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COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

3

STATED MEETING

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5

Room 401, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Thursday, March 1, 2001
10:00 a.m.

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PRESENT:

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COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANNA C. VERNA

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COUNCILWOMAN JANNIE BLACKWELL
COUNCILWOMAN BLONDELL REYNOLDS BROWN

12

COUNCILMAN DARRELL L. CLARKE
COUNCILMAN DAVID COHEN

13

COUNCILMAN FRANK J. DI CICCIO
COUNCILMAN WILSON W. GOODE, JR.

14

COUNCILMAN JAMES F. KENNEY
COUNCILWOMAN JOAN L. KRAJEWSKI

15

COUNCILMAN W. THACHER LONGSTRETH
COUNCILMAN RICHARD T. MARIANO

16

COUNCILWOMAN DONNA REED MILLER
COUNCILMAN MICHAEL A. NUTTER

17

COUNCILMAN BRIAN J. O'NEILL
COUNCILMAN ANGEL L. ORTIZ

18

COUNCILMAN FRANK RIZZO

19

COUNCILWOMAN MARIAN B. TASCO

20

PATRICIA RAFFERTY, CHIEF CLERK

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1 INVOCATION

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Good morning,
3 everyone. I note that the hour has come and that a
4 quorum of this Council is present. The Council will
5 take their seats. Visitors will retire to the seats
6 outside the rails.

7 To give our invocation this morning, the
8 Chair welcomes Father Timothy Sullivan, Pastor of
9 Holy Innocence Roman Catholic Church. He is here
10 today as the guest of Councilman Mariano. Members
11 and guests will please rise.

12 FATHER TIMOTHY: Let us pray. Oh,
13 mighty and eternal God, you have revealed your glory
14 to all nations. God of power and might, wisdom and
15 justice, through your authority work is rightly
16 administered, laws are enacted, and judgments
17 decreed. We pray today in this our City of
18 Brotherly Love, the Members of our City Council who
19 are entrusted to guard our political welfare, may
20 they be enabled by your powerful protection to
21 discharge their duties with honesty and ability.
22 Please, God, let them recognize the awesome
23 responsibility they have accepted by accepting the
24 vote of citizens of Philadelphia. Those citizens,
25 your sons and daughters who have place their trust

1 INVOCATION

2 in these men and women.

3 In difficult times throughout the
4 centuries, you have blessed your people with strong
5 and courageous leaders. May these men and women be
6 those leaders today. Give them your light and
7 strength to know your will to make it their own and
8 to live it first in their own lives. Give them by
9 your wisdom. Support them by your power. We desire
10 justice for all. Enable them to uphold the rights
11 of others, to recognize the noble gift of human life
12 as it exist in every moment of history. Let them
13 protect, defend, and support that gift by their
14 words, their actions and their legislative
15 decisions. In all things good, dear Lord, do not
16 allow them to be misled by ignorance or corrupted by
17 or favor. Unite them to yourself and to your
18 guidance. Keep them faithful to all that is truth.
19 Today we pray for them. But we likewise commend to
20 your mercy all the citizens of the City of
21 Philadelphia that they, through these men and women,
22 may be blessed in the knowledge that our City of
23 Brotherly Love, our cradle of liberty, is not just
24 our glorious history. It is by your favor, our
25 constant reality. May we always be attentive to the

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2 consistent challenge of perpetuating this truth.
3 Keep us all under your watchful eye and loving
4 protection. Amen.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Amen. The
6 Chair thanks Father Sullivan for his inspiring
7 invocation. Council will be at ease.

8 (Council at ease.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The next order
10 of business is the approval of the Journal of the
11 meeting of Thursday, February 22, 2001. And the
12 Chair recognizes Councilwoman Blackwell.

13 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you,
14 Madam President. I move that the Journal of
15 Thursday, February 22, 2001, stand approved.

16 (Duly seconded.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: It has been
18 moved and properly seconded that the Journal of the
19 meeting of Thursday, February 22, 2001, stand
20 approved.

21 All in favor will signify by saying aye.
22 (Aye.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Those opposed,
24 nay.

25 (No response.)

1 LEAVES OF ABSENCE

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The ayes have
3 it, and the Journal of Thursday, February 22, 2001,
4 has been approved.

5 The next order of business is requests
6 for leave of absence. And the Chair recognizes
7 Councilwoman Blackwell.

8 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you,
9 Madam President. There are no questions for leaves
10 of absence today on the part of the majority.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The Chair
12 thanks the Councilwoman.

13 The Chair recognizes Councilman O'Neill.

14 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Madam President, on
15 behalf of the Republicans, there are no requests for
16 leave of absence.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank you.
18 The Chair will dispense with the regular order of
19 business to recognize the guests and visitors
20 joining us in Chambers this morning. On behalf of
21 all Members of City Council, I welcome you to our
22 Council Session today. We certainly appreciate your
23 taking the time to attend to the legislative affairs
24 of our City. We welcome you to come again.

25 At this time, the Chair recognizes

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2 Councilwoman Blackwell.

3 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you,
4 Madam President. This morning we want to introduce
5 some of the families and agencies who have benefited
6 from the Child Citizens Act of 2000. And Jim Kenney
7 and I will be introducing a resolution today in
8 honoring them, but immediately following City
9 Council, we'll short press conference when they're
10 here. But we would like to knowledge them here in
11 Council this morning.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: If they will
13 stand, we would be very happy to recognize them.

14 (Applause.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Welcome.

16 The Chair at this time recognizes
17 Councilwoman Tasco who will present a resolution
18 commemorating Save Your Vision Month.

19 Will Mr. Eugene Wayne who is the vice
20 president of the Pennsylvania College of Optometry,
21 and those accompanying him please join the
22 Councilwoman at the podium.

23 Councilwoman Tasco.

24 COUNCILWOMAN TESCO: Thank you, Madam
25 President.

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2 We are pleased here as we've been here
3 for many, many years to honor the Philadelphia
4 College of Optometry in their efforts to save
5 Philadelphians and their eyesight. So this is our
6 resolution declaring March as Save Your Vision
7 Month.

8 Whereas, Save Your Vision Month is a
9 national event sponsored annually in March by the
10 American optometric Association; and

11 Whereas, the Pennsylvania College of
12 Optometry is a major sponsor of Save Your Vision
13 Month in the Delaware Valley; and

14 Whereas, the Pennsylvania College of
15 Optometry is celebrating Save Your Vision Month with
16 a vision health public awareness campaign with the
17 theme "On the lookout, your profession and pastimes
18 may be damaging to your eyes" and

19 Whereas, the official 2001 Save Your
20 Vision campaign kickoff in City Council will launch
21 a series of free vision screenings at day care
22 centers, regional library branches, senior citizens
23 centers, and residential complexes; and

24 Whereas, the College of Optometry hopes
25 that the public awareness campaign will encourage

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2 families and employers to develop a greater
3 understanding of the important role vision plays in
4 both the workplace and home; and

5 Whereas, vision withstands varying
6 degrees of stress and is placed at risk by certain
7 daily activities, both in the home and the
8 workplace; and

9 Whereas, these stressors and hazards can
10 be identified and minimized through education and
11 regular eye screening and vision care service; and

12 Whereas, resources are available for
13 patients through the services of the Eye Institute
14 of the Pennsylvania College of Optometry; and

15 Whereas, the Pennsylvania College of
16 Optometry is also participating in Vision USA, a
17 national effort to provide free eye examinations for
18 working persons with no health insurance who have
19 not had an eye examination in the last 12 months.

20 Therefore, resolved, that the Council of
21 the City of Philadelphia declare and celebrate March
22 as Save Your Vision Month and encourage support "On
23 the lookout, your profession and pastime maybe
24 damaging to your eyes."

25 Resolved further, that an engrossed copy

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2 of this resolution be presented to a representative
3 of the Pennsylvania College of Optometry sincere
4 expression of the Council's gratitude, appreciation,
5 and commodation for sponsoring and organizing free
6 vision screenings throughout Philadelphia during
7 Save Your Vision Month.

8 Certification that this is a true and
9 correct copy of the original resolution adopted by
10 the Council of the City of Philadelphia on the 1st
11 day of February 2001. It is signed by Anna C.
12 Verna, introduced by Marian B. Tasco and Richard
13 Mariano and sponsored by all Members of City
14 Council.

15 (Applause.)

16 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: We want to thank
17 the college for their efforts and their
18 collaborative efforts with other community
19 organizations.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: At this time,
21 the Chair recognizes Mr. Wayne for remarks.

22 MR. WAYNE: Thank you. I'm Honored to
23 be here today on behalf of the Eye Institute of the
24 Pennsylvania College of Optometry to commence Save
25 Your Vision Month. This year's theme is "On the

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2 lookout, your profession and pastimes maybe damaging
3 your eyes." This theme was chosen to educate the
4 public about the role of vision and the stress it
5 withstands on daily basis as people pursue their
6 occupations and hobbies.

7 During Save Your Vision Month, the Eye
8 Institute will host free vision screenings
9 throughout the Philadelphia area. As the clinical
10 teaching facility for the Pennsylvania College of
11 Optometry, the Eye Institute provides quality eye
12 care through more than 70,000 patient visits each
13 year. With its awareness campaign, we hope to make
14 eye care the focus of the Philadelphia region.

15 I'd like to take this opportunity to
16 thank several people who have helped us build our
17 public awareness for Save Your Vision Month. First,
18 I would like to thank our many supportive friends at
19 City Council, especially Councilwoman Marian Tasco.
20 I would also like to thank NBC 10 for joining us
21 again this year as our co-sponsor.

22 At noon today, we will host a free
23 vision screening here at City Hall and we hope to
24 see all of you there. Thank you again.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

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2 (Applause.)

