

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
STATED MEETING

Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Thursday, March 14, 2024
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 JONES, JR.
COUNCILWOMAN RUE LANDAU
COUNCILWOMAN QUETCY LOZADA
COUNCILMAN BRIAN J. O'NEILL
COUNCILMAN NICOLAS O'ROURKE
COUNCILMAN ANTHONY PHILLIPS
COUNCILMAN MARK SQUILLA
COUNCILMAN ISAIAH THOMAS
COUNCILMAN JEFFERY YOUNG, JR.

ELIZABETH McCOLLUM NAZARIO,
INTERIM CHIEF CLERK

- - -

1 3/14/24 - STATED - INVOCATION

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

3 Good morning, everyone.

4 (Good morning.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

6 Good morning, everyone.

7 (Good morning.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: I

9 note that the hour has come and that a
10 quorum of this Council is present.

11 Council will now come to order. Will
12 members please take their seats.

13 Visitors will retire to the seats outside
14 the rails.

15 Before proceeding, I would ask
16 all those present to please set their
17 cell phones to silent or vibrate. Thank
18 you.

19 To give our invocation this
20 morning, the Chair recognizes my good
21 friend, Dr. Kevin Johnson, Pastor of Dare
22 to Imagine Church. He is here today as
23 the guest of Councilmember Cindy Bass.

24 I would ask all members and
25 guests to please rise.

1 3/14/24 - STATED - INVOCATION

2 (Councilmembers and guests
3 rise.)

4 DR. JOHNSON: Shall we pray.

5 God, give us leaders. A time
6 like this demands strong minds, great
7 hearts, true faith, and ready hands.

8 God, give us leaders, visionary
9 leaders, leaders that have a vision to
10 address the rising crime and violence in
11 our city, leaders who have a vision to
12 educate our children and leave no child
13 behind, leaders who have a vision to
14 represent the poor and disenfranchised
15 and not just those who live in the right
16 zip code or are represented by a
17 well-healed lobbying firm.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

19 Amen.

20 DR. JOHNSON: God, give us
21 leaders like Charles Hamilton Houston and
22 Thurgood Marshall. Give us leaders like
23 Shirley Chisholm and Barbara Jordan.
24 Give us leaders like Bill Gray, Gussie
25 Clark, Cecil B. Moore, Leon Sullivan,

1 3/14/24 - STATED - INVOCATION

2 Marian Tasco, Wilson Goode, Sr., Kenyatta
3 Johnson, and, yes, like Cherelle Parker,
4 the first woman to be elected as Mayor of
5 Philadelphia.

6 God, help us to remember the
7 words of that great public education
8 advocate who once said, let us not be
9 content to wait and see what will happen
10 but rather give us the determination to
11 make the right things happen.

12 When we see only 50 percent of
13 our children graduating from high school,
14 God, give us leaders. When we see
15 schools are crumbling and children have
16 lost hope and are shooting one another,
17 God, give us leaders. And, God, give us
18 leaders because our city needs them now
19 more than ever. Guide them, lead them,
20 direct them so that policies will create
21 a stronger and more prosperous
22 Philadelphia.

23 It is in your precious name
24 that we pray, and all of those who
25 believe say amen.

1 3/14/24 - STATED - APPROVAL OF JOURNAL

2 (Amen.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
4 Chair thanks the Pastor for his
5 invocation.

6 Council will now be at ease.

7 (Council at ease.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
9 next order of business is the approval of
10 the Journal of the meeting of Thursday,
11 March the 7th, 2024.

12 The Chair recognizes
13 Councilmember Cindy Bass.

14 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you,
15 Mr. President. I move that the Journal
16 of the meeting of Thursday, March 7th,
17 2024 be approved.

18 (Duly seconded.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: It
20 has been moved and properly seconded that
21 the Journal of the meeting of Thursday,
22 March the 7th, 2024 stand approved.

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

25 (Aye.)

1 3/14/24 - STATED - LEAVES

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

3 Those opposed?

4 (No response.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
6 ayes have it, and the Journal is
7 approved.

8 The next order of business is
9 request for leave of absence, and the
10 Chair recognizes Councilmember Katherine
11 Gilmore Richardson.

12 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Thank
13 you, Mr. President. On behalf of the
14 majority, there are no requests for leave
15 of absence today.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
17 Chair thanks the Councilmember.

18 The Chair now recognizes
19 Councilmember Kendra Brooks.

20 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: Thank
21 you, Council President. On the behalf of
22 the minority, there is no request for
23 leave of absence today.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
25 Chair thanks the Councilmember.

1 3/14/24 - STATED - MOTION CONCERNING CALENDAR

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

10 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Thank
11 you, Mr. President. I move that any of
12 the following matters, if considered
13 today, may be added to the agenda for
14 this session of Council and, as required
15 by law, subsequently published on an
16 amended agenda after the consideration of
17 those matters: resolutions authorizing
18 hearings, amendments to bills on first
19 reading, the reconsideration of a bill
20 vetoed by or re-called from the Mayor,
21 amendments to bills re-called from the
22 Mayor, resolutions taking substantive
23 action to be voted on in this session, a
24 motion to withdraw a bill or resolution
25 that is not on the Calendar, and a motion

1 3/14/24 - STATED - MOTION CONCERNING CALENDAR
2 placing a bill or resolution on or
3 returning a bill or resolution from the
4 Suspension Calendar that is not listed on
5 today's Calendar.

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

12 (Duly seconded.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: It
14 has been moved and properly seconded that
15 the legislative matters stated by
16 Councilmember Katherine Gilmore
17 Richardson may be added to the agenda for
18 today should those matters arise during
19 the course of this session of Council.

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

22 (Aye.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

24 Those opposed?

25 (No response.)

1 3/14/24 - STATED - ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
3 ayes have it and the motion carries.

4 The Chair will now dispense
5 from the regular order of business to
6 recognize the guests and visitors joining
7 us in Chambers this morning. On behalf
8 of all members of City Council, I welcome
9 you to our Council session. We
10 appreciate you taking the time to join us
11 as we attend to the legislative affairs
12 of our great city. We also certainly
13 invite you to come again.

14 At this moment, I want to
15 acknowledge Congressman Dwight Evans, who
16 is in attendance. I also want to also --

17 - - -

18 (Applause.)

19 - - -

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: I
21 also want to acknowledge City
22 Commissioner Omar Sabir, who is in
23 attendance.

24 - - -

25 (Applause.)

1 3/14/24 - STATED - ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

2 - - -

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: I

4 want to also acknowledge our Sheriff,

5 Rochelle Bilal, who is in attendance.

6 - - -

7 (Applause.)

8 - - -

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: I

10 want to also acknowledge the Chair of the

11 Philadelphia Delegation, Morgan Cephas.

12 - - -

13 (Applause.)

14 - - -

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: I

16 also want to acknowledge State

17 Representative Bellmon, Anthony Bellmon.

18 Give him a round of applause.

19 - - -

20 (Applause.)

21 - - -

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: I

23 also want to acknowledge State

24 Representative Jason Dawkins. Give him a

25 round of applause.

1 3/14/24 - STATED - ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

2 - - -

3 (Applause.)

4 - - -

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: I

6 also want to acknowledge City

7 Commissioner Seth Bluestein. Give him a

8 round of applause.

9 - - -

10 (Applause.)

11 - - -

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: I

13 also want to acknowledge City

14 Representative Jazelle Jones. Let's give

15 her a round of applause as well.

16 - - -

17 (Applause.)

18 - - -

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: We

20 thank you for taking time out of your

21 schedule and joining us here today.

22 As there are no presentations

23 today, the next order of business is

24 communications. The Chair requests that

25 the Sergeant-At-Arms deliver the messages

1 3/14/24 - STATED - COMMUNICATIONS

2 from the Mayor to the Chief Clerk.

3 The Chief Clerk will read the
4 messages from the Mayor and any other
5 communications in her possession.

6 CHIEF CLERK: To the President
7 and the members of the Council of the
8 City of Philadelphia, I am submitting
9 herewith for the consideration of your
10 honorable body the following proposed
11 ordinance:

12 An ordinance authorizing
13 transfers in appropriations for Fiscal
14 Year 2024 from the General Fund, certain
15 or all City offices, departments, boards
16 and commissions, and the Grants Revenue
17 Fund, certain or all City offices,
18 departments, boards and commissions, to
19 the General Fund, certain or all City
20 offices, departments, boards and
21 commissions and to the Aviation Fund,
22 certain or all City offices, departments,
23 boards and commissions.

24 An ordinance amending Bill No.
25 230145, entitled "An ordinance to adopt a

1 3/14/24 - STATED - COMMUNICATIONS

2 Fiscal 2024 Capital Budget," by revising
3 various appropriation amounts and totals,
4 all under certain terms and conditions.

5 An ordinance amending Bill No.
6 230144, entitled "An ordinance To adopt a
7 Capital Program for the Six Fiscal Years
8 2024 through 2029 Inclusive," by revising
9 various appropriation amounts and totals
10 to conform to amendments to the FY2024
11 Capital Budget Ordinance, all under
12 certain terms and conditions.

13 A resolution providing for the
14 approval by the Council of the City of
15 Philadelphia of a Revised Five Year
16 Financial Plan for the City of
17 Philadelphia covering Fiscal Years 2025
18 through 2029, and incorporating revisions
19 with respect to Fiscal Year 2024, which
20 is to be submitted by the Mayor to the
21 Pennsylvania Intergovernmental
22 Cooperation Authority pursuant to an
23 Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement
24 by and between the City and the
25 Authority.

1 3/14/24 - STATED - COMMUNICATIONS

2 An ordinance adopting the
3 Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2025.

4 An ordinance amending Chapter
5 19-1800 of The Philadelphia Code,
6 entitled "School Tax Authorization," to
7 provide for an increase in the tax that
8 the Board of Education of the School
9 District of Philadelphia is authorized to
10 impose on real estate; and amending
11 Chapter 19-1300, entitled "Real Estate
12 Taxes," to establish an equivalent
13 reduction in the tax rate for the City
14 real estate tax; and making technical
15 changes; all under certain terms and
16 conditions.

17 An ordinance to adopt a Fiscal
18 2025 Capital Budget. The Philadelphia
19 City Planning Commission approved this
20 ordinance on March 12th, 2024.

21 An ordinance to adopt a Capital
22 Program for the six Fiscal Years 2025
23 through 2030 inclusive. The Philadelphia
24 City Planning Commission approved this
25 ordinance on March 12th, 2024.

1 3/14/24 - STATED - COMMUNICATIONS

2 A resolution authorizing the
3 Commissioner of Public Property to
4 execute and deliver to the Philadelphia
5 Redevelopment Authority deeds conveying
6 fee simple title to 809 North 40th
7 Street, 827, 830, 843, 847, 849, 851,
8 865, 867 40th street, 1105, 1115 North
9 41st Street, 607, 625 North 53rd Street,
10 3927 Folsom Street, 3946 and 3948 Folsom
11 Street in the Third Councilmanic District
12 of the City of Philadelphia and further
13 authorizing the Philadelphia
14 Redevelopment Authority to transfer to
15 the Philadelphia Land Bank fee simple
16 title to such properties pursuant to
17 Section 16-405 of The Philadelphia Code.

18 And the Mayor wishes to advise
19 that she signed the following bill which
20 was passed by Council at its session on
21 March 7th, 2024: Bill No. 240064.

22 There are no more
23 communications in my possession, Council
24 President.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

1 3/14/24 - STATED - ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

2 Thank you. The messages will be printed
3 in the Journal.

4 I want to also take a moment to
5 acknowledge City Controller Christy Brady
6 who is here. Christy, where are you?

7 - - -

8 (Applause.)

9 - - -

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: I
11 also want to take a moment to acknowledge
12 our District Attorney, Larry Krasner.

13 - - -

14 (Applause.)

15 - - -

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: And
17 representing the Register of Wills
18 Office, Chief Deputy Bob Stewart.

19 - - -

20 (Applause.)

21 - - -

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
23 next order of business is the
24 introduction of bills and resolutions.

25 The Chair recognizes

1 3/14/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 Councilmember Phillips.

3 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: Good

4 morning, Council President. Good

5 morning, colleagues, and good morning,

6 viewing public. This is a wonderful day,

7 and I just want to say we have no bills

8 or resolutions today coming from our

9 office.

10 Thank you.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

12 Thank you.

13 The Chair recognizes

14 Councilmember Katherine Gilmore

15 Richardson.

16 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Thank

17 you, Council President. On your behalf,

18 I offer two non-privileged resolutions

19 and nine bills.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

21 Will the Clerk please read the titles of

22 the bills and resolutions.

23 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance

24 establishing parking regulations in the

25 vicinity of: Hoffman Street between

1 3/14/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 South 19th Street and South 20th Street;
3 Pierce Street between South 17th Street
4 and South 18th Street; Pierce Street
5 between South 21st Street and South 20th
6 Street; Sigel Street between South 22nd
7 and South 23rd Street; McClellan Street
8 between South 18th Street and South 17th
9 Street; McClellan Street between South
10 19th Street and South 18th Street;
11 McClellan Street between South 20th
12 Street and South 19th Street; Jackson
13 Street between South 15th Street and
14 South 16th Street; Jackson Street between
15 South 19th Street and South 20th Street;
16 McKean Street between South 20th Street
17 and South 21st Street.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

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

21 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
22 establishing parking regulations in the
23 vicinity of: South 18th Street between
24 Reed Street and Wharton Street; South
25 18th Street between Dickerson Street and

1 3/14/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 Reed Street; South 18th Street between
3 Tasker Street and Dickinson Street;
4 Oakford Street between South 24th Street
5 and South 25th Street; Oakford Street
6 between South 22nd Street and South 23rd
7 Street; South 19th Street between
8 Dickinson Street and Tasker Street; South
9 21st Street between Tasker Street and
10 Morris Street; Manton Street between
11 South 20th and South 19th Street;
12 Bancroft between Tasker Street and Morris
13 Street; Alter Street between South 22nd
14 Street and South 21st Street.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

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

18 CHIEF CLERK: And a resolution
19 urging the Pennsylvania General Assembly
20 to allocate full funding for Governor
21 Shapiro's proposed Office of Gun Violence
22 Prevention and the anti-violence
23 initiatives that the Office would
24 coordinate to address the epidemic of gun
25 violence across the Commonwealth of

1 3/14/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 Pennsylvania.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

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

6 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
7 authorizing transfers in appropriations
8 for Fiscal Year 2024 from the General
9 Fund, certain or all City offices,
10 departments, boards and commissions, and
11 the Grants Revenue Fund, certain or all
12 City offices, departments, boards and
13 commissions, to the General Fund, certain
14 or all City offices, departments, boards
15 and commissions and to the Aviation Fund,
16 certain or all City offices, departments,
17 boards and commissions.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

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

21 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
22 amending Bill No. 230145, entitled "An
23 ordinance to adopt a Fiscal 2024 Capital
24 Budget," by revising various
25 appropriation amounts and totals, all

1 3/14/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 under certain terms and conditions.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

4 This bill will be referred to the

5 appropriate committee.

6 CHIEF CLERK: And an ordinance

7 amending Bill No. 230144, entitled "An

8 ordinance To adopt a Capital Program for

9 the Six Fiscal Years 2024 through 2029

10 Inclusive," by revising various

11 appropriation amounts and totals to

12 conform to amendments to the FY2024

13 Capital Budget Ordinance, all under

14 certain terms and conditions.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

16 This bill will be referred to the

17 appropriate committee.

18 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution

19 providing for the approval by the Council

20 of the City of Philadelphia of a Revised

21 Five Year Financial Plan for the City of

22 Philadelphia covering Fiscal Years 2025

23 through 2029, and incorporating revisions

24 with respect to Fiscal Year 2024, which

25 is to be submitted by the Mayor to the

1 3/14/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 Pennsylvania Intergovernmental
3 Cooperation Authority pursuant to an
4 Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement
5 by and between the City and the
6 Authority.

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

10 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
11 adopting the Operating Budget for Fiscal
12 Year 2025.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
14 This bill will be referred to the
15 appropriate committee.

16 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
17 amending Chapter 19-1800 of The
18 Philadelphia Code, entitled "School Tax
19 Authorization," to provide for an
20 increase in the tax that the Board of
21 Education of the School District of
22 Philadelphia is authorized to impose on
23 real estate; and amending Chapter
24 19-1300, entitled "Real Estate Taxes," to
25 establish an equivalent reduction in the

1 3/14/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 tax rate for the City real estate tax
3 rate; and making technical changes; all
4 under certain terms and conditions.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

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

8 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance to
9 adopt a Fiscal 2025 Capital Budget.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

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

13 CHIEF CLERK: And an ordinance
14 to adopt a Capital Program for the six
15 Fiscal Years 2025 through 2030 inclusive.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

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

19 The Chair now recognizes
20 Councilmember Jamie Gauthier.

21 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Thank
22 you, Council President. Today I have two
23 non-privileged resolutions.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

25 Thank you.

1 3/14/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 Will the Clerk please read the
3 non-privileged resolutions.

4 CHIEF CLERK: A non-privileged
5 resolution also naming the 5400 block of
6 Woodland Avenue as "Dr. Minnie Moore
7 Johnson Way" to honor the life and legacy
8 of community service of Dr. Minnie Moore
9 Johnson to the City of Philadelphia.

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

14 CHIEF CLERK: And a resolution
15 authorizing the Commissioner of Public
16 Property to execute and deliver to the
17 Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority
18 deeds conveying fee simple title to 809
19 North 40th Street, 827 North 40th Street
20 and 830 North 40th Street.

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

25 CHIEF CLERK: I'm sorry,

1 3/14/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 Council President. Part of the title got
3 cut off, so let me finish reading it.

4 843, 847, 849, 851, 865, 867
5 North 40th Street, 1105, 1115 North 41st
6 Street, 607, 625 North 53rd Street, 3927,
7 3946 Folsom Street, 3948 Folsom Street in
8 the Third Councilmanic District.

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

13 CHIEF CLERK: The Chair now
14 recognizes Councilmember Thomas.

15 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Good
16 morning, Council President. Good
17 morning, colleagues. No bills or
18 resolutions today.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
20 Chair now recognizes Councilmember Jones.

21 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
22 Mr. President. On today's historic
23 occasion, no bills or resolutions today.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
25 Chair now recognizes Councilmember Rue

1 3/14/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 Landau.

3 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU: Good
4 morning, Council President, colleagues,
5 and guests. No bills or resolutions
6 today.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
8 Chair recognizes Councilmember Quetcy
9 Lozada.

10 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Good
11 morning, Council President. One bill
12 with an amendment.

13 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
14 amending Chapter 9-600 of The
15 Philadelphia Code, entitled "Service and
16 Other Businesses", by adding a new
17 section regulating the hours of operation
18 of service establishments and providing
19 for penalties within an area bounded by
20 East Lehigh Avenue, Kensington Avenue, D
21 Street, East Tioga Street and Frankford
22 Avenue, all under certain terms and
23 conditions.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
25 This bill will be referred to the

1 3/14/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 appropriate committee.

