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COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

STATED MEETING

- - -
Thursday, 4/19/01
10:13 a.m.
Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- - -

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

PATRICIA RAFFERTY, Deputy Chief Clerk

- - -

VINCENT VARALLO ASSOCIATES, INC.
Registered Professional Reporters
Eleven Penn Center, Suite 600
Philadelphia, PA 19103
(215) 561-2220

1 GREETING/INVOCATION

2 P R O C E E D I N G S

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

9 To give our invocation this morning,
10 the Chair welcomes the Reverend John Peters,
11 Pastor of Chestnut Hill Seventh Day Adventist
12 Church. He is here today as the guest of
13 Councilwoman Miller.

14 Members and guests will please rise.
15 Reverend?

16 (All rise.)

17 REVEREND PETERS: It's a privilege to
18 be here this morning. Esteemed Councilmembers, I
19 just have one or two thoughts I would like to
20 bring before I invoke the Lord's blessing upon
21 this meeting.

22 The Lord has a special place in his
23 heart for the City of Philadelphia. This city was
24 divinely ordained as the birth place of the
25 greatest nation this earth ever known. The

1 GREETING/INVOCATION

2 precepts of freedom were engraved in our
3 constitution, they were inspired of God, but God
4 used men to engrave those principles of freedom in
5 our constitution.

6 And God always uses men and women in a
7 very special way to accomplish his purposes and
8 his will. He used King Cyrus of Persia to take
9 care of Babel. He uses both godly men and ungodly
10 men to accomplish his purposes, but he especially
11 likes to use godly men like the pilot of that Navy
12 EP3 surveillance plane, and you'll recall that the
13 pilot and the copilot, when they landed in
14 Highway, both acknowledged that the God of heaven
15 was the one that was lifting that plane to its
16 safe landing on Hainon Island (ph).

17 And so it is with the City Council of
18 Philadelphia: God will pilot this City Council as
19 well. And it is my prayer that we will
20 acknowledge Him as we allow Him to pilot the City
21 Council.

22 There are major decisions to be made
23 here this morning regarding the housing relocation
24 and a \$1.6 billion for that. And so as we do so,
25 let us simply ask the Lord to bless this meeting.

1 GREETING/INVOCATION

2 Our Father in heaven, the creator of
3 heaven and earth, the savior of the world, we
4 invite Your spirit to preside over this meeting,
5 and we ask that Your will would be accomplished in
6 all the discussions and decisions that are made.

7 Amen.

8 All: Amen.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Amen.

10 The Chair thanks Reverend Peters for
11 his inspiring invocation.

12 Council will be at ease.

13 (Council stands at ease.)

14 (Proceedings resume.)

15 - - -

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The next
17 order of business is the approval of the Journal
18 of the meeting of Thursday, April 5, 2001.

19 And the Chair recognizes Councilwoman
20 Blackwell.

21 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you,
22 Madam President. I move that the Journal of the
23 meeting of Thursday, April 5, 2001, stand
24 approved.

25 (Duly seconded.)

1 JOURNAL APPROVAL/REQUESTS FOR LEAVES OF ABS.

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: It has been
3 moved and properly seconded that the Journal of
4 the meeting of Thursday April 5, 2001, stand
5 approved.

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

8 Those opposed, nay.

9 The ayes have it, and the Journal of
10 the meeting of the Thursday, April 5, 2001, has
11 been approved.

12 - - -

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The next
14 order of business is the request for leaves of
15 absence.

16 And the Chair recognizes Councilwoman
17 Blackwell.

18 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you,
19 Madam President. This morning, there are no
20 requests for leaves of absence on the part of the
21 majority.

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

24 The Chair recognizes Councilman
25 O'Neill.

1 VISITOR RECOGNITION/PRESENTATIONS

2 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Madam President,
3 on behalf of the Republicans, leave of absence is
4 requested for Councilman Thacher Longstreth.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Leave will be
6 granted.

7 - - -

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The Chair
9 will dispense with the regular of order of
10 business to recognize visitors joining us in
11 chambers this morning. On behalf of all members
12 of City Council, I welcome you to our Council
13 session today. We appreciate your taking the time
14 to join us as we attend to the legislative affairs
15 of our city. We certainly invite you to come
16 again.

17 At this time, the Chair recognizes
18 Councilmembers Clarke and Ortiz who will make a
19 presentation honoring the Village of Arts and
20 Humanities. Will Miss Lily Yeh and Heidi Warren
21 and those accompanying please join the
22 Councilmembers at the podium. And Councilman
23 Goode will also join the other Councilmembers.

24 (Councilmembers, honorees, et al. come
25 forward.)

1 VISITOR RECOGNITION/PRESENTATIONS

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
3 recognizes Councilman Ortiz.

4 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Thank you, Madam
5 Chair.

6 I know if any of you have ever visited
7 this park and this area, but it is one of the
8 wonders that we have in North Philadelphia. Kids
9 enjoy it, adults enjoy it, and anyone who goes
10 comes out smiling.

11 WHEREAS, in Central North Philadelphia,
12 more than half of the population lives poverty,
13 and a third of the labor force is unemployed. The
14 majority of the children who participate in the
15 Village's program come from single-parent
16 households, reside in public or substandard
17 housing, and have experienced or witnessed violent
18 crime; and

19 WHEREAS, the Village of Arts and
20 Humanities began in 1986 as a project to engage
21 neighborhood children in building a community park
22 that has grown into a major provider of
23 arts-inspired programs of 10,00 primarily
24 African-American children, youth, adults in North
25 Philadelphia are engaged in land transformation,

1 VISITOR RECOGNITION/PRESENTATIONS

2 construction and economic development, theater,
3 health, and environmental education -- it sounds
4 like the elimination of blight, doesn't it?

5 (Laughter.)

6 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: And WHEREAS, the
7 Village has involved community residents in the
8 physical transformation of over 120 vacant lots
9 into community park, gardens, and a two-acre tree
10 farm, which is now incubating over 20,000
11 seedlings. Furthermore, the Village has greened
12 and maintained an additional 100 acres.

13 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: And WHEREAS, the
14 quality of the programming offered by the Village
15 has been acknowledged and recognized by
16 significant funding from both private and public
17 sources, the Village has brought over \$6 million
18 of resources into the North Philadelphia community
19 since it began in 1986; and

20 WHEREAS, the Village works in
21 partnership with public schools, community
22 organizations, public housing, arts organizations,
23 neighborhood block groups going. . .

24 And I'm going to add politicians,
25 'cause that should be in this also, right Lily?

1 VISITOR RECOGNITION/PRESENTATIONS

2 (Laughter.)

3 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: . . . to increase
4 its impact and share its innovative and effective
5 methodology. The Village utilizes volunteers and
6 interns to complement the work of paid staff,
7 logging on more than 10,000 hours in volunteers'
8 time in 1999; and

9 WHEREAS, the Village Youth Theater has
10 produced three original full-length theater
11 pieces, "We Wear Masks" in 2000 and "Tom Montage"
12 in 1998, "A Different Place in Time" in 1997, two
13 of which were performed at the Painted Bride Arts
14 Center in Philadelphia. They have also performed
15 original dramatic pieces at the Village and at
16 several art conferences and events in Boston,
17 Washington, Atlanta, Albuquerque, Peterborough,
18 New Hampshire; and

19 COUNCILMAN GOODE: WHEREAS, the unique
20 approach and work of the Village has received
21 local, national, international, and multimedia
22 coverage. Such coverage includes "Indivisible," a
23 documentary funded by the Pew Charitable Trusts,
24 which highlights 12 effective grassroots
25 organizations across the nation. Other coverage

1 VISITOR RECOGNITION/PRESENTATIONS

2 includes the PBS documentary "An Angel in the
3 Village," and articles in the Reader's Digest,
4 Philadelphia Magazine, Metropolitan Homes, Art in
5 America, Unity, and the book Cultivating Sacred
6 Space; and

7 WHEREAS, the Village has been
8 recognized through both local and national honors
9 and awards. The Village was selected among 12
10 grassroots initiatives to participate in
11 "Indivisible," a national documentary project
12 celebrating diverse efforts to build and sustain
13 strong communities across America. The Education
14 for the Arts Program was selected among 10 arts
15 programs from across the nation to receive the
16 coveted (indiscernible) award from the National
17 Endowment of the Arts and the President's
18 Committee on the Arts and Humanities. Further,
19 Executive Director Lily Yeh has received the 2000
20 Governor's Award for the Arts Leadership and
21 Service Award;

22 Now, therefore. . .

23 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: . . . be it RESOLVED
24 that the Council of the City of Philadelphia
25 recognizes the achievements of the Village of Arts

1 VISITOR RECOGNITION/PRESENTATIONS

2 and Humanities and that an engrossed copy of this
3 resolution be presented to the Executive Director,
4 Lily Yeh, and the Board of Directors of the
5 Villages of Arts and Humanities as an expression
6 of the sincere sentiments of this legislative
7 body. Certified that this is a true and correct
8 copy of the original resolution adopted by the
9 Council of the City of Philadelphia on the 15th
10 day of February 2001, by Anna Verna, President of
11 City Council, introduced by Angel Ortiz, Darrell
12 Clarke, and W. Wilson Goode Jr.

