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COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

THE INVESTITURE OF MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

ORGANIZATION OF THE COUNCIL

INAUGURATION OF THE MAYOR

and

THE INVESTITURE OF:
MEMBERS OF THE JUDICIARY
JUDGE OF TRAFFIC COURT
CITY COMMISSIONERS
SHERIFF
REGISTER OF WILLS
CLERK OF QUARTER SESSIONS COURT

- - -

Monday Morning, January the Third
Two Thousand
ten o'clock a.m.

- - -

The Academy of Music
Broad and Locust Streets
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

- - -

VINCENT VARALLO ASSOCIATES, INC.
Registered Professional Reporters
Eleven Penn Center, Suite 600
Philadelphia, PA 19103
(215) 561-2220

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2

P R O C E E D I N G S

3

(10 o'clock a.m.)

4

ANNOUNCER: Ladies and gentlemen,

5

welcome to the investiture of Members of

6

Council, the organization of City Council, the

7

inauguration of the Honorable John F. Street as

8

Mayor, and the investiture of Members of the

9

Judiciary, Clerk of Quarter Sessions Court,

10

City Commissioners, Register of Wills, Sheriff,

11

and Judge of Traffic Court.

12

At this time, we ask that you turn

13

off all pagers and cellular phones for the

14

remainder of the ceremony. Thank you.

15

Please remain in your seats for our

16

musical selection, "The Battle Hymn of the

17

Republic," performed by the Ebenezer Seventh

18

Day Adventist Choir and the Presentation of

19

Colors.

20

("The Battle Hymn of the Republic"

21

performed by Ebenezer Seventh Day Adventist

22

Choir.)

23

(Applause.)

24

ANNOUNCER: And now, ladies and

25

gentlemen, please stand and bow your heads for

1

2 the invocation given by His Eminence, Anthony
3 Cardinal Bevilaqua, Archbishop of Philadelphia.

4

HIS EMINENCE ANTHONY CARDINAL

5

BEVILAQUA: Let us pray.

6

7 All-powerful God, Lord of all ages,
8 at the beginning of this historic new year, we
9 offer You thanks and praise for all Your
10 gifts. In this great nation, You have blessed
11 us with life, dignity, and freedom, gifts which
12 were so clearly appreciated and articulated by
13 our founding fathers in the City of Brotherly
14 Love.

15

16 Today, Lord, once more, we come
17 before You to ask that You pour forth upon our
18 city, upon our citizens, upon our civic
19 leaders, and particularly upon our new mayor,
20 John Street, a profound sense of gratitude for
21 these gifts and a desire to ensure that all
22 people of our city are secure in the blessings
23 of life, dignity, and freedom.

24

25 We ask that You grant Mayor Street
and all of us the wisdom to recognize the needs
of all, compassion to reach out to the poor,
the weak, the lonely, and the stranger, and a

1

2 thirst for justice and peace, so that in all
3 matters, we may do Your will.

4 We pray that You will break down all
5 barriers of prejudice and mistrust so that all
6 women and men, girls and boys will live in
7 harmony, security, and charity, recognizing one
8 another as sisters and brothers.

9 Lord, You make all things new. Grant
10 the Mayor and us Your vision that we may see
11 the approach of a new millennium as an
12 opportunity to learn from our mistakes, to mend
13 what has been torn by our human weakness, and
14 to look to the future with hope for ourselves
15 and our children.

16 By Your presence and with Your
17 merciful assistance, may we, with the Mayor and
18 civic leaders, build anew this great city to be
19 a home where all people live in prosperity,
20 peace, and brotherly love.

21 We ask all these things in Your great
22 name.

23 Amen.

24 ALL: Amen.

25 ANNOUNCER: Ladies and gentlemen,

1
2 please remain standing for the singing of our
3 National Anthem by the Girard Academic Music
4 Program Concert Choir.

5 (National Anthem performed by the
6 Girard Academic Music Program Concert Choir.)

7 ANNOUNCER: Please be seated as we
8 call to the podium City Council President Anna
9 C. Verna.

10 (Applause.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you,
12 thank you very much. Thank you, thank you, and
13 good morning.

14 It is my pleasure to welcome you to
15 the inaugural proceedings for the investiture
16 of City Council Members, the inauguration of
17 the Mayor, and the induction of the judiciary
18 and elected officials.

19 Special guests joining us on stage
20 today are:

21 His Eminence Anthony Bevilaqua;

22 Bishop Philip Ralph Cousin;

23 Rabbi Solomon Isaacson;

24 Mayor Edward G. Rendell and former

25 Mayors W. Wilson Goode, Sr., William J. Green,

1
2 and Mrs. Carmella Rizzo, the wife of the late
3 mayor Frank Rizzo;
4 Members of Philadelphia's
5 Congressional Delegation, Robert W. Borsky,
6 Chaka Fattah, and Bob Brady;
7 Auditor General Robert Casey Jr.;
8 Michael A. Mehan, Esquire;
9 The President Judge of Common Pleas
10 Court, the Honorable Alex Bonavitacola;
11 The President Judge of Municipal
12 Court, the Honorable Louis J. Presenza;
13 The President Judge of Traffic Court,
14 the Honorable Frank J. Little;
15 Common Pleas Court Judge Gwendolyn
16 Bright;
17 And members of the Inaugural
18 Committee.
19 I wish to acknowledge the first
20 ladies of our city, the Honorable Midge Rendell
21 and Mrs. Naomi Post. I also wish to recognize
22 my husband, Sevi Verna.
23 I ask Councilwomen Krajewski, Miller,
24 and Brown to make presentations of flowers to
25 the individuals.

1

2 (Flowers presented to Mrs. Rendell,
3 Mrs. Post-Street, and Mr. Verna.)

4

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Before
5 going forth with our official proceedings, it
6 is my pleasure to recognize the longtime
7 service of Councilwoman Augusta Clark.

8 Councilwoman Clark served in this Council from
9 January 7, 1980 to today. We shall recall her
10 tenure with great affection.

11 And at this time, I ask Councilwoman
12 Blackwell to present her with a small token of
13 our appreciation.

14 (Applause.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Mayors-
16 elect of Council, this being the day fixed by
17 the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter for the
18 organization of the Council of the City of
19 Philadelphia, the hour has arrived and we will
20 now proceed with the organization of Council
21 and the investiture of Council Members.

22 The first order of business will be
23 the election of a temporary Chairperson.
24 Nominations are now in order, and the Chair
25 recognizes Councilman Kenney.

1

2 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you, Madam
3 President. I nominate Councilwoman Blackwell.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The Chair
5 recognizes Councilwoman Miller.

6 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Madam
7 President, I second that nomination.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Are there
9 any further nominations?

10 (No further nominations.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Hearing
12 none, the Chair recognizes Councilman
13 Longstreth.

14 COUNCILMAN LONGSTRETH: Madam
15 President, I move that the nominations be
16 closed.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The Chair
18 thanks the gentleman.

19 The Chair recognizes Councilman
20 Ortiz.

21 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Madam President, I
22 second the motion.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: All in
24 favor of the motion, say aye.

25 Those opposed, say nay.

1

2 The ayes have it and the nominations
3 are closed.

4 At this time, Councilwoman Blackwell
5 has been duly elected temporary Chairperson,
6 and to her, I relinquish this gavel.

7 (Applause.)

8 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you.