3 The Chair recognizes

4 Councilmember Jeffery J. Young.

5 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Good

6 morning, Mr. President. First, I want to

7 acknowledge my former State Senator,

8 Shirley Kitchen, here as my guest today,

9 and I have one bill for introduction

10 today.

11 - - -

12 (Applause.)

13 - - -

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

15 Will the Clerk please read the title of

16 the bill.

17 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance

18 establishing parking regulations in the

19 vicinity of: Pacific Street and North

20 Broad Street; North 13th Street and

21 Allegheny Avenue; Marlborough Street and

22 Thompson Street; North 4th Street and

23 Master Street.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

25 This bill will be referred to the

1 3/14/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 appropriate committee.

3 The Chair recognizes

4 Councilmember Kendra Brooks.

5 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: Good

6 morning, Council President. I have two

7 resolutions to introduce today and one

8 bill to introduce on your behalf.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

10 Thank you very much.

11 Will the Clerk please read the

12 titles of the bill and resolutions.

13 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance

14 amending Chapter 16-700 of The

15 Philadelphia Code, entitled "Philadelphia

16 Land Bank," to allow interested parties

17 to require open bidding when the Land

18 Bank seeks to exercise special authority

19 to acquire property at a Sheriff's sale

20 and allow prior owners to redeem property

21 when such special authority is exercised,

22 all under certain terms and conditions.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

24 This bill will be referred to the

25 appropriate committee.

1 3/14/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 CHIEF CLERK: And a resolution
3 authorizing the Committee on Public
4 Health and Human Services to conduct
5 hearings concerning the rapidly evolving
6 and worsening crisis of overdose deaths
7 and their impact on neighborhoods,
8 particularly in Black communities across
9 Philadelphia.

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

13 CHIEF CLERK: And a privileged
14 resolution authorizing the Committee on
15 Housing, Neighborhood Development and the
16 Homeless to conduct hearings to examine
17 ways to better connect low-income
18 homeowners to the tax relief programs
19 they are entitled to, including
20 door-to-door outreach and automatic
21 enrollment.

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

25 The Chair recognizes

1 3/14/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 Councilmember Jim Harrity.

3 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: Good
4 morning, Council President. I have no
5 bills or resolutions today.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
7 Chair recognizes Councilmember Nicholas
8 "Nick" O'Rourke.

9 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE: Good
10 morning, Council President and the
11 viewing public. I have one privileged
12 resolution to introduce.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
14 Will the Clerk please read the title of
15 the resolution.

16 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged
17 resolution recognizing and congratulating
18 Da'Vine Joy Randolph, a proud
19 Philadelphia native, for her Academy
20 Award for Best Actress in a Supporting
21 Role and for her exceptional journey and
22 contributions to the fine visual and
23 performing arts.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
25 This resolution will be placed on today's

1 3/14/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 Final Passage Calendar.

3 The Chair recognizes

4 Councilmember Driscoll.

5 COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL:

6 Mr. President, no bills or resolutions
7 today.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
9 Chair recognizes Councilmember O'Neill.

10 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Thank you,
11 Mr. President. I have no bills or
12 resolutions.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
14 Chair recognizes the gentleman from South
15 Philadelphia, Councilman Mark Squilla.

16 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Good
17 morning, Council President. I have four
18 bills.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
20 Will the Clerk please read the titles of
21 the bills.

22 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
23 establishing parking regulations in the
24 vicinity of: Montrose Street between
25 South 7th Street and South 8th Street;

1 3/14/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 Montrose Street between South 9th Street
3 and South 10th Street; Montrose Street
4 between South 10th Street and South 11th
5 Street; Beulah Street between Montrose
6 Street and Carpenter Street.

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

10 CHIEF CLERK: And an ordinance
11 establishing parking regulations in the
12 vicinity of: South 12th Street between
13 Jackson Street and Wolf Street; Emily
14 Street between South 6th Street and South
15 5th Street; Winton Street between South
16 5th Street and South 6th Street; Mercy
17 Street between South 5th Street and South
18 6th Street; Sigel Street between South
19 5th Street and South 6th Street; South
20 4th Street between Mifflin Street and
21 McKean Street; McKean Street between
22 South 5th Street and South 6th Street;
23 Sigel Street between South 5th Street and
24 South 4th Street; South 3rd Street
25 between Mifflin Street and McKean Street.

1 3/14/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

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

5 CHIEF CLERK: And an ordinance
6 establishing parking regulations in the
7 vicinity of: Jackson Street between 12th
8 Street and South 13th Street; Snyder
9 Avenue between South 13th Street and
10 Juniper Street; Jackson Street between
11 South 6th Street and South 7th Street;
12 Mercy Street between South 7th Street and
13 South 8th Street; Watkins Street between
14 South 11th Street and South 12th Street;
15 South 7th Street between Johnston Street
16 and Oregon Avenue; Moyamensing Avenue
17 between South 5th Street and South 6th
18 Street.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

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

22 CHIEF CLERK: And an ordinance
23 establishing parking regulations in the
24 vicinity of: Norris Street between
25 Belgrade Street and Gaul Street; Ritter

1 3/14/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 Street between Dauphin Street and Norris
3 Street; York Street between Mercer Street
4 and Thompson Street; Hagert Street
5 between Cedar Street and Gaul Street;
6 Wishart Street between Frankford Avenue
7 and Emerald Street; Delancey Street
8 between South 2nd Street and Front
9 Street; Front Street between Spruce
10 Street and Pine Street; Spruce Street
11 between South 2nd Street and South 3rd
12 Street.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
14 This bill will be referred to the
15 appropriate committee.

16 The Chair recognizes
17 Councilmember Cindy Bass.

18 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you,
19 Mr. President. I offer one bill and one
20 non-privileged resolution.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
22 Will the Clerk please read the bill and
23 the non-privileged resolution.

24 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
25 approving the fifth amendment of the

1 3/14/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 redevelopment proposal for the Tioga
3 Urban Renewal Area, being the area
4 generally bounded by Hunting Park Avenue
5 on the north, Broad Street, Germantown
6 Avenue, Venango Street, Fifteenth Street,
7 Allegheny Avenue and Germantown Avenue on
8 the east, Glenwood Avenue and Lehigh
9 Avenue on the south and Twenty-third
10 Street, Allegheny Avenue and
11 Twenty-second Street on the west,
12 including the fifth amendment to the
13 urban renewal plan, which provides for
14 changes that would make it consistent
15 with the Tioga Redevelopment Plan and
16 generally consistent with the most recent
17 Comprehensive Plan approved by the City
18 Planning Commission of the City of
19 Philadelphia.

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

23 CHIEF CLERK: And a resolution
24 authorizing the Commissioner of Public
25 Property to execute and deliver to the

1 3/14/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority

3 deeds conveying fee simple title --

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

5 This resolution -- go ahead.

6 CHIEF CLERK: Sorry. Fee

7 simple title to 61 East Ashmead Street,

8 65, 77, 23, 24, 44, 49, 51, 53, 55, 57,

9 67, 73, 78, 89, 93, 106 East Ashmead

10 Street, 18, 34, 61, 87 Collom Street, 69,

11 71, 89, 91, 93, and 95 East Wister Street

12 in the Eighth Councilmanic District of

13 the City of Philadelphia and further

14 authorizing the Philadelphia

15 Redevelopment Authority to transfer to

16 The Philadelphia Land Bank fee simple

17 title to such properties pursuant to

18 Section 16-405 of The Philadelphia Code.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

20 This resolution will be placed on the

21 Final Passage Calendar for consideration

22 at our next session of Council.

23 The Chair now recognizes

24 Councilmember Nina Ahmad.

25 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD: Thank you.

1 3/14/24 - STATED - ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

2 Good morning, Council President,
3 colleagues, and guests. I have no bills
4 or resolutions at this time.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

6 Thank you.

7 At this moment, I want to take
8 a matter of personal privilege to
9 acknowledge the Chairman of
10 Appropriations of the State of
11 Pennsylvania, Chairman Jordan Harris.
12 Give him a round of applause, please.

13 - - -

14 (Applause.)

15 - - -

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

17 State Senator Nikil Saval. Give him a
18 round of applause, who is here.

19 - - -

20 (Applause.)

21 - - -

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

23 City Commissioner Lisa Deeley.

24 - - -

25 (Applause.)

1 3/14/24 - STATED - REPORTS

2 - - -

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

4 State Representative Donna Bullock.

5 - - -

6 (Applause.)

7 - - -

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: And

9 the Honorable Jannie Blackwell. Let's

10 give her a round of applause.

11 - - -

12 (Applause.)

13 - - -

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The

15 next order of business is reports from

16 committees.

17 The Chair recognizes

18 Councilmember Katherine Gilmore

19 Richardson for a report from the

20 Committee of the Whole.

21 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Thank

22 you, Mr. President. The Committee of the

23 Whole reports out five resolutions with a

24 favorable recommendation.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

1 3/14/24 - STATED - REPORTS

2 Thank you.

3 Will the Chief Clerk please
4 read the report.

5 CHIEF CLERK: To the President
6 and members of the Council of the City of
7 Philadelphia, the Committee on the Whole,
8 to which was referred Resolution No.
9 240075, entitled "Appointing Paul Levy to
10 the Board of Directors of the Center City
11 District," respectfully reports it has
12 considered and amended the same and
13 returns the attached bill to Council with
14 a favorable recommendation -- resolution
15 with a favorable recommendation.

16 The Committee on the Whole, to
17 which was referred Resolution No. 240078,
18 entitled "Appointing Louis Tice to the
19 Board of Directors for the Old City
20 Special Services District," respectfully
21 reports it has considered and amended the
22 same and returns the attached resolution
23 with a favorable recommendation.

24 To the Committee of the Whole,
25 which was referred Resolution 240079,

1 3/14/24 - STATED - REPORTS

2 entitled "Appointing Elizabeth Woods to
3 the Board of Directors for the Old City
4 Special Services District," respectfully
5 reports it has considered and amended the
6 same and returns the attached resolution
7 to Council with a favorable
8 recommendation.

9 The Committee of the Whole,
10 which was referred Resolution 240029,
11 entitled "Confirming the appointment of
12 Adam N. Geer as the Chief Public Safety
13 Director," respectfully reports it has
14 considered and amended the same and
15 returns the attached resolution to
16 Council with a favorable recommendation.

17 And the Committee on the Whole,
18 which was referred Resolution 240038,
19 entitled "Confirming the appointment of
20 Renee Garcia, Esquire, as the City
21 Solicitor," respectfully reports it has
22 considered and amended the same and
23 returns the attached resolution to
24 Council with a favorable recommendation.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The

1 3/14/24 - STATED - REPORTS

2 Chair recognizes Councilmember Katherine
3 Gilmore Richardson for a motion.

4 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Thank
5 you, Mr. President. I move that the
6 rules of Council be suspended as to
7 permit the consideration of the
8 resolutions that were just read into the
9 record by the Chief Clerk at today's
10 session of Council.

11 (Duly seconded.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: It
13 has been moved and properly seconded that
14 the rules of Council be suspended to
15 permit the consideration of resolutions
16 just read by the Chief Clerk at today's
17 session of Council.

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

20 (Aye.)

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
22 Those opposed?

23 (No response.)

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

1 3/14/24 - STATED - ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

2 Resolutions No. 240029, 240038, 240075,
3 240078, and 240079 will be placed on
4 today's Final Passage Calendar.

5 Before we get into the
6 consideration of the Calendar, now
7 elected officials, y'all know I like to
8 start on time so I can move my process
9 through efficiently by a matter of report
10 and respect, because I'm very fond of
11 you. I want to take a moment to
12 acknowledge my good friend from the
13 state, the Appropriations Chair of the
14 Center for the Minority Party, State
15 Senator Vincent Hughes. Give him a round
16 of applause.

17 - - -

18 (Applause.)

19 - - -

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: I
21 also want to take a moment to also
22 acknowledge my good friend, State Senator
23 Sharif Street. Let's give him a round of
24 applause as well.

25 - - -

1 3/14/24 - STATED - ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

2 (Applause.)

3 - - -

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: I

5 also want to give acknowledge to State

6 Senator Jimmy Dillon from the great area

7 of the Northeast Philadelphia. Give him

8 a round of applause.

9 - - -

10 (Applause.)

11 - - -

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: And

13 I also want to give acknowledge to my

14 good friend and my big brother from

15 Laborers District Council 332, Mr. Sam

16 Staten, Sr.

17 - - -

18 (Applause.)

19 - - -

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: And

21 to all the other union representatives

22 who are here. And also out of respect

23 for our new Administration, let's give a

24 round of applause to the Mayor's cabinet,

25 please.

1 3/14/24 - STATED - BILLS ON 2ND READING

2 - - -

3 (Applause.)

4 - - -

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: And
6 the Superintendent of education, Dr. Tony
7 Watlington. Give him a round of applause
8 as well.

9 - - -

10 (Applause.)

11 - - -

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
13 next order of business is the
14 consideration of the Calendar.

15 The Chair recognizes
16 Councilmember Katherine Gilmore
17 Richardson for the purpose of calling up
18 bills and resolutions on the Second
19 Reading and Final Passage Calendar.

20 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Thank
21 you, Mr. President. The following bills
22 and resolutions are on the Second Reading
23 and Final Passage Calendar for today:
24 Nos. 240161, 240169, 240020-A, 240066,
25 240010-A, 240008, 240009, 240011, 240014,

1 3/14/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 240016, 240089, 240013, 240029, 240038,
3 240075, 240078, and 240079.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

5 Thank you.

6 Before considering these bills
7 and resolutions, we will consider public
8 comment as follows:

9 Your public comment must
10 concern matters on the Second Reading and
11 Final Passage Calendars for possible
12 action at today's Council session. All
13 speakers must sign up in order to
14 testify. Once you have signed up, you
15 will be called in the order in which your
16 name appears on the sign-up sheet.

17 Under ideal circumstances,
18 public commenters each will have three
19 minutes to speak. However, this time
20 limit may vary from session to session.
21 Due to today's budget address on behalf
22 of our Mayor, the time limit today will
23 be one minute.

24 In order to be fair to all
25 those wishing to speak, I intend to hold

1 3/14/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 faithfully to the one-minute limit. When
3 you begin speaking, you will see a green
4 light on the podium. When there are 30
5 seconds remaining to your time, the light
6 will turn yellow, which is your reminder
7 to conclude your remarks. Once one
8 minute has passed, the light will turn
9 red and the Sergeant-At-Arms will
10 disconnect the microphone. At that
11 point, please yield the podium to the
12 next speaker, if you have not already
13 done so.

14 I also reserve the right
15 pursuant to our rules of Council to limit
16 repetitious comments on the same matter.

17 I will now ask the Chief Clerk
18 to please read the name of our first
19 speaker.

20 CHIEF CLERK: Judith Robinson
21 for 240010, the Zoning Code.

22 (No response.)

23 CHIEF CLERK: Kate Perez,
24 240013, business hours in Kensington.
25 Kate Perez.

1 3/14/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 We have a public speaker up in
3 the balcony.

4 Reverend Greg Holston for
5 240161, Cheyney and Middle States.

6 (Witness approached podium.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

8 Just state your name for the record,
9 Mr. Holston.

10 REVEREND HOLSTON: Reverend
11 Gregory Holston.

12 I'm speaking on the resolution
13 regarding Cheyney. Very personal in the
14 fact that both I and my wife went through
15 the teacher certification program at
16 their urban office of Cheyney University.
17 It allowed us to transition our careers.
18 It allowed us the opportunity to be able
19 to provide for our very young children at
20 that time, and it gave us a sense of
21 nurturing.

22 It projected her on a 30-year
23 career in teaching that led her from
24 different places like elementary schools
25 and middle schools, the Youth Study

1 3/14/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Center, even at the prison, and then
3 ending her last ten years at Central High
4 School.

5 I just want to keep saying the
6 accreditation process is filled with
7 structural racism, and we need to
8 acknowledge that schools like Cheyney and
9 other schools that are historically Black
10 are victimized by that process.

11 So I appreciate this
12 resolution. Just really standing with
13 Cheyney for all what Cheyney has done for
14 me and my family and for so much for this
15 community.

16 Thank you so much.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

18 Thank you, Mr. Holston.

19 - - -

20 (Applause.)

21 - - -

22 CHIEF CLERK: Did Kate Perez
23 make it down from the balcony? We have
24 Kate Perez and Judith Robinson.

25 (No response.)

1 3/14/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

3 That concludes today's public comment.

4 We will now consider the bills
5 and resolutions on the Second Reading and
6 Final Passage Calendars.

7 The Clerk will please read the
8 title of Resolution No. 240161.

9 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
10 introduced by Councilmember Gilmore
11 Richardson for Council President Johnson.
12 A resolution urging Middle States
13 Commission on Higher Education to reverse
14 its decision to place Cheyney University
15 on probationary status and calling on the
16 Commission to work collaboratively with
17 the University's leadership to restore
18 the historic HBCU's academic status.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
20 Chair recognizes Councilmember Katherine
21 Gilmore Richardson for a motion regarding
22 Resolution No. 240161.

23 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Thank
24 you, Council President. On your behalf,
25 I move the adoption of the resolution.

1 3/14/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 (Duly seconded.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: It
4 has been moved and properly seconded that
5 Resolution No. 240161 be adopted.

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

8 (Aye.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
10 Those opposed?

11 (No response.)

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

15 - - -

16 (Applause.)

17 - - -

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
19 Shout-out to Michael Coard, for all my
20 WURD listeners.

21 The Clerk will please read the
22 title of Resolution No. 240169.

23 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
24 introduced by Councilmember Lozada. A
25 resolution authorizing the Commissioner

1 3/14/24 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 of Public Property to execute and deliver
3 to the Philadelphia Redevelopment
4 Authority deeds conveying fee simple
5 title to 2147 North 5th Street in the
6 Seventh Councilmanic District of the City
7 of Philadelphia and further authorizing
8 the Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority
9 to transfer to the Philadelphia Land Bank
10 fee simple title to such properties
11 pursuant to Section 16-405 of the
12 Philadelphia Code.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
14 Chair recognizes Councilmember Quetcy
15 Lozada for a motion regarding Resolution
16 No. 240169.

17 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Thank
18 you, Council President. I move for the
19 adoption.

20 (Duly seconded.)

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: It
22 has been moved and properly seconded that
23 Resolution No. 240169 be adopted.

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

1 3/14/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 (Aye.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

4 Those opposed?

5 (No response.)

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

9 The Clerk will please read the
10 title of Bill No. 240164.

11 CHIEF CLERK: 240014,
12 introduced by Councilmembers Lozada,
13 Harrity, Driscoll, and Phillips, an
14 ordinance amending Title 9 of The
15 Philadelphia Code, by amending Section
16 9-203 relating to Street Vendors, by
17 prohibiting street vending in the 54th
18 Ward; all under certain terms and
19 conditions.

