

Committee on Labor and Civil Service

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND CIVIL SERVICE

Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Monday, March 16, 2026
10:20 a.m.

PRESENT:

COUNCILMAN JIM HARRITY, CHAIR
COUNCILWOMAN NINA AHMAD
COUNCILWOMAN KATHERINE GILMORE RICHARDSON
COUNCILMAN ANTHONY PHILLIPS

ALSO PRESENT:

COUNCILMAN ISAIAH THOMAS

BILL: 251099

Committee on Labor and Civil Service

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2 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:

3 Good morning, everyone. This is a
4 public hearing of the Committee on
5 Labor and Civil Service regarding
6 Bill No. 251099. I note for the
7 record that a quorum of the
8 committee is present. This hearing
9 is now called to order.

10 Mr. Kunkle, will you
11 please read the title of the bill
12 being considered today.

13 THE CLERK: Bill
14 No. 251099, titled an ordinance
15 amending Title 20 of The
16 Philadelphia Code, entitled
17 "Officers and Employees," to
18 provide for compensation of the
19 Director of Office of Prison
20 Oversight and members of the
21 Philadelphia Prison Community
22 Oversight Board, and amending Title
23 21 of The Philadelphia Code,
24 entitled "Miscellaneous," to add a

1 new chapter, providing for the
2 powers and duties of Office of
3 Prison Oversight and Philadelphia
4 Prison Community Oversight Board
5 and the manner in which other
6 officers, employees and agencies
7 shall fulfill their respective
8 responsibilities with respect to
9 the Office and Board, all under
10 certain terms and conditions.

11 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:
12 Thank you, Mr. Kunkle. Will you
13 please call the roll.

14 THE CLERK:
15 Councilmember Ahmad.

16 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:
17 Present.

18 THE CLERK:
19 Councilmember Brooks.

20 (No response.)

21 THE CLERK:
22 Councilmember Gilmore Richardson.

23 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE
24 RICHARDSON: Present.

Committee on Labor and Civil Service

1 THE CLERK:

2 Councilmember Harrity.

3 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:

4 Present.

5 THE CLERK:

6 Councilmember Landau.

7 (No response.)

8 THE CLERK:

9 Councilmember Lozada.

10 (No response.)

11 THE CLERK:

12 Councilmember O'Neill.

13 (No response.)

14 THE CLERK:

15 Councilmember Phillips.

16 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

17 Present.

18 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: And

19 we have appointed Councilman Isaiah

20 Thomas for the record.

21 THE CLERK: And

22 Councilman Thomas is appointed to

23 the Committee on Labor and Civil

24 Services today.

Committee on Labor and Civil Service

1 COUNCILMAN THOMAS:

2 Present.

3 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:

4 Thank you. All right. Any member
5 of the committee got opening
6 remarks?

7 (No response.)

8 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: All
9 right. Why don't we have the first
10 panel come up. Will the Clerk
11 please call the first panel of
12 witnesses to testify.

13 THE CLERK: Panel 1,
14 Commissioner Michael Resnick,
15 Philadelphia Department of Prisons.

16 (Witnesses approached
17 witness table.)

18 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:

19 Thank you, gentlemen.

20 Commissioner, it looks like you got
21 a little more gray there since our
22 last visit.

23 COMMISSIONER RESNICK:

24 Thanks for noticing.

1 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: Me
2 too though.

3 COMMISSIONER RESNICK:
4 It's the job, Councilman.

5 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: My
6 wife actually likes the gray,
7 especially in the beard.

8 COMMISSIONER RESNICK:
9 Young at heart though.

10 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:
11 Yes. Again, please state your name
12 and begin your testimony.

13 COMMISSIONER RESNICK:
14 Sure. Good morning, Chairman and
15 members of the Committee on Labor
16 and Civil Service. I'm Michael
17 Resnick. I'm the Commissioner of
18 the Philadelphia Department of
19 Prisons and I'm here to provide
20 testimony for Bill 251099,
21 sponsored by Councilmember Thomas,
22 which adds a new chapter to The
23 Philadelphia Code to provide for
24 powers and duties of the Office of

1 Prison Oversight and the
2 Philadelphia Prison Community
3 Oversight Board.

4 With tremendous support
5 from Mayor Parker and Managing
6 Director Thiel, the Philadelphia
7 Department of Prisons has seen
8 considerable improvements over the
9 past two years. I want to
10 summarize a few of the amazing
11 positive accomplishments that PDP
12 has achieved within this time
13 frame.

14 Since April of 2024, PDP
15 has hired 574 correctional
16 officers. That's 526 new cadets
17 and 48 reinstated officers who left
18 in good standing within the last
19 five years. That is a net gain of
20 almost 400 correctional officers,
21 394 to be exact with our 5%
22 attrition rate, which is
23 historically low. We have been
24 running in the double digits with

1 respect to our attrition rate.

2 This increase in staff
3 has greatly enhanced the safety and
4 security of both our staff and the
5 incarcerated population. As hiring
6 has surged, the PDP has also
7 experienced a sharp drop in the
8 incarcerated population. As of
9 this morning, our population was
10 3394, and last week we saw a low of
11 3355. This number is a tremendous
12 drop from September 1, 2024 when
13 our population was over 4800.

14 The correlation between
15 increased staffing and reduced
16 population pressure reflects a more
17 stable, safer and effective
18 correctional environment. To
19 further enhance security, we have
20 installed state-of-the-art Tek84
21 body scanners across our facilities
22 to prevent the introduction of
23 contraband. Tek84 detects
24 metallic, non-metallic threats like

1 weapons, drugs and other contraband
2 in highly secured environments such
3 as correctional facilities or
4 airports.

5 To coordinate these
6 efforts, the PDP hired a Director
7 of Security in September of 2024 to
8 focus on strengthening safety
9 across all facilities to further
10 combat contraband and enhance
11 security. PDP has employed various
12 interagency interdiction strategies
13 such as more contraband-detecting
14 dogs and increased searches through
15 intelligence gathered by our
16 Special Investigations Unit.
17 Additionally, to allow for greater
18 transparency and to enhance
19 security for both staff and the
20 incarcerated population, we are in
21 the midst of implementing body-worn
22 cameras for staff for the first
23 time ever.

24 This implementation of

1 this initiative will take time and
2 will be done in stages, initially
3 implementing the body-worn cameras
4 for select security staff as a
5 pilot before rolling it out on a
6 broader scale. The body-worn
7 cameras, which will include audio,
8 will allow for greater context in
9 determining whether staff acted
10 appropriately in a given incident,
11 and I believe that they will also
12 serve as to reduce incidents of
13 violence when every party knows
14 that the incident at hand is going
15 to be recorded.

16 Currently, we have a
17 policy and development training is
18 underway. All facilities have been
19 outfitted with the necessary
20 equipment to charge and upload the
21 data. So within the next 30 to 45
22 days, this project should roll out.
23 PDP has also implemented several
24 initiatives to serve the medical

1 needs of our population. Most
2 notably, in April of 2025 we
3 implemented the Foresight Medical
4 Monitoring System in our intake
5 facilities.

6 Foresight Medical
7 Monitoring System provides
8 continuous realtime monitoring of
9 an individual's vital signs as they
10 enter custody. This advanced
11 technology helps medical staff
12 quickly identify health concerns,
13 including emergencies so they can
14 be responded to without delay by
15 improving early detection of
16 medical issues. Foresight enhances
17 the safety of the incarcerated
18 population, who are newly admitted
19 into our custody and supports
20 better health outcomes. Its use
21 demonstrates PDP's commitment to
22 modernizing health care and
23 protecting the well-being of
24 everyone in our facilities.

1 PDP has also eliminated
2 backlogs in medical, primary care
3 and specialty care by streamlining
4 scheduling, increasing provider
5 availability and improving
6 coordination between medical staff
7 and security inmates now receive
8 timely evaluations, follow-up
9 appointments and necessary
10 treatment without delay.

11 This safeguards health
12 and well-being of those in custody
13 and also reduces medical
14 emergencies, minimizing hospital
15 transport and strengthens overall
16 facility safety and stability. The
17 relicensing of our Prison Health
18 Services wing, located at the
19 detention center, confirms PHSW
20 meets all state standards for
21 quality care, safety and
22 operations.

23 This ensures that people
24 in custody continue to receive

1 reliable medical services in a
2 secure and professional setting.
3 It also reflects the dedication of
4 the PDP healthcare staff and
5 leadership to maintaining the
6 highest level of compliance and
7 services. October 25, the PDP with
8 our partners, including the
9 Division of Reentry, officially
10 opened a new reentry center on our
11 campus, a milestone achievement in
12 the city's ongoing commitment to
13 creating second chances and
14 supporting safe, successful reentry
15 into the community.

16 The center represents a
17 forward-thinking investment in
18 helping return citizens to rebuild
19 their lives, offering immediate
20 access to tools and support needed
21 to ensure a smooth transition from
22 incarceration to independence.
23 Representatives from a host of
24 partners who actively participate

1 in the Reentry Center's mission are
2 present on a daily basis, offering
3 the direct help needed for newly
4 released citizens.

5 During the week of
6 January 12, 2026, the PDP achieved
7 a landmark event. For the first
8 time ever, all incarcerated people
9 received their own tablets. The
10 implementation of one-to-one
11 tablets was a monumental
12 achievement and from initial
13 feedback, the population is very
14 pleased. The tablets provide
15 educational opportunity as well as
16 entertainment, in addition to video
17 visitation and telephone calls.

18 By allowing this new
19 level of access for incarcerated
20 people to be engaged, it helps
21 promote a more productive and
22 peaceful environment within our
23 facilities. Relatedly, although we
24 never want to experience any death

1 within our facilities, we believe
2 there is a correlation between the
3 above improvements and the fact
4 that we experienced only four
5 incarcerated person deaths in the
6 calendar year 2025, our lowest
7 ever.

8 We will continue to
9 strive toward zero in-custody
10 deaths through measures like
11 foresight, medical monitoring and
12 of course, staff touring, medical
13 rounds, access to care and our MAT
14 program. Also, while
15 air-conditioning is the last thing
16 on anyone's mind at this time, let
17 us not forget that the PDP
18 installed air-conditioning in the
19 detention center dorms last summer,
20 something that most never thought
21 could happen. But through
22 persistence, we found a way.

23 And while a distant
24 memory at this time, the

1 incarcerated population and staff
2 were quite pleased with the dorms
3 being air-conditioned during the
4 summer months. This is yet another
5 example of our persistence in doing
6 everything possible to enhance the
7 conditions of confinement for our
8 incarcerated population.

9 PDP appreciates that the
10 citizens of Philadelphia voted for
11 the ballot question that created
12 this board and office during last
13 year's election, and this
14 Administration is prepared to
15 implement this enabling legislation
16 under the guidance of our Law
17 Department. But for the record,
18 and in case anyone is unaware,
19 there are already numerous entities
20 who monitor, audit and inspect our
21 facilities on a regular basis.

22 The Pennsylvania
23 Department of Corrections conducts
24 an annual inspection of our

1 facilities. And just this past
2 fall in 2025, the DOC conducted
3 inspection of all our facilities
4 and found each to be in compliance
5 with state regulations under Title
6 37. The Pennsylvania Department of
7 Health also conducts an inspection
8 of the Prison Health Services wing
9 on an annual basis to determine if
10 continued state licensure is
11 appropriate. Our license was
12 renewed and is current.

13 The Philadelphia
14 Department of Health, the National
15 Commission on Correctional Health
16 Care and Medical and Behavioral
17 Health expert monitors appointed by
18 the Law Department also conduct
19 inspections. And as you're aware,
20 the Pennsylvania Prison Society
21 also conducts periodic tours and
22 inspections. And pretty soon, I'm
23 anticipating the release of the
24 monitor's eighth report, and I

Committee on Labor and Civil Service

1 anticipate that that report will
2 show tremendous progress in our
3 substantial compliance with the
4 settlement agreement.

5 The Department has
6 achieved significant
7 accomplishments and great progress
8 over the last two years, and there
9 are many more positive changes in
10 store for the future. This
11 Administration will work
12 collaboratively with members of the
13 Board and office within the
14 parameters set by law. Thank you
15 for the opportunity to testify and
16 I'll be happy to answer any
17 questions.

18 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:
19 (Inaudible).

20 COMMISSIONER RESNICK:
21 You're welcome, Councilman.

22 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: Oh.
23 Yeah, it's on. Thank you,
24 Commissioner, for your testimony.

Committee on Labor and Civil Service

1 I have a few questions and then
2 I'll pass it on to my colleagues.
3 First, I see you -- is that yours
4 there?

5 COMMISSIONER RESNICK:
6 No, it's not.

7 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:
8 Okay. Well, then I'll wait to
9 figure out who that is to --

10 COMMISSIONER RESNICK: I
11 believe that's Mr. Innes from the
12 Public Defender --

13 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: I
14 see, from the Defender's Office.
15 All right. So good morning. And
16 first, I wanted to thank you for
17 all your hard work you have been
18 doing and the improvements that
19 have been made under your new
20 commission. I have a few questions
21 about the health monitor bracelets.

22 What type of health
23 information do they monitor and
24 where does this information get

1 reported and to whom? And when a
2 prisoner has health episodes that
3 are urgent situations, possibly in
4 the middle of the night like a
5 heart attack or a stroke, how is
6 that handled?

7 COMMISSIONER RESNICK:

8 So the monitoring bracelets are put
9 on at the intake facilities. That
10 would be CFCF for the males and
11 PICC for the females. Every newly
12 admitted inmate is on a monitor for
13 over five days, so it's about six
14 days. And the monitors pick up
15 heart rate, temperature, movement,
16 pulse oxygen. And if there is a
17 deviation in the norms of any one
18 of those vital signs, an alert goes
19 off. The alert goes off on the
20 housing unit for the officer, the
21 alert goes off in unit control and
22 the alert goes off in medical. So
23 it's three times redundant. And
24 the only person who can clear that

1 alert, and it's an audible alert,
2 is the staff from medical, so a
3 nurse and there's a nurse assigned
4 who monitors this.

5 And when there's alert,
6 she comes to the housing unit and
7 checks on that inmate to ensure
8 that there is no medical emergency.
9 If there is a medical emergency,
10 obviously the appropriate response
11 is called. I don't have the
12 numbers here before me, we can get
13 them, but we've had several inmates
14 treated in triage. Several more
15 had to go by 911 to area hospitals.
16 And a few were admitted into
17 intensive care because of the
18 alerts that we received.

19 Now, we do get alerts
20 that are not medical emergencies.
21 If someone's, you know, playing
22 basketball and their heart rate
23 goes up or they sleep in a way that
24 the monitor loses contact, it will

1 alert. But I would rather staff go
2 check on those alerts than not and
3 we find a medical emergency some
4 time later. So they've proved
5 themselves to be valuable.

6 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:

7 Yeah, I would imagine for everybody
8 it's quite amazing that they have
9 that technology now and that would
10 be used for people who would be
11 deemed at intake as high risk.

12 COMMISSIONER RESNICK:

13 Everybody is --

14 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: Oh,
15 everybody?

16 COMMISSIONER RESNICK:

17 Everybody. Everybody is placed on
18 the monitor, Councilman.

19 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: For
20 the first five days?

21 COMMISSIONER RESNICK:

22 For the first five to six days. If
23 our medical staff determined that
24 somebody is in need of additional

1 monitoring, that will continue.
2 But the five-day, six-day timeframe
3 was selected because our data shows
4 that if there's going to be a
5 negative medical event, it will
6 happen in the first five days of
7 admission.

8 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:
9 Yeah, especially with people who
10 are detoxing.

11 COMMISSIONER RESNICK:
12 Exactly.

13 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: I
14 get it. Okay. I think that's
15 pretty good for me.

16 Any of my colleagues
17 have any questions? Councilwoman
18 Nina Ahmad please.

19 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:
20 Thank you, Chair.
21 Good morning. Good to
22 see you again.

23 COMMISSIONER RESNICK:
24 Good morning, Councilwoman.

1 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD: So
2 I have a few questions about health
3 as well, particularly about
4 maternal care. And I believe there
5 was a law passed about shackling,
6 but it was still left at the
7 discretion of the correctional
8 officer whether or not to shackle
9 pregnant persons. So if you would
10 address or just tell us how that
11 space looks, what does maternal
12 care look like and how frequently
13 people get it? Who is providing
14 that care? And how many births are
15 we having, do we have in prison?

16 COMMISSIONER RESNICK: I
17 will bring up our Chief of Medical
18 Operations Dr. Bruce Herdman to
19 address your questions,
20 Councilwoman. He would have more
21 information, more detailed
22 information than I would.

23 DR. HERDMAN: Bruce
24 Herdman, Chief of Medical

1 Operations. Councilwoman, we have
2 about 90 pregnant women at the jail
3 in the course of a year.
4 Approximately two dozen deliveries
5 during that course. We have a
6 full-time OB/GYN, so all women are
7 checked for pregnancy at intake and
8 for related illnesses or
9 difficulties and seen by the
10 OB/GYN.

