

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
STATED MEETING

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

PRESENT:

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

ELIZABETH MCCOLLUM NAZARIO, CHIEF CLERK

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1 1/23/25 - STATED - INVOCATION

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

3 JOHNSON: Good morning, everyone.

4 (Good morning.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

6 JOHNSON: Good morning, everyone.

7 (Good morning.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

9 JOHNSON: I note that the hour has
10 come and a quorum of this Council is
11 present. I will ask all members to
12 take your seats. I will ask all
13 visitors to retire outside the
14 rails. And before proceeding, I
15 will ask all those present to please
16 set your cell phones to silent or
17 vibrate, and I will ask for anyone
18 in the chamber with sidebar
19 conversations to please take it out
20 of the chamber.

21 To give our invocation
22 this morning, the Chair recognizes
23 the Reverend Dr. Leslie D. Callahan,
24 Pastor of the Saint Paul's Baptist

1 1/23/25 - STATED - INVOCATION

2 Church. She is here today as the
3 guest of Councilmember Nicolas
4 O'Rourke. I will ask all members
5 and guests to please rise.

6 (Councilmembers, visitors
7 and guests rise.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

9 JOHNSON: Pastor Callahan, please
10 take the rostrum.

11 REV. DR. CALLAHAN:

12 Mr. Council President, City
13 Councilmembers and all who are
14 gathered, let us pray.

15 Almighty and loving God,
16 we recognize the privilege that it
17 is to sit and stand and live in a
18 city known as the birthplace of
19 liberty and the cradle of democracy.
20 We are particularly mindful of his
21 privilege at a time when we are
22 faced with just how fragile liberty
23 and democracy can be.

24 We give you thanks for

1 1/23/25 - STATED - INVOCATION

2 this opening of the legislative
3 session. Openings and new
4 beginnings are a blessing. We give
5 you thanks for having already opened
6 the windows of heaven and pouring
7 out goodness and kindness and this
8 morning renewing mercy.

9 We pray for the Council
10 to have openness of perspective and
11 vision, ideas and ingenuity. We
12 pray that their solutions will be
13 borne of the best of the political
14 process with an awareness of and
15 commitment to the dignity of all.

16 We pray for the well-
17 being of our city, of our state, of
18 our nation. Loving God, bless our
19 Mayor and Council President. Give
20 them and all of the Council wisdom
21 and insight. Make them and all of
22 us especially mindful of the most
23 vulnerable, the children, the
24 seniors, the poor, the unhoused and

1 1/23/25 - STATED - INVOCATION

2 housing insecure, especially in
3 these frigid temperatures.

4 Help us to be mindful of
5 the faithful and the agnostic, the
6 atheist and the believer, the civic-
7 minded and the disengaged. And at
8 the end of this session, whatever
9 may be said of this legislative body
10 and its deliberations, may it also
11 be said that this body and their
12 deliberations contribute to the
13 strengthening of the values of
14 democracy in all 10 Districts and at
15 large.

16 And in the name of the
17 God who answers when called by many
18 names and in the power of justice
19 and righteousness for the sake of
20 openness and democracy, we pray.
21 Amen.

22 (Amen.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

24 JOHNSON: Council will now be at

1 1/23/25 - STATED - APPROVAL OF JOURNAL

2 ease.

3 (Council at ease.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

5 JOHNSON: The next order of business

6 is the approval of the Journal of

7 the meeting of Thursday, December

8 19, 2024.

9 The Chair recognizes

10 Deputy Whip Councilmember Cindy

11 Bass.

12 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank

13 you, Mr. President.

14 I move that the Journal

15 of the meeting of Thursday, December

16 19, 2024 be approved.

17 (Duly seconded.)

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

19 JOHNSON: It has been moved and

20 properly seconded that the Journal

21 of the meeting of Thursday, December

22 19, 2024 stand approved.

23 All those in favor will

24 signify by saying aye.

1 1/23/25 - STATED - LEAVES

2 (Aye.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

4 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

5 (No response.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

7 JOHNSON: The ayes have it and the
8 Journal is approved.

9 The next order of
10 business is request for leaves of
11 absence.

12 The Chair recognizes
13 Councilmember Majority Leader
14 Katherine Gilmore Richardson.

15 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

16 RICHARDSON: Thank you,
17 Mr. President.

18 On behalf of the
19 Majority, a leave of absence is
20 requested for Councilmember Nina
21 Ahmad.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

23 JOHNSON: The Chair thanks the
24 Councilmember, and leave will be

1 1/23/25 - STATED - MOTION CONCERNING CALENDAR

2 granted.

3 The Chair recognizes

4 Minority Leader Kendra Brooks.

5 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS:

6 Thank you, Council President.

7 There are no requests for

8 leave from the Minority.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

10 JOHNSON: The Chair thanks the

11 member.

12 The Chair now recognizes

13 Majority Leader Gilmore Richardson

14 for a motion concerning certain

15 legislative matters that may arise

16 during the course of today's session

17 of Council and that there were not

18 listed on the Calendar circulated

19 prior to today's session.

20 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

21 RICHARDSON: Thank you,

22 Mr. President.

23 I move that any of the

24 following matters, if considered

1 1/23/25 - STATED - MOTION CONCERNING CALENDAR

2 today, may be added to the agenda
3 for this session of Council, and as
4 required by law, subsequently
5 published on an amended agenda after
6 the consideration of those matters:
7 resolutions authorizing hearings,
8 amendments to bills on first
9 reading, the reconsideration of a
10 bill vetoed by or re-called from the
11 Mayor, amendments to bills re-called
12 from the Mayor, resolutions taking
13 substantive action to be voted on in
14 this session, a motion to withdraw a
15 bill or resolution that is not on
16 the Calendar, and a motion placing a
17 bill or resolution on or returning a
18 bill or resolution from the
19 Suspension Calendar that is not
20 listed on today's Calendar.

21 The purpose of this
22 motion is to provide the public with
23 notice concerning possible actions
24 by Council that arose too late to be

1 1/23/25 - STATED - MOTION CONCERNING CALENDAR

2 included on the Calendar that was
3 published prior to today's session.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

5 JOHNSON: Is there a second?

6 (Duly seconded.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

8 JOHNSON: It has been moved and
9 properly seconded that the
10 legislative matters stated by
11 Councilmember Gilmore Richardson may
12 be added to the agenda for today
13 should those matters arise during
14 the course of this session of
15 Council.

16 All those in favor will
17 indicate by saying aye.

18 (Aye.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

20 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

21 (No response.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

23 JOHNSON: The ayes have it and the
24 motion carries.

1 1/23/25 - STATED - SPECIAL GUESTS

2 The Chair will continue
3 with the regular order of business
4 to recognize the guests and visitors
5 joining us in chambers this morning.

6 On behalf of all members
7 of City Council, I welcome you to
8 our Council session. We appreciate
9 your taking the time to join us as
10 we attend to the legislative affairs
11 of our city. We certainly invite
12 you to come again and Happy New Year
13 to everyone.

14 I want to take a matter
15 of personal privilege to now
16 acknowledge the following
17 individuals who are joining us in
18 our City Council chambers today:
19 Federal Judge Timothy Savage; City
20 Commissioner Lisa Deeley;
21 Councilmember Sharon -- former
22 Councilmember and Honorable Sharon
23 Vaughn; former Chief of Clerk
24 Patricia Rafferty, Judge James

1 1/23/25 - STATED - SPECIAL GUESTS

2 Crumlish; Judge Joshua Roberts;

3 State Representative Joseph

4 Hohenstein and Timothy J. Savage,

5 Democratic Ward Leader. Can we give

6 them a round of applause for joining

7 us today.

8 (Applause.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

10 JOHNSON: The Chair takes this time

11 to acknowledge Councilmember Cindy

12 Bass.

13 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank

14 you, Mr. President.

15 And I just wanted to take

16 a moment today as we're recognizing

17 Central High School's tennis team,

18 the girls tennis team. If you all

19 could stand up, here in the balcony.

20 (Applause.)

21 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Our

22 outstanding student athletes from

23 Central High School, which is in the

24 8th Council District, but also that

1 1/23/25 - STATED - COMMUNICATIONS

2 they didn't just stop at winning the
3 team title. They swept the District
4 Championship in team singles and
5 doubles and that just completely
6 dominated with their athletic
7 talent.

8 So we just wanted to
9 recognize each and every one of them
10 as they're here today. And we are
11 offering a resolution on their
12 behalf today here in Philadelphia
13 City Council.

14 Thank you, Mr. President.

15 (Applause.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

17 JOHNSON: You're welcome.

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

23 Will the Chief Clerk
24 please read the message from the

1 1/23/25 - STATED - COMMUNICATIONS

2 Mayor and any other communications
3 in her possession.

4 CHIEF CLERK: To the
5 President and members of the Council
6 of the City of Philadelphia, I am
7 pleased to advise you that on
8 December 23, 2024 I signed the
9 following bills which were passed by
10 Council at its session on December
11 19, 2024: Bill Nos. 240963,
12 240964-A, 240966, 240967, 240968,
13 240969, 240970, 240971, 240972,
14 240973, 241062-A and 241084.

15 And that on December
16 23rd, I signed the following bills
17 which were passed by Council at its
18 session On December 12, 2024: Bill
19 Nos. 240932, 241055, and 240159.

20 And I am pleased to
21 advise you that on January 15, 2025
22 I signed the following bills which
23 were passed by Council at its
24 session on December 19, 2024: Bill

1 1/23/25 - STATED - COMMUNICATIONS

2 Nos. 241022 and 241023. And that

3 also on January 15th, I signed the

4 following bills which were passed by

5 Council at its session on December

6 12, 2024: Bill Nos. 240430, 240612,

7 240871, 241029, 241031, 241050,

8 241051, 241052, 241053, 241054,

9 241058, 241061 and 241063.

10 And then I'm submitting

11 herewith for the consideration of

12 your Honorable body the following

13 proposed ordinance: An ordinance

14 authorizing the Procurement

15 Commissioner to enter into

16 agreements to purchase electricity,

17 natural gas and motor fuel for use

18 by the City and City facilities and

19 vehicles, including agreements that

20 obligate payment for delivery of

21 such energy supplies in future

22 fiscal years, all under certain

23 terms and conditions; and

24 A resolution authorizing

1 1/23/25 - STATED - COMMUNICATIONS
2 the Philadelphia Land Bank to
3 dispose of 2406, 2434, 2440, 2444
4 North 6th Street, 2425 and 2427
5 North 7th Street, 2434, 2438, 2440
6 and 2445 North Marshall Street
7 located in the 5th Councilmanic
8 District in accordance with the
9 terms of Chapter 16-700 of The
10 Philadelphia Code; and

11 A resolution authorizing
12 the Commissioner of Public Property
13 to execute and deliver to the
14 Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority
15 deeds conveying fee simple title to
16 2406, 2434, 2440, 2444 North 6th
17 Street, 2425, 2427 North 7th Street,
18 2400, 2403, 2455 North 15th Street,
19 2424, 2460 North 16th Street, 2415
20 North Bancroft Street, 1509 West
21 Boston Street, 1500 and 1507 West
22 Cumberland Street, 1501-03, 1510
23 West Berks Street, 1422 and 1437
24 West Hagert Street, 1422 and 1430

1 1/23/25 - STATED - COMMUNICATIONS
2 Letterly Street, 2434, 2438, 2440,
3 2445 North Marshall Street, 2452
4 North Mole Street, 2418, 2419, 2421,
5 2428 and 2433 North Sydenham Street
6 in the 5th Councilmanic District of
7 the City of Philadelphia and further
8 authorizing the Philadelphia
9 Redevelopment Authority to transfer
10 to the Philadelphia Land Bank fee
11 simple title to such properties
12 pursuant to Section 16-405 of The
13 Philadelphia Code; and
14 A resolution authorizing
15 the Commissioner of Public Property
16 to execute and deliver to the
17 Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority
18 deeds conveying fee simple title to
19 623R North 55th Street, 5110 Harlan
20 Street, 5122-24 Harlan Street, 2117
21 North Dover Street, 2715 North Dover
22 Street, 2731 North 29th Street, 2738
23 West Silver Street, 2703 West
24 Sterner Street, 2714 West Sterner

1 1/23/25 - STATED - COMMUNICATIONS
2 Street, 2717 West Sterner Street,
3 2627 West Lehigh Avenue, 2629-31
4 West Lehigh Avenue, 2623 West Silver
5 Street, 2726 West Sterner Street,
6 2705 West Sterner Street, 2710 West
7 Sterner Street, 2723, 2731 West
8 Sterner Street, 2655 West Silver
9 Street, 2626 West Silver Street,
10 2720 North 28th Street, 2715 West
11 Sterner Street, 2749 West Sterner
12 Street, 2733 West Sterner Street,
13 2647 West Lehigh Avenue, 2711 West
14 Sterner Street, 2628 West Silver
15 Street, 2655 West Sterner Street and
16 2651 West Silver Street in the 4th
17 Councilmanic District of the City of
18 Philadelphia and further authorizing
19 the Philadelphia Redevelopment
20 Authority to transfer to the
21 Philadelphia Land Bank fee simple
22 title to such properties pursuant to
23 Section 16-405 of The Philadelphia
24 Code; and

1 1/23/25 - STATED - COMMUNICATIONS

2 A resolution authorizing
3 the Commissioner of Public Property
4 to execute and deliver to the
5 Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority
6 these conveying fee simple title to
7 719 South 51st Street, 1124 South
8 56th Street and 1218 North 41st
9 Street in the 3rd Councilmanic
10 District of the City of Philadelphia
11 and further authorizing the
12 Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority
13 to transfer to the Philadelphia Land
14 Bank fee simple title to such
15 properties pursuant to Section
16 16-405 of The Philadelphia Code.

17 And I'm pleased to advise
18 you that on January 22nd I signed
19 the following bill which was passed
20 by Council at its session on
21 December 12, 2024: Bill No. 241025.

22 Council President, there
23 are no further communications in my
24 possession.

1 1/23/25 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

3 JOHNSON: Thank you. The messages
4 will be printed in the Journal.

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

8 The Chair recognizes
9 Councilmember Phillips.

10 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

11 Well, good morning everyone.
12 Welcome back to Philadelphia City
13 Council to everyone that's here
14 today. And thank you, Council
15 President.

16 I actually have one
17 resolution on your behalf honoring
18 the 60th Anniversary of the Voting
19 Rights Act of 1965.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

21 JOHNSON: Would the Chief Clerk
22 please read the title of the
23 privileged resolution.

24 CHIEF CLERK: A

1 1/23/25 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 privileged resolution commemorating
3 the 60th anniversary of the Voting
4 Rights Act of 1965, recognizing its
5 pivotal role in securing equal
6 voting rights for African Americans
7 and other marginalized groups and
8 advancing civil rights in the United
9 States.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

14 The Chair recognizes
15 Majority Leader Katherine Gilmore
16 Richardson.

17 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

18 RICHARDSON: Good morning, Council
19 President. Good morning,
20 colleagues.

21 Today I offer one bill on
22 your behalf, three resolutions. One
23 on your behalf, one on behalf of
24 Councilmember Ahmad and one on my

1 1/23/25 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 behalf. And all three of the

3 resolutions are privileged.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

5 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

6 Would the Chief Clerk

7 please read the titles of the bill

8 and resolutions.

