

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
STATED MEETING

Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
February 12, 2026
10:00 a.m.

PRESENT:

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

ELIZABETH McCOLLUM NAZARIO, CHIEF CLERK

- - -

1 2/12/26 - STATED - INVOCATION

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

3 JOHNSON: The hour has come and a
4 quorum of this Council is present.

5 This Council is now coming to
6 order. Before proceeding, I will
7 ask all those present to please set
8 your cell phone to silent and/or
9 vibrate. Thank you very much.

10 As a matter of personal
11 privilege, I just want to remind
12 our members that Council Caucus
13 starts at 9:30 a.m. and City
14 Council session starts at
15 10:00 a.m.

16 To give our invocation
17 this morning, the Chair recognizes
18 Reverend Jeffrey Jordan, Senior
19 Pastor of Whosoever Metropolitan
20 Community Church in Philadelphia.
21 He is here today as the guest of
22 Councilmember Rue Landau. I will
23 ask all members and guests to
24 please rise.

1 2/12/26 - STATED - INVOCATION

2 REVEREND JORDAN:

3 Mr. President, members of City
4 Council, good morning.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

6 JOHNSON: Good morning.

7 REVEREND JORDAN: I'm

8 Reverend Jeffrey H. Jordan, the
9 Senior Pastor of Whosoever
10 Metropolitan Community Church, the
11 oldest entity in Philadelphia that
12 serves the LGBTQIA community. As
13 one who lives at the intersection
14 of homophobia and racism, it is an
15 honor to be here during the time
16 when there are so many who want to
17 erase the history of my race and
18 dismantle the flag of my sexuality.

19 As I discussed with
20 Councilperson Landau, this is not
21 my first time or my first
22 opportunity to give the invocation
23 for this Council. This honor was
24 first extended to me in the '90s by

1 2/12/26 - STATED - INVOCATION
2 Councilman Ortiz. Recently, I was
3 with Councilman Ortiz and he
4 expressed to me that, according to
5 his knowledge, I was the first
6 openly gay clergy invited to give
7 the invocation. Whether that's
8 true or not, I'm back this time.

9 I have been invited by
10 the first openly queer
11 Councilperson, Councilperson Rue
12 Landau. We've come very far here
13 in Philadelphia, but still in our
14 country we have far to go. Will
15 you pray with me.

16 To the one whom no
17 single word or name can capture
18 your full divine essence, we now
19 pray, Holy, Sacred, Sovereign who
20 is known by many names, we gather
21 here today acknowledging our need
22 for your guidance as we face the
23 important matters of our city. We
24 thank you for our Councilmembers

1 2/12/26 - STATED - INVOCATION

2 who have been elected to public
3 service and the opportunity that
4 they have to steward the resources
5 and well-being of this city.

6 We ask that you grant
7 this Council wisdom to govern amid
8 the conflicting interests and
9 issues of our time. May their
10 decisions be driven not by fear,
11 greed or personal ambition, but by
12 a commitment to justice,
13 righteousness and the common good.
14 We ask for special wisdom for the
15 Council to protect the vulnerable,
16 support the marginalized and build
17 bridges rather than walls.

18 May their decisions
19 build a foundation for a future of
20 peace, prosperity and justice.
21 Give them ears to listen to the
22 people they serve, patience in
23 their deliberations and courage to
24 do the right thing. We pray that

1 2/12/26 - STATED - APPROVAL OF JOURNAL

2 you will protect them from those
3 who would do them harm. And when
4 they lay down their heads, may they
5 rest well knowing that their
6 struggles and weariness is for the
7 good of all humanity. Ashe and
8 Amen.

9 (Amen.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

11 JOHNSON: Council will be at ease.
12 The Chair thanks the Reverend for
13 his invocation.

14 (Council at ease.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

16 JOHNSON: The next order of
17 business is the Approval of the
18 Journal of the meeting of Thursday,
19 February 5, 2026.

20 The Chair recognizes
21 Councilmember Cindy Bass.

22 COUNCILWOMAN BASS:

23 Thank you, Mr. President.

24 I move that the Journal

1 2/12/26 - STATED - APPROVAL OF JOURNAL

2 of the meeting of Thursday,
3 February 5, 2026 be approved.

4 (Duly seconded.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

6 JOHNSON: It has been moved and
7 properly seconded that the Journal
8 of the meeting of Thursday,
9 February 5, 2026 stand approved.

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

12 (Aye.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

14 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

15 (No response.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

17 JOHNSON: The ayes have it and the
18 Journal is approved.

19 The next order of
20 business is the request for leave
21 of absence. And the Chair
22 recognizes Councilmember and
23 Majority Leader Katherine Gilmore
24 Richardson.

1 2/12/26 - STATED - LEAVES

2 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

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

6 On behalf of the
7 Majority, there are no requests for
8 leave of absence today.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

10 JOHNSON: The Chair thanks the
11 Majority Leader.

12 The Chair recognizes
13 Councilmember Deputy Whip and
14 Minority Party Nicolas O'Rourke.

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

17 I've asked for a leave
18 of absence for Minority Leader
19 Kendra Brooks.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

21 JOHNSON: The Chair thanks the
22 Councilmember and leave will be
23 granted.

24 The Chair now recognizes

1 2/12/26 - STATED - MOTION REGARDING CALENDAR

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

10 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

11 RICHARDSON: Thank you,
12 Mr. President.

13 I move that any of the
14 following matters, if considered
15 today, may be added to the agenda
16 for this session of Council and, as
17 required by law, subsequently
18 published on an amended agenda
19 after the consideration of those
20 matters: resolutions authorizing
21 hearings, amendments to bills on
22 first reading, the reconsideration
23 of a bill, vetoed by or re-called
24 from the Mayor, amendments to bills

1 2/12/26 - STATED - MOTION REGARDING CALENDAR

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

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

19 (Duly seconded.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

21 JOHNSON: It has been moved and
22 properly seconded that the
23 legislative matters stated by
24 Councilmember and Majority Leader

1 2/12/26 - STATED - GUESTS

2 Katherine Gilmore Richardson may be
3 added to the agenda for today
4 should those matters arise during
5 the course of this session of
6 Council.

7 All in favor will
8 indicate by saying aye.

9 (Aye.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

11 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

12 (No response.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

14 JOHNSON: The ayes have it and the
15 motion carries.

16 The Chair will dispense
17 with the regular order of business
18 to recognize the guests and
19 visitors joining us in chambers
20 this morning. On behalf of all
21 members of City Council, I welcome
22 you to our Council session. We
23 appreciate you taking your time to
24 join us as we attend the

1 2/12/26 - STATED - GUESTS
2 legislative affairs of our great
3 city. We certainly invite you to
4 come again.

5 As there are no
6 presentations today, the next order
7 of business the Chair recognizes
8 Councilmember Katherine Gilmore
9 Richardson.

10 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE
11 RICHARDSON: Thank you. Thank you
12 very much, Mr. President.

13 Today I rise to
14 recognize the presence of a School
15 District of Philadelphia student
16 who will be joining my office for
17 the next six weeks for an
18 internship program where he will
19 shadow Philadelphia city
20 government, specifically here in
21 City Council. So allow me to
22 welcome high school senior at
23 Abraham Lincoln High School, Marco
24 Enclave. Please welcome him to

1 2/12/26 - STATED - COMMUNICATIONS

2 Philadelphia City Council.

3 (Applause.)

4 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

5 RICHARDSON: And for my colleagues
6 in the Northeast, he's a resident
7 of Fox Chase. So we welcome you
8 all the way here to Philadelphia
9 City Council.

10 Thank you very much,
11 Council President.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

13 JOHNSON: Welcome. Thank you very
14 much.

15 The next order of
16 business is communications. The
17 Chair requests that the Sergeant-
18 at-Arms deliver the messages from
19 the Mayor to the Chief Clerk.

20 The Chief Clerk will
21 read the messages from the Mayor
22 and other communications in her
23 possession.

24 CHIEF CLERK: Council

1 2/12/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 President, there are no
3 communications from the Mayor
4 today.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

6 JOHNSON: Thank you. The next
7 order of business is the
8 introduction of bills and
9 resolutions.

10 The Chair recognizes
11 Councilmember Dr. Anthony Phillips.

12 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

13 Thank you, Council President.

14 I just want to quickly
15 also just note that Samir Taylor is
16 a student at Abraham Lincoln High
17 School, and he's a senior and he's
18 joining us in our office for the
19 next six weeks as well. So just
20 wanted to say that really quickly.

21 I have no bills -- I
22 missed my part. I have no bills
23 and resolutions, Council President.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

1 2/12/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 JOHNSON: Thank you, Dr. Phillips.

3 And the time to
4 acknowledge individuals is during
5 the welcoming part, sir.

6 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: I
7 knew that was coming.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

9 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes
10 Councilmember Katherine Gilmore
11 Richardson.

12 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

13 RICHARDSON: Thank you, Council
14 President.

15 Today I offer one
16 non-privileged resolution on your
17 behalf.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

19 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

20 Will the Chief Clerk
21 please read the title of the
22 non-privileged resolution.

23 CHIEF CLERK: A
24 non-privileged resolution

1 2/12/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 confirming the appointment of
3 Wesley R. Payne, IV, as a member of
4 the Board of Ethics, to serve in
5 the term ending November 16, 2029.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

10 The Chair recognizes
11 Councilmember Jamie Gauthier.

12 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:

13 Good morning, Council President.

14 Today I'm introducing
15 one non-privileged resolution and
16 I'm co-introducing it with Minority
17 Leader Kendra Brooks, Minority Whip
18 Nicolas O'Rourke and Councilmember
19 Rue Landau.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

21 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

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

1 2/12/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 CHIEF CLERK: A

3 non-privileged resolution
4 expressing support for Jerome
5 Richardson and our First Amendment
6 rights in the face of political
7 persecution against protesters by
8 the Trump Administration.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

14 The Chair recognizes
15 Deputy -- Majority Whip
16 Councilmember Isaiah Thomas.

17 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Good
18 morning, Council President. Good
19 morning, colleagues. Good morning
20 to the listening public.

21 I have one resolution
22 today.

23 Thank you, Council
24 President.

1 2/12/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

3 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

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

7 CHIEF CLERK: A

8 privileged resolution celebrating
9 and recognizing February 15th as
10 215 Day of Giving, an annual
11 observance that honors
12 Philadelphia's identity while
13 strengthening and highlighting the
14 role of nonprofit organizations
15 serving underresourced and
16 underserved communities.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

21 Chair recognizes
22 Councilmember Curtis Jones, Jr.

23 COUNCILMAN JONES: Good
24 morning, Mr. President and

1 2/12/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 colleagues.

3 Today I offer a
4 privileged and a non-privileged
5 resolution, one co-introduced by
6 Dr. Nina Ahmad and the other
7 Jeffrey Young.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

9 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

10 Would the Chief Clerk
11 please read the title of the
12 privileged and non-privileged
13 resolution please.

14 CHIEF CLERK: A

15 non-privileged resolution renaming
16 the 3000 block of West Harper
17 Street "Joyce Hill Way" to honor
18 the life and legacy of Joyce Hill.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

24 CHIEF CLERK: And a

1 2/12/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 privileged resolution Honoring and
3 Recognizing the Observance of the
4 Holy Month of Ramadan in the City
5 of Philadelphia.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

10 The Chair recognizes
11 Councilmember Landau.

12 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:

13 Good morning, Council President,
14 colleagues and guests.

15 I have nothing today.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

17 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

18 The Chair recognizes
19 Councilmember Quetcy Lozada.

20 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA:

21 Thank you, Council President. Good
22 morning, everyone.

23 I have two privileged
24 resolutions.

1 2/12/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

3 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

4 Will the Chief Clerk
5 please read the title of the
6 privileged resolutions.

7 CHIEF CLERK: A
8 privileged resolution authorizing
9 the Committee on Housing,
10 Neighborhood Development and The
11 Homeless to hold hearings to
12 examine the Office of Property
13 Assessment, its assessment
14 methodology, appeals process and
15 the impact of rising property
16 assessments and property taxes on
17 Philadelphia residents.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

22 CHIEF CLERK: And a
23 privileged resolution authorizing a
24 joint hearing between the Committee

1 2/12/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 on Public Safety and the Committee
3 on Parks, Recreation and Cultural
4 Affairs to examine the presence of
5 firearms in public recreation
6 spaces, the enforcement of existing
7 laws and strategies to reduce gun
8 violence in parks and playgrounds
9 across the City of Philadelphia.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

14 The Chair recognizes
15 Councilmember Jeffrey Young.

16 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Good
17 morning, Mr. President.

18 No Bills or resolutions
19 today.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

21 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

22 Chair recognizes
23 Councilmember Jim Harrity.

24 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:

1 2/12/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 Thank you, Council President.

3 I have nothing today,
4 but I also would like to ask that
5 everybody keep Senator Street's
6 Executive Director Kasib Carter in
7 prayer. He had a heart attack last
8 night. Thank God his wife came
9 home, found him on the floor and
10 was able to resuscitate him, and
11 then the ambulance came and took
12 him to the hospital, but he is on a
13 ventilator and all breathing tubes.
14 So please keep him in prayer.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

16 JOHNSON: We will. And I prefer
17 for you also to make that
18 announcement during the
19 announcement section at the end of
20 Council. Okay?

21 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:

22 Yes, sir.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

24 JOHNSON: All right. Thank you

1 2/12/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 very much.

3 The Chair recognizes

4 Councilmember Nicolas O'Rourke.

5 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE:

6 Thank you, Mr. President.

7 Nothing today, sir.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

9 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

10 The Chair recognizes

11 Councilmember Mike Driscoll.

12 COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL:

13 Mr. President, I have one bill

14 today.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

16 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

17 Would the Chief Clerk

18 please read the title of the bill.

19 CHIEF CLERK: An

20 ordinance authorizing the

21 installation, ownership and

22 maintenance of an elevator

23 encroachment in the vicinity of

24 3400 Aramingo Avenue, Philadelphia,

1 2/12/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 PA, 19134, under certain terms and
3 conditions.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

8 Will the Chief Clerk --
9 Chair recognizes Councilmember
10 Brian O'Neill.

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

13 I offer no bills or
14 resolutions.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

16 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

17 Chair recognizes
18 Councilmember Mark Squilla.

19 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA:
20 Thank you, Mr. President.

21 No bills or resolutions.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

23 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

24 Chair recognizes Councilmember

1 2/12/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 Cindy Bass -- I'm going to
3 recognize Councilmember Dr. Nina
4 Ahmad to introduce bills on behalf
5 of Councilmember Cindy Bass.

6 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:

7 Thank you, Council President.

8 My colleague has four
9 privileged resolutions.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

11 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

12 Will the Chief Clerk
13 please read the privileged
14 resolutions introduced by
15 Councilmember Dr. Nina Ahmad on
16 behalf of Councilmember Cindy Bass.

17 CHIEF CLERK: A
18 privileged resolution honoring and
19 recognizing Reverend Michael A.
20 Major, Sr. during Black History
21 Month for his extraordinary
22 leadership, faith-driven service
23 and unwavering commitment to the
24 renewal, restoration,

1 2/12/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 revitalization of the Nicetown-
3 Tioga community, and celebrating
4 his Installation as Senior Pastor
5 at Zion Baptist Church.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

10 CHIEF CLERK: And a
11 privileged resolution recognizing
12 and honoring February 20, 2026 as
13 Love Your Pet Day in the City of
14 Philadelphia.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

19 CHIEF CLERK: And a
20 privileged resolution honoring Rev.
21 Dr. J. Henry Buck, Jr., for his
22 service, visionary ministry and
23 contributions to the community as
24 Senior Pastor of Grace Baptist

1 2/12/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 Church of Germantown in recognition
3 of Black History Month.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

8 CHIEF CLERK: And a
9 privileged resolution honoring
10 Bishop J. Lewis Felton from the Mt.
11 Airy Church of God in Christ for
12 his extraordinary lifetime service,
13 leadership and lasting
14 contributions to the spiritual,
15 civic and social well-being of the
16 City of Philadelphia during Black
17 History Month.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

22 The Chair recognizes
23 Councilmember Dr. Nina Ahmad.

24 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:

1 2/12/26 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 Thank you, Council President.

3 I have one privileged
4 resolution.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

6 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

7 Will the Chief Clerk
8 please read the title of the
9 privileged resolution.

10 CHIEF CLERK: A
11 privileged resolution recognizing
12 February 17, 2026 as the Lunar New
13 Year, and celebrating the cultural
14 and historical significance of
15 Philadelphia's Asian American and
16 Pacific Islander communities.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

21 The next order of
22 business is reports from
23 committees.

24 The Chair recognizes our

1 2/12/26 - STATED - REPORTS

2 Majority Leader Katherine Gilmore
3 Richardson for a report from the
4 Committee on Law and Government.

5 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

6 RICHARDSON: Thank you,
7 Mr. President.

8 The Committee on Law and
9 Government reports out two bills
10 with a favorable recommendation.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

12 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

13 Will the Chief Clerk
14 please read the report.

15 CHIEF CLERK: The
16 Committee on Law and Government to
17 which was referred the following,
18 bill and resolution: Bill No.
19 251098, an ordinance providing for
20 the submission to the qualified
21 electors of the City of
22 Philadelphia of the proposal set
23 forth in a Resolution approved by
24 Council proposing an amendment to

1 2/12/26 - STATED - REPORTS

2 The Philadelphia Home Rule Charter
3 relating to the creation of the
4 Office of the Youth Ombudsperson;
5 and authorizing and directing the
6 appropriate officers to publish
7 notice and to make arrangements for
8 the special election, respectfully
9 reports it has considered the same
10 and returns the attached bill to
11 Council with a favorable
12 recommendation.

13 And Resolution No.

14 251108, resolution proposing an
15 amendment to the Philadelphia Home
16 Rule Charter providing for the
17 creation of the Office of Youth
18 Ombudsperson; and providing for the
19 submission of the proposed
20 amendment to the electors of
21 Philadelphia, respectfully reports
22 it has considered and amended the
23 same and returns the attached
24 resolution to Council with a

1 2/12/26 - STATED - REPORTS

2 favorable recommendation.

3 There are no further
4 bills or resolutions to report out
5 from the Committee on Law and
6 Government, Council President.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

8 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

9 The Chair recognizes
10 Majority Leader Katherine Gilmore
11 Richardson for a motion.

12 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

13 RICHARDSON: Thank you,
14 Mr. President.

15 I move that the rules of
16 Council be suspended as to permit
17 first reading of the bills just
18 read into the record by the Chief
19 Clerk.

20 (Duly seconded.)

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

22 JOHNSON: It has been moved and
23 properly seconded that the rules of
24 Council be suspended so as to

1 2/12/26 - STATED - BILLS ON 2ND READING

2 permit the consideration of these
3 bills just read by the Chief Clerk
4 at today's session of Council.

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

7 (Aye.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

9 JOHNSON: Anyone opposed?

10 (No response.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

12 JOHNSON: The ayes have it and the
13 motion carries. These bills will
14 be placed on our First Reading
15 Calendar for today.

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

1 2/12/26 - STATED - BILLS ON 2ND READING

2 session of Council.

3 As there are no
4 additional bills on the First
5 Reading Calendar, the Chair
6 recognizes Majority Leader
7 Katherine Gilmore Richardson for a
8 motion concerning certain bills and
9 resolutions on the Second Reading
10 and Final Passage Calendar.

11 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

12 RICHARDSON: Thank you,
13 Mr. President.

14 The following bills and
15 resolutions are being called up
16 from the Second Reading and Final
17 Passage Calendars today: Nos.
18 260086, 260089, 250988 and 251031.

19 The following bills and
20 resolutions on the Calendar are
21 being held: 241070, 241056,
22 250768, 250807, 250843, 250917,
23 250980, 251025 and 251097. 250989
24 is being amended.

1 2/12/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

3 JOHNSON: Thank you. Before
4 considering these bills and
5 resolutions, we will consider
6 public comment as follows: Your
7 public comment must concern matters
8 on the Second Reading and Final
9 Passage Calendars for possible
10 action at today's Council session.

11 All speakers must sign
12 up in order to testify. If you
13 have not already signed up for
14 today's session, please do so now
15 by giving your name to Ms. Hasson
16 at the table outside the rails to
17 my left. Don't give her a hard
18 time. She's from South Philly too.

19 Once you have signed up,
20 you will be called in the order in
21 which your name appears on the
22 sign-up sheet. Under ideal
23 circumstances, public commenters
24 each will have three minutes to

1 2/12/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 speak. However, this time limit
3 may vary from session to session.
4 Today, the time limit will be two
5 minutes.

6 In order to be fair to
7 all those wishing to speak, I
8 intend to hold faithfully to the
9 two-minute limit. When you begin
10 speaking, you will see a green
11 light on the podium. When there
12 are 30 seconds remaining to your
13 time, the light will turn yellow,
14 which is your reminder to please
15 conclude your remarks.

16 Once two minutes have
17 passed, the light will turn red and
18 the Sergeant-At-Arms will
19 disconnect the microphone. Please
20 don't get an attitude with him.
21 He's only doing his job. At that
22 point, please yield the podium to
23 the next speaker if you have not
24 done so already. I also reserve

1 2/12/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 the right, pursuant to our rules of
3 City Council, to limit repetitious
4 comments on the same subject
5 matter.

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

9 CHIEF CLERK: Will
10 Lindsey Harteis, April Velez,
11 Jeremy Blatstein, Jody Applebaum
12 and Judith Robinson, please make
13 your way to the podium.

14 (Witnesses approached
15 podium.)

16 MS. APPLEBAUM: Jody
17 Applebaum -- there we go. Jody
18 Applebaum. I agree that
19 indiscriminate breeding contributes
20 to shelter overcrowding. However,
21 by classifying all breeding by
22 individuals as indiscriminate and
23 contributory, this bill affects the
24 very people to whom buyers should

1 2/12/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 turn for a puppy.

3 I am an AKC breeder of
4 merit. It means I have
5 demonstrated outstanding commitment
6 to breeding high-quality dogs from
7 champion lines. I follow the
8 recommendations specific to my
9 breed for health tests of any dog
10 used in breeding. The goal is to
11 have puppies with good, even
12 temperaments who are structurally
13 sound and are free from inherited
14 health problems. We vet our
15 potential owners thoroughly and
16 often say no.

17 My puppies are
18 registered with the AKC within
19 weeks of their birth. We have
20 contracts and our relationship
21 begins with that contract. If for
22 any reason the owner cannot care
23 for the dog at any point in its
24 life, we will take it back without

1 2/12/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 exception. Nobody who goes through
3 the interview process and pays what
4 we ask for our dogs is going to
5 abandon that dog to the streets.

6 Activists have done
7 their very best to remove all
8 distinctions between responsible
9 and irresponsible breeders. It is
10 insulting to be lumped together
11 with the people at whom this bill
12 is directed. What makes us
13 different? Dedication to a breed,
14 to their health, to their
15 structure, to their temperament, to
16 our puppies and to their owners.

17 Breeders like me are
18 actually allies because we do our
19 very best to educate people away
20 from the backyard breeder, the
21 Lancaster puppy mill and the slick
22 internet website. If this bill
23 passes, I will be forced to leave
24 the city that I love so I do not

1 2/12/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 endanger a breeding program that
3 has taken years. Thank you.

4 CHIEF CLERK: Once
5 again, will Lindsey Harteis, April
6 Velez and Judith Robinson, please
7 make your way toward the podium.

8 MR. BLATSTEIN: My name
9 is Jeremy Blatstein. Thank you,
10 Councilwoman Bass, for your bill.
11 My friend Jess would be very
12 supportive of this. She adopts
13 from the SPCA time after time, and
14 this bill is really important to
15 her.

16 The other two bills were
17 speaking of, of course is
18 everyone's favorite Councilman,
19 Councilman Young. Hopefully --
20 yes, thank you for withdrawing your
21 Hahnemann overlay bill. I know
22 your goal was to get more housing
23 built in your district, so goal
24 accomplished. Thank you very much.

1 2/12/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 The other two bills that
3 you have, you're holding one of
4 them. It's regarding the
5 demolition ban that you say is
6 going to stop blight and
7 gentrification. It's just not true
8 and is a problem. It's just going
9 to add cost to small developers,
10 right. We're really trying to help
11 small developers be successful and
12 more blue tape is not what we need.

13 Mayor Parker said it
14 herself yesterday, in order to
15 tackle this problem, we need to do
16 supply and production. That should
17 be the goal of every bill, and this
18 bill is going to prevent that. The
19 goal is to grow Philly to 2 milli.
20 And your other bill, in terms of
21 small businesses, is just going to
22 hurt small businesses, right.

23 11:00 p.m., I don't
24 know, what if you want to get

1 2/12/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 something to eat real fast? What
3 if you want to get something from
4 the corner store? This bill
5 prevents that. And realistically,
6 restaurants that don't have liquor
7 license would have to close at
8 11:00 p.m. I don't think you
9 should be over the -- the
10 restaurant thing is a big deal
11 right now.

12 And last but not least,
13 we're talking about SEPTA. The GM
14 of SEPTA, he was here last week,
15 right, fighting for SEPTA funding.
16 I encourage each and every one of
17 you to ride SEPTA right now. I
18 think you'll see the improvements
19 that have been happening with the
20 SEPTA system, with these new fare
21 gates. But realistically, it's a
22 partisan issue and everybody should
23 be advocating for more SEPTA across
24 the aisle because we need this for

1 2/12/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Philadelphia in 2026. Thank you.

3 CHIEF CLERK: Will

4 Amanda Eldridge, Samantha Craven,
5 Charles Hull, Adam Oldman and David
6 Jenkins, please make your way to
7 the podium.

8 (Witnesses approached
9 podium.)

10 MS. ELDRIDGE: Good
11 morning. Amanda Eldridge. As a
12 veterinarian, I have seen firsthand
13 the effects of irresponsible
14 backyard breeding. These
15 consequences include poor genetic
16 planning, resulting in congenital
17 defects, a complete lack of
18 veterinary care, significant rise
19 in preventable infectious diseases
20 and an increase in surrendered
21 animals.

22 The following instances
23 are not hypotheticals or potential
24 outcomes. These are actual events

1 2/12/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 I, myself, have experienced. These
3 consequences show in the entire
4 litter of eight puppies brought in
5 with parvovirus and losing their
6 lives because the breeder did not
7 vaccinate the mom, who therefore
8 cannot protect her puppies by
9 passing on the antibodies.

10 This shows in the dog
11 showing up in dystocia, which is
12 having trouble giving birth, who
13 requires an emergency C-section and
14 has had zero medical oversight. No
15 vaccinations, no genetic or health
16 screenings, no imaging to even know
17 how many puppies are in there, as
18 this all cuts into profit margins.

19 Backyard breeding
20 prioritizes profit over welfare.
21 This is a deliberate and reckless
22 practice. When overbred females
23 are no longer profitable and
24 puppies are no longer selling due

1 2/12/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 to overabundance or illness or when
3 people who have purchased these
4 animals cannot afford the care they
5 need due to actions or lack thereof
6 of these breeders, these animals
7 are surrendered or worse,
8 abandoned, and ACCT Philly picks up
9 the pieces.

10 This legislation
11 represents a critical step toward
12 reducing suffering, protecting our
13 community and giving ACCT Philly a
14 fighting chance to fulfill its
15 mission responsibly and humanely.
16 So as a Philadelphia born-and-
17 raised resident, as a veterinarian
18 and as an advocate for both animal
19 welfare and public health, I
20 strongly urge you to support this
21 bill. Thank you.

22 (Applause.)