3 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: There will be free
4 vision screening in the Council Caucus Room from
5 12:00 to 2:00, and everyone is invited for your free
6 screening and I encourage you to do so. Thank you.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.
8 Council will be at ease.

9 (Council at ease.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: At this time,
11 the Chair recognizes Councilman Rizzo for a
12 presentation and recognition of Philadelphia fire
13 fighters, Philadelphia Gas Works engineers, and
14 various City departments for their heroic actions
15 during the recent fire at the PGW facility in South
16 Philadelphia.

17 Councilman Rizzo and those who are being
18 honored, please join the Councilman at the podium,
19 please.

20 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thank you, Madam
21 President. And I would also like to invite the
22 Managing Director Joe Martz. We are going to have
23 representatives of PGW, Kumar Kishinchand,
24 representatives of Local 686, Gas Workers Employees
25 Union, their president Frank Reading, and Deputy

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2 Commissioner Lloyd Aires (ph), the Deputy
3 commissioner of the Philadelphia Fire Department.
4 And I'm going to ask the various commissioners and
5 managers to introduce their folks a little bit
6 later. After everyone gets up here, I'll read the
7 resolution.

8 Honoring Philadelphia Fire Fighters, Gas
9 Works engineers, and employees and various other
10 City departments and employees for their heroic
11 actions during the explosion and fire at the
12 Philadelphia Gas Works Passyunk facility in South
13 Philadelphia.

14 Whereas, on Friday December 22 at 10:00
15 p.m., an explosion rocked Philadelphia Gas Works
16 Passyunk plant complex in South Philadelphia; and

17 Whereas, one of the coldest nights of
18 the year, a spectacular five-alarm blaze closed
19 major roadways, forced nearby evacuations and left
20 more than 5,000 homes in Southwest and West
21 Philadelphia with little or no heat; and

22 Whereas, the explosion and fire prompted
23 heroic and well-trained Philadelphia Gas Work
24 employees to redirect natural gas flow to prevent
25 feeding the flames; and

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2 Whereas, braving frigid temperatures,
3 high winds and a potentially catastrophic situation,
4 over 125 fire fighters took extraordinary measures
5 into the early hours of the morning to prevent an
6 enormous blaze from reaching a nearby liquid natural
7 gas storage tank; and

8 Whereas, through the well-orchestrated
9 and concentrated effort, tragedy was avoided.
10 Damage to the Philadelphia Gas Works facility and
11 the surrounding structures and property were
12 minimized and natural gas service quickly restored
13 to those residents that were left without heat as a
14 result of the blaze.

15 Also I'd like to stop for a moment and
16 remind everyone that a tremendous effort was made to
17 restore -- and when natural gas flow is interrupted,
18 as you know, everyone's pilot in their heaters, hot
19 water heaters disrupted and there were over 5,000
20 customers without heat. And the operations people
21 did just a tremendous effort. They brought in PECO
22 Energy employees, Connective employees, you name it,
23 if they knew how to light a pilot of a gas heater or
24 a hot water heater, they were called into service.

25 Resolved by the Council of the City of

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2 Philadelphia that I hereby honor Philadelphia Fire
3 Fighters, Philadelphia Gas Works engineers and
4 employees and various other City departments and
5 employees for their heroic actions during the
6 explosion and fire at the Philadelphia Gas Works
7 Passyunk facility in South Philadelphia.

8 Resolved further that an engrossed copy
9 of this resolution be presented to the Philadelphia
10 Fire Fighters, Philadelphia Gas Works engineers and
11 employees, and other City departments and employees
12 as evidence of the sincere gratitude of this
13 legislative body for their valiant efforts during
14 the natural Gas Works Passyunk plant explosion and
15 fire and for the service that they provided the City
16 of Philadelphia. I want to thank them all.

17 (Applause.)

18 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: I'd like to present a
19 copy of the first resolution to Kumar Kishinchand,
20 we all know the chief executive at PGW. Kumar.

21 (Applause.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
23 recognizes Mr. Kishinchand for a few remarks.

24 MR. KISHINCHAND: Thank you, President
25 Verna, and thank you, Councilman Rizzo, for this

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2 resolution, and to all of the City Council for
3 honoring us on this particular occasion. As you
4 know, this fire occurred at a time so close to
5 Christmas on the 22nd of December and on a very cold
6 day. All of the employees at the PGW were very
7 concerned about Christmas approaching and the houses
8 not being heated. They stepped forward. At the
9 time that the fire occurred, we only had four
10 employees over there. They ran around. One of the
11 gentlemen who was there turned off the valves to
12 control the fire. He's here. He hurt himself but
13 continued to work over there. Many of the people
14 who didn't work at that plant called up and said,
15 "What can we do?" And they showed up through the
16 back gates and the front gates, over the fences to
17 come and help. This was a frigid night and many of
18 the people did valiant efforts to control it. One
19 of the gentlemen, in fact, climbed up a ladder and
20 shut off the valve that ultimately cut out the gas
21 that feeding it. And even the fire fighters who
22 were there admired this individual for risking his
23 life to control this fire.

24 And as you know, the potential for
25 actually getting that liquid natural gas to blow up

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2 was very high. And it was the Fire Department with
3 their help that we were able to cool it down and
4 control it. And within about three days, we were
5 able to get all of the people back into heat, hot
6 water, their gas stoves working, etcetera. It was
7 gas control people who ultimately controlled the
8 area that could be affected. There was a potential
9 for 80,000 people who would be out of heat, but they
10 controlled it so that only about 5,000, a little
11 more than 5,000 were out, and we took care of them
12 before the Christmas that weekend.

13 And I want to thank, of course, not only
14 the management, but the union employees who were
15 there, the rank and file and the non-union who
16 helped out in this particular effort.

17 The fire department, I want to thank
18 Commissioner Hairston who helped out. And Joe Martz
19 who stepped forward. He in fact provided us
20 assistance through L & I. I'm not sure if Joe
21 McLaughlin, but he provided a number of folks to
22 supplement the people that you see over here get the
23 people back into business. And in addition to that,
24 of course, as Councilman Rizzo mentioned, PECO, PPNL
25 and others also contributed.

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2 So I thank all of you for recognizing
3 this effort and thank all the employees and all the
4 people that helped out.

5 (Applause.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: I just want to
7 word, if I may. Mr. Kishinchand, I want you to know
8 that this occurred in my district, and I don't have
9 to tell you the number of calls that I received
10 during that time. And I would be remiss if I
11 personally did not thank you and the employees who
12 did such a fabulous job and all of the various
13 departments who worked so diligently restoring gas
14 to the people in that community. Thank you so very
15 much.

16 (Applause.)

17 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thank you, Madam
18 President. That makes it even extra special, your
19 comments.

20 The young man that Commissioner -- and I
21 still call you commissioner -- Kishinchand
22 mentioned, why don't we all thank Abdul Niyack (ph)
23 who's the young man that shut the flow of gas off
24 during the fire.

25 (Applause.)

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2 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: And we also have
3 Dennis Dentson who's the vice president of
4 operations and Jim McLaughlin who is the plant
5 manager. And I'm sure, Jim, everything's,
6 hopefully, getting back in place at your facility.

7 Now a very important group that
8 represents the work force at PGW, I'd like to
9 introduce Frank Reading who's the president of Gas
10 Workers Employees Union Local 686 to present a copy
11 of this resolution and a few comments. Frank.

12 (Applause.)

13 MR. READING: Good morning. I would
14 like to thank City Council and especially Councilman
15 Rizzo for this venue and the opportunity to say some
16 kind things about the people that I represent. I'm
17 especially pleased that this is being done in
18 conjunction with the Fire Department because coming
19 from a large Irish family that is from predominantly
20 southwest and South Philadelphia, I've had a few of
21 my own relatives that were fireman and I know the
22 pride and the commitment that they put into their
23 work.

24 In contrast to the Fire Department, I
25 think the people that I represent are sometimes

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2 underestimated about their dedication to their job.
3 I know that with the appropriate time I could speak
4 volumes about the personal sacrifices some of my
5 people have made over the years. But I think this
6 latest incident with the Passyunk plant incident is
7 probably the best example of how our people can
8 react in a situation where they're desperately
9 needed.

10 The people who went out to light the
11 pilots, my constituents, they'd fill out route
12 sheets and they list the number of addresses that
13 they visit where they do their service work or they
14 investigation leaks. For every job that they
15 recorded, there were two or three people on those
16 streets who came up to them and asked them to come
17 in for the gas leak or light the pilot and those
18 addresses weren't recorded. So I think when you
19 look at volume of work that was performed, you can
20 multiply it by three. They had did an enormous
21 amount of work that night, and as Kumar mentioned,
22 they were very instrumental in making the
23 Philadelphia public happy and satisfied over the
24 Christmas holidays.

25 Likewise, I think I'd like to introduce

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2 Mike Duffy. Mike was at the plant that night. He
3 was there when the explosion occurred. Mike was the
4 employee who was injured. And even after he was
5 injured, he hobbled around and he was instrumental
6 in getting water cannons going and trying to shut
7 the source of gas off. Likewise, I'd like to
8 introduce George Trop. Abdul was the one who shut
9 the valve off, George was the one who found it so I
10 they he deserves some credit for that.

11 (Applause.)

12 MR. READING: And everybody knows that
13 the work that was required to get us back on-line.
14 For several weeks, our distribution department and
15 our gas supply department worked seven days a week,
16 12 hours a day to get us back on-line.

17 So on behalf of the people I represent,
18 on behalf of all PGW employees, I'd like to say
19 thank you to Councilman Rizzo again, City Council
20 for the opportunity to bring this to light.

21 (Applause.)