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

24 Will the Clerk please call the
25 roll.

1 3/14/24 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
3 Ahmad.
4 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD: Yes.
5 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
6 Bass.
7 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Aye.
8 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
9 Brooks.
10 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: Aye.
11 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
12 Driscoll.
13 COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL: Aye.
14 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
15 Gauthier.
16 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Aye.
17 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
18 Gilmore Richardson.
19 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Aye.
20 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
21 Harrity.
22 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: Aye.
23 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
24 Jones.
25 COUNCILMAN JONES: Aye.

1 3/14/24 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
3 Landau.
4 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU: Aye.
5 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
6 Lozada.
7 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Aye.
8 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
9 O'Neill.
10 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Aye.
11 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
12 O'Rourke.
13 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE: Aye.
14 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
15 Phillips.
16 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: Aye.
17 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
18 Squilla.
19 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Aye.
20 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
21 Thomas.
22 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Aye.
23 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
24 Young.
25 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Aye.

1 3/14/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 CHIEF CLERK: Council President

3 Johnson.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

5 Aye.

6 The ayes are 17; the nays are
7 zero. A majority of all members having
8 voted in the affirmative, the bill
9 passes.

10 Will the Clerk please read the
11 title of Bill No. 240016.

12 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
13 amending Chapter 11-708 of The
14 Philadelphia Code, entitled "Traffic
15 Calming Measures for Schools," by
16 authorizing the Department of Streets to
17 additionally install traffic calming
18 measures in the vicinity of recreation
19 centers, playgrounds, parks, and
20 libraries; all under certain terms and
21 conditions.

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

1 3/14/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 Will the Chief Clerk please
3 call the roll.

4 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
5 Ahmad.

6 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD: Aye.

7 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
8 Bass.

9 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Aye.

10 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
11 Brooks.

12 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: Aye.

13 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
14 Driscoll.

15 COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL: Aye.

16 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
17 Gauthier.

18 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Aye.

19 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
20 Gilmore Richardson.

21 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Aye.

22 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
23 Harrity.

24 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: Aye.

25 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember

1 3/14/24 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 Jones.
3 COUNCILMAN JONES: Aye.
4 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
5 Landau.
6 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU: Aye.
7 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
8 Lozada.
9 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Aye.
10 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
11 O'Neill.
12 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Aye.
13 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
14 O'Rourke.
15 (No response.)
16 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
17 Phillips.
18 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: Aye.
19 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
20 Squilla.
21 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Aye.
22 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
23 Thomas.
24 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Aye.
25 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember

1 3/14/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 Young.

3 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Aye.

4 CHIEF CLERK: Council President

5 Johnson.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

7 Aye.

8 The ayes are 16; the nays are
9 zero. A majority of all members having
10 voted in the affirmative, the bill
11 passes.

12 Will the Clerk please read the
13 title of Resolution No. 240029.

14 CHIEF CLERK: 240089, an
15 ordinance amending Title 12 of The
16 Philadelphia Code, entitled "Traffic
17 Code," by providing for prohibitions
18 relating to license plate flipping
19 devices, and for penalties and
20 enforcement, all under certain terms and
21 conditions.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

23 Chief Clerk, just for the record, I have
24 Resolution No. 240029.

25 CHIEF CLERK: It's 089, Council

1 3/14/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 President.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

4 089.

5 CHIEF CLERK: My apologies.

6 089.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: For
8 the record.

9 The Chair recognizes
10 Councilmember Katherine Gilmore
11 Richardson for a motion on resolution
12 regarding No. 240089.

13 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Thank
14 you, Council President. I move for the
15 adoption of the resolution.

16 (Duly seconded.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: It
18 has been moved and properly seconded that
19 Resolution No. 240089 be adopted.

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

22 (Aye.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

24 Those opposed?

25 (No response.)

1 3/14/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

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

5 The Clerk will please read the
6 title of Resolution No. 240038.

7 CHIEF CLERK: Just one second,
8 Council President. I think we got a
9 little bit out of order on the Calendar.

10 (Brief pause.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: So
12 how is everybody doing today? Good to
13 see everyone.

14 CHIEF CLERK: We apologize.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
16 Welcome to how we make the sausage.

17 (Brief pause.)

18 CHIEF CLERK: Apologies.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
20 Clerk, will you please read the title
21 again of Bill No. 240089.

22 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
23 amending Title 12 of The Philadelphia
24 Code, entitled "Traffic Code," by
25 providing for prohibitions relating to

1 3/14/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 license plate flipping devices, and for
3 penalties and enforcement, all under
4 certain terms and conditions.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
6 Chair recognizes Councilmember Driscoll
7 for a motion.

8 COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL: Thank
9 you, Mr. President, and thank you for so
10 much attention to my amendment.

11 I would like to offer an
12 amendment to Bill No. 240089. A copy of
13 the amendment has been circulated to all
14 members of Council. I move for the
15 adoption of the amendment.

16 (Duly seconded.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: It
18 has been moved and properly seconded that
19 the amendment to Bill No. 240089 be
20 adopted.

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

23 (Aye.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
25 Those opposed?

1 3/14/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 (No response.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
4 ayes have it, and the bill has been
5 amended. This bill will be placed on the
6 Final Passage Calendar at our next
7 session of Council.

8 Will the Clerk please read the
9 title of Bill No. 240013.

10 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
11 amending Chapter 9-600 of The
12 Philadelphia Code, entitled "Service and
13 Other Businesses", by adding a new
14 section regulating the hours of operation
15 of certain establishments and providing
16 for penalties within an area bounded by
17 East Lehigh Avenue, Kensington Avenue, D
18 Street, East Tioga Street and Frankford
19 Avenue, all under certain terms and
20 conditions.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
22 Chair recognizes Councilmember Lozada for
23 a motion.

24 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Thank
25 you, Council President. I would like to

1 3/14/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 offer an amendment to Bill No. 240013. A
3 copy of the amendment has been circulated
4 to all members of Council. I move for
5 the adoption of the amendment.

6 (Duly seconded.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: It
8 has been moved and properly seconded that
9 the amendment to Bill No. 240013 be
10 adopted.

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

13 (Aye.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
15 Those opposed?

16 (No response.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
18 ayes have it, and the bill has been
19 amended. This bill will be placed on the
20 Final Passage Calendar for our next
21 session of Council.

22 Now the Clerk will please read
23 the title of Resolution No. 240038.

24 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
25 confirming the appointment of Renee

1 3/14/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 Garcia, Esquire, as City Solicitor.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
4 Chair recognizes Councilmember Katherine
5 Gilmore Richardson for a motion on
6 Resolution 240038.

7 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Thank
8 you, Council President. I move for the
9 adoption of the resolution.

10 (Duly seconded.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: It
12 has been moved and properly seconded that
13 the Resolution No. 240038 be adopted.

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

16 (Aye.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
18 Those opposed?

19 (No response.)

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

23 - - -

24 (Applause.)

25 - - -

1 3/14/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

3 Congratulations.

4 The Clerk will please read the
5 title of Resolution No. 240075.

6 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
7 appointing Paul Levy to the Board of
8 Directors of the Center City District.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
10 Chair recognizes Councilmember Gilmore
11 Richardson for a motion regarding
12 Resolution No. 240075.

13 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Thank
14 you, Council President. I move for the
15 adoption of the resolution.

16 (Duly seconded.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: It
18 has been moved and properly seconded that
19 Resolution No. 240075 be adopted.

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

22 (Aye.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

24 Those opposed?

25 (No response.)

1 3/14/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

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

5 The Clerk will please read the
6 title of Resolution No. 240078.

7 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
8 appointing Louis Tice to the Board of
9 Directors for the Old City Special
10 Services District.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
12 Chair recognizes Councilmember Katherine
13 Gilmore Richardson for a motion regarding
14 Resolution No. 240078.

15 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Thank
16 you, Council President. I move for the
17 adoption of the resolution.

18 (Duly seconded.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: It
20 has been moved and properly seconded that
21 Resolution No. 240078 be adopted.

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

24 (Aye.)

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

1 3/14/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 Those opposed?

3 (No response.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
5 ayes have it, and the motion carries.
6 The resolution is adopted.

7 The Clerk will please read the
8 title of Resolution No. 240079.

9 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
10 appointing Elizabeth Woods to the Board
11 of Directors for the Old City Special
12 Services District.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
14 Chair recognizes Councilmember Gilmore
15 Richardson for a motion regarding
16 Resolution No. 240079.

17 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Thank
18 you, Council President. I move for the
19 adoption of the resolution.

20 (Duly seconded.)

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: It
22 has been moved and properly seconded that
23 Resolution No. 240079 be adopted.

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

1 3/14/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 (Aye.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

4 Those opposed?

5 (No response.)

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

9 Will the Clerk please read the
10 title of Resolution No. 240029.

11 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
12 confirming the appointment of Adam N.
13 Geer as the Chief Public Safety Director.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
15 Chair recognizes Councilmember Katherine
16 Gilmore Richardson for a motion regarding
17 Resolution No. 240029.

18 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Thank
19 you, Council President. I move for the
20 adoption of the resolution.

21 (Duly seconded.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: It
23 has been moved and properly seconded that
24 Resolution No. 240029 be adopted.

25 All those in favor will signify

1 3/14/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 by saying aye.

3 (Aye.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

5 Those opposed?

6 (No response.)

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

10 Congratulations, Adam.

11 - - -

12 (Applause.)

13 - - -

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

15 Will the Clerk please read any other
16 additional resolutions on today's Final
17 Passage Calendar.

18 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged
19 resolution authorizing the Committee on
20 Public Health and Human Services to
21 conduct hearings concerning the rapidly
22 evolving and worsening crisis of overdose
23 deaths and their impact on neighborhoods,
24 particularly in Black communities across
25 Philadelphia, introduced by Councilmember

1 3/14/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 Brooks.

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

6 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: Thank
7 you, Council President. I move for the
8 adoption of the resolution.

9 (Duly seconded.)

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

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

15 (Aye.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
17 Those opposed?

18 (No response.)

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

22 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
23 authorizing the Committee on Housing,
24 Neighborhood Development and the Homeless
25 to conduct hearings to examine ways to

1 3/14/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 better connect low-income homeowners to
3 the tax relief programs they are entitled
4 to, including by door-to-door outreach
5 and automatic enrollment, introduced by
6 Councilmember Brooks.

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

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

13 (Duly seconded.)

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

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

19 (Aye.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
21 Those opposed?

22 (No response.)

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

1 3/14/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 CHIEF CLERK: And a resolution
3 recognizing and congratulating Da'Vine
4 Joy Randolph, a proud Philadelphia
5 native, for her Academy Award for Best
6 Actress in a Supporting Role and for her
7 exceptional journey and contributions to
8 the fine visual and performing arts,
9 introduced by Councilmember Nicholas
10 O'Rourke.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
12 Chair recognizes Councilmember O'Rourke
13 for a motion on the resolution.

14 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE: Council
15 President, I move for the adoption of the
16 resolution.

17 (Duly seconded.)

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

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

23 (Aye.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
25 Those opposed?

1 3/14/24 - STATED - MAYOR'S BUDGET ADDRESS

2 (No response.)

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

6 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE: I'd also
7 like to be recorded on any bills or
8 resolutions I may have missed as aye.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
10 Thank you.

11 Are there any other resolutions
12 on the Final Passage Calendar?

13 CHIEF CLERK: There are no more
14 resolutions on the Calendar,
15 Mr. President.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
17 That completes our Calendar for today.

18 The time has come for us to
19 consider the Mayor's presentation of her
20 annual budget address.

21 The Philadelphia Home Rule
22 Charter states that the Mayor shall
23 submit to Council, no later than 90 days
24 before the end of the fiscal year, her
25 Operating Budget message and Proposed

1 3/14/24 - STATED - MAYOR'S BUDGET ADDRESS

2 Operating Budget ordinance for the
3 ensuing fiscal year.

4 At the same time, the Mayor
5 shall submit to Council the Recommended
6 Capital Program and Capital Budget as
7 received from the City Planning
8 Commission, to the extent approved by the
9 Mayor.

10 I now appoint the following
11 committee to escort the Mayor into the
12 Council Chambers: Councilmember
13 Katherine Gilmore Richardson,
14 Councilmember Isaiah Thomas,
15 Councilmember Cindy Bass, and
16 Councilmember Squilla.

17 Will the Sergeant-At-Arms
18 escort the Mayor to our Chambers.

19 (Brief pause.)

20 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Council
21 President, the Mayor has arrived.

22 - - -

23 (Standing ovation.)

24 - - -

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

1 3/14/24 - STATED - MAYOR'S BUDGET ADDRESS
2 Ladies and gentlemen, I am pleased and
3 proud to introduce the 100th Mayor, first
4 woman Mayor of this great City of
5 Philadelphia --

6 - - -
7 (Applause.)

8 - - -
9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: --
10 Mayor Cherelle Parker.

11 - - -
12 (Applause.)

13 - - -
14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

15 Madam Mayor, the floor is yours.

16 MAYOR PARKER: To my friend,
17 Council President Kenyatta Johnson, to
18 Council's leadership team, Majority
19 Leader Gilmore Richardson, Majority Whip
20 Thomas, Deputy Majority Whip Bass,
21 Minority Leader Brooks, Minority Whip
22 O'Rourke, and to every member of City
23 Council, to members of the Philadelphia
24 Delegation, our faith-based leaders, men
25 and women of organized labor, community

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2 leaders, the business and philanthropic
3 community, and members of my cabinet and
4 our City workers, to everyone who is
5 watching online, listening on WURD or
6 tuning in on TV, let me start by saying
7 good morning.

8 (Good morning.)

9 MAYOR PARKER: And oh my, it
10 sure feels good to be back home.

11 - - -

12 (Applause.)

13 - - -

14 MAYOR PARKER: This Council
15 Chamber is where my journey to public
16 service began. Only Councilmember
17 O'Neill might remember when I was
18 17 years old, I stood right there and
19 gave a Black History Month speech.

20 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: I
21 remember.

22 MAYOR PARKER: I was joined by
23 elementary school winner Liberty
24 Carpenter and middle school winner,
25 listen, and now Grammy and Tony Award

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2 winner, he's an actress and a singer,
3 Leslie Odom, Jr. All of us stood right
4 here.

5 - - -
6 (Applause.)

7 - - -
8 MAYOR PARKER: Listen, listen,
9 I remember being so nervous then and,
10 look, I've got the same butterflies right
11 now that I had when I was 17 years old.

12 Then to come back in this
13 Chamber to work here as an intern for my
14 boss lady, my mentor, Marian Tasco.
15 Awestruck by sheroes, I saw them live and
16 in living color, Gussie Clark, Anne
17 Verna, Joan Krajewski, Jannie Blackwell,
18 humbled by the responsibility of public
19 service.

20 Then ten years in Harrisburg
21 after being bullied by Dwight Evans
22 serving in the State House, I eventually
23 was elected to City Council and spent
24 seven years in this Chamber. Every day
25 mattered, then and now.

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2 I am proud and honored to be
3 with you all today, having submitted my
4 Fiscal Year 2025 Budget, Five Year Plan,
5 and Capital Budget and Program to the
6 City Council of Philadelphia for
7 consideration.

8 This is my first budget
9 proposal as your Mayor, and it's big and
10 it's bold. I'm calling it the One Philly
11 Budget, and it funds the promise that I
12 made to the people of our city that if we
13 all work together, we could make
14 Philadelphia a safer, cleaner, greener
15 city, with access to economic opportunity
16 for all.

17 - - -

18 (Applause.)

19 - - -

20 MAYOR PARKER: Now, before we
21 dive into the budget details, I'd like to
22 talk for a minute about the state of the
23 City's fiscal health.

24 I am proud to report that the
25 state of the City's fiscal health is

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2 good. No; really, it's good. We're
3 making contributions to the Budget
4 Stabilization Reserve fund. Thank you,
5 Councilmember Gilmore Richardson, for
6 your exceptional leadership on this
7 issue.

8 We're continuing the excellent
9 trajectory of the City's pension fund,
10 which just reached a 62 percent funding
11 level, the highest level in decades.

12 Even better --

13 - - -

14 (Applause.)

15 - - -

16 MAYOR PARKER: Even better,
17 it's due to hit 80 percent in FY29 and
18 100 percent by FY33. And in FY30, our
19 debt service should go down by
20 \$200 million.

21 So what does that mean? That
22 means that our actions over the coming
23 years will free up over a half a billion
24 dollars annually for future budgets.

25 - - -

1 3/14/24 - STATED - MAYOR'S BUDGET ADDRESS

2 (Applause.)

3 - - -

4 MAYOR PARKER: Now, just
5 imagine what a half a billion dollars
6 could do.

7 Additionally, there are some
8 positive but lean projected fund balances
9 in the out years of my Plan, and I won't
10 shy away from that.

11 It's true, lower growth than
12 projected for wage and real estate
13 transfer taxes, a drop of about
14 \$300 million.

15 Spending the remaining American
16 Rescue Plan Act stimulus funds this year,
17 and we can't forget that in the 1990s,
18 the City had to make a tough decision.
19 This is what it did: It borrowed
20 \$1.3 billion to shore up our pension
21 fund. We're still paying for it today.
22 From now through FY29, we'll pay
23 \$1 billion in debt service, including an
24 \$80 million payment that's due in '29.

25 Now, in facing those

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2 challenges, I need everyone - our rating
3 agencies, our intergovernmental partners,
4 PICA, the Controller - to know how
5 seriously I take our city's fiscal
6 stability. I'll make sure my
7 Administration is a responsible steward
8 of the City's finances.

9 Now that we were able to get
10 through that state of affairs, let's get
11 to the exciting stuff in this budget.

12 I'm going to say this next
13 part. I want to say it out loud, and I
14 want you to know I'm extremely proud.

15 My budget has no new taxes. No
16 new taxes on the people of Philadelphia.

17 - - -

18 (Applause.)

19 - - -

20 MAYOR PARKER: What this One
21 Philly Budget does is invest \$2 billion
22 over five years in new operating and
23 capital dollars focusing on five
24 pillars - public safety, clean and green,
25 economic opportunity, housing, and

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2 education.

3 As you can see, Mr. President,
4 I've been listening.

5 It's not just about the new
6 money though that excites me. It's about
7 the new approaches to how we are going to
8 deliver City services. That's what I'm
9 really excited about.

10 For those of you who know me,
11 you know that James Baldwin, one of my
12 favorite public thinkers and writers
13 during the Civil Rights Movement, he was
14 often quoted as stating, "I can't believe
15 what you say because I see what you do."
16 "I can't believe what you say because I
17 see what you do."

18 The people of Philadelphia are
19 tired of politicians getting elected and
20 making good speeches. They want to see
21 their tax dollars at work in their
22 neighborhoods.

23 - - -

24 (Applause.)

