

1 COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

2

STATED MEETING

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5

City Hall, Room 400
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Thursday, October 23, 2025
10:00 a.m.

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PRESENT:

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COUNCIL PRESIDENT KENYATTA JOHNSON

COUNCILWOMAN RUE LANDAU

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COUNCILWOMAN NINA AHMAD

COUNCILWOMAN KENDRA BROOKS

11

COUNCILWOMAN JAMIE GAUTHIER

COUNCILWOMAN KATHERINE GILMORE-RICHARDSON

12

COUNCILWOMAN QUETCY M. LOZADA

COUNCILWOMAN CINDY BASS

13

COUNCILMAN MICHAEL DRISCOLL

COUNCILMAN CURTIS J. JONES, JR.

14

COUNCILMAN NICOLAS O'ROURKE

COUNCILMAN JEFFREY YOUNG, JR.

15

COUNCILMAN ANTHONY PHILLIPS

COUNCILMAN BRIAN O'NEILL

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ELIZABETH MCCOLLUM, Chief Clerk

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

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

3 Members, please take your
4 seats. I note that the hour has
5 come and that a quorum of this
6 Council is present. Please retire
7 to the seats outside the rails,
8 asking for all sidebar conversations
9 to be taken outside the council
10 chambers. And please put your cell
11 phones on silence and/or vibrate.
12 Thank you.

13 To give our invocation this
14 morning, the Chair recognizes Father
15 Francis Pete Foley, retired captain
16 of the United States Navy Chaplain
17 Corps, Pastor of St. Timothy's
18 Parish and Administrator of St.
19 Bartholomew Parish. He is here
20 today as a guest of Councilmember
21 Mike Driscoll.

22 I'll ask all members and
23 guests to please rise.

24 FATHER FOLEY: Let us pray.

1 Eternal Father, you are the source
2 of everything that is good and true
3 and beautiful. With humility and
4 gratitude, we come before you and
5 implore your blessing upon our fair
6 city and upon your humble servants
7 who make this great metropolis
8 vibrant with talent, culture,
9 diversity, brotherly love, welcoming
10 neighborhoods, unequal sports teams
11 and fantastic food.

12 Keep safe and skilled those
13 who protect and provide for our
14 well-being: police, firemen,
15 emergency medical personnel, and all
16 those sailors, soldiers, Marines,
17 airmen, and coast guardsmen who
18 serve here and around the world.

19 Bless the teachers in our
20 schools, the sanitation workers, and
21 the many men and women who keep the
22 numerous offices and agencies of our
23 fair city serving our citizens,
24 running smoothly and efficiently day

1 in and day out, all throughout the
2 year.

3 Finally, bless our City
4 Councilmembers and their staffs.
5 They are men and women of talent,
6 devotion, and passion about our
7 communities and our city. Their
8 political affiliations are diverse,
9 their priorities are sometimes
10 separate, but in their love of
11 Philadelphia and the people they
12 serve, they are as one, united in
13 their determination to do what is
14 right and defend what is true.

15 Fill them, Lord, with your
16 wisdom. Guide them by your light.
17 Renew them with your strength and
18 bless them, their staffs, and their
19 families with your peace. In your
20 most holy name we pray, amen.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

22 Amen. The Chair thanks
23 Father Foley for the invocation.
24 Council will be at ease.

1 The next order of business
2 is the approval of the journal of
3 the meeting of Thursday, October
4 16th, 2025. The Chair recognizes
5 Councilmember Cindy Bass.

6 COUNCILMEMBER BASS: Thank
7 you, Mr. President. I move that the
8 journal of the meeting of Thursday,
9 October 16th, 2025 be approved.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
11 It has been moved and properly
12 seconded that the journal of the
13 meeting of Thursday, October the
14 16th, 2025 stand approved. All
15 those in favor will indicate by
16 saying aye.

17 COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
19 Those opposed. The ayes have it,
20 and the journal is approved.

21 The next order of business
22 is the request for leave of absence,
23 and the Chair recognizes
24 Councilmember Katherine Gilmore

1 Richardson.

2 COUNCILMEMBER RICHARDSON:

3 Thank you, Mr. President. On behalf
4 of City Council, a leave of absence
5 is requested for Councilmember
6 O'Neill.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

8 The Chair will thank the
9 Councilmember. Leave will be
10 granted. The Chair recognizes
11 Councilmember Brooks.

12 COUNCILMEMBER BROOKS: Good
13 morning, Council President. On
14 behalf of the minority, there are no
15 requests for leave of absence.
16 Thank you.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

18 Thank you very much. The Chair
19 thanks the Councilmember.

20 The Chair now recognizes
21 Councilmember Katherine Gilmore
22 Richardson for a motion concerning
23 certain legislative matters that may
24 arise during the course of today's

1 session of council and that were not
2 listed on the calendar circulated
3 prior to today's session.

4 COUNCILMEMBER RICHARDSON:

5 Thank you, Mr. President.

6 I move that any of the following
7 matters, if considered today, may be
8 added to the agenda for this session
9 of council and, as required by law,
10 subsequently published on an amended
11 agenda after the consideration of
12 those matters:

13 Resolutions authorizing
14 hearings; amendments to bills on
15 first reading; the reconsideration
16 of a bill vetoed by or recalled from
17 the mayor; amendments to bills
18 recalled from the mayor; resolutions
19 taking substantive action to be
20 voted on in this session; a motion
21 to withdraw a bill or resolution
22 that is not on the calendar; and a
23 motion placing a bill or resolution
24 on, or returning a bill or

1 resolution from, the suspension
2 calendar that is not listed on
3 today's calendar.

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

10 Councilmember: Second.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

12 It has been moved and properly
13 seconded that the legislative matter
14 stated by Councilmember Gilmore
15 Richardson may be added to the
16 agenda for today should those
17 matters arise during the course of
18 this session. Council, all those in
19 favor will signify by saying aye.

20 COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

22 Those opposed? The ayes have it,
23 and the motion carries.

24 The Chair will dispense

1 with the regular order of business
2 to recognize the guests and visitors
3 joining us in chambers this morning.
4 On behalf of all members of City
5 Council, I welcome you to our
6 council session. We appreciate you
7 taking your time to join us. As we
8 attend to the legislative affairs of
9 our great city, we certainly invite
10 you to come again.

11 The Chair recognizes
12 Councilmember Katherine Gilmore-
13 Richardson.

14 COUNCILMEMBER RICHARDSON-
15 GILMORE:

16 Thank you so much,
17 Mr. President. If you've ever
18 driven to work in the morning in
19 Philadelphia or ridden on a SEPTA
20 bus, chances are you started your
21 day with the Rise and Grind morning
22 show on Power 99. For 14 years, the
23 Rise and Grind Morning Show was the
24 soundtrack to our city's mornings,

1 from parents driving their kids to
2 school to Philadelphians headed to
3 work. It became a daily tradition
4 for many of us, including me.

5 Airing weekdays from
6 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. on Power 99
7 FM, the show was more than just
8 music. It was conversation, it was
9 community, and it was our culture.
10 It was where hip hop and R&B met
11 real talk about life, relationships,
12 and the issues shaping our great
13 city.

14 Today, my colleagues, it is
15 my honor and privilege to welcome to
16 City Council Chambers the voices
17 behind the magic. Today, we have
18 with us the Mutha Knows and Mikey
19 Dredd, two of the most recognized
20 and respected names in Philadelphia
21 radio.

22 A true Philadelphia radio
23 legend, many of us remember Mikey
24 Dredd from his time on the Weeknight

1 Hot Boy show alongside co-host Uncle
2 O. With 30 years at Power 99, his
3 energy and humor made him a trusted
4 presence for listeners all across
5 the Delaware Valley. Mutha Knows,
6 known for his quick wit and big
7 personality, has been a personal
8 favorite of mine and a fan since
9 joining Power 99. His segment, The
10 Tea, was a can't-miss part of our
11 mornings full of gossip, fun, and
12 the kind of humor that only Mutha
13 could deliver.

14 Together, they helped Rise
15 and Grind become one of the
16 top-rated shows in the region,
17 reaching tens of thousands every
18 single morning and giving voice to
19 our city's culture. Today, as we
20 recognize the show's incredible
21 legacy and impact, we are proud to
22 welcome Mikey Dredd and Mutha Knows
23 to Philadelphia City Council for all
24 the mornings they woke us up and

1 helped us stay connected as a city.
2 Thank you very, very much. Please
3 stand and be recognized. Thank you,
4 Mr. President.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

6 You're welcome. And I've been on
7 the Rise and Grind show several
8 different times, and they've always
9 used their platform to speak truth
10 to power. And Dr. Phillips, I'm
11 thinking maybe even Rise and Grind
12 City Council show might be a
13 thought. But congratulations,
14 fellows, on your acknowledgment. We
15 appreciate all your hard work and
16 dedication.

17 As there are no
18 presentations today, the next order
19 of business is communications. The
20 Chair requests that the Sergeant-at-
21 Arms deliver the messages from the
22 Mayor to the Chief Clerk. Will the
23 Chief Clerk please read the messages
24 from the Mayor and any other

1 communications in her possession.

2 CHIEF CLERK: On October
3 17th, pursuant to Sections 4-604 and
4 2-307 of the Home Rule Charter, I am
5 today transmitting to the Council
6 the recommendation of the City
7 Planning Commission on the following
8 bills:

9 Bill No. 250771:
10 Commission voted to extend its
11 review 45 additional days. Bill No.
12 250834: Commission voted to extend
13 its review 45 additional days.

14 And on October 20th,
15 pursuant to Sections 4-604 and 2-307
16 of the Home Rule Charter, I am today
17 transmitting to the Council the
18 recommendation of the City Planning
19 Commission on the following bills.
20 Bill Numbers 250706, 250719, 250723,
21 250767, 250772, 250800, 250801,
22 250802, 250803, 250804:

23 Commission voted to extend
24 its review 45 additional days,

1 250806, 250807, 250808, 250809,
2 250810, 250811, approval with
3 amendments, 250830, 250835, 250836,
4 250839, 250842, 250845: Commission
5 voted to extend its review 45
6 additional days, and 250847.

7 There are no further
8 communications in my possession,
9 Council President.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

11 Thank you. The messages will be
12 printed in the journal. The next
13 order of business is the
14 introduction of bills and
15 resolutions. The Chair recognizes
16 Councilmember Dr. Anthony Phillips.

17 COUNCILMEMBER PHILLIPS:

18 Thank you, Council President. I
19 have one privileged resolution for
20 introduction today for a young woman
21 whose light and kindness have
22 reflected the very best of
23 Philadelphia, Kada Scott.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

1 Thank you very much. Will the Chief
2 Clerk please read the title of the
3 resolution.

4 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged
5 resolution honoring the life and
6 legacy of Kada Scott, a beacon of
7 light and love in Philadelphia,
8 remembered for her faith, kindness,
9 and countless lives she touched.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
11 This resolution will be placed on
12 today's final passage calendar. The
13 Chair recognizes Majority Leader
14 Katherine Gilmore-Richardson.

15 COUNCILMEMBER RICHARDSON:
16 Thank you, Mr. President. Today I
17 offer one bill and two privileged
18 resolutions. The bill and one
19 privileged resolution are on your
20 behalf.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
22 Thank you very much. Will the Chief
23 Clerk please read the bill and the
24 resolutions.

1 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
2 renaming the Paschalville Library to
3 the Hardy Williams Library of
4 Paschalville in honor of
5 Pennsylvania State Senator Hardy
6 Williams, a distinguished politician
7 and trailblazer for the African
8 American community.

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

12 CHIEF CLERK: And a
13 privileged resolution honoring the
14 life and legacy of Michael I. Days
15 for his extensive career as a
16 reporter and editor for the
17 Philadelphia Daily News, and later
18 as Vice President for Diversity and
19 Inclusion at The Philadelphia
20 Inquirer.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
22 This resolution will be placed on
23 today's final passage calendar.

24 CHIEF CLERK: And a

1 privileged resolution recognizing
2 and honoring Power 99's Rise and
3 Grind Morning Show for its lasting
4 contributions to radio and the
5 cultural fabric of the City of
6 Philadelphia.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

8 This resolution will be placed on
9 today's final passage calendar. The
10 Chair recognizes Councilmember Jamie
11 Gauthier.

12 COUNCILMEMBER GAUTHIER:

13 Good morning, Council President.
14 Today I have one bill and one
15 privileged resolution on your
16 behalf.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

18 Thank you very much. Will the Chief
19 Clerk please read the title of the
20 bill and the resolution?

21 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
22 authorizing encroachments in the
23 nature of a sidewalk café in the
24 vicinity of 5021 through 23

1 Baltimore Avenue, Philadelphia, PA
2 19143, under certain terms and
3 conditions.

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

7 CHIEF CLERK: And a
8 privileged resolution recognizing
9 Chris Gale, Executive Director of
10 the Bicycle Coalition of Greater
11 Philadelphia, for his exemplary work
12 and advocacy in ensuring the safety
13 and inclusivity of cyclists
14 throughout Philadelphia.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
16 This resolution will be placed on
17 today's final passage calendar. The
18 Chair recognizes Councilmember
19 Isaiah Thomas.

20 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: Good
21 morning, Council President. Good
22 morning, colleagues. Good morning
23 to the listening public. Today I
24 have two resolutions and one bill.

1 But I do want to take a moment of
2 privilege, Council President, to
3 thank Majority Leader Katherine
4 Gilmore Richardson for her
5 resolution around Power 99 Rise and
6 Grind Show. Thank you all so much
7 for being here. Thank you,
8 colleague, that's a great
9 resolution, and thank you for your
10 service to the City of Philadelphia.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

12 Will the Chief Clerk please
13 read the titles of the resolutions,
14 please.

15 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
16 amending Chapter 19-2600 of the
17 Philadelphia Code, entitled Business
18 Income and Receipts Taxes, to
19 establish a partial exemption for
20 certain childcare service
21 businesses, all under certain terms
22 and conditions.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

24 Excellent. This bill will be

1 referred to the appropriate
2 committee.

3 CHIEF CLERK: And a
4 privileged resolution honoring and
5 recognizing the Atlantic Center for
6 Capital Representation and its staff
7 for 15 years of dedicated service
8 addressing systemic issues with the
9 death penalty in Pennsylvania and
10 across the nation.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
12 This resolution will be placed on
13 today's final passage calendar.

14 CHIEF CLERK: And a
15 privileged -- I'm sorry.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
17 Go ahead.

18 CHIEF CLERK: And a
19 privileged resolution celebrating
20 the Mural Arts Program and
21 recognizing the month of October as
22 Mural Arts Month in the City of
23 Philadelphia.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

1 This resolution will be placed on
2 today's final passage calendar. The
3 Chair recognizes Councilmember
4 Curtis Jones, Jr.

5 COUNCILMEMBER JONES: Thank
6 you, Mr. President. Today, I offer
7 one bill and one non-privileged
8 resolution on your behalf.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
10 Thank you very much, sir. Will the
11 Chief Clerk please read the title of
12 the bill and the resolution.

13 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
14 granting permission to Haverford
15 Business Association to install and
16 maintain encroachments in the nature
17 of decorative light fixtures
18 attached to existing facilities
19 owned by the city or other entities,
20 subject to such owner's consent, all
21 under certain terms and conditions.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
23 This bill will be referred to the
24 appropriate committee.

1 CHIEF CLERK: And a
2 privileged resolution authorizing
3 the Committee on Public Safety to
4 hold a hearing to examine the city
5 of Philadelphia's strategies, laws,
6 and policies for protecting victims
7 of abuse and domestic violence
8 within the justice system, including
9 courts, the Sheriff's Office, the
10 District Attorney's Office, and the
11 Philadelphia Police Department.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
13 This resolution will be placed on
14 today's final passage calendar. The
15 Chair recognizes Councilmember Rue
16 Landau.

17 COUNCILMEMBER LANDAU: Good
18 morning, Council President,
19 colleagues, public. I have one
20 privileged resolution today.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
22 Thank you very much. Will the Chief
23 Clerk please read the title of the
24 resolution.

1 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged
2 resolution commemorating and
3 honoring the 2025 Philadelphia Walk
4 to End Alzheimer's for mobilizing
5 thousands of Philadelphians in the
6 ongoing fight against Alzheimer's
7 through advocacy, research, and
8 community care.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
10 This resolution will be placed on
11 today's final passage calendar. The
12 Chair recognizes Councilmember
13 Quetcy Lozada.

14 COUNCILMEMBER LOZADA:
15 Thank you, Council President. Good
16 morning. I have no bills and
17 resolutions today.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
19 Thank you very much. The Chair
20 recognizes Councilmember Jeffrey J.
21 Young.

22 COUNCILMEMBER YOUNG: Thank
23 you. Good morning, Mr. President.
24 Good morning, colleagues. Today I

1 offer three bills, one privileged
2 resolution, and one non-privileged
3 resolution.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

5 Thank you very much. Will the Chief
6 Clerk please read the titles of the
7 bills and resolutions.

8 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
9 amending Section 14-529 of the
10 Philadelphia Code, entitled 5th
11 District Overlay District, to
12 provide for building requirements to
13 prevent vacant lots, 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: An ordinance
19 authorizing encroachments in the
20 nature of a sidewalk café in the
21 vicinity of 161 West Girard Avenue,
22 Philadelphia, PA 19122, under
23 certain terms and conditions.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

1 This bill will be referred to the
2 appropriate committee.

3 CHIEF CLERK: And an
4 ordinance amending Title 14 of the
5 Philadelphia Code, entitled Zoning
6 and Planning, by making technical
7 changes to the text that has
8 expired, all under certain terms and
9 conditions.

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

13 CHIEF CLERK: And a
14 non-privileged resolution also
15 naming Oxford Street between Broad
16 Street and 15th Street as Jake and
17 Sarah Adams Avenue.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
19 This resolution will be placed on
20 the final passage calendar for
21 consideration at our next session of
22 council.

23 CHIEF CLERK: And a
24 privileged resolution authorizing

1 the Council Committee on Commerce
2 and Economic Development to hold
3 hearings to investigate the city's
4 payment and refund systems for
5 municipal taxes.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

7 This resolution will be placed on
8 today's final passage calendar. The
9 Chair recognizes Councilmember
10 Kendra Brooks.

11 COUNCILMEMBER BROOKS: I
12 have no bills and resolutions today.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
14 Chair recognizes Councilmember Jim
15 Harrity.