9 CHIEF CLERK: An

10 ordinance authorizing the

11 Procurement Commissioner to enter

12 into agreements to purchase

13 electricity, natural gas and motor

14 fuel for use by the City and City

15 facilities and vehicles, including

16 agreements that obligate payment for

17 delivery of such energy supplies in

18 future fiscal years, all under

19 certain terms and conditions.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

21 JOHNSON: This bill will be referred

22 to the appropriate committee.

23 CHIEF CLERK: And a

24 privileged resolution celebrating

1 1/23/25 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 the life, legacy and unwavering
3 commitment of Rabbi Solomon
4 Isaacson, leader of Congregation
5 Beth Solomon and dedicated advocate
6 for Jewish as well as broader faith-
7 based and social service
8 communities.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

13 CHIEF CLERK: And a
14 privileged resolution recognizing
15 January 2025 as Human Trafficking
16 Prevention Month in the City of
17 Philadelphia.

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 honoring the
24 African American Children's Book

1 1/23/25 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 Project on the occasion of its 33rd
3 Annual African American Children's
4 Book Fair.

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

9 The Chair recognizes
10 Councilmember Jamie Gauthier.

11 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:
12 Good morning, Council President.

13 Today, I have one
14 non-privileged resolution and two
15 bills.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
17 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.
18 Will the Chief Clerk
19 please read the titles of the bills
20 and resolution.

21 CHIEF CLERK: An
22 ordinance authorizing various
23 encroachments in the vicinity of 546
24 South 45th Street, Philadelphia PA

1 1/23/25 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 19104, under certain terms and
3 conditions.

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

7 CHIEF CLERK: And a
8 non-privileged resolution
9 authorizing the Philadelphia Land
10 Bank to dispose of 3862 and 3864
11 Pennsgrove Street and 1118 North
12 39th Street located in the 3rd
13 Councilmanic District in accordance
14 with the terms of Chapter 16-700 of
15 The Philadelphia Code.

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

21 CHIEF CLERK: And an
22 ordinance authorizing encroachments
23 in the nature of a sidewalk cafe in
24 the vicinity of 20-40 South 33rd

1 1/23/25 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104,
3 under certain terms and conditions.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

7 The Chair recognizes
8 Majority Whip Councilmember Thomas.

9 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Good
10 morning, Council President. Good
11 morning, colleagues. Good morning
12 to the listening public.

13 Today, I have four
14 resolutions. Three on my behalf,
15 one on your behalf, Council
16 President.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

18 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

19 Will the Chief Clerk
20 please read the titles of the
21 resolutions.

22 CHIEF CLERK: A
23 privileged resolution honoring and
24 congratulating School District of

1 1/23/25 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 Philadelphia Superintendent
3 Dr. Tony Watlington for being
4 recognized as Superintendent of the
5 Year by the District Administration
6 Leadership Institute.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

11 CHIEF CLERK: And a
12 non-privileged resolution amending
13 Resolution 240834-A, which the
14 Council adopted on December 19,
15 2024, entitled "Proposing an
16 amendment to the Philadelphia Home
17 Rule Charter to provide for the
18 creation of the Philadelphia Prison
19 Community Oversight Board and the
20 Office of Prison Oversight and
21 providing for the submission of the
22 amendment to the electors of
23 Philadelphia," to make a technical
24 correction.

1 1/23/25 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

3 JOHNSON: This resolution will be

4 placed on the Final Passage Calendar

5 for consideration at our next

6 session of Council.

7 CHIEF CLERK: And a

8 non-privileged resolution requesting

9 the Mayor to return to Council Bill

10 No. 240817, entitled "Providing for

11 the submission to the qualified

12 electors of the City of Philadelphia

13 of the proposal set forth in a

14 resolution approved by Council

15 proposing an amendment to the

16 Philadelphia Home Rule Charter

17 relating to the creation of the

18 Philadelphia Prison Community

19 Oversight Board; and authorizing the

20 appropriate officers to publish

21 notice and to make arrangements for

22 the special election; all under

23 certain terms and conditions," for

24 the purpose of reconsideration by

1 1/23/25 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

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

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

9 CHIEF CLERK: And a
10 privileged resolution authorizing
11 the Committee on Education to hold
12 hearings on the existence, purpose,
13 use and procedures surrounding the
14 School District of Philadelphia's
15 reassignment rooms - sometimes
16 called the rubber room.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

21 The Chair recognizes
22 Councilmember Jones.

23 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank
24 you, Mr. President. And welcome

1 1/23/25 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 back colleagues to a new year and a
3 new session.

4 I offer one bill and two
5 resolutions, one privileged, one
6 non-privileged.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

8 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

9 Will the Chief Clerk
10 please read the titles of the bill
11 and resolutions.

12 CHIEF CLERK: An
13 ordinance amending ordinance(Bill
14 No. 230577), approved November 13,
15 2023, entitled "Granting permission
16 to Wynnefield/Overbrook Eruv
17 Association, in order to demarcate
18 the boundaries of a
19 Wynnefield/Overbrook eruv district,
20 to construct and maintain a clear
21 nylon cord and other ancillary
22 facilities, including a maximum of
23 100 poles and 45 pieces of
24 plexiglass along, over and in

1 1/23/25 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 certain public rights-of-way in City
3 streets, and/or to attach such
4 demarcation facilities to existing
5 facilities owned by other entities
6 authorized by the City ordinances,
7 subject to such owners consent, all
8 under certain terms and conditions,
9 by extending the period for
10 compliance with the terms and
11 conditions stated therein.

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

15 CHIEF CLERK: And a
16 non-privileged resolution
17 authorizing the Commissioner of
18 Public Property to execute and
19 deliver to the Philadelphia
20 Redevelopment Authority deeds
21 conveying fee simple title to 623R
22 North 55th Street, 5110 Harlan
23 Street, 5122-24 Harlan Street, 2715
24 North Dover Street -- 2715 North

1 1/23/25 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 Dover Street, 2731 North 29th
3 Street, 2738 West Silver Street,
4 2703 West Sterner Street, 2714 West
5 Sterner Street, 2717 West Sterner
6 Street, 2627 West Lehigh Avenue,
7 2629-31 West Lehigh Avenue, 2623
8 West Silver Street, 2726 West Silver
9 Street, 2655 West Silver Street,
10 2626 West Silver Street, 2720 North
11 28th Street, 2715 West Sterner
12 Street, 2749 West Sterner Street,
13 2733 West Sterner Street, 2647 West
14 Lehigh Avenue, 2711 West Sterner
15 Street, 2628 West Silver Street,
16 2655 West Silver Street, 2820 North
17 Newkirk Street, 2758 North 28th
18 Street, 2719 North 29th Street, 2602
19 West Sterner Street and 2651 West
20 Silver Street in the 4th
21 Councilmanic District of the City of
22 Philadelphia and further authorizing
23 the Philadelphia Redevelopment
24 Authority to transfer to the

1 1/23/25 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 Philadelphia Land Bank fee simple
3 title to such properties pursuant to
4 Section 16-405 of The Philadelphia
5 Code.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

11 CHIEF CLERK: And a
12 privileged resolution authorizing
13 City Council's Committee of the
14 Whole to conduct hearings to assess
15 the implementation of a mandatory
16 millage rate adjustment review in
17 response to citywide property
18 assessments conducted by the Office
19 of Property Assessment with the goal
20 of maintaining revenue neutrality to
21 alleviate increasing tax burdens on
22 Philadelphia taxpayers.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

24 JOHNSON: This resolution will be

1 1/23/25 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 placed on today's Final Passage
3 Calendar.

4 The Chair recognizes
5 Councilmember Rue Landau.

6 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:
7 Good morning, Council President.
8 Good morning, colleagues and the
9 public.

10 I have one privileged
11 resolution today.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
13 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

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

17 CHIEF CLERK: A
18 privileged resolution condemning --
19 one second.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
21 JOHNSON: Council will be at ease.

22 (Council at ease.)

23 CHIEF CLERK: Excuse me.

24 A non-privileged resolution

1 1/23/25 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 condemning President Donald J. Trump
3 for his selection of underqualified
4 cabinet, subcabinet and leadership
5 nominees to further advance his
6 Project 2025 agenda and undermine
7 the integrity of American democracy,
8 equity, human rights and freedom.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

14 The Chair recognizes
15 Councilmember Quetcy Lozada.

16 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA:

17 Good morning, Council President.

18 (Spanish translation). I
19 have no bills and no resolutions
20 today.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

22 JOHNSON: Thank you.

23 The Chair recognizes
24 Councilmember Jeffrey Jay Young.

1 1/23/25 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Good

3 morning, Council President. Good

4 morning, colleagues. Happy New

5 Year.

6 Today I offer three bills

7 and four resolutions, one

8 non-privileged and three privileged.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

10 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

11 Will the Chief Clerk

12 please --

13 COUNCILMAN YOUNG:

14 Mr. President, I'm sorry. I ask may

15 I speak briefly after the

16 introduction of the resolutions?

17 CHIEF CLERK: Okay. An

18 ordinance amending Chapter 12-701 of

19 The Philadelphia Code, entitled

20 "Designation of Bicycle Lanes," to

21 authorize a bicycle lane on North

22 22nd Street, from Spring Garden

23 Street to Green Street and remove a

24 travel lane on North 22nd Street

1 1/23/25 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 within the same limits, all under
3 certain terms and conditions.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

5 JOHNSON: Council will be at ease.

6 (Council at ease.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

10 CHIEF CLERK: And an
11 ordinance amending Chapter 12-701 of
12 The Philadelphia Code, entitled
13 "Designation of Bicycle Lanes," to
14 authorize a bicycle lane on North
15 13th Street from Cecil B. Moore
16 Avenue to Diamond Street, all under
17 certain terms and conditions.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

19 JOHNSON: That bill will be referred
20 to the appropriate committee.

21 CHIEF CLERK: And an
22 ordinance amending Chapter 12-701 of
23 The Philadelphia Code, entitled
24 "Designation of Bicycle Lanes," to

1 1/23/25 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 authorize a bicycle lane on North
3 23rd Street between Race Street and
4 Market Street, under certain terms
5 and conditions.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

9 CHIEF CLERK: And a
10 non-privileged resolution also
11 naming North 10th Street between
12 Oxford Street and Master Street as
13 "Paula Peebles Way."

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

19 CHIEF CLERK: And a
20 privileged resolution congratulating
21 the Temple University Men's
22 Basketball Team for winning their
23 2,000th game.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

1 1/23/25 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

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

5 CHIEF CLERK: And a
6 privileged resolution honoring the
7 life and legacy of President Jimmy
8 Carter.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

13 The Chair recognizes --

14 CHIEF CLERK: And a
15 privileged resolution honoring and
16 congratulating Jackie PettyJohn, the
17 First Lady of SEPTA, on the occasion
18 of her retirement after 40 years as
19 SEPTA's first female-trained
20 engineer.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

1 1/23/25 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 The Chair will recognize
3 Councilmember Jeffrey Jay Young for
4 some brief remarks on his bill.

5 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Thank
6 you, Mr. President.

7 As just read by the
8 Clerk, today we are honoring
9 Ms. Jackie Pettyjohn, SEPTA's first
10 female engineer. And I just want to
11 honor and recognize her and ask her
12 to stand and we can give her a round
13 of applause on her retirement from
14 SEPTA.

15 (Applause.)

16 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Thank
17 you, Mr. President.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
19 JOHNSON: You're welcome. Well
20 done.

21 The Chair now recognizes
22 the Minority Leader Kendra Brooks.

23 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: Oh,
24 thank you, Council President.

1 1/23/25 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 I have one bill,
3 privileged, and one unprivileged
4 resolution to introduce today.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

6 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

7 Will the Chief Clerk
8 please read the titles of the bill
9 and resolution.

10 Council will be at ease.

11 (Council at ease.)

12 CHIEF CLERK: A

13 privileged resolution honoring the
14 work of the Philadelphia Anti-
15 Trafficking Coalition and the
16 Salvation Army to raise awareness of
17 victims and survivors of human
18 trafficking during National Human
19 Trafficking Prevention Month. A
20 privileged resolution.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

1 1/23/25 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 CHIEF CLERK: And a

3 privileged resolution authorizing

4 the Committee on Legislative

5 Oversight to hold a hearing on

6 detainer policy in the City of

7 Philadelphia and calling on the

8 First Judicial District of

9 Pennsylvania to provide an overview

10 of its policies and practices

11 regarding detainer issuance on

12 individuals with post-trial

13 probation and parole sentences.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

15 JOHNSON: This resolution will be

16 placed on today's Final Passage

17 Calendar.

18 The Chair recognizes

19 Councilmember Jim Harrity.

20 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: Good

21 afternoon, Council President.

22 I have one privileged

23 resolution today.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

1 1/23/25 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 JOHNSON: Will the Chief Clerk

3 please read the title of the

4 privileged resolution.

5 CHIEF CLERK: A

6 privileged resolution authorizing

7 the Committee on Labor to hold

8 hearings exploring the Sugar-

9 Sweetened Beverage Tax and its

10 impact on Philadelphia businesses,

11 trades and consumers.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

13 JOHNSON: This resolution will be

14 placed on today's Final Passage

15 Calendar.

16 The Chair recognizes

17 Minority Whip Nicolas O'Rourke.

18 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE:

19 Good morning, Council President.

20 Good morning, Philadelphians, all.

21 Good morning to the official Chief

22 Clerk of the City of Philadelphia

23 Liz McCollum Nazario as well.

24 We do have one -- we can

1 1/23/25 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 clap for that.

3 (Applause.)

4 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE: I

5 do have one non-privileged

6 resolution to introduce today.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

8 JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

9 Will the Chief Clerk

10 please read the title of the

11 non-privileged resolution.

12 Council will be at ease.

13 (Council at ease.)

14 CHIEF CLERK: A

15 privileged resolution recognizing

16 the devastation caused by the

17 wildfires to the Los Angeles

18 community, the accelerating rate of

19 climate change and calling on the

20 City of Philadelphia to provide the

21 funding and resources necessary to

22 fully update and implement human-

23 centered climate mitigation and

24 resilience plans.

1 1/23/25 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

6 The Chair recognizes
7 Councilmember Mike Driscoll.

8 COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL:
9 Morning, Mr. President.

10 And no bills or
11 resolutions today.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

13 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes
14 Councilmember O'Neill.

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

17 I have no bills or
18 resolutions today.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

20 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes the
21 gentleman from South Philly,
22 Councilman Mark Squilla.

23 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA:
24 Thank you, Mr. President.

1 1/23/25 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 I offer two bills and one
3 non-privileged resolution.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

5 JOHNSON: Will the Chief Clerk
6 please read the titles of the bills
7 and resolution.

8 CHIEF CLERK: An
9 ordinance authorizing the vacating
10 of Clarion Street from Addison
11 Street to its terminus northwardly
12 therefrom and the reserving and
13 plotting upon City Plan No. 308 of a
14 right-of-way for sewer and drainage
15 purposes and water main purposes
16 within the lines of said Clarion
17 Street being vacated and authorizing
18 acceptance of the grant to the City
19 of the said right-of-way, under
20 certain terms and conditions.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

24 CHIEF CLERK: And an

1 1/23/25 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 ordinance authorizing encroachments
3 in the nature of a sidewalk cafe in
4 the vicinity of 542 Christian
5 Street, Philadelphia PA, 19147,
6 under certain terms and conditions.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

10 CHIEF CLERK: And a
11 non-privileged resolution also
12 naming Market Street from 7th Street
13 to 8th Street as Emma Chappell Way.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

19 The Chair recognizes
20 Deputy Whip Cindy Bass.

21 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank
22 you, Mr. President.

