

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
STATED MEETING

Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Thursday, March 7, 2024
10:03 a.m.

PRESENT:

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

ELIZABETH McCOLLUM NAZARIO
INTERIM CHIEF CLERK

- - -

1 3/7/24 - STATED - INVOCATION

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: I

3 note that the hour has come and that a

4 quorum of this Council is present.

5 Council will now come to order. Members

6 will take their seats. Visitors will

7 retire to the seats outside the rails.

8 Before proceeding, I will ask

9 all those present to please set your cell

10 phones to silent or vibrate.

11 To give our invocation this

12 morning, the Chair recognizes Pastor Mark

13 Novales of City Reach Church. He is here

14 today as the guest of Councilmember

15 Quetcy Lozada.

16 I would ask all members and

17 guests to please rise.

18 (Councilmembers and guests

19 rise.)

20 PASTOR NOVALES: It's an honor

21 to be in this room with you, and I just

22 greet all Councilmembers in the name of

23 our congregation, our communities that we

24 represent, which is Tacony, Kensington,

25 and Fairhill but, most importantly, I

1 3/7/24 - STATED - INVOCATION

2 greet you in the name above all names,
3 the name of Jesus.

4 I'm humbled, I'm honored to be
5 in this place today. So let us pray.
6 Let us pray.

7 Heavenly Father, we pray for
8 wisdom. We pray for peace. We pray for
9 hope and healing, especially over the
10 families, Lord, who have endured so much
11 pain due to the recent shootings, Lord,
12 in our city. So we just pause here and
13 we just present them before you.
14 Heavenly Father, you would cover them,
15 you would carry them, you would lead them
16 during this difficult time.

17 We pray for our schools, Lord.
18 We pray for our public schools, for our
19 parochial schools. We pray, Lord, for
20 our charter schools. We pray for our
21 children right now.

22 We pause and we say, Lord, you
23 would lead, you would lead this hall,
24 these halls, or you would lead the men
25 and women, Lord, who you've appointed and

1 3/7/24 - STATED - INVOCATION

2 given authority to represent you, at the
3 end of the day, represent you, Lord, that
4 we would do that well.

5 I pray, Lord, that the church
6 of Philadelphia would rise up and take
7 its place. I pray, Lord, that we would
8 take your place according to your Word.
9 Lord, we would take our place, Lord, as
10 the Word shows, where kings and priests,
11 Lord, united to see communities healed.
12 So I pray for that. I pray for that in
13 the name of Jesus.

14 I pray and declare, God, your
15 hope, Lord, where there's hopelessness.
16 I declare, God, peace where there's
17 chaos. I declare right now, God, hope
18 and healing over the City of Philadelphia
19 that we would rise up and take our place,
20 Lord, in the nation, Lord, and in the
21 world, God, a place where the brotherly
22 love that was declared over this place.
23 So we reiterate that right now, God.

24 I pray, God, according to your
25 word, Lord, thy kingdom come, thy will be

1 3/7/24 - STATED - APPROVAL OF JOURNAL
2 done right here in Philadelphia as it is
3 in heaven. And you will get the glory.
4 The glory will be yours. We will never
5 touch it.

6 So I pray, God, authority in
7 this place, God, and you will get the
8 glory. So lead your men and women in
9 this place, God, never to be the same
10 again, in Jesus' name, the name that
11 matters most.

12 Amen, amen, and amen.

13 (Amen.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
15 Chair thanks the pastor.

16 Council will now be at ease.

17 (Council at ease.)

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
19 next order of business is the approval of
20 the Journal of the meeting of Thursday,
21 February the 29th, 2024.

22 The Chair recognizes
23 Councilmember Cindy Bass.

24 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you,
25 Mr. President. I move that the Journal

1 3/7/24 - STATED - LEAVES

2 of the meeting of Thursday,
3 February 29th, 2024 be approved.

4 (Duly seconded.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: It
6 has been moved and properly seconded that
7 the Journal of the meeting of Thursday,
8 February 29th, 2024 stand approved.

9 All those in favor signify by
10 saying aye.

11 (Aye.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

13 Those opposed?

14 (No response.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
16 ayes have it, and the Journal is
17 approved.

18 The next order of business is
19 request for leaves of absence, and the
20 Chair recognizes Councilmember Katherine
21 Gilmore Richardson.

22 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Thank
23 you, Mr. President. On behalf of the
24 majority, there are no requests for leave
25 of absence today.

1 3/7/24 - STATED - MOTION CONCERNING CALENDAR

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

3 Thank you.

4 The Chair now recognizes

5 Councilmember Nicholas "Nick" O'Rourke

6 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE: On behalf

7 of the minority, we request a leave of

8 absence for Councilwoman Kendra Brooks.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The

10 Chair thanks the Councilmember, and leave

11 is granted.

12 The Chair now recognizes

13 Councilmember Katherine Gilmore

14 Richardson for a motion concerning

15 certain legislative matters that may

16 arise during the course of today's

17 session of Council and that were not

18 listed on the Calendar circulated prior

19 to today's session.

20 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Thank

21 you, Mr. President. I move that any of

22 the following matters, if considered

23 today, may be added to the agenda for

24 this session of Council and, as required

25 by law, subsequently published on an

1 3/7/24 - STATED - MOTION CONCERNING CALENDAR
2 amended agenda after the consideration of
3 those matters: resolutions authorizing
4 hearings, amendments to bills on first
5 reading, the reconsideration of a bill
6 vetoed by or re-called from the Mayor,
7 amendments to bills re-called from the
8 Mayor, resolutions taking substantive
9 action to be voted on in this session, a
10 motion to withdraw a bill or resolution
11 that is not on the Calendar, and a motion
12 placing a bill or resolution on or
13 returning a bill or resolution from the
14 Suspension Calendar that is not listed on
15 today's Calendar.

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

22 (Duly seconded.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: It
24 has been moved and properly seconded that
25 the legislative matters stated by

1 3/7/24 - STATED - MOTION CONCERNING CALENDAR
2 Councilmember Gilmore Richardson may be
3 added to the agenda for today, should
4 those matters arise during the course of
5 this session of Council.

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

8 (Aye.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
10 Those opposed?

11 (No response.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
13 ayes have it and the motion carries.

14 The Chair will dispense with
15 the regular order of business to
16 recognize the guests and visitors joining
17 us in the Chamber this morning. On
18 behalf of all members of City Council, I
19 welcome you to our Council session. We
20 appreciate you taking the time to join us
21 as we attend to the legislative affairs
22 of our great city. We certainly invite
23 you to come again.

24 At this time, the Chair
25 recognizes Councilmember Jamie Gauthier,

1 3/7/24 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 who will present a resolution honoring
3 and recognizing the 18th Police District
4 Tactical Squad for its valiant efforts to
5 reduce gun violence and enhance public
6 safety in West Philadelphia.

7 Would Captain Daniel Ginion and
8 those accompanying him please join the
9 Councilmember at the podium.

10 Also joining Councilmember for
11 her presentation will be Councilmember
12 Quetcy Lozada, Councilmember Katherine
13 Gilmore Richardson, Councilmember
14 Driscoll, and Councilmember Jones.

15 (Councilmembers and guests
16 approached podium.)

17 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Good
18 morning, everyone. Today we are
19 recognizing the 18th Police District
20 Tactical Squad for their valiant efforts
21 to reduce gun violence and enhance public
22 safety in West Philadelphia: Police
23 Officer Kevin Tilghman, Police Officer
24 Kevin Semonelle, Police Officer Peter
25 Sztenderowicz, Police Officer George

1 3/7/24 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 Tsoflias, Police Officer Kevin Krowicki,
3 Police Officer Joseph McCarthy, Police
4 Officer Aaron Turner, Police Officer Eric
5 Schroder, Police Officer Brandon Sweeney,
6 Police Officer Zachary DePerro, Police
7 Officer Jeffrey Bascomb, and Police
8 Officer Jessie West.

9 The Tactical Squad proactively
10 targets specific community issues. For
11 the past few years, they have prioritized
12 getting guns and shooters off of our
13 streets.

14 This squad is on the front
15 lines of our gun violence crisis,
16 disrupting the cycle of violence,
17 bringing justice and accountability to
18 victims and their families, and keeping
19 our neighborhoods safe.

20 Record high gun violence did
21 not stop the Tactical Squad from
22 delivering for our neighborhoods. In
23 2022, though they only account for
24 10 percent of the 18th District's force,
25 the Tactical Squad made almost 70 percent

1 3/7/24 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS
2 of firearm arrests. Thanks in part to
3 this squad's hard work and valor,
4 shootings in this police district have
5 decreased by 16 percent.

6 I will now invite my colleagues
7 to name just a few examples of the
8 Tactical Squad's bravery and
9 effectiveness.

10 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: After
11 being dragged for several blocks by a
12 suspect attempting to flee in a vehicle,
13 Officer Turner and his partner, Officer
14 Schroder, arrested the operator without
15 further harm to the community or
16 themselves.

17 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON:
18 Officer Sweeney and Officer DePerro
19 quickly responded to a report of a
20 shooting at 5400 block of Market Street.
21 We will call that 54 and Market. Their
22 swift action allowed them to detain the
23 suspect before they could do further
24 harm. Upon further investigation, the
25 officers determined the suspect was

1 3/7/24 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 wanted for an unrelated homicide that
3 happened in the 19th Police District.

4 COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL: Officer
5 McCarthy and Officer Krowicki initiated a
6 vehicle stop, and the operators attempted
7 to flee. The officers pursued, detaining
8 the suspects without further incident.

9 Further investigation revealed that one
10 of the defendants was wanted for a
11 homicide in the 16th Police District.

12 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Officer
13 Krowicki and Officer McCarthy were
14 patrolling Cobbs Creek Parkway when they
15 spotted and detained someone wanted for
16 multiple shootings.

17 A trusting and collaborative
18 relationship between law enforcement and
19 the community is paramount to ending gun
20 violence. This bond is born when
21 residents know that their police officers
22 will swiftly respond to emergencies and
23 track down and apprehend shooters.

24 When our officers get shooters
25 off the streets, we can close cases and

1 3/7/24 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 bring justice and accountability to
3 communities that have a history of being
4 overlooked or written off by law
5 enforcement, including ones served by the
6 police officers standing up here.

7 So thank you to the members of
8 the 18th District Tactical Squad for
9 serving West Philadelphia with
10 excellence, and modeling the community
11 and professional policing our
12 neighborhoods deserve.

13 As the Council representative
14 for the 18th Police District and a member
15 of Council's Public Safety Committee, I
16 am pleased City Council has this
17 opportunity to honor and to recognize
18 your bravery, which often gets taken for
19 granted.

20 Let's give the Tactical Squad a
21 round of applause.

22 - - -

23 (Applause.)

24 - - -

25 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: I would

1 3/7/24 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 now like to invite Deputy Police
3 Commissioner Cram up to the podium to say
4 a few words.

5 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CRAM: Good
6 morning, everyone. Thank you,
7 Councilwoman. Greatly appreciate the
8 support.

9 Council President, thank you
10 for having us, and to the Council, thank
11 you. It always means a lot when we're
12 recognized by you as the leaders of this
13 city.

14 This is a snapshot of what goes
15 on every day, the story that's told on
16 the streets that nobody sees. This small
17 team is responsible for a two-year period
18 for over 250 violent felony arrests and
19 recovering another 250 guns off the
20 street. That's one small team in one
21 district, but once again, it's a
22 snapshot --

23 - - -

24 (Applause.)

25 - - -

1 3/7/24 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CRAM: Yes.

3 They deserve it.

4 So that's just a small snapshot
5 of what's going on on our streets and the
6 work that the men and women of this
7 Police Department is doing every day.

8 And I greatly appreciate all your
9 support. We have a lot of friends here,
10 and we hope to make a few more, but thank
11 you for what you do for our city.

12 Thank you.

13 - - -

14 (Applause.)

15 - - -

16 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: In a
17 moment we will hear from the commanding
18 officer of the 18th Police District,
19 Captain Daniel Ginion. But before we do,
20 I want to thank Captain Ginion for his
21 leadership. For the past few years, I
22 have collaborated with Captain Ginion and
23 his team on a variety of public safety
24 initiatives. He is the kind of
25 commanding officer our neighborhoods

1 3/7/24 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 deserve, someone who upholds law
3 enforcement while also working with
4 Council and the community on a
5 comprehensive, place-based safety
6 strategy.

7 The Tactical Squad's
8 effectiveness is a testament of your
9 effectiveness as a commander and guardian
10 of our community. Thank you for
11 everything you do for West Philadelphia.

12 Captain, the floor is yours.

13 CAPTAIN GINION: Thank you for
14 those kind words.

15 First, let me clarify that from
16 this resolution here, I did none of that
17 police work. In fact, it's the hard work
18 and determination of the officers in the
19 blue shirts behind me.

20 Second, let me emphasize
21 something. In my 17 years with the
22 Philadelphia Police Department in several
23 ranks in some seriously challenging
24 assignments with many cops, many police
25 officers, I have a lot of time here that

1 3/7/24 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 I've invested in the City. Over that
3 time, I can tell you that the officers
4 behind me are some of the finest the PPD
5 has to offer, and it has been an honor to
6 stand alongside them as they give the
7 service to the community that they
8 deserve.

9 Last, I'd like to thank Council
10 President as well as other members of
11 Council as well, especially Councilmember
12 Gauthier. Her continued support as well
13 as her staff and partnership has been
14 immensely helpful for myself as well as
15 the members of my district.

16 Thank you very much.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

18 Thank you.

19 - - -

20 (Applause.)

21 - - -

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

23 Council will be at ease.

24 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Thank
25 you so much, everybody, for listening. I

1 3/7/24 - STATED - COMMUNICATIONS

2 now invite Councilmembers up to take a
3 photo with our officers in front of the
4 rostrum.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

6 Council will be at ease.

7 (Council at ease.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
9 next order of business is communications.
10 The Chair requests that the
11 Sergeant-of-Arms deliver the messages
12 from the Mayor to the Chief Clerk.

13 The Chief Clerk will read the
14 messages from the Mayor and any other
15 communications in her possession.

16 CHIEF CLERK: To the President
17 and members of the Council of the City of
18 Philadelphia, I am transmitting for the
19 consideration of your honorable body a
20 resolution appointing Madison McCarron to
21 the Board of Directors of the City Avenue
22 Special Services District of Philadelphia
23 and Lower Merion.

24 To the President and members of
25 the Council of the City of Philadelphia,

1 3/7/24 - STATED - COMMUNICATIONS

2 I am submitting herewith for your
3 consideration of your honorable body an
4 ordinance amending Title 14 ("Zoning and
5 Planning") and Title 18 ("Commerce") of
6 The Philadelphia Code to clarify
7 responsibilities of the Department of
8 Aviation, and eliminating provisions
9 related to passenger charges, all under
10 certain terms and conditions.

11 To the President and members of
12 the Council of the City of Philadelphia,
13 I am submitting herewith for your
14 consideration of your honorable body an
15 ordinance amending Chapter 16-700 of The
16 Philadelphia Code, entitled "Philadelphia
17 Land Bank," to allow interested parties
18 to require open bidding when the Land
19 Bank seeks to exercise special authority
20 to acquire property at a sheriff sale and
21 allow prior owners to redeem property
22 when such special authority is exercised,
23 all under certain terms and conditions.

24 There are no other
25 communications in my possession, Council

1 3/7/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 President.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

4 Thank you very much.

5 The messages will be printed in
6 the Journal.

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

10 The Chair recognizes Councilman
11 Anthony Phillips.

12 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: Thank
13 you, Council President. Just before we
14 do the bills and resolutions, I was
15 wondering if we could have a moment of
16 silence for the victim at Imhotep Charter
17 High School this week and also prayers
18 for a speedy recovery for those in
19 Northeast High School that happened this
20 week.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
22 Sure we can.

23 (Moment of silence.)

24 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: Thank
25 you, Council President. There is no

1 3/7/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 bills or resolutions introduced by me
3 this week.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
5 Thank you.

6 The Chair recognizes
7 Councilmember Katherine Gilmore
8 Richardson.

9 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Thank
10 you, Council President. Today I offer
11 one privileged resolution, and on your
12 behalf, one privileged resolution and one
13 non-privileged resolution.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
15 Will the Clerk please read the titles of
16 the resolutions.

17 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
18 recognizing March 3rd through 9th, 2024,
19 during Women's History Month, as Women in
20 Construction (WIC) Week in the City of
21 Philadelphia.

