

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
STATED MEETING

Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Thursday, February 15, 2024
10:00 a.m.

PRESENT:

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

MICHAEL A. DECKER, CHIEF CLERK

- - -

1 2/15/24 - STATED - INVOCATION

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

3 I note that the hour has come and
4 that a quorum of this Council is
5 present. Council will come to
6 order. Members will take their
7 seats. Visitors will retire to
8 their seats outside the rails.

9 Before proceeding, I will ask all
10 those present to please set your
11 cell phones to silent or vibrate.
12 Thank you.

13 To give our invocation this
14 morning, the Chair recognizes the
15 Reverend Dr. Adam Hearlson, Pastor
16 of Overbrook Presbyterian Church.
17 The Reverend is here today as the
18 guest of Councilmember Jones. I
19 will ask all members and guests to
20 please rise.

21 (Councilmembers, guests and
22 visitors rise.)

23 REVEREND DR. HEARLSON:

24 It's humbling to be among you this
25 day as I bring greetings from the

1 2/15/24 - STATED - INVOCATION
2 people of Overbrook Presbyterian
3 Church and the Presbyterian
4 Philadelphia. Your work as a
5 Council is in my prayers and to be
6 among you in the spirit of prayers
7 is an honor.

8 I want to thank
9 Councilmember Jones for this
10 invitation and all of you for your
11 generous hospitality. I'm also
12 aware of the sad occasion that
13 prompts my invocation here today on
14 January 15th, Martin Luther King
15 Day.

16 Our sanctuary caught fire
17 on the corner of City and
18 Lancaster. By God's grace and by
19 the Philadelphia Fire Department,
20 the church still stands. But it
21 remains badly damaged. Our
22 community has been displaced, but
23 it has not been disbanded. Indeed
24 our community has grown.

25 Philadelphia has lived up

1 2/15/24 - STATED - INVOCATION
2 to its namesake. It has been
3 showering us with love. I'd like
4 to name the African Episcopal
5 Church of St. Thomas, Penn Wynne
6 Presbyterian Church, Temple Beth'El
7 have housed us in this time. Wawa
8 has fed us hoagies. La Colombe
9 Coffee has kept us caffeinated.
10 City leaders like
11 Councilmember Jones have reached
12 out with support and love. We are
13 stronger today than we were four
14 weeks ago. Because we are knitted
15 more thoroughly into the love of
16 Philadelphia. As people who
17 believe that death precedes new
18 life, we are confident that because
19 of this love that we have received,
20 what will rise from the ashes of
21 this fire will be greater than what
22 we could have imagined.
23 So in the spirit of that
24 hope, will you join me in the
25 spirit of prayer.

1 2/15/24 - STATED - INVOCATION

2 Our Divine Spirit today, I
3 invoke into this chamber the spirit
4 of hope. May we be those who can
5 hold grief and hope in the same
6 hand. May we be comforted with
7 visions of what our city will
8 become. May we rejoice in the
9 beauty of what our city is. May we
10 remember honestly what our city has
11 been.

12 Today I invoke into this
13 chamber the spirit of wisdom. May
14 this body know that twin powers of
15 justice and mercy and may they be
16 anointed with the wisdom to know
17 when each is needed. May they
18 govern well, guided by the
19 principles of honesty and
20 tenderness and courage.

21 Today I invoke into this
22 chamber the spirit of peace. May a
23 peace that passes all understanding
24 wash over this City. May it
25 comfort the anxious. May it gird

1 2/15/24 - STATED - INVOCATION

2 up the scared. May it inspire
3 conflict resolution that doesn't
4 involve blood or bullets.

5 Today I invoke into this
6 chamber the spirit of humility.
7 May we become servants of those in
8 need. May we become humbled by the
9 common dignity of every soul. May
10 our ears be attuned to the lost and
11 ignored among us. Today I invoke
12 into this chamber a spirit of
13 generosity. May we count every
14 living thing a gift, the bird song
15 a gift, the crocus that has come
16 too early a gift, the sun that
17 shines after a season of clouds a
18 gift. And in receiving these
19 gifts, may we give back.

20 Today I invoke into this
21 chamber a spirit of gratitude. May
22 we know the full extent of
23 generosity that surrounds us. May
24 we notice and honor the sacrifice
25 of others. May we long remember

1 2/15/24 - STATED - INVOCATION
2 the care of our neighbors and
3 friends. And may we return that
4 care and kind. May we all notice
5 what has been given and be
6 grateful. May we all seek
7 gratitude that we might give.

8 Today I invoke into this
9 chamber the spirit of love. Love
10 that endures. Love that seeks
11 understanding. Love that unites us
12 in common mission. Love that heals
13 us from historic evils. Love that
14 grounds us and grows us. Love that
15 finds its source and its end in the
16 divine.

17 Today may the spirits of
18 hope, wisdom, peace, humility,
19 generosity and love light our way
20 forward into a beautiful future.
21 And may we journey to that future
22 together united as one city, one
23 nation, one people bound by a
24 common mission.

25 In this I pray in the name

1 2/15/24 - STATED - APPROVAL OF JOURNAL

2 of all that is holy and good.

3 Amen.

4 (Amen.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

6 The Chair thanks the Reverend for

7 his invocation.

8 Council will be at ease.

9 (Council at ease.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

11 The next order of business is

12 approval of the Journal of the

13 meeting of Thursday, February 8th

14 of 2024.

15 The Chair recognizes

16 Councilmember Cindy Bass.

17 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank

18 you, Mr. President.

19 I move that the Journal of

20 the meeting of Thursday, February

21 8, 2024 be approved.

22 (Duly seconded.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

24 It has been moved and properly

25 seconded that the Journal of the

1 2/15/24 - STATED - LEAVES

2 meeting of Thursday, February 8,
3 2024 stand approved.

4 All in favor will indicate
5 by saying aye.

6 (Aye.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

8 Those opposed?

9 (No response.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

11 The ayes have it and the Journal is
12 approved.

13 The next order of business
14 is the request for leaves of
15 absence. And the Chair recognizes
16 Councilwoman Katherine Gilmore
17 Richardson.

18 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

19 RICHARDSON: Thank you,
20 Mr. President.

21 On behalf of the Majority,
22 there are no requests for leaves of
23 absence today.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

25 The Chair thanks the Councilmember.

1 2/15/24 - STATED - MOTION CONCERNING CALENDAR

2 The Chair recognizes

3 Councilmember Brooks.

4 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: Thank
5 you, Mr. President.

6 On behalf of the Minority,
7 there's no requests for leaves of
8 absence today.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
10 The Chair thanks the Councilmember.

11 The Chair now recognizes
12 Councilmember Gilmore Richardson
13 for a motion concerning certain
14 legislative matters that may arise
15 during the course of today's
16 session of Council and that were
17 not listed on the Calendar
18 circulated prior to today's
19 session.

20 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE
21 RICHARDSON: Thank you,
22 Mr. President.

23 I move that any of the
24 following matters, if considered
25 today, may be added to the agenda

1 2/15/24 - STATED - MOTION CONCERNING CALENDAR

2 for this session of Council, and as
3 required by law subsequently
4 published on an amended agenda
5 after the consideration of those
6 matters: resolutions authorizing
7 hearings, resolutions taking
8 substantive action to be voted on
9 in this session, a motion to
10 withdraw a bill or resolution that
11 is not on the Calendar and a motion
12 placing a resolution on or
13 returning a resolution from the
14 Suspension Calendar that is not
15 listed on today's Calendar.