25 - - -

1 3/14/24 - STATED - MAYOR'S BUDGET ADDRESS

2 MAYOR PARKER: They want to see
3 us do things differently. So let me tell
4 you what we're doing in this budget.

5 We're laser focused and
6 unapologetic about improving public
7 safety.

8 For the people of Kensington,
9 the Parker Administration hears you. I
10 say help is on the way. Yes.

11 - - -

12 (Applause.)

13 - - -

14 MAYOR PARKER: We've created a
15 new Office of Clean and Green Initiatives
16 to tackle quality-of-life issues in an
17 effort for us to banish the phrase
18 "Filthadelphia" once and for all. Let's
19 get rid of it. No more Filthadelphia.

20 - - -

21 (Applause.)

22 - - -

23 MAYOR PARKER: We're taking the
24 PHL Taking Care of Business program, the
25 neighborhood cleaning program, we're

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2 taking it to the next level, making it
3 bigger and better.

4 We're investing in workforce
5 development and upskilling City workers
6 for more opportunities.

7 We'll work hand in glove with
8 our unions and employers on job creation
9 and building a pipeline to municipal
10 jobs.

11 - - -

12 (Applause.)

13 - - -

14 MAYOR PARKER: Through our
15 Business Roundtable, we'll lock arms with
16 the private sector to make Philadelphia
17 more economically competitive.

18 And for those of you who know
19 me, you know this is important. We'll
20 make homeownership a priority and home
21 preservation too.

22 - - -

23 (Applause.)

24 - - -

25 MAYOR PARKER: Working with the

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2 School District, we'll invest in full-day
3 and year-round schooling, modernize our
4 school buildings, and fund career and
5 technical education to prepare students
6 for the workforce now.

7 - - -

8 (Applause.)

9 - - -

10 MAYOR PARKER: It's important
11 for me to let everyone know that this
12 budget comes from the ground up. It
13 reflects the voices of the people. So
14 let me share more details about my One
15 Philly Budget.

16 On my first day as Mayor, you
17 all know I signed an Executive Order
18 declaring a public safety emergency to
19 get every available resource into
20 neighborhoods struggling with gun
21 violence, drug dealing, and addiction.

22 Our Police Commissioner, Kevin
23 Bethel, the best Police Commissioner in
24 the country --

25 - - -

1 3/14/24 - STATED - MAYOR'S BUDGET ADDRESS

2 (Applause.)

3 - - -

4 MAYOR PARKER: -- he is
5 developing a comprehensive plan to reduce
6 and prevent gun violence and make our
7 neighborhoods safe again.

8 I feel a sense of urgency right
9 now, and I know all of you feel it too.

10 The shootings last week, over
11 four days, all on or near SEPTA buses,
12 left our City shaken. A student and two
13 adults killed, 12 people injured,
14 including 11 high school students and a
15 71-year old woman.

16 Enough is enough is enough.

17 - - -

18 (Applause.)

19 - - -

20 MAYOR PARKER: Last Wednesday,
21 I stood on Rising Sun Avenue at Five
22 Points, surrounded by spent shell casings
23 and yellow police evidence markers,
24 trying to make sense of the senseless
25 shooting of eight young people standing

1 3/14/24 - STATED - MAYOR'S BUDGET ADDRESS
2 at a bus stop.

3 This came two days after
4 another shooting near a bus stop in
5 Northwest Philadelphia that left three
6 students from Imhotep shot and two other
7 women wounded.

8 One student died from his
9 wounds. He was 17. He was packed with
10 potential and pregnant with possibility.
11 And now he's gone, all too soon.

12 I met with his parents, his
13 village, his family.

14 I want y'all to know I hear
15 y'all.

16 The events of last week, they
17 underscore that urgency that I feel to
18 restore a sense of order and public
19 safety to our city.

20 I want to thank -- and I want
21 to do this publicly because I want to
22 know -- I want them to know that I'm not
23 ashamed to thank them publicly -- every
24 law enforcement partner working with us
25 to make Philadelphia safer - the FBI, the

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2 U.S. Marshals, the ATF, the DEA, the
3 Secret Service, the District Attorney's
4 Office, SEPTA, the Sheriff, everyone
5 working collaboratively with our Police
6 Department to make our City safe again.
7 We can't do it alone. We need everybody.

8 - - -

9 (Applause.)

10 - - -

11 MAYOR PARKER: Here's what's in
12 my One Philly Budget to address gun
13 violence in Philadelphia: We'll make a
14 \$33 million appropriation in new
15 investments in public safety, including
16 capital spending. I want you to measure
17 this. Our overall new public safety
18 investments top \$600 million during the
19 Plan.

20 Listen, don't simply listen to
21 what I say, watch what we do.

22 This budget includes hiring at
23 least 400 new officers every year. We'll
24 increase the number and the frequency of
25 recruiting classes and leverage a cadet

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2 program as a pipeline.

3 Now, listen, I want you to take
4 a moment with me to welcome two new
5 recruits from the current class at the
6 Police Academy. They are Maria Do and
7 Tyreek Cooper.

8 Recruit Officers Do and Cooper,
9 please stand up.

10 Give them a huge round of
11 applause.

12 - - -

13 (Applause.)

14 - - -

15 MAYOR PARKER: My One Philly
16 Budget, it supports deploying more
17 officers in the field, walking the beat,
18 riding the bike, getting to know the
19 people that they are sworn to protect and
20 serve, the core of our Community Policing
21 model.

22 Now, when I served in the
23 Pennsylvania House with State Rep Harris,
24 our Appropriations Chair, we in my
25 district had a pair of officers who

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2 walked the beat in my district. Those
3 officers were Officers Moody and
4 Merchant. This is what they did: They
5 signed a logbook in stores up and down
6 Wadsworth Avenue. They knew every store
7 owner, every rec leader, every librarian,
8 every youth sports leader. They were a
9 part of our community. When they weren't
10 around, we called them M&M.

11 I can say this to you, and I
12 want to be honest, I was a little
13 jealous, because when they were on the
14 ground doing all of that community-based
15 work, I was the State Rep. They were
16 only the community policing officers, but
17 they got invited to more block parties,
18 baby showers, and graduations than I did.
19 I was the State Rep. I needed the votes.
20 They didn't need the votes. I did.

21 But I hope they're here. The
22 community trusted Officers Moody and
23 Merchant. They were woven into the
24 fabric of our neighborhoods. They were
25 there as guardians and not warriors.

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2 Officer Moody, if you're here
3 today, please stand.

4 - - -

5 (Applause.)

6 - - -

7 MAYOR PARKER: Listen, people,
8 community policing works, and it's in
9 this budget, which funds over 100
10 officers doing community policing.

11 Our approach to crime is also
12 centered on people, and my budget makes
13 sure that the brave men and women in
14 uniform working to protect and serve us,
15 that they have the resources they need to
16 do their work.

17 My budget funds 150 new radio
18 patrol cars, 75 new unmarked cars, cell
19 phone and video software, drones, and
20 upgrades to investigative equipment.

21 We're also working to ensure
22 that the 13 parks and rec sites without
23 cameras get them and to improve the
24 monitoring of the more than 1,600 cameras
25 that are already in place.

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2 If you had the cameras there
3 and no one is monitoring them, it really
4 doesn't help the City.

5 In addition to that, I want you
6 to know this: While we all know that we
7 live in a highly technical 21st century
8 society, our police detectives have been
9 trying to solve crimes using dinosaur
10 equipment. No more. No more. No more.
11 No more.

12 - - -

13 (Applause.)

14 - - -

15 MAYOR PARKER: We're making a
16 \$45 million capital investment in a new,
17 modern 21st century Forensics Lab right
18 here in our City of Philadelphia.

19 - - -

20 (Applause.)

21 - - -

22 MAYOR PARKER: I'll also ensure
23 that we enforce the law regarding
24 property crimes and quality-of-life
25 issues. How? Illegal use of ATVs, car

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2 meetups, nuisance crimes, and retail
3 theft, they may not matter to some
4 people, but I can tell you they matter to
5 all of the residents and the people I've
6 communicated to and with, and they matter
7 to me.

8 Going in a store and stealing
9 \$499 worth of merchandise and not
10 expecting that there will be any
11 consequences, it's not okay anymore. We
12 will enforce the law right here in the
13 City of Philadelphia.

14 - - -
15 (Applause.)

16 - - -
17 MAYOR PARKER: Now, as I talk
18 about public safety, I want to thank
19 Council President Kenyatta Johnson for
20 the work he does every day to reduce gun
21 violence. Long before he was elected to
22 public office, he founded the
23 community-based organization Peace, Not
24 Guns.

25 The reason why I respect,

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2 highly respect, his role and space in the
3 anti-violence effort is because when he
4 founded that organization, it was born
5 out of his lived life experience and his
6 personal loss.

7 Well, Mr. President, I'm proud
8 that my budget funds new services and
9 resources for victims of violent crime,
10 including additional victim advocates and
11 anti-violence investments with
12 \$24 million for grants to community-based
13 organizations.

14 With this in mind, I want to
15 acknowledge the tremendous work being
16 done day in and day out by community
17 groups like -- and if you are here when I
18 call your name, I want you to stand and I
19 want you to remain standing until I
20 finish calling these names -- Unity in
21 the Community, Anton Moore; Every Murder
22 is --

23 - - -

24 (Applause.)

25 - - -

1 3/14/24 - STATED - MAYOR'S BUDGET ADDRESS

2 MAYOR PARKER: Every Murder is

3 Real, Chantay Love.

4 - - -

5 (Applause.)

6 - - -

7 MAYOR PARKER: Mothers in

8 Charge, Dorothy Johnson Speight.

9 - - -

10 (Applause.)

11 - - -

12 MAYOR PARKER: The Black Brain

13 Campaign, Farida Boyer.

14 - - -

15 (Applause.)

16 - - -

17 MAYOR PARKER: The Father's Day

18 Rally Committee, Bilal Qayyum.

19 - - -

20 (Applause.)

21 - - -

22 MAYOR PARKER: NOMO, Ricky

23 Duncan.

24 - - -

25 (Applause.)

1 3/14/24 - STATED - MAYOR'S BUDGET ADDRESS

2 - - -

3 MAYOR PARKER: The Black Male
4 Community Council, Stanley Crawford.

5 - - -

6 (Applause.)

7 - - -

8 MAYOR PARKER: Man-Up PHL,
9 Solomon Jones.

10 - - -

11 (Applause.)

12 - - -

13 MAYOR PARKER: And every
14 organization working each day to lessen
15 the pain and the trauma caused by gun
16 violence.

17 Give them another round of
18 applause. They deserve it.

19 - - -

20 (Standing ovation.)

21 - - -

22 MAYOR PARKER: Now, you all
23 know that I fully support our Police
24 Department. I've been unapologetic about
25 making it plain. But I want to be clear

1 3/14/24 - STATED - MAYOR'S BUDGET ADDRESS
2 that we will also have zero tolerance for
3 any misuse or abuse of authority by law
4 enforcement, period. Not complex.

5 - - -
6 (Applause.)

7 - - -

8 MAYOR PARKER: That's why we're
9 supporting the Citizens Police Oversight
10 Commission with a \$3 million investment
11 this year.

12 Given his leadership on public
13 safety, including his Blueprint for a
14 Safer Philadelphia 2.0, I know that
15 Councilmember Curtis Jones, Jr. will be
16 proud of this investment.

17 Councilmember Jones, thank you
18 so very much for your work in this space.
19 Thank you.

20 - - -
21 (Applause.)

22 - - -

23 MAYOR PARKER: We also know
24 that we cannot police our way out of some
25 of these problems we face. So we need

1 3/14/24 - STATED - MAYOR'S BUDGET ADDRESS

2 same-day pay and restorative justice
3 programs that provide options and
4 opportunities.

5 We also need a one-stop shop
6 for returning citizens to connect to the
7 services and supports from the federal,
8 state, and local government.

9 For young people, we need
10 trauma-informed care and therapy.

11 - - -

12 (Applause.)

13 - - -

14 MAYOR PARKER: Listen, I
15 recently learned the School District of
16 Philadelphia offers virtual therapy free
17 of charge right now through an app called
18 Kooth. I want to thank the dynamic
19 students at Northeast High School for
20 sharing that with me. It's innovative.
21 It's an innovative way of thinking, and I
22 think that we should build on that.

23 Now I want you to just take it
24 a step further. If the School District
25 is offering those kind of supports for

1 3/14/24 - STATED - MAYOR'S BUDGET ADDRESS
2 free virtually for any student who is
3 interested, imagine if our children could
4 talk to a therapist in our rec centers
5 and in our libraries.

6 - - -
7 (Applause.)

8 - - -
9 MAYOR PARKER: We need conflict
10 resolution and Evening Resource Centers
11 for our young people now, but we also
12 need something that many of you already
13 know is extremely important to me and
14 near and dear to my heart. We need youth
15 sports and athletic associations.

16 - - -
17 (Applause.)

18 - - -
19 MAYOR PARKER: I am a proud
20 blue-and-white-wearing Oak Lane Wildcat.
21 I am. Y'all can hold it. Blue and white
22 Oak Lane Wildcat. So I know firsthand
23 that youth sports, they aren't just about
24 wins and losses. They're about giving
25 children hope.

1 3/14/24 - STATED - MAYOR'S BUDGET ADDRESS

2 And if you want to see me go
3 from zero to a thousand in a minute, see
4 how frustrating it is for me when I see
5 our children standing in the middle of
6 the street with their helmets in their
7 hands out trying to raise funding to do
8 exactly what it is that we should be
9 creating opportunities for them to do
10 and, that is, to be engaged in our little
11 leagues.

12 - - -

13 (Applause.)

14 - - -

15 MAYOR PARKER: They shouldn't
16 have to stand on the streets with their
17 helmets in their hands, their drums. We
18 should be supporting them.

19 - - -

20 (Standing ovation.)

21 - - -

22 MAYOR PARKER: That's why in my
23 One Philly Budget we're supporting youth
24 sports and athletic organizations with
25 \$3.2 million for the first time. It's

1 3/14/24 - STATED - MAYOR'S BUDGET ADDRESS

2 true.

3 - - -

4 (Applause.)

5 - - -

6 MAYOR PARKER: We also face
7 enormous public safety and public health
8 challenges in different areas across our
9 City, but especially right now in
10 Kensington.

11 The current status quo where
12 addiction and despair are normal is
13 unacceptable. What we need right now,
14 Philadelphia, and this is my opinion, we
15 need the will to make the tough decisions
16 necessary to change the status quo.

17 In our efforts to do so, I have
18 the voices and the hopes of the people
19 who live and work in Kensington on my
20 mind as we fund and implement what I'm
21 referring to as our Kensington Community
22 Restoration Plan.

23 With this in mind, I want to
24 commend the Kensington Caucus -
25 Councilmembers Quetcy Lozada, Mark

1 3/14/24 - STATED - MAYOR'S BUDGET ADDRESS
2 Squilla, Mike Driscoll, and Jim Harrity -
3 as they fight to renew quality of life
4 and public safety for the community.

5 I personally want to say to
6 each of you, I've been running, but don't
7 y'all think I'm not paying attention to
8 what's happening. I know this hasn't
9 been easy for you. It's tough. But I
10 want you to know that I've got your back,
11 I'm here.

12 I also --
13 - - -
14 (Applause.)

15 - - -

16 MAYOR PARKER: Yes. We're
17 partners in this effort. You are not
18 alone.

19 I also want to recognize, with
20 the Kensington Caucus in mind, I want to
21 recognize and thank the advocates on the
22 ground who have been working to make
23 Kensington better, people like Casey
24 O'Connell from Impact Services, Dr. Bill
25 McKinney from New Kensington CDC, and

1 3/14/24 - STATED - MAYOR'S BUDGET ADDRESS

2 Craig Cerrito of Rock Ministries.

3 If you're out there listening
4 somewhere, I hear you.

5 So let me be clear. For the
6 long-term residents and everyone who has
7 weathered this humanitarian crisis, know
8 that I want to make Kensington a
9 neighborhood of choice and a beacon of
10 pride again. Why? Because of people
11 like Dionicio Jiminez and Maria Saez, who
12 own Cantina La Martina. It's a James
13 Beard-nominated Mexican restaurant on
14 Kensington Avenue.

15 It's their resilience that
16 we're fighting for in Kensington.

17 Dionicio and Maria, are you
18 here? Are you in the Chambers anywhere?
19 Please stand.

20 Thank you. Thank you. Thank
21 you.

22 - - -

23 (Applause.)

24 - - -

25 MAYOR PARKER: You all have

1 3/14/24 - STATED - MAYOR'S BUDGET ADDRESS
2 heard me say it before, prevention,
3 intervention, and enforcement, the PIE,
4 it is critical to everything we're doing
5 in Kensington and across Philadelphia to
6 enhance public safety and community.

7 Our Managing Director -- and
8 I'm so super proud he said yes and joined
9 us -- Adam Thiel, he's examining every
10 option for providing long-term care,
11 treatment, and housing for those
12 suffering from addiction, homelessness,
13 and mental health challenges. And
14 Managing Director Thiel is backed up by
15 over \$100 million in new investment as he
16 seeks, listen, to bring these groups
17 together.

18 - - -
19 (Applause.)

20 - - -
21 MAYOR PARKER: Last week he
22 convened a meeting of major health
23 systems and insurance companies, listen,
24 who got together, Councilmember Jones,
25 not as expert articulators of problems,

1 3/14/24 - STATED - MAYOR'S BUDGET ADDRESS
2 but to come up with solutions addressing
3 the needs of our most vulnerable
4 communities.

5 I was shocked to hear many of
6 those mainstream providers say they had
7 never been convened by the Mayor before
8 and asked to help to come up with
9 solutions so we're trying to figure out
10 what ask we send to our Pennsylvania
11 General Assembly, with tweaks and
12 adjustments to what we need as it relates
13 to insurance to cover these people.

14 We know what to ask for, not
15 because legislators had tried to become
16 insurance experts, but because the people
17 who are in the industry doing the work,
18 they've told us this is what we need from
19 local, state, and federal government.
20 And that's how government is supposed to
21 work.

22 - - -

23 (Applause.)

24 - - -

25 MAYOR PARKER: Now, Kensington

1 3/14/24 - STATED - MAYOR'S BUDGET ADDRESS

2 Caucus, you all know I've been doing my
3 best to try to be a diplomat when people
4 have been talking about what my
5 perspective is and even what your
6 perspective is as it relates to
7 Kensington.

8 I want to make it clear and
9 plain so that anybody that you hear after
10 this day say that this Administration
11 lacks compassion for those who are
12 suffering from substance use disorder and
13 addiction, I want you to be able to tell
14 them they're not speaking the truth.

