COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

STATED MEETING

Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Thursday, November 14, 2024
10:00 a.m.

PRESENT:

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

ELIZABETH McCOLLUM NAZARIO, INTERIM CHIEF CLERK

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11/14/24 - STATED - INVOCATION

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

JOHNSON: Good morning, everyone.

(Good morning.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

JOHNSON: I note that the hour has come and that a quorum of this Council is present. This Council session will now come to order.

Will all visitors please retire to your seats outside the rails. And before proceeding, I will ask all those present to please set your cell phones on silent or vibrate and please take all sidebar conversations outside of the Council chambers.

To give our invocation this morning, the Chair recognizes Pastor Bryan Jackson of Garden of Prayer World Prayer. He is here today as the guest of Councilmember and Minority Leader Brooks.

I will ask all members

and guests to please rise.

(Councilmembers, guests and visitors rise.)

PASTOR JACKSON: Father God, in the name of Jesus we come to first say thank you for another day, for another opportunity, a day that we've never ever seen before. We ask right now that you would look on this great city, that you would bless all of the people that inhabited not only this city, but bless those that govern the city, that you may lead them and guide them in all truth.

Help us to not lean to our own understanding but in all of our ways to acknowledge you, that you may give us instruction and direction. If you do these things, Lord, we'll be careful to give your name glory, honor and praise because it belongs to you.

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In Jesus name we do pray and all God's people said Amen.

(Amen.)

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

Council will now be at ease.

(Council at ease.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The Chair notes for the record the presence of Councilmember Isaiah Thomas.

The next order of business is the approval of the Journal of the meeting of Thursday, October 31, 2024.

The Chair recognizes Majority Leader Gilmore Richardson.

COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE RICHARDSON: Thank you, Mr. President.

I move that the Journal

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of the meeting of Thursday, October 31, 2024 be approved.

(Duly seconded.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: It has been moved and properly seconded that the Journal of the meeting of Thursday, October 31, 2024 stand approved.

All those in favor will indicate by saying aye.

(Aye.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Those opposed?

(No response.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The ayes have it and the Journal is approved.

The next order of business is request for leaves of absence.

And the Chair recognizes Majority Leader Katherine Gilmore Richardson.

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COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE RICHARDSON: Thank you, Mr. President.

On behalf of the Majority, there are no requests for leaves of absence today.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The Chair thanks the Majority Leader.

The Chair recognizes Minority Leader Brooks.

(No response.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes Minority Whip O'Rourke.

COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE: Thank you, Council President.

On behalf of the Minority Leader, there are no requests for leaves of absence today.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

The Chair now recognizes

11/14/24 - STATED - MOTION CONCERNING CALENDAR

Majority Leader Gilmore Richardson for a motion concerning certain legislative matters that may arise during the course of today's session of Council and that were not listed on the Calendar circulated prior to today's Council session.

COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE RICHARDSON: Thank you, Council President.

Prior to making the Sunshine Act motion, I'd like to take a point of personal privilege to welcome A Home from Shana Foundation to Philadelphia City Council today. We are joined by Cleopatra Robinson and Jessica Dixon Helm. We welcome them to Philadelphia City Council. Thank you for joining us today.

(Applause.)

COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE RICHARDSON: Thank you,

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Mr. President.

I move that any of the following matters, if considered today, may be added to the agenda for this session of Council and, as required by law, subsequently published on an amended agenda after the consideration of those matters: resolutions authorizing hearings, amendments to bills on first reading, the reconsideration of a bill vetoed by or re-called from the Mayor, amendments to bills re-called from the Mayor, resolutions taking substantive action to be voted on in this session, a motion to withdraw a bill or resolution that is not on the Calendar and a motion placing a bill or resolution on or returning a bill or resolution from the Suspension Calendar that is not listed on today's Calendar.

The purpose of this

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motion is to provide the public with notice concerning possible actions by Council that arose too late to be included on the Calendar that was published prior to today's session.

(Duly seconded.)

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

All those in favor will signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Those opposed?

(No response.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The ayes have it and the

motion carries.

The Chair will dispense with the regular order of business to recognize the guests and visitors joining us in Chambers this morning.

On behalf of all members of City Council, I welcome you to our Council's session. We appreciate your taking the time to join us as we attend to the legislative affairs of our city. We certainly invite you to come again.

The Chair recognizes Councilmember Curtis Jones.

COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you, Mr. President and colleagues.

I'd like you to join me in welcoming the students of Cassidy School in the 4th District. It has been my privilege to watch them move from one of the second oldest school buildings, Kathy Gilmore Richardson, to one of the newest school

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buildings with a brand new makerspace and brand new weather station and opportunities to be educated in a first-class facility.

Would students from Cassidy please rise.

(Applause.)

COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you, Mr. President.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: You're welcome. Thank you, Member Jones.

The next order of business is communications.

The Chair requests that the Sergeant-at-Arms deliver the messages from the Mayor to the Chief Clerk.

Will the Chief Clerk read the messages from the Mayor and any other communications in her possession.

CHIEF CLERK: To the

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President and members of the Council of the City of Philadelphia, I am hereby submitting for your consideration of your Honorable body the following proposed ordinance:

An ordinance authorizing the Commissioner of Public Property, on behalf of the City of Philadelphia, to enter into various lease and sublease agreements with various landlords and tenants for the use by the City of all or a portion of various premises located at 1835 South Broad Street, 6,000 Woodland Avenue, 4029 Market Street, 5610 Lancaster Avenue, 2301 North Broad Street, 6420 Frankford Avenue, 2739 North 5th Street, 5361-91 Chew Avenue, 6233 North Broad Street and 1619 Grant Avenue, all under certain terms and conditions; and

A resolution authorizing the Philadelphia Land Bank to

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dispose of 320 North 41st Street and 323 North Holly Street located in the 3rd Councilmanic District in accordance with the terms of Chapter 16-700 of The Philadelphia Code.

And I am pleased to advise you that on November 13, 2024 I signed the following bills which were passed by Council at its session on October 24, 2024: Bill No. 240657, 240748, 240749, 240812, 240813, 240814, 240815, 240816, 240818, 240819, 240820, 240821, 240822, 240823 and 240824.

And I am pleased to advise you that on November 13, 2024 I signed the following bills which were passed by council at its session on October 31, 2024: Bill Nos. 240499, 240656, 240661 and 240662.

There are no further communications in my possession,

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Council President.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Thank you. The messages will be printed in the Journal.

The next order of business is the introduction of bills and resolutions.

The Chair recognizes Councilmember Phillips.

COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: Good morning, colleagues. Good morning, Council President.

I have one bill for introduction today.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

Will the Clerk please read the title of the bill.

CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance amending Section 14-520 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled "/NDO, Ninth District Overlay District," by reorganizing existing

requirements and requiring special exceptions for certain uses in designated areas, all under certain terms and conditions.

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

The Chair recognizes Majority Leader Gilmore Richardson.

COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE RICHARDSON: Good morning, Council President.

Today I offer one privileged resolution and one bill both on your behalf.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

Will the Clerk please read the titles of the resolutions.

CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance to amend the Philadelphia Zoning Maps by changing the zoning designations of certain areas of

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land located within an area bounded by Packer Avenue, 7th Street, Patterson Avenue and Darien Street. To amend Title 14 of The Philadelphia Code by adding Section 14-541, entitled "Packer Avenue Overlay District," and making other related changes, all under certain terms and conditions.

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

CHIEF CLERK: And a privileged resolution honoring and celebrating the Philadelphia Tribune, an advocate and trailblazer for the African American community on the occasion of its 140th anniversary as the oldest, continuously published newspaper owned and operated by African Americans.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

The Chair recognizes Councilmember Jamie Gauthier.

COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Good morning, Council President.

Today I have four non-privileged resolutions for introduction.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

Will the Clerk please read the titles of the resolutions.

CHIEF CLERK: A non-privileged resolution also naming the 3900 block of Chestnut Street as "Dr. Audrey E. Evans Way" to honor the life and memory of Dr. Audrey E. Evans and her invaluable contributions to pediatric oncology and the Ronald McDonald House Charities of the

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Philadelphia Region.

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

CHIEF CLERK: And a non-privileged resolution authorizing the Philadelphia Land Bank to dispose of 320 North 41st Street and 323 North Holly Street located in the 3rd Councilmanic District in accordance with the terms of chapter 16-700 of The Philadelphia Code.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: This resolution will be placed on today's -- this resolution will be placed on the Final Passage Calendar for consideration at the next session of Council.

CHIEF CLERK: And a non-privileged resolution

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authorizing the Philadelphia Land Bank to dispose of 3924 Cambridge Street, 3909 Pennsgrove Street, 1110, 1112, 1113, 1118, 1128 State Street, 3900, 3902, 3904, 3906, 3911, 3912, 3919, 3921 and 3926 Wyalusing Avenue located in the 3rd Councilmanic District in accordance with the terms of Chapter 16-700 of The Philadelphia Code.

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

CHIEF CLERK: And a non-privileged resolution authorizing the Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority to execute and deliver to the Philadelphia Land Bank deeds conveying title to various properties located in the 3rd Councilmanic District, including

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on the following streets: North 35th Street, North 38th Street, Aspen Street, Brown Street, North Dekalb Street, Ogden Street, Sloan Street and Union Street pursuant to the requirements of the Commonwealth Land Bank Act.

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

The Chair recognizes Councilmember Thomas.

COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Good morning, Council President. Good morning, colleagues. I'm spending more time with y'all than my kids this week, but that's okay.

I have one bill and one non-privileged resolution to introduce today.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

Will the Clerk please read the title of the bill and resolution.

CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance providing for the submission to the qualified electors of the City of Philadelphia of the proposal set forth in a Resolution approved by Council proposing an amendment to the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter to eliminate the requirement that City officers and employees resign from their City office or employment before becoming candidates for public office; and authorizing the appropriate officers to publish notice and to make arrangements for the special election.

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

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CHIEF CLERK: And a non-privileged resolution proposing an amendment to the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter to eliminate the requirement that City officers and employees resign from their City office or employment before becoming candidates for public office and providing for the submission of the amendment to the electors of Philadelphia.

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

The Chair recognizes Councilmember Jones.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. President.

Today I offer one bill and one privileged resolution.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

Will the Clerk please read the titles of the bill and resolution.

CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance amending Chapter 9-600 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled "Service and Other Businesses," to add a new Section 9-640, entitled "Mandatory Posting of Warning of Unlawful Transfer of Firearm," to require licensed firearm dealers to post signs warning that purchasing firearms for another is criminally punishable, all under certain terms and conditions.

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

CHIEF CLERK: And a privileged resolution authorizing the Joint Committees on Public Safety and Parks and Recreation to

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hold hearings to examine the interdepartmental protocol administered by Philadelphia Parks and Recreation, the Philadelphia Fire Department and the Office of Emergency Management for urban-fire management in public parks and park adjacent neighborhoods, considering the recent unprecedented droughts and wildfires across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

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

The Chair recognizes Councilmember Rue Landau.

COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU: Good morning, Council President, colleagues.

I have one privileged resolution today.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

Will the Clerk please read the title of the privileged resolution.

CHIEF CLERK: A privileged resolution recognizing November 17th, 2024 as World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims in the City of Philadelphia.

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

The Chair recognizes Councilmember Quetcy Lozada.

COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Thank you, Council President. Good morning, everyone.