16 COUNCILMEMBER HARRITY:
17 Council President, I have no bills
18 or resolutions today.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
20 Chair recognizes Councilmember
21 Nicholas O'Rourke.

22 COUNCILMEMBER O'ROURKE:
23 Good morning, Council President,
24 Philadelphians. I have one

1 privileged resolution to introduce
2 today.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

4 Thank you very much. Will the Chief
5 Clerk please read the title of the
6 resolution.

7 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged
8 resolution honoring the life and
9 legacy of Rabbi Arthur Ocean Waskow,
10 a prophetic activist and author
11 grounded in Jewish tradition and
12 faith, who created the foundation on
13 which generations of moral activists
14 stand.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

16 This resolution will be placed on
17 today's final passage calendar. The
18 Chair recognizes Councilmember Mike
19 Driscoll.

20 COUNCILMEMBER DRISCOLL:

21 Good morning, Mr. President. I have
22 one non-privileged resolution to
23 offer today.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

1 Thank you very much. Would the
2 Chief Clerk please read the title of
3 the resolution.

4 CHIEF CLERK: A
5 non-privileged resolution requesting
6 the Mayor to return to council Bill
7 No. 250771, entitled an ordinance
8 authorizing 3419 Kensington Partners
9 or a subsequent owner to install,
10 own, and maintain an encroachment at
11 3423 Kensington Avenue,
12 Philadelphia, PA 19134, under
13 certain terms and conditions, for
14 the purpose of reconsideration by
15 the council of the vote by which
16 said bill passed council.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
18 This resolution will be placed on
19 the final passage calendar for
20 consideration at our next session of
21 council. The Chair recognizes the
22 gentleman from South Philadelphia,
23 Councilmember Mark Squilla.

24 COUNCILMEMBER SQUILLA:

1 Thank you, Mr. President. I offer
2 one bill and two resolutions on your
3 behalf.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
5 Thank you very much. Will the Chief
6 Clerk please read the title of the
7 bill and resolutions.

8 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
9 authorizing encroachments in the
10 nature of a sidewalk café in the
11 vicinity of 2535 through 37 South
12 13th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19148,
13 under certain terms and conditions.

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

17 CHIEF CLERK: And a
18 privileged resolution honoring and
19 recognizing Reverend Carolyn Clarene
20 Cavaness for the one-year
21 anniversary of her pastoral
22 appointment at the historic Mother
23 Bethel AME Church.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

1 This resolution will be placed on
2 today's final passage calendar.

3 CHIEF CLERK: And a
4 privileged resolution recognizing
5 and congratulating the International
6 Brotherhood of Electrical Workers,
7 Local 98, on the momentous occasion
8 of its 125th anniversary,
9 celebrating over a century of
10 exemplary leadership, advocacy, and
11 unwavering dedication to the rights
12 and welfare of electrical workers.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
14 This resolution will be placed in
15 today's final passage calendar. The
16 Chair recognizes Deputy Whip
17 Councilmember Cindy Bass.

18 COUNCILMEMBER BASS: Thank
19 you, Mr. President. I offer one
20 privileged resolution.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
22 Thank you very much. Will the chief
23 clerk please read the title of the
24 privileged resolution.

1 CHIEF CLERK: Recognizing
2 the extraordinary contributions and
3 lifetime achievements of Dr. Molefi
4 Kete Asante, founder of
5 Afrocentricity and founder of the
6 Molefi Kete Asante (MKA) Institute
7 for Afrocentric Studies in the
8 Germantown neighborhood.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
10 That's a good one. That's a good
11 job. This resolution will be placed
12 on today's final passage calendar.
13 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
14 Dr. Nina Ahmad.

15 COUNCILMEMBER AHMAD: Thank
16 you, Council President. I have two
17 resolutions, both privileged, one on
18 your behalf.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
20 Thank you very much. Will the chief
21 clerk please read the title of the
22 privileged resolutions.

23 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged
24 resolution authorizing the Committee

1 on Public Health and Human Services
2 to hold hearings to examine the
3 impacts of the current crisis
4 threatening the Supplemental
5 Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
6 and Supplemental Nutrition
7 Assistance Program Education (SNAP-
8 Ed) on food and nutrition security
9 in Philadelphia, including barriers
10 to accessing benefits, disruption to
11 nutrition, education and outreach,
12 consequences for residents, and
13 opportunities for coordinated city
14 and community response.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
16 This resolution will be placed on
17 today's final passage calendar.

18 CHIEF CLERK: And a
19 privileged resolution recognizing
20 and affirming the City of
21 Philadelphia's commitment to public
22 health grounded in scientific
23 evidence and opposing state
24 proposals that would weaken proven

1 protections, including childhood
2 immunizations, community water
3 fluoridation, and practical steps
4 that limit the spread of disease in
5 schools.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

7 This resolution will be placed on
8 the final passage calendar. For the
9 record, the previous resolution on
10 SNAP benefits and SNAP-Ed benefits
11 was also lead co-sponsored by
12 Councilmember Rue Landau. The next
13 order of business is reports from
14 committee. The Chair recognizes
15 Councilmember Cindy Bass for a
16 report from the Committee on Rules.

17 COUNCILMEMBER BASS: Thank
18 you, Mr. President. The Committee
19 on Rules reports out twelve bills
20 with a favorable recommendation.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
22 For the record, how many bills is
23 that?

24 COUNCILMEMBER BASS:

1 Twelve.

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

3 Twelve. Thank you. Will the chief
4 clerk please read the report of the
5 twelve bills.

6 CHIEF CLERK: The Committee
7 on Rules, to which were referred the
8 following bills: Bill No. 250534,
9 an ordinance continuing the Mayfair
10 Business Improvement District beyond
11 its termination date in an area that
12 generally includes both sides of
13 Frankford Avenue from the north side
14 of Harbison Avenue to the south side
15 of Sheffield Street and certain
16 blocks of streets that intersect
17 that portion of Frankford Avenue.
18 Approving a change of the boundaries
19 of the district to include 6700
20 Roland Avenue to the service area.
21 Approving a change of boundaries to
22 remove from the service area 4014
23 through 4034 Robbins Street, as well
24 as 3501 through 3539 Ryan Avenue.

1 Continuing the Mayfair Business
2 Improvement District, Inc., a
3 Pennsylvania nonprofit corporation,
4 as a neighborhood improvement
5 district management association for
6 the district. Approving a plan for
7 and report concerning the district,
8 authorizing the Director of
9 Commerce, on behalf of the City, to
10 execute an agreement with the
11 Mayfair Business Improvement
12 District, Inc., relating to the
13 district, and reauthorizing the
14 Mayfair Business Improvement
15 District, Inc. to assess property
16 owners within the district a special
17 property assessment fee to be used
18 in accordance with the approved
19 plan, all in accordance with the
20 provisions of the Community and
21 Economic Improvement Act under
22 certain terms and conditions.

23 Bill No. 250572, an
24 ordinance amending Section 2-112 of

1 the Philadelphia Code, entitled City
2 Commissioners, by removing the
3 powers and duties of the Department
4 of Licenses and Inspections over
5 matters relating to weights and
6 measures; amending Title IX,
7 entitled Regulation of Businesses,
8 Trades, and Professions, by removing
9 provisions relating to amusement
10 devices and weights and measures and
11 making related technical changes;
12 and amending Title 19, entitled
13 Finance and Tax Collections, by
14 eliminating provisions related to
15 amusement licenses and weights and
16 measures registration, all under
17 certain terms and conditions.

18 Bill No. 250577, an
19 ordinance repealing in its entirety
20 the following ordinance, approved
21 December 23, 2024, Bill No.
22 240964-A02, authorizing the City of
23 Philadelphia to organize an
24 authority to be known as the Arena

1 Services District Authority pursuant
2 to the terms of the Pennsylvania
3 Municipal Authorities Act, all under
4 certain terms and conditions.

5 Bill No. 250648, an
6 ordinance to amend the Philadelphia
7 Zoning Maps by changing the zoning
8 designations of certain areas of
9 land located within an area bound by
10 North Street, Broad Street, Wallace
11 Street, and 15th Street.

12 Bill No. 250800, an
13 ordinance amending Title 14-602,
14 entitled Use Tables, by prohibiting
15 drug paraphernalia sales in certain
16 industrial districts, all under
17 certain terms and conditions.

18 Bill No. 250802, an
19 ordinance amending Title 14 of the
20 Philadelphia Code, entitled Zoning
21 and Planning, by revising and
22 clarifying certain provisions and
23 making technical changes to texts
24 that have expired, all under certain

1 terms and conditions.

2 Bill No. 250803, an
3 ordinance amending Section 14-524 of
4 the Philadelphia Code, entitled 4th
5 District Overlay District, by
6 clarifying allowed uses, all under
7 certain terms and conditions.

8 Bill No. 250810, an
9 ordinance amending Title 14 of the
10 Philadelphia Code, entitled Zoning
11 and Planning, by clarifying certain
12 provisions related to mixed-income
13 housing, revising the quality
14 standards for affordable units
15 within mixed-income developments,
16 and making related technical
17 changes, all under certain terms and
18 conditions. Respectfully reports it
19 has considered the same and returns
20 the attached bills to Council with a
21 favorable recommendation.

22 Bill No. 250767, an
23 ordinance repealing in its entirety
24 Bill No. 240415, approved July 19,

1 2024, entitled An Ordinance to Amend
2 the Philadelphia Zoning Maps by
3 Changing the Zoning Designations of
4 Certain Areas of Land Located Within
5 an Area Bound by Island Avenue, the
6 Delaware Expressway, and Bartram
7 Avenue.

8 Bill No. 250804, an
9 ordinance amending Title 14 of the
10 Philadelphia Code, entitled Zoning
11 and Planning, by amending certain
12 provisions of Chapter 14-500,
13 entitled Overlay Zoning Districts,
14 by creating the University Community
15 Overlay District and making related
16 technical changes, all under certain
17 terms and conditions.

18 Bill No. 250808, an
19 ordinance amending Title 14 of the
20 Philadelphia Code, entitled Zoning
21 and Planning, by revising and
22 clarifying certain provisions and
23 making technical changes to the text
24 that has expired, all under certain

1 terms and conditions.

2 Bill No. 250811, an
3 ordinance to amend the Philadelphia
4 Zoning Maps by changing the zoning
5 designations of certain areas of
6 land located within an area bound by
7 Ardleigh Street, East Sedgwick
8 Street, SEPTA Chestnut Hill East
9 Line, and East Gorgas Lane.

10 Respectfully reports it has
11 considered and amended the same and
12 returns the attached bills to
13 Council with a favorable
14 recommendation.

15 There are no further bills
16 to report out from the Committee on
17 Rules, Council President.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
19 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
20 Bass for a motion.

21 COUNCILMEMBER BASS: Thank
22 you, Mr. President. I move that the
23 rules of Council be suspended to
24 permit first reading this day of the

1 bills just read into the record by
2 the chief clerk.

3 Councilmember: Second.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

5 It has been moved and properly
6 seconded that the rules of Council
7 be suspended to permit the
8 consideration of these bills just
9 read by the chief clerk at today's
10 session of Council. All those in
11 favor of the motion will signify by
12 saying aye.

13 COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

15 Those opposed? The ayes have it.
16 The motion carries. These bills
17 will be placed on our first reading
18 calendar for today. The Chair
19 recognizes Councilmember Mike
20 Driscoll for a report from the
21 Committee on Licenses and
22 Inspections.

23 COUNCILMEMBER DRISCOLL:

24 Thank you, Mr. President. The

1 Committee on Licenses and
2 Inspections reports out four bills
3 with a favorable recommendation.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
5 Thank you. Will the chief clerk
6 please read the report.

7 CHIEF CLERK: The Committee
8 on Licenses and Inspections, to
9 which were referred the following
10 bills: Bill No. 250708, an
11 ordinance amending Subcode A, the
12 Philadelphia Administrative Code of
13 Title 4 of the Philadelphia Code,
14 the Building, Construction, and
15 Occupancy Code, to revise penalties
16 associated with stop work and cease
17 operations orders under certain
18 terms and conditions.

19 Bill No. 250709, an
20 ordinance amending Section 9-4403 of
21 the Philadelphia Code, entitled
22 Enforcement, to provide for the
23 continuation of nuisance business
24 enforcement following a change in

1 business under certain terms and
2 conditions.

3 Bill No. 250722, an
4 ordinance adding a new chapter,
5 Chapter 21-3500 of the Philadelphia
6 Code, entitled Public Utility
7 Meters, to prohibit provision of a
8 second utility meter by a public
9 utility at a residential property
10 without evidence of a valid housing
11 rental license for the property
12 under certain terms and conditions.

13 Bill No. 250773, an
14 ordinance amending Chapter 9-4900 of
15 the Philadelphia Code, entitled
16 Prohibition on Use of Certain Bags
17 by Retail Establishments, to modify
18 certain definitions, require retail
19 establishments to charge a fee for
20 the provision of a bag to customers,
21 and require signage, all under
22 certain terms and conditions.

23 Respectfully reports it has
24 considered and amended the same and

1 returns the attached bills to
2 Council with a favorable
3 recommendation.

4 There are no further bills
5 to report out from the Committee on
6 Licenses and Inspections, Council
7 President.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
9 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
10 Mike Driscoll for a motion.

11 COUNCILMEMBER DRISCOLL:
12 Thank you, Mr. President. I move
13 that the rules of Council be
14 suspended to permit first reading
15 this day of the bills just read into
16 the record by the chief clerk.

17 Councilmember: Second.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
19 It has been moved and properly
20 seconded that the rules of Council
21 be suspended to permit the
22 consideration of these bills just
23 read by the chief clerk at today's
24 session of Council. All those in

1 favor of the motion will signify by
2 saying aye.

3 COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

5 Those opposed. The ayes have it.

6 The motion carries. These bills
7 will be placed on our first reading
8 calendar for today. The Chair now
9 recognizes Councilmember Mike
10 Driscoll for a motion regarding
11 special business.

12 COUNCILMEMBER DRISCOLL:

13 Thank you, Mr. President. I move
14 that the rules of Council be
15 suspended to permit consideration of
16 special business at this time.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

18 It has been moved and properly
19 seconded that the rules of Council
20 be suspended to permit the
21 consideration of special business at
22 this time. All those in favor of
23 the motion will signify by saying
24 aye.

1 COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

3 Those opposed? The ayes have it,
4 and the motion carries. The Chair
5 recognizes Councilmember Mike
6 Driscoll for a motion regarding a
7 resolution introduced today to
8 recall Bill No. 250771. Will the
9 clerk please read the title of the
10 resolution.

11 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
12 requesting the Mayor return to
13 Council Bill No. 250771, entitled An
14 Ordinance Authorizing 3419
15 Kensington Partners or a subsequent
16 owner to install, own, and maintain
17 an encroachment at 3423 Kensington
18 Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19134,
19 under certain terms and conditions,
20 for the purpose of reconsideration
21 by the Council of the vote by which
22 said bill passed Council.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

24 The Chair recognizes Councilmember

1 Mike Driscoll.

2 COUNCILMEMBER DRISCOLL:

3 Thank you, Mr. President. I move to
4 suspend the rules to allow
5 consideration of this resolution
6 today.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

8 It has been moved and properly
9 seconded that the rules of Council
10 be suspended so as to permit the
11 consideration of the resolution at
12 this time. All those in favor of
13 the motion will signify by saying
14 aye.

15 COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

17 Those opposed? The ayes have it.
18 The motion carries. The Chair
19 recognizes Councilmember Mike
20 Driscoll.

21 COUNCILMEMBER DRISCOLL:

22 Thank you, President. I move for
23 the adoption of the resolution.

24 Councilmember: Second.

1 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

2 It has been moved and properly
3 seconded that the resolution be
4 adopted. All those in favor of the
5 motion will signify by saying aye.

6 COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

8 Those opposed? The ayes have it.
9 The motion carries. The resolution
10 is adopted. Will the clerk please
11 read a letter from the mayor.

12 CHIEF CLERK: To the
13 President and Members of the Council
14 of the City of Philadelphia, I'm
15 returning herewith, as requested by
16 your resolution adopted today, Bill
17 No. 250771, entitled An Ordinance
18 Authorizing 3419 Kensington Partners
19 or a subsequent owner to install,
20 own, and maintain an encroachment at
21 3423 Kensington Avenue,
22 Philadelphia, PA 19134, under
23 certain terms and conditions, for
24 the purpose of reconsideration by

1 Council of the vote by which said
2 bill passed Council.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

4 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
5 Mike Driscoll for a motion regarding
6 that Council reconsider the vote by
7 which Bill No. 250771 was passed.

8 COUNCILMEMBER DRISCOLL: So
9 moved, Mr. President.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

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

13 COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

15 Those opposed? The ayes have it. A
16 majority of all members having voted
17 in the affirmative, the motion
18 carries, and the vote by which Bill
19 No. 250771 was passed has been
20 reconsidered. The bill will be
21 placed on our second reading and
22 final passage calendar for our next
23 session of Council.

24 The next order of business

1 is the consideration of the
2 calendar. I note that the bills
3 just reported from committees, with
4 the suspension of the rules, have
5 been deemed to have had a first
6 reading. These bills will be placed
7 on the second reading and final
8 passage calendar for the next
9 session of Council.

10 As there are no additional
11 bills on the first reading calendar,
12 the Chair recognizes Councilmember
13 Katherine Gilmore Richardson for a
14 motion concerning the bills and
15 resolutions on the second reading
16 and final passage calendars.

17 COUNCILMEMBER RICHARDSON:

18 Thank you, Mr. President. The
19 following bills and resolutions are
20 being called up from the second
21 reading and final passage calendars
22 today: Numbers 250892, 250897,
23 250493-A, 250654, and 250718-A. The
24 following bills and resolutions on

1 the calendar are being held:

2 250303, 250646, and 250721.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

4 Thank you. Before considering these

5 bills and resolutions, we will

6 consider public comment as follows.

7 Your public comment must concern

8 matters on the second reading and

9 final passage calendars for possible

10 action at today's Council session.

11 All speakers must sign up in order

12 to testify. If you have not already

13 signed up for today's session,

14 please do so now by giving your name

15 to Ms. Hansen at the table outside

16 the rails to my left. Once you have

17 signed up, you will be called in the

18 order in which your name appears on

19 the signup sheet. Under ideal

20 circumstances, public commenters

21 each will have three minutes to

22 speak. However, this time limit may

23 vary from session to session.