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

25 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution

1 3/7/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 honoring Super Bowl champion Jason Kelce
3 on the occasion of his retirement from
4 the National Football League, and
5 recognizing Jason's historic career with
6 the Philadelphia Eagles and his generous
7 philanthropic contributions to the City
8 of Philadelphia made through the Make The
9 World Better Foundation and his (Be)
10 Philly Foundation.

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

14 CHIEF CLERK: And a
15 non-privileged resolution urging the
16 Middle States Commission on Higher
17 Education to reverse its decision to
18 place Cheyney University on probationary
19 status and calling on the Commission to
20 work collaboratively with the
21 University's leadership to restore the
22 historic HBCU's academic status.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
24 This resolution will be placed on the
25 Final Passage Calendar for consideration

1 3/7/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 at our next session of Council.

3 The Chair recognizes now

4 Councilmember Katherine Gilmore -- I'm

5 sorry; Councilmember Jamie Gauthier.

6 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Today I

7 have one privileged resolution.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

9 Will the Clerk please read the title of
10 the resolution.

11 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged
12 resolution honoring and recognizing
13 Katalin Kariko, PhD and Drew Weissman, MD
14 PhD for winning the 2023 Nobel Prize in
15 Medicine.

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

19 The Chair recognizes
20 Councilmember Isaiah Thomas.

21 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Good
22 morning, Council President.

23 Good morning, colleagues. I
24 have one resolution.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

1 3/7/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 Will the Clerk please read the title of
3 the resolution.

4 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged
5 resolution honoring and congratulating
6 the Champion of the Week, Lucas Koo, a
7 Masterman High School student who
8 competed in short track speed skating at
9 the Winter Youth Olympic Games.

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

13 The Chair recognizes
14 Councilmember Curtis Jones.

15 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
16 Mr. President. Today I offer three
17 non-privileged and one -- three
18 privileged and one non-privileged
19 resolution.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
21 Will the Clerk please read the title of
22 the resolutions.

23 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged
24 resolution Honoring and Recognizing Tanya
25 Hill-Holiday for her admiral career

1 3/7/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 achievements during Women's History

3 Month.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

5 This resolution will be placed on today's

6 Final Passage Calendar.

7 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged

8 resolution honoring the life and legacy

9 of Dr. George E. Allen, the longtime

10 leader of the Arts and Music Program at

11 Overbrook High School.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

13 This resolution will be placed on today's

14 Final Passage Calendar.

15 CHIEF CLERK: And a privileged

16 resolution celebrating Meredith Foote's

17 trailblazing leadership as Executive

18 Director of the TGR Learning Lab at The

19 Cobbs Creek Golf Course on the occasion

20 of Women's History Month.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

22 This resolution will be placed on today's

23 Final Passage Calendar.

24 CHIEF CLERK: And a

25 non-privileged resolution appointing

1 3/7/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 Madison McCarron to the Board of
3 Directors of the City Avenue Special
4 Services District of Philadelphia and
5 Lower Merion.

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

10 The Chair recognizes
11 Councilmember Rue Landau.

12 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU: Good
13 morning, Council President, colleagues,
14 and the public. No bills or resolutions
15 today.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
17 Chair recognizes Councilmember Quetcy
18 Lozada.

19 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Good
20 morning, Council President. Today I
21 offer one non-privileged resolution.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
23 Will the Clerk please read the title of
24 the resolution.

25 CHIEF CLERK: A non-privileged

1 3/7/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 resolution authorizing the Commissioner
3 of Public Property to execute and deliver
4 to the Philadelphia Redevelopment
5 Authority deeds conveying fee simple
6 title to 2147 North 5th Street in the
7 Seventh Councilmanic District of the City
8 of Philadelphia.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

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

13 The Chair now recognizes
14 Councilmember Jeffery J. Young.

15 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Thank you,
16 Mr. President. Today I offer two bills
17 for introduction.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
19 Will the Clerk please read the title of
20 the bills.

21 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
22 establishing parking regulations in the
23 vicinity of: North 20th Street and
24 Fairmount Avenue; Tioga Street and Old
25 York Road; Westmoreland Street and North

1 3/7/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 13th Street.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

4 This bill will referred to the
5 appropriate committee.

6 CHIEF CLERK: And an ordinance
7 establishing parking regulations in the
8 vicinity of: North 30th Street and
9 Master Street; North 29th Street and
10 Master Street and Oxford Street; Oxford
11 and North 30th Street and North 29th
12 Street; North 15th Street and Parrish
13 Street; Swain Street and North 17th
14 Street.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

16 This bill will be referred to the
17 appropriate committee.

18 The Chair recognizes
19 Councilmember Jim Harrity.

20 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: Council
21 President, I have no bills or resolutions
22 today.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
24 Chair recognizes Councilmember O'Rourke.

25 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE: Council

1 3/7/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 President, we have no bills or
3 resolutions today.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
5 Chair recognizes Councilman Driscoll.

6 COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL: Mr.
7 President, I have one ordinance
8 introduced on your behalf, I have another
9 ordinance introduced by Councilman
10 Squilla and myself, and I have one
11 privileged resolution.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
13 Thank you.

14 Will the Clerk please read the
15 title of the bills and resolution.

16 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
17 amending Chapter 12-900 of The
18 Philadelphia Code, entitled "Parking
19 Regulations and Penalties," by providing
20 for parking prohibitions for motor
21 vehicles with sun screening devices, and
22 for penalties and enforcement, all under
23 certain terms and conditions.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
25 This bill will be referred to the

1 3/7/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 appropriate committee.

3 CHIEF CLERK: And an ordinance
4 amending Title 14 ("Zoning and Planning")
5 and Title 18 ("Commerce") of The
6 Philadelphia Code to clarify
7 responsibilities of the Department of
8 Aviation, and eliminating provisions
9 related to the Joint Airport Zoning Board
10 and passenger charges, all under certain
11 terms and conditions.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

13 This bill will be referred to the
14 appropriate committee.

15 CHIEF CLERK: And a privileged
16 resolution celebrating Tuskegee Airmen
17 Commemoration Day in The City of
18 Philadelphia.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

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

22 The Chair recognizes
23 Councilmember Brian O'Neill.

24 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Thank you,
25 Mr. President. I have no bills or

1 3/7/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 resolutions.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
4 Chair recognizes Councilmember Mark
5 Squilla.

6 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Thank you,
7 Mr. President. No bills or resolutions
8 today.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
10 Chair recognizes Councilmember Cindy
11 Bass.

12 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you,
13 Mr. President. I offer one bill and one
14 resolution.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
16 Will the Clerk please read the title of
17 the bill and resolution.

18 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance to
19 amend the Philadelphia Zoning Maps by
20 changing the zoning designations of
21 certain areas of land located within an
22 area bounded by Sedgwick Street, Ardleigh
23 Street, Upsal Street, Belfield Avenue,
24 and Sprague Street.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

1 3/7/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

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

4 CHIEF CLERK: And a privileged
5 resolution recognizing March of 2024 as
6 Philadelphia's month of Literacy and
7 Reading.

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

11 The Chair recognizes
12 Councilmember Nina Ahmad.

13 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD: Thank you,
14 Council President. I have one privileged
15 resolution to offer.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
17 Will the Clerk please read the title of
18 the resolution.

19 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged
20 resolution authorizing the Committees on
21 Environment and Global Opportunities and
22 the Creative/Innovative Economy to hold
23 joint hearings regarding the reliability
24 and servicing of public accessible
25 electric vehicle charging stations in the

1 3/7/24 - STATED - REPORTS

2 City of Philadelphia.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

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

6 The next order of business is
7 reports from committees.

8 The Chair recognizes
9 Councilmember Young for a report from the
10 Committee on Streets and Services.

11 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Thank you,
12 Mr. President. The Committee on Streets
13 and Services report out six bills with a
14 favorable recommendation.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
16 Thank you very much.

17 The Chief Clerk will please
18 read the report.

19 CHIEF CLERK: To the President
20 and members of the Council of the City of
21 Philadelphia, the Committee on Streets
22 and Services, to which was referred Bill
23 No. 240016, entitled "An ordinance
24 amending Chapter 11-708 of The
25 Philadelphia Code, entitled 'Traffic

1 3/7/24 - STATED - REPORTS

2 Calming Measures for Schools,' by
3 authorizing the Department of Streets to
4 additionally install traffic calming
5 measures in the vicinity of recreation
6 centers, playgrounds, parks, and
7 libraries; all under certain terms and
8 conditions," respectfully reports it has
9 considered the same and returns the
10 attached bill to Council with a favorable
11 recommendation.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
13 Chair recognizes Councilmember Young.

14 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Thank you,
15 Mr. President. I move that the rules of
16 Council be suspended so as to permit
17 first reading on this day of the six
18 bills that were just read into the record
19 by the Clerk.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Do
21 we have a second?

22 (Duly seconded.)

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

1 3/7/24 - STATED - REPORTS

2 to permit first reading this day of Bills
3 No. 240008, 240009, 240011, 240014,
4 240016, and 240089.

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

7 (Aye.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

9 Those opposed?

10 (No response.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
12 ayes have it, and these bills will be
13 placed on our First Reading Calendar for
14 today.

15 CHIEF CLERK: I have to read
16 the rest of the titles. Sorry. I didn't
17 read the other few bills.

18 To the President and members of
19 the Council of the City of Philadelphia,
20 the Committee on Streets and Services, to
21 which was referred Bill No. 240014,
22 entitled "An ordinance amending Title 9
23 of The Philadelphia Code, by amending
24 Section 9-203 relating to Street Vendors,
25 by prohibiting street vending in the 54th

1 3/7/24 - STATED - REPORTS

2 Ward; all under certain terms and
3 conditions," respectfully reports it has
4 considered and amended the same and
5 returns the attached bill to Council with
6 a favorable recommendation.

7 The Committee on Streets and
8 Services, to which was referred Bill No.
9 240011 [sic], entitled "An ordinance
10 establishing parking regulations in the
11 vicinity of: Gross Street and Arch
12 Street; Dewey Street and Market Street;
13 Arch Street to North 57th Street; North
14 61st Street between Arch Street and Race
15 Street; North 57th Street and Market
16 Street," respectfully reports it has
17 considered the same and returns the
18 attached bill to Council with a favorable
19 recommendation.

20 The Committee on Streets and
21 Services, to which was referred Bill No.
22 240009, entitled "An ordinance
23 establishing parking regulations in the
24 vicinity of: Gross Street and Arch
25 Street; Dewey Street and Market Street;

1 3/7/24 - STATED - REPORTS

2 Arch Street to North 57th Street; North
3 61st Street between Arch Street and Race
4 Street; North 57th Street and Market
5 Street," respectfully reports it has
6 considered the same and returns the
7 attached bill to Council with a favorable
8 recommendation.

9 The Committee on Streets and
10 Services, to which was referred Bill No.
11 240008, entitled "An ordinance
12 establishing parking regulations in the
13 vicinity of: Ainslie Street and Vaux
14 Street and Conrad Street; Calumet Street
15 and Dobson Street," respectfully reports
16 it has considered the same and returns
17 the attached bill to Council with a
18 favorable recommendation.

19 And the Committee on Streets
20 and Services, to which was referred Bill
21 No. 240089, entitled "An ordinance
22 amending Title 12 of The Philadelphia
23 Code, entitled 'Traffic Code,' by
24 providing for prohibitions relating to
25 license plate flipping devices, and for

1 3/7/24 - STATED - REPORTS

2 penalties and enforcement, all under
3 certain terms and conditions,"
4 respectfully reports it has considered
5 the same and returns the attached bill to
6 Council with a favorable recommendation.

7 And that is the entire report.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

9 Thank you.

10 The Clerk now recognizes
11 Councilmember Jeffery J. Young.

12 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Thank you,
13 Mr. President. I move that the rules of
14 Council be suspended so as to permit the
15 first reading on this day of the bills
16 just read by the Clerk into the record.

17 (Duly seconded.)

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: It
19 has been moved and properly seconded that
20 the rules of Council be suspended so as
21 to permit first reading this day of Bills
22 No. 240008, 240009, 240011, 240014,
23 240016, and 240089.

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

1 3/7/24 - STATED - BILLS ON 2ND READING

2 (Aye.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

4 Those opposed?

5 (No response.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
7 ayes have it, and these bills will be
8 placed on our First Reading Calendar for
9 today.

10 The next order of business is
11 the consideration of the Calendar.

12 I note for the record that the
13 bills just reported from committee with a
14 suspension of the rules have been deemed
15 to have had a first reading. These bills
16 will be placed on the Second Reading and
17 Final Passage Calendar for the next
18 session of Council.

19 The Chair recognizes
20 Councilmember Katherine Gilmore
21 Richardson for the purpose of calling up
22 bills and resolutions on the Second
23 Reading and Final Passage Calendars.

24 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Thank
25 you, Mr. President. The following bills

1 3/7/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 and resolutions are being called up from
3 the Second Reading and Final Passage
4 Calendars today: Nos. 240125, 240130,
5 240143, 240144, 240145, 240020, 240064,
6 240065, 240010, and 240007.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

8 Thank you.

9 Before considering these
10 resolutions, we will consider public
11 comment as follows:

12 Your public comment must
13 concern matters on the Second Reading and
14 Final Passage Calendars for possible
15 action at today's Council session. All
16 speakers must sign up in order to
17 testify. If you have not already signed
18 up for today's session, please do so now
19 by giving your name to Ms. Hasson at the
20 table outside the rails to my left. Once
21 you have signed up, you will be called in
22 the order in which your name appears on
23 the sign-up sheet.

24 Under ideal circumstances,
25 public commenters each will have three

1 3/7/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 minutes to speak. However, this time
3 limit may vary from session to session.
4 Today, due to the volume, the time limit
5 will be two minutes. In order to be fair
6 to all those wishing to speak, I intend
7 to hold faithfully to the two-minute
8 limit.

9 When you begin speaking, you
10 will see a green light on the podium.
11 When there are 30 seconds remaining to
12 your time, the light will turn yellow,
13 which is your reminder to conclude your
14 remarks. Once two minutes have passed,
15 the light will turn red and the
16 Sergeant-At-Arms will disconnect the
17 microphone. At that time, please yield
18 the podium to the next speaker, if you
19 have not already done so.

20 I also reserve the right
21 pursuant to our rules of Council to limit
22 repetitious comments on the same matter.

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

1 3/7/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 CHIEF CLERK: Quibila Devine in
3 support of renaming Chestnut Street
4 between 12th and 13th Street.

5 (Witness approached podium.)

6 MS. DEVINE: Thank you very
7 much. Good morning. Greetings. My name
8 is Quibila Devine, former Chief Program
9 Officer at SELF, Incorporated. I retired
10 in December 2023.

11 I had the pleasure of meeting
12 Michael Hinson when he interviewed me for
13 my position in 2018. SELF had just
14 relocated to 1211 Chestnut Street. And
15 in addition to interviewing me, Mike and
16 I also talked about issues that needed to
17 be resolved and strategies that we would
18 take to ensure that Philadelphia's most
19 vulnerable adults, families, and youth
20 were served equitably.

21 If you knew Mike, you knew that
22 Mike was unapologetic and very direct
23 about the challenges faced by those we
24 served and the lack of political will
25 that he saw was needed to correct it.

1 3/7/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 He was great at proposing
3 solutions that could be led by grassroots
4 organizers in Black and brown
5 communities. Mike had a super vision and
6 could see things from a perspective not
7 only as the President and CEO but also as
8 a grassroots, boots-on-the-ground
9 advocate and warrior.

10 Mike was a poor righteous
11 teacher who imparted so much knowledge
12 and wisdom that you had no other choice
13 but to understand his lesson. As a
14 result, Mike quickly transitioned from my
15 supervisor to my brother from another
16 mother.

17 To sum it all up, Mike was
18 awesome sauce, in his own words. He was
19 authentic. He was caring. He was an
20 unselfish leader. He was unafraid. He
21 was fun, love, peace, and happiness.

22 I wholeheartedly support the
23 renaming of 1200 Chestnut Street to
24 Michael Hinson Way.

25 Thank you, Councilperson

1 3/7/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Squilla and your team, Council President
3 Johnson, Chief Clerk's Office, and all
4 City Councilpersons. I want you all to
5 know that you are truly appreciated.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

7 Thank you.

8 - - -

9 (Applause.)

10 - - -

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

12 Will the Clerk please call the next
13 speakers.

14 CHIEF CLERK: D'Angelo D'Ontace
15 Keyes.

16 Also Sappho Fulton, Rasoul
17 Nicholson, Corrine Robinson, and David
18 Fair, make your way to the podium.

19 D'Angelo D'Ontace Keyes.

20 (Witness approached podium.)