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

23 (Duly seconded.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

25 It has been moved and properly

1 2/15/24 - STATED - MOTION CONCERNING CALENDAR

2 seconded that the legislative
3 matters stated by Councilmember
4 Gilmore Richardson may be added to
5 the agenda for today should those
6 matters arise during the course of
7 this session of Council.

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

10 (Aye.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

12 Those opposed?

13 (No response.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

15 The ayes have it.

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

1 2/15/24 - STATED - COMMUNICATIONS
2 certainly invite you to come again.

3 As we do not have any
4 presentations today, we will now go
5 into the introduction of the bills.
6 The next order of business is
7 communications.

8 The Chair recognizes the
9 Sergeant-at-Arms to deliver the
10 message from the Mayor to the Chief
11 Clerk.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
13 The Chief Clerk will please read
14 the message from the Mayor.

15 CHIEF CLERK: To the
16 President and Members of the
17 Council of the City of
18 Philadelphia. I am transmitting
19 for the consideration of your
20 Honorable Body a resolution
21 authorizing the Philadelphia Land
22 Bank to dispose of 18 through 20,
23 24 through 30 and 34 through 36
24 South 44th Street and 4422 and 4426
25 through 30 Ludlow Street, located

1 2/15/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 in the 3rd Councilmanic District;
3 and

4 A resolution authorizing
5 the Philadelphia Land Bank to
6 dispose of 2428 North Orianna
7 Street located in the 7th
8 Councilmanic District, all under
9 certain terms and conditions.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

11 Thank you. The messages will be
12 printed in the Journal.

13 The Chief Clerk will please
14 read any other communications in
15 his possession.

16 CHIEF CLERK: I have none,
17 Mr. President.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

19 The next order of business is the
20 introduction of bills and
21 resolutions.

22 The Chair recognizes
23 Councilmember Phillips.

24 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: Good
25 morning, Mr. President and

1 2/15/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 colleagues.

3 There are no introductions
4 or resolutions from me this
5 morning.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
7 Thank you.

8 The Chair recognizes
9 Councilmember Gilmore Richardson.

10 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

11 RICHARDSON: Thank you,
12 Mr. President.

13 Today I offer no bills or
14 resolutions.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
16 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
17 Gauthier.

18 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:
19 Thank you, Mr. President.

20 Today I offer one
21 privileged resolution and one
22 non-privileged resolution.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
24 Thank you.

25 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged

1 2/15/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 resolution honoring and recognizing
3 the 18th Police District Tactical
4 Squad for its valiant efforts to
5 reduce gun violence and enhance
6 public safety in West Philadelphia.

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

10 CHIEF CLERK: And a
11 non-privileged resolution
12 authorizing the Philadelphia Land
13 Bank to dispose of 18-20, 24-30,
14 34-36 South 44th Street and 4422
15 and 4426-30 Ludlow Street located
16 in the 3rd Councilmanic District.

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

22 The Chair recognizes
23 Councilmember Isaiah Thomas.

24 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Good
25 morning, Council President. Good

1 2/15/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 morning, colleagues. Good morning
3 to the listening public.

4 I offer five resolutions
5 today. Two on your behalf, Council
6 President.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
8 Will the Clerk please read the
9 titles of the bills and
10 resolutions.

11 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged
12 resolution authorizing the
13 Committee on Education to hold
14 hearings to examine the recent
15 report on high teacher attrition
16 and understand its root causes,
17 impact on teacher and student
18 morale as well as its effects on
19 learning outcomes.

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

23 CHIEF CLERK: And a
24 privileged resolution authorizing
25 the Committee on Education to hold

1 2/15/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 hearings to examine recent high
3 profile violent incidents between
4 parents, faculty and students at
5 middle and high schools.

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

9 CHIEF CLERK: And a
10 privileged resolution honoring,
11 congratulating the Champion of the
12 Week, Educator Victoria Best, the
13 Founder and Executive Director of
14 Victoria Urban Outreach Tutoring
15 Services, a youth education and
16 mentorship program in the City of
17 Philadelphia.

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

21 CHIEF CLERK: And a
22 non-privileged resolution
23 authorizing the creation of a
24 Special Committee on City and
25 Private Sector Diversity, Equity

1 2/15/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 and Inclusion Policies to examine
3 the impact of such policies and to
4 provide practical evidence-based
5 recommendations to enhance policy
6 effectiveness in the promotion of
7 minority, women and disabled-owned
8 businesses in the City of
9 Philadelphia.

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

15 CHIEF CLERK: And a
16 non-privileged resolution
17 authorizing the reconvening of the
18 Philadelphia Tax Reform Commission
19 and its Advisory Committee to
20 conduct an updated comprehensive
21 analysis of all taxes imposed in
22 the City of Philadelphia and to
23 make recommendations concerning tax
24 reforms to support the City's
25 economic growth and

1 2/15/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 competitiveness.

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

8 The Chair recognizes
9 Councilmember Curtis Jones.

10 COUNCILMAN JONES: Morning,
11 Mr. President, colleagues and
12 viewing public.

13 I offer one privileged
14 resolution today.

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

18 CHIEF CLERK: A
19 non-privileged resolution calling
20 on the United States Congress to
21 pass the bipartisan Violent
22 Incident Clearance and
23 Technological Investigative Methods
24 (VICTIM) Act, which will give law
25 enforcement the support they need

1 2/15/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 to investigate crime and increase
3 the closure rate of homicide cases.

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

9 The Chair recognizes
10 Councilmember Rue Landau.

11 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:
12 Morning, Council President,
13 colleagues and the public.

14 I have one privileged
15 resolution this morning.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
17 Thank you.

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

20 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged
21 resolution recognizing and honoring
22 Kurt Evans for his impact in
23 improving access to food,
24 establishing workforce development
25 opportunities for returning

1 2/15/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 citizens and contributing to a
3 thriving Black food culture in
4 Philadelphia.

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

8 The Chair recognizes
9 Councilwoman Quetcy Lozada.

10 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Good
11 morning, Council President.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
13 Good morning.

14 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Good
15 morning, everyone.

16 Today I offer one
17 non-privileged resolution.

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

21 CHIEF CLERK: A
22 non-privileged resolution
23 authorizing the Philadelphia Land
24 Bank to dispose of 2428 North
25 Orianna Street located in the 7th

1 2/15/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 Councilmanic District.

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

8 The Chair recognizes
9 Councilmember Jeffrey Jay Young.

10 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Good
11 morning, Council President. Good
12 morning, colleagues.

13 Today I offer one bill and
14 one non-privileged resolution.

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

18 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
19 amending Chapter 17-1600 of the
20 Philadelphia Code, entitled
21 "Economic Opportunity Plans," to
22 define development projects and
23 providing for additional
24 requirements for economic
25 opportunity plan approval.

1 2/15/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

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

5 CHIEF CLERK: And a

6 non-privileged resolution

7 authorizing the Philadelphia Land

8 Bank to dispose of 2464 North

9 Natrona Street located in the 5th
10 Councilmanic District.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

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

16 The Chair recognizes

17 Councilmember Kendra Brooks.

18 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS:

19 Council President, I have no bills
20 and no resolutions.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

22 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
23 Jim Harrity.

24 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:

25 Council President, I have no bills

1 2/15/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 or resolutions today.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
4 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
5 Nicolas O'Rourke.

