10 Will the Chief Clerk
11 please read the titles of the
12 privileged resolutions.

13 CHIEF CLERK: A
14 privileged resolution recognizing
15 February 2026 as Career and
16 Technical Education Month in the
17 City of Philadelphia.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

22 CHIEF CLERK: And a
23 privileged resolution honoring and
24 congratulating Nicole Cashman,

1 2/5/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 Founder and Chief Executive Officer
3 of Cashman & Associates, on the
4 occasion of the firm's 25th
5 anniversary, and recognizing her
6 remarkable contributions to the
7 business community and cultural
8 vitality of the City of
9 Philadelphia.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

14 The Chair recognizes
15 Councilmember Jamie Gauthier.

16 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:

17 Good morning, Council President.

18 Nothing today.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

20 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

21 Chair recognizes
22 Councilmember Isaiah Thomas.

23 COUNCILMAN THOMAS:

24 Morning, Council President.

1 2/5/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 Nothing today.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

4 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

5 Chair recognizes

6 Councilmember Curtis Jones.

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

9 Today I offer two
10 privileged resolutions.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

12 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

13 Will the Chief Clerk
14 please read the titles of the
15 privileged resolutions.

16 CHIEF CLERK: A
17 privileged resolution Honoring and
18 Recognizing the Legacy and
19 Contributions of Prince Hall
20 Freemasonry during Black History
21 Month.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

1 2/5/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 Calendar.

3 CHIEF CLERK: And a
4 privileged resolution honoring and
5 recognizing Rick Williams, Sharrie
6 Williams, Ukee Washington, Thera
7 Martin and Solomon Jones for their
8 service to Philadelphia as trusted
9 journalists and stewards of truth
10 during Black History Month.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

15 The Chair recognizes
16 Councilmember Curtis Jones.

17 COUNCILMAN JONES:

18 Mr. President, we will be adding at
19 least two names to that by the
20 final time when we present. Thank
21 you.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

23 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

24 The Chair recognizes

1 2/5/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 Councilmember Rue Landau.

3 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:

4 Good morning, Council President,
5 colleagues and the public.

6 I have one non-privileged
7 resolution and one privileged
8 resolution on your behalf.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

10 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

11 Would the Chief Clerk
12 please read the title of the
13 resolutions.

14 CHIEF CLERK: A
15 privileged resolution recognizing
16 and honoring HughE Dillon aka
17 PhillyChitChat, for his remarkable
18 contributions to the cultural and
19 social life of the City, and
20 celebrating his work chronicling
21 the spirit of Philadelphia.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

23 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

24 This resolution will be placed on

1 2/5/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 today's Final Passage Calendar.

3 CHIEF CLERK: And a
4 non-privileged resolution
5 commending the Pennsylvania General
6 Assembly for including the Working
7 Pennsylvanians Tax Credit in the
8 2025-2026 budget, a crucial new
9 tool to provide essential resources
10 and lift families out of poverty
11 across the Commonwealth.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

17 The Chair recognizes
18 Councilmember Quetcy Lozada.

19 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA:

20 Thank you, Council President.

21 I have one privileged
22 resolution today.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

24 JOHNSON: Will the Chief Clerk

1 2/5/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 please read the title of the
3 privileged resolution.

4 CHIEF CLERK: A
5 privileged resolution recognizing
6 Bad Bunny's cultural impact,
7 advocacy for historically
8 underrepresented voices and
9 congratulating him on his 2026
10 Grammy award for Album of the Year
11 for Debi Tirar Mas Fotos.

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

16 Chair now recognizes
17 Councilmember Jeffrey Jay Young.

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

20 Today I offer one bill on
21 your behalf.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
23 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

24 Will the Chief Clerk

1 2/5/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 please read the title of the bill.

3 CHIEF CLERK: An
4 ordinance amending Section 9-208 of
5 The Philadelphia Code, entitled
6 "Sidewalk Cafes" and Section
7 A-301.1.5 of Title 4 Subcode "A"
8 ("The Philadelphia Administrative
9 Code") of The Philadelphia Code,
10 entitled "Zoning and Use
11 Registration Permits," by removing
12 expired provisions related to
13 outdoor entertainment at sidewalk
14 cafes, under certain terms and
15 conditions.

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

20 Chair recognizes
21 Councilmember Kendra Brooks.

22 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS:
23 Thank you, Council President.

24 I have one privileged

1 2/5/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 resolution to offer today.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

4 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

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

7 CHIEF CLERK: A

8 privileged resolution recognizing
9 and celebrating the women of All Of
10 Us Or None Philadelphia, Why not
11 Prosper and SWAG for their efforts
12 to address and fix laws that permit
13 enslavement as a punishment for a
14 crime, on the occasion of Black
15 History Month.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

20 Chair recognizes
21 Councilmember Jim Harrity.

22 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: Good
23 afternoon, Council President.

24 I have one non-privileged

1 2/5/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 resolution and two privileged
3 resolutions today.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

5 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

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

9 CHIEF CLERK: A
10 privileged resolution recognizing
11 the rise of cardiovascular disease
12 as one of the world's leading
13 causes of death and disability, and
14 recognizing February 2026 as
15 "American Heart Month."

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

20 CHIEF CLERK: And a
21 privileged resolution authorizing
22 the Committee on Labor and Civil
23 Service and the Committee on
24 Transportation to hold joint

1 2/5/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 hearings regarding the arrival of
3 driverless rideshare vehicles in
4 the City of Philadelphia and its
5 impact on labor, the local economy
6 and public safety.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

11 CHIEF CLERK: And a
12 non-privileged resolution calling
13 on the General Assembly of the
14 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to
15 establish a comprehensive
16 regulatory framework and conduct a
17 formal safety and labor impact
18 review of driverless rideshare
19 vehicles operating in Philadelphia
20 and throughout Pennsylvania.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

22 JOHNSON: This resolution will be
23 placed on the Final Passage
24 Calendar for consideration at our

1 2/5/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 next session of Council to
3 recognize Councilmember Nicolas
4 O'Rourke.

5 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE:

6 Good morning, Mr. President. Good
7 morning, Philadelphians.

8 Nothing today.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

10 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

11 Will the Chief Clerk --
12 Chair recognizes Councilmember Mike
13 Driscoll.

14 COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL:

15 Mr. President, one bill today.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

17 JOHNSON: Thank you very much for.

18 Will the Chief Clerk
19 please read the title of the bill.

20 CHIEF CLERK: An
21 ordinance to amend Title 14 of The
22 Philadelphia Code by adding Section
23 14-546 entitled /SIX, Sixth
24 District Overlay District, revise

1 2/5/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 Section 14-515, the /NE, Northeast
3 Overlay District, remove Section
4 14-523, the /IMA, Industrial and
5 Manufacturing Area Overlay
6 District, and make other related
7 changes, all under certain terms
8 and conditions.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

13 Chair recognizes
14 Councilmember Brian O'Neill.

15 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL:

16 Thank you, Mr. President.

17 I have no bills or
18 resolutions.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

20 JOHNSON: Chair recognizes
21 Councilmember Cindy Bass.

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

24 I offer one bill and one

1 2/5/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 privileged resolution.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

4 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

5 Will the Chief Clerk
6 please read the title of the bill
7 and resolution.

8 CHIEF CLERK: An
9 ordinance amending Chapter 9-600 of
10 The Philadelphia Code, entitled
11 "Service and Other Businesses" to
12 add a definition of fitness centers
13 and provide a limited exception to
14 the curfew permitting earlier hours
15 of operation in the 7th and 8th
16 Councilmanic Districts, all under
17 certain terms and conditions.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

22 CHIEF CLERK: And a
23 privileged resolution honoring the
24 legacy of William Thaddeus Coleman,

1 2/5/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 Jr. and recognizing March 10, 2026,
3 as "William Thaddeus Coleman, Jr.
4 Day" in the City of Philadelphia.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

10 JOHNSON: Chair recognizes
11 Councilmember Dr. Nina Ahmad.

12 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:
13 Thank you, Council President.

14 I offer one bill, one
15 privileged resolution and one
16 non-privileged resolution.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

18 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

19 Would the Chief Clerk
20 please read the bill and
21 resolutions for Councilmember
22 Dr. Nina Ahmad.

23 CHIEF CLERK: An
24 ordinance providing for the

1 2/5/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 submission to the qualified
3 electors of the City of
4 Philadelphia of the proposal set
5 forth in a Resolution approved by
6 Council proposing an amendment to
7 the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter
8 relating to the creation of the
9 Philadelphia Child Welfare
10 Commission; and authorizing and
11 directing the appropriate officers
12 to publish notice and to make
13 arrangements for the special
14 election.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

19 CHIEF CLERK: And a
20 non-privileged resolution proposing
21 an amendment to the Philadelphia
22 Home Rule Charter, providing for
23 the creation of the Philadelphia
24 Child Welfare Commission; and

1 2/5/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 providing for the submission of the
3 proposed amendment to the electors
4 of Philadelphia.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

6 JOHNSON: This resolution will be
7 referred to the appropriate
8 committee.

9 CHIEF CLERK: And a
10 privileged resolution honoring and
11 recognizing Mercy-Douglas Hospital
12 as the first Black Hospital in
13 Philadelphia and commemorating the
14 enduring legacy of its founder,
15 Dr. Nathan Francis Mossell and his
16 commitment to advancing health
17 equity and medical excellence.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

22 The next order of
23 business is reports from the
24 committee. The Chair recognizes

1 2/5/26 - STATED - REPORTS

2 Councilmember Cindy Bass for a
3 report from the Committee on Rules.

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

6 The Committee on Rules
7 reports out five bills with a
8 favorable recommendation.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
10 JOHNSON: Thank you.

11 Will the Chief Clerk
12 please read the report.

13 CHIEF CLERK: The
14 Committee on Rules to which were
15 referred the following bill: Bill
16 No. 251031, an ordinance repealing
17 in its entirety Bill No. 241055
18 (approved December 23, 2024),
19 entitled "An ordinance to amend the
20 Philadelphia Zoning Maps by
21 changing the zoning designations of
22 certain areas of land located
23 within an area bounded by Packer
24 Avenue, Seventh Street, Pattison

1 2/5/26 - STATED - REPORTS

2 Avenue, and Darien Street. To amend
3 Title 14 of The Philadelphia Code
4 by adding Section 14-541 entitled
5 "/PAK, Packer Avenue Overlay
6 District and making other related
7 changes, all under certain terms
8 and conditions," respectfully
9 reports that has considered the
10 same and returns the attached bill
11 to Council with a favorable
12 recommendation.

13 Bill No. 250917, an
14 ordinance amending Section 14-529
15 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled
16 "/VDO, Fifth District Overlay
17 District," to provide for building
18 requirements to prevent vacant
19 lots, all under certain terms and
20 conditions.

21 Bill No. 250988, an
22 ordinance amending Chapter 9-600 of
23 The Philadelphia Code (entitled
24 "Service and Other Businesses") to

1 2/5/26 - STATED - REPORTS

2 add business hour restrictions in
3 the Fifth Councilmanic District;
4 and amending Section 14-529 of The
5 Philadelphia Code, entitled "/VDO,
6 Fifth District Overlay District,"
7 to restrict certain commercial uses
8 and make other related changes, all
9 under certain terms and conditions.

10 And Bill No. 250989, an
11 ordinance amending Title 10 of The
12 Philadelphia Code, entitled
13 "Regulation of Individual Conduct
14 and Activity," by adding a new
15 Section to impose a temporary
16 moratorium on the breeding and
17 transfer of puppies, all under
18 certain terms and conditions,
19 respectfully reports it has
20 considered and amended the same and
21 returns the attached bills to
22 Council with a favorable
23 recommendation.

24 There are no further

1 2/5/26 - STATED - REPORTS
2 bills to report out from the
3 Committee on Rules, Council
4 President.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

6 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes
7 Councilmember Bass for a motion.

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

10 I move that the rules of
11 Council be suspended to permit
12 first reading this day of the bills
13 just read into the record by the
14 Clerk.

15 (Duly seconded.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

17 JOHNSON: It has been moved and
18 properly seconded that the rules of
19 Council be suspended so as to
20 prevent the consideration of these
21 bills just read by the Chief Clerk
22 at today's session of Council.

23 All those in favor of the
24 motion was signify by saying aye.

1 2/5/26 - STATED - REPORTS

2 (Aye.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

4 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

5 (No response.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

11 The Chair recognizes
12 Councilmember Mike Driscoll for a
13 report from the Committee on
14 Licenses and Inspections.