24 Today, the time limit will be two

1 minutes.

2 In order to be fair to all
3 those wishing to speak, I intend to
4 hold faithfully to the two-minute
5 limit. When you begin speaking, you
6 will see a green light on the
7 podium. When there are 30 seconds
8 remaining to your time, the light
9 will turn yellow, which is your
10 reminder to conclude your remarks.
11 Once two minutes have passed, the
12 light will turn red and the Sergeant
13 at Arms will disconnect the
14 microphone. At that point, please
15 yield the podium to the next speaker
16 if you have not done so already. I
17 also reserve the right, pursuant to
18 our Rules of Council, to limit
19 repetitious comments on the same
20 subject matter.

21 I would now ask the Chief
22 Clerk to please read the names of
23 our first speakers.

24 CHIEF CLERK: May we have

1 Kate Perez, Jeremy Blatstein, Mikey
2 Dredd, Mutha Knows, and Marie
3 Fleming to the podium. We have Kate
4 Perez, Jeremy Blatstein, Mikey
5 Dredd, Mutha Knows, and Marie
6 Fleming.

7 MR. BLATSTEIN: Hello. My
8 name's Jeremy Blatstein. Today I am
9 here in support of Bill No.
10 250178-A, which gives the
11 Philadelphia Department of Streets
12 the authority to continue to make
13 changes and additions to parking
14 regulations in Center City.

15 To be clear, this has been
16 the understanding since the 1980s;
17 it just wasn't properly legislated.
18 This is a common-sense good
19 governance bill. It would
20 streamline a process that could be
21 bogged down by unnecessary red tape.
22 It allows Streets and OTIS, the
23 people who actually manage our
24 transportation network day to day,

1 to make data-driven decisions faster
2 and more effectively.

3 Every loading zone, every
4 curb change, every parking
5 adjustment would require a periodic
6 process that could slow down safety
7 improvements, block businesses from
8 adapting, and prevent the city from
9 responding quickly to help people
10 actually use our streets. This bill
11 doesn't remove oversight. It simply
12 ensures expertise leads the way.

13 Streets already maintain our
14 infrastructure; this just gives them
15 the flexibility to act when
16 conditions on the ground demand it.

17 This legislation lets the
18 city move at the speed of the city,
19 not the speed of bureaucracy. The
20 quarrelsome contrarian, a.k.a. City
21 Councilmember Jay Young, should also
22 include the 5th District in this
23 bill. Currently, he's not including
24 it, and it is a mistake.

1 I would also like to
2 acknowledge you, City Council
3 President Johnson, and your team for
4 going up to Hoboken yesterday and
5 listening, learning about what
6 they're doing to ensure Vision Zero
7 works. And we're talking about
8 SEPTA. I just want to make sure
9 everybody understands that the
10 regional rail is delayed still
11 because of the inspections that are
12 occurring of the Regional Rail
13 Silverliner cars, along with not
14 having proper funding. So I just
15 want to make sure of the two things
16 everyone needs to understand.

17 And last but not least, I
18 would like to remember Kada Scott,
19 who should be alive today if it was
20 not for the mistakes made by
21 Philadelphia District Attorney Larry
22 Krasner's office by not appealing
23 the bail and dropping the charges of
24 Keon King. Ride the ride. Thank

1 you.

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

3 Mr. Blatstein, just stay right
4 there. I think we have additional
5 information regarding Councilmember
6 Jeffrey J. Young. The Chair
7 recognizes Councilmember Jeffrey J.
8 Young.

9 COUNCILMEMBER YOUNG: Yes,
10 Mr. President, thank you so much for
11 recognizing me. I'll always be
12 quarrelsome when it comes to
13 fighting for my constituents and my
14 residents, right? And making sure
15 they have the proper information so
16 I can make the decision.

17 When it comes to this
18 particular bill, I have not spoken
19 to the community about this bill to
20 see how it would affect them, but we
21 will be having a town-hall in the
22 inner-city area, and this will be
23 one of the topics that the community
24 members will have some say on.

1 So when you go in and you
2 speak to these things, you have no
3 idea what you're speaking of, you
4 have no idea my thoughts behind it,
5 so ask me a question. Every time
6 you ask me a question, I respond. I
7 give you the rationale before you
8 come in here making baseless
9 statements on City Council floor.
10 So please, please, and anyone who
11 wants to do that, come talk to me
12 about it first before you make these
13 baseless statements. Thank you,
14 Mr. President.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
16 Chair thanks the member. Will the
17 chief clerk please call the next
18 person.

19 CHIEF CLERK: We have Mikey
20 Dredd, Mutha Knows, and Marie
21 Fleming. And may David Alexander
22 Jenkins, Jazmine Easley, Melanie
23 Burney, Janice Armstrong or Janice
24 Armstrong, and Joseph Blake also

1 make their way to the podium.

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

3 The floor is yours.

4 MR. KNOWS: Showtime. Good
5 morning. My name is Mutha Knows
6 from the Rise and Grind Morning
7 Show. Thank you so much to
8 Councilwoman Katherine Gilmore
9 Richardson and her fabulous team for
10 this incredible honor.

11 I'm full of gratitude. I
12 would like to extend my gratitude to
13 my team, family, and friends who
14 have supported me every step of the
15 way. This resolution is not just a
16 recognition of my work, but a
17 testament to the collective effort
18 and dedication that goes into making
19 it happen.

20 Thank you again for this
21 prestigious resolution. I am
22 grateful, and I will forever
23 remember this moment from the bottom
24 of my heart. Thank you for letting

1 the Rise and Grind Morning Show come
2 into your homes, come into your
3 cars, letting us humor you, educate
4 you, inform you, and put a smile on
5 your face. It's far from over.
6 This is only the beginning. Thank
7 you once again.

8 MR. DREDD: Mikey Dredd
9 from the Rise and Grind Morning
10 Show. I just want to say I
11 appreciate the acknowledgement. A
12 lot of what Mutha and I did on the
13 radio was about the community, about
14 giving back. It wasn't always about
15 us and showing our personality. It
16 was about what we could give to the
17 listeners and what the listeners
18 could give back to us.

19 And let's be clear on this,
20 it wasn't just me and Mutha. The
21 show started out with Uncle O and
22 Mina SayWhat, and then moved on to
23 Roxy, Mutha, and I. So it's not
24 just Mutha and I. There was a whole

1 team behind us. You know, I'm proud
2 to say that we've been the longest-
3 running morning show on Power 99
4 ever.

5 So that puts us with the
6 greats, like BJ in the Morning,
7 Carter and Sanborn, Wendy Williams,
8 Kobe Cole, Golden Boy, Q Deezy,
9 Golden Girl, Lorraine Ballard
10 Morrill, and Lehronda Upshur; all
11 these greats that have been on Power
12 99. It's an honor for our names to
13 be put in the same sentence with
14 them.

15 I really appreciate this.
16 This is my first time in here in all
17 the years that we've had all of you
18 guys on the show, and it's just
19 amazing to see. I appreciate you
20 all. Thank you.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
22 Congratulations. One second,
23 Mr. Alexander. The Chair recognizes
24 Councilmember Dr. Anthony Phillips.

1 COUNCILMEMBER PHILLIPS: I
2 know they're going to be leaving
3 soon, but I just want to publicly
4 say thank you to Mutha Knows and
5 Mikey Dredd, because what Mikey said
6 earlier; they did this for our
7 community.

8 Often in Philadelphia,
9 citizens got their news from Power
10 99, Mikey Dredd, and Mutha Knows. I
11 even remember growing up with Carter
12 and Sanborn. My mom made sure I
13 listened to Carter and Sanborn. So
14 the value of having a local
15 personality talk about issues and
16 things in our community means a lot.

17 And you know, private
18 companies have the right to make
19 decisions to go nationally
20 syndicated. We love The Breakfast
21 Club --

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
23 No, we don't.

24 COUNCILMEMBER PHILLIPS: --

1 and what they do. You're right.

2 There are some things that are kind
3 of off about The Breakfast Club.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

5 We like Rise and Grind.

6 COUNCILMEMBER PHILLIPS:

7 But I'm going to say this, is that
8 you have the right to make that
9 decision, but private companies also
10 have the right to do the right
11 thing. And the right thing is
12 ensuring that local communities get
13 news and information that they need,
14 as well as feeling like it's
15 Philadelphia.

16 And Mikey Dredd and Mutha
17 Knows made radio feel like
18 Philadelphia and made sure
19 Philadelphians understood the
20 importance of why their community
21 mattered. I just had to say that
22 before they left. Thank you all so
23 much.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

1 And I would be remiss if I didn't
2 briefly acknowledge the hundreds of
3 community organizations and events
4 that they have supported: showing
5 up with their van, coming out, being
6 radio personalities on site. It
7 really helped a lot of us when we
8 all first got started, those of us
9 who were activists before we became
10 elected officials.

11 So to Rise and Grind, keep
12 up the good work. Thank you very
13 much. Mr. David Alexander.

14 MR. ALEXANDER:
15 Mr. President, members, and guests,
16 I rise in support of Resolution
17 250303 as presented by Member Thomas
18 honoring the Philadelphia Juvenile
19 System Service Center School on the
20 occasion of its 20th biannual
21 celebration.

22 Carpe Diem is a thematic
23 indeed material. It is the very
24 tenet and theology of hope that we

1 are taught and enshrined in the very
2 dignity of our justice system.
3 Justice William Rush reminds us it
4 is reformation. It is not
5 vindictive in nature; it is not
6 suffering. William Penn reminds us
7 that to punish is to amend and not
8 to avenge. It is of God.

9 That truth still echoes in
10 our city's conscience in every young
11 life given another chance to begin
12 again, as we do our level best to
13 ensure that man is judged not by the
14 depth of his failures but by his
15 internal struggle to strive for
16 flight. Within those walls, this
17 program restores what the city's
18 earliest founders, the Quakers,
19 first envisioned: a world of
20 redemption.

21 Penitence is not
22 punishment. A radical idea to
23 ingest, owing to a world that too
24 often prefers the lash to the

1 lesson. We have not always gotten
2 that right, and I admit that. But
3 Carpe Diem, in its 20 years, has
4 something to learn us. It affirms
5 that justice, when guided by
6 compassion, leads a person back to
7 themselves.

8 That by uniting judges of
9 color who serve our courts with the
10 young people whose futures depend on
11 seeing that First Corinthians more
12 excellent way, in these meetings
13 power becomes membership, the gavel
14 becomes a bridge, and the students
15 are reminded that the law is at its
16 best; not an instrument of exclusion
17 but a mirror of potential meant to
18 inspire the valiant marker we must
19 all bear of citizenship.

20 More than twenty judges
21 have now taken part in this
22 remarkable effort, each one bearing
23 witness to a truth older than its
24 chamber, that restoration is the

1 truest form of love. Therefore,
2 justice, if applied correctly, is
3 love. Today we affirm a moral truth
4 that runs through our city's
5 founding - that rectitude and mercy
6 walk hand in hand, and that the
7 future of our children, particularly
8 when they stumble, remains a
9 collective matter of sacred
10 responsibility here in this city of
11 brotherly love. I yield back.

12 MS. EASLEY: Good morning,
13 City Council, Council President, and
14 members. My name is Jazmyne Easley,
15 and I'm the Special Assistant
16 Legislative Aide for Councilmember
17 Landau.

18 I want to first and
19 foremost thank Councilmember Landau
20 for introducing the resolution to
21 honor the 2025 Philadelphia Walk to
22 End Alzheimer's and City Council for
23 acknowledging and supporting this
24 issue.

1 The Walk to End Alzheimer's
2 is an event that brings hundreds of
3 communities across the United States
4 together to raise awareness about
5 Alzheimer's disease, highlight the
6 stories of those affected by
7 Alzheimer's, support their
8 caregivers, and further show
9 community visibility and solidarity.

10 In the Philadelphia region,
11 thousands will gather at Citizens
12 Bank Park on Saturday, November 8th,
13 to walk in honor of their loved ones
14 suffering from this disease and
15 continue the fight to raise funds
16 for care, support services,
17 research, and to further the mission
18 of the Alzheimer's Association.

19 I walk in honor of my
20 great-grandfather, Eddie Hobson, who
21 was my first experience with
22 Alzheimer's disease. In 2010, he
23 was the first person in our family
24 to be diagnosed with Alzheimer's

1 disease. As a family, we had to
2 educate ourselves on what
3 Alzheimer's is and what symptoms my
4 great-grandfather was soon to
5 experience.

6 Unfortunately, his mind
7 progressively declined shortly after
8 being diagnosed, leading him not to
9 recognize us, which created ongoing
10 frustration for him as he lost track
11 of time, place, and his memories.
12 In 2013, my mother left her job to
13 become his full-time caregiver, and
14 I proudly served as her little
15 assistant at the age of twelve,
16 witnessing firsthand the toll the
17 disease takes on both those living
18 with it and those who love them.

19 On June 9th, 2015, I lost
20 my great-grandfather, Eddie, to this
21 devastating illness. At his
22 funeral, I made a promise to keep
23 his memory alive by spreading
24 awareness and fighting for a cure.

1 In 2020, due to this
2 detrimental loss to my entire
3 family, we decided to lead the
4 charge to raise awareness by
5 participating in our first Philly
6 Walk to End Alzheimer's. It is with
7 great pride and admiration that I
8 stand as team captain for Eddie's
9 Legacy Walk Team.

10 This past June 9th, 2025,
11 marked the 10-year anniversary of
12 his passing, and on August 8th we
13 celebrated what would have been his
14 100th birthday. Though he is no
15 longer with us, his legacy lives on
16 through every step we take, every
17 story we share, and every person we
18 reach.

19 I'm committed to this cause
20 because no one should face
21 Alzheimer's alone. Together, we can
22 honor the past, support families in
23 the present, and fight for a future
24 without this disease. Thank you

1 again for this honor.

2 CHIEF CLERK: We have
3 Melanie Burney, Jenice Armstrong,
4 Joseph Blake, Chris Gale, Sarah
5 Glover, and Nkwa Asonye also make
6 their way to the podium.

7 MS. BURNEY: There is a
8 time for everything and a season for
9 every activity under the heavens; a
10 time to be born and a time to die.

11 Good morning. I am Melanie
12 Burney, the new president of the
13 National Association of Black
14 Journalists Philadelphia Chapter.

15 (Applause.)

16 Thank you. My heart is
17 heavy today. I have been at a loss
18 since we received the call Saturday
19 night from Mike's wife informing us
20 that he had transitioned.

21 We lost a giant, not only
22 in Philadelphia journalism but
23 around the country. Writer,
24 journalist, author, media executive,

1 champion for diversity. History
2 will record Michael I. Days as the
3 first Black editor of the
4 Philadelphia Daily News. He led the
5 People Paper to a Pulitzer Prize.

6 He held executive positions
7 at the Philadelphia Inquirer. His
8 resume was extensive and impressive,
9 but there was so much more|:
10 husband, father, grandfather,
11 brother, mentor, and friend to many.
12 He was a proud son of Philadelphia.
13 He often reminded us that he was
14 from North Philadelphia.

15 And the beauty of Michael
16 Days was his ability to make
17 everyone feel special. The tributes
18 have poured in from around the
19 country. Mike had a profound
20 impact. He made journalism better
21 and he made us better; better
22 journalists and better people.

23 On behalf of NABJ
24 Philadelphia, I'd like to express my

1 gratitude to Council President
2 Kenyatta Johnson and Council for
3 recognizing Mike. And thank you,
4 Vincent Thompson, for making this
5 happen.

6 Looks like I'm out of time.
7 One last thought. We have
8 established the Michael I. Days
9 Scholarship Fund so we can help the
10 next generation of aspiring young
11 journalists realize their dreams.
12 The legacy will live on. We will
13 continue the work and fight until
14 the end. Go to our website for
15 scholarship information. Thank you.

16 MS. ARMSTRONG: Good
17 morning, Council President, members,
18 and guests. My name is Jenice
19 Armstrong. I'm a columnist with the
20 Inquirer and Daily News.

21 I'm not going to read most
22 of my prepared remarks because I've
23 got some other colleagues who'd like
24 to get up here and say a few words.

1 But I'm really struck by the number
2 of people -- some of you all are on
3 deadline -- who came out today in
4 support of Michael Days.

5 I was just wondering, could
6 -- my colleagues in the press and
7 media whose lives have been impacted
8 by Michael Days, would you please
9 stand? And also the members of the
10 National Association of Black
11 Journalists Philadelphia Chapter,
12 could you stand as well?

13 (Applause.)

14 Thank you. As Melanie has
15 already mentioned, he was from
16 Philadelphia and spent nearly his
17 entire journalism career here in
18 Philadelphia telling the city's
19 stories. He was fair, he was
20 compassionate, and he was committed
21 -- especially to helping underserved
22 communities.

23 Our city is better because
24 of his work at the Daily News and

1 the Inquirer. And I'm better as a
2 person and as a journalist for
3 having had him as a boss, editor,
4 mentor, and friend. Thank you.

5 MR. BLAKE: Good morning,
6 Council President. I just want to
7 thank you personally, as someone who
8 also travels east, for the honor of
9 what you're doing this morning.

10 I look around -- my name is
11 Joseph Blake, and I was a long-time
12 reporter at the Philadelphia
13 Inquirer and Daily News. And I look
14 around this Council chamber and I
15 see Council people that I used to
16 cover before they were Council
17 people, activists on the street
18 doing what they were doing for the
19 good of the people.

20 And Mike and I also covered
21 City Hall, and one of the great
22 things we loved about covering City
23 Hall was that it was an honor to
24 cover the people who represented the

1 people. No one ever cursed at us --
2 oh, I did. Joseph Blake. I thought
3 I did say my name for the record.

4 When we were covering City
5 Council and City Hall and the
6 judges, no one ever disrespected us,
7 and we never disrespected anyone
8 else. Mike and I loved that. And
9 we also loved going up to the bar
10 across the street, when it was
11 there, to get chicken wings and talk
12 to the Council people in an informal
13 kind of way.

14 I don't know whether that
15 still goes on or not, but it
16 certainly helped us. People like
17 Curtis Jones and other folks just
18 really helped us as young
19 journalists because we believed in
20 what you were doing, and you
21 believed in our honesty and passion
22 as well.

