

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
COMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY AND INFORMATION SERVICES

Remote location using Microsoft® Teams
Wednesday, December 6, 2023
10:00 a.m.

PRESENT:

COUNCILMAN BRIAN J. O'NEILL, CHAIR
COUNCILMAN MICHAEL DRISCOLL
COUNCILMAN JIM HARRITY
COUNCILMAN ANTHONY PHILLIPS
COUNCILWOMAN SHARON VAUGHN

BILL: 230701

1 - - -

2 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: This
3 is Councilman Brian O'Neill, Chair
4 of the Committee on Technology and
5 Information Services. And I want
6 to say good afternoon to everyone.
7 But before we begin the public
8 hearing, I will make the following
9 announcement:

10 Due to the continuing
11 threat to public health from COVID-
12 19, City Council Committees are
13 currently meeting remotely. We are
14 using Microsoft Teams to make these
15 remote hearings possible.
16 Instructions for how the public may
17 view and offer public testimony at
18 the public hearings of Council
19 Committees are included in the
20 public hearing notices that are
21 published in the Daily News,
22 Inquirer and Legal Intelligencer
23 prior to the hearings and can also
24 be found on PHILA --
25 PHLCouncil.com. I now note that

1 the hour has come.

2 Mr. Yerkov, will you please

3 call the roll to take attendance.

4 Members that are in attendance will

5 please indicate that you are

6 present when your name is called.

7 Also, please say a few brief words

8 when responding so that your image

9 will be displayed on screen when

10 you speak.

11 THE CLERK: Councilman

12 Squilla.

13 (No response.)

14 THE CLERK: Councilman

15 Thomas.

16 (No response.)

17 THE CLERK: Councilman

18 Driscoll.

19 COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL: Good

20 afternoon, Mr. Chair. I'm present.

21 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Okay.

22 Thank you.

23 THE CLERK: Councilwoman

24 Vaughn.

25 COUNCILWOMAN VAUGHN: Good

1 afternoon, everyone and
2 Mr. Chairman. Thanks for being on.

3 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Okay.

4 THE CLERK: Councilman
5 Phillips.

6 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:
7 Councilman Phillips is present.

8 THE CLERK: And, Councilman
9 Harrity.

10 (No response.)

11 THE CLERK: That's
12 everyone.

13 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Okay.

14 Thank you. A quorum of the
15 Committee is present and this
16 hearing is now called to order.
17 This is a public hearing of the
18 Committee on Technology and
19 Information Services regarding Bill
20 No. 230701.

21 Mr. Yerkov, will you please
22 read the title of the bill.

23 THE CLERK: Bill No.
24 230701, authorizing the City
25 Solicitor on behalf of the City to

1 enter into a multi-year contract
2 with a provider of codification,
3 editing and marketing services to
4 produce printed and electronic
5 versions of The Philadelphia Code
6 and related services and materials,
7 all under certain terms and
8 conditions.

9 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Thank
10 you. Before we begin to hear
11 testimony from the witnesses we
12 have for today, everyone who has
13 been invited to the meeting to
14 testify should be aware that this
15 public hearing is being recorded.
16 Because the hearing is public,
17 participants and viewers have no
18 reasonable expectation of privacy.
19 By continuing to be in the meeting,
20 you are consenting to being
21 recorded.

22 Additionally, prior to
23 recognizing Members for the
24 questions or comments they have for
25 witnesses, I will note for the

1 record at this time that we will
2 use the chat feature available in
3 Microsoft Teams to allow Members to
4 signify that they wish to be
5 recognized. In order to comply
6 with the Sunshine Act, the chat
7 feature must only be used for this
8 purpose.

9 Mr. Yerkov, will you please
10 call the witnesses we have to
11 testify this afternoon on Bill No.
12 230701.

13 THE CLERK: The first
14 witness is Reynelle Staley.

15 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Good
16 afternoon. Are you connected and
17 ready to proceed? Please --

18 MS. STALEY: I am. Thank
19 you.

20 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Please
21 state your name for the record and
22 proceed with your testimony.