15 COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL:

16 Thank you, Mr. President.

17 The Committee on Licenses
18 and Inspections reports out two
19 bills with a favorable
20 recommendation.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

22 JOHNSON: Thank you.

23 Will the Chief Clerk
24 please read the report.

1 2/5/26 - STATED - REPORTS

2 CHIEF CLERK: The
3 Committee on Licenses and
4 Inspections to which were referred
5 the following bills: Bill No.
6 250980, an ordinance amending
7 Chapter 9-3900 of The Philadelphia
8 Code, entitled "Property Licenses
9 and Owner Accountability," by
10 requiring non-resident landlords to
11 provide verifiable contact
12 information and a designated local
13 contact and establishing penalties
14 for non-compliance, all under
15 certain terms and conditions.

16 And Bill No. 251097, an
17 ordinance amending Chapter 9-4400
18 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled
19 "Responsible Business Operations,"
20 to add illegal sales of tobacco
21 products to minors and unlicensed
22 tobacco retailing as nuisance
23 behaviors, and require completion
24 of a Department-approved Tobacco

1 2/5/26 - STATED - REPORTS

2 Retailer Education and Compliance
3 Training as a condition of lifting
4 a Cease Operations Order, all under
5 certain terms and conditions,
6 respectfully reports it has
7 considered and amended the same and
8 returns the attached bills to
9 Council with a favorable
10 recommendation.

11 CHIEF CLERK: There are
12 no further bills to report out from
13 the Committee on Licenses and
14 Inspections, Council President.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

16 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

17 The Chair recognizes
18 Councilmember Driscoll for a
19 motion.

20 COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL:

21 Thank you, Mr. President.

22 I move that the rules of
23 Council be suspended to permit
24 first reading this day of the bills

1 2/5/26 - STATED - REPORTS

2 just read into the record by the
3 Chief Clerk.

4 (Duly seconded.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

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

14 (Aye.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

16 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

17 (No response.)

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

19 JOHNSON: The ayes have it. The
20 motion carries. These bills will
21 be placed on our First Reading
22 Calendar for today.

23 The Chair now recognizes
24 Councilmember Dr. Nina Ahmad for a

1 2/5/26 - STATED - REPORTS

2 motion regarding special business.

3 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:

4 Thank you, Council President.

5 I move that the rules of
6 Council be suspended to permit
7 consideration of special business
8 at this time.

9 (Duly seconded.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

11 JOHNSON: It has been moved and
12 properly seconded that the rules of
13 Council be suspended so as to
14 permit the consideration of special
15 business at this time.

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

18 (Aye.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

20 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

21 (No response.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

23 JOHNSON: The ayes have it. The
24 motion carries.

1 2/5/26 - STATED - REPORTS

2 The Chair recognizes
3 Councilmember Dr. Nina Ahmad for a
4 motion regarding Resolution No.
5 260050, introduced at our Stated
6 Meeting on January 22, '26.

7 Would the Clerk please
8 read the title of the resolution.

9 CHIEF CLERK: A
10 resolution providing for the
11 submission to the qualified
12 electors of the City of
13 Philadelphia of the proposal set
14 forth, and a resolution approved by
15 Council proposing an amendment to
16 the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter
17 relating to the creation of the
18 Community Child Welfare Commission;
19 and authorizing and directing the
20 appropriate officers to publish
21 notice and to make arrangements for
22 the special election.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

24 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

1 2/5/26 - STATED - REPORTS

2 The Chair recognizes
3 Councilmember Dr. Nina Ahmad.

4 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:

5 Thank you, Mr. President.

6 I move that Resolution
7 No. 260050 be withdrawn.

8 (Duly seconded.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

10 JOHNSON: It has been moved and
11 properly seconded that Resolution
12 No. 260050 be withdrawn.

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

15 (Aye.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

17 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

18 (No response.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

20 JOHNSON: The ayes have it. The
21 motion carries. And Resolution No.
22 260050 has been withdrawn.

23 The Chair recognizes
24 Councilmember Dr. Nina Ahmad for a

1 2/5/26 - STATED - REPORTS
2 motion regarding Resolution No.
3 260027 introduced at our Stated
4 Meeting on January 22, 2026.

5 Would the Clerk please
6 read the title of the bill.

7 CHIEF CLERK: An
8 ordinance proposing an amendment to
9 the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter
10 providing for the creation of the
11 Community Child Welfare Commission
12 and providing for the submission of
13 the proposed amendment to the
14 electors of Philadelphia.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
16 JOHNSON: Chair recognizes
17 Councilmember Dr. Nina Ahmad.

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

20 I move that Bill No.
21 260027 be withdrawn.

22 (Duly seconded.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
24 JOHNSON: It has been moved and

1 2/5/26 - STATED - BILLS ON 2ND READING

2 properly seconded that Bill No.
3 260027 be withdrawn.

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

6 (Aye.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

8 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

9 (No response.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

11 JOHNSON: The ayes have it. The
12 motion carries and Bill No. 260027
13 has been withdrawn.

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

24 As there are no

1 2/5/26 - STATED - BILLS ON 2ND READING

2 additional bills on the First
3 Reading Calendar, the Chair
4 recognizes Majority Leader
5 Councilmember Katherine Gilmore
6 Richardson for a motion concerning
7 the bills and resolutions on the
8 Second Reading and Final Passage
9 Calendars.

10 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

11 RICHARDSON: Thank you,
12 Mr. President.

13 The following bills and
14 resolutions are being called up
15 from the Second Reading and Final
16 Passage Calendars today: No.
17 260066.

18 The following bills and
19 resolutions on the Calendar are
20 being held: 241070, 260044, 241056,
21 250768, 250807, 250843 and 251025.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

23 JOHNSON: Thank you. Before
24 considering these bills and

1 2/5/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 resolutions, we will consider
3 public comment as follows: Your
4 public comment must concern matters
5 on the Second Reading and Final
6 Passage Calendars for possible
7 action at today's Council session.

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

18 Under ideal
19 circumstances, public commenters
20 each will have three minutes to
21 speak. However, this time limit
22 may vary from session to session.
23 The time limit today will be two
24 minutes. In order to be fair to

1 2/5/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 all those wishing to speak, I
3 intend to hold faithfully to the
4 two-minute limit.

5 When you begin speaking,
6 you will see a green light on the
7 podium. When there are 30 seconds
8 remaining to your time, the light
9 will turn yellow, which is your
10 reminder to please conclude your
11 remarks. Once two minutes have
12 passed, the light will turn red and
13 the Sergeant-at-Arms will
14 disconnect the microphone.

15 At that point, please
16 yield the podium to the next
17 speaker if you have not already
18 done so. I also reserve the right,
19 pursuant to our rules of Council,
20 to limit repetitious comments on
21 the same subject matter.

22 I will now ask the Chief
23 Clerk to please read the name of
24 our first speaker.

1 2/5/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 CHIEF CLERK: Will Jeremy
3 Blatstein, Lynn Landes, David
4 Jenkins and Atiya Harmon, please
5 make your way to the podium.

6 (Witnesses approached
7 podium.)

8 MR. BLATSTEIN: Hello,
9 City Council. My name is Jeremy
10 Blatstein. First off, obviously I
11 want to acknowledge John Solomon
12 and the guys that were honored
13 today. I got connected with him
14 from Pastor Carl Day four years ago
15 when I started tweeting about gun
16 violence.

17 And Pastor Carl called me
18 out and said, what does a White boy
19 from Abington know about gun
20 violence. I said absolutely
21 nothing. And Pastor Carl sat down
22 with me and schooled me. Really
23 saw the work that the guys are
24 doing in the trenches day-in and

1 2/5/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 day-out and how important it is.

3 I got connected with
4 Queen Mother Falaka Fattah, right,
5 House of Umoja. I sat and listened
6 every Saturday for Solution
7 Saturday for a whole year and
8 learned so much from her. Gun
9 violence isn't an easy thing to
10 solve in this city and I really
11 appreciate the work that everyone's
12 doing to support these
13 organizations that are on the
14 ground. So thank you very much for
15 that.

16 But with that being said,
17 last week was Holocaust Remembrance
18 Day. There was not a peep said in
19 this room last week. I didn't see
20 a post by any of you. It's okay.
21 But the bigger issue, hey,
22 Philadelphia news media --

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

24 JOHNSON: Can I just correct the

1 2/5/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 record? So from our -- our Jewish
3 Councilmember did do a joint
4 statement and she posted it. I
5 think everyone saw it. Member Rue
6 Landau for the record.

7 MR. BLATSTEIN: Yeah, the
8 token Jew of the Council.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

10 JOHNSON: Now, see.

11 MR. BLATSTEIN: Yeah, I
12 can say that.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

14 JOHNSON: At this point in time,
15 right, we were trying to be
16 respectful --

17 MR. BLATSTEIN:
18 Respectful, yeah, yeah.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

20 JOHNSON: And so, at this point in
21 time I'm going to ask you to carry
22 on --

23 MR. BLATSTEIN: So my
24 point is -- the point of the order,

1 2/5/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 right, is what occurred on Sunday
3 in Rittenhouse Square, right, with
4 the rally that happened. That was
5 no mention in the media --

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

7 JOHNSON: I want to be respectful
8 of you. It's not on the Calendar
9 right now. If you want to have a
10 Jewish, Palestine, Gaza
11 conversation, have somebody
12 introduce a bill and we can address
13 it formally. I tried to give you
14 discretion. That's all we have for
15 the day. Thank you, sir.

16 Next please.

17 MS. LANDES: Good
18 morning --

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

20 JOHNSON: Remarks, Member Rue
21 Landau -- please, Lynn Landes,
22 begin.

23 MS. LANDES: Good
24 morning. I'm Lynn Landes of

1 2/5/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Safestreetsphilly.org and Philly's
3 Republican Network. The anti-ICE
4 resolution proposed today is a
5 blatant reversal of the facts. It
6 is not ICE agents, but instead
7 illegal aliens, anti-ICE activists
8 and democratic officials who have
9 "engaged and continue to engage in
10 lawless, cruel and unconstitutional
11 activities."

12 It is democratic
13 officials who continue to encourage
14 anti-ICE activists to stalk, harass
15 and obstruct ICE agents. Can you
16 imagine treating our own police
17 this way? Of course, many people
18 feel badly for the millions of
19 illegal aliens who now live in fear
20 of being caught by ICE.

21 But whose fault is that?
22 Well, it's theirs for knowingly
23 violating our immigration laws, but
24 it's also democratic officials who

1 2/5/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 entice them here to so-called
3 sanctuary cities and states and
4 then spent billions of taxpayers'
5 dollars incentivizing them to stay.
6 And despite all of that, the Trump
7 administration has offered to pay
8 nonviolent illegal aliens to return
9 home. That is not cruel or
10 heartless. That's bending over
11 backwards to sensibly solve a
12 national catastrophe that
13 democratic officials themselves
14 have created.

15 Unfortunately, I believe
16 that what sponsors of this
17 resolution really want are open
18 borders. ICE out, illegals in.
19 And that would lead to an endless
20 invasion, insurrection --

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

22 JOHNSON: Ms. Lynn Landes, just
23 real quick, and you know I welcome
24 all public comment, but we don't

1 2/5/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 use the word aliens in this body.

3 (Applause.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

5 JOHNSON: And so, you can say
6 immigrants, but we don't use
7 aliens. You can have your opinion,
8 but we don't use aliens in this
9 body.

10 MS. LANDES: That's your
11 opinion. Are you saying that I
12 cannot use the word aliens?

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

14 JOHNSON: I just said we don't use
15 aliens. Please proceed. Please
16 proceed, ma'am.

17 MS. LANDES: Okay.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

19 JOHNSON: Please proceed,
20 Ms. Landes.

21 MS. LANDES: But it
22 appears that the anti-ICE movement
23 is really all about -- that's what
24 it's really all about, and they

1 2/5/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 will succeed if average Americans
3 fail to fight for our democracy.
4 Thank you.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

6 JOHNSON: Thank you very much,
7 Ms. Landes.

8 Please begin, sir.

9 MR. JENKINS:

10 Mr. President, a quick point of
11 order. I just wanted to reset the
12 room. We don't use heinous
13 language nor do we treat our
14 brother and sister from anywhere
15 that way. That is appalling.

16 (Applause.)