21 MR. KEYES: I am here.

22 All right. It's an honor to
23 stand before you. For the record, my
24 name is D'Angelo D'Ontace Keyes. I'm a
25 dedicated artist, scholar of the City of

1 3/7/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Philadelphia and also the former
3 Commissioner of the Office of Human
4 Relations and also an advocate for the
5 HIV and AIDS community.

6 Reflecting on my own journey, I
7 am humbled by the realization that I
8 would not be here without the direct
9 mentorship of trailblazers like Michael
10 Hinson, Jr. Michael's unwavering
11 dedication and compassion resonated
12 within these very halls of power,
13 inspiring and influencing historic
14 actions that we as a city graciously
15 revel in today.

16 As we gather here on this
17 audacious ask, it's an imperative that we
18 recognize the pivotal role of
19 history-makers like Michael Hinson, Jr.

20 From being the first LGBTQ
21 liaison for the City of Philadelphia,
22 spearheading organizations devoted to
23 health equity for Black LGBTQ
24 communities, like the Colours
25 Organization and the Center for Black

1 3/7/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Equity in Washington, DC, Michael's
3 legacy is a testament to the resilience
4 and determination of our people.

5 I am reminded of a powerful
6 anecdote of my own experiences. When I
7 lived in Philadelphia, I once lived
8 adjacent to a male shelter of SELF, Inc.,
9 where I witnessed firsthand the courage
10 of Black men seeking recovery and refuge
11 as they sought to rebuild their lives.
12 This is an important reminder of the
13 importance of restoration and enduring
14 spirit of resilience that Philadelphia so
15 beautifully lives in today.

16 As we embark on this collective
17 ask to honor this remarkable man through
18 this resolution, let us not only
19 commemorate the past but also reaffirm to
20 creating a future where every voice is
21 heard and our legacies are honored.

22 Together, I ask you to honor
23 Michael Hinson's legacy. As we pave a
24 future generation, 12th Street and 13th
25 Street of Chestnut should be named

1 3/7/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Michael Hinson's Way.

3 Thank you.

4 - - -

5 (Applause.)

6 - - -

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

8 Will the Clerk please call the next
9 speaker.

10 CHIEF CLERK: Sappho Fulton.

11 Also Rasoul Nicholson, Corrine
12 Robinson, David Fair, and Reverend Andrea
13 Lamour-Harrington, make your way to the
14 podium.

15 (Witness approached podium.)

16 MS. FULTON: Good morning. My
17 name is Sappho Fulton, CEO of Women
18 Beyond Borders, formerly the Program
19 Director of the Michael Hinson Resource
20 Center. I'm here today on behalf to read
21 something from my comrade who could not
22 be present, Lee Carson.

23 The testimony of Lee Carson,
24 who could not be present today on behalf
25 of speaking on Michael Hinson, Jr.,

1 3/7/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 was -- Michael Hinson was a seminal
3 figure in the fabric of not only
4 Philadelphia's lesbian, gay, bisexual,
5 transgender plus community but in the
6 City of Philadelphia at-large and beyond.

7 Michael played a pivotal role
8 in the early days of Philadelphia's
9 response to HIV and AIDS epidemic after
10 meeting his longtime mentors, Rashida
11 Cavar (ph), David Fair, and Tyrone Smith,
12 and of course Chris Bartlett.

13 Michael provided visionary
14 leadership around helping to develop the
15 infrastructure of the -- in response that
16 exists today. It's well known he helped
17 to found the Colours Organization and
18 several thousands -- will serve several
19 thousands of people for direct service
20 and indirectly through the Colors
21 Magazine and other initiatives impacted
22 by the lives of Black LGBTQ+ individuals
23 in Philadelphia.

24 As the first liaison to the
25 LGBTQ communities in Mayor Street's

1 3/7/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Administration, Michael helped to support
3 and develop a number of key initiatives
4 that benefited the LGBTQ community
5 at-large, including fighting for the
6 removal of gender markers on SEPTA
7 transit passes, support for the
8 internationally attended Trans Health
9 Conference put on by Mazzoni Center,
10 helping to found the Black Gay Men's
11 Leadership Council, BGMLC, and the Black
12 and Latinx Community Control
13 organization.

14 Michael used his visionary
15 leadership to work across systems and
16 demographics to achieve progress. For
17 example, he served the bridge between the
18 local chapters of the NAACP and the BGMLC
19 to create palm cards designed to be used
20 as an advocacy educational tool for LGBTQ
21 people of color who were experiencing
22 inequitable treatment in the gayborhood
23 by police.

24 Michael's experience extended
25 beyond Philadelphia. Yet by him living

1 3/7/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 in Philadelphia, he helped others to see
3 Philadelphia as a place where visionary
4 thought and leadership existed.

5 After his work in the Street
6 Administration, he worked for the
7 International Federation of Black Pride
8 where he, along with others, helped
9 various cities around the United States
10 and a few in the African countries
11 develop and sustain Black -- thank you.
12 We thank you, Councilman Squilla, and we
13 definitely support the street being named
14 after Michael Hinson.

15 Thank you.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

17 Thank you.

18 - - -

19 (Applause.)

20 - - -

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

22 Will the Chief Clerk call the next
23 speaker.

24 CHIEF CLERK: Rasoul Nicholson.

25 Corrine Robinson, David Fair,

1 3/7/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Reverend Andrea Lamour-Harrington, and
3 George Matysik, also make your way to the
4 podium.

5 Rasoul Nicholson.

6 (No response.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

8 Will the Chief Clerk please call the next
9 speaker.

10 CHIEF CLERK: Corrine Robinson.

11 (No response.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

13 Will the Chief Clerk please call the next
14 speaker.

15 CHIEF CLERK: David Fair.

16 (Witness approached podium.)

17 MR. FAIR: It's an honor to be
18 here this morning to recognize the
19 incredible career of Michael Hinson and
20 support adding his name to a city street
21 sign as a permanent marker of his efforts
22 to help others be effective as advocates
23 the way he was in his short time with us.

24 The first time I met Michael
25 was all the way back when he was a

1 3/7/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 teenager in 1986, and the first thing he
3 did when we met was complain. He
4 complained that not enough was being done
5 to spread the word in the Black
6 community, both gay and straight, about
7 the AIDS epidemic and that people were
8 dying as a result.

9 He complained that people like
10 me, who were seen as leaders in the fight
11 against AIDS, were taking for granted
12 that getting the word out in the outs gay
13 community was enough, when in fact
14 especially in the his own Black community
15 most gay men avoided that exposure.

16 He called for people like me to
17 get out of our comfort zones, because
18 that was the only way we were going to
19 save lives. He was right, of course, and
20 we did our best, but over time it became
21 clear that another person who needed to
22 heed Michael's call was Michael himself.

23 From the age of 17, Michael
24 proved himself the consummate organizer,
25 finding and motivating people to speak

1 3/7/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 out against injustice and keep doing so
3 until they found justice, not just in the
4 area of AIDS but also in his unparalleled
5 leadership in confronting the
6 homelessness crisis in Philadelphia later
7 in life.

8 So it's fitting that the street
9 sign being announced today is named after
10 Michael Hinson, because his name, his
11 power, his energy are still with us,
12 demanding we go forward, demanding
13 progress.

14 Thank you.

15 - - -

16 (Applause.)

17 - - -

18 MR. FAIR: My name is David
19 Fair.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
21 Will the Clerk call the next speaker.

22 CHIEF CLERK: Reverend Andrea
23 Lamour-Harrington.

24 George Matysik, Dr. Carol
25 Simmons, and Max Tuttleman, please make

1 3/7/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 your way to the podium.

3 Reverend Andrea Lamour.

4 (No response.)

5 CHIEF CLERK: George Matysik.

6 (No response.)

7 CHIEF CLERK: Dr. Carol Simmons

8 and Max Tuttleman.

9 (Witness approached podium.)

10 MS. AYAWA: Good rising. My
11 name is Amanda Ayawa (ph) and I am the
12 Executive Administrative Assistant, and
13 this is my partner, Master Farmer and
14 Director of Education, Levi Joynes of the
15 Black Farmers Co-Op. On behalf of the
16 Black Farmers Cooperative, we thank City
17 Council President Kenyatta Johnson and
18 City Council for their invitation for us
19 to support Resolution 240125 for a
20 Philadelphia Task Force on Food
21 Insecurity.

22 Will the Black Farmers please
23 stand.

24 We are under the direction of
25 Dr. Carol Simmons, Dr. Pastor Darien

1 3/7/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Thomas, Dr. Harvel Brown, Neville and
3 Shirley Moore. We have over 65 members
4 and counting.

5 The Black Farmers Co-Op
6 initiatives addresses all the points
7 under the Task Force resolution. They
8 include:

9 We increase access to
10 nutritious foods through our farmers'
11 markets. We are increasing our food
12 production through hydroponics, which is
13 the sustainable gardening technique where
14 plants are grown in water. We are
15 increasing food production through
16 community gardens done through our
17 apprenticeship program to train community
18 members on setting up farmers' markets
19 and community gardens in Philadelphia.

20 We have educational forums at
21 schools so as to directly engage students
22 and their families on hydroponics,
23 aquaponics, food selection, and the
24 importance of drinking sufficient amounts
25 of water, preferably alkaline water. The

1 3/7/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Black Farmers Co-Op manufactures our own
3 alkaline water that has an 8.0 pH.

4 Also at our educational forums
5 we have demonstrations on how to prepare
6 healthy meals and have featured books in
7 our giveaways such as Little Joey Starts
8 a Farm written by our very own Joe
9 Harrison.

10 We would like to present to
11 City Council with a hand-crafted
12 hydroponics kit, and this poster we are
13 presenting to City Council President
14 Kenyatta Johnson to acknowledge his
15 presence at our very first farmers'
16 market May 14th, 2022.

17 Thank you.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

19 Thank you very much.

20 - - -

21 (Applause.)

22 - - -

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

24 Will the Clerk please call the next
25 person to speak.

1 3/7/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 CHIEF CLERK: George Matysik,
3 Dr. Carol Simmons, Max Tuttleman, Loree
4 D. Jones-Brown.

5 (Witness approached podium.)

6 MR. TUTTLEMAN: Hello. My name
7 is Max Tuttleman. Council President,
8 thank you very much. Esteemed members of
9 City Council, thank you for having me
10 here today. I am here to offer my
11 support of Resolution 240125 creating a
12 task force to alleviate food insecurity
13 here in the City of Philadelphia.

14 For these past ten years, a lot
15 of work has been done with many great
16 organizations that you see here sitting
17 here today, but there hasn't been a lot
18 of cohesion and collaboration from the
19 City's part. So to see this task force
20 being created that's going to bring all
21 the necessary stakeholders to the table
22 and get input from everybody to really
23 see how we can start solving the problem
24 of food insecurity here in Philadelphia,
25 because it is possible. We have enough

1 3/7/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 food. We can grow our food, and we can
3 get those foods to people that need it.

4 So thank you very much.

5 - - -

6 (Applause.)

7 - - -

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

9 Thank you.

10 Will the Clerk please call the
11 next person to speak.

12 CHIEF CLERK: Loree D.

13 Jones-Brown.

14 Evan Ehlers, Jessica Borger,
15 and Kate Perez, also make your way to the
16 podium.

17 (Witness approached podium.)

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: You
19 can begin.

20 MS. JONES-BROWN: Good morning,
21 City Councilmembers. Thank you, Council
22 President Johnson, for inviting me to
23 speak on the importance of creating a
24 Philadelphia Task Force on Food
25 Insecurity. I'm Loree Jones-Brown. I

1 3/7/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 have the honor and privilege of serving
3 as Chief Executive Officer of
4 Philabundance, a hunger relief
5 organization operating out of four
6 locations across this great City of
7 Philadelphia.

8 As your resolution says, we
9 strive to ensure that the one in four
10 children in our city have access to food
11 by serving more than 135,000 people a
12 week. That's twice the size of the Linc.

13 Through our partnerships, we
14 have 220 pantries, including schools,
15 including partners like Vito Baldini of
16 Small Things are here today. We push
17 ourselves to deliver culture diverse
18 foods, high nutritional value, sourced
19 increasingly from local and diverse
20 growers and businesses.

21 We do this operating the
22 region's largest food rescue program.
23 Last year we delivered more than 15
24 million pounds of high-quality rescued
25 food to our neighbors. We do this for

1 3/7/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 Community Kitchen, the Philabundance
3 Community Kitchen, our workforce
4 development program, preparing people for
5 careers in business and the culinary
6 field. These students were once eligible
7 for SNAP, and I have two of them with me
8 today, Brittany Hill Irving and Carmen
9 Mundo.

10 We do this through our
11 innovative Food is Medicine partnerships.
12 We're developing healthy meals provided
13 by the Community Kitchen with partners
14 with healthcare institutions across the
15 region as well as a partnership led by
16 Mark Chairman, Ken Frazier. We do this
17 center and work around people, people who
18 struggle to provide healthy food for
19 their families. We do this by advocating
20 at every level of government for supports
21 that are effective and meaningful.
22 That's why we welcomed the President to
23 your district three times, calling on him
24 too and supporting his efforts to put the
25 money in the hands of the families to

1 3/7/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 make their own choices about what to
3 serve their children. That's why we
4 enthusiastically support this measure.

5 We're a member of Feeding
6 America, a national network. Many of our
7 network members have participated in
8 similar task force and councils, and we
9 can tap into that knowledge for this
10 work.

11 And just in -- I'd like to say
12 in closing that it's critical to us that
13 among the charges of this committee, we
14 respectfully request that you consider
15 equity as you develop your solutions. We
16 welcome the opportunity to join you in an
17 effort to transform the way we think
18 about food insecurity to instead
19 prioritize nutrition security, to go from
20 transactional to transformational, to go
21 from competition to collaboration, to go
22 from one-size-fits-all approaches to
23 effective programs that indeed provide
24 relief to those who need it most. That
25 means applying an equity lens to this

1 3/7/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 work.

3 Thank you very much.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

5 Thank you.

6 - - -

7 (Applause.)

8 - - -

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

10 Will the Clerk please call the next

11 speaker.

12 CHIEF CLERK: Evan Ehlers.

13 Jessica Borger, Kate Perez, and

14 Monisha Ravi, also make your way to the

15 podium.

16 (Witness approached podium.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

18 Excuse me one second.

19 Councilman Curtis Jones,

20 recognize.

21 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,

22 Mr. President. You're going to hear from

23 George Matysik, but I wanted to comment

24 on Loree Jones and him.

25 But for their services, we

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2 would not have made it through a pandemic
3 in the Fourth District.

4 - - -

5 (Applause.)

6 - - -

7 COUNCILMAN JONES: And just as
8 a point of personal privilege,
9 Mr. President, all I'm going to say to
10 Ms. Jones is pound cake.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
12 Will the Clerk --

13 MR. EHLERS: Good morning,
14 Council President Johnson, City
15 Councilmembers, and fellow
16 Philadelphians. My name is Evan Ehlers
17 and I'm the founder and Executive
18 Director of Sharing Excess, the food
19 rescue non-profit headquartered in
20 Southwest Philadelphia --

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
22 Second District.

23 MR. EHLERS: -- that's
24 delivered over 40 million pounds of fresh
25 food to more than one million

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2 Philadelphians since our inception in
3 2018. I'm here today to affirm our stern
4 support for Resolution 240125 to
5 establish the Philadelphia Task Force on
6 Food Insecurity.

7 Not everyone may know this, but
8 40 percent of the food that we produce in
9 the United States goes to waste in
10 landfills, and in Philadelphia we waste
11 up to one million pounds of food every
12 single day, while hundreds of thousands
13 of people still experience food
14 insecurity.

15 I started Sharing Excess as a
16 student in college at Drexel University
17 in 2018. At that time, I realized that I
18 had 50 meal swipes left in my dining
19 account that I knew I wouldn't be able to
20 use before the end of the term. So I
21 decided to swipe those meals out, put
22 them in my car, drove around Center City
23 and started giving them out, and that day
24 changed my life forever and was the
25 inspiration for Sharing Excess.

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2 Me and my friends and now my
3 colleagues started working with
4 supermarkets and wholesalers and
5 retailers to rescue perfectly good food
6 that they hadn't sold. We tapped our
7 chapter network of college students to
8 deliver surplus food to food banks and
9 pantries all over the City, and realized
10 that Sharing Excess can enhance the
11 efforts of hunger relief organizations by
12 solving the middle mile for them.

