

1

2

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

3

STATED MEETING - SPECIAL SESSION

4

- - -

5

Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Thursday, December 19, 2007
10:30 a.m.

7

- - -

8

9

PRESENT:

10

COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANNA C. VERNA

11

COUNCILWOMAN JANNIE BLACKWELL

12

COUNCILWOMAN CAROL ANN CAMPBELL

13

COUNCILMAN DARRELL L. CLARKE

14

COUNCILMAN FRANK DiCICCO

15

COUNCILMAN W. WILSON GOODE, JR.

16

COUNCILMAN WILLIAM GREENLEE

17

COUNCILMAN JACK KELLY

18

COUNCILWOMAN JOAN L. KRAJEWSKI

19

COUNCILWOMAN DONNA REED MILLER

20

COUNCILMAN BRIAN J. O'NEILL

21

COUNCILMAN JUAN RAMOS

22

COUNCILWOMAN BLONDELL REYNOLDS BROWN

23

COUNCILMAN FRANK RIZZO

24

COUNCILMAN DANIEL SAVAGE

25

26

PATRICIA RAFFERTY, CHIEF CLERK

27

- - -

28

29

V A R A L L O Incorporated

30

Litigation Support Services

31

Eleven Penn Center

32

1835 Market Street, Suite 600

33

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103

34

215.561.2220 215.567.2670

35

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Good morning, everyone. I note that the hour has come and that a quorum of this Council is present.

Council will please come to order. Members will take their seats and visitors will retire to the seats outside the rails.

To give our invocation this morning, the Chair recognizes Councilman Ramos.

I would ask all members and guests to please rise.

(All members and guests rise.)

COUNCILMAN RAMOS: Good morning.

Of all the things that I've been privileged to do in this City Council for the people of Philadelphia, being the pinch hitter for ministers when they cannot come or we have a special session like today, that the President has been so kind to call me and ask me to exercise or put on my other hat as a

1 12/19/07 - STATED - INVOCATION
2 deacon in the church. Most of those
3 times before you I have written the
4 prayer myself. A couple of the times
5 I've gone to my daily prayer book. So
6 I'm going to read to you today what my
7 daily prayer book was saying to me. It
8 doesn't necessarily mean that this prayer
9 goes out to you, but let us pray.

10 The word of God will guide you
11 in so many ways. There will be times
12 when events around you will confuse you.
13 Those in whom you have placed your trust
14 will fail you. Others will abandon you.
15 You will be misunderstood and criticized.

16 In these times of distress,
17 when your devotion and obedience are put
18 to the greatest test, you must let
19 scripture guide and comfort you. Never
20 let the faithlessness of others determine
21 what you do. Turn to the scriptures and
22 allow them to reorient you to God and his
23 activity.

24 If you will immerse yourself
25 daily in the word of God, you will not be

1 12/19/07 - STATED - APPROVAL OF JOURNAL
2 caught off guard when Christ comes. Your
3 focus will already be on God, and he will
4 safely guide you through your difficult
5 moments.

6 Amen.

7 (Amen.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
9 Chair thanks Councilman Ramos for that
10 very beautiful prayer.

11 The next order of business is
12 the approval of the Journal of the
13 meeting of Thursday, December 13, 2007,
14 and the Chair recognizes Councilwoman
15 Blackwell.

16 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank
17 you, Madam President. I move that the
18 Journal of the meeting of Thursday,
19 December 13, 2007 stand approved.

20 (Duly seconded.)

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: It
22 has been moved and properly seconded that
23 the Journal of the meeting of Thursday,
24 December 13, 2007 stand approved.

25 All in favor will indicate by

1 12/19/07 - STATED - LEAVES

2 saying aye.

3 (Aye.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Those
5 opposed?

6 (No response.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The
8 ayes have it, and the Journal of the
9 meeting of Thursday, December 13, 2007 is
10 approved.

11 The next order of business is
12 requests for leave of absence, and,
13 again, the Chair recognizes Councilwoman
14 Blackwell.