23 No bills or resolutions
24 this week.

1 1/23/25 - STATED - SPECIAL BUSINESS

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

3 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes

4 Councilmember Thomas for a motion

5 regarding special business.

6 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Good

7 morning, Council President.

8 A lot of special business

9 today, but I want to first say thank

10 you and I move that the rules of

11 Council be suspended to permit

12 consideration of special business at

13 this time.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

15 JOHNSON: It has been moved and

16 properly seconded that the rules of

17 Council be suspended so as to permit

18 the consideration of special

19 business at this time.

20 All those in favor will

21 signify by saying aye.

22 (Aye.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

24 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

1 1/23/25 - STATED - SPECIAL BUSINESS

2 (No response.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

4 JOHNSON: The ayes have it and the
5 motion carries.

6 The Chair again
7 recognizes Councilmember and
8 Majority Whip Thomas for a motion
9 regarding the resolution introduced
10 today to recall Bill No. 240817.

11 Will the Clerk please
12 read the title of the resolution.

13 CHIEF CLERK: A
14 resolution requesting the Mayor to
15 return to Council Bill No. 240817,
16 entitled "Providing for the
17 submission to the qualified electors
18 of the City of Philadelphia of the
19 proposal set forth in a resolution
20 approved by Council proposing an
21 amendment to the Philadelphia Home
22 Rule Charter relating to the
23 creation of the Philadelphia Prison
24 Community Oversight Board; and

1 1/23/25 - STATED - SPECIAL BUSINESS
2 authorizing the appropriate officers
3 to publish notice and make
4 arrangements for the special
5 election; all under certain terms
6 and conditions" for the purpose of
7 reconsideration by the Council of
8 the vote by which said bill passed
9 Council.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

11 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes
12 Majority Whip Thomas.

13 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank
14 you, Council President.

15 I move to suspend the
16 rules to allow the consideration of
17 this resolution today.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

19 JOHNSON: It has been moved and
20 properly seconded that the rules of
21 Council be suspended so as to permit
22 the consideration of the resolution
23 at this time.

24 All those in favor of the

1 1/23/25 - STATED - SPECIAL BUSINESS

2 motion will 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 and the

9 motion carries.

10 The Chair again

11 recognizes Majority Whip

12 Councilmember Thomas.

13 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank

14 you, Mr. President.

15 I move for the adoption

16 of the resolution.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

18 JOHNSON: It has been moved and

19 properly seconded that the

20 resolution be adopted.

21 All those in favor of the

22 motion will signify by saying aye.

23 (Aye.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

1 1/23/25 - STATED - SPECIAL BUSINESS

2 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

3 (No response.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

8 Will the Clerk please
9 read the letter from the Mayor.

10 CHIEF CLERK: To the
11 President and members of the Council
12 of the City of Philadelphia, I am
13 returning herewith as requested by
14 your resolution adopted today Bill
15 No. 240817 entitled, "An ordinance
16 providing for the submission to the
17 qualified electors of the City of
18 Philadelphia of the proposal set
19 forth in a resolution approved by
20 Council proposing an amendment to
21 the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter
22 relating to the creation of the
23 Philadelphia Prison Community
24 Oversight Board and authorizing the

1 1/23/25 - STATED - SPECIAL BUSINESS
2 appropriate officers to publish
3 notice and to make arrangements for
4 the special election, all under
5 certain terms and conditions" for
6 the purpose of reconsideration by
7 the Council of the vote by which
8 said bill passed Council.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

10 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes
11 Majority Whip Thomas for a motion
12 that Council reconsider the vote by
13 which Bill No. 240817 was passed.

14 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: So
15 moved, Council President.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

17 JOHNSON: All those in favor of the
18 motion will signify by saying aye.

19 (Aye.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

21 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

22 (No response.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

24 JOHNSON: The ayes have it. A

1 1/23/25 - STATED - SPECIAL BUSINESS
2 majority of all members having voted
3 in the affirmative the motion
4 carries, and the vote by which Bill
5 No. 240817 was passed has been
6 reconsidered and the bill will be
7 placed on our Second Reading and
8 Final Passage Calendars at our next
9 session of Council.

10 Before we consider the
11 next order of special business, I
12 want to take a moment of personal
13 privilege. I was talking to the
14 media last week about my first year
15 as Council President. They said,
16 what was your defining moment that
17 you can reflect upon. And I'm
18 honored to have this opportunity to
19 lead this distinguished body and I'm
20 humbled to have this opportunity to
21 lead this institution.

22 And about two weeks after
23 I took the oath of office to lead
24 this distinguished body, we lost a

1 1/23/25 - STATED - SPECIAL BUSINESS

2 great individual by the name of
3 Michael Decker who was our Chief
4 Clerk. And he had so much
5 institutional knowledge about how
6 this body operated.

7 And at that particular
8 time, I had to rise as a leader. I
9 worked with my team to make sure
10 this great institution continued to
11 move forward. And so, I want to
12 thank this young lady who rose to
13 the occasion on behalf of this great
14 City of Philadelphia to fill this
15 role, to make sure we continue to
16 move this city forward.

17 On behalf of the City of
18 Philadelphia, I want to acknowledge
19 Ms. Liz McCollum. Let's give her a
20 really big round of applause.

21 (Applause.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

23 JOHNSON: Thank you, Liz, for
24 hitting the ground running. We

1 1/23/25 - STATED - SPECIAL BUSINESS
2 didn't miss a beat as a City Council
3 body. Thank you.

4 And so officially, the
5 next order of business, the election
6 of the Chief Clerk of the City
7 Council of Philadelphia.

8 Nominations are now in order.

9 And the Chair recognizes
10 Majority Leader Councilmember
11 Katherine Gilmore Richardson.

12 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

13 RICHARDSON: Thank you,
14 Mr. President.

15 On behalf of all of the
16 colleagues in Philadelphia City
17 Council and so many of us who have
18 had the honor and privilege to work
19 with you over the years, I am
20 honored and privileged to nominate
21 Philadelphia High School for Girls
22 alumna Ms. Elizabeth McCollum.

23 (Applause.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

1 1/23/25 - STATED - SPECIAL BUSINESS

2 JOHNSON: The Chair thanks the
3 Majority Leader.

4 The Chair recognizes
5 Councilmember Driscoll.

6 COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL:
7 Mr. President, I enthusiastically
8 second the nomination.

9 Are there any further
10 nominations?

11 (No response.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

13 JOHNSON: Hearing none, the Chair
14 recognizes Majority Whip Isaiah
15 Thomas.

16 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank
17 you, Council President.

18 And it's again my honor
19 to close the nomination for Chief
20 Clerk. Thank you, Council
21 President.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

23 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes
24 Minority Leader Kendra Brooks.

1 1/23/25 - STATED - SPECIAL BUSINESS

2 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: I

3 enthusiastically, Mr. President,

4 second that motion.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

6 JOHNSON: It has been moved and

7 properly seconded that the

8 nominations be closed.

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

11 (Aye.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

13 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

14 (No response.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

16 JOHNSON: The ayes have it and the
17 motion is carried.

18 (Applause.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

20 JOHNSON: There being no further
21 nominations, all those in favor of
22 the election of Elizabeth McCollum
23 as Chief Clerk of the City of
24 Philadelphia, we will now take a

1 1/23/25 - STATED - SPECIAL BUSINESS

2 roll call vote.

3 CHIEF CLERK:

4 Councilmember Phillips.

5 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

6 Aye.

7 CHIEF CLERK:

8 Councilmember Gilmore Richardson.

9 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

10 RICHARDSON: Aye.

11 CHIEF CLERK:

12 Councilmember Gauthier.

13 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:

14 Aye.

15 CHIEF CLERK:

16 Councilmember Thomas.

17 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Aye.

18 CHIEF CLERK:

19 Councilmember Jones.

20 COUNCILMAN JONES: Aye.

21 CHIEF CLERK:

22 Councilmember Landau.

23 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:

24 Aye.

1 1/23/25 - STATED - SPECIAL BUSINESS

2 CHIEF CLERK:

3 Councilmember Lozada.

4 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA:

5 Aye.

6 CHIEF CLERK:

7 Councilmember Young.

8 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Aye.

9 CHIEF CLERK:

10 Councilmember Brooks.

11 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS:

12 Aye.

13 CHIEF CLERK:

14 Councilmember Harrity.

15 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: Aye.

16 CHIEF CLERK:

17 Councilmember O'Rourke.

18 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE:

19 Aye.

20 CHIEF CLERK:

21 Councilmember Driscoll.

22 COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL:

23 Aye.

24 CHIEF CLERK:

1 1/23/25 - STATED - SPECIAL BUSINESS

2 Councilmember O'Neill.

3 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Aye.

4 CHIEF CLERK:

5 Councilmember Squilla.

6 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Aye.

7 CHIEF CLERK:

8 Councilmember Bass.

9 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Aye.

10 CHIEF CLERK: And,

11 Council President Johnson.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

13 JOHNSON: Aye.

14 (Applause.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

16 JOHNSON: The ayes are 16. The nays
17 are 0.

18 Ms. Elizabeth McCollum,
19 having received a unanimous vote of
20 the members of City Council, I now
21 declare Ms. Elizabeth McCollum duly
22 elected Chief Clerk of this City
23 Council.

24 (Applause.)

1 1/23/25 - STATED - SPECIAL BUSINESS

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

3 JOHNSON: At this time the Chair

4 asks Councilmember Quetcy Lozada and

5 Councilmember Brian O'Neill to

6 escort Ms. McCollum to the rostrum.

7 The oath of office will be

8 administered by the Honorable

9 Federal Judge, Timothy J. Savage,

10 Senior Judge of United States

11 District Court.

12 If any family members

13 want to join during this moment can

14 please join Ms. Liz McCollum at the

15 rostrum.

16 JUDGE SAVAGE: Raise your

17 right hand.

18 I, Elizabeth McCollum

19 Nazario --

20 CHIEF CLERK: I,

21 Elizabeth McCollum Nazario --

22 JUDGE SAVAGE: Do

23 solemnly affirm --

24 CHIEF CLERK: Do solemnly

1 1/23/25 - STATED - SPECIAL BUSINESS

2 affirm --

3 JUDGE SAVAGE: That I

4 will support, obey and defend --

5 CHIEF CLERK: That I will

6 support, obey and defend --

7 JUDGE SAVAGE: The

8 Constitution of the United States --

9 CHIEF CLERK: The

10 Constitution of the United States --

11 JUDGE SAVAGE: The

12 Constitution of the Commonwealth of

13 Pennsylvania --

14 CHIEF CLERK: The

15 Constitution of the Commonwealth of

16 Pennsylvania --

17 JUDGE SAVAGE: And the

18 Philadelphia Home Rule Charter --

19 CHIEF CLERK: And the

20 Philadelphia Home Rule Charter --

21 JUDGE SAVAGE: And I will

22 discharge and perform --

23 CHIEF CLERK: And I will

24 discharge and perform --

1 1/23/25 - STATED - SPECIAL BUSINESS

2 JUDGE SAVAGE: All the
3 duties of the Office of Chief
4 Clerk --

5 CHIEF CLERK: All the
6 duties of the Office of Chief
7 Clerk --

8 JUDGE SAVAGE: With
9 fidelity.

10 CHIEF CLERK: With
11 fidelity.

12 JUDGE SAVAGE:
13 Congratulations.

14 CHIEF CLERK: Thank you.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

16 JOHNSON: Congratulations.

17 Council will be at ease.

18 (Council at ease.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

20 JOHNSON: Let's give our official
21 new Clerk for 2025 another real big
22 round of applause.

23 (Applause.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

1 1/23/25 - STATED - BILLS ON 2ND READING

2 JOHNSON: The next order of business
3 is the consideration of the
4 Calendar.

5 The Chair recognizes
6 Majority Leader Kathy Gilmore
7 Richardson for the purpose of
8 calling up bills and resolutions on
9 the Second Reading and Final Passage
10 Calendars.

11 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

12 RICHARDSON: Thank you,
13 Mr. President.

14 The following bills and
15 resolutions are being called up from
16 the Second Reading and Final Passage
17 Calendars today: Nos. 240724,
18 241098 and 241099.

19 The following bills and
20 resolutions on the Calendar are
21 being held: 241097, 241144, 240427,
22 240304-A and 240665.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

24 JOHNSON: Thank you.

1 1/23/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

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

10 All speakers must sign up
11 in order to testify. If you have
12 not already signed up for today's
13 session, please do so now by giving
14 your name to Ms. Hasson at the table
15 in the hall -- at the table to my
16 left. Once you have signed up, you
17 will be called in the order in which
18 your name appears on the sign-up
19 sheet.

20 Under ideal circumstances
21 public commenters each will have
22 three minutes to speak. However,
23 this time limit may vary from
24 session-to-session. Today the time

1 1/23/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 limit will be three minutes. In
3 order to be fair to all those
4 wishing to speak, I intend to hold
5 faithfully to the three-minute
6 limit.

7 When you begin speaking,
8 you will see a green light on the
9 podium. When there are 30 seconds
10 remaining to your time, the light
11 will turn yellow which is your
12 reminder to conclude your remarks.
13 Once three minutes have passed, the
14 light will turn red and the
15 Sergeant-at-arms will disconnect the
16 microphone. At that point, please
17 yield the podium to the next speaker
18 if you have not done so already. I
19 also reserve the right pursuant to
20 our rules of Council to limit
21 repetitious comments on the same
22 matter.

23 I would now ask our new
24 official Chief Clerk to please read

1 1/23/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 the name of our first speaker.

3 CHIEF CLERK: Rabbi

4 Shloime Isaacson and may Rabbi David

5 Kushner, Jeremy Blatstein and Kate

6 Perez also make their way to the

7 podium.

8 (Witnesses approached

9 podium.)

10 RABBI ISAACSON: Good

11 morning. My name is Rabbi Shloime

12 Isaacson. Good morning,

13 distinguished City Councilmembers

14 and Council President Kenyatta

15 Johnson. In the early 1980s my

16 father, the Rabbi, would give out

17 around 200 challahs a week to

18 elderly Jewish immigrants recently

19 immigrating from the former Soviet

20 Union.

21 It spread very quickly to

22 businesses, offices, sports teams

23 and, yes, the halls of City Hall.

24 The significance was to remind

1 1/23/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 people of the coming Sabbath, but
3 most of all to enable people to
4 remember to be happy with the most
5 simple things in life, a loaf of
6 bread.

7 The challah bread opened
8 up many doors for the Rabbi, doors
9 that were sealed shut and even
10 guarded. But with those doors,
11 time -- those doors opened up and
12 realized that the individual
13 bringing them the challah bread was
14 a person whose vocabulary was
15 forever missing the letter I.

16 While he was friendly
17 with district attorneys, city
18 council, mayors, senators,
19 governors, vice-presidents and
20 presidents, his mission was to help
21 every single person regardless of
22 their race or ethnicity with his top
23 priority in life.