17 MR. JENKINS: We don't do
18 that here in chambers. Let me
19 reset. Mr. President, members and
20 guests, I rise in celebration of
21 100th anniversary of Black History
22 Month in America as the 13th
23 generation of a Black American song
24 woven into the fabric of this land.

1 2/5/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 392 years ago, my ancestors
3 arriving Virginia in 1634.

4 I rise today in
5 solidarity with the Masonic
6 brethren as the 32nd degree Mason
7 with the Masonic pedigree going
8 back to 1865 with King Solomon
9 Lodge No. 1 in North Carolina, a
10 pedigree which has seen four
11 grandmasters in my family, with
12 Donald C. Jones, the Honorable
13 Donald C. Jones, Grandmaster,
14 Pennsylvania's 105th Grandmaster
15 being my last.

16 I rise in recognition of
17 Mercy-Douglas Hospital as the first
18 Black hospital in Philadelphia,
19 commemorating its enduring legacy
20 and that of its founder Dr. Nathan
21 Francis. I do so because my
22 pioneering grandparents,
23 Dr. Clarice Patricia Turner and
24 Dr. Charles High Debnam would have

1 2/5/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 it no other way.

3 If you are a foundational
4 Black American, please rise and
5 remain standing. If you are a
6 Masonic brother or a member of an
7 appended body, please rise and
8 remain standing. If you have
9 inherited the blessings poured upon
10 this community from the work of
11 Mercy Douglas Hospital for health
12 equality, please rise and remain
13 standing.

14 Look around, brothers and
15 sisters of love. You have heard it
16 said, stony the roads we trod,
17 bitter the chastening rod felt in
18 the days unborn when hope had died.
19 But I'm here to testify today that
20 such roads have come to we who have
21 come. A people of Jacob's ladder,
22 a stairway of genetic origin,
23 trying, tying man to the promises
24 of the divine. We represent a

1 2/5/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 force and a spirit that cannot be
3 destroyed, not through chattel
4 slavery, not by Jim Crow law, not
5 by eugenics nor redlining, voting
6 restrictions, nor systematic
7 equality, not even by tearing down
8 signage from a historic wall.

9 I want to add to the
10 gentlewoman, her many list of Black
11 mavericks with these names, Julian
12 Francis Abele, architect of
13 Philadelphia Museum of Art, Marian
14 Anderson, America's contralto,
15 names like Cecil B. Moore,
16 W.E.B. Du Bois -- had a point of
17 order -- Richard Allen and Absalom
18 Jones and. Oh, yes, we stand at a
19 time -- I had a point of order with
20 the President. We stand at a time
21 when America struggles --

22 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS:

23 (Inaudible).

24 MR. JENKINS: Council

1 2/5/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 President, do I have time for the
3 point of order?

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

5 JOHNSON: (Nodded affirmatively).

6 MR. JENKINS: Thank you.

7 It is the day that I come to stand
8 on business to remind the world
9 that we have not forgotten the God
10 of our weary years nor of our
11 silent years, the God who has
12 brought us thus far along the way,
13 he who has, by thy might, led us
14 into the light, he who keeps us
15 even now in the path we pray.

16 (Applause.)

17 MS. HARMON: Good
18 morning, City Council --

19 CHIEF CLERK: I'm sorry.
20 Could Olivia Oliver, Robin Morris
21 and Sheila Armstrong please make
22 your way to the podium.

23 (Witnesses approach
24 podium.)

1 2/5/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 MS. HARMON: I am Atiya
3 Harmon, Founder and Executive
4 Director of Black Girls Love Math.
5 I am speaking today to acknowledge
6 our recognition, sponsored by
7 Councilperson Dr. Anthony Phillips
8 and all of City Council to show
9 appreciation of our work in
10 Philadelphia. This informs the
11 importance of investing in Black
12 girls and in early preventative
13 education work.

14 It sends a strong message
15 that Philadelphia values programs
16 that expand access and opportunity.
17 As the city is No. 4 in the nation
18 and lifescience sector, Black Girls
19 of Math is helping to expand those
20 horizons for our girls in our city.
21 What we do, why we do it and how
22 the program works, I will go over
23 quickly.

24 We help Black girls see

1 2/5/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 themselves as math people. We
3 create joyful learning experiences
4 that build real math skills,
5 confidence and a sense of
6 belonging. When girls feel
7 confident and supported, they're
8 much more likely to stick with math
9 and imagine futures that use it.
10 I'm sure it's about half this room
11 that says I'm not a math person.

12 Why it matters? Math
13 confidence is a huge gatekeeper to
14 opportunity. If students don't
15 believe math is for them early on,
16 they are less likely to take
17 advanced classes later on or pursue
18 STEM pathways. Black Girls of Math
19 steps in early so confidence gaps
20 don't turn into opportunity gaps.
21 We at our program make intentional,
22 joyful and a community-centered
23 program. It does not feel like
24 school and that's a strong

1 2/5/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 paramount of our values.

3 Girls learn together,
4 build friendships and see math
5 connected to real life. Families
6 often tell us that relationships
7 and confidence that their kids gain
8 are just as important as academic
9 growth. We run two types of
10 programs, closed enrollment and
11 open enrollment. Closed enrollment
12 is for schools and we partner with
13 Global Leadership Academy as well
14 as Girard College. Thank you,
15 Jeffrey Young.

16 A lot of schools want to
17 work with us, but many just don't
18 have the funds to pay for an
19 enrichment program this month -- I
20 don't know what this means. We
21 have a program for the Greater
22 Philadelphia community that started
23 yesterday on Wednesdays to offer
24 access to all students. As we

1 2/5/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 continue to grow and expand
3 progress, we want to meet the
4 demand and grow thoughtfully so
5 sustainable, public and
6 philanthropic funding is critical
7 and with more support, we can serve
8 more Black girls in our city.
9 Thank you.

10 (Applause.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

12 JOHNSON: Chair recognizes
13 Councilmember Majority Leader
14 Katherine Gilmore Richardson.

15 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

16 RICHARDSON: Thank you,
17 Mr. President.

18 The following resolution
19 will be called up today, 260044.
20 Thank you.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

22 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

23 Chair recognizes
24 Councilmember Jim Harrity.

1 2/5/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:

3 Thank you, Council President. And
4 thank you for giving me a little
5 time here.

6 You know, I'm a little
7 upset. I'm getting tired of this
8 stuff, you know what I'm saying.
9 People want to come in here and
10 talk without doing their homework.
11 Okay. Because I can tell you right
12 now, there were multiple statements
13 put out. One, I had my statement
14 that Senator Street wrote as a
15 Muslim about the incident on my
16 Facebook page less than an hour
17 after the thing started.

18 I called Rabbi Kushner on
19 the phone to see if there was
20 anything that we could do. So I
21 take offense to him calling us out
22 when he doesn't do his homework.
23 And I'm for everybody getting to
24 voice their opinion. Okay. We

1 2/5/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 don't usually say anything, but
3 enough is enough here.

4 It was wrong. It wasn't
5 right. And for somebody to even
6 get up and do an inkling to call
7 out my colleague, our only member
8 of Jewish descent on this Council
9 body, it's just outrageous. Okay.
10 She made her statement. She did it
11 right away just like the rest of us
12 did. We don't stand for hate here
13 in this Council. So get it
14 straight. If you're coming in here
15 with hate, take it the hell home.

16 (Applause.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

18 JOHNSON: Time out, pause. Now,
19 you know I love you, Member
20 Harrity. But I got my little kids,
21 little children behind the rails
22 watching democracy. Y'all, don't
23 go home and use that word. All
24 right.

1 2/5/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Council will resume.

3 Thank you, Member Harrity.

4 Go ahead, young lady.

5 MS. OLIVER: My name is
6 Olivia Oliver. I'm a 7th grader
7 and I attend Nebinger Elementary in
8 South Philadelphia. When I grow
9 up, I want to be in the tech
10 industry like one of our heroes,
11 Sierra McDonald, who is a Black
12 woman game designer. I've been
13 with Black Girls Love Math since it
14 started five years ago. I was in
15 the 2nd grade and first attended
16 the weekend program, which taught
17 me more ways to learn math than the
18 standard ways at school.

19 I love visiting Spelman
20 College and the State Capitol
21 Building in Harrisburg to advocate
22 for Black Girls Love Math as an
23 ambassador. Thank you, City
24 Council, for recognizing Black

1 2/5/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Girls Love Math as we help girls in
3 Philadelphia like me get into STEM.

4 (Applause.)

5 MS. MORRIS: Good

6 morning. My name is Robin Morris
7 and I'm the Executive Director of
8 the Garces Foundation. For more
9 than a decade, our organization has
10 served Philadelphia's immigrant
11 workforce through education, job
12 training and comprehensive health
13 care. We work with the people who
14 power the city, our restaurant and
15 hospitality workers, construction
16 workers, caregivers and small
17 business owners.

18 Immigrants are a critical
19 part of our civic, cultural and
20 economic foundation in Philadelphia
21 and across the country. They
22 contribute more in taxes than they
23 receive in benefits. They
24 strengthen our neighborhoods and

1 2/5/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 they make our city safer. And yet,
3 for the first time in our
4 organization's history we are
5 seeing a decline in enrollment.

6 That is not because
7 people no longer want to learn
8 English, gain job skills or access
9 health care. It's because fear has
10 reached a breaking point. People
11 are afraid to leave their homes
12 unless absolutely necessary. At
13 the Garces Foundation, we've spent
14 a decade building trust with the
15 communities we serve across the
16 city.

17 When fewer people come
18 through our doors, it tells us
19 something profound, the fear is
20 deep and justified. That fear is
21 being driven by the unlawful and
22 inhumane actions of ICE. We have
23 seen families separated, people
24 detained without judicial warrants

1 2/5/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 and individuals harmed or killed in
3 custody. These practices undermine
4 constitutional protections and make
5 all of us less safe.

6 HR 7147 would continue to
7 allocate billions of our taxpayer
8 dollars to the Department of
9 Homeland Security, including
10 roughly \$10 billion more for ICE.
11 This bill sustains and enables the
12 expansion of enforcement capacity
13 without corresponding oversight or
14 accountability. I'm here today to
15 urge City Council to support
16 Resolution 260066 and ask Senators
17 Fetterman and McCormick and all
18 Senators committed to the
19 Constitution and rule of law to
20 vote no on HR 7147. If we want
21 safer, stronger communities, we
22 must invest in our people, schools,
23 hospitals and communities, not in
24 fear, surveillance and violence.

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2 Thank you.

3 (Applause.)

4 CHIEF CLERK: Could we
5 please have Jake Zychick, Bishop
6 Michelle Simmons, John McAuley and
7 Phil Lockett, please make your way
8 to the podium.

9 (Witnesses approach
10 podium.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

12 JOHNSON: Ms. Armstrong, please
13 begin.

14 MR. ARMSTRONG: Good
15 afternoon. My name is Sheila
16 Armstrong. Some of y'all know me.
17 Some of y'all don't. I have to be
18 honest that I'm really not happy to
19 be here today because of the fact
20 that -- I have to be honest that
21 I'm not happy to be here today
22 because of what God had put on my
23 heart to say today.

24 I really tried to stay in

1 2/5/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 my lane. I created Cooking For
3 Autism so I could do my advocacy
4 work in peace and mind my own
5 business and just help the people
6 that I like to help because I don't
7 do politics. I don't like
8 politics. And y'all know this.

9 God put on my heart a
10 warning that is coming from the
11 book of Matthew 6:5 and Matthew
12 23:15. The message is, Woe to you,
13 elected officials of the law, you
14 are hypocrites. Woe to you that
15 organized on the backs of parents
16 and students of the Philly School
17 District, but yet more schools are
18 closing. Woe to you that supported
19 the plastic bag ban, but
20 manufacturers are using plastic for
21 everything, the hardship of people
22 paying for bags to take their
23 grocery home.

24 Woe to you, that

1 2/5/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 supported the Resign to Run
3 legislation, but now trying to
4 change it because it now affects
5 you. Woe to you that shout One
6 Philly but villainize those that
7 disagree with you. Woe to you that
8 claims to be representations of God
9 but support legislation that is
10 against him. Woe to you that says
11 you support women and talk bad
12 about any woman that stands against
13 you or whatever your policies or
14 anything that you're doing.

15 Woe to you that work for
16 special interest groups that
17 donated to your campaign but leave
18 the rest of us people out here
19 desperately searching for hope from
20 somewhere. Woe to you that
21 continually be saying the ICE Out,
22 because in these streets it's being
23 interpreted as illegal immigrants
24 is in and that this Council cares

1 2/5/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 more about illegal immigrants than
3 American citizens in this city.