15 This Administration, the Parker
16 Administration, it supports an array of
17 public health strategies, from dispensing
18 naloxone and Narcan and fentanyl testing
19 strips to administering care, providing
20 access to treatment and counseling, and
21 other services. Because you have heard
22 me say out loud, and I don't apologize or
23 run from it, while I'm the Mayor, I will
24 fight tooth and nail to ensure that not
25 one City dollar is invested in the

1 3/14/24 - STATED - MAYOR'S BUDGET ADDRESS
2 distribution of clean needles.

3 Now, listen, Cherelle, are you
4 saying that harm reduction doesn't
5 matter? It hasn't helped us?

6 It was trailblazing when we
7 first did it. I still think it's an
8 important part of the harm reduction
9 strategies, but we can't afford here in
10 the City of Philadelphia to appropriate
11 our very scarce resources to do it.

12 So if we're working in a
13 collective manner, using local, state,
14 and federal government, the private
15 sector, and the philanthropic community,
16 don't tell me, don't tell the Kensington
17 Caucus what we support or what we don't.
18 We just said the City is not going to pay
19 for it.

20 - - -

21 (Applause.)

22 - - -

23 MAYOR PARKER: For those of you
24 who know me, I'm not going to allow this
25 Administration or people who I work with,

1 3/14/24 - STATED - MAYOR'S BUDGET ADDRESS
2 who are my allies when we're working on
3 different issues, I'm not going to allow
4 anyone to put us in a box trying to
5 suggest that we do not care. We care
6 deeply about every person in addiction.
7 And for those who think that they care
8 more, once you've loved and lost someone
9 close to you -- I'm not talking about the
10 second or the third or the fourth or the
11 fifth cousin removed. When it touches
12 your immediate family, like it did with
13 me, you know that people, places, and
14 things are what impact people in
15 addiction. Focusing on their long-term
16 care, housing, and access to economic
17 opportunity to put them on the path to
18 self-sufficiency, that is what helps
19 people out of addiction.
20 So whenever you think you're
21 going to change the narrative, be
22 prepared for me to stand publicly on
23 business, and I'm ready to debate anybody
24 who wants to have the conversation.
25 Okay?

1 3/14/24 - STATED - MAYOR'S BUDGET ADDRESS

2 - - -

3 (Applause.)

4 - - -

5 MAYOR PARKER: Safer, cleaner,
6 greener and, as Councilmember Nina Ahmad
7 will remind us, healthier, that's what my
8 One Philly Budget supports.

9 If public safety is priority
10 number one for Philadelphians, guess
11 what? Quality-of-life issues is number
12 1A.

13 When residents see overflowing
14 trash cans, short dumping sites that pile
15 back up only days after being cleared,
16 cars forgotten and abandoned, then it's
17 easy for you to understand why some folks
18 don't believe that their neighborhoods
19 will ever be clean and green again.

20 We're not getting the basics
21 right, Philadelphia. The Parker
22 Administration and this One Philly Budget
23 right now says no more excuses. And
24 believe me when I say it, then I want you
25 to watch us do it. We are going to make

1 3/14/24 - STATED - MAYOR'S BUDGET ADDRESS

2 Philadelphia the cleanest and the

3 greenest big city in America.

4 - - -

5 (Applause.)

6 - - -

7 MAYOR PARKER: Congressman

8 Evans, I hear you sometimes late at night

9 saying if you change the environment,

10 you'll change the behavior. That's what

11 we're trying to do.

12 The single largest new

13 operating investment in my budget is for

14 clean and green, with more than

15 \$36 million in new funds in FY25 and,

16 listen, over \$246 million during the

17 Plan.

18 How? We're using an

19 all-hands-on-deck approach, led by an

20 empowered and experienced captain,

21 Carlton Williams, the Director of our new

22 Office of Clean and Green Initiatives.

23 - - -

24 (Applause.)

25 - - -

1 3/14/24 - STATED - MAYOR'S BUDGET ADDRESS

2 MAYOR PARKER: Councilmember

3 Jeff Young and neighborhood leader Bonita
4 Cummings, they saw this in action last
5 month along Strawberry Mansion's 29th
6 Street corridor.

7 Listen to what we had. We had
8 team members from Streets, from
9 Sanitation, from L&I, from Commerce, Tom
10 Conway's CLIP team, and a liaison in the
11 Philadelphia Parking Authority, everybody
12 together. Guess what we did? We were
13 responding to litter, illegal dumping,
14 the vacant lots and buildings that needed
15 to be cleaned and sealed, and we viewed
16 the amount of abandoned cars there.

17 Right now through this One
18 Philly Budget and with the Parking
19 Authority on our side, we're going to tow
20 more than 10,000 abandoned cars in the
21 coming year.

22 - - -

23 (Standing ovation.)

24 - - -

25 MAYOR PARKER: And for vacant

1 3/14/24 - STATED - MAYOR'S BUDGET ADDRESS

2 buildings, we're going to clean and seal
3 more than 900 this coming year.

4 Bridget and Basil, you got your
5 work cut out for you.

6 Now, District Councilmembers,
7 and I really do mean this, so you know
8 how you're getting excited and like you
9 can't wait to say something or can't wait
10 to open up your gifts on Christmas Eve,
11 you can't wait to wake up in the morning,
12 this is what I couldn't wait to tell you
13 all about.

14 I want you to be as excited as
15 I am to hear that we're investing roughly
16 \$18 million in a new residential cleaning
17 program, dedicating cleaning crews for
18 each councilmanic district.

19 - - -

20 (Standing ovation.)

21 - - -

22 MAYOR PARKER: I can't --
23 listen, y'all. Listen, y'all. Y'all
24 know I'm a movie buff. I can't remember
25 the movie, but one of my guys says in one

1 3/14/24 - STATED - MAYOR'S BUDGET ADDRESS
2 of these movies, he's talking to the jury
3 and he says, close your eyes for a
4 minute. So when I'm preparing for this,
5 I said, District Councilmembers, close
6 your eyes for a minute and imagine with
7 me a constituent calls about trash on the
8 street, something dumped near a school,
9 an abandoned car that's under the bridge,
10 and you immediately kick back into old
11 gear. You call Sanitation, you call
12 CLIP, you call Neighborhood Services
13 Unit.

14 Not anymore. That siloed
15 approach is over. My budget funds a
16 team, listen, with equipment, trash
17 trucks, and a team leader for each
18 Council district.

19 - - -

20 (Standing ovation.)

21 - - -

22 MAYOR PARKER: State Senator
23 Shirley Kitchen saying, yes, Cherelle.

24 Now, listen, the crews are
25 going to work in concert with PHL Taking

1 3/14/24 - STATED - MAYOR'S BUDGET ADDRESS
2 Care of Business, the neighborhood
3 commercial corridor cleaning program that
4 I feel like the proud parent of, and
5 right now my baby is taking big steps.
6 We're expanding to additional commercial
7 corridors and investing nearly 8 million
8 to extend to nearby residential streets.

9 It won't just be the cleaning
10 of commercial corridors. It will be on
11 residential streets.

12 - - -

13 (Applause.)

14 - - -

15 MAYOR PARKER: So this means
16 we'll reach nearly 140 total corridors
17 across the City and hire about 150 more
18 cleaning ambassadors.

19 - - -

20 (Applause.)

21 - - -

22 MAYOR PARKER: Now, full
23 disclosure, I can't tell you that it was
24 the greatest innovation in the world
25 coming from me. I actually stole the

1 3/14/24 - STATED - MAYOR'S BUDGET ADDRESS
2 program. It's modeled after what the
3 Center City District does downtown every
4 day. And so my thinking when I was
5 sitting on the fifth floor in my City
6 Hall office looking out the window
7 watching those cleaning ambassadors right
8 here downtown in Center City, I thought
9 in my mind, our neighborhoods deserve the
10 same level of care and cleanliness.
11 Don't you all agree?

12 - - -

13 (Applause.)

14 - - -

15 MAYOR PARKER: My Senator, my
16 Senator Hughes, don't you agree?
17 We want 52nd Street. Don't you
18 agree?

19 Listen, and to help get the
20 work done, and you all know I'm a little
21 bias when it comes to this group of
22 people, we're going to have to hire 100
23 new sanitation workers and buy more than
24 60 trash compactors.

25 - - -

1 3/14/24 - STATED - MAYOR'S BUDGET ADDRESS

2 (Applause.)

3 - - -

4 MAYOR PARKER: We're also going
5 to collaborate with our faith-based
6 partners, our community development
7 corporations, the Pennsylvania
8 Horticultural Society, which will
9 continue its terrific work cleaning green
10 spaces and providing pathways to
11 opportunity through same-day pay.

12 Give that a round of applause,
13 same-day pay.

14 - - -

15 (Applause.)

16 - - -

17 MAYOR PARKER: It's important
18 as we do this work that we also use new
19 evaluation tools. I think people think
20 the City of Philadelphia is afraid of
21 measuring whether or not what it's doing
22 is good or bad. I want people to see it
23 and feel it, yes, but measure and use
24 data to keep improving it too.

25 For years, for years,

1 3/14/24 - STATED - MAYOR'S BUDGET ADDRESS
2 Councilmember Cindy Bass has been calling
3 out disparities in service delivery, long
4 before it was a popular thing to do.
5 We're addressing that head on. My Five
6 Year Plan includes over \$11 million to
7 pilot a twice-a-week trash collection in
8 our neighborhoods that are most
9 challenged by trash and litter.

10 - - -

11 (Standing ovation.)

12 - - -

13 MAYOR PARKER: Over the course
14 of the Plan, we're adding hundreds and
15 hundreds of new positions to make our
16 city the cleanest and the greenest.

17 You're also going to see a new
18 illegal dumping collection crew. They're
19 going to help to shorten the response
20 time to deal with illegal dumping.

21 - - -

22 (Applause.)

23 - - -

24 MAYOR PARKER: You're going to
25 see a new special collection crew for

1 3/14/24 - STATED - MAYOR'S BUDGET ADDRESS
2 bulk trash pickup, more surveillance
3 cameras in illegal dumping hotspots, and
4 finally and most importantly, the staff
5 to monitor them and coordinate with law
6 enforcement.

7 - - -

8 (Applause.)

9 - - -

10 MAYOR PARKER: You're also
11 going to see 1,500 new Big Belly trash
12 and recycling cans, with the staffing
13 needed to make sure they are emptied
14 regularly, Mr. President.

15 - - -

16 (Applause.)

17 - - -

18 MAYOR PARKER: I'm listening,
19 Mr. President.

20 Don't simply listen to what
21 we're saying, watch what we are doing.

22 Clean and green is also about
23 working towards a more sustainable
24 future. We'll focus on environmental
25 justice for underserved and

1 3/14/24 - STATED - MAYOR'S BUDGET ADDRESS

2 underresourced communities.

3 Cleaner streets, more green

4 spaces and, listen, the planting of

5 15,000 more trees will mean fewer urban

6 heat islands and a healthier, more

7 resilient community.

8 - - -

9 (Applause.)

10 - - -

11 MAYOR PARKER: But you can't

12 have resilient communities without

13 restoring and improving our libraries,

14 our parks, and our recreation facilities.

15 So we're going to continue Rebuild, which

16 we know Councilmember Jamie Gauthier, we

17 know you value this program, and we're

18 going to continue it through our Capital

19 Programs Office.

20 - - -

21 (Applause.)

22 - - -

23 MAYOR PARKER: Public transit

24 is also a linchpin to sustainable,

25 resilient communities. Let's talk about

1 3/14/24 - STATED - MAYOR'S BUDGET ADDRESS

2 SEPTA for a minute.

3 We know SEPTA is facing a

4 fiscal cliff for this coming year.

5 That's why my One Philly Budget, it adds

6 \$117 million in operating funds for

7 SEPTA.

8 Now, as Council considers this

9 funding, I know we all want to see SEPTA

10 come forward with an aggressive plan to

11 make our buses and trains safer and

12 cleaner, and we're going to work in

13 partnership with them to do it. SEPTA,

14 mass transit.

15 - - -

16 (Applause.)

17 - - -

18 MAYOR PARKER: While staying on

19 the issue of transportation, I come

20 bearing just a little bit more good news.

21 My Proposed Capital Program invests a

22 half a billion dollars in new street

23 paving.

24 - - -

25 (Applause.)

1 3/14/24 - STATED - MAYOR'S BUDGET ADDRESS

2 - - -

3 MAYOR PARKER: Driving through
4 the streets of Philadelphia should not
5 feel like riding a bumpy roller coaster
6 while damaging your car.

7 That investment means that
8 that's \$250 million through the end of
9 FY25, and it puts us on a path of
10 repaving 130 miles per year, actually
11 double our current rate of street paving.

12 Don't listen to what I say.
13 Check out what we're doing.

14 - - -

15 (Applause.)

16 - - -

17 MAYOR PARKER: Commerce
18 Director Alba Martinez, I think it took
19 me, I don't know, months to get her to
20 say yes, but she's here now.

21 Commerce Director Martinez, you
22 can often hear her stating that economic
23 growth is the antidote to poverty.
24 That's what she says, economic growth is
25 the antidote to poverty.

1 3/14/24 - STATED - MAYOR'S BUDGET ADDRESS

2 - - -

3 (Applause.)

4 - - -

5 MAYOR PARKER: I believe it's
6 also the best violence prevention tool as
7 well.

8 - - -

9 (Applause.)

10 - - -

11 MAYOR PARKER: That's why I
12 didn't just make a promise to the people
13 of Philadelphia to make it the safest,
14 cleanest, and greenest city in the
15 nation. I also promised to provide
16 access to economic opportunity for all.

17 Councilmember Nicholas
18 O'Rourke, I know that we agree that
19 equitable opportunity is both an economic
20 and a moral imperative. There are right
21 now nearly 350,000 Philadelphians living
22 in poverty, and that is unacceptable to
23 me.

24 I stand with our Governor Josh
25 Shapiro in his call to raise

1 3/14/24 - STATED - MAYOR'S BUDGET ADDRESS
2 Pennsylvania's unconscionably low minimum
3 wage to \$15 per hour.

4 - - -
5 (Standing ovation.)

6 - - -
7 MAYOR PARKER: Why, Cherelle
8 Parker?

9 Doing so will grow the economic
10 pie, increase the City's tax base, and
11 give Philadelphians the raise they've
12 long deserved. We know this is the right
13 thing to do. We know it.

14 I also want you to know that it
15 is true that we lag behind many of our
16 peer cities on other indicators as well.
17 There was a 2020 Center City District
18 report. It found that Philadelphia's
19 number of Black businesses was 65 percent
20 below Washington, DC, 62 percent below
21 Atlanta, and 41 percent below the
22 national average.

23 That's why my One Philly Budget
24 includes nearly \$20 million in new
25 operating investments for economic

1 3/14/24 - STATED - MAYOR'S BUDGET ADDRESS

2 opportunity and more than \$130 million

3 over the Five Year Plan. It does.

4 - - -

5 (Applause.)

6 - - -

7 MAYOR PARKER: Now, let's talk
8 details. With the voices of my friends
9 Della Clark of The Enterprise Center and
10 Harold Epps in my ear, we're responding
11 to the need for capital, not just
12 training programs.

13 My budget invests \$1 million in
14 the Accelerator Fund, which provides
15 access to capital for developers from
16 historically disadvantaged groups, and it
17 invests another \$1 million in the
18 Innovate Capital Growth Fund, which
19 provides diverse entrepreneurs access to
20 equity investments.

21 - - -

22 (Applause.)

23 - - -

24 MAYOR PARKER: Della Clark, she
25 has been the voice and the conscience of

1 3/14/24 - STATED - MAYOR'S BUDGET ADDRESS
2 entrepreneurship in Philadelphia for
3 years.

4 If you're here, Della, please
5 stand.

6 Give Della Clark a round of
7 applause.

8 - - -

9 (Applause.)

10 - - -

11 MAYOR PARKER: I hear you,
12 Della.

13 Now, on jobs and workforce
14 development, I already described PHL
15 TCB's role in cleaning and greening, but
16 it's also a pathway to steady employment,
17 providing training for higher wage jobs.
18 We're investing tens of millions of
19 dollars to expand the program and will be
20 connecting nearly 400 Philadelphians to
21 economic opportunity.

22 I need to publicly right now
23 thank Amazon for its recent \$100,000
24 contribution to this work.

25 - - -

1 3/14/24 - STATED - MAYOR'S BUDGET ADDRESS

2 (Applause.)

3 - - -

4 MAYOR PARKER: Mustafa Rashid,
5 wherever you are, tell Amazon I said
6 thank you.

7 PHL TCB also supports our small
8 businesses, like TWB Cleaning
9 Contractors, which serves corridors in
10 West Oak Lane, Ogontz, and Oxford Circle.

11 In 2014, Trina Worrell-Benjamin
12 stepped out on faith to start TWB. She
13 left her job at PHMC and put everything
14 she had into the start of this business.
15 In the decade since, she's grown it to
16 provide a range of services.

17 We couldn't be prouder to
18 partner with Trina. We're honored to
19 have her son, Khalif Worrell, here. He's
20 TWB's manager. He's with us today.

21 Khalif, wherever you are, if
22 you are here, I don't know if you were
23 able to make it. If he wasn't, give him
24 a huge round of applause anyway.

25 - - -

1 3/14/24 - STATED - MAYOR'S BUDGET ADDRESS

2 (Applause.)

3 - - -

4 MAYOR PARKER: Thank you,
5 Khalif. Thank you.

6 Now, let's talk workforce,
7 starting with the City's own workforce.

8 We should be training our
9 people for careers in every industry that
10 is thriving in our city. This is not
11 new. This is what Apple does. They send
12 their employees to what they call Apple
13 School.

14 Well, our citizens, they are
15 going to go to the City of Philadelphia
16 school, the Municipal School.

17 No more complaining about
18 recruitment and retention of City
19 workers. We need to be creating our own
20 pipeline and training our own people for
21 these jobs.

22 - - -

23 (Applause.)

24 - - -

25 MAYOR PARKER: And we'll put

1 3/14/24 - STATED - MAYOR'S BUDGET ADDRESS
2 people on a path to self-sufficiency by
3 giving men and women dignity. That's how
4 you help to reduce violence.

5 How are you going to do it?

6 We're going to make a \$10 million
7 investment in the Community College of
8 Philadelphia. I think Dr. Guy Generals
9 is here. CCP working with our super
10 Superintendent, Dr. Tony Watlington,
11 they're going to work in partnership and
12 they're going to establish a
13 first-in-the-nation City College for
14 Municipal Employment.

15 - - -

16 (Applause.)

17 - - -

18 MAYOR PARKER: Education and
19 training is the only way.

20 I told you about the
21 partnership, CCP and the School District.
22 That's how we're going to put people on
23 the path to self-sufficiency.

24 Cherelle, who is going to go to
25 the college?

1 3/14/24 - STATED - MAYOR'S BUDGET ADDRESS

2 In my mind, high school
3 students, people looking to change
4 careers, current municipal workers who
5 want to upskill, anyone who is interested
6 in working in City government.