24 While his passing is

1 1/23/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 still very fresh in our memories and
3 many times throughout the day we
4 begin to cry, as his son being born
5 in this city and living here
6 together with my wife and our
7 family, we will make it our goal to
8 follow in my father's ways and
9 continue his legacy that our city
10 should be so proud of.

11 I would like to thank our
12 dear friend Mayor Parker and Council
13 President Kenyatta Johnson for their
14 long friendship with the Rabbi, our
15 family and our community center.
16 Thank you for recognizing a man that
17 spent his entire life ensuring
18 others were recognized. Our family
19 thanks you for this honor and memory
20 of the Rabbi.

21 As was the Rabbi's
22 tradition, we presented everybody a
23 challah bread today in his memory.
24 I know I didn't ask for a

1 1/23/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 resolution, but maybe instead of the
3 ayes, maybe we change it to oi vey.
4 But I guess we'll have to do that at
5 the next resolution.

6 I'd just like to finish
7 off with a blessing, Y'varechecha
8 Adonai v'yishmerecha. May God bless
9 you and watch over you. Ya'er
10 Adonai panav eleicha viychuneka, may
11 God count his light upon you in his
12 favor. Yisa Adonai panav eleicha
13 v'yasem l'cha shalom, God should
14 always watch over you and give you
15 peace. And thank you very much for
16 your time.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

18 JOHNSON: Thank you.

19 (Applause.)

20 RABBI KUSHNER: I just
21 want to share a few words that we
22 spoke about at the funeral. In our
23 faith and our tradition we say the
24 following words during our morning

1 1/23/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 prayers daily: Merciful Father,
3 have mercy upon us. Instill in our
4 hearts, (Hebrew translation) to
5 understand and elucidate the
6 Almighty, allow me to listen, to
7 learn and to teach. And ultimately,
8 (Hebrew translation) to observe and
9 to safeguard and to perform.

10 The valuable lessons we
11 are taught from these verses is that
12 we need to understand, listen, learn
13 and observe before we can give over,
14 teach or try to do it ourselves. I,
15 along with countless others,
16 including many in these hallow
17 chambers today, have been incredibly
18 fortunate and blessed to not just
19 witness but to learn, observe and
20 gain understanding from Rabbi
21 Isaacson on such a wide array of
22 life's critical situations.

23 Having lived in his house
24 in my youth and served by his side

1 1/23/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 for many years, I saw him learn so
3 much, having been present when his
4 own illustrious parents passed away,
5 taught us what it meant to grieve
6 and how to use faith to accept
7 whatever the Almighty ultimately
8 decides. Having sat next to him as
9 he met with political leaders, from
10 presidents to governors to mayors
11 and to many of you in this room, I
12 learned what it meant not to
13 advocate for yourself but for the
14 needs of your community.

15 Having stood by his side
16 as he met with grieving families
17 facing tragedies and as he
18 officiated at life cycle events,
19 both happy and sad, we learned what
20 it meant to have true empathy and
21 put others' needs and emotions above
22 your own. And having spent
23 countless hours in the car with him
24 delivering challahs, Hanukkah

1 1/23/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 presents, matzah for Passover, food
3 for the needy, raising money to
4 subsidize tuitions for families that
5 couldn't afford it or to keep roofs
6 over their head and food on their
7 tables, I learned the true meaning
8 of charity.

9 Having watched the joy on
10 his face as he gave out toys to
11 children on Chanukah, I learned what
12 true joy should look and feel like.
13 And having worked alongside Rabbi
14 Isaacson and his son, Rabbi Shloime
15 to build their synagogue and
16 community center, and having watched
17 him build that community from next
18 to nothing to what it is today, I
19 learned what it meant to accept
20 responsibility and never give up.

21 And finally, having seen
22 the genuine worry and concern on his
23 face as the thousands of people over
24 the years have reached out to him

1 1/23/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 for help and guidance when they
3 knocked on his door at home, tracked
4 him down at the synagogue, stopped
5 him in the street or called him on
6 the phone in all hours of the day
7 and night, we learned what it means
8 to open your heart and to never say
9 no.

10 It's his example, his
11 leadership, his empathy and his
12 mentorship that I pray and hope can
13 guide me and every one of us,
14 including those in government, as we
15 grow and accept upon ourselves
16 personal and communal
17 responsibilities.

18 Thank you, Council
19 President Johnson and all the
20 members of this esteemed body, for
21 your commitment to continuing his
22 legacy. May the Almighty bless and
23 protect each of you, your loved ones
24 and our entire city. Thank you.

1 1/23/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 (Applause.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

4 JOHNSON: Thank you.

5 CHIEF CLERK: We have

6 Jeremy Blatstein, Kate Perez. And

7 may Heather Lorocta, Captain Felicia

8 Lyle and Jocelyn Rico also make

9 their way to the podium.

10 (Witnesses approached
11 podium.)

12 MR. BLATSTEIN: Good

13 morning, City Council, Council

14 President Johnson. My name's Jeremy

15 Blatstein. I'm here to talk about

16 Resolution 241144. It's being held

17 today, but it's a resolution that

18 we're talking about, the

19 Philadelphia Land Bank.

20 Housing, housing,

21 housing, housing, housing, housing,

22 that's what we're talking about in

23 2025 I think, right. I heard that

24 from the Mayor. I think each and

1 1/23/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 every one of you in this body cares
3 about housing, but there's members
4 of this body that are interfering
5 with housing being built in the city
6 of Philadelphia.

7 There are resolutions --

8 I mean, sorry, projects that are
9 getting passed by the Philadelphia
10 Land Bank after months of going
11 through a rigorous process for Turn
12 the Key that are then not getting
13 introduced into this body. At the
14 end of last session, 19 homes got
15 held, and 19 Turn the Key homes are
16 not getting built in Philadelphia.

17 Why? Good question.

18 We'll hear that probably later
19 today. But if we're going to
20 actually build 30,000 units over the
21 next three years, we need to do Turn
22 the Key. We need to up zone transit
23 corridors. We need to eliminate
24 parking minimums and we need to

1 1/23/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 bring back the 10-year tax

3 abatement.

4 There was a study that

5 was done last year that talked about

6 how many units were produced because

7 of the 10-year tax abatement. Over

8 the 10-year period, 60,000 units

9 were produced from the 10-year tax

10 abatement. Only .03 percent of the

11 projects were large projects.

12 A majority of those

13 projects were small townhomes,

14 right. That infill development is

15 what we need in everyone's

16 community. The only way to make

17 this work is by bringing it back.

18 Each of you on City Council at large

19 needs to do something about this.

20 How? Getting rid of Councilmanic

21 prerogative. If not, you can't

22 actually say you care about housing

23 because you'll have people like

24 Councilman Jay Young stopping 19

1 1/23/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 homes from being built in his
3 District.

4 Okay. Let's do this.

5 Raise your hand if you rode SEPTA in
6 the last week. See, not even today.
7 We just need to ride it once a week.
8 Because why? We need to see the
9 issues facing Philadelphia. I don't
10 understand -- I mean, I do
11 understand, right. You get your car
12 and you have a busy schedule. But
13 all I'm saying is ride SEPTA once.
14 See what every person in this room
15 probably deals with, right. They
16 saw it this week.

17 And the last thing I will
18 say is let's do it. E-L-G-S-E-S --
19 oh, sorry, sorry, sorry, sorry.
20 Let's try that again. All right.
21 Let's try that again. E-A-G-L-E-S.
22 Go birds. Thank you very much.

23 CHIEF CLERK: We have
24 Kate Perez, Heather Lorocta, Captain

1 1/23/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Felicia Lyle. May Jocelyn Rico,
3 Natalie Proud and Lakeisha Anthony
4 also make their way to the podium.

5 (Witnesses approached
6 podium.)

7 MS. PEREZ: I'm Kate
8 Perez. And Israel violated the
9 ceasefire agreement within seconds
10 of signing it and killed more than
11 200 civilians. 70 children who
12 survived 468 days of ethnic
13 cleansing spent the morning
14 celebrating only to be murdered by
15 our sister city before bedtime.

16 Philadelphia and
17 businesses in our city continue to
18 partner with the Israeli occupation
19 despite their clearly expressed
20 genocidal intent outlined in
21 multiple international criminal
22 court cases. Despite the United
23 Nations repeatedly declaring their
24 West Bank settlements illegal, Trump

1 1/23/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 has lifted sanctions and the
3 settlers and the occupation forces
4 immediately increased the amount of
5 military checkpoints where 25
6 percent of pregnant women in East
7 Jerusalem reported tear gas exposure
8 back in 2015, checkpoints aimed to
9 traumatize, humiliate and separate
10 Palestinian families while
11 strengthening their apartheid
12 system.

13 As we celebrated the
14 release of 90 Palestinian hostages,
15 64 were immediately detained in the
16 West Bank, including children as
17 young as 7. Occupation forces have
18 engaged in a nonstop assault on
19 Jenin following their same playbook
20 of targeting children and then
21 targeting the medical personnel
22 who --

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
24 JOHNSON: Ms. Perez, just give me a

1 1/23/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 little bit about nonconformity.

3 Just a little bit.

4 MS. PEREZ: And tank

5 shells that were sold -- I'm saying

6 they were sold by Dan & Zimmerman

7 here in Councilmember Young's

8 District. The occupation has killed

9 more than 1060 medical staff just in

10 Gaza and abducted hundreds more,

11 including Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya, who

12 was abducted December 27 after they

13 raided the last standing hospital in

14 the north and is being held in Sde

15 Teiman, the torture camp famous for

16 gang-raping Palestinians to death

17 where the hospital director was

18 beaten so badly that he bled from

19 his eyes.

20 Last year Mayor Parker

21 said that she would love to see a

22 ceasefire. And as we see the

23 Israeli occupation continuously

24 violate the Lebanese ceasefire and

1 1/23/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 violate the Gaza pause, we must
3 enforce this by stopping the weapons
4 that leave this city and fighting
5 against the state war bombs that
6 continue to depreciate as more
7 countries cut ties with the
8 occupation.

9 Genocide is a bad
10 investment and comes at the expense
11 of the American citizens. There's
12 been a 100 percent increase in
13 Palestinian political prisoners held
14 without charge since September 2023.
15 At the same time our own government
16 passes laws to allow ICE to put
17 human beings in detention without
18 due process and allowing states to
19 block visas.

20 Remember to always ask
21 for an in-date warrant signed by a
22 judge. Take this time to remember
23 the hundreds and hundreds of
24 citizens starved and slaughtered by

1 1/23/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 our sister city, and imagine what
3 public services we could have spent
4 \$20 billion on.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

6 JOHNSON: Thank you, Ms. Perez.

7 CHIEF CLERK: We also
8 have Heather Lorocta, Captain
9 Felicia Lyle, Jocelyn Rico, Natalie
10 Proud, Lakeisha Anthony and then
11 Lynn Landes.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

13 JOHNSON: Thank you, Ms. Perez.

14 (Applause.)

15 CAPTAIN LYLE: Good
16 morning. I'm Captain Felicia Lyle
17 with the Salvation Army, and I am
18 the leader for our Greater
19 Philadelphia operations. I want to
20 thank Minority Leader Brooks and
21 Councilmember Lozada for being
22 advocates and supporters of victims
23 and survivors of human trafficking
24 by putting forth this important

1 1/23/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 resolution and putting a spotlight
3 on the work that is being done and
4 the work that we still need to do in
5 order to end human trafficking.

6 January is National Human
7 Trafficking Prevention Month. It's
8 a time to raise awareness, support
9 survivors and come together to end
10 human trafficking. The Salvation
11 Army is proud of the work that we
12 are doing in Philadelphia and
13 globally across 134 countries to
14 support survivors of human
15 trafficking as we recognize the
16 severity of this issue and how it
17 has permeated our society and our
18 city.

19 While this month is
20 important for raising awareness,
21 it's important to acknowledge that
22 the Salvation Army and our community
23 partners are working to prevent and
24 address human trafficking every

1 1/23/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 single day, both globally and in our
3 city of Philadelphia. The Salvation
4 Army co-founder Catherine Booth once
5 said, If we are to better the
6 future, we must disturb the present.
7 And in that same spirit, the
8 Salvation Army has made its response
9 to modern slavery and human
10 trafficking a priority through our
11 community-based work with the
12 Salvation Army's New Day program
13 here in Philadelphia and other
14 programs like it across the nation.

15 The Salvation Army
16 desires to steward our response work
17 in a way that honors those we are
18 serving. We strive to respond
19 holistically and to be a part of the
20 solution and let those who have
21 lived experience guide the way. We
22 walk alongside and serve survivors
23 as they regain their physical,
24 mental, emotional, relational and

1 1/23/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 spiritual health.

3 Our protection responses

4 provide a wide range of services

5 such as safe housing, drop-in

6 centers, education and literacy,

7 employment and training, counseling

8 and case management. While I'm

9 proud of the work that we are doing

10 in Philadelphia to combat human

11 trafficking, we know that there is

12 more to be done in identifying those

13 who are suffering from labor and sex

14 trafficking. My hope is that this

15 resolution can spark more

16 conversations and advocacy on how we

17 can work together to ensure that

18 anyone in Philadelphia who is being

19 labor- or sex-trafficked can know

20 where to go. If you or someone you

21 know are aware of a trafficking

22 situation, please call our hotline

23 at 267-838-5866.

24 (Applause.)

1 1/23/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 MS. LOROCTA: Thank you.

3 My name is Heather Lorocta. I'm the
4 Director of the New Day to stop
5 trafficking for the Salvation Army.
6 And thank you City Council for
7 hearing us today and recognizing
8 this as Anti-Trafficking Prevention
9 Month.

10 So we're here to
11 acknowledge that. As you can see a
12 lot of us -- and thank you also City
13 Council for wearing blue and really
14 driving home this issue today. I
15 don't think the term trafficking
16 actually really gives us an
17 understanding of what trafficking
18 is. I wish we could change the
19 word.

20 But let me just say that
21 what it is, is when someone in our
22 city sees someone vulnerable,
23 whether that's a youth or whether
24 that's an individual on our street,

1 1/23/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 and decides to exploit them either
3 for selling them for sex or using
4 them for labor. And this happens in
5 Philadelphia. We see it every day.
6 We see it with our youth. We sit in
7 courts with our youth who are being
8 charged in these situations and
9 we're continually seeing this.

10 Last year my team, who
11 shout-out over here, served over
12 1300 survivors that's in Kensington,
13 again that's with our youth through
14 our drop-in services, diversion,
15 case management, housing and
16 hotline. We sit at numerous tables
17 around the city.

18 We have the Philadelphia
19 Anti-Trafficking Coalition, our
20 Shared Safety Collaborative, WRAP
21 Court, which is in our Family court
22 system, the Philadelphia Anti-
23 Trafficking Task Force with federal
24 and local law enforcement, and most

1 1/23/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 recently a statewide partnership

3 with our Attorney General's Office.

4 And unfortunately, we've been having

5 this conversation now for a while.

6 Over 10 years ago we sat

7 in front of City Council and talked

8 about this, and we continue to see

9 it get worse and we continue to see

10 it become more prevalent. So I'm

11 hoping that this year, 2025, is the

12 year that we are done tolerating

13 this in our city, that we're willing

14 to sit down together, be creative,

15 be innovative and not be okay with

16 this to continue to happen to our

17 children and our youth and our

18 adults in this city.