6 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE: Good
7 morning, Council President.

8 I have one privileged
9 resolution to introduce.

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

13 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged
14 resolution authorizing the
15 Committee on Global Opportunities
16 and the Creative/Innovative Economy
17 to hold public hearings to explore
18 Philadelphia's existing guaranteed
19 income pilot programs and the
20 potential further expansion.

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

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
25 The Chair recognizes Councilmember

1 2/15/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 Mike Driscoll.

3 COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL:

4 Mr. President, no bills or
5 resolutions today.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

7 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
8 Brian O'Neill.

9 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Thank
10 you, Mr. President.

11 I have no bills or
12 resolutions.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

14 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
15 Mark Squilla.

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

18 I offer three bills.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

20 Will the Clerk please read the
21 titles of the bills.

22 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
23 authorizing Norris Street Holdings
24 to install, own and maintain a
25 Streeterly in the right-of-way

1 2/15/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 adjacent to 2401 East Norris
3 Street.

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

7 CHIEF CLERK: And an
8 ordinance establishing parking
9 regulations, one-way regulations
10 and a closure of the public right-
11 of-way to motor traffic regulation
12 in the vicinity of Washington
13 Avenue from 4th Street and Water
14 Street.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
16 This bill will be referred to the
17 appropriate committee.

18 CHIEF CLERK: And an
19 ordinance amending Chapter 12-2700
20 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled
21 "Permit Parking Districts," to add
22 a new section, entitled "Reserved
23 Permit Parking for Residents With
24 Disabilities," authorizing
25 establishment of a program to

1 2/15/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 provide dedicated vehicle-specific
3 permit parking for certain
4 individuals with a disability.

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

8 The Chair recognizes
9 Councilmember Cindy Bass.

10 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank
11 you, Mr. President.

12 I offer one privileged
13 resolution.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
15 Will the Clerk please read the
16 title of the resolution.

17 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged
18 resolution honoring Renée Chenault
19 Fattah for her unwavering
20 dedication and commitment to
21 excellence throughout her esteemed
22 career.

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

1 2/15/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 The Chair recognizes

3 Councilmember Nina Ahmad.

4 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD: Thank
5 you, Council President.

6 I have one privileged
7 resolution that is being
8 co-introduced by Majority Leader,
9 my colleague, Councilmember
10 Katherine Gilmore Richardson.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
12 Will the Clerk please read the
13 title of the resolution.

14 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged
15 resolution authorizing the
16 Committee on Public Health and
17 Human Services to hold hearings
18 examining proposed solutions to
19 racial disparities in a maternal
20 mortality rate in the City of
21 Philadelphia.

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

25 There being no reports from

1 2/15/24 - STATED - BILLS ON 2ND READING

2 Committees today, the next order of
3 business is the consideration of
4 the Calendar. As there are no
5 bills on the First Reading
6 Calendar, the Chair recognizes
7 Councilmember Gilmore Richardson
8 for the purpose of calling
9 resolutions on the Second Reading
10 and Final Passage Calendars.

11 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

12 RICHARDSON: Thank you,
13 Mr. President.

14 The following resolutions
15 are being called up from the Second
16 Reading and Final Passage Calendars
17 today, Nos. 240095 and 240096.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

19 Thank you.

20 Before considering these
21 resolutions, we will consider
22 public comment as follows: Your
23 public comment must concern matters
24 on the Second Reading and Final
25 Passage Calendars for possible

1 2/15/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 action at today's Council session.

3 All speakers must sign up
4 in order to testify. If you have
5 not already signed up for today's
6 session, please do so now by giving
7 your name to Ms. Hanson at the
8 table outside the rails to my left.
9 Once you have signed up, you will
10 be called in the order in which
11 your name appears on the sign-up
12 sheet.

13 Under ideal circumstances,
14 public commenters will each have
15 three minutes to speak. However,
16 this time limit may vary from
17 session-to-session. Today the time
18 limit will be three minutes. In
19 order to be fair to all those
20 wishing to speak, I intend to hold
21 faithfully to the three-minute
22 limit.

23 When you begin speaking,
24 you will see a green light on the
25 podium. When there are 30 seconds

1 2/15/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 remaining to your time, the light

3 will turn yellow which is your

4 reminder to conclude your remarks.

5 Once three minutes have passed, the

6 light will turn red and the

7 Sergeant-at-Arms will disconnect

8 the microphone.

9 At that point, please yield

10 the podium to the next speaker if

11 you have not already done so. I

12 also reserve the right pursuant to

13 our rules of Council to limit

14 repetitious comments on the same

15 subject matter.

16 I will now ask the Chief

17 Clerk to please read the name of

18 our first speaker.

19 CHIEF CLERK: The first

20 speaker, Mr. President, is Judith

21 Robinson, Queen Judith Robinson.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

23 Thank you. Queen Judith Robinson,

24 sir.

25 CHIEF CLERK: Commenting on

1 2/15/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 240095.

3 (Witness approached
4 podium.)

5 MS. ROBINSON: Yes. Thank
6 you. Good morning. Queen Judith
7 Robinson here. Land Bank needs a
8 public hearing. You need a public
9 hearing about the process, you all.
10 We're in the throes in the midst of
11 gentrification, so we really need a
12 hearing to find out what's going on
13 with the Land Bank.

14 I was there last June in a
15 session and there was a deal on the
16 table for 75 parcels for \$75,000.
17 Every organization in the Latino
18 community, I was so proud of them,
19 they opposed that deal. The
20 developer was pretty upset. The
21 developer ends up on the Board of
22 the Land Bank next time we came
23 around. Very strange, you all,
24 very strange.

25 I say this as a native

1 2/15/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 Philadelphian, as a long-term real
3 estate professional, as a Black
4 person from North Philadelphia
5 where a lot of this land I'm going
6 to say in the 5th District, not
7 meh, in the 5th District was taken
8 using eminent domain.

9 I'm going to refer you all
10 to Bill No. 150409. 800 parcels
11 Sharswood area, they're over there
12 beating and banging now. I don't
13 see that many Blacks folks on this
14 site. So Ridge Avenue, we don't
15 talk about land use. We don't talk
16 about land care. We were land care
17 carers, managers for a decade. The
18 Land Bank may be bankrupt, okay.

19 So I respectfully respect
20 that you have a hearing to think
21 about the equity, think about the
22 inclusion, the process you have to
23 talk about the Turn the Key
24 program. It's a little tainted I
25 say in my professional opinion. We

1 2/15/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 are one of the poorest big cities
3 in America, and here we have
4 \$280,000 sale price on a home.
5 Even with all the subsidies and all
6 of that, you all, I close the deal
7 with the best, but it's a little
8 high, okay. And you're pushing
9 gentrification too fast.

10 I am Judith Robinson. I
11 have a course called Gentrification
12 Managing Solutions. I suggest that
13 some of you all come and take my
14 course. It's at PASCEP, but I can
15 create the course for this body
16 here. I can create the course for
17 your assistants, but I do want you
18 to come and let's talk about how to
19 manage gentrification because it's
20 upon us.

21 Sometimes it's raw. It's
22 disrespectful and we don't want to
23 have that. I'm the best
24 negotiator. So I want to negotiate
25 and give us a good deal where we're

1 2/15/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 all included. I love Philadelphia.
3 I'm a native Philadelphian, born
4 and bred in Strawberry Mansion, so
5 I want the best for us. So I come
6 here always asking for us to
7 elevate, get our minds right.
8 Thank you all very much. Peace.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
10 Thank you.