23 MR. HULL: My name is
24 Charlie Hull. I'm speaking on

1 2/12/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 behalf of the American Kennel Club
3 and the responsible dog owners and
4 breeders in Philadelphia who share
5 the same concerns as the Kennel
6 Club of Philadelphia. We share
7 your goal of reducing shelter
8 overcrowding and improving animal
9 welfare. We recognize the serious
10 challenges facing ACCT Philly.

11 However, we respectfully
12 urge Council to table Bill 250989
13 rather than move it forward as
14 written. The bill applies a
15 blanket three-year moratorium that
16 would primarily impact responsible
17 hobby breeders who are not
18 contributing to the shelter intake.
19 It does little to address truly
20 ill-responsible operators.

21 Supporters suggest small
22 breeders can simply obtain a
23 Pennsylvania kennel license, but
24 state only requires licensing when

1 2/12/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 26 or more dogs are held or
3 transferred in a year. Hobby
4 breeders never approach that
5 number, and the system was designed
6 for large kennels, not families
7 raising one litter in their home.

8 Requiring licensing
9 would also create practical
10 problems, including zoning
11 conflicts, significant new burdens
12 on Pennsylvania Adult Bureau of Dog
13 Law Enforcement and hundreds of new
14 inspections a year that could be
15 required with no resources to
16 conduct them. No data has been
17 presented showing that responsible
18 Philadelphia breeders are supplying
19 dogs to ACCT. It's specific
20 individuals who are causing
21 problems. The answer is target
22 enforcement, not shutting everyone
23 down.

24 Rather than rushing a

1 2/12/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 three-year moratorium, we urge
3 Council to table Bill 250989
4 briefly and convene a stakeholders
5 group. Per the bill, temporary
6 moratorium on dog breeding is a
7 targeted measure intended to
8 address the emergency conditions
9 while considering and adopting
10 permanent regular resolutions. The
11 bill does not take effect until 90
12 days.

13 Let's use those 90 days
14 to come up with those solutions.
15 Philadelphia deserves solutions
16 that work in practice, not on
17 paper. Thank you for the
18 opportunity to submit my testimony.

19 MR. GOLDMAN: Adam
20 Goldman. Good morning, members of
21 Council. My name is Adam Goldman.
22 I'm Director of the Philadelphia
23 Unemployment Project. I'm here
24 today to testify in support of

1 2/12/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Councilmember Landau's resolution
3 commending the PA General Assembly
4 for including the Working
5 Pennsylvanians Tax Credit in this
6 year's state budget.

7 With more and more
8 Pennsylvanians struggling to make
9 ends meet, having a state version
10 of the earned income tax credit
11 will help hundreds of thousands of
12 residents across the Commonwealth
13 put food on the table. I'd also
14 like to mention that Philadelphia
15 already has a local version of this
16 program, but it's barely used, with
17 less than 5% of eligible residents
18 getting it last year.

19 This is because the
20 process is unnecessarily
21 complicated, requiring residents to
22 first apply and be approved for a
23 separate, more restrictive state
24 tax forgiveness program. It also

1 2/12/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 doesn't allow for a refund of the
3 entire wage tax. With hard-working
4 Pennsylvanians and Philadelphians
5 struggling to get by, every dollar
6 we can put back in their pockets
7 helps.

8 To fix this, we should
9 tie the city wage tax refund to the
10 new Working Pennsylvanians Tax
11 Credit and work with the state to
12 automate and streamline the
13 process. Until every Philadelphian
14 receives these dollars back who's
15 eligible, we're doing them a huge
16 disservice. This really is a
17 no-brainer. The program is there.
18 Let's just make it work for
19 everyone. Thank you.

20 CHIEF CLERK: Once
21 again, will Samantha Craven please
22 make your way toward the podium.

23 MR. JENKINS: Madam
24 Chair, members and guests, I rise

1 2/12/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 to address 241070 and 241056. It
3 feels silly that I should stand
4 before you this morning as people
5 beyond the hall who have elected
6 the members sat before them in
7 front of the rail to put their best
8 interest to the people before
9 themselves, will be looking at such
10 a resolution. When people are
11 losing their jobs at an alarming
12 rate when we are creating
13 resolutions that amount to job
14 security for politicians with an
15 election year ahead of us, what are
16 we doing.

17 The proposal to remove
18 the resign-to-run rule asks us to
19 weaken one of Philadelphia's
20 clearest ethical guardrails. This
21 rule exists for a reason. It
22 prevents misuse of offices, reduces
23 incumbency advantage. It
24 eliminates divided loyalty between

1 2/12/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 campaigning and governing. It
3 ensures officials cannot use the
4 city staff for public visibility as
5 companion tools. It keeps
6 taxpayer-funded and time focused on
7 taxpayer-funded work. Most
8 importantly, it protects the public
9 trust.

10 We know the argument
11 other governments allow it. Have
12 you watched the news lately? I
13 don't know if you've seen other
14 governments and how they operate.
15 I don't know if you're paying
16 attention, but this dog won't hunt
17 as an argument. I don't know if
18 the chamber recalls this, but
19 voters in Philadelphia have already
20 spoken in 2007, in 2014. They
21 rejected eliminating this rule by
22 clear margins.

23 In 2020, the resolution
24 was pulled before it reached the

1 2/12/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 ballot box. That is not ambiguity,
3 friends. That is public will.

4 Good governance is not about
5 legality. It's about perception.

6 The public must trust that the
7 office you occupy is not a campaign
8 infrastructure.

9 Members, now that I have
10 properly put your panties into a
11 bunch, let me offer you a
12 compromise. I would rather pay
13 every city officer who resigns to
14 run a transition compensation and
15 greatest thanks for the legislative
16 work, noting that if they lose,
17 they face what every American faces
18 when changing jobs, uncertainty.

19 Public office is not a
20 safety net. It is a public trust.
21 This is not a hard one.
22 Philadelphia has told you no, not
23 once, not twice, not thrice. Don't
24 make them do it again.

1 2/12/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 (Applause.)

3 MS. CRAVEN: Hi. My

4 name is Samantha Craven. Good
5 afternoon, Council President and
6 members. My name is Sammie Craven.
7 My main emphasis on Bill 250989
8 needing to be passed is due to the
9 significant impact it will have on
10 the overcrowding issue at ACCT
11 Philly, this city's only open
12 intake shelter that has euthanized
13 over 2000 innocent souls since 2024
14 to now, simply due to lack of space
15 and time.

16 For the past several
17 years, I have been deeply involved
18 in reducing euthanasia for space at
19 ACCT Philly, not as a spectator,
20 but as someone actively moving
21 animals towards live outcomes. I
22 designed and distribute free,
23 shareable graphics, highlighting
24 ACCT Philly's timestamped dogs,

1 2/12/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 encourage outreach citizens to use
3 their voice at meetings such as
4 this, promoted posts I make on
5 social media and build a network of
6 over 80 lifesaving rescues and
7 adoption groups, including 30
8 across the tristate area.

9 Through a consistent
10 targeted outreach, these posts
11 regularly reach over 1000 across
12 tristate area. And with consistent
13 targeted outreach throughout a
14 week-long campaign, they reach up
15 to 20,000 people. So these views
16 translate directly into rescue
17 pools, foster placements and
18 adoptions. And I personally have
19 adopted and transported from there.

20 This bill is targeted
21 temporarily and strategic. By
22 pausing certain commercial breeding
23 and transfers, it reduces intake
24 pressure, gives existing animals

1 2/12/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 more time to find homes and
3 prevents healthy, adoptable dogs
4 from being killed simply because
5 they arrive at the wrong moment.
6 Philly's shelter crisis spills
7 across state lines.

8 As a New Jersey
9 resident, I clearly see every day
10 how New Jersey adopters, rescue
11 transports and foster networks are
12 already absorbing Philly's
13 overflow, meaning Philly's policy
14 decisions already have affected New
15 Jersey residents. Many of the
16 adopters, rescue transporters keep
17 these animals alive from New Jersey
18 and beyond. Though I may live
19 there, I work there and see the
20 crisis every day in Philly.

21 That's why this city
22 requires -- okay, sorry. Delaware
23 is a no state kill as long as other
24 countries. So if Philly can't get

1 2/12/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 on board, then I don't know what
3 the excuse is. You're one of the
4 biggest cities and influential
5 cities in the county, so voting yes
6 is what needs to be done because
7 the animals don't have a voice, but
8 you do.

9 (Applause.)

10 CHIEF CLERK: Will

11 Jonathan Stein, John McAuley, Lynn
12 Landes, Elaine Petrossian and Marie
13 Marinakis, please make your way to
14 the podium.

15 (Witnesses approached
16 podium.)

17 MR. STEIN: Good

18 morning, everyone. I'm Jonathan
19 Stein. I'm the former Executive
20 Director of General Council at
21 Community Legal Services and a
22 former member of the City Tax
23 Reform Commission in 2002,
24 appointed by the City Council

1 2/12/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 President at that time. I'm here
3 to support the resolution of
4 Councilwoman Landau's resolution on
5 the adoption for the first time in
6 history of the state earned income
7 tax credit, which joins the
8 50-year-old Federal EITC.

9 And I'm here to really
10 pinpoint the fact that this City
11 Council has an extraordinary
12 opportunity to revisit the current
13 city ordinance providing for a wage
14 tax credit or refund. The last
15 time Council addressed that
16 ordinance in 2020 with
17 Councilmember Allan Domb and
18 others, a number of people in this
19 hall today. The reforms were
20 adopted unanimously.

21 And every time this bill
22 has come up in the past, it got
23 unanimous support by City Council.
24 And what you have before you is a

1 2/12/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 bill introduced by Councilwoman
3 Kendra Brooks and other co-sponsors
4 in the hall today that would
5 revisit this ordinance, which is
6 simply not working. Fewer than 5%
7 of low-income working people, full-
8 time, working people get this wage
9 tax credit. That is 95% of
10 eligible people in the city don't
11 get it because it's tied to the
12 state special tax forgiveness
13 provision, which has a very low
14 arbitrary eligibility level.

15 And the full wage tax
16 refund is not there because the
17 PICA portion is not allowed. So
18 this bill would address these
19 impediments to this wage tax credit
20 ordinance that we already have.
21 The principle you should keep in
22 mind is that our tax system should
23 not be driving low-income people
24 into deeper poverty, and that's

1 2/12/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 what the regressive wage tax does
3 today. And I encourage you to
4 revisit this bill, have hearings on
5 it and adopt its contents. Thank
6 you very much.

7 (Applause.)

8 MR. McCAULEY: Good
9 morning, everybody. My name is
10 John McCauley. Once again, I'm
11 with a grassroots organization
12 called Flip Philly Red. We are
13 here to bring you something
14 different because you've been
15 voting Democrat for the Mayor's
16 Office for the past 70 years. If
17 I'm supposed to be excited about a
18 state tax credit for \$240, then
19 that's what the average would be.
20 The max would be \$805, but the
21 average per person would be \$240.
22 I'm supposed to be excited about
23 that. We're supposed to give the
24 General Assembly a pat on the back

1 2/12/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 for the state credit.

3 Stacy Garrity is running
4 for Governor. This should be a
5 watch. This should be easy while
6 you guys continue to get rich,
7 continue to get money to continue
8 to advance -- yes, I'm looking at
9 you -- while you continue to
10 advance in your careers and we
11 supposed to be happy about a
12 whopping \$240. If you want to help
13 us out, then champion eliminating
14 property taxes. That's something
15 that Republicans, Democrats and
16 independents can all get on board
17 with, while this erratic, crazy
18 Governor continues to increase
19 spending by \$3.5 billion.

20 We're struggling out
21 here. So I'm supposed to be
22 excited about \$240. That's what
23 the average would be, when he
24 continues to spend taxpayer money,

1 2/12/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 millions of dollars on his stupid
3 Tiktok videos. And y'all don't say
4 anything about that. I'm supposed
5 to be excited about \$240 while the
6 Philadelphia Parking Authority made
7 it impossible to park down here in
8 Center City.

9 You got the bike lane
10 mafia down here that's made it
11 impossible to park down here in
12 Center City. You got comrade Mayor
13 Cherelle Parker, who's implemented
14 her Soviet Union \$2 billion
15 H.O.M.E. Plan that we're going to
16 have to pay back, that our children
17 is going to have to pay back over
18 time. You look at me like I'm
19 crazy, but \$800 million in bonds
20 borrowed that the taxpayers will
21 have to pay back. So why? I'm
22 supposed to be excited about \$240
23 when you got stupid 25 miles per
24 hour speed limits on Broad Street.

1 2/12/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 I'm supposed to be excited about
3 that. We're not giving pats on the
4 back for that. Thank you for your
5 attention to this matter.

6 MS. LANDES: Good
7 morning. I'm Lynn Landes of
8 Safestreetsphilly.org and Philly's
9 Republican Network. I support the
10 resolution to lock up commercial
11 dumpsters. Our local civic
12 association was told by the police
13 that this regulation would
14 hopefully deter the homeless
15 population from using dumpsters to
16 live on the street.

17 However, most of our
18 local homeless people are seriously
19 mentally disabled and/or drug
20 addicted and must be ordered by a
21 court into secure facilities in
22 order to receive the care that they
23 require, for the safety of both
24 themselves and the public. To that

1 2/12/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 end, President Trump has signed an
3 executive order to restore mental
4 facilities across America after
5 decades of failed policies by both
6 Democrats and Republicans that have
7 left the mentally disabled and drug
8 addicted living on our streets. We
9 request that the City Council
10 support President Trump in this
11 endeavor.

12 On a different subject,
13 I and many other Philadelphians
14 support commonsense efforts by City
15 Council to direct our waste towards
16 recycling and storage, not
17 incinerators and landfills, both of
18 which are toxic to public health
19 and a waste of valuable resources.

20 In fact, the Solid Waste
21 Disposal Act of 1976 requires that
22 states develop and implement plans
23 to maximize recycling and minimize
24 waste. But that act has been

1 2/12/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 largely ignored by both Democrats
3 and Republicans. In the 1990s, I
4 was very involved in the zero waste
5 movement and helped to develop
6 state legislation to create
7 disposal bans on waste streams, but
8 that bill failed due to the
9 opposition of both Democrats and
10 Republicans.

11 Several decades later,
12 hopefully these laws and efforts
13 will stand a better chance of
14 success with both parties. Please
15 go to my website
16 zerowasteamerica.org to learn more.
17 Thank you.

18 MS. PETROSSIAN: My name
19 is Elaine Petrossian and I am
20 rising in support of Councilman
21 Young's bill, 250988, which is a
22 zoning overlay in certain parts of
23 the 5th Council District to provide
24 overnight respite and relief to

1 2/12/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 neighbors and commercial corridors
3 from relentless 24-hour day, seven-
4 day-a-week operation of "mini
5 marts" that are operating as smoke
6 shops, which in reality are often
7 times selling unlicensed and
8 unregulated intoxicating
9 substances. So I rise in support
10 of that bill.

11 I want to say also that
12 as a neighborhood volunteer,
13 neighborhood committee person and
14 stalwart member of our civic
15 association in the Spring Garden
16 section adjacent to the North Broad
17 Street corridor, this is an issue
18 that is affecting many, many parts
19 of the city. It will not be solved
20 by diligent and a patchwork of
21 zoning overlays, which is why I
22 also want to say I look forward to
23 and I thank Kathy Gilmore
24 Richardson for her leadership on

1 2/12/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 holistic approaches to this new
3 threat to our commercial corridors
4 and the hearts of our
5 neighborhoods.

6 I also look forward to
7 this body exercising oversight,
8 meaningful oversight of the
9 executive branch of government,
10 because this body can make the laws
11 but cannot enforce them. So I look
12 forward to those times, and I want
13 to say thank you to everyone for
14 taking this very seriously.

15 (Applause.)

16 CHIEF CLERK: Will
17 Robert Gray, Jessica Graaf, Devon
18 Cairo Rodriguez, Vanessa Raymond
19 Garcia and Ian Griffin, please make
20 your way to the podium.

21 (Witnesses approached
22 podium.)

23 MS. MARANAKIS: Hi. My
24 name is Marie Maranakis. I wanted

1 2/12/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 to thank the Councilmembers and
3 attendees for the opportunity to
4 just speak. I have volunteered at
5 ACCT Philly for the past 12 years,
6 and I am here to support the
7 moratorium on puppy breeding, Bill
8 No. 250989. I would like to invite
9 everyone who either supports or
10 opposes this bill to actually visit
11 ACCT Philly and see the scope of
12 the problem for yourself.

13 Last Sunday, I did a
14 kennel count. Came up with 117
15 large dogs, 105 pit bulls, 2 German
16 Shepherds, 1 husky, 3 mastiffs, 1
17 Rottweiler, 1 lab, 3 terrier mixes,
18 1 cocker spaniel and 1 Collie mix.
19 The scope of this problem is
20 enormous and the suffering goes
21 well beyond just the animals. The
22 kennel staff I think has the most
23 difficult job.

24 The young men and women

1 2/12/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 in this entry-level position are
3 required to feed, walk and clean
4 kennels for the 20 to 30 dogs that
5 ACCT Philly takes in daily. If
6 they are still at the shelter at
7 the end of three weeks, dogs are
8 timestamped. The lucky ones are
9 adopted, fostered or pulled by
10 rescue groups.

11 The kennel attendants
12 then walk remaining dogs to a room
13 at the back of the shelter and
14 restrain them while vet techs
15 administer the lethal ejection.
16 Afterwards, the attendants take the
17 lifeless bodies to the shelter's
18 freezer and they are later removed
19 for cremation. I ask everyone, how
20 would you feel if you had to do
21 this job. I think I'm almost out
22 of time. But thank you for
23 Councilmember Cindy Bass for this
24 important legislation. Thank you

1 2/12/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 for your time.

3 (Applause.)

4 MR. GRAY: Good

5 afternoon, Philadelphia. I am here

6 today to speak on several issues.

7 There's a lot at stake today.

8 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

9 RICHARDSON: Excuse me. Please

10 state your name for the record.

11 MR. GRAY: I will state

12 my name, which is Robert Gray. And

13 as I was saying, there's a lot at

14 stake today, Philadelphia. A lot

15 of our individual freedoms are

16 being infringed upon. And I want

17 to make comments in reference to

18 several bills on the docket today.

19 251098, 241070, 241056, 250843,

20 250989 and 251097.

21 So as I said, my name is

22 Robert Gray and I'm here today to

23 speak against legislation that

24 while well-intentioned only,

1 2/12/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 ultimately infringes upon our
3 individual rights, misuses taxpayer
4 resources and expands bureaucratic
5 power under the guise of social
6 justice.

7 Let me be clear from the
8 outset. We all love our puppies
9 here in this city. Protecting
10 animals from abuse is a worthy and
11 necessary goal. No reasonable
12 person disputes that. But what we
13 must dispute is how we attempt to
14 do it. This legislation proposes
15 restricting breeding unless
16 individuals obtain a specific
17 license, licenses that
18 overwhelmingly benefit the elite,
19 certified and commercially-favored
20 breeding institutions.

21 Organizations like the
22 American Clinical Club and
23 Westminster may dominate the
24 conversation, but they do not

1 2/12/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 represent the full reality of
3 animal ownership in the city.
4 Philadelphia is a city of mixed-
5 breed dogs, pit mixes, bully
6 breeds, red-nose pits, dogs that
7 exist not because of profit, but
8 because of natural circumstance and
9 responsible ownership.

10 I want to put a face to
11 that reality. This is my dog Kilo,
12 a red-nose pit bull, and he's a
13 champion in my eyes. He was raised
14 responsibly. I also want to say
15 that this adoption is biased and
16 presidential -- sorry, prejudicial,
17 because I've been to the ACCT and
18 they've also decided what dogs go
19 where, ladies and gentlemen. And
20 that's what they want to do is
21 essentially control more of our
22 freedoms. And I thank you for your
23 time today. Let's support more
24 freedom and not ordinances that

1 2/12/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 waste taxpayer dollars.

3 MS. GRAAF: Hi. My name
4 is Jessica Graaf. I'm the
5 President of Philly Bully Team. We
6 are a nonprofit dog rescue here in
7 Philadelphia. We work directly
8 with ACCT Philly. We also do work
9 with the police and take owner
10 surrenders when we are able to,
11 which is not very often because
12 we're always full.

13 I fully support Bill
14 250989, as somebody that has a
15 front row seat to the
16 overpopulation crisis in
17 Philadelphia. I think that putting
18 a temporary ban on the selling of
19 puppies is a responsible and
20 commonsense approach to a problem
21 in the city that is only getting
22 worse year after year.

23 We have a foster network
24 of over 100 homes. And even with

1 2/12/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 all of our resources, we are unable
3 to keep up with the amount of dogs
4 in need, not only from ACCT but
5 from citizens of the city who want
6 to surrender their dogs. Many of
7 these dogs were purchased from
8 somebody who intentionally bred
9 them for the purpose of profit and
10 not for temperament or genetic
11 stability.

12 A few of these dogs are
13 also registered with the AKC per
14 the owner's claim. Yet they are
15 thrown away like trash regularly
16 with no accountability of their
17 well-being by the club they are
18 registered to. The owners will
19 often offer their AKC paperwork
20 with a surrender request, which we
21 decline because honestly, it
22 doesn't mean a whole lot.

23 Many of these dogs were
24 also born with painful and

1 2/12/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 heartbreaking genetic deformities
3 that require the rescue to spend
4 thousands of dollars on surgeries
5 to improve quality of life or even
6 save their life. Sadly, those
7 surgeries aren't always enough and
8 we have lost a lot of dogs due to
9 birth defects or neglect that would
10 be avoidable with responsible
11 breeding.

12 Just last week, a
13 breeder reached out to me to ask
14 for assistance with rehoming his
15 3-day-old puppies because they
16 hadn't sold fast enough for him.
17 We obviously said no to that. I've
18 also discovered one of my own dogs,
19 who we found abandoned on the
20 street, is related to 15 other dogs
21 that have come through ACCT that we
22 brought into our rescue as well
23 through DNA testing. I want to ask
24 you to vote as if these dogs' lives

1 2/12/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 are depending on it because they
3 are. Thank you for your time and
4 consideration.

5 (Applause.)

6 MR. RODRIGUEZ CAIRO:

7 Good morning. My name is Devon
8 Rodriguez Cairo. I work at Hand
9 the Paw, a youth development and
10 animal welfare organization, and
11 previously worked at ACCT Philly.
12 I've seen firsthand the
13 consequences of backyard breeding
14 in our city. For years,
15 irresponsible breeding has
16 contributed directly to
17 overcrowding in our shelters,
18 increased strain on our city
19 resources and public safety
20 concerns.

21 I've worked extensively
22 in canine behavior. When dogs are
23 bred without regard for
24 temperament, health or early

1 2/12/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 socialization, we see the
3 consequences: Fear, reactivity by
4 incidents, the spread of
5 preventable diseases like Parvo and
6 ultimately dogs struggling to
7 succeed in homes. These challenges
8 don't exist in a vacuum. They
9 impact families, neighbors, public
10 safety across our city because
11 profit is prioritized over
12 responsibility.

13 Those on the front lines
14 of animal welfare know the pain of
15 losing a dog because of
16 overcrowding, especially after
17 using every ounce of effort to find
18 that dog placement. It looks like
19 sitting on the floor of a
20 euthanasia room with a healthy,
21 happy dog who did nothing wrong and
22 watching their life end simply
23 because there is no kennel space.
24 I personally cannot count the

1 2/12/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 number of times I have held dogs
3 who should have been in loving
4 homes, whose only fault was being
5 one of too many.

6 I have heard the
7 objections raised by breeders
8 today. This bill contains an
9 exemption for licensed kennels.
10 And despite what has been
11 suggested, anyone can obtain a
12 state kennel license regardless of
13 how many dogs they produce. This
14 legislation does not target
15 responsible licensed breeders. It
16 creates accountability for those
17 operating without oversight. We
18 cannot adopt our way out of a
19 supply problem. We must address
20 the root cause.

21 This is a necessary step
22 towards accountability, responsible
23 breeding practices and reducing the
24 preventable loss of life in our

1 2/12/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 shelters. This is about
3 compassion, public safety and
4 creating a city where animals are
5 not treated as disposable. Thank
6 you.

7 (Applause.)

8 CHIEF CLERK: Once
9 again, will Vanessa Raymond Garcia,
10 please make your way to the podium.
11 And also, Darian Johnson Manny,
12 Ryan Harris, Ogbonna Hagins, James
13 Buck, III and Reverend Dr. Sherman
14 Kershaw.

15 MS. RAYMOND GARCIA: My
16 name is Vanessa Raymond Garcia.
17 Good morning, Council President
18 Johnson and all Councilmembers, and
19 thank you for the opportunity to
20 speak today. My name is Vanessa
21 Raymond Garcia and I am here to
22 voice support for Bill 250980. I
23 come representing Regional Housing
24 Legal Services as their senior

1 2/12/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 policy analyst.

3 RHLS is a nonprofit
4 legal aid firm working alongside
5 communities in the fight to create
6 and protect safe, affordable homes.
7 We provide legal representation for
8 groups, serving those with low
9 incomes and advocate for policy
10 changes. Some of our current and
11 past Philadelphia clients include
12 New Kensington Community
13 Development Corporation, Habitat
14 for Humanity and the Philadelphia
15 Community Land Trust.

16 We published a report
17 late last year examining
18 institutional investment in single
19 family homes, multi-family
20 properties and manufactured home
21 communities across Pennsylvania.
22 That research documented what many
23 Philadelphians already feel every
24 day, large-scale, absentee and

1 2/12/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 LLC-shielded property owners are
3 reshaping our housing market in
4 ways that harm renters, aspiring
5 homeowners and entire
6 neighborhoods.

7 No property owner,
8 especially those operating from out
9 of state or behind a web of LLCs,
10 should be able to avoid
11 accountability for tenants or to
12 the city. When landlords hide
13 behind anonymous or unverifiable
14 contact information, the people who
15 suffer are the tenants who cannot
16 get repairs, the neighbors who
17 cannot report ongoing safety issues
18 and the city departments that
19 cannot enforce basic codes.

20 Requiring a verifiable
21 physical address and a designated
22 local agent is a basic expectation
23 of responsible property ownership.
24 If someone profits from

1 2/12/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Philadelphia's housing market, they
3 must also maintain open lines of
4 communication and meet their legal
5 obligations. Thank you,
6 Councilmember Phillips, for your
7 leadership on this issue and I urge
8 Council to pass Ordinance 250980.
9 Thank you.

10 MR. GRIFFITH: My name
11 is Ian Griffith, 40-year resident
12 of Philadelphia and a 10-year
13 volunteer at ACCT. ACCT came in
14 existence in 2012 and every single
15 dog that has left ACCT, since 2012
16 every single dog that's left the PA
17 SPCA, every single dog that's left
18 rescues like Philly Bully Team,
19 every single dog that's left doggy
20 star pet stores have all been
21 spayed and neutered in the last --
22 all those years. So not a single
23 dog has left any of those
24 facilities that was able to breed.

1 2/12/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 And yet some time this
3 year, some time in April of this
4 year '26 ACCT will have brought in
5 its 100,000 dog in only 14 years of
6 existence. Now, think how many
7 100,000 dogs are. The notion that
8 there's 100,000 Philadelphians
9 driving to Lancaster to buy dogs is
10 simply ridiculous. I think that
11 it's pretty crystal clear who the
12 villains are in this piece.

13 In 2020, it was a
14 catastrophic year for humans but it
15 was a great, fantastic year for our
16 dog mates, mostly pit bulls in
17 Philadelphia. With only 4000 dogs,
18 ACCT Philly was able to manage that
19 population so they didn't do a
20 single euthanasia for space. They
21 didn't have to do a single
22 timestamp other than for medical
23 emergencies. For 2026 now, they
24 have 22 dogs coming in daily. They

1 2/12/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 have to clear 20 kennels daily for
3 space. Part of that is they have
4 to timestamp 90 dogs a month.