15 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank
16 you, Madam President. On behalf of the
17 majority, a leave of absence is requested
18 for Councilman Kenney and for
19 Councilwoman Tasco.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The
21 Chair thanks the Councilwoman. Leave
22 will be granted.

23 The Chair recognizes Councilman
24 O'Neill.

25 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Madam

1 12/19/07 - STATED - COMMUNICATIONS

2 President, on behalf of the republicans,
3 there are no requests for leave of
4 absence.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
6 Chair thanks the gentleman.

7 The next order of business is
8 communications. The Chair requests that
9 the Sergeant-At-Arms deliver the messages
10 to the Chief Clerk.

11 The Chief Clerk will please
12 read the messages from the Mayor.

13 CHIEF CLERK: To the President
14 and members of the Council of the City of
15 Philadelphia, I am pleased to advise you
16 that I signed all of the bills that
17 passed by Council at its session on
18 December 6, 2007, except Bill Nos.
19 070950, 070951 and 070952, which are
20 returned without my signature, and I have
21 signed Bill No. 070942 that passed
22 Council on December 13, 2007.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
24 you. The messages will be printed in the
25 Journal.

1 12/19/07 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 I would ask the Chief Clerk to
3 please read any other communications in
4 her possession.

5 CHIEF CLERK: That's all I
6 have, Madam President.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
8 you.

9 The next order of business is
10 the introduction of bills and
11 resolutions, and the Chair recognizes
12 Councilwoman Blackwell for a motion.

13 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank
14 you, Madam President. I move that the
15 rules of Council be suspended in order to
16 permit the immediate consideration of
17 resolutions at their time of
18 introduction.

19 (Duly seconded.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: It
21 has been moved and properly seconded that
22 the rules of Council be suspended so as
23 to permit immediate consideration of
24 resolutions at the time of their
25 introduction.

1 12/19/07 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 All in favor will indicate by
3 saying aye.

4 (Aye.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Those
6 opposed?

7 (No response.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
9 ayes have it, the motion carries, and the
10 Chair recognizes Councilwoman Blackwell.

11 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank
12 you, Madam President. Today I introduce
13 one resolution on your behalf.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
15 you.

16 The Chief Clerk will please
17 read the title of the resolution.

18 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
19 authorizing the Commissioner of Public
20 Property to execute and deliver to the
21 Redevelopment Authority deeds located in
22 the 36th, 40th and 48th Wards of the City
23 of Philadelphia.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
25 Chair recognizes Councilwoman Blackwell

1 12/19/07 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 for a motion on the resolution.

3 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank
4 you, Madam President. I move that the
5 resolution be adopted.

6 (Duly seconded.)

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

10 All in favor will indicate by
11 saying aye.

12 (Aye.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Those
14 opposed?

15 (No response.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
17 ayes have it and the resolution is
18 adopted.

19 The Chair recognizes Councilman
20 Greenlee.

21 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
22 you, Madam President. I have no bills or
23 resolutions today.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
25 you.

1 12/19/07 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 The Chair recognizes

3 Councilwoman Krajewski.

4 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Thank
5 you, Madam President. I have no bills or
6 resolutions.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
8 Chair thanks the Councilwoman.

9 The Chair recognizes
10 Councilwoman Miller.

11 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Thank
12 you, Madam President. Today I have no
13 bills or resolutions.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
15 you.

16 The Chair recognizes Councilman
17 Savage.

18 COUNCILMAN SAVAGE: Thank you,
19 Madam President. I have no bills or
20 resolutions today.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
22 Chair recognizes Councilman DiCicco.

23 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: Thank you,
24 Madam President. I offer one resolution.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank

1 12/19/07 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 you.

3 The Chief Clerk will please
4 read the title of the resolution.

5 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
6 authorizing the Commissioner of Public
7 Property to execute and deliver to the
8 Redevelopment Authority deeds located in
9 the 1st and 39th Wards of the City of
10 Philadelphia.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
12 Chair recognizes Councilman DiCicco.

13 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: Thank you,
14 Madam President. I move for the adoption
15 of the resolution.

16 (Duly seconded.)

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

20 All in favor will say aye.

21 (Aye.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Those
23 opposed?

