

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
STATED MEETING

Via Microsoft Teams
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Thursday, May 21, 2020
10:45 a.m.

PRESENT:

COUNCIL PRESIDENT DARRELL L. CLARKE
COUNCILWOMAN CINDY BASS
COUNCILWOMAN KENDRA BROOKS
COUNCILMAN ALLAN DOMB
COUNCILWOMAN JAMIE GAUTHIER
COUNCILWOMAN KATHERINE GILMORE RICHARDSON
COUNCILMAN DEREK S. GREEN
COUNCILWOMAN HELEN GYM
COUNCILMAN BOBBY HENON
COUNCILMAN CURTIS JONES, JR.
COUNCILMAN DAVID OH
COUNCILMAN BRIAN J. O'NEILL
COUNCILWOMAN CHERELLE L. PARKER
COUNCILWOMAN MARIA D. QUINONES-SANCHEZ
COUNCILMAN MARK SQUILLA
COUNCILMAN ISAIAH THOMAS

MICHAEL A. DECKER, CHIEF CLERK

- - -

1 5/21/20 - STATED - ROLL CALL

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

3 Thank you, and good morning. We're going
4 to get started now.

5 I understand that the state law
6 currently requires that the following
7 announcement be made at the beginning of
8 every remote Council session:

9 Due to the current public
10 health emergency, City Council is
11 currently meeting remotely. We are using
12 Microsoft Teams to make this remote
13 meeting possible. Instructions for how
14 the public may view the meeting and offer
15 public comment are included in the Stated
16 Meeting notice that was published in the
17 Daily News, Inquirer, and Legal
18 Intelligencer prior to this meeting and
19 can also be found on PHLCouncil.com.

20 I now note that the hour has
21 come. The Clerk will please call the
22 roll to take attendance. Members that
23 are in attendance will please indicate
24 that you are present, and say a couple of
25 words to make sure that the image and

1 5/21/20 - STATED - ROLL CALL

2 also your sound is displayed on the
3 screen.

4 Mr. Decker.

5 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman
6 Bass.

7 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Good
8 morning, Mr. President, colleagues, and
9 all of Philadelphia. Thank you for being
10 here this morning.

11 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman
12 Brooks.

13 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: Good
14 morning, Council colleagues and everyone.
15 I'm glad to be here this morning.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good
17 morning.

18 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Domb.

19 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Good morning,
20 Council President and colleagues and the
21 public, and happy Thursday.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good
23 morning.

24 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman
25 Gauthier.

1 5/21/20 - STATED - ROLL CALL

2 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Good
3 morning, Council President. Good
4 morning, colleagues. Happy to be here
5 today.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: So
7 am I.

8 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman
9 Gilmore Richardson.

10 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Good
11 morning, Council President, colleagues
12 and good morning, Philadelphia.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good
14 morning.

15 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Green.

16 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Good
17 morning, Council President. Good
18 morning, colleagues. Pleasure to be here
19 this Thursday. Looking forward to a
20 productive session.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good
22 morning.

23 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman Gym.

24 COUNCILWOMAN GYM: Good
25 morning, Council President. Good

1 5/21/20 - STATED - ROLL CALL
2 morning, colleagues. Happy Thursday.
3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good
4 morning.
5 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Henon.
6 COUNCILMAN HENON: Good
7 morning, Council President. Good
8 morning, colleagues. Hope everybody is
9 well. Look forward to a very productive
10 session.
11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
12 Absolutely.
13 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Jones.
14 COUNCILMAN JONES: Good
15 morning, Mr. President. Good morning,
16 colleagues. Good morning, Philadelphia.
17 I want you to mask up and vote by mail.
18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
19 There you go. Awesome.
20 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Oh.
21 (No response.)
22 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Oh.
23 (No response.)
24 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman
25 O'Neill.

1 5/21/20 - STATED - ROLL CALL

2 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Good

3 morning, everyone.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good

5 morning.

6 COUNCILMAN OH: I'm sorry.

7 It's Councilman Oh. Had a little

8 technical difficulty here. I'm on.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Got

10 you.

11 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman

12 Parker.

13 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Good

14 morning, Mr. President and colleagues.

15 And, Councilwoman Gilmore Richardson, I

16 like that not good morning, America.

17 Good morning, Philadelphia.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

19 There you go.

20 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman

21 Quinones-Sanchez.

22 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Good

23 morning, colleagues, and I want to thank

24 everyone for their patience this morning.

25 We're going to get to your business.

1 5/21/20 - STATED - ROLL CALL

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

3 There you go.

4 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman

5 Squilla.

6 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Good

7 morning, Council President and

8 colleagues. Happy to be here. Looking

9 forward to continuing our work.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good

11 morning.

12 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman

13 Thomas.

14 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Good

15 morning, Council President. Good

16 morning, colleagues. Excited to be here

17 and happy to do the work.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good

19 morning.

20 CHIEF CLERK: Council President

21 Clarke.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Yes,

23 I'm here, and we're going to get started.

24 With a quorum of Council

25 present, we will now come to order.

1 5/21/20 - STATED - APPROVAL OF JOURNAL

2 Despite the great need, there
3 will be no invocation today. We will,
4 however, observe a very brief moment of
5 silent prayer for our city, its leaders,
6 and citizens during the current public
7 health crisis.

8 We will now observe a moment of
9 silence.

10 (Moment of silence.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

12 Thank you. Thank you very much.

13 Our next order of business is
14 the approval of the Journal of the
15 meeting of Friday, May 1st, 2020, and the
16 Chair recognizes Councilman Squilla.

17 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Thank you,
18 Mr. President. I move that the Journal
19 of the meeting of Friday, May 1st, 2020
20 be approved.

21 (Duly seconded.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

23 Thank you. It has been moved and
24 properly seconded that the Journal of the
25 meeting of Friday, May 1st, 2020 stand

1 5/21/20 - STATED - LEAVES

2 approved.

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

5 (Aye.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

7 Those opposed?

8 (No response.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
10 ayes have it, and the Journal is
11 approved.

12 And our next order of business
13 is the request for leaves of absence, and
14 the Chair recognizes Councilwoman Parker.

15 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Thank
16 you, Mr. President. On behalf of the
17 members of Council, a leave of absence is
18 requested for Councilman Johnson, and we
19 also keep him in our prayers.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
21 Absolutely. The Chair thanks the
22 Councilwoman and leave will be granted
23 for Councilman Johnson, and our prayers,
24 as you say, to he and his family.

25 Our next order of business is

1 5/21/20 - STATED - COMMUNICATIONS

2 communications. Does the Clerk have
3 messages from the Mayor or any other
4 messages in his possession, and if so,
5 please read those messages.

6 (Pause.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Mr.
8 Decker, we're not hearing you.