5 Thank you.

6 (Applause.)

7 MS. JOHNSON DEVOS:

8 Greetings, Philadelphia City
9 Council. Today I, Darian Johnson
10 Devos, stand before you eight
11 months pregnant with immense hope
12 and gratitude. For today we are
13 here in celebration of something
14 truly special to come, 215 Day of
15 Giving. See, I go hard because my
16 life is dependent on it, because
17 soon come I too will have to raise
18 a son in this city, the same city
19 that once raised me, from
20 neighborhood drill teams to
21 community block parties.

22 And like many of those
23 you see behind me, I have always
24 been surrounded by people who have

1 2/12/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 made something out of nothing. And
3 it was because of the work of my
4 neighbors, the surrounding
5 organizations of my community that
6 I am who I am today. And it's also
7 a testament to exactly why
8 initiatives like 215 Day of Giving
9 must exist, because we exist and
10 our work matters.

11 True to the radical
12 organizing tradition of Black
13 communities, especially here in
14 Philadelphia, where government and
15 businesses fall short, the people
16 step up to meet the need. And with
17 over 3000 documented nonprofits in
18 our city, but only 81% of funding
19 going to the top 5% of
20 organizations, it says it's work to
21 be done.

22 When two-thirds of the
23 organizations in our city operate
24 on less than 90 days of cash

1 2/12/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 reserves and don't know how they
3 will sustain their programming, it
4 says there's work to be done. When
5 the City of Philadelphia currently
6 stands as the second biggest,
7 poorest city in our nation and
8 one-third of families live below
9 the poverty line, it says there's
10 work to be done.

11 So we say thank you to
12 City Council. Thank you to
13 Councilmember Thomas for
14 recognizing this day and to the
15 endless organizations doing the
16 work in our city, including Week
17 Off Now, Hunting Park Coalition,
18 Power Circle Mentors, Hey Mommy,
19 Inc., Learning Institute of
20 Philadelphia, Positive Youth
21 Outlet, Bosses Give Back, People
22 Philly of Hope, The EpiLog's
23 Project and These Kids
24 Construction.

1 2/12/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 We see you and we invite
3 you to join the celebration. Text
4 215 Day to 444-321 or visit
5 215dayofgiving.com to give and get
6 behind the work of the
7 organizations doing the work in our
8 city every single day. Thank you.

9 (Applause.)

10 MR. CLARK: I'm a little
11 nervous to follow up behind that.
12 My name is Emmanuel Manny215 Clark.
13 I hate to speak on myself in his
14 way because I hate to sound self-
15 aggrandizing, but I believe the
16 mission of 215 Day in the setting
17 is permitted and fit for me to
18 speak in his way.

19 I stand here today as a
20 young man growing up in the city
21 who at the age of 21 years old
22 decided to fill the gap, right, to
23 look at and say everybody that I
24 seen give back to the community was

1 2/12/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 35 and older with a suit on, right.

3 I never seen nobody in their 20s
4 really step up and do this in my
5 community, right.

6 I stand here today eight
7 years later as a decorated
8 community leader from different
9 facets, from Councilpeople like
10 Jamie Gauthier, right, and I have
11 beautiful relationships. I'm going
12 to run through my time mentioning
13 all you guys, but also as this
14 year's NFL-inspired Changemaker
15 Award winner from the Philadelphia
16 Eagles, and the youngest since the
17 beginning of the award to get that
18 award and that honor.

19 But also, I stand here
20 today as an organization currently
21 with no budget, who does the work
22 every day, who has a team of people
23 that work with me that I have to
24 ask them to do stuff for free. And

1 2/12/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 then sometimes I got to bear with
3 them because I can't hire, right.
4 This is what we represent.

5 So when y'all see me on
6 the Instagram promoting for 215 Day
7 of Giving know that I represent all
8 of these organizations that need
9 this funding to be distributed to
10 them in a proper manner. Thank you
11 for y'all support.

12 MR. HARRIS: How y'all
13 doing today. My name is Ryan
14 Harris. I'm the founder and CEO of
15 a non-profit organization As I
16 Plant This Seed. And I think I can
17 speak on behalf of what we got
18 going on today for the 215 Day of
19 Giving because if y'all do not
20 know, I'm the one that was standing
21 on Broad Street that people was
22 calling crazy.

23 I stood outside for two
24 and a half days and fasting and

1 2/12/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 praying until we raised \$30,000 to
3 get our own building in our
4 community center that we offer 13
5 free programs without no funding.
6 We've been doing that for 13 years
7 and able to provide resources and a
8 safe hub for the community around
9 us and beyond.

10 So today is a very, very
11 big deal and we are able -- I'm
12 sorry. And we are able to meet the
13 needs of the people that we serve
14 today with this resolution. So we
15 were able to meet the needs with
16 this resolution. So thank you,
17 City Councilman Isaiah Thomas. We
18 appreciate you for presenting this
19 resolution. This resolution
20 supports a model rooted in
21 stewardship and governance. We are
22 committed to transparency, lawful
23 distribution and capacity building
24 so that no organization that is

1 2/12/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 behind us remains dependent, but
3 instead grows stronger through
4 structured support. So we
5 appreciate y'all for getting back
6 behind this bill -- I mean, behind
7 this resolution and being able to
8 support us in a major way, because
9 the smaller nonprofits is putting a
10 lot of work on the ground and a lot
11 of times we get unnoticed.

12 A lot of times we get
13 overlooked when it comes to
14 funding, but we are able to steward
15 and be able to be good stewards
16 over the funding that we are able
17 to get. And now, we are building
18 that capacity within the
19 organizations with us. So we
20 appreciate y'all.

21 (Applause.)

22 CHIEF CLERK: Will
23 Ogbonna Hagins, James Buck, III,
24 Reverend Dr. Suzanne Kershaw,

1 2/12/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Reverend Michael Major, please make
3 your way to the podium.

4 (Witnesses approached
5 podium.)

6 MR. HAGINS: My name is
7 Ogbonna Hagins. I'm a fourth
8 generation chattel slavery
9 survivor. Today I rise regarding
10 Resolution 241070. This is not a
11 technical adjustment. This is a
12 constitutional issue. Resolution
13 241070 creates two unequal classes
14 of elected officials in
15 Philadelphia.

16 Class A, City
17 Councilmembers would be permitted
18 to run for another office without
19 resigning. They could retain their
20 seats if they lose. They gain a
21 structural political advantage.
22 Class B, every other elected
23 official in this city must resign
24 to run. They cannot return to

1 2/12/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 their seat if they lose. They
3 remain bound by the Charter's
4 accountability requirements. That
5 is a clear intragovernment
6 classification.

7 Under the Equal
8 Protection clause, classifications
9 must at minimum satisfy rational
10 basis review. But when legislation
11 grants a political privilege to the
12 very officials voting on it, courts
13 examine it more carefully because
14 it raises concerns about self-
15 dealing, incumbent enrichment,
16 voter dilution and reduce public
17 accountability.

18 Even under rational
19 basis review, self-protection is
20 not a legitimate governmental
21 interest. If Resign to Run is
22 truly unfair, then fix it for all
23 elected officials. Do not carve
24 out a special exception for

1 2/12/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 yourselves. Equal protection is
3 not selective. It is universal.
4 Resolution 241070 fails that
5 principle. Ogbonna Hagins. Over
6 and out.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

8 JOHNSON: Chair recognizes
9 Councilmember Isaiah Thomas.

10 COUNCILMAN THOMAS:

11 Thank you, Council President.

12 I just want to thank
13 everybody who provided public
14 comment on Resign to Run. First
15 and foremost, we're not running
16 that bill today so I just want to
17 make sure that that's clear. And
18 secondly, just so that the
19 listening public understands,
20 Resign to Run as amended out of
21 committee does not only apply to
22 City Council. It applies to every
23 city-elected official, not just
24 legislators, but roll officers as

1 2/12/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 well too, every city-elected
3 official besides the Mayor.

4 So I just want to
5 provide clarity, not just for the
6 people who are in chambers today,
7 but the people who are listening
8 online. And I also want to thank
9 members of the public for
10 commenting on the bill because it
11 shows that people are paying
12 attention to the work that's being
13 done.

14 So thank you, Council
15 President. Thank you, colleagues.
16 And sorry to interrupt, Council
17 President.

18 MR. BUCK: Hello. My
19 name is James Buck, III. And I
20 greet you in the name of the one
21 who was, the one who is and the one
22 who is surely to come, my Lord and
23 Savior Jesus Christ. I go to
24 school here in Philadelphia,

1 2/12/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 St. Joe's Prep and I am a senior,
3 and I have recently fully committed
4 to Penn State University where I
5 will go.

6 (Applause.)

7 MR. BUCK: I will go
8 there and I will earn my major in
9 business, and for the rest of my
10 life continue to minister through
11 music at my church, the Grace
12 Baptist Church in Germantown, which
13 is the Shepherd, my dad, the
14 Reverend Dr. James Henry Buck, Jr.,
15 preaches there. I am involved in
16 our youth and I am a Boy Scout
17 there, Boy Scouts of America.

18 Well, I am still waiting
19 to hear back so I can receive my
20 Eagle Scout rank, which is the
21 highest rank in Boy Scouts.

22 (Applause.)

23 MR. BUCK: On behalf of
24 my church, we are a church in the

1 2/12/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 community seeking to win the
3 community's heart, and we have a
4 vision there. And I hope that that
5 place will not only just be a house
6 of worship, but will also be a
7 refuge for people who are looking
8 for help. Thank you.

9 (Applause.)

10 REV. DR. KERSHAW: Good
11 morning. My name is
12 Rev. Dr. Suzanne Kershaw and I
13 serve as an Associate Minister at
14 the Grace Baptist Church in
15 Germantown. I've been a member
16 there for 50 years. And during
17 that time, I can ditto what my
18 brother in the Lord has said in the
19 heart of the community, seeking
20 ever to win the community's heart.

21 Our journey is one that
22 has reached over generations. We
23 have Boy Scouts who became Eagle
24 Scouts, as he spoke about, but we

1 2/12/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 have over 70, I believe, Eagle
3 Scouts in this country of African
4 American descent. But what I want
5 to tell you is that we're not just
6 a church opening up on Sunday
7 morning, but we serve the
8 community. We feed the poor. We
9 do things that uplift.

10 We have Bible Study, not
11 just Bible Study to sit, but Bible
12 Study to go out into the community,
13 be with our neighbors. We pray
14 with our community. We help our
15 community. We also do mission work
16 home and abroad. Here's some of
17 the ladies here who work for
18 Uganda. We sew, make dresses, make
19 clothes for those in other places,
20 but also we do those things every
21 day that you see.

22 We have a pastor who
23 visits the sick, prays for the
24 sick. He reaches out to other

1 2/12/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 people. We have a first lady who
3 works with our women, supports our
4 women. We do the work of not just
5 opening the doors on Sunday, but we
6 touch lives to change lives that
7 God may be glorified, that those
8 who walk this earth may walk in
9 dignity. Thank you.

10 (Applause.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

12 JOHNSON: Chair recognizes
13 Councilmember Cindy Bass.

14 COUNCILWOMAN BASS:

15 Thank you, Mr. President.

16 I just wanted to say
17 that we offered a resolution this
18 morning, recognizing two of our
19 great pastors in the Northwest in
20 honor of their commitment to
21 community and civic leadership.
22 And as we celebrate Black History
23 Month, we recognize that the clergy
24 had a lot to do with the Civil

1 2/12/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Rights Movement and with Black
3 History in this country.

4 So I just didn't want to
5 let it be lost that I know that we
6 had some presentations from Grace
7 Baptist Church, but that Reverend
8 Buck, we wanted to recognize also
9 Reverend Buck and have him say a
10 few words as the Pastor and the
11 honoree this morning from Grace
12 Baptist Church of Germantown.

13 (Applause.)

14 REVEREND BUCK: If I
15 may, Mr. President, thank you so
16 much.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

18 JOHNSON: The floor is yours.

19 REVEREND BUCK: Thank
20 you so much, Councilwoman Bass.
21 Thank all of you who are present
22 here today. It's so good to see
23 democracy in action. I stand on
24 the shoulders of those who have

1 2/12/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 come before me for 138 years here
3 in this city, persons and pastors
4 whose names you may be familiar
5 with, Rev. Dr. Jeremiah A. Wright,
6 Sr., who's the father of Rev.
7 Dr. Jeremiah A. Wright, Jr., who
8 pastored at Grace Baptist Church of
9 Germantown, also the Rev. Dr. G.
10 Daniel Jones. And then my tenure
11 started as the 10th pastor.

12 But I could not be who I
13 am if it were not for many of the
14 members at Grace Baptist Church of
15 Germantown, and equally the
16 community that we are sitting in
17 for 138 plus years. It was at the
18 Kaiser Estate in 1886 that we had
19 the privilege of coming into
20 fruition. And so, now sitting in
21 the community where we are now
22 being led and driven by a wonderful
23 Councilperson, one whom I am
24 unapologetically proud to call a

1 2/12/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 good friend and a leader in our
3 community.

4 As our persons shared
5 this morning, much of the
6 ministries that are taking place,
7 we seek to even approach it in an
8 economic stance. We do seek to do
9 housing. We are in the process of
10 opening up restaurants to hire
11 returning citizens, disabled vets
12 and troubled teenagers. And so,
13 looking at the economic landscape
14 and the geography of where we are,
15 we seek, as my son said, to really
16 have a profound effect on our
17 community as being a church in the
18 heart of the community, seeking
19 ever to win the community's heart.

20 Thank you so much,
21 Councilwoman, for this privilege
22 and this honor, and we look forward
23 to working with you many more times
24 in this opportunity. And thank you

1 2/12/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 so much to all of you who are
3 serving this morning.

4 (Applause.)

5 MR. MAJOR: Like my
6 brother and my friend, my name is
7 Mike Major, the Pastor at Zion
8 Baptist Church of Philadelphia.
9 And like our brother Dr. Buck, I
10 want to thank Councilwoman Bass for
11 this opportunity and this honor for
12 being with us this morning. Thank
13 you, City Council, as well. I want
14 to thank my son, Michael, Jr. is
15 over there as well and Zion
16 members. Our members are called to
17 serve colleagues and friends who
18 are here and a host of folks,
19 family and colleagues online as
20 well.

21 The work that we do here
22 at Zion and a call to serve is not
23 theory. If you want to see a
24 living, breathing example of what

1 2/12/26 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 is possible, look at me. Of course
3 from Zion, the work under Reverend
4 Sullivan happened and I'm a
5 byproduct of that work. And so,
6 our efforts are really to replicate
7 my story on scale. So thank you
8 this morning for the honor and may
9 God continue to bless you.

10 One note, as my sister,
11 Pastor Leslie Small Lewis knows,
12 I'm called to serve, return to
13 build a building. It's now \$20
14 million. And so, I want to this
15 afternoon say we need money. And
16 so, Council, we thank you for your
17 support up to this point but we
18 still need some more money. So
19 when we come knock on your door,
20 please say yes. Thank you so much.

21 (Applause.)

22 CHIEF CLERK: There are
23 no further names for public
24 comment, Council President.

1 2/12/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

3 JOHNSON: That concludes today's
4 public comment period. We will now
5 consider the bills and resolutions
6 on the Second Reading and Final
7 Passage Calendar.

8 Would the Clerk please
9 read the title of Resolution No.
10 260086.

11 CHIEF CLERK: A
12 resolution commending the
13 Pennsylvania General Assembly for
14 including the Working
15 Pennsylvanians Tax Credit in the
16 2025-2026 budget, a crucial new
17 tool to provide essential resources
18 and lift families out of poverty
19 across the Commonwealth.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

21 JOHNSON: Chair recognizes
22 Councilmember Rue Landau for a
23 motion regarding Resolution No.
24 260086.

1 2/12/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:

3 Thank you, Council President.

4 I move for the adoption
5 of the resolution.

6 (Duly seconded.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

8 JOHNSON: It has been moved and
9 properly seconded that Resolution
10 No. 260086 be adopted.

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

13 (Aye.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

15 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

16 (No response.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

21 Would the Clerk please
22 read the title of Resolution No.
23 260089.

24 CHIEF CLERK: A

1 2/12/26 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 resolution calling on the General
3 Assembly of the Commonwealth of
4 Pennsylvania to establish a
5 comprehensive regulatory framework
6 and conduct a formal safety and
7 labor impact review of driverless
8 rideshare vehicles operating in
9 Philadelphia and throughout
10 Pennsylvania.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

12 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes
13 Councilman Jim Harrity for a motion
14 regarding Resolution No. 260089.

15 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:

16 Thank you, Council President.

17 I move for the adoption
18 of the resolution.

19 (Duly seconded.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

21 JOHNSON: It has been moved and
22 properly seconded that Resolution
23 No. 260089 be adopted.

24 All those in favor will

1 2/12/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 signify by saying aye.

3 (Aye.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

5 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

6 (No response.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

8 JOHNSON: The ayes have it. The
9 motion carries. The resolution is
10 adopted.

11 Will the Clerk please
12 read the title of Bill No. 250988.

13 CHIEF CLERK: An
14 ordinance amending Chapter 9-600 of
15 The Philadelphia Code (entitled
16 "Service and Other Businesses") to
17 add business hour restrictions in
18 the Fifth Councilmanic District;
19 and amending Section 14-529 of The
20 Philadelphia Code, entitled "/VDO,
21 Fifth District Overlay District,"
22 to restrict certain commercial uses
23 and make other related changes, all
24 under certain terms and conditions.

1 2/12/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

3 JOHNSON: This bill has been read
4 on two different days. The
5 question now is shall the bill pass
6 finally.

7 Chief Clerk, please call
8 the roll.

9 CHIEF CLERK:
10 Councilmember Phillips.

11 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:
12 Aye.

13 CHIEF CLERK:
14 Councilmember Gilmore Richardson.

15 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE
16 RICHARDSON: Aye.

17 CHIEF CLERK:
18 Councilmember Gauthier.

19 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:
20 Aye.

21 CHIEF CLERK:
22 Councilmember Thomas.

23 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Aye.

24 CHIEF CLERK:

1 2/12/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 Councilmember Jones.

3 COUNCILMAN JONES: Aye.

4 CHIEF CLERK:

5 Councilmember Landau.

6 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:

7 Aye.

8 CHIEF CLERK:

9 Councilmember Lozada.

10 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA:

11 Aye.

12 CHIEF CLERK:

13 Councilmember Young.

14 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Aye.

15 CHIEF CLERK:

16 Councilmember Harrity.

17 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:

18 Aye.

19 CHIEF CLERK:

20 Councilmember O'Rourke.

21 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE:

22 Aye.

23 CHIEF CLERK:

24 Councilmember Driscoll.

1 2/12/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL:

3 Aye.

4 CHIEF CLERK:

5 Councilmember O'Neill.

6 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL:

7 Aye.

8 CHIEF CLERK:

9 Councilmember Squilla.

10 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA:

11 Aye.

12 CHIEF CLERK:

13 Councilmember Bass.

14 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Aye.

15 CHIEF CLERK:

16 Councilmember Ahmad.

17 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:

18 Aye.

19 CHIEF CLERK: And,

20 Council President Johnson.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

22 JOHNSON: Aye. The ayes are 16.

23 The nays are 0. Majority of all

24 members haven't voted in the

1 2/12/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 affirmative, the bill passes.

3 Would the Chief Clerk
4 please read the title of Bill No.
5 250989.

6 CHIEF CLERK: An
7 ordinance amending Title 10 of The
8 Philadelphia Code, entitled
9 "Regulation of Individual Conduct
10 and Activity," by adding a new
11 Section to impose a temporary
12 moratorium on breeding and transfer
13 of puppies, all under certain terms
14 and conditions.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
16 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes
17 Councilmember Cindy Bass for a
18 motion.

19 COUNCILWOMAN BASS:
20 Thank you, Mr. President.
21 I would like to offer an
22 amendment to Bill No. 250989. A
23 copy of the amendment has been
24 circulated to all members of

1 2/12/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 Council and I move for the adoption
3 of the amendment.

4 (Duly seconded.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

6 JOHNSON: It has been moved and
7 properly seconded that the
8 amendment to Bill No. 250989 be
9 adopted.

10 All those in favor
11 signify by saying aye.

12 (Aye.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

14 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

15 (No response.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

22 Will the Clerk please
23 read the title of Bill No. 251031.

24 CHIEF CLERK: An

1 2/12/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 ordinance repealing in its entirety
3 Bill No. 241055 (approved December
4 23, 2024), entitled "An ordinance
5 to amend the Philadelphia Zoning
6 Maps by changing the zoning
7 designations of certain areas of
8 land located within an area bounded
9 by Packer Avenue, Seventh Street,
10 Pattison Avenue, and Darien Street.
11 To amend Title 14 of The
12 Philadelphia Code by adding Section
13 14-541 entitled "/PAK, Packer
14 Avenue Overlay District and making
15 other related changes, all under
16 certain terms and conditions."

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

18 JOHNSON: This bill having been
19 read on two different days, the
20 question now is shall the bill pass
21 finally.

22 Chief Clerk, please call
23 the roll.

24 CHIEF CLERK:

1 2/12/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 Councilmember Phillips.

3 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

4 Aye.

5 CHIEF CLERK:

6 Councilmember Gilmore Richardson.

7 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

8 RICHARDSON: Aye.

9 CHIEF CLERK:

10 Councilmember Gauthier.

11 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:

12 Aye.

13 CHIEF CLERK:

14 Councilmember Thomas.

15 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Aye.

16 CHIEF CLERK:

17 Councilmember Jones.

18 COUNCILMAN JONES: Aye.

19 CHIEF CLERK:

20 Councilmember Landau.

21 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:

22 Aye.

23 CHIEF CLERK:

24 Councilmember Lozada.

1 2/12/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA:

3 Aye.

4 CHIEF CLERK:

5 Councilmember Young.

6 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Aye.

7 CHIEF CLERK:

8 Councilmember Harrity.

9 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:

10 Aye.

11 CHIEF CLERK:

12 Councilmember O'Rourke.

13 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE:

14 Aye.

15 CHIEF CLERK:

16 Councilmember Driscoll.

17 COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL:

18 Aye.

19 CHIEF CLERK:

20 Councilmember O'Neill.

21 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL:

22 Aye.

23 CHIEF CLERK:

24 Councilmember Squilla.

1 2/12/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA:

3 Aye.

4 CHIEF CLERK:

5 Councilmember Bass.

6 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Aye.

7 CHIEF CLERK:

8 Councilmember Ahmad.

9 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:

10 Aye.

11 CHIEF CLERK: And,

12 Council President Johnson.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

14 JOHNSON: Aye. The ayes are 16.

15 The nays are 0. Majority of all

16 members haven't voted in the

17 affirmative, the bill passes.

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

21 CHIEF CLERK: A

22 privileged resolution celebrating

23 and recognizing February 15th as

24 215 Day of Giving, an annual

1 2/12/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 observance that honors
3 Philadelphia's identity while
4 strengthening and highlighting the
5 role of nonprofit organizations
6 servicing underresourced and
7 underserved communities.

8 Introduced by Councilmember Thomas.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

10 JOHNSON: Chair recognizes
11 Councilmember Thomas for a motion
12 on the resolution.

13 COUNCILMAN THOMAS:

14 Thank you. Council President.

15 I move for the adoption
16 of the resolution.

17 (Duly seconded.)

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

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

24 (Aye.)

1 2/12/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

3 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

4 (No response.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

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

11 CHIEF CLERK: A
12 privileged resolution honoring and
13 recognizing the observance of the
14 Holy Month of Ramadan in the City
15 of Philadelphia. Introduced by
16 Councilmember Jones.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

18 JOHNSON: Chair recognizes
19 Councilmember Jones for a motion on
20 the resolution.

21 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank
22 you. I move for its adoption.

23 (Duly seconded.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

1 2/12/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

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

5 All those in favor
6 signify by saying aye.

7 (Aye.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

9 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

10 (No response.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

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

17 CHIEF CLERK: A
18 privileged resolution authorizing
19 the Committee on Housing,
20 Neighborhood Development and The
21 Homeless to hold hearings to
22 examine the Office of Property
23 Assessment, its assessment
24 methodology, appeals process and

1 2/12/26 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 the impact of rising property
3 assessments and property taxes on
4 Philadelphia residents. Introduced
5 by Councilmember Lozada.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

7 JOHNSON: Chair recognizes
8 Councilmember Quetcy Lozada for a
9 motion on the resolution.

10 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA:

11 Thank you, Council President.

12 I move for the adoption
13 of the resolution.

14 (Duly seconded.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

19 All those in favor
20 signify by saying aye.

21 (Aye.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

23 JOHNSON: Anyone opposed?

24 (No response.)

1 2/12/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

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

8 CHIEF CLERK: A
9 privileged resolution authorizing a
10 joint hearing between the Committee
11 on Public Safety and the Committee
12 on Parks, Recreation and Cultural
13 Affairs to examine the presence of
14 firearms in public recreation
15 spaces, the enforcement of existing
16 laws and strategies to reduce gun
17 violence in parks and playgrounds
18 across the City of Philadelphia.
19 Introduced by Councilmember Lozada.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

21 JOHNSON: Chair recognizes
22 Councilmember Quetcy Lozada for a
23 motion on the resolution.

24 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA:

1 2/12/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 Thank you, Council President.

3 I move for the adoption
4 of the resolution.

5 (Duly seconded.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

10 All those in favor
11 signify by saying aye.

12 (Aye.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

14 JOHNSON: Anyone opposed?

15 (No response.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

19 Would the Chief Clerk
20 please read the title of the next
21 resolution.

22 CHIEF CLERK: A
23 privileged resolution honoring and
24 recognizing Reverend Michael A.

1 2/12/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 Major, Sr., during Black History
3 Month for his extraordinary
4 leadership, faith-driven service
5 and unwavering commitment to the
6 renewal, restoration,
7 revitalization of the Nicetown-
8 Tioga community, and celebrating
9 his Installation as Senior Pastor
10 at Zion Baptist Church. Introduced
11 by Councilmember Ahmad on behalf of
12 Councilmember Bass.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

14 JOHNSON: Chair recognizes
15 Councilmember Cindy Bass for a
16 motion on the resolution.

17 COUNCILWOMAN BASS:

18 Thank you, Mr. President.

19 I move for the adoption
20 of this resolution and congratulate
21 Mr. Major, Reverend Major, in
22 advance on his installation.

23 (Duly seconded.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

1 2/12/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

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

5 All those in favor
6 signify by saying aye.

7 (Aye.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

9 JOHNSON: Anyone opposed?

10 (No response.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

14 The Chair recognizes
15 Councilmember Anthony Phillips.

16 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: I
17 thought that was the last one,
18 Council --

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

20 JOHNSON: Okay. Trying to get the
21 jump on Member Jones. I see that.

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

1 2/12/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 CHIEF CLERK: A

3 privileged resolution recognizing
4 and honoring February 20, 2026 as
5 Love Your Pet Day in the City of
6 Philadelphia. Introduced by
7 Councilmember Ahmad on behalf of
8 Councilmember Bass.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

10 JOHNSON: Chair recognizes
11 Councilmember Cindy Bass for a
12 motion on the resolution.

13 COUNCILWOMAN BASS:

14 Thank you, Mr. President.

15 I move for the adoption
16 of this resolution.

17 (Duly seconded.)

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

22 All those in favor
23 signify by saying aye.

24 (Aye.)