Today I offer two bills. One on your behalf and one privileged resolution.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

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Will the Clerk please read the titles of the bills and resolution.

CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance authorizing the Commissioner of Public Property, on behalf of the City of Philadelphia, to enter into various lease and sublease agreements with various landlords and tenants for use by the City of all or a portion of various premises located at 1835 South Broad Street, 6,000 Woodland Avenue, 4029 Market Street, 5610 Lancaster Avenue, 2301 North Broad Street, 6420 Frankford Avenue, 2739 North 5th Street, 5361-91 Chew Avenue, 6233 North Broad Street and 1619 Grant Avenue, all under certain terms and conditions.

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

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CHIEF CLERK: And an ordinance to amend the Philadelphia Zoning Maps by changing the zoning designations of certain areas of land located within an area bounded by Oxford Street, Cadwallader Street, Jefferson Street, Germantown Avenue and 4th Street.

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

CHIEF CLERK: And a privileged resolution -- one second, Council President.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Council will be at ease.

(Council at ease.)

CHIEF CLERK: Sorry. And a privileged resolution declaring the Third Week of every November as "Restorative Justice Week" in the City of Philadelphia in honor of the International Campaign

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"International Restorative Justice Week."

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

The Chair recognizes Councilmember Jeffrey Jay Young.

COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Thank you, Mr. President.

Today I offer four bills and one non-privileged resolution.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

Will the Clerk please read the titles of the bills and resolutions.

CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance authorizing the Commissioner of Public Property, on behalf of the City of Philadelphia, to acquire fee simple title or a lesser real estate interest by

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purchase, dedication, donation, condemnation, agreement in lie of condemnation or otherwise in and to all portions of a certain parcel of land known as 923 West Butler Street, under certain terms and conditions.

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

CHIEF CLERK: And an ordinance to amend the Philadelphia Zoning Maps by changing the zoning designations of certain areas of land located within an area bounded by Erie Avenue, 9th Street, Hutchinson Street, Ontario Street, Sedgley Street, 6th Street, Glenwood Avenue and Broad Street.

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

CHIEF CLERK: And an

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ordinance authorizing the Commissioner of Public Property, on behalf of the City of Philadelphia, to enter into a sublease agreement with the Philadelphia Municipal Authority for use by the City of a portion of the premises located at 1600-26 John F. Kennedy Boulevard, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, under certain terms and conditions.

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

CHIEF CLERK: And an ordinance authorizing the Commissioner of Public Property, on behalf of the City, to enter into a sublease agreement with the Philadelphia Municipal Authority for use by the City of a portion of the premises located at 30 South 15th Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, under certain terms and conditions.

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COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

CHIEF CLERK: And a non-privileged resolution thanking the Pennsylvania General Assembly for passing Act 103, the Putting the Brakes on Street Racing Bill.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes Minority Leader Brooks.

COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: Thank you, Council President.

I have no bills or resolutions today.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes Councilmember Jim Harrity.

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COUNCILMAN HARRITY:

Council President, I have one bill on your behalf today and proud to say co-sponsored by every member in this house, proving once again that we are for the working people of Philadelphia.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Thank you very much, Member Harrity.

Would the Clerk please read the title of the bill.

CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance amending Philadelphia Code Section 17-107 to add stadium concession employees as a class of workers entitled to receive prevailing wages as defined by the City Code from persons receiving City contracts or leasing land from the City or a City-related agency, adding and modifying definitions and establishing when such requirements

are effective, all under certain terms and conditions.

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

THe Chair recognizes Minority Deputy Whip Nicholas O'Rourke.

COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE: Good morning, Mr. President. Good morning, Philadelphians, all.

I do have one urgent non-privileged resolution to introduce on your behalf.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

Would the Clerk please read the resolution.

CHIEF CLERK: A non-privileged resolution calling on Governor Josh Shapiro and the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission to stave all fare hikes

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and service cuts to SEPTA by flexing federal infrastructure funds from state highway projects to local transportation authorities.

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

The Chair recognizes Councilmember Mike Driscoll.

COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL: Good morning, Mr. President.

No resolutions or bills today.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

The Chair recognizes Councilmember O'Neill.

COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Thank you, Mr. President.

I offer one bill by request.

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COUNCIL PRESIDENT

JOHNSON: Thank you very much, Councilmember O'Neill.

Would the Chief Clerk please read the title of the bills.

CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance authorizing the revision of lines and grades on a portion of City Plan Nos. 383, 384, 385 and 386 by relocating portions of the houselines and curblines of Southampton Road from the Roosevelt Boulevard to points northwestwardly therefrom, relocating portions of the easterly houseline and the curblines of Southampton-Byberry Road from the Roosevelt Boulevard to points southeastwardly and southwardly therefrom, and relocating portions of the curblines of the Roosevelt Boulevard from Southampton and Southampton-Byberry Roads to the Philadelphia Bucks

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County Line, all under certain terms and conditions.

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

The Chair recognizes Councilmember Mark Squilla.

COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Thank you, Mr. President.

I offer two bills and one privileged resolution.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

Will the Chief Clerk please read the titles of the bills and resolution.

CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance amending Section 14-500 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled "Overlay Zoning Districts," by amending Section 14-502, entitled "CTR/Center City Overlay District and 14-702, Floor Area, Height and

Dwelling Unit Density Bonuses" and creating Section 14-542, entitled "/PCH, Philadelphia Chinatown Overlay District" and making related changes, all under certain terms and conditions.

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

CHIEF CLERK: And an ordinance amending Title 12 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled "Traffic Code," to create smart loading zones and camera-based enforcement systems for designated parking violations, revise the procedures for identifying and handling stolen vehicles prior to towing, amend the parking violation subject to towing and make related technical changes all under certain terms and conditions.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

CHIEF CLERK: And a privileged resolution recognizing the 300th Anniversary of the Carpenters' Company of the City and County of Philadelphia, the Nation's Oldest Trade guild and the Stewards of the Carpenters' Hall.

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

The Chair recognizes Councilmember Cindy Bass.

COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you, Mr. President.

I offer no bills or resolutions this week.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes Dr. Nina Ahmad, member.

COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:

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Thank you, Council President.

Today I have one bill.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

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

CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance amending Title 14 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled "Zoning and Planning," by revising provisions for electric vehicle parking and electric supply requirements and making technical changes, all under certain terms and conditions.

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

There being no reports from committees today, the next order of business is the consideration of the Calendar.

The Chair recognizes

11/14/24 - STATED - BILLS ON 2ND READING

Majority Leader Gilmore Richardson for the purpose of calling up bills and resolutions for the Second Reading and Final Passage Calendars.

COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE RICHARDSON: Thank you, Mr. President.

The following bills and resolutions are being called up from the Second Reading and Final Passage Calendars today: Nos. 240134, 241035, 240004, 240613-A, 240931.

And the following bills and resolutions on the Calendar are being held: 240724, 240834, 240242, 240427, 240612, 240817 and 240304.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Thank you. Before considering these bills and resolutions, we will consider public comment as follows: Your public comment must concern matters on the Second Reading and Final Passage

11/14/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
Calendars for possible action at today's Council sessions.

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

Under ideal circumstances, public commenters each will have three minutes to speak. However, this time limit may vary from session-to-session. Today the time limit will be three minutes. In order to be fair to all those speaking, to speak I intend to hold faithfully to the three-minute limit.

When you begin speaking, you will see a green light on the

podium. When there are 30 seconds remaining to your time, the light will turn yellow which is your reminder to conclude your remarks. Once three minutes have passed, the light will turn red and the Sergeant-at-Arms will disconnect the microphone.

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

The Chair recognizes Councilmember Thomas.

COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Sorry, Council President, to interrupt you. But I was hoping to request a leave of absence as I have to attend to other Council business, and I would like to go on the record

as being recorded as aye on all bills and resolutions on today's Calendar.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: It is duly noted and leave is granted. Thank you very much.

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

CHIEF CLERK: May Antoinette Sanders make their way to the podium. May Zevie Koretz, Jeanette Murdock and Benjamin Keys also make their way to the podium. Antoinette Sanders, Zevie Koretz, Jeanette Murdock and Benjamin Keys.

(Witnesses approached podium.)

MS. KORETZ: Hi. My name is Zevie. I live in West Philadelphia and I'm a proud member of Put People First PA and I'm speaking on Councilwoman Brooks'

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resolution on a public health care advocate or PHA.

I'm a healthcare worker. I'm a therapist at an agency that sees people, mostly kids on Medicaid. It's great that they have access to Medicaid, and something that's very clear to me is that what would most help these kids is living in a society that actually meets their basic needs.

If their parents didn't have to work all the time, be stressed all the time, a lot of their pain, their behavioral challenges would go away. It's very obvious to me. So more than anything, my patients need an end to poverty. And we know that won't happen overnight but it's something we need to fight for. And having a public health care advocate is a step in the right direction.

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In Put People First PA, we started organizing for a PHA in 2016 after winning town halls with the Pennsylvania Insurance Department. Through that, we learned that the regulators have very close relationships with the insurance companies, but there's actually nobody in government who actually represents us, the people who use and need health care, making sure that big health care decisions in society are actually benefiting us. There's no nobody.

And what we've seen over and over is that decisions are not benefiting us. Instead decisions are being made that prioritize profits for health care profiteers and these decisions are making us suffer and die needlessly.

So just one example is hospital closures. 15 hospitals

have closed in Pennsylvania in the past five years. It's a catastrophe. And just a couple blocks from my house in West Philly a hospital shut down the intensive care unit because it wasn't making enough money.

We might all know Hahnemann Hospital was bought and closed by someone who thought he could make more money flipping it as real estate, and this was all just allowed to happen because there's no one in government who has the power to say you can't do that, which is what a public health care advocate would do.

And the PHA legislation is powerful because it's actually statewide. It would help people in Philly and in Delaware County, Scranton, Altoona, Johnstown. We talk and build with people in all

these places and wherever we go, people agree with us, yes, the system is broken, we're hurting, we need care, we can't get it. And it's powerful in a time when so many issues are being used to divide and pit us against each other, that the need for health care unifies all of us.

So through our struggle for a public health care advocate, poor and working-class people are coming together across all of our divisions to fight for what we need. So thank you for supporting it.

MS. MURDOCK-ULLAH: Jeanette Murdock-Ullah. Good morning, everyone. I'm here to talk about my son, my youngest son who passed away October 26, 2022. He was sick. He went for insurance and they denied him. He was on medication that he couldn't pay for.

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Please this has to stop. Other people will die if they don't get insurance. People are sick and need insurance. Families, not just my son, but other families are being denied -- I'm sorry. Not just my son, other families are being denied as well. We have to end this and fight back.

Public health care advisors will be powerful for fighting against insurance companies, hospitals and others who put profit before people. After my son died, I had no one to turn to. No help. The PHA could have been a place I went to help for.

I'm just asking if anyone has children, and I know most people do, losing a child is horrible. Every day I wake up and I want to call my son on the phone but I can't because he's not there anymore.

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Please for the sake of others don't take away health care. We need this. Thank you.

MS. NICELY: My name is Anita Nicely and I'm speaking for Antoinette Sanders. Hi. My name is Antoinette Sanders and I live in North Philly with my seven children. I'm speaking on Councilwoman Brooks' resolution on a public health care advocate.