4 Woe to you, elect officials,
5 hypocrites. Woe to you.

6 MR. ZYCHICK: Jacob
7 Zychick. Thank you to
8 Councilmember Harrity and the
9 entire Philadelphia City Council
10 for recognizing February as Heart
11 Month. Heart disease is the
12 leading cause of death of
13 Philadelphians. More than 4 in 10
14 women in the United States have a
15 form of cardiovascular disease such
16 as heart disease and stroke, a
17 figure that is actually continuing
18 to expect it to grow.

19 Each year heart disease
20 and stroke kill more women than all
21 forms of cancer combined. And
22 unfortunately, risk factors like
23 obesity, Type 2 diabetes,
24 hypertension and inactivity are

1 2/5/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 actually increasing. I really want
3 to thank everyone in Philadelphia
4 City Council for working closely
5 with the American Heart Association
6 in the past year. Together, we've
7 worked to expand access to
8 healthier foods.

9 We've worked to really
10 reduce it and try to end the youth
11 vaping epidemic and also have
12 worked to strengthen tobacco
13 retailer enforcement. So once
14 again, I want to thank Philadelphia
15 City Council for working closely
16 with the American Heart Association
17 and really want to thank
18 Councilmember Jim Harrity for
19 introducing the resolution to
20 recognize February's Heart Month.
21 Thank you all and have a great day.

22 (Applause.)

23 BISHOP SIMMONS: Good
24 afternoon, everybody. I'm Bishop

1 2/5/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Michelle Simmons and I want to
3 appreciate Council President
4 Kenyatta Johnson, all the
5 Councilmembers. God bless y'all.
6 So, Council President,
7 distinguished members, City Council
8 and all the other honored guests,
9 thank you for the opportunity to
10 stand before you today with my team
11 as one of the women proudly
12 proposing the resolution alongside
13 my sisters from SWAG. We also have
14 the Malik Aziz chapter of All of Us
15 and None who are is proposing this
16 bill.

17 I'm deeply grateful for
18 the moment during Black History
19 Month, a time when we honor truth,
20 courage and ongoing justice and
21 fight for justice. This resolution
22 speaks to an issue that's both
23 historical and is urgent. The
24 language of the 13th Amendment

1 2/5/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 still permits slavery as punishment
3 for crime. Because of that
4 loophole, generations of Black,
5 Latino, Indigenous, Asian, Pacific
6 Islanders and other communities
7 have continued to experience forced
8 labor, exploitation and
9 dehumanizing conditions inside our
10 prisons.

11 We see it in wages,
12 pennies on the dollar. We see it
13 in the labor that fuels state
14 agencies and private industries and
15 we see it in the lives of the women
16 we serve every day. For those of
17 us who work directly with women
18 returning home from incarceration,
19 this is not theory. It is lived
20 experience. It is the story of
21 women who survived the system that
22 was designed to break them. Yet,
23 who still rise with dignity,
24 purpose, strength and that's the

1 2/5/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 reason we're here. Their voices
3 are never going to stop.

4 As a proposer of the
5 resolution, I and the team stand
6 firmly and believe that
7 Pennsylvania must move from beyond
8 outdated constitutional language --
9 and my timer went off, so can I get
10 another 30 seconds -- align our
11 laws with our values that's rooted
12 in humanity, fairness and true
13 freedom. Ending the vestige of
14 slavery is not symbolic. It is
15 necessary and it is moral and it is
16 long overdue.

17 (Applause.)

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

19 JOHNSON: Thank you, Reverend
20 Simmons. Thank you, Mr. Saleem
21 Holbrook, as well for your work on
22 this particular issue.

23 CHIEF CLERK: Will John
24 McAuley, Phil Lockett and Ogbonna

1 2/5/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Hagins please make your way to the
3 podium.

4 MR. McCAULEY: My name is
5 John McCauley. I'm with a
6 grassroots organization called Flip
7 Philly Red. We're here to give
8 something different to
9 Philadelphia, something that y'all
10 are not used to because you've been
11 voting Democrat for the Mayor's
12 Office for the past 70 years. It's
13 not MAGA who's doing all of the
14 carjacking and the shootings.

15 When we talk about ICE,
16 78 million people, seven swing
17 states, including Pennsylvania, we
18 voted for this. We voted for this.
19 We gave a mandate. So I want to
20 sit here and tell U.S. Senator John
21 Fetterman, U.S. Senator Dave
22 McCormick to vote yes and support
23 HR 7147. I sit here in disgust as
24 I watch Kendra Brooks, Jamie

1 2/5/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Gauthier hold up pictures of a
3 domestic terrorist, Renee Good.
4 I'd never seen her put up a picture
5 of Dacara Thompson, a 19-year-old
6 who was raped and murdered by an
7 illegal alien and thrown over a
8 bridge. I never seen her put up a
9 picture of Laken Riley, who was
10 raped and murdered. I never seen
11 her put up a picture of Larisha
12 Thompson, a mother. I named two
13 Black women by the way. And y'all
14 sit here and pander to White
15 liberal women like Renee Good.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

17 JOHNSON: Could you speak on the
18 resolution --

19 MR. McCAULEY: I'm
20 speaking on all of it. It's my
21 First Amendment right. It all goes
22 hand in hand.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

24 JOHNSON: Just make sure you speak

1 2/5/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 on the resolution.

3 MR. McCAULEY: We wanted
4 to fund to deport 20 million
5 illegal aliens that was imported in
6 here by the Biden and Harris
7 Administration with the help of the
8 Cartels. So why don't you all
9 stand up for Americans for once
10 because America comes first
11 (inaudible).

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

13 JOHNSON: Thank you for your
14 opinion. Thank you very much.

15 Please call the next
16 person for public comment.

17 CHIEF CLERK: Will Phil
18 Lockett approach the podium and
19 then Ogbonna Hagins.

20 MR. LOCKETT: Good
21 morning, everybody. My name is
22 Brother Phil aka Kasahu. I rise
23 today to oppose Bill 241056 and
24 241070 because it denies the true

1 2/5/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 meaning of our democracy. One hat
3 at a time to run for any position
4 in government, this allows sitting
5 officials with favoritism to deny
6 fair and transparent elections of
7 citizens to a fair chance to
8 participate in a fair and
9 transparent election positions.

10 This bill creates a
11 monopoly to stop citizens from
12 participating in our democracy
13 fairly. I had a Councilperson that
14 had -- they were on every board in
15 our community and you couldn't get
16 nothing passed. Don't make her
17 mad. Because no matter if you went
18 around the corner and went to
19 another agency, she can stop you
20 from that because she was on every
21 board around here. So we got to
22 stop this being in one position and
23 then jump into another position and
24 then jump into another position

1 2/5/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 just to monopolize the positions of
3 democracy. We cannot allow this
4 anymore.

5 If you are a city
6 official and you want to run for
7 another position, then you got to
8 resign from your position just like
9 the person that's coming off the
10 street and running for the
11 position. They don't have a
12 position. And so, the sitting
13 official shouldn't have that
14 leverage. That's being unfair and
15 I think we need to take a closer
16 look at that, Councilman President.
17 And I thank y'all and have a good
18 day.

19 (Applause.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

21 JOHNSON: Thank you.

22 MR. HAGINS: Good
23 afternoon. Ogbonna Hagins, fourth
24 generation chattel slavery

1 2/5/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 survivor. I'm here to speak on
3 Resolution 260066, which urges U.S.
4 Senators to uphold the Constitution
5 and the rule of law. This
6 resolution reminds us that federal
7 power must operate within legal
8 limits. And when it does not,
9 communities whose rights are
10 directly affected are the ones who
11 suffer.

12 A clear example here in
13 Philadelphia is the President's
14 house. The Slavery Exhibit there
15 was removed by federal authorities,
16 something that should never have
17 happened. That exhibit documented
18 the constitutional fact, chattel
19 slavery at the seat of the
20 presidency. Its removal erased
21 history and harmed the descendants
22 of the enslaved. Even the act of
23 removing it required consultation
24 with the people most directly

1 2/5/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 affected, American Freedmen.

3 That consultation never
4 happened. That absence is not
5 symbolic. It's a continuing harm,
6 a 13th Amendment violation. My
7 organization, the Philadelphia
8 Reparations Coalition for American
9 Freedmen, we filed a Next Friend's
10 Petition on behalf of the roughly
11 700,000 descendants of U.S. chattel
12 slavery in Philadelphia who were
13 harmed by this removal.

14 The petition ensures they
15 have a choice with federal
16 action --

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

18 JOHNSON: Mr. Hagins, what
19 resolution --

20 MR. HAGINS: -- threaten
21 their history and their right --

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

23 JOHNSON: Are we speaking on ICE or
24 are speaking on --

1 2/5/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 MR. HAGINS: Brother,
3 listen, you can't control how I go
4 through my speech because I'm going
5 to end it with that. And you keep
6 interrupting me and you're messing
7 up my flow.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

9 JOHNSON: Go ahead, sir. Bring it
10 home. Go ahead.

11 MR. HAGINS: No, the
12 Council President -- this shows why
13 the President's House must be
14 protected and why the Office of
15 Freedmen Affairs is necessary.
16 That office will provide the
17 institutional voice so no federal
18 decision affecting American
19 Freedmen, the American Freedmen's
20 history or rights could occur
21 without their input.

22 The Next Friend's
23 Petition ensures representation and
24 the Office of Freedmen Affairs

1 2/5/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 would prevent this kind of
3 violation from happening. I'd like
4 to thank Councilmember Curtis
5 Jones. Last week, amazing for you
6 to speak about the American
7 Freedmen. The first Councilmember
8 who openly spoken about the progeny
9 of the emancipated. Ogbonna
10 Hagins. Over and out.

11 CHIEF CLERK: There are
12 no additional names for public
13 comment, Council President.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

15 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes
16 Councilmember Cindy Bass.

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

19 I just wanted to take a
20 brief moment and acknowledge that
21 we had some young folks from
22 Imhotep Charter High School here
23 from the 8th Council District right
24 up there. All right. And so, they

1 2/5/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 are a part of the Mock Trial Team,
3 which competed at both the Singles
4 and World Championships in 2025,
5 which was its first year of
6 existence. So we just wanted to
7 welcome our future lawyers here
8 today.

9 Thank you, Mr. President.

10 (Applause.)

11 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:

12 Thank you.

13 The Chair recognizes
14 Councilmember Rue Landau.

15 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:

16 Thank you, Council President.

17 I just wanted to take a
18 second to comment on what happened
19 during public comment today. It
20 was very disturbing to hear how our
21 body was characterized, and I want
22 to thank you for pointing out and
23 correcting the record for the
24 statements that were made, and

1 2/5/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 certainly thanking all of my
3 colleagues for not only supporting
4 me but supporting the Jewish
5 community.

6 We are a very diverse
7 body and we are doing our best in
8 this beautiful city that we have,
9 that we each stand up and speak out
10 when we can, and we always support
11 each other. So I feel your
12 support, the Jewish community feels
13 your support and I want to thank
14 you so much.

15 (Applause.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

17 JOHNSON: Thank you.

18 Chair recognizes
19 Councilmember Quetcy Lozada.

20 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Are
21 we on speeches -- no.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

23 JOHNSON: That concludes our public
24 comment period for today. We will

1 2/5/26 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 now consider the bills and
3 resolutions on the Second Reading
4 and Final Passage Calendar.

5 Would the Clerk please
6 read the title of Resolution No.
7 260044.

8 CHIEF CLERK: A
9 resolution expressing City
10 Council's priorities for the
11 Pennsylvania Department of
12 Transportation's 95 Revive Project
13 from Center City to South
14 Philadelphia.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
16 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes
17 Councilmember Majority Leader
18 Katherine Gilmore Richardson for a
19 motion regarding Resolution No.
20 260044.

21 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE
22 RICHARDSON: Thank you, Mr.
23 President.