1 2/12/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

3 JOHNSON: Anyone opposed?

4 (No response.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

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

11 CHIEF CLERK: A
12 privileged resolution honoring
13 Reverend Dr. J. Henry Buck, Jr.,
14 for his service, visionary ministry
15 and contributions to the community
16 as Senior Pastor of Grace Baptist
17 Church of Germantown in recognition
18 of Black History Month. Introduced
19 by Councilmember Ahmad on behalf of
20 Councilmember Bass.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

22 JOHNSON: Very fitting
23 acknowledgement, Member Bass.

24 Chair recognizes Member Bass for a

1 2/12/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 motion on the resolution.

3 COUNCILWOMAN BASS:

4 Thank you, Mr. President.

5 I move for the adoption
6 of this very important resolution.

7 (Duly seconded.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

12 All those in favor
13 signify by saying aye.

14 (Aye.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

16 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

17 (No response.)

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

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

24 CHIEF CLERK: A

1 2/12/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 privileged resolution honoring
3 Bishop J. Lewis Felton from the
4 Mt. Airy Church of God in Christ
5 for his extraordinary lifetime of
6 service, leadership and lasting
7 contributions to the spiritual,
8 civic and social well-being of the
9 City of Philadelphia during Black
10 History Month. Introduced by
11 Councilmember Ahmad on behalf of
12 Councilmember Bass.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

14 JOHNSON: Chair recognizes
15 Councilmember Cindy Bass for a
16 motion on the resolution.

17 COUNCILWOMAN BASS:

18 Thank you, Mr. President.

19 We move for the adoption
20 of this resolution.

21 (Duly seconded.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

23 JOHNSON: It has been moved and
24 properly seconded that the

1 2/12/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 resolution be adopted.

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

5 (Aye.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

7 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

8 (No response.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

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

15 CHIEF CLERK: A
16 privileged resolution, recognizing
17 February 17, 2026 as the Lunar New
18 Year and celebrating the cultural
19 and historical significance of
20 Philadelphia's Asian American and
21 Pacific Islander communities.
22 Introduced by Councilmember Ahmad.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

24 JOHNSON: Chair recognizes

1 2/12/26 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 Councilmember Dr. Nina Ahmad for a
3 motion on the resolution.

4 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:

5 Thank you, Council President.

6 I move for the adoption
7 of the resolution.

8 (Duly seconded.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

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

15 (Aye.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

17 JOHNSON: Anyone opposed?

18 (No response.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

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

1 2/12/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 CHIEF CLERK: There are
3 no further resolutions, Council
4 President.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

6 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

7 As we prepare for
8 speeches, I just want to take a
9 moment to acknowledge that next
10 week we'll be celebrating the
11 birthday of our Majority Leader
12 Councilmember Katherine Gilmore
13 Richardson.

14 (Applause.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

16 JOHNSON: Any speeches on behalf of
17 the Minority?

18 The Chair recognizes
19 Councilmember Nicolas O'Rourke.

20 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE:

21 Thank you, Mr. President. Really
22 brief today. It is very exciting to
23 find out that 40 degrees is a whole
24 lot better than 17. I think

1 2/12/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 anybody yesterday was feeling the
3 warmth of God smiling on us. Even
4 in the midst of freezing
5 temperatures, there's a big
6 difference in those degrees. It
7 also highlights, I think, if anyone
8 noticed and been riding around the
9 beginning of the melting process of
10 the ice that seemed to not ever
11 want to go away. And so, grateful
12 for that.

13 Today I just want to
14 comment briefly and say that our
15 office actually submitted a letter
16 to the Administration urging the
17 Administration, in light of all
18 this happening, to actually respect
19 and include D.C. 33's leadership in
20 all decisions that shape their jobs
21 and their livelihoods. Folks may
22 not know this, but there obviously
23 was a wonderful, I think makes a
24 lot of sense idea in terms of

1 2/12/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 bringing those who would otherwise
3 not have some employment the
4 opportunity to do same-day-working
5 pay to break up the ice and do that
6 work.

7 Unfortunately, as it
8 came to my attention, there was no
9 communication with the union whose
10 job it is to do that work prior to
11 doing that. And so, I just want to
12 urge, as a member of the body, the
13 Administration to be mindful to
14 always first consider the union-
15 trained labor before making such
16 decisions. This was a unique storm
17 and I don't think anybody can
18 dispute the fact that real
19 leadership called on folks to move
20 urgently.

21 I know I was one of
22 those that wanted to get out of my
23 parking spot and get around. And
24 so, I think it's heard and

1 2/12/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 understood that we needed to move
3 to make something shake and happen.
4 And also, can we do that at the
5 same time by respecting the long-
6 term relationship that we've had
7 with D.C. 33 and honoring their
8 labor and their work prior to
9 making decisions that kind of
10 undermine their power.

11 So again, thank you for
12 the time. I'm also naming this in
13 light of the fact that we, many of
14 us colleagues and all, went over to
15 Member Bass' District to honor the
16 life of Mr. Sapp, who we honored
17 last week of a moment of silence, a
18 standing moment of silence. And we
19 want his memory to continue to be a
20 blessing. So I think all these are
21 important things for us to
22 consider. And just want to make
23 sure that we commented on that in
24 light of all that shifting.

1 2/12/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 Thank you,

3 Mr. President.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

5 JOHNSON: Thank you, Member

6 O'Rourke.

7 Speeches on behalf of

8 the Majority.

9 Chair recognizes

10 Councilmember Dr. Anthony Phillips.

11 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: I

12 just wanted to rise and also just

13 say happy birthday to our

14 incredible Majority Leader. Her

15 birthday is this Saturday and she's

16 been --

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

18 JOHNSON: Valentine's Day.

19 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

20 Valentine's Day. She's been a great

21 help to so many of us on City

22 Council that a lot of us can attest

23 to. And I just want to say happy

24 birthday to you.

1 2/12/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

3 RICHARDSON: Thank you.

4 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

5 And also, just let you know all
6 those in the 9th District, please
7 visit our social media on
8 Phillipdst9 on Facebook and
9 Instagram. We're having a town
10 hall series across our district,
11 which starts this Tuesday at the
12 Oxford Circle, Castor Gardens at
13 the Bushrod Library, from 6:00 to
14 7:30. We're creating a space for
15 dialogue and communication and for
16 an opportunity to hear from you
17 about what's important to your
18 neighborhood.

19 So please check out our
20 Instagram and social media. Also,
21 sign up for our newsletters or call
22 our office at 215-686-3454 to learn
23 when the town hall is near you.

24 Thank you so much,

1 2/12/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 Council President.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

4 JOHNSON: You're welcome.

5 Chair recognizes

6 Councilmember Curtis Jones.

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

9 Today I rise to support
10 a group of professional nurses,
11 nursing assistants, doctors who
12 work on our eyes down at Will's
13 Eye. I had the privilege of being
14 worked on by them four times.
15 First thing I saw when I came out
16 of anesthesia was his wife and she
17 fed me Ginger Ale and cookies --

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

19 JOHNSON: Pause, pause, pause.

20 COUNCILMAN JONES: And
21 those were the best Ginger Ale and
22 cookies, because you don't get to
23 eat before surgery. But I rise for
24 the fact that that institution does

1 2/12/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 so much locally, nationally and
3 internationally for the people
4 here. On their mission statement,
5 they clearly say that we will turn
6 no patient down based on their
7 ability or inability to pay.
8 That's an amazing mission.

9 The people that go there
10 can go there confidently to get the
11 services that they need. Some of
12 the services they provided in the
13 Middle East. When the young ladies
14 were taking off their hijabs and
15 they were shot in the eye by
16 soldiers so that they could later
17 identify them because of the damage
18 to their eye, they flew them here
19 to work on their vision for free.
20 It doesn't get much better than
21 that by way of corporate good
22 neighbors.

23 They are fighting not
24 just for their own wages. They are

1 2/12/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 fighting not just because they have
3 management issues, but all they
4 have to do is look down I-95 and
5 see that hostile takeovers by
6 investors are taking over local
7 hospitals. And when a Crozer
8 closes, it affects Lankenau up here
9 because the overflow, the
10 overcrowding goes right up here,
11 and the quality of service you
12 receive when you go into the
13 emergency room is impacted. So
14 they have a keen eye, no pun
15 intended, on that.

16 We must support them,
17 not just for their individual
18 families, the Squilla family is
19 important to me, but because of all
20 of us and because you can go there
21 and it's a world-renowned facility
22 producing all of these doctors
23 right in our midst, and we should
24 not let corporate scavengers take

1 2/12/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 it over and sell it off for parts.

3 Thank you,

4 Mr. President.

5 (Applause.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

7 JOHNSON: Thank you, Member Jones.

8 Very well said.

9 Chair recognizes

10 Councilmember Cindy Bass.

11 COUNCILWOMAN BASS:

12 Thank you, Mr. President.

13 Today I'm introducing
14 amendments to my bill calling for a
15 moratorium on unlicensed breeding,
16 to strengthen the language and
17 ensure that all provisions are
18 clear and enforceable. The most
19 significant changes clarify that
20 accountability rests with bad
21 actors engaging in illegal
22 breeding, not with social media
23 platforms where content may be
24 posted.

1 2/12/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 Our focus is on those
3 violating the laws, and this
4 revision will make that intent
5 explicit. We have listened
6 carefully to advocates on both
7 sides of the issue, and the updated
8 version reflects thoughtful input
9 and a shared commitment to
10 meaningful, workable reform. This
11 bill represents an important step
12 forward in protecting dogs in our
13 city, and we know it is a part of a
14 broader effort to improve animal
15 welfare in the city of
16 Philadelphia. I want to thank
17 everyone who came out today to
18 testify, who contacted our offices
19 and who worked collaboratively with
20 us to reform this legislation.
21 Your input has made this bill
22 stronger.

23 And it is only fitting
24 that we also recognize and honor

1 2/12/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 February 20, 2026 as Love Your Pet
3 Day here in Philadelphia. Dogs,
4 cats, birds, other companion
5 animals are more than just pets.
6 They are family. And so, we wanted
7 to make that clear as well. Love
8 Your Pet Day is a chance to spend a
9 little extra time walking, playing
10 or simply sitting beside the
11 animals who you love, who give us
12 so much love.

13 It is also a call to
14 support our local shelters, rescue
15 organizations and veterinary
16 professionals and to recommit to
17 responsible, compassionate pet
18 ownership. Let us celebrate the
19 joy pets bring to our city and
20 ensure every animal is treated with
21 care and dignity as they deserve.

22 Now, during Black
23 History Month we honor the powerful
24 role of church leaders who have

1 2/12/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 played a pivotal part in the Civil
3 Rights Movement, preaching justice
4 from the pulpit, organizing in
5 fellowship halls and reminding
6 America that equality is a moral
7 calling. Here in Philadelphia,
8 that legacy lives on.

9 Reverend Michael A.

10 Major, Sr., continues the historic
11 tradition of Zion Baptist Church
12 advancing renewal and opportunity
13 in the Nicetown-Tioga neighborhood
14 through faith and community
15 development.

16 Reverend Dr. J. Henry
17 Buck, Jr. at Grace Baptist Church
18 of Germantown carries forward a
19 vision of ministry that meets both
20 spiritual and practical needs,
21 expanding education, health access
22 and economic opportunity.

23 And Bishop J. Lewis
24 Felton of the Mt. Airy Church of

1 2/12/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 God in Christ exemplifies decades
3 of servant leadership advocating
4 for justice, education and civic
5 engagement across our city. These
6 leaders stand in the proud
7 tradition of clergy who have helped
8 the Civil Rights Movement, proving
9 that the Black church is not only a
10 place of worship, but also a force
11 for transformation.

12 This Black History Month
13 we celebrate their faith, their
14 service and their enduring impact
15 on Philadelphia, and we say thank
16 you.

17 Thank you,
18 Mr. President.

19 (Applause.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

21 JOHNSON: Didn't you leave out
22 Reverend James Buck, Southern
23 Flames Barbecue, world-renowned.

24 COUNCILWOMAN BASS:

1 2/12/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 Well, let me speak on that for just
3 a second, if I may. Some of the
4 best Southern food cooking in the
5 city of Philadelphia is through
6 Southern Flames Barbecue, which is
7 currently at the Chestnut Hill
8 Farmer's Market but moving into a
9 location yet to be, you know, we
10 won't put out the actual address
11 until it's actually confirmed, but
12 a location in I believe the
13 Germantown section of Philadelphia.
14 So we're very, very, very excited
15 about that and we'll keep you
16 posted. And hiring folks who are
17 returning citizens from
18 incarceration, helping folks get --

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

20 JOHNSON: Give him all his flowers.

21 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Yes,
22 absolutely.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

24 JOHNSON: Good job, Member Bass.

1 2/12/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 COUNCILWOMAN BASS:

3 Thank you, Mr. President.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

5 JOHNSON: And that's the Zion

6 Baptist Church, Broad Street?

7 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: The
8 legendary Zion Baptist Church.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

10 JOHNSON: Can we give them a round
11 of applause, y'all.

12 (Applause.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

14 JOHNSON: Good job, Member Bass.

15 Those that know, know. Broad and
16 Venango.

17 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Yes.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

19 JOHNSON: I'm a little guy. I never
20 really get that invite. But one
21 day I'll be there.

22 COUNCILWOMAN BASS:

23 You're welcome to come up.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

1 2/12/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 JOHNSON: But congratulations in
3 all seriousness as we celebrate
4 Black History Month and it's also
5 in the spirit of our Reverend on
6 our Council, Reverend Nicolas
7 O'Rourke as well.

8 Chair recognizes
9 Councilman Jim Harrity.

10 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:
11 Thank you, Council President.

12 I'm also in support of
13 my union brothers and sisters at
14 Will's Eye as well as our Penn grad
15 students, who are also exercising
16 their right to protest for fair
17 wages and fair treatment.

18 And again, I also as the
19 Chair of Labor, sent a letter to
20 the Mayor today. I am also a fan
21 of the same-day pay. I think it
22 gives people opportunity,
23 especially those in recovery, but I
24 believe there needs to be dialogue

1 2/12/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 when you are taking work from
3 another union person, especially if
4 you are paying them more than the
5 union person that works every day.
6 So very concerned about that.

7 And then last, just
8 again please keep Kenneth Kasib
9 Carter in your prayers. He is
10 Senator Street's Executive
11 Director. He was found unconscious
12 in his home last night. Thank God
13 his wife was able to revive him
14 when she got there by CPR. He was
15 then rushed to Jeanes Hospital
16 where he is now.

17 As of late last night,
18 he was still unconscious. He took
19 a bad fall and they're actually
20 more worried about his head trauma
21 than the heart attack. But please
22 keep my brother in prayer. He's a
23 brother Mason. He's just a good
24 dude. Thank you.

1 2/12/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

3 JOHNSON: Thank you, Member
4 Harrity. We will definitely keep
5 Kasib in prayer. Very good
6 gentleman.

7 Chair recognizes
8 Councilmember Dr. Nina Ahmad.

9 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:
10 Thank you, Council President.

11 I first will start by
12 wishing our Majority Leader a very
13 happy birthday. Maybe, may there
14 be cake. I also wanted to thank
15 Councilmember Curtis Jones for the
16 opportunity to co-sponsor the
17 resolution honoring and recognizing
18 the observance of the Holy Month of
19 Ramadan. It is one of the holiest
20 months in Islam and very grateful
21 to him for this acknowledgement of
22 the month for over 300,000 people
23 in Philadelphia.

24 I also wanted to speak

1 2/12/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 on the resolution I introduced
3 recognizing February 17th as Lunar
4 New Year in Philadelphia. For a
5 lot of neighbors, Lunar New Year is
6 not a festival in the abstract.
7 It's a family moment. It's
8 checking in on parents and
9 grandparents. It's the food that
10 takes hours to make, because that's
11 what love looks like in a lot of
12 our households.

13 It's the reset. It's
14 saying it's a brand new year.
15 Let's try again. Let's do better.
16 Let's be healthier. Let's be
17 kinder. Let's have some luck.
18 This year is the Year of the Horse.
19 People talk about energy and
20 determination. To me, it's that
21 steady idea of momentum. You keep
22 moving forward even when the year
23 behind you was a lot. And that's
24 something I think the city

1 2/12/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 understands deeply.

3 It's also something we
4 see in the AAPI communities across
5 Philadelphia every day. People are
6 working, building, raising
7 families, caring for relatives,
8 holding on to language and
9 tradition and still contributing so
10 much to the life of the city.

11 So I thank all my
12 Councilmembers for supporting this
13 resolution. And what it says very
14 plainly, we recognize you, we
15 respect you and we are celebrating
16 with you.

17 Thank you, Council
18 President. I yield back.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

20 JOHNSON: Thank you.

21 Chair recognizes
22 Councilmember Quetcy Lozada.

23 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA:

24 Thank you, Council President.

1 2/12/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 We have heard over the
3 last two years about the need to
4 increase the housing stock in the
5 city of Philadelphia. We're
6 hearing today from the Governor
7 apparently having conversations
8 about housing. And I believe that
9 before we continue those
10 conversations about development, we
11 need to get our own house in order.

12 And that is why today I
13 introduced a resolution authorizing
14 the Committee on Housing and
15 Neighborhood Development and The
16 Homeless to hold hearings on the
17 Office of Property Assessment to
18 examine how property values are
19 assessed, the appeals process and
20 how rising property taxes are
21 affecting Philadelphians.

22 When a home's value goes
23 up, so do the taxes. While this is
24 a financial burden for residents

1 2/12/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 across Philadelphia, especially
3 seniors and low-income homeowners,
4 it is particularly burdensome in
5 the 7th Council District where the
6 median income is only \$38,000.

7 Many residents in the 7th Council
8 District can barely afford their
9 mortgages, let alone the rising
10 cost of property taxes.

11 For many families,
12 especially older residents or those
13 who are on fixed incomes, it can
14 make it hard to stay in their
15 homes. We cannot allow that to
16 happen. In some neighborhoods,
17 home values are increasing
18 significantly because of new
19 development, even though their
20 incomes are not.

21 There is an older couple
22 in my district who have lived in
23 their home for over 30 years. When
24 they first moved in, their property

1 2/12/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 taxes were just a few hundred
3 dollars. Today they are several
4 thousand dollars. Equity in our
5 assessment systems is not optional.
6 It is about fairness in our
7 policies, stabilities in our
8 neighborhoods and dignity for all
9 of our residents.

10 I'm really looking
11 forward to hearing in this hearing
12 how the recommendations of a past
13 audit that called for fairness or
14 would have allowed for fairness
15 have actually been put in place and
16 what we are doing to ensure that
17 those who choose to live in
18 specific neighborhoods can stay in
19 their neighborhoods, regardless of
20 the investment that comes into that
21 community.

22 Thank you, Council
23 President.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

1 2/12/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 JOHNSON: Thank you.

3 Chair recognizes

4 Councilmember Rue Landau.

5 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:

6 Thank you, Council President.

7 Today my resolution
8 commending the Pennsylvania General
9 Assembly for including the Working
10 Pennsylvania's Tax Credit in the
11 2025-26 budget passed right as we
12 gear up for tax season. I'd like
13 to thank those who came out for
14 comment. These tax credits are
15 some of the greatest anti-poverty
16 tools people have at their
17 disposal.

18 More than 1 million
19 Pennsylvanians are eligible for the
20 Working Pennsylvania Tax Credit,
21 which will provide \$193 million in
22 tax relief for working families
23 this year. The Earned Income Tax
24 Credit as well as the Child Tax

1 2/12/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 Credit are putting money back in
3 the pockets of Philadelphians.
4 That can be lifechanging money,
5 especially for the 12% of
6 Pennsylvania households that live
7 below the federal poverty level,
8 and another 28% earn above poverty
9 but still struggle to afford basic
10 needs.

11 These credits
12 consistently lift people out of
13 poverty each year, which is
14 increasingly challenging as our
15 city and country endure an
16 unaffordability crisis that is more
17 harmful to the most vulnerable
18 people. I'd also like to extend my
19 deepest condolences to the family
20 who lost their home recently with
21 the recent ICE raid in Montgomery
22 County that was described by
23 onlookers as a family in shock and
24 a home destroyed after agents broke

1 2/12/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 down the door. This was a visible
3 reminder that Philadelphia and our
4 surrounding counties are already
5 feeling the deep impacts of ICE's
6 reign of terror. Similar raids are
7 happening right here in Philly, and
8 I'm proud that we as a legislative
9 body are speaking out.

10 And finally, I wanted to
11 note the shameful act by the
12 federal government for removing the
13 Rainbow Pride Flag from the
14 Stonewall monument in New York
15 City, the birthplace of what many
16 see as our birthplace of queer
17 rights and the visibility movement
18 across the country. Their attempt
19 to remove queer visibility is
20 short-lived. But the message I
21 want to tell people is that we will
22 not be erased and we will continue
23 to show our pride 365 days a year.
24 Flag or no flag. Thank you.

1 2/12/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 (Applause.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

4 JOHNSON: Thank you.

5 Chair recognizes

6 Councilmember Jeffrey Jay Young.

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

9 I want to also
10 acknowledge Mr. Mike Major. Thank
11 you to my colleague Cindy Bass for
12 recognizing and honoring him again
13 for his work. He's also the
14 President of Called to Serve CDC,
15 which serves the Germantown and
16 Erie commercial corridors right
17 across from Zion Baptist Church,
18 right across from the 8th District,
19 our neighbors.

20 I had the opportunity to
21 feature him on Fox 29 a couple of
22 weeks ago for the amazing work
23 they're doing on that Broad and
24 Venango corridor. So I just want

1 2/12/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 to thank Mr. Major, thank
3 Councilmember Bass for recognizing
4 the work of Mr. Major and Zion
5 Baptist Church and congratulate him
6 on his succession to pastor.

7 Next week, our office in
8 conjunction with the Mayor's Office
9 of Muslim engagement, our
10 Commissioner's Office, our
11 Councilmember Jones office, we will
12 be hosting a Ramadan toy drive
13 during the month of Ramadan.
14 Please reach out to our office with
15 information on where you can donate
16 toys. We're asking for new and
17 unwrapped toys during the month of
18 Ramadan. As my colleague
19 mentioned, there are hundreds of
20 thousands of Muslims who are
21 celebrating in our city. We want
22 to make sure they have a blessed
23 Eid.

24 I want to thank the

1 2/12/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 Committee of Seventy and the
3 Commissioner's Office as well.

4 This past Monday we hosted a civic
5 education program for our community
6 to educate them on how to become a
7 committee person. This was very
8 informative. It was engaging and
9 it allowed residents and community
10 members the opportunity to learn
11 about how to get involved at a
12 grassroots level. That's what this
13 program is about.

14 We need our communities
15 to stay involved in order for us to
16 do our jobs as elected officials.
17 And so, we encourage people to
18 continue to get involved civically,
19 whether it is as a committee person
20 or as a block captain, as a
21 nonprofit executive. We saw a
22 bunch of folks here today who are
23 grassroots community organizers. A
24 few of them are in the 5th Council

1 2/12/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 District today.

3 And, Mr. President, I do
4 have a couple of bills that are on
5 Final Passage today. We did hold
6 one, but these bills are to improve
7 the quality of life of residents in
8 the 5th Council District, right.

9 So particularly the one bill
10 regarding demolitions, this is
11 about preserving housing,
12 preserving affordable housing in
13 our district.

14 In August, there was an
15 article in the Inquirer that said
16 there was 121% increase in the
17 price of a newly-constructed home
18 versus one that was already
19 existing, right. So that's what
20 this is about. This is about
21 creating naturally-occurring
22 affordable housing in our
23 communities, right. It's a term
24 that folks like to throw around

1 2/12/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 now. So that's what this bill
3 does. And I'm looking forward to
4 continuing to work with all
5 stakeholders to make sure that this
6 bill is more fair.

7 I'd also like to thank
8 my colleagues today for passing
9 Bill No. 250998, which will protect
10 the public health, safety and
11 welfare of the residents in the 5th
12 Council District and all patrons of
13 small businesses on the commercial
14 corridor where it applies. We've
15 consulted and connected with the
16 community on this bill, and this
17 bill defines specifically and
18 clearly what a commercial
19 establishment is on those
20 commercial corridors.

21 So I want to thank the
22 community leaders who testified
23 today. They live with this issue
24 each and every day. We heard from

1 2/12/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 our Ward leader in the 8th Ward,
3 and she alluded to we have to make
4 sure that we're able to enforce
5 these types of legislation, because
6 the things that they have to live
7 with each and every day, we
8 shouldn't have to endure that in
9 our communities here in the city of
10 Philadelphia.

11 This bill is about the
12 need for our businesses and our
13 community to just be a little bit
14 more responsible and it sets those
15 guidelines on how to act
16 responsibly in our communities, on
17 our commercial corridors. And so,
18 we have over a projected billion
19 dollar budget surplus, right. So I
20 hope the city can properly enforce
21 these laws -- we can properly fund
22 the efforts to enforce these laws.
23 I hope we can fund those grassroots
24 organizations that are on the

1 2/12/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 ground working to improve our
3 quality of life for our
4 neighborhoods each and every day.

5 So, Mr. President, I
6 want to continue to fight for our
7 community, for our neighbors,
8 because their quality of life
9 matters, right. And to any
10 resident, any patron listening, if
11 your community is enduring these, I
12 would say, unscrupulous business
13 practices, please reach out to our
14 office. We will work with you to
15 ensure that we can we get those
16 businesses to act responsibly.

17 These businesses are
18 open literally 24/7 selling
19 narcotics. This is worse than the
20 open-air drug market that used to
21 be on the corners because they have
22 a legal cover. So we really have
23 to figure out how to tackle this
24 issue holistically. And I want to

1 2/12/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 thank my colleague Katherine
3 Gilmore Richardson, who is
4 continuing to work on this issue.

5 And so, last but
6 certainly not least, Mr. President,
7 I want to wish my wife a Happy
8 Valentine's Day and ask her, Please
9 be my Valentine this year.

10 Thank you so much,
11 Mr. President.

12 (Applause.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

14 JOHNSON: This brouhaha just got
15 husband of the year. That's what's
16 up. I love that though. That's
17 what it's all about.

18 Chair recognizes
19 Councilmember Isaiah Thomas.

20 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: This
21 brouhaha putting the pressure on me,
22 man. I was just trying to
23 encourage people to donate to the
24 grassroots nonprofit organizations

1 2/12/26 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 because of the resolution today.

3 But I will say -- so, no, in all
4 seriousness, the organizations that
5 came up here today, organizations
6 who've been doing the work across
7 the city of Philadelphia, these are
8 the type of organizations where
9 \$250, \$500, it really goes a long
10 way.

11 So the effort this year
12 is to support 10 grassroots
13 nonprofit organizations. Every
14 donation that's made will go to
15 those organizations. I'm pledging
16 myself to donate to the effort on
17 Sunday for 215 Day of Giving.

18 Thank you, Council
19 President. Thank you, colleagues.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

21 JOHNSON: Thank you very much. I
22 look forward to seeing that on your
23 budget list.

24 Chair now recognizes my

1 2/12/26 - STATED - ADJOURNMENT

2 Majority Whip, the outstanding,
3 hard-working advocate for all young
4 people here in the city of
5 Philadelphia, Councilmember Isaiah
6 Thomas for a motion to adjourn.

7 COUNCILMAN THOMAS:

8 Thank you, Mr. President. Happy
9 Valentine's Day to everybody. And
10 I move that Council stands
11 adjourned until Thursday, February
12 19, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

13 (Duly seconded.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

15 JOHNSON: It has been moved and
16 properly seconded that Council
17 stand adjourned until Thursday,
18 February 19, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

19 All those in favor
20 signify by saying aye.

21 (Aye.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

23 JOHNSON: Anyone opposed?

24 (No response.)

1 2/12/26 - STATED - ADJOURNMENT

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

6 - - -

7 (Stated Meeting
8 adjourned at 12:00 p.m.)