13 (Applause.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
15 recognizes Miss Yeh for remarks.

16 MS. YEH: It's with deepest gratitude
17 and humiliation [sic] that we are here to receive
18 this very important award recognition from the
19 Council. The Village couldn't accomplish what it
20 has accomplished without the support of
21 politicians from our Councilmen, especially the
22 support from the City. So we thank you for this
23 recognition.

24 I also especially want to thank our
25 unsung heroes. It's our dedicated staff and

1 VISITOR RECOGNITION/PRESENTATIONS

2 teachers. And you see them: Cassandra Nessman
3 right here, and Julia (indiscernible), Julie Leah,
4 and Heidi Warren. They represent our staff and
5 the people in the neighborhood.

6 And so with this recognition, we want
7 to continue to serve our neighborhood residents,
8 especially our children, so that they can continue
9 to dream, take action, and achieve in the future.

10 Thank you.

11 (Applause.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERA: Miss Warren,
13 do you care to make some remarks?

14 MS. WARREN: Sure.

15 As Lily said, it's really a great honor
16 to be here. The Village has been working in North
17 Philadelphia for almost 15 years now, and it's
18 been a tremendous experience of watching children
19 who come to us and engage in creative projects to
20 blossom and grow and really change their
21 perspective of what's possible in the world. They
22 come to us with a very narrow vision, and we see
23 them grow and really be ready to take on the
24 world.

25 And our greatest dream is to see them

1 VISITOR RECOGNITION/PRESENTATIONS

2 come and experience all of what Philadelphia has
3 to give and to become leaders, so I hope to see
4 them right here in Philadelphia City Council
5 chambers as our future leaders.

6 Thank you.

7 (Applause.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Council will
9 be at ease.

10 (Council stands at ease.)

11 (Proceedings resume.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The Chair now
13 recognizes Councilman Mariano, who will present a
14 resolution honoring the Frankford High Pioneers
15 Wrestling Champions of the Philadelphia Public
16 League.

17 (Councilman Mariano comes forward.)

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Will Coach
19 Peffle and those accompanying him please join the
20 Councilman at the podium.

21 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Councilwoman
22 Krajewski, could you please join.

23 (Councilwoman Krajewski, honorees, et
24 al. come forward.)

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Councilman

1 VISITOR RECOGNITION/PRESENTATIONS

2 Mariano.

3 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Thank you, Madam
4 President.

5 Honoring the Frankford Pioneers
6 Wrestling Team for winning their fifth consecutive
7 Public League Championship.

8 WHEREAS, the Frankford High School
9 wrestling team defeated the Central High School
10 Lancers 35-24 to win their fifth consecutive
11 public league; and

12 WHEREAS, the victory was made possible
13 by victories by Marquette Williams, who was
14 injured with a ligament bruise, yet managed to win
15 the 162 pound match on points; and

16 WHEREAS, the 162 pound match, along
17 with the 154 pound match allowed Frankford to jump
18 into a 19-0 lead over Central, and to defeat the
19 Lancers, who broke Frankford's 48 match public
20 league winning streak earlier in the season; and

21 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: WHEREAS, the
22 undefeated heavyweight, Sean Williams, secured a
23 pin 30 seconds into his match to take victory out
24 of the reach of Central; and

25 WHEREAS, in securing the win, Williams

1 VISITOR RECOGNITION/PRESENTATIONS

2 scored his 99th victory and showed why he is
3 ranked first in his weight class in South Eastern
4 Pennsylvania; and

5 WHEREAS, Coach Bob Peffle has
6 successfully built a wrestling dynasty at
7 Frankford;

8 Now, therefore, be it. . .

9 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: . . . be it

10 RESOLVED by the City Council of Philadelphia that
11 we honor the Frankford High School wrestling team
12 on their fifth consecutive Public League
13 championship; and be it further

14 RESOLVED that an engrossed copy of this
15 resolution be presented to the Frankford High
16 School Pioneers wrestling team and Coach Peffle as
17 evidence of the sincere respect and admiration of
18 this legislative body. Signed by all of the
19 members of City Council.

20 (Applause.)

21 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: And as a special
22 treat, the heavyweight wrestler will wrestle
23 Councilmember that wants to wrestle today here
24 before we do the circus thing. So, not that we
25 have a lot of heavyweights here, but someone may

1 VISITOR RECOGNITION/PRESENTATIONS

2 want to. Any -- no takers? Councilman Goode?

3 All right.

4 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: The Chair
5 recognizes Peffle for remarks.

6 COACH PEFFLE: Thank you very, very
7 much, Councilman Mariano and all of the members of
8 City Council. It's a great honor for myself and
9 my entire team to be present here this morning. I
10 can honestly say I'm extremely proud of every
11 member of this team. Our managers, our wrestlers,
12 they work extremely hard. We take this team all
13 over Southeastern Pennsylvania. They are very
14 successful records.

15 But I think it's more important to me
16 as the coach, we get very, very high marks from
17 every community we go in, and they are absolutely
18 a credit to themselves, their families, and
19 particularly their school, Frankford High School.
20 We're very, very proud of their accomplishments,
21 and we thank you very, very much for this very,
22 very great honor of being here this morning.

23 Thank you.

24 (Applause.)

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERA: Council will

1 VISITOR RECOGNITION/PRESENTATIONS

2 be at ease.

3 (Council stands at ease.)

4 (Proceedings resume.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The Chair now
6 recognizes Councilman Ortiz for a special
7 presentation recognizing Ringling Brothers and
8 Barnum & Bailey Circus. Will Miss Rebecca Guthrie
9 and those accompanying her please join the
10 Councilman at the table.

11 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Let the show begin.

12 (Honorees et al. come forward.)

13 CIRCUS RING MASTER: Ladies and
14 gentlemen, children of all ages, Ringling Brothers
15 and Barnum & Bailey Comcast SpectaCore would like
16 to extend an invitation to you, Councilman Angel
17 Ortiz, to join the all-new 131st edition of the
18 Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus at
19 the First Union Spectrum on Sunday, April 22nd, at
20 5:30 p.m.

21 Whereas we'd love for you to
22 participate in the show, Councilman, we've created
23 a part just for you to get you ready for your
24 performance. Brynn (ph.) has the first and very
25 important part of your costume. Brynn?

1 VISITOR RECOGNITION/PRESENTATIONS

2 (Brynn hands Councilman Ortiz a red
3 clown nose.)

4 (Applause.)

5 CIRCUS RING MASTER: Whereas, so you
6 won't feel so alone, your counterparts have agreed
7 to don a red nose as well. Everybody take one.

8 (Red clown noses are distributed to all
9 present Councilmembers.)

10 CIRCUS RING MASTER: Don't worry, these
11 go with any kind of attire. Please don't worry
12 about putting them on. It matches your tie. Yes,
13 that's right. The red nose doesn't clash with
14 anything. Very nice, very nice.

15 (Some Councilmembers don red noses.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Boy, do we
17 need levity today.

18 CIRCUS RING MASTER: Councilman Ortiz,
19 we look forward to seeing you at the First Union
20 Spectrum on Sunday, April 22nd. And with your
21 participation, we will do something extraordinary
22 together, and it will truly be the greatest show
23 on earth.

24 (Applause.)

25 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: They have often said

1 VISITOR RECOGNITION/PRESENTATIONS

2 in describing City Council at times that this is a
3 circus and that we're made up of a bunch of clowns
4 that represent the City of Philadelphia. Today,
5 we try to act the part.

6 (Laughter.)

7 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Welcoming and
8 congratulating the Ringling Brothers and Barnum &
9 Bailey Circus as they celebrate their 131st
10 anniversary and bring their awe-inspiring
11 performances to our great city during the weeks of
12 April 18th to the 29th.

