

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Thursday, November 20, 2014
9:30 a.m.

PRESENT:

COUNCIL PRESIDENT DARRELL L. CLARKE
COUNCILWOMAN JANNIE BLACKWELL
COUNCILMAN W. WILSON GOODE, JR.
COUNCILMAN WILLIAM K. GREENLEE
COUNCILMAN BOBBY HENON
COUNCILMAN KENYATTA JOHNSON
COUNCILMAN CURTIS JONES, JR.
COUNCILMAN JAMES KENNEY
COUNCILMAN ED NEILSON
COUNCILMAN DAVID OH
COUNCILWOMAN MARIA D. QUINONES-SANCHEZ
COUNCILWOMAN BLONDELL REYNOLDS BROWN
COUNCILMAN MARK SQUILLA
COUNCILWOMAN MARIAN B. TASCO

RESOLUTIONS 140791, 140792, 140811, 140812,
and 140872

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COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good morning. We're going to start now.

Thank you. We have established a quorum.

This is a public hearing of the Committee of the Whole. The purpose of this public hearing is to hear testimony on Resolutions No. 140791, 140792, 140811, 140812, and 140872.

Mr. Young, please read the title of the resolutions.

THE CLERK: Resolution 140791, a resolution appointing Ahmeenah Young to the Board of Directors of the Philadelphia Municipal Authority.

140792, resolution appointing Michelle Lai to the Board of Directors of the Philadelphia Municipal Authority.

140811, resolution confirming the appointment of JoAnn A. Epps, Esquire, as a member of the Board of Ethics, to serve in the term ending November 16, 2019.

140812, resolution appointing Jay S. Feldstein, D.O., to the Board of

1 11/20/14 - WHOLE - RES. 140791, etc.
2 Directors of the City Avenue Special
3 Services District of Philadelphia and
4 Lower Merion, for a term ending January
5 5, 2017.

6 And Resolution 140872, a
7 resolution appointing Michael Piper to
8 the position of Chief Assessment Officer
9 of the Office of Property Assessment.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

11 Thank you very much.

12 For our first panel, I would
13 like to ask Ms. Ahmeenah Young and
14 Michelle Lai please come forward to the
15 witness table.

16 (Witnesses approached witness
17 table.)

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
19 Leader has arrived.

20 (Laughter.)

21 COUNCILMAN NEILSON: Do we all
22 have to stand up?

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: All
24 rise.

25 Good morning. Please state

1 11/20/14 - WHOLE - RES. 140791, etc.

2 your name for the record and --

3 MS. YOUNG: Ahmeenah Young.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

5 Thank you.

6 MS. LAI: Michelle Lai.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: And

8 if you have any testimony, you're free

9 to -- or if you aren't interested, that's

10 okay too.

11 MS. YOUNG: Whatever your

12 preference is, sir. I am happy to be

13 here. I'm happy to do the testimony. I

14 know that you have copies of it and all

15 Council has a copy. So if there are any

16 questions from anybody, I'm certainly

17 prepared to answer any questions.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

19 Thank you.

20 Ms. Lai.

21 MS. LAI: Same here. I know

22 that you have a copy of the testimony. I

23 know you have a busy schedule today, so

24 I'm happy to just submit it for the

25 record.

1 11/20/14 - WHOLE - RES. 140791, etc.

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Your
3 testimony will be read into the record.

4 Are there any questions from
5 the members of these witnesses?

6 (No response.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

8 There being none, I want to thank you so
9 much for your willingness to serve. I
10 look forward to working with you.

11 MS. YOUNG: Thank you.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

13 Thank you very much.

14 And our second panel is a panel
15 of one. I'd like to ask Ms. JoAnn A.
16 Epps please come forward.

17 (Witness approached witness
18 table.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: And
20 this is for the appointment to the
21 Philadelphia Board of Ethics.

22 Good morning.

23 MS. EPPS: Good morning,
24 Council President.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Just

1 11/20/14 - WHOLE - RES. 140791, etc.
2 state your name for the record, and if
3 you have any testimony, please proceed.

4 MS. EPPS: My name is JoAnn
5 Epps, and I do have testimony. I
6 submitted it earlier, so like the prior
7 witnesses, I'd be happy to have that
8 submitted on my behalf or to read it into
9 the record today.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: I
11 don't see a call for -- we will have your
12 testimony into the record.

13 Are there any questions of this
14 witness by members of the Committee?

15 (No response.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
17 There being none, I want to thank you
18 very much for your willingness to serve.
19 We look forward to working with you.

20 For the record, for anyone who
21 may be watching this and may say, wow,
22 that's a pretty easy confirmation, the
23 process that has been established in
24 Council is that prior to the hearing,
25 there are opportunities for members of

1 11/20/14 - WHOLE - RES. 140791, etc.
2 the Committee of the Whole to meet with
3 individuals who are being confirmed. So
4 there has been prior conversation between
5 the members.