11 So the care has been
12 coordinated with the Maternity Care
13 Council and years ago with them,
14 the Maternity Care Coalition,
15 excuse me. We worked to develop
16 the state regulations that prohibit
17 shackling. So that's something we
18 implemented years ago.

19 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD: So
20 I recall reading that it was still
21 left to the discretion of the
22 correctional officer. So I just
23 wanted to know, is there zero
24 shackling or is there some

Committee on Labor and Civil Service

1 shackling or do we have any data on
2 that?

3 DR. HERDMAN: To my
4 knowledge --

5 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:
6 Zero shackling. We would want it
7 to be zero shackling.

8 DR. HERDMAN: Yeah. To
9 my knowledge, there is none. But
10 if we do any, we have to report it
11 to the state.

12 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:
13 Second question I have is about
14 sexual assault in correctional
15 facilities. How are we set up to
16 address that? Who does the intake?
17 Who does the rape kit? What do we
18 have in place there?

19 DR. HERDMAN: I'm sorry.
20 Would you --

21 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:
22 Sexual assault, response to sexual
23 assault.

24 DR. HERDMAN: We have

1 the Sexual Assault Nursing
2 Evaluation program that was
3 implemented years ago. It's
4 administered by the medical vendor.
5 And so, the specially-trained
6 nurses meet with anyone that claims
7 that they were violated and if
8 necessary, create a rape kit.
9 That's the unfortunate name.

10 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD: So
11 that is rape, by the way. So,
12 yeah, we have to call it what it
13 is.

14 DR. HERDMAN: Yes. So
15 that takes place anytime anyone
16 claims that they were violated.

17 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD: And
18 so, do you have any stats around
19 how many sexual assaults have
20 occurred in the --

21 DR. HERDMAN: I don't.

22 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD: Not
23 a year, two years or whatever?

24 DR. HERDMAN: I don't

1 know that off the top of my head,
2 but we can get that number for you.

3 COMMISSIONER RESNICK:

4 And also, Councilwoman, we are
5 compelled to follow PREA -- not
6 PREA --

7 DR. HERDMAN: Yes.

8 COMMISSIONER RESNICK:

9 Yeah, PREA. I'm sorry. The Prison
10 Rape Elimination Act, the federal
11 law. All of our facilities have a
12 PREA coordinator in those
13 facilities and those referrals are
14 made over to the -- well, first of
15 all, we follow PREA in terms of the
16 process and the administration, the
17 investigations. But also, those
18 claims are referred over to the
19 Police Department Sex Crimes Unit.
20 But we can get you the numbers of
21 pre-investigation.

22 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:

23 That would be good to see if these
24 were other incarcerated people,

1 correctional officers. I would
2 love to get that data. And my
3 final question for you, thank you
4 for all the improvements you've
5 made. I wanted to hear about
6 nutrition in the prisons. And
7 where are we on that?

8 From what I've heard,
9 I've been speaking to some people
10 around bringing in fresh, good food
11 because apparently it is not. And
12 so, I wanted to know whether you've
13 looked into that and how you're
14 addressing that?

15 COMMISSIONER RESNICK:
16 Certainly, Councilwoman. Thanks
17 for that question. So like you,
18 one of the complaints that I heard
19 early and often was about the
20 diets. We have a contracted food
21 service provider, GD Services, and
22 they provide the meals for the
23 incarcerated population as well as
24 the staff. Our production kitchen

1 is located in the Curran-Fromhold
2 Correctional Facility. It is a
3 cook-chill operation. So all of
4 the food that we serve is produced
5 in Curran-Fromhold. It is stored
6 there and then it is transported to
7 the other facilities to be rethemed
8 and served.

9 So we are constrained in
10 the types of menus we can serve
11 because it has to be served within
12 a cook-chill process to feed 10,000
13 meals approximately every single
14 day. So we did make some
15 enhancements in the menu speaking
16 with GD Services. But one of the
17 things that I asked our contract
18 monitor to do was to bring in an
19 expert dietician, someone unrelated
20 to GD Services, an independent
21 expert in dietary services to
22 evaluate our meals, the way they
23 look, the way they taste, their
24 nutritional value, their

1 nutritional content, and they made
2 some recommendations.

3 They gave us an overall
4 B with respect to our diet planning
5 and the nutritional content. The
6 other thing you have to remember,
7 Councilwoman, is we have a lot of
8 folks with chronic disease, heart
9 disease, diabetes, high blood
10 pressure. So we need to ensure
11 that we're not providing too much
12 salt, too much carbohydrates. So
13 there's a balance, right. We don't
14 want people to be unhealthy and
15 gain too much weight on the foods
16 that we're serving. So our food
17 nutritionally, calorie content
18 conforms to the city Health
19 Department's rules and regulations
20 and the national dietary standards.

21 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:
22 Sorry, I had one more question. So
23 what I've heard anecdotally is that
24 the menu is not necessarily

1 reflective of the actual food. So
2 there seems to have been some
3 disconnect there. So we can
4 explore that offline. I'll bring
5 who actually brought that to me.

6 My last question is
7 about mental health care and what
8 services are available, who
9 delivers it, how wraparound
10 services are, particularly also for
11 those who are going to be leaving
12 the system? How much care do we
13 provide in those spaces?

14 DR. HERDMAN: So about
15 38% of the population has a
16 behavioral health diagnoses. Most
17 of those people are medicated. The
18 care for that service and other
19 services is provided by 350 full-
20 time health care staff. They are
21 Board-certified or licensed the way
22 people at Temple and Jefferson and
23 Penn are licensed, including about
24 120 that specialize in behavioral

1 health care.

2 So when a person comes
3 in within the first four hours
4 after they get off whatever vehicle
5 delivers, they're evaluated by a
6 nurse that goes through
7 120-question evaluation tool using
8 our electronic medical record. And
9 that includes a variety of
10 behavioral health questions,
11 primarily oriented toward self-
12 injury and suicide, since that is a
13 major issue within any jail and
14 prison.

15 Those same questions
16 also generate referrals for routine
17 care. So everyone is seen. If
18 they have an emergent issue,
19 they're seen right away. Let's say
20 someone comes in and says, I was
21 taking an SSRI, an anti-depressant,
22 I haven't taken it in three months
23 and they're asymptomatic. They'll
24 be scheduled to be seen within five

1 days. If they're totally
2 asymptomatic and have no history,
3 they're all seen within 14 days.
4 So that's the initial evaluation of
5 people.

6 Then there are follow-up
7 visits, depending on whether a
8 person is medicated. We have the
9 64-bed licensed psychiatric
10 hospital on campus. We have 120
11 transition unit beds, which are for
12 behavioral health patients that are
13 not so sick that they need to be
14 confined to the hospital, but
15 they're too vulnerable to be in
16 general population. Both of those
17 units have for men and women
18 separate units, have extra
19 behavioral health staff that see
20 patients every day and provide
21 group treatment.

22 So basically everyone at
23 the jail gets all the things that
24 you or I would get with a good

1 health insurance plan, but no
2 deductible and no co-pay except for
3 individual therapy. What we do, do
4 is we meet with anyone who has a
5 chronic illness, including
6 behavioral health illnesses, and
7 help them choose providers to go to
8 in the community. This is our
9 Release with Care program.

10 And because only 8%, I
11 think it's 8%, of the population is
12 sentenced, we don't know when
13 people are leaving, so we can't
14 make appointments for people, but
15 we make referrals and we send an
16 electronic referral with the
17 patient's permission to the
18 provider and the community, because
19 the person might be released in an
20 hour. And when they are released,
21 we send a full-fledged electronic
22 secure discharge summary, which
23 says this is a diagnoses and these
24 are the medications the persons are

1 on, these are the treatments that
2 they're scheduled for.

3 And we also are able to
4 activate or enroll people in
5 medical assistance. About 95% of
6 the people that leave the jail have
7 MA that's effective the day of
8 release. So the patient knows
9 where to go to get care and can
10 afford to pay for that care. We
11 have 77 sites across the city that
12 we refer to, mostly federally
13 qualified health centers, where a
14 person -- there's no waiting list.
15 They can go immediately to be seen.
16 So that's the scope of the services
17 that we provide.

18 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:
19 Thank you. And for this new role,
20 as we call it, the OPO, they will
21 have access to all this
22 information? Obviously there's --
23 I don't know what the HIPAA
24 restrictions are, but this

Committee on Labor and Civil Service

1 oversight authority will be able to
2 review all of this?

3 COMMISSIONER RESNICK:

4 The oversight authority will be
5 able to review -- and I'm not a
6 lawyer from the Law Department, but
7 I'm sure the Law Department will
8 let us know what the guidelines
9 are.

10 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD: All
11 right. Thank you very much.

12 Thank you, Chair.

13 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:

14 Thank you, Councilwoman, for that
15 line of questioning.

16 Chair recognizes
17 Councilman Anthony Phillips.

18 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

19 Thank you so much, Chairman
20 Harrity.

21 I do recognize how the
22 challenges that you all face in
23 your profession. It's not easy to
24 do what you do, so I want to

1 commend you for that. I just had a
2 couple of questions. First
3 question, can you describe the
4 staff training that you do for the
5 prison guards and so forth? Is
6 there a standardized temperament
7 that all prison guards are supposed
8 to have when working with the
9 prisoners?

10 I only ask that question
11 because I understand that, you
12 know, tensions can be flaring and
13 so forth. And I just want to see
14 how much is that. Are you
15 providing what you would call like
16 a Chick-fil-A standard of how
17 people are supposed to be doing it,
18 no matter where you go, you're
19 going to have the same type of
20 standard? And how do you monitor
21 that among your staff?

22 COMMISSIONER RESNICK:
23 So, Councilman, I don't know that
24 we have a Chick-fil-A standard, but

1 our training academy is 12.5 weeks.
2 I would like to increase it to 16
3 weeks, just because I think that
4 more time we would be in a better
5 position to provide people with
6 more information about the
7 experience that they will have once
8 they go inside the jails.

9 Now, there is a training
10 academy, there is an on-the-job
11 training component of it. But
12 during that training academy, the
13 recruits are taught all of our
14 policies and procedures. They are
15 taught conflict resolution. They
16 are drilled on our use-of-force
17 policy. They're taught to be firm,
18 fair, consistent, to have
19 integrity, to be respectful.

20 We have specialized
21 training for officers who are going
22 to work with the juveniles and for
23 the mental health population on the
24 transitional units that Dr. Herdman

1 talked about. So all of that to
2 say, our officers receive the same
3 baseline training. And the other
4 thing I'd like to add is I've
5 instituted a mentorship program.
6 So when all new officers get out of
7 the academy, their facility that
8 they're assigned to through the
9 wardens, the majors and the ranking
10 supervisors have mentorship
11 programs, so they will evaluate
12 individuals. They will correct if
13 they see that they're not following
14 the guidance and the policy or the
15 training. There'll be somebody
16 with experience where they can go
17 to, to ask questions. So we do
18 have an official mentorship
19 program.

20 We've recently
21 purchased -- I don't know where we
22 are in the use of this, but a
23 use-of-force training simulator.
24 It is a scenario-based training

1 simulator. So we can on a computer
2 screen, a surround computer screen,
3 we can set up scenarios that the
4 officers will have to work through.
5 And we can change those scenarios.
6 They can try to de-escalate. And
7 if de-escalation tactics don't
8 work, then what do they do. So
9 we're going to implement that.

10 We've undertaken a
11 complete evaluation of our use-of-
12 force processes at the jail. We
13 brought in an outside consultant
14 company that are going to look at
15 our policy. They're going to
16 review best practices nationwide.
17 They're going to review our
18 training. They're going to review
19 our disciplinary process. So this
20 whole year we'll be conducting a
21 comprehensive evaluation of our
22 use-of-force policy. Plus --

23 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

24 You --

Committee on Labor and Civil Service

1 COMMISSIONER RESNICK:

2 I'm sorry. Go ahead.

3 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

4 No, finish. You can finish.

5 COMMISSIONER RESNICK:

6 Plus, we have a formalized
7 disciplinary process. So if
8 somebody is not following the
9 policies, the guidelines and
10 conducting themselves in a manner
11 that we don't see as fit or
12 unprofessional, we'll deal with
13 that in a progressive, disciplined
14 way to correct that behavior. And
15 if we can't correct that behavior,
16 we can get rid of those employees.

17 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: Do
18 you, yourself, take time to
19 observe, make observations of the
20 staff, the prison guards, to kind
21 of reinforce how important the
22 standards are being met?

23 COMMISSIONER RESNICK:

24 So I am at the training academy

1 twice, three times actually.
2 During the pendency of that
3 training, I have a command hour in
4 the beginning. I have a command
5 hour at the end. And I, as an
6 adjunct, teach class over there.
7 Every Friday, myself and my staff
8 are in the jails, touring for two
9 hours, talking to the staff,
10 talking to the inmates, listening
11 to their complaints, hearing what
12 you know, they're pleased with
13 helping them try to resolve issues.
14 So we are a constant presence
15 inside the jails.

16 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:
17 Awesome. Because I was just going
18 to make sure that you had time to
19 get the -- yeah, two hours on
20 Friday, to kind of just observe
21 your own staff and how they conduct
22 themselves or even if there's a way
23 to observe them on video, you know,
24 so they know that you may not even

1 be there.

2 All right. My last
3 question is, in your testimony you
4 point out that the prisons are
5 regulated by a variety of agencies
6 and suggests that this obviates the
7 need for prison oversight. Is
8 regulation by other groups a new
9 phenomenon? If not, how many years
10 have the prisons been under various
11 court orders? Is independent
12 prison oversight standard fare? Is
13 it a standard fare in other big
14 cities as well?

15 COMMISSIONER RESNICK:

16 So I don't know that my testimony
17 said that the other entities that
18 monitor us obviate the need for
19 this. I was making the point that
20 we are highly regulated, highly
21 audited, highly reviewed and that
22 this Administration will work
23 closely within the bounds of the
24 law with the Oversight Board and

Committee on Labor and Civil Service

1 the Citizens Committee.

2 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

3 Okay. All right. Thank you,
4 Chairman.

5 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:

6 Thank you. Thank you, Councilman
7 Phillips.

8 Thank you for
9 testifying. Any -- you got follow-
10 up? Councilwoman Nina Ahmad.

11 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:

12 Quick question about public
13 dashboards. The oversight
14 authority must build a public
15 dashboard, population, admissions
16 releases, etc., and publish annual
17 reporting. Do you already collect
18 this data in a clean, shareable
19 way? And what update frequency and
20 accuracy checks can PDP commit to
21 so we're not waiting like a whole
22 year before we get all this
23 information, which has been a
24 problem before?

Committee on Labor and Civil Service

1 COMMISSIONER RESNICK:

2 Yes, Councilwoman. That data is
3 already collected and we share it
4 with Philly Stat, and I believe
5 they put it on their public-facing
6 website.

7 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:

8 Thank you. Thank you.

9 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:

10 Thank you, gentlemen. Appreciate
11 your testimony here today.

12 COMMISSIONER RESNICK:

13 Thank you.

14 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:

15 Mr. Kunkel, will you please call
16 the next panel to testify. And I
17 would also like to recognize my
18 brother, Nicolas O'Rourke is here.
19 Do you have anything -- yeah. Go
20 ahead.

21 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE:

22 Thank you, Mr. Chair. And to all
23 of my colleagues who were here this
24 morning, thank you to everyone who

1 made it down to City Hall today and
2 those tuning in remotely, wherever
3 you may be.

4 I want to thank of
5 course the sponsor of this
6 legislation, Councilmember Isaiah
7 Thomas, for your diligence on this
8 issue and for your follow-through.
9 The same goes for all the
10 organizations and experts who lent
11 their time to the creation and
12 forward motion of the Philadelphia
13 Prison Community Oversight Board
14 and to those ready to serve on this
15 inaugural body. Thank you to my
16 staff for being engaged and
17 involved in flushing this out, for
18 negotiating and being part of what
19 I believe can be a real success for
20 Philadelphia.

21 And a huge shout-out to
22 the now departed, not this earth
23 but just our office, Chance Toland
24 Wilson, who put his special brand

1 of elbow grease into this effort
2 and was with us as we were meeting
3 with Mr. Commissioner and all those
4 in the months preceding this.

5 Most of what I have to
6 say today really is just, thank
7 you, Mr. Chair, I'm not going to
8 say much more, but we should
9 acknowledge why the Labor Committee
10 is considering this legislation, if
11 I may. So thank you to the Workers
12 of District Council 33 and District
13 Council 47, who join us and who are
14 being represented here today. This
15 is a group of workers who have had
16 to advocate fiercely for their own
17 safety.

18 And I believe that
19 bracing fact is why we've all been
20 able to come together to figure out
21 a new vision for prison oversight,
22 because we all need it. But if
23 anyone forgot that fact, we got a
24 reminder earlier this month, if I

1 can say, as jurors ruled in favor
2 of another family mourning the loss
3 of a loved one on State Road.