My experience with Medicaid has been a rocky road. My whole family has Medicaid. When you're pregnant, there's certain things insurance is supposed to do. All appointments are supposed to be covered like the stress test, testing the compatibility of the fetus and the mother and testing the fetus for any abnormalities.

Dental is also supposed to be covered but that was not my

experience. I was hospitalized twice during my pregnancy with my doctors pushing for unnecessary procedures and I left. The third time my daughter was born and had to stay in the NICU. I have periodontal disease which can lead to death if untreated.

When I went to the dentist, I was denied and had to pay out of pocket which I can't do because I can't afford it. Even at the free clinics they were doing cleanings which is not going to treat the disease because Medicaid wouldn't cover all the dental care I needed.

With my oldest daughter I've been fighting to keep her on medicine. The doctor sent in her prescription multiple times and her insurance keeps denying it. This occurs at all of the different

pharmacies that I would go to. My youngest boy had to have surgery in his mouth. They fixed what they needed to fix, but a few weeks later I got a letter from insurance telling me they wouldn't cover it. I filed an appeal and I'm waiting for a response to that.

I deal with a lot as it is which causes my depression and my anxiety to raise, especially when it comes to my son. My periodontal disease is painful because it affects your gums. And if you eat or if it's too cold, there's pain. It's not something I can put on the back burner and I try and treat myself before going to the doctors.

I don't like that health care is a money-making industry. And the way to change that is to organize together. We need to make the voice of the people heard so

that is why I support a public health care advocate.

(Applause.)

CHIEF CLERK: May Benjamin Keys, Kate Perez, Samaya Brown and Jeremy Blatstein make their way to the podium. Benjamin Keys, Kate Perez, Samaya Brown and Jeremy Blatstein.

(Witnesses approached podium.)

MS. PEREZ: Our federal conventional arms transfer policy states that we cannot sell if there is a chance that our weapons will be used in crimes against humanity. My name is Kate Perez. Seven hours ago Israel bombed the Jabalia Refugee Camp in Palestine and a suburb in Lebanon.

Three hours ago the Occupation bombed an entire residential block in North Gaza and

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one hour ago they struck the Salah Edin School northwest of Gaza City. Companies that sell to the Occupation are not conforming to the law. Meaning, that Ghost Robotics in the Council President's District is breaking federal law by continuing to supply AI-enabled robot dogs that are currently on the ground in Gaza.

AgustaWestland Philadelphia Corp, also known as Leonardo, under Councilmember O'Neill is breaking federal law by continuing to supply naval munitions and attack helicopters to the illegal occupation. Day & Zimmerman under Councilmember Young is the primary supplier of Israel's three most used munitions. Councilmember Young, are you aware that Day & Zimmerman in your District supplies the tank shells that the Occupation

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fires into refugee camps?

For over 400 days City Council and Mayor have sat back refusing to add their legislative powers to stop the weapons from leaving our ports. You all know that Israel murders one child every four minutes. Our Council should be pressuring Congress to support Bernie Sanders' joint resolutions of disapproval, 111 to 116, that would stop the $20 billion in armed sales to Israel.

I encourage everyone in this room to call your representatives to stop the armed sales to a state that will continue to indiscriminately bomb Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, Yemen and Iran. Blinken refused to impose the arms embargo but congratulates polio clinics in Gaza, ignoring that polio is back in the Gaza strip for the

first time in 25 years and was only brought back because Israel has been destroying any water filtration and sanitation systems, overturning graves with bulldozers to help spread disease systematically targeting the medical systems and abducting medical personnel.

He also admitted that Israel dropped U.S.-made bombs on a polio clinic where children were receiving their vaccines. One victim shared, my baby nephew -- my friend's baby's nephew who was scheduled for a vaccination today is now internally bleeding from shrapnel in his spine and lungs. It's the same lie and mockery by Israel. I don't understand why our City Councilmembers and our Mayor just stay silent as these weapons leave our ports.

CHIEF CLERK: Jeremy

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Blatstein. May Leo Vaccaro, Ms. Joy Taney and Tyrique Glasgow also make their way to the podium.

(Witnesses approached podium.)

MR. BLATSTEIN: Good morning, City Council, City Council President. My name is Jeremy Blatstein. All right. Since all of a sudden this week City Council wants to finally talk about SEPTA, raise your hand if you rode SEPTA to City Hall this morning.

Oh, I rode it from 59th and Drexel this morning, took the G bus, got on the Market-Frankford Line, took me about 40 minutes but I encourage each -- and for those of you at home --

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Mr. Blatstein, are you talking about the Land Bank or a resolution regarding SEPTA?

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MR. BLATSTEIN: Oh, I'm getting there, sir. I'm talking about Bill No. 240134 which will move land from the Philadelphia Land Bank. Two weeks ago there was a hearing on the Land Bank. Deals that are approved by the Land Bank Board then get sent over to City Council. There are deals that are being held by City Councilmembers right now and they are not passing them. That doesn't make any sense.

Deals that pass the Land Bank Board should get moved forward and not be held up by the City Councilmember, right. What's the point of putting something out there when the work's already been done. Philadelphia is a city with enormous potential and growing our population to 2 million is a bold, achievable vision that benefits everyone. Why does this matter.

First, a large population strengthens our economy. More residents mean a bigger tax base, which funds better schools, safer streets and improved public services without increasing individual tax burdens. Second, it attracts businesses and creates jobs by expanding our talent pool. It also revitalizes neighborhoods spurring housing development and boosting property values.

Third, a large more diverse population enhances Philadelphia's cultural vibrancy making it a global destination for arts and cuisine and innovation. Finally, growth strengthens our city's influence. With 2 million residents, Philadelphia gains more leverage at the state and federal levels to secure funding and drive policy that works for us all. This

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isn't just about numbers.

It's about making Philly stronger, fair and more livable for all. Let's grow Philly to 2 millie. It's really important right now, as we've heard this week, to not waste time on things that aren't going to grow the city of Philadelphia. We can't be a city of no. We have to invest in the city.

Private dollars coming into the city of Philadelphia is a good thing, building more affordable housing is a good thing. And I really just would encourage us to have the goal in mind of grow Philly to 2 millie.

And I will also put this out there to end it. The invitation is out there for all of you to ride SEPTA with me. I know Councilman Jones will do that next time and Councilman Harrity will go from K&A,

but it's really a shame if each and every one of you don't feel safe or willing to ride SEPTA. If you don't ride SEPTA through Thursdays, all I'm saying is ride on Thursdays. It's a challenge so thank you. And grow Philly to 2 millie.

MR. VACCARO: Hello. My name is Leo Vaccaro. Thank you for this opportunity to speak in support of Bill 240931. I'm grateful for the support of Council President Johnson, Councilmember Young and Councilmember Jones. As a high school history teacher, who has to head back to his class at noon, and a passionate advocate for Philadelphia history, I'm thrilled that Caroline LeCount will be honored in our city.

Historians like Fasaha Traylor, Dan Biddle, Murray Dubin and Judy Giesberg have long-

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championed her incredible story. However, until now Caroline LeCount's historic actions and dedicated service have remained largely unknown to the broader public.

By dedicating a street in her honor, we can inspire Philadelphians and ensure that one of our city's greatest heroes is never forgotten. In our historic city of course, we have a rich tradition of honoring brave men, emphasis on men. We should be proud of our government that was brought forth here and was dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal, but we should also celebrate the women and their contributions to the progress of our nation.

Just seven years ago we dedicated a statue of Octavius Catto outside of this building, a

testament to his sacrifice for equality. Today many Philadelphians know Catto's story and are inspired by his courage. Now, we have the opportunity to honor the woman who loved and mourned him, Caroline LeCount.

Though she wasn't martyred like Catto, she faced the same dangers when she integrated our public transit March 25, 1867 at 11th and Lombard. At just 21 years old, she worked fearlessly to bring justice to our nation knowing the risks.

Caroline LeCount continued her work as an educator and advocate, embodying the American ideal of egalitarianism even in the face of adversity. Yet for a century her grave remained unmarked and her contributions were largely forgotten.

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Out of our City's 1500 statues and monuments, only four depict real women. By honoring LeCount, we are not only recognizing her bravery but also acknowledging the vital role women have played in shaping our City's history. Let us ensure that future generations know the story of Caroline LeCount, a true Philadelphia hero.

After the bill is passed, our work is far from done. The teachers and historians of Philadelphia will continue to educate the public about our noble history and the past struggles that forged a better nation, and we hope to have Council and government's participation in those efforts. Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHIEF CLERK: Ms. Joy Taney, Tyrique Glasgow. And may

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Raquel Fetzer and Carmen Pagan also make their way to the podium.

(Witnesses approached podium.)

MS. TANEY: My name is Joy Taney and I am a member of the Taney family whose ancestors include Chief Justice Roger Taney after whom Taney Street was named. I'm here to speak on Bill 240931. My father Peter Taney is in the chambers with us today and you will hear his comments on renaming Taney Street to LeCount Street later.

The Taney family has debated how to reckon with our family's legacy and infamous ancestor for longer than I've been alive. The conversation has gone on for longer than my father and his siblings who lived in Philadelphia since the '70s have been alive.

When my Taney uncle

worked with the Scott family to create an official apology from the Taney family to the Scott family on the 160th anniversary of the ruling, he said, apologizing to the Scots for the Dred Scott decision is like bringing a band-aid to an amputation. It's right and necessary to apologize.

But what's important now is what actions we can all take. The actions we can take in Philadelphia by changing the name of Taney Street to LeCount Street can turn the tides on the psychological and social impact that this street name has caused in Philadelphians of all races for 166 years.

Taney Street was named just one year after the Dred Scott decision was issued. Roger Taney has no significant history here. He didn't live here, and my Taney

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cousins' research revealed zero significant connections or moments in his life which happened in Philadelphia.

Many Philly street names connect to Philadelphian history and meaning from our local trees to (inaudible) Maxon's Lenape translation of a place where chiefs meet, but Roger Taney is associated with this one act. It is the only way we hear the Taney name mentioned at all in school or in conversation when learning about significant Supreme Court rulings and the long ongoing road toward civil rights justice.

Can you imagine that day for a Philadelphian student discussing the horrific cultural impact of Taney's ruling against the citizenship and personhood of Black Americans and seeing that name on

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your own home street. I can't even begin to imagine how Taney Street must make our Black Philadelphians feel.

As a Taney family member, I feel shame when seeing the street and a deep distrust toward a mayor who wanted to honor Taney's part in the Dred Scott decision this way. What must naming Taney Street and leaving it standing for 166 years say to Philadelphians about a city government which honors one of the great American dehumanizers.

Renaming Taney Street won't solve the vast and terrible legacy of my ancestors ruling that Black people who were slaves or had ancestors that were slaves did not have rights as American citizens. But renaming it to LeCount Street can be a transformative act.

Caroline LeCount wasn't

just a Black Philadelphian activist who was ahead of her time in desegregating transportation 90 years before Rosa Parks, her public speaking accomplishments and becoming the second Black woman school principal in Philly history. She is still an example and inspiration for modern activists to follow in making our city better.

Learning the LeCount's name in school or in conversation and connecting it to your nearby street or your home street is aspirational. By sticking to and fighting for what she believed in, Caroline LeCount made history. The City government honoring LeCount Street shows that you believe in what she believed in rather than Taney Street reminding Philadelphians how Black Philadelphians were not property so

long ago and the government supported that too through Taney.