7 And this is probably my
8 favorite. They're going to earn a
9 stipend while they learn and graduate
10 into good City jobs.

11 - - -

12 (Applause.)

13 - - -

14 MAYOR PARKER: How do you know
15 this is important? Because jobs in local
16 government, they have long been a pathway
17 to the middle class, especially for Black
18 and brown people, for women, and for
19 immigrants. These are jobs with dignity.

20 And guess what? We're not done
21 yet. My budget also includes another
22 \$10 million to support workforce
23 development and apprenticeship programs
24 led by partners including the Building
25 Trades, the Carpenters and other unions.

1 3/14/24 - STATED - MAYOR'S BUDGET ADDRESS

2 - - -

3 (Applause.)

4 - - -

5 MAYOR PARKER: We'll train
6 working-class Philadelphians for careers
7 in industries that are already here and
8 thriving and those that are projected to
9 grow. Consider careers in labor, in
10 logistics, in life sciences, in biotech.
11 They are all growing and thriving right
12 here in our city, and we need to be
13 training our people to do it.

14 Now, you've heard me talk about
15 this, and it's because I learned it on
16 the trail, and I had been in this body
17 for, what, six, seven years, and I had
18 never known, because it wasn't in the
19 district that I represented, how powerful
20 and what the growth potential was like in
21 the area of life sciences and biotech.

22 Listen, we've got it now. For
23 those of you who know me, you don't have
24 to tell me twice. Philadelphia is on the
25 cusp of leading the nation in biotech and

1 3/14/24 - STATED - MAYOR'S BUDGET ADDRESS
2 life sciences, and we're going to help
3 this industry grow and become number one
4 in the country.

5 - - -

6 (Applause.)

7 - - -

8 MAYOR PARKER: And what's best?
9 What's best, Cherelle? What do you like
10 the most about the \$10 million for
11 training and apprenticeship programs?
12 We're going to do what I saw happen when
13 I visited Wistar.

14 Those folks who were in that
15 cohort training to be lab techs, they
16 weren't there getting training, hoping
17 for a job after they finished training.
18 To access these funds, there must be
19 guaranteed employment for program
20 graduates.

21 - - -

22 (Applause.)

23 - - -

24 MAYOR PARKER: So if there's a
25 guaranteed job, the dollars are there to

1 3/14/24 - STATED - MAYOR'S BUDGET ADDRESS

2 ensure that the training can actually
3 take place.

4 What are you trying to
5 demonstrate? We're putting our money
6 where our mouth is for individuals and
7 for businesses.

8 Now, speaking of businesses,
9 Councilmember Brian O'Neill, I know
10 regulatory burdens impose what we've
11 often referred to as a time tax and can
12 deter investment and job growth.

13 So my Plan includes almost
14 \$14 million for the PHL Open for Business
15 initiative. We'll make it easier to do
16 business by getting rid of unnecessary
17 regulations, streamlining steps to open
18 or expand businesses, and providing
19 one-on-one navigator services to help
20 entrepreneurs.

21 We're going to pair this with
22 new ways of collaborating. With who?
23 Through our Business Roundtable, through
24 our Faith-Based and Intergovernmental
25 Roundtables. We'll work with partners to

1 3/14/24 - STATED - MAYOR'S BUDGET ADDRESS
2 solve shared challenges and to bring more
3 resources to our city.

4 Yes, we're going to work to do
5 that.

6 - - -
7 (Applause.)

8 - - -
9 MAYOR PARKER: Now on an
10 important issue. Anyone who knows me,
11 especially my former colleagues here in
12 Council, you know that I see middle
13 neighborhoods as the backbone of the
14 City. And it's not just because my
15 family moved on up like the Jeffersons to
16 one when I was born. It's because of
17 what they represent, the opportunity for
18 low- and moderate-income and
19 working-class families to realize the
20 American dream, stable housing,
21 homeownership, generational wealth.

22 In middle neighborhoods and
23 across the City, my proposed budget, it
24 begins for Philly my promise to create
25 30,000 units of housing, and I want each

1 3/14/24 - STATED - MAYOR'S BUDGET ADDRESS

2 and every one of you in this Chamber to
3 hold me to it.

4 - - -

5 (Applause.)

6 - - -

7 MAYOR PARKER: Now, some of
8 those homes are going to require
9 significant repairs that owners simply
10 can't afford. Now, with a whole lot of
11 credit going to the City Council of
12 Philadelphia, along with passionate
13 housing advocates, we are fortunate in
14 our city -- and all other cities don't
15 have what we have -- we're fortunate to
16 have multiple City-funded home repair
17 programs, such as Basic Systems Home
18 Repair and Restore Repair Renew.

19 These are terrific, but
20 navigating through them, that's a whole
21 other matter.

22 My One Philly Budget supports a
23 one-front-door approach. People will be
24 able to apply for multiple programs at
25 once, typing in their information and

1 3/14/24 - STATED - MAYOR'S BUDGET ADDRESS

2 submitting their paperwork one time and
3 not a half dozen times.

4 - - -

5 (Standing ovation.)

6 - - -

7 MAYOR PARKER: You know, it's
8 interesting, when some people talk about
9 housing, and I love listening to varying
10 opinions, but when some people talk about
11 housing, they don't think people living
12 in low- and moderate-income communities
13 deserve nice things.

14 Don't kill me, Council
15 President Johnson, but when you all hear
16 me talk about my grandmother having
17 plastic on her living room sets, you
18 might not even understand what she was
19 doing. And every time she got a new
20 living room set, it was usually clear
21 plastic, and before she passed away, she
22 got fancy. We got blue plastic, 1900
23 block of Pinto Street. True story. And
24 she was proud of that blue plastic.
25 Summer, it suck to your legs when it was

1 3/14/24 - STATED - MAYOR'S BUDGET ADDRESS

2 real hot outside.

3 Guess why my grandmother put
4 plastic on the living room furniture? We
5 didn't have much. She was proud of what
6 she had, and she was trying to preserve
7 what she had.

8 - - -

9 (Applause.)

10 - - -

11 MAYOR PARKER: And so I don't
12 get how when people are thinking about
13 folks who come from low- and
14 moderate-income communities and
15 working-class communities why they don't
16 think that they deserve nice things. The
17 way I see it, affordable housing must be
18 high-quality housing, and it's what you
19 will hear me refer to as affordable
20 luxury.

21 My Administration will ensure
22 all new City-supported housing has the
23 kinds of high-quality fixtures and
24 finishes that we all want in our homes.

25 Don't put me somewhere else and

1 3/14/24 - STATED - MAYOR'S BUDGET ADDRESS

2 give me subpar and less because I'm low
3 income or moderate. If that was the
4 case, I wouldn't be standing here on
5 today.

6 - - -

7 (Applause.)

8 - - -

9 MAYOR PARKER: How are you
10 going to get it done? We've seen it, and
11 we know that it's possible. All you got
12 to do is look at Turn the Key homes.

13 I can't describe how powerful
14 it is to see a family move into one of
15 those beautiful homes. And on today, we
16 have a Turn the Key homeowner with us.
17 Let's recognize Marjorie Howell, who
18 works in the City's Health Department.

19 Marjorie, are you here? Are
20 you here? Wherever you are, Marjorie --
21 oh, you are there. Thank you, Marjorie.
22 Thank you for coming.

23 - - -

24 (Applause.)

25 - - -

1 3/14/24 - STATED - MAYOR'S BUDGET ADDRESS

2 MAYOR PARKER: Thank you.

3 Listen, she bought her home in
4 Sharswood, and Turn the Key provided a
5 mortgage down payment, making Marjorie's
6 homeownership dream a reality.

7 I am so grateful that Marjorie
8 got enrolled and participated in that
9 program, and we want a thousand more
10 homeowners like Marjorie right here in
11 the City of Philadelphia.

12 - - -

13 (Applause.)

14 - - -

15 MAYOR PARKER: Now, in order to
16 make that happen, Mr. President, we need
17 the Neighborhood Preservation Initiative,
18 NPI, and we need the Building Trades.
19 Wherever you are, Ryan Boyer and Bill
20 Sproule, Building Trades and Carpenters,
21 we want you to know that we are looking
22 forward to working with you on many,
23 many -- 30,000 many -- more housing units
24 in the years to come.

25 - - -

1 3/14/24 - STATED - MAYOR'S BUDGET ADDRESS

2 (Applause.)

3 - - -

4 MAYOR PARKER: Cherelle, what
5 else is it going to take?

6 It's going to take moving the
7 inventory stuck in the City's Land Bank.
8 My Administration will turn those parcels
9 into vibrant homes and community spaces,
10 including gardens.

11 Councilmember Kendra Brooks, I
12 know how much you support those precious
13 green spaces maintained by our community
14 members.

15 The easiest parcels, and
16 everyone should know this, for the Land
17 Bank to convey are unoccupied and tax
18 delinquent properties. But that only
19 works if our tax lien sales are up and
20 running.

21 We know that the lack of tax
22 sales has cost the City and the School
23 District an estimated \$35 million in tax
24 revenue, and those dollars could have
25 been invested in classrooms and in rec

1 3/14/24 - STATED - MAYOR'S BUDGET ADDRESS

2 centers or on building affordable homes.

3 I want to note for the record,

4 and this one I'm proud of, Council

5 President Johnson, Sheriff Rochelle

6 Bilal, City Solicitor Renee Garcia, and

7 I, we have been meeting. Together, we

8 all recognize the need to have tax sales

9 up and running.

10 On today, I am pleased to

11 announce that the Sheriff's Office is now

12 working with the Law Department to

13 resolve this issue in the next four

14 weeks, with the goal of the first sale

15 occurring before July 1st, 2024.

16 - - -

17 (Applause.)

18 - - -

19 MAYOR PARKER: Sheriff Rochelle

20 Bilal, are you here?

21 Madam Sheriff, let me say what

22 I said to you privately and I'll say it

23 publicly so folks know that we're being

24 transparent.

25 No one was expecting you,

1 3/14/24 - STATED - MAYOR'S BUDGET ADDRESS

2 Council President Johnson, Renee Garcia,
3 and I to be able to sit in a room and
4 hammer out a compromise. I'm proud that
5 we've done it.

6 Now, I know it's just a
7 compromise and you've got to get it done
8 first, so I don't want y'all to think I'm
9 celebrating before it actually happens,
10 because anything can happen.

11 But, Sheriff, I want to say to
12 you and I want to say to you,
13 Mr. President, because you were the chief
14 mediator in the midst of this
15 conversation, I want to say to you, Madam
16 Sheriff, I want to thank you publicly for
17 that, and I'm looking forward to working
18 with you.

19 Give our Sheriff a huge round
20 of applause.

21 - - -

22 (Applause.)

23 - - -

24 MAYOR PARKER: Again, these
25 sales will generate millions of dollars

1 3/14/24 - STATED - MAYOR'S BUDGET ADDRESS
2 in revenue for the City of Philadelphia
3 and the School District, and they can
4 help transform neighborhood blight into
5 homes and gardens.

6 Now on what's near and dear to
7 all of us, public education. Our goals
8 are high, and they must be. We're going
9 to innovate to provide what we refer to
10 as a world-class education for students
11 of all ages and backgrounds.

12 - - -

13 (Applause.)

14 - - -

15 MAYOR PARKER: For far too
16 long, our students have struggled with
17 far too little. The days of settling for
18 crumbs, they're over. Our students
19 deserve a full loaf, and they're going to
20 get it.

21 - - -

22 (Applause.)

23 - - -

24 MAYOR PARKER: Following the
25 Commonwealth Court's historic ruling last

1 3/14/24 - STATED - MAYOR'S BUDGET ADDRESS
2 year, the state recommended an infusion
3 of \$1.4 billion for Philadelphia schools
4 over the next seven years. Governor
5 Shapiro proposed 242 million more in
6 education funds for Philadelphia this
7 year, and we're going to continue to
8 advocate vigorously for public education
9 in Harrisburg.

10 And I hate to shout him out,
11 but I have to say to Senator Hughes,
12 Chairman Hughes and Chairman Harris,
13 we're looking forward to working with
14 you, standing side by side as we advocate
15 for that state funding, but in the
16 meantime, my Administration is moving
17 full steam ahead on our vision for public
18 education.

19 I want you all to be proud to
20 know that my One Philly Budget includes
21 over \$24 million in new operating
22 investments for education, with nearly
23 \$140 million over the Plan. And of that,
24 129 million is for the School District of
25 Philadelphia.

1 3/14/24 - STATED - MAYOR'S BUDGET ADDRESS

2 - - -

3 (Applause.)

4 - - -

5 MAYOR PARKER: Now, I've
6 already said out loud, and I just want to
7 say it again, when we start talking about
8 the School District, no one should ever
9 try to talk with me about public
10 education and pit traditional publics
11 against charters. It's a non-starter for
12 me. All of these -- if you were with me
13 at Northeast High, if you were with me at
14 Imhotep, you realize these are all of our
15 children and we shouldn't be trying to
16 pit one against the other.

17 - - -

18 (Applause.)

19 - - -

20 MAYOR PARKER: Now, some people
21 hear School District and they think we're
22 just talking about K through 12. Not me.
23 I know, and I want you to know, for those
24 of you who know me, you know I don't say
25 this lightly, because like I stand back

1 3/14/24 - STATED - MAYOR'S BUDGET ADDRESS
2 sometimes and I watch people and I don't
3 say a thing, but I want y'all to know
4 that we have a terrific Superintendent in
5 Dr. Tony Watlington. He knows that the
6 foundation for careers, it needs to be
7 laid early.

8 Superintendent Watlington,
9 please stand up.

10 Please give him a round of
11 applause.

12 - - -

13 (Standing ovation.)

14 - - -

15 MAYOR PARKER: He has one of
16 the toughest jobs in the City of
17 Philadelphia.

18 Superintendent Watlington,
19 you're my God. You have my support, and
20 I'm looking forward to working with you.

21 In partnership with the
22 Superintendent, I want you to know that
23 this budget includes a plan for full-day
24 and year-round schooling, offering
25 students educational enrichment

1 3/14/24 - STATED - MAYOR'S BUDGET ADDRESS
2 throughout the year, with schedules that
3 work for working families.

4 Yes, give that a round of
5 applause.

6 - - -

7 (Applause.)

8 - - -

9 MAYOR PARKER: Scheduled around
10 the needs for working families.

11 The Mayor's Office of Education
12 will coordinate the multi-year rollout of
13 this initiative, which will launch in 20
14 pilot schools this fall.

15 Councilmember Anthony Phillips
16 I know from Youth Action. I know you
17 support this vision, and I know that I am
18 grateful for your leadership, sir, on
19 City Council's Committee of Children and
20 Youth, and we can't wait to partner with
21 you to make this out-of-school-time,
22 year-round education a reality for
23 students in the School District of
24 Philadelphia.

25 - - -

1 3/14/24 - STATED - MAYOR'S BUDGET ADDRESS

2 (Applause.)

3 - - -

4 MAYOR PARKER: Our students

5 deserve to learn in safe, healthy

6 facilities that's 21st century learning.

7 We need to modernize existing schools and

8 build new ones.

9 Now, doing so is no small task.

10 It's going to require an

11 intergovernmental strategy, working with

12 our allies on City Council like Education

13 Committee Chairperson Isaiah Thomas,

14 again our Pennsylvania General Assembly,

15 and our federal delegation, but it also

16 presents an opportunity for us.

17 I'm looking forward to working

18 with you, Isaiah Thomas. And I need to

19 say this to you: When we get to the

20 table to work on this issue, let's

21 imagine our Building Trades giving

22 students actual on-the-job training in

23 restoring and rebuilding schools and

24 building new schools, and then welcoming

25 them into a union workforce. That's what

1 3/14/24 - STATED - MAYOR'S BUDGET ADDRESS

2 we can do. Today's generation building
3 for the next.

4 - - -

5 (Applause.)

6 - - -

7 MAYOR PARKER: And I'm looking
8 forward to working with you, sir, in
9 order to make that happen.

10 We're going to do all of this
11 work in collaboration with our teachers,
12 with families, and partners, all of us
13 focused on what's best for our young
14 scholars.

15 Now, know this: City
16 government is worth investing and
17 believing in. I want to take a moment to
18 recognize and appreciate our workforce
19 and their labor leaders who are with us
20 here today: District Council 33, Omar
21 Salaam, District -- are you here, Omar?
22 Please stand.

23 - - -

24 (Applause.)

25 - - -

1 3/14/24 - STATED - MAYOR'S BUDGET ADDRESS

2 MAYOR PARKER: District Council

3 47, April Gigetts.

4 - - -

5 (Applause.)

6 - - -

7 MAYOR PARKER: FOP Lodge 5,

8 Roosevelt Poplar.

9 - - -

10 (Applause.)

11 - - -

12 MAYOR PARKER: And Firefighters

13 Local 22, Mike Bresnan.

14 - - -

15 (Applause.)

16 - - -

17 MAYOR PARKER: Please stand.

18 They lead our City's workforce.

19 - - -

20 (Applause.)

21 - - -

22 MAYOR PARKER: Thank you.

23 Now, in addition to negotiating

24 fair contracts, in the Parker

25 Administration we hope and expect that

1 3/14/24 - STATED - MAYOR'S BUDGET ADDRESS

2 today's administrative clerk is

3 tomorrow's departmental commissioner.

4 That's why my budget includes

5 \$14 million in new operating investments

6 for FY25 and close to \$141 million over

7 the Five Year Plan for the resources that

8 help our world-class municipal workers do

9 their best.

10 Now, the funding supports our

11 current workforce and it invests in

12 recruiting new employees. We're going to

13 have to do a better job marketing and

14 recruiting for the good jobs that are

15 available with the City, jobs for nurses,

16 social workers, paramedics.

17 We'll tell people about our

18 total compensation package, the health

19 benefits, the retirement security, the

20 professional development, programs like

21 Turn the Key, and we can try to compete

22 for talent as an employer of choice in

23 our region.

24 How are we going to get there?

25 We're going to work with our Law

1 3/14/24 - STATED - MAYOR'S BUDGET ADDRESS
2 Department and our unions to let retired
3 City workers come back to work for
4 several years while still collecting
5 their pensions.

6 - - -
7 (Applause.)

8 - - -
9 MAYOR PARKER: So what does
10 this mean? For all of my retired City
11 workers out there, if you feel the call
12 to come back to service, if your heart
13 still stirs at our vision, please
14 consider coming back.

15 When I first introduced this
16 concept when I was in the City Council of
17 Philadelphia, like a whole lot of other
18 things I've done in life, I had a whole
19 lot of people laughing at me. You think
20 a retiree is ever going to want to come
21 back and work with the City?

22 If people love our city and if
23 you believe that people can love our city
24 as much as we all do, they will come back
25 if we give them the opportunity.

1 3/14/24 - STATED - MAYOR'S BUDGET ADDRESS

2 - - -

3 (Applause.)