4 I hope that the Jung
5 family knows that people in City
6 Hall are praying for them as well
7 as working to address these issues,
8 and I appreciate our partners at
9 the Abolitionist Law Center for
10 doing what they do, which is
11 showing up for families and holding
12 the state that we, Councilmembers,
13 do our best to steward to account
14 when we fail.

15 Now, I don't think
16 incarceration is hardly a solution
17 that some chalk it up to be, but
18 it's where we are in society today.
19 So what I'm here to work towards in
20 this particular bind that we are
21 in, is to make it so that our
22 failures are not fatal. Our
23 failures ought not be the end. And
24 once we are sure our failures are

1 not fatal, we need to fail less.

2 We need to fail rarely and maybe we
3 need to fail better.

4 I believe true community
5 oversight over our prisons will be
6 a key part of that process of
7 rebuilding trust in communities
8 that scoff at City Hall, for good
9 reasons. And so again, Member
10 Thomas, thank you for leading on
11 this as well as all the leaders who
12 came together to flush this out. I
13 see Member Representative Andre
14 Carroll, who is doing great work at
15 the state level as well.

16 My last note is that if
17 we want people to trust us, we
18 should give them what they actually
19 ask for. I said this a lot during
20 my time trying to get into this
21 body, that we ought to not just
22 hear what the people say, but say
23 what the people are saying and do
24 what they're asking us to do.

1 We've seen CPOC's early struggles
2 and they've been open about them.
3 This time, let's give
4 Philadelphians the oversight they
5 actually voted for.

6 Thank you so much,
7 Mr. Chair.

8 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:
9 Thank you, Member O'Rourke.

10 Anybody else have
11 anything to add? Councilman
12 Thomas.

13 COUNCILMAN THOMAS:
14 Mr. Chair, thank you for your
15 leadership. And I just want to put
16 it on the record, the Chairman of
17 Labor not only is a card-carrying
18 member of a union, but also has
19 been very flexible with us
20 throughout the course of our time
21 trying to get this hearing on the
22 books, so thank you.

23 Councilmember O'Rourke,
24 thank you for your leadership, sir.

1 We truly appreciate your advocacy
2 and the work that you've done
3 around this issue and we anticipate
4 following your lead moving forward
5 as it relates to this work. Thank
6 you, Rep Carroll, for being here.

7 Thank you to the Admin.

8 A lot of folks don't know that we
9 all have been sitting together as
10 it relates to this particular
11 legislation for over a year now.
12 And people do not always understand
13 that when you start a process and
14 we're all in different places, it
15 is not as easy as we make it look
16 today to get to where we've gotten
17 to. So we appreciate you being
18 here and we appreciate you working
19 with us. And there are a few other
20 folks that have come up to testify.
21 I'll hold my remarks about them for
22 when they come to testify.

23 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

24 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:

Committee on Labor and Civil Service

1 Thank you, Member Thomas.

2 Mr. Kunkle, will you now
3 call the next panel to testify.

4 THE CLERK: Tom Innes,
5 Director of Prison Advocacy
6 Defenders Association of
7 Philadelphia; Noah Barth, Prison
8 Monitoring Director, Pennsylvania
9 Prison Society; Saleem Holbrook,
10 Executive Director of the
11 Abolitionist Law Center;
12 Pennsylvania State Representative
13 Andre Carroll.

14 (Witnesses approached
15 witness table.)

16 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:
17 Mr. Kunkle, we'll bring the
18 Representative up after this panel
19 by himself before we do public
20 comment.

21 Good morning, gentlemen.
22 Thank you for your patience.
23 Please state your name and begin
24 your testimony.

Committee on Labor and Civil Service

1 MR. INNES: Good
2 morning. My name is Tom Innes and
3 I am the Director of Prison
4 Advocacy at the Defender
5 Association of Philadelphia. Our
6 office represents about 75% of the
7 people incarcerated in Philadelphia
8 Department of Prisons on State
9 Road. And, yes, this is my
10 exhibit.

11 I have been a defender
12 attorney since 1978. As I said,
13 I've been an attorney with the
14 Defender Association since 1978.
15 Since 2000, I have served as the
16 liaison between the jails and the
17 people held on State Road, their
18 families and the attorneys who try
19 to help them and represent them.

20 For decades, I have been
21 asked daily about the health and
22 safety of people inside the jails.
23 And for decades, I have had no real
24 power to get an answer to questions

1 that are asked. For most of this
2 time, the closest thing our clients
3 have had to an ombudsman is me and
4 my cell phone. That's wrong and
5 it's pretty much completely
6 ineffective. Families call me
7 because they can't get information.
8 Attorneys call me because they
9 can't get information. And too
10 often the answers just are not
11 forthcoming.

12 The cult of secrecy is
13 not new. Philadelphia has tried
14 oversight before. There was a
15 board of trustees, but its members
16 served at the pleasure of the
17 mayor, creating an inherent
18 conflict. Later there was an
19 advisory board, but its members
20 were hand-selected by the prison
21 commissioner who oversaw and
22 selected the agenda.

23 Oversight that answers
24 to the very system it is supposed

1 to oversee is not oversight. It's
2 theater. And the closest proof
3 that oversight has failed is the
4 long history of lawsuits depicted
5 on the poster that I have to my
6 right. For more than 55 years, the
7 Philadelphia jails have operated
8 under court supervision, almost
9 continuously. Lawsuits have become
10 the only reliable form of
11 oversight.

12 And if you look closely,
13 you'll see that in that time, in
14 that 55 years, there were only
15 seven years out of that 55 when
16 there was not court supervision of
17 the Philadelphia Department of
18 Prisons. In fact, as you know, the
19 jails are under a consent decree at
20 the moment. Oversight by lawsuit
21 is reactive, temporary and
22 expensive. But most importantly,
23 it comes too late for the people
24 who suffer in the meantime.

1 As Councilman Phillips
2 mentioned, some might say that
3 there is oversight from national
4 and statewide accrediting
5 organization. That oversight is
6 from 25,000 feet. And anyway,
7 those organizations provided the
8 same oversight today. They
9 provided the same oversight during
10 COVID, during all the nightmares
11 that we have seen at the jail. So
12 there's a long distance between
13 25,000 feet and the weeds.

14 We all know the human
15 cost. Between 2020 and 2023, 39
16 people died in Philadelphia jails.
17 Only four of those deaths were due
18 to COVID. In 2022 alone, there
19 were nearly 1200 emergency room
20 visits from the jails, more than
21 600 hospital admissions, and
22 incarcerated people spent over 2200
23 days in off-site hospitals.

24 A federal court-

1 appointed -- I'm sorry. Each one
2 of those members is a human being
3 and is a family brokenhearted and
4 unable to get their answers about
5 what happened to their loved one.
6 Each one represents a failure of a
7 system operating in the dark.

8 Now, let me be perfectly
9 clear. There have been
10 improvements under Commissioner
11 Resnick, you've heard them, and his
12 team, communication is better.
13 Responsiveness is better. There
14 are people working right now to
15 change the culture inside the jail.
16 But progress that depends on
17 individuals is fragile. No system
18 should rely on personal
19 relationships or goodwill to ensure
20 basic human safety. Systems must
21 be accountable by design, not by
22 personality.

23 Administrations change.
24 People retire. Priorities shift.

1 And when that happens, without
2 independent oversight, the darkness
3 may well return to State Road.

4 It's time to create an oversight
5 body with real authority, with the
6 power to obtain information, to
7 answer families and to ensure that
8 what happens inside these walls is
9 visible to the public.

10 Accountability and transparency
11 should not be the exception at our
12 jails. It should be the rules.

13 I've also submitted
14 Defender Association's written
15 statement for you and thank you
16 very much for permitting me to
17 address you all today.

18 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:

19 Thank you for your testimony.

20 Will the next person to
21 testify please state your name and
22 begin with your testimony.

23 MR. HOLBROOK: Good
24 morning. My name is Robert Saleem

1 Holbrook and I'm the Executive
2 Director of the Abolitionist Law
3 Center. I'm also here representing
4 the Prison Oversight Board
5 Advocates Coalition, a group of
6 30-plus community organizations and
7 individuals who have been
8 advocating on behalf of a prison
9 oversight board since 2022 and who
10 represent formerly incarcerated
11 people, advocates, organizers,
12 social services organizations and
13 family members.

14 I am also here to
15 acknowledge the strong support of
16 the offices and staff of
17 Councilmembers Thomas and O'Rourke
18 in working with our coalition to
19 pass this important legislation.
20 We know from history that jails on
21 State Road are inherently unsafe,
22 designed around control and
23 confinement rather than care and
24 rehabilitation.

1 Philly unfortunately has
2 an extensive history of its jails
3 being sites of neglect, violence,
4 isolation and death. For decades,
5 there have been countless reports
6 of unchecked violence, negligent
7 medical care and torturous solitary
8 confinement conditions. Since the
9 1970s, before I was born, in one
10 form or another Philadelphia County
11 jails have been under some form of
12 federal intervention by federal
13 courts.

14 Until these systems are
15 dismantled in real, community-based
16 alternatives exist, the City of
17 Philadelphia has a legal and moral
18 obligation to guarantee the basic
19 human rights of everyone it
20 incarcerates. This includes safe
21 housing, adequate food, clean
22 water, medical and mental health
23 care, disability access, protection
24 from harm and meaningful connection

1 to family, counsel and community.

2 Philly has repeatedly
3 failed to meet these minimum
4 standards. This negligence has
5 tragically been illustrated by the
6 more than 60 deaths that have
7 occurred in Philly County jails
8 over the past five years. Although
9 these deaths have diminished
10 significantly, we believe that the
11 best way to preserve progress is to
12 not allow ourselves to backslide.

13 There is also no doubt
14 that it was the relentless advocacy
15 of community members, legal
16 advocates and organizations that
17 contributed to the decline of
18 deaths in the Philadelphia County
19 jail and the changes the prisons
20 implemented. One of the people who
21 perished in Philadelphia County
22 jails is Louis Jung, a father of
23 three who died in pretrial
24 detention in CFCF following a

1 series of failures to provide basic
2 medical care for his Type 1
3 diabetes.

4 For 22 months in
5 detention, the Philadelphia
6 Department of Prisons never took
7 the necessary steps to provide even
8 the basic medical care, despite the
9 fact that Mr. Jung was hospitalized
10 multiple times for diabetes-related
11 medical emergencies. And for the
12 final six days of his life, he was
13 repeatedly denied insulin. The
14 Abolitionist Law Center represented
15 his family in a wrongful death
16 lawsuit. Two weeks ago after weeks
17 of testimony, a jury found the city
18 liable for the death of Mr. Young
19 and awarded the family \$1.5
20 million.

21 There should be no
22 wrongful death cases or families
23 that are forced to fight for
24 justice in the courtroom. Louis

1 Jung's death was not an anomaly.
2 It was predictable and preventable.
3 It was the outcome of a system that
4 consistently fails to care for the
5 people it confines, especially the
6 most vulnerable.

7 Our hope is that the
8 Prison Oversight Board will serve
9 as a real tool for accountability,
10 not symbolic oversight, not delayed
11 action, but meaningful intervention
12 that will prevent not just deaths,
13 but also other human rights
14 violations. Our communities depend
15 on it. That hope too is shared by
16 the 70% of Philadelphians that
17 voted yes to the Prison Oversight
18 Board in last year's election.

19 If the Prison Oversight
20 Board operates as intended, we
21 believe that it can do what the
22 current system will not, provide
23 transparency and accountability
24 through consistent public reporting

1 and indepth, independent,
2 systemwide investigations, respond
3 quickly when people are in danger,
4 issue findings, recommendations and
5 provide a public forum where loved
6 ones and community members can
7 share their concerns. That's real
8 accountability.

9 More importantly, the
10 city can view it as an opportunity
11 and a vehicle to get ahead of
12 systemic problems before they turn
13 into deaths, lawsuits and million-
14 dollar settlements. For far too
15 long, the city leadership has
16 failed to address the abuse and
17 mistreatment that occurs within the
18 jails. We are hopeful and also
19 excited that a prison oversight
20 board will push for a future where
21 everyone can be healthier, safer
22 and more connected to the community
23 despite being incarcerated, while
24 at the same time, people in

1 Philadelphia's jails deserve
2 safety, dignity and their human
3 rights respected. The
4 establishment of this Prison
5 Oversight Board can ensure those
6 rights are enshrined and protected.
7 Thank you.

8 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:

9 Thank you for your testimony.

10 Will the next person to
11 testify please state your name and
12 begin your testimony. Thank you.

13 MR. BARTH: Good
14 morning, Chairperson Harrity and
15 Councilmembers. My name is Noah
16 Barth. I am the Prison Monitoring
17 Director for the Pennsylvania
18 Prison Society and a proud
19 Philadelphian. For 238 years, our
20 organization has monitored
21 conditions inside the Philadelphia
22 prisons and those across the
23 Commonwealth advocating for the
24 health, safety and dignity of

1 incarcerated people.

2 We are inside the
3 prisons on State Road several times
4 per week, visiting incarcerated
5 Philadelphians who ask for our
6 help. Over the past four and a
7 half years, I've personally led 18
8 monitoring tours of the city's
9 prisons, where we have interviewed
10 close to 1000 detained
11 Philadelphians and published public
12 reports on the deficits on basic
13 conditions and treatment inside of
14 these public institutions.

15 I'm proud to share the
16 three members of this Council have
17 joined us on these tours to
18 understand firsthand how difficult
19 the experience of detention in our
20 city is and how short we fall on
21 our promise to protect all of our
22 citizens. For four and a half
23 years, we have reported to this
24 body and to your colleagues in

1 Harrisburg on people kept in cells
2 for days or even weeks at a time,
3 housing units left unstaffed,
4 physical and verbal abuse, denials
5 of care, squalid and unsafe living
6 conditions, and a litany of other
7 complaints.

8 We have reminded you too
9 that the living conditions of the
10 3500 people detained in our city's
11 prisons are the very same working
12 conditions of the department's more
13 than 2000 staff members, and that
14 when we ask people to do inhumane
15 things, we rob them of a piece of
16 their own humanity.

17 In the past two years,
18 we have seen progress in a number
19 of areas of prison operation,
20 including significantly improved
21 access to showers, laundry, phone
22 calls and other basic services. We
23 have seen firsthand the important
24 work being done on long-deferred

1 maintenance projects and facility
2 upgrades, with reports of more work
3 to come.

4 We are encouraged by the
5 recent implementation of health
6 monitoring wristbands and jail-
7 provided tablets, but there is
8 reason for caution. Firstly, there
9 is still much work to be done.

10 Just last week I was inside of the
11 city's largest prison and heard
12 complaints about lack of access to
13 counseling and chaplaincy services,
14 insufficient meals, barriers to
15 family visits, emergency buzzers
16 unattended and a culture of
17 disregard from some staff members.

18 Secondly, tomorrow is
19 never promised. COVID-19 presented
20 challenges no one could have
21 predicted, and the unfortunate
22 truth is that our city's prisons
23 failed that crucial test. We don't
24 know what challenges the future

1 will bring us, just as we do not
2 know who will be in charge of the
3 prisons or the city when those
4 challenges arrive. That is why we
5 must build protective mechanisms to
6 stand the test of time.

7 Simply put, external
8 oversight is a basic hallmark of
9 good governance. The need for
10 transparency becomes all the more
11 essential with regard to prisons,
12 where the government's control over
13 its citizens' daily lives and well-
14 being is absolute. We at the
15 Prison Society fill a unique and
16 vital role as the public's eyes and
17 ears behind prison walls, but we
18 are not sufficient.

19 The Board and Office of
20 Prison Oversight, as laid out in
21 the legislation in front of you
22 today, will establish gold standard
23 practice, guaranteed funding,
24 regular public hearings, full

1 right-of-access to buildings,
2 individuals, records and video, and
3 the ability to photo document
4 conditions.

5 As has been said time
6 and time again, sunlight is the
7 best disinfectant. This measure
8 would ensure that a full ray of
9 sunshine reaches the staff and
10 residents of our city's prisons,
11 ensuring safe and dignified working
12 and living conditions for all. The
13 prison society will continue
14 pursuing our mission as long as
15 there are prisons in the state of
16 Pennsylvania.

17 But we also know that
18 more oversight is better. The
19 Board and Office in Prison
20 Oversight were established with the
21 universal sponsorship of this
22 Council and the overwhelming
23 support of voters. We look forward
24 to supporting the establishment of

1 this new institution and working
2 alongside it to ensure better
3 conditions for our fellow citizens
4 inside of prison. Thank you for
5 your work on this important matter
6 and the opportunity to be a part of
7 this historic discussion.

8 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:

9 Thank you, gentlemen, for your
10 testimony. Before I turn it over
11 to my colleagues, I just want to
12 thank you all for your service.
13 Fighting for those that usually
14 don't have anyone fighting for
15 them, people who are forgotten, you
16 know, so we do appreciate you here.
17 And it's just like we appreciate
18 our Prison Commissioner.