24 On behalf of

1 2/5/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

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

4 (Duly seconded.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

6 JOHNSON: It has been moved and
7 properly seconded that Resolution
8 No. 260044 be adopted.

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

11 (Aye.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

13 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

14 (No response.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

19 Would the Clerk please
20 read the title of Resolution No.
21 260066.

22 CHIEF CLERK: A
23 resolution urging U.S. Senators
24 John Fetterman and Dave McCormick

1 2/5/26 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 as well as all United States
3 Senators committed to upholding the
4 Constitution of the United States
5 and the rule of law to vote "No" on
6 H.R. 7147, and to reject increased
7 funding for Immigrations and
8 Customs Enforcement.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

10 JOHNSON: Chair recognizes
11 Councilmember Rue Landau for a
12 motion regarding Resolution No.
13 260066.

14 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:

15 Thank you, Council President.

16 I move for the adoption
17 of the resolution.

18 (Duly seconded.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

20 JOHNSON: It has been moved and
21 properly seconded that Resolution
22 No. 260066 be adopted.

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

1 2/5/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 (Aye.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

4 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

5 (No response.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

9 Member Brooks, would you
10 like to be acknowledged as voting
11 yes on all bills and resolutions?

12 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS:

13 Yes, Council President. Thank you.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

15 JOHNSON: Thank you very much. It
16 will be recorded and duly noted.

17 Will the Clerk please
18 read any additional resolutions on
19 today's Calendar.

20 CHIEF CLERK: A

21 privileged resolution honoring and
22 recognizing Black Girls Love Math
23 for its work in eliminating racial
24 and gender inequality in

1 2/5/26 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 mathematics by cultivating a
3 positive math identity for Black
4 girls through culturally responsive
5 enrichment, mentoring and community
6 in Philadelphia. Introduced by
7 Councilmember Phillips.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

9 JOHNSON: Chair recognizes
10 Councilmember Dr. Anthony Phillips
11 for a motion on the resolution.

12 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

13 Thank you, Council President.

14 I move for the adoption
15 of the resolution.

16 (Duly seconded.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

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

23 (Aye.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

1 2/5/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

3 (No response.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

7 Would the Clerk please
8 read the title of the next
9 resolution.

10 CHIEF CLERK: A
11 privileged resolution declaring
12 February 5, 2026 as Citywide
13 Student Government Day in the City
14 of Philadelphia. Introduced by
15 Councilmember Phillips.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

17 JOHNSON: Chair recognizes
18 Councilmember Dr. Anthony Phillips
19 for a motion on the resolution.

20 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

21 Thank you, Council President.

22 I move for the adoption
23 of the resolution.

24 (Duly seconded.)

1 2/5/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

6 All those in favor
7 signify by saying aye.

8 (Aye.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

10 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

11 (No response.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

15 Would the Clerk please
16 read the title of the next
17 resolution.

18 CHIEF CLERK: A
19 privileged resolution declaring
20 February 2026 as "Black History
21 Month" in the City of Philadelphia,
22 and recognizing the 100th
23 anniversary of its observance.
24 Introduced by Councilmember

1 2/5/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 Phillips on behalf of Council

3 President Johnson.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

5 JOHNSON: Chair recognizes

6 Councilmember Dr. Anthony Phillips

7 for a motion on the resolution.

8 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

9 Thank you, Council President.

10 On your behalf, I move

11 for the adoption of the resolution.

12 (Duly seconded.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

14 JOHNSON: It has been moved and

15 properly seconded that the

16 resolution be adopted.

17 All those in favor

18 signify by saying aye.

19 (Aye.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

21 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

22 (No response.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

24 JOHNSON: The ayes have it and the

1 2/5/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 resolution is adopted.

3 Would the Clerk please
4 read the title of the next
5 resolution.

6 CHIEF CLERK: A
7 privileged resolution
8 congratulating Donna Cooper on her
9 retirement and recognizing her
10 transformational leadership and
11 lifelong advocacy for children in
12 Philadelphia and across the state
13 of Pennsylvania. Introduced by
14 Councilmember Phillips on behalf of
15 Council President Johnson.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
17 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes
18 Councilmember Anthony Phillips for
19 a motion on the resolution.

20 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:
21 Thank you, Council President. On
22 your behalf, we celebrate Donna
23 Cooper. I move for the adoption of
24 the resolution.

1 2/5/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 (Duly seconded.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

7 All those in favor
8 signify by saying aye.

9 (Aye.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

11 JOHNSON: Anyone opposed?

12 (No response.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

16 Would the Clerk please
17 read the title of the next
18 resolution.

19 CHIEF CLERK: A
20 privileged resolution recognizing
21 February 2026 as Career and
22 Technical Education Month in the
23 City of Philadelphia. Introduced
24 by Councilmember Gilmore

1 2/5/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 Richardson.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

4 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes
5 Majority Leader Councilmember
6 Katherine Gilmore Richardson for a
7 motion on the resolution.

8 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

9 RICHARDSON: Thank you, Council
10 President.

11 I move the adoption of
12 the resolution.

13 (Duly seconded.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

18 All those in favor
19 signify by saying aye.

20 (Aye.)

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

22 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

23 (No response.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

1 2/5/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

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

4 Would the Chief Clerk
5 please read the title of the next
6 resolution.

7 CHIEF CLERK: A
8 privileged resolution honoring and
9 congratulating Nicole Cashman,
10 Founder and Chief Executive Officer
11 of Cashman & Associates on the
12 occasion of the firm's 25th
13 anniversary, and recognizing her
14 remarkable contributions to the
15 business community and cultural
16 vitality of the City of
17 Philadelphia. Introduced by
18 Councilmember Gilmore Richardson on
19 behalf of Council President
20 Johnson.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

22 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes
23 Majority Leader Katherine Gilmore
24 Richardson for a motion on the

1 2/5/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 resolution.

3 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

4 RICHARDSON: Thank you, Council

5 President.

6 I move the adoption of
7 the resolution on your behalf.

8 (Duly seconded.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

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

15 (Aye.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

17 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

18 (No response.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

22 Will the Chief Clerk
23 please read the title of the next
24 resolution.

1 2/5/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 CHIEF CLERK: A

3 privileged resolution Honoring and

4 Recognizing the Legacy and

5 Contributions of Prince Hall

6 Freemasonry during Black History

7 Month. Introduced by Councilmember

8 Jones.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

10 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes

11 Councilmember Jones for a motion on

12 the resolution.

13 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank

14 you, Mr. President.

15 And for the co-signers on

16 this resolution that are Masons, I

17 move for the adoption.

18 (Duly seconded.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

20 JOHNSON: And those co-signers are

21 members, Councilmember Jim Harrity,

22 Councilmember Nicolas O'Rourke. So

23 mote it be.

24 It has been moved and

1 2/5/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 properly seconded that the
3 resolution be adopted.

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

6 (Aye.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

8 JOHNSON: Anyone opposed?

9 (No response.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

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

16 CHIEF CLERK: A
17 privileged resolution honoring and
18 recognizing Rick Williams, Sharrie
19 Williams, Ukee Washington, Thera
20 Martin and Solomon Jones for their
21 service to Philadelphia as trusted
22 journalists and stewards of truth
23 during Black History Month.
24 Introduced by Councilmember Jones.

1 2/5/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

3 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes
4 Councilmember Jones for a motion on
5 the resolution.

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

8 I move for its adoption.

9 (Duly seconded.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

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

16 (Aye.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

18 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

19 (No response.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

23 The Chair recognizes
24 Councilmember Jamie Gauthier.

1 2/5/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:

3 Thank you, Council President.

4 I'd like to be recorded

5 as voting aye on every piece of

6 legislation I missed. Thank you.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

8 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

9 Will be duly noted and recorded.

10 Will the Chief Clerk

11 please read the title of the next

12 resolution.

13 CHIEF CLERK: A

14 privileged resolution recognizing

15 and honoring HughE Dillon aka

16 PhillyChitChat for his remarkable

17 contributions to the cultural and

18 social life of the city, and

19 celebrating his work chronicling

20 the spirit of Philadelphia.

21 Introduced by Councilmember Landau

22 on behalf of Council President

23 Johnson.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

1 2/5/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 JOHNSON: Thank you very much. The
3 Chair recognizes Councilmember Rue
4 Landau for a motion.

5 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU: I
6 move for the adoption of the
7 resolution for PhillyChitChat.

8 (Duly seconded.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

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

15 (Aye.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

17 JOHNSON: Anyone opposed?

18 (No response.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

22 Will the Chief Clerk
23 please read the title of the next
24 resolution.

1 2/5/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 CHIEF CLERK: A

3 privileged resolution recognizing

4 Bad Bunny's cultural impact,

5 advocacy for historically

6 underrepresented voices, and

7 congratulating him on his 2026

8 Grammy Award for Album of the Year,

9 Debi Tirar Mas Fotos. Introduced

10 by Councilmember Lozada.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

12 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes

13 Councilmember Quetcy Lozada for a

14 motion on the resolution.

15 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA:

16 Thank you, Council President.

17 I move for the adoption.

18 (Duly seconded.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

20 JOHNSON: It has been moved and

21 properly seconded that the

22 resolution be adopted.

23 All those in favor will

24 signify by saying aye.

1 2/5/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 (Aye.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

4 JOHNSON: Anyone opposed?

5 (No response.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

9 Chair recognizes
10 Councilmember Isaiah Thomas.

11 COUNCILMAN THOMAS:
12 Council President, I apologize but
13 I would like to be recorded as aye
14 on all bills and resolutions that I
15 may have missed.

16 Thank you, Council
17 President. Thank you, colleagues.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

19 JOHNSON: Thank you. Will be duly
20 noted and recorded.

21 Will the Chief Clerk
22 please read the title of the next
23 resolution.

24 CHIEF CLERK: A

1 2/5/26 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 privileged resolution recognizing
3 and celebrating the women of All of
4 Us or None Philadelphia, Why Not
5 Prosper and SWAG for their efforts
6 to address and fix laws that permit
7 enslavement as a punishment for a
8 crime, on the occasion of Black
9 History Month. Introduced by
10 Councilmember Brooks.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

12 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes
13 Councilmember Kendra Brooks for a
14 motion on the resolution.

15 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS:

16 Thank you, Council President.

17 I move for the adoption
18 of the resolution.

19 (Duly seconded.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

24 All those in favor will

1 2/5/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 signify by saying aye.

3 (Aye.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

5 JOHNSON: Anyone opposed?

6 (No response.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

10 Would the Chief Clerk
11 please read the title of the next
12 resolution.

13 CHIEF CLERK: A
14 privileged resolution recognizing
15 the rise of cardiovascular disease
16 as one of the world's leading
17 causes of death and disability, and
18 recognizing February 2026 as
19 "American Heart Month." Introduced
20 by Councilmember Harrity.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

22 JOHNSON: Chair recognizes
23 Councilmember Jim Harrity for a
24 motion on the resolution.

1 2/5/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:

3 Thank you, Council President.

4 I move for the adoption
5 of the resolution and I also would
6 like to be voted aye on any bill I
7 may have missed.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

9 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.
10 Will be duly noted. Is there a
11 second?

12 (Duly seconded.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

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

19 (Aye.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

21 JOHNSON: Anyone opposed?

22 (No response.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

24 JOHNSON: The ayes have it and the

1 2/5/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 resolution is adopted.

3 Will the Chief Clerk
4 please read the title of the next
5 bill -- of the next resolution.

6 CHIEF CLERK: A
7 privileged resolution authorizing
8 the Committee on Labor and Civil
9 Service and the Committee on
10 Transportation to hold joint
11 hearings regarding the arrival of
12 driverless rideshare vehicles in
13 the City of Philadelphia and its
14 impact on labor, the local economy
15 and public safety. Introduced by
16 Councilmember Harrity.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
18 JOHNSON: Chair recognizes
19 Councilmember Jim Harrity for a
20 motion on the resolution.

21 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:
22 Thank you, Council President.

23 On behalf of me and
24 Councilman Driscoll, I move for --

1 2/5/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 second --

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

4 JOHNSON: Move for the adoption?

5 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: I

6 move for the adoption of the

7 resolution. I'm sorry. Got a

8 little tongue-tied.

9 (Duly seconded.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

11 JOHNSON: It has been moved and

12 properly seconded that the

13 resolution be adopted.

14 All those in favor will

15 signify by saying aye.

16 (Aye.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

18 JOHNSON: Anyone opposed?

19 (No response.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

21 JOHNSON: The ayes have it and the

22 resolution is adopted.

23 Would the Chief Clerk

24 please read the title of the next

1 2/5/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 resolution.

3 CHIEF CLERK: A

4 privileged resolution honoring the

5 legacy of William Thaddeus Coleman,

6 Jr., and recognizing March 10, 2026

7 as "William Thaddeus Coleman, Jr.