Your position -- sorry, the Dred Scott decision is proof that in America what is legal and what is right are two different entities. Your position as government leaders will continue to challenge or choose the disenfranchisement and displacement of your citizens in this and future decisions such as whether to build the Sixers arena and its powerful opposition by Philadelphia's citizenry. The Taneys who live in the city now and the Taneys who have live here since the '70s believe in LeCount Street. Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHIEF CLERK: Tyrique Glasgow, Raquel Fetzer, Carmen Pagan, Luis Soto and Ramon Cruz.

(Witnesses approached

podium.)

MR. GLASGOW: Good morning, everyone. My name is Tyrique Glasgow. I'm the Executive director of Young Chances Foundation which is a community- based organization in South Philadelphia. Our focus is public health, public safety and youth development.

I'm here to give testimony and support of the renaming of Taney Street to LeCount Street and make our public testimony and support against any decision or quality of life measure that affects all of our communities. In this ruling, the U.S. Supreme Court stated that enslaved people were not citizens of the United States and therefore could not expect any protection from the federal government or the courts. The opinion also stated that Congress

had no authority to ban slavery from federal territory.

I want to first define the testimony from our community organization for over the past 12 years. Our service, we have provided 15,353 households with services, had 42 impact events and served 12,457 youth. This is our organizational testimony and service to our community, city and country.

As a leader, man and father in the city of Philadelphia, I'm here to say that that is who we really are. We are a fabric of our community and someone who was raised by his mother and grandmother who didn't let the lack of resources or adequate health care, quality education and a chance to own a home, but gave me a vision for tomorrow and a hustle and to trust in the Lord with all my heart and to

lean not on my own understanding and in all my ways acknowledge Him.

This is why our numbers are not numbers. They are people. The people can tell the same story of a troubled past and challenges of today, but not having confidence to speak of a hopeful tomorrow. Caroline LeCount gives us that opportunity to speak of that importance of education for every child, because we know that a smart child provides a safe community for all of us.

The conversation can start on how young women can become whatever they want in this city, become a principal and have a street named after them. I will close by saying that this is not about yesterday. It's about our tomorrow and we have an opportunity to change how our next generation of leaders

and youth feel about being equal in our city because the work is not going to stop for us, for our organization. We're going to continue to push the coloring books, have listening sessions in our communities and hopefully get some SEPTA rise with Carolina LeCount on the side of the bus because she is our Philadelphia Rosa Parks.

I want to thank our Councilpeople for bringing this bill to the table and also our Council President for doing the work behind the scenes. And I gave a testimony earlier in our close about Mr. Albert Nobel, who was the architect of death who invented dynamite, and he did all those things and made a lot of wealth through that. But that decision for him to make money contributed to his obituary being put out and they

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talked about him being the worst person in the world and how it killed children.

What Albert Nobel did was he went around the country and he went to his Councilpeople -- all right. He went to his Councilpeople, his people who really believed in tomorrow and he asked them to go find good people in our community and cities and country who are providing that good work. And now, that award is called the Nobel Peace Prize, so I appreciate our Council for stepping up and doing the same thing and changing the images of what our community and youth will see. Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Mr. Glasgow, we just want to thank you for your leadership and bringing this initiative to my office. And I publicly acknowledge

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Councilmember Jeffrey Jay Young and Councilmember Curtis Jones for being willing partners and bringing this to fruition as we right a wrong in the history of the city of Philadelphia. So thank you for your leadership and your organization. Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

MR. GLASGOW: Appreciate it.

CHIEF CLERK: Raquel Fetzer, Carmen Pagan, Luis Soto, Ramon Cruz and Peter Taney.

Ms. FETZER-McNICHOLS: Good morning, everyone. I'm Raquel Fetzer-McNichols. So I started this journey as a convicted felon, an addict, an alcoholic, a menace to society, someone who was very much part of the problem in Kensington, Fishtown and Port Richmond. Today eight and a half years later, still

a convicted felon but we're working on that.

I am a recovered alcoholic, recovered addict, a mother, a wife, an employee and honest employee, right, and I'm also someone who has contributed many solution -- been part of many solutions for this city, and I really appreciate that I am someone today that gives back to my community in such tremendous ways.

Before people would have never called me, parents would have never called me and asked how can you help my daughter, how can you help my son. And today I've had some of those private conversations where we just walk by each other and we wave and only we know, right.

And I get to be a daughter today. My mother turned me into the police when I committed the

crime that I committed. She turned me into the FBI. And last year she walked me down the aisle and gave me away to my husband, right.

(Applause.)

MS. FETZER-McNICHOLS: So I'm here to say I really believe in restorative justice. I am certainly living proof. When I was incarcerated on State Road, I was there for six months. And then I was paroled to the FIR program. Judge Scott DiClaudio said, I'm giving you one chance and if you mess this up, you're going up to Muncy.

And, listen, I'm someone that cannot do jail. I've realized that, but I took that into consideration and I had gotten sober already in behind the walls through a 12-step fellowship and I continue that journey today in that

fellowship. But most of all -- so when I got out of there, I went to FIR and I was paroled to treatment. I've always been a Medicaid recipient.

And once I got there, I was like I got to do something different, so I became a certified recovery specialist right afterwards. I got off probation I think it was two years early, right, due to good behavior and my contributions. And I'm very proud to say that I've connected hundreds of people to treatment and recovery today.

I believe I'm a voice for those who don't have voices and I am definitely a unicorn in some ways, right, because people don't always agree with me. I'm a little old school, but that's okay because this is my experience and what worked for

me. Today I am also pursuing my Bachelor's degree in Psychology and applying to grad schools which is wild.

(Applause.)

MS. FETZER-McNICHOLS: Thank you. And yeah, I just want to say I'm really grateful. I believe in restorative justice and it's all about the full circle. Thank you for all that you do.

(Applause.)

MS. PAGAN: Good morning, everyone. Good morning, City Council. My name is Carmen Pagan and I am going to be speaking in regards to our Councilwoman Quetcy Lozada's resolution for declaring the Week of Restorative Justice. I, myself, am a convicted felon. I ended up doing five years in state prison.

I was part of the problem

out in the community. And I'm so glad that upon getting discharged from prison, I changed my life around. I went and got my Associate's, my Bachelor's. And everything that I gave out to the community, all the bad that I did, I feel as though today I'm out there helping, doing different things.

I'm honestly humbled and honored to be here, to share part of my story because it's hard. It's hard getting out of prison and trying to reintegrate back into the community when there's a time where I came out in 2007. And it was not many supports as we have a lot of support nowadays.

But back then I came home and they sent me to the welfare office and I didn't know what to do after that. They didn't know what to do with me, so I had to fight.

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There were days that I went to interviews and cried. Because of my criminal background, I couldn't get a job. But you know what, I took accountability and I said Carmen's not going to go out there to sell drugs, she's not going to go out there to get high. And here I am with the support of my colleagues and just God. I give it all to God and just to my community.

I'm happy to be able to be that mentor, right, so that people could look and they say, you know Carmen did it, who would have thought Carmen could do it. And here I am. So it just goes to show you. This means a lot to me, and I'm glad that we have all these different programs, backing up people -- because we do recover and we can become productive citizens of society because here I am as a

witness. So thank you everyone and appreciate you guys.

(Applause.)

MR. SOTO: Good morning, everybody. My name is Luis Soto. First of all, I want to say I want to thank God, my high power, for today, for this moment and everybody in here. You know, so very nervous. But over 20 years I was in addiction here in Philadelphia. I was part of the problem for many years. I spent four years homeless, 11 years in State Prison.

Today I thank God because we almost 14 years clean, you know, doing the right thing for the right reason. I believe that God have a plan for me and a purpose in my life, and he started to complete it. Now, I can see it because today I work for the Office of Public Safety in the office of Criminal Justice.

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I'm part of the PAD program, Police-Assisted Program.

And if you asked me or told me that I go be working at the District of Police, 24th, 25th District Police, I go look at you like you crazy because my record and other stuff, my time in jail, stuff like that, my crime that I commit, stuff like that.

But for God nothing is impossible, you know. And today I can say that I do my best to live a clean life, not a perfect life, but to the right thing for the right reason to face my challenge, my problems and not run from them to the street.

Today I can say also that I help others that are struggling with the same thing that I struggled before for many years, especially those that are incarcerated right

now and coming out to the community. Because I used to be them coming out without hope and thinking that nobody going to give me an opportunity to have a job, a legal job, and that's something that is not true. And I'm living there right now for some years.

I want to say real quick that my son is going through the same thing that I went through. Right now he sitting down in a county jail, and I just want to be a hope for him that he (inaudible). I know that he can do it and live a better life when he coming out.

So I just want to thank everybody, all the Councilmembers for this. And for Ramon Cruz, thank you, my good friend for this invitation and Councilwoman Lozada for the invitation and let's do it. Let's work for the community and

help our community to be better.
Thank you.
(Applause.)
MR. CRUZ: My name's Ramon Cruz. Thank you. Good morning and I'm honored to be here. And good morning, Councilmembers. After spending 26-plus years incarcerated in and out of incarceration, restorative justice involves engaging those who caused harm, the victims and the affected families and communities and processes aimed at repairing damage and rebuilding relationships.
My own journey of restorative justice evolved through reconciliation and reparation with my family, the victims of my past actions. In September of 2015 my life underwent a significant transformation when I was released from prison, motivated by the desire

to change primarily for the sake of my mother and children. I took responsibilities for my actions and sought to contribute positively to a community that has suffered due to my criminal behaviors.

Despite facing numerous challenges during my reintegration into society, including supervision which was life supervision and my extensive criminal record, I remain steadfast and in my commitment to change. Tragically the very motivations for my transformation have become sources of deep sorrow.

I lost my son two years ago to the struggles I had tirelessly advocated against. And just 19 days ago, my mother passed away. Nevertheless, my dedication to accountability and personal growth has allowed my family to cherish the present and aspire to a

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brighter future.

Nine years ago I presented with a chance to convert my past liabilities into assets leading me to work at DBHIDS where I utilize my lived experience to assist individuals facing homelessness and behavioral health challenges. Following a series of promotions I successfully established, Council District Behavioral Health Teams called Community Wellness Engagement Unit which operates within the community to provide resources aimed to enhancing wellness.

However, after the tragic loss of my son two years ago I found myself unable to continue this work. Although my commitment to supporting communities remains strong, albeit in a different capacity. Currently I serve as the Director of Quality

of Life and Community for HACE where I empower community leaders through the Livability Academy.

This initiative equips residents with the skills to draft proposals to contribute to opportunities and receive by speaking at various venues. Following my life supervision I appeared and now I do not have life supervision. Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHIEF CLERK: May Peter Taney, Rosslyn Wuchinich, Fred Motley, Samantha Specter, Major Hages, Tiffany Davis and Nia Wise also make their way to the podium.

(Witnesses approached podium.)

MR. TANEY: My name is Peter Taney. I thank the Council for the opportunity to speak on the bill to rename Taney Street to

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LeCount Street. Roger Brook Taney was my great-great-great-great uncle and his actions have cast a shadow over my life. I'm 75 years old. I'm still living with this. And it's affected the decisions I've made all my life and what I do for a living, how I live my life and how I treat other people.

So I heartily applaud the efforts to rename this street. And I could say that in my extended family -- I'm one of eight siblings. And in my extended family I think my sentiments are shared by everybody with the last name of Taney right now, and this guy shouldn't be a dogcatcher. I'm sorry, you know.

This is great. Guys, I love what you're doing. I hope it passes. I hope you can name it. And the fact that they're renaming it for a woman who is so active in

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civil rights in Philadelphia I think is great. You know, really good move. Thanks.