13 WHEREAS, for over a century, Ringling
14 Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus, entitled "The
15 Greatest Show on Earth," has been entertaining
16 millions of families throughout the world; and

17 WHEREAS, during this time, the circus
18 has brought to their audiences spectacular
19 performances from the electrifying high-wire acts
20 and human cannonball to the spectacular Sarah, who
21 has amazed thousands with her presentation of the
22 jungle cats, rare white and golden tigers and the
23 royal Bengal cats; and

24 WHEREAS, for the first time in
25 Philadelphia, the Ringling Brothers and Barnum &

1 VISITOR RECOGNITION/PRESENTATIONS

2 Bailey Circus in its 131th year premiers the
3 comedic act of Beau, the world's wittiest Asian
4 elephant, and Bellow, the extremely talented comic
5 daredevil. Together, they will be providing fun
6 and excitement in all three rings of the circus;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Jonathon Lee (indiscernible)
9 brings a new and thrilling role as ring master to
10 this 131th edition of the Ringling Brothers and
11 Barnum & Bailey Circus, as he accompanied by
12 animal trainer, Mark Oliver Gebbel (ph.), who will
13 demonstrate his amazing leadership skills with
14 tigers, horses, camels, and elephants; and

15 WHEREAS, the circus has become the most
16 renowned form of family-oriented entertainment on
17 the face of the earth, overwhelming it's audiences
18 with exciting and spine-tingling acts that thrill
19 the hearts of all, both young and old; now
20 therefore be it

21 RESOLVED that the Council of the City
22 of Philadelphia welcomes and congratulates the
23 Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus as
24 they celebrate and their 131st anniversary and
25 bring their awe-inspiring performances to our

1 VISITOR RECOGNITION/PRESENTATIONS

2 great city during the weeks of April 18th and
3 29th;

4 And further RESOLVED that an engrossed
5 copy of this presentation be presented to the
6 Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus as an
7 expression of the sincere sentiments of this
8 legislative.

9 Certified that this is a true and
10 correct copy of the original resolution adopted by
11 the Council of the City of Philadelphia on the
12 19th day of April, 2001, Anna Verna, President,
13 introduced by Angel Ortiz, and signed by all
14 members of City Council.

15 (Applause.)

16 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Let me say that all
17 Councilmembers are invited on Sunday. We have a
18 suite up there for the Council, and we can all act
19 as foolish as we do here on Thursday.

20 Thank you very much.

21 (Applause.)

22 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Council will
23 be at ease.

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: On behalf of
25 Feld Entertainment, the producers of Ringling

1 VISITOR RECOGNITION/PRESENTATIONS

2 Brothers and Barnum & Bailey and Comcast
3 SpectaCore, we would like to thank you -- and the
4 City of Philadelphia -- for this special honor.
5 Philadelphia has a special place in our heart
6 because it is the birthplace of the American
7 circus.

8 And as Feld Entertainment and
9 Philadelphia always continue doing the first, we'd
10 like to invite the families to come down one and a
11 half hours early for the first time ever to our
12 three-ring adventure and our open menagerie.
13 Starting an hour and a half before, you're welcome
14 to join our largest circus animals and come down
15 and meet the performers on the arena floor. And
16 that's just before the show even starts.

17 So we thank you for allowing us to have
18 our home here through April 29th, and we look
19 forward to seeing you on April 22nd.

20 (Applause.)

21 (Council stands at ease.)

22 (Proceedings resume.)

23 - - -

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The next
25 order of business is communications. The Chair

1 COMMUNICATIONS

2 requests that the Sergeant-at-Arms deliver the
3 messages from the Mayor to the clerk.

4 (Messages from Mayor delivered to Chief
5 Clerk.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The clerk
7 will please read the messages from the Mayor.

8 MS. RAFFERTY: To the President and
9 Members of the Council of the City of
10 Philadelphia: I am pleased to advise you that on
11 April 5, 2001, I signed Bill No. 010179 that
12 passed Council at its session on April the 5th.

13 And today, April the 18th, 2001, I
14 signed all of bills that passed Council at its
15 session on March 29th.

16 And I am transmitting for the
17 consideration of your honorable body a resolution
18 approving the redevelopment contract and
19 disposition supplement of the Redevelopment
20 Authority of the City of Philadelphia, which
21 includes, inter alia, the redevelopment and urban
22 renewal of a portion of the West Philadelphia
23 Urban Renewal Area.

24 And a resolution approving the
25 redevelopment contract and disposition supplement

1 COMMUNICATIONS

2 of the Redevelopment Authority of the City of
3 Philadelphia, which includes, inter alia, the
4 redevelopment and urban renewal of a portion of
5 the West Philadelphia redevelopment area.

6 And a resolution approving the
7 redevelopment contract and disposition supplement
8 of the Redevelopment Authority of the City of
9 Philadelphia for the redevelopment and urban
10 renewal of a portion of the Model Cities Urban
11 Renewal Area, designated as Parcel 256.

12 And a resolution authorizing the
13 Director of Commerce, on behalf of the City of
14 Philadelphia, to file an application, and if the
15 application is accepted, to execute a contract to
16 obtain a grant from the Department of Community
17 and Economic Development to prevent and eliminate
18 blight and to support comprehensive economic
19 development programs in West Philadelphia and
20 specifically the renovation of the Oliver Wendell
21 Holmes School at 55th and Chestnut Streets.

22 And I am transmitting for the
23 consideration of your honorable body a proposed
24 ordinance authorizing and approving a
25 Comprehensive Neighborhood Transformation Program

1 COMMUNICATIONS

2 for revitalization renewal, redevelopment and
3 transformation of blighted areas within the City
4 of Philadelphia, and other activities to promote
5 the health, safety, and welfare of the residents
6 of the City of Philadelphia; the execution and
7 delivery of a service agreement between the City
8 of Philadelphia and the Redevelopment Authority;
9 the issuance by the Redevelopment Authority of
10 bonds, notes, or evidence of indebtedness one or
11 more series to pay the cost of the Neighborhood
12 Transformation Program; and the obligation of the
13 City of Philadelphia to pay in full when due the
14 service fee and other amounts payable under the
15 service agreement; authorizing the Director of
16 Finance, on behalf of the City of Philadelphia, to
17 enter into service agreement with the
18 Redevelopment Authority; authorizing the Director
19 of Finance and other officers of the City of
20 Philadelphia to take such other actions as may be
21 necessary or appropriate to accomplish the intent
22 and purposes of this ordinance; coveting that the
23 City of Philadelphia will make necessary
24 appropriations in each of the City's fiscal years
25 to provide for service fee and other amounts due

1 COMMUNICATIONS

2 under the service agreement; and coveting that the
3 City of Philadelphia will make payments of the
4 service fee and other amounts due under the
5 service agreement, all under certain terms and
6 conditions.

7 And an ordinance authorizing transfers
8 in appropriations of Fiscal Year 2001 within the
9 General Fund from the Mayor's Office of
10 Information, Department of Licenses and
11 Inspections.

12 And I am returning to this honorable
13 Council Bill No. 000715, commonly known as "the
14 predatory lending bill," without my signature,
15 having concluded that vetoing the bill would be
16 counterproductive and send the wrong message to
17 both predatory lenders, whose activities must be
18 condemned, and to legitimate lenders who support
19 our local economy. I am returning the bill to you
20 today without my signature. Allowing the bill to
21 become law without my signature provides all
22 concerned with this problem an incentive to
23 continue working toward a more effective solution
24 before the bill goes into effect in July of this
25 year.

1 COMMUNICATIONS

2 (Copy of full text of Mayor's message
3 re predatory lending attached hereto.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The messages
5 will be printed in the Journal.

6 The clerk will please read any other
7 communications in her possession.

8 MS. RAFFERTY: That's all I have, Madam
9 President.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank you.
11 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman
12 Tasco.

13 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Thank you, Madam
14 President.

15 Madam President, this City Council two
16 weeks ago passed one of the most -- the most, not
17 one of the, the most effective predatory lending
18 bill in this country.

19 (Applause.)

20 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: It was stated so
21 by the New York Times, the Washington Post. We
22 have received calls from around the country for
23 this legislation because of the magnitude of the
24 problem of predatory lending in this country, and
25 we should be applauded, this Council should be

1 COMMUNICATIONS

2 applauded for taking the courage to overcome the
3 pressure put on by the lending community not to
4 pass this bill.

5 This bill was crafted by and with the
6 Administration's support at a request of the
7 Administration not to amend the OHCD budget last
8 year. They set up the drafting committee, they
9 conducted the meetings, they worked on the bill
10 that was presented to this City Council. The Law
11 Department reviewed the bill. When they said that
12 there was some illegal parts in the bill, we
13 removed them. The bill has been signed off by the
14 Law Department.