11 (Applause.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
13 Will the Clerk please call the next
14 speaker.

15 CHIEF CLERK: Kurt Evans.
16 (Witness approached
17 podium.)

18 MR. EVANS: How you guys
19 doing. My name is Kurt Evans. I'm
20 a chef, a native of Philadelphia.
21 Today I'm being honored by
22 Councilwoman Rue Landau. I would
23 like to thank City Council
24 President Kenyatta Johnson and all
25 the other City Councilmembers here

1 2/15/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 for having me.

3 You said I got three
4 minutes. I'm going to give you
5 about two of those back. Really
6 short with words, but just glad to
7 be recognized in the City that I
8 was born and raised in. A few
9 years ago I took a job in New York
10 teaching a nonprofit, teaching
11 formerly incarcerated youth, 18 to
12 25 culinary skills.

13 Didn't think I was coming
14 back until COVID happened. Came
15 back home, and I want to bring
16 those skills that I learned in New
17 York in the nonprofit sector
18 through job entry for formerly
19 incarcerated, but also the last
20 couple of years I've been working
21 on preventative measures for kids
22 on the track to be incarcerated.

23 So we do a lot of jobs,
24 bring a lot of guys on catering
25 jobs, sourcing other friends that

1 2/15/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 do other like -- they have other
3 trades. I send kids to work with
4 them. But just the work that I've
5 been doing for the last 14 years in
6 the City, I'm glad it was
7 recognized. And thank you for
8 having me.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
10 Thank you.

11 (Applause.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
13 Will the Clerk please call the next
14 speaker.

15 CHIEF CLERK: Darryl
16 Shuler.

17 (No response.)

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
19 Will the Clerk please call the next
20 speaker.

21 CHIEF CLERK: Patty
22 Jackson.

23 (No response.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
25 Will the Clerk please call the next

1 2/15/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 speaker.

3 CHIEF CLERK: Dyana

4 Williams.

5 (No response.)

6 CHIEF CLERK: Dyana

7 Williams.

8 (No response.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

10 Will the Clerk please call the next

11 speaker.

12 CHIEF CLERK: Angel

13 Williams.

14 (Witness approached

15 podium.)

16 MS. WILLIAMS: Hi,

17 everyone. My name is Angel

18 Williams. First and foremost, I

19 want to thank you for your time. I

20 appreciate being put on the list to

21 speak on behalf of a Home From

22 Shana Foundation.

23 I'm here basically to

24 ask -- to advocate for -- I'm so

25 nervous -- Black women are going

1 2/15/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 into the hospitals and they're not
3 coming home. It's plain and
4 simple. So I'm asking that we all
5 become part of the solution so that
6 Black women can be heard and be
7 seen and be cared for properly.
8 Our foundation advocates for the
9 proper care of Black women. And
10 that's all I got. Thank you.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

12 Thank you.

13 (Applause.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

15 Will the Clerk please call the next
16 speaker.

17 CHIEF CLERK: Ogbonna

18 Hagins commenting on 240095.

19 (Witness approached
20 podium.)

21 MR. HAGINS: Great morning,
22 everyone. Ogbonna Hagins for the
23 record. This testimony today is in
24 regards to the property transfer.
25 And I'm in favor of it, but I would

1 2/15/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 like to know if you looked at the
3 Brookings Institute study that
4 stated that Afro American home
5 values have been devalued since
6 2000, \$156 billion.

7 And I'm speaking today in
8 the memory of Benjamin Lay and my
9 father who was murdered because of
10 what I'm about to say: I'm here
11 today as an unseated member as I
12 consider myself of Philadelphia
13 City Council to introduce
14 legislation to combat structural
15 racism in Philadelphia.

16 The reason I have to
17 introduce this bill is that for two
18 years now I have been coming to
19 public comment before the City
20 Council offering my help as well as
21 my demands to deal with structural
22 racism. And still for some reason
23 either due to conflict of interest
24 or fear, the seated members refuse
25 to do so for some reason, and

1 2/15/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 despite City research and findings
3 of fact telling them to address
4 structural racism via large scale
5 investments into communities
6 decimated by poverty and
7 unemployment, the City Council
8 feels the need to invest time and
9 money into anything guaranteed not
10 to work.

11 Gun violence is merely a
12 political football that politicians
13 kick around to avoid the elephant
14 in the room. And, that is, to
15 avoid doing anything socially,
16 politically or economically that
17 works towards the collective
18 upliftment of the progeny of
19 emancipated people in Philadelphia,
20 Afro Americans, American Freedmen.

21 Gun violence will never be
22 eradicated as long as it remains
23 customary to reinstate the
24 degradation and dependence,
25 features of the old slave system

1 2/15/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 upon the emancipated people in
3 Philadelphia, whose proffered
4 political status designation is
5 American Freedmen.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
7 Mr. Hagins, could we focus on the
8 Land transfer?

9 MR. HAGINS: Absolutely.
10 And in regards to structural
11 racism, who used to own that
12 property? Were they owned by
13 people whose homes were devalued
14 and that's why maybe they had to
15 get rid of them, in regards to
16 that, Council President. My thing
17 is this, City Council, after today
18 you have no excuse. The clock is
19 ticking. Thank you.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
21 Thank you.

22 (Applause.)

23 CHIEF CLERK: The next
24 speaker is Kayla Perez commenting
25 on 240096.

1 2/15/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 (Witness approached

3 podium.)

4 MS. PEREZ: My name is

5 Kayla Perez. Last time I was here

6 I told you every 10 minutes a child

7 is killed in Gaza. Since our last

8 meeting last Thursday, the 8th at

9 10:00 a.m. 10,080 --

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

11 Ms. Perez --

12 MS. PEREZ: -- minutes have

13 passed. That's --

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

15 Ms. Perez, can we focus on the

16 topic of 240096. Thank you very

17 much.

18 (Applause.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

20 Mr. Chief Clerk, are there any

21 other speakers to speak at this

22 moment, sir?

23 CHIEF CLERK: There are no

24 other speakers, Mr. President.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

1 2/15/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 That concludes today's public
3 comment period.

4 I'm going to take a moment
5 to acknowledge in our balcony today
6 we have eight students from the
7 Excelsior School of Philadelphia
8 located in Germantown. They are in
9 City Council today as part of a
10 Social Studies field trip. They
11 are here today watching their
12 government in action.

13 Can we give them a round of
14 applause, y'all.

15 (Applause.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
17 Our future generation watching our
18 government in action.

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

22 Council will now be at
23 ease.

24 (Council at ease.)

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

1 2/15/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 The Clerk will please read the
3 title of Resolution 230095.

4 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
5 authorizing the Philadelphia Land
6 Bank to dispose of 2501, 2855, 2857
7 Amber Street; 2143, 2155, 2157 East
8 Birch Street; 2134, 2172 East
9 Cambria Street; 2103 and 2107 East
10 Cumberland Street; 2107 East Dakota
11 Street; 2478, 2480 Emerald Street;
12 2022 East Fletcher Street, 1929,
13 1935, 1943 and 2215-17 East Harold
14 Street; 2637, 2639, 2643, 2645 and
15 2649 Janney Street; 2536 Jasper
16 Street; 2639, 2641, 2643 and 2653
17 Kensington Avenue; 2668 East
18 Monmouth Street; 1844 East Oakdale
19 Street; 2140, 2151, 2153 and 2156
20 East Orleans Street; 2646 and 2658
21 Ritter Street; 2089 East Somerset
22 Street; 2106, 2133, 2135, 2250 and
23 2252 East William Street located in
24 the 1st Councilmanic District.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

1 2/15/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
3 Squilla for a motion on the
4 resolution.