9 As the first order of business, I
10 appoint Ms. Marie Hauser temporary Clerk.

11 The next order of business is the
12 filing of the certificates of election.

13 The Clerk will call the roll. I
14 direct the Clerk to call the roll beginning
15 with the Councilpersons-at-large in
16 alphabetical order, and then to proceed with
17 the District Councilpersons in order of their
18 district, beginning with the First District.

19 MS. HAUSER: Ms. Blondell
20 Reynolds-Brown?

21 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Present.

22 MS. HAUSER: Mr. David Cohen?

23 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Present.

24 MS. HAUSER: Mr. W. Wilson Goode,
25 Jr.?

1
2 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Present.
3 MS. HAUSER: Mr. James F. Kenney?
4 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Present.
5 MS. HAUSER: Mr. W. Thacher
6 Longstreth?
7 COUNCILMAN LONGSTRETH: Present.
8 MS. HAUSER: Mr. Angel Ortiz?
9 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Present.
10 MS. HAUSER: Mr. Frank Rizzo?
11 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Present.
12 MS. HAUSER: Mr. Frank DiCicco?
13 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Present.
14 MS. HAUSER: Mrs. Anna C. Verna?
15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Present.
16 CHIEF CLERK HAUSER: Mrs. Jannie
17 Blackwell?
18 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Present.
19 MS. HAUSER: Mr. Michael Nutter?
20 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Present.
21 MS. HAUSER: Mr. Darryl Clarke?
22 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Present.
23 MS. HAUSER: Ms. Joan Krajewski?
24 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Present.
25 MS. HAUSER: Mr. Richard Mariano?

1

2

COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Present.

3

MS. HAUSER: Mrs. Donna Miller?

4

COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Present.

5

MS. HAUSER: Mrs. Marian B. Tasco?

6

COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Present.

7

MS. HAUSER: Mr. Brian O'Neill?

8

COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Present.

9

Councilwoman Blackwell, a quorum of
the members-elect is present.

11

And I have in my possession
certificates of election signed by the
Honorable Jacqueline Allen, acting Chairwoman,
the Honorable Matthew Carrafiello, acting
Commissioner, and the Honorable Webster Keogh,
acting Commissioner, acting as the County Board
of Elections in Philadelphia, indicating their
election of November 2, 1999, for a term of
four years, commencing the first Monday of
January, AD 2000.

21

22

23

COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: The
investiture of Members of Council will now
proceed.

24

25

The members-elect will rise to take
the oath of office, which will be administered

1

2 by the Honorable Alex Bonavitacola, the
3 President Judge of the Court of Common Pleas.

4 (Applause.)

5 JUDGE BONAVIDACOLA: Will each member
6 about to be sworn place your left hand on the
7 Bible, raise your right hand, and repeat after
8 me. . .

9 (Oath of office administered.)

10 JUDGE BONAVIDACOLA: Thank you.

11 (Applause.)

12 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: The next
13 order of business is the election of a
14 President of City Council for the City of
15 Philadelphia to serve for four years,
16 commencing January 3, 2000. Nominations are
17 now in order.

18 The Chair recognizes Councilman
19 Nutter.

20 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: I proudly
21 nominate, and with great honor, Anna C. Verna.

22 (Applause.)

23 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you.

24 The Chair recognizes Councilman
25 Cohen.

1

2 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Madam Acting
3 President, I second the nomination.

4 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Are there
5 any further nominations?

6 (No further nominations.)

7 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Hearing
8 none, the Chair recognizes Councilman O'Neill.

9 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Madam Chair, I
10 move the nominations be closed.

11 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: The Chair
12 recognizes Councilwoman Tasco.

13 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Madam Chair, I
14 second the motion.

15 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: All in favor
16 will say aye.

17 Those opposed, nay?

18 There being no further nominations,
19 all in those favor of the election of the
20 Honorable Anna C. Verna as President of City
21 Council will say aye.

22 Those opposed, nay?

23 The ayes have it. However, the
24 temporary Clerk will call the roll.

25 MS. HAUSER: Councilwoman Blondell

1
2 Reynolds-Brown?
3 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Aye.
4 MS. HAUSER: Councilman Cohen?
5 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Aye.
6 MS. HAUSER: Councilman Goode?
7 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Aye.
8 MS. HAUSER: Councilman Kenney?
9 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Aye.
10 MS. HAUSER: Councilman Longstreth?
11 COUNCILMAN LONGSTRETH: Aye.
12 MS. HAUSER: Councilman Ortiz?
13 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Aye.
14 MS. HAUSER: Councilman Rizzo?
15 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Aye.
16 MS. HAUSER: Councilman DiCicco?
17 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Aye.
18 MS. HAUSER: Council President Verna?
19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Aye.
20 MS. HAUSER: Councilwoman Blackwell?
21 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Aye.
22 MS. HAUSER: Councilman Nutter?
23 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Aye.
24 MS. HAUSER: Councilman Clarke?
25 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Aye.

1
2 MS. HAUSER: Councilwoman Krajewski?
3 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Aye.
4 MS. HAUSER: Councilman Mariano?
5 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Aye.
6 MS. HAUSER: Councilwoman Tasco?
7 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Aye.
8 MS. HAUSER: Councilman O'Neill?
9 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Aye.
10 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Councilwoman
11 Miller is voting aye.
12 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: The ayes are
13 17, the nays are 0.
14 Councilwoman Verna, having been
15 unanimously chosen by the Members of Council, I
16 declare that Councilwoman Verna is the duly
17 elected President of this body to serve for
18 four years.
19 (Applause.)
20 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: I appoint
21 Councilman Kenney, Councilman Goode, Councilman
22 Rizzo, and Councilwoman Krajewski to escort
23 Council President Verna to the roster. Joining
24 the Council President will be her husband,
25 Severino Verna.

1

2 Judge Bonavitacola will administer
3 the oath of office to President Verna.

4 JUDGE BONAVIDACOLA: Please repeat
5 after me. . .

6 (Oath of office administered.)

7 JUDGE BONAVIDACOLA: Congratulations.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thanks,
9 Judge.

10 (Applause.)

11 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: It is my
12 pleasure to present to you the President of
13 City Council, the Honorable Anna C. Verna.

14 (Applause.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: I want to
16 take this opportunity to thank Councilwoman
17 Blackwell, the temporary Chair, for conducting
18 the first order of business of Council.

19 As I look out to this beautiful
20 gathering of constituents, colleagues, friends,
21 and family, I am reminded of the first time I
22 sat on this stage. It was a realization of the
23 American dream, a dream that hard work,
24 determination, and drive would allow me to
25 succeed. I hope that same dream is alive today

1

2 in the minds of our young people who are with
3 us here this morning.

4 I think today of my family,
5 especially my father, who believed that every
6 job is a self-portrait of the person and to
7 autograph your work with excellence. He also
8 taught me that character was the measure of a
9 person, that your word is your bond, and never
10 to forget that the price of success is hard
11 work.

12 I also want to thank my husband,
13 Sevi, and how he provides encouragement and
14 support -- not periodically, but daily, not for
15 a short time but for a lifetime. I wish to
16 publicly thank him for helping me to achieve
17 all that I have.

18 I think of my friends and how they
19 have shaped and influenced me throughout my
20 life. I think of my colleagues and I am
21 grateful for their support in reelecting me
22 President of this great legislative body. Last
23 year, we broke ground by electing the first
24 woman president. Ah, but today we've made
25 history --

1

2 (Applause.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Today,
4 today, we are making history by having three
5 women in the top leadership positions of this
6 City Council.