15 And I am just really saddened that the
16 letter that we received this morning is the same
17 -- contains the same arguments, the empty
18 arguments, that have been presented by the banking
19 community, the lending community. They made the
20 same empty charges, but they offered no
21 alternatives. We met with them for months.

22 All the lending institutions said, Oh,
23 yes, there is a very bad problem here with
24 predatory lending, but we can't do anything about
25 that. We can't -- you know, they don't want to do

1 COMMUNICATIONS

2 anything about it, offered no alternatives.
3 That's why the bill was not passed sooner. Not
4 because we didn't have the support of this Council
5 but because we were trying to work out with the
6 lending community whatever problems they had.

7 Their bottom line: They don't want any
8 regulation; they want to continue to gouge the
9 people in the City of Philadelphia and take their
10 homes and contribute to the blight in this city.

11 (Applause.)

12 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: I am very sorry
13 that this mayor, "the Mayor of the People," has
14 bought into their argument, because it's the same
15 empty argument that the banks have presented to
16 us.

17 (Applause.)

18 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: I have said to the
19 Mayor that he has the power to stop predatory
20 lending. All he has to do is say to the lending
21 institutions, If you're going to continue to prey
22 on the people and contribute to the blight of this
23 city, you don't do business in this city. With a
24 \$3 billion budget and all the money that flows
25 from this city into these banks, he could stop it

1 COMMUNICATIONS

2 today if he wanted to. We wouldn't need any
3 legislation. It takes the courage and the power
4 of that office to make it happen.

5 This city should not and this Council
6 should not and this mayor should not capitulate to
7 the lending community so they can continue to prey
8 on our people.

9 We have a lot of work to do because we
10 have to see that this bill gets enforced. We're
11 going to be asked to pass a \$250 million bond
12 issue for a blight program. Well, where is the
13 plan to deal with the predatory lenders? This is
14 a part of the plan, to stop the practice. You can
15 spend money after money after money, but if you
16 don't stop the practices and the policies that
17 contribute to predatory lending and blight, you're
18 not going to make any difference with
19 \$250 million.

20 (Applause.)

21 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: So I hope, as we
22 move forward, for those people who are listening
23 in this chamber, the bill will become law. And
24 I'm saying to the Mayor, it becomes law, but he is
25 to enforce it. OHCD came in here and testified

1 COMMUNICATIONS

2 that they could implement the program the next
3 day. Now we are being told they don't have the
4 money, but we're going to set up an Office of
5 Consumer Affairs. Give me a break.

6 I want to say that we're going to
7 continue this fight, it has not stopped, and we
8 call on my colleagues to continue their fight. I
9 want to thank you, President Verna, for hanging in
10 there and being very, very supportive of me in
11 this effort.

12 (Applause.)

13 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: And I want to
14 again thank all of my colleagues for their
15 support, for standing up to all of the pressure
16 and the nonsense that came through their offices.

17 I want to thank Paul Davis for the
18 series he wrote in the Daily News to keep the
19 issue before the public. Sandy Shea and the
20 editorial board of the Daily News for their
21 support.

22 I want to thank Mary Mason for that
23 mighty might she has, because she kept the
24 information, let people know, and she will
25 continue to tell people not to enter these

1 COMMUNICATIONS

2 collateralized loans.

3 Thank Clea Benson and the Inquirer for
4 their support, Gwen Schaeffer from the City Paper
5 and the Philadelphia Tribune and all of the media
6 for keeping this issue.

7 And I want to tell you, we still have a
8 fight, and I'm asking you to continue in the fight
9 with me. Our work is not over.

10 And, Council, I am not finished 'cause
11 I am passionate about this bill, and I am going to
12 personally see that we get this program
13 implemented in this city.

14 Thank you very much.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

16 (Applause.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you
18 very much.

19 - - -

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The next
21 order of business is the introduction of bills and
22 resolutions.

23 And the Chair recognizes Councilwoman
24 Blackwell for a motion.

25 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you,

1 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, RESOLUTIONS

2 Madam President. I move that the rules of Council
3 be suspended in order to permit consideration of
4 resolutions at their time of introduction.

5 (Duly seconded.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: It has been
7 moved and properly seconded that the rules of
8 Council be suspended so as to permit immediate
9 consideration of resolutions at the time of
10 introduction.

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

13 Those opposed?

14 The ayes have it, and the motion
15 carries.

16 The Chair recognizes Councilman
17 Kenney.

18 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you, Madam
19 President. I offer one bill and one privileged
20 resolution.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank you.
22 The clerk will please read the title of the bill.

23 MS. RAFFERTY: An ordinance amending
24 Title 17 of the Philadelphia Code entitled
25 "Contracts and Procurement," by requiring Council

1 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, RESOLUTIONS

2 approval before the City may enter into long-term
3 contracts and requiring the Administration to
4 report to Council concerning such contracts, all
5 under certain terms and conditions.

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

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

10 MS. RAFFERTY: And a resolution
11 honoring principal dancer and ballet master
12 Jeffrey Grebblor on the occasion of his retirement
13 from the Pennsylvania Ballet.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
15 recognizes Councilman Kenney.

16 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Madam President, on
17 behalf of myself and Councilmember DiCicco, I move
18 the adoption of the resolution.

19 (Duly seconded.)

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

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

25 Those opposed?

1 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, RESOLUTIONS

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

4 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman
5 Blackwell.

6 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you,
7 Madam President. This morning, I introduce four
8 resolutions.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The clerk
10 will please read the title of the first
11 resolution.

12 MS. RAFFERTY: A resolution authorizing
13 the Commissioner of Public Property to execute and
14 deliver to the Redevelopment Authority of the City
15 of Philadelphia deeds located in the 24th Ward of
16 the City of Philadelphia.

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

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

21 (Duly seconded.)

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

25 All those in favor will signify by

1 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, RESOLUTIONS

2 saying aye.

3 Those opposed?

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

6 The clerk will please read the title of
7 the second resolution.

8 MS. RAFFERTY: A resolution authorizing
9 the Director of Commerce, on behalf of the City of
10 Philadelphia, to file an application, and if the
11 application is accepted, to execute a contract to
12 obtain a grant from the Department of Community
13 and Economic Development.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The Chair
15 recognizes Councilwoman Blackwell.

16 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Madam
17 President, I move for the adoption of the
18 resolution.

19 (Duly seconded.)

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

23 All in favor will signify by saying
24 aye.

25 Those opposed?

1 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, RESOLUTIONS

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

4 The clerk will please read the
5 following resolution.

6 MS. RAFFERTY: A resolution approving
7 the redevelopment contract and disposition
8 supplement of the City of Philadelphia, which
9 includes, inter alia, the redevelopment and urban
10 renewal of a portion of the West Philadelphia
11 redevelopment area, identified by respective house
12 numbers and street addresses 5235 and 5248
13 Larchwood Avenue and 5335-5336 and 5443 Osage
14 Avenue.

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

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

19 (Duly seconded.)

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

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

25 Those opposed?

1 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, RESOLUTIONS

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

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The clerk
5 will please read the title of the fourth
6 resolution.

7 MS. RAFFERTY: A resolution approving
8 the redevelopment contract and disposition
9 supplement of the Redevelopment Authority of the
10 City of Philadelphia, which includes the
11 redevelopment and urban renewal of a portion of
12 the West Philadelphia redevelopment area.

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

15 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you,
16 Madam President. I move for the adoption.

17 (Duly seconded.)

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

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

23 Those opposed?

24 The ayes have it, and the resolution
25 has been adopted.

1 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, RESOLUTIONS

2 The Chair recognizes Councilman Cohen.

3 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Madam President, on
4 behalf of the Council President, I offer one
5 privileged resolution.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The clerk
7 will please read the title of the resolution.

8 MS. RAFFERTY: A resolution recognizing
9 May 1, 2001 as "Law Day 2001," and the week of May
10 1, 2001 to May 6, 2001 as "Law Week" in the City
11 of Philadelphia.

12 COUNCILWOMAN VERNA: The Chair
13 recognizes Councilman Cohen.

14 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Madam President, I
15 move the adoption of the resolution.

16 (Duly seconded.)

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

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

22 Those opposed?

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

25 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman

1 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, RESOLUTIONS

2 Krajewski.

3 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Madam

4 President, I have no bills or resolutions.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

6 The Chair recognizes Councilman

7 Mariano.

8 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Madam President, I

9 have one bill.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The clerk

11 will please read the title of the bill.