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

7 I move for the adoption of
8 the resolution.

9 (Duly seconded.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

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

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

16 (Aye.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

18 Those opposed?

19 (No response.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

21 The ayes have it, and the
22 resolution passes.

23 The Chair recognizes the
24 Clerk on Bill No. 240096.

25 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution

1 2/15/24 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 renaming the 6000 block of Norwood
3 Street "Frankie Beverly Way" to
4 honor Frankie Beverly for his
5 significant contributions to the
6 music industry.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
8 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
9 Cindy Bass for a motion on the
10 resolution.

11 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank
12 you, Mr. President.

13 I move for the adoption of
14 this resolution.

15 (Duly seconded.)

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

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

22 (Aye.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
24 Those opposed?

25 (No response.)

1 2/15/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

3 The ayes have it, and the
4 resolution passes.

5 The Clerk will please read
6 any additional resolutions on
7 today's Calendar.

8 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
9 honoring and recognizing the 18th
10 Police District Tactical Squad for
11 its valiant efforts to reduce gun
12 violence and enhance public safety
13 in West Philadelphia, introduced
14 today by Councilmember Gauthier.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
16 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
17 Gauthier.

18 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:
19 Thank you, Council President.

20 I move for the adoption of
21 the resolution.

22 (Duly seconded.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
24 It has been moved and properly
25 seconded that the resolution be

1 2/15/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 adopted.

3 All those in favor will
4 signify by saying aye.

5 (Aye.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

7 Those opposed?

8 (No response.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

10 The ayes have it, and the
11 resolution is adopted.

12 CHIEF CLERK: And a
13 resolution authorizing the
14 Committee on Education to hold
15 hearings to examine the recent
16 report on high teacher attrition
17 and understand its root causes,
18 impact on teacher and student
19 morale as well as its effects on
20 learning outcomes, introduced today
21 by Councilmember Thomas.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

23 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
24 Thomas.

25 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank

1 2/15/24 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 you, Council President. Thank you
3 to all of my colleagues who
4 cosponsored this and thank you,
5 Council President, to you and your
6 passion around this issue. And I
7 move for the adoption of the
8 resolution.

9 (Duly seconded.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

11 It has been moved and properly
12 seconded that a resolution be
13 adopted.

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

16 (Aye.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

18 Those opposed?

19 (No response.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

21 The ayes have it, and the
22 resolution is adopted.

23 CHIEF CLERK: And a
24 resolution authorizing the
25 Committee on Education to hold

1 2/15/24 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 hearings to examine recent high
3 profile violent incidents between
4 parents, faculty and students at
5 middle and high schools, introduced
6 today by Councilmember Thomas.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
8 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
9 Thomas.

10 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank
11 you, Council President.

12 Those of us on the
13 Education Committee know that
14 there's been a significant increase
15 in incidents involving adults and
16 young people and we want to examine
17 that, so I unfortunately move for
18 the adoption of the resolution.

19 (Duly seconded.)

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

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

1 2/15/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 (Aye.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

4 Those opposed?

5 (No response.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

7 They ayes have it, and the

8 resolution is adopted.

9 CHIEF CLERK: And a

10 resolution honoring and

11 congratulating the Champion of the

12 Week, Educator Victoria Best, the

13 Founder and Executive Director of

14 Victoria Urban Outreach Tutoring

15 Services, a youth education and

16 mentorship program in the City of

17 Philadelphia, introduced today by

18 Councilmember Thomas.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

20 The Chair recognizes Councilmember

21 Thomas.

22 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank

23 you, Council President.

24 Again, I move for the

25 adoption of the resolution.

1 2/15/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 (Duly seconded.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

4 It has been moved and properly
5 seconded that the resolution has
6 been adopted.

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

9 (Aye.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

11 Those opposed?

12 (No response.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

14 The ayes have it, and the
15 resolution passes.

16 CHIEF CLERK: And a
17 resolution recognizing and honoring
18 Kurt Evans for his impact in
19 improving access to food,
20 establishing workforce development
21 opportunities for returning
22 citizens and contributing to a
23 thriving Black food culture in
24 Philadelphia, introduced today by
25 Councilmember Landau.

1 2/15/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

3 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
4 Landau.

5 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU: Thank
6 you very much, Council President.

7 I move for the adoption of
8 the resolution.

9 (Duly seconded.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

11 It has been moved and properly
12 seconded that the resolution is
13 adopted.

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

16 (Aye.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

18 Those opposed?

19 (No response.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

21 The ayes have it, and the
22 resolution is adopted.

23 CHIEF CLERK: And the
24 resolution authorizing the
25 Committee on Global Opportunities

1 2/15/24 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 and the Creative/Innovative Economy
3 to hold public hearings to explore
4 Philadelphia's existing guaranteed
5 income pilot programs and the
6 potential for their expansion,
7 introduced today by Councilmember
8 O'Rourke.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
10 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
11 O'Rourke.

12 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE: Thank
13 you, Council President.

14 I move for the adoption of
15 the resolution.

16 (Duly seconded.)

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

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

23 (Aye.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
25 Those opposed?

1 2/15/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 (No response.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

4 The ayes have it, and the
5 resolution is adopted.

6 CHIEF CLERK: And a
7 resolution honoring Renée Chenault
8 Fattah for her unwavering
9 dedication and commitment to
10 excellence throughout her esteemed
11 career, introduced today by
12 Councilmember Bass.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
14 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
15 Cindy Bass.

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

18 I move for the adoption of
19 the resolution.

20 (Duly seconded.)

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

22 It has been moved and properly
23 seconded that a resolution be
24 adopted.

25 All those in favor will

1 2/15/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 signify by saying aye.

3 (Aye.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

5 Those opposed?

6 (No response.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

8 The ayes have it, and the

9 resolution is adopted.

10 CHIEF CLERK: And a
11 resolution authorizing the
12 Committee on Public Health and
13 Human Services to hold hearings,
14 examining proposed solutions to
15 racial disparities and the
16 mortality rate in the City of
17 Philadelphia, introduced today by
18 Councilmember Ahmad.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
20 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
21 Nina Ahmad.

22 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD: Thank
23 you, Mr. President.

24 I move for the adoption of
25 the resolution.

1 2/15/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 (Duly seconded.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

4 It has been moved and properly
5 seconded that the resolution be
6 adopted.

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

9 (Aye.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

11 Those opposed?

12 (No response.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

14 The ayes have it, and the
15 resolution is adopted.

16 CHIEF CLERK: There are no
17 other resolutions on the Final
18 Passage Calendar, Mr. President.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

20 That completes our Calendar for
21 today.

22 Are there any speeches on
23 behalf of the Minority?

24 (No response.)

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

1 2/15/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 Are there any speeches on behalf of
3 the Majority? And I want to
4 start --

5 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:

6 Council President --

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

8 I'm sorry. It see it now.

9 The Chair recognizes
10 Councilmember Brooks.

11 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: Tag
12 him -- Nick has a speech.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
14 It's cool.