22 MR. READING: I'd like to introduce our
23 officers before I leave. I have Mike McDonough
24 who's our vice president, Jim Dave is our treasurer;
25 Keith Holmes, our financial secretary; and Tom

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2 Kennerly, our recording secretary. Thank you.

3 (Applause.)

4 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thank you, Frank.

5 And then the alarms come in, the sirens
6 sound, the lights flash and the Philadelphia Fire
7 Department is on the scene. And today, representing
8 the Philadelphia Fire Department is Lloyd Aires,
9 he's the Deputy Commissioner that was on the scene
10 during the explosion and fire at the Passyunk plant.
11 And there's also other representatives, and I'll let
12 the commissioner take a minute to introduce some of
13 the folks, but I'd like to also present Commissioner
14 Lloyd Aires, the deputy commissioner that was on the
15 site of the Passyunk fire. Commissioner.

16 (Applause.)

17 MR. AIRES: First, giving praise and
18 honor to my God and my Lord who strengthens us all,
19 to the honorable President of City Council Anna
20 Verna, to all the honorable members of this great
21 and continuously supportive City Council, and to
22 Councilman Rizzo for his initiating a sponsorship of
23 this resolution. I'd like to thank you on behalf of
24 the men and women of the Philadelphia Fire
25 Department. And I'd also say that we humbly

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2 acknowledge and accept this resolution.

3 Before I go any further, I'd like to

4 introduce some of our members that are present.

5 First of all, we have Deputy Chief Matthew McCrory

6 who is the former --

7 (Applause.)

8 MR. AIRES: He's the former deputy

9 commission of the Fire Department. And he was the

10 initial incident commander on the scene.

11 And next I'd like to introduce Edward

12 Schwartz, Battalion Chief, Philadelphia Fire

13 Department.

14 (Applause.)

15 MR. AIRES: And he had the perilous

16 north sector of the fire.

17 Next I'd like to introduce Linda Long,

18 Captain, fire paramedic.

19 (Applause.)

20 MR. AIRES: Captain Long took care of

21 all of our emergency medical services on the scene

22 and coordinated that effort.

23 I'd like to introduce Mike Brady,

24 Lieutenant Brady.

25 (Applause.)

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2 MR. AIRES: Lieutenant Brady works with
3 our marine operation.

4 And also fireboat pilot Concoluski (ph),
5 Steve. We appreciate you.

6 (Applause.)

7 MR. AIRES: And of course, that had to
8 do with our fire boat coming up the river to give
9 support to the other end of the plant so that the
10 water operations would be complete and we wouldn't
11 have problems as we attacked the fire.

12 You have the opportunity to see the
13 cameras and the clips and you also see the
14 silhouettes of the fire fighters and workers as they
15 go around through the different incident scenes, but
16 more especially that night at PGW. What you didn't
17 see and what you didn't hear is the little comments
18 that go on and we encourage other. Some of things
19 like "I might meet you on Broad Street if things go
20 wrong," and the little comments that was noticeable
21 because it was December 22nd and some of the fire
22 fighters was kidding each other saying, "Well, we
23 might have to cancel Christmas." So those are the
24 little things that you don't hear. But through it
25 all, you see nerves of steel. And those nerves of

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2 steel come from praying and making sure that we are
3 strong and supportive of each other as a team as we
4 go in and fight the fire. So we get strengthened
5 through each other and through our God so that we
6 can show you nerves of steel.

7 Setting up on that job was no easy task.
8 The first companies on the scene, they found the PGW
9 workers diligently trying to control the flow and to
10 make sure everything that they could do was in
11 control until we got our stream set up in the north
12 sector, setting up the fire stream so that we could
13 cool that tank so that there wouldn't be a
14 castratory. Through all of this, the idea and the
15 notion that some of those kiddings around and some
16 of the those jokes could be true. So we just moved
17 forward and did the job.

18 And the coordination of the effort
19 through Deputy Chief Matthew McCrory, making sure
20 that all of those things were in place, and he had
21 to stand face-to-face with that tank also and get
22 that job done.

23 We appreciate that you acknowledge that
24 we go out and that we do a good job. And we'd like
25 to thank you for recognizing us.

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2 I'd like to thank the Philadelphia Gas
3 Works for their membership that was there, and more
4 especially for that brave young man who hung around
5 with us in the face of danger while he was injured
6 so that he could ensure that we weren't turning the
7 wrong valves or we weren't setting up where we would
8 get side-tracked or get blind-sided by the fire. So
9 we do appreciate that. And more especially, all of
10 the other coordination that went on with the City
11 Services, Director Martz who was there. Inside that
12 command post, there's a lot of things that go on.
13 And sometimes that calming effect, making sure we
14 get all of the agencies coordinated so that we can
15 get the job done is a really harrowing experience,
16 but we got it done. It was a really coordinated
17 effort through all of the City agencies that
18 participated that night.

19 Some of the fire fighters that weren't
20 on the scene, they out in the neighborhoods working
21 with the gas workers and the other agencies that
22 came out to, not only assess the situation in some
23 of those properties in South Philadelphia, but also
24 to make sure that there was a reassurance, that
25 special reassurance to all of those citizens and

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2 your neighbors that said "We're here, we're going to
3 be here, we're going to get this straightened out
4 and it will be under control."

5 So we say to you thank you, and we
6 accept it and this is, again, on behalf of all the
7 men and women of the fire service here in the City
8 of Philadelphia. Again, thank you.

9 (Applause.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair at
11 this time recognizes our very popular Managing
12 Director Joe Martz.

13 (Applause.)

14 MR. MARTZ: Thank you, Madam President.
15 Councilman Rizzo, Members of Council, I'll try to be
16 brief because I know you have an awful lot of work
17 ahead of you today. But I can't emphasize enough
18 what that night was like and how difficult that
19 night was. It was probably the coldest day of the
20 year up to that point. I don't remember it ever
21 being quite that frigid in the year 2000, but it was
22 brutally cold. And the men and women that we hire
23 to protect us everyday were just absolutely
24 remarkable on those lines.

25 I was standing out there at the fire

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2 scene and talking to Deputy Commissioner Aires about
3 what would happen, just what if something went
4 wrong. I don't even want to repeat just how bad
5 things could have gotten if that liquefied natural
6 gas tank had exploded.

7 And I think a great deal about what
8 Controller Saidel says when he's at fire graduation
9 services. He says that human nature is to run away
10 from a terrible situation like that. Human nature
11 has a fire fighter or anybody running from a fire.
12 And to watch these men and women run to that fire
13 knowing just how bad things could have gotten in the
14 midst of that fire had it gotten any further out of
15 control, and I mean we're talking a hundred fifty
16 feet. A hundred and fifty feet was the difference
17 between that tank going up and it not going up. And
18 to see our men and women stand there pouring water
19 on that fire all night is just absolutely remarkable
20 and they are truly heros to us.

21 The same goes with the men and women of
22 the Philadelphia Gas Works who worked tirelessly
23 with us that night. And I see Kevin Boyle and he's
24 not able to be over here with us, but I just want
25 acknowledge Kevin who was with us every step of the

1 WELCOME AND PRESENTATIONS

2 way, Kevin Boyle from PGW, a great guy.

3 (Applause.)

4 MR. MARTZ: But it didn't stop after the
5 fire ended. That cooperation continued throughout
6 the days and weeks that followed the fire, getting
7 people service back on and getting us back to our
8 normal lives. And that happens because we have a
9 great group of trained people int his City that we
10 pay a lot of not a money for but this is why you pay
11 them a lot of money because they're the best at it
12 around. Thank you very much.

13 (Applause.)

14 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thank you Managing
15 Director. And I want you all to know that when
16 managing Martz knew that we were going to do this
17 resolution this morning, he adjusted his schedule to
18 make sure he was here to say thank you personally to
19 all the people involved in this issue.

20 And again, thank you very much. All
21 Council, I'm sure, congratulate you.

22 (Applause.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Councilman
24 DiCicco, your light on. Do you want to be
25 recognized?

1 COMMUNICATIONS

2 COUNCILMAN DI CICC0: I have a guest I
3 want to announce later. Thank you.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERN4: Council will
5 be at ease.

6 (Council at ease.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERN4: The Chair
8 recognizes Councilman DiCicco.

9 COUNCILMAN DI CICC0: Thank you, Madam
10 President. Later this morning I will be introducing
11 a resolution proclaiming the month of March as
12 American Red Cross month. With us this morning we
13 have the Chief Executive Officer Mr. Frank Donahue
14 from the American Red Cross and with him also is
15 Brent Thompson, his Chief of Staff, and I'd like
16 them to stand and be recognized.

17 (Applause.)

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERN4: We welcome
19 you. Thank you very much.

20 The next order of business is
21 communications. The Chair requests that the
22 Sergeant-at-Arms deliver the messages from the Mayor
23 to the Clerk.

24 The Clerk will please read the messages
25 from the Mayor.

1 COMMUNICATIONS

2 THE CLERK: To the President and Members
3 of the Council of the City of Philadelphia. I am
4 pleased to advise you that on February 28, 2001, I
5 signed Bill No. 010092 that was passed by Council at
6 its Session on February 22, 2001.

7 And I'm transmitting for the
8 consideration of your honorable body a resolution
9 approving the redevelopment contract and disposition
10 supplement of the Redevelopment Authority of the
11 City of Philadelphia for the redevelopment and urban
12 renewal of portion of the Model Cities Urban
13 Renewal Area.

14 And a resolution approving the
15 redevelopment contract and disposition supplement of
16 the Redevelopment Authority of the City of
17 Philadelphia which includes inter alia the
18 redevelopment and urban renewal of a portion of
19 South Central Urban Renewal Area.

20 And a resolution approving the
21 redevelopment contract and disposition supplement of
22 the Redevelopment Authority of the City of
23 Philadelphia for the redevelopment and urban renewal
24 of a portion of Model Cities Urban Area.