7 (Applause.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: To all my
9 colleagues, I repeat this pledge:

10 Your trust in me will be justified by
11 my total commitment to the important work of
12 this City Council as an independent and coequal
13 arm of our city government.

14 Today, we inherit a can-do legacy by
15 Ed Rendell and John Street that brought us from
16 the brink of bankruptcy to a future filled with
17 optimism. As we continue down the road of
18 fiscal stability, we must avoid the temptation
19 of spending money we do not have.
20 Nevertheless, we must pursue policies that will
21 encourage economic growth and residential
22 development.

23 We must make Philadelphia more than a
24 great place to visit; we must make it a
25 wonderful place to live.

1

2 (Applause.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:

4 Philadelphia has often been called "The City of
5 Neighborhoods," and certainly with good reason.
6 Each community boasts of its own uniqueness,
7 its own character, its diversity, and its own
8 charm. We must now dedicate ourselves to the
9 rebirth of our neighborhoods. Neighborhood
10 businesses must be a vital part of the fabric
11 of this city.

12 A year ago, I said, As people, indeed
13 as a city, we shall all prosper or we shall all
14 fail together." Many in this city have
15 prospered, but there are those who still await
16 the fruits of economic renewal. We must all
17 move ahead; no one can be left behind.

18 (Applause.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: In moving
20 forward, public education may well be the
21 single most important issue this Council will
22 face in the next four years. Our educational
23 system must ensure that there is an opportunity
24 for every child in this city to benefit from a
25 quality education that will provide the means

1

2 for a successful future.

3

4 We must discard what does not work,
5 keep that which does, and be creative and
6 visionary in charting a new course for public
7 education. We must be open to every
8 educational model and use that which is most
9 successful.

9

10 Parents and teachers demand
11 excellence -- and we shall have it. To accept
12 anything less will be failure.

12

13 In making difficult choices, I have
14 often said the City Hall tower is not made of
15 ivory to shield our deliberations. We must
16 forsake our personal and political priorities
17 in favor of people priorities.

17

18 We must be upbeat and confident as we
19 face the challenges that are presented to us.
20 The road ahead is not an easy one. It may well
21 have obstacles of all shapes and sizes, but
22 acting together, not only will we survive,
23 Philadelphia will prevail.

23

24 Today, we have hope, and hope sees
25 the invisible, feels the intangible, and
26 achieves the impossible.

1

2 I thank you, and may God bless you

3 all.

4 (Applause.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

6 The next order of business is the
7 election of the Chief Clerk of the Council of
8 the City of Philadelphia.

9 Nominations are now in order, and the
10 Chair recognizes Councilman Mariano.

11 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Madam President,
12 I nominate Ms. Marie Hauser.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
14 thanks the gentleman.

15 The Chair recognizes Councilman
16 Clarke.

17 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Madam President,
18 I second the nomination.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Are there
20 any further nominations?

21 (No further nominations.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Hearing
23 none, the Chair recognizes Councilwoman Brown.

24 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Madam President,
25 I move the nominations be closed.

1

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
3 recognizes Councilman Kenney.

4 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Madam President,
5 I second that motion.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: It has been
7 moved and properly seconded that the
8 nominations be closed.

9 All in favor of the motion will say
10 aye.

11 Those opposed, nay.

12 The ayes have it and the motion is
13 carried.

14 There being no further nominations,
15 all in favor of the election of Mrs. Marie
16 Hauser as Chief Clerk of Council will say aye.

17 Those opposed, nay.

18 The ayes have it. However, the Clerk
19 will call the roll.

20 MS. HAUSER: Councilwoman Brown?

21 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Aye.

22 MS. HAUSER: Councilman Cohen?

23 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Aye.

24 MS. HAUSER: Councilman Goode?

25 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Aye.

1
2 MS. HAUSER: Councilman Kenney?
3 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Aye.
4 MS. HAUSER: Councilman Longstreth?
5 COUNCILMAN LONGSTRETH: Aye.
6 MS. HAUSER: Councilman Ortiz?
7 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Aye.
8 MS. HAUSER: Councilman Rizzo?
9 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Aye.
10 MS. HAUSER: Councilman DiCicco?
11 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Aye.
12 MS. HAUSER: Council President Verna?
13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Aye.
14 MS. HAUSER: Councilwoman Blackwell?
15 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Aye.
16 MS. HAUSER: Councilman Nutter?
17 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Aye.
18 MS. HAUSER: Councilman Clarke?
19 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Aye.
20 MS. HAUSER: Councilwoman Krajewski?
21 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Aye.
22 MS. HAUSER: Councilman Mariano?
23 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Aye.
24 MS. HAUSER: Councilwoman Tasco?
25 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Aye.

1

2 MS. HAUSER: Councilman O'Neill?

3 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Aye.

4 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: For the record,
5 Councilwoman Miller is voting aye again.

6 (Laughter.)

7 (Applause.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The ayes
9 are 17, the nays are 0.10 Ms. Hauser, having received a
11 unanimous vote of the Members of Council, I now
12 declare Ms. Marie Hauser duly elected Chief
13 Clerk of this City Council.

14 (Applause.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Council
16 Members Nutter and Kenney will escort Ms.
17 Hauser to the rostrum. Judge BonavitaCola will
18 administer the oath of office of Ms. Hauser.

19 (Oath of office administered.)

20 JUDGE BONAVIDACOLA: Congratulations.

21 CHIEF CLERK HAUSER: Thank you.

22 (Applause.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: At this
24 time, I will name the officers of City Council.

25 Please be advised that at a meeting

1
2 of the Democratic Members of Council, the
3 Honorable Jannie L. Blackwell was elected
4 Majority Leader, and the Honorable Marian B.
5 Tasco was elected Majority Whip of the City
6 Council of Philadelphia.

7 (Applause.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Also be
9 advised that at a meeting of the Republican
10 Members of the Council, the Honorable Brian J.
11 O'Neill was elected Minority Leader of Council.

12 (Applause.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The next
14 order of business is the introduction of a
15 resolution concerning the rules of government
16 of the Council of the City of Philadelphia.

17 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman
18 Blackwell.

19 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you,
20 Madam President. I offer the following
21 resolution.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chief
23 Clerk will read the title of the resolution.

24 CHIEF CLERK HAUSER: A resolution to
25 provide rules for the government of the Council

1
2 of the City of Philadelphia.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
4 recognizes Councilman Cohen.

5 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Madam President, I
6 move that the rules, as set forth in this
7 resolution, be adopted as the temporary rules
8 of the Council until the permanent rules are
9 adopted.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
11 thanks the gentleman.

12 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman
13 Tasco.

14 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Madam President,
15 I second the motion.

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

18 Those opposed, nay.

19 The ayes have it and the motion is
20 carried.

21 The rules contained in this
22 resolution have been adopted temporarily. The
23 resolution will be referred to the Committee of
24 the Whole for a public hearing and a public
25 meeting.

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6

The organization of the Council of the City of Philadelphia and the investiture of the City Council Members are complete, in accordance with the provisions of the Home Rule Charter.

7

8

9

10

The Council is honored by the presence of Bishop Philip Ralph Cousin, Bishop of the First Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

11

12

I ask you all to please stand, and I invite Bishop Cousin to lead us in prepare.

13

(All stand.)

14

15

16

BISHOP COUSIN: O, God, we live and move. Thou, who art the ground and source of our being.