9 CHIEF CLERK: To the President
10 and members of the Council of the City of
11 Philadelphia, per your request that my
12 Administration note all business before
13 Council that should be considered related
14 to our response to the pandemic or
15 otherwise necessary to allow for
16 expedited action, I respectfully request
17 and submit for the consideration of your
18 honorable body a resolution approving the
19 Director of Finance's Budget
20 Stabilization Reserve Fund Withdrawal
21 Certification for purposes of allowing
22 utilization of \$34,276,000 in the Reserve
23 Fund for General Fund purposes in
24 connection with the FY2021 Operating
25 Budget; and

1 5/21/20 - STATED - COMMUNICATIONS

2 An ordinance authorizing the
3 Director of Planning and Development, on
4 behalf of the City, to file applications
5 with the United States Department of
6 Housing and Urban Development for a
7 Community Development Block Grant; to
8 file applications to participate in the
9 HOME Investment Partnership program and
10 the Emergency Solutions Grant program;
11 and to apply for a Housing Opportunities
12 for Persons with AIDS grant; and to file
13 applications with the Commonwealth to
14 obtain grants under the Act of April 12,
15 1956 to prevent and eliminate blight; and

16 An ordinance approving a
17 Substantial Amendment to the Annual
18 Action Plan 2019 through 2020 to add
19 \$40,410,779 in Federal Coronavirus Aid,
20 Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES)
21 funding, all under certain terms and
22 conditions.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

24 Thank you, Mr. Decker.

25 And our next order of business

1 5/21/20 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 is the introduction of bills and
3 resolutions. And, Mr. Decker, will you
4 please read the titles of the legislation
5 that is being offered today by the
6 Councilmembers.

7 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman
8 Parker offers on behalf of Council
9 President Clarke a non-privileged
10 resolution, entitled a "Resolution
11 approving the Director of Finance's
12 Budget Stabilization Reserve Fund
13 Withdrawal Certification for purposes of
14 allowing utilization of \$34,276,000 in
15 the Reserve Fund for General Fund
16 purposes in connection with the FY2021
17 Operating Budget."

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: And
19 that will be heard at our next session of
20 Council.

21 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman Gym
22 offers an ordinance amending The
23 Philadelphia Code to add a new Chapter,
24 entitled "Employee Protections in
25 Connection with COVID-19 Emergency Health

1 5/21/20 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 Order," to provide workplace protections
3 in emergency health orders and
4 regulations, provide protections for
5 employees against retaliatory actions
6 both for the disclosure of information
7 related to employer non-compliance with
8 such orders and for refusal to work under
9 unsafe conditions caused by
10 non-compliance with such orders.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: That
12 will be referred to the appropriate
13 committee.

14 CHIEF CLERK: And a
15 non-privileged resolution condemning any
16 and all racist and xenophobic rhetoric
17 against Asian and Asian American
18 communities amid the rise of COVID-19,
19 and expressing appreciation for the
20 resilience, support, and contributions of
21 the City of Philadelphia's Asian American
22 and Chinese American communities.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: That
24 will be on our next session of Council.

25 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Henon

1 5/21/20 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 offers a privileged resolution
3 recognizing May 17 to May 23, 2020 as
4 National Emergency Medical Services Week
5 in the City of Philadelphia, and Further
6 Honoring the Philadelphia Paramedics on
7 the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
9 Today's Calendar.

10 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Jones
11 offers a privileged resolution
12 authorizing the joint City Council
13 Committees on Public Safety and Commerce
14 and Economic Development to hold public
15 hearings on the safe re-opening of small
16 businesses along commercial corridors,
17 particularly restaurants that were
18 affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
20 Today's Calendar.

21 CHIEF CLERK: And a privileged
22 resolution recognizing and honoring the
23 Share Food Program, for providing
24 emergency food relief to the vulnerable
25 populations of Philadelphia over the past

1 5/21/20 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 34 years, and for further increasing
3 their efforts to bring nutritious food to
4 our communities during the COVID-19
5 pandemic.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
7 Today's Calendar.

8 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Green
9 offers on behalf of Council President
10 Clarke an ordinance approving a
11 Substantial Amendment to the Annual
12 Action Plan 2019 through 2020 to add
13 \$40,410,779 in Federal Coronavirus Aid,
14 Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES)
15 funding.

16 And also Councilman Green on
17 behalf of Council President Clarke offers
18 an ordinance authorizing the Director of
19 Planning and Development, on behalf of
20 the City, to file applications with the
21 United States Department of Housing and
22 Urban Development for a Community
23 Development Block Grant; to file
24 applications to participate in the HOME
25 Investment Partnership program and the

1 5/21/20 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 Emergency Solutions Grant program; and to
3 apply for a Housing Opportunities for
4 Persons with AIDS grant; and to file
5 applications with the Commonwealth to
6 obtain grants under the Act of April 12,
7 1956 to prevent and eliminate blight.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
9 Referred to committee.

10 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Green
11 also offers a privileged resolution
12 authorizing the Committees on Finance and
13 Commerce & Economic Development to hold
14 joint hearings regarding Philadelphia's
15 safe, equitable, and robust economic
16 recovery from the coronavirus pandemic.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
18 Today's Calendar.

19 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Domb
20 offers a non-privileged resolution
21 calling on the Mayor of Philadelphia to
22 formally appoint a provisional Chief
23 Recovery Officer position in the
24 Department of Finance responsible for the
25 management and administration of all

1 5/21/20 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 federal and state grants, or otherwise
3 categorized COVID-19 financial recovery
4 dollars, to the City of Philadelphia
5 until the Mayor and City Council do so
6 jointly determine that the position shall
7 be dissolved.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
9 Referred to next session of Council.

10 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Thomas
11 offers a privileged resolution
12 authorizing City Council's Committee on
13 Public Health & Human Services to hold
14 hearings regarding the disproportionate
15 numbers of seniors in congregate care
16 settings who have passed away as a result
17 of the COVID-19 pandemic.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
19 Today's Calendar.

20 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Oh
21 offers a privileged resolution
22 authorizing the Committee on Global
23 Opportunities and the Creative/Innovative
24 Economy to hold public hearings on plans,
25 procedures, and global best practices for

1 5/21/20 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 restarting the economy in the wake of the
3 novel coronavirus pandemic.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
5 Today's Calendar.

6 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Oh
7 offers a non-privileged resolution
8 calling on the Kenney Administration to
9 delay the elimination of the Office of
10 Arts, Culture and the Creative Economy,
11 including its workforce, and the
12 Philadelphia Cultural Fund, the principal
13 supporters for the City's \$3.4 billion
14 creative arts industry, generating annual
15 tax revenue of \$157 million, until
16 Council completes the City's fiscal year
17 2021 Budget and Recovery Plan for the
18 COVID-19 pandemic.