23 So I want to thank you from
24 the bottom of my heart for my North

1 Philly brother. We go so far back.
2 We used to be on the 9th Street
3 Bridge to take the yellow bus to go
4 pick blueberries in the summer in
5 Hamilton Township, New Jersey. So
6 he was a good man. He's still a
7 good man. I know his legacy will
8 live on in the people I see around
9 this room whom he covered and whom I
10 covered. Thank you very much,
11 Mr. President. We appreciate the
12 honor.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

14 Thank you. You're welcome.

15 MS. WARRINGTON: My name is
16 Karen Warrington. So often when
17 someone passes, we almost
18 automatically say "he'll be missed,"
19 but Michael Days will really be
20 missed because of his ability to
21 handle the super difficult job of
22 being positioned between the
23 legitimate concerns of the Black
24 community regarding coverage and

1 answering to the folks who paid his
2 salary. Although he always would
3 put a positive spin on whatever the
4 crisis of the day was, I'm sure it
5 took a toll on him.

6 I always felt very close to
7 Michael over the decades of knowing
8 him. No matter how our professional
9 responsibilities changed, he was
10 always accessible, warm, and
11 supportive. He was genuinely a
12 friend, and more importantly, he was
13 a friend to his community as well as
14 to the broader community. And we
15 thank his family for sharing him
16 with us.

17 MR. ASONYE: Good morning,
18 Council President Johnson and
19 Councilmembers. My name is Nkwa
20 Asonye. That's N-K-W-A, last name
21 A-S-O-N-Y-E. I'm a sports
22 broadcaster and journalist working
23 behind the scenes at 6ABC, and I'm
24 also honored to soon be serving as

1 President-elect of NABJ

2 Philadelphia.

3 When I first got to the
4 city, I knew that joining the
5 chapter was going to be really
6 important for me, and Mike was a
7 huge part of that. When I came in
8 fresh, I had to do my homework, but
9 the more that I learned about Mike,
10 the more I understood the impact
11 that he had.

12 I only had a chance to
13 spend a year with him, but even in
14 that year I learned from the way he
15 carried himself, our conversations,
16 the encouragement when I thought
17 some of the things we were going for
18 weren't really going to get
19 accomplished. And yet he was there.
20 He was resolute. And I really wish
21 I had more time with him.

22 Legacy is a word that gets
23 thrown around a lot, but when it
24 comes to Mike Days, it's absolutely

1 imperative that we honor him. And
2 I'm very glad this resolution was
3 brought forward because, especially
4 in these times, it's important that
5 the impact that's being had is
6 cemented forever. I thank you for
7 your time.

8 (Applause.)

9 CHIEF CLERK: We have Sarah
10 Glover, Chris Gale, Mari Gonzalez.
11 May Robert Sims, Shirley Dash, and
12 Michael Galvin also make their way
13 to the podium. So, Sarah Glover,
14 Chris Gale, Mari Gonzalez, Robert
15 Sims, Shirley Dash, and Michael
16 Galvin.

17 MR. GALE: Good morning,
18 Council. Good morning, Council
19 President. My name is Chris Gale.
20 I'm the Executive Director of the
21 Bicycle Coalition of Greater
22 Philadelphia. I'm here today on
23 behalf of Council President,
24 accepting the resolution. And I

1 just want to say thank you. This is
2 very touching. I'm a transplant to
3 Philadelphia. I love this city. I
4 moved here about 13 years ago in an
5 effort to really try to make my mark
6 on the city and help the city be a
7 better place. And I see allies here
8 on Council both on my right and my
9 left.

10 And over the last year and
11 a half, having joined the Bicycle
12 Coalition to lead them and bring in
13 a different perspective, not being
14 from Philadelphia, being a Latino
15 having grown up poor and having to
16 make my way through the world, this
17 is a touching honor. So thank you,
18 Council President, thank you,
19 COUNCILMEMBERS, for your support. I
20 look forward to working with you in
21 the years beyond. And I really just
22 appreciate all of it. Thank you.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
24 Stay there. Mr. Gale, you can stay

1 there at the podium for a second.

2 The Chair recognizes Councilmember

3 Isaiah Thomas.

4 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS:

5 Thank you, Council President. I

6 just wanted to take a moment of

7 personal privilege to thank

8 Councilmember Gauthier for

9 introducing the resolution on your

10 behalf. And thank you for your

11 leadership, Council President, and

12 of course say thank you to Chris. I

13 just wanted to acknowledge that

14 there are times when people ask us

15 as COUNCILMEMBERS about the most

16 difficult parts of our job. And I

17 remember -- gathering with Chris and

18 others, I believe it was in your

19 Councilmember -- district,

20 Councilmember Gauthier, and they

21 were doing advocacy work around all

22 of the people who had lost their

23 lives riding a bicycle in the city

24 of Philadelphia.

1 And it wasn't just
2 pictures. They brought out loved
3 ones as well too. And when you
4 listen to loved ones talk about
5 losing their mother, brother,
6 father, sister, so many varieties,
7 so many social and economic
8 statuses. This is an issue that
9 touches all classes, all
10 neighborhoods, and all people across
11 the city of Philadelphia. If you
12 don't know, in 2020, we saw a record
13 number of hit and runs here in the
14 city of Philadelphia. And it was
15 folks like Chris and other
16 organizations who worked with
17 members of City Council to advocate
18 for a lot of change to the point
19 where we've seen those incidents
20 curve significantly.

21 So, Council President,
22 thank you for your leadership,
23 colleague, thank you for the work
24 that you've done around this issue.

1 I know you're very passionate about
2 it. And Chris, to you and your
3 team, thank you for the countless
4 hours of advocacy, the countless
5 number of meetings, and all the
6 great work that you've done. I'll
7 close out by saying this, Council
8 President, this is one of those
9 issues where as though we'll never
10 know how many lives we saved based
11 on the work that we've done. So,
12 thank you. Thank you.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
14 Thank you. The Chair recognizes
15 Councilmember Jamie Gauthier.

16 COUNCILMEMBER GAUTHIER:
17 Thank you, Council President. I
18 wanted to add my voice to my
19 colleagues in recognizing Chris Gale
20 and his leadership. He's someone
21 who has had a background in systems
22 change, both in the nonprofit and
23 government sector, and he's brought
24 that same spirit to the Bicycle

1 Coalition. I've been especially
2 impressed with the Bicycle
3 Coalition's advocacy in the past
4 year or so, particularly around
5 tragic deaths like that of Barbara
6 Frida. You know, the Bicycle
7 Coalition has been one of the
8 loudest voices reminding everyone in
9 this city that traffic deaths are
10 not inevitable and that we should be
11 using infrastructure to make sure
12 that everyone is safe on our roads.

13 Their advocacy has helped
14 Council to move forward key
15 initiatives like the Get Out the
16 Bike Lane Bill, and, you know,
17 they've pushed on Vision Zero,
18 making sure that it is properly
19 resourced. They helped me in my
20 district with the 47th Street bike
21 lane. And I just want to thank
22 Chris for his leadership and
23 advocacy, which is working. We just
24 heard Councilmember Thomas talk

1 about what 2020 looked like, but
2 2025 has seen traffic deaths
3 trending down, and I fully believe
4 that that is in large part due to
5 the efforts of the Bicycle
6 Coalition, especially under Chris's
7 leadership. So thank you, thank
8 you, thank you.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

10 And I just want to say thank you,
11 Chris, for your hard work, your
12 dedication, your leadership, your
13 advocacy around the 5 million for
14 Vision Zero to make sure we continue
15 moving forward and making sure the
16 City of Philadelphia is a more
17 bicyclist and pedestrian friendly
18 city, as well as your advocacy as we
19 worked yesterday in Hoboken, New
20 Jersey, a city that hasn't seen a
21 traffic death since 2017.

22 And so when we talk about
23 issues like around daylighting and
24 making sure that bills such as the

1 Get Out the Bike Lane Bill, and most
2 important, looking at the issue of
3 daylighting.

4 But also, I think people
5 don't know or recognize, at least I
6 didn't know, under any previous
7 administrations or leadership, the
8 work that the Bicycle Coalition does
9 with young African American children
10 regarding bicycles. You have a
11 program that's in all neighborhoods
12 across the city of Philadelphia,
13 helping children who do not have
14 bikes, get bikes, learn how to fix
15 their bikes, right? And most
16 importantly, use their bikes all
17 throughout the city of Philadelphia.
18 So thank you for your leadership,
19 Chris, and it's always good to see
20 you. Thank you. Will the Chief
21 Clerk please call the next speaker,
22 please.

23 CHIEF CLERK: Mari
24 Gonzalez, Sarah Glover, we have

1 Robert Sims, Shirley Dash, Michael
2 Galvin. May Reverend Gregory
3 Holston and Ogbonna Hagens also make
4 their way to the podium.

5

6 MS. DASH: My name is
7 Shirley Dash. Thank you, Council
8 President Johnson, for this
9 opportunity. And thank you,
10 Councilmember Landau, for
11 introducing this resolution honoring
12 the Alzheimer's Association and
13 recognizing our commitment to
14 research, advocacy, and support for
15 those impacted by dementia and their
16 families. My mother was diagnosed
17 with this disease at the age of 66.
18 She lived with this for the last 12
19 years of her life. She died in
20 2012. I not only advocate in her --
21 in her honor, but for those who are
22 no longer able to speak for
23 themselves.

24 It is estimated that 34,000

1 people age 65 and older in
2 Philadelphia are living with
3 Alzheimer's, a figure that does not
4 account for those who are
5 undiagnosed. While these numbers
6 are only increasing, we know that
7 rising public awareness about
8 dementia will aid in early detection
9 and diagnoses. It will reduce
10 stigma, and it will ensure that
11 those who need support know where to
12 turn. One of the largest and most
13 impactful moments for us locally,
14 which raises considerable public
15 awareness, is the Philadelphia Walk
16 to End Alzheimer's, held annually in
17 more than 600 communities
18 nationwide.

19 The Walk to End Alzheimer's
20 is the world's largest fundraiser
21 for Alzheimer's care. In fact, the
22 funds raised directly help to
23 advance critical care, support, and
24 research. On November 8th, 2025, we

1 will host the Philadelphia Walk,
2 which has been the number two walk
3 in the country for the last several
4 years. This event brings together
5 upwards of 7,000 individuals at
6 Citizens Bank Park for an inspiring
7 and powerful event where
8 participants honor loved ones.
9 Thank you.

10 MS. GLOVER: Good morning,
11 Honorable Council President Kenyatta
12 Johnson. It's good to see you
13 again.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
15 Good to see you.

16 MS. GLOVER: Good morning
17 to the COUNCILMEMBERS. I was not
18 scheduled to speak. I'm speaking
19 using the time for Sarah Glover, who
20 couldn't make it today. But I
21 wanted to just talk to you a little
22 bit about Michael Days. You know,
23 he was a mentor and friend. I
24 wanted to say he was someone who had

1 an incredible network, a network
2 that connected me with you when I
3 worked for you briefly. He was a --
4 I think he's important, not because
5 he's just important to journalism,
6 but I wanted to say to people that
7 he was a man with, as I said, just
8 an incredible network, quiet,
9 humble, powerful.

10 And he always used his
11 power for good. He always uplifted
12 other people, and he always saw
13 potential in people. I'm sorry. He
14 always saw potential in people,
15 especially young people of color,
16 who may not have gotten
17 opportunities in these newsrooms
18 where there are not very many people
19 who look like us. And, you know,
20 it's just so important. So I just
21 wanted to make sure people
22 understood and knew that him, how he
23 lived, what he did, was so much
24 bigger than any one person. And

1 just an incredible individual. And
2 I wanted to say that we are going to
3 bury the man soon, but I hope that
4 everyone will remember the plan.
5 Thank you.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
7 Thank you.

8 MR. GALVIN: Good morning,
9 and thank you, Council President
10 Johnson and members of City Council.
11 My name is Michael Galvin, and I'm
12 here to speak in support of
13 Councilmember Landau's resolution
14 honoring the Alzheimer's
15 Association's 2025 Walk to End
16 Alzheimer's here in Philadelphia.
17 While you have previously heard from
18 me on numerous issues facing our
19 city, I'm here today because of a
20 personal connection to dementia. My
21 grandmother. We also know her
22 lovingly as Mima or Adelita, little
23 Adela. Her strength, passion, and
24 determination helped shape me into

1 the person many of you know today.

2 Mima has been fighting her
3 dementia for two years now. As you
4 have heard, on November 8th, 2025,
5 we will host a Philadelphia Walk at
6 Citizens Bank Park, which has been
7 the second largest walk in the
8 country for the last several years.

9 This year I participated in walks
10 all across the Commonwealth from the
11 Lehigh Valley to Pittsburgh and
12 everywhere in between. These walks,
13 each unique and inspirational in
14 their own right, have driven myself,
15 volunteers, advocates, and those
16 impacted by this disease to continue
17 fighting for treatment and
18 ultimately the end to Alzheimer's
19 and all other dementias.

20 As our incredible advocate
21 and volunteer chaplain, Shirley
22 Dash, just stated, we are honored to
23 have the ability to partner with our
24 community to help shine a light on

1 this disease, its impact on
2 Philadelphia residents, and the
3 importance of community engagement
4 and awareness in the Walk to End
5 Alzheimer's. On November 8th, I'll
6 participate in my first Philadelphia
7 Walk to End Alzheimer's. I will
8 walk for Mima. At our walks,
9 participants carry a flower
10 symbolizing their connection to
11 Alzheimer's or other dementias.

12 This year I'm going to
13 carry the yellow flower for Mima
14 symbolizing my care and support of
15 her and her journey. And while each
16 of these colored flowers means
17 something different, purple for
18 those who have lost a loved one with
19 the disease, orange for those who
20 support the mission of a world
21 without Alzheimer's and all other
22 dementia, and blue for those living
23 with the disease, we're all bound
24 together in one common journey to

1 end Alzheimer's once and for all.

2 This hope is symbolized by
3 the white flower at our pre-walk
4 ceremony, representing the cure,
5 representing survival. Thank you
6 again, members of Philadelphia City
7 Council, for your ongoing support
8 for our mission and the community
9 impacted by Alzheimer's and other
10 dementias. We urge you to support
11 Councilmember Landau's resolution
12 today. Thank you.

13 CHIEF CLERK: We have
14 Reverend Greg Holston, Ogbonna
15 Hagens. May Rabbi Mordecai
16 Liebling, Audrey Coles, and Debra
17 Horn also make their way to the
18 podium.

19 MS. GONZALEZ: Hi. Sorry.
20 Good morning. Good afternoon. Good
21 morning, COUNCILMEMBERS. My name is
22 Maridarlyn Gonzalez, and I want to
23 take this opportunity to recognize
24 the outstanding leadership of Chris

1 Gale, executive director of the
2 Bicycle Coalition of Greater
3 Philadelphia. Since stepping into
4 his role at the Bicycle Coalition,
5 Chris Gale has helped transform how
6 Philadelphia approaches
7 transportation safety, access, and
8 equity. Under his guidance, the
9 city has seen miles of new upgraded
10 bike lanes and stronger no-stopping-
11 any-time protections, and growing
12 investments in corridors that
13 connect neighborhoods.

14 His advocacy has made our
15 streets safer for everyone, whether
16 you bike, walk, take transit, or
17 drive. Chris has helped see the
18 true diversity of the biking
19 community, including the often-
20 invisible riders who rely on their
21 bikes not just for sport, but as
22 their primary means to get to and
23 from work. His leadership reminds
24 us that biking is not just

1 recreation, it's transportation,
2 it's economic mobility, and dignity
3 in motion. Beyond the street, he
4 also serves as Vice President of
5 LULAC Philly, a chapter of the
6 oldest and largest Latino civil
7 rights organization.

8 Through his work at LULAC,
9 Chris has helped register voters and
10 encourage civic participation in
11 neighborhoods with some of the
12 lowest turnouts. He understands
13 that safer streets and stronger
14 democracy go hand in hand. Both are
15 about giving people the freedom to
16 move, to be seen, and to be heard.
17 Chris Gale represents the kind of
18 leadership Philadelphia needs:
19 collaborative, equity-driven,
20 grounded in community. Our city is
21 safer, more connected, and more
22 civically engaged because of his
23 vision and dedication. Thank you.

24 MR. HOLSTON: Good morning.

1 My name is Reverend Gregory Holston.
2 Excuse me. Very moved by all the
3 presentations today. Thankful for
4 all of the Black reporters who are
5 here, some of my heroes, celebrating
6 the life of Michael Days and so many
7 others who are here today. I come
8 here today to lift up the life of
9 Rabbi Arthur Waskow. As the
10 Executive Director for a time of the
11 organization called Power, a
12 multiracial, multifaith
13 organization, I was privileged to be
14 able to have relationships and build
15 relationships with many in the
16 Jewish community.

17 They let me in to share
18 their hurt, their pain, and their
19 lives. And Rabbi Waskow was one of
20 those individuals who would reach
21 out to me and share his vision for
22 this world. We remember him as a
23 fearless prophet of our time, a
24 Rabbi who refused to separate the

1 sacred from the struggle. From the
2 moment he linked the story of the
3 Exodus to the Black Freedom Movement
4 called the Freedom Seder in 1969,
5 Rabbi Waskow lived out a faith that
6 acts, a theology that marches, a
7 spirituality that speaks truth to
8 power.

9 He spoke out for our earth
10 long before it was popular, and when
11 others stayed silent, he spoke out
12 for justice in Israel and Palestine
13 long before it was safe and popular
14 and suffered for it. Yet he never
15 wavered.

16 He believed that the God of
17 Abraham and Sarah, the God of Moses
18 and Mariam, calls us to stand with
19 the oppressed wherever they may be.
20 Rabbi Waskow walked in the same
21 world lineage as the Black church
22 prophets of Dr. King and Fannie Lou
23 Hamer and Howard Thurman, who
24 declared the gospel demands justice,

1 not comfort.

2 And like them, he knew that
3 faith without courage is hollow and
4 real peace is born only from truth
5 and compassion. He showed us the
6 Passover cry "Let my people go" is
7 the same cry heard in Montgomery, in
8 Soweto, in Gaza; a cry for freedom,
9 dignity, and life abundant for every
10 child of God. So I thank you today
11 for celebrating his life and giving
12 me an opportunity to lift up this
13 great hero that lived among us.
14 Thank you so much.