17

18

19

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21

22

23

Joyfully, we gather on this date, thanking You for the privileges which are ours in this city and in this nation to serve this city through persons who have been elected, who have been placed upon the stage of administration to tend to the affairs of the common good of our citizenry.

24

25

We pray for those into whose hands the government has fallen. We ask, O, Master,

1
2 that You will keep them worthy of the sacred
3 trust and the honors which You have bestowed
4 upon them.

5 We especially pray for Your servant
6 John Street. Preserve him from selfish
7 indifference, which would dishonor the past and
8 disregard the future. Keep alive in him the
9 passion to defend and to enrich those values
10 which have been bought and paid for by the
11 tears and sacrifices of our parents and our
12 foreparents.

13 Enable him to serve this city and its
14 constituents faithfully, always seeking to
15 bring the best leadership to bear and facing
16 the issues and concerns which would divide and
17 destroy us. Keep his mind clear, his judgment
18 keen, his heart brave, and his sense of justice
19 unerring.

20 We place him and the members who will
21 administer the affairs of government in Your
22 hands, and we pray that You will always guide
23 and use them to Your glory and for the common
24 good of all of the citizens of Philadelphia.

25 In all that is right and just and

1

2 holy, we ask it.

3 Amen.

4 ALL: Amen.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you,
6 Bishop Cousin.

7 You may all now be seated.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: At this
9 time, I invite the GAMP Choir to perform a
10 musical selection, "The Greatest Love of All."11 ("The Greatest Love of All" performed
12 by the GAMP Choir.)13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: We will now
14 proceed with the induction of the Mayor of the
15 City of Philadelphia, a moment, I guess, we've
16 all been waiting for, huh?17 The Chair appoints Councilwoman
18 Miller, Councilman DiCicco, Councilman O'Neill,
19 and Councilman Clarke to escort the Honorable
20 John F. Street, Mayor-elect of the City of
21 Philadelphia rostrum. The Chair invites
22 Mayor-elect Street's wife, Naomi Post-Street,
23 to join him at the rostrum.

24 (Standing ovation.)

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chief

1
2 Clerk will read the certificate of election of
3 the Honorable John F. Street as Mayor of the
4 City of Philadelphia.

5 CHIEF CLERK HAUSER: John F. Street,
6 at an election held November 2, 1999, you were
7 duly elected the Mayor of the City and County
8 of Philadelphia for a term of four years,
9 commencing the first Monday of January, AD
10 2000.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Judge
12 Bonavitacola will administer the oath of office
13 to the Mayor.

14 (Oath of office administered.)

15 JUDGE BONAVIDACOLA: Congratulations.

16 (Standing ovation.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Members of
18 City Council, Reverend Clergy, elected
19 officials, distinguished guests, ladies and
20 gentlemen, I have the distinct honor to present
21 to you His Honor, the Mayor of the City of
22 Philadelphia, the Honorable John F. Street.

23 (Applause.)

24 MAYOR STREET: Thank you very much.

25 Thank you, thank you. Thank you very much.

1

2 I would just like -- can we just
3 present those flowers to Sevi just one more
4 time, to Sevi, the flowers? What a wonderful
5 gesture.

6 (Laughter.)

7 MAYOR STREET: Oh, thank you very
8 much. To God be the glory, great things he has
9 done.

10 (Applause.)

11 MAYOR STREET: Thank you so much,
12 thank you, thank you.

13 Members of City Council, elected
14 officials, honored guests, distinguished
15 clergy, and fellow Philadelphians, as the new
16 millennium dawns, Philadelphia is surely on the
17 threshold of an exciting renaissance.

18 Let us begin today by acknowledging
19 the men and women whose hard work helped make
20 this promising future possible. Every
21 Philadelphian owes Mayor Ed Rendell --

22 Mayor Ed Rendell, stand up, Ed, stand
23 up.

24 (Standing ovation.)

25 MAYOR STREET: Thank you.

1

2 Mayor Ed Rendell and Midge Rendell,
3 his lovely wife, they're a partnership, and
4 Midge Rendell, and Midge.

5 (Applause.)

6 MAYOR STREET: As well as the scores
7 of men and women who worked in his government a
8 debt of gratitude for the leadership they
9 provided during some of our city's most trying
10 years. With unparalleled perseverance, Mayor
11 Rendell made the hard choices and difficult
12 decisions that have put this city on the path
13 of progress.

14 No less significant was the role
15 played by City Council. During the past eight
16 years, Council was the Mayor's legislative
17 partner, as envisioned by the framers of our
18 City Charter. I congratulate Council President
19 Verna and the entire City Council and staff for
20 their contribution to the revitalization of our
21 great city.

22 I congratulate --

23 (Applause.)

24 MAYOR STREET: Thank you, thank you.

25 I congratulate Council President

1

2 Verna on her reelection to the presidency of
3 City Council.

4 Thank you, Council President Verna.
5 How are you, Madam President?

6 (Applause.)

7 MAYOR STREET: And as Council
8 President, I worked in partnership with Mayor
9 Rendell. We met every week to share advice and
10 insights. I remember Ed used to say, "The good
11 news is, we're in a meeting; the bad news is,
12 it's 7 o'clock in the morning."

13 (Laughter.)

14 MAYOR STREET: Well, Council
15 President Verna and I have agreed that we will
16 do the same thing -- we will meet every week to
17 consider the very special responsibility that
18 we have in providing leadership to our great
19 city.

20 A very special salute goes to
21 Councilwoman Augusta Clark, who is leaving City
22 Council after twenty years of dedicated
23 service. Councilwoman Clark, Councilwoman
24 Augusta Clark.

25 (Applause.)

1
2 MAYOR STREET: I congratulate those
3 who have been elected to City Council for the
4 first time. You are embarking on a most
5 exciting journey and a challenging one. Over
6 the course of my years of public service, I
7 have come to believe that Council membership is
8 perhaps the most difficult public office one
9 can hold. You are on the front lines in
10 dealing with the everyday problems and concerns
11 of people in our neighborhoods.

12 And given the infinite demands and
13 limited resources, Council Members face an
14 inevitable stream of difficult choices.
15 Sometimes your best efforts will be totally
16 overlooked, casually minimized, completely
17 misunderstood, or simply distorted. But
18 balanced against that, you have a unique
19 opportunity to make a difference for your
20 neighborhoods and for your city.

21 Toward that end today, I extend my
22 hand in friendship partnership with every
23 member of this City Council, to the other
24 elected officials -- Democrat, Republican,
25 including our hard working congressional

1
2 delegation and Governor Ridge and business,
3 labor and community leaders across our city and
4 state.

5 And I might tell you that,
6 parenthetically, I received as I sat here a
7 phone call from Governor Ridge, who was kind
8 and gracious enough to express his
9 congratulations to me on this great day for us
10 here in this city and has joined in our
11 commitment to work together to the best
12 interests of people, not only in this city but
13 around the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

14 And I thank him for that. Thank you.

15 (Applause.)

16 MAYOR STREET: In politics, as in
17 life, there are seasons. The election season
18 is over -- thank God.

19 (Laughter.)

20 MAYOR STREET: Now it is time to
21 govern. And to do that successfully, we must
22 work together in a spirit of mutual respect and
23 cooperation.

24 To the other newly elected officials
25 who are here today, we must all work together

1
2 if our city and region are to thrive. To the
3 judges, the row offices, and to the members of
4 City Council, as well as their families and
5 their friends, I offer my sincere
6 congratulations. To those who voted for other
7 names on the ballot, I guarantee you this: you
8 may not have been my supporter, but I will be
9 your mayor, I will be your mayor.