19 Do any of my colleagues
20 have anything to say? Councilman
21 Isaiah Thomas, then Nina Ahmad.

22 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Good
23 morning, everybody. I just want
24 to -- no questions. I just want to

1 first and foremost say thank you
2 all for the great work that you're
3 doing. Clearly, it starts with the
4 work that's being done by our
5 Defender Association. Keisha
6 Hudson clearly isn't here, but in
7 her place we got Tom. I know Kate
8 was over here somewhere as well
9 too. Thank you all for the great
10 work that you do, not just as it
11 relates to this issue, but
12 protecting our city in general.

13 Noah, thank you for your
14 support throughout the course of
15 this process, showing up to
16 meetings, events, advocacy efforts
17 and things like that. We truly
18 appreciate it. And to my brother
19 Saleem, you know how I feel about
20 you. I appreciate you from the
21 bottom of my heart. But Saleem I
22 think is a great example of someone
23 who started somewhere that maybe
24 wasn't necessarily where he wanted

1 to be, putting his mind to a
2 specific goal, listening to people
3 tell him that it's impossible and
4 it'll never be done. And here we
5 are today, completing the
6 impossible. Recognizing things
7 that folks told you years ago would
8 never be able to be done is
9 actually happening. So to you,
10 Saleem, not just a congratulations
11 and a thank you, but please tell as
12 many young people as possible your
13 story, because I think it will
14 inspire them to get through
15 whatever hurdles, obstacles or
16 different things that may be in
17 place that's preventing them from
18 being their best self. So you're
19 an inspiration to me and I know you
20 can be an inspiration to a lot of
21 young people across the city of
22 Philadelphia.

23 Mr. Chair, I just wanted
24 to thank this group. That's all I

1 have. Thank you, sir.

2 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:

3 Guaranteed. And absolutely, I echo
4 that sentiment. Thank you guys for
5 all you do. Just a --

6 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: I
7 just want to echo that sentiment as
8 well. I want to thank you for your
9 work. I was able to read through
10 all of the testimonies here and
11 also hear what you just said and I
12 want to say thank you. Just also,
13 I probably should have asked this
14 earlier but I was relatively
15 curious for the public to
16 understand because a lot of people
17 in the public don't understand why
18 people have tablets, per se,
19 they're like how is this helping
20 them, you know, get themselves
21 together. They're being
22 entertained in prison. So I just
23 wanted to put that out there as
24 something for us to continue to

1 help the public understand why
2 that's so important. Because,
3 Noah, I know you mentioned that.
4 If you want to comment on that
5 later.

6 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:
7 Thank you. I recognize
8 Councilwoman Nina Ahmad. Thank
9 you, Councilman.

10 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:
11 Thank you, Chair. Thank you all
12 for your really insightful
13 testimony. I'll try and be quick
14 because I know we need to get out
15 of here. I wanted to ask the
16 Defender's Association, Tom Innes
17 first. What are the top three
18 information failures this new board
19 must fix in its first year to end
20 that ombudsman-by-cell-phone
21 system?

22 MR. INNES: Thank you
23 for that question, Councilwoman.
24 One of the first things that needs

1 to happen is that the oversight
2 board needs to be able to see
3 records across the board of what's
4 going on inside the jail, number
5 one. Number two, that they should
6 be able to review video and body-
7 worn camera footage as it becomes
8 available. We've seen from how the
9 police department has instituted
10 body-worn camera footage. What a
11 difference it makes in terms of
12 justice on the street and justice
13 in the courtroom. And I think the
14 same thing would happen at the
15 jail.

16 Thirdly, the fact that
17 the Office of the Ombudsman, the
18 investigators, would be able to go
19 into the jail routinely without any
20 notice and do tours like Noah Barth
21 and the Prison Society does, but
22 without any notice at all, that
23 they can just go and show up,
24 review what the conditions are.

1 I'm not saying that the prison goes
2 out of its way to fix conditions,
3 but the fact is being able to go in
4 and see and to take photographs of
5 conditions makes a huge difference
6 to all that.

7 And fourthly, having the
8 office that family and the
9 incarcerated people can turn to
10 about issues. Now, they're not
11 going to the way we've written
12 this, they're not going to
13 investigate individual problems.
14 You're still going to have an issue
15 with, say, an attorney or a social
16 worker getting involved. But the
17 fact is by seeing these complaints
18 develop and begin to accumulate
19 those complaints, you begin to see
20 the problems that there are in the
21 system that you might not otherwise
22 have seen when you're looking at it
23 piecemeal. Today there's some
24 problem. Next week there's some

1 problem that comes to someone's
2 attention.

3 The fact is you can
4 collect that information and then
5 you can go back to the jail, back
6 to the administration and say,
7 let's talk about this, let's talk
8 about why these things are
9 happening and what we can do to
10 change them. Thank you.

11 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:
12 Thank you so much. I think it's
13 imperative we build trust with our
14 public about what exactly this is
15 going to do and to have some
16 transparency of this nature. And
17 also, I think you mentioned about
18 fixing structural problems. We
19 need data to come back to say what
20 worked and what didn't.

21 I have a question for
22 Mr. Holbrook. Thank you again for
23 bringing your lived experience and
24 using that to make progress and

1 make change. We deeply appreciate
2 that. I have a question about
3 measure of rehabilitation. The
4 whole reason for incarceration is
5 that, in my opinion, we are
6 removing somebody who -- so there's
7 an accountability consequence and
8 there has to be an outcome for all
9 of this.

10 How does this board or
11 how do we in society, this is more
12 of a philosophical question which
13 is what the whole conversation
14 about abolition or not comes in,
15 how do we as a society, including
16 our bodies like this, really
17 address assessing rehabilitation?
18 We should be able to tell people,
19 you spend so many years, this is
20 what happened, this is where you
21 are now, right. So if you could
22 just briefly address that.

23 MR. HOLBROOK:

24 Unfortunately, I think human nature

1 often gets in the way of that. But
2 I think that the challenge is we
3 have to have what is commonly
4 referred to now as wraparound
5 services. It's one thing to
6 incarcerate someone, but you also
7 have to take care of them while
8 they're incarcerated. You have to
9 treat them with dignity while
10 they're incarcerated. You have to
11 deal with all of the problems that
12 they have, not just social
13 problems, but mental health
14 disabilities, health care problems.
15 You have to have access to
16 education.

17 I tell everybody, you
18 know, I wish more vocational
19 opportunities were available in the
20 prison system. Most of the people
21 that I know who did time with me
22 that have vocational trades are
23 employed and are doing well. Even
24 myself, I have a vocational HVAC

1 trade certification. Fortunately,
2 I don't have to use it -- well,
3 actually unfortunately, because
4 most people are making more money
5 than me that are doing HVAC. But
6 having those trainings inside is
7 really helpful.

8 And then also when
9 people go home, right, you have to
10 have a support system. Often times
11 when people are released from
12 prison, it's kind of like adios,
13 goodbye, there's not much follow-
14 up. And then also probation and
15 supervision. It might surprise a
16 lot of people, but that is not to
17 set you up for success. It's often
18 times trip you up.

19 Probation officers tell
20 you, I'm not your social worker.
21 I'm not here to find you a job.
22 I'm not here to find you health
23 care. I'm not here to get your
24 Social Security card. I'm just

1 here to make sure that you are here
2 at this date, to check that your
3 urine comes back clean and that you
4 meet these stipulations from the
5 court.

6 We have to change that
7 whole release system when it comes
8 to supervision. And that's going
9 to require taking a whole agency
10 and turning it top-side-up, and
11 even changing parole and probation
12 officers' mindsets that you are
13 here to help these people succeed
14 in society. So, yes, you're here
15 to help them get a job; yes, you're
16 here to help them get health care;
17 yes, you're here to help them get
18 their Social Security number. So
19 these are things that we have to
20 address collectively as a city and
21 as a community. As long as we
22 think that these are isolations,
23 like just put someone in prison and
24 then when they get out, reentry

1 officers will help them, it's not
2 going to work.

3 And then to the point
4 about the tablet, I think someone
5 asked about tablets, communication
6 with family members, which family
7 is one of the most important -- if
8 you got a criteria of why people
9 are successful, it's visitations
10 and staying in contact with their
11 family members. And so, tablets
12 help bridge that gap. You could
13 also have educational opportunities
14 on tablets. So the tablets open up
15 a whole different dimension.

16 Another thing too is
17 that for me, as someone who was in
18 prison, violence often times came
19 about as a result of the phones
20 because people wanted to get on the
21 phones and people say, well, they
22 wanted to get on the phone to just
23 call their girlfriends. No, people
24 were trying to get on the phones to

1 call their families, maintain
2 community relationships. Some
3 prison systems allow phone calls on
4 the tablets so that people can make
5 calls on the tablets and not have
6 to wait in queues for the calls.
7 And because of the monitoring now,
8 the justification is not there that
9 we can't make calls on the tablets
10 because, I mean, they're recorded.
11 Not only are they recorded, you now
12 have AI companies coming in selling
13 prison systems across the country,
14 crime predictors that give us all
15 of your data, give us all your
16 conversations. Now, it's nonsense.
17 It's just all tied into this
18 surveillance society that we're
19 building. But you do have the
20 opportunity with those tablets to
21 increase family communication. So
22 they're really important tools.
23 But to your point, we
24 have to address all of these issues

1 collectively. And I really believe
2 that if you want people to succeed,
3 if you want people to be
4 rehabilitated, we have to change
5 our philosophy on supervision when
6 people come home. That, I believe
7 will be the indicator of success.

8 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:

9 Thank you so much for that. Last
10 question for Mr. Barth is, this
11 make-up of this board is four
12 appointees from the Mayor, four
13 appointees from Council President,
14 I believe. Where are we going to
15 get community in a way that they
16 opted into it. So I'll tell you,
17 we're looking at an oversight board
18 for child welfare. And the way
19 we're constructing it is people are
20 going to have actual community
21 seats. I just wondered the
22 community voice, how do we ensure
23 that in these choices that we have
24 just to give us guidance, how we

Committee on Labor and Civil Service

1 choose these eight people?

2 MR. BARTH: It's a big
3 question. You guys, if you have
4 thoughts, please also weigh in.
5 There is a ninth seat appointed by
6 the Controller's Office. So I just
7 want to note that also.

8 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:
9 Yeah, that's right.

10 MR. BARTH: Yeah. I
11 mean, I think on one hand this
12 board represents broadly the idea
13 of checks and balances in
14 government, right, so it's an
15 oversight board. And that in
16 itself is about checks and balance.
17 I think the idea of appointments
18 being divided between the different
19 branches of government is intended
20 to have in that same nature, right,
21 that it's not just the people City
22 Council likes, it's not just the
23 people the Mayor likes, whatever
24 the case may be. And it's not a

1 cure-all, right.

2 One of the key
3 responsibilities of this board is
4 to hold monthly public meetings.
5 And that is about having answers
6 and information from the prison and
7 from the oversight office available
8 to the public, but it also keeps
9 them accountable to the public.

10 And so, I think one of the things
11 that's incumbent on all of us as
12 citizens, and I know that Saleem
13 and his staff at the Abolitionist
14 Law Center have already been doing
15 a lot of this work, is community
16 report-backs and making sure that
17 community members, citizen groups,
18 individuals are engaged, right.

19 It's not, oh, the board's passed,
20 great, nothing to see here.

21 No, we need to show up
22 for those public meetings and to
23 call our public officials to
24 account, not just all of you, but

1 also those very board members and
2 those staff members so that if
3 they're not doing their job, then
4 there's more mechanism to
5 potentially challenge.

6 MR. INNES: I'm glad you
7 asked that, Councilmember. In
8 addition to what Noah talked about
9 in terms of the public meetings, we
10 actually have one of the City
11 Council-appointed Board members in
12 the room right now.

13 Chris, would you stand
14 up and come on up and introduce
15 yourself.

16 REV. DR. KIMMENEZ: Hi.
17 I'm Rev. Dr. Chris Kimmenez. I'm
18 the Executive Director of Healing
19 Communities PA, which is a group of
20 formerly incarcerated faith leaders
21 who advocate around these issues.
22 And I went through an extensive
23 interview process for conflicts.
24 But, yes, I'm one of the community

1 members on the Board and I'm very
2 clear about the fact that this is
3 going to be -- we're going to be
4 including the community as much as
5 possible.

6 We're still creating and
7 we've got a lot of work to do in
8 creating the structure for this.
9 But there are two of us on the
10 board who are formerly incarcerated
11 ourselves and who also represent
12 community organizations that work
13 in the reentry space, that work in
14 the advocacy space along with
15 several other members who bring
16 lots of different experiences to
17 this.

18 But first and foremost,
19 the idea is to increase
20 transparency, increase trust with
21 the public, increase having the
22 community involved, and that's kind
23 of what we see as our mission for
24 this. So we'll be -- every

Committee on Labor and Civil Service

1 opportunity we have to include the
2 community in this because that's
3 who we serve.

4 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:

5 Thank you. Thank you so much,
6 Chair.

7 MR. INNES: I'm sorry,
8 Councilwoman. There's a second
9 member of the board who's in the
10 room. That's Andre Carroll.

11 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:
12 He's going to be speaking, yeah.
13 Thank you.

14 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: Any
15 further questions?

16 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD: No,
17 I'm good. Thank you.

18 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:
19 Thank you for your testimony. We
20 appreciate you as always.

21 MR. INNES: Thank you.

22 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:
23 Mr. Kunkle, will you please call
24 the next panel to testify.

Committee on Labor and Civil Service

1 THE CLERK: Pennsylvania
2 State Representative Andre Carroll.
3 (Witnesses approached
4 witness table.)

5 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:
6 Representative, please state your
7 name and proceed with your
8 testimony.

9 STATE REPRESENTATIVE
10 CARROLL: Yes, Chairman. Thank
11 you. Good morning, everyone. I am
12 State Representative Andre D.
13 Carroll. I represent the 201st
14 Legislative District, which
15 encompasses neighborhoods
16 Germantown, Logan and West Oak
17 Lane.

18 First and foremost, I
19 would like to thank the members of
20 the committee for the opportunity
21 to testify here today on the
22 importance of oversight and
23 accountability within
24 Philadelphia's correctional system.

1 I also want to commend the
2 Committee and the members of City
3 Council who have worked diligently
4 to address the challenges facing
5 our city prisons and to ensure that
6 the institutions responsible for
7 incarcerating our citizens operate
8 in a manner consistent with public
9 safety, transparency and human
10 dignity.

11 I also want to
12 acknowledge the leadership of
13 Councilmember Isaiah Thomas and his
14 staff and also Philadelphia City
15 Council for advancing this enabling
16 legislation that would create the
17 framework for independent prison
18 oversight in our city. This
19 legislation established the
20 Philadelphia Prison Community
21 Oversight Board and the Office of
22 Prison Oversight, which are
23 designed to increase transparency,
24 monitor prison operations and give

1 the public greater insight into the
2 conditions inside of the
3 correctional facilities.

4 This work is important
5 because of the challenges facing
6 the Philadelphia prison system have
7 been well-documented, from staffing
8 shortages and safety concerns to
9 questions about conditions for
10 incarcerated individuals and
11 correctional staff. The
12 legislation, championed by
13 Councilmember Thomas, represents an
14 important step towards ensuring
15 that the institutions are subject
16 to independent review and that the
17 public can have confidence in how
18 they operate.

19 The Office of Prison
20 Oversight will be responsible for
21 monitoring facilities, reviewing
22 policies and practices, ensuring
23 records -- I'm sorry, accessing
24 records and engaging directly with

1 both staff and incarcerated
2 individuals in order to strengthen
3 accountability and transparency.

4 For me, this is not just
5 about policy, but it's also about a
6 personal experience. For the first
7 20 years of my life, my father was
8 incarcerated. Growing up, I
9 experienced firsthand what
10 incarceration does to a family. I
11 saw the emotional toll that it
12 takes on a household, the strain
13 that is placed on my grandmother
14 and the challenges that come with
15 growing up without a parent
16 present.

17 I know what it means for
18 a child to navigate life without a
19 parent present that is currently
20 behind bars. And I know that
21 thousands of families across
22 Pennsylvania and Philadelphia share
23 that same experience. Because of
24 that experience, the last eight

1 years I volunteered my time to
2 serve on the Brotherhood Foundation
3 Board, which aims to serve
4 juveniles who are currently housed
5 on State Road being tried as
6 adults.

7 Because of that
8 background, I approach
9 conversations about incarceration
10 with a clear understanding that the
11 impact of the juvenile -- I'm
12 sorry, the impact of the justice
13 system extends far beyond the
14 person who is incarcerated. It
15 reaches into homes, neighborhoods
16 and entire communities, children
17 grow up with unanswered questions,
18 families carry emotional and
19 financial burdens and communities
20 lose parents, mentors and
21 providers. That reality is why
22 oversight matters so much.

23 When the government
24 takes on the responsibility of

1 incarcerating individuals, it also
2 assumes the responsibility of
3 ensuring that those individuals are
4 treated safely and humanely.
5 Oversight ensures that concerns
6 about medical care, living
7 conditions, safety and
8 institutional practices do not
9 remain hidden.