25 And a resolution approving the

COMMUNICATIONS

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redevelopment contract and disposition supplement of the Redevelopment Authority of the City of Philadelphia which includes inter alia the redevelopment and urban renewal of a portion of the Jefferson Square Urban Renewal Area.

And an ordinance authorizing the Commissioner of Public Property to execute and deliver to the Redevelopment Authority for Industrial Development without consideration a deed conveying fee simple title to a certain tract of City-owned land with the buildings and improvements thereon situate at 1021 Chestnut Street.

And an ordinance approving an assignment and assumption of certain rights under meter and regulator easement, as amended, between the City of Philadelphia and Texas Eastern Transmission Corporation concerning premises known as 6850 Essington Avenue.

And an ordinance approving a license easement agreement between the City of Philadelphia and BBC Real Estate Corporation concerning premises known as 6740 Essington Avenue.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The messages will be printed in the Journal.

1 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

2 The Clerk will read any other
3 communications in her possession.

4 THE CLERK: That's all I have, Madam
5 President.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

7 The next order of business is
8 introduction of bills and resolutions. The Chair
9 recognizes Councilwoman Blackwell.

10 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you,
11 Madam President. I move that the rules of Council
12 be suspended in order to permit consideration of
13 resolutions at their time of introduction.

14 (Duly seconded.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: It has been
16 moved and properly seconded that the rules of
17 Council be suspended so as to permit immediate
18 consideration of resolutions at the time of
19 introduction.

20 All in favor will signify by saying aye.

21 (Aye.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Those opposed,
23 nay.

24 (No response.)

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The ayes have

1 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

2 it, and the motion is carried.

3 The Chair recognizes Councilman Kenney.

4 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you, Madam
5 President. I offer one resolution which I ask to be
6 referred to the appropriate committee.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Clerk will
8 please read the title of resolution.

9 THE CLERK: A resolution authorizing
10 City Council's Committee on Legislative Oversight
11 and Committee on Education to hold joint hearings on
12 how the School District of Philadelphia is
13 cooperating with the City's charter schools and how
14 the School District evaluates its charter school
15 applications and to measure the effectiveness of our
16 currently operating charter schools.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: This
18 resolution will be referred to the appropriate
19 committee.

20 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman
21 Blackwell.

22 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you,
23 Madam President. This morning I introduce one bill
24 and resolution on your half, one resolution on
25 behalf of Councilman Kenney and myself, and another

1 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

2 that certainly was co-signed by all Members of
3 Council.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.
5 The Clerk will please read the title of the bill.

6 THE CLERK: An ordinance granting
7 permission to MCI Metro Access Transmission Service,
8 a Delaware Corporation, its successors and assigns
9 to maintain, operate, replace and remove a
10 telecommunication system over, under, and the public
11 rights-of-way of the City streets.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: This bill will
13 be referred to the appropriate committee.

14 The Clerk will please read the title of
15 the first resolution.

16 THE CLERK: And a resolution approving
17 the redevelopment contract and disposition
18 supplement of the Redevelopment Authority of the
19 City of Philadelphia which includes, inter alia, the
20 redevelopment and urban renewal of a portion of the
21 South Central Urban Renewal Area.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
23 recognizes Councilwoman Blackwell.

24 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Madam
25 President, I move the adoption of the resolution.

1 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

2 (Duly seconded.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: It has been
4 moved and properly seconded that the resolution be
5 adopted.

6 All in favor will signify by saying aye.

7 (Aye.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Those opposed,
9 nay.

10 (No response.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The ayes have
12 it. The resolution has been adopted.

13 The Clerk will please read the title of
14 the next resolution.

15 THE CLERK: A resolution honoring the
16 many foreign-born and internationally adopted
17 children who automatically acquire American
18 citizenship on February 27, 2001, as part of the
19 Child Citizen Act of 2000.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
21 recognizes Councilwoman Blackwell.

22 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you,
23 Madam President. I move the adoption of the
24 resolution.

25 (Duly seconded.)

1 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: It has been
3 moved and properly seconded that the resolution be
4 adopted.

5 All in favor will signify by saying aye.
6 (Aye.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Those opposed?
8 (No response.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The ayes have
10 it. The resolution has been adopted.

11 (Applause.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The Clerk will
13 please read the title of the next bill.

14 THE CLERK: A resolution honoring the
15 retirement of Almina Young, Senior Vice President of
16 Sales and Marketing for the Pennsylvania Convention
17 Center Authority for her civic commitment and
18 dedication to the City of Philadelphia.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The Chair
20 recognizes Councilwoman Blackwell.

21 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you,
22 Madam President. I move the adoption of the
23 resolution.

24 (Duly seconded.)

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: It has been

1 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

2 moved and properly seconded that the resolution be
3 adopted.

4 All in favor will signify by saying aye.
5 (Aye.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Those opposed,
7 nay.

8 (No response.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The ayes have
10 it. The resolution has been adopted.

11 The Chair recognizes Councilman Cohen.

12 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Madam President, I
13 have no bills or resolutions.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The Chair
15 thanks the gentleman.

16 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman
17 Krajewski.

18 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Madam
19 President, I have no bills or resolutions.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank you.

21 The Chair recognizes Councilman Mariano.

22 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Madam President, no
23 bills or resolutions.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The Chair
25 recognizes Councilwoman Tasco.

1 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

2 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Madam President, I
3 offer two bills.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Clerk will
5 please read the title of the first bill.

6 THE CLERK: An ordinance approving a
7 lease easement agreement between the City of
8 Philadelphia and BBC Real Estate Corporation
9 concerning premises known as 6740 Essington Avenue.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The bill will
11 be referred to the appropriate committee.

12 THE CLERK: And an ordinance approving
13 an assignment and assumption of certain rights under
14 meter and regulator easement, as amended, between
15 the City Philadelphia Texas Eastern Transmission
16 Corporation concerning premises known as 6850
17 Essington Avenue.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: This bill will
19 also be referred to the appropriate committee.

20 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman
21 Miller.

22 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Thank you, Madam
23 President. I offer one resolution.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Clerk will
25 please read the title of the resolution.

1 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

2 THE CLERK: A resolution calling on the
3 General Assembly to repeal the provisions of the dog
4 law that limits City power to legislate with respect
5 to dangerous dogs and that prohibit the enactment of
6 breed-specific ordinances.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
8 recognizes Councilwoman Miller.

9 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: I move for the
10 adoption of the resolution.

11 (Duly seconded.)

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

15 All in favor will signify by saying aye.

16 (Aye.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Those opposed?

18 (No response.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The ayes have
20 it. The resolution has been adopted.

21 The Chair recognizes Councilman Nutter.

22 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Madam President, I
23 have no bills or resolutions today.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

25 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman Brown.

1 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

2 COUNCILWOMAN REYNOLDS-BROWN: Thank you,
3 Madam President. I have no bills or resolutions.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The Chair
5 thanks the Councilwoman.

6 The Chair recognizes Councilman Goode.

7 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you, Madam
8 President. I have no bills or resolutions.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The Chair
10 recognizes Councilman Ortiz.

11 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Madam President, I
12 have no bills or resolutions today.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank you.

14 The Chair recognizes Councilman DiCicco.

15 COUNCILMAN DI CICCIO: Thank you, Madam
16 President. I offer two resolutions and three bills.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The Clerk will
18 please read the title of the first bill.

19 THE CLERK: An ordinance authorizing the
20 Commission of Public Property to execute and deliver
21 to the Philadelphia Authority of Industrial
22 Development without consideration a deed conveying
23 fee simple title to a certain tract of City-owned
24 land with the buildings and improvements thereon
25 situate 1021 Chestnut Street.

1 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The bill will
3 be referred to the appropriate committee.

4 THE CLERK: And an ordinance amending
5 Title 14 of the Philadelphia Code entitled Zoning
6 and Planning by amending Section 14-1610 entitled
7 "Olde City Residential Area Special District
8 Controls," by providing that fortune teller
9 establishments and tattoo and body piercing
10 establishments are prohibited uses within the
11 district, all under certain terms and conditions.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The bill will
13 be referred to the appropriate committee.

14 THE CLERK: And an ordinance amending
15 Title 14 of the Philadelphia Code entitled "Zoning
16 and Planning," by amending Chapter 14-1600
17 entitled "miscellaneous," by adding a new section
18 14-1621 entitled "Passyunk Avenue Special Controls
19 District," under certain terms and conditions.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The bill will
21 also be referred to the appropriate committee.

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

24 THE CLERK: A resolution approving the
25 redevelopment contract and disposition supplement of

1 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

2 the Redevelopment Authority of the City of
3 Philadelphia which includes, inter alia, the
4 redevelopment and urban renewal of a portion of the
5 Jefferson Square Urban Renewal Area.

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

8 COUNCILMAN DI CICC0: Move for adoption
9 of the resolution.

10 (Duly seconded.)

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

14 All in favor will signify by saying aye.
15 (Aye.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Those opposed?
17 (No response.)

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The ayes have
19 it. The resolution has been adopted.

20 The Clerk will please read the title of
21 the second resolution.

22 THE CLERK: A resolution proclaiming the
23 month of March as the American Red Cross Month.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
25 recognizes Councilman DiCicco.

1 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

2 COUNCILMAN DI CICCIO: Thank you, Madam
3 President. I move for the adoption of the
4 resolution.

5 (Duly seconded.)

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

9 All in favor will signify by saying aye.
10 (Aye.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Those opposed?
12 (No response.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The ayes have
14 it. The resolution has been adopted.

15 The Chair recognizes Councilman O'Neill.

16 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Madam President, I
17 offer three bills.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Clerk will
19 please read the title of the first bill.