15 MR. LIEBLING: I am Rabbi
16 Mordechai Liebling. I thank you,
17 Council President, and I thank
18 Councilmembers O'Rourke and Landau
19 for introducing this resolution. In
20 the Jewish tradition, there is a
21 biblical passage associated with
22 every week, and the week that Arthur
23 was born in 1933, it was from the
24 book of Isaiah that says, "God goes

1 forth like a warrior, like a
2 fighter. God whips up rage, yells,
3 and roars." And that is the perfect
4 description of Rabbi Waskow. He
5 roared for justice wherever he was.
6 In 1968 in Washington D.C.,
7 he came face to face with the U.S.
8 Army in the wake of the rebellion
9 sparked by the assassination of
10 Dr. King. Seeing those troops in
11 the streets he said, "This is
12 Pharaoh's army." And then he wrote
13 The Freedom Seder that created a new
14 pathway for Judaism. In that single
15 audacious act, Rabbi Waskow rewrote
16 the story of liberation with the
17 Black freedom struggle and the
18 universal cry for justice. The
19 Freedom Seder was not just a ritual
20 innovation, it was a spiritual
21 earthquake. It showed us that
22 Judaism is not a museum of memory
23 but a living covenant of action,
24 that "Let my people go" means all

1 people in every generation.

2 At the 1964 Democratic
3 Convention, he worked with Fannie
4 Lou Hamer and with Dr. King to try
5 to get the Mississippi Freedom
6 Democratic Party seated. Though his
7 efforts failed, he worked hard. In
8 1968 at the Democratic Party
9 Convention, he introduced -- he
10 nominated the first Black man ever
11 in American history to be President
12 of the United States, Reverend
13 Channing, who was a reverend in
14 Washington D.C. at the time, and
15 went out into the streets to try to
16 protect the protestors from the
17 police.

18 In our fair city, he
19 gathered faith leaders from many
20 traditions, creating dialogue and
21 opportunities for faith leaders to
22 work across lines for freedom and
23 justice in Philadelphia for many
24 years. And I am proud to be his

1 student and his friend, and I am
2 very grateful for this resolution
3 today. Thank you.

4 MR. HAGINS: Good morning,
5 everyone. My name is Ogbonna
6 Hagins. I'm a fourth-generation
7 chattel slavery survivor, and I'm
8 the president of the Philadelphia
9 Reparations Coalition for American
10 Freedmen. I want to commend this
11 council for honoring the
12 Philadelphia Juvenile Justice
13 Service Center School and 20
14 biannual years of the Carpe Diem
15 program. But real change doesn't
16 come from them. It comes from us,
17 from the systems we build, the
18 opportunities we provide, and
19 whether we finally raise the estate
20 of the American Freedmen.

21 This Sunday marks 30 years
22 since the Million Man March when
23 Minister Louis Farrakhan called on
24 men to take responsibility and

1 rebuild families and communities.
2 That same spirit is alive here
3 today. If our young brothers and
4 sisters are truly to seize their
5 day, this city must remove all
6 modern badges, vestiges, and
7 incidents of slavery that produces
8 the poverty, the crime, and the
9 incarceration that we are often
10 complaining about.

11 Raising the estate means
12 creating the policies, programs, and
13 protections our ancestors were
14 promised, including the Office of
15 Freedman Affairs, which is your
16 responsibility to create whether we
17 have hearings or not. It's a 14th
18 Amendment equal protection issue.
19 There are offices for everyone else.
20 There has to be an office for
21 American Freedmen, the ones who
22 saved this nation and built this
23 city. Can you imagine? There's no
24 office for them, that group of

1 people who's at the bottom. And
2 this office will solve their
3 problems.

4 Come out to the Million Man
5 March this Sunday while the men of
6 Philadelphia will unify on raising
7 the estate of the American Freedmen.
8 Ogbonna Hagins over and out.

9 MS. HONG: Hello, good
10 morning. My name is Deb Hong. Good
11 morning to Council President Johnson
12 and City COUNCILMEMBERS. I'm
13 speaking on behalf of Philly Bike
14 Action. We'd like to thank you for
15 the resolution honoring Chris Gale.
16 Often in news articles, Philly Bike
17 Action and Bicycle Coalition get
18 confused, and we are honored to be
19 allies in the fight, and it's
20 definitely not bad to be confused
21 with each other.

22 Although PBA just turned
23 two years old this April, the
24 Bicycle Coalition has had a long

1 history of advocacy on behalf of
2 bicyclists. We are honored to be
3 allied in the fight for safer
4 streets with Chris and the rest of
5 the coalition. And in the recent
6 years when Chris has been the
7 leader, we have seen his passionate
8 emphasis on equality, diversity, and
9 community building. I think that's
10 especially important in this space.
11 He's an inspiration to all of us.

12 And on a personal level,
13 he's just a nice guy and super fun
14 to hang out with. So the last time
15 we talked, he kind of regretted when
16 he testified and got a little choked
17 up when he was talking about being
18 able to get home safely to his kids.
19 And I was like, you know, that's
20 really what's important at the end
21 of the day, to get home safely. So
22 I'd like to thank Councilmember
23 Thomas for your remarks regarding,
24 you know, this is an issue affecting

1 everyone in every district,
2 including District 5 where I live.

3 I'm hoping to see safe
4 streets in that neighborhood as well
5 after our upcoming open hall. Thank
6 you, Jamie Gauthier, for your
7 leadership on Vision Zero and all
8 the great bike lanes going into your
9 district. And thank you, KJ, we saw
10 your visit to Hoboken yesterday were
11 very inspiring by the Vision Zero.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
13 You said KJ?

14 MS. HONG: I'm sorry.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
16 No, that's cool.

17 MS. HONG: Council
18 President Johnson. That slipped
19 out. But on behalf of Philly Bike
20 Action, thank you for this
21 resolution and thank you for
22 honoring Chris Gale.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
24 Thank you. Thank you very much.

1 MS. COLES: Good morning.
2 My name is Audrey Coles. And --
3 wait a second here. And I am a
4 committee woman for the 43rd Ward,
5 24th Division, and I am here today
6 in support of the amended zoning
7 bill being introduced by
8 Councilmember Jeffrey Young Jr. And
9 on that behalf, the community and I
10 would like to extend our
11 appreciation for the guidance and
12 just the support that he provided as
13 well as Mr. Nathan Grace from the
14 Planning District 3 for helping us
15 to navigate through the remapping
16 and rezoning of our area.

17 With that in mind, I'm
18 anticipating that this particular
19 mapping process has become
20 successful and that it goes through,
21 and that the community that came out
22 today, we learned a valuable lesson
23 in the processes of zoning and the
24 steps in order to revitalize our

1 community. So thank you very much
2 for your time, your effort, and your
3 support.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
5 Thank you.

6 CHIEF CLERK: We have Kate
7 Perez.

8
9 MS. PEREZ: I'm Kate Perez.
10 Thinking about the 460 million in
11 committed or expended funds to
12 rebuild community centers in
13 Philadelphia, and it makes me think
14 of the estimated 70 billion it would
15 cost to rebuild all of Gaza, a place
16 that's about the same size as
17 Philadelphia with double the people
18 and mostly made up of children with
19 93 percent of the population having
20 no access to clean water. Our
21 rebuilding money is coming from the
22 beverage tax, but who's going to pay
23 for Gaza's historic libraries and
24 their own flattened community

1 centers?

2 How can we continue to
3 partner with the occupation that
4 bragged about dropping 153 tons of
5 ammunitions on civilians? Just on
6 Sunday, one of their more than 80
7 cease fire violations having already
8 killed at least 97 Palestinians in
9 signing the agreement, with 230
10 wounded in their air strikes and
11 even more dying in the streets from
12 the cold, dying from their
13 starvation and dying from the lack
14 of medical access with medical
15 professionals being rounded up and
16 held hostage. Like Dr. Hussam Abu
17 Safiya having his illegal detention
18 extended another six months despite
19 being on the release list.

20 Philadelphia has more than
21 400 community sites needing
22 attention, and money that should
23 have been benefiting Americans is
24 instead used to slaughter and to

1 detain Palestinians. The UN
2 estimates it would take about 80
3 years to rebuild Gaza, but the
4 natives say it shouldn't take that
5 long if we make real efforts to stop
6 their illegal blockade. Since
7 March, our sister city has blocked
8 all food, water, and anything from
9 entering Palestine, punishing and
10 starving the entire population.
11 Surgeries and births are performed
12 with and without anesthesia.

13 It's unnatural for children
14 to be kept awake during their
15 amputations. It's unnatural that
16 Israel has created a country with
17 the most child amputees in the
18 world. And it's unnatural to
19 continue our partnership as we watch
20 this genocide unfold. The United
21 Nations Environmental Program
22 estimated 2.3 million tons of Gaza's
23 rubble is contaminated with
24 asbestos. With human bodies still

1 trapped in the rubble, their
2 decomposition is spreading disease
3 and contaminating groundwater.

4 Rescue workers we honored
5 in these chambers are shot at when
6 trying to retrieve the bodies.
7 Again, they have violated every
8 cease fire and will continue to do
9 so until we stop sending them the
10 weapons. Free Palestine.

11 (Applause.)

12 CHIEF CLERK: Council
13 President, there are no further
14 names for public comment.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
16 That concludes today's public
17 comment. We will now consider the
18 bills and resolutions on the second
19 reading and final passage calendars.
20 Will the clerk please read the title
21 of resolution number 250892.

22 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
23 approving the rebuild project
24 statement for fiscal year 2026

1 pursuant to Bill No. 170206.

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

3 The Chair recognizes the
4 Chair of Parks and Recreation,
5 Councilmember Dr. Anthony Phillips,
6 for a motion regarding resolution
7 number 250892.

8 COUNCILMEMBER RICHARDSON:

9 Thank you, Mr. President. On behalf
10 of Dr. Anthony Phillips, I move for
11 the adoption of the resolution.

12 COUNCILMEMBER: Second.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

14 It has been moved and properly
15 seconded. The resolution number
16 250892 be adopted. All those in
17 favor of the motion will signify by
18 saying aye.

19 COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

21 Those opposed? The ayes have it.
22 The motion carries, the resolution
23 is adopted. Would the clerk please
24 read the title of resolution number

1 250897.

2 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
3 renaming the 1300 block of North
4 52nd Street as Dr. Damone B. Jones
5 Way in recognition of Dr. Damone B.
6 Jones Senior for his exceptional
7 service to the West Philadelphia
8 community.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
10 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
11 Curtis Jones Jr. for a motion
12 regarding resolution number 250897.

13 COUNCILMEMBER JONES: Thank
14 you, Mr. President. I move for its
15 adoption.

16 Councilmember: Second.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
18 It has been moved and properly
19 seconded. The resolution number
20 250897 be adopted. All those in
21 favor of the motion will signify by
22 saying aye.

23 COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

1 Those opposed? The ayes have it.
2 The motion carries. The resolution
3 is adopted. Will the clerk please
4 read the title of Bill No. 250493-A.

5 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
6 to amend the Philadelphia zoning
7 maps by changing the zoning
8 designations of certain areas of
9 land located within an area bounded
10 by Roosevelt Boulevard, 9th Street,
11 Erie Avenue, and Broad Street.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
13 This bill had been read on two
14 different days. The question now
15 is, shall the bill pass finally?
16 Will the chief clerk please call the
17 roll.

18
19 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
20 Phillips.

21 COUNCILMEMBER PHILLIPS:
22 Aye. And aye for all bills I just
23 missed.

24 CHIEF CLERK: Yes.

1 COUNCILMEMBER PHILLIPS:

2 Thank you.

3 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember

4 Gilmore Richardson.

5 COUNCILMEMBER RICHARDSON:

6 Aye.

7 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember

8 Gauthier.

9 COUNCILMEMBER GAUTHIER:

10 Aye.

11 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember

12 Thomas.

13 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: Aye.

14 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember

15 Jones.

16 COUNCILMEMBER JONES: Aye.

17 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember

18 Landau.

19 COUNCILMEMBER LANDAU: Aye.

20 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember

21 Lozada.

22 COUNCILMEMBER LOZADA: Aye.

23 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember

24 Young.

1 COUNCILMEMBER YOUNG: Aye.
2 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
3 Brooks.
4 COUNCILMEMBER BROOKS: Aye.
5 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
6 Harrity.
7 COUNCILMEMBER HARRITY:
8 Aye.
9 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
10 O'Rourke.
11 COUNCILMEMBER O'ROURKE:
12 Aye.
13 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
14 Driscoll.
15 COUNCILMEMBER DRISCOLL:
16 Aye.
17 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
18 Squilla.
19 COUNCILMEMBER SQUILLA:
20 Aye.
21 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
22 Bass.
23 COUNCILMEMBER BASS: Aye.
24 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember

1 Ahmad.

2 COUNCILMEMBER AHMAD: Aye.

3 CHIEF CLERK: And Council

4 President Johnson.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

6 Aye. The ayes are 16, nays are

7 zero. Majority of all members

8 having voted in the affirmative, the

9 bill passes. Will the clerk please

10 read the title of Bill No. 250654.

11 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance

12 amending chapter 17-1600 of the

13 Philadelphia Code entitled Economic

14 Opportunity Plans to add two

15 additional business community

16 members to the Economic Opportunity

17 Review Committee, all under certain

18 terms and conditions.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

20 This bill having been read on two

21 different days, the question now is,

22 shall the bill pass finally? Will

23 the chief clerk please call the

24 roll.

1 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
2 Phillips.
3 COUNCILMEMBER PHILLIPS:
4 Aye.
5 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
6 Gilmore Richardson.
7 COUNCILMEMBER RICHARDSON:
8 Aye.
9 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
10 Gauthier.
11 COUNCILMEMBER GAUTHIER:
12 Aye.
13 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
14 Thomas.
15 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: Aye.
16 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
17 Jones.
18 COUNCILMEMBER JONES: Aye.
19 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
20 Landau.
21 COUNCILMEMBER LANDAU: Aye.
22 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
23 Lozada.
24 COUNCILMEMBER LOZADA: Aye.

1 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
2 Young.
3 COUNCILMEMBER YOUNG: Aye.
4 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
5 Brooks.
6 COUNCILMEMBER BROOKS: Aye.
7 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
8 Harrity.
9 COUNCILMEMBER HARRITY:
10 Aye.
11 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
12 O'Rourke.
13 COUNCILMEMBER O'ROURKE:
14 Nay.
15 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
16 Driscoll.
17 COUNCILMEMBER DRISCOLL:
18 Aye.
19 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
20 Squilla.
21 COUNCILMEMBER SQUILLA:
22 Aye.
23 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
24 Bass.

1 COUNCILMEMBER BASS: Aye.

2 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
3 Ahmad.

4 COUNCILMEMBER AHMAD: Aye.

5 CHIEF CLERK: And Council
6 President Johnson.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

8 Aye. Ayes are 15, the nays are one.

9 The majority of all members having
10 voted in the affirmative, the bill
11 passes. Will the clerk please read
12 the title of Bill No. 250718-A.

13 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
14 amending chapter 12-900 of the
15 Philadelphia Code entitled Parking
16 Regulations and Penalties to confirm
17 regulations adopted by the
18 Department of Streets that establish
19 and revise time-limited and other
20 rules restricting parking, stopping,
21 and standing, including the
22 establishment of time-restricted
23 loading zones in the Center City
24 area bounded by Spring Garden

1 Street, the Schuylkill River,
2 Bainbridge Street, and the Delaware
3 River. And to reauthorize changes
4 and additions to such parking rules
5 in the Center City area by the
6 Department of Streets on an ongoing
7 basis, all under certain terms and
8 conditions.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

10 This bill had been read on two
11 different days. The question now
12 is, shall the bill pass finally?
13 Will the chief clerk please call the
14 roll.

15 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
16 Phillips.

17 COUNCILMEMBER PHILLIPS:

18 Aye.

19 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
20 Gilmore Richardson.

21 COUNCILMEMBER RICHARDSON:

22 Aye.

23 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
24 Gauthier.

1 COUNCILMEMBER GAUTHIER:
2 Aye.
3 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
4 Thomas.
5 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: Aye.
6 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
7 Jones.
8 COUNCILMEMBER JONES: Aye.
9 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
10 Landau.
11 COUNCILMEMBER LANDAU: Aye.
12 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
13 Lozada.
14 COUNCILMEMBER LOZADA: Aye.
15 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
16 Young.
17 COUNCILMEMBER YOUNG: Aye.
18 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
19 Brooks.
20 COUNCILMEMBER BROOKS:
21 Council President, I want to -- I
22 vote aye, but my last vote should
23 have been a nay. My apologies.
24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

1 It's recorded.

2 COUNCILMEMBER BROOKS: For
3 250654.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
5 So for the record, officially, Bill
6 No. 250654 will be 14 ayes and 2
7 nays for the record. We'll go back
8 to, Chief Clerk, the title of Bill
9 No. 250718-A. The bill having been
10 read on two different days, the
11 question now is, should the bill
12 pass finally? That's my bill, so
13 let me know. Any objections? Will
14 the chief clerk read the bill,
15 please?

16 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
17 amending chapter 12-900 of the
18 Philadelphia Code entitled Parking
19 Regulations and Penalties to confirm
20 regulations adopted by the
21 Department of Streets that establish
22 and revise time-limited and other
23 rules restricting parking, stopping,
24 and standing, including the

1 establishment of time-restricted
2 loading zones in the Center City
3 area bounded by Spring Garden
4 Street, the Schuylkill River,
5 Bainbridge Street, and the Delaware
6 River. And to reauthorize changes
7 and additions to such parking rules
8 in the Center City area by the
9 Department of Streets on an ongoing
10 basis, all under certain terms and
11 conditions.

12

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

14 This bill having been read on two
15 different days, the question now is,
16 should the bill pass finally? Chief
17 Clerk, please call the roll.

18 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
19 Phillips.

20 COUNCILMEMBER PHILLIPS:

21 Aye.

22 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
23 Gilmore Richardson.