19 So I'm hoping, and you'll

20 see a one-pager on your table, City

21 Council, where you could really see

22 the prevalence of this issue in our

23 city. We're hoping that we can

24 really look at this and have a

1 1/23/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 citywide response. This pulling
3 together, our law enforcement,
4 criminal justice system, our health
5 and human services, looking at all
6 of our systems and how can we
7 actually have a response and how can
8 we actually make a difference in
9 this.

10 We need to also look at
11 it with that intersection of gender-
12 based violence as well. So I'm
13 hoping that 10 years from now we're
14 not sitting here and having the same
15 exact conversation and seeing this
16 continually happen to our
17 Philadelphians. Thank you.

18 (Applause.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

20 JOHNSON: Thank you.

21 MS. RICO: Good morning,
22 Mr. Council President, City
23 Councilmembers and all of those
24 gathered in support of this crucial

1 1/23/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 cause. My name is Jocelyn Rico.

3 And as we stand here today, we

4 recognize the urgency of addressing

5 human trafficking in our city, a

6 problem that remains pervasive and

7 devastating, impacting countless

8 individuals in our community.

9 On behalf of the

10 Immigrant Survivor Services program

11 at the Nationality Service Center, I

12 would like to express our profound

13 gratitude for this proclamation

14 recognizing the urgent need to

15 combat human trafficking in

16 Philadelphia. Each year the

17 Nationality Service Center serves

18 over 5000 immigrants and refugees

19 from more than 500 countries around

20 the world.

21 For the past 17 years,

22 our program has been committed to

23 supporting immigrant survivors of

24 sex and labor trafficking, domestic

1 1/23/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 violence, sexual assault and
3 torture. In the past three years
4 alone we have provided essential
5 services to 166 survivors from over
6 36 countries, with Guatemala, Mexico
7 and India representing the largest
8 countries of origin. Our clients
9 speak a variety of languages,
10 including English, Spanish and
11 Hindi.

12 These survivors come to
13 Philadelphia with the hope of
14 rebuilding their lives free from
15 exploitation and abuse. And while
16 they display incredible strength in
17 overcoming unimaginable trauma, they
18 continue to face significant
19 challenges, limited access to
20 opportunities, language barriers and
21 lengthy legal processes that
22 increase the risk of retrafficking.

23 The work we do is only
24 possible because of the collective

1 1/23/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 efforts of our partners, law
3 enforcement, social services and
4 community at large. We are all part
5 of a shared responsibility to ensure
6 that survivors have access to the
7 resources they need to rebuild their
8 lives with dignity. Funding and
9 support for critical resources and
10 services, shelter, transportation,
11 interpretation, legal assistance and
12 mental health care are vital in
13 helping survivors regain their
14 independence and find safety.

15 These services provide a
16 lifeline to those who are still
17 recovering from trauma, enabling
18 them to heal, rebuild and thrive.
19 As we gather here today, I ask you
20 to take a moment to reflect on the
21 fact that human trafficking exists
22 not only in distant places, but
23 right here in Philadelphia. The
24 next time you find yourself waiting

1 1/23/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 for a table at your favorite
3 restaurant, pause and remember that
4 people in their own community are
5 still enduring exploitation. Let us
6 unite in our commitment to advocate
7 for those who cannot speak for
8 themselves, offer hope and healing
9 to those still in fight and work
10 toward a future where human
11 trafficking is eradicated entirely.

12 In closing, I'd like to
13 share a powerful quote from one of
14 our survivors. You gave me peace
15 while I was battling. May this
16 proclamation remind us that together
17 we can bring peace to those who
18 still suffer and that through our
19 collective efforts, more
20 importantly, we can build a safer,
21 more just world for everyone. Thank
22 you.

23 (Applause.)

24 CHIEF CLERK: We have

1 1/23/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Natalie Proud, Lakeisha Anthony and
3 Lynn Landes. May Don Hill, Ray
4 Boyer and Jackie Pettyjohn also make
5 their way to the podium.

6 (Witnesses approached
7 podium.)

8 MS. PROUD: Natalie
9 Proud. Good morning and thank you
10 for the opportunity, Councilwoman
11 Brooks and Councilwoman Lozada, to
12 speak today as we recognize January
13 as Human Trafficking Prevention
14 Month.

15 As the Program Director
16 of Covenant House Pennsylvania and
17 Co-chair of the Philadelphia Anti-
18 Trafficking Coalition, I stand here
19 to say this: Human trafficking is
20 not someone else's problem. It's
21 our problem happening in our city,
22 to our children and youth.

23 At Covenant House,
24 Pennsylvania, 1 in 5 people under

1 1/23/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 the age of 21 come through our doors
3 have experienced trafficking. This
4 includes youth of all genders who
5 have endured either sex or labor
6 trafficking or both. What this
7 number does not reflect are the
8 hundreds of young people our street
9 outreach team encounter, youth
10 trapped in the shadows, unable to
11 seek shelter because their
12 traffickers won't let them and the
13 very many who do not admit to being
14 exploited or recognize it.

15 Traffickers thrive by
16 exploiting vulnerability. They use
17 physical and sexual violence,
18 threats to loved ones, manipulation
19 through false promises and debt
20 bondage. They turn human lives into
21 a commodity, selling them over and
22 over again, creating a billion
23 dollar industry where the financial
24 rewards far outweigh the risks,

1 1/23/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 especially when criminal prosecution
3 is so rare.

4 And who is at risk? The
5 answer is all around us. Vulnerable
6 children in foster care, LGBTQ-plus
7 youth, Black, Latino and indigenous
8 communities, those living in poverty
9 or suffering from addiction, those
10 who are unhoused or housing
11 insecure. These are our children.
12 And for traffickers, they are
13 targets.

14 The average age a child
15 is first trafficked is 12 years old.
16 This doesn't happen somewhere else.
17 It happens in our own neighborhoods,
18 on our streets, in schools, foster
19 care facilities, restaurants,
20 massage parlors, hotels and
21 increasingly on online. Yet
22 traffickers don't wear uniform and
23 they're barely strangers.

24 In fact, 80 percent of

1 1/23/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 survivors knew their trafficker
3 before their exploitation began. 40
4 percent, their trafficker was a
5 family member. Human trafficking
6 doesn't just rob young people of
7 their freedom. It robs them of
8 their humanity. It's time for us to
9 take action, not just for awareness
10 but for accountability.

11 We need stricter laws,
12 aggressive prosecution,
13 decriminalization of the victims,
14 and, most importantly, robust
15 support systems to break the cycle
16 of the vulnerability that
17 traffickers exploit. Philadelphia
18 has a choice. We can look away or we
19 can lead the fight to protect our
20 children, youth and our most
21 vulnerable communities.

22 Let us work together to
23 dismantle the systems that allow
24 trafficking to survive. Let us not

1 1/23/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 be remembered as a city that said
3 not in my backyard. Let us be
4 remembered as a city that stood up
5 and said, not here, not now, not
6 ever. Thank you.

7 (Applause.)

8 MS. ANTHONY: Good
9 morning, President Johnson,
10 Councilmembers and guests. Thank
11 you, Councilmembers Brooks and
12 Lozada, for introducing the anti-
13 trafficking resolution. My name is
14 Lakeisha Anthony and I'm the Senior
15 Manager of Advocacy at WOAR,
16 Philadelphia Center Against Sexual
17 Violence, an organization that has
18 been serving the City of
19 Philadelphia for over 52 years.

20 WOAR is dedicated to
21 providing support to survivors of
22 sexual violence, including those
23 impacted by human trafficking.
24 We're here today to offer our full

1 1/23/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 support for the proposed resolution
3 addressing human trafficking in our
4 city. Human trafficking is a
5 pervasive and often hitting crime
6 that operates in plain sight that
7 affects individuals of all ages,
8 genders and backgrounds.

9 In Philadelphia, it is a
10 growing concern that impacts our
11 most vulnerable populations, people
12 living in poverty, youth in foster
13 care, individuals and experiences
14 homelessness and those in
15 marginalized communities. As one of
16 the organizations that make up the
17 Philadelphia Anti-Trafficking
18 Coalition who work on the front
19 lines of this crisis, we see the
20 profound, physical, emotional,
21 psychological toll that trafficking
22 takes on its victims.

23 The proposed resolution
24 is a crucial first step in raising

1 1/23/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 awareness and enhancing local
3 enforcement efforts and expanding
4 victim support services. Survivors
5 of trafficking often face complex
6 challenges in rebuilding their
7 lives, including access to safe
8 housing, health care, legal aid and
9 mental health services. Human
10 trafficking is a complex issue that
11 requires coordinated response.

12 Through partnership of
13 those within the coalition, we
14 collaboratively work to improve
15 resource-sharing, training and joint
16 efforts in tackling trafficking in
17 our city. We commend City Council
18 for addressing this crucial issue
19 and believe that through continued
20 collaboration, proactive measures
21 and investment in survivor support
22 services Philadelphia can continue
23 to take a strong stance in
24 preventing and responding to human

1 1/23/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 trafficking and ending sexual
3 violence as a whole. Thank
4 you Council for your time and
5 attention to this important matter
6 and we look forward to continue to
7 work together to create a safer,
8 more supportive environment for all
9 Philadelphians. Thank you.

10 (Applause.)

11 MS. LANDES: I'm Lynn
12 Landes of Safeststreetsphilly.org and
13 the parent of two adult sons who are
14 naturalized citizens. I support the
15 resolution to enforce state laws
16 against illegal commercial activity
17 as well as the resolution against
18 human trafficking.

19 It also should be noted
20 that Philadelphia's own sanctuary
21 city policies are encouraging human
22 trafficking and are in blatant and
23 willful violation of federal
24 immigration law under Title 8 for

1 1/23/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 encouraging and harboring illegal
3 immigrants. And as such, the U.S.
4 Department of Justice should
5 investigate and file charges against
6 the responsible city officials so
7 that this injustice is brought to an
8 end and hopefully does not happen
9 again, for no one should be above
10 the law.

11 The division of powers
12 between the states and federal
13 government is clear. We all learn
14 this in school. It is also common
15 sense that our nation should decide
16 immigration matters at the federal
17 level and not leave it for 50
18 individual states and thousands of
19 local municipalities to determine.
20 Otherwise chaos and crime would
21 ensue, which is the tragic situation
22 across the nation that we have
23 before us today.

24 Rather than fight the

1 1/23/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Trump administration, you should do
3 your job and help them enforce
4 federal law and clean up the big
5 mess for all concerned, which has
6 been created by yourselves and other
7 sanctuary cities and states.

8 Regarding the transgender
9 community, biological males should
10 not have the same right to violate
11 girls and women's sports in sports,
12 financial rewards in private spaces.
13 Again, this is only common sense, as
14 most men are larger and stronger
15 than women which gives them an
16 advantage and which also creates a
17 physical risk to women's health and
18 well-being.

19 Lastly, DA Krasner and
20 other democratic officials across
21 the country should cease and desist
22 in their lawfare and harassment of
23 conservatives in general and January
24 Sixers in particular, as they

1 1/23/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 refused to enforce the law against
3 those who destroyed property and
4 attacked others during the George
5 Floyd riots and at other democratic-
6 sponsored events during which crimes
7 were committed. Thank you.

8 CHIEF CLERK: We have Don
9 Hill, Ray Boyer, Jackie Pettyjohn.
10 (Witnesses approached
11 podium.)

12 MR. HILL: My name is Don
13 Hill. My title is General Chairman
14 of the Brotherhood of Locomotive
15 Engineers and Training. My
16 committee is behind me. We
17 represent all the locomotive
18 engineers and we work with the
19 conductors on the Regional Rail
20 system here in the Philadelphia
21 area.

22 I'd like to give thanks
23 to Council for giving us the time to
24 come and greet you, and a special

1 1/23/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 thanks and shout-out to
3 Councilmember Young. We're here
4 today to honor one of our locomotive
5 engineers who recently retired. As
6 you heard earlier, she was the first
7 female hired by SEPTA as a
8 locomotive engineer.

9 I'd like to make the
10 record clearer. She is actually the
11 first African American female in the
12 entire nation as a locomotive
13 engineer.

14 (Applause.)

15 MR. HILL: Mr. President,
16 give me more time. But getting to
17 the point, to know Jackie is to
18 actually love Jackie. She has a
19 very humble aura about her. She's
20 always smiling. And I don't even
21 think the word no is in her
22 vocabulary.

23 If any of you are social
24 media inclined, which I'm not,

1 1/23/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 Jackie asked me as the General
3 Chairman in our organization not to
4 honor her when she retired.
5 However, the members loved her so
6 much. When I say the members, I'm
7 not talking about just the engineers
8 but the conductors and the
9 engineers, our family. I wish --
10 ask them to stand.

11 They loved her so much
12 that they did a surprise, a surprise
13 for her on her last train. I got a
14 late text that they were doing this
15 so I had to rush to get down there.
16 And hundreds of our people were down
17 there to honor her on the platform
18 and hundreds were upstairs.
19 Literally, it had to be over 500 of
20 our people down there to show the
21 type of love and inspiration that
22 Jackie brings.

23 She is loved by both the
24 union and management. Management is

1 1/23/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 going to miss her more than anybody
3 else I think. But to know her is to
4 love her and I want to thank you
5 all. Thanks.

6 (Applause.)

7 MR. BOYER: Good morning,
8 everyone. My name's Raymond Boyer.
9 I represent the conductors and
10 assistant conductors that you see on
11 SEPTA's Regional Rail Division.
12 First, we celebrate the first female
13 engineer, Jackie Pettyjohn for
14 SEPTA, a woman proved that
15 determination and skill can steer
16 the way to new opportunities. And
17 alongside her, we recognize the
18 first female conductor, Pat Riley.

19 (Applause.)

20 MR. BOYER: Thank you.
21 Pat Riley had 38 years of
22 professional service for SEPTA, also
23 a male-dominated craft. A woman who
24 stepped forward to guide passengers

1 1/23/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 safely and efficiently, setting an
3 example of excellence and service.

4 She didn't just take on a role. She
5 embodied the principles of trust,
6 responsibility and innovation,
7 inspiring countless others to follow
8 in her footsteps, not only women,
9 also men.

10 On behalf of all of us,
11 we thank you Conductor Patricia
12 Riley and Engineer Jackie Pettyjohn
13 for your courage, your vision and
14 your dedication. You are more than
15 pioneers. You are role models and
16 we are forever grateful for the
17 legacy you created. Thank you.

18 (Applause.)

19 CHIEF CLERK: We have
20 Jackie Pettyjohn, David Jenkins,
21 Wanda Walker, Muti Ajamu-Osagboro
22 and Ogbonna Hagins also make their
23 way to the podium.

24 (Witnesses approached

1 1/23/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 podium.)

3 MR. JENKINS:

4 Mr. President, Council, David

5 Jenkins. I stand in gratitude, not

6 only for the Councilmember Bass'

7 resolution, 240724, which begs the

8 Commonwealth to strengthen

9 enforcement against illegal

10 activities and merchants that impact

11 neighborhoods in our beloved city,

12 with my mind circling around one of

13 our nation's most drug-plagued

14 neighborhoods, Kensington, and its

15 direct relationship to activities

16 pervasive in Lancaster County but

17 also for the tremendous work of the

18 members of this body who legislate

19 with a focus on protecting the

20 citizens of our home even when they

21 wear two different types of cloth in

22 one sweater.