20 THE CLERK: An ordinance to amend the
21 Philadelphia Zoning Maps by changing the zoning
22 designations of the following area of the City:
23 Area generally bounded by Rhawn Street, Whittaker
24 Street, and certain railroad right-of-way Kendrick
25 Street extended to Dalkeith Street.

1 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The bill will
3 be referred to the appropriate committee.

4 THE CLERK: And an ordinance authorizing
5 the revision of lines and grades on a portion of
6 City Plan No. 319 of an area bounded by Rhawn
7 Street, Dalkeith Street and the New York Short Line
8 Railroad by striking from the City Plan and vacating
9 portions of Stanwich Street, Pennway Street and
10 Solly Avenue.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: This bill will
12 be referred to the appropriate committee.

13 THE CLERK: And an ordinance authorizing
14 the paving of Meadow Brook Drive, Peach Tree Lane,
15 Apple Blossom Way, Cherry Blossom Way, Apple Blossom
16 Drive, Rose Petal Way, and Rose Petal Drive, under
17 certain terms and conditions.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The bill will
19 also be referred to the appropriate committee.

20 The Chair recognizes Councilman Clarke.

21 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you, Madam
22 President. I have two resolutions.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The Clerk will
24 please read the title of the first resolution.

25 THE CLERK: A resolution approving the

1 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

2 redevelopment contract and disposition supplement of
3 the Redevelopment Authority of the City of
4 Philadelphia for the redevelopment and urban renewal of
5 a portion of the Model Cities Urban Renewal Area.

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

8 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Move for the
9 adoption of the resolution.

10 (Duly seconded.)

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

14 All in favor will signify by saying aye.
15 (Aye.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Those opposed?
17 (No response.)

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The ayes have
19 it. The resolution has been adopted.

20 The Clerk will please read the title of
21 the second resolution.

22 THE CLERK: A resolution approving the
23 redevelopment contract and disposition supplement of
24 the Redevelopment Authority of the City of
25 Philadelphia for the redevelopment and urban renewal

1 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

2 of a portion of Model Cities Urban Renewal Area.

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

5 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Move for the
6 adoption of the resolution.

7 (Duly seconded.)

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

11 All in favor will signify by saying aye.
12 (Aye.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Those opposed?
14 (No response.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The ayes have
16 it. The resolution has been adopted.

17 The Chair recognizes Councilman
18 Longstreth.

19 COUNCILMAN LONGSTRETH: I have no bills
20 or resolutions, Madam President.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
22 thanks the gentleman.

23 The Chair recognizes Councilman Rizzo.

24 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Madam President, I
25 have one resolution today.

1 INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Clerk will
3 please read the title of the resolution.

4 THE CLERK: A resolution recognizing
5 Jane G. Pheifer (ph) for her 20 years of excellent
6 and inspired leadership as president of the
7 Pennsylvania Horticultural Society and a show
8 manager of the world-famous Philadelphia Flower
9 Show.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The Chair
11 recognizes Councilman Rizzo.

12 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Madam President, I
13 move for the adoption of this resolution.

14 (Duly seconded.)

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

18 All in favor will signify by saying aye.

19 (Aye.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Those opposed?

21 (No response.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The ayes have
23 it. The resolution has been adopted.

24 At this time the Chair recognizes
25 Councilwoman Tasco for a report from the Committee

COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Madam President,

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERA: Thank you.

THE CLERK: To President and Members of

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERA: Thank you.

1 SPEECHES

2 Bill No. 000063 will be placed on the First Reading
3 Calendar for our next Session of Council.

4 The next order of business is
5 consideration of the Calendar. There are no bills
6 on our First Reading Calendar and there are no bills
7 on our Second Reading Calendar.

8 It has been called to my attention that
9 one of our colleagues will be celebrating a birthday
10 on Monday, and I would like you all to join me in
11 offering our congratulations to Councilman Rizzo and
12 we'd like to say happy birthday and many, many more.

13 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thank you. Thank
14 you.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: This concludes
16 our calendar for today.

17 Are there any speeches on the part of
18 the minority?

19 Are there speeches on the part of the
20 majority?

21 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman Tasco.

22 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Thank you, Madam
23 President. Just some brief comments regarding a
24 letter that we sent our colleagues yesterday.

25 As you know, PGW is a City-owned asset,

SPEECHES

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2 and the responsibilities for operating PGW rests
3 with the Mayor and City Council. And through the
4 agreement, we have participation from Council on the
5 Philadelphia Gas Commission. The Gas Commission
6 used to have the authority for setting rates and
7 tariffs, but that authority went to the PUC in July
8 of 2000. So right now, the Gas Commission has
9 budget oversight as well as other provisions of the
10 agreement that have not been given over to the
11 Pennsylvania Utility Commission. And since we do
12 not have that on-hand contact with PGW through the
13 tariff and the regulation provision, communication,
14 we believe, is very, very important and a must if
15 the Council is going to be informed about the
16 operations of PGW and the decisions that are made.

17 We were called on to rescue PGW with a
18 \$45 million loan last January. And also with that
19 loan, we required that there would be some
20 accountability. And certainly, with your help, and
21 I want to say thank you, I called you and offered a
22 proposal what I thought would be a good way for
23 Council to be kept informed about what was going on
24 with PGW because PGW actually is managed by the
25 Philadelphia Facilities Management Corporation. We

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2 believe that we needed to have more information to
3 know prior to decisions being made that we be
4 informed since Council in the end would be called on
5 to provide the funds in any emergency situation with
6 PGW. You agreed to be part of a recovery team,
7 which I thought was a mechanism that would help us
8 keep abreast of what was going on.

9 There were agreements going on in
10 Harrisburg relative to orders issued by the PUC, and
11 we believe that we should be a part of that
12 discussion. The agreement with the recovery team
13 was that the Mayor will speak for us in Harrisburg,
14 but we also required that the message be developed
15 by the three of us and that the recovery team would
16 clearly understand what the message was going to be,
17 although they spoke the message in Harrisburg.

18 We found out that was not the case. We
19 were not part of developing the message.
20 Negotiations were made in Harrisburg. We were
21 informed at the last minute of what they were going
22 to be. When we challenged some of the agreement
23 issues, we were ignored. And so rather than act in
24 a collaborative way, there has been no
25 collaboration.

1 SPEECHES

2 And so to my colleagues, Council
3 President and I -- and I can't speak to for her; she
4 can speak for herself. But we signed a letter that
5 we circulated yesterday saying that we could not be
6 part of the recovery team because the process is not
7 working correctly and we will not be held
8 accountable for decisions that are made about PGW
9 and we're not part of that decision-making process.
10 So that is how we came to our conclusion in terms of
11 our participation.

12 Our effort is to make PGW work. We
13 honored some outstanding employees here this
14 morning. They work very hard. PGW has a lot of
15 problems, but it can't be solved alone and then have
16 those people who are solving those problems come to
17 us and ask us for us for the money when many issues
18 should be discussed prior coming to us.

19 And the experience of the Gas Commission
20 is very important. We have employees who have
21 worked with PGW for many, many years and know the
22 right questions to ask about any issue relative to
23 PGW, but they have been ignored. New people have
24 been making decisions relative to PGW and we are
25 made to feel like we're interfering when we ask the

1 SPEECHES

2 pertinent questions about what's going on over
3 there.

4 So I just wanted our colleagues to know
5 why the president and I decided that we wanted to be
6 part of a collaborative that is going to work. The
7 collaborative is not working, will not work. So
8 we'll just have to take each day as it comes
9 relative to PGW. Thank you very much.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you very
11 much, Councilwoman.

12 The Chair recognizes Councilman DiCicco.

13 COUNCILMAN DI CICC0: Thank you, Madam
14 President. Before I make some comments about the
15 incident that took place this past Tuesday on South
16 Street, I do want to thank those colleagues who were
17 about to introduce a resolution today calling for
18 hearings on that situation. They respected my
19 request to hold off until I get some opinions from
20 the Law Department, so I want to publicly thank them
21 for doing that.

22 There's a lot of finger-pointing going
23 on. As usual, Philadelphia Police Department takes
24 the brunt of the finger-pointing when things go
25 wrong in this town. I'd like to set the record

1 SPEECHES

2 straight, if I may. Just to give you a brief
3 history of the events that were taking place for
4 about a year in anticipation of the Mardi Gras
5 celebration on South Street.

6 For the better part of the year,
7 Lieutenant Walker from the South Street detail unit
8 and other members from the Philadelphia Police
9 Department, members of the Sanitation Department,
10 Managing Director's Office, and other City agencies
11 worked with the South Street Head House District.
12 South Street Head House District is the entity that
13 basically is the non-profit group that oversee the
14 commercial activities along South Street. And their
15 primary purpose was to develop a plan based on the
16 number of people who attended last year's Mardi
17 Gras, which last year no one expected to be in the
18 area 25,000, by the way, because for the three or
19 four years leading up to last year, last year
20 meaning February of 2000, the largest the crowds had
21 ever been at a Mardi Gras celebration on South
22 Street were somewhere between 5- and 7000 people.
23 In February of 2,000, the crowd swelled to about
24 25,000. It was spring break, the weather was a
25 balmy 70 degrees. No one expected it. So with that

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2 information, it was decided that the City would
3 prepare for crowds in the area of 20- to 25,000
4 people.

5

I was down at South Street between the
6 hours of 9:30 and 10:30 a.m. on that Tuesday
7 morning. The crowds were well behaved. Traffic was
8 moving. There were no incidences. I returned to
9 South Street somewhere between 3:30 and 4:00 and
10 stayed for the better part of an hour. Up until
11 around 5:30 on Tuesday, there had only been three
12 arrests that were made. In fact, one arrest was
13 occurring while I was leaving South Street for
14 someone who decided to use the wall of the Gap as a
15 public toilet. So for all intents and purposes, the
16 crowds were maintained, the police were doing their
17 job, things were going along quite well.