24 COUNCILMEMBER RICHARDSON:

1 Aye.
2 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
3 Gauthier.
4 COUNCILMEMBER GAUTHIER:
5 Aye.
6 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
7 Thomas.
8 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: Aye.
9 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
10 Jones.
11 COUNCILMEMBER JONES: Aye.
12 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
13 Landau.
14 COUNCILMEMBER LANDAU: Aye.
15 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
16 Lozada.
17 COUNCILMEMBER LOZADA: Aye.
18 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
19 Young.
20 COUNCILMEMBER YOUNG: Aye.
21 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
22 Brooks.
23 COUNCILMEMBER BROOKS: Aye.
24 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember

1 Harrity.
2 COUNCILMEMBER HARRITY:
3 Aye.
4 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
5 O'Rourke.
6 COUNCILMEMBER O'ROURKE:
7 Aye.
8 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
9 Driscoll.
10 COUNCILMEMBER DRISCOLL:
11 Aye.
12 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
13 Squilla.
14 COUNCILMEMBER SQUILLA:
15 Aye.
16 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
17 Bass.
18 COUNCILMEMBER BASS: Aye.
19 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
20 Ahmad.
21 COUNCILMEMBER AHMAD: Aye.
22 CHIEF CLERK: And Council
23 President Johnson.
24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

1 Aye. The ayes are 17, the nays are
2 zero -- sorry. The ayes are 16, the
3 nays are zero. Majority of all
4 members having voted in the
5 affirmative, the bill passes. Thank
6 you. Will the chief clerk please
7 read any additional resolutions on
8 today's calendar?

9 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged
10 resolution honoring the life and
11 legacy of Kada Scott, a beacon of
12 light and love in Philadelphia,
13 remembered for her faith, kindness,
14 and countless lives she touched,
15 introduced by Councilmember
16 Phillips.

17 COUNCILMEMBER PHILLIPS:
18 Thank you, Council President.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
20 I didn't acknowledge you yet. One
21 second. Excuse me. Council will be
22 at ease. Chair recognizes Member
23 Phillips for a motion on the
24 resolution. And we're going to do a

1 standing moment of silence vote on
2 her behalf.

3 COUNCILMEMBER PHILLIPS:

4 Yes. Thank you, Council President.
5 I move for the adoption of the
6 resolution on behalf of all the
7 Philadelphians who have been touched
8 by Ms. Kada Scott. We could stand.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

10 Thank you, Dr. Phillips, for your
11 patience. Will the Chief Clerk
12 please read the title of the next
13 resolution.

14 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged
15 resolution honoring the life and
16 legacy of Michael I. Days for his
17 extensive career as a reporter and
18 editor for the Philadelphia Daily
19 News, and later as vice president
20 for Diversity and Inclusion at the
21 Philadelphia Inquirer, introduced by
22 Councilmember Gilmore Richardson on
23 behalf of Council President Johnson.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

1 I'm going to ask for Member Thomas
2 to make a motion on the resolution,
3 and we'll also do a standing silent
4 vote.

5 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS:

6 Thank you, Council President. On
7 your behalf and listening to the
8 public comment here, I think it's
9 appropriate that we move for the
10 adoption of the resolution and do so
11 by standing vote.

12 COUNCILMEMBERS: Second.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

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

16 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged
17 resolution recognizing and honoring
18 Power 99's Rise and Grind Morning
19 Show for its lasting contributions
20 to radio and the cultural fabric of
21 the City of Philadelphia, introduced
22 by Councilmember Gilmore Richardson.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

24 The Chair recognizes Councilmember

1 Isaiah Thomas for a motion on the
2 resolution.

3 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS:

4 Thank you, Council President. On
5 behalf of our Majority Leader,
6 Councilmember Gilmore Richardson, I
7 move for the adoption of the
8 resolution.

9 Councilmember: Second.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

11 It has been moved and properly
12 seconded that the resolution be
13 adopted. All those in favor signify
14 by saying aye.

15 COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

17 Those opposed? The ayes have it,
18 and the resolution is adopted. Will
19 the chief clerk please read the
20 title of the next resolution.

21 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged
22 resolution recognizing Chris Gale,
23 Executive Director of the Bicycle
24 Coalition of Greater Philadelphia,

1 for his exemplary work and advocacy
2 in ensuring the safety and
3 inclusivity of cyclists throughout
4 Pennsylvania, introduced by
5 Councilmember Gauthier on behalf of
6 Council President Johnson.

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

11 COUNCILMEMBER GAUTHIER:
12 Thank you, Council President. On
13 your behalf, I move for the adoption
14 of the resolution.

15 COUNCILMEMBERS: Second.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
17 It has been moved and properly
18 seconded that the resolution be
19 adopted. All those in favor signify
20 by saying aye.

21 COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

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

1 the chief clerk please read the
2 title of the next resolution.

3 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged
4 resolution honoring and recognizing
5 the Atlantic Center for Capital
6 Representation and its staff for 15
7 years of dedicated service
8 addressing systemic issues with the
9 death penalty in Pennsylvania and
10 across the nation, introduced by
11 Councilmember Thomas on behalf of
12 Council President Johnson.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
14 Thank you very much, Chief Clerk.
15 Chair recognizes Councilmember
16 Thomas for a motion on the
17 resolution.

18 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS:
19 Thank you, Council President. On
20 your behalf, and thank you for your
21 leadership. I move for the adoption
22 of the resolution.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
24 It has been moved and properly

1 seconded that the resolution be
2 adopted. All those in favor signify
3 by saying aye.

4 COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

6 Those opposed? The ayes have it,
7 and the resolution is adopted.

8 Would the chief clerk please read
9 the title of the next resolution.

10 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged
11 resolution celebrating the Mural
12 Arts Program and recognizing the
13 month of October as Mural Arts Month
14 in the City of Philadelphia,
15 introduced by Councilmember Thomas.

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

20 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS:
21 Thank you, Council President. In
22 continuing the tradition, I move for
23 the adoption of the resolution as we
24 celebrate Mural Arts.

1 COUNCILMEMBERS: Second.

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

3 It has been moved and properly
4 seconded that the resolution be
5 adopted. All those in favor signify
6 by saying aye.

7 COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

8

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

10 Those opposed? The ayes have it and
11 the resolution is adopted. Will the
12 chief clerk please read the title of
13 the next resolution.

14 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged
15 resolution authorizing the Committee
16 on Public Safety to hold a hearing
17 to examine the City of
18 Philadelphia's strategies, laws, and
19 policies for protecting victims of
20 abuse and domestic violence within
21 the justice system, including
22 courts, the Sheriff's Office, the
23 District Attorney's Office, and the
24 Philadelphia Police Department,

1 introduced by Councilmember Jones on
2 behalf of Council President Johnson.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

4 Thank you. The Chair recognizes
5 Councilmember Curtis Jones Jr. for
6 a motion on the resolution.

7 COUNCILMEMBER JONES: Thank
8 you, Mr. President. On your behalf,
9 I move for the adoption.

10 COUNCILMEMBERS: Second.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
12 It has been moved and properly
13 seconded that the resolution be
14 adopted. All those in favor signify
15 by saying aye.

16 COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

18 Those opposed? The ayes have it,
19 and the resolution is adopted.
20 Member Jones, threw me off for a
21 little bit because you've been
22 working on this topic way before
23 today. So I want to continue doing
24 the good work together as we move

1 forward, protecting those who are
2 victims of domestic violence and
3 those who are victims of abuse. So
4 thank you for your work. Will the
5 Chief Clerk please read the title of
6 the next resolution.

7 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged
8 resolution commemorating and
9 honoring the 2025 Philadelphia Walk
10 to End Alzheimer's for mobilizing
11 thousands of Philadelphians in the
12 ongoing fight against Alzheimer's
13 through advocacy, research, and
14 community care, introduced by
15 Councilmember Landau.

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

20 COUNCILMEMBER LANDAU:
21 Thank you, Council President. I
22 move for the adoption of the
23 resolution.

24 COUNCILMEMBERS: Second.

1 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

2 It has been moved and properly
3 seconded that the resolution be
4 adopted. All those in favor signify
5 by saying aye.

6 COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

8 Those opposed? The ayes have it,
9 and the resolution is adopted.
10 Would the Chief Clerk please read
11 the title of the next resolution.

12 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged
13 resolution authorizing the Council
14 Committee on Commerce and Economic
15 Development to hold hearings to
16 investigate the city's payment and
17 refund systems for municipal taxes,
18 introduced by Councilmember Young.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

20 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
21 Jeffrey J. Young for a motion on
22 the resolution.

23 COUNCILMEMBER YOUNG: Thank
24 you, Mr. President. I move for the

1 adoption of the resolution.

2 COUNCILMEMBERS: Second.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

4 It has been moved and properly
5 seconded that the resolution be
6 adopted. All those in favor signify
7 by saying aye.

8 COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

10 Those opposed? The ayes have it,
11 and the resolution is adopted. The
12 Chair recognizes Councilmember
13 Kendra Brooks.

14 COUNCILMEMBER BROOKS:

15 Thank you, Council President. I
16 want to ask for suspension of the
17 rules to re-record my vote on Bill
18 No. 250654.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

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

22 COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

24 Those opposed? The ayes have it,

1 and the rules of Council have been
2 suspended to receive your vote.

3 COUNCILMEMBER BROOKS:

4 Thank you so much, Council
5 President.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

7 Will the Chief Clerk please read the
8 title -- the Chair recognizes
9 Councilmember --

10 COUNCILMEMBER BROOKS: Oh,
11 apologies. I'm sorry.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
13 You're a nay, aren't you, on that?

14 COUNCILMEMBER BROOKS: I'm
15 a nay. She said I have to say that
16 I'm voting nay. I want to re-record
17 my vote as nay on Bill No. 250654.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
19 Thank you very much.

20 COUNCILMEMBER BROOKS:
21 Thank you.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
23 It is duly noted. Thank you very
24 much. But it's still two no's,

1 correct?

2 COUNCILMEMBER BROOKS: Yes.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

4 But it's done properly, correct?

5 COUNCILMEMBER BROOKS: Yes.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

7 Thank you, my Majority Leader,
8 making sure we're doing things, as
9 my nana says, in decency and in
10 order. Will the Chief Clerk please
11 read the title of the next
12 resolution.

13 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged
14 resolution honoring the life and
15 legacy of Rabbi Arthur Ocean Waskow,
16 a prophetic activist and author
17 grounded in Jewish tradition and
18 faith who created the foundation on
19 which generations of moral activists
20 stand, introduced by Councilmember
21 O'Rourke.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

23 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
24 Nicholas O'Rourke for a motion on

1 the resolution.

2 COUNCILMEMBER O'ROURKE: In
3 honor of a great prophet and mystic,
4 I do stand for the -- what am I
5 saying?

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
7 You're making a motion on the
8 resolution.

9 COUNCILMEMBER O'ROURKE: I
10 move for the adoption of the
11 resolution in his honor. Thank you.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
13 See, that's what happens. You a new
14 dad. I get it, bro. It's okay.
15 Ain't sleep.

16 COUNCILMEMBER O'ROURKE:
17 Sleep with Skippy last night.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
19 It has been moved and properly
20 seconded that the resolution be
21 adopted. All those in favor will
22 signify by saying aye.

23 COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

1 Those opposed? The ayes have it,
2 and the resolution is adopted. Will
3 the Chief Clerk please read the
4 title of the next resolution.

5

6 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged
7 resolution honoring and recognizing
8 Reverend Carolyn Clarene Cavaness
9 for the one-year anniversary of her
10 pastoral appointment at the historic
11 Mother Bethel AME Church, introduced
12 by Councilmember Squilla on behalf
13 of Council President Johnson.

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

18 COUNCILMEMBER SQUILLA:
19 Thank you, Mr. President. I move
20 for adoption of the resolution on
21 your behalf.

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

1 adopted. All those in favor signify
2 by saying aye.

3 COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
5 Those opposed? The ayes have it,
6 and the resolution is adopted. Will
7 the Chief Clerk please read the
8 title of the next resolution.

9 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged
10 resolution recognizing and
11 congratulating the International
12 Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
13 Local 98 on the momentous occasion
14 of its 125th anniversary,
15 celebrating over a century of
16 exemplary leadership, advocacy, and
17 unwavering dedication to the rights
18 and welfare of electrical workers,
19 introduced by Councilmember Squilla
20 on behalf of Council President
21 Johnson.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
23 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
24 Mark Squilla for a motion on the

1 resolution.

2 COUNCILMEMBER SQUILLA:

3 Thank you, Mr. President. I move
4 for adoption of the resolution on
5 your behalf.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

7 It has been moved and properly
8 seconded that the resolution be
9 adopted. All those in favor signify
10 by saying aye.

11 COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

13 Those opposed? The ayes have it,
14 and the resolution is adopted. Will
15 the Chief Clerk please read the
16 title of the next resolution.

17 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged
18 resolution recognizing the
19 extraordinary contributions and
20 lifetime achievements of Dr. Molefi
21 Kete Asante, founder of
22 Afrocentricity and founder of the
23 Molefi Kete Asante (MKA) Institute
24 for Afrocentric Studies in the

1 Germantown neighborhood, introduced
2 by Councilmember Bass.

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

7 COUNCILMEMBER BASS: Thank
8 you, Mr. President. I move for the
9 adoption of this resolution.

10 COUNCILMEMBERS: Second.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
12 It has been moved and properly
13 seconded that the resolution be
14 adopted. All those in favor will
15 signify by saying aye.

16 COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
18 Those opposed. The ayes have it,
19 and the resolution is adopted. Will
20 the Chief Clerk please read the
21 title of the next resolution.

22 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged
23 resolution authorizing the Committee
24 on Public Health and Human Services

1 to hold hearings to examine the
2 impacts of the current crisis
3 threatening the Supplemental
4 Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
5 and Supplemental Nutrition
6 Assistance Program Education (SNAP-
7 Ed) on food and nutrition security
8 in Philadelphia, including barriers
9 to accessing benefits, disruptions
10 to nutrition education and outreach,
11 consequences for residents, and
12 opportunities for coordinated city
13 and community response, introduced
14 by Councilmember Ahmad on behalf of
15 Council President Johnson.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
17 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
18 Dr. Nina Ahmad, Chair of the Health
19 and Human Services Committee, for a
20 motion on the resolution.

21 COUNCILMEMBER AHMAD: I
22 move for the adoption of the
23 resolution.

24 COUNCILMEMBERS: Second.

1 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

2 It has been moved and properly
3 seconded that the resolution be
4 adopted. All those in favor signify
5 by saying aye.

6 COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

8 Those opposed? The ayes have it,
9 and the resolution is adopted. Will
10 the Chief Clerk please read the
11 title of the next resolution.

12 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged
13 resolution recognizing and affirming
14 the City of Philadelphia's
15 commitment to public health grounded
16 in scientific evidence and opposing
17 state proposals that would weaken
18 proven protections including
19 childhood immunizations, community
20 water fluoridation, and practical
21 steps that limit the spread of
22 disease in schools, introduced by
23 Councilmember Ahmad.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

1 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
2 Dr. Nina Ahmad for a motion on the
3 resolution.

4 COUNCILMEMBER AHMAD: Thank
5 you, Council President. I move for
6 the adoption of the resolution.

7 COUNCILMEMBERS: Second.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
9 It has been moved and properly
10 seconded that the resolution be
11 adopted. All those in favor signify
12 by saying aye.

13 COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
15 Those opposed? The ayes have it,
16 and the resolution is adopted. Will
17 the Chief Clerk please read the
18 title of the next resolution.

19 CHIEF CLERK: Council
20 President, there are no further
21 resolutions in my possession.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
23 That completes our calendar for
24 today. Are there any speeches on

1 behalf of the minority? The Chair
2 recognizes Councilmember Kendra
3 Brooks.

4 COUNCILMEMBER BROOKS:
5 Thank you so much, Council
6 President.

7 First, as a mother of four
8 daughters, I would like to
9 acknowledge the deep sadness and
10 anger that many of us are feeling in
11 the wake of Kada Scott's murder.
12 And I'm praying for her family and
13 friends as they grieve, and I am
14 committed to working with all of our
15 partners to make sure that our city
16 is safer for all women.

17 Next, I would like to give
18 an explanation on why I voted no on
19 the bill to add two business
20 representatives to the Equal
21 Opportunity Review Committee. I'm
22 not opposed to expanding the EORC
23 and adding more diverse voices, but
24 this bill gives more seats to

1 business interests without adding
2 more seats for representatives of
3 workers. Under the current
4 structure, business and labor have
5 equal representation on the EORC.
6 Each group has two members.

7 By adding two members to
8 represent business interests, this
9 gives businesses twice as many
10 representatives as labor, which
11 diminishes the role of unions and
12 working families in making important
13 decisions about economic
14 opportunities in our city. I'm not
15 opposed to adding more members to
16 the EORC, but it must be done fairly
17 so that both businesses and labor
18 have equal representation.

19 And I had this conversation
20 already with the bill sponsor, so it
21 was not a surprise. It was mine,
22 not paying attention. I'm going to
23 be fully transparent that I missed
24 it. That's what I was supposed to

1 do.

2 I also want to take a
3 moment to thank everyone who took
4 part in Wingohocking Neighbors Day.
5 I was so overwhelmed last week with
6 all that was happening after a
7 difficult year in Nicetown, where I
8 live and where I'm from, from the
9 murder of LGP QUA in May to the
10 deadly explosion in June. It also
11 impacted us here in Council. This
12 event was especially meaningful to
13 me and my neighbors.

14 Over a hundred community
15 partners showed up in Nicetown with
16 resources, food, music, and care.
17 We had ten local food trucks and
18 small businesses on the street and
19 provided 1,300 free meals. We had a
20 record clearing clinic, free
21 haircuts, activities for children,
22 two stages, and over a dozen amazing
23 performances in honor of QUA.

24 I want to extend a special

1 thank you to Councilmembers Isaiah
2 Thomas and Jim Harrity. Your
3 support helped to make this the
4 biggest and best Wingohocking Day
5 yet. I also want to thank Council
6 President Johnson and Councilmembers
7 O'Rourke, Landau, and Phillips for
8 showing up in Nicetown to help me
9 celebrate my community.

10 One of the main goals of
11 Wingohocking Neighbors Day is to
12 bring resources directly to the
13 community so that people can take
14 advantage of the programs, services,
15 and opportunities that our city has
16 to offer. We know that there are a
17 lot of resources available online,
18 but some folks, especially our
19 seniors, prefer to have the
20 information on paper.

21 That is why my office has
22 also created several resource guides
23 to share with constituents. These
24 are available online at my Council

1 webpage, and a hard copy have been
2 placed on each one of your desks.
3 The Youth Opportunity Guide 2.0 is
4 an addition to my office's first
5 Youth Opportunity Guide, and it
6 provides resources especially for
7 younger children and adults, as
8 recommended by my interns when they
9 realized that certain things weren't
10 available for young adults and those
11 that are transitioning into
12 adulthood.