9 - - -

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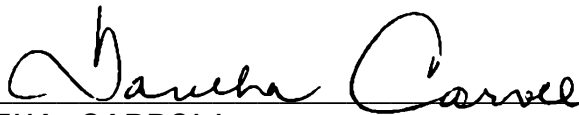
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C E R T I F I C A T I O N

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



TANEHA CARROLL
Court Reporter - Notary Public

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\$	13 90:4,6	110:1 111:1 112:1 113:1
\$193 156:21	138 101:2,17	114:1 115:1 116:1 117:1
\$2 62:14	14 83:5 114:11	118:1 119:1 120:1 121:1
\$20 104:13	14-529 108:19	122:1 123:1 124:1 125:1
\$240 60:18,21 61:12,22 62:5,22	14-541 114:13	126:1 127:1 128:1 129:1
\$250 167:9	15 75:20	130:1 131:1 132:1 133:1
\$3.5 61:19	15th 18:9 117:23	134:1 135:1 136:1 137:1
\$30,000 90:2	16 16:5 111:22 117:14	138:1 139:1 140:1 141:1
\$38,000 154:6	17 29:12 130:17 132:24	142:1 143:1 144:1 145:1
\$500 167:9	17th 151:3	146:1 147:1 148:1 149:1
\$800 62:19	1886 101:18	150:1 151:1 152:1 153:1
\$805 60:20	19 168:12,18	154:1 155:1 156:1 157:1
0	19134 25:2	158:1 159:1 160:1 161:1
0 111:23 117:15	1976 64:21	162:1 163:1 164:1 165:1
1	1990s 65:3	166:1 167:1 168:1
1 68:16,17,18 156:18	2	20 27:12 69:4 84:2 126:4 143:2
10 112:7 167:12	2 41:19 68:15	20,000 55:15
10-year 82:12	2/12/26 3:1 4:1 5:1 6:1 7:1	2000 54:13
100 73:24	8:1 9:1 10:1 11:1 12:1	2002 57:23
100,000 83:5,7,8	13:1 14:1 15:1 16:1 17:1	2007 52:20
1000 55:11	18:1 19:1 20:1 21:1 22:1	2012 82:14,15
105 68:15	23:1 24:1 25:1 26:1 27:1	2014 52:20
10:00 168:12,18	28:1 29:1 30:1 31:1 32:1	2020 52:23 58:16 83:13
10th 101:11	33:1 34:1 35:1 36:1 37:1	2024 54:13 114:4
117 68:14	38:1 39:1 40:1 41:1 42:1	2025-2026 105:16
11:00 41:23 42:8	43:1 44:1 45:1 46:1 47:1	2025-26 156:11
12 68:5	48:1 49:1 50:1 51:1 52:1	2026 6:19 7:3,9 27:12 29:12 43:2 83:23 126:4 130:17 143:2 168:12,18
12% 157:5	53:1 54:1 55:1 56:1 57:1	2029 16:5
121% 162:16	58:1 59:1 60:1 61:1 62:1	20s 88:3
	63:1 64:1 65:1 66:1 67:1	21 87:21
	68:1 69:1 70:1 71:1 72:1	215 18:10 84:14 85:8 87:4, 16 89:6,18 117:24 167:17
	73:1 74:1 75:1 76:1 77:1	215-686-3454 137:22
	78:1 79:1 80:1 81:1 82:1	215dayofgiving.com 87:5
	83:1 84:1 85:1 86:1 87:1	22 83:24
	88:1 89:1 90:1 91:1 92:1	
	93:1 94:1 95:1 96:1 97:1	
	98:1 99:1 100:1 101:1	
	102:1 103:1 104:1 105:1	
	106:1 107:1 108:1 109:1	

23 114:4	126:1 127:1 128:1 129:1 130:1 131:1	7:30 137:14
24-hour 66:3		7th 154:5,7
24/7 165:18	3	8
241055 114:3		
241056 34:21 51:2 70:19	3 68:16,17	80 55:6
241070 34:21 51:2 70:19 92:10,13 94:4	3-day-old 75:15	81% 85:18
25 62:23	30 36:12 55:7 69:4 154:23	8th 159:18 164:2
250768 34:22	300,000 150:22	
250807 34:22	3000 19:16 85:17	9
250843 34:22 70:19	33 135:7	9-600 108:14
250917 34:22	33's 133:19	90 48:11,13 84:4 85:24
250980 34:23 79:22 82:8	3400 24:24	90s 3:24
250988 34:18 65:21 108:12	35 88:2	95% 59:9
250989 34:23 46:12 48:3 54:7 68:8 70:20 73:14 112:5,22 113:8	365 158:23	9th 137:6
250998 163:9	4	A
251025 34:23	40 132:23	a.m. 168:12,18
251031 34:18 113:23	40-year 82:11	AAPI 152:4
251097 34:23 70:20	4000 83:17	abandon 39:5
251098 30:19 70:19	444-321 87:4	abandoned 45:8 75:19
251108 31:14	5	ability 139:7
26 47:2 83:4	5 6:19 7:3,9	Abraham 12:23 14:16
260086 34:18 105:10,24 106:10	5% 49:17 59:6 85:19	abroad 98:16
260089 34:18 106:23 107:14,23	50 97:16	absence 7:21 8:8,18
28% 157:8	50-year-old 58:8	absentee 80:24
29 159:21	5th 65:23 161:24 162:8 163:11	absolutely 146:22
2ND 33:1 34:1 105:1 106:1 107:1 108:1 109:1 110:1 111:1 112:1 113:1 114:1 115:1 116:1 117:1 118:1 119:1 120:1 121:1 122:1 123:1 124:1 125:1	6	absorbing 56:12
	6:00 137:13	abstract 151:6
	7	abuse 71:10
	70 60:16 98:2	access 144:21
		accomplished 40:24
		accountability 74:16 78:16,22 81:11 93:4,17 141:20

ACCT 45:8,13 46:10 47:19 54:10,19,24 68:5,11 69:5 72:17 73:8 74:4 75:21 76:11 82:13,15 83:4,18 acknowledge 15:4 132:9 159:10 acknowledgement 127:23 150:21 acknowledging 4:21 act 64:21,24 158:11 164:15 165:16 action 10:4 35:10 100:23 actions 10:15 45:5 actively 54:20 Activists 39:6 Activity 112:10 actors 141:21 actual 43:24 146:10 Adam 43:5 48:19,21 add 41:9 108:17 added 9:15 11:3 addicted 63:20 64:8 adding 112:10 114:12 additional 34:4 117:19 address 46:19 48:8 51:2 59:18 78:19 81:21 146:10 addressed 58:15 adjacent 66:16 adjourn 168:6 adjourned 168:11,17 ADJOURNMENT 168:1 adjustment 92:11 administer 69:15 Administration 17:8 133:16,17 134:13 adopt 60:5 78:18	adoptable 56:3 adopted 55:19 58:20 69:9 106:10,20 107:23 108:10 113:9 118:21 119:7 120:4,13 121:18 122:4 123:9,18 125:4,13 126:21 127:7 128:11,20 130:2,11 131:12,21 adopters 56:10,16 adopting 48:9 adoption 55:7 58:5 72:15 106:4 107:17 113:2 118:15 119:22 121:12 123:3 124:19 126:15 128:5 129:19 131:6 adoptions 55:18 adopts 40:12 Adult 47:12 advance 61:8,10 124:22 advancing 144:12 advantage 51:23 92:21 advocate 45:18 80:9 168:3 advocates 142:6 advocating 42:23 145:3 affairs 12:2 22:4 122:13 affected 56:14 affecting 66:18 153:21 affects 37:23 140:8 affirmative 112:2 117:17 afford 45:4 154:8 157:9 affordable 80:6 162:12,22 African 98:3 afternoon 54:5 70:5 104:15 age 87:21 agenda 9:15,18 11:3	agent 81:22 agents 157:24 aggrandizing 87:15 agree 37:18 ahead 51:15 Ahmad 19:6 26:4,6,15 28:23,24 111:16,17 117:8,9 124:11 126:7 127:19 129:11 130:22 131:2,4 150:8,9 aid 80:4 Airy 28:11 129:4 144:24 aisle 42:24 AKC 38:3,18 74:13,19 alarming 51:11 Ale 138:17,21 alive 56:17 Allan 58:17 allies 39:18 allowed 59:17 155:14 161:9 alluded 164:3 alongside 80:4 Amanda 43:4,11 amazing 139:8 159:22 ambiguity 53:2 ambition 5:11 ambulance 23:11 Amen 6:8,9 amend 114:5,11 amended 9:18 31:22 34:24 94:20 113:18 amending 108:14,19 112:7 amendment 17:5 30:24 31:15,20 112:22,23
---	---	---

113:3,8 amendments 9:21,24 141:14 America 64:4 96:17 144:6 American 29:15 46:2 53:17 71:22 98:4 130:20 amid 5:7 amount 51:13 74:3 analyst 80:2 and/or 63:19 anesthesia 138:16 animal 45:18 46:8 72:3 76:10 77:14 142:14 143:20 animals 43:21 45:4,6 54:21 55:24 56:17 57:7 68:21 71:10 79:4 143:5, 11 announcement 23:18,19 annual 18:10 117:24 anonymous 81:13 Anthony 14:11 125:15 136:10 anti-poverty 156:15 antibodies 44:9 apparently 153:7 appeals 21:14 120:24 153:19 appears 35:21 applause 13:3 45:22 54:2 57:9 60:7 67:15 70:3 76:5 79:7 84:6 87:9 91:21 96:6,22 97:9 99:10 100:13 103:4 104:21 132:14 141:5 145:19 147:11,12 159:2 166:12 Applebaum 37:11,16,17, 18	applies 46:14 94:22 163:14 apply 49:22 94:21 appointed 57:24 appointment 16:2 approach 47:4 73:20 102:7 approached 37:14 43:8 57:15 67:21 92:4 approaches 67:2 Approval 6:1,17 7:1 approved 7:3,9,18 30:23 49:22 114:3 April 37:10 40:5 83:3 Aramingo 24:24 arbitrary 59:14 area 55:8,12 114:8 areas 114:7 argument 52:10,17 arise 9:5 11:4 arose 10:15 arrangements 31:7 arrive 56:5 article 162:15 Ashe 6:7 Asian 29:15 130:20 asks 51:18 aspiring 81:4 Assembly 49:3 60:24 105:13 107:3 156:9 assessed 153:19 assessment 21:13 120:23 153:17 155:5 assessments 21:16 121:3 assistance 75:14	assistants 138:11 Associate 97:13 association 63:12 66:15 at-arms 13:18 attached 31:10,23 attack 23:7 149:21 attempt 71:13 158:18 attend 11:24 attendants 69:11,16 attendees 68:3 attention 52:16 63:5 95:12 134:8 attest 136:22 attitude 36:20 audit 155:13 August 162:14 Authority 62:6 authorizing 9:20 21:8,23 24:20 31:5 120:18 122:9 153:13 automate 50:12 Avenue 24:24 114:9,10,14 average 60:19,21 61:23 avoid 81:10 avoidable 75:10 award 88:15,17,18 aye 7:11,12 11:8,9 33:6,7 106:12,13 108:2,3 109:12,16,20,23 110:3,7, 11,14,18,22 111:3,7,11, 14,18,22 113:11,12 115:4,8,12,15,18,22 116:3,6,10,14,18,22 117:3,6,10,14 118:23,24 120:6,7 121:20,21 123:11,12 125:6,7 126:23,24 128:13,14 130:4,5 131:14,15
---	--	--

168:20,21	bear 89:2	birth 38:19 44:12 75:9
ayes 7:17 11:14 33:12	beautiful 88:11	birthday 132:11 136:13, 15,24 150:13
106:18 108:8 111:22	begin 36:9	birthplace 158:15,16
113:17 117:14 119:6	beginning 88:17 133:9	Bishop 28:10 129:3 144:23
120:12 122:3 123:17	begins 38:21	bit 164:13
125:12 127:6 128:19	behalf 8:6 11:20 15:17 26:4,16 46:2 89:17 96:23 124:11 126:7 127:19 129:11 132:16 136:7	Black 26:20 28:3,16 85:12 99:22 100:2 124:2 127:18 129:9 143:22 145:9,12 148:4
130:10 131:20	behavior 76:22	blanket 46:15
B	benefit 71:18	Blatstein 37:11 40:8,9
back 4:8 38:24 50:6,14 60:24 62:16,17,21 63:4 69:13 86:21 87:24 91:5 96:19 152:18 157:2	biased 72:15	bless 104:9
backyard 39:20 43:14 44:19 76:13	Bible 98:10,11	blessed 160:22
bad 141:20 149:19	big 42:10 90:11 133:5	blessing 135:20
ballot 53:2	biggest 57:4 86:6	blight 41:6
ban 41:5 73:18	bike 62:9	block 19:16 84:21 161:20
bans 65:7	bill 9:23 10:6,8,9 16:7 24:13,18 25:5 30:18 31:10 37:23 39:11,22 40:10,14,21 41:17,18,20 42:4 45:21 46:12,14 48:3, 5,11 54:7 55:20 58:21 59:2,18 60:4 65:8,21 66:10 68:7,10 73:13 78:8 79:22 91:6 94:16 95:10 108:12 109:3,5 112:2,4, 22 113:8,18,23 114:3,18, 20 117:17 141:14 142:11, 21 162:9 163:2,6,9,16,17 164:11	blue 41:12
Baptist 27:5,24 96:12 97:14 100:7,12 101:8,14 103:8 124:10 127:16 144:11,17 147:6,8 159:17 160:5	billion 61:19 62:14 164:18	board 16:4 57:2 61:16
Barbecue 145:23 146:6	bills 9:21,24 14:1,8,21,22 15:1 16:1 17:1 18:1 19:1 20:1 21:1 22:1,18 23:1 24:1 25:1,13,21 26:1,4 27:1 28:1 29:1 30:9 32:4, 17 33:1,3,13,19,22 34:1, 4,8,14,19 35:4 40:16 41:2 70:18 105:5 162:4,6	bodies 69:17
barely 49:16 154:8	birds 143:4	body 67:7,10 134:12 158:9
based 139:6		bonds 62:19
basic 81:19,22 157:9		born 74:24
basis 93:10,19		born-and- 45:16
Bass 6:21,22 26:2,5,16 40:10 69:23 99:13,14 100:20 103:10 111:13,14 112:17,19 117:5,6 124:12,15,17 126:8,11,13 127:20,23,24 128:3 129:12,15,17 141:10,11 145:24 146:21,24 147:2, 7,14,17,22 159:11 160:3		borrowed 62:20
Bass' 135:15		Bosses 86:21
		boul 166:14,21
		bound 93:3
		bounded 114:8
		box 53:2
		Boy 96:16,17,21 97:23
		branch 67:9
		brand 151:14

break 134:5 breathing 23:13 103:24 bred 74:8 76:23 breed 38:9 39:13 72:5 82:24 breeder 38:3 39:20 44:6 75:13 breeders 39:9,17 45:6 46:4,17,22 47:4,18 78:7, 15 breeding 37:19,21 38:6, 10 40:2 43:14 44:19 48:6 55:22 68:7 71:15,20 75:11 76:13,15 78:23 112:12 141:15,22 breeds 72:6 Brian 25:10 bridges 5:17 briefly 48:4 133:14 bring 60:13 143:19 bringing 134:2 Broad 62:24 66:16 89:21 147:6,15 159:23 broader 142:14 broke 157:24 Brooks 8:19 16:17 59:3 brother 97:18 103:6,9 149:22,23 brothers 148:13 brought 44:4 75:22 83:4 Buck 27:21 79:13 91:23 95:18,19 96:7,14,23 100:8,9,14,19 103:9 127:13 144:17 145:22 budget 49:6 88:21 105:16 156:11 164:19 167:23 build 5:16,19 55:5 104:13	building 90:3,23 91:17 104:13 152:6 built 40:23 bull 72:12 bulls 68:15 83:16 bully 72:5 73:5 82:18 bunch 53:11 161:22 burden 153:24 burdens 47:11 burdensome 154:4 Bureau 47:12 bureaucratic 71:4 Bushrod 137:13 business 6:17 7:20 11:17 12:7 13:16 14:7 29:22 33:17 96:9 108:17 165:12 businesses 41:21,22 85:15 108:16 163:13 164:12 165:16,17 buy 83:9 buyers 37:24 byproduct 104:5	called 34:15 35:20 60:12 103:16 104:12 134:19 155:13 159:14 calling 89:22 107:2 141:14 144:7 campaign 53:7 55:14 campaigning 52:2 canine 76:22 capacity 90:23 91:18 captain 161:20 capture 4:17 care 38:22 43:18 45:4 63:22 143:21 careers 61:10 carefully 93:13 142:6 caring 152:7 carries 11:15 33:13 106:19 108:9 144:18 Carter 23:6 149:9 carve 93:23 cash 85:24 Castor 137:12 catastrophic 83:14 cats 143:4 Caucus 16:24 causing 47:20 CDC 159:14 celebrate 99:22 143:18 145:13 148:3 celebrating 18:8 27:3 29:13 117:22 124:8 130:18 132:10 152:15 160:21 celebration 84:13 87:3 center 62:8,12 90:4 CEO 89:14
C		
Brooks 8:19 16:17 59:3 brother 97:18 103:6,9 149:22,23 brothers 148:13 brought 44:4 75:22 83:4 Buck 27:21 79:13 91:23 95:18,19 96:7,14,23 100:8,9,14,19 103:9 127:13 144:17 145:22 budget 49:6 88:21 105:16 156:11 164:19 167:23 build 5:16,19 55:5 104:13	C-SECTION 44:13 Cairo 67:18 76:6,8 cake 150:14 Calendar 9:1,7 10:1,7,10, 11,16 17:12 18:20 19:22 20:9 21:21 22:13 27:9,18 28:7,21 29:20 33:15,18, 24 34:5,10,20 105:7 113:20 117:20 Calendars 34:17 35:9 call 101:24 103:22 109:7 114:22 137:21 143:13	

certified 71:19	23 16:22 17:2 18:4,7 19:10,14,24 21:4,7,22 24:17,19 25:8 26:12,17 27:10,19 28:8 29:7,10 30:13,15 32:18 33:3 37:6, 9 40:4 43:3 50:20 57:10 67:16 79:8 91:22 104:22 105:11 106:24 108:13 109:7,9,13,17,21,24 110:4,8,12,15,19,23 111:4,8,12,15,19 112:3,6 113:24 114:22,24 115:5, 9,13,16,19,23 116:4,7,11, 15,19,23 117:4,7,11,21 119:8,11 120:14,17 122:5,8 123:19,22 125:22 126:2 127:8,11 128:21,24 130:12,15 131:22 132:2	city 3:3 4:23 5:5 11:21 12:3,19,21 13:2,9 20:4 22:9 27:13 28:16 30:21 37:3 39:24 50:9 52:4 53:13 56:21 57:22,24 58:10,13,23 59:10 62:8, 12 64:9,14 66:19 71:9 72:3,4 73:21 74:5 76:14, 18 77:10 79:4 81:12,18 84:8,18 85:18,23 86:5,7, 12,16 87:8,20 90:17 92:16,23 94:22 101:3 103:13 119:14 122:18 126:5 129:9 136:21 142:13,15 143:19 145:5 146:5 151:24 152:10 153:5 157:15 158:15 160:21 164:9,20 167:7 168:4 city's 54:11 city-elected 94:23 95:2 civic 28:15 63:11 66:14 99:21 129:8 145:4 161:4 civically 161:18 Civil 99:24 144:2 145:8 claim 74:14 clarify 141:19 clarity 95:5 Clark 87:10,12 Class 92:16,22 classes 92:13 classification 93:6 classifications 93:8 classifying 37:21 clause 93:8 clean 69:3 clear 52:22 71:7 83:11 84:2 93:5 94:17 141:18 143:7
Chair 6:12,20 7:21 8:10, 12,21,24 11:16 12:7 13:17 14:10 15:9 16:10 17:14 18:21 20:10,18 22:14,22 24:3,10 25:9,17, 24 28:22 29:24 32:9 34:5 50:24 94:8 99:12 105:21 107:12 112:16 118:10 119:18 121:7 122:21 124:14 125:14 126:10 127:24 129:14 130:24 132:18 136:9 138:5 141:9 148:8,19 150:7 152:21 156:3 159:5 166:18 167:24	Child 156:24 children 62:16 choose 155:17 Christ 28:11 95:23 129:4 145:2 church 3:10 27:5 28:2,11 96:11,12,24 97:14 98:6 100:7,12 101:8,14 102:17 103:8 124:10 127:17 129:4 143:24 144:11,17, 24 145:9 147:6,8 159:17 160:5 Cindy 6:21 26:2,5,16 69:23 99:13 112:17 124:15 126:11 129:15 141:10 159:11 Circle 86:18 137:12 circulated 9:8 112:24 circumstance 72:8 circumstances 35:23 cities 57:4,5 citizens 55:2 74:5 102:11 146:17	
challenges 46:10 77:7 challenging 157:14 chamber 52:18 chambers 11:19 95:6 champion 38:7 61:13 72:13 chance 45:14 65:13 143:8 change 99:6 Changemaker 88:14 changing 53:18 114:6 Chapter 108:14 Charles 43:5 Charlie 45:24 Charter 31:2,16 Charter's 93:3 Chase 13:7 chattel 92:8 check 137:19 checking 151:8 Cherelle 62:13 Chestnut 146:7 Chief 13:19,20,24 15:20,		

clearest 51:20 clergy 4:6 99:23 145:7 Clerk 13:19,20,24 15:20, 23 16:22 17:2 18:4,7 19:10,14,24 21:4,7,22 24:17,19 25:8 26:12,17 27:10,19 28:8 29:7,10 30:13,15 32:19 33:3 37:7, 9 40:4 43:3 50:20 57:10 67:16 79:8 91:22 104:22 105:8,11 106:21,24 108:11,13 109:7,9,13,17, 21,24 110:4,8,12,15,19, 23 111:4,8,12,15,19 112:3,6 113:22,24 114:22,24 115:5,9,13,16, 19,23 116:4,7,11,15,19, 23 117:4,7,11,18,21 119:8,11 120:14,17 122:5,8 123:19,22 125:22 126:2 127:8,11 128:21,24 130:12,15 131:22 132:2 clients 80:11 Clinical 71:22 close 42:7 closes 140:8 clothes 98:19 club 46:2,6 71:22 74:17 co-introduced 19:5 co-introducing 16:16 co-sponsor 150:16 co-sponsors 59:3 Coalition 86:17 cocker 68:18 Code 108:15,20 112:8 114:12 codes 81:19 collaboratively 142:19 colleague 26:8 159:11 160:18 166:2	colleagues 8:5 13:5 17:19 19:2 20:14 95:15 103:17, 19 135:14 163:8 167:19 Collie 68:18 commending 49:3 105:12 156:8 comment 35:1,6,7 36:1 37:1 38:1 39:1 40:1 41:1 42:1 43:1 44:1 45:1 46:1 47:1 48:1 49:1 50:1 51:1 52:1 53:1 54:1 55:1 56:1 57:1 58:1 59:1 60:1 61:1 62:1 63:1 64:1 65:1 66:1 67:1 68:1 69:1 70:1 71:1 72:1 73:1 74:1 75:1 76:1 77:1 78:1 79:1 80:1 81:1 82:1 83:1 84:1 85:1 86:1 87:1 88:1 89:1 90:1 91:1 92:1 93:1 94:1,14 95:1 96:1 97:1 98:1 99:1 100:1 101:1 102:1 103:1 104:1, 24 105:4 133:14 156:14 commented 135:23 commenters 35:23 commenting 95:10 comments 37:4 70:17 commercial 55:22 63:10 66:2 67:3 108:22 159:16 163:13,18,20 164:17 commercially-favored 71:19 Commission 57:23 Commissioner's 160:10 161:3 commitment 5:12 26:23 38:5 99:20 124:5 142:9 committed 90:22 96:3 committee 16:9 21:9,24 22:2 25:7 30:4,8,16 32:5 66:13 94:21 120:19 122:10,11 153:14 161:2,	7,19 committees 29:23 33:19 common 5:13 commonsense 64:14 73:20 Commonwealth 49:12 105:19 107:3 communication 82:4 134:9 137:15 communications 13:1,16, 22 14:3 communities 18:16 29:16 80:5,21 85:13 118:7 130:21 152:4 161:14 162:23 164:9,16 community 3:10,12 27:3, 23 45:13 57:21 80:12,15 84:21 85:5 87:24 88:5,8 90:4,8 97:2,19 98:8,12, 14,15 99:21 101:16,21 102:3,17,18 124:8 127:15 144:14 155:21 161:5,9,23 163:16,22 164:13 165:7, 11 community's 97:3,20 102:19 companion 52:5 143:4 compassion 79:3 compassionate 143:17 compensation 53:14 complete 43:17 complicated 49:21 comprehensive 107:5 compromise 53:12 comrade 62:12 concern 35:7 concerned 149:6 concerns 46:5 76:20 93:14
--	--	--

conclude 36:15 concludes 105:3 conditions 25:3 48:8 108:24 112:14 114:16 condolences 157:19 conduct 47:16 107:6 112:9 confidently 139:10 confirmed 146:11 confirming 16:2 conflicting 5:8 conflicts 47:11 congenital 43:16 congratulate 124:20 160:5 congratulations 148:2 conjunction 160:8 connected 163:15 consequences 43:15 44:3 76:13 77:3 consideration 9:19 17:12 19:22 33:2,17 76:4 considered 9:14 31:9,22 consistent 55:9,12 consistently 157:12 constitutional 92:12 Construction 86:24 consulted 163:15 contact 81:14 contacted 142:18 content 141:23 contents 60:5 continue 61:6,7,9 96:10 104:9 135:19 153:9 158:22 161:18 165:6	continues 61:18,24 144:10 continuing 163:4 166:4 contract 38:21 contracts 38:20 contributed 76:16 contributes 37:19 contributing 46:18 152:9 contributions 27:23 28:14 127:15 129:7 contributory 37:23 control 72:21 convene 48:4 conversation 71:24 conversations 153:7,10 cookies 138:17,22 cooking 146:4 copy 112:23 corner 42:4 corners 165:21 corporate 139:21 140:24 Corporation 80:13 corridor 66:17 159:24 163:14 corridors 66:2 67:3 159:16 163:20 164:17 cost 41:9 154:10 council 3:4,5,23 5:7,15 6:10,11,14,15 7:5,13,16 8:3,9,20 9:6,8,16 10:15, 20 11:6,10,13,21,22 12:21 13:2,9,11,12,24 14:5,13,23,24 15:8,13,18 16:6,13,20 17:9,13,18,23 18:2,17 19:8,19,23 20:6, 13,16,21 21:2,18 22:10, 20 23:2,15,20,23 24:8,15 25:4,15,22 26:7,10 27:6,	15 28:4,18 29:2,5,17 30:11,24 31:11,24 32:6,7, 16,21,24 33:4,8,11 34:2 35:2,10 37:3 46:12 48:3, 21 54:5 57:20,24 58:11, 15,23 64:9,15 65:23 79:17 82:8 84:9 86:12 94:7,11,22 95:14,16 99:11 100:17 103:13 104:16,24 105:2,20 106:3,7,14,17 107:11,16, 20 108:4,7 109:2 111:20, 21 112:15 113:2,5,13,16, 21 114:17 117:12,13 118:9,14,18 119:2,5,17, 24 120:8,11 121:6,11,15, 22 122:2,20 123:2,6,13, 16 124:13,24 125:8,11, 18,19 126:9,18 127:2,5, 21 128:8,15,18 129:13,22 130:6,9,23 131:5,9,16,19 132:3,5,15 136:4,17,22 138:2,3,18 141:6 145:20 146:19,23 147:4,9,13,18, 24 148:6,11 150:2,10 152:17,19,24 154:5,7 155:22,24 156:6 159:3 161:24 162:8 163:12 166:13 167:18,20 168:10, 14,16,22 Councilman 4:2,3 8:15 14:12 15:6 17:17 18:23 22:16,24 23:21 24:5,12 25:11,19 40:18,19 65:20 90:17 94:10 107:13,15 109:11,23 110:3,14,17,21 111:2,6,10 115:3,15,18 116:6,9,13,17,21 117:2 118:13 119:21 125:16 132:20 136:11,19 137:4 138:7,20 148:9,10 159:7 166:20 168:7 Councilmanic 108:18 Councilmember 6:21 7:22 8:13,22 10:24 12:8 14:11 15:10 16:11,18
---	---	--