23 MS. STALEY: My name is
24 Reynelle Staley. That's spelled
25 R-e-y-n-e-l-l-e. Last name is

1 S-t-a-l-e-y. Good afternoon,
2 Chairman O'Neill and members of the
3 Committee. I'm a senior attorney
4 in the Legislation and Legal
5 Council Unit of the Law Department
6 and I'm here to testify in support
7 of Bill No. 230701, which would
8 authorize the Law Department to
9 enter into a multi-year contract
10 for editing in publication
11 services.

12 One of the responsibilities
13 of the Legislation Unit of the Law
14 Department is to manage editing and
15 publication of The Philadelphia
16 Code and the City's Home Rule
17 Charter. As you know, City Council
18 frequently makes changes to The
19 Philadelphia Code and occasionally
20 with the approval of the voters,
21 the Home Rule Charter.

22 The Law Department
23 contracts with a code publishing
24 company to make sure these changes
25 get put in the Code in the right

1 place with appropriate footnoting
2 and that the current Code and
3 Charter are available online free
4 of charge to the public. The
5 contract also provides a
6 publication of a complete new hard
7 copy edition of the Code. Next
8 year's will be the 13th Edition. A
9 current reprint of the Charter, an
10 annual or regular hard copy
11 supplements to both the Charter and
12 the Code.

13 We found that a four-year
14 contract is the most efficient
15 approach because it guarantees the
16 publisher and the City continuity
17 of service for a reasonable period
18 of time, while requiring us to
19 revisit the contract at the time of
20 planned publication of the new hard
21 copy editions of the Code and
22 Charter.

23 Our current four-year
24 contract with American Legal
25 Publishing will expire on January

1 31, 2024. On November 4th we
2 issued an RFP for a contract for
3 the next four years. This contract
4 will cover ongoing electronics and
5 online updates of the Code, the
6 next full hard copy edition of the
7 Code and Charter and periodic
8 supplements to the books. We hope
9 that the out-of-pocket cost to the
10 City for online hosting and editing
11 service will remain relatively
12 small, less than \$10,000 per year.

13 The basic approach we've
14 used and which we hope to continue
15 is that the vendor will provide
16 editing and codification services
17 as well as electronic and web-based
18 versions of the Code largely in
19 exchange for the rate publishing
20 market, the official electronic
21 editions of the Code to the public.

22 City agencies including the
23 Law Department also typically buy a
24 number of print copies of the Code
25 and Charter from the publisher at

1 market prices. Courts, attorneys,
2 personnel throughout the City,
3 Council itself and most importantly
4 the public all rely on access to
5 up-to-date and accurate versions of
6 the City's Home Rule Charter and
7 the Code.

8 Since 1998, the City has
9 established a strong record of
10 publishing and updating these
11 documents on a consistent and
12 predictable schedule. Our Code is
13 one of the, if not the, most
14 up-to-date and easy-to-use online
15 code of any large city in the
16 country. We plan to continue this
17 practice and the bill before
18 Council will allow us to procure
19 services so that we can continue to
20 do so in an efficient and cost-
21 effective manner.

22 The Law Department
23 therefore respectfully request the
24 Committee's favorable consideration
25 of Bill No. 230701 and further, a

1 suspension of the rules in order to
2 allow first reading at the next
3 Council session. Thank you for
4 your time. And I am of course
5 available for any questions that
6 the Committee may have.

7 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Thank
8 you for your testimony.

9 Are there any questions or
10 comments from members of the
11 Committee for this witness?

12 (No response.)

13 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL:
14 Hearing none, are there any other
15 witnesses, Mr. Yerkov?

16 THE CLERK: No.

17 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Are
18 there any other --

19 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:
20 Councilman, I just wanted to let
21 everybody know that I'm here,
22 Councilman Harrity. I am present.
23 Sorry. I had some technical
24 difficulties trying to get on.