13 The next one is the Food
14 Access Guide. The Food Access Guide
15 has information on community
16 fridges, soup kitchens, free
17 groceries, and meal programs in
18 Philadelphia. With thousands of
19 families set to lose SNAP benefits
20 due to the federal government
21 shutdown, these resources will be
22 particularly important in the coming
23 weeks. Please share widely and
24 reach out to my staff if you have

1 any questions or need additional
2 copies.

3 And lastly, my staff and I
4 have reached out to many of you
5 about our annual Spooktacular event
6 at John Heinz Wildlife Center.
7 Every year, hundreds of families
8 come out to enjoy the interactive
9 nature exhibits, archery lessons,
10 fall crafts, costume trail of trees,
11 and so much fun.

12 Yesterday, my office
13 learned that we will have to cancel
14 Spooktacular this year due to the
15 federal government shutdown. The
16 staff at the refuge have been
17 furloughed and do not have access to
18 their email accounts. Meanwhile,
19 ICE agents are still getting paid
20 for separating families. Parents
21 can't buy groceries for their kids.

22 This is another clear
23 example of why we must take a
24 stronger stance against this Trump

1 administration. The people who are
2 most impacted by this shutdown are
3 not politicians or elected leaders;
4 they are children in our
5 communities. And we all have a
6 responsibility to speak up for them.

7 Thank you so much, Council
8 President.

9

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

11 Thank you. The Chair recognizes
12 Councilmember Nicholas O'Rourke.

13 COUNCILMEMBER O'ROURKE:

14 Thank you, Council President.

15 In this political climate,
16 in this day and age, there's been --
17 it's almost hard to find people who
18 have rooted or principled political
19 positions. I'm not talking about
20 necessarily in this chamber.

21 Generally, what we see on social
22 media, it's a lot of -- a lot of
23 backbiting and talking, but
24 historically what it meant to be

1 left wasn't just progressive or
2 identity based. It meant labor.
3 That's what historically as a
4 political position throughout
5 history. The left was labor based.
6 And so for that reason I stand with
7 my minority leader on the positions
8 that we took today. And I thank
9 folks for understanding that.

10 That having been said, I
11 also want to acknowledge that today
12 I introduced a resolution with
13 Councilmember Rue Landau to honor
14 the life of one Rabbi Arthur Ocean
15 Waskow. As I breathe out what the
16 trees breathe in, as the trees
17 breathe in what I breathe out, as we
18 breathe in each other, God breathes
19 in all of us and breathes us out.
20 Rabbi Arthur Waskow taught that the
21 name of God Yahweh was a breath. No
22 vowels in that word. It was breath.
23 Breath is life. And he taught us
24 how interconnected we all were, both

1 with each other and with the ecology
2 of the world that we are all one.

3 He was born in 1933. He
4 died this past Monday, October 20th,
5 just a couple days after his 92nd
6 birthday. Lifelong activist, in
7 part because of his activist
8 background. His father was a labor
9 organizer. His mother and
10 grandfather were active in voter
11 registration and political camps,
12 and campaigns. We had the honor of
13 hearing today Reverend Gregory
14 Holston, former executive director
15 of Power. We heard from Rabbi
16 Mordechai Liebling, a great giant
17 within the Jewish community. And we
18 also had in attendance Rabbi Nate
19 DeGroot, who is now the executive
20 director of the Shalom Center, an
21 organization that Rabbi Arthur
22 Waskow founded, who were all here
23 and also were yesterday in person at
24 the funeral that was held at Mishkan

1 Shalom in his honor.

2 This is a man who bred and
3 helped stimulate a resistance
4 movement. He resisted, just to
5 count the role, war, for example.
6 He fiercely opposed Vietnam to the
7 point of making public appeals to
8 dodge the draft and refusing to pay
9 taxes. I'm talking about real
10 resistance, things that's going to
11 shake stuff up. He resisted anti-
12 semitism, right? He never stopped
13 defending Jewish people. And
14 resolutely understood the mission of
15 communal preservation as deeply
16 related to the Judaic concept of
17 Tikkun Olam of repairing the world.

18 Xenophobia, he resisted,
19 perhaps because of his history,
20 threat and reality of exile for
21 Jewish peoples. He was a stark
22 opponent of the immigration policy
23 of political parties. Remember, you
24 were once strangers in the land of

1 Egypt. This is what he stood for.
2 He was arrested in his eighties,
3 right? 80-year-old man protesting
4 the Obama administration for its
5 rampant deportation policies. Many
6 know that as much as we may like
7 President Obama, folks recognize him
8 as deporter in chief. Principled
9 positions that he stood on.

10 He also resisted so many
11 other societal ills ranging from
12 apartheid in Israel, as well as
13 South Africa, to war in Iraq, to
14 homophobia, to the recent genocidal
15 war in Gaza that has devastated and
16 shaken to the core American Jewish
17 life. He knew the Mosaic mantra,
18 "Let my people go," meant for
19 everybody. That's who Rabbi Arthur
20 Waskow was. So it is my honor to
21 know -- to have known him, to know
22 of, and to occasionally be in
23 community with him. And with those
24 faith leaders who seek what Rabbi

1 Arthur Waskow sought, renewal. He
2 may have actually coined the term
3 "Jewish renewal."

4 This is the kind of giant
5 we're talking about, who with care
6 and clarity offered reinterpretation
7 for what liberation may mean for
8 each generation. Though there are
9 always particularities, this work to
10 renew exists across faith. It's a
11 religious tradition as I see it.
12 And one I hope to fruitfully
13 contribute to in my ministry, in my
14 work, in my life for the days that
15 the Lord allows me to live. A giant
16 like Rabbi Waskow is a shining
17 example of the faith it takes to
18 take on how faith is supposed to
19 look. I salute and I thank him. I
20 pray that his memory, and I know it
21 is, is a profound, profound blessing
22 for those that walk in the
23 tradition.

24 (Applause.)

1 Thank you. Further, we've
2 already honored her and I thank
3 Dr. Anthony Phillips, "Anthony," as
4 Jimmy likes to call you, for his
5 leadership. And I appreciate your,
6 Council President, for allowing us
7 to take a moment of standing
8 silence. It's so hard to know what
9 to say in moments like this as we
10 consider the life of Kada Scott.
11 But it is a month where we recognize
12 domestic violence, right? And each
13 year, an organization that this body
14 holds close, in fact, it was the
15 first event I went to coming back
16 from parental leave, Women Against
17 Abuse, implores us to take a
18 particular pledge.

19 A pledge against the
20 culture in which Kada Scott's story
21 could unfold in all the tragedy that
22 it has. A pledge that all of us
23 need to be clear on. But in this
24 moment, I know this to be so true

1 for our young brothers. So to them,
2 but of course to anyone listening, I
3 hope the words of this pledge
4 resonate and cause reflection,
5 because we need reflection in light
6 of this. The pledge reads: "I
7 pledge to take action as an advocate
8 for healthy relationships. I will
9 believe survivors of relationship
10 abuse and amplify the voices of
11 those who have been silenced."

12 And this is the part that
13 moves from advocacy for someone else
14 to fighting to build a new culture.
15 The pledge closes with this: "I
16 will actively work against
17 oppression and commit to being part
18 of the change needed to create a
19 community that is safe and just for
20 every person." That ain't just
21 flower language. That is a call to
22 action, to be the change we wish to
23 see and to make the world that we
24 ought to be making, in the words of

1 Rabbi Arthur Waskow, to help heal
2 the world. What are we doing to
3 help heal it? Amen, amen, amen, and
4 to another young Philadelphian gone
5 too soon, we call her name Kada
6 Scott. Pray, Philly. Thank you
7 very much.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
9 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
10 Jamie Gauthier.

11 COUNCILMEMBER GAUTHIER:
12 Thank you, Council President. I ask
13 to be excused to take care of other
14 Council business.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
16 Thank you very much. You are
17 excused. Any speeches on behalf of
18 the Majority? The Chair recognizes
19 Councilman Curtis Jones, Jr.

20

21 COUNCILMEMBER JONES: Thank
22 you, Mr. President. Finally, I beat
23 fast-finger Phillips to the button.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

1 Did you say I beat?

2 COUNCILMEMBER JONES:

3 Finally. I figured it out. I

4 figured it out. Two things, one, an

5 announcement and two, a question to

6 my colleague, Isaiah Thomas. So he

7 knows the question in advance.

8 First, 30 years ago, hundreds of

9 buses were loaded by men of color

10 for the Million Man March. It was

11 transformative in many ways to see

12 that many African-Americans that

13 close together without a curse word,

14 without a fight, without a murder,

15 without -- people rushed to

16 apologize when someone stepped on

17 your foot. "No, brother, I'm

18 sorry."

19 That kind of spirit

20 permeated over the approximate 1

21 million men when we got to

22 Washington, DC. We hope to honor

23 that anniversary Sunday, 12:30, from

24 different locations. And in the

1 flyer it says this: around the way
2 we will be assembling at Broad and
3 Master in North Philadelphia in your
4 district. We will be assembling at
5 30th and Market in West Philly, in
6 Jamie -- in Jamie Gauthier's
7 district. We will be assembling at
8 Broad and Christian in South
9 Philadelphia, to assemble at Love
10 Park to kind of commemorate what
11 happened.

12 It's a run, it's a walk,
13 it's -- whatever way you can get
14 there -- by Uber. But it is to
15 recognize the timeliness of this
16 30th anniversary. That it was
17 started then based on the feeling of
18 oppression from Washington. And its
19 anniversary falls on that same
20 feeling of oppression coming from
21 Washington. So it's time for us to
22 recalibrate and recommit to an
23 agenda that we need to kind of move
24 forward.

1 I always said, no matter
2 what we were going through in this
3 chamber, that if you want to clean
4 up the world, start under your own
5 feet. And I think that
6 acknowledgement to organizations
7 like sororities, the Coalition of
8 100 Black Women, the Links, and
9 others that have kind of run circles
10 around us men. And it's time for us
11 to catch up with this celebration.
12 So please join us 12:30 from those
13 locations.

14 The question on the floor,
15 Mr. President, from when we used to
16 do these meetings online during
17 COVID, we always, before the actual
18 meeting, was to turn to Coach Isaiah
19 Thomas to get his perspective on
20 those 76ers. So I want to do that
21 and yield the rest of my time to ask
22 him, did you see the game last
23 night?

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

1 The Chair recognizes Coach Isaiah
2 Thomas.

3 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS:

4 Thank you, Council President. I
5 have my remarks that I'll save for a
6 little later. But I do miss
7 political sports talk. I think
8 that's what we used to call it.

9 COUNCILMEMBER JONES: We
10 did call it.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
12 Every morning.

13 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: That
14 was our virtual tradition. At that
15 time, we were pretty terrible as it
16 relates to sports teams. Sorry to
17 all of our sports teams. But we're
18 in a totally different place right
19 now. So it's a pleasure to see the
20 game last night, watch some of our
21 rookies. And, you know, I think in
22 a serious note, sports brings us
23 together as a city, right?

24 I think anybody who knows

1 us knows that the Eagles parade this
2 past year was one of the best
3 moments for a lot of Philadelphians,
4 as you saw the same thing around
5 2020 -- 2017. And so it's good to
6 see all three of our major sports
7 teams doing well. Hopefully we'll
8 add a fourth with the Flyers, and
9 someday a fifth with the WNBA team
10 that's coming on the horizon. So,
11 thank you, Councilmember. We're in
12 a great space right now and it was a
13 great game to watch last night.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
15 Thanks for the commentary, sir. The
16 Chair recognizes Councilmember
17 Dr. Anthony Phillips.

18 COUNCILMEMBER PHILIPS:
19 Thank you, Council President.
20 Today, colleagues and those in
21 attendance, I just want to celebrate
22 the life of Kada Scott. And I want
23 to thank all of our colleagues who
24 together sponsored this resolution

1 to honor her life and legacy. Kada
2 was a young woman whose light and
3 kindness reflected the very best of
4 us Philadelphia. She was a
5 daughter, intelligent, creative,
6 faith-filled, full of promise. She
7 dreamed boldly about what she can
8 build for herself and her family.

9 At just 19 years old, she
10 opened her own beauty spa right in
11 Mount Airy. She was a neighbor of
12 19150. She had vision and
13 determination. She believed in the
14 power of self care, community and
15 purpose, using her gifts to pour
16 love into the people around her.
17 But what made Kada truly special was
18 not what she just did -- not just
19 what she did, but who she was. Her
20 family remembers her gentle spirit
21 and bright smile that can warm any
22 room. They shared that she was the
23 kind of person who made others feel
24 seen, who reminded you of your worth

1 and who carried joy wherever she
2 went.

3 Her story has touched so
4 many because it feels deeply
5 personal. Kada was our sister, our
6 daughter, our friend. She
7 represents the bright, kind, driven
8 young people who fill our
9 neighborhood with life and hope.
10 And when this tragedy struck, it
11 reminded Philadelphia how connected
12 she was to us. So as her family
13 grieves, we are reminded that Kada's
14 life is not defined by what
15 happened, but by the love and light
16 she shared while she was here. Her
17 legacy is one of compassion, calling
18 us to look out for one another, to
19 keep believing in the good, and to
20 keep building the kind world she
21 deserved to live in.

22 So in her honor, at the
23 request and support of her family,
24 our office continues to collect

1 donations through this Saturday,
2 October. We will be -- our office
3 will be open from tomorrow from 8:30
4 to 4:30 p.m. and then on Saturday
5 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at 1514
6 Wiser Avenue. We're collecting self
7 care items, gift cards, as well as
8 non-perishable items for the family.
9 And also keep in mind that there's a
10 17-year-old daughter. So if there's
11 anything that you could think about
12 for her daughter as she prepares --
13 Kada's sister as she prepares for
14 college, show that kindness as much
15 as you can.

16 What Kada's family said she
17 wanted for us was to continue
18 loving, giving, and uniting beyond
19 this moment. So today we don't just
20 remember Kada, but we could commit
21 to living as she did, with a heart
22 that believes in people. And so to
23 Kim, Kada's mother, Kevin, Kada's
24 father, and Kada's sister, I'm so

1 deeply sorry for what has happened,
2 but also know this: Kada's name
3 will continue to be spoken and her
4 story will continue to be told. And
5 as the late Congressman John Lewis
6 reminded us, we must continue to
7 make good trouble, necessary
8 trouble, in the name of what is
9 right. Thank you, Council
10 President.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
12 Thank you, Dr. Phillips. And just
13 want to clarify on behalf of Member
14 Jones, the gathering for the march
15 on Sunday. It starts at 8:00 a.m.
16 at those particular locations:
17 Broad and Christian in South
18 Philadelphia, 30th and Market in
19 West Philadelphia, and North
20 Philadelphia, Broad and Master.
21 Just for the record. The Chair
22 recognizes Councilman Cindy Bass.

23 COUNCILMEMBER BASS: Thank
24 you, Mr. President. Today I

1 introduced legislation to honor
2 Dr. Molefi K. Asante, a visionary
3 whose intellect and commitment have
4 reshaped how the world understands
5 Africa and its people. Dr. Asante
6 is internationally recognized as the
7 founder of Afrocentricity and has
8 given a voice to a framework that
9 reclaims African agency, reshaping
10 scholarship and affirming dignity,
11 culture, and identity for millions.

12 From establishing the
13 nation's first PhD program in
14 African American studies at Temple
15 University to mentoring over 140
16 doctoral scholars, his legacy is
17 reflected in the generations of
18 thinkers he has inspired. His more
19 than 100 books and 500 articles have
20 made him one of the most cited
21 African scholars in the world. And
22 in my neighborhood, through the
23 Molefi K. Asante Institute for
24 Afrocentric Studies, he continues to

1 advance global understanding and
2 local empowerment.

3 Although he was not able to
4 make it today, we proudly recognized
5 Dr. Asante and his wife for their
6 outstanding and extraordinary
7 achievements, his lifelong service
8 to scholarship and his enduring
9 contributions to the world. We are
10 planning to have a presentation in
11 the near future so that folks can
12 meet and greet with Dr. Asante and
13 learn more about the work that they
14 are -- he and his wife are doing at
15 the center on Germantown Avenue.
16 And I want to thank everyone for
17 co-sponsoring.

18 And I wanted to just say,
19 just very briefly, as we talk about
20 the Million Man March, the
21 anniversary of it, and we also talk
22 about Kada Scott and the tragedy
23 that has unfolded before all of us,
24 that it's never been more important

1 that we get our young men together.
2 There is a vulnerability that women,
3 and I will say specifically black
4 women of all ages, that there is a
5 vulnerability that exists and
6 protection is needed, protection is
7 important.

8 You know, what we do and
9 how we handle our situations or our
10 community, there is just so much to
11 be done. And so I want to just put
12 that on the hearts and minds of
13 everyone who's attending the Million
14 Man March gatherings this weekend.
15 And again, my condolences to the
16 Scott family for their loss. Thank
17 you, Mr. President.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
19 You're welcome. The Chair
20 recognizes Councilmember Mark
21 Squilla.

22 COUNCILMEMBER SQUILLA:
23 Thank you, Mr. President. Just an
24 announcement for anybody who has

1 RSVP'd to Terminal Tour from
2 COUNCILMEMBERS and lunch. It will
3 be starting at 1:00 p.m. today.

4 Thank you.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

6 Thank you. Councilmember Dr. Nina
7 Ahmad.

8 COUNCILMEMBER AHMAD: Thank
9 you, Council President. Before
10 anything else, I echo what my
11 colleagues have said, that we are
12 all heartbroken about the murder of
13 Kada Scott. As a mother of two
14 young women, my heart is with her
15 mother. I send my prayers to her
16 parents and offer my deepest
17 condolences to Kada's family,
18 friends, and loved ones, and to our
19 city that had hoped for a very
20 different outcome.

21 And then moving on, I
22 wanted to talk about the resolution
23 that I introduced today. Science
24 matters. As a scientist by

1 training, I will always defend
2 science and data-backed evidence
3 because they save lives, guide smart
4 policy, and keep our city moving.
5 That's the spirit of the Defense
6 Science resolution we advance today.
7 Public health. Public health is
8 critical for all of us.