8 Day" in the City of Philadelphia.

9 Introduced by Councilmember Bass.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

11 JOHNSON: Chair recognizes

12 Councilmember Cindy Bass for a

13 motion on the resolution.

14 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank

15 you, Mr. President.

16 I move for the adoption

17 of the resolution.

18 (Duly seconded.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

20 JOHNSON: It has been moved and

21 properly seconded that the

22 resolution be adopted.

23 All those in favor

24 signify by saying aye.

1 2/5/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 (Aye.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

4 JOHNSON: Anyone opposed?

5 (No response.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

9 Would the Chief Clerk
10 please read the title of the next
11 resolution.

12 CHIEF CLERK: A
13 privileged resolution honoring and
14 recognizing Mercy-Douglas Hospital
15 as the first Black Hospital in
16 Philadelphia, and commemorating the
17 enduring legacy of its founder,
18 Dr. Nathan Francis Mossell and his
19 commitment to advancing health
20 equity and medical excellence.
21 Introduced by Councilmember Ahmad.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

23 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes
24 Councilmember Dr. Nina Ahmad for a

1 2/5/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 motion on the resolution.

3 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:

4 Thank you, Council President.

5 I move for the adoption
6 of the resolution.

7 (Duly seconded.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

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

14 (Aye.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

16 JOHNSON: Anyone opposed?

17 (No response.)

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

21 Would the Chief Clerk
22 please read the title of the next
23 resolution.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

1 2/5/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 JOHNSON: There are no further
3 resolutions in my possession,
4 Council President.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

6 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.
7 That completes our Calendar for
8 today.

9 Are there any speeches on
10 behalf of the Minority?

11 The Chair recognizes
12 Councilmember Kendra Brooks.

13 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS:
14 Thank you, Council President.

15 One of the traditions in
16 my office I'm most proud of is the
17 work we do each year for Black
18 History Month. We honor people and
19 elders in our community who deserve
20 recognition and are often left out
21 of the history books. These are
22 Black women who are making history
23 through a fierce commitment to
24 Black progress that is unrelenting

1 2/5/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 in the face of adversity.

3 So today, I bring forth a
4 resolution about the struggle to
5 end enslavement in the United
6 States. The resolution is to honor
7 and recognize the women of Why Not
8 Prosper, SWAG and All Of Us Or None
9 Philadelphia. There is more work
10 to do to ensure that Black people
11 are truly free, especially now
12 while Trump actively tries to erase
13 our history, as we saw at the
14 President's House Slave Memorial.

15 The women of Why Not
16 Prosper, SWAG and All Of Us Or None
17 Philadelphia are still fighting to
18 end this country's original sin of
19 slavery. They fight against deep
20 injustice of laws, including the
21 13th Amendment to the U.S.
22 Constitution that allows
23 enslavement as punishment for
24 crime. These laws have led to a

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2 system that incarcerate Black
3 people at extremely high rates and
4 profits off their labor. Until
5 these laws are fixed, the
6 enslavement for profit is
7 eliminated. Our country is not
8 living up to the liberty and
9 justice for all.

10 The Reverend Dr. Michelle
11 Simmons and many other women who
12 work alongside her are not just
13 celebrating Black history here
14 today. They are creating it. I'm
15 so grateful for their leadership
16 and wisdom. And I'm grateful to be
17 in this fight with them.

18 I want to thank my
19 colleagues for their support on the
20 resolution Councilmember Landau and
21 I introduced calling on the U.S.
22 Senate to withhold funding for DHS.
23 As we saw last week, the people in
24 Philadelphia do not want any of our

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2 city resources to go towards ICE.

3 I want to thank you also to

4 everyone who supported our ICE Out

5 legislation package. It's

6 important that the people of our

7 city see this Council taking action

8 and I'm grateful we are working to

9 deliver that together.

10 Councilmember Landau and

11 I also introduced a resolution

12 commending Pennsylvania State

13 Legislature for establishing a

14 Working Pennsylvania's Tax Credit,

15 which puts money back into the

16 pockets of working families. Thank

17 you to Governor Josh Shapiro and

18 the Philadelphia leadership in the

19 House who got this done.

20 This new tax credit

21 aligns with my proposal to expand

22 our city's wage tax refund program.

23 I introduced this bill last year as

24 part of the People's Tax Plan with

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2 Minority Whip O'Rourke, and we
3 should follow the lead of our
4 Governor and do the same for
5 working families right here in
6 Philadelphia. Thank you so much.

7 (Applause.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

9 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

10 Any speeches on behalf of
11 the Majority?

12 Chair recognizes
13 Councilmember Cindy Bass.

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

16 Today in honor of Black
17 History Month and as Philadelphia
18 prepares to mark the 250th
19 Anniversary of our nation, I want
20 to honor a Philadelphian who helped
21 make the promise of American
22 democracy tangible for countless
23 people.

24 William Thaddeus Coleman,

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2 Jr., was born and raised in this
3 city, educated in our public
4 schools and shaped by a deep
5 commitment to justice that carried
6 him from Germantown to the United
7 States Supreme Court, from the
8 fight to segregate Girard College
9 to the halls of the cabinet as
10 Secretary of Transportation. Time
11 and time again he broke barriers,
12 not for recognition, but to open
13 doors for others.

14 Secretary Coleman's
15 brilliance, courage and devotion to
16 equal justice earned him our
17 nation's highest honors. Yet his
18 roots always remained right here in
19 Philadelphia. By proclaiming March
20 10, 2026 as William Thaddeus
21 Coleman, Jr. Day, we affirm that
22 his legacy belongs to the city and
23 to the future generations and we
24 look forward to sharing more

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2 information in the coming weeks in
3 terms of how we will celebrate.

4 I also want to highlight
5 an important adjustment that we
6 made to our curfew ordinance, one
7 that came directly from listening
8 to our communities. We heard from
9 residents, business owners and
10 workers who rely on early morning
11 access to gyms and fitness
12 facilities. And people told us
13 this wasn't just about convenience.
14 It was about health routines, jobs
15 and quality of life. One hour
16 really makes a considerable
17 difference, especially in the
18 morning.

19 So we made a targeted
20 exception to allow fitness
21 facilities to open earlier while
22 still honoring the intent of the
23 curfew law. To do that
24 responsibly, we also realized we

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2 needed clarity. The ordinance
3 didn't have a clear definition for
4 facilities like a Planet Fitness or
5 similar gyms. So instead of
6 forcing them into categories that
7 didn't quite fit, we created a
8 definition that actually matches
9 the reality.

10 This new definition
11 focuses on commercial
12 establishments whose purpose is
13 physical exercise, conditioning and
14 overall wellness, things like
15 cardio training, strength training
16 and group fitness classes. This
17 change reflects our commitment to
18 being responsive, practical and
19 focused on making policy that works
20 in real life, not just on paper.
21 And we always want folks to reach
22 out to my office or my colleague
23 Councilwoman Quetcy Lozada, if
24 there's something that we can

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2 support with or there are further
3 questions around this particular
4 piece of legislation.

5 Thank you, Mr. President.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

7 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

8 The Chair recognizes
9 Councilmember Jeffrey Jay Young.

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

12 Just want to make a few
13 quick announcements on events that
14 our office is having in our
15 community. On Monday, this Monday,
16 February 9th we are hosting a
17 virtual event in partnership with
18 the Committee of Seventy and the
19 City Commissioner's Office on a
20 nonpartisan civic education program
21 on how to run for a committee
22 person here in the city of
23 Philadelphia. That is a virtual
24 event.

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2 If you would like more
3 information, you can reach out to
4 our office. We can send you the
5 link to that event or you can join
6 in the call as well. But we want
7 everyone to be informed about your
8 civic engagement here in the city
9 of Philadelphia.

10 Also, later on this month
11 our office will be hosting a
12 property tax community meeting in
13 the Yorktown community hosted at
14 Bright Hope Baptist Church. That
15 will be on February 17th. We're
16 going to be sending information out
17 to members of that community. And
18 anyone who wants to participate or
19 join, please feel free. It'll be
20 at 6 o'clock on February 17th and
21 we'll make sure to continue to
22 promote this event at our next
23 sessions of Council. This meeting
24 will also be live streamed as well

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2 for those who can't attend in
3 person.

4 And our office during the
5 month of Ramadan, Mr. President, we
6 have partnered with Majlis Ash
7 Shura of Delaware Valley, the
8 Commissioner's Office, Office of
9 Muslim Engagement. I'm hoping my
10 colleague Councilmember Curtis
11 Jones could join us as well as we
12 are accepting donations during the
13 month of Ramadan of toys.

14 We're going to have a toy
15 drop during Ramadan. And so,
16 during the Eid celebrations
17 children of the Muslim faith can go
18 ahead and have some presents after
19 their celebration, after their holy
20 month. They're going to be drop-
21 off locations at both my offices,
22 the City Hall location, our
23 District office location. Makkah
24 Mosque at 1319 Susquehanna Avenue

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2 is participating as well. And also
3 as I mentioned, the Philadelphia
4 City Commissioner's Office will
5 drop boxes off at all 10 locations
6 throughout the city during the
7 month of Ramadan.

8 So thank you,
9 Mr. President.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

11 JOHNSON: Thank you.

12 Chair recognizes
13 Councilmember Jim Harrity.

14 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:
15 Thank you, Council President.

16 You know, sometimes
17 things to me don't make sense. I
18 was very outraged with the
19 President's House and the plaques
20 being taken down. And, listen, I
21 didn't know if it was my place to
22 even say anything. And as I do
23 with lots of things, I went to one
24 of my mentors, which is Congressman

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2 Brady, and it was just like Total
3 Recall, because I hadn't remembered
4 at the time, but he said, Jimmy,
5 don't you remember that we fought
6 for \$3.5 million for that project.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

8 JOHNSON: Sure did. Sure did.

9 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: As
10 soon as he said that, it shot into
11 my head. It wasn't the \$3.5
12 million that I remembered about
13 that day. We went -- that day was
14 the groundbreaking. And Bobby was
15 very excited and proud of that.
16 And Michael Coard was there and a
17 bunch of other people who had
18 fought for this for years.

19 So the Congressman
20 brought his grandchildren with him.
21 And while we were standing there
22 just waiting for the service to
23 begin, as kids do, they started
24 asking questions. And they asked

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2 him what slavery was. And I was
3 standing there like, oh, snap, you
4 know what I mean, what's he going
5 to do with this one.

6 And I'll never forget.

7 He kneeled down and he started
8 talking to those two little kids,
9 and he explained what it was, what
10 had happened, the truth. And you
11 know what those kids said to him?
12 First question they asked, Grandpa,
13 we don't still do that, do we?

14 Imagine that from the
15 mouth of babes, right. Kids don't
16 know hate. They just know what we
17 tell them. And, you know, I didn't
18 even remember that until
19 Congressman Brady reminded me. And
20 he said, I'm outraged too. So,
21 yes, it is our responsibility to
22 say something.

23 And I'm a history guy.

24 You all know that. I don't want to

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2 say I'm a history buff, but I am a
3 wealth of useless information,
4 especially when it comes to the
5 Philadelphia Democratic Party. I
6 started driving Senator Sam Franny
7 when I was 16, 17 years old. And I
8 drove everybody, Carol Campbell,
9 John Street, John Green, Bob Brady,
10 Senator Franny and I learned from
11 all of them.

12 So I say that to say that
13 when Bobby told me about his
14 outrage, he also reminded me of a
15 poem. So I'd like for you to
16 indulge me for one minute. And the
17 poem goes, First they came for the
18 socialist and I did not speak out
19 because I was not a socialist.
20 Then they came for the trade
21 unionist. And again, I did not
22 speak out because I was not a trade
23 unionist. Then they came for the
24 Jews and I did not speak out

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2 because I was not a Jew. Then they
3 came for me and there was no one
4 left to speak for me.

5 Well, I got something to
6 say here. I ain't waiting for them
7 to come to me. I'm ready to fight
8 this head-on with my colleagues no
9 matter what we have to do to get
10 those back up there. As the
11 history or historian here, I can
12 tell you the real fact. The legal
13 fact is that this was a joint
14 agreed or legal agreement between
15 the City of Philadelphia and the
16 National Parks Association, first
17 time ever. It was a joint
18 agreement with joint say of what
19 was going on and what was going to
20 be placed there. Because one thing
21 I know about history is if you
22 don't know your history, you're
23 doomed to repeat it.

24 Thank you, Council

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2 President.