10 It ensures that when
11 problems arise, there are
12 mechanisms in place to investigate
13 them and correct them. Strong
14 oversight also protects the men and
15 women and employees who work inside
16 of the facilities every day.

17 Correctional officers and prison
18 staff perform incredibly difficult
19 work under demanding conditions.
20 Transparency and accountability
21 help ensure that they have the
22 resources, support and professional
23 environment necessary to carry out
24 their duties safely.

1 Equally important is
2 recognizing that incarceration
3 should not sever the human
4 connections that help people
5 rebuild their lives. Maintaining
6 family ties between parents and
7 children, spouses, parents,
8 siblings is essential to
9 rehabilitation and long-term public
10 safety.

11 When individuals remain
12 connected to their families and
13 communities, they are better-
14 positioned to succeed upon release,
15 which is why I introduced House
16 Bill 1506, which would eliminate
17 the cost of communications for
18 families all across Pennsylvania.

19 The enabling legislation
20 passed by Philadelphia City Council
21 is a meaningful step towards
22 addressing these concerns. By
23 establishing a formal oversight
24 structure, the city is

1 acknowledging that transparency and
2 accountability are necessary
3 components of a functioning justice
4 system. It reflects a commitment
5 to ensuring that the correctional
6 facilities are not isolated from
7 public scrutiny, but remain
8 accountable to the communities that
9 they serve.

10 Ultimately, this
11 conversation is about values. It's
12 about ensuring that our
13 correctional system reflects
14 fairness, responsibility and
15 respect for human dignity.
16 Oversight is not about placing
17 blame. It's about ensuring that
18 our institutions are working as
19 they should and they are always
20 improving.

21 I commend the leadership
22 of Councilmember Isaiah Thomas and
23 the members of City Council who
24 work to make this oversight

1 structure possible. I also want to
2 thank City Controller Christy Brady
3 for her appointment to me on the
4 Prison Oversight Board. Their
5 efforts demonstrate a commitment to
6 accountability and to addressing
7 longstanding concerns about
8 conditions within our correctional
9 facilities.

10 I want to thank you
11 today for the opportunity to share
12 my perspective. I look forward to
13 continuing collaboration as a state
14 lawmaker and as we continue to work
15 to strengthen the oversight to
16 improve conditions and ensure that
17 our justice system serves both
18 public safety and the well-being of
19 our communities.

20 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:

21 Thank you, Representative, for your
22 testimony. Know us here, we're
23 proud of the work you're doing up
24 there in Harrisburg. Really love

Committee on Labor and Civil Service

1 seeing it and seeing you grow as a
2 leader in this endeavor.

3 So any of my colleagues
4 have any questions?

5 I recognize Councilman
6 Thomas.

7 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Rep
8 Carroll, thank you, sir, for being
9 here today. Thank you for your
10 service to the Northwest section of
11 the community, both in the 8th and
12 9th Councilmanic Districts. So we
13 truly appreciate you for that. But
14 in your capacity here today, we
15 really want to say thank you for
16 taking on a thankless position. We
17 know your passion as it relates to
18 what goes on with those who've been
19 incarcerated, the issue of mass
20 incarceration in general, and for
21 you to decide to volunteer and step
22 up and put us in a position to help
23 this inaugural board.

24 We truly appreciate you

Committee on Labor and Civil Service

1 putting your brand, your time, and
2 your reputation on something that
3 we don't know which way it's going
4 to go. But we've been in the
5 kitchen for a long time trying to
6 bake the pie, and we finally feel
7 like we have a product that we're
8 proud of. So thank you. We
9 appreciate your leadership.

10 And, Mr. Chairman, I
11 promise you that's my last comment
12 of the day. Thank you, sir.

13 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: My
14 man, my man.

15 Anyone else have
16 anything to say?

17 (No response.)

18 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:
19 Anyone? Going once, going twice.

20 (No response.)

21 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:
22 Sold. Thank you for your
23 testimony, Representative. Thank
24 you everyone who testified here

Committee on Labor and Civil Service

1 today. We really do take
2 everything you say to heart and
3 seriously and we really do want to
4 help. So thank you all.

5 We will now -- I believe
6 it's public comment. Are there any
7 further witnesses, Mr. Kunkle?

8 THE CLERK: There are no
9 further witnesses, Mr. Chairman.

10 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: And
11 are there any witnesses in public
12 comment to testify?

13 THE CLERK: There are no
14 further speakers for public
15 comment, Mr. Chairman.

16 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: All
17 right. Thank you for your
18 testimony. There are no further
19 speakers.

20 Okay. The Clerk will
21 read a list of written testimony to
22 be entered into public record.

23 THE CLERK: There is no
24 public testimony to be --

Committee on Labor and Civil Service

1 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: All

2 right. Thank you, Mr. Kunkle.

3 This concludes our public hearing

4 on Bill No. 251099. We will now

5 move into our public meeting.

6 Mr. Kunkle, will you

7 please take the roll.

8 THE CLERK: Councilmember

9 Ahmad.

10 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD:

11 Present.

12 THE CLERK:

13 Councilmember Brooks.

14 (No response.)

15 THE CLERK:

16 Councilmember Gilmore Richardson.

17 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

18 RICHARDSON: Present.

19 THE CLERK:

20 Councilmember Harrity.

21 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:

22 Present.

23 THE CLERK: Councilmember

24 Landau.

Committee on Labor and Civil Service

1 (No response.)

2 THE CLERK:

3 Councilmember Lozada.

4 (No response.)

5 THE CLERK:

6 Councilmember O'Neill.

7 (No response.)

8 THE CLERK:

9 Councilmember Phillips.

10 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

11 Present.

12 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: And

13 we appointed Councilman Isaiah

14 Thomas.

15 THE CLERK: Councilmember

16 Thomas.

17 COUNCILMAN THOMAS:

18 Present.

19 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:

20 Okay. The Chair now recognizes

21 Councilman Phillips for a motion on

22 the amendment to Bill No. 250607.

23 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

24 (Inaudible).

Committee on Labor and Civil Service

1 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: I'm
2 sorry. On the amendment to Bill
3 No. 251099. Sorry for the
4 confusion.

5 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

6 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

7 I offer an amendment to
8 Bill No. 251099. A copy of the
9 amendment has been circulated to
10 all members of the committee. I
11 move that the amendment to Bill No.
12 251099 be approved.

13 (Duly seconded.)

14 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: We
15 have been properly moved and
16 seconded.

17 All in favor, say aye.

18 (Aye.)

19 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: Any
20 opposed?

21 (No response.)

22 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: No
23 one. It is unanimous. All right.
24 Chair recognizes

Committee on Labor and Civil Service

1 Councilman Phillips for a motion on
2 Bill No. 251099 as amended.

3 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

4 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

5 I move that Bill No.
6 251099 as amended be reported from
7 this committee with a favorable
8 recommendation and that the rules
9 of Council be suspended to permit
10 first reading at the next session
11 of Council.

12 (Duly seconded.)

13 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:

14 It's been moved and properly
15 seconded that 251099 as amended be
16 reported from this committee with a
17 favorable recommendation and that
18 the rules of Council be suspended
19 to permit first reading.

20 All those in favor say
21 aye.

22 (Aye.)

23 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:

24 Those opposed?

Committee on Labor and Civil Service

1 (No response.)

2 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: The
3 ayes have it. This bill will be
4 reported from this committee.

5 This concludes the
6 business before the Committee on
7 Labor and Civil Service today.
8 Thank you all for your attendance.

9 - - -

10 (Committee on Labor and
11 Civil Service concluded at
12 11:45 a.m.)

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Committee on Labor and Civil Service

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

2 I, hereby certify that the proceedings
3 and evidence noted are contained fully and
4 accurately in the stenographic notes taken
5 by me in the foregoing matter, and that
6 this is a correct transcript of the same.
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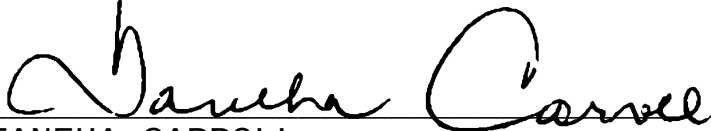
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19 (The foregoing certification of this
20 transcript does not apply to any
21 reproduction of the same by any means,
22 unless under the direct control and/or
23 supervision of the certifying reporter.)

24


TANEHA CARROLL
Court Reporter - Notary Public

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10,000 30:12	33 48:12	
1000 67:10	3355 8:11	9
12 14:6	3394 8:10	90 25:2
12.5 39:1	350 32:19	911 21:15
120 32:24 34:10	3500 68:10	95% 36:5
120-question 33:7	37 17:6	9th 101:12
1200 57:19	38% 32:15	
14 34:3	39 57:15	A
1506 98:16	394 7:21	ability 71:3
16 39:2	4	abolition 80:14
18 67:7	400 7:20	Abolitionist 49:9 53:11 60:2 63:14 88:13
1970s 61:9	45 10:21	absolute 70:14
1978 54:12,14	47 48:13	absolutely 75:3
	48 7:17	abuse 65:16 68:4
2	4800 8:13	academy 39:1,10,12 40:7 42:24
20 95:7	5	access 13:20 14:19 15:13 36:21 61:23 68:21 69:12 81:15
2000 54:15 68:13	5% 7:21	accessing 94:23
201st 92:13	526 7:16	accomplishments 7:11 18:7
2020 57:15	55 56:6,14,15	account 49:13 88:24
2022 57:18 60:9	574 7:15	accountability 59:10 64:9,23 65:8 80:7 92:23 95:3 97:20 99:2 100:6
2023 57:15	6	accountable 58:21 88:9 99:8
2024 7:14 8:12 9:7	60 62:6	accrediting 57:4
2025 11:2 15:6 17:2	600 57:21	accumulate 78:18
2026 14:6	64-bed 34:9	accuracy 45:20
22 63:4	7	achieved 7:12 14:6 18:6
2200 57:22	70% 64:16	achievement 13:11 14:12
238 66:19		
25 13:7		
25,000 57:6,13		

acknowledge 48:9 60:15 93:12 acknowledging 99:1 Act 28:10 acted 10:9 action 64:11 activate 36:4 actively 13:24 actual 32:1 86:20 add 40:4 51:11 addition 14:16 89:8 additional 22:24 Additionally 9:17 address 24:10,19 26:16 49:7 59:17 65:16 80:17,22 83:20 85:24 93:4 addressing 29:14 98:22 100:6 adds 6:22 adequate 61:21 adios 82:12 adjunct 43:6 Admin 52:7 administered 27:4 administration 16:14 18:11 28:16 44:22 79:6 Administrations 58:23 admission 23:7 admissions 45:15 57:21 admitted 11:18 20:12 21:16 adults 96:6 advanced 11:10 advancing 93:15 advisory 55:19 advocacy 52:1 53:5 54:4 62:14 73:16 90:14 advocate 48:16 89:21 advocates 60:5,11 62:16	advocating 60:8 66:23 afford 36:10 agencies 44:5 agency 83:9 agenda 55:22 agreement 18:4 ahead 42:2 46:20 65:11 Ahmad 23:18,19 24:1 25:19 26:5,12,21 27:10,17,22 28:22 31:21 36:18 37:10 45:10,11 46:7 72:21 76:8,10 79:11 86:8 87:8 91:4,11,16 104:9,10 AI 85:12 aims 96:3 air-conditioned 16:3 air-conditioning 15:15,18 airports 9:4 alert 20:18,19,21,22 21:1,5 22:1 alerts 21:18 22:2 allowing 14:18 alongside 72:2 alternatives 61:16 amazing 7:10 22:8 Andre 50:13 53:13 91:10 92:2, 12 anecdotally 31:23 annual 16:24 17:9 45:16 anomaly 64:1 answers 55:10,23 58:4 88:5 Anthony 37:17 anti-depressant 33:21 anticipate 18:1 52:3 anticipating 17:23 anyone's 15:16 anytime 27:15 apparently 29:11 appointed 17:17 58:1 87:5	appointees 86:12,13 appointment 100:3 appointments 12:9 35:14 87:17 appreciates 16:9 approach 96:8 approached 53:14 92:3 appropriately 10:10 approximately 25:4 30:13 April 7:14 11:2 area 21:15 areas 68:19 arise 97:11 arrive 70:4 assault 26:14,22,23 27:1 assaults 27:19 assessing 80:17 assigned 21:3 40:8 assistance 36:5 Association 53:6 54:5,14 73:5 76:16 Association's 59:14 assumes 97:2 asymptomatic 33:23 34:2 attack 20:5 attention 79:2 attorney 54:12,13 78:15 attorneys 54:18 55:8 attrition 7:22 8:1 audible 21:1 audio 10:7 audit 16:20 audited 44:21 authority 37:1,4 45:14 59:5 availability 12:5 awarded 63:19
--	--	---

aware 17:19 Awesome 43:17 B back 79:5,19 83:3 background 96:8 backlogs 12:2 backslide 62:12 bake 102:6 balance 31:13 87:16 balances 87:13 ballot 16:11 barriers 69:14 bars 95:20 Barth 53:7 66:13,16 77:20 86:10 87:2,10 baseline 40:3 basic 58:20 61:18 63:1,8 67:12 68:22 70:8 basically 34:22 basis 14:2 16:21 17:9 basketball 21:22 beard 6:7 beds 34:11 begin 6:12 53:23 59:22 66:12 78:18,19 beginning 43:4 behalf 60:8 behavior 42:14,15 behavioral 17:16 32:16,24 33:10 34:12,19 35:6 better- 98:13 big 44:13 87:2 Bill 6:20 98:16 104:4 bind 49:20 births 24:14 blame 99:17	blood 31:9 board 7:3 16:12 18:13 44:24 47:13 55:15,19 60:4,9 64:8,18, 20 65:20 66:5 70:19 71:19 76:18 77:2,3 80:10 86:11,17 87:12,15 88:3 89:1,11 90:1,10 91:9 93:21 96:3 100:4 101:23 board's 88:19 Board-certified 32:21 bodies 80:16 body 8:21 47:15 50:21 59:5 67:24 body- 77:6 body-worn 9:21 10:3,6 77:10 books 51:22 born 61:9 bottom 73:21 bounds 44:23 bracelets 19:21 20:8 bracing 48:19 Brady 100:2 branches 87:19 brand 47:24 102:1 bridge 84:12 briefly 80:22 bring 24:17 30:18 32:4 53:17 70:1 90:15 bringing 29:10 79:23 broader 10:6 broadly 87:12 brokenhearted 58:3 Brooks 104:13 brother 46:18 73:18 Brotherhood 96:2 brought 32:5 41:13 Bruce 24:18,23 build 45:14 70:5 79:13 building 85:19	buildings 71:1 burdens 96:19 buzzers 69:15 C cadets 7:16 calendar 15:6 call 27:12 36:20 38:15 46:15 53:3 55:6,8 84:23 85:1 88:23 91:23 called 21:11 calls 14:17 68:22 85:3,5,6,9 calorie 31:17 camera 77:7,10 cameras 9:22 10:3,7 campus 13:11 34:10 capacity 101:14 carbohydrates 31:12 card 82:24 card-carrying 51:17 care 11:22 12:2,3,21 15:13 17:16 21:17 24:4,12,14 25:11, 12,14 32:7,12,18,20 33:1,17 35:9 36:9,10 60:23 61:7,23 63:2,8 64:4 68:5 81:7,14 82:23 83:16 97:6 Carroll 50:14 52:6 53:13 91:10 92:2,10,13 101:8 carry 96:18 97:23 case 16:18 87:24 cases 63:22 caution 69:8 cell 55:4 cells 68:1 center 12:19 13:10,16 15:19 49:9 53:11 60:3 63:14 88:14 Center's 14:1 centers 36:13 certification 82:1
--	--	---