12 MS. RAFFERTY: An ordinance

13 establishing a no-truck-parking regulation on all

14 streets within the area bounded by Wyoming Avenue

15 on the north side, Erie Avenue on the south side,

16 G Street on the west side, and Castor Avenue on

17 the east side, including both sides of the streets

18 making up the border of such area.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The bill will

20 be referred to the appropriate committee.

21 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Madam President, I

22 offer three resolutions.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: I believe you

24 also have a bill, Councilwoman?

25 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: No, I'm sorry. It

1 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, RESOLUTIONS

2 was three. I thought it was a bill. It's
3 three. One is a vacant property bill.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

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

7 MS. RAFFERTY: A resolution supporting
8 the Safe Circle Program.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
10 recognizes Councilwoman Tasco.

11 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Madam President, I
12 move for the adoption of the resolution.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Is there a
14 second?

15 (Duly seconded.)

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

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

21 Those opposed?

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

24 The clerk will please read the title of
25 the second resolution.

1 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, RESOLUTIONS

2 MS. RAFFERTY: A resolution honoring
3 Terry D. Lewis.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The Chair
5 recognizes Councilwoman Tasco.

6 COUNCILWOMAN TESCO: Madam President, I
7 move for the adoption of the resolution.

8 (Duly seconded.)

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

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

14 Those opposed?

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

17 The clerk will please read the last
18 resolution introduced by the Councilwoman.

19 MS. RAFFERTY: A resolution authorizing
20 the Commissioner of Public Property to execute and
21 deliver to the Redevelopment Authority of the City
22 of Philadelphia deeds located in the 49th Ward of
23 the City of Philadelphia.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The Chair
25 recognizes Councilwoman Tasco.

1 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, RESOLUTIONS

2 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Madam President, I
3 move for the adoption of the resolution.

4 (Duly seconded.)

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

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

10 Those opposed?

11 The ayes have it, and the resolution
12 has been adopted.

13 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman
14 Miller.

15 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Thank you, Madam
16 President. I offer one bill and one resolution.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The clerk
18 will please read the title of the bill.

19 MS. RAFFERTY: An ordinance granting
20 permission to Ken R. Miller and his successors and
21 assigns to construct, use, own, and maintain a
22 private combination sanitary storm sewer within
23 the right-of-way of the unit block of East Sunset
24 Avenue.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The bill will

1 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, RESOLUTIONS

2 be referred to the appropriate committee.

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

5 MS. RAFFERTY: And a resolution calling
6 on owners and landlords who rent to citizens,
7 including those with physical and/or mental
8 disabilities, to take every step necessary to
9 legally operate and safeguard such properties, and
10 further calling on citizens of Philadelphia who
11 are aware of such properties to be moved by their
12 individual conscience and sense of fairness to
13 report to City agencies any and all of the acts.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
15 recognizes Councilwoman Miller.

16 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: I move for the
17 adoption of the resolution.

18 (Duly seconded.)

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

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

23 Those opposed?

24 The ayes have it, and the resolution
25 has been adopted.

1 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, RESOLUTIONS

2 Councilwoman Brown, did you want to be
3 recognized? Your light is on.

4 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: No, thank you.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank you.

6 The Chair recognizes Councilman Nutter.

7 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Madam President, I
8 have no bills or resolutions today.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The Chair
10 thanks the gentleman.

11 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman
12 Brown.

13 COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS BROWN: Thank
14 you, Madam President. No bills or resolutions
15 today.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank you.

17 The Chair recognizes Councilman Goode.

18 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you, Madam
19 President. I have no bills or resolutions.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank you.

21 The Chair recognizes Councilman Ortiz.

22 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: I have one bill and
23 one resolution on behalf of Councilwoman Blondell
24 Reynolds, Clarke, Goode, and Cohen and myself.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank you.

1 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, RESOLUTIONS

2 The clerk will please read the title of
3 the bill.

4 MS. RAFFERTY: A bill authorizing
5 transfers in appropriations for Fiscal Year 2002
6 within the General Fund for certain or all City
7 offices, departments, boards, and commissions to
8 certain or all City offices,, departments, boards,
9 and commissions.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The bill will
11 be referred to the appropriate committee.

12 The clerk will read the title of the
13 resolution.

14 MS. RAFFERTY: A resolution calling on
15 City Council's Committee on Labor and Civil
16 Service to hold a public hearing to examine and
17 monitor the ongoing labor dispute between Colin
18 Service Systems Inc. and the City Hall janitors
19 represented by the Service Employees International
20 Union, Local 36 AFL-CIO.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The Chair
22 recognizes Councilman Ortiz.

23 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Madam President, I
24 move for the adoption of the resolution.

25 (Duly seconded.)

1 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, RESOLUTIONS

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

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

7 Those opposed?

8 The ayes have it and the resolution has
9 been adopted.

10 (Applause.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The Chair
12 recognizes Councilman DiCicco.

13 COUNCILMAN DiCicco: Thank you, Madam
14 President. I offer two bills.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank you.

16 The clerk will please read the title of
17 the first bill.

18 MS. RAFFERTY: An ordinance amending
19 Title 14 of the Philadelphia Code relating to
20 zoning and planning by amending Chapter 14-1600,
21 entitled "Miscellaneous," by amending 14-1612,
22 entitled "South Street Head House Square Special
23 Services District Controls," under certain terms
24 and conditions.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The bill will

1 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, RESOLUTIONS

2 be referred to the appropriate committee.

3 MS. RAFFERTY: And an ordinance
4 amending Section 9204 of the Philadelphia Code,
5 entitled "Sidewalk Vendors in Center City," by
6 exempting sidewalk sales by owners and tenants of
7 properties in the 900, 1000, and 1100 blocks of
8 Pine Street, and regulating such activity under
9 the sidewalk sales provisions of Section 9-205 of
10 the Philadelphia Code, all under certain terms and
11 conditions.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: This bill
13 will also be referred to the appropriate
14 committee.

15 And the Chair recognizes Councilman
16 O'Neill.

17 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Madam President,
18 no bills or resolutions.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

20 The Chair recognizes Councilman Clarke.

21 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you, Madam
22 Chair. I have one bill and two resolutions.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The clerk
24 will please read the title of the bill.

25 MS. RAFFERTY: An ordinance granting

1 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, RESOLUTIONS

2 permission to the WXII PHL Real Estate Limited
3 Partnership, its successors and assigns, to
4 construct, maintain, operate, replace, or remove
5 duct banks for certain telecommunication uses.

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

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

10 MS. RAFFERTY: A resolution approving
11 the redevelopment contract and disposition
12 supplement of the Redevelopment Authority of the
13 City of Philadelphia for the redevelopment and
14 urban renewal of a portion of Model Cities Urban
15 Renewal Area designated as Parcel No. 256.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
17 recognizes Councilman Clarke.

18 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: I move for the
19 adoption.

20 (Duly seconded.)

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

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

1 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, RESOLUTIONS

2 Those opposed?

3 The ayes have it, and the resolution
4 has been adopted.

5 The clerk will please read the second
6 resolution.

7 MS. RAFFERTY: A resolution authorizing
8 the Commissioner of Public Property to execute and
9 deliver to the Redevelopment Authority deeds
10 located in the 16th, 32nd, and 37th Wards of the
11 City of Philadelphia.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The Chair
13 recognizes Councilman Clarke.

14 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Move for the
15 adoption of the resolution.

16 (Duly seconded.)

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

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

22 Those opposed?

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

25 The Chair recognizes Councilman Rizzo.

1 COMMITTEE REPORTS

2 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Madam President, no
3 bills or resolutions today.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank you.

5 - - -

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The next
7 order of business is reports from committees, and
8 the Chair recognizes Councilwoman Blackwell for a
9 report from the Finance Committee.

10 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you,
11 Madam President. The Finance Committee reports
12 out one bill with a favorable recommendation.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The clerk
14 will please read the report.

15 MS. RAFFERTY: To the President and
16 Members of the Council of the City of
17 Philadelphia: The Committee on Finance, to which
18 was referred Bill No. 010061 entitled, An
19 ordinance constituting the 7th supplemental
20 ordinance to the restated general water and waste
21 water revenue bond ordinance of 1989, as amended
22 and supplemented, authorizing the bond committee,
23 or a majority of them, to issue and sell either at
24 public or private sale in one or more series or
25 subseries water and waste water revenue bonds to

1 COMMITTEE REPORTS

2 the City of Philadelphia, respectfully reports it
3 has considered and amended the same and returns
4 the attached bill to Council with a favorable
5 recommendation.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Bill No.
7 010061 will be placed on the first-reading
8 calendar for our next session of Council.