18

I read in today's "Daily News" and the
19 front page says "They Blue It," B-L-U-E, meaning the
20 police blew it. Nothing could be further from the
21 truth. The media, I think, in addition to many
22 other people, needs to take some responsibility for
23 what occurred on South Street. There were reporters
24 from every news station, two and three trucks from
25 every news station. They even had cameras mounted

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2 on the second floor of one of the popular bars from
3 7:00 in the morning through 2:00 in the morning
4 waiting for incidents to occur. The big gyrocam was
5 in the air and kept up an entire community of South
6 Philadelphia until 2:00 in the morning and then
7 returned at 5:30 in the morning to take further
8 pictures of what was going on on South Street.

9 When you look at the size of the crowd
10 that came to South Street after 7:00, the crowd had
11 swelled to somewhere between 40- to 50,000 people.
12 If we had the entire Philadelphia Police Department
13 on South Street, given the nature of the people who
14 were out there -- and they were fully intent on
15 being disruptive and destroying property. These
16 were drug-crazed kids full of alcohol that the
17 bars -- the handful of bars who have to accept
18 responsibility started pumping them full of booze at
19 7:00 in the morning and didn't stop in some cases
20 until 2:00. Fat Tuesday, which was the primary
21 location for the Mardi Gras celebration continued to
22 serve alcohol until 2:00 in the morning after the
23 rioting, after the destruction, after the mayhem.
24 They have a responsibility. You can't blame the
25 cops. The cops did their job. I was there.

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2 What you saw on TV was not exactly
3 accurate. The gyrocam was pointing in the direction
4 of the South Street in the vicinity from Eighth
5 Street to Seventh Street. And as the crowds were
6 being moved west on South Street by the Philadelphia
7 Police, there were police at 12th Street moving
8 east. The crowds in the center, as they were trying
9 to escape South Street began their destructive
10 activities.

11 You might have seen if you were watching
12 the news where an individual was in his car trying
13 to get off of South Street. He was attacked. His
14 car was pummeled. He was taken out of his car and
15 beaten. Is that the fault of the police? Could you
16 have a cop at every location on South Street? It
17 was impossible.

18 The crowds really started getting out of
19 control around 10:00 p.m. They were wasted. The
20 majority of these kids, by the way, were coming in
21 from outside of the City of Philadelphia. It
22 wouldn't have made it right if they were
23 Philadelphians that were causing the damage; I'm not
24 suggesting that. My comments to the media that I'm
25 being criticized by people in South Jersey and they

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2 demand an apology from me, which is never coming
3 because I think the citizens of Philadelphia deserve
4 the apology for the behavior of their children who
5 come to Philadelphia and think that it's okay to
6 destroy it. That's not acceptable. I will never
7 apologize to Washington Township, Deptford Township
8 or any other township. The PATCO high speed line
9 was packed with kids from 14 to 17 years old coming
10 into the City. What about the responsibility that
11 lies on their parents from the suburbs in South
12 Jersey for allowing their kids to come to
13 Philadelphia and be in the City at 10, 11, 12
14 o'clock at night? They have some responsibility.
15 Don't point fingers to the Police Department. They
16 did an excellent job.

17 In fact, when I was listening to a radio
18 station, a talk show on the way home last night, one
19 of the ladies from one of the townships in South
20 Jersey who was quite upset about my comments said
21 "Couldn't have been the kids from our township. I
22 noticed all the vandalism was being done by black
23 people." So you can learn what those kids are
24 learning at home from that comment.

25 The only thing I will add is that I've

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2 given a lot of thought to this over the last 48
3 hours. The Mayor -- we had a press conference
4 yesterday. I do understand first right amendment.
5 People want to have a party. You have a business,
6 you're entitled to advertise. I'm making a formal
7 request this morning to the South Head House
8 District they make a public statement that they will
9 not promote and not encourage another Mardi Gras
10 next year. It is not fair to the citizens in my
11 district. It is not fair to the citizens of
12 Philadelphia to have to support the resources that
13 go into these activities. And these aren't
14 City-sponsored events. We have to provide the
15 police, the sanitation, and all the other
16 infrastructure that goes into these activities for
17 six or seven liquor establishments to earn a profit.
18 It is not worth it. We shouldn't allow it. I don't
19 think it's an infringement on anyone's rights.
20 Other communities make these decisions. I think
21 it's time for the City and it's time for the people
22 in the South Street community, the business
23 community, to make the statement, no more Mardi Gras
24 on South Street. Thank you, Madam President.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERA: Thank you.

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2 The Chair recognizes Councilman Kenney.

3 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you, Madam
4 President. I want to echo Councilman DiCicco's
5 remarks. First of all, let me say to him personally
6 that I've known him for a long, long time as a
7 Councilmember and beforehand. I've always known him
8 to attempt to try to mediate and to deal with people
9 in a fair way. And I know through the course of the
10 last year and even the year before he has tried
11 every possible avenue, used all possible patience in
12 trying to make this thing work. His nature is one
13 of trying to deal with people in a way that tries to
14 balance all the needs and wants of individuals, both
15 the residents who live in that neighborhood, the
16 retail business establishments and the bars and
17 restaurants and the people who serve alcohol. And I
18 know if anyone could do it, he could do it. The
19 problem is that the people involved in organizing
20 this event have one motive in mind, and that is to
21 fill those cash registers as full as they can fill
22 them with money that comes from the sale of alcohol
23 to anybody who is willing to put the money up.

24 I was out there myself for a few hours
25 between 8 and 10:30 at night. I think the average

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2 age of the people out there had to be 18 or 19 years
3 old. I saw young girls who were 14, 15, 16 years
4 old being encouraged to bare themselves to this
5 drunken mob. And I wondered to myself, when you
6 dropped your kid off at the high speed line or you
7 dropped your kid off at Front and South, did you not
8 think of the possibility that one of your daughters
9 may have been drug up an alley, up a side street,
10 which there are many, many in those neighborhoods,
11 and been raped and beaten? Weren't you thinking at
12 all that your kid may have been involved in the
13 middle of a mob of drunken hooligans, people who
14 simply have guzzled beer from 7:00 a.m. in the
15 morning until late in the evening. It reminded me,
16 frankly, of a British soccer riot. It was beer,
17 testosterone, violence, and vandalism. Do you think
18 about this stuff when you drop your kids off or you
19 know that they're coming? I know you can't stop an
20 18- or 19-year-old kid from doing something. But
21 when your kid's 14, 15 and you drop them off and
22 sanction this kind of stuff, I wonder what's going
23 on.

24 I feel bad for Frank, Councilman
25 DiCicco, because I know that with every fiber in his

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2 body he would love to have made this work and to
3 have accommodated all of the interests. But it's
4 just not possible when the main motivation of six or
5 seven bar owners is greed and an uncaring attitude
6 about what goes on in the City.

7 I also believe and agree with him on his
8 statements regarding the Philadelphia Police
9 Department. And the other thing I recognized out
10 there and then while watching television in horror
11 later on that evening was these young people knew
12 that nothing was going to be done to them. They
13 assaulted police officers. They threw bottles at
14 police officers. They taunted the police. They
15 tried to turn over police cars and police wagons.
16 And you know why they did it? Because they knew
17 that nothing was going to happen to them. They
18 weren't going to be hit. They weren't going to feel
19 the physical result of that kind of activity. And
20 as a matter of fact, there were two girls on
21 television the next day who were holding up their
22 citations from Judge McCaffery and said, "70 hours
23 of community service for flashing; ain't this fun."
24 There is no teeth to the law.

25 Now, I'm not suggesting we go back to

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2 the '70s where everybody had their head cracked, but
3 I can tell you if I were standing on a corner at
4 Second and Snyder Avenues in my neighborhood and I
5 were 18 or 19 years old and I was drinking beer or
6 doing something I shouldn't have done, a police
7 would have come up and said to me, "Fellas, off the
8 corner." And if I had gotten in that officer's face
9 and if I had said "F you, Officer. I'm not doing
10 this and you can't make me do it this," I would have
11 knew what was coming. Something was coming, and
12 when it came, my parents would have been the last
13 people to hire a lawyer and complain about the way
14 in which their child was being treated.

15 I think that we've come a long way in
16 Philadelphia in matters of police abuse, in matters
17 of violence, but I do think we have a long way to
18 go. But I tell you what, those drunken hooligan
19 vandal criminals that were doing the activities that
20 they were doing, jumping on cars, beating people
21 up -- I walked down the street and watched people
22 just randomly punch people in the face, randomly
23 punch people in the face, get into a mob fight,
24 break it up, walk 30 feet away again and punch some
25 other stranger in the face. If you can't use a

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2 physical restraint or a little more aggressive
3 physicality to deal with those people, they're never
4 going to get the message.

5 I watched our police officers roll in
6 the street in the gutter with drunken pigs trying in
7 vane to get their arms behind their back and get the
8 handcuffs on them so that they weren't hurt and that
9 some news camera in the sky wouldn't see them doing
10 what they should have done, which was crack a couple
11 heads open, and I think that the message would have
12 gotten out. We give police officers billy clubs and
13 then tell them not to use them. My point in this is
14 that we should not approach every issue in a violent
15 way, but when people begin to get violent and they
16 begin to jeopardize the safety and health and
17 well-being of others, then actions need to be taken
18 quickly by our police, but they are more handcuffed
19 than the criminals on the street. So I think we
20 have to take a look at how we deal with these
21 cretins in the future.