24 (No response.)

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The

1 12/19/07 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 ayes have it and the resolution is
3 adopted.

4 The Chair recognizes
5 Councilwoman Brown.

6 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you,
7 Madam President. No bills or resolutions
8 today.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
10 you.

11 The Chair recognizes Councilman
12 Goode.

13 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you,
14 Madam President. I have no bills or
15 resolutions.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
17 Chair thanks the gentleman.

18 The Chair recognizes Councilman
19 Ramos.

20 COUNCILMAN RAMOS: Thank you,
21 Madam President. I offer no bills or
22 resolutions today.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
24 Chair recognizes Councilwoman Campbell.

25 COUNCILWOMAN CAMPBELL: Thank

1 12/19/07 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 you, Madam President. I have no bills or
3 resolutions.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
5 you.

6 At this time, the Chair
7 recognizes Councilman O'Neill.

8 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Madam
9 President, I have no bills or
10 resolutions.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
12 you.

13 The Chair recognizes Councilman
14 Clarke.

15 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you,
16 Madam President. Madam President, I have
17 one resolution, and my understanding is
18 that there's one on its way from the
19 Redevelopment Authority. So hopefully
20 they'll get here before the session is
21 over.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
23 you.

24 The Chief Clerk will please
25 read the title of the resolution.

1 12/19/07 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
3 honoring Dawn Staley for her achievements
4 in civil service to the City of
5 Philadelphia.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
7 Chair recognizes Councilman Clarke.

8 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: I move for
9 the adoption.

10 (Duly seconded.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: It
12 has been moved and properly seconded that
13 the resolution be adopted.

14 All in favor will indicate by
15 saying aye.

16 (Aye.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Those
18 opposed?

19 (No response.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
21 ayes have it and the resolution is
22 adopted.

23 The Chair recognizes Councilman
24 Kelly.

25 COUNCILMAN KELLY: Madam

1 12/19/07 - STATED - 2ND READING

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

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
5 you.

6 The Chair recognizes Councilman
7 Rizzo.

8 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Madam
9 President, no bills or resolutions.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
11 you.

12 As there are no reports from
13 committees, the next order of business
14 will be the consideration of the
15 Calendar.

16 We have no bills on the First
17 Reading Calendar. Therefore, the Chair
18 recognizes Councilwoman Blackwell for the
19 purpose of calling up bills on the Second
20 Reading and Final Passage Calendar to be
21 called for consideration.

22 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank
23 you, Madam President. Today on Page 2 we
24 will consider Bill No. 070994-A. All
25 other bills are being held.

1 12/19/07 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
3 you very much.

4 I would ask the Chief Clerk to
5 please read the title of Bill No.
6 070994-A.

7 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
8 authorizing the Director of Finance,
9 Commissioner of Public Property and other
10 officials of the City to execute either
11 directly or through the Philadelphia
12 Authority for Industrial Development
13 various agreements, instruments of
14 conveyance and other transactional
15 documents by and among the City, the
16 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the
17 Pennsylvania Convention Center Authority
18 related to the development, construction,
19 financing, operation and management of an
20 expanded Pennsylvania Convention Center,
21 all under certain terms and conditions.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: This
23 bill having been read on two different
24 days, the question now is shall the bill
25 pass finally.

1 12/19/07 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 The Chief Clerk will please
3 call the roll.
4 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman
5 Blackwell.
6 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Aye.
7 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman
8 Campbell.
9 COUNCILWOMAN CAMPBELL: Aye.
10 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman
11 Clarke.
12 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Aye.
13 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman
14 DiCicco.
15 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: Aye.
16 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Goode.
17 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Aye.
18 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman
19 Greenlee.
20 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Aye.
21 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Kelly.
22 COUNCILMAN KELLY: Aye.
23 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman
24 Krajewski.
25 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Aye.