15 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS:
16 Councilmember O'Rourke.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
18 You got to press your button
19 because it's not up here. Go
20 ahead. The Chair recognizes
21 Councilmember Nicolas O'Rourke.

22 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE: Thank
23 you, Council President. Can you
24 hear -- okay.

25 In my main speech in this

1 2/15/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 chamber, which was received with
3 mixed opinion as many was sure to
4 let me know.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

6 We ain't singing today, Bro. We
7 ain't doing that.

8 (Laughter.)

9 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE: I

10 wanted to be in that speech
11 intentional, pointed and clear
12 about several things but one in
13 particular, that I really, really
14 want to put money in people's
15 pockets. I want to give people
16 money.

17 (Applause.)

18 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE:

19 Which is why today I introduced a
20 resolution authorizing the
21 Committee on Global Opportunities
22 and the Creative/Innovative Economy
23 to hold public hearings to explore
24 Philadelphia's existing guaranteed
25 income pilot programs and the

1 2/15/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 potential for their expansion to
3 more and more people across this
4 City.

5 When I first raised this
6 issue, I mentioned universal basic
7 income in the tradition of
8 Dr. King's adoption of the idea in
9 the late '60s. And during this
10 Black History Month, I think it's
11 particularly important to remind us
12 of King's unfinished work, his goal
13 of translating the political and
14 material gains of the Black Freedom
15 Movement to poor people's
16 pocketbooks.

17 In the years and decades to
18 come as long as the people will
19 have me here, and certainly after
20 my time here is done, it is my hope
21 that we can grasp the universal
22 aspect of King's vision across a
23 wide range of issues, but
24 specifically for basic income.

25 For now I want to start on

1 2/15/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 what might be surprisingly familiar
3 ground, that of targeted guaranteed
4 income. I speak today not to get
5 the ball rolling on this idea as if
6 it were a new or original idea, but
7 rather to pick up the baton from
8 where this body itself left it four
9 years ago.

10 In 2020, former
11 Councillors; namely, Maria
12 Quinones-Sanchez as well as
13 Councilman Allan Domb had a vision
14 for a broad scale guaranteed income
15 program in Philadelphia. They
16 shared this vision in the Poverty
17 Action Plan, which had support from
18 former Council President Darrell
19 Clarke and community partners
20 across the City.

21 Of course, a global
22 pandemic threw a wrench in their
23 plan, as it probably did for most
24 of us, which in this plan
25 envisioned cash transfers to people

1 2/15/24 - STATED - SPEECHES
2 facing all too familiar challenges
3 in the City, that is, moving money
4 from where it is to where it's not,
5 from where it's currently kept to
6 where it's long been needed. Cash
7 transfers to folk struggling,
8 struggles like pervasive poverty
9 that we talk all the time about,
10 struggles like transitioning out of
11 foster care. Like returning to
12 life after incarceration or those
13 who are fleeing domestic violence.
14 These are times in people's
15 lives when the stakes can't be
16 higher, transitional phases when
17 their next move might literally
18 make or break their chances of
19 building a better life. The
20 Poverty Action Plan's vision for
21 unconditional cash transfers also
22 included Philadelphians fighting
23 addiction, which is timely and a
24 key detail in light of this
25 Council's efforts in combating the

1 2/15/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 opioid crisis in Kensington and
3 citywide.

4 And while that basic income
5 plan hasn't come to fruition in
6 these halls, Philadelphians are
7 already experimenting with this
8 concept, more than you might
9 expect. As we speak, there are
10 seven -- as we speak there are
11 seven guaranteed income pilot
12 programs running in the City.

13 Five of these programs
14 began just last year. Hundreds of
15 Philadelphians have received
16 guaranteed income payments in the
17 last couple of years and hundreds
18 will in the years to come. Soon we
19 will have a unique wealth of local
20 data on the impact of these kinds
21 of programs.

22 By then, I believe it will
23 be to the glory of this body and
24 this institution to have its own
25 strategy for a robust set of

1 2/15/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 guaranteed initiatives that will
3 use this wealth of local data
4 findings as part of its knowledge
5 base. But let me just impress upon
6 again what we already know about
7 what happens when folks are offered
8 guaranteed support when we simply
9 give people money: In most
10 studies, particularly when dealing
11 with folks below the poverty line,
12 families and individuals have more
13 money to feed themselves.

14 Increased food security is
15 literally the most common impact
16 for program participants. More
17 often than not, participant
18 families see increased school
19 attendance and higher educational
20 attainment. Good nutrition powers
21 better educational outcomes, a fact
22 proven over and over and over
23 again. This one is key to me.

24 These programs help
25 alleviate mental burdens, not

1 2/15/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 having enough money to feed your
3 family. That's a different kind of
4 stress that's too common amongst
5 our neighbors. You got to live it
6 to know it. It's the kind of
7 pressure that can be tied to shame
8 or to guilt that can lead to those
9 make or break decisions.

10 And too often our society
11 crafts narratives around the have-
12 nots that compound these pressures.
13 Even guaranteed income isn't a
14 fix-all option, but it's becoming
15 harder and harder to see why it
16 shouldn't be a central tool in our
17 arsenal as we fight against
18 poverty.

19 I envision such a program
20 being known for its efficiency
21 since direct transfers can cut
22 through the administrative tape
23 that exists for the expressed
24 purpose for slowing support and
25 creates barriers for many who

1 2/15/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 desperately need help.

3 Together we can draw in the
4 local academics and participants
5 experimenting in the world of
6 guaranteed income. Experts from
7 around the country can see how we
8 might sharpen this particular
9 spear. So let me close.

10 I understand this proposal
11 might run contrary to some folks'
12 norms and expectations, getting
13 something for nothing as some might
14 put it goes against a certain kind
15 of commonsense. Yet, here's the
16 commonsense I think that we need,
17 I'm convicted that we need.

18 The basic assumption that
19 we must never forget, not getting
20 something for nothing, but rather
21 giving something because you're
22 someone, because you exist, because
23 you breathe, because you need it.
24 And more than we in power would
25 like to admit, we do have it to

1 2/15/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 give.

3 The Councilmembers' plan
4 from 2020 was meant for those down
5 on their luck trying to make real
6 change at key turning points in
7 their life. All in a world where
8 what we've been through, familial
9 trauma, abuse, incarceration,
10 addiction can reinforce the false
11 idea that they're a nobody, a
12 nobody who isn't deserving of
13 support in this way. Something
14 because you're someone is the kind
15 of commonsense we need in Philly.

16 It's the kind of
17 commonsense that we need in this
18 world quite frankly. It's a kind
19 of commonsense that's backed up by
20 research and tested in cities
21 across the country. Colleagues,
22 what do you say we pick up the
23 batons again and get people what
24 they keep telling us they need. We
25 can do it. So let's get it done.

1 2/15/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 Thank you, Council

3 President.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

5 Thank you.

6 (Applause.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

8 The Chair recognizes speeches by
9 the Majority, and I want to take a
10 moment to acknowledge because we
11 extended beyond the public comment
12 part. We have two renowned, world-
13 renowned radio personalities who
14 are here in support of the renaming
15 of a street after the great Frankie
16 Beverly. I'm going to ask for
17 Ms. Patty Jackson to please stand
18 as well as Ms. Dyana Williams to
19 please stand.

20 (Applause.)

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

22 The Gentle Lady from Germantown
23 will expound on their relationship
24 with the great Frankie Beverly.
25 But I also want to acknowledge, I

1 2/15/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 call him world entertainer but most
3 importantly the community advocate
4 around all things gun violence, the
5 great Darryl Shuler from North
6 Philadelphia.