19 Council President Clarke,
20 Councilman Oh would like to be recognized
21 for a motion on this resolution.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
23 Chair recognizes Councilman Oh.

24 COUNCILMAN OH: Thank you very
25 much, Council President. I move to

1 5/21/20 - STATED - SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

2 suspend the rules of Council so as to
3 permit consideration of this resolution
4 on today's Final Passage Calendar.

5 (Duly seconded.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: It's
7 been moved and properly seconded.

8 All those in favor say aye.

9 (Aye.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
11 Those opposed?

12 (No response.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
14 ayes have it. That will be on today's
15 Final Passage Calendar.

16 CHIEF CLERK: There are no
17 other bills or resolutions being offered
18 by the members today, Mr. President.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
20 Thank you very much, Mr. Decker.

21 Today we have no reports from
22 committee, so we will now proceed under a
23 special order of business, a motion to
24 add one additional meeting to the
25 schedule of Council sessions for the year

1 5/21/20 - STATED - SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

2 2020. This motion reflects the fact that
3 this may well be the most challenging
4 budget any of us has ever faced, and I
5 would like to take the "may," it will be
6 the most challenging budget any of us has
7 ever faced, and we do so under unique and
8 very difficult conditions. There is
9 important work to do before adopting the
10 final operating budget and related
11 revenue measures for the City.

12 At this time, the Chair
13 recognizes Councilwoman Parker.

14 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Thank
15 you, Mr. President. On your behalf, I
16 wish to add an additional meeting to the
17 schedule of Council sessions for the year
18 2020 and, accordingly, I move that the
19 Council meet on Thursday, June 25th, 2020
20 at 10:00 a.m. to conduct a regular
21 Council session.

22 (Duly seconded.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
24 Thank you. It has been moved and
25 properly seconded that the Council meet

1 5/21/20 - STATED - SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

2 on Thursday, June 25th, 2020 at 10:00

3 a.m. to conduct a regular Council

4 session. To be sure we have a clear

5 majority on this motion, we will take a

6 roll call vote.

7 Please note that a vote of aye

8 is a vote in favor of the motion that

9 Council meet on Thursday, June 25th, 2020

10 at 10:00 a.m. to conduct a regular

11 Council session. A vote of nay is a vote

12 to defeat the motion.

13 The Clerk will now call the

14 roll.

15 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman

16 Bass.

17 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Aye.

18 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman

19 Brooks.

20 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: Aye.

21 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Domb.

22 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Aye.

23 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman

24 Gauthier.

25 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Aye.

1 5/21/20 - STATED - SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

2 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman
3 Gilmore Richardson.

4 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Aye.

5 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Green.
6 (No response.)

7 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman Gym.

8 COUNCILWOMAN GYM: Aye.

9 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Henon.

10 COUNCILMAN HENON: Aye.

11 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Jones.

12 COUNCILMAN JONES: Aye.

13 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Oh.

14 COUNCILMAN OH: Aye.

15 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman
16 O'Neill.

17 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Aye.

18 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman
19 Parker.

20 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Aye.

21 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman
22 Quinones-Sanchez.

23 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Aye.

24 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman
25 Squilla.

1 5/21/20 - STATED - SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

2 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Aye.

3 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman

4 Thomas.

5 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Aye.

6 CHIEF CLERK: Council President

7 Clarke.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Aye.

9 Did Councilman Green respond,

10 Mr. Decker?

11 COUNCILMAN GREEN:

12 Councilmember Green, aye as well.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

14 Thank you.

15 The ayes are 16; the nays are
16 zero. A majority of all members having
17 voted in the affirmative, the motion
18 carries, and the Council will meet on
19 Thursday, June 25th, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.
20 to conduct a regular session of Council.
21 Thank you all very much.

22 The next order of business is
23 the consideration of the Calendar. There
24 are no bills on the First Reading
25 Calendar today, so today we are only

1 5/21/20 - STATED - BILLS ON 2ND READING
2 considering those legislative matters on
3 the Second Reading and Final Passage
4 Calendar that directly pertain to the
5 COVID-19 crisis. There are four such
6 matters on the Calendar. The prime
7 sponsors of those matters have already
8 communicated their desire to have those
9 matters considered today.

10 I, therefore, recognize
11 Councilwoman Parker for the purpose of
12 calling up those matters from the Second
13 Reading and Final Passage Calendars.

14 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Thank
15 you, Mr. President. The following
16 resolutions are being called up from the
17 Second Reading and Final Passage
18 Calendars today. They are Nos. 200308,
19 200311, 200312, and 200313. All other
20 resolutions and bills are being held.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
22 Thank you, Councilwoman.

23 Before considering these
24 resolutions, we will consider public
25 comment as follows:

1 5/21/20 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Under normal circumstances,
3 public comment must concern matters on
4 the Second Reading and Final Passage
5 Calendars for possible action at a
6 session of Council. A speaker on any of
7 these matters must sign up in order to
8 testify. You must call 215-686-3406 by
9 5:00 p.m. the day before the session to
10 sign up for public comment.

11 When you call, we will take
12 your name, phone number, the number of
13 the legislative item you are commenting
14 on and whether you are in support or
15 against the legislation on the list. We
16 will telephone each person on the list
17 during the Council session and invite
18 them to our remote meeting.

19 Under ideal circumstances, they
20 will each have three minutes to speak.
21 However, given the time limit, we may
22 vary from session to session. Today I
23 believe we have five members, so we will
24 allow three minutes to testify, five
25 members. Thank you very much.

1 5/21/20 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 We will start the timer once
3 your name is called, and when the three
4 minutes are up, we'd ask that you please
5 adhere to our guidelines.

6 Mr. Decker, would you please
7 call the first name on the list.

8 CHIEF CLERK: Madeline
9 Shikomba.

10 (No response.)

11 CHIEF CLERK: Madeline
12 Shikomba.

13 MS. SHIKOMBA: Hello. Hello.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
15 Hello.

16 MS. SHIKOMBA: Can you hear me?

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Yes.
18 Please proceed.

19 MS. SHIKOMBA: Yeah. This is
20 Ms. Shikomba speaking, yes, speaking on
21 Resolution No. 200311 regarding
22 landlords. Basically I do support all
23 the resolutions. I do think they should
24 show some compassion for people who
25 during COVID have lost their jobs or been

1 5/21/20 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 unemployed, and this is no time for them
3 to be evicting people.

4 I also have a problem with City
5 Council. They need to hear the same
6 thing, show compassion. You getting
7 ready to pass an extended tax abatement
8 for people who -- this is ridiculous.
9 How can you extend the tax abatement when
10 we have been strapped for money? Okay.
11 This is terrible.