1 12/19/07 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman
3 Miller.
4 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Aye.
5 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman
6 O'Neill.
7 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Aye.
8 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Ramos.
9 COUNCILMAN RAMOS: Aye.
10 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman
11 Reynolds Brown.
12 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Aye.
13 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Rizzo.
14 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Aye.
15 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman
16 Savage.
17 COUNCILMAN SAVAGE: Aye.
18 CHIEF CLERK: Council President
19 Verna.
20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Aye.
21 The ayes are 15; the nays are
22 zero. A majority of all members having
23 voted in the affirmative, the bill
24 passes.
25 At this time, I would like to

1 12/19/07 - STATED - SPEECH OF MAYOR
2 recognize Mayor John Street, who would
3 like to address the body.

4 We appreciate your coming in,
5 Mr. Mayor, and all the work that you have
6 been able to accomplish, and at this
7 time, I would ask you to take the podium.

8 (Standing ovation.)

9 MAYOR STREET: Thank you.
10 Thank you. Thank you so much. Thank
11 you.

12 I appreciate that so much, and,
13 Madam President, for me, this is probably
14 the last session of City Council in a
15 28-year period when I've had so many
16 wonderful memories and opportunities to
17 be a part of the government of this great
18 city.

19 Lately people have been asking
20 me what am I going to do, and I have
21 consistently said that I might be out of
22 a job, but I won't be out of work,
23 because there really is an awful lot of
24 work to be done in the place we call
25 home, the city that we love so much.

1 12/19/07 - STATED - SPEECH OF MAYOR

2 It's hardly a secret that I'll
3 be teaching a couple of courses, a couple
4 of sections of a course, in urban
5 politics at Temple University. In fact,
6 I'll be looking forward to some of you
7 all coming up and joining me, because I'd
8 like to make that class not so much a
9 class in urban politics as a theoretical
10 matter, but I'd like to talk a little bit
11 about how things actually happen in this
12 world. I say that for some people that
13 have been teaching urban politics for the
14 last 25 or 30 years, I was up there and I
15 told them I've been living it for the
16 last three decades.

17 But I decided to stop in today
18 primarily to say thank you. I've had
19 such a wonderful experience in local
20 government. It's hard for me to -- if
21 anyone would have said to me about 30
22 years ago when I stood out at, I guess it
23 was, 28th, 29th and Ridge Avenue and
24 filed a nominating -- and declared that I
25 was going to be a candidate for City

1 12/19/07 - STATED - SPEECH OF MAYOR
2 Council -- at that time I had in mind
3 running one term. I quickly found out
4 that it took three four-year terms at
5 that time to vest a pension and that I
6 was really going to be around here for at
7 least 12 years. And then the lure of the
8 Council presidency was more than I could
9 resist, and so here I am.

10 But for me, this has been just
11 a magnificent experience. I happen to
12 have been a member of this Council when a
13 ground-breaking decision was made to
14 break the height limit so that we would
15 have tall buildings in this city. And
16 not everybody was for it, but it was this
17 Council that stood up and said, We have
18 to have tall buildings in this city. I
19 remember some people said, Let them build
20 them someplace else, let them build them
21 in neighborhoods, and there were some
22 members of this Council who stood up and
23 said, We want the buildings, the big
24 buildings built, and they have to be
25 built now and they have to be built right

1 12/19/07 - STATED - SPEECH OF MAYOR
2 here in Center City. And it changed the
3 face and the skyline of our city, and to
4 have been a part of all of that is just a
5 wonderful opportunity. And there are so
6 many things that have happened over the
7 course of the last 28 years. And then I
8 had an opportunity to serve as Mayor for
9 eight years, and I think some significant
10 things have happened. Good things have
11 happened in this city, none of which
12 would have happened without the
13 cooperation of this Council.

14 When I came here and said, We
15 want to borrow \$250 to \$300 million to
16 implement the NTI program in this city,
17 this Council said yes. And I wouldn't
18 care how much we wanted to do it, but if
19 City Council hadn't voted the bills
20 authorizing us to do it, it would never
21 have happened. And as a consequence, we
22 have neighborhoods now where property
23 values are through the ceiling.