CFCF 20:10 62:24 Chair 23:20 37:12,16 46:22 48:7 51:7,14 52:23 74:23 76:11 91:6 Chairman 6:14 37:19 45:4 51:16 92:10 102:10 103:9,15 Chairperson 66:14 chalk 49:17 challenge 81:2 89:5 challenges 37:22 69:20,24 70:4 93:4 94:5 95:14 championed 94:12 Chance 47:23 chances 13:13 change 41:5 58:15,23 79:10 80:1 83:6 86:4 changing 83:11 chaplaincy 69:13 chapter 6:22 charge 10:20 70:2 check 22:2 83:2 checked 25:7 checks 21:7 45:20 87:13,16 Chick-fil-a 38:16,24 Chief 24:17,24 child 86:18 95:18 children 96:16 98:7 choices 86:23 choose 35:7 87:1 Chris 89:13,17 Christy 100:2 chronic 31:8 35:5 cities 44:14 citizen 88:17 citizens 13:18 14:4 16:10 45:1 67:22 72:3 88:12 93:7 citizens' 70:13 city 31:18 36:11 47:1 49:5 50:8	61:16 63:17 65:10,15 67:20 70:3 73:12 74:21 83:20 87:21 89:10 93:2,5,14,18 98:20,24 99:23 100:2 city's 13:12 67:8 68:10 69:11, 22 71:10 Civil 6:16 claims 27:6,16 28:18 class 43:6 clean 45:18 61:21 83:3 clear 20:24 58:9 90:2 96:10 Clerk 53:4 92:1 103:8,13,20,23 104:8,12,15,19,23 clients 55:2 close 67:10 closely 44:23 56:12 closest 55:2 56:2 co-pay 35:2 coalition 25:14 60:5,18 Code 6:23 collaboration 100:13 collaboratively 18:12 colleagues 19:2 23:16 46:23 67:24 72:11,19 101:3 collect 45:17 79:4 collected 46:3 collectively 83:20 86:1 combat 9:10 command 43:3,4 commend 38:1 93:1 99:21 comment 53:20 76:4 102:11 103:6,12,15 commission 17:15 19:20 commissioner 6:3,8,13,17 18:20,24 19:5,10 20:7 22:12, 16,21 23:11,23 24:16 28:3,8 29:15 37:3 38:22 42:1,5,23 44:15 46:1,12 48:3 55:21 58:10 72:18 commit 45:20	commitment 11:21 13:12 99:4 100:5 committee 6:15 45:1 48:9 92:20 93:2 commonly 81:3 Commonwealth 66:23 communication 58:12 84:5 85:21 communications 98:17 communities 50:7 64:14 89:19 96:16,19 98:13 99:8 100:19 community 7:2 13:15 35:8,18 47:13 50:4 60:6 62:1,15 65:6, 22 83:21 85:2 86:15,20,22 88:15,17 89:24 90:4,12,22 91:2 93:20 101:11 community-based 61:15 companies 85:12 company 41:14 compelled 28:5 complaints 29:18 43:11 68:7 69:12 78:17,19 complete 41:11 completely 55:5 completing 74:5 compliance 13:6 17:4 18:3 component 39:11 components 99:3 comprehensive 41:21 computer 41:1,2 concerns 11:12 65:7 94:8 97:5 98:22 100:7 concludes 104:3 conditions 16:7 61:8 66:21 67:13 68:6,9,12 71:4,12 72:3 77:24 78:2,5 94:2,9 97:7,19 100:8,16 conduct 17:18 43:21 conducted 17:2
---	--	--

conducting 41:20 42:10 conducts 16:23 17:7,21 confidence 94:17 confined 34:14 confinement 16:7 60:23 61:8 confines 64:5 confirms 12:19 conflict 39:15 55:18 conflicts 89:23 conforms 31:18 congratulations 74:10 connected 65:22 98:12 connection 61:24 connections 98:4 consent 56:19 consequence 80:7 considerable 7:8 consistent 39:18 64:24 93:8 consistently 64:4 constant 43:14 constrained 30:9 constructing 86:19 consultant 41:13 contact 21:24 84:10 content 31:1,5,17 context 10:8 continue 12:24 15:8 23:1 71:13 75:24 100:14 continued 17:10 continuing 100:13 continuous 11:8 continuously 56:9 contraband 8:23 9:1,10 contraband-detecting 9:13 contract 30:17 contracted 29:20	contributed 62:17 control 20:21 60:22 70:12 Controller 100:2 Controller's 87:6 conversation 80:13 99:11 conversations 85:16 96:9 cook-chill 30:3,12 coordinate 9:5 coordinated 25:12 coordination 12:6 coordinator 28:12 correct 40:12 42:14,15 97:13 correctional 7:15,20 8:18 9:3 17:15 24:7 25:22 26:14 29:1 30:2 92:24 94:3,11 97:17 99:5, 13 100:8 Corrections 16:23 correlation 8:14 15:2 cost 57:15 98:17 Council 25:13 48:12,13 67:16 71:22 86:13 87:22 93:3,15 98:20 99:23 Council-appointed 89:11 Councilman 6:1,4,5,10 18:18, 21,22 19:7,13 22:6,14,18,19 23:8,13 37:13,17,18 38:23 41:23 42:3,17 43:16 45:2,5,6 46:9,14,21 51:8,11,13 52:24 53:16 57:1 59:18 66:8 72:8,20, 22 75:2,6 76:6,9 91:14,18,22 92:5 100:20 101:5,7 102:13, 18,21 103:10,16 104:1,21 Councilmanic 101:12 Councilmember 6:21 47:6 51:23 89:7 93:13 94:13 99:22 104:8,13,16,20,23 Councilmembers 49:12 60:17 66:15 Councilwoman 23:17,19,24 24:1,20 25:1,19 26:5,12,21 27:10,17,22 28:4,22 29:16 31:7,21 36:18 37:10,14 45:10, 11 46:2,7 76:8,10,23 79:11	86:8 87:8 91:4,8,11,16 104:10, 17 counsel 62:1 counseling 69:13 countless 61:5 country 85:13 County 61:10 62:7,18,21 couple 38:2 court 44:11 56:8,16 83:5 court- 57:24 courtroom 63:24 77:13 courts 61:13 COVID 57:10,18 COVID-19 69:19 CPOC's 51:1 create 27:8 59:4 93:16 created 16:11 creating 13:13 55:17 90:6,8 creation 47:11 crime 85:14 Crimes 28:19 criteria 84:8 crucial 69:23 cult 55:12 culture 58:15 69:16 cure-all 88:1 curious 75:15 Curran-fromhold 30:1,5 current 17:12 64:22 custody 11:10,19 12:12,24 D daily 14:2 54:21 70:13 danger 65:3 dark 58:7 darkness 59:2
--	--	---

dashboard 45:15 dashboards 45:13 data 10:21 23:3 26:1 29:2 45:18 46:2 79:19 85:15 date 83:2 day 30:14 34:20 36:7 97:16 102:12 days 10:22 20:13,14 22:20,22 23:6 34:1,3 57:23 63:12 68:2 de-escalate 41:6 de-escalation 41:7 deal 42:12 81:11 death 14:24 61:4 63:15,18,22 64:1 deaths 15:5,10 57:17 62:6,9, 18 64:12 65:13 decades 54:20,23 61:4 decide 101:21 decline 62:17 decree 56:19 dedication 13:3 deductible 35:2 deemed 22:11 deeply 80:1 defender 19:12 54:4,11,14 59:14 73:5 Defender's 19:14 76:16 Defenders 53:6 deficits 67:12 delay 11:14 12:10 delayed 64:10 deliveries 25:4 delivers 32:9 33:5 demanding 97:19 demonstrate 100:5 demonstrates 11:21 denials 68:4 denied 63:13	departed 47:22 department 6:18 7:7 16:17,23 17:6,14,18 18:5 28:19 37:6,7 54:8 56:17 63:6 77:9 department's 31:19 68:12 depend 64:14 depending 34:7 depends 58:16 depicted 56:4 describe 38:3 deserve 66:1 design 58:21 designed 60:22 93:23 detailed 24:21 detained 67:10 68:10 detection 11:15 detects 8:23 detention 12:19 15:19 62:24 63:5 67:19 determine 17:9 determined 22:23 determining 10:9 detoxing 23:10 develop 25:15 78:18 development 10:17 deviation 20:17 diabetes 31:9 63:3 diabetes-related 63:10 diagnoses 32:16 35:23 died 57:16 62:23 diet 31:4 dietary 30:21 31:20 dietician 30:19 diets 29:20 difference 77:11 78:5 difficult 67:18 97:18 difficulties 25:9	digits 7:24 dignified 71:11 dignity 66:2,24 81:9 93:10 99:15 diligence 47:7 diligently 93:3 dimension 84:15 diminished 62:9 direct 14:3 directly 94:24 Director 7:6 9:6 53:5,8,10 54:3 60:2 66:17 89:18 disabilities 81:14 disability 61:23 discharge 35:22 disciplinary 41:19 42:7 disciplined 42:13 disconnect 32:3 discretion 24:7 25:21 discussion 72:7 disease 31:8,9 disinfectant 71:7 dismantled 61:15 disregard 69:17 distance 57:12 distant 15:23 District 48:12 92:14 Districts 101:12 divided 87:18 Division 13:9 DOC 17:2 document 71:3 dogs 9:14 dollar 65:14 dorms 15:19 16:2 double 7:24
---	--	--

doubt 62:13 dozen 25:4 drilled 39:16 drop 8:7,12 drugs 9:1 due 57:17 duties 6:24 97:24 E earlier 48:24 75:14 early 11:15 29:19 51:1 ears 70:17 earth 47:22 easy 37:23 52:15 echo 75:3,7 education 81:16 educational 14:15 84:13 effective 8:17 36:7 effort 48:1 efforts 9:6 73:16 100:5 eighth 17:24 elbow 48:1 election 16:13 64:18 electronic 33:8 35:16,21 eliminate 98:16 eliminated 12:1 Elimination 28:10 emergencies 11:13 12:14 21:20 63:11 emergency 21:8,9 22:3 57:19 69:15 emergent 33:18 emotional 95:11 96:18 employed 9:11 81:23 employees 42:16 97:15 enabling 16:15 93:15 98:19	encompasses 92:15 encouraged 69:4 end 43:5 49:23 76:19 endeavor 101:2 engaged 14:20 47:16 88:18 engaging 94:24 enhance 8:19 9:10,18 16:6 enhanced 8:3 enhancements 30:15 enhances 11:16 enroll 36:4 enshrined 66:6 ensure 13:21 21:7 31:10 58:19 59:7 66:5 71:8 72:2 86:22 93:5 97:21 100:16 ensures 12:23 97:5,10 ensuring 71:11 94:14,22 97:3 99:5,12,17 enter 11:10 entered 103:22 entertained 75:22 entertainment 14:16 entire 96:16 entities 16:19 44:17 environment 8:18 14:22 97:23 environments 9:2 episodes 20:2 Equally 98:1 equipment 10:20 essential 70:11 98:8 establish 70:22 established 71:20 93:19 establishing 98:23 establishment 66:4 71:24 evaluate 30:22 40:11 evaluated 33:5	evaluation 27:2 33:7 34:4 41:11,21 evaluations 12:8 event 14:7 23:5 events 73:16 exact 7:21 exception 59:11 excited 65:19 excuse 25:15 Executive 53:10 60:1 89:18 exhibit 54:10 exist 61:16 expensive 56:22 experience 14:24 39:7 40:16 67:19 79:23 95:6,23,24 experienced 8:7 15:4 95:9 experiences 90:16 expert 17:17 30:19,21 experts 47:10 explore 32:4 extends 96:13 extensive 61:2 89:22 external 70:7 extra 34:18 eyes 70:16 F face 37:22 facilities 8:21 9:3,9 10:18 11:5,24 14:23 15:1 16:21 17:1, 3 20:9 26:15 28:11,13 30:7 94:3,21 97:16 99:6 100:9 facility 12:16 30:2 40:7 69:1 facing 93:4 94:5 fact 15:3 48:19,23 56:18 63:9 77:16 78:3,17 79:3 90:2 fail 49:14 50:1,2,3 failed 56:3 62:3 65:16 69:23
--	--	--

fails 64:4 failure 58:6 failures 49:22,23,24 63:1 76:18 fair 39:18 fairness 99:14 faith 89:20 fall 17:2 67:20 families 49:11 54:18 55:6 59:7 63:22 85:1 95:21 96:18 98:12, 18 family 49:2,5 58:3 60:13 62:1 63:15,19 69:15 78:8 84:6,11 85:21 95:10 98:6 fare 44:12,13 fatal 49:22 50:1 father 62:22 95:7 favor 49:1 federal 28:10 57:24 61:12 federally 36:12 feed 30:12 feedback 14:13 feel 73:19 102:6 feet 57:6,13 fellow 72:3 females 20:11 fiercely 48:16 fight 63:23 fighting 72:13,14 figure 19:9 48:20 fill 70:15 final 29:3 63:12 finally 102:6 financial 96:19 find 22:3 82:21,22 findings 65:4 finish 42:4	firm 39:17 firsthand 67:18 68:23 95:9 Firstly 69:8 fit 42:11 five-day 23:2 fix 76:19 78:2 fixing 79:18 flaring 38:12 flexible 51:19 flush 50:12 flushing 47:17 focus 9:8 folks 31:8 52:8,20 74:7 follow 28:5,15 follow- 45:9 82:13 follow-through 47:8 follow-up 12:8 34:6 food 29:10,20 30:4 31:16 32:1 61:21 foods 31:15 footage 77:7,10 force 41:12 forced 63:23 foremost 73:1 90:18 92:18 foresight 11:3,6,16 15:11 forget 15:17 forgot 48:23 forgotten 72:15 form 56:10 61:10,11 formal 98:23 formalized 42:6 forthcoming 55:11 Fortunately 82:1 forum 65:5 forward 47:12 52:4 71:23 100:12	forward-thinking 13:17 found 15:22 17:4 63:17 Foundation 96:2 fourthly 78:7 fragile 58:17 frame 7:13 framework 93:17 frequency 45:19 frequently 24:12 fresh 29:10 Friday 43:7,20 front 70:21 full 70:24 71:8 full- 32:19 full-fledged 35:21 full-time 25:6 functioning 99:3 funding 70:23 future 18:10 65:20 69:24
G		
		gain 7:19 31:15 gap 84:12 gathered 9:15 gave 31:3 GD 29:21 30:16,20 general 34:16 73:12 101:20 generate 33:16 gentlemen 46:10 53:21 72:9 Germantown 92:16 get alerts 21:19 get all 45:22 Gilmore 104:16,17 girlfriends 84:23 give 50:18 51:3 85:14,15 86:24 93:24

glad 89:6 goal 74:2 gold 70:22 good 6:14 7:18 19:15 23:15, 21,24 28:23 29:10 34:24 50:8 53:21 54:1 59:23 66:13 70:9 72:22 91:17 92:11 goodbye 82:13 goodwill 58:19 governance 70:9 government 87:14,19 96:23 government's 70:12 grandmother 95:13 gray 6:6 grease 48:1 great 18:7 50:14 73:2,9,22 88:20 greater 9:17 10:8 94:1 greatly 8:3 group 34:21 48:15 60:5 74:24 89:19 groups 44:8 88:17 grow 96:17 101:1 growing 95:8,15 guarantee 61:18 guaranteed 70:23 75:3 guards 38:5,7 42:20 guidance 16:16 40:14 86:24 guidelines 37:8 42:9 guys 75:4 87:3 H half 67:7,22 Hall 47:1 49:6 50:8 hallmark 70:8 hand 10:14 87:11 hand-selected 55:20	handled 20:6 happen 15:21 23:6 77:1,14 happened 58:5 80:20 happening 74:9 79:9 happy 18:16 hard 19:17 harm 61:24 Harrisburg 68:1 100:24 Harrity 6:1,5,10 18:18,22 19:7, 13 22:6,14,19 23:8,13 37:13, 20 45:5 46:9,14 51:8 52:24 53:16 59:18 66:8,14 72:8 75:2 76:6 91:14,18,22 92:5 100:20 102:13,18,21 103:10,16 104:1, 20,21 head 28:1 Healing 89:18 health 11:12,20,22 12:11,17 17:7,8,14,15,17 19:21,22 20:2 24:2 31:18 32:7,16,20 33:1,10 34:12,19 35:1,6 36:13 39:23 54:21 61:22 66:24 69:5 81:13, 14 82:22 83:16 healthcare 13:4 healthier 65:21 hear 29:5 50:22 75:11 heard 29:8,18 31:23 58:11 69:11 hearing 43:11 51:21 104:3 hearings 70:24 heart 6:9 20:5,15 21:22 31:8 73:21 103:2 held 54:17 helpful 82:7 helping 13:18 43:13 75:19 helps 11:11 14:20 Herdman 24:18,23,24 26:3,8, 19,24 27:14,21,24 28:7 32:14 39:24 hidden 97:9 high 22:11 31:9	highest 13:6 highly 9:2 44:20,21 HIPAA 36:23 hired 7:15 9:6 hiring 8:5 historic 72:7 historically 7:23 history 34:2 56:4 60:20 61:2 Holbrook 53:9 59:23 60:1 79:22 80:23 hold 52:21 88:4 holding 49:11 home 82:9 86:6 homes 96:15 hope 49:4 64:7,15 hopeful 65:18 hospital 12:14 34:10,14 57:21 hospitalized 63:9 hospitals 21:15 57:23 host 13:23 hour 35:20 43:3,5 hours 33:3 43:9,19 House 98:15 housed 96:4 household 95:12 housing 20:20 21:6 61:21 68:3 Hudson 73:6 huge 47:21 78:5 human 57:14 58:2,20 61:19 64:13 66:2 80:24 93:9 98:3 99:15 humanely 97:4 humanity 68:16 hurdles 74:15 HVAC 81:24 82:5
--	---	--