10 (Applause.)

11 MAYOR STREET: I also want to
12 acknowledge those who have held this office
13 before me, at least a couple of them.

14 Mayor Green and Mayor Goode, thank
15 you very much for being here. Thank you, thank
16 you.

17 (Applause.)

18 MAYOR STREET: And Carmella Rizzo,
19 who is the wife of former Mayor Rizzo. Thank
20 you.

21 (Applause.)

22 MAYOR STREET: Mayor Rizzo, by the
23 way, will always be very special to me in that
24 one of his last official acts as a candidate
25 for mayor in this city was to endorse my

1
2 candidacy for the presidency of the City
3 Council of Philadelphia in July of 1991, and I
4 thank him for that. Thank you.

5 (Applause.)

6 MAYOR STREET: And, finally, I want
7 to thank my wife, Naomi, and the other members
8 of my family.

9 (Applause.)

10 MAYOR STREET: Thank you, Naomi.
11 Stand up, stand up.

12 (Applause.)

13 MAYOR STREET: And the other members
14 of my family for their indulgence, patience,
15 and support, especially over the last year.

16 I might say, parenthetically, when I
17 got involved in this, my brother told me that,
18 "It's just a four-year thing, it's just --
19 just a four-year thing."

20 We live in a great city and region
21 rich in diversity. Women and men from all
22 walks of life who, regardless of our
23 differences, are all intertwined in both our
24 history and in our future. This administration
25 recognizes that our diversity represents a

1
2 competitive cultural and economic advantage,
3 one that will make us better prepared to
4 address and to capitalize on the opportunities
5 that we enjoy. Our challenge is to put aside
6 the artificial boundaries and the barriers that
7 separate us, and concentrate on our common
8 needs.

9 I view the responsibility to govern
10 as a shared responsibility. To that end, we
11 have already launched perhaps the most
12 ambitious and inclusive transition process in
13 this city's modern history, with more than 800
14 business, labor, civic, religious, and
15 community leaders providing input on the
16 structure of a new government. In addition, in
17 the weeks ahead, we shall schedule a series of
18 Town Hall meetings across the city, where I can
19 hear directly from you, the citizens of
20 Philadelphia.

21 All of us share a vision of a better
22 Philadelphia, but as a world-class city with a
23 vibrant, flourishing economy supported by lower
24 taxes, enhanced City services, and a fiscally
25 sound and responsible government. We must make

1

2 clear that here in this great city, we see no
3 conflict between being business-friendly and
4 labor-friendly, no conflict.

5 (Applause.)

6 MAYOR STREET: We believe in good
7 wages because they create economic growth, and
8 we are proud of our growing status as a
9 destination for tourism and convention business
10 in this city, and we will enhance this status
11 this summer by hosting the most successful
12 Republican National Convention in the history
13 of this country.

14 (Applause.)

15 MAYOR STREET: And we assure you that
16 Philadelphia will continue to offer the
17 amenities expected in a world-class city,
18 including the Avenue of the Arts North and
19 South, the Constitution Center, and other great
20 public projects.

21 (Applause.)

22 MAYOR STREET: And we will explore
23 all reasonable strategies for developing sports
24 complexes for our professional football and
25 baseball franchises. World-class cities

1
2 deserve world-class facilities.

3 (Applause.)

4 MAYOR STREET: But our economic
5 development strategy must extend beyond the
6 focus on hospitality. We must begin to develop
7 specific strategies to support small
8 businesses, to buttress existing industries,
9 and to develop new industries to undergird to
10 Philadelphia's economic future.

11 For example, health care is one of
12 the most important cornerstones of our economy
13 as well as an essential city service. We must
14 work to create a healthier community. We must
15 remain vigilant in the struggle against an AIDS
16 crisis that continues to take too many innocent
17 lives and devastate too many families.

18 The Philadelphia region is more
19 dependent on health-care services as a
20 percentage of its local economy than any other
21 metropolitan area in the nation. With our
22 medical schools, hospitals, biotechnology,
23 pharmaceutical, and other health-related
24 organizations, we have one of the greatest
25 concentrations of health and medical expertise

1
2 in the world. Thus, we as a city are
3 vulnerable to changes in the health-care
4 industry but also blessed with a foundation
5 upon which to build a vision of enormous
6 opportunity.

7 This administration will work with
8 the State and the private sector to protect
9 jobs and grow our economy by developing new
10 industries to capitalize on our region's
11 enormous health-care assets. Our region's
12 expertise provides Philadelphia an excellent
13 opportunity to become the biotechnology version
14 of the Silicon Valley.

15 (Applause.)

16 MAYOR STREET: Thank you.

17 We all share a vision of a better
18 Philadelphia, a better Philadelphia with strong
19 neighborhoods free from blight, vacant houses,
20 trash-strewn lots, and abandoned cars.

21 (Applause.)

22 MAYOR STREET: Clean, safe streets
23 are essential to strong neighborhoods, and
24 strong neighborhoods are the heart of our city.

25 (Applause.)

1

2 MAYOR STREET: And although we will
3 make the revitalization of our neighborhoods
4 our highest priority, we will never surrender
5 to the false choice between improving our
6 Center City area or improving our
7 neighborhoods; we must do both in this city.

8 (Applause.)

9 MAYOR STREET: So our goal is to
10 stabilize neighborhoods and help them maintain
11 their strength. We want to stabilize our
12 marginal neighborhoods so that they will become
13 stable and healthy, and we want to work in our
14 deteriorating neighborhoods to reverse the
15 decline that we have seen over the years.

16 In the past year, I have spoken of
17 the need to aggressively attract the -- attack
18 the cancer of blight and abandonment that
19 destroys the character of a block in a
20 neighborhood. The City has more than 30,000
21 vacant lots and at least 20,000 abandoned
22 buildings. At best, they are eyesores; at
23 worst, they are magnets for drugs and crime.

24 We will develop a strategic vision
25 and a public apparatus for confronting the

1
2 effects of 50 years of population decline. I
3 will launch an all-out systemic effort to
4 remove blighted buildings and reclaim the
5 overgrown, polluted lots that dot our city. We
6 will turn a negative into a positive and work
7 with neighborhoods residents, political
8 leaders, and local businesses to return this
9 land to useful purposes.

10 I will also personally lead an effort
11 to rid our city, once and for all, of the
12 abandoned cars that have become symbols of
13 neighborhood neglect in communities across
14 Philadelphia.

15 (Applause.)

16 MAYOR STREET: In the coming weeks, I
17 will ask the City Council to make an
18 unprecedented \$250 million downpayment on this
19 accelerated war on blight. We will transform
20 the symbols of decay into harbingers of hope.

21 We also share a vision of a better
22 Philadelphia, with neighborhoods liberated from
23 the plague of drugs and violence. For the sake
24 of our children, families and future --

25 (Applause.)

1

2 MAYOR STREET: Thank you. We also
3 must continue to be vigilant in the war on
4 guns, drugs, and violent crime.

5 (Applause.)

6 MAYOR STREET: We have made progress
7 in recent years by adding police and stepping
8 up their presence in our neighborhoods.
9 Statistics show that we have reduced the
10 incidence of violent crime.

11 But to the woman who has been
12 sexually harassed and abused, to the children
13 who have been molested and maimed, to the
14 families whose loved ones have been senselessly
15 slain, and to the communities terrorized by
16 gun-toting drug dealers, these improved
17 statistics are of little comfort.