4 - - -

5 MAYOR PARKER: And for current
6 City employees, I know we'll have more to
7 say about our return to office. We'll be
8 talking about that in more detail, but
9 what's important for me that you know
10 right now is that in developing our
11 policy, we're taking into consideration
12 your needs. That includes childcare and
13 elder care. And you heard me say I was a
14 State Rep working in Harrisburg while
15 caring for my grandfather and he lived at
16 home.

17 So I'm ultra sensitive to the
18 childcare and the elder care challenge
19 that some of our municipal workers are
20 facing right now. City workers are
21 people, not assets, and my Administration
22 will treat you with respect.

23 - - -

24 (Applause.)

25 - - -

1 3/14/24 - STATED - MAYOR'S BUDGET ADDRESS

2 MAYOR PARKER: My One Philly

3 Budget also supports the data and
4 analytics behind those new approaches to
5 doing the work.

6 Let's start with PhillyStat
7 360. It's performance management, it's
8 result-based accountability, it's our
9 future.

10 Here's what it means: Every
11 department will communicate with each
12 other, backed up by data, on what they're
13 doing to advance our vision. That's how
14 we're going to ensure accountable
15 government that you can see, touch, and
16 feel.

17 We're breaking down the silos
18 between departments. We're using a
19 data-driven and research-based approach
20 to make decisions. And I know that's
21 music to the ears of one of my fellow
22 data lovers, Councilmember Rue Landau.
23 Yes, performance management is here.

24 - - -

25 (Applause.)

1 3/14/24 - STATED - MAYOR'S BUDGET ADDRESS

2 - - -

3 MAYOR PARKER: We're taking new
4 approaches to our work together.

5 Don't simply listen to what I
6 say, watch what it is that we're doing.

7 I want you to know that my name
8 is Cherelle L. Parker and I am the 100th
9 Mayor of Philadelphia, the first woman to
10 lead this city in 341 years.

11 - - -

12 (Standing ovation.)

13 - - -

14 MAYOR PARKER: I've proposed
15 this One Philly Budget to the City
16 Council of Philadelphia, with \$2 billion
17 of new investments in the people of our
18 wonderful city, and I want you to know
19 that I approve this message.

20 Today is just the beginning.
21 I'm coming to a neighborhood near you for
22 a budget briefing and a town hall
23 meeting.

24 Let's work together with
25 diplomacy, diligence, and purpose toward

1 3/14/24 - STATED - MAYOR'S BUDGET ADDRESS
2 its passage and implementation for the
3 people, all with one shared goal in mind,
4 to make our city safer, cleaner, and
5 greener, with access to economic
6 opportunity for all.

7 If we do this, City Council,
8 Mr. President, if we do this together,
9 that is the only way that we are going to
10 ensure that we truly are -- and you all
11 already know what to do, put them in the
12 air. Put your 1's up. Everybody, put
13 your 1's in the air. And I want them to
14 hear us outside. Let me hear you say one
15 Philly.

16 (One Philly.)

17 MAYOR PARKER: A united city.

18 (A united city.)

19 MAYOR PARKER: Thank you.

20 - - -

21 (Applause.)

22 - - -

23 (Brief pause.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

25 Members please take their seats.

1 3/14/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 Are there any speeches on the
3 part of the minority?

4 The Chair recognizes
5 Councilmember Kendra Brooks.

6 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: Speeches?

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Any
8 speeches on behalf of the minority?

9 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: Yeah, I
10 do have one.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
12 Chair recognizes Councilmember Kendra
13 Brooks.

14 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: Thank
15 you, Council President.

16 As I consider this budget, I
17 will be weighing on how our choices
18 impact Philly working families.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
20 Councilmember Brooks --

21 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: Can you
22 hear me?

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: One
24 second.

25 Will the Sergeant-of-Arms

1 3/14/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 please clear the Chambers.

3 (Brief pause.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

5 Thank you very much.

6 Now the Chair recognizes

7 Councilmember Kendra Brooks.

8 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: Thank

9 you, Council President.

10 As I consider this budget, I
11 will be weighing in on how our choices
12 impact Philadelphia's working families.
13 I'll be thinking about families like mine
14 who count on our city's public schools
15 and libraries, parks and pools, families
16 who are hoping to stay rooted in their
17 homes and neighborhoods even as rent and
18 groceries can -- (microphone issues).

19 I think of families of women
20 like Rafina Rodriguez, who is a domestic
21 worker with me today as my guest for
22 today's budget address, who is fighting
23 for the rights to basic protections, like
24 a lunch break and sick days at her job.

25 I think of the thousands of

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2 Philly families who can't afford
3 menstrual products and turn to Lynette
4 Medley from No More Secrets, who I'll be
5 advocating for in my budget request.

6 My priorities in this budget
7 come from my plan for working families, a
8 report that lays out the concrete steps
9 we can take to build a city where working
10 families thrive, a plan which I released
11 last fall. It shares several common
12 priorities with Mayor Parker's proposed
13 budget.

14 Working families depend on
15 safe, affordable programs for young
16 people. I'm pleased to see 11 million
17 for public pools as well as an increase
18 in funding for public schools in Mayor
19 Parker's proposal.

20 The summer is getting hotter
21 each year, especially in some of
22 Philadelphia's lowest income blocks, and
23 every child deserves a local pool to cool
24 down and connect with neighbors and learn
25 to swim.

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2 Working families depend on
3 Community College, which is where I
4 earned my first degree so that I could
5 get a better job and provide for my
6 children, and I'm pleased to see 10
7 million in additional funds for Community
8 College of Philadelphia.

9 Working families depend on
10 affordable housing, and I look forward to
11 seeing more details in Mayor Parker's
12 plan to prevent the disruption and
13 displacement of eviction to keep families
14 in their homes.

15 Working families depend on
16 green, welcoming public spaces like
17 community gardens that exist in Black and
18 brown neighborhoods across our city. As
19 some of you know, my office has been
20 working with community gardens for years
21 to protect these life-giving resources,
22 and I'm glad to see that's also a focus.

23 And today on behalf of Council
24 President Johnson and with the support of
25 Mayor Parker's Administration, I'm

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2 introducing legislation to establish a
3 priority bid to move vacant properties
4 into the Land Bank. The majority of
5 these community gardens used to be vacant
6 lots, overgrown, filled with trash,
7 dangerous places for children, and ugly
8 reminders of the historic disinvestment
9 that has robbed many of our Black and
10 brown neighborhoods of resources,
11 stability, and safety.

12 Community members who live near
13 these lots put in time and energy and
14 care to transform them into beloved green
15 spaces that provide shade, fresh air,
16 food, and social connections across
17 generations.

18 My office has partnered with
19 community gardens to ensure that the land
20 that they tend and transform will not be
21 sold out underneath them.

22 Last June, we announced 91
23 parcels were currently protected from
24 sheriff's sales, and I want to thank
25 former Council President Darrell Clarke,

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2 Councilmember Jamie Gauthier, and
3 Councilmember Quetcy Lozada for
4 contributing to that work.

5 The next step in the process is
6 to create a priority bid that will allow
7 these parcels to pass into the Land Bank
8 and ultimately into the hands of
9 community gardeners. By passing this
10 legislation, we will be moving closer to
11 a responsible, sustainable system of land
12 management for our city, one that
13 recognizes and prioritizes the leadership
14 of community members and caring for their
15 own neighborhoods and creating our own
16 vibrant public space and determining the
17 future of the land.

18 Working families depend on
19 medical care that is affordable, easy to
20 access, including mobile crisis units
21 that bring trained mental health
22 providers directly into our communities,
23 and treatment options for family members
24 who struggle with substance abuse. So
25 today I'm also introducing a resolution

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2 calling on a hearing for our overdose
3 crisis, in particular its impact in Black
4 communities in our city.

5 As I shared with the body
6 before, I know and love people who
7 struggled with addiction and are at risk
8 of overdose. My zip code, 19140, is one
9 of the hardest hit by the increase of
10 overdose deaths.

11 Overdose deaths in Black
12 Philadelphians has nearly doubled in the
13 past five years, increasing faster than
14 any other group, and yet racial
15 disparities in our healthcare and
16 criminal justice system mean that Black
17 people who struggle with substance abuse
18 are far less likely to receive timely,
19 evident-based treatment, and far more
20 likely to face arrest than white people.

21 As we consider a citywide
22 approach to this crisis, we must take
23 into account the voices and needs of
24 Black families and communities that have
25 already been devastated by 50 years of a

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2 racist war on drugs.

3 We can't afford to get this
4 wrong, and as we define our approach here
5 in Philadelphia, our two guiding lights
6 must be impact community -- impacted
7 community members and the research,
8 scientific evidence, and expert
9 healthcare professionals.

10 Philly families are counting on
11 us, and I look forward to delivering for
12 them in this budget.

13 Thank you so much, Council
14 President.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
16 Thank you.

17 The Chair recognizes -- any
18 speeches on behalf of the majority?

19 The Chair recognizes Councilman
20 Curtis Jones.

21 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
22 Mr. President.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
24 Chair recognizes, on behalf of the
25 minority also, Councilmember Nicholas

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2 O'Rourke.

3 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE: As-salamu
4 alaykum to all the Muslims and Ramadan
5 Mubarak for all those celebrating.

6 If we are timely -- and if we
7 follow your lead, Council President, we
8 will be -- today begins about two and a
9 half months full of hearings and plenty
10 of deliberation. At the end of this
11 process, God willing and the creek don't
12 rise, as my father would say, we'll have
13 us a budget.

14 The Prophet Isa and the Injill
15 both in Luke and in Matthew, as
16 Christians understand the Gospel, is
17 recorded as saying that where your
18 treasure is, there your heart will be
19 also. Essentially the idea behind that
20 passage is that where you invest, where
21 you entrust your treasure reflects what
22 you love or what you value.

23 A budget is a moral document.
24 This document is the most concrete
25 statement of our collective values, a

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2 marker for how we believe we can deliver
3 a Philadelphia that is resilient to the
4 many challenges that we face.

5 There are a lot of fresh faces
6 on Council, a new Council President, and
7 this is Mayor Parker's first at bat as an
8 executive proposing a budget, so this
9 will be a precedent-setting, historic
10 period in so many ways.

11 As we dive into this process,
12 it's clear that there are some steep
13 learning curves that I'm looking forward
14 to climbing as a freshman Councilmember,
15 but I'm thrilled and I'm grateful in
16 advance for the chance to learn from my
17 upper classmen, my upper classmen
18 colleagues, and from the hard-working
19 staff embedded in our City agencies, who
20 are the folks that really make it all
21 happen.

22 Philly should know and take
23 comfort in the fact that we have some
24 true masters, like Councilwoman KGR, of
25 the craft of budget analysis in this

1 3/14/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 body. But new councilors aren't the only
3 ones ready for a hands-on education in
4 how Philly's budget comes together. So
5 many who were in this room earlier, maybe
6 a few that are still here or watching
7 around the City, also want to learn more
8 about this process. And if that's you, I
9 want to welcome you to reach out to my
10 office. We do have a short online form
11 where you can ask questions about the
12 budget process and share your budget
13 priorities as well, and you can find the
14 form on our social media or by giving our
15 office a call.

16 We want to help demystify the
17 budget process and hear about what
18 matters to you and to your families. And
19 to not be afraid to chime in during this
20 process. That is our ask.

21 There are three days for public
22 comment during the budget hearings, the
23 first one being on March the 27th, as I
24 understand it. So, Philly, please hear
25 me when I say this. We want to hear from

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2 you, we need to hear from you, and we
3 would love to hear from you soon.

4 Real quick, I want to honor
5 Madam Mayor for standing firm on the
6 priorities that she has for our city and
7 that she spoke about just before. A
8 safe, clean, and green Philadelphia, one
9 with ample opportunities to put money in
10 the pockets of working people, that is a
11 worthy goal. I don't care who you are.

12 Of the Mayor's proposed budget,
13 I am most excited about the new
14 investments in our public spaces. I
15 share the Administration's interest in
16 flowing more funding to our libraries,
17 our parks, our recreation centers, and I
18 commend investments in street paving,
19 another public good that all of us rely
20 on. We don't want to be riding around a
21 bumpy roller coaster, as she said.

22 I'm also happy to see a
23 commitment to housing in this year's
24 budget. I'm all the way down, ten toes
25 down, for investments in home repairs.

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2 And then there's the task force
3 addressing home appraisal bias, which
4 lock so many out of homeownership and
5 risk the relatively strong record that we
6 boast of when it comes to Black and brown
7 families owning homes in Philadelphia.

8 Simply put, there are many,
9 many, many points of unity in this
10 budget, and I believe we all acknowledge
11 that today.

12 As we work as a collective,
13 however, to get this done, I will also
14 elevate issues that rise to the top of my
15 agenda. For me, I'm laser focused on
16 building a greener city for working
17 people. I'm driven by the need to lay
18 the foundation -- Philadelphia should be
19 the first to do it -- for a just
20 transition to a more climate-conscious
21 world, and we should lead on that front.

22 Our parks and our recreation
23 workers, like Ms. Jameele Mitchell, which
24 is a DC47 union steward and a consistent
25 public servant, who like many had to get

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2 to work at 1 o'clock but who I was
3 honored to have as my guest today, and
4 especially the youth of our city, they
5 need our support on this front, this
6 environmental front.

7 When I say "environment," I
8 mean the air we breathe and the spaces
9 that we inhabit. The atmosphere, whether
10 we're dealing with poor air quality or
11 poor behavior in our shared spaces, I
12 mean -- the ad campaign is a bit corny,
13 but really you shouldn't smoke on SEPTA.
14 There's babies on SEPTA.

15 Speaking of creatively raising
16 funds to extend pro working class, pro
17 SEPTA programs, like zero fare, well
18 that's good investment for the
19 environment too, but I'll wrap with this:
20 I want to welcome all of Philadelphia to
21 what should, should be the high water
22 mark of our local democratic practice,
23 which is the crafting of our City's
24 budget. I'm not sure that this process
25 is always viewed in that light, but we as

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2 elected officials have a blessed
3 opportunity to make it so, and I look
4 forward to being part of that. So
5 excited to get started.

6 Thank you so much, Council
7 President.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

9 Thank you, Mr. O'Rourke.

10 I just want to double check and
11 make sure, will the senior member,
12 Councilman Curtis Jones, I know your
13 light isn't on, but it was on earlier.
14 Would you like to be recognized, sir?

15 COUNCILMAN JONES: Yes, I
16 would.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
18 Chair recognizes Councilmember Curtis
19 Jones.

20 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
21 Mr. President.

22 At your urging yesterday after
23 we got our budget briefing, you asked us
24 not to interact with the press. For the
25 record, we did not. We gave Madam Mayor

1 3/14/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 her day to present her budget, but I was
3 like a kid at a holiday.

4 And first let me join Member
5 O'Rourke in saying Ramadan Mubarak to the
6 two billion Muslims, some of whom are
7 recognizing Ramadan this month and are
8 fasting, and thank you for that
9 acknowledgment.

10 But you asked us not to. For
11 the most part, I don't think we did, but
12 I couldn't wait to talk about some of the
13 things that were unveiled by the 100th
14 Mayor of the City of Philadelphia, things
15 that I like.

16 First and foremost, no new
17 taxes. It's been a long time since we
18 did not have that threat to have to go
19 knock on doors, hi, I'm your elected
20 official, and oh, by the way, we're
21 raising your tax. So it's very nice that
22 she started out with that.

23 But when you start to unwrap
24 some of the things she's doing, the
25 school-to-paycheck pipeline, growing our

1 3/14/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 own municipal workers, Majority Leader,
3 to be able to cultivate a workforce I
4 think is amazing. The 1,500 new trees,
5 Member O'Rourke, that she wants to plant
6 I think are amazing.

7 I like the fact that 62 percent
8 of our pension is paid up now. That came
9 a long way. And thank you, former
10 President Clarke, for insisting upon that
11 fiscal stability.

12 But look at what she is
13 bringing to the party. When you start
14 thinking about the SEPTA commitment and
15 how they should work together closely, I
16 think that's amazing. Bringing back
17 sheriff's sales is sad, but that is also
18 how we replenish our stock of affordable
19 housing, and she's made a commitment to
20 that.

21 So there's a lot of things in
22 this budget that I like that I couldn't
23 wait once I got a preview yesterday to
24 talk about, but the devil is in the
25 details, and we have to do our job to

1 3/14/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 make sure that we tinker in the right
3 places to make sure it goes where it is
4 intended to go.

5 Her commitment to the
6 Kensington Caucus was loud and
7 affirmative, and I actually believe her.
8 And when she started talking about some
9 of the responsibilities of holding our
10 citizens accountable for what they do, it
11 felt like my auntie. Way back in the
12 day, you ain't always like what she said,
13 but you respected it that it came from a
14 place of love, and that's how I felt
15 about this budget address.

16 Finally, I look forward to us
17 doing the work, to us doing the detailed
18 work over the next four months to deliver
19 to our Mayor a budget that she can work
20 with so that she can implement her
21 vision.

22 Thank you, Mr. President.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

24 You're welcome.

25 The Chair recognizes Councilman

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2 Jeffery J. Young.

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

5 First, definitely want to say
6 Ramadan Mubarak to all of the Muslims
7 throughout our region.

8 I also want to wish the City of
9 Philadelphia a happy St. Patrick's Day.
10 This past weekend I had the honor of
11 walking with the Carpenters in the St.
12 Patrick's Day Parade, and that was a
13 great experience for me.

14 But I am here to let the City
15 know that tonight, this evening our
16 office will be hosting with Councilmember
17 Thomas a town hall, a state of emergency
18 town hall, to discuss the issue of youth
19 gun violence.

20 Yesterday I attended a great
21 event hosted by Council President and
22 Cindy Bass, and I'm sure they will be
23 able to tell you about those details, but
24 the energy in that room was amazing. It
25 was something that our city needs, and I

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2 think we need to continue to do this all
3 throughout our city, because gun violence
4 knows no borders, no Council districts,
5 no police district lines. It affects all
6 of us.

7 As a father of a young boy, of
8 a young Black man, a young Black boy in
9 the City, you know, I'm kind of scared,
10 right? Because there are children out
11 here killing children, and that makes me
12 nervous. That makes me nervous for my
13 son who looks like me walking around in
14 North Philadelphia, other parts of our
15 city.

16 So I encourage everyone who is
17 under the sound of my voice to attend.
18 It is at 6:00 p.m. this evening at the
19 Fox Gittis Room at the Liacouras Center.
20 We will be having special guests.
21 Commissioner Bethel confirmed that he
22 will be able to attend tonight.

23 We want to have the
24 conversation with the community about
25 solutions to the issues that we see. We

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2 all know that some of the programs that
3 we have had in the past need to stay
4 there, because this is a new day, this is
5 a new era. These kids are a different
6 generation, so we have to listen to them
7 to see what it is that they need so they
8 can be successful and productive citizens
9 in our city.