23 As evident in yesterday's

24 hearings by Representative Rue

1 1/23/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Landau attended by the body, with
3 special thanks to Councilmember
4 Phillips for his pushback and
5 insistence on a plan of action to
6 protect our children in rooms of
7 education, from what I would like to
8 call an abduction carried out by ICE
9 agents at the behest of the
10 President of the United States of
11 America. I would be remiss if I and
12 we did not acknowledge the debt of
13 thanks that we owe you all.

14 We have all in the past
15 many months been challenged
16 individually to reckon where and how
17 we stand, where we stand in the face
18 of politics and economic civility
19 and humanities for whom we fight and
20 for whom we fall. Our introspection
21 shows us that we are all as
22 individuals created fallible
23 nevertheless.

24 We who are real

1 1/23/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Philadelphians -- and by that I mean
3 made up of the stuff of love -- know
4 that from whence we have fallen if
5 we are strong enough to admit our
6 failings, we rise together greater,
7 far greater than ever we were
8 divided apart.

9 So in the words of
10 Dr. Martin Luther King's daughter
11 Bernice, who invited us not to call
12 out Jeremy, your spelling is
13 impeccable, but to call in and then
14 up, I beg thee members of the
15 Council of Philadelphia to please be
16 upstanding and face your public and
17 to allow us to gaze on you in
18 gratitude for your steadfast
19 commitment to keep the faith in the
20 challenging days to come in this new
21 administration for your oath of
22 office and for your dedication of us
23 all. I thank you.

24 (Applause.)

1 1/23/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 MS. WALKER: Good

3 morning, beautiful people. My name
4 is Wanda Walker. I want to say
5 Happy New Year because this is our
6 first time back. I want to say
7 thank you to Councilperson Nicolas,
8 her work, Kendra Brooks, Jamie, Lou
9 and Jeffrey for what they did as far
10 as standing up and listening to the
11 people in reference to the stadium.
12 The stadium is where it needs to be.

13 Now, with that said, yes,
14 this is Trafficking Awareness Month.
15 Philadelphia is a hot spot for
16 trafficking. It is number 16 on the
17 100 list of big cities. This is
18 something we need to think about.
19 What causes these problems in a city
20 like ours, and that's why the
21 sanctuary issue is very important
22 because it allows people to come
23 here and hide and do things that
24 they shouldn't do.

1 1/23/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 I'm going to attach to
3 the 240427 because to stay in with
4 the rules, and that is Jeffrey's
5 bill or something he's bringing up.
6 I'm not totally understanding this,
7 but I do know that when Jason or
8 Jeremy spoke in reference to
9 bringing back the 10-year abatement,
10 I don't agree with that.

11 Before we worry about
12 building more affordable housing, we
13 need to worry about keeping our
14 seniors in the houses that they have
15 paid for. We need to protect the
16 people that are losing housing so
17 that we don't have to build so many
18 more affordable housing, houses that
19 aren't affordable to begin with. So
20 that should be on the list first
21 before we worry about building.

22 Also, we need something
23 to protect small landlords. Small
24 landlords supply 64 percent of low

1 1/23/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 income and underprivileged housing.
3 If we keep at the rate that we're
4 going, we're not going to have any
5 small landlords. Then the
6 developers can come in and do
7 whatever the hell they want to do at
8 whatever price they want to do, and
9 that's what we see going on in
10 Philadelphia. So things like
11 abatement is not something that we
12 all agree on.

13 Yes, you need to build
14 but you also need to pay taxes like
15 the rest of us. So that is not
16 something that I agree with. I
17 think I'll keep it short for today.
18 Thank you. I'll see you next week.

19 (Applause.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

21 JOHNSON: Ms. Wanda, Ms. Wanda.

22 MS. WALKER: Yes.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

24 JOHNSON: You know, we welcome all

1 1/23/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 your comments so when we see you
3 next week, we just want to temper
4 down the language.

5 MS. WALKER: That's in
6 the Bible.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

8 JOHNSON: Thank you. I do read, but
9 you know. You're welcome, Wanda.
10 Thank you for your comments.

11 Go ahead, sir.

12 MR. AJAMU-OSAGBORO:

13 That's mad -- that last comment was
14 mad suspect. Talking about
15 tempering the language. You should
16 be ashamed of yourself, bro.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

18 JOHNSON: It's okay, bruh.

19 MR. AJAMU-OSAGBORO: My
20 name is General Muti Ajamu-Osagboro.
21 General is my title. Muti Ajamu-
22 Osagboro is my name, and I'm from
23 the great state of North
24 Philadelphia, city of Richard Allen.

1 1/23/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 I'm here to talk about 24144. It
3 has to do with the introduction of
4 Councilmember Gilmore Richardson to
5 dealing with the Philadelphia Land
6 Bank and it's to dispose of various
7 properties.

8 Now, this is -- this is
9 trifling. It's -- it's when we
10 waste time on things like this in
11 terms of disposing properties when
12 we really need people to step up and
13 dispose of the blood-sucking
14 billionaires who want to build and
15 push out Black and Brown people
16 within our homes and our domiciles.

17 Property in this city is
18 under fire. The crime is
19 gentrification and the goal is to
20 push out Black, Brown and poor White
21 folks so that they can build a world
22 that has nothing to do with us. And
23 the question becomes, will City
24 Council stop them. This is a day of

1 1/23/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 recognition and reckoning.

3 It's a day of recognition

4 for the five soldiers who stood up

5 to the blood-sucking billionaires.

6 They need to be recognized:

7 Councilman O'Rourke, Councilman

8 Brooks, Councilwoman Brooks, excuse

9 me, Councilman Young, Councilman

10 Randolph and Councilwoman Jamie

11 Gauthier. They are absolute heroes

12 and sheroes, and it's a beautiful

13 thing that we had somebody to stand

14 up. Unfortunately, this is sheroes

15 and heroes and then there's

16 sellouts, the ones who voted against

17 or for, excuse me, for the pillage

18 of our beautiful city.

19 And all of North Philly

20 is celebrating today. All of

21 Philadelphia is celebrating today

22 because there was a turn away -- and

23 just for the record, the reason why

24 they was turning out because we had

1 1/23/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 took it to the streets and turned it
3 up and the billionaires concluded,
4 after y'all sold the farm, they
5 concluded that if we build a stadium
6 in that particular location, these
7 folks ain't never going to let them
8 rest. And they was right.

9 So it comes down to where
10 do you stand? Y'all proved where
11 you stand. And now, this is what
12 y'all need to know. Those of you
13 who are up for election, we're going
14 to vote y'all out. We know the
15 Working People's party is authentic.
16 We're going to back either them or
17 the Republican Party or if the
18 Democratic Party come around,
19 because we don't have no allegiance
20 to nobody, we got an agenda, and
21 that agenda is going to vote those
22 of you whose time is up for the next
23 time, we're going to vote you out.
24 So just get ready. Thank you. I

1 1/23/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 went over my time. And as usual, it
3 is an absolute pleasure.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

5 JOHNSON: Thank you for your great
6 comments, sir.

7 (Applause.)

8 MR. HAGINS: Ogbonna
9 Hagins, fourth -- Ogbonna Hagins,
10 fourth generation chattel slavery
11 survivor and the President of the
12 Philadelphia Reparations Coalition
13 for American Freedmen. I rise today
14 to address Resolution 240724, which
15 calls for strengthen enforcement
16 against illegal activity by
17 merchants impacting neighborhoods
18 across Philadelphia.

19 While I support this
20 resolution, it is clear that our
21 city must move beyond so-called
22 Black agendas and embrace a Freedmen
23 agenda rooted in the Reconstruction
24 amendments. Let's be honest DEI and

1 1/23/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 the so-called Black agenda are one
3 in the same. Both are race-based
4 frameworks that fail to address the
5 specific and unique needs of
6 American Freedmen.

7 These approaches have
8 created a broad umbrella that
9 prioritize inclusivity for everyone
10 while sidelining the very people for
11 whom justice was constitutionally
12 mandated. President Trump's
13 executive order to outlaw race-based
14 DEI initiatives was a clear
15 acknowledgement that these
16 frameworks are unconstitutional.
17 It's time for the City to decide,
18 are you going to circumvent this and
19 continue the race-based policies
20 that fail or will you rise to meet
21 the constitutional mandate to
22 address the badges, vestiges and
23 incidents of slavery, as required
24 under the Reconstruction amendments.

1 1/23/25 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 Illegal merchants,
3 activities in Freedmen communities
4 reflect deeper structural failures.
5 Many of these businesses exploit
6 Freedmen neighborhoods without
7 reinvesting in them, creating cycles
8 of economic extraction. DEI and the
9 so-called Black agenda have done
10 nothing to stop this because they
11 focus on symbolic diversity instead
12 of structural repair.

13 The Reconstruction
14 amendments give us the roadmap to
15 address these issues. An American
16 Freedmen agenda would enforce
17 protections for our communities,
18 prioritize reinvestment and ensure
19 that the economic harm caused by
20 both historical and present
21 injustices is repaired. This is not
22 about race. It's about lineage,
23 justice and fulfilling
24 constitutional obligation.

1 1/23/25 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 Anything less is a
3 continuation of the confederacy by
4 another name, allowing the legacy of
5 oppression to live on in the very
6 policies that claim to fight it.
7 This Council has a choice to uphold
8 the Constitution and fulfill its
9 promise to American Freedmen or to
10 perpetuate systemic inequities
11 rooted in this nation's darkest
12 past.

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

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
17 JOHNSON: That concludes today's
18 public comment.

19 We will now consider
20 bills and resolutions on the Second
21 Reading and Final Passage Calendars.

22 Will the Clerk please
23 read the title of Resolution No.
24 240724.

1 1/23/25 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 CHIEF CLERK: A

3 resolution calling upon the
4 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to
5 strengthen enforcement against the
6 illegal activity in merchants that
7 impact neighborhoods throughout the
8 City of Philadelphia.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

10 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes
11 Councilmember Cindy Bass for a
12 motion regarding Resolution No.
13 240724.

14 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank
15 you, Mr. President.

16 I move for the adoption.

17 (Duly seconded.)

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

19 JOHNSON: It has been moved and
20 properly seconded that Resolution
21 No. 240724 be adopted.

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

24 (Aye.)

1 1/23/25 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

3 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

4 (No response.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

9 Will the Clerk please
10 read the title of Resolution No.
11 241098.

12 CHIEF CLERK: Resolution
13 honoring Central High School for
14 winning the 2024 PIAA District 12
15 AAA Team Title for the fourth
16 consecutive year and celebrating
17 their impressive sweep of team,
18 singles and doubles championships.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

20 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes
21 Councilmember Bass for a motion
22 regarding Resolution No. 241098.

23 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank
24 you, Mr. President.

1 1/23/25 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 And we very much
3 enthusiastically support Central
4 High School and call for the
5 adoption of this resolution.

6 (Duly seconded.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

8 JOHNSON: It has been moved and
9 properly seconded that Resolution
10 No. 241098 be adopted.

11 All those in favor of the
12 motion will 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. The
19 motion carries and the resolution is
20 adopted.

21 Let's give our young
22 people a round of applause from
23 Central High School.

24 (Applause.)

1 1/23/25 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

3 JOHNSON: Will the Clerk please read
4 the title of Resolution No. 241099.

5 CHIEF CLERK: Honoring
6 Imhotep Charter High School for
7 winning the 2024 Public League 6A
8 and PIAA District 7 Football
9 Championships and celebrating their
10 legacy of excellence.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

12 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes
13 Councilmember Bass for a motion
14 regarding Resolution No. 241099.

15 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank
16 you, Mr. President.

17 We want to call for the
18 adoption of this resolution and also
19 recognize that Mama Debbie from
20 Imhotep High School is here as well.

21 Thank you, Mr. President.

22 (Duly seconded.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

24 JOHNSON: Let's give her a round of

1 1/23/25 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 applause.

3 (Applause.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

5 JOHNSON: It has been moved and
6 properly seconded that Resolution
7 No. 241099 be adopted.

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

10 (Aye.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

12 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

13 (No response.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

15 JOHNSON: The ayes have it. The
16 motion carries and the resolution is
17 adopted.

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

21 CHIEF CLERK: A
22 privileged resolution commemorating
23 the 60th anniversary of the Voting
24 Rights Act of 1965, recognizing its

1 1/23/25 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 pivotal role in securing equal
3 voting rights for African Americans
4 and other marginalized groups and
5 advancing civil rights in the United
6 States. Introduced by Councilmember
7 Phillips on behalf of Council
8 President Johnson.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

10 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes
11 Councilmember Phillips.

12 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

13 Thank you, Council President.

14 On your behalf, I move
15 for the adoption of the resolution.

16 (Duly seconded.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

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

23 (Aye.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

1 1/23/25 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

3 (No response.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

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

10 CHIEF CLERK: A
11 privileged resolution celebrating
12 the life, legacy and unwavering
13 commitment of Rabbi Solomon
14 Isaacson, leader of Congregation
15 Beth Solomon and dedicated advocate
16 for Jewish as well as broader faith-
17 based and social services
18 communities. Introduced by
19 Councilmember Gilmore Richardson on
20 behalf of Council President Johnson.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

22 JOHNSON: Now, for most of you who
23 have been working in City Council as
24 staff members and a lot of you who

1 1/23/25 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 are some of the members who served
3 in this body had a chance to meet a
4 fine gentleman by the name of Rabbi
5 Isaacson, rather this was advocating
6 from a faith-based perspective
7 regarding the issue of gun violence
8 here in the city of Philadelphia to
9 feeding thousands of families as we
10 address the issue of food insecurity
11 here in the city of Philadelphia.

12 That's the life and
13 legacy of the work of Rabbi
14 Isaacson, or just getting a call on
15 a Friday evening before the sun goes
16 down, before Shabbat just to say,
17 I'm praying for you and I'm praying
18 for this city.

19 And so, I'm going to ask
20 for a standing vote in silence on
21 behalf of Rabbi Isaacson. Then the
22 Chair officially asks Councilmember
23 Gilmore Richardson for a motion on
24 the resolution.

1 1/23/25 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

3 RICHARDSON: Thank you, Council
4 President.

5 On your behalf, I move
6 the adoption of the resolution with
7 a standing vote.

8 (All Councilmembers
9 stood.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

11 JOHNSON: Will the Clerk please read
12 the title of the next resolution in
13 her possession.

14 CHIEF CLERK: A
15 privileged resolution recognizing
16 January 2025 as Human Trafficking
17 Prevention Month in the City of
18 Philadelphia. Introduced by
19 Councilmember Gilmore Richardson on
20 behalf of Councilmember Nina Ahmad.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

22 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes
23 Majority Leader Gilmore Richardson.

24 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

1 1/23/25 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 RICHARDSON: Thank you, Council
3 President.

4 On behalf of
5 Councilmember Ahmad, I move for the
6 adoption of the 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 will
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 Clerk please
22 read the next resolution in her
23 possession.

24 CHIEF CLERK: A

1 1/23/25 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 privileged resolution honoring the
3 African American Children's Book
4 Project on the occasion of its 33rd
5 Annual African American Children's
6 Book Fair. Introduced by
7 Councilmember Gilmore Richardson.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

12 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

13 RICHARDSON: Thank you, Council
14 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 1/23/25 - 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 Will the Chief Clerk
9 please read the next resolution in
10 her possession.