18 We will challenge community leaders
19 to join in the fight against crime. We will
20 challenge the parents whose children are
21 participating in criminal activity to support
22 us -- to support us in our fight against crime.

23 (Applause.)

24 MAYOR STREET: We will double the
25 number of undercover narcotics officers in our

1
2 neighborhoods. And we will join with officials
3 from surrounding communities and members of the
4 legislature to develop a new State law making
5 it a felony to transport illegal drugs across a
6 county line.

7 (Applause.)

8 MAYOR STREET: We will crack down on
9 anyone who comes to our city for that purpose
10 and dry up a lucrative market for the dealers
11 they patronize.

12 And let me be clear: we will
13 vigorously enforce existing laws and consider
14 any new step to stem the flow of illegal
15 weapons in our city, including litigation
16 against gun manufacturers and dealers who
17 knowingly profiteer off the violence on our
18 streets.

19 (Applause.)

20 MAYOR STREET: Thank you.

21 Working in partnership with our great
22 District Attorney, Lynne Abraham, the courts
23 and other regional and national criminal-
24 justice entities, we will better coordinate our
25 crime-fighting efforts while expanding

1

2 Operation Sunrise to not only concentrate on
3 high-crime areas, but to ensure that once
4 criminal activities are shut down, they never,
5 ever return.

6 (Applause.)

7 MAYOR STREET: We cannot stop our
8 fight against crime and violence until we are
9 the safest city in America.

10 (Applause.)

11 MAYOR STREET: We share a vision of a
12 better Philadelphia, where every public school
13 can graduate students who are prepared to seize
14 the opportunities on the horizon of the new
15 millennium. If we are to achieve --

16 (Applause.)

17 MAYOR STREET: Thank you.

18 If we are to achieve our goals for
19 our economy and our neighborhoods, we must
20 begin by focussing on the quality of education
21 in our public schools. The Greater
22 Philadelphia First Corporation --

23 (Applause.)

24 MAYOR STREET: The Greater
25 Philadelphia First Corporation was right when

1
2 it called better schools "a moral and economic
3 imperative for our city." Every child in
4 Philadelphia must have the opportunity for the
5 education needed to succeed.

6 The 21st century is upon us. This is
7 an information and technology age. The demands
8 on our children for knowledge will be
9 unprecedented. Our city's future economic
10 success will depend, in large measure, on our
11 ability to supply a skilled, trained workforce.

12 Still, too many of our school
13 children today attend overcrowded classes in
14 rundown buildings with outmoded equipment and
15 under-trained and underpaid teachers.

16 (Applause.)

17 MAYOR STREET: And too many of our
18 school children have no opportunity to receive
19 quality preschool, after-school, and summer
20 school help that would give them the fighting
21 chance they deserve to receive the quality of
22 education they need.

23 (Applause.)

24 MAYOR STREET: Yes, we have made some
25 progress, as reflected in the rising test

1
2 scores and higher graduation rates, but we must
3 demand more, more in the way of accountability
4 for our students, teachers, administrators, and
5 parents.

6 And make no mistake, our financially
7 strapped School District needs more money.

8 (Applause.)

9 MAYOR STREET: At a time when demands
10 for quality education are growing, the
11 Philadelphia School District is hurdling toward
12 a fiscal catastrophe. Despite years of
13 crosscutting, this chronically underfunded
14 school system struggles to survive.

15 Philadelphia simply cannot succeed if
16 our school system fails. We cannot retain and
17 attract businesses, we cannot retain and
18 attract families. And in a larger sense, any
19 community that fails its children can never
20 call itself a success. To that end --

21 (Applause.)

22 MAYOR STREET: Thank you.

23 To that end, we have designated the
24 year 2000 as "The Year of the Child."

25 (Applause.)

1

2 MAYOR STREET: And we will focus
3 attention in all areas of government on our
4 commitment to the most vulnerable among us --
5 our children.

6 (Applause.)

7 MAYOR STREET: Thank you.

8 So today, I respectfully invite
9 Governor Ridge and the leaders of the
10 legislature to join me in a face-to-face summit
11 at their earliest opportunity to explore
12 possible solutions to our local and statewide
13 education funding crisis. Although we may not
14 yet agree on how to achieve such solutions, we
15 must start in good faith by acknowledging the
16 problem and searching for answers we can all
17 embrace.

18 The most important challenge for our
19 city's political leadership is making sure that
20 all views will be heard, respected, and fully
21 considered, even if it's a minority or a
22 controversial view. In a democracy, the
23 majority will always have its way, but the
24 minority must always have its say.

25 I have long held the view that every

1
2 person in every neighborhood is important.
3 From South Philadelphia and West Philadelphia,
4 to the Great Northeast, from North
5 Philadelphia, from Fishtown to West Mt. Airy,
6 your voice will be heard.

7 (Applause.)

8 MAYOR STREET: Thank you.

9 Over twenty years ago, I stood in a
10 small cafe at 29th and Ridge and first
11 announced my candidacy for public office. I
12 had no money and no visible political support.
13 I did, however, have a fundamental
14 determination to make a difference in the lives
15 of people in this city. But even in my wildest
16 dreams, I could not have imagined that I would
17 be standing here today as your mayor.

18 (Applause.)

19 MAYOR STREET: Thank you.

20 I am truly humbled by the opportunity
21 afforded me this day and excited about this
22 great challenge.

23 Now that you have given me the
24 awesome responsibility to lead, I ask in return
25 for your ideas, I ask for your cooperation and

1
2 prayers so that Philadelphia, in this new
3 century, will continue to grow and thrive and
4 fulfill its destiny as a world-class city, a
5 place of hope and opportunity for all our
6 people, a better Philadelphia.

7 Thank you very much. Thank you.
8 (Standing ovation.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Again,
10 congratulations, Mr. Mayor.

11 Joining us today to celebrate the
12 inauguration of Mayor John F. Street is the
13 Ebenezer Seventh Day Adventist Choir. They're
14 from Mayor Street's church.

15 In honor of Mayor Street, the choir
16 shall sing "We Shall Behold Him."

17 ("We Shall Behold Him" performed by
18 Ebenezer Seventh Day Adventist Choir.)

19 (Applause.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: How very,
21 very beautiful.

22 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Amen. Amen, amen,
23 amen. Amen, amen, amen.

24 (Applause.)

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: At this

1
2 time, the Chair invites the newly elected
3 officials to take the oath of office in the
4 presence of Council, the Mayor and other
5 dignitaries.

6 The Chair invites the newly elected
7 judges and retention judges of the Common Pleas
8 Court Common Pleas to stand and take the oath
9 of office.

10 The Clerk will read the certificates
11 of election for the retention and newly elected
12 judges of the Court of Common Pleas.

13 CHIEF CLERK HAUSER: Philadelphia,
14 November the 2nd, 1999, office of the Judge of
15 the Court of Common Pleas, Philadelphia:

16 Norman Ackerman,
17 Ida K. Chen,
18 Gene D. Cohen,
19 Mary D. Colins,
20 Nicholas M. D'Alessandro,
21 Pamela Pryor Dembe,
22 James J. Fitzgerald, III,
23 Jane Cutler Greenspan,
24 Sheldon C. Jelin,
25 Kathryn Streeter Lewis,

1

2

Edward E. Russell,

3

Petrese B. Tucker,

4

You are duly retained in the Office

5

of Judge of Court of Common Pleas of

6

Philadelphia County for a ten-year term,

7

commencing the first Monday of January, AD

8

2000.