24 Councilman Clarke and I for 19
25 years worried about the Fifth District

18 Last night we had a ceremony in
19 the Mayor's Reception Room, a ceremony
20 attended by Councilwoman Blondell
21 Reynolds Brown, and we gave out 91 grants
22 to small arts and cultural organizations
23 and some large ones that will have an
24 enormous impact on the quality of life
25 and opportunity, both cultural and

1 12/19/07 - STATED - SPEECH OF MAYOR
2 recreational, in this city. One person
3 came up to me and said, I have a program
4 where we provide opportunities for
5 disabled children, and but for this
6 grant, we would be out of business.
7 Organizations got roofs on their
8 facilities, and we were able to put
9 elevators -- fund elevators in others.
10 And Councilwoman Blackwell and
11 Councilwoman Blondell Reynolds Brown sat
12 through that entire process and worked on
13 it in a very, very serious way, and so we
14 are enormously pleased.

15 Our schools are better today
16 than they've been in my memory. There's
17 huge progress. Test scores are up. In
18 each one of the last five years, this
19 Council has increased its contributions
20 to the School District of Philadelphia
21 over the last five years or so by
22 somewhere on the order of magnitude of 36
23 percent. You have done a magnificent job
24 funding public education in this city in
25 the last eight years, and never let

1 12/19/07 - STATED - SPEECH OF MAYOR
2 anybody tell you anything differently,
3 because you really have.

4 When most of us came into our
5 respective positions, the City wasn't
6 known very much for its technology, and
7 Wireless Philadelphia has put us not on
8 the national scene but internationally
9 people are looking at the City of
10 Philadelphia, and but for EarthLink's
11 problems, people would be a whole lot
12 more optimistic. And I tell you, I've
13 talked to the EarthLink people, and we
14 are going to have a network second to
15 none and probably the largest and best in
16 any other city in the United States of
17 America, and that's something that this
18 Council supported, for which I am very
19 grateful.

20 There are numerous things that
21 have happened over the course of the last
22 eight years, and I didn't make a list and
23 I didn't prepare any remarks, but I did
24 want to come by and just say thank you,
25 because often the Mayor gets credit for a

1 12/19/07 - STATED - SPEECH OF MAYOR

2 lot of things and Councilmembers get the
3 criticism. And having been a District
4 Councilperson for 19 years, I know
5 exactly how it is.

6 One time during the course of
7 the last eight years I was invited out
8 into a neighborhood and we were going to
9 do a walk-through and a clean-up, and
10 people started cleaning up the
11 neighborhood because the Mayor was
12 coming. And then when I got out there,
13 people started wanting to take pictures,
14 and I heard a District Councilperson say,
15 You weren't asking me about taking any
16 pictures when you asked the Mayor to come
17 out here. Why are you taking pictures?
18 Tell the Mayor what you told me that
19 causes us to be out here today.

20 And so I do understand how
21 difficult it is. I understand the
22 challenge associated with representing a
23 group of people who look to you first and
24 foremost, then look to everybody else in
25 a secondary kind of way.

1 12/19/07 - STATED - SPEECH OF MAYOR

2 And so for me, this is the end
3 of a special period of time in my life, a
4 period of time when I gave some of the
5 best years of my life to this government.
6 And I have no regrets. I have no
7 complaints. It has just been a wonderful
8 experience.

9 I probably could have been a
10 little bit more confident about all of
11 this if I had known early on that there
12 was going to be a DROP program. I didn't
13 know anything about that then, and there
14 were times when I worried about how I was
15 going to be able to survive and live and
16 take care of myself after local
17 government, because you have a pretty
18 decent pension, but this DROP thing
19 actually is a pretty good thing. And so
20 when I walk out of here, I actually feel
21 financially secure, because not only will
22 I get my monthly pension, but I will also
23 have an opportunity to get a DROP check,
24 which, as most of us know, particularly
25 the five or six of you who are going to

1 12/19/07 - STATED - SPEECH OF MAYOR
2 be signing up for the DROP program, it is
3 a very interesting proposition.

4 But there is work to do, and I
5 know this Council, those of you who are
6 coming back and the new Mayor and the new
7 Council, are going to put your full
8 attention to making sure that we continue
9 to do the good things that we've been
10 doing and that we look for the gaps in
11 services and the gaps that exist and
12 continue to make progress.