12 Also you want to provide by
13 extending the tax abatement, people won't
14 be paying taxes. We are short on money.
15 I am extremely angry, because some of
16 your agencies are now extending money
17 that they got for this year and sending
18 it out on trivial matters. One is the
19 standard ability sending out -- let me
20 calm myself down, because I'm getting
21 mad.

22 They sending out mailings
23 concerning some survey on Washington
24 Avenue, spending money that we need so
25 badly for so many other things. You need

1 5/21/20 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 to check your agencies and find out what
3 they doing with the money that they
4 haven't spent for this year and how they
5 targeting it, so then get some more
6 money. Where from?

7 Anyway, we all need to show
8 compassion, especially for the poor
9 senior citizens like myself and the
10 disabled people. Instead we running
11 around here playing with our money like
12 you are. Stop this nonsense. I'm tired
13 of having to pay for things to the extent
14 that you want us to pay and we are not
15 receiving any relief.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

17 Thank you.

18 MS. SHIKOMBA: Please be
19 compassionate to us. You want the
20 landlords to be compassionate to the
21 tenants. We ask that you be
22 compassionate to the citizens of
23 Philadelphia and check yourself on what
24 you spending our money on. And I mean
25 check yourself. This is ridiculous.

1 5/21/20 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 This is not right for you to have money
3 that was not spent and now you have these
4 agencies running out here spending money,
5 spending money just to get rid of it so
6 they can have an empty budget. Give me a
7 break. Okay.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

9 Thank you. Thank you, Ms. Shikomba.

10 MS. SHIKOMBA: Thank you.

11 You're welcome.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

13 Thank you for your comment.

14 CHIEF CLERK: Victor Pinckney.

15 (No response.)

16 CHIEF CLERK: Victor Pinckney.

17 (No response.)

18 CHIEF CLERK: Lonnie, is

19 Mr. Pinckney connected?

20 (No response.)

21 CHIEF CLERK: Brianna

22 Westbrooks.

23 MS. WESTBROOKS: Good morning,

24 members of City Council. My name is

25 Brianna Westbrooks and I represent the

1 5/21/20 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Pennsylvania Apartment Association. I am
3 commenting in support of Resolution
4 200311.

5 Throughout this crisis, members
6 of the Pennsylvania Apartment Association
7 and property owners throughout the City
8 have proactively worked with and
9 collaborated with Philadelphians.

10 Resolution 200311 refers to the letter
11 that the Attorney General Shapiro and the
12 Pennsylvania Apartment Association
13 co-signed together. We are very
14 appreciative of our dialogue between our
15 organization and the Governor's Office.

16 Not only have we been working
17 with residents to create payment plans
18 that meet the needs of both renters and
19 property owners, but we have also been
20 working at the state and federal level to
21 advocate for rental assistance for
22 residents. In addition, the Governor
23 recently announced that the state will be
24 issuing rent rebates early. This action,
25 as well as additional funding towards

1 5/21/20 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 housing from both the state and federal
3 government, will help Philadelphians
4 during this time. However, we do know
5 that more can be done.

6 The Pennsylvania Apartment
7 Association wants to work in
8 collaboration with all levels of
9 government to make sure that residents
10 and property owners receive the resources
11 necessary to support Philadelphia.

12 We look forward to continuing
13 to work with you all to find solutions
14 that keep both renters and property
15 owners in mind.

16 Thank you.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
18 Thank you. Thank you for your testimony,
19 ma'am.

20 CHIEF CLERK: I'll call Victor
21 Pinckney again.

22 MR. PINCKNEY: Hello. Yes.
23 This is -- I couldn't get through before,
24 but this is Victor Pinckney, Sr. I'd
25 like to thank the Council President and

1 5/21/20 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Council for allowing me to speak in
3 reference to Resolution 200311 --

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
5 Please proceed.

6 MR. PINCKNEY: Say again.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: No.
8 I said please proceed.

9 MR. PINCKNEY: Okay --
10 (continued) that covers the
11 representation made by Attorney General
12 Shapiro that property owners should work
13 with their tenants during the COVID
14 crisis by waiving late fees for residents
15 who have provided documentation of
16 financial hardships because of COVID,
17 create payment plans for them, and help
18 them find resources to help them with
19 expenses, something HAPCO has been
20 telling members to do since the beginning
21 of the emergency.

22 Thank you.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

24 Thank you, Mr. Pinckney.

25 CHIEF CLERK: Brian Jackson.

1 5/21/20 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 (No response.)

3 CHIEF CLERK: Brian Jackson.

4 MR. JACKSON: Can you hear me
5 now?

6 CHIEF CLERK: We hear you.

7 MR. JACKSON: How you doing?

8 My name is Brian Jackson. I appreciate
9 your time.

10 I currently own and manage
11 properties in several of the
12 Councilmembers' districts. I wanted to
13 call to speak in support of Resolution
14 200311, which obviously addresses the
15 guidance issued by Pennsylvania AG
16 Shapiro in April that encouraged property
17 owners to work with renters during this
18 pandemic.

19 Right now, and for the past few
20 months, we have been working with
21 residents to help them identify resources
22 that would better attend to their needs
23 in this time of crisis considering what
24 we are all going through.

25 So I support this resolution.

1 5/21/20 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 I know that teamwork between all of us
3 during this pandemic is important, and we
4 have to continue this as we move forward.
5 I personally have even been spending time
6 with other landlords like myself to help
7 them specifically deal with their
8 tenants, because everyone's situation is
9 different, and we need to understand
10 that. That is the best course of action,
11 in my opinion, that we work with our
12 tenants as landlords, not issue new
13 legislation that will cause us to put us
14 all in financial burden.

15 Although the federal government
16 and state government have dedicated more
17 resources to Philadelphians, I am aware
18 that more can be done to help everyone.
19 We look forward to working with the
20 elected officials on every level and to
21 make sure that renters and property
22 owners receive the attention, resources,
23 and funding we need to get through this.

24 I appreciate everyone's time,
25 and thank you for the opportunity to

1 5/21/20 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 express my support.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

4 Thank you, Mr. Jackson. Thank you for
5 your testimony.

6 CHIEF CLERK: Robert Levin.

7 MR. LEVIN: This is Robert
8 Levin.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good
10 morning.

11 MR. LEVIN: Good morning. I'm
12 speaking in favor of Councilman Domb's
13 Resolution 200311.

14 Good morning, esteemed members
15 of Council. Thank you for having my
16 colleagues and me with you today, albeit
17 not in person.