9

(Applause.)

10

CHIEF CLERK HAUSER: Sandy L.V. Byrd.

11

(Applause.)

12

CHIEF CLERK HAUSER: Richard J.

13

Gordon.

14

(Applause.)

15

CHIEF CLERK HAUSER: Glynnis D.

16

Hill.

17

(Applause.)

18

CHIEF CLERK HAUSER: Benjamin Lerner.

19

(Applause.)

20

CHIEF CLERK HAUSER: Robert J.

21

Matthews.

22

(Applause.)

23

CHIEF CLERK HAUSER: John J. O'Grady,

24

Jr.

25

(Applause.)

1
2 CHIEF CLERK HAUSER: Annette M.
3 Rizzo.
4 (Applause.)
5 CHIEF CLERK HAUSER: Karen Shreeves.
6 (Applause.)
7 CHIEF CLERK HAUSER: Sheila
8 Woods-Skipper.
9 (Applause.)
10 CHIEF CLERK HAUSER: At an election
11 held November 2, 1999, you were duly elected
12 Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of
13 Philadelphia County for a ten-year term,
14 commencing the first Monday of January, AD
15 2000.
16 (Applause.)
17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Judge
18 Bonavitacola will administer the oath of
19 office.
20 JUDGE BONAVIDACOLA: Please take your
21 Bibles in your left hand, raise your right
22 hand, and please repeat after me. . .
23 (Oath of office administered.)
24 JUDGE BONAVIDACOLA: Thank you.
25 (Applause.)

1

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
3 now invites the newly elected judges and the
4 retention judges of the Municipal Court of
5 Philadelphia to stand and take the oath of
6 office.

7 The Clerk will please read the
8 certificate of election for the newly elected
9 judges and the retention judges of the
10 Municipal Court of Philadelphia.

11 CHIEF CLERK HAUSER: At an election
12 held November 2, 1999, you were duly retained
13 in the office of the Judge of the Court of
14 Common Pleas.

15 Sandy L.V. Byrd,
16 Richard Gordon,
17 Glenda C. Hill --

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: No, Marie.

19 CHIEF CLERK HAUSER: Linda F.
20 Anderson,

21 Thomas F. Gehret,
22 Jimmie Moore,
23 Frank Palumbo.

24 (Applause.)

25 CHIEF CLERK HAUSER: You were duly

1
2 elected Judge of the Municipal Court of
3 Philadelphia County for a six-year term,
4 commencing the first Monday of January, AD
5 2000.

6 (Applause.)

7 CHIEF CLERK HAUSER: James M. DeLeon,
8 Seamus T. McCaffery,
9 William A. Meehan, Jr.,
10 Harvey W. Robbins,
11 Alan K. Silberstein,
12 Felice Rowley Stack,

13 At an election held November 2, 1999,
14 you were duly retained in the Office of the
15 Judge of Municipal Court of Philadelphia County
16 for a six-year term, commencing the first
17 Monday of January, AD 2000.

18 (Applause.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: President
20 Judge of Municipal Court, the Honorable Louis
21 J. Presenza, will administer the oath of
22 office.

23 JUDGE PRESENZA: Excuse my back.

24 You want to place your left hand on
25 the Bible, please. Raise your right hand,

1

2 repeat after me. . .

3 (Oath of office administered.)

4 JUDGE PRESENZA: Congratulations.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
6 now invites the newly elected Judge of Traffic
7 Court, Bill Adams, to stand and take the oath
8 of office.

9 (Applause.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Clerk
11 will please read the certificate of election
12 for the Judge of Traffic Court.

13 CHIEF CLERK HAUSER: At an election
14 held November 2, 1999, Bill Adams, you were
15 duly elected Judge of the Traffic Court of
16 Philadelphia County for a six-year term,
17 commencing the first Monday of January, AD
18 2000.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The oath of
20 office will now be administered by the
21 Honorable Frank J. Little, the President Judge
22 of Traffic Court.

23 (Applause.)

24 JUDGE LITTLE: Bill Adams, repeat --
25 your hand is on the Bible and you're right hand

1
2 is on -- you've had that for about a week now,
3 haven't you?
4 (Laughter.)
5 (Oath of office administered.)
6 JUDGE LITTLE: Good luck to you,
7 Judge.
8 JUDGE ADAMS: Thank you.
9 (Applause.)
10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
11 now invites the City Commissioners to stand as
12 their names are called. They are: Margaret
13 Tartaglione --
14 (Applause.)
15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Alexander
16 Talmadge, and Joseph Duda.
17 (Applause.)
18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chief
19 Clerk will read the certificates of election
20 for the City Commissioners.
21 CHIEF CLERK HAUSER: Margaret
22 Tartaglione, Alexander Z. Talmadge, Joseph J.
23 Duda, at an election held November 2, 1999, you
24 were duly elected City Commissioners for the
25 City and County of Philadelphia County for a

1
2 term of four years, commencing the first Monday
3 of January, AD 2000.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Judge
5 Bonavitacola will administer the oath of
6 office.

7 JUDGE BONAVIDACOLA: Please raise
8 your right hands and repeat after me. . .

9 (Oath of office administered.)

10 JUDGE BONAVIDACOLA: Congratulations.

11 (Applause.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
13 invites the Sheriff of Philadelphia of
14 Philadelphia, John D. Green, to stand and take
15 the oath of office.

16 (Applause.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Clerk
18 will please read the certificate of election
19 for the City of Philadelphia.

20 CHIEF CLERK HAUSER: At an election
21 held November 2, 1999, you were duly elected
22 Sheriff of the City and County of Philadelphia
23 County for a term of four years, commencing the
24 first year of January, AD 2000.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The

1
2 Honorable Gwendolyn Bright, Judge of the Court
3 of the Court Common Pleas, will administer the
4 oath of office.

5 (Applause.)

6 JUDGE BRIGHT: Sheriff John D. Green,
7 repeat after me. . .

8 (Oath of office administered.)

9 JUDGE BRIGHT: Congratulations,
10 Judge.

11 (Applause.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
13 now invites Ronald R. Donatucci, Register of
14 Wills, to stand to take his oath of office.

15 (Applause.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Clerk
17 will read the certificate of election for the
18 Register of Wills.

19 CHIEF CLERK HAUSER: At an election
20 held November 2, 1999, you were duly elected
21 Register of Wills for the City and County of
22 Philadelphia County for a term of four years,
23 commencing the first Monday of January, AD
24 2000.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Judge

1

2 Presenza will administer the oath of office and
3 Judge Bonavitacola? We're getting two judges,
4 huh? Okay.

5 MR. DONATUCCI: They want to make
6 sure I do the job right.

7 JUDGE BONAVIDACOLA: You have
8 unimpeachable witnesses.

9 (Laughter.)

10 (Oath of office administered.)

11 JUDGE BONAVIDACOLA: Congratulations.

12 MR. DONATUCCI: Thank you.

13 (Applause.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
15 now invites Vivian T. Miller, Clerk of Quarter
16 Sessions Court, to stand and take her oath of
17 office. The Clerk will please read the
18 certificate of election for the Clerk of the
19 Court of Common Pleas.

20 CHIEF CLERK HAUSER: Vivian T.
21 Miller, at an election held November 2, 1999,
22 you were duly elected Clerk of Quarter Sessions
23 for Philadelphia County for a term of four
24 years, commencing the first Monday of January,
25 AD 2000.