13 We teamed up with the
14 Philadelphia Wholesale Produce Market in
15 2021, setting up an in-house sorting
16 operation that has rescued and
17 redistributed over 18 million pounds of
18 produce in two years, and we've been able
19 to provide over \$40 million in food cost
20 savings for Philadelphians.

21 One in four children live in
22 food insecure households in our city.
23 It's a problem that's so big that no one
24 organization can tackle it alone, which
25 is why we need to work together and why

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2 this task force is so important. It's an
3 opportunity for all City leaders and
4 organizations who want to solve this
5 issue to work hand in hand and
6 collaborate together.

7 Thank you so much for putting
8 this resolution together, and we will
9 provide at least one million pounds of
10 food annually to relief efforts organized
11 by the task force to show our commitment
12 to its inception.

13 Thank you.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

15 Thank you.

16 - - -

17 (Applause.)

18 - - -

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

20 Will the Clerk call the next speaker.

21 CHIEF CLERK: Jessica Borger.

22 And Kate Perez, Monisha Ravi,
23 Andreina Perez Hein, and Ryan Boyer also
24 make their way to the podium.

25 (Witness approached podium.)

1 3/7/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 MS. BORGER: Jessica Borger,
3 The Food Trust.

4 Thank you, Council President
5 Johnson, for inviting The Food Trust to
6 provide testimony today on this critical
7 issue.

8 Greetings to the members of
9 this committee and the entire City
10 Council. Our President and CEO, Mark
11 Edwards, sends his regrets that he's
12 unable to join us today due to travel.

13 My name is Jessica Borger, Vice
14 President of Programs and Development at
15 The Food Trust, a non-profit working
16 tirelessly in Philadelphia and across the
17 country to ensure equitable access to
18 nutritious food.

19 Everything we do is guided by
20 our mission for a more equitable society
21 where nutritious food is abundant and
22 communities can thrive. This vision
23 requires a holistic, community-driven
24 approach to nutrition security,
25 emphasizing access, affordability, and

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2 education. Simply stated, our mission is
3 to ensure delicious, nutritious food for
4 all.

5 To find a sustainable long-term
6 solution that empowers communities to not
7 just survive week to week but to thrive
8 and grow, The Food Trust looks at what
9 lies in between hunger and health,
10 nutrition security. Through a
11 combination of direct services, policy
12 advocacy, and community engagement, The
13 Food Trust aims to disrupt the barriers
14 that hinder healthy eating. Our
15 comprehensive approach not only supports
16 retail venues like supermarkets, corner
17 stores, and farmers' markets in
18 underserved areas, but we also work to
19 ensure these venues can accept SNAP
20 benefits and other incentives, like Food
21 Bucks, to stretch customers' purchasing
22 power.

23 We also prioritize nutrition
24 education, especially for children. By
25 connecting our youth to their local food

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2 systems and promoting healthy habits
3 early on, we lay the foundation for
4 lifelong wellness.

5 We fully support the
6 authorization of the Philadelphia Task
7 Force on Food Insecurity. Philadelphia
8 has a history of powerful collaboration,
9 and we believe the time is right to bring
10 together stakeholders from across the
11 food ecosystem, from healthy food access
12 and emergency food, to agriculture and
13 economic development to ensure that
14 nutrition security can become a reality
15 for all of our neighbors.

16 Thank you for this opportunity
17 to testify, and open to any questions.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

19 Thank you.

20 - - -

21 (Applause.)

22 - - -

23 (Witness approached podium.)

24 MR. NICHOLSON: Good morning,
25 Councilmembers and Councilmembers. This

1 3/7/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 is -- Council President. I'm sorry.

3 Running, trying to get around here, so I

4 made it.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

6 Just state your name for the record,

7 please.

8 MR. NICHOLSON: Rasoul

9 Nicholson.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Go

11 ahead, sir.

12 MR. NICHOLSON: I'm speaking on

13 behalf of the Mike Hinson Way, renaming

14 the street, so docket 240145.

15 So my name Rasoul Nicholson. I

16 know Michael Hinson since 17, and in that

17 time, he was already diligent in his work

18 here throughout the City. So I

19 definitely think that it would be a

20 privilege and an honor to see his name

21 among the street signs. And it's

22 interesting that it's not avenue nor

23 street but actually "way." So just so

24 that we can remember how he paved the way

25 for a lot of us Black African American

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2 gay individuals.

3 So I'm 100 percent in support
4 of it, and hopefully you are too.

5 All right. Thank you.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

7 Thank you.

8 - - -

9 (Applause.)

10 - - -

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

12 Will the Clerk please call the next
13 speaker.

14 CHIEF CLERK: Kate Perez.

15 And also Monisha Ravi, Andreina
16 Perez Hein, Ryan Boyer, and Monica
17 Robinson make their way to the podium.

18 (Witness approached podium.)

19 MS. PEREZ: My name is Kate.

20 First, I have to acknowledge
21 that as of Sunday, the 3rd, the number of
22 children in Palestine who died from
23 dehydration and malnutrition rose to 15.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

25 Ms. Perez, can you speak on the topic on

1 3/7/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 the agenda, please.

3 MS. PEREZ: I just wanted to
4 mention it.

5 They haven't gotten anything
6 since January 23rd. Today is the 7th.

7 On the topic of 240013, the
8 Kensington curfew, I'd like to point out
9 that in July 2022 when Philadelphia
10 updated our youth curfew, we actually saw
11 an increase in violence when compared to
12 the same month the year before the
13 curfew. We saw robberies up 72
14 percent -- robberies with a gun up
15 72 percent, robberies of other types 40
16 percent, and auto thefts up by 29.

17 Curfew increases -- curfews
18 increase police presence and can cripple
19 families with their expensive \$500 fines
20 for violating curfews.

21 We had 100 Shooting Review
22 Committee release the report in 2022.
23 They include strategies, evidence-based
24 strategies, such as better street
25 cleaning, trash pickup, repairing

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2 occupied homes.

3 I think the City can take a
4 much more proactive approach to
5 preventing violence by investing back
6 into the community before bringing in
7 more police officers and enforcing a
8 curfew.

9 If you want to say you already
10 tried to clean up the neighborhood,
11 there's still an entire trash river we
12 have to get to.

13 We know more police create more
14 dead citizens. We saw this with the
15 recent murder of Alexander Spencer, who
16 in the recently released security footage
17 we saw him standing still with both arms
18 in the air before the officer slammed him
19 into the machines and choked him onto the
20 ground. This kind of violence is shared
21 between us and our sister city, Tel Aviv,
22 a program where we exchange police
23 captain with the Israeli occupation
24 forces, and they teach them the best way
25 to oppress Palestinians in their own

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2 country, and we trade strategies before
3 they come back to the U.S. and bring
4 their own genocidal lessons back to our
5 team.

6 In just five months, Israel has
7 killed more than 40,000 human beings --

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Ms.
9 Perez, can you stick to the topic --

10 MS. PEREZ: It's relevant. I
11 want to say specifically shame to Stacy
12 Garrity for approving \$56 million in war
13 bonds to continue. They've destroyed
14 every school, every hospital --

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Ms.
16 Perez, can you stick to the topic of the
17 resolution. Thank you.

18 MS. PEREZ: Okay. Whatever.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
20 Will the Clerk please call the next
21 person for public comment, please.

22 CHIEF CLERK: Monisha Ravi.

23 Andreina Perez Hein, Ryan
24 Boyer, Monica Robinson, and Erin Dwyer.

25 (Witness approached podium.)

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2 MS. RAVI: Hi. So my name is
3 Monisha Ravi. I gave like the full
4 version to the stenographer. I don't
5 think I can get through this in three
6 minutes.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
8 Ms. Ravi, can you speak into the
9 microphone, please.

10 MS. RAVI: Sorry. My name is
11 Monisha Ravi. I can't get through this
12 whole thing in three minutes. I'm just
13 going to say my stance and --

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
15 It's two minutes, Ms. Ravi.

16 MS. RAVI: Okay. Well, yeah,
17 this will be two seconds.

18 I don't oppose Mayor Parker's
19 vision to be tough on crime and the
20 opioid epidemic, but just
21 financially-wise, right, like the math
22 behind the curfew bill, No. 240013, not
23 the task force but specifically the
24 curfew for the Kensington businesses
25 sponsored by Councilmember Quetcy Lozada,

1 3/7/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 just financially, right, it's not going
3 to decrease costs. Like it's not viable
4 to do it, I guess, economically, right,
5 the numbers.

6 I guess the person before me
7 touched a bit on the ethical medical
8 science reasons, the non-profit,
9 addictions, psychiatrist and these
10 actually, I guess, can't public comment
11 for the medical, I guess, ethical science
12 behind why this isn't going to be
13 successful, but I think we should maybe
14 reform the curfew bill to something that
15 would. I don't know. But this is the
16 case, the numbers are in that, right?
17 Like it's not going to add up to more
18 dollars for Philadelphia.

19 So I oppose the Bill 240013,
20 and I guess that's everything that I
21 needed.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

23 Thank you very much.

24 Will the Clerk please call the
25 next person for public comment. Thank

1 3/7/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 you.

3 CHIEF CLERK: Andreina Perez

4 Hein.

5 Ryan Boyer, Monica Robinson,
6 Erin Dwyer, and Michelle Paxton also make
7 their way to the podium.

8 (Witness approached podium.)

9 MS. HEIN: Good morning. My
10 name is Andreina Perez Hein and I'm
11 speaking today not only as the Executive
12 Director of Everybody Builds, but also as
13 a resident of the Second District of
14 Philadelphia and the mother of two young
15 daughters attending Philadelphia public
16 schools.

17 I strongly support the
18 resolution recognizing March 3rd through
19 the 9th as Women in Construction Week in
20 the City of Philadelphia. It's widely
21 known that women make up only a fraction
22 of the workers in the construction
23 industry in the United States, with the
24 most recent figure being 10.9 percent.
25 Unfortunately, Pennsylvania holds the

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2 eighth lowest ranking in the country with
3 only 9.2 percent of construction workers
4 being women.

5 Yet, there's a high demand and
6 need for workers in the industry and a
7 stronger commitment now more than ever to
8 diversify the workforce. Fortunately,
9 there's opportunity and momentum.

10 Organizations like NAWIC and WINC working
11 in partnership with our City government,
12 labor unions, and intentional initiatives
13 like Everybody Builds play a critical
14 role here in Philadelphia in supporting,
15 increasing, and advancing women into
16 construction careers that can provide
17 high-paying wages with benefits and
18 create generational wealth.

19 I am one of those statistics.
20 Seventeen years ago I stepped foot to
21 work on a construction site as a
22 second-generation Latina immigrant,
23 having no experience or training.
24 Through hard work and perseverance, I
25 climbed the ranks to where I am today.

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2 The industry afforded me the opportunity
3 to achieve my American dream and elevate
4 not only my own but my parents'
5 socioeconomic status.

6 At Everybody Builds, our
7 mission is to eliminate the existing
8 disparities in Philadelphia's
9 construction industry. By serving as the
10 connective tissue for the industry, we
11 are positioned to build and strengthen
12 collaboration between the key
13 stakeholders in our city and industry
14 with our diverse communities and
15 entrepreneurs.

16 We're proud to have been
17 founded in part by the Philadelphia
18 Building Trades Council and GBCA, and I
19 strongly support to increase and advance
20 the participation of women in
21 construction careers in the Philadelphia
22 region.

23 Thank you.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

25 Thank you.

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2 - - -

3 (Applause.)

4 - - -

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

6 Will the Clerk please call the next
7 speaker.

8 CHIEF CLERK: Ryan Boyer.

9 Monica Robinson, Erin Dwyer,
10 Michelle Paxton, and Lynn Landes also
11 make their way to the podium.

12 (Witness approached podium.)

13 MR. BOYER: My name is Ryan
14 Boyer. I'm the Business Manager of
15 Laborers District Council of Philadelphia
16 and Vicinity as well as the Philadelphia
17 Building Construction Trade Council, and
18 on behalf of our over 30,000 members that
19 work, live, and play in Philadelphia, I
20 would like to thank City Council for
21 making March the 3rd through the 8th
22 Women in Construction Week. They need a
23 month.

24 Women in construction --

25 - - -

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2 (Applause.)

3 - - -

4 MR. BOYER: Andreina talked
5 about the numbers. I want to talk about
6 the heart and soul of this movement in
7 this area, and her name is Erin Hoffman.
8 Erin --

9 - - -

10 (Applause.)

11 - - -

12 MR. BOYER: Before this work
13 was popular, Erin was going to bus stops
14 getting people that were dropping their
15 children off and working at
16 service-sector jobs for low pay, because
17 she said, I know they're willing to work
18 hard and they should work hard and get
19 paid a decent union wage. It happened to
20 her, and she is an evangelist for giving
21 it to everyone else.

22 Women in construction, we've
23 always had women in construction. I
24 don't know what house you went to, but
25 when you tried to fix something, there

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2 was always somebody there helping you
3 that was a woman.

4 And we want to make sure that
5 every woman in this area that wants to be
6 in the construction trades has an
7 opportunity and they also have people
8 that understand their problems. And we
9 at Women in Construction, I listened to
10 them. Part of our negotiations now is
11 better bathrooms so that we can make
12 women comfortable in construction sites.
13 I wouldn't know that. Erin and her group
14 of people told me.

15 And it's great that she's
16 accompanied by also women in labor. We
17 have Monica here. We have Nicole Fuller.
18 I just see everyone here. Because this
19 is not your grandfather's building
20 trades. It is diverse because that is
21 our strength.

22 If you want to work hard and
23 you want to get paid right, the
24 Philadelphia building trades is the place
25 for you to be, and Erin Hoffman has made

1 3/7/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 that place more hospitable for women and
3 women in construction. Please come to
4 the Philadelphia building trades.

5 Thank you.

6 - - -

7 (Applause.)

8 - - -

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

10 Will the Clerk call the next speaker.

11 CHIEF CLERK: Monica Robinson.

12 Erin Dwyer, Michelle Paxton,
13 Lynn Landes, and Jeremy Blatstein can
14 also make their way to the podium.

15 (Witness approached podium.)

16 MS. ROBINSON: Good morning.

17 My name is Monica Robinson and I am here
18 to speak on behalf of the resolution
19 recognizing Women in Construction Week
20 (WIC) and honoring WINC, the Women in
21 Nontraditional Careers initiative.

22 I am a WINC Steering Committee
23 member and I am the Director of Community
24 Engagement at Philadelphia AFL-CIO. I
25 want to thank Councilmember Gilmore

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2 Richardson and the other sponsors for
3 recognizing and honoring WINC through
4 this initiative.

5 WINC appreciates this
6 opportunity to bring more awareness and
7 construction careers to women, who now
8 make only 3.9 percent of those who work
9 with tools in construction nationally and
10 only 3.7 percent of active construction
11 trade apprentices in Southeast
12 Pennsylvania.

13 (Witness approached podium.)

14 MS. HOFFMAN: Good morning.
15 Thank you. My name is Erin O'Brien
16 Hoffman and I am the Director of Training
17 for DC 21's Finishing Trades Institute,
18 and I have the absolute pleasure of being
19 the instructor for WINC, Women in
20 Nontraditional Careers.

21 For far too long, the
22 construction industry has been perceived
23 as a male-dominated field, with women
24 often facing barriers and obstacles in
25 pursuing careers within it. However,

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2 today we stand united in recognition of
3 the invaluable contributions that women
4 do make to the construction industry.

5 This resolution is not just a
6 piece of paper. It symbolizes a
7 commitment to making a more equitable and
8 inclusive environment within our city and
9 our Philadelphia union building trades.

10 To all the trailblazing women
11 in this room whose names have been
12 mentioned, who have shattered all of the
13 glass ceilings, who have divided
14 stereotypes, who possess grit and grace
15 and forged their path in the construction
16 industry, this resolution is for you.

17 And WINC, Women in
18 Nontraditional Careers' Trades Readiness
19 Program creates women just like that. In
20 a six-week cohort, women earn NABTU, NC3
21 certificate consisting of 40 hours of
22 construction math, blueprint reading,
23 Heritage of the American Worker, OSHA 10
24 and much, much more. They visit
25 Philadelphia union building trades'

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2 training centers, SEPTA depots, and visit
3 union job sites, and graduate with the
4 ability to apply and thrive in the
5 Philadelphia union building trades, jobs
6 in transit or manufacturing and, quite
7 frankly, they are rock stars.

8 I just want to recommit
9 ourselves to building a future where
10 women in construction are not only
11 accepted but celebrated for their
12 talents, their skills, and their
13 contributions.