(Applause.)

MS. WUCHINICH: Good morning. My name is Rosslyn Wuchinich. I'm the President of UNITE HERE Local 274. I'm here this morning in support of the amendment to Section 17-107 of the prevailing wage ordinance to make sure that it applies to stadium concession workers. Our members in UNITE HERE Local 274 work in food service at the airport, at the stadiums, in Center City and are also the hotel workers who welcome guests to our city.

As many of us know, service workers are overwhelmingly women and people of color and it's our opinion in our union that our jobs are not paid what they should

be, in large part because of that fact. Those jobs are also -- service jobs are the biggest number of jobs in our city. So when we do not use everything in our power to increase compensation and benefits for these jobs, we are literally impoverishing our city.

In South Philadelphia at the stadium complex, over 2,700 people clocked in for work in 2023. And as the City is considering a new arena proposal, we need to look at the hundreds of jobs that people would be clocking into doing food service and retail work if that arena is approved.

Honestly as a union we are not interested in hearing about just creating jobs. Our members have two, three, four, even five jobs. When we hear about Philadelphia being the poorest big

city in this country, we know that most people living in poverty have jobs that do not pay enough. So when we're looking at jobs being created, the questions have to be what are the nature of those jobs, will these jobs further impoverish our city while owners reap profits or are they going to lift all of us up. Are they going to lift up the communities that need it the most.

These jobs, these stadium jobs are all on City-owned land. At the airport and on City construction projects, this body has in fact taken action that we deeply appreciate to make sure that the City uses its power as a landholder and as a contractor to set minimum wage and benefit requirements.

In fact, in 2016 this body revised that law to include stadium workers in building services

only, but it did not include food service and retail. Stadium food service and retail workers should be no exception. This law would provide at least a $20 minimum wage and hourly health care and benefit contributions for all these workers.

Our city and these Philadelphia residents in our communities deserve nothing less. We want to thank the Council President Kenyatta Johnson, Councilmember Jim Harrity and all of the co-sponsors of this bill. We ask every member of City Council for your support. Thank you.

(Applause.)

MR. MOTLEY: Good morning one and all. My name is Fred Motley. I'm a lifelong resident of Philadelphia. I currently reside in North Philly right now. I also work for the last 10 years down in South

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Philly working through the three buildings of the complex, the sports complex.

I stand before you currently dealing with an umbilical hernia in front of me as well as having to take care of my now 17-year-old son. In 2009 when he was 1-and-a-half, he had an aneurism and a stroke. I had to pay for additional therapy for him because my health care package was poor out of my pocket.

I would like to be able to upgrade my status and better be able to take care of him. I humbly ask for support of this bill. Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

MS. SPECTER: Hi. My name is Samantha Specter. I live in Frankford section of Philadelphia. I worked for the stadium food

service for nine years. As you can see, I'm working Eagles game tonight. I'm in my uniform. I'm here because right now I don't have health care. Working in stadiums is not a 9-to-5 job where you get 40 hours a week. It's unpredictable hours and you have to be -- you have to be available at all times. We work when there are events only.

If the team goes to playoffs. We have to be available. But on the flip side of all that, it's unpredictable and in regular hours. I don't have health care right now because I can't afford it. I'm a single mom. I spend $300 a month on my 17-year-old daughter to make sure she has health care and that's about it because I can't afford to pay both.

I can't afford to refill my prescription right now. I can't

get a mammogram. I can't go to a doctor to make sure I'm healthy. I'm afraid it's impossible for me to stay healthy. This bill would have a huge impact on my life because I would be able to have access to health care. The City did this for the airport and it's long overdue for the stadium workers. We thank you so much for your support.

(Applause.)

MS. HAGES: Hello. How y'all doing. My name is Major Hages. I'm a cook at the Wells Fargo Center. I'm a prep cook. If you ever ate down Wells Fargo and ate anything down there, I'm probably the person that cooked it for you. If you ever ate down Wells Fargo, I'm probably the person that cooked it for you. I make $17 an hour. That's not enough money to take care of my family, not even

enough money to take care of me. I would like y'all to support this bill so we will be able to take care of our family, me and my co-workers. I appreciate y'all. Thank y'all very much.

MS. WISE: Good morning. My name is Nia Wise. I work at the Wells Fargo Center as a stand manager in the Lincoln Financial Field and as a stand attendant, and this is my third season at the stadium complex.

As event-based workers it's very hard to plan our income on a monthly basis. It fluctuates a lot. It's also hard for me to retain my government benefits because of how much the pay changes week to week. It's even harder when you're not in all three of the complexes.

Right now I'm fighting to

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get insurance coverage and don't have any coverage while I'm expecting my first child. I'm worried about affording the health care that I need while I'm pregnant, and this bill would allow me to be more financially stable month-to-month and help me afford the health care and benefits that I would need for me and my family. Thank you for your support.

MS. DAVIS: Good morning, everybody. My name is Tiffany Davis. I am here to support the bill to include a wage standard for stadium workers. I am currently reside in Philadelphia section of Olney. I am 32 years of age. I work at all three stadiums and I also have two extra jobs besides this.

I currently take care of my uncle who currently has bone

cancer. I am the sole provider for him and it's very hard to take care of him and work and also manage my own life. I am -- I am -- I'm sorry. Yes, through all these jobs I really can't take care of myself. I really have like a hard time of managing everything.

In these last couple days that -- I want to be really honest with you. In these last couple days I've been sitting here in these in these hearings and y'all prevailing this new stadium is like crazy to me because we are stadium workers and I haven't heard anything about that.

And why would we build something that we're creating these jobs where these other jobs are not even good. I just feel like we're creating jobs that are not good. And why we're not focused on making these jobs better and then bringing

in these other jobs. Why are we creating more bad jobs.

And I thank you for hearing me out. I want to thank President Council Kenyatta Johnson and Councilmember Jim Harrity and all the sponsors for introducing this legislation. Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHIEF CLERK: May Jenny Zhang, Emelio Webber, Emily Goddard and Lynn Landes make their way to the podium. Jenny Zhang, Emelio Webber, Emily Goddard and Lynn Landes.

(Witnesses approached podium.)

MS. ZHANG: Good morning. I'm Jenny Zhang and I'm speaking on Resolution 241035. Advocating for people's health is essential and that's why I'm so concerned that this week's hearings proved that the

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proposed Sixers arena is a bad deal for Philadelphia and threatens the economic health and vitality of our city and of Chinatown in particular.

Chinatown relies on Jefferson University for our health care needs. Already Philadelphia's emergency response times are three minutes longer than the industry standard. Do you think that an arena in an area surrounded by residents whose only access to a major hospital that lies within the arena's boundaries and borders are going to see those times improve.

As a Chinatown resident, I've been appalled at how the testimony this week showed how much the Administration and the Sixers ignored and dismissed reasonable and rational concerns. I want to clarify just how much the Parker Administration has failed to

responsibly engage with Chinatown community and other impacted neighborhoods.

Not once did the Mayor come directly to Chinatown. There was only one meeting with staff members in the spring of this year. All meetings with the City were cut off by the summer. The impact studies were completed in December 2023 but Chinatown never saw a single study until nine months later in September 2024, after which not only did the Mayor announce her support, she announced that she had unilaterally negotiated a pathetic public benefits agreement -- Community Benefits Agreement that effectively cut out Chinatown from any remediation of concerns.

Did you not just see the last election. That election said loud and clear this City Hall does

not speak to, for or about its people. 88 percent of Philadelphians do not believe a Sixers arena is a priority for the city, but here you are rolling out the red carpet for billionaires who scoffed at your questions about serious issues like housing, schools, workers, diversity and neighborhoods about us.

When asked whether they could even consider giving us more, the answer was no. So in the words of Councilmember Thomas, there is nothing more to talk about. Watching our City Council speed this process through terrified of billionaires, who will never live in our neighborhoods, never send their kids to our schools, never understand the lives of immigrants and working people other than the ones they pay, made me sick to my

stomach.

I believe in a better Philadelphia. I believe this Council needs to stand up and fight for us, the people. If the Mayor's Office will not slow down this process and give Chinatown and the people of this city a chance to demand the things we know we deserve and to demand it from people who can afford to do so much more than what is being asked of them right now. Give us a chance to thrive and give Philly a chance to rise. Slow this process down.

(Applause.)

MS. GODDARD: Hi. Good morning. My name is Emily Goddard and I'm speaking on Resolution 241035 from my perspective as a West Philly resident and with a Master's degree in Public Health. I support establishing a Public Health Care

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Advocate Office to prioritize public health and well-being, specifically as we face public health threats from the proposed Sixers Arena.

My specialty is around climate change and health and how the climate impacts our health. The construction sector is the largest emitter of greenhouse gases accounting for 37 percent of global emissions. As we know, we're in a growing climate crisis leading to increasing severe weather events such as the current drought that we're in.

The 76ers already have a perfectly good arena in South Philly and yet as we saw in this week's hearings, the owners of the Sixers don't think that's enough. They don't think it's enough that they get hundreds of millions of dollars in tax breaks while our rents and

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property taxes rise and they don't think it's enough that they're trying to weasel their way into a brand new taxpayer-supported arena while our public schools or our public school bathrooms flood and roofs leak on a generation of children.

When they were asked this week about whether they were going to give any more than what they had promised two years ago, they said no. But we need City Council to say yes to the people of this city. Say yes to real investments in housing and environmental justice. Say yes to holding Building Trades accountable for a diversified workforce and serious remediations to the harms of their industry.

But all I've heard from the Sixers Arena -- or the Sixers and the Administration is no. No

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when Councilmember Gauthier said that $3 million over 30 years is not enough to support affordable housing in a gentrifying community, no when Councilmember Gilmore Richardson asked the Sixers if the arena is supposed to be such a boom for people of color, women and local businesses why are none reflected in the ownership of this project, and no when Councilmember Thomas asked if they can do more.

The city is in crisis. Please stop the timeline, this ridiculous timeline. Making decisions in 30 days that I and my neighbors will have to live with for 30 years is ridiculous. We need a city office that protects us, the people, not the billionaires from the public health threats of the arena that's a bad deal for everyone. Thank you.

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(Applause.)

MR. WEBBER: Good morning, Council. My name is Emelio Webber and I'm offering comment in support of Councilmembers Brooks' bill establishing an Office of the Public Health Care Advocate. I have a degree from the Public Health School at the University of Maryland and I'm a current resident of District 5.

I want to thank Councilmember Young and others on Council for asking tough questions in this week's hearings on the Sixers Arena. He asked this city to explain why it's doing backward flips and hurdles for the greed of a handful of billionaires who don't fight for us. Josh Harris doesn't care if the Birds win or lose tonight because he owns the opponent too.

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Councilmember Bass put it very plainly, those billionaires couldn't be bothered to show up here to face you, to answer your questions to stand by the project they are forcing down our throats. That's how little the Sixers owners think of the people of Philadelphia, including the members of City Council. They are watching you postpone important issues in the city, school closings, skyrocketing housing and rent costs, a potential strike by municipal workers and our public transit system falling apart. Also, you can do this mad rush for billionaires who are telling everyone they already know the outcome. They think they know your votes already.

I'm sickened by the election results last week, but I don't think you understand how angry

people are that the people we elect are thinking about a taxpayer-supported arena for billionaires and not about the things which impact our lives, our future, our city.