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2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Judge Louis
3 J. Presenza will administer the oath of office.
4 (Applause.)
5 JUDGE PRESENZA: Place your right
6 hand on the Bible. Indeed a pleasure.
7 Just repeat after me. . .
8 (Oath of office administered.)
9 JUDGE PRESENZA: Congratulations.
10 (Applause.)
11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: For our
12 final musical selection today, the GAMP Choir
13 will sing "I Believe I Can Fly."
14 (Applause.)
15 ("I Believe I Can Fly" performed by
16 the GAMP Choir.)
17 (Applause.)
18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Really
19 beautiful.
20 As we conclude the ceremony, I want
21 to thank the Chair, the Honorable Robert A.
22 Brady, who served as the Honorary Committee
23 Chairman, and all of --
24 (Applause.)
25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: And all of

1
2 the members of the Inaugural Committee for
3 their hard work for today's ceremony.

4 I also want to thank our clergy
5 members for being with us and offering their
6 prayers for us and for our city.

7 At this time, I would like you all to
8 stand for a prayer to be delivered by Rabbi
9 Solomon Isaacson. Following Rabbi Isaacson's
10 remarks, I ask that you be seated for the
11 conclusion of the session.

12 RABBI ISAACSON: If all of you
13 remember -- excuse me. If all of you remember
14 the last election, I'd like to ask all of you
15 to be seated for a moment.

16 Thank you.

17 (Mayor Street gives Rabbi Isaacson
18 bouquet of flowers.)

19 (Laughter.)

20 RABBI ISAACSON: You know, this is
21 the reason on Tuesday, the day of the primary,
22 I flew back from Jerusalem, and I brought John
23 -- I ran to Broad and Olney, where he was --

24 MAYOR STREET: Taking pictures.

25 RABBI ISAACSON: Taking a lot of

1
2 pictures. And I brought him a string straight
3 from the city of Jerusalem and the holy city of
4 Bethlehem, a red string. And he was wearing it
5 on election night, when he raised his hand with
6 Bob Feldman, and the newspapers took a picture
7 of it. And since then, I've had a demand on
8 red string. So if there's anybody here who
9 sells fabric or string, be prepared.

10 (Laughter.)

11 RABBI ISAACSON: For those of you
12 that know me personally in City Council and the
13 Mayor, I want to take the liberty of, number
14 one, thanking Ed for everything that he's given
15 us, to me as his rabbi, the most important, to
16 me as a citizen, in this wonderful, great city
17 of ours, the City of Philadelphia. He has put
18 --

19 (Applause.)

20 RABBI ISAACSON: He has put the City
21 of Philadelphia not only back on the map, but
22 he has put it at the top of the map.

23 (Applause.)

24 RABBI ISAACSON: You know, till now,
25 he was known as "The America's Mayor." Now he

1

2 can only be known as "The Rabbi's Mayor."

3 (Laughter.)

4 RABBI ISAACSON: But as you all know,
5 behind every successful man, and of course, is
6 Midge, and I'd like to really thank her for
7 allowing the City to have Ed for so many years,
8 and we give him back -- only till the year
9 2001, when he begins to campaign for governor.

10 (Applause.)

11 RABBI ISAACSON: And proud as I am to
12 have been known as "The District Attorney's
13 Rabbi" and "The Mayor's Rabbi," I will be more
14 proud to be known, with God's help, as "The
15 Governor's Rabbi."

16 (Applause.)

17 RABBI ISAACSON: I told Naomi last
18 night that I would speak about her. Probably
19 the most difficult part of a mayor's wife's job
20 would be the time that he has to campaign.
21 There's very little time that he has for her
22 because he's busy, out trying to get votes and
23 to win.

24 I'd like to thank her for allowing
25 John the opportunity and now enabling him to be

1
2 able to run our city for the next eight years.

3 (Applause.)

4 RABBI ISAACSON: God bless you, Naomi
5 and all of you ladies.

6 The theme of my prayer today comes
7 with a story, a story of a gentleman who was
8 sitting in his home when it began to rain like
9 in the time of Noah. And the people, his
10 neighbors, came to get him out, and he said,
11 "Don't worry, I pray three times a day" -- he
12 was an Orthodox Jew. "I pray three times a
13 day, and God will not let me down, he will
14 rescue me."

15 And then, before you know it, the
16 water rises to the top of his house. And a
17 boat comes along, and he says, "Jump in."
18 "Don't worry, God won't let me down."

19 And then, before you know it, the
20 water was over the house and now he's drowning
21 in the water, and a helicopter comes. He says,
22 "Don't worry, God won't let me down." And, of
23 course, he dies.

24 He goes up to heaven, runs over to
25 the Almighty and says, "God, how could you do

1
2 this to me?" God said, "I sent three different
3 people to help you."

4 (Laughter.)

5 RABBI ISAACSON: Ladies and
6 gentlemen. . .

7 Ladies and gentlemen, the Almighty
8 heard our prayers in our time of need in 1992,
9 and he sent us Moses -- I mean Ed.

10 (Laughter.)

11 RABBI ISAACSON: And now, in the year
12 2000, Joshua, also known as "John F. Street" --

13 (Applause.)

14 RABBI ISAACSON: -- is now going to
15 lead us into the Promised Land. But the
16 Promised Land can only be because Joshua didn't
17 go by himself; he went along with people who
18 believed in him --

19 (Applause.)

20 RABBI ISAACSON: -- people who
21 trusted him and people who supported him.

22 I ask all of you now to rise.

23 (All rise.)

24 RABBI ISAACSON: We ask you, Almighty
25 God, not to forget us. We promise to not only

1
2 keep You in our hearts and in our minds, but
3 also make You proud by our deeds.
4 Almighty, we are Your children. O,
5 Father in heaven, we ask You to bless us with
6 the priestly blessing that God commanded Moses
7 to command Aaron to bless his people, his
8 children.
9 May the Lord bless thee and keep
10 thee. May the Lord make His continents to
11 shine upon thee and be gracious unto thee. May
12 the Lord lift up his continents upon thee and
13 give thee peace. For a length of days and
14 years of life and peace shall they add to thee.
15 The Lord shall keep all of you from all evil,
16 and He shall protect you forever.
17 And at the end of the priestly
18 blessing, it says that "You should put My name"
19 -- and that means that if we use constantly
20 God's name and we realize that there is a
21 superior being above watching over us, we
22 should always ask Him for His guidance and for
23 His help.
24 Amen.
25 ALL: Amen.

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2 RABBI ISAACSON: Thank you very much,
3 and I appreciate your tolerance.

4 (Applause.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you
6 very much, thank you.

7 Kindly be seated, please.

8 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman
9 Blackwell.

10 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you,
11 Madam President.

12 I move that Council stand adjourned
13 until Tuesday, January 25, 2000.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: All in
15 favor, let it be known by saying aye.

16 Opposed, say nay.

17 The ayes have it. This Council
18 stands adjourned until Tuesday, January 25,
19 2000.

20 Thank you all so very, very much.

21 (Applause.)

22 (Adjourned at 12:05 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing
proceedings of the Council of the City of
Philadelphia of Monday, January 3, 2000, were
reported fully and accurately by me, and that this
is a correct transcript of same.

RE: INVESTITURE OF COUNCIL MEMBERS
INAUGURATION OF THE MAYOR
INVESTITURE OF OTHER CITY OFFICIALS

_____,
JOSEPHINE CARDILLO,
Registered Professional Reporter