13 Local government is not like
14 the Super Bowl. You know, at the end of
15 every football season, there are a couple
16 teams that go to the Super Bowl and one
17 person wins, one team wins, and then you
18 get the ring and you say, We won the
19 Super Bowl and now we're going to Disney
20 World. Local government isn't quite like
21 that. In local government, we just keep
22 playing the game. We just keep fighting.
23 We just keep running. We just keep on
24 keeping on, trying to make sure that we
25 stay ahead of the competition and make

1 12/19/07 - STATED - SPEECH OF MAYOR
2 life better for the people that we serve.
3 So at this special moment, I
4 want to thank each and every one of you.
5 A special thanks to Council President
6 Verna for her leadership and for her hard
7 work. Being the head of a legislative
8 body is one of the most challenging
9 things a person could ever do. I can
10 remember saying, When you're the Mayor,
11 all of the cabinet members and all of the
12 commissioners, they all work for you.
13 When you're the Council President, they
14 don't all work for you. They're all
15 independently elected. Each one has his
16 own view, each one has his own opinion
17 and, most importantly, each member has
18 his own vote. So it's not quite a matter
19 of calling a cabinet meeting. Calling a
20 Council meeting means that you really do
21 have to spend an awful lot of time
22 working with a variety of different
23 views, reconciling those views and coming
24 up with the very best position that this
25 legislative body can achieve. And so I

1 12/19/07 - STATED - SPEECH OF MR. DIAZ
2 want to thank Council President Verna for
3 her support, her leadership and her work
4 in this Council during the time I've been
5 Mayor. I thank her for her friendship
6 over a 28-year period. And I look
7 forward to continuing to be around and to
8 work with the members of this Council and
9 the new Administration to make sure that
10 this city is the very best city that it
11 can be.

12 Thank you and God bless you.
13 (Standing ovation.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
15 you, Mr. Mayor. We certainly wish you
16 every success in your future endeavors.
17 Thank you so much.

18 The Mayor was accompanied by
19 the City Solicitor. He's here, and I
20 would like to give him an opportunity to
21 come up and say a few words.

22 (Applause.)

23 MR. DIAZ: Thank you, Council
24 President. Once again, you've
25 demonstrated what an incredibly gracious

1 12/19/07 - STATED - SPEECH OF MR. DIAZ
2 and effective Council President. I very
3 much appreciate the opportunity to say
4 just a few words today.

5 First of all, it's been an
6 incredibly remarkable journey. I've been
7 here five and a half years in
8 Philadelphia. Never thought I would have
9 this opportunity, and certainly not to
10 stand before you today, but you folks
11 made it possible. You have been
12 unbelievably supportive and generous as
13 clients, and I very much have appreciated
14 the opportunity to work with you.

15 Five and a half years ago I
16 moved up here post 9/11 to make a life
17 with my partner of 23 years, and it was
18 the best decision I ever made, and I am
19 very thankful for the opportunity to have
20 taken a position with the City of
21 Philadelphia and to have had the
22 opportunity to serve as City Solicitor
23 since 2005.

24 Yesterday I sent to the Mayor
25 and to the Council President my

1 12/19/07 - STATED - SPEECH OF MR. DIAZ
2 resignation as City Solicitor effective
3 January 7. I have had a terrific
4 opportunity to work with incredibly
5 talented and diverse people in the City
6 Law Department throughout the City, with
7 my colleagues in the cabinet, some of
8 whom are here today. This is a great
9 period at the end of your efforts in
10 connection with the Convention Center.
11 And I see Commerce Secretary Stephanie
12 Naidoff and Buck Riley, the Chairman of
13 the Convention Center Authority. What
14 little piece of responsibility I've had
15 in this is certainly reflective of a
16 greater piece that others have had to
17 make this possible.

18 Thank you again. I will always
19 be thankful for this opportunity and hope
20 to work with you in the future.

21 I will say finally that the one
22 thing that I tell folks is that I
23 probably have only one regret in my
24 professional career, and that is that I
25 didn't have the foresight to move to

1 12/19/07 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 Philadelphia sooner. I tell people over
3 and over and over again this is the
4 greatest city in the country and they
5 should move here sooner rather than
6 later.