9 I also wanted to comment on
10 the bill that was just passed. We
11 advanced equity with the Economic
12 Opportunity Review Committee
13 legislation. This doesn't weaken
14 standards or transparency. It
15 improves outcomes, bringing in the
16 Asian American and LGBTQ plus
17 Chambers, along with labor, which
18 already has DC-33 and 47 there, and
19 neighborhood enterprises. And the
20 city has only one seat. It broadens
21 perspective, strengthens cultural
22 competency, and makes competition
23 fair. This is not a voting body.
24 This is an oversight body. So there

1 are no votes cast in this body.

2 When more qualified firms
3 can compete, public dollars expand
4 opportunity, Philadelphia gets
5 better value and more families
6 benefit. And here we are again,
7 facing a federal crisis that
8 threatens dignity, food on the
9 table. On October 20th, 2025,
10 Pennsylvania's Department of Human
11 Services announced that because of
12 the shutdown, November SNAP payments
13 will not be issued unless Congress
14 acts immediately. Nearly two
15 million Pennsylvanians are affected.
16 The Commonwealth cannot backfill
17 those costs.

18 People can use unspent EBT
19 funds and DHS will keep processing
20 applications, but new November
21 benefits won't load without a budget
22 or a continuing resolution.
23 Residents need help and should use
24 PA 211 and Feeding PA resources.

1 However, for some neighbors, that
2 means they will not eat. SNAP is a
3 lifeline for children, seniors,
4 people with disabilities, working
5 parents, students, and veterans who
6 sacrifice for this country.

7 SNAP-Ed, which helps
8 families stretch light-tight
9 budgets, is also disrupted right
10 when it's most needed. Philadelphia
11 will show up for our neighbors, but
12 families shouldn't rely on charity
13 to cover for a political failure.
14 I'm urging the administration to
15 treat food access as an emergency,
16 aligning Parks and Recreation, the
17 Free Library, Public Health, and the
18 Managing Director's Office to push
19 for clear stigma-free information by
20 zip code and by day through city
21 channels, libraries, rec centers,
22 senior sites, and 311.

23 We must also join our state
24 partners and federal delegation in

1 demanding an immediate end to the
2 shutdown and full protection of SNAP
3 and SNAP-Ed. Food is not
4 negotiable. And there is a through
5 line to in today's work: evidence,
6 equity, dignity. Defending science
7 keeps people healthy. Empowering
8 the EORC opens doors so more
9 Philadelphians can participate in
10 our economy. Protecting SNAP keeps
11 families, including veterans, fed
12 during a crisis. This is government
13 people can see, touch, and feel in
14 daily life. Thank you, Council
15 President.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
17 Thank you. Chair recognizes
18 Councilmember Isaiah Thomas.

19 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: Good
20 afternoon, Council President. Two
21 things. I'm going to try to be very
22 brief. First, I do want to take a
23 moment to acknowledge the family of
24 Ms. Scott. Clearly, there have been

1 some heavy hearts and a lot of
2 remarks. It's a very emotional
3 situation that really captured the
4 entire country, not just the city of
5 Philadelphia. So I do want to say a
6 special thank you to Councilmember
7 Phillips for his leadership as it
8 relates to supporting the family.

9 A special thank you to
10 Councilmember Bass. Although the
11 family didn't live in her district,
12 clarity remains were found in her
13 district. Their leadership and
14 willingness to work together, I
15 think, is really important.
16 Representing this legislative body
17 and being as supportive as possible,
18 not just to the family but to all of
19 the people who had to experience
20 trauma in that situation. I also
21 want to say thank you. I will also
22 say thank you to State Rep. Andre
23 Carroll, because he was the state
24 rep there for his leadership as

1 well.

2 And I also want to say
3 thank you to the members of the
4 Education Committee and the School
5 District of Philadelphia. The
6 School District of Philadelphia
7 committed to doing a better job of
8 maintaining its 20 vacant buildings
9 here in the city of Philadelphia,
10 which clearly sit in the 10
11 different districts that are
12 represented by our colleagues,
13 Council President, here in City
14 Council. And while we thank them
15 for this effort as it relates to
16 providing emergency staff to address
17 this issue, we are going to
18 definitely take them by their word.
19 But I am going to work with our
20 colleagues and encourage folks to
21 visit these sites, look at these
22 buildings, take pictures, make sure
23 that it's something that's not an
24 eyesore to the community, and ensure

1 that if that is the case, that we're
2 proactive instead of reactive and
3 put us in a position to make sure
4 that our communities are as safe as
5 possible.

6 So to all of the
7 legislators and different sectors of
8 government who stepped up because of
9 this unfortunate situation, I just
10 want to say thank you to you all.
11 Very much appreciate it.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
13 Welcome.

14 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS:
15 Outside of that, Council President,
16 I introduced a bill today around the
17 BIRT exemption -- I'm sorry, around
18 BIRT tax reduction, specifically
19 looking at daycares. I think about
20 Councilmember O'Rourke's package
21 that he introduced. I think about
22 my bill around energy. I think
23 about Councilmember Phillips's
24 speech around the Water Department.

1 I think about other things that I've
2 listened to; Councilmember Lozada,
3 Councilmember Young, talk about
4 quality-of-life issues in their
5 districts.

6 And when we think about the
7 fact that the \$100,000 exemption is
8 going away, there's one business and
9 there's one industry in the city of
10 Philadelphia that touches every
11 district and a lot of families,
12 especially working families that are
13 struggling. And that's daycares.
14 And as a father of two who's paying
15 for daycare myself, I thank God that
16 with the inflation and the cost of
17 living going up, that I'm able to
18 somehow find a way to continue to
19 pay for -- my wife and I to continue
20 to pay for our child.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
22 That beverage tax.

23 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS:
24 Well, you know, I -- unfortunately,

1 I don't -- I'm not able to take
2 advantage of that, Council
3 President. They -- I got to pay the
4 whole price.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
6 I'm just joking.

7 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: But
8 it's --

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
10 Just joking.

11 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS: No,
12 I appreciate you, Council President.
13 But in all seriousness, we as
14 legislators have to step up right
15 now and try our best to make sure
16 that businesses continue to grow and
17 thrive in the city of Philadelphia,
18 and ensure that people can continue
19 to afford to live in our great city.

20 And so I know that there
21 are a lot of thought leaders as
22 legislators that are trying to
23 contemplate what we can do as local
24 government to help offset the rising

1 costs and to help keep people in our
2 city and in their homes. And I'm
3 hoping that this legislation is
4 another example of us trying to
5 think through what we can do to
6 support businesses who support
7 families, as well as families who
8 are in need. So I thank all of my
9 colleagues who co-sponsor this
10 legislation today.

11 We look forward to in-depth
12 dialogue, both with the daycare
13 industry, families, as well as the
14 members of City Council who are
15 going to be voting on their support
16 legislation. Thank you, Council
17 President.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
19 Thank you. The Chair recognizes
20 Councilman Rue Landau.

21 COUNCILMEMBER LANDAU:
22 Thank you, Council President. I'm
23 going to try to keep this short. I
24 first wanted to thank Councilmember

1 Isaiah Thomas for his leadership in
2 supporting our small businesses and
3 making childcare more affordable for
4 Philadelphians. Right now, we could
5 all use a break, but parents and
6 entrepreneurs especially. So thank
7 you for leading this charge.

8 I'd also like to shout out
9 and thank my amazing legislative
10 aide, Jazmine Easley, for speaking
11 on behalf of the resolution I
12 introduced commemorating the 2025
13 Philadelphia Walk to End
14 Alzheimer's. The Memory Walk has
15 been happening around the country
16 since 1991, and as it's the most
17 common form of dementia in older
18 adults, I know many in this room
19 have likely seen the disease
20 firsthand. Jazmine, I applaud you
21 for your efforts in walking for your
22 great-grandfather, and I encourage
23 everyone to show their support for
24 Alzheimer's patients and their

1 families who care for them.

2 I'd also like to thank you,
3 Council President, for introducing a
4 resolution calling for hearings to
5 examine the impacts of the current
6 crisis threatening SNAP. With
7 nearly 500,000 Philadelphia
8 residents projected to lose access
9 to their SNAP benefits in November
10 if the shutdown continues, this
11 concern is extremely urgent.
12 Coordinated action is needed in our
13 local and state government, and I
14 appreciate your urgency in this
15 matter, as well as Councilmember
16 Ahmad's participation.

17 And finally, I just want to
18 take a second to lift up colleagues
19 Nicholas O'Rourke and Anthony
20 Phillips for their beautiful verbal
21 eulogies of both Kada Scott and
22 Rabbi Waskow. I think the two of
23 them kind of having to speak of
24 their memories now just kind of

1 holds up what we -- what we need to
2 do and what is so essential here in
3 Philadelphia.

4 We have a young woman who
5 really just gave back in her life
6 and was taken so soon and so
7 horribly, and a man who lived until
8 he was 92 working, fighting for
9 everyone's rights, fighting against
10 violence, fighting to make every
11 single community a better place.

12 These bookends are a moment in time
13 right now for us to really take a
14 deep look at ourselves, the actions
15 that we're taking when we are not
16 speaking out, when we need to speak
17 out more, and how we need to make
18 this a unifying effort.

19 Realizing that if we don't
20 all come together on all of these
21 issues, we will never succeed in
22 finding Philadelphia, Pennsylvania,
23 America, the world, a better place
24 that we want it to be. So thank you

1 both so much. Appreciate you.

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

3 Thank you. The Chair recognizes

4 Jeffrey J. Young.

5 COUNCILMEMBER YOUNG: Thank

6 you, Mr. President. First, I would

7 like to, you know, also congratulate

8 Mutha Knows and Mikey Dredd that

9 their morning show is something that

10 gets Philadelphians going. I think

11 iHeartRadio needs to understand that

12 Philly is Philly and we like to be

13 local and, you know, the Breakfast

14 Club is okay, we're going to watch

15 on YouTube later on in the day. But

16 we want to hear our local folks on

17 the radio in the morning. So I

18 think it's going to be something

19 that they learn when they realize

20 that the listenership in the

21 mornings are going to drop on Power

22 99 just because we don't want to

23 hear that. And I've seen that all

24 over social media from folks, they

1 just -- they liked the Breakfast
2 Club, but they would prefer
3 Philadelphia, to be honest.

4 Second, I want to thank
5 Councilmember Rue Landau for the
6 introduction of the Resolution,
7 honoring the Alzheimer's Walk. And,
8 you know, I lost my grandfather to
9 Alzheimer's, my paternal
10 grandfather.

11 I remember one day I was
12 coming home from, like, work with my
13 dad going over my grandpop's house.
14 I had a suit on. He had no idea who
15 I was. He looked at me and said,
16 asked my dad, "Who's that? Is that
17 the boss?" And that just broke my
18 heart, like, that my grandfather had
19 no idea who I was. So I understand
20 what those families, you know, are
21 going through and dealing with that.

22 I also would like to give
23 my condolences to the family of
24 Ms. Scott. I mean, as I'm sitting

1 here and writing my notes, I'm
2 writing my notes with a pen that
3 says Women Against Abuse, right?
4 Domestic violence. And man, like I
5 said, this -- real people really go
6 through real things. And domestic
7 violence is something I've witnessed
8 in my life firsthand.

9 And it's nothing that I
10 would put on anyone, particularly as
11 a child, to watch family members go
12 through domestic violence. It's
13 just -- it is heartbreaking. And to
14 know that people who claim to love
15 each other, people who claim to be,
16 you know, wanting the best for
17 someone, to hurt someone like that.
18 So it just makes me just sad all
19 over again. I can -- I'm picturing
20 myself as a 5-year-old child
21 watching things going around in my
22 household. It's crazy.

23 But today, we introduced a
24 bill that will prevent vacant lots

1 without a building permit in the 5th
2 Council District. And I was
3 inspired by Councilman Jamie
4 Guathier. When you look at
5 development that's happening in the
6 5th District and gentrification,
7 sometimes you have folks who are
8 just speculators who just buy
9 property, you know, tear it down,
10 sit on it, and wait for the market
11 to shift so they can just, you know,
12 build a half-a-million-dollar house.
13 But that creates blight in
14 communities.

15 And so what this bill would
16 do is it would prevent folks from
17 demolishing properties without
18 having a building permit for the
19 erection of a new property, unless
20 the property, of course, is
21 imminently dangerous, unsafe, and
22 things like that. We, you know, we
23 have to -- preservation is the
24 ultimate way to create affordable

1 communities. And I think this bill
2 is about preserving our communities
3 in the 5th Council District.

4 I want to thank my
5 colleagues for passing a bill today
6 where we remapped part of Hunting
7 Park, the 5th District portion of
8 the Hunting Park neighborhood.

9 As you heard from
10 Ms. Audrey Coles today, who
11 testified, this was a community-
12 driven effort. From the moment I
13 got elected to this position, we
14 worked with that community to ensure
15 that that neighborhood looks like
16 what the community wants it to look
17 like. And so this remapping is a
18 labor of love that took us about
19 over a year to get done. But as you
20 can see, those community members are
21 grateful that we took the time to
22 get it done for them.

23 Today, we also introduced a
24 resolution that would hold hearings

1 to examine the refund system of our
2 city. When we owe our city money,
3 they come get it, but when they owe
4 us money, it takes them months and
5 years to give it back. So we got to
6 figure out why does it take that
7 long, right? Because that is, you
8 know, it -- when it comes to
9 accounting strategies for
10 businesses, when it comes to family
11 members, working people in this city
12 who will -- who would need that
13 money, they can't wait six months to
14 a year to get that money back.

15 And so we really have to
16 examine why it takes so long to
17 process refunds. When you're a city
18 worker and you owe the city, they
19 take that right out your check. But
20 if you -- if you got to get some
21 money back, again it takes a very
22 long time. And they only can give
23 it to you in a check form.

24 This is 2025, like, we

1 should be able to have a direct
2 deposit up into our accounts when we
3 get -- where we're owed a refund
4 from the city of Philadelphia. So I
5 look forward to hosting this hearing
6 to examine that particular issue.

7 And finally, Mr. President,
8 we also introduced a resolution
9 today which will rename Oxford
10 Street from Broad Street to 15th
11 Street as Jake and Sarah Adams
12 Avenue. For those who don't know,
13 Mr. Jake is the owner of Barber's
14 Hall, Mr. Jake and Ms. Sarah, and he
15 finally has decided to retire. And
16 he sold his property to Temple
17 University. And I want to be able
18 to give Mr. Jake his flowers while
19 he can still smell them. Mr. Jake
20 is in his 80s, he has done so much
21 for the North Philadelphia
22 community. He was ward leader for
23 15 years, a committee person for
24 over 50 years.

1 And I think, you know, I --
2 next week, hopefully my colleagues
3 will be able to pass this
4 legislation. And I encourage
5 everyone who hears my voice, who
6 knows Mr. Jake, who knows Barber's
7 Hall, who loves that community, to
8 come out to testify and show your
9 support and love because that man
10 really, really deserves that.

11 And so with that,
12 Mr. President, I close. Thank you
13 so much for allowing me to endorse
14 today.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
16 Thank you very much. As we wrap up,
17 I also just want to thank the
18 colleagues who worked together and
19 showed up and supported the family
20 of Kada Scott, but also most
21 importantly, working together as a
22 unit on issues that are very near
23 and dear and critical to the
24 residents here in the City of

1 Philadelphia.

2 And they're watching how we
3 operate, how we come together in
4 times of crisis, and most
5 importantly, how we advocate to move
6 the City of Philadelphia forward.
7 So I commend all of you.

8 And most importantly,
9 beyond my hearts and prayers going
10 out to the family, we will have a
11 very robust hearing. We're looking
12 at our criminal justice system as a
13 whole from top down to make sure we
14 don't fail another person, young
15 person moving forward. Because
16 ultimately, as leaders in
17 government, we have a fine
18 responsibility, right, to lead and
19 make sure we're protecting those who
20 are most vulnerable.

21 And so I'm looking forward
22 to the hearing and also some policy
23 changes in terms of our criminal
24 justice system.

1 Because the family needs
2 more than just prayers and words and
3 speeches here on the Council floor.
4 So we're going to do a deeper dive
5 and look at our whole system,
6 criminal justice system as a whole.
7 With that being said, the Chair
8 recognizes Councilmember Isaiah
9 Thomas for a motion to adjourn. The
10 Chair recognizes Councilmember
11 Jeffrey J. Young.

12 COUNCILMEMBER YOUNG: I'm
13 sorry, Mr. President, I have to get
14 this out, Mr. President, I apologize
15 for this. But on Monday I attended
16 the Janazah of London Major, who's a
17 16-year-old who was shot and killed
18 in North Philadelphia. I happened
19 to know her mother personally. Her
20 mother lost two kids to gun violence
21 before they were 17 years old,
22 right? So that is something I have
23 to get out there and to let the
24 community members know that this is

1 something that we are staying
2 vigilant.

3 And to those, I will always
4 be quarrelsome when it comes to the
5 issue of gun violence in our city
6 and making sure that we are
7 preventing these teenagers from
8 being killed. I'm sorry,
9 Mr. President, I had to get that
10 off. So I wanted to say my
11 condolences to my friend Dee for
12 losing two children before they even
13 had the opportunity to finish high
14 school to gun violence in North
15 Philadelphia. So thank you for
16 that, Mr. President.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

18 Thank you, Member Young.
19 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
20 Isaiah Thomas.

21 COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS:

22 Thank you, Council
23 President. Mr. Sam, I know you'll
24 appreciate this. I want to say

1 happy birthday to my father. I said
2 I was going to do that last week.
3 Today's my dad's birthday. Happy
4 birthday to my dad. And with that
5 being -- I know he's watching right
6 now. So happy birthday, Dad.
7 Mr. President, I move that Council
8 stand adjourned until Thursday,
9 October 30th, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

10 COUNCILMEMBER: Second.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
12 It has been moved and properly
13 seconded that the Council stand
14 adjourned until Thursday, October
15 30th, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. All those
16 in favor will signify by saying aye.

17 COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
19 Those opposed? The ayes have it.
20 The motion carries. Thank you all
21 very much for the good work today.

22 (Stated meeting proceedings concluded at 1:30 p.m.)

23

24

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

2

3 I hereby certify that the proceedings and
4 evidence are contained fully and accurately in the
5 notes taken by me of the above case, and this copy is a
6 correct transcript of the same.

7

8

9 *Samanda J. Rios*

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Samanda J. Rios

11

Court Reporter
Notary Public of PA & DE

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