Councilmember Young called it a slap in our face, and he's right. Stand up for our city and our people. Slow down this process and demand more for Philadelphia. I urge Council to consider the public health impacts and unanswered questions regarding the arena plan, something a public health care advocate would do.

For two full days all we've heard about from the Mayor's Office and the Sixers that the arena deal is frozen. The Sixers won't cough up another dime. A $50 million Community Benefits Agreement is a slap in the face negotiated in secret without any of these

Councilmembers in the process.
Imagine the arrogance.
Any public health advocate would have concerns with this plan and a lot of questions about how to mitigate health impacts caused by seven years of construction and unchecked development while the testimony so far has shown no answers to questions about SEPTA, and you all are smart enough to know that public transit impacts public health.
Thank you.
CHIEF CLERK: Can we have Lynn Landes. Then Wanda Walker, Muti Ashaneck Asaboro -- sorry, if I mispronounced that -- and Ogbonna Hagins also make their way to the podium.
(Witnesses approached podium.)
MS. LANDES: I'm Lynn

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Landes of Safestreetsphilly.org. I support Resolution 240724, which asks for and I quote "the unyielding resolve" of state enforcement of laws against the sale of liquor at cornerstore establishments pretending to be restaurants.

Yet where is the unyielding resolve of this body to enforce our own local laws. At this week's hearings about the proposed 76ers arena, which I support, it was pointed out that the public needs reassurances that it will be a safe space. But why isn't that area and other parts of Philadelphia safe now? Why must we still call 911 every day as panhandlers, drug addicts, their dealers and common criminals continue to haunt our neighborhoods.

The police may sporadically patrol but still won't

arrest and the DA still won't prosecute these offenders in a consistent manner. Granted the situation today is much better than it was a few years ago, but there's still a long way to go.

The mentally ill, homeless and drug-addicted need treatment and protection in secure facilities. Plus, we also need a return to summary arrests and community court for common criminals. Residents and visitors alike want law and order, so let's do our jobs and fully enforce the law now.

I want to also add that I think the time is long passed for universal health care with a private option. I think that's what City Council should also vote on a resolution to support. I think you would get a lot of support from

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Republicans, Democrats, Independents, everyone for that.

I have a daughter and other children who have had problems with getting health care. It's really an embarrassment, if not a crime, that this country still doesn't have universal health care with a private option. Thank you.

MS. WALKER: Good morning, beautiful people. My name is Wanda Walker and I'm always going to come here and talk about generational wealth and how it's being stolen in Philadelphia. So number one, I want to ask for a moratorium because there's too many people losing properties.

Number two, I want to make sure that everyone knows that November 22nd, 9:00 a.m. in Room 453 you will see Mr. Ray Johnson fighting against the ACT 135

conservatory. And anyone who has lost a property from deed-snatching Act 135 and all the other different ways properties are being snatched should come to this hearing. Again, that's November the 22nd 9:00 a.m., room 453.

My next thing that I want to mention is all the different ways properties are being attacked in Philadelphia. First of all, we just had an increase in property taxes, 48 percent. Many of us do not qualify for any type of program. You have to be poor, senior or residential -- longtime residential to get any help so that leaves businesses, middle-class people open to have to pay these ridiculous increases.

Are you all aware of how much property insurance has gone up? Property insurance has gone up over

300 percent. So when you add that to the taxes along with the utilities, we cannot any longer afford the very properties that we worked for to have in our families for the last 20, 30 or 40 years. This is generational wealth being stolen because our representatives unfortunately may not be aware or are aware of all the different ways that we are being attacked and we are not being protected.

We saw a shift in the voting and you all need to pay attention to that because people are really starting to vote differently. City Council has 17 people here. 14 of you all are Democrats. Two are Working Family. One is a Republican. We can't blame the Republicans or the White people for what's going on in City Council because the majority of you all are

Democratic and Black. We need you all to do your job and protect us and listen to us.

The young lady asked about the arena. The reason why they're pushing it is because we have union people who live outside of Philadelphia that need this more than we do. And until it satisfies us, we're the voters and we're the citizens. You all need to represent us first and consider them second.

You all don't live in Philadelphia. We do. We have to deal with everything that gets built because then our taxes go up. I think pretty much that's it. Please, please start protecting us. Our properties are being snatched. Our seniors, small businesses can't afford to be in Philadelphia. And the only way to get your attention is to vote differently. And you're

starting to see that so it's going to continue until you all listen to us. Thank you.

MR. HAGINS: All right. Good morning, everyone. My name is Ogbonna Hagins. And before I start, I just want to publicly thank Council President for setting up that meeting with your Chief of Staff. It was a great meeting with John Christmas, longtime friend.

Good morning, Council President, Councilmembers, citizens of Philadelphia. As we consider today's ordinance on non-conformities, it's clear that the real non-conformities is in this very chamber where certain members have chosen inaction over duty to the American Freedmen community.

Philadelphia voters recently showed their impatience with ineffective leadership as

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Democrats got outsmarted by Donald J. Trump and the Republicans. And right here some Councilmembers know that American Freedmen's constitutional rights are being trampled under the 13th Amendment and the 14th Amendment. Yet they sit back with indifference.

Now, as one whose name Hagins carries the weight of Freedmen Heritage, I can't ignore the irony of this compliance bill. When certain members here won't comply with their very own vows. Dreadlocks, for instance, have long symbolized strength, resilience and the radical commitment to justice. But to wear them without embodying the courage is mockery. If they've abandoned that spirit, they might as well cut their locks off.

The Sankofa tradition, where we look back to move forward,

reminds us that we must reclaim what was taken. But how can anyone work in a place named after this legacy, yet refuse to inform young Freedmen students that affirmative action opportunities are still there. They deny the spirit of Sankofa and disrespect those who fought to give them those roles.

And then there's the member who won't act unless there's a crowd. The leaders that don't wait for cheering sections are the leaders that Freedmen expect. And, look, let me just belabor the point. I wrote resignation letters for three Councilmembers and I expect Council President to sign them and that the Councilmembers will absolutely sign them and get out so we can have a special election.

And there are three people here. One of them is not

here, Isaiah Thomas. You need to resign, you're fired. Jeffrey Young, you need to resign, you're fired. And Anthony Phillips, you need to resign, you're fired. You're the one who told me I have to bring a crowd to you to deal with a constitutional violation.

It was Jeffrey Young who told me that I have to -- one second, just one second. He said, I know we're violating your 14th Amendment equal protection rights but you're going to have to sue me. Imagine a City Councilmember telling his elder that. Ogbonna --

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Mr. Hagins, with all due respect just talk about your resolution, sir.

MR. HAGINS: Excuse me?

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Can you just focus on the

proposal --

MR. HAGINS: I did introduce it. I talked about what I wanted to talk about. And can you give these two --

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: We just ask that you just refrain from --

MR. HAGINS: Refrain from what?

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The following up on the members. Just have conversations with them as we follow up. Your time is up, sir. We'll just follow up and thank you very much, sir. Thank you very much, Mr. Ogbonna Hagins. We heard you. Thank you, sir.

CHIEF CLERK: Council President, there are no further names.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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JOHNSON: This concludes today's public comment. We will now consider the bills and resolutions. We will now consider the bills and resolutions on the Second Reading and Final Passage Calendars.

Will the Clerk please read the title of Resolution No. 241034.

CHIEF CLERK: A resolution authorizing the Philadelphia Land Bank to dispose of 1766-72 North Bodine Street, 2244 and 2246 Hope Street, 218 Cecil B. Moore Avenue located in the 7th Councilmanic District in accordance with the terms of Chapter 16-700 of The Philadelphia Code.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes Councilmember Lozada for a motion regarding Resolution No. 241034.

COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA:

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Thank you, Council President.

I move for the adoption of the resolution.

(Duly seconded.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: It has been moved and properly seconded that Resolution No. 240134 be adopted.

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

(Aye.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Those opposed?

(No response.)

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

Will the Clerk please read the title of Resolution No. 241035.

CHIEF CLERK: A resolution calling on the

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Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to establish an Office of the Public Health Care Advocate within the Office of the Attorney General.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes Minority Leader Brooks for a motion regarding Resolution No. 240135.

COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: Thank you, Council President.

I move for the adoption of the resolution.

(Duly seconded.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: It has been moved and properly seconded that Resolution No. 240135 be adopted.

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

(Aye.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Those opposed?

(No response.)

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COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The ayes have it. The motion carries. The resolution is adopted.

Will the Clerk please read the title of Bill No. 240004.

CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance amending Title 11 (Streets) and Title 21 (Miscellaneous) of The Philadelphia Code to amend requirements concerning publication of notices and newspapers, all under certain terms and conditions.

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

Would the Chief Clerk please call the roll.

CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember Phillips.

COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

Aye.

CHIEF CLERK:

Councilmember Gilmore Richardson.

COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE RICHARDSON: Aye.

CHIEF CLERK:

Councilmember Gauthier.

COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:

Aye.

CHIEF CLERK:

Councilmember Thomas was aye.

Councilmember Jones.

COUNCILMAN JONES: Aye.

CHIEF CLERK:

Councilmember Landau.

COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:

Aye.

CHIEF CLERK:

Councilmember Lozada.

COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA:

Aye.

CHIEF CLERK:

Councilmember Young.

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COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Aye.

CHIEF CLERK:

Councilmember Brooks.

COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS:

Aye.

CHIEF CLERK:

Councilmember Harrity.

COUNCILMAN HARRITY: Aye.

CHIEF CLERK:

Councilmember O'Rourke.

COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE:

Aye.

CHIEF CLERK:

Councilmember Driscoll.

COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL:

Aye.

CHIEF CLERK:

Councilmember O'Neill.

(No response.)

CHIEF CLERK:

Councilmember Squilla.

COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Aye.

CHIEF CLERK:

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Councilmember Bass.

COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Aye.

CHIEF CLERK:

Councilmember Ahmad.

COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD: Aye.

CHIEF CLERK: And,

Council President Johnson.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

JOHNSON: Aye. The ayes are 16. The nays are 0. Majority of all members having voted in the affirmative the bill passes.

Will the Clerk please read the title of Bill No. 240613.

CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance amending Chapter 12-1100 ("Miscellaneous, Regulations and Penalties") and Chapter 12-2800 ("Administrative Adjudication of Parking Violations") of The Philadelphia Code, making revisions to disability parking space standards and procedures, creating

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an application process for residential disability parking spaces limited for use by a specific person with a disability, creating a new administrative hearing process, and amending applicable penalties.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes Councilmember Squilla for a motion.

COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Thank you, Mr. President.

I'd like to offer an amendment to Bill No. 240613-A. A copy of the amendment has been circulated to all members of Council. I move for the adoption of the amendment.

(Duly seconded.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: It has been moved and properly seconded that the amendment to Bill No. 240613-A be adopted.

All those in favor will

signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Those opposed?

(No response.)

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

The Chair recognizes Councilmember O'Neill to be recognized. Would you like to be voted aye on the previous bill?

COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Thank you, Mr. President.

I appreciate that.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: It shall be duly noted.

Will the Clerk please read the title of Bill No. 240931.

CHIEF CLERK: An

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ordinance authorizing and directing the changing of the name of Taney Street to LeCount Street, from West Toronto Street to West Somerset Street; from Ridge Avenue to Cecil B. Moore Avenue; from Master Street to Aspen Street; from Pine Street to Bainbridge Street; from Catherine Street to Christian Street; from Dickinson Street to Morris Street; and authorizing and directing the changing of the name of Taney Terrace from, Point Breeze Avenue to Jackson Street, to LeCount Terrace, all under certain terms and conditions.