14 Thank you.

15 - - -

16 (Applause.)

17 - - -

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

19 Thank you.

20 (Witness approached podium.)

21 MS. HEBRON: My name is Tanya
22 Hebron. I'm a construction equipment
23 engineer for SEPTA with 30-plus years of
24 service. I am here to support the
25 resolution that recognizes women in

1 3/7/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 construction.

3 I became a member of WINC in
4 2018 to be a voice of support in the
5 pipeline of information to guide women in
6 the direct path looking to learn a craft
7 or make career changes. Several years
8 later we partnered with DC 21 and created
9 the TRP program, which mentors women with
10 trade interests in different backgrounds.
11 We are approaching our fourth year and
12 are proud to be a part of history in the
13 making.

14 I didn't have anyone out there
15 willing to take the time to teach and
16 educate me in mentoring and -- I'm sorry;
17 to teach me in the field that I chose for
18 myself. I love mentoring, and I will
19 continue that fight until women are
20 recognized, appreciated, and given the
21 same opportunities as our male
22 counterparts.

23 It is important for women to be
24 in construction, because we do better
25 decision-making, we're very creative and,

1 3/7/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 most of all, better profitability.

3 Please support the resolution
4 that recognizes women in construction.

5 We do a better job, and we look good
6 doing it.

7 Thank you.

8 - - -

9 (Applause.)

10 - - -

11 (Witness approached podium.)

12 MS. ANDERSON: Good morning,
13 Council President and members of City
14 Council. My name is Kimura Anderson and
15 I am the Director of Human Resources for
16 Clemens Construction Company and a member
17 of the National Association of Women in
18 Construction, Philadelphia Chapter 145
19 where I serve as Board Secretary.

20 Today I have with me our Board
21 President, Michelle Paxton, who is a
22 Project Manager with All Trades
23 Mechanical Engineering Company. We
24 support the resolution recognizing
25 March 3rd through the 9th, 2024, during

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2 Women's History Month, as Women in
3 Construction Week, also known as WIC Week
4 in the City of Philadelphia.

5 It is our hope that WIC Week
6 will bring more awareness to women
7 working in the construction industry and
8 women working in non-traditional careers
9 as we work together to be a voice for
10 recruiting and retaining women in these
11 industries.

12 We appreciate the Council
13 President and the members of Philadelphia
14 City Council for recognizing Women in
15 Construction Week and the women working
16 in non-traditional careers for the
17 important work that we do.

18 Thank you for your time.

19 - - -

20 (Applause.)

21 - - -

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

23 Just real quick, just a matter of
24 housekeeping, I just want to make sure
25 that everyone who has signed up for

1 3/7/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 public comment, please see Ms. Hasson to
3 the left of me and make sure you sign up
4 so we can stay on track in terms of our
5 agenda for today.

6 Will the Clerk please call the
7 next speaker.

8 CHIEF CLERK: We have Michelle
9 Paxton.

10 Can also Lynn Landes, Jeremy
11 Blatstein, Wick Savage, and Ogbonna
12 Hagins make their way to the podium.

13 (Witness approached podium.)

14 MS. PAXTON: Good morning.
15 Thank you, Council President. Thank you,
16 Councilwoman Gilmore Richardson for
17 supporting WIC Week again this year. My
18 name is Michelle Paxton. I am an
19 Assistant Project Manager with All Trades
20 Mechanical. I am also the President of
21 the National Association of Women in
22 Construction, Philadelphia Chapter 145.
23 I appreciate the time to speak today.
24 I am in full support of this
25 resolution, which recognizes this week,

1 3/7/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 March 3rd through March 9th of 2024, as
3 Women in Construction Week.

4 Our chapter loves this city.
5 We support this resolution and the
6 recognition that allows us to continue
7 our mission.

8 Thank you.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

10 Thank you.

11 - - -

12 (Applause.)

13 - - -

14 (Witness approached podium.)

15 MS. HARVARD: Good morning,
16 Council President and members of City
17 Council. My name is Erin Dwyer Harvard
18 and I'm the Director of Public Affairs
19 for the General Building Contractors
20 Association. GBCA represents 350
21 contractors, subcontractors, and
22 suppliers in Philadelphia's union
23 construction industry. Today I'm here to
24 testify in support of Women in
25 Construction Week in Philadelphia.

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2 GBCA, our member companies, and
3 our partners in labor recognize the need
4 to create an industry that is reflective
5 of its residents of Philadelphia. In
6 partnership in labor, we help found
7 Everybody Builds, which my colleague
8 Andreina Perez Hein gave a full in-depth
9 look at what we are doing over there.

10 This organization and ours work
11 tirelessly to create new pathways for
12 women and people of color to enter and
13 succeed in the construction industry.

14 At GBCA, we will continue to
15 support programs and policies that
16 elevate women in construction. Whether
17 she is a contractor, a union member or a
18 project manager, we will work to create a
19 supportive and welcoming industry.

20 Finally, I want to thank
21 Councilmember Katherine Gilmore
22 Richardson. I know I'm here to support
23 women in construction, but I want to
24 thank you for continuing to support all
25 women in every industry. You open doors

1 3/7/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 and make space for us in every field, so
3 thank you.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

5 Thank you.

6 - - -

7 (Applause.)

8 - - -

9 CHIEF CLERK: Lynn Landes.

10 Jeremy Blatstein, Wick Savage,
11 Ogbonna Hagins, and George Matysik also
12 make their way to the podium. Thank you.

13 (Witness approached podium.)

14 MS. LANDES: Good morning. My
15 name is Lynn Landes of wildfoodies.org.

16 I support the resolution
17 authorizing the creation of the
18 Philadelphia Task Force on Food
19 Insecurity. I also request that the Task
20 Force include the following in their
21 deliberations:

22 One, take into consideration
23 wild food sources as well as cultivated
24 crops and processed foods.

25 Two, make use of our parks,

1 3/7/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 cemeteries, and other open spaces for
3 food sources.

4 Three, create more urban farms
5 and gardens.

6 Four, encourage and develop
7 more indoor food-growing resources.

8 And, five, educate the public
9 on how they can convert at least part of
10 their property into cultivated and wild
11 food sources.

12 That said, in order to become
13 more self-reliant in food production in a
14 safe and healthy manner, we need to stop
15 using chemical fertilizers and herbicides
16 citywide. We already have the HOPS Act,
17 or Healthy Outdoor Spaces Act, that was
18 designed to stop the use of toxic
19 chemicals on City-owned land, but it
20 hasn't been enforced as yet. City
21 Council should ensure that it is finally
22 enforced, and in addition, City Council
23 should pass a similar bill to be applied
24 to private land as well as -- anyway, I
25 lost my thing.

1 3/7/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 In addition, City Council
3 should also pass a similar bill for
4 private land and have property owners
5 stop using toxic chemicals on their
6 property, because if your neighbor is
7 using toxic chemicals and you're not,
8 that isn't going to produce healthy food.

9 We are living in an area that
10 could and should be growing much of its
11 own food, both wild and cultivated.

12 Thank you very much.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

14 Thank you, Lynn.

15 - - -

16 (Applause.)

17 - - -

18 CHIEF CLERK: Jeremy Blatstein.

19 (Witness approached podium.)

20 MR. BLATSTEIN: Hello, City
21 Council, Council President Johnson. Two
22 weeks in a row. Wow. All right.

23 I'm here talking against Bill
24 240143, 225 apartments on North Broad
25 Street that were passed by the ZBA on

1 3/7/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 October 13th, 2021, 225 apartments that
3 you are now giving the authority of
4 Councilmember Jeffery Young to sue,
5 appeal, go against.

6 How can anybody in this room be
7 for affordable housing if you're using
8 taxpayer dollars and resources to stop
9 housing that was already approved? What
10 precedent is that setting that if a ZBA
11 rules, that two and a half years later
12 you then can still go and try and fight
13 that?

14 That is what is happening right
15 now, and this is what that bill was
16 passed earlier in Council that gave
17 Council the authority to go against a ZBA
18 hearing ruling, right? And it is a very
19 dangerous precedent that we are doing
20 right now by allowing Council the
21 authority to first go to the Law
22 Department and then if the Law Department
23 declines, to engage outside counsel to
24 fight a ZBA hearing.

25 You already are forcing

1 3/7/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 developers to go to the ZBA to get
3 housing built by your overlays. So then
4 to say go to the ZBA, but if you don't
5 like the ZBA hearing ruling, we will
6 still engage outside counsel to sue.

7 I am against this, and I
8 challenge each and every one of you to
9 think about this before you vote in
10 support of this and utilize this -- I
11 believe that it's a good tool in your
12 toolbox to be able to have, but if we're
13 going to do this every time you don't
14 agree with a ZBA hearing, it's a slippery
15 slope.

16 Thank you.

17 - - -

18 (Applause.)

19 - - -

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

21 Will the Clerk please call the next
22 person for public comment.

23 CHIEF CLERK: Wick Savage.

24 (Witness approached podium.)

25 MR. SAVAGE: Good morning,

1 3/7/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Council President and Council body.

3 I'm here to say no against Bill
4 240010. I support the Council body in
5 denying these games in these various
6 community corner stores.

7 Gambling is a vice that creates
8 other problems in our city. My heart is
9 weighing heavy of the young people that
10 had to experience either violence, gun
11 play, in some cases murder. My heart is
12 very heavy, and I'm quite sure there's
13 people in this room, their hearts are
14 very heavy, along with these parents.

15 In order for us to get our arms
16 around this matter, we have to work with
17 this Mayor and use every tool in our
18 toolbox, from forensics to locking people
19 up that wants to act out in our city. We
20 should not have to live in this
21 condition.

22 There's only a few people that
23 don't appreciate this beautiful city, and
24 we have to let them know that the arm of
25 this city will not tolerate this bad

1 3/7/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 behavior.

3 Thank you.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

5 Thank you.

6 - - -

7 (Applause.)

8 - - -

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

10 Will the Clerk please call the next

11 person for public comment.

12 CHIEF CLERK: Ogbonna Hagins.

13 (Witness approached podium.)

14 MR. HAGINS: Good morning,

15 everyone.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

17 Good morning.

18 MR. HAGINS: My name is Ogbonna

19 Hagins, O-G-B-O-N-N-A, H-A-G-I-N-S.

20 I'm here today to talk about

21 something that is dear to me in terms of

22 education in regards to the NIL bill.

23 So if we were given -- and when

24 I say "we," American Freedmen, Afro

25 Americans. If we were given the proper

1 3/7/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 education, we wouldn't have to depend on
3 sports and getting an NIL deal, even
4 though I get it.

5 So the U.S. Supreme Court's
6 ruling in Students for Fair Admissions
7 versus Harvard, in his concurrence
8 Justice Clarence Thomas cited that the
9 term "Freedman" was a formally
10 race-neutral category and decidedly
11 under-inclusive proxy for race. He
12 pointed to the 1866 Freedman Bill Act and
13 how it authorized the borough to care for
14 all loyal refugees and Freedmen.

15 This means policy designed to
16 benefit persons of emancipated history,
17 the enslaved ones. In other words, let
18 me tell you something, affirmative action
19 is still in effect. What we don't
20 understand is that affirmative action was
21 used wrong for the past 60 years. It was
22 not supposed to be for everyone. It was
23 based on an executive order by President
24 Kennedy to take affirmative action to go
25 back to the Civil Right Act of 1866 and

1 3/7/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 making American Freedmen, Afro Americans,
3 equal.

4 So I'm introducing a bill
5 again. This bill is specifically for
6 Afro Americans. This bill will help to
7 compensate for historical injustices,
8 reset the chessboard. This bill is a
9 signal to all of you seated
10 Councilmembers. You must embrace and
11 pinpoint legislation to benefit
12 specifically Afro Americans, American
13 Freedmen.

14 There is nothing in the City
15 Charter specifically saying, Afro
16 Americans, you are something. We are not
17 mentioned in the City Charter at all.
18 That is structurally racist, like the
19 bill that I introduced three weeks ago
20 that I hope that you've read.

21 So, again, Councilmembers
22 you're on the clock. You don't want to
23 be responsible for Afro Americans not
24 getting the proper education because the
25 Constitution is being violated.

1 3/7/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 All of my legislation can be
3 found on my social media page.

4 Thank you.

5 - - -

6 (Applause.)

7 - - -

8 CHIEF CLERK: George Matysik on
9 food insecurity, 240125.

10 (Witness approached podium.)

11 MR. MATYSIK: Good morning,
12 everybody. My name is George Matysik,
13 the Executive Director of the Share Food
14 Program.

15 I want to first and foremost
16 thank the Council President and all of
17 you for creating this Food Insecurity
18 Task Force, not just for creating it but
19 for the timeliness and urgency behind it
20 as one of your first initiatives, Council
21 President. We all deeply appreciate it.
22 This has been needed for a long time.

23 Many of you got to really know
24 Share Food Program and the hundreds of
25 thousands of people that we serve, as

1 3/7/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Council President -- as Councilmember

3 Jones mentioned earlier, around the

4 pandemic and thousands and thousands of

5 people that we began serving during the

6 pandemic.

7 The reality is, during the

8 pandemic, as we saw a lot of federal

9 resources coming in, federal resources

10 that stopped. Basically as the health

11 crisis began to come to a close, folks in

12 Washington thought the economic crisis

13 was coming to a close as well, but that,

14 as you all know, is not the case.

15 We at Share Food Program have

16 seen a 98 percent increase since January

17 of 2022 of the folks coming to our food

18 pantries. And so what we need -- we've

19 had many other people come up here and

20 speak who I know have the ideas, have the

21 organizations to be able to do this work.

22 What we need is coordination and we need

23 resources, and I'm looking forward to

24 working with Council on making that

25 happen.

1 3/7/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Thank you so much.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

4 Thank you.

5 Are there any other speakers on
6 the public speaker --

7 CHIEF CLERK: Council

8 President, there are no more persons
9 signed up for public comment.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

11 That --

12 QUEEN ROBINSON: Excuse me.

13 Excuse me. I did sign up.

14 CHIEF CLERK: Your name?

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

16 Unfortunately, I don't have you on here,
17 Ms. Queen Judith Robinson. You want to
18 sign up?

19 QUEEN ROBINSON: I called the
20 Chief Clerk's office. You know I know
21 proper protocol. Please.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

23 What bill are you speaking on,
24 Ms. Judith?

25 QUEEN ROBINSON: 240143 is one

1 3/7/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 of them, and the slot machine situation
3 too. Please, I need to speak.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

5 Ms. Queen Judith Robinson.

6 (Witness approached podium.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: You
8 have two minutes, ma'am.

9 QUEEN ROBINSON: Yes. Always
10 follow protocol.

11 Good morning. Queen Judith
12 Robinson.

13 It's Women History Month.

14 Let's stay on point.

15 This bill is about 1451 North
16 Broad Street, which was the Holy Olive --
17 was Mount Olive Holy Church. I would
18 like to add an amendment to this bill and
19 add 2100 West Diamond Street, 2032 West
20 Diamond Street, and 2033 North 22nd
21 Street, which is a police station being
22 proposed to be put on our historic
23 corridor, Diamond Street. And this gives
24 me the opportunity to give an uplift to
25 women of Women History Month.

1 3/7/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 There was a woman who was a
3 member of that church, Mount Olive Holy
4 Temple, Ms. Elmira Jeffries. I want to
5 uplift her name. She said, and I quote,
6 "Women should be at every table." And
7 all of those women of that church were
8 like over 70 years old, you all. Look
9 her up, Ms. Elmira Jeffries.

10 There was an apartment
11 building, senior housing, at 15th and
12 Jefferson Street. It's now Temple
13 student housing. I'm just saying. Okay?

14 So Clementine Robinson, my
15 mother, who made me what I am,
16 disciplined me as a Jewish child, and
17 here I am today, Hebrew Israelite, rare
18 history, Black women's history.

19 Stephanie Miller Bey, I just
20 want to say prayers and peace and
21 blessings to she and Paula Peebles and
22 all of the strong Black women who have
23 kept this country what it is, all the
24 sisters who went to ivy league
25 universities and held down fort.

1 3/7/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 I want to give a shout-out to
3 sister Leslie Smallwood, developer
4 extraordinaire. I'm going to say peace
5 and blessings to her and all the best.

6 But regarding those slot
7 machines that are all over our
8 communities, what a way to go in
9 gentrification. Now you want to suck
10 more of the blood out of poor Black
11 communities. Get them out of those
12 stores. I went in one store. It looks
13 like a doggone casino in there.