3 (Applause.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

5 JOHNSON: Thank you, Member
6 Harrity. I try to remind folks
7 that Black History is American
8 history.

9 Chair recognizes
10 Councilmember Jamie Gauthier.

11 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:
12 Thank you, Council President.

13 Today we mourn the loss
14 of Mr. Timothy Darrell Sapp, Sr., a
15 Mantua resident, Army veteran,
16 dedicated community gardener,
17 barbecue master and a 28-year
18 specialized heavy equipment
19 operator with the Department of
20 Streets who suddenly, unexpectedly
21 and tragically lost his life on the
22 job after many days of backbreaking
23 work responding to the recent
24 snowstorm.

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2 Mr. Sapp exemplified
3 public service. He loved what he
4 did, passing up management
5 opportunities to stay with his
6 coworkers and mentor new employees.
7 Far too often essential city
8 workers like Mr. Sapp do not feel
9 seen or valued. So I'm here today
10 to say unequivocally that Tim
11 Sapp's life mattered, that his
12 sudden passing cuts deep, that we
13 will not forget that while we were
14 warm and safe at home, he was out
15 in the snow in the frigid cold
16 getting our city back up and
17 running.

18 Let me be clear. Tim
19 Sapp died in the line of duty. He
20 made the ultimate sacrifice for
21 Philadelphia and his death matters
22 just as much as that of a police
23 officer or a firefighter. I am
24 also thinking of Mr. Sapp's loving

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2 and faithful wife Corinne, who he
3 met in the 1st grade at McMichael
4 Elementary, and of his children,
5 Brittany, Nanette and Timothy, Jr.,
6 who loved their father dearly.

7 Next week I will
8 introduce a resolution to honor the
9 memory and celebrate the life of
10 Timothy Darrell Sapp, Sr., but I
11 felt compelled to do something
12 today so that his family and
13 coworkers know that we are holding
14 them in our hearts. I ask that all
15 of you keep Mr. Sapp's loved ones
16 in your prayers and that we lift up
17 D.C. 33 and every union worker who
18 shows up every single day on behalf
19 of our great city. Thank you so
20 much.

21 (Applause.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

23 JOHNSON: Thank you very much,
24 Member Gauthier.

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2 Chair recognizes

3 Councilmember Rue Landau.

4 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:

5 Thank you, Council President.

6 First, I'd like to raise
7 up the amazing presentations we had
8 earlier today. As City Council
9 kicks off Black History Month, we
10 have so much phenomenal Black
11 History here in Philly and some
12 living history that joined us as
13 guests today as well. I'm looking
14 forward to celebrating the Black
15 excellence, resilience and legacy
16 in Philadelphia this month.

17 Today my resolution
18 urging Senator -- my resolution,
19 along with Councilmember Kendra
20 Brooks, urging Senators John
21 Fetterman and Dave McCormick to
22 reject an increased \$10 billion in
23 funding for Immigration and Customs
24 Enforcement passed in City Council.

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2 ICE agents have engaged and
3 continue to engage in an assault on
4 some of our most vulnerable
5 neighbors. Increasing funding for
6 DHS and ICE will only increase
7 their ability to cause chaos and
8 harm in communities across the
9 city, including here in
10 Philadelphia.

11 I'd also like to remind
12 folks here that as we get into the
13 heart of tax season, Pennsylvanians
14 can claim an extra tax credit this
15 year. More than 1 million
16 Pennsylvanians are eligible for the
17 new Working Pennsylvanians Tax
18 Credit, an Earned Income Tax Credit
19 that will provide \$193 million in
20 tax relief for working families
21 this year. This is one of our
22 greatest anti-poverty tools that we
23 have so I'm very excited to see
24 this as well as the child tax

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2 credit available for eligible

3 Pennsylvanians.

4 Also, now in effect are

5 the new SNAP work requirements.

6 These changes require recipients

7 ages 18 to 64 without dependents to

8 work, volunteer or participate in

9 an education or training program

10 for 20 hours a week in order to

11 maintain benefits. For more

12 information, please reach out to my

13 office or visit the website of the

14 Pennsylvania Department of Human

15 Services.

16 Finally, I'd like to

17 thank Governor Shapiro for

18 unveiling a budget that protects

19 renters and prioritizes housing in

20 Pennsylvania. Last year my Move-In

21 Affordability Plan capped

22 application fees here in

23 Philadelphia at \$50. I was pleased

24 to hear a similar proposal from

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2 Governor Shapiro during his budget
3 address yesterday.

4 No one whether you're in
5 Philly, Pittsburgh, Harrisburg or
6 any other town in between, no one
7 deserves to be priced out of a home
8 before they even get the keys.
9 Thank you very much.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

11 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

12 Chair recognizes
13 Councilmember Quetcy Lozada.

14 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA:

15 Thank you, Council President.

16 I just want to say that I
17 am a proud immigrant. I'm proud of
18 my culture. I'm proud of my
19 history. I'm proud of my accent.
20 I'm proud of my nappy curls. And I
21 want to thank each one of my
22 colleagues today who co-sponsored
23 the bill recognizing Bad Bunny and
24 his accomplishments. For me,

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2 especially at a time and like the
3 one we're living today, it is
4 important.

5 And you mentioned it
6 earlier, right, for us to shape the
7 narrative about our own
8 communities. And so, Happy Black
9 History Month, right. And while
10 Bad Bunny is not Black, he has
11 taken a very vocal position about
12 what is happening in our nation.
13 We honored Bad Bunny today for his
14 great achievements. He stands as a
15 symbol of influence for his
16 generation, crushing global
17 records, while firmly anchoring
18 himself in the rich tapestry of
19 Puerto Rican identity and culture.

20 His momentous win at the
21 Grammys receiving the Album of the
22 Year for Debi Tirar Mas Fotos marks
23 a watershed of music history. The
24 first, the first all Spanish

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2 language album to achieve this
3 honor. Bad Bunny's rise is not
4 just a personal triumph, but a
5 political testament, a resounding
6 victory against the historical
7 erasure of Puerto Rican culture and
8 identity.

9 In an era fraught with
10 social and political polarization,
11 his recognition underscores the
12 profound power of music to bridge
13 divides across language, cultures
14 and borders. In a climate rifled
15 with anti-immigrant sentiment, Bad
16 Bunny's touching declaration
17 resonates. We are not savages. We
18 are not animals. We are not
19 aliens. We are humans and we are
20 Americans.

21 Emphasizing love over
22 hate and defending his community,
23 through his artistry and public
24 persona, he has empowered millions

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2 of Latino listeners to feel
3 acknowledged, valued and rooted in
4 both local and global platforms.
5 Such representation is vital for
6 youth grappling with identity,
7 language and sense of belonging,
8 and indeed for all of us.

9 The award he received and
10 his unwavering authenticity
11 represent not just a personal
12 victory, but a win for culture and
13 humanity. In a world that
14 frequently demands Latino
15 communities to dilute and downplay
16 their essence for acceptance, Bad
17 Bunny's shattering example conveys
18 a powerful message that transcends
19 borders. You belong here. Embrace
20 who you are.

21 Recent reflections
22 suggest that Bad Bunny carried more
23 than a Grammy trophy in his hand.
24 He bore the hopes, aspirations and

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2 search for possibility of his
3 people and he urged Puerto Ricans
4 around the world to believe in
5 themselves. There is nothing we
6 can't achieve. Indeed, this
7 statement rings true.

8 This award stands as a
9 strong affirmation for Puerto Rican
10 pride and cultural identity. His
11 bravery not only transforms music,
12 it reshapes the narrative of what
13 individuals believe is possible for
14 their own lives. When artists like
15 Bad Bunny carve their own path,
16 appearing in their full
17 authenticity, without apology and
18 without compromise, they unleash
19 the potential for extraordinary
20 change.

21 I'm filled with immense
22 pride as I witnessed Bad Bunny
23 stand boldly, unyielding,
24 unfiltered and unafraid. His

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2 presence inspires me to stand
3 taller in my own identity, and I
4 hope it does the same for each of
5 you. I hope we all use his
6 boldness as an example of courage.

7 I pray, I pray that we
8 all find within ourselves and stand
9 up and speak out against hate and
10 injustice and stand together for
11 love and for one another. (Spanish
12 translation.)

13 I encourage all of you to
14 watch the real Super Bowl halftime,
15 the Benito Bowl, and I hope you all
16 enjoy your T-shirts. Thank you so
17 much.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

19 JOHNSON: Thank you.

20 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: I
21 also want to remind everyone that
22 Women Against Abuse is holding a
23 briefing in the Caucus room
24 immediately after Council. They

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2 will be sharing resources and a
3 better understanding of domestic
4 violence and how we as Council can
5 better support domestic violence
6 victims. Thank you.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

8 JOHNSON: Thank you.

9 Chair recognizes
10 Councilmember Dr. Anthony Phillips.

11 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

12 Thank you, Council President. And
13 thank you to everyone today who has
14 spoken.

15 Youth Leadership matters.

16 And here's why: In the City of
17 Philadelphia where today we
18 witnessed racism, anti-Semitism and
19 often other derogatory terms, it is
20 important that we recognize that
21 young people are observing these
22 things. And then when they're
23 observing these things, our young
24 people are beginning to soak that

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2 in as information.

3 As leaders, young
4 leaders, they are beginning to
5 understand that they have a voice
6 and we need to provide them with a
7 platform to have that voice,
8 because they're going to be the
9 generation that is going to stand
10 up against these things.

11 The reason why it was
12 important for us to recognize the
13 Student of Government Associations
14 across the City of Philadelphia,
15 from colleges, universities to
16 public high schools is because this
17 is where young people start to
18 develop the leadership skills to
19 retaliate against racism, anti-
20 Semitism, sexism and so many more
21 issues.

22 It is an opportunity for
23 them to say I have an idea and I
24 want to help and I want to solve

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2 problems that are going against the
3 citizens of Philadelphia and
4 beyond. So I was proud to work
5 with the Mayor's Office of Youth
6 Engagement to recognize all of
7 these organizations in our city and
8 also to uplift today a youth
9 organization that is challenging
10 young Black women to understand
11 that you can be anything that you
12 want to be, whether or not it's in
13 STEM or whether or not it's another
14 career. Traditional careers that
15 may not be there for you, we're
16 going to help you understand that
17 you have an opportunity to be in
18 it. So Black Girls Math, you rock.
19 Thank you, Atiyah Harmon.

20 And lastly, I just want
21 to quickly say that we are in the
22 midst of Black History Month.
23 Black History is important to
24 recognize because Black History is

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2 about the cultural contributions of
3 Black Americans to the United
4 States and beyond. But most
5 importantly, it signifies that
6 we're about showing, highlighting
7 people who are about the fabric of
8 this nation.

9 And so, as we continue to
10 uplift Black History, let's
11 continue to uplift youth
12 leadership, because the youth
13 leadership that made Black History
14 could only be possible, right, with
15 young people.

16 And so, thank you so
17 much, Council President. I'm
18 looking forward to working and
19 seeing the kids that I've met today
20 from Philadelphia Charter High
21 School for electrical and
22 technology and so many others, the
23 Community College University --
24 Community College of Philadelphia,

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2 and so many others in the Mayor's
3 Reception room after this where
4 they're going to be recognized here
5 in the halls of City Hall.

6 So thank you so much and
7 I look forward to continue to
8 uplift the voices of young people.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON

10 Thank you.

11 Chair recognizes
12 Councilmember Dr. Nina Ahmad.

13 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:

14 Thank you, Council President.

15 As we celebrate Black
16 History Month, I want to take a
17 moment to recognize Dr. Nathan
18 Francis Mossell , a Philadelphian
19 whose work should be better known
20 because it shaped the city in real,
21 lasting ways. Dr. Mossell was a
22 physician and a trailblazer. He
23 was the first African American
24 Graduate of Penn's Medical School

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2 at a time when doors were slammed
3 shut for Black students and Black
4 professionals. But he didn't just
5 break a barrier and call it a day.
6 He also built something for
7 everybody else to walk through.

8 In 1895, he established
9 the Frederick Douglass Memorial
10 Hospital so Black Philadelphians
11 could get care with dignity,
12 because too often the system either
13 turned people away or treated them
14 as an afterthought. That work
15 later grew into Mercy-Douglas
16 Hospital, which operated from 1948
17 to 1973. It wasn't just another
18 building. It was the first Black
19 Hospital in Philadelphia and one of
20 the earliest in the country.