I		
idea 87:12,17 90:19	incarcerating 93:7 97:1	inmates 12:7 21:13 43:10
identify 11:12	incarceration 13:22 49:16 80:4 95:10 96:9 98:2 101:20	Innes 19:11 53:4 54:1,2 76:16, 22 89:6 91:7,21
illness 35:5	incident 10:10,14	inside 39:8 43:15 54:22 58:15 59:8 66:21 67:2,13 69:10 72:4 77:4 82:6 94:2 97:15
illnesses 25:8 35:6	incidents 10:12	insight 94:1
illustrated 62:5	include 10:7 91:1	insightful 76:12
imagine 22:7	includes 33:9 61:20	inspect 16:20
immediately 36:15	including 11:13 13:8 32:23 35:5 68:20 80:15 90:4	inspection 16:24 17:3,7
impact 96:11,12	increase 8:2 39:2 85:21 90:19,20,21 93:23	inspections 17:19,22
imperative 79:13	increased 8:15 9:14	inspiration 74:19,20
implement 16:15 41:9	increasing 12:4	inspire 74:14
implementation 9:24 14:10 69:5	incredibly 97:18	installed 8:20 15:18
implemented 10:23 11:3 25:18 27:3 62:20	incumbent 88:11	instituted 40:5 77:9
implementing 9:21 10:3	independence 13:22	institution 72:1
importance 92:22	independent 30:20 44:11 59:2 65:1 93:17 94:16	institutional 97:8
important 42:21 60:19 68:23 72:5 76:2 84:7 85:22 94:4,14 98:1	indepth 65:1	institutions 67:14 93:6 94:15 99:18
importantly 56:22 65:9	indicator 86:7	insufficient 69:14
impossible 74:3,6	individual 35:3 78:13	insulin 63:13
improve 100:16	individual's 11:9	insurance 35:1
improved 68:20	individuals 40:12 58:17 60:7 71:2 88:18 94:10 95:2 97:1,3 98:11	intake 11:4 20:9 22:11 25:7 26:16
improvements 7:8 15:3 19:18 29:4 58:10	ineffective 55:6	integrity 39:19
improving 11:15 12:5 99:20	information 19:23,24 24:21, 22 36:22 39:6 45:23 55:7,9 59:6 76:18 79:4 88:6	intelligence 9:15
in-custody 15:9	inherent 55:17	intended 64:20 87:19
Inaudible 18:19	inherently 60:21	intensive 21:17
inaugural 47:15 101:23	inhumane 68:14	interagency 9:12
incarcerate 81:6	initial 14:12 34:4	interdiction 9:12
incarcerated 8:5,8 9:20 11:17 14:8,19 15:5 16:1,8 28:24 29:23 54:7 57:22 60:10 65:23 67:1,4 78:9 81:8,10 89:20 90:10 94:10 95:1,8 96:14 101:19	initially 10:2	intervention 61:12 64:11
incarcerates 61:20	initiative 10:1	interview 89:23
	initiatives 10:24	interviewed 67:9
	injury 33:12	introduce 89:14
	inmate 20:12 21:7	introduced 98:15
		introduction 8:22
		investigate 78:13 97:12

investigations 9:16 28:17 65:2 investigators 77:18 investment 13:17 involved 47:17 78:16 90:22 Isaiah 47:6 72:21 93:13 99:22 isolated 99:6 isolation 61:4 isolations 83:22 issue 33:13,18 47:8 52:3 65:4 73:11 78:14 101:19 issues 11:16 43:13 49:7 78:10 85:24 89:21	K Kate 73:7 Keisha 73:5 key 50:6 88:2 Kimmenez 89:16,17 kind 42:20 43:20 82:12 90:22 kit 26:17 27:8 kitchen 29:24 102:5 knowledge 26:4,9 Kunkel 46:15 Kunkle 53:2,17 91:23 103:7 104:2,6	leave 36:6 leaving 32:11 35:13 led 67:7 left 7:17 24:6 25:21 68:3 legal 61:17 62:15 legislation 16:15 47:6 48:10 52:11 60:19 70:21 93:16,19 94:12 98:19 Legislative 92:14 lent 47:10 level 13:6 14:19 50:15 liable 63:18 liaison 54:16 license 17:11 licensed 32:21,23 34:9 licensure 17:10 life 63:12 95:7,18 likes 6:6 87:22,23 list 36:14 103:21 listening 43:10 74:2 litany 68:6 lived 79:23 lives 13:19 70:13 98:5 living 68:5,9 71:12 97:6 located 12:18 30:1 Logan 92:16 long 56:4 57:12 65:15 71:14 83:21 102:5 long-deferred 68:24 long-term 98:9 longstanding 100:7 looked 29:13 lose 96:20 loses 21:24 loss 49:2 lot 31:7 50:19 52:8 74:20 75:16 82:16 88:15 90:7
J jail 25:2 33:13 34:23 36:6 41:12 57:11 58:15 62:19 77:4, 15,19 79:5 jail- 69:6 jails 39:8 43:8,15 54:16,22 56:7,19 57:16,20 59:12 60:20 61:2,11 62:7,22 65:18 66:1 January 14:6 Jefferson 32:22 job 6:4 82:21 83:15 89:3 join 48:13 joined 67:17 Jung 49:4 62:22 63:9 Jung's 64:1 jurors 49:1 jury 63:17 justice 63:24 77:12 96:12 99:3 100:17 justification 85:8 juvenile 96:11 juveniles 39:22 96:4	L Labor 6:15 48:9 51:17 lack 69:12 laid 70:20 Landau 104:24 landmark 14:7 Lane 92:17 largest 69:11 late 56:23 laundry 68:21 law 16:16 17:18 18:14 24:5 28:11 37:6,7 44:24 49:9 53:11 60:2 63:14 88:14 lawmaker 100:14 lawsuit 56:20 63:16 lawsuits 56:4,9 65:13 lawyer 37:6 lead 52:4 leader 101:2 leaders 50:11 89:20 leadership 13:5 51:15,24 65:15 93:12 99:21 102:9 leading 50:10	

lots 90:16 Louis 62:22 63:24 love 29:2 100:24 loved 49:3 58:5 65:5 low 7:23 8:10 lowest 15:6 M MA 36:7 made 19:19 28:14 29:5 31:1 47:1 maintain 85:1 maintaining 13:5 98:5 maintenance 69:1 major 33:13 majors 40:9 make 30:14 35:14,15 42:19 43:18 49:21 52:15 79:24 80:1 83:1 85:4,9 99:24 make-up 86:11 makes 77:11 78:5 making 44:19 82:4 88:16 males 20:10 man 102:14 Managing 7:5 manner 42:10 93:8 mass 101:19 MAT 15:13 maternal 24:4,11 Maternity 25:12,14 matter 38:18 72:5 matters 96:22 mayor 7:5 55:17 86:12 87:23 meals 29:22 30:13,22 69:14 meaningful 61:24 64:11 98:21 means 95:17	meantime 56:24 measure 71:7 80:3 measures 15:10 mechanism 89:4 mechanisms 70:5 97:12 medical 10:24 11:3,6,11,16 12:2,6,13 13:1 15:11,12 17:16 20:22 21:2,8,9,20 22:3,23 23:5 24:17,24 27:4 33:8 36:5 61:7, 22 63:2,8,11 97:6 medicated 32:17 34:8 medications 35:24 meet 27:6 35:4 62:3 83:4 meeting 48:2 104:5 meetings 73:16 88:4,22 89:9 meets 12:20 member 50:9,13 51:9,18 53:1 91:9 members 6:15 18:12 55:15,19 58:2 60:13 62:15 65:6 67:16 68:13 69:17 84:6,11 88:17 89:1,2,11 90:1,15 92:19 93:2 99:23 memory 15:24 men 34:17 97:14 mental 32:7 39:23 61:22 81:13 mentioned 57:2 76:3 79:17 mentors 96:20 mentorship 40:5,10,18 menu 30:15 31:24 menus 30:10 met 42:22 metallic 8:24 Michael 6:16 middle 20:4 midst 9:21 milestone 13:11 million 63:20 million- 65:13	mind 15:16 74:1 mindsets 83:12 minimizing 12:14 minimum 62:3 mission 14:1 71:14 90:23 mistreatment 65:17 modernizing 11:22 moment 56:20 money 82:4 monitor 16:20 19:21,23 20:12 21:24 22:18 30:18 38:20 44:18 93:24 monitor's 17:24 monitored 66:20 monitoring 11:4,7,8 15:11 20:8 23:1 53:8 66:16 67:8 69:6 85:7 94:21 monitors 17:17 20:14 21:4 month 48:24 monthly 88:4 months 16:4 33:22 48:4 63:4 monumental 14:11 moral 61:17 morning 6:14 8:9 19:15 23:21, 24 46:24 53:21 54:2 59:24 66:14 72:23 92:11 motion 47:12 mourning 49:2 move 104:5 movement 20:15 moving 52:4 multiple 63:10 N national 17:14 31:20 57:3 nationwide 41:16 nature 79:16 80:24 87:20 navigate 95:18
--	---	---

necessarily 31:24 73:24 needed 13:20 14:3 negative 23:5 neglect 61:3 negligence 62:4 negligent 61:6 negotiating 47:18 neighborhoods 92:15 96:15 net 7:19 newly 11:18 14:3 20:11 Nicolas 46:18 night 20:4 nightmares 57:10 Nina 23:18 45:10 72:21 76:8 ninth 87:5 Noah 53:7 66:15 73:13 76:3 77:20 89:8 non-metallic 8:24 nonsense 85:16 norms 20:17 Northwest 101:10 notably 11:2 note 50:16 87:7 notice 77:20,22 number 8:11 28:2 68:18 77:4, 5 83:18 numbers 21:12 28:20 numerous 16:19 nurse 21:3 33:6 nurses 27:6 Nursing 27:1 nutrition 29:6 nutritional 30:24 31:1,5 nutritionally 31:17	O O'ROURKE 46:18,21 51:9,23 60:17 Oak 92:16 OB/GYN 25:6,10 obligation 61:18 observations 42:19 observe 42:19 43:20,23 obstacles 74:15 obtain 59:6 obviate 44:18 obviates 44:6 occurred 27:20 62:7 occurs 65:17 October 13:7 off-site 57:23 offering 13:19 14:2 office 6:24 16:12 18:13 19:14 47:23 54:6 70:19 71:19 77:17 78:8 87:6 88:7 93:21 94:19 officer 20:20 24:8 25:22 officers 7:16,17,20 29:1 39:21 40:2,6 41:4 82:19 84:1 97:17 officers' 83:12 offices 60:16 official 40:18 officially 13:9 officials 88:23 offline 32:4 ombudsman 55:3 77:17 ombudsman-by-cell-phone 76:20 on-the-job 39:10 one-to-one 14:10 ongoing 13:12 open 51:2 84:14	opened 13:10 operate 93:7 94:18 operated 56:7 operates 64:20 operating 58:7 operation 30:3 68:19 operations 12:22 24:18 25:1 93:24 opinion 80:5 OPO 36:20 opportunities 81:19 84:13 opportunity 14:15 18:15 65:10 72:6 85:20 91:1 92:20 100:11 opted 86:16 order 95:2 orders 44:11 organization 57:5 66:20 organizations 47:10 57:7 60:6,12 62:16 90:12 organizers 60:11 oriented 33:11 outcome 64:3 80:8 outcomes 11:20 outfitted 10:19 oversaw 55:21 oversee 56:1 oversight 7:1,3 37:1,4 44:7, 12,24 45:13 47:13 48:21 50:5 51:4 55:14,23 56:1,3,11,20 57:3,5,8,9 59:2,4 60:4,9 64:8, 10,17,19 65:19 66:5 70:8,20 71:18,20 77:1 86:17 87:15 88:7 92:22 93:18,21,22 94:20 96:22 97:5,14 98:23 99:16,24 100:4,15 overwhelming 71:22 oxygen 20:16
--	--	--

P	80:18 81:20 82:4,9,11,16 83:13 84:8,20,21,23 85:4 86:2, 3,6,19 87:1,21,23 98:4	PICC 20:11
PA 89:19	perfectly 58:8	pick 20:14
panel 46:16 53:3,18 91:24	perform 97:18	pie 102:6
parameters 18:14	periodic 17:21	piece 68:15
parent 95:15,19	perished 62:21	piecemeal 78:23
parents 96:20 98:6,7	permission 35:17	pilot 10:5
Parker 7:5	permitting 59:16	place 26:18 27:15 73:7 74:17 97:12
parole 83:11	persistence 15:22 16:5	places 52:14
part 47:18 50:6 72:6	person 15:5 20:24 33:2 34:8 35:19 36:14 59:20 66:10 96:14	placing 99:16
participate 13:24	personal 58:18 95:6	plan 35:1
partners 13:8,24 49:8	personality 58:22	planning 31:4
party 10:13	personally 67:7	playing 21:21
pass 19:2 60:19	persons 24:9 35:24	pleased 14:14 16:2 43:12
passed 24:5 88:19 98:20	perspective 100:12	pleasure 55:16
passion 101:17	phenomenon 44:9	point 44:4,19 84:3 85:23
past 7:9 17:1 62:8 67:6 68:17	Philadelphia 6:18,23 7:2,6 16:10 17:13 47:12,20 53:7 54:5,7 55:13 56:7,17 57:16 61:10,17 62:18,21 63:5 66:21 74:22 93:14,20 94:6 95:22 98:20	police 28:19 77:9
patience 53:22	Philadelphia's 66:1 92:24	policies 39:14 42:9 94:22
patient 36:8	Philadelphian 66:19	policy 10:17 39:17 40:14 41:15,22 95:5
patient's 35:17	Philadelphians 51:4 64:16 67:5,11	population 8:5,8,9,13,16 9:20 11:1,18 14:13 16:1,8 29:23 32:15 34:16 35:11 39:23 45:15
patients 34:12,20	Phillips 37:17,18 41:23 42:3, 17 43:16 45:2,7 57:1 75:6	position 39:5 101:16,22
pay 36:10	Philly 46:4 61:1 62:2,7	positioned 98:14
PDP 7:11,14 8:6 9:6,11 10:23 12:1 13:4,7 14:6 15:17 16:9 45:20	philosophical 80:12	positive 7:11 18:9
PDP's 11:21	philosophy 86:5	possibly 20:3
peaceful 14:22	phone 55:4 68:21 84:22 85:3	poster 56:5
pendency 43:2	phones 84:19,21,24	potentially 89:5
Penn 32:23	photo 71:3	power 54:24 59:6
Pennsylvania 16:22 17:6,20 53:8,12 66:17 71:16 92:1 95:22 98:18	photographs 78:4	powers 6:24
people 12:23 14:8,20 22:10 23:9 24:13 28:24 29:9 31:14 32:17,22 34:5 35:13,14 36:4,6 38:17 39:5 49:5 50:17,22,23 52:12 54:7,17,22 56:23 57:16, 22 58:14,24 60:11 62:20 64:5 65:3,24 67:1 68:1,10,14 72:15 74:2,12,21 75:16,18 78:9	PHSW 12:19	practice 70:23
	physical 68:4	practices 41:16 94:22 97:8
		praying 49:6
		pre-investigation 28:21
		PREA 28:5,6,9,12,15
		preceding 48:4

predictable 64:2 predicted 69:21 predictors 85:14 pregnancy 25:7 pregnant 24:9 25:2 prepared 16:14 presence 43:14 present 14:2 95:16,19 104:11, 18,22 presented 69:19 preserve 62:11 President 86:13 pressure 8:16 31:10 pretrial 62:23 pretty 17:22 23:15 55:5 prevent 8:22 64:12 preventable 64:2 preventing 74:17 primarily 33:11 primary 12:2 Priorities 58:24 prison 7:1,2 12:17 17:8,20 24:15 28:9 33:14 38:5,7 42:20 44:7,12 47:13 48:21 53:5,7,9 54:3 55:20 60:4,8 64:8,17,19 65:19 66:4,16,18 68:19 69:11 70:15,17,20 71:13,19 72:4,18 75:22 77:21 78:1 81:20 82:12 83:23 84:18 85:3,13 88:6 93:17,20,22,24 94:6,19 97:17 100:4 prisoner 20:2 prisoners 38:9 prisons 6:19 7:7 29:6 44:4,10 50:5 54:8 56:18 62:19 63:6 66:22 67:3,9 68:11 69:22 70:3, 11 71:10,15 93:5 probation 82:14,19 83:11 problem 45:24 78:24 79:1 problems 65:12 78:13,20 79:18 81:11,13,14 97:11	procedures 39:14 proceed 92:7 process 28:16 30:12 41:19 42:7 50:6 52:13 73:15 89:23 processes 41:12 produced 30:4 product 102:7 production 29:24 productive 14:21 profession 37:23 professional 13:2 97:22 program 15:14 27:2 35:9 40:5,19 programs 40:11 progress 18:2,7 58:16 62:11 68:18 79:24 progressive 42:13 prohibit 25:16 project 10:22 projects 69:1 promise 67:21 102:11 promised 69:19 promote 14:21 proof 56:2 protect 67:21 protected 66:6 protecting 11:23 73:12 protection 61:23 protective 70:5 protects 97:14 proud 66:18 67:15 100:23 102:8 proved 22:4 provide 6:19,23 14:14 29:22 32:13 34:20 36:17 39:5 63:1,7 64:22 65:5 provided 32:19 57:7,9 69:7 provider 12:4 29:21 35:18	providers 35:7 96:21 providing 24:13 31:11 38:15 psychiatric 34:9 public 19:12 45:12,14 53:19 59:9 64:24 65:5 67:11,14 70:24 75:15,17 76:1 79:14 88:4,8,9,22,23 89:9 90:21 93:8 94:1,17 98:9 99:7 100:18 103:6,11,14,22,24 104:3,5 public's 70:16 public-facing 46:5 publish 45:16 published 67:11 pulse 20:16 purchased 40:21 pursuing 71:14 push 65:20 put 20:8 46:5 47:24 51:15 70:7 75:23 83:23 101:22 putting 74:1 102:1 Q qualified 36:13 quality 12:21 question 16:11 26:13 29:3,17 31:22 32:6 38:3,10 44:3 45:12 76:23 79:21 80:2,12 86:10 87:3 questioning 37:15 questions 18:17 19:1,20 23:17 24:2,19 33:10,15 38:2 40:17 54:24 72:24 91:15 94:9 96:17 101:4 queues 85:6 quick 45:12 76:13 quickly 11:12 65:3 R ranking 40:9
--	--	--