17:16 18:22 20:11,19 22:15,23 24:4,11 25:9,18, 24 26:3,5,15,16 28:23 49:2 58:17 69:23 82:6 86:13 94:9 99:13 105:22 109:10,14,18,22 110:2,5, 9,13,16,20,24 111:5,9,13, 16 112:17 115:2,6,10,14, 17,20,24 116:5,8,12,16, 20,24 117:5,8 118:8,11 119:16,19 121:5,8 122:19,22 124:11,12,15 125:15 126:7,8,11 127:19,20 129:11,12,15 130:22 131:2 132:12,19 136:10 138:6 141:10 150:8,15 152:22 156:4 159:6 160:3,11 166:19 168:5 Councilmembers 4:24 68:2 79:18 92:17 152:12 Councilpeople 88:9 Councilperson 3:20 4:11 101:23 Councilwoman 6:22 8:2 9:10 12:10 13:4 15:12 16:12 20:12,20 26:6 28:24 30:5 32:12 34:11 40:10 58:4 59:2 70:8 99:14 100:20 102:21 103:10 106:2 109:15,19 110:6,10 111:14,17 112:19 115:7,11,21 116:2 117:6,9 121:10 122:24 124:17 126:13 128:3 129:17 131:4 137:2 141:11 145:24 146:21 147:2,7,17,22 150:9 152:23 156:5 count 68:14 77:24 counties 158:4 countries 56:24 country 4:14 98:3 100:3 157:15 158:18	county 57:5 157:22 couple 154:21 159:21 162:4 courage 5:23 court 63:21 courts 93:12 cover 165:22 CPR 149:14 Craven 43:4 50:21 54:3,4, 6 crazy 61:17 62:19 89:22 create 47:9 65:6 80:5 creates 78:16 92:13 creating 51:12 79:4 137:14 162:21 creation 31:3,17 credit 49:5,10 50:11 58:7, 14 59:9,19 60:18 61:2 105:15 156:10,20,24 157:2 credits 156:14 157:11 cremation 69:19 crisis 56:6,20 73:16 157:16 critical 45:11 Crozer 140:7 crucial 105:16 crystal 83:11 cultural 22:3 29:13 122:12 130:18 current 58:12 80:10 Curtis 18:22 138:6 150:15 cuts 44:18 D D.C. 133:19 135:7	dad 96:13 daily 69:5 83:24 84:2 damage 139:17 Daniel 101:10 Darian 79:11 84:9 Darien 114:10 data 47:16 David 43:5 day 18:10 27:13 56:9,20 66:3 80:24 84:14 85:8 86:14 87:4,8,16 88:22 89:6,18 98:21 117:24 126:5 136:18,20 143:3,8 147:21 149:5 152:5 163:24 164:7 165:4 166:8 167:17 168:9 day-a-week 66:4 days 48:12,13 85:24 89:24 109:4 114:19 158:23 deal 42:10 90:11 dealing 93:15 decades 64:5 65:11 145:2 December 114:3 decided 72:18 87:22 decisions 5:10,18 56:14 133:20 134:16 135:9 decline 74:21 decorated 88:7 Dedication 39:13 deemed 33:21 deep 158:5 deeper 59:24 deepest 157:19 deeply 54:17 152:2 defects 43:17 75:9
--	--	---

defines 163:17	dialogue 137:15 148:24	divided 51:24
deformities 75:2	difference 133:6	divine 4:18
degrees 132:23 133:6	difficult 68:23	DNA 75:23
Delaware 56:22	dignity 99:9 143:21 155:8	docket 70:18
deliberate 44:21	diligent 66:20	doctors 138:11 140:22
deliberations 5:23	dilution 93:16	documented 80:22 85:17
deliver 13:18	direct 64:15	dog 38:9,23 39:5 44:10 46:3 47:12 48:6 52:16 72:11 73:6 77:15,18,21 82:15,16,17,19,23 83:5, 16
democracy 100:23	directed 39:12	doggy 82:19
Democrat 60:15	directing 31:5	dogs 38:6 39:4 47:2,19 54:24 56:3 68:15 69:4,7, 12 72:5,6,18 74:3,6,7,12, 23 75:8,18,20 76:22 77:6 78:2,13 83:7,9,17,24 84:4 142:12 143:3
Democrats 61:15 64:6 65:2,9	directly 55:16 73:7 76:16	dogs' 75:24
demolition 41:5	Director 23:6 48:22 57:20 149:11	dollar 50:5 164:19
demolitions 162:10	disabled 63:19 64:7 102:11	dollars 50:14 62:2 73:2 75:4 155:3,4
demonstrated 38:5	disconnect 36:19	Domb 58:17
departments 81:18	discovered 75:18	dominate 71:23
dependent 84:16 91:2	discussed 3:19	donate 160:15 166:23 167:16
depending 76:2	diseases 43:19 77:5	donation 167:14
Deputy 8:13 17:15	dismantle 3:18	door 104:19 158:2
descent 98:4	dispense 11:16	doors 99:5
deserve 143:21	disposable 79:5	dresses 98:18
deserves 48:15	disposal 64:21 65:7 156:17	drill 84:20
designated 81:21	dispute 71:13 134:18	Driscoll 24:11,12 110:24 111:2 116:16,17
designations 114:7	disputes 71:12	drive 160:12
designed 47:5 54:22	disservice 50:16	driven 5:10 101:22
destroyed 157:24	distinctions 39:8	driverless 107:7
deter 63:14	distribute 54:22	driving 59:23 83:9
determination 151:20	distributed 89:9	
develop 64:22 65:5	distribution 90:23	
developers 41:9,11	district 12:15 40:23 65:23 108:18,21 114:14 135:15 137:6,10 154:5,8,22 159:18 162:2,8,13 163:12	
development 21:10 76:9 80:13 120:20 144:15 153:10,15 154:19	ditto 97:17	
Devon 67:17 76:7		
Devos 84:7,10		

drug 63:19 64:7 165:20 dude 149:24 due 44:24 45:5 54:8,14 65:8 75:8 duly 7:4 10:19 32:20 106:6 107:19 113:4 118:17 119:23 121:14 123:5 124:23 126:17 128:7 129:21 131:8 168:13 dumpsters 63:11,15 dystocia 44:11	Eid 160:23 EITC 58:8 ejection 69:15 Elaine 57:12 65:19 Eldridge 43:4,10,11 elected 5:2 51:5 92:14,22 93:23 161:16 election 31:8 51:15 electors 30:21 31:20 elevator 24:22 eligibility 59:14 eligible 49:17 50:15 59:10 156:19 eliminates 51:24 eliminating 52:21 61:13 elite 71:18 emergencies 83:23 emergency 44:13 48:8 140:13 Emmanuel 87:12 emphasis 54:7 employment 134:3 Enclave 12:24 encourage 42:16 55:2 60:3 161:17 166:23 encroachment 24:23 end 23:19 64:2 69:7 77:22 endanger 40:2 endeavor 64:11 ending 16:5 endless 86:15 ends 49:9 endure 157:15 164:8 enduring 145:14 165:11	energy 151:19 enforce 67:11 81:19 164:4,20,22 enforceable 141:18 enforcement 22:6 47:13, 22 122:15 engagement 145:5 160:9 engaging 141:21 161:8 enormous 68:20 enrichment 93:15 ensure 141:17 143:20 155:16 165:15 ensures 52:3 entire 44:3 50:3 81:5 entirety 114:2 entitled 108:15,20 112:8 114:4,13 entity 3:11 entry-level 69:2 Epilog's 86:22 Equal 93:7 94:2 equality 144:6 equally 101:15 Equity 155:4 erase 3:17 erased 158:22 Erie 159:16 erratic 61:17 essence 4:18 essential 105:17 essentially 72:21 establish 107:4 establishment 163:19 Estate 101:18
E		
Eagle 96:20 97:23 98:2 Eagles 88:16 early 76:24 earn 96:8 157:8 earned 49:10 58:6 156:23 ears 5:21 earth 99:8 ease 6:11,14 East 139:13 easy 61:5 eat 42:2 138:23 economic 102:8,13 144:22 educate 39:19 161:6 education 144:21 145:4 161:5 effect 48:11 102:16 effects 43:13 effort 77:17 142:14 167:11,16 efforts 64:14 65:12 104:6 164:22		

ethical 51:20	extra 143:9	Farmer's 146:8
Ethics 16:4	extraordinary 26:21 28:12 58:11 124:3 129:5	fast 42:2 75:16
euthanasia 54:18 77:20 83:20	eye 138:13 139:15,18 140:14 148:14	fasting 89:24
euthanized 54:12	eyes 72:13 138:12	father 101:6
events 43:24		fault 78:4
everyone's 40:18	F	favor 7:10 11:7 33:5 106:11 107:24 113:10 118:22 120:5 121:19 123:10 125:5 126:22 128:12 130:3 131:13 168:19
examine 21:12 22:4 93:13 120:22 122:13 153:18	face 4:22 17:6 53:17 72:10	favorable 30:10 31:11 32:2
examining 80:17	Facebook 137:8	favorite 40:18
exception 39:2 93:24	faces 53:17	fear 5:10 77:3
excited 60:17,22 61:22 62:5,22 63:2 146:14	facets 88:9	feature 159:21
exciting 132:22	facilities 63:21 64:4 82:24	February 6:19 7:3,9 18:9 27:12 29:12 117:23 126:4 130:17 143:2 151:3 168:11,18
excuse 57:3 70:9	facility 140:21	fed 138:17
executive 23:6 57:19 64:3 67:9 149:10 161:21	facing 46:10	federal 58:8 157:7 158:12
exemplifies 145:2	fact 58:10 64:20 134:18 135:13 138:24	feed 69:3 98:8
exemption 78:9	failed 64:5 65:8	feel 69:20 80:23
exercising 67:7 148:15	fails 94:4	feeling 133:2 158:5
exist 72:7 77:8 85:9	fair 36:6 148:16,17 163:6	feels 51:3
existence 82:14 83:6	fairness 155:6,13,14	fellowship 144:5
existing 22:6 55:24 122:15 162:19	faith 144:14 145:13	Felton 28:10 129:3 144:24
exists 51:21	faith-driven 26:22 124:4	females 44:22
expanding 144:21	faithfully 36:8	festival 151:6
expands 71:4	fall 85:15 149:19	Fewer 59:6
expectation 81:22	familiar 101:4	fight 80:5 165:6
experienced 44:2	families 47:6 77:9 86:8 105:18 140:18 152:7 154:11 156:22	fighting 42:15 45:14 139:23 140:2
explicit 142:5	family 80:19 103:19 140:18 143:6 151:7 157:19,23	figure 165:23
expressed 4:4	fan 148:20	fill 87:22
expressing 17:4	fantastic 83:15	
extend 157:18	fare 42:20	
extended 3:24		
extensively 76:21		

Final 17:11 18:19 19:21 20:9 21:20 22:12 27:8,17 28:6,20 29:19 33:24 34:10,16 35:8 105:6 113:19 162:5 finally 109:6 114:21 158:10 financial 153:24 find 56:2 77:17 132:23 firearms 22:5 122:14 firm 80:4 firsthand 43:12 76:12 fit 87:17 fitting 127:22 142:23 fix 50:8 93:22 fixed 154:13 flag 3:18 158:13,24 Flames 145:23 146:6 flew 139:18 Flip 60:12 floor 23:9 77:19 100:18 flowers 146:20 focus 142:2 focused 52:6 folks 103:18 133:21 134:19 146:16,18 161:22 162:24 follow 38:7 87:11 food 49:13 146:4 151:9 force 145:10 forced 39:23 foremost 94:15 forgiveness 49:24 59:12 formal 107:6 forward 46:13 66:22 67:6, 12 102:22 142:12 144:18	151:22 155:11 163:3 167:22 foster 55:17 56:11 73:23 fostered 69:9 found 23:9 75:19 149:11 foundation 5:19 founder 89:14 fourth 92:7 Fox 13:7 159:21 framework 107:5 free 38:13 54:22 88:24 90:5 139:19 freedom 72:24 freedoms 70:15 72:22 freezer 69:18 freezing 133:4 friend 40:11 102:2 103:6 friends 53:3 103:17 front 51:7 73:15 77:13 fruition 101:20 fulfill 45:14 full 4:18 59:15 72:2 73:12 full- 59:7 fully 73:13 96:3 fund 164:21,23 funding 42:15 85:18 89:9 90:5 91:14,16 future 5:19	Garden 66:15 Gardens 137:12 Garrity 61:3 gates 42:21 gather 4:20 Gauthier 16:11,12 88:10 109:18,19 115:10,11 gay 4:6 gear 156:12 General 49:3 57:20 60:24 105:13 107:2 156:8 generation 92:8 generations 97:22 genetic 43:15 44:15 74:10 75:2 gentleman 150:6 gentlemen 72:19 gentrification 41:7 geography 102:14 German 68:15 Germantown 28:2 96:12 97:15 100:12 101:9,15 127:17 144:18 146:13 159:15 Gilmore 7:23 8:2 9:2,10 11:2 12:8,10 13:4 15:10, 12 30:2,5 32:10,12 34:7, 11 66:23 70:8 109:14,15 115:6,7 132:12 137:2 166:3 Ginger 138:17,21 give 3:22 4:6 5:21 35:17 60:23 86:21 87:5,24 143:11 146:20 147:10 giving 18:10 35:15 44:12 45:13 63:3 84:15 85:8 89:7,19 117:24 167:17 glorified 99:7
G		
gain 92:20 gap 87:22 Garcia 67:19 79:9,15,16, 21		

GM 42:13 goal 38:10 40:22,23 41:17,19 71:11 God 23:8 28:11 99:7 104:9 129:4 133:3 145:2 149:12 Goldman 48:19,20,21 good 3:4,6 5:13 6:7 8:3,4 16:13 17:17,18,19 18:23 20:13,21 22:16 38:11 43:10 48:20 53:4 54:4 57:17 60:8 63:6 70:4 76:7 79:17 91:15 97:10 100:22 102:2 139:21 146:24 147:14 149:23 150:5 govern 5:7 governance 53:4 90:21 governing 52:2 government 12:20 30:4,9, 16 32:6 67:9 85:14 158:12 governmental 93:20 governments 52:11,14 Governor 61:4,18 153:6 Graaf 67:17 73:3,4 Grace 27:24 96:11 97:14 100:6,11 101:8,14 127:16 144:17 grad 148:14 grandparents 151:9 grant 5:6 granted 8:23 grants 93:11 graphics 54:23 grassroots 60:11 161:12, 23 164:23 166:24 167:12 grateful 133:11 150:20 gratitude 84:12	Gray 67:17 70:4,11,12,22 great 12:2 83:15 99:19 136:20 greatest 53:15 156:15 greed 5:11 green 36:10 greet 95:20 Griffin 67:19 Griffith 82:10,11 ground 91:10 165:2 group 48:5 138:10 groups 55:7 69:10 80:8 grow 41:19 growing 87:20 grows 91:3 guardrails 51:20 guests 11:1,18 12:1 20:14 50:24 guidance 4:22 guidelines 164:15 guise 71:5 gun 22:7 122:16 guy 147:19 guys 61:6 88:13	halls 144:5 Hand 76:8 happen 135:3 154:16 happened 104:4 happening 42:19 133:18 158:7 happy 61:11 77:21 136:13,23 150:13 166:7 168:8 hard 35:17 53:21 84:15 154:14 hard-working 50:3 168:3 harm 6:3 81:4 harmful 157:17 Harper 19:16 Harris 79:12 89:12,14 Harrity 22:23,24 23:21 107:13,15 110:16,17 116:8,9 148:9,10 150:4 Harteis 37:10 40:5 Hasson 35:15 hate 87:13,14 head 149:20 heads 6:4 health 38:9,14 39:14 44:15 45:19 64:18 76:24 144:21 163:10 healthier 151:16 healthy 56:3 77:20 hear 96:19 137:16 heard 78:6 134:24 153:2 163:24 hearing 21:24 122:10 153:6 155:11 hearings 9:21 21:11 60:4 120:21 153:16
H		
	H.O.M.E. 62:15 Habitat 80:13 Hagins 79:12 91:23 92:6,7 94:5 Hahnemann 40:21 half 89:24 hall 51:5 58:19 59:4 137:10,23	

heart 23:7 97:3,19,20 102:18,19 149:21 heartbreaking 75:2 hearts 67:4 held 34:21 47:2 78:2 helped 65:5 145:7 helping 146:18 helps 50:7 Henry 27:21 96:14 127:13 144:16 Hey 86:18 hide 81:12 high 12:22,23 14:16 high-quality 38:6 highest 96:21 highlighting 18:13 54:23 118:4 highlights 133:7 hijabs 139:14 Hill 19:17,18 146:7 hire 89:3 102:10 hiring 146:16 historic 144:10 historical 29:14 130:19 history 3:17 26:20 28:3,17 58:6 99:22 100:3 124:2 127:18 129:10 143:23 145:12 148:4 hobby 46:17 47:3 hold 21:11 36:8 120:21 153:16 162:5 holding 41:3 152:8 holiest 150:19 holistic 67:2 holistically 165:24	Holy 4:19 20:4 119:14 150:18 home 23:9 31:2,15 47:7 80:20 98:16 149:12 154:17,23 157:20,24 162:17 home's 153:22 homeless 21:11 63:14,18 120:21 153:16 homeowners 81:5 154:3 homes 56:2 73:24 77:7 78:4 80:6,19 154:15 homophobia 3:14 honestly 74:21 honor 3:15,23 19:17 88:18 99:20 102:22 103:11 104:8 135:15 142:24 143:23 honored 135:16 honoree 100:11 honoring 20:2 26:18 27:12,20 28:9 119:12 123:23 126:4 127:12 129:2 135:7 150:17 159:12 honors 18:11 118:2 hope 84:11 86:22 97:4 164:20,23 Horse 151:18 hospital 23:12 149:15 hospitals 140:7 host 103:18 hosted 161:4 hostile 140:5 hosting 160:12 hour 62:24 108:17 hours 151:10	house 97:5 153:11 households 151:12 157:6 housing 21:9 40:22 79:23 81:3 82:2 102:9 120:19 153:4,8,14 162:11,12,22 hub 90:8 huge 50:15 Hull 43:5 45:23,24 humanely 45:15 humanity 6:7 80:14 humans 83:14 hundred 155:2 hundreds 47:13 49:11 160:19 hunt 52:16 Hunting 86:17 hurt 41:22 husband 166:15 husky 68:16 hypotheticals 43:23
I		
		I-95 140:4 Ian 67:19 82:11 ice 133:10 134:5 157:21 ICE's 158:5 idea 133:24 151:21 ideal 35:22 identify 139:17 identity 18:12 118:3 III 79:13 91:23 95:19 ill-responsible 46:20 illegal 141:21 illness 45:2

imaging 44:16	incredible 136:14	intent 142:4
immense 84:11	incumbency 51:23	intentionally 74:8
impact 21:15 46:16 54:9 77:9 107:7 121:2 145:14	incumbent 93:15	interest 51:8 93:21
impacted 140:13	independents 61:16	interests 5:8
impacts 158:5	indiscriminate 37:19,22	internationally 139:3
impediments 59:19	individual 70:15 71:3 112:9 140:17	internet 39:22
implement 64:22	individuals 15:4 37:22 47:20 71:16	internship 12:18
implemented 62:13	infectious 43:19	interrupt 95:16
important 4:23 40:14 69:24 128:6 135:21 137:17 140:19 142:11	influential 57:4	intersection 3:13
importantly 52:8	information 81:14 160:15	interview 39:3
impose 112:11	informative 161:8	intoxicating 66:8
impossible 62:7,11	infrastructure 53:8	intragovernment 93:5
improve 75:5 142:14 162:6 165:2	infringed 70:16	INTRO 14:1 15:1 16:1 17:1 18:1 19:1 20:1 21:1 22:1 23:1 24:1 25:1 26:1 27:1 28:1 29:1
improvements 42:18	infringes 71:2	introduce 26:4
improving 46:8	inherited 38:13	introduced 26:14 59:2 118:8 119:15 121:4 122:19 124:10 126:6 127:18 129:10 130:22 151:2 153:13
inability 139:7	initiatives 85:8	introducing 16:14 141:13
incarceration 146:18	innocent 54:13	introduction 14:8
incidents 77:4	input 142:8,21	investment 80:18 155:20
incinerators 64:17	Inquirer 162:15	investors 140:6
include 43:15 80:11 133:19	inspections 47:14	invite 12:3 68:8 87:2 147:20
included 10:16	Instagram 89:6 137:9,20	invited 4:6,9
including 47:10 49:4 55:7 86:16 105:14 156:9	installation 24:21 27:4 124:9,22	invocation 3:1,22 4:1,7 5:1 6:13
income 49:10 58:6 154:6 156:23	instances 43:22	involved 54:17 65:4 96:15 161:11,15,18
incomes 80:9 154:13,20	Institute 86:19	irresponsible 39:9 43:13 76:15
increase 43:20 61:18 153:4 162:16	institution 138:24	Isaiah 17:16 90:17 94:9 166:19 168:5
increased 76:18	institutional 80:18	
increasing 154:17	institutions 71:20	
increasingly 157:14	insulting 39:10	
	intake 46:18 54:12 55:23	
	intend 36:8	
	intended 48:7 140:15	

Islam 150:20 Islander 29:16 130:21 issue 42:22 54:10 66:17 82:7 92:12 142:7 163:23 165:24 166:4 issues 5:9 70:6 81:17 140:3 IV 16:3	11:11,14 13:13 14:6 15:2, 9,19 16:7,21 17:10 18:3, 18 19:9,20 20:7,17 21:3, 19 22:11,21 23:16,24 24:9,16 25:5,16,23 26:11 27:7,16 28:5,19 29:6,18 30:12 32:8,22 33:9,12 35:3 79:11,18 84:7,9 94:8 99:12 100:18 105:3,21 106:8,15,18 107:12,21 108:5,8 109:3 111:20,22 112:16 113:6,14,17 114:18 117:12,14 118:10, 19 119:3,6,18 120:2,9,12 121:7,16,23 122:3,21 123:7,14,17 124:14 125:2,9,12,20 126:10,19 127:3,6,22 128:9,16,19 129:14,23 130:7,10,24 131:10,17,20 132:6,16 136:5,18 138:4,19 141:7 145:21 146:20,24 147:5, 10,14,19 148:2 150:3 152:20 156:2 159:4 166:14 167:21 168:15,23 join 11:24 87:3 joining 11:19 12:16 14:18 joins 58:7 joint 21:24 122:10 Jonathan 57:11,18 Jones 18:22,23 101:10 110:2,3 115:17,18 119:16,19,21 125:21 138:6,7,20 141:7 150:15 160:11 Jordan 3:2,7,8 Journal 6:1,18,24 7:1,7,18 journey 97:21 joy 143:19 Joyce 19:17,18 Jr 18:22 27:21 96:14 101:7 103:14 127:13	144:17 Judith 37:12 40:6 jump 125:21 justice 5:12,20 71:6 144:3 145:4
J		
James 79:12 91:23 95:19 96:14 145:22 Jamie 16:11 88:10 Jay 159:6 Jeanes 149:15 Jeffrey 3:8 19:7 22:15 159:6 Jenkins 43:6 50:23 Jeremiah 101:5,7 Jeremy 37:11 40:9 Jerome 17:4 Jersey 56:8,10,15,17 Jess 40:11 Jessica 67:17 73:4 Jesus 95:23 Jim 22:23 107:13 148:9 job 36:21 51:13 68:23 69:21 134:10 146:24 147:14 jobs 51:11 53:18 133:20 161:16 Jody 37:11,16,17 Joe's 96:2 John 57:11 60:10 Johnson 3:6 6:11,16 7:6, 14,17 8:10,21 10:21		K Kaiser 101:18 Kasib 23:6 149:8 150:5 Katherine 7:23 9:2 11:2 12:8 15:10 30:2 32:10 34:7 132:12 166:2 Kathy 66:23 keen 140:14 Kendra 8:19 16:17 59:3 kennel 46:2,5,23 68:14,22 69:11 77:23 78:12 kennels 47:6 69:4 78:9 84:2 Kenneth 149:8 Kensington 80:12 Kershaw 79:14 91:24 97:10,12 Kids 86:23 kill 56:23 killed 56:4 Kilo 72:11 kind 135:9 kinder 151:17 knew 15:7 knock 104:19 knowing 6:5 knowledge 4:5

L		
lab 68:17	136:14 150:12 164:2	license 42:7 46:23 71:17 78:12
labor 107:7 134:15 135:8 148:19	leaders 143:24 145:6 163:22	licensed 78:9,15
lack 43:17 45:5 54:14	leadership 26:22 28:13 66:24 82:7 99:21 124:4 129:6 133:19 134:19 145:3	licenses 71:17
ladies 72:19 98:17 139:13	learn 65:16 137:22 161:10	licensing 46:24 47:8
lady 99:2	Learning 86:19	life 19:18 38:24 75:5,6 77:22 78:24 84:16 96:10 135:16 152:10 162:7 165:3,8
Lancaster 39:21 83:9	leave 7:20 8:8,17,22 39:23 145:21	lifechanging 157:4
land 80:15 114:8	LEAVES 8:1	lifeless 69:17
Landau 3:20 4:12 16:19 20:11,12 105:22 106:2 110:5,6 115:20,21 156:4, 5	led 101:22	lifesaving 55:6
Landau's 49:2 58:4	left 35:17 64:7 82:15,16, 17,19,23	lifetime 28:12 129:5
Landes 57:12 63:6,7	legacy 19:18 144:8	lift 105:18 157:12
landfills 64:17	legal 57:21 79:24 80:4,7 82:4 165:22	light 36:11,13,17 133:17 135:13,24
landlords 81:12	legality 53:5	limit 36:2,4,9 37:3
landscape 102:13	legendary 147:8	limits 62:24
lane 62:9	legislation 45:10 65:6 69:24 70:23 71:14 78:14 93:10 142:20 164:5	Lincoln 12:23 14:16
language 141:16 152:8	legislative 9:4 10:23 12:2 53:15 158:8	Lindsey 37:10 40:5
Lankenau 140:8	legislators 94:24	lines 38:7 56:7 77:13 82:3
large 47:6 68:15	legitimate 93:20	liquor 42:6
large-scale 80:24	Leslie 104:11	list 167:23
largely 65:2	let alone 154:9	listed 9:7 10:11
lasting 28:13 129:6	lethal 69:15	listen 5:21
late 10:16 80:17 149:17	letter 133:15 148:19	listened 142:5
law 9:17 30:4,8,16 32:5 47:13	level 59:14 157:7 161:12	listening 17:20 94:19 95:7 165:10
lawful 90:22	Lewis 28:10 104:11 129:3 144:23	literally 165:18
laws 22:7 65:12 67:10 122:16 142:3 164:21,22	LGBTQIA 3:12	litter 44:4 47:7
lay 6:4	Library 137:13	live 54:21 56:18 63:16 86:8 155:17 157:6 163:23 164:6
leader 7:23 8:11,18 9:2 10:24 16:17 30:2 32:10 34:6 88:8 102:2 132:11		lived 154:22
		livelihoods 133:21
		lives 3:13 44:6 75:24 99:6