14 Gambling is a disease. It's a
15 disease. It's an addiction.

16 With that, I thank you very
17 much, because I always stay on point.

18 It's Women History Month,
19 y'all.

20 - - -

21 (Applause.)

22 - - -

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

24 Thank you, Queen Judith Robinson.

25 There are no more comments on

1 3/7/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 the public comment calendar for today.

3 We will now consider the bills
4 and resolutions on the Second Reading and
5 Final Passage Calendars.

6 Will the Clerk please read the
7 title of Resolution 240125.

8 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
9 authorizing the creation of the
10 Philadelphia Task Force on Food
11 Insecurity to study and develop
12 proposals, strategies, and
13 recommendations to alleviate hunger and
14 increase access to high quality food in
15 the City of Philadelphia.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
17 Chair recognizes Councilmember Katherine
18 Gilmore Richardson.

19 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Thank
20 you, Mr. President. I offer an amendment
21 to Resolution No. 240125. A copy of the
22 amendment has been circulated to all
23 members of Council.

24 I move that the amendment be
25 approved.

1 3/7/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 (Duly seconded.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: It
4 has been moved and properly seconded that
5 the amendment to Resolution No. 240125 be
6 approved.

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

9 (Aye.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
11 Those opposed?

12 (No response.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
14 ayes have it. The motion carries. The
15 amendment to Resolution No. 240125 has
16 been approved.

17 The Chair again recognizes
18 Councilmember Katherine Gilmore
19 Richardson for a motion regarding
20 Resolution No. 240125, as amended.

21 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Thank
22 you, Mr. President. I move that the
23 rules of Council be suspended as to
24 permit the consideration of Resolution
25 No. 240125, as amended, at today's

1 3/7/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 session of Council.

3 (Duly seconded.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: It
5 has been moved and properly seconded that
6 the rules of Council be suspended to
7 permit the consideration of Resolution
8 No. 240125, as amended, at today's
9 session of Council.

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

12 (Aye.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
14 Those opposed?

15 (No response.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
17 ayes have it. The motion carries. The
18 Resolution No. 240125, as amended, will
19 be placed on today's Second Reading and
20 Final Passage Calendar.

21 The Chair again recognizes
22 Councilmember Katherine Gilmore
23 Richardson for a motion regarding
24 Resolution No. 240125, as amended.

25 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Thank

1 3/7/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 you, Council President. I move for the
3 adoption of the resolution, as amended.

4 (Duly seconded.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: It
6 has been moved and properly seconded that
7 No. 240125, as amended, be adopted.

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

10 (Aye.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
12 Those opposed?

13 (No response.)

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

17 Will the Clerk please read the
18 title of Bill No. 240010.

19 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
20 amending Chapter 9-5900 of The
21 Philadelphia Code, entitled "Prohibition
22 on Certain Gambling Machines and Skills
23 Games," to add additional prohibitions
24 and provide for remedies, all under
25 certain terms and conditions.

1 3/7/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
3 Chair recognizes Councilmember Jones for
4 a motion.

5 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
6 Mr. President. I would like to offer a
7 motion to amend Bill No. 240010. A copy
8 of that amendment has been circulated to
9 all members of Council, and I move for
10 the adoption of the amendment.

11 (Duly seconded.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: It
13 has been moved and properly seconded that
14 the amendment to Bill No. 240010 be
15 adopted.

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

18 (Aye.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
20 Those opposed?

21 (No response.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
23 ayes have it, and the bill has been
24 amended. This bill will be placed on the
25 Final Passage Calendar for our next

1 3/7/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 session of Council.

3 Will the Clerk please read the
4 title of Bill No. 240020.

5 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
6 amending Title 14 of The Philadelphia
7 Code, entitled "Zoning and Planning," all
8 under certain terms and conditions.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
10 Chair recognizes Councilmember Cindy Bass
11 for a motion.

12 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you,
13 Mr. President. I would like to offer an
14 amendment to Bill No. 240020. A copy of
15 the amendment has been circulated to all
16 members of Council, and I move for the
17 adoption of the amendment.

18 (Duly seconded.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: It
20 has been moved and properly seconded that
21 the amendment to Bill No. 240020 be
22 adopted.

23 All in favor will signify by
24 saying aye.

25 (Aye.)

1 3/7/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

3 Those opposed?

4 (No response.)

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

10 Will the Clerk please read the
11 title for...

12 CHIEF CLERK: Resolution
13 240130, a resolution authorizing the
14 Commissioner of Public Property to
15 execute and deliver to the Philadelphia
16 Redevelopment Authority deeds conveying
17 fee simple title to 5307 Market Street
18 and 723 North Shedwick Street in the
19 Third Councilmanic District of the City
20 of Philadelphia and further authorizing
21 the Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority
22 to transfer to the Philadelphia Land Bank
23 fee simple title to such properties
24 pursuant to Section 16-405 of the
25 Philadelphia Code.

1 3/7/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
3 Chair recognizes Councilmember Jamie
4 Gauthier for a motion on the resolution.

5 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Thank
6 you, Council President. I call for the
7 adoption of the resolution.

8 (Duly seconded.)

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

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

14 (Aye.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
16 Those opposed?

17 (No response.)

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
19 ayes have it, and the motion has been
20 adopted.

21 Will the Clerk please read the
22 title of Bill No. 240143.

23 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
24 authorizing and ratifying the designation
25 of Councilmember Jeffery Young, Jr., as

1 3/7/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 Council's representative in connection
3 with an appeal of the decision of the
4 Zoning Board of Adjustment with respect
5 to 1451 North Broad Street and all
6 litigation related thereto.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
8 Chair recognizes Councilmember Jeffery J.
9 Young for a motion on the resolution.

10 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Thank you,
11 Council President. I move for its
12 adoption.

13 (Duly seconded.)

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

17 All those in favor will signify
18 by saying aye.

19 (Aye.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
21 Those opposed?

22 (No response.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
24 ayes have it, and the resolution is
25 adopted.

1 3/7/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 Will the Clerk please read the
3 title of Resolution No. 240144.

4 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution also
5 naming Federal Street, between 6th and
6 7th Streets, as "Bob Pantano Way".

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

10 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Thank you,
11 Mr. President. I move for the adoption
12 of the resolution.

13 (Duly seconded.)

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

17 All those in favor will signify
18 by saying aye.

19 (Aye.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
21 Those opposed?

22 (No response.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
24 ayes have it, and the resolution has been
25 adopted.

1 3/7/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 Will the Clerk please read the
3 title of Resolution 240145.

4 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution also
5 naming Chestnut Street between 12th and
6 13th Streets in the "Gayborhood" as
7 "Michael Hinson Way" to honor the life
8 and legacy of Philadelphia's first
9 appointed liaison with the City LGBTQ+
10 communities by Mayor John F. Street.

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

14 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Thank you,
15 Mr. President. I move for the adoption
16 of the resolution.

17 (Duly seconded.)

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

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

23 (Aye.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
25 Those opposed?

1 3/7/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 (No response.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
4 ayes have it, and the resolution is
5 adopted.

6 Will the Clerk please read the
7 title of Bill No. 240020.

8 CHIEF CLERK: We amended that
9 one.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
11 Will the Clerk please read the title of
12 240064.

13 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance to
14 amend the Philadelphia Zoning Maps by
15 changing the zoning designations of
16 certain areas of land located within an
17 area bounded by Salmon Street, Ontario
18 Street, Richmond Street, and Westmoreland
19 Street.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
21 Chair recognizes Councilman Driscoll.

22 COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL:
23 Mr. President, I recommend passage.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
25 This bill having been read on two

1 3/7/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 different days, the question now is shall
3 the bill pass finally.

4 Will the Chief Clerk please
5 call the roll.

6 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
7 Ahmad.

8 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD: Here.

9 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
10 Bass.

11 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Aye.

12 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
13 Driscoll.

14 COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL: Aye.

15 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
16 Gauthier.

17 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Aye.

18 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
19 Gilmore Richardson.

20 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Aye.

21 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
22 Harrity.

23 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: Aye.

24 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
25 Jones.

1 3/7/24 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 COUNCILMAN JONES: Aye.
3 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
4 Landau.
5 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU: Aye.
6 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
7 O'Neill.
8 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Aye.
9 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
10 Lozada.
11 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Aye.
12 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
13 O'Rourke.
14 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE: Aye.
15 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
16 Phillips.
17 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: Aye.
18 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
19 Squilla.
20 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Aye.
21 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
22 Thomas.
23 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Aye.
24 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
25 Young.

1 3/7/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Aye.

3 CHIEF CLERK: Council President

4 Johnson.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

6 Aye.

7 The ayes are 16; no nays. A
8 majority of members having voted in the
9 affirmative, the bill passes.

10 Will the Clerk please read Bill
11 No. 240065.

12 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance to
13 amend the Philadelphia Zoning Maps by
14 changing the zoning designations of
15 certain areas of land located within an
16 area bounded by Holme Avenue, Academy
17 Road, and Willits Road.

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

22 Will the Chief Clerk please
23 call the roll.

24 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
25 Ahmad.

1 3/7/24 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD: Aye.
3 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
4 Bass.
5 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Aye.
6 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
7 Driscoll.
8 COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL: Aye.
9 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
10 Gauthier.
11 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Aye.
12 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
13 Gilmore Richardson.
14 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Aye.
15 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
16 Harrity.
17 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: Aye.
18 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
19 Jones.
20 COUNCILMAN JONES: Aye.
21 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
22 Landau.
23 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU: Aye.
24 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
25 Lozada.

1 3/7/24 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Aye.
3 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
4 O'Neill.
5 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Aye.
6 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
7 O'Rourke.
8 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE: Aye.
9 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
10 Phillips.
11 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: Aye.
12 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
13 Squilla.
14 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Aye.
15 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
16 Thomas.
17 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Aye.
18 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
19 Young.
20 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Aye.
21 CHIEF CLERK: And Council
22 President Johnson.
23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
24 Aye.
25 The ayes are 16; the nays are

1 3/7/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 zero. A majority of all members having
3 voted in the affirmative, the bill
4 passes.

5 Will the Clerk please read the
6 title of Bill No. 240007.

7 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
8 amending The Philadelphia Code to add a
9 new Chapter 21-3400, entitled "Youth
10 Name, Image, and Likeness Protection," to
11 establish provisions related to education
12 and counseling for certain Philadelphia
13 youth and their families who are
14 considering licensing publicity rights,
15 all under certain terms and conditions.

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

20 Will the Chief Clerk please
21 call the roll.

22 COUNCILMAN THOMAS:
23 Mr. President, I just want to take a
24 moment before my colleagues vote on this
25 particular bill to thank our partners at

1 3/7/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 Temple University for stepping up to the
3 plate to be able to provide this service.

4 I also just want to reiterate,
5 because there's been some dialogue around
6 the bill, that this particular piece of
7 legislation would not cost the City any
8 money. I know the previous
9 Administration decided to pocket veto the
10 bill because they were concerned with the
11 financial obligations that the City would
12 essentially have. I just want to be
13 clear to my colleagues as well as to the
14 Administration that based on this
15 public-private partnership and the way
16 the legislation is set up, it will not
17 cost the City any money.

18 So thank you, colleagues, and
19 thank you to everybody who agreed to
20 co-sponsor the legislation. And, of
21 course, thank you, Council President, for
22 the leeway.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

24 Thank you for protecting our young
25 people.

1 3/7/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 This bill having been read on
3 two different days, the question now is
4 shall the bill pass finally.

5 Will the Chief Clerk please
6 call the roll.

7 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
8 Ahmad.

9 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD: Aye.

10 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
11 Bass.

12 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Aye.

13 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
14 Driscoll.

15 COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL: Aye.

16 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
17 Gauthier.

18 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Aye.

19 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
20 Gilmore Richardson.

21 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Aye.

22 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
23 Harrity.

24 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: Aye.

25 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember

1 3/7/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 Jones.

3 COUNCILMAN JONES: Aye.

4 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember

5 Landau.

6 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU: Aye.

7 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember

8 Lozada.

9 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Aye.

10 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember

11 O'Neill.

12 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Aye.

13 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember

14 O'Rourke.

15 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE: Aye.

16 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember

17 Phillips.

18 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: Aye.

19 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember

20 Squilla.

21 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Aye.

22 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember

23 Thomas.

24 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Aye.

25 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember

1 3/7/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 Young.

3 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Aye.

4 CHIEF CLERK: And Council

5 President Johnson.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

7 Aye.

8 The ayes are 16; the nays are
9 zero. A majority of the members having
10 voted in the affirmative, the bill
11 passes.

12 - - -

13 (Applause.)

14 - - -

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Are
16 there any other bills and resolutions on
17 the Final Passage Calendar?

18 CHIEF CLERK: Yes, the
19 consideration of privileged resolutions.
20 That's it for what's on the Calendar,
21 Council President. There are no more.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
23 Will the Clerk please read the title of
24 the resolution.

25 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged

1 3/7/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 resolution recognizing March 3rd through
3 the 9th, 2024, during Women's History
4 Month, as Women in Construction Week in
5 the City of Philadelphia.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
7 Chair recognizes Councilmember Katherine
8 Gilmore Richardson.

9 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Thank
10 you, Council President. I move for the
11 adoption of the resolution.

12 (Duly seconded.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: It
14 has been moved and properly seconded.

15 All those in favor will signify
16 by saying aye.

17 (Aye.)

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
19 Those opposed?

20 (No response.)

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
22 ayes have it, and the resolution is
23 adopted.

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

1 3/7/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 CHIEF CLERK: Honoring Super
3 Bowl champion Jason Kelce on the occasion
4 of his retirement from the National
5 Football League, and recognizing Jason's
6 historic career with the Philadelphia
7 Eagles and his generous philanthropic
8 contributions to the City of Philadelphia
9 made through the Make The World Better
10 Foundation and his (Be) Philly
11 Foundation.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
13 Chair recognizes Councilmember Katherine
14 Gilmore Richardson.

15 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Thank
16 you, Council President. On your behalf
17 and on behalf of all Philadelphians and
18 Eagles fans everywhere, I move for the
19 adoption of the resolution.

20 (Duly seconded.)

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: It
22 has been moved and properly seconded.

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

25 (Aye.)

1 3/7/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

3 Those opposed?

4 (No response.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
6 ayes have it, and the resolution is
7 adopted.

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

10 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
11 honoring and recognizing Katalin Kariko,
12 PhD and Drew Weissman, MD PhD for winning
13 the 2023 Nobel Prize in Medicine.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
15 Will the Clerk -- the Chair recognizes
16 Councilmember Jamie Gauthier.

17 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Thank
18 you, Council President. I move for the
19 adoption of the resolution.

20 (Duly seconded.)

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

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

1 3/7/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 (Aye.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

4 Those opposed?

5 (No response.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
7 ayes have it, and the resolution is
8 adopted.

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

11 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
12 honoring and congratulating Champion of
13 the Week, Lucas Koo, a Masterman High
14 School student who competed in short
15 track speed skating at the Winter Youth
16 Olympic Games.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
18 Chair recognizes Councilmember Isaiah
19 Thomas.

20 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank you,
21 Council President. Definitely want to
22 make sure we're still continuing to
23 spread good news about our young people.

24 So with that being said, I
25 enthusiastically move for the adoption of

1 3/7/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 the resolution.

3 (Duly seconded.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: It
5 has been moved and properly seconded.

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

8 (Aye.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
10 Those opposed?

11 (No response.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
13 ayes have it, and the resolution is
14 adopted.

15 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
16 Honoring and Recognizing Tanya
17 Hill-Holiday for her admirable career
18 achievements during Women's History
19 Month, introduced by Councilman Curtis
20 Jones, Jr.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
22 Chair recognizes Councilmember Curtis
23 Jones, Jr.

24 COUNCILMAN JONES: Eleven
25 McDonald's later, I move for the

1 3/7/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 resolution to be adopted.

3 (Duly seconded.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: It
5 has been moved and properly seconded.

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

8 (Aye.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
10 Those opposed?

11 (No response.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
13 ayes have it, and the resolution is
14 adopted.

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

17 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
18 honoring the life and legacy of Dr.
19 George E. Allen, the longtime leader of
20 the Arts and Music Program at Overbrook
21 High School, introduced by Councilman
22 Curtis Jones, Jr.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
24 Chair recognizes Councilman Curtis Jones,
25 Jr.

1 3/7/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you
3 again, Mr. President. I move for the
4 adoption of the resolution.

5 (Duly seconded.)

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

9 All those in favor signify by
10 saying aye.

11 (Aye.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
13 Those opposed?