9 The Chair recognizes Councilman DiCicco
10 for a report from the Committee on Streets and
11 Services.

12 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Thank you, Madam
13 President. The Committee on Streets and Services
14 reports nine bills out with a favorable
15 recommendation.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The clerk
17 will please read the report.

18 MS. RAFFERTY: To the President and
19 Members of the Council of the City of
20 Philadelphia: The Committee on Streets and
21 Service, to which was referred:

22 Bill No. 010091, an ordinance amending
23 Section 9-205 of the Philadelphia Code, entitled
24 "Sidewalk Sales," by prohibiting sidewalks sales
25 within an area bounded by Oregon Avenue, Packer

1 COMMITTEE REPORTS

2 Avenue, Seventh Street, and 20th Street;

3 And Bill No. 010070, an ordinance
4 authorizing the Parkway Corporation, owner of the
5 properties 1501-1509 Spruce Street and 1506-1508
6 Latimer Street, to conduct and maintain various
7 encroachment in, on, over, and under the north
8 footway of Spruce Street, the west footway of 15th
9 Street, and the south footway of Latimer Street;

10 And Bill No. 010122, an ordinance
11 granting permission to MCI Metro Access
12 Transmission Service, a Delaware corporation, its
13 successors and assigns, to construct, maintain and
14 operate, replace or remove a telecommunications
15 system along, over, in, under the public
16 right-of-way and City streets;

17 And Bill No. 010151, an ordinance
18 authorizing the Streets Commissioner, on behalf of
19 the City, to execute an intergovernmental
20 agreement for a Southeast Pennsylvania Regional
21 household hazardous waste education, collection,
22 and management project;

23 And Bill No. 010180, an ordinance
24 authorizing the revision of lines and grades on a
25 portion of City Plan No. 44-S by striking from the

1 COMMITTEE REPORTS

2 City Plan and vacating Tenth Street from Pattison
3 Avenue to a point approximately 846 feet northerly
4 from Pattison Avenue;

5 And Bill No. 010182, an ordinance
6 granting permission to Amerimar Net-Works
7 Management Co., its successors and assigns, to
8 construct, maintain and operate, replace and
9 remove a duct bank of 24 four-inch in diameter
10 ducts for certain telecommunications uses;

11 And Bill No. 010192, an ordinance
12 amending Section 2 of an ordinance (Bill No.
13 990366), approved July 1, 1999, entitled "An
14 ordinance authorizing the striking from City Plan
15 No. 17-S and abandoning a certain right-of-way for
16 gas main purposes and public utility purposes
17 within the lines of former Annin Street, by
18 extending the period for compliance with the
19 authorization conditions therein";

20 And Bill No. 010195, an ordinance
21 granting permission to Williams Communication, its
22 successors and assigns, to construct, maintain and
23 operate, replace and remove a telecommunications
24 system along, over, in, and under the public
25 rights-of-way and City streets;

1 COMMITTEE REPORTS

2 And Bill No. 010196, an ordinance
3 granting permission to Herman Hinton, owner of the
4 newsstand located on the north footway of
5 Fairmount Avenue, near the northwest corner of
6 19th Street and Fairmount Avenue, to construct,
7 use, and maintain overhead electrical and
8 telecommunications lines from existing utility
9 poles over and across the public right-of-way for
10 the purpose of supplying electrical and phone
11 service to his newsstand, under certain terms and
12 conditions

13 respectfully reports it has considered
14 the same and returns the attached bill to Council
15 with a favorable recommendation.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The Chair
17 recognizes Councilman DiCicco for a motion. I
18 believe you have a motion regarding another bill?

19 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Yes. Yes, Madam
20 President. I move that Bill No. 010091 be
21 returned to committee, and I further move that the
22 rules of Council be suspended so as to permit
23 first reading of the other eight bills that have
24 been read into the record.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank you.

1 COMMITTEE REPORTS

2 Do I hear a second?

3 (Duly seconded.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: It has been
5 moved and properly seconded that Bill No. 010091
6 be returned to committee.

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

9 Those opposed, nay.

10 The ayes have it, and Bill No. 010091
11 will be returned to committee.

12 On the nine bills, do we have a second
13 to suspend the rules?

14 (Duly seconded.)

15 COUNCILWOMAN VERNA: It has been moved
16 and properly seconded that the rules of Council be
17 suspended so as to permit first reading this day
18 of Bill No.'s 010070, 010122, 010151, 010180,
19 010182, 010192, 010195, and 010196.

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

22 Those opposed?

23 The ayes have it, and the bills just
24 read will be placed on today's first-reading
25 calendar.

1 FIRST-READING CALENDAR

2 This concludes the reports from
3 committees.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The next
5 order of business is consideration of the
6 calendar.

7 The clerk will please read the bills on
8 the first-reading calendar.

9 MS. RAFFERTY: Bill No. 010070, an
10 ordinance authorizing the Parkway Corporation,
11 owner of the properties 1501-1509 Spruce Street
12 and 1506-1508 Latimer Street, to conduct and
13 maintain various encroachment in, on, over, and
14 under the north footway of Spruce Street, the west
15 footway of 15th Street, and the south footway of
16 Latimer Street, all under certain terms and
17 conditions.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
19 agrees.

20 MS. RAFFERTY: And Bill No. 010122, an
21 ordinance granting permission to MCI Metro Access
22 Transmission Service, a Delaware corporation, its
23 successors and assigns, to construct, maintain and
24 operate, replace and remove a telecommunications
25 system along, over, in, under the public

1 FIRST-READING CALENDAR

2 right-of-way and City streets, all under certain
3 terms and conditions.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
5 agrees.

6 MS. RAFFERTY: And Bill No. 010151, an
7 ordinance authorizing the Streets Commissioner, on
8 behalf of the City, to execute an
9 intergovernmental agreement for a Southeast
10 Pennsylvania Regional household hazardous waste
11 education, collection, and management project,
12 under certain terms and conditions.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
14 agrees.

15 MS. RAFFERTY: And Bill No. 010180, an
16 ordinance authorizing the revision of lines and
17 grades on a portion of City Plan No. 44-S by
18 striking from the City Plan and vacating Tenth
19 Street from Pattison Avenue to a point
20 approximately 846 feet northerly from Pattison
21 Avenue.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
23 agrees.

24 MS. RAFFERTY: And Bill No. 010182, an
25 ordinance granting permission to Amerimar

1 FIRST-READING CALENDAR

2 Net-Works Management Company, Inc., its successors
3 and assigns, to construct, maintain and operate,
4 replace and remove a duct bank of 24 four-inch in
5 diameter ducts for certain telecommunications
6 uses, under terms and conditions.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
8 agrees.

9 MS. RAFFERTY: And Bill No. 010192, an
10 ordinance amending Section 2 of an ordinance (Bill
11 No. 990366), approved July 1, 1999, entitled "An
12 ordinance authorizing the striking from City Plan
13 No. 17-S and abandoning a certain right-of-way for
14 gas main purposes and public utility purposes
15 within the lines of former Annin Street, by
16 extending the period for compliance with the
17 authorization conditions therein."

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
19 agrees.

20 MS. RAFFERTY: And Bill No. 010195, an
21 ordinance granting permission to Williams
22 Communication, its successors and assigns, to
23 construct, maintain and operate, replace and
24 remove a telecommunications system along, over,
25 in, and under the public rights-of-way and City

1 FIRST-READING CALENDAR

2 streets, all under certain terms and conditions.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The Chair
4 agrees.

5 Ms. Rafferty: And Bill No. 010196, an
6 ordinance granting permission to Herman Hinton,
7 owner of the newsstand located on the north
8 footway of Fairmount Avenue, near the northwest
9 corner of 19th Street and Fairmount Avenue, to
10 construct, use, and maintain overhead electrical
11 and telecommunications lines from existing utility
12 poles over and across the public right-of-way for
13 the purpose of supplying electrical and phone
14 service to his newsstand, under certain terms and
15 conditions.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The Chair
17 agrees.

18 The bills read by the clerk will be
19 placed on the second-reading and final-passage
20 calendar for our next session of Council.

21 That concludes the first-reading
22 calendar.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The Chair now
24 recognizes Councilwoman Blackwell for the purpose
25 of calling up bills to be considered on the

1 SECOND-READING CALENDAR

2 second-reading and final-passage calendar.