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

Will the Chief Clerk please call the roll.

CHIEF CLERK:

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Councilmember Phillips.

COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

Aye.

CHIEF CLERK:

Councilmember Gilmore Richardson.

COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE RICHARDSON: Aye.

CHIEF CLERK:

Councilmember Gauthier.

COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:

Aye.

CHIEF CLERK:

Councilmember Thomas aye.

Councilmember Jones.

COUNCILMAN JONES: Aye.

CHIEF CLERK:

Councilmember Landau.

COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:

Aye.

CHIEF CLERK:

Councilmember Lozada.

COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA:

Aye.

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CHIEF CLERK:

Councilmember Young.

COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Aye.

CHIEF CLERK:

Councilmember Brooks.

COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS:

Aye.

CHIEF CLERK:

Councilmember Harrity.

COUNCILMAN HARRITY: Aye.

CHIEF CLERK:

Councilmember O'Rourke.

COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE:

Aye.

CHIEF CLERK:

Councilmember Driscoll.

COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL:

Aye.

CHIEF CLERK:

Councilmember O'Neill.

COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Aye.

CHIEF CLERK:

Councilmember Squilla.

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COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Aye.

CHIEF CLERK:

Councilmember Bass.

COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Aye.

CHIEF CLERK:

Councilmember Ahmad.

COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD: Aye.

CHIEF CLERK: And,

Council President Johnson.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

JOHNSON: Aye. The ayes are 17. The nays are 0. A majority of all members having voted in the affirmative the bill passes.

(Applause.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

JOHNSON: The Clerk will please read any additional resolutions on today's Calendar. We are now under the consideration of privileged resolutions.

CHIEF CLERK: A privileged resolution honoring and

celebrating the Philadelphia Tribune, an advocate and trailblazer for the African American community on the occasion of its 140-year anniversary as the oldest, continuously published newspaper owned and operated by African Americans. Introduced by Councilmember Gilmore Richardson on behalf of Council President Johnson.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes Majority Leader Gilmore Richardson for a motion on the resolution.

COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE RICHARDSON: Thank you, Council President.

On your behalf I move the adoption of the resolution.

(Duly seconded.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: It has been moved and properly seconded that the

resolution be adopted.

All those in favor will signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Those opposed?

(No response.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The ayes have it and the resolution is adopted.

Will the Clerk please read the title of the next resolution.

CHIEF CLERK: A privileged resolution authorizing the Joint Committees on Public Safety and Parks and Recreation to hold hearings to examine the interdepartmental protocol, administered by Philadelphia Parks and Recreation, the Philadelphia Fire Department and the Office of Emergency Management for urban-fire

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management in public parks and park-adjacent neighborhoods, considering the recent unprecedented droughts and wildfires across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
Introduced by Councilmember Jones.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes Councilmember Jones for a motion on the resolution.

COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you, Mr. President.

I move for its adoption.

(Duly seconded.)

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

All those in favor will signify by saying.

(Aye.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Those opposed?

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(No response.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The ayes have it and the resolution is adopted.

Will the Clerk please read the title of the next resolution.

CHIEF CLERK: A privileged resolution recognizing November 17th, 2024 as World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims in the City of Philadelphia. Introduced by Councilmember Landau.

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

COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU: Thank you, Council President.

I move for the adoption of the resolution.

(Duly seconded.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

All those in favor will signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

JOHNSON: Those opposed?

(No response.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

Will the Clerk please read the title of the next resolution.

CHIEF CLERK: A privileged resolution declaring the third week of every November as "Restorative Justice Week" in the City of Philadelphia in honor of the International Campaign "International Restorative Justice Week." Introduced by Councilmember

Lozada.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes Councilmember Lozada for a motion on the resolution.

COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Thank you, Council President.

I move for the adoption of the resolution.

(Duly seconded.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

All those in favor will signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

JOHNSON: Those opposed?

(No response.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

11/14/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

Will the Clerk please read the title of the next resolution.

CHIEF CLERK: A privileged resolution recognizing the 300th Anniversary of the Carpenters' Company of the City and County of Philadelphia, the Nation's Oldest Trade Guild and the Stewards of Carpenters' Hall. Introduced by Councilmember Squilla.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes Councilmember Squilla for a motion on the resolution.

COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Thank you, Mr. President.

I offer a motion to approve the resolution.

(Duly seconded.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: It has been moved and properly seconded that the

resolution be adopted.

All those in favor will signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Those opposed?

(No response.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The ayes have it and the resolution is adopted.

Will the Clerk please read the title of the next resolution.

CHIEF CLERK: There are no other resolutions in my possession, Council President.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: That completes our Calendar for today.

Are there any speeches on the part of the Minority?

The Chair recognizes Minority Leader Brooks.

11/14/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS:

Thank you, Council President.

Here in Philly and across the state working families are barely holding it together. Savings are low, debt is high and the cost of a trip to the hospital threatens to put many families over the edge. Meanwhile insurance companies are ringing profit out of people and they face no accountability for delaying, denying or overcharging for life-threatening medical care.

Today we passed a resolution calling on the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to establish an Office of Public Health Care Advocate within the Office of Attorney General. The role of this advocate would be to help Pennsylvania stand up for their health care rights and stand up against big insurance companies that

unfairly delay and deprive patients of health care coverage.

This advocate would help recover millions of dollars for patients while holding insurance companies accountable and improving access to health care in Pennsylvania. If any of my colleagues would like to learn more about the public health advocate and how it could be beneficial to Philadelphians, my staff can direct you to a report created by Nicheme Darinko(ph) and her colleagues at Put People First.

Thank you so much, Council President.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: You're welcome.

The Chair recognizes Councilmember O'Rourke.

COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE: Thank you, Mr. President.

11/14/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

For the past few weeks now we've spent hours discussing a potential 76ers arena, but I do think we should focus our energy on more immediately pressing issues like saving SEPTA from crashing out from its ongoing fiscal crisis.

SEPTA has warned us for months now, for months, that without government support it will face fare hikes and service cuts. I think I came into the Pew trainings before even being inaugurated and this was something that was lifted up at that time. And here we are as they have predicted.

Without quick action, SEPTA plans to increase fares by 29 percent above the already proposed hikes and to cut service by at least 20 percent starting in early 2025. These changes will significantly affect the roughly 800,000

Philadelphians who rely on SEPTA not just on Thursday mornings, Mr. Blatstein, but daily.

First, fare increases will place a financial strain on many working residents making it harder for lower-income Philadelphians to access jobs, to access education, to access essential services. Second, service cuts mean fewer buses and trains leading to longer wait times than there already are, more crowded platforms than there already are, more packed vehicles than there already are.

This will likely drive more people in cars, increase traffic, as if it hasn't been crazy enough already, as well as CO2 emissions, something that's really, really important though we sometimes don't pay attention to that, and

even pushing jobs out of the region. This will put SEPTA, as I think the quote was, into a "death spiral."

So the resolution that is being introduced today by our team on behalf of the Council President calls on our good Governor Josh Shapiro and the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission to take urgent action to flex Federal highway transportation dollars to appropriate to local transit authorities.

This is our last chance, the last one to save SEPTA from its impending death spiral and Governor Shapiro has the power to help us avoid this actual catastrophe. To date, Pennsylvania has only flexed 2 percent of this funding. Our neighbor across the river, New Jersey, has flexed 15 percent.

So our ask here is that

once the resolution is passed next week, our office will circulate a letter to all of Council, encouraging others to sign on, pressuring our good Governor to flex or reallocate this funding towards SEPTA. And this will allow SEPTA to free up its own capital funds for use in its ongoing budget, allowing them to avoid fare increases and service cuts.

The resolution so far has been co-sponsored by every single member of Council and the offices that have made this a priority. I want to name for certainly the Chair of Transportation Councilman Driscoll, Councilwoman Gauthier, Minority Leader Brooks, Councilman Thomas as well as Landau.

Our Governor knows the importance of SEPTA. He knows that it provides more than just

transportation. It is a lifeline, it really is, for countless Philadelphians connecting communities, connecting to jobs, to schools, to health care which we've already talked about a lot and so much more. So it is critical that we ban together to make this formal request for his action.

Thank you, Mr. President and my colleagues, who have made this the priority that it is.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Thank you.

Speeches on behalf of the Majority?

Councilmember Phillips.

COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: Thank you, Council President.

Today I introduce legislation that addresses a significant issue impacting the 9th District. It is the oversaturation

of certain types of businesses, particularly nuisance convenience stores, smoke shops, auto repair shops, auto part sellers and event and assembly halls.

Now, here's the truth: When I speak to an individual about a legislation that they want to pass, I always say that I do not make decisions based off of what I want. I make decisions based off of what the majority of neighbors want in our District. That is democracy.

So in speaking with neighbors, we've heard clear concerns about how these businesses, when overly concentrated, disrupt quality of life. Just recently on Castor Avenue in the Northeast there are four smoke shops that have come up onto that Avenue, causing disruptiveness to the nature of that neighborhood.

We want to create safety and cleanliness. These smoke shops detract from the character and appeal of our neighborhoods. Street mechanics, vacant event facilities, nuisance convenience stores and smoke shops have all contributed to these problems. We want to emphasize that since the beginning of the pandemic there's been an influx of convenience stores and openings and serving as a hot spot for criminal activity.

These establishments contribute to a range of serious issues, including loitering, excessive trash, noise disturbances from idling cars with loud music, open-air drug transactions and use, sidewalk obstructions by parked cars and public disturbances such as drunkenness and public urination.

I'm excited to continue

the work of our previous Councilmember Cherelle Parker in addressing these issues. The 9th District Overlay Ordinance Amendment introduces special exceptions requiring these business types to undergo the RCO requiring the community's input. This will allow us to better manage where and how these businesses operate, reducing their density and mitigating negative impacts on our neighborhood.

Our goal is to foster a balanced mix of businesses that meet community needs, enhance our commercial corridors and support neighborhood quality of life. Businesses and our neighbors are in support of this legislation and by managing these high-impact businesses, we are taking a proactive step to creating a safer,

cleaner and more vibrant city of Philadelphia, and particularly in the 9th District. So we're looking forward to receiving RCO input before businesses of this type and nature come into our community.

Thank you, Council President, for giving me the floor.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

The Chair recognizes Councilmember Jamie Gauthier.

COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Thank you, Council President.

Today I proudly co-sponsored the resolution Minority Whip Nicholas O'Rourke introduced on Council President's behalf calling on Governor Shapiro and DVRPC to flex federal infrastructure funds from state highway projects to SEPTA.

I cannot overstate how

alarmed I am by SEPTA's intention to increase fares by 30 percent and cut service across the board by 20 percent. The Transit Agency will also be forced to eliminate dozens of routes and provide such infrequent and unreliable service on weekends that it will be "unusable."

These measures mark the beginning of a public transportation death spiral that will be nearly impossible to reverse, so I shudder to think about the catastrophic damage that will be done if these measures go into effect in January. West and Southwest Philadelphians disproportionately depend on public transportation to get to work, school, health care and other essentials. For us taking SEPTA isn't an option; it's a necessity.