7 Thank you very much.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
9 you. Thank you very much.

10 (Standing ovation.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
12 Chair recognizes Councilman Clarke.

13 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you,
14 Madam President. Madam President, it has
15 arrived.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:
17 Right.

18 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: I would
19 like to introduce one resolution.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
21 you.

22 The Chief Clerk will please
23 read the title of the resolution.

24 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
25 authorizing the Commissioner of Public

1 12/19/07 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 Property to execute and deliver to the
3 Redevelopment Authority deeds located in
4 the 18th Ward of the City of
5 Philadelphia.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
7 Chair recognizes Councilman Clarke.

8 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: I move for
9 the adoption.

10 (Duly seconded.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: It
12 has been moved and properly seconded that
13 the resolution be adopted.

14 All in favor will indicate by
15 saying aye.

16 (Aye.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Those
18 opposed?

19 (No response.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
21 ayes have it and the resolution is
22 adopted.

23 Are there speeches on the part
24 of the minority?

25 (No response.)

1 12/19/07 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Are
3 there speeches on the part of the
4 majority?

5 The Chair recognizes
6 Councilwoman Blackwell.

7 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank
8 you, Madam President.

9 I again would like to echo what
10 was said last week about working with
11 Councilman Ramos and Councilman Savage.
12 They've done a fine job for the citizens
13 of our city, and we were pleased to work
14 with them.

15 I would also like to thank all
16 of those who contributed to our yearly,
17 ninth year now, party for the homeless
18 yesterday. Last year we entertained
19 4,000 people. Yesterday we had about as
20 many, and as all of you know, food never
21 runs out, nor do gifts. In fact, our
22 office here always looks like the North
23 Pole when we're wrapping. So we thank
24 all who contributed and thank all of
25 those who came.

1 12/19/07 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 And, finally, as all of you
3 know, this is another tradition. We're
4 an hour early, but at 12 o'clock today we
5 have our office party, and we'll be ready
6 for you, as we always are, in front of my
7 office.

8 Thank you very much. God bless
9 you all and have a great holiday.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
11 you.

12 Are there any other speeches on
13 the part of the majority?

14 At this time, I think on behalf
15 of all members of Council, I would like
16 to thank our three outgoing
17 Councilmembers. They have really
18 contributed so much, not only to their
19 districts but to the City as a whole. I
20 think you will be sorely missed, and I
21 want to certainly wish you every success
22 in your future endeavors.

23 At this time, I would also like
24 to wish everyone a very merry Christmas
25 and a healthy, happy New Year.

1 12/19/07 - STATED - ADJOURNMENT

2 Again, I would like to
3 recognize Councilwoman Blackwell for a
4 motion to adjourn.

5 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank
6 you, Madam President. I note that I
7 didn't mention our colleague Councilwoman
8 Campbell because in her role as head of
9 the ward leaders and as a leader in our
10 party, we work with her all the time
11 anyway. I didn't see her as leaving.
12 Thank you.

13 I move, Madam President, that
14 Council stand adjourned sine die.

15 (Duly seconded.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: All
17 in favor will say aye.

18 (Aye.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Those
20 opposed?

21 (No response.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
23 ayes have it, and Council stands
24 adjourned.

25 Thank you very much.

1 12/19/07 - STATED - ADJOURNMENT

2 (Stated Meeting - Special

3 Session adjourned at 11:00 a.m.)

4 - - -

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1

2

CERTIFICATE

3

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the

4

proceedings, evidence and objections are

5

contained fully and accurately in the

6

stenographic notes taken by me upon the

7

foregoing matter on December 19, 2007, and

8

that this is a true and correct transcript of

9

same.

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

MICHELE L. MURPHY

17

RPR-Notary Public

18

19

20

(The foregoing certification of this

21

transcript does not apply to any reproduction

22

of the same by any means, unless under the

23

direct control and/or supervision of the

24

certifying reporter.)

25