144:8	5	Maranakis 67:23,24
living 64:8 103:24	Lynn 57:11 63:7	Marco 12:23
LLC-SHIELDED 81:2		marginalized 5:16
LLCS 81:9	M	margins 44:18 52:22
local 49:15 63:11,18 81:22 140:6 143:14	Madam 50:23	Marie 57:12 67:24
locally 139:2	made 62:6,10 85:2 142:21 167:14	Marinakakis 57:13
located 114:8	mafia 62:10	Mark 25:18
location 146:9,12	main 54:7	market 81:3 82:2 146:8 165:20
lock 63:10	maintain 82:3	marts 66:5
long 56:23 167:9	maintenance 24:22	Mason 149:23
long- 135:5	major 26:20 91:8 92:2 96:8 103:5,7 124:2,21 144:10 159:10 160:2,4	mastiffs 68:16
longer 44:23,24	Majority 7:23 8:7,11 9:2 10:24 17:15 30:2 32:10 34:6 111:23 117:15 132:11 136:8,14 150:12 168:2	mates 83:16
Lord 95:22 97:18	make 23:17 31:7 37:12 40:7 43:6 49:8 50:18,22 53:24 55:4 57:13 67:10, 19 70:17 79:10 92:2 94:17 98:18 108:23 135:3,22 142:4 143:7 151:10 154:14 160:22 163:5 164:3	matter 37:5 63:5
lose 53:16 92:20 93:2	makes 39:12 133:23	matters 4:23 9:4,14,20 10:23 11:4 35:7 85:10 165:9
losing 44:5 51:11 77:15	making 114:14 134:15 135:9	max 60:20
loss 78:24	man 87:20 166:22	maximize 64:23
lost 75:8 100:5 157:20	manage 83:18	Mayor 9:24 10:2 13:19,21 14:3 41:13 62:12 95:3 148:20
lot 70:7,13,14 74:22 75:8 91:10,12 99:24 132:24 133:24 136:22 151:5,11, 23	management 140:3	Mayor's 60:15 160:8
love 27:13 39:24 71:8 126:5 143:2,7,11,12 151:11 166:16	manner 89:10	Mcauley 57:11
loving 78:3	Manny 79:11	Mccauley 60:8,10
low 59:13 80:8	Manny215 87:12	meaning 56:13
low-income 59:7,23 154:3	manufactured 80:20	meaningful 67:8 142:10
loyalty 51:24	Maps 114:6	means 38:4
Lozada 20:19,20 110:9,10 115:24 116:2 121:5,8,10 122:19,22,24 152:22,23		measure 48:7
luck 151:17		media 55:5 137:7,20 141:22
lucky 69:8		median 154:6
lumped 39:10		medical 44:14 83:22
Lunar 29:12 130:17 151:3,		meet 49:9 82:4 85:16 90:12,15

meeting 6:18 7:2,8	million 62:19 104:14 156:18,21	145:12 148:4 150:18,22 160:13,17
meetings 55:3	millions 62:2	months 84:11 150:20
meets 144:19	mind 59:22	monument 158:14
melting 133:9	mindful 134:13	moral 144:6
member 16:3 57:22 66:14 97:15 125:21 127:23,24 134:12 135:15 136:5 141:7 146:24 147:14 150:3	mini 66:4	moratorium 46:15 48:2,6 68:7 112:12 141:15
members 3:3 11:21 48:20 50:24 51:6 53:9 54:6 95:9 101:14 103:16 111:24 112:24 117:16 161:10	minimize 64:23	morning 3:4,6 8:3,4 11:20 16:13 17:18,19 18:24 20:13,22 22:17 43:11 48:20 51:4 57:18 60:9 63:7 76:7 79:17 97:11 98:7 99:18 100:11 102:5 103:3,12 104:8
memory 135:19	minimum 93:9	mortgages 154:9
men 68:24	minister 96:10 97:13	motion 9:1,3 10:1,5,7,13 11:15 32:11 33:13 34:8 105:23 106:19 107:13 108:9 112:18 118:11 119:19 121:9 122:23 124:16 126:12 128:2 129:16 131:3 168:6
mental 64:3	ministries 102:6	move 6:24 9:13 32:15 46:13 106:4 107:17 113:2 118:15 119:22 121:12 123:3 124:19 126:15 128:5 129:19 131:6 134:19 135:2 168:10
mentally 63:19 64:7	ministry 27:22 127:14 144:19	moved 7:6 10:21 32:22 106:8 107:21 113:6 118:19 120:2 121:16 123:7 125:2 126:19 128:9 129:23 131:10 154:24 168:15
mention 49:14	Minority 8:14,18 16:16,17 132:17	movement 65:5 100:2 144:3 145:8 158:17
mentioned 160:19	minutes 35:24 36:5,16	moving 54:20 146:8 151:22
mentioning 88:12	missed 14:22	Mt 28:10 129:4 144:24
Mentors 86:18	mission 45:15 87:16 98:15 139:4,8	multi-family 80:19
merit 38:4	misuse 51:22	music 96:11
message 158:20	misuses 71:3	
messages 13:18,21	mix 68:18	
methodology 21:14 120:24	mixed- 72:4	
Metropolitan 3:10	mixes 68:17 72:5	
Michael 26:19 92:2 103:14 123:24 144:9	model 90:20	
microphone 36:19	mom 44:7	
Middle 139:13	moment 56:5 132:9 135:17,18 151:7	
midst 133:4 140:23	momentum 151:21	
Mike 24:11 103:7 159:10	Mommy 86:18	
miles 62:23	Monday 161:4	
mill 39:21	money 61:7,24 104:15,18 157:2,4	
milli 41:19	Montgomery 157:21	
	month 20:4 26:21 28:3,17 84:4 99:23 119:14 124:3 127:18 129:10 143:23	

Muslim 160:9	Nicetown-tioga 144:13	obligations 82:5
Muslims 160:20	Nicolas 8:14 16:18 24:4 132:19 148:6	observance 18:11 20:3 118:2 119:13 150:18
N	night 23:8 149:12,17	obtain 46:22 71:16 78:11
names 4:20 101:4 104:23	Nina 19:6 26:3,15 28:23 131:2 150:8	occupy 53:7
naming 135:12	no-brainer 50:17	offer 15:15 19:3 25:13 53:11 74:19 90:4 112:21
narcotics 165:19	non-privileged 15:16,22, 24 16:15 17:3 19:4,12,15	offered 99:17
nation 86:7	non-profit 89:15	office 12:16 14:18 21:12 31:4,17 53:7,19 60:16 92:18 120:22 133:15 137:22 153:17 160:7,8, 10,11,14 161:3 165:14
nationally 139:2	nonprofit 18:14 73:6 80:3 118:5 161:21 166:24 167:13	officer 53:13
natural 72:8	nonprofits 85:17 91:9	officers 31:6 94:24
naturally-occurring 162:21	North 66:16	offices 51:22 142:18
nays 111:23 117:15	Northeast 13:6	official 92:23 94:23 95:3
needed 135:2	Northwest 99:19	officials 52:3 92:14 93:12, 23 161:16
needing 54:8	Nos 34:17	Ogbonna 79:12 91:23 92:7 94:5
neglect 75:9	note 14:15 33:18 104:10 158:11	older 88:2 154:12,21
neighborhood 21:10 66:12,13 84:20 120:20 137:18 144:13 153:15	notice 10:14 31:7	oldest 3:11
neighborhoods 67:5 81:6 154:16 155:8,18,19 165:4	noticed 133:8	Oldman 43:5
neighbors 66:2 77:9 81:16 85:4 98:13 139:22 151:5 159:19 165:7	noting 53:16	Ombudsperson 31:4,18
nervous 87:11	notion 83:7	one-third 86:8
net 53:20	November 16:5	ongoing 81:17
network 55:5 63:9 73:23	number 47:5 58:18 78:2	online 95:8 103:19
networks 56:11	nurses 138:10	onlookers 157:23
neutered 82:21	nursing 138:11	open 54:11 82:3 165:18
newly-constructed 162:17	O	open-air 165:20
news 52:12	O'NEILL 25:10,11 111:5,6 116:20,21	opening 98:6 99:5 102:10
newsletters 137:21	O'ROURKE 8:14,15 16:18 24:4,5 110:20,21 116:12, 13 132:19,20 136:6 148:7	openly 4:6,10
NFL-INSPIRED 88:14	objections 78:7	operate 52:14 85:23
Nicetown- 27:2 124:7		operating 66:5 78:17 81:8 107:8

operation 66:4 operators 46:20 opportunity 3:22 5:3 48:18 58:12 68:3 79:19 102:24 103:11 134:4 137:16 144:12,22 148:22 150:16 159:20 161:10 opposed 7:14 11:11 33:9 106:15 108:5 113:14 119:3 120:9 121:23 123:14 125:9 127:3 128:16 130:7 131:17 168:23 opposes 68:10 opposition 65:9 optional 155:5 order 6:16 7:19 11:17 12:6 13:15 14:7 29:21 33:16 35:12,20 36:6 41:14 63:22 64:3 153:11 161:15 ordered 63:20 ordinance 24:20 30:19 58:13,16 59:5,20 82:8 108:14 112:7 114:2,4 ordinances 72:24 organization 60:11 76:10 88:20 89:15 90:24 organizations 18:14 71:21 85:5,20,23 86:15 87:7 89:8 91:19 118:5 143:15 164:24 166:24 167:4,5,8,13,15 organizers 161:23 organizing 85:12 144:4 Ortiz 4:2,3 ounce 77:17 outcomes 43:24 54:21 Outlet 86:21	outreach 55:2,10,13 outset 71:8 outstanding 38:5 168:2 overabundance 45:2 overbred 44:22 overcrowding 37:20 46:8 54:10 76:17 77:16 140:10 overflow 56:13 140:9 overlay 40:21 65:22 108:21 114:14 overlays 66:21 overlooked 91:13 overnight 65:24 overpopulation 73:16 oversight 44:14 67:7,8 78:17 overwhelmingly 71:18 owner 38:22 73:9 81:7 owner's 74:14 owners 38:15 39:16 46:3 74:18 81:2 ownership 24:21 72:3,9 81:23 143:18 Oxford 137:12	paperwork 74:19 parents 151:8 park 62:7,11 86:17 Parker 41:13 62:13 parking 62:6 134:23 parks 22:3,8 122:12,17 part 14:22 15:5 84:3 142:13 144:2 parties 65:14 84:21 partisan 42:22 parts 65:22 66:18 141:2 Party 8:14 Parvo 77:5 parvovirus 44:5 pass 82:8 109:5 114:20 Passage 17:11 18:19 19:21 20:9 21:20 22:12 27:8,17 28:6,20 29:19 33:24 34:10,17 35:9 105:7 113:19 162:5 passed 36:17 54:8 156:11 passes 39:23 112:2 117:17 passing 44:9 163:8 past 54:16 58:22 60:16 68:5 80:11 155:12 161:4 pastor 3:9 27:4,24 98:22 100:10 101:11 103:7 104:11 124:9 127:16 160:6 pastored 101:8 pastors 99:19 101:3 pat 60:24 patchwork 66:20 patience 5:22 patient 139:6
P		
	p.m. 41:23 42:8 PA 25:2 49:3 82:16 Pacific 29:16 130:21 Packer 114:9,13 pain 77:14 painful 74:24 PAK 114:13 panties 53:10 paper 48:17	

patron 165:10 patrons 163:12 pats 63:3 Pattison 114:10 pause 138:19 pausing 55:22 Paw 76:9 pay 53:12 62:16,17,21 134:5 139:7 148:21 paying 52:15 95:11 149:4 Payne 16:3 pays 39:3 peace 5:20 Penn 96:4 148:14 Pennsylvania 46:23 47:12 80:21 105:13 107:4,10 156:8,20 157:6 Pennsylvania's 156:10 Pennsylvanians 49:5,8 50:4,10 105:15 156:19 people 5:22 37:24 39:11, 19 45:3 51:4,8,10 55:15 58:18 59:7,8,10,23 63:18 81:14 84:24 85:15 86:21 88:22 89:21 90:13 95:6,7, 11 97:7 99:2 139:3,9 148:22 150:22 151:19 152:5 156:16 157:12,18 158:21 161:17 166:23 168:4 perception 53:5 period 105:4 permanent 48:10 permit 32:16 33:2 permitted 87:17 92:17 persecution 17:7 person 60:21 66:13 71:12 149:3,5 161:7,19	personal 5:11 personally 55:18 77:24 persons 101:3 102:4 pet 27:13 82:20 126:5 143:2,8,17 Petrossian 57:12 65:18, 19 pets 143:5,19 Philadelphia 3:11 4:13 12:15,19 13:2,8 20:5 21:17 22:9 24:24 27:14 28:16 30:22 31:2,15,21 43:2 45:16 46:4,6 47:18 48:15,22 49:14 52:19 53:22 62:6 70:5,14 72:4 73:7,17 80:11,14 82:12 83:17 84:8 85:14 86:5,20 88:15 92:15 95:24 103:8 107:9 108:15,20 112:8 114:5,12 119:15 121:4 122:18 126:6 129:9 142:16 143:3 144:7 145:15 146:5,13 150:23 151:4 152:5 153:5 154:2 158:3 164:10 167:7 168:5 Philadelphia's 18:12 29:15 51:19 82:2 118:3 130:20 Philadelphian 50:13 Philadelphians 50:4 64:13 80:23 83:8 153:21 157:3 Phillipdst9 137:8 Phillips 14:11,12 15:2,6 82:6 109:10,11 115:2,3 125:15,16 136:10,11,19 137:4 Philly 35:18 41:19 45:8,13 46:10 54:11,19 56:20,24 60:12 68:5,11 69:5 73:5,8 76:11 82:18 83:18 86:22 158:7	Philly's 54:24 56:6,12,13 63:8 physical 81:21 PICA 59:17 picks 45:8 piece 83:12 pieces 45:9 pinpoint 58:10 pit 68:15 72:5,12 83:16 pits 72:6 pivotal 144:2 place 97:5 102:6 145:10 155:15 placement 77:18 placements 55:17 places 98:19 placing 10:7 plainly 152:14 Plan 62:15 planning 43:16 plans 64:22 Plant 89:16 platforms 141:23 played 144:2 playgrounds 22:8 122:17 playing 143:9 pledging 167:15 pockets 50:6 157:3 podium 36:11,22 37:13,15 40:7 43:7,9 50:22 57:14, 16 67:20,22 79:10 92:3,5 point 36:22 38:23 104:17 police 63:12 73:9 policies 64:5 155:7
---	--	--

policy 56:13 80:2,9	presence 12:14 22:4 122:13	pressure 55:24 166:21
political 17:6 92:21 93:11	present 100:21	pretty 83:11
politicians 51:14	presentations 12:6 100:6	prevent 41:18
pools 55:17	presented 47:17	preventable 43:19 77:5 78:24
poor 43:15 98:8	presenting 90:18	prevents 42:5 51:22 56:3
poorest 86:7	preserving 162:11,12	previously 76:11
population 63:15 83:19	President 3:3,5 6:10,15, 23 7:5,13,16 8:4,9,16,20 9:12 10:20 11:10,13 12:12 13:11,12 14:2,5,13, 23,24 15:8,14,18 16:6,13, 20 17:9,18,24 18:2,17,24 19:8,19 20:6,13,16,21 21:2,18 22:10,17,20 23:2, 15,23 24:6,8,13,15 25:4, 12,15,20,22 26:7,10 27:6, 15 28:4,18 29:2,5,17 30:7,11 32:6,7,14,21 33:8,11 34:13 35:2 54:5 58:2 64:2,10 73:5 79:17 94:7,11 95:15,17 99:11, 15 100:15,17 104:24 105:2,20 106:3,7,14,17 107:11,16,20 108:4,7 109:2 111:20,21 112:15, 20 113:5,13,16 114:17 117:12,13 118:9,14,18 119:2,5,17,24 120:8,11 121:6,11,15,22 122:2,20 123:2,6,13,16 124:13,18, 24 125:8,11,19 126:9,14, 18 127:2,5,21 128:4,8,15, 18 129:13,18,22 130:6,9, 23 131:5,9,16,19 132:4,5, 15,21 136:3,4,17 138:2,3, 8,18 141:4,6,12 145:18, 20 146:19,23 147:3,4,9, 13,18,24 148:11 150:2,10 152:18,19,24 155:23,24 156:6 159:3,8,14 162:3 165:5 166:6,11,13 167:19,20 168:8,14,22	price 162:17
portion 59:17		pride 158:13,23
position 69:2		primarily 46:16
Positive 86:20		principle 59:21 94:5
possession 13:23		prior 9:8 10:17 134:10 135:8
posted 141:24 146:16		prioritized 77:11
posts 55:4,10		prioritizes 44:20
potential 38:15 43:23		privilege 93:11 101:19 102:21 138:13
poverty 59:24 86:9 105:18 157:7,8,13		privileged 18:8 19:4,12 20:2,23 21:6,8,23 26:9, 13,18 27:11,20 28:9 29:3, 9,11 117:22 119:12 120:18 122:9 123:23 126:3 127:12 129:2 130:16
power 71:5 86:18 135:10		problem 41:8,15 68:12,19 73:20 78:19
powerful 143:23		problems 38:14 47:10,21
practical 47:9 144:20		process 21:14 39:3 49:20 50:13 102:9 120:24 133:9 153:19
practice 44:22 48:16		produce 78:13
practices 78:23 165:13		producing 140:22
pray 4:15,19 5:24 98:13		production 41:16
prayer 23:7,14 149:22 150:5		professional 138:10
prayers 149:9		professionals 143:16
praying 90:2		profit 44:18,20 72:7 74:9 77:11
prays 98:23		
preaches 96:15		
preaching 144:3		
prefer 23:16		
pregnant 84:11		
prejudicial 72:16		
Prep 96:2		
prepare 132:7	presidential 72:16	

profitable 44:23 profits 81:24 profound 102:16 program 12:18 40:2 49:16,24 50:17 161:5,13 programming 86:3 programs 90:5 Progressive 16:24 Project 48:23 86:23 projected 164:18 promoted 55:4 promoting 89:6 proper 89:10 properly 7:7 10:22 32:23 53:10 106:9 107:22 113:7 118:20 120:3 121:17 123:8 125:3 126:20 128:10 129:24 131:11 164:20,21 168:16 properties 80:20 property 21:12,15,16 61:14 81:2,7,23 120:22 121:2,3 153:17,18,20 154:10,24 proposal 30:22 51:17 proposed 31:19 proposes 71:14 proposing 30:24 31:14 prosperity 5:20 protect 5:15 6:2 44:8 80:6 163:9 protecting 45:12 71:9 142:12 protection 93:8 94:2 protects 52:8 protest 148:16	protesters 17:7 proud 101:24 145:6 158:8 provide 10:13 65:23 80:7 90:7 95:5 105:17 156:21 provided 94:13 139:12 providing 30:19 31:16,18 58:13 proving 145:8 provision 59:13 provisions 141:17 public 5:2 10:13 17:20 22:2,5 35:1,6,7,23 36:1 37:1 38:1 39:1 40:1 41:1 42:1 43:1 44:1 45:1,19 46:1 47:1 48:1 49:1 50:1 51:1 52:1,4,8 53:1,3,6,19, 20 54:1 55:1 56:1 57:1 58:1 59:1 60:1 61:1 62:1 63:1,24 64:1,18 65:1 66:1 67:1 68:1 69:1 70:1 71:1 72:1 73:1 74:1 75:1 76:1, 19 77:1,9 78:1 79:1,3 80:1 81:1 82:1 83:1 84:1 85:1 86:1 87:1 88:1 89:1 90:1 91:1 92:1 93:1,16 94:1,13,19 95:1,9 96:1 97:1 98:1 99:1 100:1 101:1 102:1 103:1 104:1, 23 105:4 122:11,14 163:10 publish 31:6 published 9:18 10:17 80:16 pulled 52:24 69:9 pulpit 144:4 pun 140:14 puppies 38:11,17 39:16 44:4,8,17,24 71:8 73:19 75:15 112:13 puppy 38:2 39:21 68:7	purchased 45:3 74:7 purpose 10:12 74:9 pursuant 37:2 put 49:13 50:6 51:7 53:10 72:10 146:10 155:15 putting 73:17 91:9 157:2 166:21
Q		
qualified 30:20 quality 75:5 140:11 162:7 165:3,8 queer 4:10 158:16,19 question 109:5 114:20 Quetcy 20:19 121:8 122:22 152:22 quickly 14:14,20		
R		
race 3:17 racism 3:14 radical 85:11 raid 157:21 raids 158:6 rail 51:7 rails 35:16 Rainbow 158:13 raise 84:17 raised 45:17 72:13 78:7 84:19 90:2 raises 93:14 raising 47:7 152:6 Ramadan 20:4 119:14 150:19 160:12,13,18 rank 96:20,21		

rate 51:12 rational 93:9,18 Raymond 67:18 79:9,15, 16,21 re-called 9:23 10:2 reach 55:11,14 160:14 165:13 reached 52:24 75:13 97:22 reaches 98:24 reactivity 77:3 read 13:21 15:21 16:23 18:5 19:11 21:5 24:18 26:13 29:8 30:14 32:18 33:3 37:7 105:9 106:22 108:12 109:3 112:4 113:23 114:19 117:19 119:9 120:15 122:6 123:20 125:23 127:9 128:22 130:13 131:23 reading 9:22 32:17 33:1, 14,22,23 34:1,5,9,16 35:8 105:1,6 106:1 107:1 108:1 109:1 110:1 111:1 112:1 113:1 114:1 115:1 116:1 117:1 118:1 119:1 120:1 121:1 122:1 123:1 124:1 125:1 126:1 127:1 128:1 129:1 130:1 131:1 real 42:2 134:18 realistically 42:5,21 reality 66:6 72:2,11 reason 38:22 51:21 reasonable 71:11 recalls 52:18 receive 63:22 96:19 140:12 receives 50:14 recent 157:21	recently 4:2 96:3 157:20 reckless 44:21 recognition 28:2 127:17 recognize 11:18 12:14 26:3 46:9 99:23 100:8 142:24 152:14 recognizes 6:20 7:22 8:12,24 12:7 14:10 15:9 16:10 17:14 18:21 20:10, 18 22:14,22 24:3,10 25:9, 17,24 28:22 29:24 32:9 34:6 94:8 99:12 105:21 107:12 112:16 118:10 119:18 121:7 122:21 124:14 125:14 126:10 127:24 129:14 130:24 132:18 136:9 138:5 141:9 148:8 150:7 152:21 156:3 159:5 166:18 167:24 recognizing 18:9 20:3 26:19 27:11 29:11 86:14 99:18 117:23 119:13 123:24 126:3 130:16 150:17 151:3 159:12 160:3 recommendation 30:10 31:12 32:2 recommendations 38:8 155:12 recommit 143:16 reconsideration 9:22 record 32:18 70:10 recovery 148:23 recreation 22:3,5 122:12, 14 recycling 64:16,23 red 36:17 60:12 red-nose 72:6,12 reduce 22:7 93:16 122:16 reduces 51:22 55:23	reducing 45:12 46:7 54:18 78:23 reference 70:17 referred 16:8 25:6 30:17 reflects 142:8 reform 57:23 142:10,20 reforms 58:19 refuge 97:7 refund 50:2,9 58:14 59:16 regard 76:23 Regional 79:23 registered 38:18 74:13,18 regressive 60:2 regular 11:17 48:10 regularly 55:11 74:15 regulation 63:13 112:9 regulatory 107:5 rehoming 75:14 reign 158:6 rejected 52:21 related 75:20 108:23 114:15 relating 31:3 relationship 38:20 135:6 relationships 88:11 relatives 152:7 relentless 66:3 relief 65:24 156:22 remain 93:3 remaining 36:12 69:12 remains 91:2 remarks 36:15 reminder 36:14 158:3 reminding 144:5
--	---	--

remove 39:7 51:17 158:19	research 80:22	34:9,15,20 35:5 48:10
removed 69:18	reserve 36:24	51:13 105:5 117:19 132:3
removing 158:12	reserves 86:2	resources 5:4 47:15
renaming 19:15	reset 151:13	64:19 71:4 74:2 76:19
renewal 26:24 124:6	reshaping 81:3	90:7 105:17
144:12	resident 13:6 45:17 56:9	respect 133:18 152:15
renters 81:4	82:11 165:10	respectfully 31:8,21
repairs 81:16	residents 21:17 49:12,17,	46:11
repealing 114:2	21 56:15 121:4 153:24	respecting 135:5
repetitious 37:3	154:7,12 155:9 161:9	respite 65:24
replicate 104:6	162:7 163:11	response 7:15 11:12
report 30:3,14 32:4 80:16	resign 92:23 93:21 94:14,	33:10 106:16 108:6
81:17	20	113:15 119:4 120:10
reported 33:19	resign-to-run 51:18	121:24 123:15 125:10
reports 29:22 30:1,9 31:1,	resigning 92:19	127:4 128:17 130:8
9,21 32:1	resigns 53:13	131:18 168:24
represent 72:2 89:4,7	resolution 10:6,8,9 15:16,	responsibility 77:12
representation 80:7	22,24 16:15,24 17:3,10,	responsible 39:8 46:3,16
representing 79:23	21 18:6,8,18 19:5,13,15,	47:17 72:9 73:19 75:10
represents 45:11 142:11	20 20:2,8 21:8,19,23	78:15,22 81:23 143:17
Republican 63:9	22:11 26:18 27:7,11,16,	164:14
Republicans 61:15 64:6	20 28:5,9,19 29:4,9,11,18	responsibly 45:15 72:14
65:3,10	30:18,23 31:13,14,24	164:16 165:16
request 7:20 64:9 74:20	49:2 51:10 52:23 58:3,4	rest 6:5 96:9
requests 8:7 13:17	63:10 90:14,16,19 91:7	restaurant 42:10
require 63:23 75:3	92:10,12 94:4 99:17	restaurants 42:6 102:10
required 9:17 47:15 69:3	105:9,12,23 106:5,9,19,	restoration 26:24 124:6
requirements 93:4	22 107:2,14,18,22 108:9	restore 64:3
requires 44:13 46:24	117:22 118:12,16,21	restrain 69:14
56:22 64:21	119:7,10,12,20 120:4,13,	restrict 108:22
requiring 47:8 49:21	16,18 121:9,13,18 122:4,	restricting 71:15
81:20	7,9,23 123:4,9,18,21,23	restrictions 108:17
rescue 55:16 56:10,16	124:16,20 125:4,13,24	restrictive 49:23
69:10 73:6 75:3,22	126:3,12,16,21 127:7,10,	rests 141:20
143:14	12 128:2,6,11,20,23	resulting 43:16
rescues 55:6 82:18	129:2,16,20 130:2,11,14,	resuscitate 23:10
	16 131:3,7,12,21,24	retain 92:19
	150:17 151:2 152:13	
	153:13 156:7 167:2	
	resolutions 9:20 10:3	
	14:9,23 20:24 21:6 22:18	
	25:14,21 26:9,14 32:4	