11 CHIEF CLERK: A
12 privileged resolution honoring and
13 congratulating School District of
14 Philadelphia Superintendent Dr. Tony
15 Watlington for being recognized as
16 Superintendent of the Year by
17 District Administration Leadership
18 Institute. Introduced by
19 Councilmember Thomas on behalf of
20 Council President Johnson and
21 Councilmember Phillips.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

23 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes
24 Majority Whip Isaiah Thomas.

1 1/23/25 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank
3 you, Council President.

4 On your behalf, I move
5 for the adoption of the resolution.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

10 All those in favor of the
11 motion will 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 resolution is adopted.

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

22 CHIEF CLERK: A
23 privileged resolution authorizing
24 the Committee on Education to hold

1 1/23/25 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 hearings on the existence, purpose,
3 use and procedures surrounding the
4 School District of Philadelphia's
5 reassignment rooms - sometimes
6 called the rubber room. Introduced
7 by Councilmember Thomas.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
9 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes Chair
10 of Education Councilmember Thomas
11 for a motion on the resolution.

12 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank
13 you, Council President. And thank
14 you to all my colleagues for
15 supporting such an important issue.

16 We move for the adoption
17 of the resolution.

18 (Duly seconded.)

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

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

1 1/23/25 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 (Aye.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

4 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

5 (No response.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

9 Majority Chair Thomas,
10 just for the record and point of
11 information, what's a rubber room?

12 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank
13 you, Council President.

14 That's actually
15 educational slang. So what happens,
16 long story short, is there's a place
17 where teachers, administrators,
18 climate staff are asked to go to at
19 the School District building when
20 they've been accused of something
21 specifically and the slang term for
22 it is the "rubber room." But it's
23 basically a place that you go when
24 it's pending as it relates to your

1 1/23/25 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 status of employment when you've
3 been accused of something in the
4 District, and sometimes even DHS
5 needs to investigate it.

6 So we're examining that
7 process. And a big part of why is
8 because of efficiency. We're
9 looking at the fact that sometimes
10 people can be in this space for up
11 to three years, right. And think
12 about a teacher making \$100,000 a
13 year plus benefits sitting there for
14 three years, and the academic
15 achievement gap that it then creates
16 for the young people who's not
17 getting that lesson from a certified
18 teacher.

19 So you just saved me my
20 speech on the floor today. But
21 that's the short version of why we
22 introduced the resolution. We want
23 to examine how much money we're
24 wasting and how it's impacting

1 1/23/25 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 issues that we have around teacher
3 hiring.

4 Thank you, Council
5 President.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
7 JOHNSON: Thank you very much,
8 Chairman Thomas.

9 Will the Chief Clerk
10 please read the next resolution
11 within her possession.

12 CHIEF CLERK: A
13 privileged resolution authorizing
14 City Council's Committee of the
15 Whole to conduct hearings to assess
16 the implementation of a mandatory
17 millage rate adjustment review in
18 response to the citywide property
19 assessments conducted by the Office
20 of Property Assessment with the goal
21 of maintaining revenue neutrality to
22 alleviate increasing tax burdens on
23 Philadelphia taxpayers. Introduced
24 by Councilmember Jones.

1 1/23/25 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

3 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes

4 Councilmember Jones.

5 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank

6 you, Mr. President and colleagues.

7 I move for its adoption.

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: Those opposed?

18 (No response.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

20 JOHNSON: The ayes have it and the

21 resolution is adopted.

22 Will the Chief Clerk

23 please read the next resolution in

24 her possession.

1 1/23/25 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 CHIEF CLERK:

3 Congratulating the Temple University
4 Men's Basketball Team for winning
5 their 2,000th game. Introduced by
6 Councilmember Young.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

8 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes
9 Councilmember Young for a motion on
10 the resolution.

11 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Thank
12 you, Mr. President.

13 I move for its adoption.

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 will
20 signify by saying aye.

21 (Aye.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

23 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

24 (No response.)

1 1/23/25 - 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 next resolution
7 within her possession.

8 CHIEF CLERK: A
9 privileged resolution honoring the
10 life and legacy of President Jimmy
11 Carter. Introduced by Councilmember
12 Young.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

14 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes
15 Councilmember Young for a motion on
16 the resolution.

17 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Thank
18 you, Mr. President.

19 I move for the adoption
20 of the resolution.

21 (Duly seconded.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

1 1/23/25 - 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 Will the Clerk please

13 read the next resolution within her

14 possession.

15 CHIEF CLERK: A

16 privileged resolution honoring and

17 congratulating Jackie Pettyjohn,

18 "the First Lady of SEPTA," on the

19 occasion of her retirement after 40

20 years as SEPTA's first female train

21 engineer. Introduced by

22 Councilmember Young.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

24 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes

1 1/23/25 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 Councilman Young for a motion on the
3 resolution.

4 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Thank
5 you, Mr. 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 of the
14 motion will signify by saying aye.

15 (Aye.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

17 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

18 (No response.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

22 Will the Chief Clerk
23 please read the next resolution
24 within her possession.

1 1/23/25 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 CHIEF CLERK: A

3 privileged resolution honoring the
4 work of the Philadelphia Anti-
5 Trafficking Coalition in the
6 Salvation Army to raise awareness of
7 victims and survivors of human
8 trafficking during National Human
9 Traffic Trafficking Prevention
10 Month. Introduced by Councilmember
11 Brooks.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

13 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes
14 Councilmember Brooks for a motion on
15 the resolution.

16 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS:

17 Thank you, Council President.

18 I move for the -- for the
19 adoption of the resolution.

20 (Duly seconded.)

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

1 1/23/25 - STATED - 2ND READING

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

4 (Aye.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

6 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

7 (No response.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

11 (Applause.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

13 JOHNSON: Will the Chief Clerk
14 please read the next resolution
15 within her possession -- the Chair
16 recognizes Councilmember Brooks.

17 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS:
18 Council President, I want to be
19 marked aye on all the resolutions I
20 missed when I wasn't in chamber.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

22 JOHNSON: Thank you. Shall be duly
23 noted.

24 CHIEF CLERK: A

1 1/23/25 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 privileged resolution authorizing
3 the Committee on Labor to hold
4 hearings exploring the sugar, sweet
5 and beverage tax and its impact on
6 Philadelphia businesses, trades and
7 consumers. Introduced by
8 Councilmember Harrity.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

10 JOHNSON: The Chair recognizes
11 Councilman Harrity for a motion on
12 the resolution.

13 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:

14 Council President, I just ask for a
15 moment to say a few words before I
16 ask for the adoption of the
17 resolution.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

19 JOHNSON: Proceed.

20 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: I am
21 calling on hearings to explore the
22 effectiveness of the Sugar-Sweetened
23 Beverage Tax. We need to
24 re-evaluate its impact on

1 1/23/25 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 Philadelphia businesses, trades and
3 consumers. Beverage industry and
4 grocery industry workers have
5 expressed that the Sugar-Sweetened
6 Beverage Tax has led to job loss and
7 a decrease in sales in the areas
8 impacted.

9 The Sugar-Sweetened
10 Beverage also has the potential to
11 impact Philadelphia small
12 businesses, including supermarkets,
13 restaurants and other retailers.
14 The Sugar-Sweetened Beverage Tax
15 disproportionately impacts
16 low-income communities and
17 households as a poor tax for people
18 who cannot afford a vehicle and
19 cannot afford to leave the city to
20 go buy their soda with the rest of
21 the community.

22 The people in food
23 deserts who cannot buy their drinks
24 and groceries in the suburbs end up

1 1/23/25 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 paying most of the beverage tax
3 costs. So I move for the immediate
4 adoption 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 will
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 resolution is adopted.

19 Will the Chief Clerk
20 please read any resolutions within
21 our possession.

22 CHIEF CLERK: Council
23 President, there are no further
24 resolutions in my possession.

1 1/23/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

3 JOHNSON: That completes our

4 Calendars for today.

5 The Chair recognizes

6 Councilmember Curtis Jones -- wait,

7 my bad. Are any speeches on behalf

8 of the Minority?

9 The Chair recognizes

10 Councilmember Minority Leader

11 Brooks.

12 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS:

13 Council President, to my colleagues,

14 welcome back to Council. And I hope

15 everyone had a chance to rest and

16 recharge for the work that we have

17 ahead of us this year. I know I

18 did.

19 January is Human

20 Trafficking Prevention Month, and I

21 would like to thank Councilmember

22 Lozada for co-introducing the

23 resolution with me, the advocates

24 from the Salvation Army and the

1 1/23/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 Philadelphia Anti-Trafficking

3 Coalition for sharing testimony and

4 to everyone who was wearing blue

5 today to raise awareness and reduce

6 the stigma surrounding human

7 trafficking here in Philadelphia.

8 Just last year over 400

9 people in our city, many of them

10 children, were subject to human

11 trafficking forced into labor or

12 sexual acts. And now that number is

13 an undercount. Thanks to the

14 Salvation Army and many of the

15 survivors of human trafficking are

16 in the process of healing,

17 recovering their dignity and

18 rebuilding their lives with

19 resources like rental assistance,

20 diversion programs and meals and

21 clothes available at Salvation Army

22 drop-in centers.

23 Our City owes a debt of

24 gratitude to the Salvation Army for

1 1/23/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 its work to serve and uplift
3 survivors of human trafficking. As
4 we raise awareness of this issue, we
5 must also raise our level of
6 commitment and investment to prevent
7 and address it.

8 Today, I'm also calling
9 on a hearing on the use of detainers
10 for people sentenced to probation or
11 parole. Since 2015 Philadelphia has
12 been a part of the MacArthur
13 Foundation safety and justice
14 challenge.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

16 JOHNSON: Hold on, Member Brooks.

17 Can we keep it down while
18 the member is giving her speech on
19 the floor. Take all the sidebar
20 conversations outside the chambers.
21 Respect the member, please.

22 Please proceed.

23 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS:

24 This program has brought nearly 10

1 1/23/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 million in grant funding to advance
3 racial equity in the criminal
4 justice system and reduce
5 Philadelphia's jail population. In
6 order to meet the challenge laid out
7 by the MacArthur Foundation, we need
8 full transparency around the use of
9 detainers in Philadelphia. Without
10 the data, we cannot craft effective
11 solutions. So I'm calling on the
12 First Judicial Court to release that
13 data as soon as possible. Thank
14 you.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

16 JOHNSON: Thank you, Member Brooks.

17 The Chair recognizes
18 Councilmember O'Rourke.

19 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE:

20 Thank you, Council President. And
21 welcome to all those -- Happy New
22 Year, I should say, for all those I
23 have not seen since the start of the
24 year. Some of what I wanted to

1 1/23/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 share today I'll hold onto it, but I
3 did want to lift up something
4 because our Comments Director worked
5 so hard on our remarks.

6 I don't know that those
7 who suffer in our society have ever
8 won their liberties by appealing to
9 the moral conscience of their
10 oppressors, but I and Assata Shakur
11 pointed that out, but I do want to
12 say that I thank God for faith
13 leaders who champion our better
14 angels and remind us of what is
15 possible to realize a more perfect
16 common life in our city and our
17 Commonwealth and in the USA.

18 We've heard and we have
19 held space for the memory of Rabbi
20 Isaacson. We have had and heard a
21 fabulous invocation that focused on
22 a number of different themes from
23 Reverend Dr. Leslie Callahan. I
24 think we've also, probably all of

1 1/23/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 the country, have heard about the
3 remarks that were given by her
4 grace, the Bishop of Washington,
5 Bishop Budde, in light of the prayer
6 service.

7 I'm grateful for faith
8 leaders in our society. I know we
9 have a separation of church and
10 state, but there is a role that
11 those who care have to play in
12 society in order for us to be that,
13 "more perfect union."

14 Our Comments Director
15 wrote these words that I thought I
16 should share at least today. The
17 President found it fitting to call
18 acts of harm a revolution in common
19 sense, revolution in common sense,
20 calling out queer communities and
21 migrants especially.

22 His is the common sense
23 of the scammer. His is the common
24 sense of the playground bully. His

1 1/23/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 is the common sense of the tyrant.

3 It's common sense for those bent on

4 seeing certain communities

5 dismantled, but it'll never make a

6 lick of sense in this city, and it

7 shouldn't.

8 I hope if this battle

9 didn't stain the day that we honor

10 one great faith leader who

11 constantly calls us to our better

12 angels and prophetically calls us to

13 be better, Dr. King. For all of

14 those who were there that day,

15 Martin Dr. King had a -- Martin

16 Luther King had a different

17 revolution in mind.

18 He spoke of a radical

19 revolution of values, one against

20 militarism, one against racism, one

21 against exploitation, one against

22 occupation and unnecessary wars, a

23 revolution, which to me declares a

24 different common sense with a

1 1/23/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 different source, and that's care.

3 Care has got to become
4 common sense in our interpersonal
5 lives, our relationships. And as we
6 exist as a city, as a Commonwealth
7 and as a country, care is common
8 sense in a world where we rely on
9 each other, where we need each
10 other.

11 It's common sense in a
12 world that is growing hotter and
13 less hospitable and habitable every
14 single day. Care is common sense in
15 a world that has fallen but full of
16 people who can and must find beloved
17 community, common union, community,
18 to make something out of this life.
19 It should be the ethos that grounds
20 our actions from City Hall all the
21 way to the White House.

22 And so, just frankly I
23 just want to make an appeal to make
24 it cool to care again, to care about

1 1/23/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 people's livelihoods, to care about
3 where they're going to sleep. We
4 have folks -- Council President was
5 out last night with folks counting
6 to see who the faceless, homeless
7 persons, houseless persons were in
8 the city so we can account for them.

9 We now live in a country
10 where it's somehow immoral to find
11 shelter for those who are houseless
12 and it's undignified for a Bishop in
13 her cathedral to plea for mercy to a
14 President who's sitting in her
15 cathedral.

16 And so, at some point I
17 think that we have to care again.
18 Revolutions don't start on the
19 outside. The first revolution as we
20 learn as organizers is internal.
21 Let there be a revolution for care,
22 for value, for love, and for a
23 desire to see a real, beloved
24 community in our city. And

1 1/23/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 hopefully, we can be a light that
3 see on a hill, as Reagan called it
4 and Jesus said, that shines across
5 the country and is inspiration for
6 everybody else, even the President
7 today.

8 Thank you, Council
9 President.

10 (Applause.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

12 JOHNSON: Are there any speeches on
13 behalf of the Majority?

14 The gentleman from the
15 4th Councilmanic District,
16 Councilmember Jones.

17 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank
18 you so much, Mr. President.

19 I too want to recognize
20 the fact that you went out in
21 negative degrees looking for
22 homeless people to put in our
23 shelters, Code Blue. My staff
24 joined you and talked about what

1 1/23/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 they experienced when they went out.

3 They had contacted over
4 30 people, and only one of them, one
5 of them, wanted to go into our
6 shelter system. And when I asked
7 why that was in such frigid
8 temperature. One person responded
9 that they are safer in jail than
10 they are in our shelters.

11 Now, I applaud what our
12 shelter folk do. I would not want
13 to have to do that on a day-to-day
14 basis, but there is something wrong
15 when people would rather stay on a
16 bench in the cold than be in our
17 systems. And during the budget
18 process, I think it was Kathy
19 Gilmore Richardson, who first
20 uncovered some of the problems here.
21 We need to take a deeper dive and a
22 better look as to why that happens.