18 My 111-year-old,
19 fourth-generation real estate company
20 handles multi-family investment building
21 and management in Council Districts 1, 2,
22 and 3 in Mr. Squilla, Mr. Johnson,
23 Mrs. Blackwell. I also sit on the Board
24 of Directors of HAPCO Philadelphia, which
25 is the largest landlord advocacy group in

1 5/21/20 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Philadelphia. HAPCO Philadelphia
3 represents nearly 2,000 rental property
4 owners that own or manage nearly 20,000
5 low-to-moderate and market-rate
6 single-family and multi-family properties
7 in the City.

8 Millions of us in the real
9 estate industry in Philadelphia have long
10 been singled out as seemingly endless
11 sources of stop-gap funding when the City
12 is cash strapped, and there have been
13 many, many budget woes over the years,
14 especially now in the COVID-19 world
15 we're all struggling with. The housing
16 sector is a resilient one and has been
17 able to weather ups and downs in the
18 local economy with no problem, though it
19 has not been easy. Ever increasing taxes
20 and regulations stifle initiatives.

21 However, in light of the
22 overwhelming pandemic-related issues we
23 face now, I join my colleagues today to
24 affirm Councilman Domb's resolution.
25 Councilman Domb's resolution is a logical

1 5/21/20 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 person-first approach that I and most of
3 my contemporaries believe is the most
4 considerate way to help our fellow man
5 during the pandemic.

6 By regularly agreeing to
7 tenant-specific rental payment workouts
8 and other thoughtful concessions like
9 waiving late payment fees, landlords and
10 tenants are better able to cope with
11 overwhelming circumstances that both
12 landlords and tenants face right now. It
13 is important that landlords, tenants, and
14 governing bodies recognize and respect
15 each other's liabilities and limitations.

16 Further, knowledgeable and
17 experienced landlords who have contacts
18 in the community at different levels of
19 government and can clearly communicate
20 and pass along vital information such as
21 available financial assistance and
22 programs from government and charitable
23 and trade organizations are better
24 positioned to help tenants remain current
25 on their rent and solvent and safely

1 5/21/20 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 sheltered and also be able to help
3 themselves by having rent-producing,
4 tax-producing properties that enable
5 owners to pay not only costs of property
6 upkeep and operation, but also their own
7 bills and feed their own families.

8 Finally, there's been a lot of
9 talk in all level of government about
10 allotments of cash, grants, and loans to
11 be coming down the pike. It's been slow
12 and confusing at times and likely will
13 continue to be, so as nothing like this
14 has ever been tried. It's understandable
15 that there will be stumps and starts. As
16 a community of people, businesses, and
17 consumers, we need to work together with
18 all stakeholders.

19 Thank you for your time.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

21 Thank you for your testimony.

22 CHIEF CLERK: Mr. President, as
23 there are no other speakers, with your
24 permission, I'll release the public
25 commenters and allow them to disconnect.

1 5/21/20 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 As they disconnect, there will be a brief
3 disruptive message coming from Microsoft
4 Teams as multiple people leave the
5 meeting.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: So
7 granted.

8 CHIEF CLERK: Public
9 commenters, you are now released from the
10 meeting. You may hang up. Thank you for
11 your comments.

12 (Pause.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Is
14 that it? Everyone off, Mr. Decker?

15 CHIEF CLERK: Yes,
16 Mr. President.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
18 Thank you.

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

22 Mr. Decker, can you please read
23 the title of Resolution No. 200308.

24 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
25 calling on the United States Congress and

1 5/21/20 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 the Pennsylvania General Assembly to take
3 immediate action to provide
4 municipalities a comprehensive relief
5 package to stabilize the local rental
6 housing market and support property
7 owners.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: And
9 the Chair recognizes Councilwoman Gym for
10 a motion on the resolution.

11 COUNCILWOMAN GYM: Thank you
12 very much, Council President, and I'd
13 like to acknowledge the previous public
14 speakers who emphasized the importance of
15 state and federal relief to complement
16 what we are doing here in the City of
17 Philadelphia. We compliment Attorney
18 General Shapiro for his letter that
19 publicly called for an extension of the
20 eviction moratorium, the waiving of late
21 fees, installment of payment plans, and
22 important measures to provide the
23 thousands and thousands of renters who
24 comprise almost half of Philadelphia
25 households to be protected in this time.

1 5/21/20 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 And I am glad to say that our City
3 Council body is actually leading on that
4 by putting these things into action on
5 the Emergency Housing Protections Act,
6 which has a hearing next Friday in the
7 Committee on Housing.

8 But, most importantly, we want
9 the state and the federal government to
10 provide for this. This past week, the
11 House bill passed a \$100 billion package
12 to provide renter assistance directly to
13 municipalities, landlords and renters
14 themselves. It is important that it gets
15 passed in the Senate. The State of
16 Pennsylvania also has \$3.9 billion in
17 money, and our Philadelphia delegation
18 has been discussing how some of that
19 money can go directly towards the
20 municipalities for renter relief to
21 support both our landlords and our
22 renters in this important time.

23 I'm proud that we've been at
24 the leadership of it, and I'm grateful
25 for the chance to continue to send this

1 5/21/20 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 message up to our Harrisburg delegation
3 and to our federal government.

4 And with that, I move for the
5 adoption of the resolution.

6 (Duly seconded.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

8 Thank you. It's been moved and properly
9 seconded that the resolution be adopted.

10 All in favor say aye.

11 (Aye.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

13 Those opposed?

14 (No response.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
16 ayes have it, and the resolution is
17 adopted.

18 Mr. Decker, please read the
19 title of Resolution No. 200311.

20 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
21 supporting Pennsylvania Attorney General
22 Josh Shapiro in his call to all landlords
23 in the Commonwealth and Philadelphia to
24 provide aid to their tenants during the
25 Covid-19 crisis and throughout its

1 5/21/20 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 aftermath.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
4 Chair recognizes Councilman Domb for a
5 motion on the resolution.

6 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Thank you,
7 Mr. President. I move for the adoption
8 of the resolution.

9 (Duly seconded.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
11 Thank you. It has been moved and
12 seconded that the resolution be adopted.

13 All in favor say aye.

14 (Aye.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
16 Those opposed?

17 (No response.)

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
19 ayes have it, and that resolution is
20 adopted.

21 Mr. Decker, will you please
22 read the title of Resolution No. 200312.

23 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
24 urging the President, Senate, and House
25 of Representatives to amend the CARES Act

1 5/21/20 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 to provide that U.S. citizens with
3 immigrant spouses who file joint taxes
4 are eligible to receive economic stimulus
5 payments for both adults and any
6 dependent children, even if the immigrant
7 spouse does not have a Social Security
8 number.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
10 Chair recognizes Councilman Oh for a
11 motion.

12 COUNCILMAN OH: Thank you very
13 much, Council President. I move that the
14 resolution be passed.

15 (Duly seconded.)

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

19 All in favor say aye.

20 (Aye.)