14 (No response.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
16 ayes have it, and the resolution is
17 adopted.

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

20 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
21 celebrating Meredith Foote's trailblazing
22 leadership as Executive Director of the
23 TGR Learning Lab at The Cobbs Creek Golf
24 Course on the occasion of Women's History
25 Month, introduced by Councilman Curtis

1 3/7/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 Jones, Jr.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
4 Chair recognizes Councilman Curtis Jones.

5 COUNCILMAN JONES: I heard by
6 Tiger Woods himself. I move for the
7 adoption.

8 (Duly seconded.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: It
10 has been moved and properly seconded.

11 All those in favor signify by
12 saying aye.

13 (Aye.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
15 Those opposed?

16 (No response.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
18 ayes have it, and the resolution is
19 adopted.

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

22 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
23 celebrating Tuskegee Airmen Commemoration
24 Day in The City of Philadelphia,
25 introduced by Councilman Mike Driscoll.

1 3/7/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
3 Chair recognizes Councilman Mike
4 Driscoll.

5 COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL:
6 Mr. President, I move for the adoption of
7 the resolution.

8 (Duly seconded.)

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

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

14 (Aye.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
16 Those opposed?

17 (No response.)

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
19 ayes have it, and the resolution is
20 adopted.

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

23 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
24 recognizing March of 2024 as
25 Philadelphia's month of Literacy and

1 3/7/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 Reading, introduced by Councilmember
3 Bass.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
5 Chair recognizes Councilmember Cindy
6 Bass.

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

10 (Duly seconded.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: It
12 has been moved and properly seconded.

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

15 (Aye.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
17 Those opposed?

18 (No response.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
20 ayes have it, and the resolution is
21 adopted.

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

24 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
25 authorizing the Committees on Environment

1 3/7/24 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 and Global Opportunities and the
3 Creative/Innovative Economy to hold joint
4 hearings regarding the reliability and
5 servicing of publicly accessible electric
6 vehicle charging stations in the City of
7 Philadelphia, introduced by Councilmember
8 Nina Ahmad.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
10 Chair recognizes Councilmember Nina
11 Ahmad.

12 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD: Thank you,
13 Council President. I move for the
14 adoption of this resolution.

15 (Duly seconded.)

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

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

21 (Aye.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
23 Those opposed?

24 (No response.)

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The

1 3/7/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 ayes have it, and the resolution is
3 adopted.

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

6 CHIEF CLERK: There are no more
7 resolutions on the Calendar for
8 consideration, Mr. President.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
10 Thank you.

11 At this time, are there any
12 speeches on the part of the minority?

13 (No response.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Are
15 there -- yes, there are -- speeches on
16 behalf of the majority?

17 The Chair recognizes
18 Councilmember Phillips.

19 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: Thank
20 you. Thank you, Council President
21 Johnson, Council colleagues, and to all
22 the Philadelphians who have been deeply
23 affected by the terrible tsunami of
24 violence that has happened in our city.

25 I am feeling powerless and

1 3/7/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 enshrouded by a pall of desperation. Our
3 children, and most specifically teenage
4 Black men, are at the crosshairs of a
5 seemingly unending crisis of senseless
6 gun violence.

7 You all know the statistics by
8 now. Yesterday 11 students, our
9 children, our nieces, our nephews, our
10 neighbors, have experienced an open
11 season on their very lives. This is a
12 crisis at every level. It reflects an
13 abject failure to protect our most basic
14 social rights - life, liberty, and the
15 pursuit of happiness.

16 We have an essential crisis in
17 the City of Philadelphia. We not only
18 see it on the news, we see it in our very
19 lives and communities. People have
20 wearied of our -- people have become
21 weary of our banter about thoughts and
22 prayers. They want more. They deserve
23 more and they deserve better, and that is
24 what we must do to resolve their
25 concerns.

1 3/7/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 I would also like to clarify
3 that this is not a SEPTA problem. It is
4 a societal problem. It could and can
5 happen anywhere. This is an American
6 cultural problem coincidental to SEPTA.

7 As our Mayor has alluded,
8 everything in our toolbox has to be
9 considered. Nothing can be off the table
10 with respect to restoring the safety,
11 security, decency to our streets, our
12 transportation system, and our schools.

13 This is a moment for us to set
14 aside our north stars of ideologies and
15 preference. The people of Philadelphia
16 are no longer interested in ideologies.
17 They want ideas and solutions. They want
18 safe streets now. They want ideas that
19 create stronger homes and families, that
20 the family must be the foundation from
21 which we begin starting today.

22 We must use every device,
23 policy, strategy, penny, bully pulpit to
24 crush the lawlessness which allows our
25 city to be derided as an unsafe city, and

1 3/7/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 families in our communities must be our
3 partner and we must be theirs as we
4 create a better Philadelphia.

5 The family is the first and
6 best building block of any civilization.
7 We must underscore the responsibilities
8 of families to raise their children,
9 create high expectations, and reinforce
10 those values day by day.

11 We must be clear, government
12 cannot and should not raise children. We
13 are not built to do that. It is neither
14 our responsibility nor our right. We
15 can, though, be a help to families by
16 making available every tool and
17 educational extracurricular experience,
18 but families must step up to
19 fundamentally change our society.

20 We are at a moment of crisis.
21 Crisis demands action. It demands
22 flexibility and speed.

23 When children are under attack,
24 whether it is West Oak Lane or Lawncrest
25 as of yesterday, Lawncrest/Burholme,

1 3/7/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 communities are besieged. They require a
3 resolute heart and strong action.

4 Our Police Commissioner, Kevin
5 Bethel, and those under his command need
6 our support, and whatever tools, whatever
7 resources they require need to be
8 deployed, and that should happen now.

9 Several of us in Council, led
10 by you, Council President Johnson, have
11 already huddled and will soon will allow
12 meaningful ways in which we can make a
13 difference and stem the tide of this
14 carnage.

15 Keep the families of Lawncrest,
16 West Oak Lane in our prayers.

17 God bless.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

19 Thank you.

20 Councilmember Curtis Jones.

21 COUNCILMAN JONES: I had a
22 whole speech of the majority talking
23 about Ramadan, you know, the press
24 conference we had, but I'm inspired by
25 Member Phillips to swivel on that. Wish

1 3/7/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 everybody happy Ramadan, but I have to
3 push back gently on your comments.

4 I got elected not to be
5 helpless. We have a President of City
6 Council, we have a Mayor of the City of
7 Philadelphia, we have a Police
8 Commissioner, we have 7,000 men in blue,
9 many of whom were in here today. We have
10 SEPTA. We have over 3,000 cameras. We
11 have answers. We have a blueprint. We
12 just need to read the recommendations and
13 measure ourselves on how we're standing
14 up to that, 140 recommendations.

15 Next week, Mayor Parker will be
16 in here presenting her budget. How does
17 that measure up to what our expectations
18 are on public safety for our kids.

19 We have an obligation, a sworn
20 oath, never to be helpless. We have a
21 Governor. We have a legislature led by
22 an African American from Philadelphia.
23 Helpless? We are the help, and we need
24 to measure up, man up, pony up to be that
25 assistance to the people riding SEPTA.

1 3/7/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 They're the ones who should be saying, I
3 feel helpless. We have to double down,
4 be determined to make our streets safer.

5 Why I supported Mayor Cherelle
6 Parker, she was willing to push back
7 about how we approach the lawlessness in
8 our communities, and she ain't afraid.
9 She ain't hopeless. She ain't helpless,
10 and we are going to help her.

11 And I say that -- I wanted to
12 talk about Ramadan, but I said in the
13 press conference earlier that we must
14 begin to sweep under our feet. If we
15 sweep under our feet, the world will be a
16 better place first before we can do
17 anything else.

18 Last week proved with all of
19 those shootings, with all of that
20 open-air violence that we got work to do
21 right here in the City of Philadelphia,
22 and we need to be about our business to
23 do it.

24 So I look forward to the
25 100-day plan offered by the Mayor. I

1 3/7/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 look forward to her presentation of
3 budget. And I can guarantee you one
4 thing, it's a lot better prioritized in
5 this Administration about what we can do
6 as a city to prevent gun violence and
7 have a safer Philadelphia.

8 So I have confidence,
9 confidence that we are moving in the
10 right direction, sometimes not fast
11 enough.

12 Thank you, Mr. President.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
14 You're welcome.

15 Councilmember Isaiah Thomas.

16 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Good
17 morning, Council President.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
19 Good morning.

20 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Two weeks
21 in a row. You know I'm not big on the
22 public comment stuff, but some things
23 need to be said.

24 First, I wanted to commend you
25 for the task force around issues related

1 3/7/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 to food. That's a bigger problem than
3 what I think people realize, and
4 listening to some of the testimony -- I
5 really appreciate the public comment
6 today. Listening to some of the
7 testimony around the work that
8 organizations have done during the
9 pandemic and still doing is very
10 important.

11 I also wanted to take a moment
12 to thank District Council 33. They had a
13 lot of us in at their conference this
14 past week, and I just wanted to publicly
15 thank all of those City workers. In the
16 midst of all of the issues and different
17 problems that we try to address as City
18 Councilmembers, I think it's important
19 that we also reward folks.

20 I'm so happy to see what
21 Councilmember Gauthier did today, and
22 that's the type of stuff that we have to
23 continue to do despite some of the
24 problems that we have across the City.

25 So thank you, District Council

1 3/7/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 33. Thank you for being the backbone of
3 the City of Philadelphia. And thank you
4 to all of my colleagues who took the time
5 to go out there and have dialogue and
6 build with them.

7 I do want to start by
8 communicating my disappointment in the
9 School Board in their vote of not giving
10 Global an opportunity to open the high
11 school. I want to be clear. We work a
12 lot behind the scenes, and so a lot of
13 people don't know what happened leading
14 up to that point.

15 I do want to say thank you to
16 Councilmember Curtis Jones as well as
17 Councilmember Anthony Phillips for
18 offering their support for Global on the
19 record, but it's not often that as
20 elected officials that we go to School
21 Board meetings to testify at all. I've
22 never testified or advocated for any
23 charter school to be open, but I thought
24 this was a situation that we've never
25 seen before.

1 3/7/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 I had my son with me when I
3 went to go testify in front of the School
4 Board, and the reason I had him with me
5 was because we had a basketball game
6 right across the street at Ben Franklin
7 High School right there when the School
8 Board meeting started. And the reason
9 that I bring my son up is because my son,
10 who is in sixth grade right now, he's
11 been in the same school with the same
12 classmates and the same African-centered
13 culture since he started school. The
14 young people and the families who go to
15 Math, Civics and Science, the situation
16 that they're in is not their choice.
17 It's also not their fault.

18 So in the same spirit that
19 Councilmember Jones just had as it
20 relates to government stepping up to do
21 the right thing, I felt we were obligated
22 to open Global if for any reason to be
23 able to give the families and the young
24 people a soft landing.

25 Think about my family, for

1 3/7/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 example. I have a nephew in ninth grade,
3 I have my son in sixth grade, and I have
4 a niece who is in second grade. They all
5 commute to school together every day.
6 That's our carpool. As working families,
7 that's our way of coordinating to make
8 sure that our young people are safe, but
9 also we all believe in an
10 African-centered education.

11 So when the decision was made
12 for the School District to -- for the
13 School Board to essentially work with us,
14 the Education Committee, behind the
15 scenes and for us to have a certain level
16 of understanding of what we would try to
17 do and then for them to essentially
18 switch their position, to me that's
19 extremely frustrating, and as of
20 March 7th, I don't know. What do we do
21 about the families at Math, Civics and
22 Science? What do we do to support those
23 children? Do they now get displaced?

24 Someone might lose their job
25 because three children now have to go to

1 3/7/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 three different schools, and as
3 government, we did not do those families
4 justice.

5 So I'm not sure of what the
6 answer is. I'm not saying we're
7 helpless, Councilmember Curtis Jones, but
8 what I am saying is I don't appreciate
9 how the School Board led us down the path
10 to not finish the journey. I'm going to
11 leave it at that, Council President. And
12 the reason why that is important is
13 because of the violence that we're seeing
14 with young people listening.

15 When we first -- when I first
16 got into Council and my freshmen four
17 colleagues, we would do a lot of advocacy
18 stuff. One of the things that I talked
19 about all the time is that this ain't the
20 gun violence of the '90s, right? This
21 ain't the early 2000s. When I was a kid
22 in high school, the people who carried
23 guns and sold drugs, they were poor.
24 They were doing so to provide a living
25 for their family, because they felt they

1 3/7/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 had no other way. This was all I know.

3 This is all I have access to.

4 Councilmember Phillips and
5 Councilmember O'Neill, Councilmember
6 Bass, the Councilmembers who represent
7 these areas, they'll tell you this ain't
8 about poverty. This ain't about

9 territory or a certain corner, right?

10 I'm not going to say what it is about,
11 but what I am going to say is that the
12 tactics that we've used in the past,
13 that's not going to work for this
14 generation. That's not going to work for
15 this era.

16 So I am concerned. I've talked
17 to leadership at both Imhotep as well as
18 at Northeast High School, and if you talk
19 to the people who work in those schools,
20 they'll tell you, listen, we had no idea
21 this was going to happen. This is not an
22 incident that started at lunch. No one
23 stepped on someone's sneaker. This
24 caught a lot of people off guard.

25 And for me the most concerning

1 3/7/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 part about it -- a good friend of mine is
3 the head coach at Northeast, and so you
4 know naturally I'm going to reach out,
5 and I asked him, you know, just basic
6 stuff, how you guys doing, what can City
7 Council and government can do to step up,
8 and his exact response was, you know,
9 this has created more questions than
10 answers. Our young people are so
11 desensitized to this stuff that they
12 don't even see it as a big deal.

13 Eleven kids shot this week and
14 it's just a normal Thursday for them.

15 So at the end of the day, while
16 we continue to huddle and do the work
17 that we do, because we're going to do the
18 work, how do we change culture? How do
19 we change mindset?

20 You know, while some young
21 people are saying that they're
22 desensitized to this, other young people
23 who never even met these kids was in
24 tears. I had to break it to my kids that
25 the shooting happened at Imhotep, and

1 3/7/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 they were distraught.

3 Imhotep is supposed to play a
4 basketball game on Friday at West
5 Philadelphia High School. If you don't
6 know, Imhotep is one of the best programs
7 in the entire country. The CEO is
8 contemplating not playing those games on
9 Friday. So not only will there be one
10 tragedy with the unfortunate death of a
11 young man and other people shot, we're
12 talking about another tragedy because now
13 one of the best programs not just in the
14 City of Philadelphia but in the entire
15 country is saying we don't feel safe
16 allowing our young people to play. We
17 can't guarantee their safety.

18 I say let the young people
19 play. I say it's time for us to say
20 we're going to step up and we're going to
21 make sure that that game at West
22 Philadelphia High School feels as safe as
23 this Council Chambers do.

24 When I walked in today, I
25 thanked -- and I try to do it every time

1 3/7/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 I walk in here. I thank every guard,
3 every sheriff, and every person who wakes
4 up every single day to make sure we can
5 come in this building and do our job in a
6 safe way.

7 Why can't our kids show up to
8 their schools and feel as safe as I do
9 when I walk in here? Why can't the young
10 people at Imhotep participate in athletic
11 competition on Friday and feel as safe as
12 we do every single day?

13 Look, I'm not going to act like
14 this is the safest place in the world,
15 right, but at the end of the day, how
16 fearful our young people are is 100
17 percent unacceptable.

18 So, Council President, that's
19 my monologue for this Thursday, and
20 colleagues, I appreciate each and every
21 one of you, especially Councilmembers
22 Bass, O'Neill, Phillips, and Gilmore
23 Richardson who was on the scenes at these
24 unfortunate incidents throughout the
25 course of the week and doing everything

1 3/7/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 in our power to support the families, the
3 schools, and other stakeholders who have
4 been negatively impacted.

5 Thank you, Council President.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

7 You're welcome.

8 - - -

9 (Applause.)

10 - - -

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

12 Councilmember Nina Ahmad.

13 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD: Thank you,
14 Council President. And I just want to
15 thank my colleague Councilmember Isaiah
16 Thomas for his impassioned plea to all of
17 us.

18 And on that note, on a brighter
19 future, I am going to speak about the
20 resolution that I introduced today, which
21 was about a hearing -- holding joint
22 hearings regarding the reliability and
23 servicing of publicly accessible electric
24 vehicle charging stations in the City of
25 Philadelphia.