23 But I rise today because
24 I introduced a resolution calling on

1 1/23/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 an AVI millage revenue

3 neutralization bill. And you might

4 ask, well, why would you want that?

5 Two things, Mr. President, can be

6 true at the same time. I can be for

7 economic development on Market

8 Street, I can be for economic

9 development in South Philly, and I

10 can also look out for the taxpayers'

11 interest that own homes that are

12 experiencing tax rates.

13 And why is that important

14 politically, politically? I asked

15 some people that I went to dinner

16 with, good people -- not political

17 like us, they're not into it like

18 that -- how they felt about the

19 election. They said, I voted but I

20 wasn't enthusiastic about it.

21 So I further delved into

22 well, why? The price of eggs, the

23 cost of gas and taxes. They said

24 that for them the American dream was

1 1/23/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 further and further away, to not be
3 able to afford a home, to not be
4 able to buy a first property, and it
5 was out of reach for them.

6 I was in this body when
7 we started AVI. And the big deal
8 was that the taxable properties in
9 the city of Philadelphia was \$130
10 billion. And we were like, wow,
11 that's a lot. Over the years it has
12 increased beyond \$200 billion, but
13 we haven't adjusted the millage
14 rate.

15 So let me explain the
16 hustle, not to any administration
17 because all of them kind of have
18 done this. Rather than come talk to
19 us about millage rates, reductions
20 or increase, they'd rather just
21 raise the value of properties around
22 the city and get what they need and
23 then some, and then some to run a
24 government.

1 1/23/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 What my resolution calls
3 for simply is that we look at it.
4 Every time when that average value
5 goes up, shouldn't we look at do we
6 need to tax the homeowners at that
7 rate. And all I want to do is look
8 at it. A lot of people will say,
9 well, you can look at it, you're a
10 Councilman.

11 We must look at it, not
12 should look at it. We must look at
13 it to value, to see if what we need
14 to run this government is met and
15 then let's give the taxpayers a
16 break because they don't feel that
17 we always look out for them. This
18 resolution and subsequent bill will
19 look out for them.

20 Thank you, Mr. President.

21 (Applause.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

23 JOHNSON: Thank you, Councilmember

24 Jones.

1 1/23/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 The Chair recognizes
3 Councilmember Lozada.

4 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA:

5 Thank you, Council President.

6 A few things this
7 morning. I want to thank
8 Councilmember Brooks for her
9 partnership in introducing the human
10 trafficking bill. I also want to
11 recognize those organizations like
12 Salvation Army and the Covenant
13 House who do the important work in
14 connecting some of our victims with
15 resources but, more importantly,
16 connecting them to safe places.

17 We can't do the work
18 alone, and it's really important to
19 recognize the work of those who are
20 our boots on the ground and doing
21 the hard work every day. You are
22 appreciated, and often times we
23 don't have the opportunity to thank
24 you and tell you how much we

1 1/23/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 appreciate the work that you're
3 doing.

4 I also want to take an
5 opportunity to share a message in a
6 language that some of the folks who
7 are visiting, who are watching us at
8 home who don't understand English
9 but who really need this important
10 information as a result of what
11 we're seeing across the nation with
12 our immigrant community.

13 And so, if you would just
14 bear with me for a second, I want to
15 make sure that I share some
16 important information about creating
17 an emergency plan because it is what
18 we need some of these communities to
19 do and we need them to understand
20 that they need an emergency plan
21 now. (Spanish translation).

22 Gracias. Thank you,
23 Council President.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

1 1/23/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 JOHNSON: You're welcome.

3 The Chair recognizes
4 Councilmember Phillips.

5 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

6 Thank you, Council President.

7 Yesterday I had the
8 privilege to sit through a Committee
9 hearing on how well is the City of
10 Philadelphia prepared for Donald
11 Trump in his actions. I want to
12 note that it is very important for
13 us as people who are servants in the
14 city of Philadelphia to understand
15 that we cannot play with Donald
16 Trump.

17 Donald Trump cannot be
18 played with. He has showed us time
19 and time again that despite the laws
20 on the books he will find a way to
21 dismantle those laws to make it see
22 fit for him and his agenda. And,
23 therefore, we have to play harder.
24 We have to work harder to make sure

1 1/23/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 that we protect our citizens,
3 especially our most vulnerable
4 citizens, our seniors and our
5 children, from this man and his
6 policies.

7 And so, when I heard
8 this -- I'm calling for the School
9 District of Philadelphia in
10 particular to be very aggressive
11 with their plan against Donald Trump
12 and his people that are going to be
13 carrying out his plan.

14 So I ask that we become a
15 lot more aggressive in the ways of
16 Joe Clark, as we all know the famous
17 East Side High principal. So one
18 time Joe Clark when his students
19 were attacked, he had to make sure
20 that the chains were on the door,
21 and he called Code 10 to take the
22 chains out the door once the fire
23 marshal was coming.

24 But listen, when Donald

1 1/23/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 Trump is coming to our doors and his
3 people are coming to our doors to
4 take our children, we need to call
5 Code 10 saying, get those chains on
6 the doors, the enemy is here and we
7 need to protect our children.

8 (Applause.)

9 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: So,
10 School District of Philadelphia,
11 y'all need to get really tight with
12 y'all response. The time is of the
13 essence and we need to make sure
14 that our children are the first
15 priority. All this call the General
16 Counsel when the lawyers get -- when
17 Donald Trump's people get here and
18 all that stuff like that, by the
19 time the General Counsel is called,
20 they're going to already have our
21 children.

22 And not only that, will I
23 say this, that you need to think
24 about the children that are going to

1 1/23/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 be watching other children who are
3 their friends that are going to be
4 affected by this. This is not a
5 game so we cannot play with Donald
6 Trump. We can't play the game with
7 him. Sometimes like we got to get
8 federal funds. We got to play
9 games.

10 No, we don't play games
11 with this man. This man is not for
12 us, and we need to make sure that
13 the School District of Philadelphia
14 has taken a really aggressive
15 approach to make sure that we're
16 serious about making sure he's away
17 from our children.

18 Thank you so much.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

20 JOHNSON: Thank you.

21 The Chair recognizes
22 Councilmember Rue Landau.

23 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:

24 Thank you, Council President.

1 1/23/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 So happy to be back here
3 with you guys. And just also wanted
4 to touch on my hearing yesterday
5 looking at the City's preparedness
6 and commitment to the next four
7 years of Donald Trump. You know, we
8 learned a lot in the first four but
9 there's nothing that can get us
10 ready enough for what's about to
11 happen. We've seen it already.

12 We heard so many people
13 testifying from our great social
14 service agencies to institutions in
15 Philadelphia about ways in which
16 we're trying to be prepared to make
17 sure that every single person in the
18 city, every single immigrant, every
19 single member of the LGBTQ-plus
20 community, especially the trans
21 community, protecting our
22 reproductive rights, other
23 marginalized communities, we've got
24 to make sure that we as a city, as

1 1/23/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 my colleagues are saying in both
3 Spanish and English, are preparing
4 both individually with your family
5 and with the community.

6 And when we can stand
7 together and look out for each other
8 and make sure that we are really
9 looking out for our neighbors, our
10 classmates and everybody else in our
11 communities, throughout the entire
12 city, that's when we will have a
13 successful way of protecting
14 Philadelphia against Trump and what
15 is happening here.

16 The folks we're
17 protecting I want to remind
18 everybody they're our neighbors,
19 they're our family members, they are
20 contributing to society. They are
21 often paying taxes and not getting
22 Social Security. These are folks
23 who are really strong members of our
24 communities, and we got to be there

1 1/23/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 for them as much as they are there
3 for us.

4 So I'd say not only for
5 anybody who needs help making a
6 plan, we have individuals in our
7 offices that speak a few different
8 languages but also all of our
9 offices can utilize LanguageLine.
10 Come to us. We want to help you.
11 We want to talk this out with you.
12 If you don't have a community group
13 to go to, come to our offices. We
14 will help you come up with an
15 individual plan of getting your
16 documents in order and where your
17 kids would go if they need to go.
18 It is essential. You can't hide
19 your heads from this one. It's got
20 to happen.

21 Today I introduced a
22 resolution also because we got to
23 just name what is happening of
24 condemning Donald Trump's

1 1/23/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 unqualified picks for his cabinet,
3 people like Elon Musk and Pete
4 Hegseth.

5 America is at a
6 crossroads right now, and I urge the
7 federal government to consider the
8 ramifications of these dangerous
9 picks for this dangerous cabinet.
10 They're going to have a direct
11 impact on the livelihood of all
12 Philadelphians.

13 On a lighter note,
14 somewhat lighter note, as we take
15 our step to the next step, I am
16 happy to be sponsoring with
17 Councilmember Anthony Phillips right
18 after Council today a briefing with
19 Children First. It's going to be
20 held in caucus and we're going to be
21 learning about how the juvenile
22 justice system is working and how it
23 differs from adult incarceration and
24 the things that we need to do to fix

1 1/23/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 that right here in Philadelphia. So
3 thank you everybody so much.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

5 JOHNSON: Thank you.

6 Councilmember Jeffrey Jay
7 Young.

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

10 As Chair of Streets and
11 Services and Vice-chair of the
12 Transportation and Public Utilities
13 Committee, I definitely wanted to
14 make sure that, you know, some folks
15 say I'm a new advocate for SEPTA but
16 I've always been an advocate for
17 Black women in our city.

18 And so today, I
19 definitely want to come together and
20 celebrate Ms. Jackie Pettyjohn, the
21 First Lady of SEPTA, as she retires
22 from an incredible 40-year journey
23 that's touched the lives, touched
24 countless lives in our city. She is

1 1/23/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 the first female locomotive engineer
3 hired by SEPTA and first African
4 American woman in the entire
5 country, as we heard today, to hold
6 that particular position in a field
7 where women were previously
8 underrepresented.

9 Over the years her
10 unwavering dedication, resilience
11 and compassion for her passengers
12 and colleagues of the like, as you
13 saw today, have made her not just a
14 trailblazer but a cherished mentor
15 and role model with the SEPTA
16 family. As you heard, she is loved
17 by both union and management, which
18 in today's times is kind of unheard
19 of, right.

20 And so, her story is one
21 of hard work, determination and
22 selflessness. She balanced a
23 demanding career with raising a
24 family and even found time to pursue

1 1/23/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 additional education. Through it
3 all her commitment to excellence
4 never wavered. Jackie was committed
5 to upholding the highest standards
6 of safety and performance.

7 Her legacy is one of
8 inspiration. And today we honor her
9 in her retirement. We express our
10 deepest gratitude for her decades of
11 service and her profound impact as
12 she has had on all of us, and we're
13 proud to celebrate her remarkable
14 journey. So thank you again,
15 Ms. Pettyjohn.

16 (Applause.)

17 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Thank
18 you, Mr. President.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

20 JOHNSON: You're welcome. Very well
21 done.

22 The Chair recognizes
23 Councilmember Isaiah Thomas.

24 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank

1 1/23/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 you, Council President.

3 Real quick. I just want
4 to take -- first of all, I want to
5 recognize Councilmember Anthony
6 Phillips because of that Lean On Me
7 reference, right. I spent some time
8 over the vacation taking
9 Councilmember Brooks' advice and
10 spent some time with family, and me
11 and my 12-year-old son watched that
12 movie. And I was telling
13 Councilmember Phillips, and he
14 referenced it was one of his
15 favorite movies so I was happy to
16 hear how you incorporated that in
17 your speech.

18 As we close out Council
19 today, Council President, I just
20 want to remind the members of
21 Council as well as the listening
22 public that yesterday we had our
23 hearing, our Legislative Oversight
24 hearing on gaming and the Gaming

1 1/23/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 Task Force. I thank them so much
3 for their intellect, their time,
4 their energy and their advocacy.

5 They produced a report
6 that give us as government
7 recommendations on things that we
8 can do to make Philadelphia a gaming
9 city. I'm not going to stop in the
10 advocacy, Council President. We're
11 going to do everything we can in our
12 power to make this city a gaming
13 city because we recognize by the
14 year 2029, the gaming economy will
15 be over \$90 billion, \$90 billion
16 globally. And the gaming economy
17 has no home.

18 And so, we want to make
19 Philadelphia the city of eds, meds,
20 beds and gaming. I don't know how
21 it rhymes with those other words.
22 That's not my job. But listening to
23 Councilmember O'Rourke, maybe I can
24 get him to help me with some crafty

1 1/23/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 words and language to figure out how
3 we fit it in.

4 But either way, Council
5 President, I want to say thank you
6 to Councilmembers Young, Lozada,
7 Squilla, Landau, and Councilmember
8 Landau for joining me in yesterday's
9 hearing. And I want you to know,
10 Council President, as we get ready
11 for this year and next year, because
12 2026 is a major year for us, gaming
13 is going to be one of the things
14 that's going to be at the top of our
15 priority.

16 People ask us all the
17 time what can we do to generate
18 revenue for the City and for people
19 without increasing taxes on
20 businesses and on people, and
21 attracting gaming can be one of many
22 answers.

23 Thank you, Council
24 President. And thank you,

1 1/23/25 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 colleagues.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

4 JOHNSON: Thank you, Member Thomas.

5 And as you advocate for that 90

6 billion, I think the City of

7 Philadelphia will welcome you.

8 You know, I have two boys

9 and we spend a whole lot of money

10 for roadblocks and buying them skins

11 on Fortnite. And so, we want to

12 make sure our kids get a little

13 break, Councilmember Thomas. So I'm

14 going to be calling you because the

15 more they play gaming the more it's

16 coming out of my pocket.

17 So no, one, keep up the

18 great work. It's a great field, and

19 we look forward to partnering with

20 you on making sure this particular

21 area of economic opportunity thrives

22 in the city of Philadelphia. Great

23 job, sir.

24 There are no more

1 1/23/25 - STATED - ADJOURNMENT

2 speeches. The Chair now recognizes
3 Councilmember Thomas for a motion to
4 adjourn.

5 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank
6 you, Council President.

7 I've already been told
8 it's eds, meds, beds and devs. So
9 I'll get back to you as to what that
10 means because I don't know.

11 But, Mr. President, I
12 move that Council stand adjourned
13 until Thursday, January 30, 2025 at
14 10:00 a.m. sharp.

15 (Duly seconded.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT
17 JOHNSON: It has been moved and
18 properly seconded that the Council
19 stand adjourned until Thursday,
20 January 30, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

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

23 (Aye.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

1 1/23/25 - STATED - ADJOURNMENT

2 JOHNSON: Those opposed?

3 (No response.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

5 JOHNSON: The ayes have it and the
6 motion carries. Thank you.

7 - - -

8 (Stated Meeting adjourned
9 at 12:24 p.m.)

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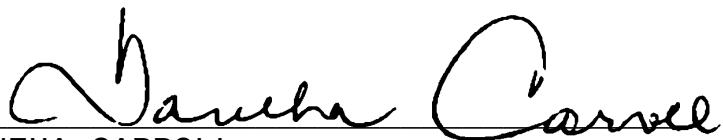
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C E R T I F I C A T I O N

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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Taneha Carroll". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Taneha" and the last name "Carroll" clearly distinguishable.

TANEHA CARROLL
Court Reporter - Notary Public

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direct control and/or supervision of the
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