6 So I just want to thank you
7 very much and look forward to working
8 with you.

9 MS. EPPS: Thank you, and I
10 with you.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
12 Thank you.

13 And Panel 3, Resolution 140872,
14 appointment for Chief Assessment Officer,
15 and I know we have had a lot of
16 discussion with this gentleman.
17 Mr. Michael Piper, please come forward.

18 (Witness approached witness
19 table.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good
21 morning.

22 MR. PIPER: Good morning,
23 President Clarke. As with the previous
24 nominees, I do have testimony.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Just

1 11/20/14 - WHOLE - RES. 140791, etc.
2 state your name.

3 MR. PIPER: My name is Michael
4 Piper. I'm currently serving as the
5 Acting Chief Assessment Officer for the
6 Office of Property Assessment.

7 Again, as with the previous
8 nominees, we do have testimony, but it
9 has been previously submitted. If you'd
10 like, I'll read it. Otherwise, I would
11 request that it be read into the record.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
13 Thank you very much.

14 Are there any questions of
15 Mr. Piper?

16 (No response.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
18 There being none, I want to thank you
19 very much for your testimony and thank
20 you for your willingness to continue to
21 serve. I look forward to working with
22 you as we continue to move forward in
23 finalizing the AVI process to make sure
24 that everybody -- well, it will never be
25 everybody will be happy with the system,

1 11/20/14 - WHOLE - RES. 140791, etc.
2 but the overwhelming majority, people are
3 comfortable with the way we move forward
4 on the AVI.

5 MR. PIPER: Thank you,
6 President, and thank you for the
7 nomination.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
9 Thank you, sir.

10 And Panel 4, Resolution 140812,
11 appointment to the Board of Directors,
12 Terry Foley.

13 (Witness approached witness
14 table.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good
16 morning.

17 MR. FOLEY: Good morning. I'm
18 Terrence Foley. I'm the President of the
19 City Avenue Special Services District,
20 and I guess I should have submitted my
21 testimony earlier. I apologize, I did
22 not.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: It's
24 no problem.

25 MR. FOLEY: I'll read it

1 11/20/14 - WHOLE - RES. 140791, etc.
2 quickly for you.

3 The City Avenue Special
4 Services District is a unique partnership
5 between the City of Philadelphia and the
6 Township of Lower Merion. It stretches
7 on City Avenue from the Expressway to
8 63rd Street.

9 Our vision is, the District
10 unites businesses, property owners,
11 developers, and residents in a common
12 goal of making City Avenue a great place
13 to live, work, play, and learn. With
14 this shared vision, these groups create
15 the City Avenue everyone desires - a
16 vibrant, inclusive environment with
17 neighborhoods, restaurants, shops, and
18 businesses all contributing to a greater
19 sense of community.

20 Our immediate objectives are
21 enhanced public safety, improve the
22 area's image, and attract and shape
23 development. Major initiatives we've
24 undertaken is streetscape and safety
25 capital improvement program, which

1 11/20/14 - WHOLE - RES. 140791, etc.
2 included lighting, pedestrian safety,
3 traffic safety. In this area, we
4 completed two projects recently, and we
5 have two projects soon to be underway.

6 This morning we're here to talk
7 about Jay S. Feldstein, D.O. He is the
8 President of the Philadelphia College of
9 Osteopathic Medicine. He has already
10 proven to be very supportive of the
11 District, financially and otherwise. His
12 predecessor, Matthew Schure, served terms
13 as our Chair and Vice Chair of our Board,
14 and Jay is very anxious to serve as a way
15 of becoming more involved in the
16 community.

17 Thank you.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

19 Thank you very much for your testimony.

20 Are there any questions of this
21 witness by members of the Committee?

22 (No response.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

24 There being none, I want to thank you
25 very much for your testimony and thank

1 11/20/14 - WHOLE - RES. 140791, etc.
2 you for your willingness to serve.

3 At this time, we will move from
4 the public hearing into the public
5 meeting, and the Chair recognizes
6 Councilman Jones for a single motion on
7 the five resolutions.

8 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
9 Mr. President. I move that Resolutions
10 No. 140791, 140792, 140811, 140812, and
11 140872 be reported from this Committee
12 with a favorable recommendation.

13 (Duly seconded.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
15 Thank you. It has been moved and
16 properly seconded that the Resolutions
17 No. 140791, 140792, 140811, 140812, and
18 140872 be reported from this Committee
19 with a favorable recommendation.

20 All those in favor say aye.

21 (Aye.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

23 Those opposed?

24 (No response.)

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The

1 11/20/14 - WHOLE - RES. 140791, etc.
2 motion carries, and these resolutions
3 will be reported from this Committee with
4 a favorable recommendation at our next
5 session of Council.

6 That concludes the business of
7 the Committee.

8 Thank you all very much.

9 (Committee of the Whole
10 concluded at 9:40 a.m.)

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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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