22 The Mayor yesterday at the press
23 conference talked about concern over Constitutional
24 rights and the rights to celebrate. This is no
25 celebration. This is an intentional effort on the

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2 part have a number of bars to sell as much beer as
3 possible. The people who attend it for the most
4 part are out there to get as drunk as possible and
5 they can see what they can do to disrupt and hurt
6 people and damage businesses and damage the City's
7 reputation. This is not something that we need to
8 be concerned about as a location for tourism in our
9 City. This event has done more to hurt tourism in
10 our City. I turned on the news the next day to
11 watch the Today Show and saw this activity on the
12 national news, and it was on every national news.

13 We have to do all we can and use every
14 legal avenue possibly, and I agree with Councilman
15 DiCicco, to put every obstacle in the way of ever
16 letting this event take place in Philadelphia ever
17 again, not figure out a way to make it work, not
18 figure out a way to meet with the organizers, not
19 figure out a way to better deploy police. We won't
20 have to worry about any of these things if we find a
21 legal way to enjoin these bars and enjoin these
22 businesses from ever sponsoring, promoting or having
23 this event ever again.

24 And as it relates to people from out of
25 town, I have a suggestion for the organizers of

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2 this. If they would like to go to the Cherry Hill
3 Mall or the Deptford Mall and have this event over
4 in Gloucester Township or in South Jersey or in some
5 suburban community, we will help them organize that.
6 And their own kids won't even have to take the high
7 speed line or the bus in or the R5, they can have it
8 right there and be able to walk home in their
9 intoxicated stupor back into their nice cul-de-sacs
10 where they belong.

11 I want to thank the Police Department
12 for their efforts. I want to thank Councilman
13 DiCicco for his efforts. And I would urge this
14 Administration and Mayor Street to figure out every
15 legal avenue we possibly can to keep this from
16 happening.

17 And if Councilman DiCicco can find a way
18 to sue these bars to recover the cost of this
19 debacle, then I would happily join in that lawsuit
20 and I would hope that Members of Council would also
21 join with him. Thank you, Madam President.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Councilman
23 DiCicco, I just want to say that I along with, I
24 guess, just about every member of this Council will
25 certainly be very supportive of whatever efforts you

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2 make regarding this issue and we'll work very
3 diligently with you so that this can be addressed.

4 COUNCILMAN DI CICCIO: Thank you, Madam
5 President.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: At this time
7 the Chair recognizes Councilman Ortiz.

8 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Thank you, Madam
9 Chair. I want to thank Councilman DiCicco for his
10 efforts. And I believe that the police deserve
11 definitely our support. I think they were really
12 outnumbered during the period of time that I saw on
13 TV. By the way, I was watching WPVI so the Nielson
14 ratings should be counting me as part of their
15 viewership; probably one of the last ones remaining
16 there.

17 But I don't think the media causes
18 riots. The media does not cause those kids to go
19 ahead and do the things that they did. I think they
20 would have done it -- I think vigilance is one thing
21 that we have to keep. I think by even intimating
22 that we should censor the media so that cops can
23 have a free reign should not be done. I think the
24 cops have a job. I think we've got to give them the
25 tools. I think we've got to be able to send a

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2 message.

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4 What happened on Tuesday was a bunch of
5 vandals, bunch of individuals, bunch of drunkards
6 came into the City. They probably have parents who
7 work in the City. Thier parents come in during the
8 day and go out, and they came in to get drunk and
9 destroy property. And you saw the destruction of
10 property. You saw aggravated assault happening.
11 You saw vandalism to an nth degree I haven't seen
12 since the Watts riots and the Detroit riots of the
13 '60s and '70s.

14 And Jim just stated about the young lady
15 who showed the summons that they got from Seamus
16 McCaffery. And you put that into the context of
17 other young people who came to the City in June and
18 July of this year for the Republican Convention.
19 And they came to exercise truly their first
20 amendment rights; and they got arrested, not for
21 vandalism, they got arrested because they were
22 puppet makers, puppeteers. And they got arrested
23 and put away. And could you imagine what would
24 happen to the parents of these kids from Washington
25 Township and Deptford and so on if we had treated
the vandals, the criminals, the individuals who

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2 stole, who beat up cops and other individuals on
3 Tuesday, if we had treated them the way we treated
4 those kids who came here to make a political
5 statement, if we had thrown an incredible amount of
6 charges on them on Tuesday, terroristic acts,
7 aggravated assault, rioting, then giving them a
8 billion dollar bail and forced their parents to come
9 in. They came in, they destroyed property and they
10 went home the same night. Other kids came in
11 talking about poverty, oppression, and they stood in
12 jail for a couple of weeks. And we lauded the
13 effort at that time. We said, that's the way we
14 should do it. Violate the first amendment and you
15 get applauded. Violate criminal laws, aggravated
16 assault, criminal destruction of property, and you
17 get a summons and you go home the same night. And
18 your parents are not put into any shame because
19 they're not forced to come in and then put bail
20 money of million dollars. That's the way we should
21 have done with these individuals on Tuesday. If we
22 are going to deal with political demonstrators who
23 come to the home of independence and the
24 Constitution the way we dealt with them during the
25 Republican Convention, then let's deal with

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2 criminals that really destroy and abuse their right
3 in the same manner. They went home to Washington
4 Township, to Deptford the same night. Their parents
5 were not forced to hock their property to put up a
6 million dollar bail. And they were outsiders, the
7 kids who came here because they were not from
8 Philadelphia, the kids who were -- most of them who
9 were doing the destruction of property.

10 So let's give the police their due.
11 They were outnumbered. They have the instruments.
12 Also, let's give the media because the media
13 observation of activities is what's keeping a lot of
14 things from happening that can be abusive. No, the
15 things that were to blame is alcohol, it is the
16 inability to be able to control crowds and
17 understand that people come in here for different
18 things.

19 Mardi Gras is supposed to have a
20 religious basis to it. Those kids, when you name it
21 Fat Tuesday, they come in with a different intent.
22 They come in with a different purpose. They were
23 not celebrating the first amendment on Tuesday.
24 Those kids were involved in criminal activity and
25 they should have been treated as criminals and they

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2 should have been kept overnight and they should not
3 have just been given summons. Let's treat the
4 political demonstrators in the same way that we
5 treat the criminals or let's treat the criminals the
6 way we treat the political demonstrators. But do
7 not set up a double standard. They should have been
8 kept -- we want to send a message for next year,
9 keep them in. Force their parents put up the money
10 for a million dollar bail. Hire lawyers to defend
11 yourself against criminal charges. You want to see
12 a message along those lines? Send it that way.

13 We treated kids who came in justly as
14 terrorists in the summer. We didn't treat criminals
15 like that on Tuesday. Thank you.

16 (Applause.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you very
18 much. The Chair recognizes Councilman Cohen.

19 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Just to change the
20 subject a little bit, but still it deals with the
21 greed, maybe not the greed of the tavern owners, but
22 it was intriguing to me to see these huge so-called
23 Wawa adds in the "Inquirer" this week. The
24 editorial policies favoring no smoking policies.
25 The "Inquirer" always talks about morality and

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2 goodness and justice, but we note in those cigarette
3 adds paid for, undoubtedly, by the tobacco lobby
4 that the "Inquirer" doesn't let its judgements on
5 the editorial page interfere with its money-making
6 propensities. Just think of what those adds cost in
7 the Sunday "Inquirer" and I think in yesterday's
8 "Inquirer" urging the sale of cigarettes. In an
9 effort to excuse themselves a little, in the
10 left-hand corner at the bottom saying "This is only
11 intended for adults who smoke." At a time when the
12 country is doing everything it can to keep
13 youngsters and even adults from indulging in
14 smoking, I think this display of greed by the
15 "Inquirer" in running these ads teach us that the
16 "Inquirer" is not a good standard for morality.
17 Thank you very much, Madam president.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

19 The Chair recognizes Councilman Nutter.

20 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you, Madam
21 President. I do for a moment want to go back to the
22 earlier topic of discussion. Two points of
23 observation and some comments. One, with regard to
24 some comments made by my colleague Councilman
25 Kenney, from this point on, I will not standing on

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2 any street corners with you.

3 (Laughter.)

4 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: I don't anticipate
5 having my head cracked when I stand on the street
6 corner.

7 Second, I want to reassure my mom who
8 lives in New Jersey that my colleague was not
9 talking about her and that she is a good citizen and
10 comes to the City from time to time, although not on
11 Fat Tuesday.

12 I also want to express my support, one,
13 for our colleague Councilman DiCicco, express my
14 empathy toward him. He and I share another day in
15 the course of the year, an event that kind of starts
16 in my district and winds its way over to Councilman
17 DiCicco's district and then Councilman Clarke has
18 the pleasure of some of the activity as well in the
19 middle of the summer.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: You can add my
21 district to that, too.

22 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Madam President, I'm
23 glad your sharing the pain. That event, though,
24 while it has attracted a fair amount of attention
25 over the years, good and bad, has certainly begun to

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2 clean up its act. We've not seen in the past year
3 or so anywhere near some of the activities of the
4 past. It is not perfect; it still has a ways to go.
5 But the Councilman is absolutely correct when he
6 talks about all the finger-pointing going on, it
7 seems to me that the majority of the fingers that
8 should be pointing anywhere should be pointing at
9 the people who were engaged in the activity. Both
10 Councilman DiCicco and Councilman Kenney talk about
11 the business owners. I think that they obviously
12 have to accept some responsibility for what would
13 you expect if you're serving alcohol to young
14 people, some of age, many apparently not, from 7:00
15 in the morning until late in the evening, if not
16 into the next morning? What do you think might
17 happen under those circumstances? It doesn't excuse
18 the behavior, but it is all a part of this activity.