rape 26:17 27:8,11 28:10 rarely 50:2 rate 7:22 8:1 20:15 21:22 ray 71:8 reaches 71:9 96:15 reactive 56:21 read 75:9 103:21 reading 25:20 ready 47:14 real 47:19 54:23 59:5 61:15 64:9 65:7 reality 96:21 realtime 11:8 reason 69:8 80:4 reasons 50:9 rebuild 13:18 98:5 rebuilding 50:7 recall 25:20 receive 12:7,24 40:2 received 14:9 21:18 recent 69:5 recently 40:20 recognize 37:21 46:17 76:7 101:5 recognizes 37:16 recognizing 74:6 98:2 recommendations 31:2 65:4 record 16:17 33:8 51:16 103:22 recorded 10:15 85:10,11 records 71:2 77:3 94:23,24 recruits 39:13 reduce 10:12 reduced 8:15 reduces 12:13 redundant 20:23 reentry 13:9,10,14 14:1 83:24	90:13 refer 36:12 referral 35:16 referrals 28:13 33:16 35:15 referred 28:18 81:4 reflective 32:1 reflects 8:16 13:3 99:4,13 regard 70:11 regular 16:21 70:24 regulated 44:5,20 regulation 44:8 regulations 17:5 25:16 31:19 rehabilitated 86:4 rehabilitation 60:24 80:3,17 98:9 reinforce 42:21 reinstated 7:17 related 25:8 Relatedly 14:23 relates 52:5,10 73:11 101:17 relationships 58:19 85:2 release 17:23 35:9 36:8 83:7 98:14 released 14:4 35:19,20 82:11 releases 45:16 relentless 62:14 reliable 13:1 56:10 relicensing 12:17 rely 58:18 remain 97:9 98:11 99:7 remarks 52:21 remember 31:6 reminded 68:8 reminder 48:24 remotely 47:2 removing 80:6	renewed 17:12 Rep 52:6 101:7 repeatedly 62:2 63:13 report 17:24 18:1 26:10 report-backs 88:16 reported 20:1 67:23 reporting 45:17 64:24 reports 61:5 67:12 69:2 represent 54:19 60:10 90:11 92:13 Representative 50:13 53:12, 18 92:2,6,9,12 100:21 102:23 Representatives 13:23 represented 48:14 63:14 representing 60:3 represents 13:16 54:6 58:6 87:12 94:13 reputation 102:2 require 83:9 residents 71:10 Resnick 6:3,8,13,17 18:20 19:5,10 20:7 22:12,16,21 23:11,23 24:16 28:3,8 29:15 37:3 38:22 42:1,5,23 44:15 46:1,12 58:11 resolution 39:15 resolve 43:13 resources 97:22 respect 8:1 31:4 99:15 respected 66:3 respectful 39:19 respond 65:2 responded 11:14 response 21:10 26:22 102:17, 20 104:14 responsibilities 88:3 responsibility 96:24 97:2 99:14 responsible 93:6 94:20
--	--	---

Responsiveness 58:13 restrictions 36:24 result 84:19 rethemed 30:7 retire 58:24 return 13:18 59:3 Rev 89:16,17 review 37:2,5 41:16,17,18 77:6,24 94:16 reviewed 44:21 reviewing 94:21 Richardson 104:16,18 rid 42:16 right-of-access 71:1 rights 61:19 64:13 66:3,6 risk 22:11 Road 49:3 54:9,17 59:3 60:21 67:3 96:5 rob 68:15 Robert 59:24 role 36:19 70:16 roll 10:22 104:7 rolling 10:5 room 57:19 89:12 91:10 rounds 15:13 routine 33:16 routinely 77:19 ruled 49:1 rules 31:19 59:12 running 7:24	safety 8:3 9:8 11:17 12:16,21 48:17 54:22 58:20 66:2,24 93:9 94:8 97:7 98:10 100:18 Saleem 53:9 59:24 73:19,21 74:10 88:12 salt 31:12 scale 10:6 scanners 8:21 scenario-based 40:24 scenarios 41:3,5 scheduled 33:24 36:2 scheduling 12:4 scoff 50:8 scope 36:16 screen 41:2 scrutiny 99:7 searches 9:14 seat 87:5 seats 86:21 secrecy 55:12 section 101:10 secure 13:2 35:22 secured 9:2 security 8:4,19 9:7,11,19 10:4 12:7 82:24 83:18 select 10:4 selected 23:3 55:22 self- 33:11 selling 85:12 send 35:15,21 sentenced 35:12 sentiment 75:4,7 separate 34:18 September 8:12 9:7 series 63:1 serve 10:12,24 30:4,10 47:14 64:8 91:3 96:2,3 99:9	served 30:8,11 54:15 55:16 serves 100:17 service 6:16 29:21 32:18 72:12 101:10 services 12:18 13:1,7 17:8 29:21 30:16,20,21 32:8,10,19 36:16 60:12 68:22 69:13 81:5 serving 31:16 set 18:14 26:15 41:3 82:17 setting 13:2 settlement 18:4 settlements 65:14 sever 98:3 Sex 28:19 sexual 26:14,22 27:1,19 shackle 24:8 shackling 24:5 25:17,24 26:1, 6,7 share 46:3 65:7 67:15 95:22 100:11 shareable 45:18 shared 64:15 sharp 8:7 shift 58:24 short 67:20 shortages 94:8 shout-out 47:21 show 18:2 77:23 88:21 showers 68:21 showing 49:11 73:15 shows 23:3 siblings 98:8 sick 34:13 significant 18:6 significantly 62:10 68:20 signs 11:9 20:18 Simply 70:7
S		
safe 13:14 61:20 71:11 safeguards 12:11 safely 97:4,24 safer 8:17 65:21		

simulator 40:23 41:1 single 30:13 sir 51:24 75:1 101:8 102:12 sites 36:11 61:3 sitting 52:9 situations 20:3 six-day 23:2 sleep 21:23 smooth 13:21 social 60:12 78:15 81:12 82:20,24 83:18 society 17:20 49:18 53:9 66:18 70:15 71:13 77:21 80:11,15 83:14 85:18 Sold 102:22 solitary 61:7 solution 49:16 someone's 21:21 79:1 space 24:11 90:13,14 spaces 32:13 speakers 103:14,19 speaking 29:9 30:15 91:12 special 9:16 47:24 specialize 32:24 specialized 39:20 specially-trained 27:5 specialty 12:3 specific 74:2 spend 80:19 spent 57:22 sponsor 47:5 sponsored 6:21 sponsorship 71:21 spouses 98:7 squalid 68:5 SSRI 33:21 stability 12:16	stable 8:17 staff 8:2,4 9:19,22 10:4,9 11:11 12:6 13:4 15:12 16:1 21:2 22:1,23 29:24 32:20 34:19 38:4,21 42:20 43:7,9,21 47:16 60:16 68:13 69:17 71:9 88:13 89:2 93:14 94:11 95:1 97:18 staffing 8:15 94:7 stages 10:2 stand 70:6 89:13 standard 38:16,20,24 44:12, 13 70:22 standardized 38:6 standards 12:20 31:20 42:22 62:4 standing 7:18 start 52:13 started 73:23 starts 73:3 Stat 46:4 state 6:11 12:20 17:5,10 25:16 26:11 49:3,12 50:15 53:12,23 54:8,17 59:3,21 60:21 66:11 67:3 71:15 92:2,6,9,12 96:5 100:13 state-of-the-art 8:20 statement 59:15 statewide 57:4 stats 27:18 staying 84:10 step 94:14 98:21 101:21 steps 63:7 steward 49:13 stipulations 83:4 store 18:10 stored 30:5 story 74:13 strain 95:12 strategies 9:12	streamlining 12:3 street 77:12 strengthen 95:2 100:15 strengthening 9:8 strengthens 12:15 strive 15:9 stroke 20:5 strong 60:15 97:13 structural 79:18 structure 90:8 98:24 100:1 struggles 51:1 subject 94:15 submitted 59:13 substantial 18:3 succeed 83:13 86:2 98:14 success 47:19 82:17 86:7 successful 13:14 84:9 suffer 56:24 sufficient 70:18 suggests 44:6 suicide 33:12 summarize 7:10 summary 35:22 summer 15:19 16:4 sunlight 71:6 sunshine 71:9 supervision 56:8,16 82:15 83:8 86:5 supervisors 40:10 support 7:4 13:20 60:15 71:23 73:14 82:10 97:22 supporting 13:14 71:24 supports 11:19 supposed 38:7,17 55:24 surged 8:6 surprise 82:15
--	--	---

surround 41:2 surveillance 85:18 symbolic 64:10 system 11:4,7 32:12 55:24 58:7,17 64:3,22 76:21 78:21 81:20 82:10 83:7 92:24 94:6 96:13 99:4,13 100:17 systemic 65:12 systems 58:20 61:14 85:3,13 systemwide 65:2 T table 53:15 92:4 tablet 84:4 tablets 14:9,11,14 69:7 75:18 84:5,11,14 85:4,5,9,20 tactics 41:7 takes 27:15 95:12 96:24 taking 33:21 83:9 101:16 talk 79:7 talked 40:1 89:8 talking 43:9,10 taste 30:23 taught 39:13,15,17 teach 43:6 team 58:12 technology 11:11 22:9 Tek84 8:20,23 telephone 14:17 temperament 38:6 temperature 20:15 Temple 32:22 temporary 56:21 tensions 38:12 terms 28:15 77:11 89:9 test 69:23 70:6 testified 102:24	testify 18:15 46:16 52:20,22 53:3 59:21 66:11 91:24 92:21 103:12 testifying 45:9 testimonies 75:10 testimony 6:12,20 18:24 44:3, 16 46:11 53:24 59:19,22 63:17 66:9,12 72:10 76:13 91:19 92:8 100:22 102:23 103:18,21, 24 thankless 101:16 theater 56:2 therapy 35:3 There'll 40:15 Thiel 7:6 thing 15:15 31:6 40:4 55:2 77:14 81:5 84:16 things 30:17 34:23 68:15 73:17 74:6,16 76:24 79:8 83:19 88:10 Thirdly 77:16 Thomas 6:21 47:7 50:10 51:12,13 53:1 60:17 72:21,22 93:13 94:13 99:22 101:6,7 thought 15:20 thoughts 87:4 thousands 95:21 threats 8:24 tied 85:17 ties 98:6 time 7:12 9:23 10:1 14:8 15:16,24 22:4 32:20 39:4 42:18 43:18 47:11 50:20 51:3, 20 55:2 56:13 59:4 65:24 68:2 70:6 71:5,6 81:21 96:1 102:1,5 timeframe 23:2 timely 12:8 times 20:23 43:1 63:10 67:3 82:10,18 84:18 Title 17:5 today 46:11 47:1 48:6,14 49:18 52:16 57:8 59:17 70:22	74:5 78:23 92:21 100:11 101:9,14 103:1 Toland 47:23 told 74:7 toll 95:11 Tom 53:4 54:2 73:7 76:16 tomorrow 69:18 tool 33:7 64:9 tools 13:20 85:22 top 28:1 76:17 top-side-up 83:10 torturous 61:7 totally 34:1 touring 15:12 43:8 tours 17:21 67:8,17 77:20 trade 82:1 trades 81:22 tragically 62:5 training 10:17 38:4 39:1,9,11, 12,21 40:3,15,23,24 41:18 42:24 43:3 trainings 82:6 transition 13:21 34:11 transitional 39:24 transparency 9:18 59:10 64:23 70:10 79:16 90:20 93:9, 23 95:3 97:20 99:1 transport 12:15 transported 30:6 treat 81:9 treated 21:14 97:4 treatment 12:10 34:21 67:13 treatments 36:1 tremendous 7:4 8:11 18:2 triage 21:14 trip 82:18 true 50:4
---	---	--

trust 50:7,17 79:13 90:20 trustees 55:15 truth 69:22 tuning 47:2 turn 65:12 72:10 78:9 turning 83:10 type 19:22 38:19 63:2 types 30:10 U Ultimately 99:10 unable 58:4 unanswered 96:17 unattended 69:16 unaware 16:18 unchecked 61:6 understand 38:11 52:12 67:18 75:16,17 76:1 understanding 96:10 undertaken 41:10 underway 10:18 unfortunate 27:9 69:21 unhealthy 31:14 union 51:18 unique 70:15 unit 9:16 20:20,21 21:6 28:19 34:11 units 34:17,18 39:24 68:3 universal 71:21 unprofessional 42:12 unrelated 30:19 unsafe 60:21 68:5 unstaffed 68:3 update 45:19 upgrades 69:2 upload 10:20	urgent 20:3 urine 83:3 use-of- 41:11 use-of-force 39:16 40:23 41:22 V valuable 22:5 values 99:11 variety 33:9 44:5 vehicle 33:4 65:11 vendor 27:4 verbal 68:4 video 14:16 43:23 71:2 77:6 view 65:10 violated 27:7,16 violations 64:14 violence 10:13 61:3,6 84:18 visible 59:9 vision 48:21 visitation 14:17 visitations 84:9 visiting 67:4 visits 34:7 57:20 69:15 vital 11:9 20:18 70:16 vocational 81:18,22,24 voice 86:22 volunteer 101:21 volunteered 96:1 voted 16:10 51:5 64:17 voters 71:23 vulnerable 34:15 64:6 W wait 19:8 85:6 waiting 36:14 45:21	walls 59:8 70:17 wanted 19:16 25:23 29:5,12 73:24 74:23 75:23 76:15 84:20,22 wardens 40:9 water 61:22 weapons 9:1 website 46:6 weeds 57:13 week 8:10 14:5 67:4 69:10 78:24 weeks 39:1,3 63:16 68:2 weigh 87:4 weight 31:15 welfare 86:18 well- 70:13 well-being 11:23 12:12 100:18 well-documented 94:7 West 92:16 who've 101:18 wife 6:6 Wilson 47:24 wing 12:18 17:8 witnesses 53:14 92:3 103:7,9, 11 women 25:2,6 34:17 97:15 wondered 86:21 work 18:11 19:17 39:22 41:4,8 44:22 49:19 50:14 52:2,5 68:24 69:2,9 72:5 73:2,4,10 75:9 84:2 88:15 90:7,12,13 94:4 97:15,19 99:24 100:14,23 worked 25:15 79:20 93:3 worker 78:16 82:20 workers 48:11,15 working 38:8 49:7 52:18 58:14 60:18 68:11 71:11 72:1 99:18
--	---	--

worn 77:7**wraparound** 32:9 81:4**wristbands** 69:6**written** 59:14 78:11 103:21**wrong** 55:4**wrongful** 63:15,22

Y

year 15:6 25:3 27:23 41:20
45:22 52:11 76:19**year's** 16:13 64:18**years** 7:9,19 18:8 25:13,18
27:3,23 44:9 56:6,14,15 62:8
66:19 67:7,23 68:17 74:7
80:19 95:7 96:1**young** 6:9 63:18 74:12,21

City of Philadelphia

Public Hearing Notice

The **Committee on Labor and Civil Service** of the Council of the City of Philadelphia will hold a Public Hearing on **Monday, March 16, 2026**, at **10:00 AM**, in **Room 400, City Hall**, to hear testimony on the following item:

251099

An Ordinance amending Title 20 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled “Officers and Employees,” to provide for compensation of the Director of Office of Prison Oversight and members of the Philadelphia Prison Community Oversight Board, and amending Title 21 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled “Miscellaneous,” to add a new chapter, providing for the powers and duties of Office of Prison Oversight and Philadelphia Prison Community Oversight Board and the manner in which other officers, employees and agencies shall fulfill their respective responsibilities with respect to the Office and Board, all under certain terms and conditions.

Immediately following the public hearing, a meeting of the Committee on Labor and Civil Service, open to the public, will be held to consider the action to be taken on the above listed item.

Copies of the foregoing item are available in the Office of the Chief Clerk of the Council, Room 402, City Hall.