3 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you,
4 Madam President. This morning, there are no bills
5 to be called up for second reading and final
6 passage.

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

9 This concludes the calendar.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Are there any
11 speeches on the part of the minority?

12 (No speeches on the part of the
13 minority.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Are there any
15 speeches on the part of the majority?

16 The Chair recognizes Councilman Nutter.

17 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you, Madam
18 President.

19 Madam President, I want to be brief and
20 I also want to be careful and specific.

21 The past few days have been filled with
22 a great amount of not only the discussion but more
23 of the details regarding Mayor Street's
24 Neighborhood Transformation Initiative. Let me
25 first say that I've had an opportunity to talk

1 SECOND-READING CALENDAR

2 with the Mayor on a couple of occasions as well as
3 his staff over some time, his Chief of Staff,
4 Joyce Wilkerson, and a number of others. They
5 have been open, they have been listening to
6 different things that many, many people have said,
7 including myself, for which I am deeply
8 appreciative.

9 And I certainly see some of the
10 elements of our many discussions over time as a
11 part of this proposal that the Mayor has laid out
12 with great enthusiasm. And it is certainly
13 progressive and ambitious. And quite honestly,
14 the City needs more aggressive action and certainly
15 a greater sense of ambition about what it's going
16 to do and what it's going to try to do going
17 forward.

18 Many of my colleagues, I know, are as
19 concerned about neighborhood transformation,
20 blight elimination, whatever the terminology may
21 be, to get the City moving in the right
22 direction. I will be as supportive as I possibly
23 can, because all of us agree, even if we have
24 different ideas about the details, all of us agree
25 that things need to change in this city in

1 SPEECHES

2 fundamental ways, both from an operational
3 standpoint as well as the final results.

4 I do want to express one concern at the
5 start, Madam President, and I think it may be
6 shared by either some of my colleagues and
7 certainly some of my constituents, who I have
8 received calls from this morning.

9 In an effort to figure out what to do
10 in the different neighborhoods, I know that we
11 have to do a great amount of analysis, data
12 collection, and the like. I've engaged in those
13 activities myself and shared them from time to
14 time with my colleagues.

15 The primary concern I want to express
16 today is, in an effort to figure out what we
17 should do in different places and what is going on
18 in those neighborhoods as we look at either the
19 many maps that are flying around and the packets
20 that have been distributed, or even in today's
21 edition of the Philadelphia Daily News, which has
22 a color display, my concern is the reaction to
23 many of our citizens, and more specifically, the
24 real estate market, to some of the categories that
25 have been detailed as to the condition in many

1 SPEECHES

2 neighborhoods.

3 Now, it is no secret that many of our
4 neighborhoods are in very good condition and many
5 of our neighborhoods are not throughout the City,
6 and many of us know about them and we're trying to
7 do our best to change things. My concern, though,
8 is that yesterday, in a rather public fashion, I
9 and many of my constituents and actually a couple
10 of colleagues here who live in the same
11 neighborhood found out that we live in a
12 transitional neighborhood. Now, I know
13 descriptives for what that means, and there are
14 five other categories, and I think all six are
15 throughout the district that I happen to
16 represent, the 4th Councilmatic District.

17 Going forward, my concern is, when do
18 the neighborhoods change, when do they move from
19 category to category, or do you ever recover from
20 having been labeled a certain thing? And what
21 does the real estate market, what is their
22 reaction the next time someone comes to them to
23 talk about buying a house? And are people in
24 direct or indirect ways, will they potentially be
25 steered away from certain neighborhoods because of

1 SPEECHES

2 this labeling or categorizing. That is my
3 concern.

4 Now, obviously, we have to say
5 something and we have to do something about these
6 neighborhoods. I don't know how that
7 determination was made. Last I checked, every
8 house on my block was occupied, and the ones
9 around the corner, the only transition that's
10 going on is that the leaves are coming on the
11 trees and some from my next-door neighbor are
12 falling in my driveway.

13 And so, having said that, the City
14 Avenue corridor and many other places throughout
15 the district that I represent, it could be
16 somewhat confusing to a person reading their
17 newspaper today as to what's going on in their
18 neighborhood. And a part of my concern is, I and
19 many of my neighbors are not necessarily going
20 anywhere, but some other people do have options,
21 especially in neighborhoods that border our
22 suburban communities, and some may want to think
23 about transitioning to Bala Cynwyd.

24 And so I am concerned about that
25 aspect, a very narrow aspect, of what we say and

1 SPEECHES

2 how we say it and how we communicate it and what
3 the reaction is to not only Philadelphians but to
4 people around us.

5 What I also don't know, and I'll
6 conclude with this, is in many of the
7 neighborhoods that are having whatever their
8 problems may be, at what point will it be
9 determined that they've moved from one category to
10 the other? And who will make that determination?
11 Or, as we experienced many, many years ago, and I
12 know that my colleagues on the education front led
13 many battles and fights about how we talk about
14 children and how we categorize children and how we
15 label children. You know, all of us are familiar
16 with "Bad Johnny" from 2nd grade. And
17 unfortunately, whether he liked it or not, in many
18 instances, Bad Johnny stayed Bad Johnny through
19 high school and potentially college. Now, whether
20 he was or not sometimes is secondary to the fact
21 that you got a label and it stuck.

22 And my concern in this situation is
23 that certain neighborhoods may get labeled certain
24 things. And notwithstanding our efforts and even
25 if they turn around, how do they ever get out from

1 SPEECHES

2 under the label that was given many, many years
3 ago?

4 And so it is, again, in a very specific
5 and narrow way a concern expressed about how we
6 start this and embark on not only a five-year
7 journey but a journey that may determine what
8 happens in this city for the first half of this
9 century.

10 The Mayor, again, is to be commended
11 and his staff and all people who have worked on
12 this for a tremendous amount of work and effort.
13 And then we have our job to do and we have work to
14 do, and we, I believe, will work together. But in
15 this particular situation, this is one of those
16 where the way you start may determine how you
17 finish.

18 And so that's my concern today. And to
19 the extent that any adjustments can be made or any
20 changes that may need to be made in this
21 particular aspect of what we talked about, NTI is
22 going to be going forward. I would express that
23 concern in this rather public way because it is,
24 you know, in about 150,000 newspapers today, and
25 people have already begun to express concerns in

1 SPEECHES

2 my office and maybe some of the offices of my
3 colleagues.

4 Thank you very much, Madam President.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

6 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman
7 Blackwell.

8 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Madam
9 President, not on this issue.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

11 The Chair recognizes Councilman Kenney.

12 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you, Madam
13 President.

14 Just quickly, I would like to offer my
15 support for the comments made by Councilmember
16 Nutter. I do admire the way in which the
17 Administration has brought this issue forward and
18 the vision that they are attempting to show.

19 But I'm sure that Councilmember Nutter
20 is concerned about reading that his neighborhood
21 is in transition. I was even more concerned to
22 read that my home and my colleague and neighbor's
23 home was in a distressed neighborhood. The
24 housing values in that neighborhood have
25 maintained themselves. As a matter of fact,

1 SPEECHES

2 there's a number of houses that sold in that
3 community lately for more money than I had
4 anticipated that they would sell for. We do have
5 some minor drug problems, as many neighborhoods
6 do. We have some doggie doo problems where people
7 don't pick up after their animals.

8 But as neighborhoods go, this
9 neighborhood in South Philadelphia, around the
10 Passyunk Avenue shopping strip, which is, I think,
11 a vibrant and becoming an even more vibrant
12 restaurant area and shopping area, is anything but
13 distressed. I know there's areas of South
14 Philadelphia east of Sixth Street, west of Fourth
15 that have been designated an area of reclamation,
16 and in some instances, I think that that may be
17 accurate.

18 But, again, my concern, as expressed by
19 Councilman, which I share, is that, you know,
20 people reading the paper today that may be looking
21 for a house in South Philadelphia in that
22 neighborhood would think that it may be not a good
23 investment to invest in a distressed area. And I
24 would think that anyone who's worked on this
25 project that's even set foot and walked down East

1 SPEECHES

2 Passyunk Avenue or walked down 11th Street or
3 walked down Tenth Street, if they've been there at
4 all, I don't think the word "distressed" would
5 necessarily be the word that would be used.

6 So I have some concerns over the
7 process which was followed to make these
8 designations in the first place, and I'm willing
9 to work with the Administration and the Council to
10 work ourselves through this process, but I think
11 there's a lot of work that needs to be done, a lot
12 of examination of this proposal. If we get more
13 meat on the bone of this particular issue, we can
14 analyze it, have the Council President's staff and
15 tech staff analyze it perhaps through the course
16 of the summer and come up sometime in the fall
17 with something that's workable.