7 Where's Darryl Shuler at,
8 right there? I want to acknowledge
9 him as well.

10 (Applause.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

12 The Gentle Lady from Germantown,
13 Member Cindy Bass, the floor is
14 yours to speak.

15 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank
16 you. Thank you, Mr. President.
17 And Germantown via North
18 Philadelphia.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
20 Yes.

21 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: I just
22 wanted to say a few words. Number
23 one, I wanted to thank all of my
24 colleagues for their strong support
25 of this resolution in terms of a

1 2/15/24 - STATED - SPEECHES
2 street-naming for Frankie Beverly.
3 When you think of Philadelphia,
4 Frankie Beverly is someone who
5 immediately comes to mind. He has
6 done so much. He is homegrown.
7 He is someone who is a
8 native of Philadelphia and loves
9 all things Philadelphia. The good,
10 the not-so-good and everything in
11 between he supports us day-in and
12 day-out. And so, I really wanted
13 to just follow up on the Council
14 President's acknowledgements and
15 recognize the great Patty
16 Jackson --
17 (Applause.)
18 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: -- the
19 great Dyana Williams --
20 (Applause.)
21 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: -- and
22 the great Darryl Shuler --
23 (Applause.)
24 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: -- for
25 taking time out of their very busy

1 2/15/24 - STATED - SPEECHES
2 schedules today to come down here.
3 Listen, we've never moved this
4 fast. I got to tell you. We don't
5 usually start on time, but we have
6 moved at warp speed today. I can't
7 think of the last time in all my
8 time on Council that we've gotten
9 done almost by 11 o'clock, less
10 than an hour. So we really moved
11 very quickly today.

12 So in moving so quickly, we
13 weren't able to capture their
14 comments during public comment, but
15 I look forward to seeing
16 documentaries and all kinds of
17 accolades and interviews that are
18 going to be happening around this
19 very momentous occasion that's
20 scheduled some time for the spring.
21 So we want everyone to be included.
22 We want to make sure that everyone
23 knows all of the details as they
24 come out.

25 And so, these are your

1 2/15/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 sources. These are some of your
3 sources, again Patty Jackson, Dyana
4 Williams and Darryl Shuler who will
5 be spreading the word about the
6 great work that this Council is
7 doing and in honoring one of our
8 own who has brought so many
9 wonderful things to Philadelphia,
10 including most importantly in my
11 opinion great music and great
12 memories to each and every one of
13 us.

14 So thank you,
15 Mr. President.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
17 Before I let go.

18 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Before
19 I let go. Okay, all right.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
21 Congratulations. Good job.

22 Councilwoman Nina Ahmad.

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

25 I want to speak to the

1 2/15/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 resolution we introduced today.

3 The rate of maternal death has been

4 rising steadily ever since we

5 started measuring it 34 years ago,

6 up to 457 percent. My daughters

7 today are more at risk than I was

8 since they were born. It is

9 imperative we drive it down.

10 Critical to note the

11 alarming fact that Black maternal

12 mortality rate is three to four

13 times higher and they are more

14 likely to die during pregnancy,

15 childbirth or postpartum period.

16 Every level of government has a

17 role to play.

18 There has been work done in

19 this regard as far back as 2018

20 when our current Vice-president was

21 Senator, Kamala Harris, and

22 Congresswoman Alma Adams had

23 introduced the Maternal Care Act in

24 2018. And finally, in 2021

25 November President Biden signed a

1 2/15/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 version of that bill that came
3 under Congresswoman Underwood as a
4 historic omnibus legislation which
5 has 13 bills included in it.

6 We've had our own work done
7 here in Pennsylvania and in
8 Philadelphia. Pennsylvania House
9 Bill 2110 of 2019 to 2020 requiring
10 mandatory implicit bias training
11 for all state licensed health
12 professionals by our own
13 Representative Morgan Cephas and
14 many members of our Philadelphia
15 Delegation. It has been in
16 committee and we want to make sure
17 we advocate for that to get
18 through.

19 And in our own City, my
20 colleague Kathle -- Kath -- not
21 Kathleen -- Katherine Gilmore
22 Richardson who is co-introducing
23 this resolution with me today, has
24 been recognizing along with my
25 Council colleague Cindy Bass

1 2/15/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 recognizing and supporting the
3 health and wellness of Black mommas
4 and birthing people by
5 acknowledging Black Maternal Health
6 Week in April.

7 The hearing in the Public
8 Health Committee that we will be
9 introducing and making sure we have
10 a good hearing on this will be
11 building on the work done by so
12 many who have sounded the alarm.

13 In 2019, Councilmember
14 Cindy Bass had a great hearing,
15 actually I testified in that
16 hearing. And however, there was a
17 pandemic soon after and progress
18 has stalled. So we need to revisit
19 the public conversation about this,
20 and the City has a duty to examine
21 the role in reducing maternal
22 mortality and eliminating racial
23 disparities while also advocating
24 for solutions on a federal and
25 state level.

1 2/15/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 I want to thank all my
3 Councilmembers who signed on to
4 this resolution, and I look forward
5 to a robust hearing and we will be
6 scheduling it soon.

7 Thank you, Mr. President.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

9 Thank you.

10 (Applause.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

12 Councilmember Jeffrey Jay Young.

13 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Thank
14 you, Mr. President.

15 First, I just want to thank
16 Councilmember Rue Landau for
17 introducing the resolution for
18 Kurt. Kurt is a great guy. He's
19 the founder of Down North Pizza on
20 Lehigh Avenue in the 5th Council
21 District, which hired -- before he
22 left the business, hired
23 incarcerated individuals to work at
24 his pizza shop. So I want to thank
25 you for that, Kurt.

1 2/15/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 Councilwoman Ahmad, thank
3 you for your resolution. Parts of
4 North Philadelphia have the highest
5 rates of mortality -- maternal
6 mortality rates in the country. So
7 I look forward to having that
8 conversation in your Public Health
9 Committee.

10 But I'm speaking today to
11 just thank a group of people who
12 helped me out this Saturday. This
13 past Saturday we went to Strawberry
14 Mansion to a block that was hit by
15 tragedy on January 14th. There
16 were two individuals killed with a
17 total of six shot at an illegal
18 speakeasy in the Strawberry Mansion
19 section of North Philadelphia.

20 That was the talk of the
21 time, the talk of the news at the
22 time. The news cameras came. The
23 police were there. But once a
24 shooting is over and the cameras
25 are off and the sirens are gone,

1 2/15/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 what is left for a block, what is
3 left for a community.

4 And so, this past Saturday
5 we went door-to-door on that block
6 to let those residents know that
7 your City government is here for
8 them. We provided resources to the
9 members of the block. We gave them
10 information on who to contact for
11 whatever issues they may be having,
12 and it was a good feeling.

13 Those folks were
14 appreciative. And I want to thank
15 the residents of the 2400 block of
16 Myrtlewood Street in North
17 Philadelphia for being receptive to
18 us, allowing us to come on their
19 block to talk to them, to meet them
20 where they're at and provide
21 resources.