return 92:24 104:12 returning 10:8 102:11 146:17 returns 31:10,23 Rev 27:20 97:10,12 101:5, 6,9 Reverend 3:2,7,8 6:12 26:19 79:13 91:24 92:2 96:14 100:7,9,14,19 104:3 123:24 124:21 127:13 144:9,16 145:22 148:5,6 review 93:10,19 107:7 revision 142:4 revisit 58:12 59:5 60:4 revitalization 27:2 124:7 revive 149:13 RHLS 80:3 rich 61:6 Richardson 7:24 8:3 9:3, 11 11:2 12:9,11 13:5 15:11,13 17:5 30:3,6 32:11,13 34:7,12 66:24 70:9 109:14,16 115:6,8 132:13 137:3 166:3 ride 42:17 rideshare 107:8 ridiculous 83:10 riding 133:8 righteousness 5:13 rights 17:6 71:3 100:2 144:3 145:8 158:17 rise 12:13 43:18 50:24 66:9 92:9 136:12 138:9, 23 rising 21:15 65:20 121:2 153:20 154:9 Robert 67:17 70:12,22	Robinson 37:12 40:6 Rodriguez 67:18 76:6,8 role 18:14 118:5 143:24 roll 94:24 109:8 114:23 room 69:12 77:20 140:13 root 78:20 rooted 90:20 Rottweiler 68:17 round 147:10 row 73:15 Rue 4:11 16:19 105:22 156:4 rule 31:2,16 51:18,21 52:21 rules 32:15,23 33:20 37:2 run 53:14 88:12 92:18,24 93:21 94:14,20 running 61:3 94:15 rushed 149:15 rushing 47:24 Ryan 79:12 89:13	Samir 14:15 Sammie 54:6 Sapp 135:16 sat 51:6 satisfy 93:9 Saturday 136:15 save 75:6 Savior 95:23 scale 104:7 scavengers 140:24 school 12:14,22,23 14:17 95:24 scope 68:11,19 Scout 96:16,20 Scouts 96:17,21 97:23,24 98:3 screenings 44:16 season 156:12 seat 73:15 93:2 seats 92:20 seconded 7:4,7 10:19,22 32:20,23 106:6,9 107:19, 22 113:4,7 118:17,20 119:23 120:3 121:14,17 123:5,8 124:23 125:3 126:17,20 128:7,10 129:21,24 131:8,11 168:13,16 seconds 36:12 section 23:19 66:16 108:19 112:11 114:12 146:13 secure 63:21 security 51:14 Seed 89:16 seek 102:7,8,15
S		
	Sacred 4:19 Sadly 75:6 safe 80:6 90:8 Safestreetsphilly.org 63:8 safety 22:2 53:20 63:23 76:19 77:10 79:3 81:17 107:6 122:11 163:10 Samantha 43:4 50:21 54:4 same-day 148:21 same-day-working 134:4	

seeking 97:2,19 102:18	set 30:22	shows 44:10 95:11
selective 94:3	sets 164:14	shutting 47:22
self- 87:14 93:14	setting 87:16	sick 98:23,24
self-protection 93:19	seven- 66:3	sides 142:7
sell 141:2	Seventh 114:9	sign 35:11 137:21
selling 44:24 66:7 73:18 165:18	Seventy 161:2	sign-up 35:22
Senator 23:5 149:10	sew 98:18	signed 35:13,19 64:2
senior 3:9 12:22 14:17 27:4,24 79:24 96:2 124:9 127:16	sexuality 3:18	significance 29:14 130:19
seniors 154:3	shadow 12:19	significant 43:18 47:11 54:9 141:19
sense 133:24	Shak 20:7	significantly 154:18
separate 49:23	shake 135:3	signify 33:6 106:12 108:2 113:11 118:23 120:6 121:20 123:11 125:6 126:23 128:13 130:4 131:14 168:20
SEPTA 42:13,14,15,17,20, 23	share 46:4,6	silence 135:17,18
Sergeant- 13:17	shareable 54:23	silly 51:3
Sergeant-at-arms 36:18	shared 102:4 142:9	Similar 158:6
series 137:10	sheet 35:22	simply 46:22 54:14 56:4 59:6 77:22 83:10 143:10
seriousness 148:3 167:4	shelter 37:20 46:7,18 54:12 56:6 69:6,13	single 4:17 80:18 82:14, 16,17,19,22 83:20,21 87:8
servant 145:3	shelter's 69:17	sir 15:5 23:22 24:7
serve 5:22 16:4 90:13 97:13 98:7 103:17,22 104:12 159:14	shelters 76:17 79:2 143:14	sister 104:10
serves 3:12 159:15	Shepherd 96:13	sisters 148:13
service 5:3 26:22 27:22 28:12 108:16 124:4 127:14 129:6 140:11 145:14	Shepherds 68:16	sit 98:11
services 57:21 79:24 139:11,12	Sherman 79:13	sitting 77:19 101:16,20 143:10
servicing 118:6	shifting 135:24	slavery 92:8
serving 18:15 80:8 103:3	shock 157:23	slick 39:21
session 9:6,9,16 10:5,18 11:5,22 17:13 19:23 33:4 34:2 35:10,14 36:3 113:20	shops 66:6	small 41:9,11,21,22 46:21 104:11 163:13
	short 85:15	smaller 91:9
	short-lived 158:20	smiling 133:3
	shot 139:15	
	shoulders 100:24	
	show 44:3 158:23	
	showing 44:11 47:17	

smoke 66:5	speeches 132:1,8,16 133:1 134:1 135:1 136:1, 7 137:1 138:1 139:1 140:1 141:1 142:1 143:1 144:1 145:1 146:1 147:1 148:1 149:1 150:1 151:1 152:1 153:1 154:1 155:1 156:1 157:1 158:1 159:1 160:1 161:1 162:1 163:1 164:1 165:1 166:1 167:1	84:10 87:19 88:6,19 100:23 145:6 168:17
social 28:15 55:5 71:5 129:8 137:7,20 141:22		standing 89:20 135:18
socialization 77:2		stands 86:6 168:10
sold 75:16		star 82:20
soldiers 139:16		start 150:11
Solid 64:20		started 101:11
solutions 48:14,15		starts 137:11
solved 66:19	speed 62:24	state 46:24 49:6,9,23 50:11 56:7,23 58:6 59:12 60:18 61:2 65:6 70:10,11 78:12 81:9 96:4
son 84:18 102:15 103:14	spend 61:24 75:3 143:8	
souls 54:13	spending 61:19	
sound 38:13 87:14	spills 56:6	stated 3:1 4:1 5:1 6:1 7:1 8:1 9:1 10:1,23 11:1 12:1 13:1 14:1 15:1 16:1 17:1 18:1 19:1 20:1 21:1 22:1 23:1 24:1 25:1 26:1 27:1 28:1 29:1 30:1 31:1 32:1 33:1 34:1 35:1 36:1 37:1 38:1 39:1 40:1 41:1 42:1 43:1 44:1 45:1 46:1 47:1 48:1 49:1 50:1 51:1 52:1 53:1 54:1 55:1 56:1 57:1 58:1 59:1 60:1 61:1 62:1 63:1 64:1 65:1 66:1 67:1 68:1 69:1 70:1 71:1 72:1 73:1 74:1 75:1 76:1 77:1 78:1 79:1 80:1 81:1 82:1 83:1 84:1 85:1 86:1 87:1 88:1 89:1 90:1 91:1 92:1 93:1 94:1 95:1 96:1 97:1 98:1 99:1 100:1 101:1 102:1 103:1 104:1 105:1 106:1 107:1 108:1 109:1 110:1 111:1 112:1 113:1 114:1 115:1 116:1 117:1 118:1 119:1 120:1 121:1 122:1 123:1 124:1 125:1 126:1 127:1 128:1 129:1 130:1 131:1 132:1 133:1 134:1 135:1 136:1 137:1 138:1 139:1 140:1 141:1 142:1 143:1 144:1 145:1 146:1 147:1 148:1 149:1
South 35:18	spirit 148:5	
Southern 145:22 146:4,6	spiritual 28:14 129:7 144:20	
Sovereign 4:19	spoke 97:24	
Soviet 62:14	spoken 52:20	
space 54:14,18 77:23 83:20 84:3 137:14	spot 134:23	
spaces 22:6 122:15	spread 77:4	
spaniel 68:18	Spring 66:15	
spayed 82:21	Squilla 25:18,19 111:9,10 116:24 117:2 140:18	
SPCA 40:13 82:17	Sr 26:20 101:6 124:2 144:10	
speak 36:2,7 68:4 70:6,23 79:20 87:13,18 89:17 146:2 150:24	St 96:2	
speaker 36:23 37:8	stabilities 155:7	
speakers 35:11	stability 74:11	
speaking 36:10 40:17 45:24 158:9	stack 153:4	
special 5:14 31:8 59:12 84:14 93:24	Stacy 61:3	
specific 38:8 47:19 71:16 155:18	staff 52:4 68:22	
specifically 12:20 163:17	stake 70:7,14	
spectator 54:19	stakeholders 48:4 163:5	
	stalwart 66:14	
	stance 102:8	
	stand 7:9 51:3 65:13	

150:1 151:1 152:1 153:1 154:1 155:1 156:1 157:1 158:1 159:1 160:1 161:1 162:1 163:1 164:1 165:1 166:1 167:1 168:1 statement 139:4 states 64:22 stay 154:14 155:18 161:15 steady 151:21 Stein 57:11,17,19 step 45:11 78:21 85:16 88:4 142:11 steward 5:4 91:14 stewards 91:15 stewardship 90:21 Stonewall 158:14 stood 89:23 stop 41:6 storage 64:16 store 42:4 stores 82:20 storm 134:16 story 104:7 strain 76:18 strategic 55:21 strategies 22:7 122:16 streamline 50:12 streams 65:7 street 19:17 62:24 63:16 66:17 75:20 89:21 114:9, 10 147:6 Street's 23:5 149:10 streets 39:5 64:8 strengthen 141:16 strengthening 18:13	118:4 stronger 91:3 142:22 strongly 45:20 structural 92:21 structurally 38:12 structure 39:15 structured 91:4 struggle 157:9 struggles 6:6 struggling 49:8 50:5 61:20 77:6 student 12:15 14:16 students 148:15 Study 98:10,11,12 stuff 88:24 stupid 62:2,23 subject 37:4 64:12 submission 30:20 31:19 submit 48:18 submitted 133:15 subsequently 9:17 substances 66:9 substantive 10:3 succeed 77:7 success 65:14 successful 41:11 succession 160:6 suffer 81:15 suffering 45:12 68:20 suggest 46:21 suggested 78:11 suit 88:2 Sullivan 104:4 Sunday 68:13 98:6 99:5	167:17 supply 41:16 78:19 supplying 47:18 support 5:16 17:4 45:20 48:24 58:3,23 63:9 64:10, 14 65:20 66:9 68:6 72:23 73:13 79:22 89:11 91:4,8 104:17 138:9 140:16 143:14 148:12 167:12 Supporters 46:21 supporting 152:12 supportive 40:12 supports 68:9 90:20 99:3 supposed 60:17,22,23 61:11,21 62:4,22 63:2 surely 95:22 surgeries 75:4,7 surgery 138:23 surplus 164:19 surrender 74:6,20 surrendered 43:20 45:7 surrenders 73:10 surrounded 84:24 surrounding 85:4 158:4 survivor 92:9 suspended 32:16,24 suspension 10:10 33:20 sustain 86:3 Suzanne 91:24 97:12 system 42:20 47:5 59:22 systems 155:5 T table 35:16 46:12 48:3 49:13
--	---	---

tackle 41:15 165:23	terms 25:2 41:20 108:24 112:13 114:16 133:24	time 3:15,21 4:8 5:9 11:23 15:3 35:18 36:2,4,13 40:13 52:6 54:15 56:2 58:2,5,15,21 59:8 62:18 69:22 70:2 72:23 76:3 83:2,3 88:12 97:17 135:5, 12 143:9
takeovers 140:5	terrier 68:17	times 66:7 67:12 78:2 91:11,12 102:23 138:14
takes 69:5 151:10	terror 158:6	timestamp 83:22 84:4
taking 10:3 11:23 67:14 102:6 139:14 140:6 149:2	testament 85:7	timestamped 54:24 69:8
talk 151:19	testified 163:22	Tioga 27:3 124:8
talking 42:13	testify 35:12 48:24 142:18	title 15:21 16:23 18:5 19:11 21:5 24:18 29:8 105:9 106:22 108:12 112:4,7 113:23 114:11 119:9 120:15 122:6 123:20 125:23 127:9 128:22 130:13 131:23
tape 41:12	testimony 48:18	today 4:21 8:8 9:15 11:3 12:6,13 14:4 15:15 16:14 17:22 19:3 20:15 22:19 23:3 24:7,14 33:15 34:17 36:4 48:24 58:19 59:4 60:3 70:6,7,14,18,22 72:23 78:8 79:20 84:9,12 85:6 87:19 88:6,20 89:13, 18 90:10,14 92:9 94:16 95:6 100:22 132:22 133:13 138:9 141:13 142:17 148:20 153:6,12 155:3 156:7 161:22 162:2,5 163:8,23 167:2,5
target 47:21 78:14	testing 75:23	today's 9:6,8 10:11,17 18:19 20:9 21:20 22:12 27:8,17 28:6,20 29:19 33:4 35:10,14 105:3 117:20
targeted 48:7 55:10,13,20	tests 38:9	told 53:22 63:12
tax 49:5,10,24 50:3,9,10 57:22 58:7,14 59:9,12,15, 19,22 60:2,18 105:15 156:10,12,14,20,22,23,24	Text 87:3	tool 105:17
taxes 21:16 61:14 121:3 153:20,23 154:10 155:2	theory 103:23	tools 52:5 156:16
taxpayer 61:24 71:3 73:2	thereof 45:5	top 85:19
taxpayer-funded 52:6,7	thing 5:24 42:10 138:15	
taxpayers 62:20	things 98:9,20 135:21 164:6	
Taylor 14:15	Thomas 17:16,17 86:13 90:17 94:9,10 109:22,23 115:14,15 118:8,11,13 166:19,20 168:6,7	
team 73:5 82:18 88:22	thought 125:17	
teams 84:20	thoughtful 142:8	
technical 92:11	thousand 155:4	
techs 69:14	thousands 49:11 75:4 160:20	
teenagers 102:12	threat 67:3	
temperament 39:15 74:10 76:24	three-year 46:15 48:2	
temperaments 38:12	thrice 53:23	
temperatures 133:5	throw 162:24	
temporarily 55:21	thrown 74:15	
temporary 48:5 73:18 112:11	Thursday 6:18 7:2,8 168:11,17	
tenants 81:11,15	tie 50:9	
tenure 101:10	tied 59:11	
term 16:5 135:6 162:23	Tiktok 62:3	

touch 99:6	types 164:5	unwrapped 160:17
town 137:9,23		updated 142:7
toxic 64:18	U	uplift 98:9
toy 160:12	Uganda 98:18	urge 45:20 46:12 48:2 82:7 134:12
toys 160:16,17	ultimately 71:2 77:6	urgently 134:20
tradition 85:12 144:11 145:7 152:9	unable 74:2	urging 133:16
trained 134:15	unaffordability 157:16	V
transfer 112:12	unanimous 58:23	vaccinate 44:7
transferred 47:3	unanimously 58:20	vaccinations 44:15
transfers 55:23	unapologetically 101:24	vacuum 77:8
transformation 145:11	uncertainty 53:18	Valentine 166:9
transition 53:14	unconscious 149:11,18	Valentine's 136:18,20 166:8 168:9
translate 55:16	undermine 135:10	valuable 64:19
transparency 90:22	underresourced 18:15 118:6	values 153:18 154:17
transported 55:19	underserved 18:16 118:7	Vanessa 67:18 79:9,16,20
transporters 56:16	understands 94:19 152:2	vary 36:3
transports 56:11	understood 135:2	VDO 108:20
trash 74:15	Unemployment 48:23	vehicles 107:8
trauma 149:20	unequal 92:13	Velez 37:10 40:6
treated 79:5 143:20	unfair 93:22	Venango 147:16 159:24
treatment 148:17	union 62:14 134:9 148:13 149:3,5	ventilator 23:13
tristate 55:8,12	union- 134:14	verifiable 81:20
trouble 44:12	unique 134:16	version 49:9,15 142:8
troubled 102:12	universal 94:3	versus 162:18
true 4:8 41:7 85:11	University 96:4	vet 38:14 69:14
Trump 17:8 64:2,10	unlicensed 66:7 141:15	veterinarian 43:12 45:17
trust 52:9 53:6,20 80:15	unnecessarily 49:20	veterinary 43:18 143:15
tubes 23:13	unnoticed 91:11	vetoed 9:23
Tuesday 137:11	unregulated 66:8	vets 102:11
turn 36:13,17 38:2 139:5	unscrupulous 165:12	vhir 20:7
two-minute 36:9	unverifiable 81:13	vicinity 24:23
two-thirds 85:22	unwavering 26:23 124:5	
type 167:8		

videos 62:3 views 55:15 villains 83:12 violating 142:3 violence 22:8 122:17 visibility 52:4 158:17,19 visible 158:2 vision 97:4 139:19 144:19 visionary 27:22 127:14 visit 68:10 87:4 137:7 visitors 11:19 visits 98:23 voice 55:3 57:7 79:22 volunteer 66:12 82:13 volunteered 68:4 vote 75:24 voted 10:4 111:24 117:16 voter 93:16 voters 52:19 voting 57:5 60:15 93:12 vulnerable 5:15 157:17	warmth 133:3 waste 64:15,19,20,24 65:4,7 73:2 watch 61:5 watched 52:12 watching 77:22 ways 81:4 weaken 51:19 weariness 6:6 web 81:9 website 39:22 65:15 week 42:14 75:12 86:16 132:10 135:17 160:7 week-long 55:14 weeks 12:17 14:19 38:19 69:7 159:22 welcoming 15:5 welfare 44:20 45:19 46:9 76:10 77:14 142:15 163:11 well-being 5:5 28:15 74:17 129:8 well-intentioned 70:24 Wesley 16:3 West 19:16 Westminster 71:23 Whip 8:13 16:17 17:15 168:2 who've 167:6 whopping 61:12 Whosoever 3:9 wife 23:8 138:16 149:13 166:7 Will's 138:12 148:14 win 97:2,20 102:19 winner 88:15	wisdom 5:7,14 wishing 36:7 150:12 withdraw 10:5 withdrawing 40:20 witnesses 37:14 43:8 57:15 67:21 92:4 women 68:24 99:3,4 wonderful 101:22 133:23 word 4:17 words 100:10 work 48:16 50:11,18 52:7 53:16 56:19 73:7,8 76:8 85:3,10,20 86:4,10,16 87:6,7 88:21,23 91:10 95:12 98:15,17 99:4 103:21 104:3,5 134:6,10 135:8 138:12 139:19 149:2 159:13,22 160:4 163:4 165:14 166:4 167:6 workable 142:10 worked 76:11,21 138:14 142:19 working 49:4 50:10 59:6, 7,8 80:4 102:23 105:14 152:6 156:9,20,22 165:2 works 99:3 149:5 world-renowned 140:21 145:23 worried 149:20 worse 45:7 73:22 165:19 worship 97:6 145:10 worthy 71:10 Wright 101:5,7 written 46:14 wrong 56:5 77:21
W		
wage 50:3,9 58:13 59:8, 15,19 60:2 wages 139:24 148:17 waiting 96:18 walk 69:3,12 99:8 walking 143:9 walls 5:17 wanted 14:20 67:24 99:16 100:8 134:22 136:12 143:6 150:14,24 158:10 Ward 164:2		

Y

y'all 62:3 89:5,11,12,19
91:5,20 147:11

year 29:13 47:3,14 49:18
51:15 73:22 80:17 83:3,4,
14,15 130:18 151:4,5,14,
18,22 156:23 157:13
158:23 166:9,15 167:11

year's 49:6 88:14

years 40:3 54:17 60:16
68:5 76:14 82:22 83:5
87:21 88:7 90:6 97:16
101:2,17 153:3 154:23

yellow 36:13

yesterday 41:14 133:2

yield 36:22 152:18

York 158:14

young 19:7 22:15,16
40:19 68:24 87:20
110:13,14 116:5,6 139:13
159:6,7 168:3

Young's 65:21

youngest 88:16

youth 31:4,17 76:9 86:20
96:16

Z

zerowasteamerica.org
65:16

Zion 27:5 103:7,15,22
104:3 124:10 144:11
147:5,8 159:17 160:4

zoning 47:10 65:22 66:21
114:5,6

City of Philadelphia
City Council Calendar
Thursday, February 12, 2026

PUBLIC COMMENT

Please note that this is an in-person meeting, and it is open to the public. This meeting may also be viewed on Xfinity Channel 64, Fios Channel 40 or <http://phlcouncil.com/watch-city-council/>

Public comment will be received in-person regarding those matters printed on the agenda on the following pages. Speakers interested in participating in public comment at this meeting may call 215-686-3406 by no later than 3 p.m. the day before the meeting and they must submit the following information:

- **Full name (including proper pronunciation and spelling)**
- **Identify the bill number or resolution number that will be addressed**
- **State whether you support or oppose that particular bill or resolution**
 - **Telephone number where you can be reached**

Speakers may also sign-up to participate in public comment on the day of the meeting in Room 400, City Hall. Speakers who submitted the above information within the required time frame will be added to the list. Speakers will have up to three minutes to speak; the Council President, however, reserves the right based on circumstances to establish a different time limit. The Council President may also limit testimony where repetitious comments are offered on an agenda item.

ORDER OF BUSINESS IN A COUNCIL SESSION

Note: Some items do not occur at every session:

Invocation.

Approval of the journal of the preceding meeting.

Requests by Councilmembers for permission to be absent from the session.

Reading of communications from the Mayor.

Introduction of bills and resolutions (to be referred to appropriate Committees of Council).

Reports from Committees of Council.

Special business.

Bills on first reading.

Public comment on bills and resolutions on the Second Reading and Final Passage Calendars - titles are printed below.

Bills that Council passed but that need to be returned by the Mayor for reconsideration.

Consideration of bills and resolutions on the Second Reading and Final Passage Calendars.

Bills and resolutions on the Suspension Calendar.

Speeches by Councilmembers.

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BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS ON FINAL PASSAGE

241070

INTRODUCED BY: Councilmember Thomas

Resolution proposing an amendment to the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter to eliminate the requirement that City officers and employees resign from their City office or employment before becoming candidates for public office; and providing for the submission of the amendment of the electors of Philadelphia.

260086

INTRODUCED BY: Councilmember Landau

Resolution commending the Pennsylvania General Assembly for including the Working Pennsylvanians Tax Credit in the 2025-2026 budget, a crucial new tool to provide essential resources and lift families out of poverty across the Commonwealth.

260089

INTRODUCED BY: Councilmember Harrity

Resolution calling on the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to establish a comprehensive regulatory framework and conduct a formal safety and labor impact review of driverless rideshare vehicles operating in Philadelphia and throughout Pennsylvania.

BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS ON SECOND READING AND FINAL PASSAGE

241056

INTRODUCED BY: Councilmember Thomas

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

250768**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Gauthier

An Ordinance amending Title 17 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled “Contracts and Procurement,” to prohibit contractors providing solid waste, recycling or composting services to the City from incinerating discarded matter, under certain terms and conditions.

250807**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Squilla

An Ordinance authorizing the Commissioner of Public Property to acquire, on behalf of the City, fee simple title or a lesser interest, by purchase, dedication, donation, condemnation, agreement in lieu of condemnation or otherwise, for the purpose of making, enlarging, connecting, extending, operating, and maintaining public parks for recreational use, certain parcels of land, generally bounded and located between Vine Street, Fairmount Avenue, 8th Street and 12th Street, together with all improvements thereon and all associated easements and appurtenances; and to lease the property, or a portion thereof, to the Center City District; all under certain terms and conditions.

250843**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Squilla for Council President Johnson

An Ordinance amending Chapter 10-700 of the Philadelphia Code, entitled “Refuse and Littering,” to require locking dumpsters; all under certain terms and conditions.

250917**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Young

An Ordinance amending Section 14-529 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled “VDO, Fifth District Overlay District,” to provide for building requirements to prevent vacant lots, all under certain terms and conditions.

250980**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Phillips

An Ordinance amending Chapter 9-3900 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled “Property Licenses and Owner Accountability,” by requiring non-resident landlords to provide verifiable contact information and a designated local contact and establishing penalties for non-compliance, all under certain terms and conditions.

250988**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Young

An Ordinance amending Chapter 9-600 of The Philadelphia Code (entitled “Service and Other Businesses”) to add business hour restrictions in the Fifth Councilmanic District; and amending Section 14-529 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled “/VDO, Fifth District Overlay District,” to restrict certain commercial uses and make other related changes, all under certain terms and conditions

250989**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Bass

An Ordinance amending Title 10 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled “Regulation of Individual Conduct and Activity,” by adding a new Section to impose a temporary moratorium on the breeding and transfer of puppies, all under certain terms and conditions.

251025**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Driscoll

An Ordinance regulating the direction of movement of traffic on Ryan Avenue between Leon Street and Frankford Avenue.

251031**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Bass for Council President Johnson

An Ordinance repealing in its entirety Bill No. 241055 (approved December 23, 2024), entitled “An ordinance to amend the Philadelphia Zoning Maps by changing the zoning designations of certain areas of land located within an area bounded by Packer Avenue, Seventh Street, Pattison Avenue, and Darien Street. To amend Title 14 of The Philadelphia Code by adding Section 14-541 entitled “/PAK, Packer Avenue Overlay District and making other related changes, all under certain terms and conditions.”

251097**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Phillips

An Ordinance amending Chapter 9-4400 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled “Responsible Business Operations,” to add illegal sales of tobacco products to minors and unlicensed tobacco retailing as nuisance behaviors, and require completion of a Department-approved Tobacco Retailer Education and Compliance Training as a condition of lifting a Cease Operations Order, all under certain terms and conditions.

RESOLUTIONS**RESOLUTIONS****260098****INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Thomas

Resolution celebrating and recognizing February 15th as 215 Day of Giving, an annual observance that honors Philadelphia's identity while strengthening and highlighting the role of nonprofit organizations servicing under-resourced and underserved communities.

260100**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Jones

Resolution honoring and Recognizing the Observance of the Holy Month of Ramadan in the City of Philadelphia.

260101**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Lozada

Resolution authorizing the Committee on Housing, Neighborhood Development, and the Homeless to hold hearings to examine the Office of Property Assessment, its assessment methodology, appeals process, and the impact of rising property assessments and property taxes on Philadelphia residents.

260102**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Lozada

Resolution authorizing a joint hearing between the Committee on Public Safety and the Committee on Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs to examine the presence of firearms in public recreation spaces, the enforcement of existing laws, and strategies to reduce gun violence in parks and playgrounds across the City of Philadelphia.

260103**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Bass

Resolution honoring and recognizing Reverend Michael A. Major, Sr. during Black History Month for his extraordinary leadership, faith-driven service, and unwavering commitment to the renewal, restoration, revitalization of the Nicetown-Tioga community and celebrating his Installation as Senior Pastor at Zion Baptist Church

260104**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Bass

Resolution recognizing and honoring February 20, 2026, as “Love Your Pet Day” in the City of Philadelphia

260105**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Bass

Resolution honoring Rev. Dr. J. Henry Buck, Jr. for his Service, visionary ministry, and contributions to the community as Senior Pastor of Grace Baptist Church of Germantown in Recognition of Black History Month

260106**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Bass

Resolution honoring Bishop J. Louis Felton from The Mt. Airy Church of God in Christ for his extraordinary lifetime of service, leadership, and lasting contributions to the spiritual, civic, and social well-being of the City of Philadelphia during Black History Month

260107**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmember Ahmad

Resolution recognizing February 17, 2026, as the Lunar New Year and celebrating the cultural and historical significance of Philadelphia’s Asian American and Pacific Islander communities.