10 So I look forward to having
11 that conversation this evening. It's at
12 6:00 p.m. at the Liacouras Center.

13 Thank you, Mr. President.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
15 You're welcome. Great work,
16 Councilmember Young.

17 The Chair recognizes
18 Councilmember Anthony Phillips.

19 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: I just
20 want to say briefly that today's -- this
21 morning's mayoral budget address was
22 inspiring, electrifying of the remarks
23 that were made. What really inspired me
24 is the funding that will go towards
25 districts to have cleaning crews do some

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2 of the most important things that our
3 neighbors ask for, and that is for our
4 streets to be clean.

5 This is an idea and thought
6 that has been shared with many -- that
7 has been shared by many residents, and
8 for our Mayor to listen to the calls of
9 all of the residents in the City of
10 Philadelphia around this issue is pretty
11 remarkable.

12 I'm also impressed as she
13 mentioned about me, my commitment to
14 out-of-school-time programming and from
15 Youth Action. That's how we -- actually
16 how we met. So it was really nice to see
17 that commitment and that clarity.

18 The last thing I just want to
19 say is that the community policing part I
20 think is going to be an incredible
21 opportunity for all of us, and we're
22 looking forward to seeing all the
23 infrastructure changes that also happens.
24 As Congressman Dwight Evans has always
25 said up in Northwest, you know, when you

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2 clean a neighborhood, that changes
3 behavior. We looked at what he did in
4 West Oak Lane. That changed West Oak
5 Lane so much for the better, where it
6 became a community of desire to be in.

7 So I want to say thank you to
8 Mayor Parker. We're looking forward to
9 coming together to learn what else we can
10 do to support this initiative, but also
11 raise the questions so that we can really
12 get to the details that are needed for us
13 to be able to execute this budget well
14 for the City.

15 I also, lastly, want to
16 announce, because we won't be able to
17 announce it the next week, but Wednesday,
18 March 20th at Northeast High School from
19 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., Council President
20 Kenyatta Johnson will be working in
21 conjunction with me to host a Peace, Not
22 Guns town hall meeting at Northeast High
23 School with our friends Councilmember
24 Driscoll and Councilmember Brian O'Neill
25 as we try to come up with remedies and

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2 solutions around this issue of gun
3 violence in the City of Philadelphia.

4 So, again, Wednesday, March
5 20th, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Northeast High
6 School on the 1600 block of Cottman
7 Avenue. We're looking forward to
8 responding to that horrific incident that
9 took place last week. And just to know
10 that our Police Commissioner, who is
11 doing a great job, has already found, him
12 and his team, all of the individuals and
13 identified who they are and have three of
14 them in custody, I believe one is on his
15 way, the fourth one. So we're looking
16 forward to that and also getting over to
17 the Imhotep suspects as well.

18 So thank you, Council
19 President. I'm excited for Kensington as
20 well. Thank you.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

22 Thank you.

23 The Chair recognizes
24 Councilwoman Jamie Gauthier.

25 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Thank

1 3/14/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 you, Council President.

3 Mayor Parker delivered a
4 powerful budget address, and I share her
5 determination to make Philadelphia the
6 cleanest, safest, greenest big city, with
7 economic opportunity for all.

8 I was particularly excited to
9 hear Mayor Parker propose fully funding
10 the Office of Homeless Services,
11 increasing the School District's share of
12 property tax revenue and investing
13 millions to improve basic municipal
14 services.

15 For years, I proudly fought for
16 the financial resources City agencies
17 need to equitably deliver quality-of-life
18 services, and I am even more proud of the
19 movement we have built. The community
20 has been asking the City to provide
21 high-quality basic City services for
22 decades, but it wasn't until this body
23 united around this issue that it became
24 front and center.

25 And while we did not see as

1 3/14/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 large of an investment in the FY24 budget
3 as we hoped, I couldn't be more excited,
4 because Mayor Parker's commitment to
5 clean, green, and safe and her intent to
6 deliver comprehensive relief rather than
7 the piecemeal improvements we usually see
8 is exactly what our neighborhoods need
9 and deserve.

10 I will continue to be the
11 Mayor's biggest cheerleader around
12 cleaning and greening, and I look forward
13 to working with all of you to turn her
14 proposal into action.

15 I was also glad to see the
16 Mayor's plan to hire more 9-1-1
17 dispatchers and set aside money for
18 future labor costs. Last year I called
19 on the Kenney Administration to give our
20 9-1-1 operators a raise so we can recruit
21 and retain the high-quality dispatchers
22 we need to respond to emergencies quickly
23 and effectively.

24 The botched police response to
25 last summer's mass shooting in

1 3/14/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 Kingsessing still keeps me up at night.
3 Expanding the call center and paying our
4 9-1-1 dispatchers the salary they deserve
5 is our best shot at preventing tragic
6 errors like the one last July from ever
7 happening again.

8 I'm similarly enthused about
9 allocating \$36 million for housing
10 programs. Housing costs continue to
11 soar, and income is not keeping up.
12 Thirty percent of homeowners and 54
13 percent of renters in my Council district
14 spend more on housing than they can
15 afford to. We must help families access
16 safe, stable, and affordable homes, and
17 the magnitude of our housing crisis
18 demands that we tackle this issue from
19 every angle, including building and
20 preserving affordable housing, cracking
21 down on illegal discrimination against
22 residents using housing vouchers, and
23 rental assistance for those at risk of
24 being displaced, and I plan to prioritize
25 this last piece during this year's budget

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2 process.

3 By coupling rental assistance
4 with our nationally acclaimed Eviction
5 Diversion Program, we achieve a
6 win-win-win. Renters remain in their
7 homes, landlords get paid, and the City
8 avoids footing the bill for expensive
9 societal costs associated with evictions.

10 And as the newly minted Chair
11 of City Council's Committee on the
12 Environment, I look forward to working
13 with advocates like the Sunrise Movement
14 and PennFuture, as well as the Office of
15 Sustainability and the Philadelphia
16 Energy Authority to fund programs that
17 steer Philadelphia into a greener future,
18 including fully staffed and operational
19 parks, libraries, and recreation centers.

20 As we continue to grapple with
21 high levels of violence, world-class
22 neighborhood public spaces have never
23 been more important. After hearing Mayor
24 Parker's plan to upgrade PPD's Forensics
25 Lab and allocate an additional 25 million

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2 for our community anti-violence partners,
3 I'm optimistic that the City will
4 continue investing a record amount in
5 grassroots gun violence prevention.

6 Watching the gun violence rate
7 continue to decline fills me with hope,
8 because it means that our approach has
9 been working, but I've also never been
10 more determined that now is the time to
11 double down, because even one victim of
12 gun violence is one too many, and the
13 violence we have seen just in the last
14 couple of weeks, especially among young
15 people, shows how important this work
16 remains.

17 The City must do more to wrap
18 its arms around our young people and
19 provide them with the support and
20 services they need to stay safe. And as
21 the Councilmember who represents the
22 Philadelphia Juvenile Justice Services
23 Center, to me this work includes
24 addressing the Center's overcrowding
25 crisis. I commend Councilmember Jones,

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2 DHS Commissioner Kimberly Ali, and the
3 Deputy DHS Commissioner Williams for
4 working with me to make PJJSC safer for
5 our employees, young people, and
6 community.

7 But we cannot lose momentum,
8 which is why this body must invest in
9 diversion and prevention, services inside
10 the Center itself, and resources to help
11 young people integrate back into society.

12 Under the leadership of our new
13 Mayor and Council President, I'm
14 optimistic that this budget will be one
15 of the most equitable and impactful in
16 our city's more than 300-year history. I
17 look forward to working closely with all
18 of you and the Mayor to deliver for our
19 neighborhoods and our city.

20 Thank you so much.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

22 You're welcome.

23 The Chair recognizes
24 Councilmember Cindy Bass.

25 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you,

1 3/14/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 Mr. President. And I think that I want
3 to join the sentiments of my colleagues
4 in congratulating the Mayor on this
5 budget address. I found it to be very
6 exciting. I think that the details that
7 were given today, that were provided
8 today are really going to shape the
9 direction of this city. And because
10 there haven't been investments or it
11 doesn't feel like there have been
12 investments from the previous
13 Administration on this level, this is
14 going to really be unprecedented in terms
15 of the services that people are going to
16 see and feel. It's going to really be
17 tangible. And so I'm super excited about
18 this budget.

19 I also wanted to publicly thank
20 you, Mr. President, for bringing Peace,
21 Not Guns on the road and starting with
22 the Eighth Council District, where
23 unfortunately we had the loss of life
24 with a young student at Imhotep Charter
25 High School. And I want to thank you.

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2 We had a standing-room-only night all
3 night and we went over time.

4 People are sick and tired of
5 being sick and tired. They're tired of
6 the violence. They're tired of the gun
7 play. And I just wanted to bring it back
8 to something that we've been, as you
9 know, Mr. President, pushing for quite
10 some time now, a phrase that was coined
11 from my office, "what do you do when the
12 shooter lives with you." Because one of
13 the guns that was confiscated from one of
14 the folks who was apprehended in the
15 shooting in the Northeast, one of the
16 guns was found in the home where he was.
17 And so this is real. This is not make
18 believe. This is not something that we
19 are guesstimating. These are all young
20 people who are living at homes with mom,
21 dad, aunt, uncle, grand-mom, whoever, a
22 caregiver.

23 And so we're going to put out
24 that call once again to go through that
25 room, look under that mattress, look in

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2 those closets, look in those dresser
3 drawers and check out who your young
4 person is hanging with, what they're
5 doing, what their mentality is. Check
6 their social media. If you're not
7 following them on social media, that
8 right there is a problem.

9 And so I just really want to
10 encourage folks, we have to be much more
11 engaged in the lives of our young people.

12 And, again, Mr. President, I
13 want to thank you for all of your help on
14 this matter. I want to thank my
15 colleague Councilman Young for coming out
16 last night and also State Representative
17 Darisha Parker for attending as well.
18 But, again, it was a packed house all
19 night, over time. And so it wouldn't
20 have happened without us all coming
21 together and saying what can we do to
22 find solutions to this problem.

23 So I'm optimistic, and I thank
24 you for your assistance. Thank you.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

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2 You're welcome.

3 The Chair recognizes

4 Councilmember Driscoll. One second.

5 In terms of Councilwoman

6 Lozada, do you want to be recognized?

7 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: I do.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Go
9 ahead.

10 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Thank
11 you, Council President.

12 I just want to share in the
13 excitement that everybody is feeling
14 around this budget address. I think that
15 I am extremely excited for the people of
16 Kensington. Mayor Parker made a
17 commitment to them when she visited their
18 community many times, and she has
19 consistently demonstrated that she is
20 living up to that commitment.

21 It's been a long time coming
22 for that community, and so I'm grateful
23 to her, I'm grateful to my colleagues who
24 have consistently remained supportive of
25 myself and of the Caucus. I know that

1 3/14/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 sometimes it's difficult. I know that
3 often times it's not easy. But the
4 commitment is there.

5 I want to continue to extend my
6 open doors for conversation when there is
7 confusion or where there is questions
8 about the work that we're doing.

9 I think that the Mayor was very
10 clear today that if you are not on board
11 in the work that is happening in
12 Kensington, sit down, move out of the way
13 and let the work move on, because the
14 people of that community deserve it.
15 They have not had quality of life for a
16 really long time.

17 I'm excited to hear that she is
18 investing in what the City of
19 Philadelphia has not had in a long time,
20 and, that is, quality of life.
21 Addressing quality-of-life issues across
22 the City has not happened for a long
23 time, and I think that her committing
24 herself, her Administration committing
25 themselves to ensuring that our

1 3/14/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 communities are safer, are greener, that
3 people feel like they're being heard is
4 extremely exciting, and I think that we
5 are going to see a different city. We
6 are going to see different participation,
7 different involvement by community
8 residents because they feel her energy,
9 because of the commitment that she's made
10 and how she's showing that she is going
11 to follow through on the things she says.

12 And so I just -- I'm excited
13 about it. I can't wait to really see the
14 work happening.

15 And I also want to take the
16 opportunity to thank the men on this body
17 for the work that they are doing, for
18 them showing up and stepping up and
19 having conversations with our young
20 people and being mentors to them, being
21 present and showing them the examples of
22 being good leaders, being good men in
23 this community, in our city. So I want
24 to thank you all for the work that you
25 all are doing.

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2 I invite you to come to the
3 Seventh, come to the Seventh and speak to
4 the kids in my community as well and show
5 them the support that they need.

6 Thank you.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

8 You're welcome. Thank you.

9 Councilmember Mike Driscoll.

10 COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL: Thank
11 you, Mr. President, and thank you for
12 supporting all our St. Patrick's Day
13 events last week, leading up to our great
14 parade on Sunday. I thought Mayor Parker
15 was -- yes, I'll comment on that shortly.

16 I thought the Mayor's speech
17 today was powerful and inspiring, but
18 what was also powerful and inspiring was
19 Mayor Parker led our parade down Market
20 Street on Sunday, and as she was walking,
21 there were thousands of people on the
22 parade route, and as she was walking down
23 Broad Street towards Independence Hall,
24 the young women in that crowd that were
25 looking at her in awe and inspiration

1 3/14/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 that a woman can become Mayor of a big
3 city and that women can rise to the
4 highest offices in the land, and then she
5 would run over and take pictures with
6 them, she was shaking hands, she was a
7 rock star. She named herself Mayor
8 O'Parker for the day, and she didn't
9 disappoint.

10 But I also as a member, a Board
11 member, of the St. Patrick's Day
12 Observation Association, there's 26 of us
13 that put that parade on, and it's a
14 12-month job of getting all the groups
15 that want to participate, raising money
16 and making sure that we have the
17 resources. I want to thank each of those
18 Board members for their work all year
19 long.

20 I want to thank the police
21 officers that lined the route, all the
22 City municipal workers that helped us
23 that day setting up the grand stands.

24 It really was a really great
25 day, and she talks about One City. Well,

1 3/14/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 she lives the One City, and she was truly
3 a rock star in the Irish community on
4 Sunday.

5 And we'll be ending the week
6 up, this Sunday will actually be St.
7 Patrick's Day itself, so we'll be
8 celebrating with a mass, and lots of the
9 neighborhood organizations will be
10 throwing parties on Sunday. So we're
11 looking forward to that.

12 And then, lastly, you lifted up
13 the Irish potatoes that my wife made and
14 distributed to all of our Council
15 colleagues.

16 - - -
17 (Applause.)

18 - - -

19 COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL: And I
20 have more in my office if you run out, so
21 don't worry. And you also have the badge
22 that we wore for 2024 celebration, and I
23 have more of those if you need them. And
24 it doesn't go unnoticed that
25 Councilmember Jones is wearing a green

1 3/14/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 tie today and Councilmember Jay Scott
3 [sic] and Rue, and I thank you for that.
4 And it's just been a great week all
5 around and just wanted to express my
6 sincere gratitude, Mr. President.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

8 Thank you.

9 The Chair recognizes now
10 Councilmember Rue Landau.

11 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU: Thank
12 you, Council President.

13 I just want to join the chorus
14 right now of our praise for our Mayor,
15 the budget address that she gave, for
16 your leadership as well, and the work
17 that we're doing collectively in this
18 body. I believe that we're all walking
19 away today with hope that we have needed
20 for far too long that we can address and
21 tackle the most pressing issues in our
22 city, those that are disproportionately
23 affecting our most marginalized
24 communities, particularly Black and brown
25 communities in the City, and I feel

1 3/14/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 hopeful.

3 As a former City employee, I
4 will tell you I could not be happier from
5 her address and all of the departments
6 I'm meeting with of finally breaking down
7 the silos. There is too much information
8 siloed in our departments, and sharing
9 that information and that data is crucial
10 for us to solve these issues.

11 As Chair of the Information and
12 Tech Committee, I believe the focus on
13 evidence-based decision-making is
14 crucial, particularly when we are
15 handling and resolving the most pressing
16 issues for our communities, and moving
17 forward, I look forward to collaborating
18 with my colleagues and the Administration
19 throughout the budget process.

20 One area of particular
21 importance to me is the funding of
22 affordable housing initiatives. We must
23 ensure that our City budget reflects our
24 values and priorities, and there is
25 perhaps no greater priority than ensuring

1 3/14/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 that every Philadelphian has access to
3 safe, healthy, and affordable housing.

4 Throughout the budget process,
5 it's also very important to recognize the
6 importance of investing in initiatives
7 that will directly benefit our lowest
8 income residents. The Mayor proposed
9 fantastic solutions to this, things that
10 we -- it's music to our ears of what
11 we've been waiting for of basically a
12 school-to-good-job-with-good-benefits
13 pipeline that sounds fantastic. And this
14 strategic allocation of resources
15 demonstrates a commitment to tackling
16 systemic inequalities and building a more
17 equitable Philadelphia.

18 In addition to affordable
19 housing, I'm going to advocate for the
20 same investments in our neighborhoods and
21 essential services that she was
22 discussing. From cleaning and greening
23 to improving public transportation, to
24 enhancing community health resources,
25 these investments are essential for

1 3/14/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 fostering vibrant and resilient
3 communities across the City. This is
4 equity.

5 And equitable economic growth
6 and opportunity are also top priorities
7 for me. We must work to ensure that
8 economic development initiatives benefit
9 all Philadelphians, especially those who
10 have historically been marginalized or
11 underserved; namely, Black and brown
12 communities throughout Philadelphia.

13 It is particularly essential
14 too with all of the initiatives that she
15 has that we tackle our public safety
16 crisis that we have in Philadelphia, and
17 I couldn't have been happier to hear many
18 of the initiatives that she's proposing.

19 But, finally, I'm committed to
20 using a civil rights and equity lens to
21 evaluate the impact of the City budget on
22 LGBTQ+ Philadelphians and all members of
23 our diverse communities. It's essential
24 that we consider the unique needs and
25 challenges faced by these communities in

1 3/14/24 - STATED - ADJOURNMENT

2 our budgetary decisions.

3 Thank you so much. Can't wait.

4 Looking forward to working with all of
5 you through this process.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

7 Thank you. Looking forward to getting
8 down to business.

9 The Chair recognizes
10 Councilmember Isaiah Thomas for a motion
11 to adjourn.

12 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: I'm about
13 to say, I don't got no speech, Council
14 President.

15 Thank you, Council President.
16 I move that Council stand adjourned until
17 Thursday, March 21st, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.
18 sharp.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Can
20 I get a second?

21 (Duly seconded.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: It
23 has been moved and seconded that Council
24 stand adjourned until Thursday, March
25 the 21st, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

1 3/14/24 - STATED - ADJOURNMENT

2 All those in favor signify by
3 saying aye.

4 (Aye.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

6 Those opposed?

7 (No response.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
9 ayes have it, and the motion carries.

10 - - -

11 (Stated Meeting adjourned at
12 1:12 p.m.)

13 - - -

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CERTIFICATE

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

Michele L. Murphy

MICHELE L. MURPHY
RPR-Notary Public

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