18 But these initial designations are very
19 concerning to me as a resident of a particular
20 area that I think is a pretty decent neighborhood
21 and that has now been determined by the
22 Neighborhood Transformation Team as being a
23 distressed community. And I think it's anything
24 but the case.

25 And I'd like to thank Councilman

1 SPEECHES

2 DiCicco. As a matter of fact, our streets are
3 actually cleaner than they've been over the last
4 number of years because of the street-sweeping
5 program.

6 (Councilman DiCicco responds off-mic.)

7 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Well, I do thank
8 him for it, and I don't mind moving my car once a
9 week; I think it's a small price to pay for a
10 clean street.

11 So with that, I'd like to just, you
12 know, as a word of caution and a desire to work
13 through this process and get it accomplished, I
14 have some major concerns as we move forward.

15 Thank you.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

17 The Chair recognizes Councilman
18 O'Neill.

19 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Yes, Madam Chair.
20 I'm thinking in similar ways to my two colleagues.

21 But I'd just like to start out by
22 saying it's amazing that this city has gone this
23 long without any kind of strategy, and I think the
24 Administration is to be applauded for coming
25 forward with the beginning of one, and I think

1 SPEECHES

2 that's what it is right now, and we should
3 recognize it.

4 And just as people are in one category
5 or maybe they should be in a category we would
6 call above that, I've seen a lot of places that
7 are in categories that should be below that. So
8 somebody's going to be looking at a house and
9 maybe thinking, Boy, the NTI group says this is a
10 good neighborhood -- and maybe it's a neighborhood
11 with a lot of problems that needs a lot of
12 attention.

13 So I think our fleshing out with the
14 Administration the areas within even a census
15 tract that might have three different kind of
16 determinations that could be made. You can have a
17 neighborhood that's in transition that's only two
18 blocks long, and it may be because of an apartment
19 house that is run down and no one wants to live
20 near it. Two blocks away, where it's just homes,
21 everybody's happy about it. Two blocks further
22 down, there's a Conrail lot that doesn't get taken
23 care of, or some other government property that
24 causes people not to want to live near it, and
25 prices are down and houses don't sell as fast.

1 SPEECHES

2 So it's very difficult to paint a broad
3 brush across an area, and I think it's going to be
4 incumbent on us, who know these areas much better,
5 to work with the Administration to make sure that
6 we narrow those down in a much more microscopic
7 way than is now on the blueprint.

8 And I think it's important not because
9 so much somebody might think, Well, I live in this
10 neighborhood instead of that neighborhood, 'cause
11 I don't think most people will go that far with
12 it, but there's going to be different strategies
13 and different tactics when you're dealing with a
14 distressed area versus a transitional area versus
15 a steady area, or whatever it's going to be
16 called. And that is really the key. If we're
17 going to have a strategic plan, we better have the
18 areas identified properly so we're putting the
19 right resources and the right kinds of programs
20 in.

21 And I think it's a little easier to
22 know the mistakes we've made in the areas that are
23 designated reclamation, because mistakes have been
24 made over the years, and government's been a big
25 part of it.

1 SPEECHES

2 The other categories have, for the most
3 part, never been touched by the government in any
4 strategic way. So it's all new ground there, and
5 I think we, the District Councilmen and the
6 At-Large Councilmen all over this city can really
7 be instrumental in helping the Administration not
8 only identify in much smaller areas what the color
9 or the title or the description should be so that
10 the strategy applied is the right one, but also
11 working with people that live in those areas to
12 make sure that they're a part of this. If this is
13 the top down and we tell them what's good for
14 them, it's not going to work and we're going to
15 waste a lot more than just the quarter billion
16 dollars, and we're going to waste a lot of time
17 and energy and hope that people have.

18 I think we have to be talking to the
19 people who are in an area that may be distressed
20 and can tell us why, because it may just be a very
21 short stretch within an area that seems to be
22 magnified when somebody at City Hall's looking at
23 a map or some statistics, and there could be very
24 good ways of dealing with that if we just talk to
25 the people that are most affected, the people that

1 SPEECHES

2 live in those areas.

3 So I think we're off to a good start
4 because we're off to a start, and it's a start
5 that was a long time coming.

6 Thank you.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank you.

8 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman
9 Blackwell.

10 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you,
11 Madam President. This is not on this issue, so I
12 didn't want to speak if other Councilmembers want
13 to speak.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: All right,
15 Councilwoman.

16 Councilman Goode?

17 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you.

18 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you, Madam
19 President.

20 As many of my colleagues know and other
21 people in the general public, I spent the last
22 almost 16 months in Council focussed specifically
23 on community development finance, and have
24 actually issued four policy papers in that
25 regard. So this is actually a very exciting time

1 SPEECHES

2 for me to be in Council, and I think I would not
3 have preferred to come to Council at any other
4 time other than this.

5 So I am proud to announce that the
6 Community Reinvestment Commission created by this
7 Council and by executive order did hold its first
8 meeting on Tuesday. And I think the strategy
9 behind that commission is to not only look at
10 investment, but how we leverage private investment
11 from land reuse plans, from Community Development
12 Block Grant spending, from our city depositories,
13 and from the creation of the Philadelphia
14 Community Development (indiscernible) Fund.

15 I'm concerned as we talk about the
16 issue of community development finance that we
17 continue to focus on public investment and not
18 look at the leveraging of private investment very
19 seriously. I am concerned that the banking
20 community was not brought in to discuss this issue
21 beforehand, but it's not too late, and I look
22 forward to the hours of dialogue that we will have
23 on this.

24 But that commission has come together.
25 There was presence of banks there at that meeting,

1 SPEECHES

2 ready to discuss reinvesting in our
3 neighborhoods. But without that private
4 investment, the reason why this issue exists the
5 way it exists is because of the bank redlining of
6 our neighborhoods. The reason why predatory
7 lending exists is because it's a captured market
8 there for people who know that those areas are
9 redlined by banks. We have to address that.

10 But as we bring public dollars to the
11 table to leverage private dollars, we have to also
12 make sure that we're not devaluing those public
13 dollars. It makes a difference when we go into
14 the market for these bonds. It is better to go
15 into the market in the summer rather than the
16 fall.

17 Anyone who knows and does their
18 financial due diligence knows that we can make a
19 political decision to wait on this, but it will
20 make a difference and cost this city millions or
21 tens of millions of dollars by waiting based on
22 the financial markets.

23 So we have to take this very seriously,
24 and we have to put in hours, weekends, suspend our
25 summer recess. We have to also look at when we

1 SPEECHES

2 should go into the market.

3 Thank you very much.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank you.

5 Are there any other speeches on the
6 part of the majority?

7 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman
8 Blackwell.

9 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you,
10 Madam President.

11 This is just a reminder. In a few
12 minutes, we will be set up with our speakers
13 across the hall. Deputy Managing Director of
14 Special Needs Housing, Michael Hess, his
15 predecessor, Michael Nardone, and Secretary of
16 Social Services Estelle Richman. So we will be
17 having lunch, so we ask everybody to please hold
18 on. Lunch will be ready in a few minutes, about
19 15 minutes, although we're finishing a little
20 early.

21 And also, let me say that it has been
22 brought to our attention that sometime last week,
23 apparently -- and I don't even know the day -- you
24 had a birthday. So we decided that we'd like to
25 at least --

1 ADJOURNMENT

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: I like to
3 forget about them, hon.

4 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: So we did want
5 to say happy birthday. Let's all sing Happy
6 Birthday to our president.

7 ("Happy Birthday" sung to President
8 Verna.)

9 (Applause.)

10 - - -

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The Chair
12 recognizes Councilwoman Tasco for a motion.

13 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Thank you, Madam
14 President. I move that Council stand adjourned
15 until Thursday, April, 26th at 10 a.m.

16 (Duly seconded.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: It has been
18 moved and properly seconded that Council stand
19 adjourned until Thursday, April 26, 2001, at 10
20 a.m.

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

23 Those opposed?

24 The ayes have it, and Council will
25 stand adjourned until Thursday, April 26th.

1 ADJOURNMENT

2 Thank you very much.

3 (Adjourned at 11:32 a.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing
proceedings of the Council of the City of
Philadelphia of Thursday, April 19, 2001, were
reported fully and accurately by me, and that this
is a correct transcript of same.

RE: STATED MEETING

_____,
JOSEPHINE CARDILLO,
Registered Professional Reporter