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
22 Those opposed?

23 (No response.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
25 ayes have it, and that resolution is

1 5/21/20 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 adopted.

3 Mr. Decker, please read the
4 title of Resolution No. 200313.

5 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
6 urging the City Health Commissioner to
7 issue an emergency order, under the
8 authority vested in Section 6-205 and
9 Section 8-407 of The Philadelphia Code,
10 requiring hospitals and other healthcare
11 institutions to provide an adequate
12 supply of personal protective equipment
13 (PPE) to employees during the duration of
14 the novel coronavirus pandemic.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: And,
16 again, the Chair recognizes Councilman
17 Oh.

18 COUNCILMAN OH: Thank you very
19 much, Council President. I move that the
20 resolution be adopted.

21 (Duly seconded.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: It's
23 been moved and properly seconded.

24 All those in favor say aye.

25 (Aye.)

1 5/21/20 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

3 Those opposed?

4 (No response.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
6 ayes have it, and that resolution is
7 adopted.

8 The Chief Clerk, will you
9 please read any additional resolutions on
10 today's Calendar.

11 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
12 recognizing May 17 to May 23, 2020 as
13 National Emergency Medical Services Week
14 in the City of Philadelphia, and Further
15 Honoring the Philadelphia Paramedics on
16 the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic,
17 introduced by Councilman Henon.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
19 Chair recognizes Councilman Henon.

20 COUNCILMAN HENON: Thank you,
21 Council President. Before I make the
22 motion, this resolution has been
23 co-signed by a majority of our
24 Councilmembers and colleagues here today.
25 We have adopted this resolution on a

1 5/21/20 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 yearly basis recognizing our EMS workers
3 nationally and locally.

4 Especially during this
5 pandemic, our paramedics and EMS and
6 firefighters respond to nearly 1,000
7 incidents a day, so that the daily runs
8 of almost 1,000, and they're responding
9 to all kinds of medical emergencies. And
10 they've been incredible, incredible
11 partners in our schools, teaching CPR,
12 stop the bleed, administering Narcan, and
13 training people in our communities in how
14 to use the AED. They've been incredible
15 partners in a program called Act Now with
16 me and my office certifying nearly 2,500
17 of our residents in my district.
18 Probably around 2,500 of our community
19 members are now certified in CPR because
20 of their partnerships.

21 They are incredible, incredible
22 assets and dedicated public servants to
23 the health and welfare and safety of our
24 city. And when they receive a run and
25 they respond to an incident, there is no

1 5/21/20 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 social distance, just like the healthcare
3 workers on the front lines. There is no
4 safety distances and social distances.
5 They respond, and they do it well. And I
6 ask my colleagues to support the
7 resolution as I move for the adoption,
8 and I want to thank all our healthcare
9 workers and EMS workers on our front
10 lines and recognizing them on this week.
11 So I move for the adoption.

12 (Duly seconded.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: It's
14 been moved and properly seconded.

15 All those in favor say aye.

16 (Aye.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
18 Those opposed?

19 (No response.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
21 ayes have it, and that resolution is
22 adopted.

23 CHIEF CLERK: And a resolution
24 authorizing the joint City Council
25 Committees on Public Safety and Commerce

1 5/21/20 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 and Economic Development to hold public
3 hearings on the safe re-opening of small
4 businesses along commercial corridors,
5 particularly restaurants that were
6 affected by the COVID-19 pandemic,
7 introduced by Councilman Jones.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
9 Chair recognizes Councilman Jones.

10 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you
11 very much, Mr. President and colleagues.
12 May I just say that we have a complex
13 problem. We have to reopen our economy
14 safely, not driven by false facts, led by
15 science. But I heard from 32 restaurant
16 owners yesterday that talked about losing
17 their life's work. They talked about not
18 opening even after the pandemic is over.

19 I understand clearly and stand
20 with our Mayor about not being foolish
21 like some of our sister and brother
22 cities in Atlantic City and other places.
23 I get it. But when we start talking
24 about Mad River, which closed after a
25 dozen years of operation and they threw

1 5/21/20 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 in the towel, these restaurants aren't
3 operating on huge margins anyway and,
4 more importantly, they hire people from
5 our neighborhoods.

6 So when we were faced with this
7 pandemic, we had a hard stop to the
8 economy, but what I need to call for in
9 this resolution is more soft rollout
10 openings.

11 Some of these businesses -- and
12 my member colleague Domb will
13 appreciate -- need a little bit of
14 advanced notice to know when to bring
15 down the plywood and bring back and
16 rehire the employees, to restock the
17 shelves, and they're not getting that
18 kind of indication anywhere.

19 So this resolution is going to
20 call for us that God knows we hope and
21 pray this light is at the end of the
22 tunnel, but for some small businesses,
23 Mr. President, it's a train barreling
24 right at their business to take them out.

25 And with that, I move for the

1 5/21/20 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 adoption of the resolution.

3 (Duly seconded.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

5 Thank you. Thank you, Councilman.

6 It's been moved and properly
7 seconded.

8 All those in favor say aye.

9 (Aye.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

11 Those opposed?

12 (No response.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
14 ayes have it, and that resolution is
15 adopted.

16 CHIEF CLERK: And a resolution
17 recognizing and honoring the Share Food
18 Program, for providing emergency food
19 relief to the vulnerable populations of
20 Philadelphia over the past 34 years, and
21 for further increasing their efforts to
22 bring nutritious food to our communities
23 during the COVID-19 pandemic, introduced
24 by Councilman Jones.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The

1 5/21/20 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 Chair recognizes Councilman Jones.

3 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
4 Mr. President. I move for the adoption.

5 (Duly seconded.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: It's
7 been moved and properly seconded.

8 All those in favor say aye.

9 (Aye.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
11 Those opposed?

12 (No response.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
14 ayes have it, and that resolution is
15 adopted.

16 CHIEF CLERK: And a resolution
17 authorizing the Committees on Finance and
18 on Commerce & Economic Development to
19 hold joint hearings regarding
20 Philadelphia's safe, equitable, and
21 robust economic recovery from the
22 coronavirus pandemic, introduced by
23 Councilman Green.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
25 Chair recognizes Councilman Green.

1 5/21/20 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you,
3 Council President. As we all know, this
4 COVID-19 pandemic has been a major impact
5 on our city, our state, and our nation,
6 but it's also been an economic calamity.
7 Just yesterday based according to the
8 Pennsylvania Office of Unemployment
9 Compensation, 1.9 million people in the
10 Commonwealth filed for unemployment.

11 In addition, unfortunately
12 based on information from the National
13 League of Cities and the Pennsylvania
14 Municipal League, where I serve as an
15 officer of both, Pennsylvania leads the
16 nation in the loss of local government
17 revenue, about \$6 billion, which accounts
18 for about 40 percent of local revenue.