22 I want to thank State
23 Representative Roni Green for
24 participating, Strawberry Mansion
25 Community Concern, Pastor William

1 2/15/24 - STATED - SPEECHES
2 Hamilton and the First Church
3 Worship Center, Black Male
4 Community Council, Temple
5 University Medical School, Charles
6 Scott and Temple University
7 Hospital, the Department of
8 Behavioral Health and Intellectual
9 Disabilities, Network of Neighbors,
10 Philadelphia Commission on Human
11 Relations, Shirley Moy and the
12 Temple University Lenfest Center
13 for Workforce Partnership,
14 Philadelphia Anti-Drug Anti-
15 Violence Network also known as
16 PAAN, Eddie's House, my good friend
17 Tyrone Morris, 24th Ward Leader
18 Keith Harris and most importantly
19 my staff for putting this together.
20 That was the first time we
21 did this, but it will not be the
22 last. So for all who are in North
23 Philadelphia hear my voice, when
24 tragedy strikes, you can always
25 count on us to be there for you.

1 2/15/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 We may not be able to stop crime,
3 but we can be able to provide you
4 with resources to help you cope
5 with the issues that you're dealing
6 with in your communities.

7 So thank you so much,
8 Council President.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
10 Thank you. Good work.

11 (Applause.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
13 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
14 Rue Landau.

15 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU: Thank
16 you so much. Thank you,
17 Councilmembers. Thank you, Council
18 President.

19 First, just want to say a
20 note to my colleague Jay Young for
21 his remarks he just said. You
22 know, as the former head of the
23 Philadelphia Commission on Human
24 Relations, I know far too much
25 about the ripple effect that crime

1 2/15/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 has on neighborhoods, and it is not
3 just that horrific tragedy that
4 happens, but it affects blocks and
5 communities and neighborhoods and
6 we all have to be here together to
7 help communities heal and to grow
8 stronger and help them make
9 connections.

10 And it sounds like that's
11 exactly what you did this weekend,
12 so thank you so much for that and
13 we're here for you. Any time you
14 call on us we'll be there.

15 And also, I want to thank
16 everyone who supported my
17 resolution honoring Philadelphia
18 Chef Kurt Evans, who's made his
19 storefront a safe haven for
20 formerly incarcerated people who
21 are seeking a new life in our city.

22 My resolution introduced
23 today honors not only Chef Evans,
24 but his advancement of civil rights
25 through the food and hospitality

1 2/15/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 industry, creating career
3 opportunities for returning
4 citizens and youth and drawing
5 attention to issues affecting Black
6 Philadelphians.

7 During Black History Month
8 and continually, I believe City
9 Council must uplift and highlight
10 the experiences, expertise and work
11 of Black Philadelphians who make up
12 the vibrant and diverse tapestry of
13 our city. I'm so grateful for Chef
14 Evans' advocacy and for his
15 contributions to North Philadelphia
16 and our entire City.

17 His work serving his
18 community is not only delicious, it
19 serves as an inspiration and
20 motivation for all of us. So thank
21 you, Chef Evans.

22 Second, I'd like to take a
23 moment to thank my colleagues for
24 your support moving my Tax
25 Preparation Transparency bill into

1 2/15/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 committee last week. It's tax
3 season as we all know, and too many
4 Philadelphians shell out too much
5 money for commercial tax prep,
6 unaware of free alternatives.

7 The intention of my Tax
8 Preparation Services bill is to
9 make more people aware of free tax
10 preparation services and to make
11 hidden fees from for-profit
12 preparers more transparent. This
13 is a small but important step to
14 ensure more money stays in the
15 pockets of low and moderate income
16 Philadelphians, and especially the
17 elderly.

18 When it comes to financial
19 decisions, all Philadelphians
20 should have the right to make
21 informed decisions. And this bill
22 is aimed at giving working people
23 who can't hire expensive financial
24 planners a fuller picture of free
25 resources that are available to

1 2/15/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 them, including making for-profit
3 tax preparers disclose their fees.

4 According to the IRS, there
5 are approximately 240,000
6 Philadelphians who are eligible for
7 VITA services, but less than 25
8 percent, a quarter, take advantage
9 of these services. It's crucial to
10 note each year low and moderate
11 income Philadelphians are leaving
12 literally millions of dollars on
13 the table of unclaimed tax credits,
14 money that can go into their
15 pockets if they took advantage of
16 VITA and TCE.

17 I'm excited to stand up for
18 consumer protection. And again,
19 I'd like to thank my colleagues for
20 sharing my passion. Thank you.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

22 Thank you.

23 (Applause.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

25 The Chair recognizes Councilmember

1 2/15/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 Curtis Jones.

3 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank
4 you, Mr. President.

5 I rise to acknowledge my
6 colleagues. Today's actions, if
7 you look at it, whether you talk
8 about Member Young dealing with
9 post-traumatic stress of gun
10 violence, knocking on those doors,
11 bringing those resources matter.
12 Bad things are going to happen.
13 It's what we do after it happens
14 that matters to the people on that
15 block.

16 I want to also acknowledge
17 Member O'Rourke. When he talked
18 about -- when public comment talked
19 about we're not addressing systemic
20 issues of poverty and structural
21 racism, I would argue that we are.
22 We say it different. We do it
23 differently maybe, but the intent
24 of what you're talking about
25 addresses that.

1 2/15/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 When we look at some of the
3 work that's being done now with
4 Member Landau, which she just
5 talked about, it addresses a lot of
6 the issues that public comment
7 raises. Sometimes we say it
8 different. Sometimes we call it
9 something different, but it has the
10 same intent and impact. So I want
11 to acknowledge my colleagues for
12 doing the work, for actually not
13 just talking about it but being
14 about it in their work.

15 So, Mr. President, thank
16 you and the body for moving the
17 agenda, moving the agenda beyond
18 just words but into our actions,
19 into our budget and into our
20 policies. So thank you,
21 colleagues.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

23 Thank you.

24 (Applause.)

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

1 2/15/24 - STATED - ADJOURNMENT
2 I thought we had a Task Force on
3 Reparations. I thought we
4 addressed that a long time ago, but
5 it's a different conversation.

6 The Chair recognizes
7 Councilmember O'Rourke.

8 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE:
9 (Shaking head).

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
11 You're good?

12 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE:
13 (Nodding head).

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
15 Okay. Your light is on.

16 Any other speeches?
17 (No response.)

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
19 No, okay. If there are no
20 speeches, the Chair recognizes
21 Councilmember Thomas for a motion
22 to adjourn.

23 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank
24 you, Council President.

25 I move that City Council

1 2/15/24 - STATED - ADJOURNMENT

2 stand adjourned until Thursday,
3 February 22, 2024. And if you
4 haven't noticed, 10:00 a.m.
5 promptly.

6 (Applause.)

7 (Duly seconded.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

9 It has been moved and properly
10 seconded that Council stand
11 adjourned until Thursday, February
12 22, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

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

15 (Aye.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

17 Those opposed?

18 (No response.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

20 They ayes have it.

21 - - -

22 (Stated Meeting adjourned
23 at 11:03 a.m.)

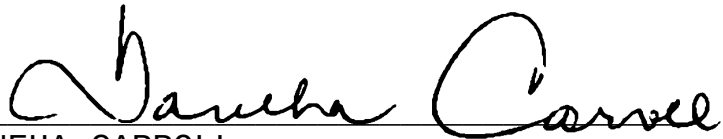
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C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I, hereby certify that the proceedings
and evidence noted are contained fully and
accurately in the stenographic notes taken by
me in the foregoing matter, and that this is
a correct transcript of the same.

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

TANEHA CARROLL
Court Reporter - Notary Public

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