25 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: That

1 always happen with the Technology
2 Committee, you know.

3 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: Yeah,
4 right. Thank you. I'm here.

5 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Are
6 there any people waiting for public
7 comment, Mr. Yerkov?

8 THE CLERK: I do not
9 believe so.

10 Council Support, do we have
11 anyone on the line to provide
12 public comment?

13 (No response.)

14 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL:
15 Hearing -- well, I should wait to
16 hear.

17 COUNCIL TECH SUPPORT: We
18 do not have any participants for
19 public comment today. Thank you.

20 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Okay.
21 Well, thank you.

22 There being no further
23 questions from members of the
24 Committee and no other witnesses to
25 testify, I will thank the witness

1 for appearing here today. And
2 before we go into a public meeting,
3 we will pause the proceedings
4 briefly to allow our witness to
5 leave the hearing.

6 MS. STALEY: Thank you.

7 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Thank
8 you. This concludes the public
9 hearing of the Committee. We will
10 now go into a public meeting to
11 consider the action to be taken on
12 the bill before this Committee
13 today. We will now convene the
14 public meeting.

15 Mr. Yerkov, will you please
16 call the roll to take attendance.
17 Members that are in attendance will
18 please indicate that you are
19 present when your name is called.
20 Also, please say a few brief words
21 when responding so that your image
22 will be displayed on screen when
23 you speak.

24 THE CLERK: Councilman
25 Squilla.

1 (No response.)

2 THE CLERK: Councilman

3 Thomas.

4 (No response.)

5 THE CLERK: Councilman

6 Driscoll.

7 COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL:

8 Mr. Chair, I am present.

9 THE CLERK: Councilwoman

10 Vaughn.

11 COUNCILWOMAN VAUGHN:

12 Present.

13 THE CLERK: Councilman

14 Phillips.

15 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

16 Present. Councilman Phillips

17 present.

18 THE CLERK: Thank you.

19 Councilman Harrity.

20 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:

21 Mr. Chair, I am present.

22 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: We

23 will now go into our public

24 meeting. Thank you.

25 The Chair recognizes

1 Councilman Driscoll for a motion on
2 Bill 230701.

3 COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL: Thank
4 you, Mr. Chairman.

5 I move that Bill No. 230701
6 be reported from this Committee
7 with a favorable recommendation and
8 further move that the rules of
9 Council be suspended to permit
10 first reading of this bill at the
11 next session of Council.

12 COUNCILWOMAN VAUGHN:
13 Second.

14 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: The
15 Chair notes for the record that
16 Councilmember Vaughn seconds the
17 motion.

18 It has been moved and
19 properly seconded that Bill No.
20 230701 be reported from this
21 Committee with a favorable
22 recommendation and further move
23 that the rules of Council be
24 suspended to permit first reading
25 of this bill at the next session of

1 Council.

2 All those in favor of the
3 motion will signify by saying aye.

4 (Aye.)

5 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Those
6 opposed?

7 (No response.)

8 THE CLERK: The ayes have
9 it and the motion carries.

10 This concludes the business
11 before the Committee on Technology
12 and Information Services. Thank
13 you for your attendance. And as
14 promised, it was fairly short.

15 COUNCILWOMAN VAUGHN: Thank
16 you, Mr. Chair.

17 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: You
18 are the man, Chairman.

19 (Committee on Technology
20 and Information Services concluded
21 at 12:13 p.m.)

22

23

24

25

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

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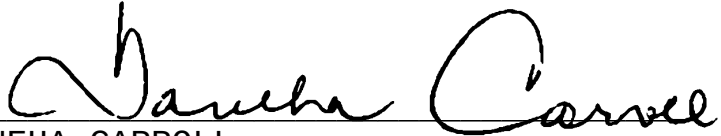
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19 transcript does not apply to any reproduction
20 of the same by any means, unless under the
21 direct control and/or supervision of the
22 certifying reporter.)

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TANEHA CARROLL
Court Reporter - Notary Public

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