19 So this issue is a very
20 important issue, as Councilmember Jones
21 talked about restaurants, but for all the
22 businesses in our economy, our local
23 economy, we've had to make significant
24 budget cuts based on the Mayor's proposal
25 and we need to make sure that we have a

1 5/21/20 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 safe and equitable recovery in the City
3 of Philadelphia.

4 The Administration is moving
5 forward with guidelines on a reopening
6 plan. So we need to make sure that we're
7 balancing both the health issues as well
8 as the physical distancing to make sure
9 customers and employees and workers are
10 safe as well as strives for economic
11 recovery. And so this goal of this
12 committee is to work on these issues,
13 work in conjunction with all of our
14 colleagues, members of the
15 Administration, as well as the private
16 sector.

17 And with that, Council
18 President, I move for the adoption of the
19 resolution.

20 (Duly seconded.)

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

22 Thank you. It's been moved and properly
23 seconded.

24 All those in favor say aye.

25 (Aye.)

1 5/21/20 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

3 Those opposed?

4 (No response.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
6 ayes have it, and that resolution is
7 adopted.

8 CHIEF CLERK: And a resolution
9 authorizing City Council's Committee on
10 Public Health & Human Services to hold
11 hearings regarding the disproportionate
12 numbers of seniors in congregate care
13 settings who have passed away as a result
14 of the COVID-19 pandemic, introduced by
15 Councilman Thomas.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
17 Chair recognizes Councilman Thomas.

18 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank you,
19 Council President. I unfortunately and
20 regretfully move for the adoption of the
21 resolution, and my thoughts and prayers
22 go out to all the families who
23 unfortunately have lost loved ones to
24 this unfortunate situation.

25 (Duly seconded.)

1 5/21/20 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

3 Thank you. It's been moved and properly
4 seconded.

5 All in favor say aye.

6 (Aye.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

8 Those opposed?

9 (No response.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
11 ayes have it, and that resolution is
12 adopted.

13 CHIEF CLERK: And a resolution
14 authorizing the Committee on Global
15 Opportunities and the Creative/Innovative
16 Economy to hold public hearings on plans,
17 procedures, and global best practices for
18 restarting the economy in the wake of the
19 novel coronavirus pandemic, introduced by
20 Councilman Oh.

21 (Pause.)

22 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman
23 Squilla, can you mute yourself.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

25 Okay. The Chair recognizes Councilman

1 5/21/20 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 Oh.

3 COUNCILMAN OH: Thank you very
4 much, Council President. Just briefly,
5 in addition to what everybody is
6 concerned about, reopening our economy,
7 people need jobs, people are in financial
8 difficulties, it's a pandemic. It's a
9 worldwide situation, and with that, it is
10 important that we look at the new economy
11 from a global perspective in addition to
12 a local and regional perspective - what
13 have others done that is working, how are
14 they reopening their economy, what
15 opportunities do we have to bring jobs
16 and investment to our city to deal with
17 the new global economy and the way that
18 commerce and manufacturing are going to
19 occur.

20 So with that, I move for the
21 adoption of the resolution.

22 (Duly seconded.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: It's
24 been moved and properly seconded.

25 All those in favor say aye.

1 5/21/20 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 (Aye.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

4 Those opposed?

5 (No response.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
7 ayes have it, and that resolution is
8 adopted.

9 CHIEF CLERK: And a resolution
10 calling on the Kenney Administration to
11 delay the elimination of the Office of
12 Arts, Culture and the Creative Economy,
13 including its workforce, and the
14 Philadelphia Cultural Fund, the principal
15 supporters for the City's \$3.4 billion
16 creative arts industry, generating annual
17 tax revenue of \$157 million, until
18 Council completes the City's fiscal year
19 2021 Budget and Recovery Plan for the
20 COVID-19 pandemic, introduced by
21 Councilman Oh.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
23 Chair again recognizes Councilman Oh.

24 COUNCILMAN OH: Thank you,
25 Council President. I'd like to thank the

1 5/21/20 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 co-sponsors, Councilmembers
3 Quinones-Sanchez, Squilla, Parker, Domb,
4 Thomas, Gauthier, Green, Gym, and Gilmore
5 Richardson, along with the rest of
6 Councilmembers. I know it is a very,
7 very difficult situation that this city
8 faces, very challenging for the Mayor,
9 the Administration, everyone here. I
10 just do think, as many of our colleagues
11 do, that Philadelphia is a city of eds
12 and meds, arts and culture, \$3.4 billion
13 with annual revenues in the area of \$157
14 million and a key role in reopening our
15 economy. We simply ask the
16 Administration rather than to zero out
17 the budget and close the office on June
18 1st to at least let Council have the
19 opportunity to take everything into
20 consideration and to leave those offices
21 open, those staff employed until we have
22 had a chance to review the total budget
23 and make our final decisions.

24 And with that, I'd ask that we
25 adopt the resolution. Thank you.

1 5/21/20 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 (Duly seconded.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

4 Thank you. It's been moved and properly
5 seconded.

6 All those in favor say aye.

7 (Aye.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

9 Those opposed?

10 (No response.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
12 ayes have it, and that resolution is
13 adopted.

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

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

18 Thank you very much, Mr. Decker.

19 With that, we will move to
20 speeches. Prior to me recognizing
21 members regarding speeches, I will note
22 for the record at this time that we will
23 use the chat feature available in
24 Microsoft Teams to allow members to
25 signify that they wish to be recognized.

1 5/21/20 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 In order to comply with the Sunshine Act,
3 the chat feature must only be used for
4 this purpose.

5 With that said, are there any
6 speeches on behalf of the minority?

7 (No response.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Any
9 speeches on behalf of the majority?

10 And I see Councilwoman Gym.

11 COUNCILWOMAN GYM: Thank you
12 very much, Council President. I join
13 with my other colleagues as well in
14 extending my deepest sympathies to our
15 colleague Kenyatta Johnson on the loss in
16 his family, and just we'll send him all
17 of our best.

18 I also wanted to just make a
19 few remarks about the bill that I and ten
20 other -- nine other members of City
21 Council introduced.

22 It has been almost 69 days
23 since the first Pennsylvania stay-at-home
24 order was issued in our Commonwealth. In
25 the past ten weeks, thousands of

1 5/21/20 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 essential workers have showed up to their
3 jobs, keeping grocery shelves stocked,
4 stocking our warehouses and delivering
5 packages, caring for our loved ones in
6 nursing homes, hospitals, and healthcare
7 centers, and keeping our transit systems
8 running and our buildings and streets
9 clean. They are doing this despite the
10 fact that many of them are doing so at a
11 minimum wage that is the lowest of any
12 big city in America. They are doing so
13 despite a state legislative body that is
14 rushing to reopening without guaranteeing
15 personal protective equipment, adequate
16 testing, without guaranteeing healthcare,
17 without the \$15 minimum wage, and without
18 appropriate labor protections.