19 Now, the City has demonstrated an
20 ability, and I commend Police Commissioner Timoney
21 for his honesty in critiquing at least initially the
22 event. Could the Police Department have done things
23 a little differently? Could they have deployed
24 personnel in a different fashion? And rather than
25 trying to make excuses, the Commissioner, as he has

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2 done many, many times in the past, stood up and
3 said, yes, we could have done some things
4 differently. But I think as the Councilman pointed
5 out earlier, 40,000 people versus -- and I say this
6 facetiously, why don't we just call in every police
7 officer from all over the City and leave the rest of
8 City unprotected? 40,000 people intent on creating
9 destruction and mayhem versus 7,000 officers,
10 there's still a 6 to 1 ratio, and I don't know if
11 anyone around here has ever tried to keep track of
12 six drunk people in the street; it's not a lot of
13 fun. So we were out-personed, if you will, from the
14 start. And we were never going to pull in that many
15 officers, and we shouldn't have to.

16 We've demonstrated an ability to have
17 large events in this City, whether it's Welcome
18 America, the Black Family Reunion, the Unity Day out
19 on the Parkway, and a whole host of other events and
20 activities that don't turn into this kind of crap
21 and many, many more people involved. It is the
22 people involved in many of these events who cause
23 the problems. And whether they are Philadelphians
24 or non-Philadelphians, the behavior is not
25 excusable, it is not acceptable. If people want to

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2 engage in that kind of activity, they should stay in
3 their houses, do whatever it is they're going to do
4 and leave us alone.

5 And lastly, let me say based on many of
6 the comments that have come into my office, as best
7 we can tell, there were no Greeks; there were only
8 jerks. Thank you, Madam President.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.
10 The Chair recognizes Councilman Mariano.

11 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Thank you, Madam
12 President. Pretty much what Councilman DiCicco
13 spoke about and the rest of the Councilpeople that
14 spoke. But sometimes in 1997, we passed an
15 ordinance here and it's only a City Council
16 ordinance, it was a called parental responsibility
17 bill. Now, the way that bill was supposed to work
18 was it left it up to the particular municipal court
19 judge at the time of the arraignment of that
20 particular individual to decide if he wanted to put
21 some kind of community service on the individual
22 child, in this case, a 14, 15 year old or Mr. and
23 Mrs. Deptford or Cherry Hill or wherever.

24 Now, we're encumbered sometimes by the
25 parameters of the Philadelphia City Charter. It's

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2 my understanding, if I have this right, we can only
3 charge \$300 or Judge McCaffery in this case can only
4 fine them \$300. \$300 is a pair a sneakers now.
5 When they did these ordinances in the '50s when we
6 started the City Charter, \$300 is a big amount of
7 money. So \$300 isn't a big deal from Mr. and Mrs.
8 Cherry Hill or Deptford or wherever we're going to
9 put this blame on to pay. Maybe Judge McCaffery and
10 the rest of the judges should bring some of them
11 parents over here on a Saturday, let them clean up
12 for Councilman DiCicco and Councilman Kenney and the
13 rest of the Councilpeople that live with all the
14 time on South Street. And it would be a good idea
15 where the judge under his individual ideas can
16 decide where -- you know, it might not be a good
17 case, that may be a case for this.

18 And the only other thing about this is
19 we, as elected officials, we tend to stick up for
20 the Philadelphia Police Department. In this case, a
21 lot of different kind of political views here are
22 sticking up for the Philadelphia Police Department.
23 We cannot mistaken the individual patrolman with the
24 command here. Something went wrong here, and a lot
25 of people haven't said that. This is professional

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2 police department, and we handled the Greek picnic
3 and there was problems there at first. They settled
4 that in the next year. This can never happen again.
5 Whatever they decide down there -- I'm going to
6 leave that up to Councilman DiCicco. The command,
7 whoever's in charge down there, you know, this is a
8 professional military structure organization, it
9 flows down from the commissioner down. Someone
10 between that poor lieutenant that I saw on TV that
11 did a great job, by the way, and those people that
12 Councilman Kenney talked about that tried to subdue
13 drunken people in the gutter that were getting spit
14 on and told them that they were jerks in high school
15 and didn't have the nerve to do anything to them,
16 someone there is to blame. And we're going to have
17 to find out who that is, no matter who we like, no
18 matter who the commissioner is and what we think
19 about any of the people in the command structure
20 here. This has been handled before. We had a
21 convention here in the summer and things happened.
22 We weren't prepared for this. Somebody grossly
23 underestimated what was going happen here Tuesday
24 night and they have to answer to this. This can
25 never happen again. Thank you, Madam President.

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2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank you.

3 The Chair recognizes Councilman Clarke.

4 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you, Madam
5 President. Madam President, I was not going to
6 speak on this issue, although I had some thoughts on
7 this particular issue. I sat home the evening of
8 the event and watched TV along with many of us in
9 Philadelphia, and I received a number of phone calls
10 from friends of mine and they wanted to know "Are
11 you looking at this?" I actually got a call from my
12 little brother because he had heard somebody who was
13 apparently looking at this over the internet, he
14 lives in Florida, about what was going on. And I
15 was kind of disturbed about the calls because they
16 were along a racial nature. And you know, a lot of
17 us don't want to talk about it. But I can't sit
18 here and not talk about it because I would be
19 contributing to what I think is a growing problem in
20 the City of Philadelphia. It's called the quiet
21 racial divide.

22 In the old days, there was this problem
23 and it was right out there. I mean, I used to be a
24 kid and I used to go swimming down at Gustine Pool.
25 I had to walk almost to Broad Street because I

1 SPEECHES

2 couldn't walk through Fairmount because there was
3 this issue about race and the kids down there didn't
4 allow you to walk through their community.

5 But now we've gone much beyond that and
6 we're working together in public. But in private,
7 we still have a problem. My concern is that as we
8 talk about dealing with this particular issue on
9 South Street that we don't confront it truly and we
10 don't talk about this growing concern about certain
11 members in the community thinking that there isn't
12 in fact a disparity in the treatment of certain
13 function versus others. And there has a response by
14 the Police Department, and I believe a large segment
15 of the community believes it and I believe a large
16 segment of the community do not believe it. So I
17 think as we talk about this issue, we need to be
18 honest with ourselves and talk about the increasing
19 concerns that I have about this quiet racial divide,
20 because in my year and a half here in this Council,
21 the one thing I feel real good about is the fact
22 that we've been able to talk about issues. We are a
23 body and we sometimes talk about that behind closed
24 doors as we've been reminded by the press. But I
25 think we need to be honest with ourselves and honest

1 SPEECHES

2 with the citizens of the City of Philadelphia and
3 talk about these issues because I just don't want us
4 to be contributing to that issue.

5 So today, I'd like to say as we talk
6 about resolving this issue that look in this in the
7 context of the Greek picnic, as Councilman Nutter
8 had referenced earlier. And as Odunde because there
9 are people who think that for years there has been
10 an effort to move Odunde off of South Street. And
11 we talk about it as a City and as one people. So I
12 just want to say I agree with my colleagues, all the
13 things that they have brought up today, but I just
14 wanted to add that and I hope that will be a part of
15 the discussion. So I want to thank you, Madam
16 President.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

18 The Chair recognizes Goode.

19 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you, Madam
20 President. Let me first echo the comments of
21 Councilman Clarke. I'm glad that we are able to
22 have a little bit of a talk today.

23 I was disturbed by a number of things
24 the other night. I think that it is time that we
25 begin this type of conversation to bridge the gap.

SPEECHES

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2 But I did see the other night the bridging of a gap,
3 whether people thought that it was symbolic, whether
4 people thought that it was orchestrated, whatever
5 people thought, I watched the President of the
6 United States reach across race and party lines and
7 embrace the Mayor of this City who worked very hard
8 to defeat him and begin to look at faith-based
9 solutions to many things that we discuss here today.
10 I, on the other hand, am not willing to let the
11 media off the hook, not only because I think that
12 even one publication in particular hyped this event
13 before it happened, but then they gave major play to
14 it. I think the "Philadelphia Inquirer" did the
15 right thing. The front page the next day showed the
16 Bush and Street bridging the gap. It essentially
17 showed the beginning of a debate on the national
18 policy agenda that will include how we embrace
19 faith-based solutions or we don't. The other
20 publication, which I won't even mention to even give
21 them any type of highlight at all, did something
22 very different with that story. But it's not a
23 matter of how much you cover one issue or the other.
24 What we're faced with today, because of the way the
25 media does certain things, is that they never

1 SPEECHES

2 connected the issues. They never connected the fact
3 that there was a President of the United States
4 embracing the Mayor of a large City to look at
5 faith-based solutions to very real problems. What
6 they did was separate the stories and give play to
7 the one that was more sensational. I believe that
8 we all have a lot of work to do. We all share the
9 blame here. Some of that blame needs to be put on
10 the media and we need to begin the type of
11 discussion that Councilman Clarke talked about today
12 and we need to begin discussion probably also about
13 faith-based solutions to these very real problems in
14 Philadelphia. Thank you.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you very
16 much.

17 Does anyone else want to be recognized?

18 Seeing none, the Chair recognizes
19 Councilwoman Tasco for a motion.

20 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Thank you, Madam
21 President. I move that Council stand adjourned
22 until Thursday March the 8th at 10:00 a.m.

23 (Duly seconded.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: It has been
25 moved and properly seconded that Council stand

1 SPEECHES

2 adjourned until Thursday, March 8, 2001 at 10:00

3 a.m.

4 All in favor will say aye.

5 (Aye.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Those opposed?

7 (No response.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The ayes have
9 it. Council will be adjourned until Thursday, March
10 the 8th. Thank you all very much.

11 (Council adjourned at 11:40 a.m.)

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

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing
proceedings of the Council of the City of
Philadelphia of March 1, 2001, were reported fully
and accurately by me, and that this is a correct
transcript of the same.

RE: STATED MEETING

Lisa C. Bradley, RPR
and Notary Public