That's why safe, reliable and affordable public transportation

is fundamental to the economic success of both my constituents and our entire Commonwealth. One of the things that makes Philly special is that you do not need a car to travel our great city and with President-elect Trump and other climate deniers taking control of the White House, it is on us to make sure we are protecting our planet. But letting SEPTA implode will only increase our reliance on fossil fuels.

Let me be clear, Republicans in Harrisburg are solely responsible for this predictable but avoidable scenario. The State House passed funding for SEPTA with bipartisan support, but the State Senate left Harrisburg for the year yesterday without holding a vote.

So now it is up to Governor Shapiro and DVRPC to "get

stuff done." When the Governor says that, he doesn't use the word stuff. But I'm calling on them to get stuff done and protect the economic success and mobility of our city by flexing federal infrastructure funding to public transit.

During a similar crisis in 2005, then Governor Ed Rendell flexed money to avert transit cuts, and in 2010 he used the threat of flexing funding to (inaudible) the General Assembly into passing a 10-year transit funding bill. SEPTA has been ringing the alarm for two years now and frankly Harrisburg ran out the clock. It is one minute to midnight and we need the Governor and DVRPC to do what needs to be done.

Thank you, Council President Johnson and Councilmember O'Rourke, for your leadership on

this issue. I'm very proud to stand with you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Thank you.

(Applause.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Chair recognizes Councilmember Lozada.

COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Thank you, Council President.

November is recognized internationally as Restorative Justice Month. And today I put forth a resolution that will decree the third Tuesday in November as Justice Day in the City of Philadelphia. Restorative justice is a key component to our City's criminal justice system. We must provide returning citizens with a clear path forward and strong tools to help them rebuild their lives.

We have three amazing

people who are with us here today who are leaders in restorative justice. I want to recognize each of them while they are here with us. Carmen Pagan, a single mother of five who served a five-year sentence at Muncy State Prison and has since excelled both personally and professionally, earning her Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice and becoming the first in her family to graduate college. She's committed to community impact. She works as a mentor to those seeking to overcome recidivism, advocates for underserved populations and provides case management services all while pursuing further education and empowering others with her lived experience.

Luis Soto, an Assistant Program Manager with the Police-

Assisted Diversion program, who before being in this position was on the other side of the law. He served a combined 12 years in state and county prisons. Today he uses that lived experience to help turn people's lives around, intervening to put them on a better path.

Raquel Fetzer, a Certified Recovery Specialist, community advocate who has dedicated her life to expanding access to behavioral health resources in Philadelphia, drawing on her personal recovery journey that began in 2016. With over eight years of sobriety, she actively reduces stigma around substance use and mental health challenges while serving in leadership roles, including as Co-Chair of the Mental Health Planning Council and pursuing a degree in psychology. Thank you

all for being here today and for your work in our communities.

(Applause.)

COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: (Inaudible) along with Councilmember Nic O'Rourke and Councilmember Isaiah Thomas will be observing Justice Day with a two-prong event, a listening session where returning citizens will have the chance to share their stories and opinions directly with lawmakers and advocate for the changes they want to see in the justice system and a resource fair which will include record expungement and reviews, employment opportunities, networking opportunities and housing resources. This event is designed to provide both a platform and advocacy and access to critical services that support successful reintegration. I'd like to thank both of my

colleagues for their partnership.

Finally, due to unforeseen circumstances the scheduled DBHIDS briefing following the Stated meeting has unfortunately been canceled. We recognize the importance of this briefing and the valuable insight they provide. We are in the process of coordinating with the relevant parties to reschedule this important session at the earliest possible convenience.

We will ensure that you are notified promptly with the new details once they are available. I apologize for any inconvenience that this causes. I'd also like to say thank you to each of you who contributed to my birthday day of action.

I think that it was extremely successful and I look forward to working with some of you

to figure out who all of the supplies will go to. Thank you so much.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: You're welcome.

The Chair recognizes Councilmember Jim Harrity.

COUNCILMAN HARRITY: Thank you, Council President, colleagues.

Just wanted to commend Councilman -- Councilwoman Lozada on her Restorative Justice Day bill. And to those who testified here today, I just want to say that I am proud of you. I am proud of you because you took the initiative to change.

The past is the past. I guess I should actually start off how we in recovery start off. I am Jim Harrity and I am an addict, so I know firsthand the struggles that

you faced. I know firsthand how easy it is to give up, especially when so many things are working against you.

I am proud of you. I am proud of the work you are doing. I am proud that you took control of your life and said, I don't have to live like this, I can be something else, I can be that solution that you talk about. We remind ourselves in recovery every day, which I just said, the fact that I'm a grateful recovering addict.

And I say recovering, I am not recovered. Every day is a journey. But through time I've learned that the past is something that we can't control. The past is just that. It was the past. The future, we don't know what's in store. That's why we always say we have today, one day, just today. I

don't have to worry about anything else, but I just wanted to make sure that you knew that somebody is here that understands, and that's what this body is about. And I'm proud of this body.

We get a lot of slack for a lot of different things, but the bottom line is this body that I serve with they care. They care about the citizens of Philadelphia, all the citizens of Philadelphia, whether you're struggling, whether you got it together or whether you're trying to get it together.

So I just commend you all and thank you again for sharing your story because we shouldn't forget, but we don't have to live in that past. Thank you.

(Applause.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Councilmember Young.

11/14/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Thank you, Mr. President. And thank you, Councilmember Harrity, for sharing that. Addiction does not discriminate, so we all know someone, have someone, love someone who's struggling with that. So thank you, Councilmember Harrity.

And just want to start off by saying, the people are well aware of how to cause me to resign so I don't feel like -- I don't see me resigning today, Mr. President. There's a mechanism to get me to resign. I think the voters know how to do that.

But today I want to thank you, Mr. President. I want to thank Councilmember Jones for passing legislation to rename Taney Street to the LeCount Street. It's something personal to me because I grew up on Taney Street on the 1700

block of Taney Street where my father lived. And to have this come to fruition, to always see now that the residents in North Philadelphia and South Philadelphia can have someone to research and look up and say who is LeCount. And when they look her up and they see who she is, see the things that she did for our communities, that's someone they can be proud of to say they have a street named after. So I want to thank you and Councilman Jones for your support with that legislation.

I want to thank our partners -- today I introduced a resolution thanking the Commonwealth for passing legislation that will help aid our law enforcement in fighting these illegal street races that happen in our city. So just to give the public, I guess, a synopsis of what this bill does that was

passed by our state, it expands the scope of illegal racing to include traffic ways to include regular streets.

It was only for highways. Now they've included our streets. They have a specific definition for drifting that was not something that was in our state code previously so now it's defined. They've increased the fine for a first street racing violation from $200 to $500. They've also increased the fine for a subsequent violation from $200 to $1,000.

They've provided for a mechanism to impound your vehicle for six months. They've also provided that an organizer of a street race event shall be fined for $1,000 for each vehicle involved. And so, I want to thank again our state partners for recognizing the

issues that we face here in Philadelphia and doing something about it. I want to thank my constituents in the 5th District who've called my office day-in and day-out to complain about this issue, to talk to us about how we can cure this particular issue that's going on in our city.

Because we all know that from the arrests that the police have made, these folks aren't from our city. They're from outside our city terrorizing our communities. I want to thank again our state partners for recognizing that and helping us fight that issue, one of many issues that affect the quality of life here in the city of Philadelphia.

And last but not least, those who are listening my office is sponsoring another one of the tax

workshops tonight. If you have experienced an increase in your real estate tax assessment, there's a program out there for you.

Tonight we will be in the Brewerytown section of North Philadelphia. We will be at 2800 West Thompson Street at Celestial Word Ministries for our property tax relief workshops. Again, get information on how to appeal your assessment, information on Homestead Exemption, all the programs that are available to you.

And just note that you have until November 18th, I believe that is Monday, to file your first level of review for your appeals. And we want to make sure that every Philadelphian who is aggrieved by this, if you feel your property tax bill has gone up too high, please file an appeal of your property

taxes.

Thank you, Mr. President.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: You're welcome.

Councilmember Rue Landau.

COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU: Thank you, Council President.

Today my colleagues and I recognized November 17th as World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims in the city of Philadelphia. In Philadelphia, traffic crashes are a public health crisis. Traffic deaths are a leading cause of preventable deaths, disproportionately harming people who are walking and biking, and in particular people of color and people in low-income communities.

In 2023, 123 people in Philadelphia died in vehicular crashes. Thank you to the Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia,

Families for Safe Streets Greater Philadelphia and other Coalition partners who will continue to memorialize lives lost to traffic violence through their advocacy demanding safer streets for all.

Three shout-outs as well. I want to thank you and Councilmember O'Rourke for your incredible bill -- resolution to call on the state, Governor Josh Shapiro to flex federal infrastructure funds from state highway projects to stave off fare increases in SEPTA.

Shout-out to Councilmember Gauthier for that fire speech today. She hit it. She nailed it. This is absolutely preventable. We need to invest in SEPTA, invest in public transportation, not take money away which the fare increases will cause

fewer people to ride.

Also, wanted to give a shout-out to you and Councilmember Jimmy Harrity for your bill, amending the prevailing wage to add stadium concession employees. Big shout-out to our friends UNITE HERE. We support you, we stand with you. Thank you for being here. Got to make sure we're taking care of the workers.

And finally, to my colleague, the birthday week, Councilmember Quetcy Lozada for your Restorative Justice bill. It's such an essential tool in making sure we are healing our communities. And to the brave individuals who spoke about their recovery and transformation today, including my colleague, thank you so very, very much. It is so hard to tell your stories in public. We appreciate

you. We stand with you. We support you. And anything you need, you got all of Council standing with you. Thank you.

(Applause.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: You're welcome.

The Chair recognizes Councilmember Mike Driscoll.

COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL: Thank you, Mr. President. And thank you, Councilman Harrity, for continuing to share your story. We know it's a struggle. And I think you're an example of life after addiction and I know it's daily. There's not really an after addiction, but you're showing the folks that it can be done. So thank you for that.

And, Councilwoman Gauthier and Councilman O'Rourke, your efforts on behalf of SEPTA are

critical. We hope they're being heard. We'll continue this fight. And in that spirit, I want to remind all members that today at 3:00 p.m. we are having a briefing by SEPTA in the Caucus room. So I encourage all members to attend.

Thank you, Mr. President.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

The Chair recognizes Councilmember Cindy Bass for a motion -- well, the Chair recognizes Councilwoman Katherine Gilmore Richardson for a motion to adjourn.

COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE RICHARDSON: Thank you, Mr. President.

I move that Council stands adjourned until Thursday, November 21, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

(Duly seconded.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

11/14/24 - STATED - ADJOURNMENT

JOHNSON: It has been moved and properly seconded that Council stand adjourned until Thursday, November 21, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

All those in favor will signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

JOHNSON: Those opposed?

(No response.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

JOHNSON: The ayes have it. The motion carries. Thank you all very much.

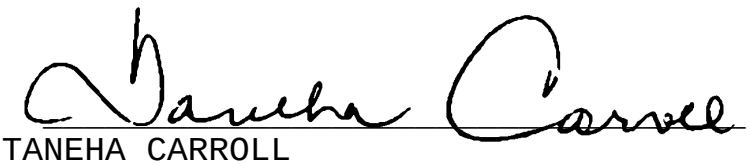
- - -

(Stated Meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.)

- - -

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

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



TANEHA CARROLL
Court Reporter - Notary Public

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