19 Many of us on this Council body
20 have heard their stories. Some of them
21 have been horrifying, as they dealt with
22 a lack of protective equipment and a
23 struggle for basic health protections,
24 like hand washing. They are the least
25 paid, the most overworked, the least

1 5/21/20 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 respected, and they have fought hard in
3 this City Council body to get the respect
4 that they deserve, from winning a fair
5 workweek, to expanded paid leave, to a
6 permanent Department of Labor. And
7 that's why I was proud to introduce a
8 bill that will protect workers when they
9 make sure that their workplaces are
10 healthy for themselves, their fellow
11 workers, and the public at-large.

12 The bill that ten of us
13 introduced will prohibit employers from
14 retaliating against workers who report or
15 expose non-compliance with the Governor's
16 and Mayor's public health orders that
17 make sure that all businesses have the
18 policies in place to prevent viral spread
19 and infection.

20 I really want to thank my
21 Council co-sponsors, Councilmembers
22 Brooks, Gauthier, Gilmore Richardson,
23 Henon, Johnson, Jones, Quinones-Sanchez,
24 Squilla, and Thomas.

25 Over the next few months,

1 5/21/20 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 Pennsylvania and our city will begin to
3 reopen, and we cannot afford health
4 protections to fall by the wayside. We
5 have a responsibility to the public and
6 to workers to open with the most careful
7 attention to public health and worker
8 safety so that there is no second wave.

9 This is an incredible challenge
10 that we face, and we have to realize that
11 there is no way this happens without all
12 of us working together to make sure that
13 the mandated safety protocols are being
14 followed.

15 Some businesses have been
16 fantastic on this front. They're
17 changing uniforms, deep cleaning their
18 facilities, and limiting occupancy. But
19 we can't leave it to chance, and it is
20 something that many businesses are deeply
21 concerned about.

22 Customers want to know that the
23 places they are entering are safe.
24 Businesses want to make sure that they
25 are following appropriate protocols. And

1 5/21/20 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 workers are on the front lines of
3 ensuring all of that, because if they are
4 not safe, none of us are safe.

5 This bill is for every worker
6 out there who has worked for too long
7 without the respect that they need and
8 deserve, and now it's a matter of life
9 and death. Too many people have
10 suffered, gotten sick, and even died
11 while we have struggled to enforce safety
12 protocols, and I refuse to sacrifice
13 these service workers.

14 The least we can do is to tell
15 them that we have got your back and we
16 will do our part. If your employer
17 flagrantly violates publicly mandated
18 health orders, this city will get your
19 back. This city will protect you. We
20 owe it to the public, to our essential
21 workers to give them the protections, the
22 dignity, and the security of this bill.

23 Thank you.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

25 Thank you, Councilwoman.

1 5/21/20 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 The Chair recognizes Councilman
3 Green.

4 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you,
5 Council President. We have offered
6 condolences to Councilmember Johnson. I
7 think it's appropriate that we have a
8 brief moment of silence on his behalf.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: We
10 will now have a moment of silence on
11 behalf of Councilman Johnson's family and
12 the passing of his sister.

13 (Moment of silence.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
15 Thank you.

16 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you,
17 Council President.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
19 Thank you, Councilman.

20 The Chair recognizes
21 Councilwoman Maria Quinones-Sanchez.

22 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank
23 you, Council President. I want to thank
24 you and the leadership team for adding a
25 Thursday session to our Calendar for this

1 5/21/20 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 spring/summer session. It allows us more
3 time to be more deliberate as we make
4 very tough choices about the budget.

5 In my experience, this Council
6 has always taken a leadership role in
7 ensuring that the budget reflect the top
8 priorities for our city and for our
9 residents. The budget is a moral
10 document.

11 I look forward to working with
12 you and all of my colleagues, and I want
13 to thank all of them who all in the last
14 few weeks have facilitated many tough
15 discussions with different sectors, from
16 the housing sector, to the hotel, to the
17 restaurant and others. This budget has
18 to protect the City's most vulnerable
19 and, at the same time, show that we are
20 proactively moving from a crisis to a
21 recovery.

22 Thank you, Council President.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

24 Thank you, Councilwoman.

25 There appears to be no

1 5/21/20 - STATED - ADJOURNMENT

2 additional speeches on behalf of members.

3 So with that, I now recognize Councilman

4 Jones for a motion to adjourn.

5 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,

6 Mr. President. I move that Council stand

7 adjourned until Thursday, June 4th, 2020

8 at 10:00 a.m.

9 (Duly seconded.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

11 Thank you. It has been moved and

12 properly seconded that Council stand

13 adjourned until Thursday, June 4th, 2020,

14 10:00 a.m.

15 All those in favor will say

16 aye.

17 (Aye.)

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

19 Everybody participated in that one.

20 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Point of

21 order, Mr. President. I just want to

22 check the record. I see Councilman Allan

23 Domb's name in the chat box.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: It's

25 not on my -- oh, okay. It just popped

1 5/21/20 - STATED - ADJOURNMENT

2 up. We're kind of like in the middle of
3 a motion.

4 Due to the unprecedented
5 circumstances associated with the
6 COVID-19, we will dispense of the rules
7 traditionally once a motion has been
8 established and we will now recognize
9 Councilman Domb.

10 Councilman Domb.

11 (No response.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

13 Councilman Domb, after all that, you
14 really need to get on the line.

15 (No response.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

17 Okay.

18 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Well, you
19 tried.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: All
21 right. We're going to start over again.

22 We now recognize Councilman
23 Jones for a motion to adjourn.

24 COUNCILMAN JONES: Well, thank
25 you again, Mr. President. I move that

1 5/21/20 - STATED - ADJOURNMENT

2 Council stand adjourned until Thursday,
3 June 4th, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

4 (Duly seconded.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

6 Thank you. It has been moved and
7 properly seconded that Council stand
8 adjourned until Thursday, June 4th, 2020,
9 10:00 a.m.

10 All those in favor will say
11 aye.

12 (Aye.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

14 Those opposed?

15 (No response.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
17 ayes have it. The motion carries.

18 I want to thank you all very
19 much in these very challenging times as
20 we continue to do the people's business.

21 Thank you so much.

22 (Stated Meeting adjourned at
23 11:43 a.m.)

24 - - -

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CERTIFICATE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the
proceedings, evidence and objections are
contained fully and accurately in the
stenographic notes taken by me upon the
foregoing matter, and that this is a true and
correct transcript of same.

MICHELE L. MURPHY
RPR-Notary Public

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