21 Mercy-Douglas mattered
22 for what it did and for what it
23 proved. It provided quality care
24 in a city where Black patients were

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2 routinely denied, and it trained
3 generations of Black nurses and
4 health professionals through its
5 School of Nursing, creating jobs,
6 creating leadership and creating a
7 pipeline of talent that our health
8 system relied on, whether it
9 admitted it or not.

10 Even after it closed, the
11 impact did not disappear. You can
12 trace it through the people who
13 were trained there, the families
14 who were treated there and the
15 standard it set that equal care
16 isn't a slogan, it's a requirement.
17 So today, I want us to remember him
18 and remember his work and make sure
19 we celebrate Black History Month
20 remembering all those who have come
21 before us.

22 Thank you, Council
23 President. I yield back.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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2 JOHNSON: Thank you.

3 Chair recognizes Majority

4 Leader Katherine Gilmore

5 Richardson.

6 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

7 RICHARDSON: Thank you. Thank you,

8 Council President.

9 I rise today just to
10 remind each of you and the broader
11 public about our second Annual
12 Tracy Powell Beyond Ownership
13 Creating A Lasting Legacy
14 Homeownership Fair. We named our
15 homeownership fair after Tracy
16 Powell because she was the impetus
17 of the program. Last year, she
18 worked with our office, ensured
19 that we had the program and was one
20 of our featured presenters last
21 year in helping many Philadelphians
22 achieve the dream of homeownership.
23 And we want to honor and uplift her
24 legacy in real estate and in

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2 homeownership and the importance of
3 generational wealth.

4 And so, this Saturday,
5 February 7th after you visit the
6 African American Children's Book
7 Project and Fair, please come on
8 over to the Community College of
9 Philadelphia from 10:00 a.m. to
10 1:00 p.m. to visit with more than
11 20 vendors across the city of
12 Philadelphia to talk about
13 homeownership.

14 I'm thankful to
15 colleagues who have partnered with
16 us, of course the District
17 Councilmember, Councilmember
18 Jeffrey Young of the 5th Council
19 District. Thank you very much for
20 your partnership and collaboration
21 on the fair, State Senator Nikil
22 Saval, and also tabling with us
23 will be our colleague Councilmember
24 Nicolas O'Rourke. So we thank you

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2 very, very much to the elected
3 officials who are partnering with
4 us.

5 We have more than 22
6 government agencies, organizations,
7 realtors, property groups, title
8 companies, financial institutions,
9 including the Philadelphia Federal
10 Credit Union, and that's where my
11 colleague Councilman Driscoll is.
12 We have presentations from Philly
13 VIP, PHDC, with Philly First Home
14 and Turn the Key and Super Realty
15 Group. And we're partnering with
16 Good as Gold Foundation and Citadel
17 on providing breakfast for all of
18 the attendees as well as some
19 really cool raffle items. So we
20 hope to see each and every one of
21 you there this Saturday, February
22 7th at the Community College of
23 Philadelphia, the Wynnette Building
24 at 17th and Spring Garden.

1 2/5/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 Thank you, Mr. President.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

4 JOHNSON: Thank you.

5 Chair recognizes

6 Councilmember Mark Squilla.

7 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA:

8 Thank you, Mr. President.

9 I'd like to be recognized
10 as aye on all bills and resolutions
11 while I was out of chambers.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

13 JOHNSON: It will be duly noted.

14 It will be recorded, Member
15 Squilla. That's it for speeches.

16 Chair recognizes
17 Councilmember Isaiah Thomas for a
18 motion to adjourn.

19 COUNCILMAN THOMAS:

20 Thank, Council President.

21 Before we adjourn, I know
22 we all as members know this, but I
23 just want to take a moment to just
24 let Councilmember Rue Landau know

1 2/5/26 - STATED - ADJOURNMENT

2 we love her. So with that being
3 said --

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

5 JOHNSON: We love you, Rue.

6 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: With
7 that being said, Council President,
8 I move that Council stand adjourned
9 until Thursday, February 12, 2026
10 at 10:00 a.m.

11 (Duly seconded.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

13 JOHNSON: It has been moved and
14 properly seconded that this Council
15 stands adjourn until Thursday,
16 February 12, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

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

19 (Aye.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

21 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

22 (No response.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

24 JOHNSON: The ayes have it and the

1 2/5/26 - STATED - ADJOURNMENT

2 motion carries. Thank you.

3 - - -

4 (Stated Meeting adjourned

5 at 12:50 p.m.)

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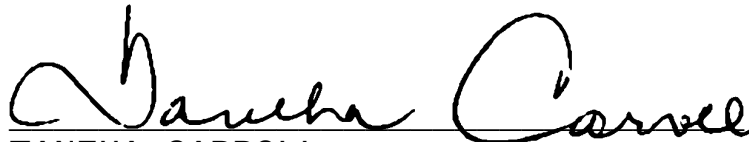
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C E R T I F I C A T I O N

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


TANEHA CARROLL
Court Reporter - Notary Public

(The foregoing certification of this transcript does not apply to any reproduction of the same by any means, unless under the direct control and/or supervision of the certifying reporter.)

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City of Philadelphia

Public Hearing Notice

The **CITY COUNCIL** of the Council of the City of Philadelphia will hold a Public Hearing on **Thursday, February 5, 2026, at 10:00 AM, in Room 400, City Hall**, to hear testimony on the following items:

- 250917** An Ordinance amending Section 14-529 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled “/VDO, Fifth District Overlay District,” to provide for building requirements to prevent vacant lots, all under certain terms and conditions.
- 250988** An Ordinance amending Chapter 9-600 of The Philadelphia Code (entitled “Service and Other Businesses”) to add business hour restrictions in the Fifth Councilmanic District; and amending Section 14-529 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled “/VDO, Fifth District Overlay District,” to restrict certain commercial uses and make other related changes, all under certain terms and conditions
- 250989** An Ordinance amending Title 10 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled “Regulation of Individual Conduct and Activity,” by adding a new Section to impose a temporary moratorium on the breeding and transfer of puppies, all under certain terms and conditions.
- 251031** An Ordinance repealing in its entirety Bill No. 241055 (approved December 23, 2024), entitled “An ordinance to amend the Philadelphia Zoning Maps by changing the zoning designations of certain areas of land located within an area bounded by Packer Avenue, Seventh Street, Pattison Avenue, and Darien Street. To amend Title 14 of The Philadelphia Code by adding Section 14-541 entitled “/PAK, Packer Avenue Overlay District and making other related changes, all under certain terms and conditions.”
- 250980** An Ordinance amending Chapter 9-3900 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled “Property Licenses and Owner Accountability,” by requiring non-resident landlords to provide verifiable contact information and a designated local contact and establishing penalties for non-compliance, all under certain terms and conditions.
- 251097** An Ordinance amending Chapter 9-4400 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled “Responsible Business Operations,” to add illegal sales of tobacco products to minors and unlicensed tobacco retailing as nuisance behaviors, and require completion of a Department-approved Tobacco Retailer Education and Compliance Training as a condition of lifting a Cease Operations Order, all under certain terms and conditions.

City of Philadelphia

Public Hearing Notice

CITY COUNCIL

Thursday, February 5, 2026 at 10:00

AM

- 241070** Resolution proposing an amendment to the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter to eliminate the requirement that City officers and employees resign from their City office or employment before becoming candidates for public office; and providing for the submission of the amendment of the electors of Philadelphia.
- 260044** Resolution expressing the City Council's priorities for the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's 95 Revive Project from Center City to South Philadelphia
- 260066** Resolution urging U.S. Senators John Fetterman and Dave McCormick, as well as all United States Senators committed to upholding the Constitution of the United States and the Rule of Law, to vote "No" on H.R. 7147, and to reject increased funding for Immigrations and Customs Enforcement.
- 241056** An Ordinance providing for the submission to the qualified electors of the City of Philadelphia of the proposal set forth in a Resolution approved by Council proposing an amendment to the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter to eliminate the requirement that City officers and employees resign from their City office or employment before becoming candidates for public office; and authorizing the appropriate officers to publish notice and to make arrangements for the special election.
- 250768** An Ordinance amending Title 17 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled "Contracts and Procurement," to prohibit contractors providing solid waste, recycling or composting services to the City from incinerating discarded matter, under certain terms and conditions.
- 250807** An Ordinance authorizing the Commissioner of Public Property to acquire, on behalf of the City, fee simple title or a lesser interest, by purchase, dedication, donation, condemnation, agreement in lieu of condemnation or otherwise, for the purpose of making, enlarging, connecting, extending, operating, and maintaining public parks for recreational use, certain parcels of land, generally bounded and located between Vine Street, Fairmount Avenue, 8th Street and 12th Street, together with all improvements thereon and all associated easements and appurtenances; and to lease the property, or a portion thereof, to the Center City District; all under certain terms and conditions.
- 250843** An Ordinance amending Chapter 10-700 of the Philadelphia Code, entitled "Refuse and Littering," to require locking dumpsters; all under certain terms and conditions.

City of Philadelphia

Public Hearing Notice

CITY COUNCIL

Thursday, February 5, 2026 at 10:00

AM

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| 251025 | An Ordinance regulating the direction of movement of traffic on Ryan Avenue between Leon Street and Frankford Avenue. |
| 260077 | Resolution honoring and recognizing Black Girls Love Math for its work in eliminating racial and gender inequality in mathematics by cultivating a positive math identity for Black girls through culturally responsive enrichment, mentoring, and community in Philadelphia. |
| 260078 | Resolution declaring February 5, 2026, as Citywide Student Government Day in the City of Philadelphia. |
| 260079 | Resolution declaring February 2026 as ‘Black History Month’ in the City of Philadelphia and recognizing the 100th anniversary of its observance. |
| 260080 | Resolution congratulating Donna Cooper on her retirement and recognizing her transformational leadership and lifelong advocacy for children in Philadelphia and across the state of Pennsylvania. |
| 260081 | Resolution recognizing February 2026 as Career and Technical Education Month® in the City of Philadelphia. |
| 260082 | Resolution honoring and congratulating Nicole Cashman, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Cashman & Associates, on the occasion of the firm’s 25th anniversary, and recognizing her remarkable contributions to the business community and cultural vitality of the City of Philadelphia. |
| 260083 | Resolution honoring and Recognizing the Legacy and Contributions of Prince Hall Freemasonry During Black History Month. |
| 260084 | Resolution honoring and Recognizing Rick Williams, Sharrie Williams, Ukee Washington, Thera Martin, and Solomon Jones for Their Service to Philadelphia as Trusted Journalists and Stewards of Truth During Black History Month. |
| 260085 | Resolution recognizing and honoring HughE Dillon aka PhillyChitChat for his remarkable contributions to the cultural and social life of the city and celebrating his work chronicling the spirit of Philadelphia. |
| 260087 | Resolution recognizing Bad Bunny’s Cultural Impact, Advocacy for Historically Underrepresented Voices, and Congratulating Him on His 2026 Grammy Award for Album of the Year for <i>Debi Tirar Más Fotos</i> |

City of Philadelphia

Public Hearing Notice

CITY COUNCIL

Thursday, February 5, 2026 at 10:00

AM

- 260088** Resolution recognizing and celebrating the women of All Of Us Or None Philadelphia, Why Not Prosper and SWAG for their efforts to address and fix laws that permit enslavement as a punishment for a crime, on the occasion of Black History Month.
- 260090** Resolution recognizing the Rise of Cardiovascular Disease as one of the World's Leading Causes of Death and Disability, and Recognizing February 2026 as "American Heart Month"
- 260091** Resolution authorizing the Committee on Labor and Civil Service and the Committee on Transportation to hold joint hearings regarding the arrival of driverless rideshare vehicles in the City of Philadelphia and its impact on labor, the local economy, and public safety
- 260092** Resolution honoring the legacy of William Thaddeus Coleman Jr. and recognizing March 10, 2026 as "William Thaddeus Coleman Jr. Day" in the City of Philadelphia
- 260093** Resolution honoring and recognizing Mercy-Douglass Hospital as the first Black hospital in Philadelphia and commemorating the enduring legacy of its founder, Dr. Nathan Francis Mossell and his commitment to advancing health equity and medical excellence.

Immediately following the public hearing, a meeting of the CITY COUNCIL, open to the public, will be held to consider the action to be taken on the above listed items.

Copies of the foregoing items are available in the Office of the Chief Clerk of the Council, Room 402, City Hall.