1 3/7/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 This is really about laying out
3 that Philadelphia is poised to lead the
4 nation's transition to a cleaner and
5 greener transportation as part of the
6 broader effort to reduce greenhouse
7 emissions and mitigate the negative
8 effects of climate change but also
9 creating new categories of skilled
10 family-sustaining jobs. We must have a
11 brighter future.

12 You know, the EV ownership is
13 more affordable than before and prices
14 have gone down 20 percent from one year
15 ago. As of January 1st, Americans can
16 get up to 7,500 off the sticker price of
17 many of the new electric vehicles
18 eligible for the Inflation Reduction Act,
19 30D, New Clean Vehicle Tax Credit and up
20 to \$4,000 for the price of a used EV and
21 get vehicle tax credit as well.

22 So as we can see the federal
23 incentives supporting the Biden
24 Administration's stated goals are
25 50 percent of nationwide auto sales being

1 3/7/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 EV by 2030. The adoption of clean
3 vehicles only stands to accelerate.

4 This transition depends and
5 relies heavily on the widespread
6 availability of reliable public EV
7 charging infrastructure. Therein lies
8 the challenge to make sure we are not
9 putting the cart before the horse in this
10 transition.

11 I look forward to robust
12 hearings about this from all sectors of
13 our community to make sure that they are
14 ready for this important transition.

15 Thank you.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

17 Thank you.

18 Councilmember Cindy Bass.

19 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you,
20 Mr. President.

21 It's been a rough week. I just
22 wanted to follow up on what my colleagues
23 have discussed, which is what everyone is
24 discussing, which has been the shootings
25 that have occurred in the Northwest and

1 3/7/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 in the Northeast and Lawncrest and
3 Ogontz, and I wanted to follow up on
4 something that Councilman Phillips
5 stated, which is that families really do
6 have to step up. And I coined the phrase
7 "what do you do when the shooter lives
8 with you," because these guns were in
9 people's houses.

10 And so we call on parents,
11 caregivers, family members, if you have
12 someone in your house that you suspect is
13 involved, could be involved, knows
14 someone involved in any of this gun play,
15 because back in the day there used to be
16 such a thing called a fair one, right?
17 You get into a fight, everybody could go
18 home at the end of the day. It doesn't
19 work like that anymore.

20 And so what we need folks to do
21 is to run that room. You have to go in
22 that room, you have to flip the mattress,
23 you have to go in the closets, you have
24 to look in the drawers, you have to look
25 behind everything, under everything.

1 3/7/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 You know, in my house and the
3 way I was raised as well, there's no
4 privacy in your mother's house. Okay?
5 Old school. There's no privacy.

6 So, you know -- and I
7 understand that we want to give our young
8 people autonomy and space and all of
9 those great things that sound impressive
10 and mature, but sometimes you have to
11 intervene, and your intervention, the
12 idea behind it is to keep your own child
13 out of jail and someone's child out of a
14 hospital or a casket.

15 And so we have to be
16 unapologetic as parents and caregivers
17 about stepping up and stepping in and
18 making sure what is my young person
19 involved with.

20 And the other thing about it as
21 well -- listen, social media, when used
22 wrong, is like the devil. Social media
23 when gone wrong incites what we've seen
24 this week, and we can't ignore it. We
25 can't act like there was no role to play

1 3/7/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 by social media. There was a role in
3 what has happened and what is continuing
4 to happen.

5 And so I just really want to
6 encourage parents and caregivers again to
7 be involved, because what do you do if
8 that shooter lives with you is real.

9 The guns used to kill
10 17-year-old Dayemen Taylor -- and we're
11 going to say his name -- and to shoot
12 four others near Imhotep High School and
13 also the guns used to shoot nine people
14 yesterday in Lawncrest, they were in
15 someone's home the night before, the day
16 before, that same day. These aren't
17 people who have apartments, own homes.
18 These are kids shooting other kids.

19 And so we have to do more and
20 say more and be much more vigil in terms
21 of looking at what is happening in our
22 community, particularly if you have a
23 teenager in your household.

24 So thank you, Mr. President. I
25 just really wanted to remind everyone

1 3/7/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 that we have a role to play. I'm the
3 mother of a 14-year-old. I have a role
4 to play. We all have a role to play.

5 Thank you, Mr. President.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

7 Thank you.

8 - - -

9 (Applause.)

10 - - -

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: And
12 thank you for saying that young man's
13 name. Thank you for saying his name.

14 Councilman Jim Harrity.

15 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: Good
16 afternoon, Council President, colleagues.

17 I really didn't have much going
18 on today and I wasn't going to say
19 anything, but after talking with my
20 friend Anna Orso, I felt the need to
21 speak up on some of this misinformation
22 that is floating around.

23 I, Councilman Jim Harrity, am
24 not against harm reduction done right.
25 Let me say that again. I, Councilman Jim

1 3/7/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 Harrity, am not against harm reduction
3 when it's done right.

4 I am against harm reduction
5 groups who are becoming more of a
6 nuisance to the neighborhood that they're
7 supposed to be protecting than actually
8 protecting people.

9 There's no doubt that wound
10 care is desperately needed. There's no
11 doubt that giving them clean needles so
12 that we don't spread more disease is
13 needed, but what we also have to take
14 into consideration is the people that
15 live around these facilities and what
16 they have to see going on outside these
17 facilities.

18 It is our moral obligation as
19 leaders of the City of Philadelphia to
20 when we see something not working, to fix
21 it, and that's all we are trying to do
22 with the situation in Kensington, is to
23 fix it.

24 Now, I never claim to know all
25 the answers, but I know a couple

1 3/7/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 different things and one of which is that
3 the 32,000 residents of Kensington
4 deserve to be able to walk down the
5 street. They deserve to be able to have
6 the kids go outside and play without
7 having to worry about what these groups
8 are doing and what they are attracting.

9 Now -- so I just wanted to make
10 sure that I was on the record as saying
11 that I am for harm reduction, but only if
12 it's done right and only if it doesn't
13 affect the residents of that
14 neighborhood.

15 Thank you, Council President.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

17 Thank you.

18 The Chair recognizes
19 Councilmember Mark Squilla.

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

22 Thank you, colleagues. And I'm
23 not going to reiterate everything
24 everybody said that I strongly agree
25 with, but I think the time is today and I

1 3/7/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 think the message that our Mayor has
3 given about one Philadelphia working
4 together, Council and the Administration
5 with the police, with the folks on the
6 street, our non-profits, all the City of
7 Philadelphia working together to address
8 public safety as our number one priority.

9 I think it is very sad what
10 we're seeing right now, but I do think --
11 I'm hearing optimism from people in the
12 streets. I'm hearing hope from people in
13 the streets, and people are saying that
14 we believe changes are coming, right?
15 And it's not going to change tomorrow and
16 there will probably be some pushback when
17 some of these changes go into place, and
18 we have to understand that, but I think
19 we need to do this. When that pushback
20 happens, that people need to support
21 those changes and they need to stand up
22 and be behind those changes.

23 And not saying that there's not
24 going to be mistakes made by Council or
25 the Administration, but knowing that we

1 3/7/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 could adapt and change those things,
3 doing nothing is no longer the answer, I
4 think, and what we see out there day in
5 and day out, the message becomes that we
6 are a lawless city and we don't care
7 about taking care of our own, and other
8 people get to use that against us.

9 But what you're going to see I
10 think with the Administration's message
11 and Council's message is that we are
12 addressing these issues. We are taking
13 them seriously. We're making changes to
14 address them. And we also need support
15 from the community to do that. So the
16 people out there in the community, when
17 you see these changes and there are
18 pushback, you need to stand up too and
19 say, this is what we want as a community,
20 this is what we're looking for, and this
21 is what the government is giving us.

22 So aside from that, I do want
23 to say we are having a briefing right
24 across the hall. ATAHC, they are an
25 organization that has received an RFP,

1 3/7/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 done a very good job in my district with
3 our PHA housing to eliminate bed bugs in
4 all the housing in my district. They
5 have done an amazing job. We never
6 thought it was going to happen. They now
7 have an RFP to do many of the PHA housing
8 throughout the City of Philadelphia, and
9 now they're also doing pest control.

10 And, you know, when we talk
11 about mental health and issues of people
12 who always seem to be looked at
13 differently or underserved, everybody
14 deserves to live in a pest-free home, and
15 we now have the ability to do that and we
16 see that PHA is doing that. They're
17 leading by example. And I want to thank
18 PHA for their leadership and putting out
19 an RFP and selecting somebody to do that
20 work and then looking at the results and
21 seeing that what it means to the folks
22 who live in these facilities, how
23 important it is to know that you're bed
24 bug free and know that you have pest-free
25 housing no matter how much you pay.

1 3/7/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 So thank you so much, and I
3 will see you across the hall right after
4 Council.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

6 Thank you.

7 The Chair recognizes
8 Councilmember Rue Landau.

9 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU: Thank
10 you, Council President.

11 First, just want to lend my
12 voice to my colleagues on the wake of the
13 horrific violence that once again has
14 plagued our city in the past couple of
15 weeks. I will absolutely do my part,
16 alongside all of the other leaders in the
17 City of Philadelphia, but I am going to
18 take a second to call on Harrisburg and
19 our legislators across the Commonwealth
20 to pass gun laws so that we in
21 Philadelphia can control the guns in our
22 city, because without that, we are not
23 going to fully have the tools that we
24 need to make Philadelphia the safest
25 place that we need to have.

1 3/7/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 I also want to just take a
3 moment on a couple of resolutions and
4 bills today, but I wanted to start by
5 thanking Councilmember Mark Squilla for
6 putting forth the street renaming in
7 honor of my friend and colleague Michael
8 Hinson and to honor his bright legacy.

9 Philadelphia lost a fierce
10 advocate when Michael passed away, and
11 we're honoring him today and
12 commemorating the incredible advocacy to
13 which he dedicated his life, as well as
14 celebrating the lasting impact he has had
15 on the LGBTQ+ community and the
16 Philadelphia community.

17 Michael was a pioneering figure
18 in Philadelphia, actively working to
19 combat the HIV/AIDS crisis and tackling
20 homelessness head on as the head of SELF,
21 Inc. He is dearly missed, but we
22 continue to see the impact of his life's
23 work every day, and I can't wait to see
24 those signs on Chestnut Street.

25 Second, I'd also like to invite

1 3/7/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 everyone here to the Latinas in Tech
3 event that will be held in the 6th Floor
4 Law Library tomorrow at 3:30 that I am
5 supporting with Councilmember Lozada.
6 I'll be in attendance through my role as
7 the Tech Committee Chair to celebrate the
8 launch of the organization's new
9 Philadelphia chapter.

10 This non-profit organization is
11 an important addition to Philadelphia's
12 tech landscape, ensuring more
13 representation and resources for these
14 innovators and leaders throughout their
15 industry. Hope to see you there.

16 Thank you.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

18 Thank you.

19 Councilmember Jeffery J. Young.

20 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Thank you,
21 Mr. President.

22 I want to thank Councilmember
23 Squilla and colleagues today for passing
24 the resolution honoring Mike Hinson.
25 Mike was a good friend of mine. I met

1 3/7/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 Mike when we were both Board members on
3 the Union Benevolent Association's Board.
4 He believed in the power of community,
5 and he was very instrumental in my legal
6 career once I left this body as a
7 staffer.

8 I also want to echo the
9 sentiments of Councilmember Thomas and
10 thank District Council 33 for inviting
11 some of us down there to their Delegates
12 Convention. As the Chair of the Streets
13 and Services Committee and the Vice Chair
14 of Transportation and Public Utilities, a
15 lot of their work comes under our purview
16 in those committees.

17 I want to thank Loree Jones
18 today for speaking. Loree has been a
19 mentor of mine since I was 18 years old,
20 and I just want to let folks know about
21 Philabundance and their Community
22 Kitchen, which is located in the Fifth
23 Council District. They have a free
24 16-week program for those Philadelphians
25 that are eligible for SNAP benefits. You

1 3/7/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 don't necessarily have to be on SNAP but
3 be eligible for the benefits, and you can
4 get a free 16-week culinary arts program
5 where they help place you in some of the
6 best restaurants in the City. So if
7 anyone is interested in that program,
8 they should please check out
9 Philabundance's website.

10 Just for a point of clarity on
11 the Zoning Board, right? So the City
12 doesn't force developers to go to the ZBA
13 to develop projects. I just want to get
14 that out there. Property owners seek
15 variances because they want to build,
16 develop or use their property in a manner
17 that the law does not allow them to. So
18 we don't force them to go seek variances.
19 And variances should only be granted --
20 this is what our Code says. Variances
21 should only be granted when the literal
22 enforcement of the Code will result in an
23 unnecessary hardship.

24 So let's put that clarity out
25 there for folks to know, that as a zoning

1 3/7/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 lawyer, variances are something that you
3 seek when you're trying to do something
4 that the law does not allow you to do.

5 And with that, Mr. President,
6 when I ran to represent the Fifth
7 District, the number one issue on my
8 mind, the number one priority was the
9 reduction of gun violence. From the
10 first moment I stood in front of a
11 microphone as a member of this body, the
12 topic of discussion was gun violence.

13 As we enter into this budget
14 season, we must not forget that the
15 number one issue facing our city is gun
16 violence, particularly amongst our youth.
17 With that, we must ensure that every
18 dollar invested is truly used to achieve
19 this outcome of reducing gun violence.

20 We must have tough
21 conversations and come to the reality
22 that the same old programs and
23 organizations tasked with this call are
24 not working, to echo Councilmember
25 Thomas. This is a new time now. We

1 3/7/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 cannot let politics be the reason our
3 children are dying.

4 There seems to be no guidance
5 for our children. They are being
6 influenced by peers who lack critical
7 thinking, conflict resolution, and simple
8 comprehension skills. But who is to
9 blame? What I see missing is
10 accountability.

11 We as elected officials must
12 take accountability during the budget
13 process. Our educational institutions
14 must take accountability, and our parents
15 in the community must take
16 accountability. No one can pass the
17 buck. No one should play the blame game,
18 but we all must look inward and ask
19 ourselves, what are we doing collectively
20 to reduce gun violence in the City,
21 particularly gun violence amongst our
22 youth.

23 So thank you, Mr. President.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

25 Thank you.

1 3/7/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 I am confident, extremely
3 confident, that members of this body and
4 those of us who have been around for
5 years, we have always kept our foot on
6 the gas around this particular issue, and
7 I have countless examples, but it takes a
8 comprehensive approach of all of us
9 working together, all levels of
10 government, the Administration as well as
11 this independent body of City Council,
12 and I'm pretty confident that we will
13 continue working just as hard. I mean,
14 Councilman Jones, so they have 140
15 recommendations that we'll be examining.

16 We talk about collaborating and
17 partnering with our legislators in
18 Harrisburg. We just recently got a short
19 win where the Commonwealth ruled in our
20 favor as relates to banning ghost gun
21 parts, right, a resolution I introduced
22 as a member of City Council, which the
23 court in Harrisburg actually upheld. It
24 shows that we're going in the right
25 direction.

1 3/7/24 - STATED - ADJOURNMENT

2 And some folks may or may not
3 know, it may not feel like it, but
4 homicides and shootings are down, and
5 that's from the work that this body has
6 done. We've never invested in the
7 history of this city 100-plus million
8 dollars strictly focusing on violence
9 prevention.

10 So we have to continue to keep
11 rowing and rowing in the right direction,
12 and I'm pretty confident that there will
13 be a brighter day in the City of
14 Philadelphia if we're all working
15 together. So continue to keep up the
16 good work.

17 At this particular time, I want
18 to acknowledge Councilmember Thomas for a
19 motion to adjourn.

20 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank you,
21 Council President. I move that Council
22 stand adjourned until Thursday, March
23 14th, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

24 (Duly seconded.)

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: It

1 3/7/24 - STATED - ADJOURNMENT

2 has been moved and properly seconded that
3 Council stand adjourned until Thursday,
4 March the 14th, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

5 All those in favor signify by
6 saying aye.

7 (Aye.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

9 Those opposed?

10 (No response.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON: The
12 ayes have it, and this Council session is
13 adjourned.

14 - - -

15 (Stated Meeting adjourned at
16 12:30 p.m.)

17 - - -

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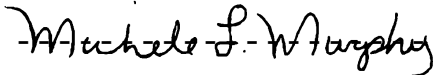
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CERTIFICATE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the
proceedings, evidence and objections are
contained fully and accurately in the
stenographic notes taken by me upon the
foregoing matter, and that this is a true and
correct transcript of same.



MICHELE L. MURPHY
RPR-Notary Public

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