

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
STATED MEETING

Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Thursday, April 4, 2024
10:00 a.m.

PRESENT:

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

ELIZABETH McCOLLUM NAZARIO, INTERIM CHIEF CLERK

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1 4/4/24 - STATED - INVOCATION

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

3 Good morning, everyone.

4 (Good morning.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

6 Good morning, everyone.

7 (Good morning.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

9 I note that the hour has come that
10 a quorum of this Council is
11 present. Council will now come to
12 order.

13 Members will please take
14 their seats. Visitors will retire
15 to their seats outside of the
16 rails. I will also ask the Members
17 to please keep your voice to a
18 minimum. Before proceeding, I will
19 ask all those present to please set
20 your cell phones to silent or
21 vibrate. Thank you.

22 To give our invocation this
23 morning -- to give our invocation
24 this morning, the Chair recognizes
25 Father James Callahan of the mighty

1 4/4/24 - STATED - INVOCATION

2 Archbishop Ryan High School. He is
3 here today as a guest of
4 Councilmember Brian O'Neill.

5 I will ask all members and
6 guests to please rise.

7 (Councilmembers, guests and
8 visitors rise.)

9 REVEREND CALLAHAN: A
10 privilege to be here today. A
11 citizen of Philadelphia all my
12 life. Offer our prayer.

13 I begin the prayer with an
14 old Irish fable. It's a story
15 about an ancient king who was on
16 his last leg, and he called his
17 three sons to meet with him and ask
18 them to help him shorten his road.
19 And the one son stepped up and
20 said, I'll buy all the fastest
21 horses in the land and attach them
22 to your coach and shorten the road
23 for you, Dad.

24 The second son came up and
25 said, I'll cut down all the trees

1 4/4/24 - STATED - INVOCATION

2 in the forest and I'll shorten the
3 road for you. And finally, his
4 youngest son came up to him and
5 said, Dad, I'll sit next to you in
6 the coach and we'll tell stories.

7 I offer prayer today and
8 pray the members of this Council
9 listen to the stories of the people
10 of Philadelphia, all of the people
11 of Philadelphia, the young, the
12 old, the men, women, the Black, the
13 White, Hispanic, Asian. Listen to
14 their stories.

15 And as the leaders of the
16 people of Philadelphia, may they
17 not only listen to the stories but
18 may the stories help them to
19 shorten the road for us, shorten
20 the road for us all. And we ask
21 the Lord to bless them, bless us in
22 all they say and do.

23 We ask this in the Lord's
24 name. Amen.

25 (Amen.)

1 4/4/24 - STATED - APPROVAL OF JOURNAL

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

3 The Chair thanks the Pastor for his
4 invocation.

5 Council will be at ease.

6 (Council at ease.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

8 The next order of business is the
9 approval of the Journal of the
10 meeting of Thursday, March 21,
11 2024.

12 The Chair recognizes
13 Councilmember Cindy Bass.

14 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank
15 you, Mr. President.

16 I move that the Journal of
17 the meeting of Thursday, March 21,
18 2024 be approved.

19 (Duly seconded.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

21 It has been moved and properly
22 seconded that the Journal of the
23 meeting of Thursday, March 21, 2024
24 stand approved.

25 All those in favor will

1 4/4/24 - STATED - LEAVES

2 signify by saying aye.

3 (Aye.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

5 Those opposed?

6 (No response.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

8 The ayes have it and the Journal is
9 approved.

10 The next order of business
11 is the request for leaves of
12 absence.

13 And the Chair recognizes
14 Councilmember Katherine Gilmore
15 Richardson.

16 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

17 RICHARDSON: Thank you,
18 Mr. President.

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

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

23 Thank you very much.

24 The Chair recognizes
25 Councilmember Kendra Brooks.

1 4/4/24 - STATED - MOTION CONCERNING CALENDAR

2 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: Good

3 morning, Council President.

4 On behalf of the Minority,
5 there are no leaves of absence for
6 today.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

8 Thank you very much.

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

17 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

18 RICHARDSON: Thank you,
19 Mr. President.

20 I move that any of the
21 following, if considered today, may
22 be added to the agenda for this
23 session of Council and, as required
24 by law, subsequently published on
25 an amended agenda after the

1 4/4/24 - STATED - MOTION CONCERNING CALENDAR

2 consideration of those matters:
3 resolutions authorizing hearings --

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

5 Excuse me, Member.

6 I just want to ask if
7 you're going to be in the chambers
8 today, could you please keep your
9 conversations to a minimum or
10 please step outside the chambers as
11 we conduct the business today.

12 The Chair recognizes
13 Councilmember Katherine Gilmore
14 Richardson.

15 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

16 RICHARDSON: Thank you, Council
17 President.

18 I will continue, amendments
19 to bills on first reading, the
20 reconsideration of a bill vetoed by
21 or recalled from the Mayor,
22 amendments to bills recalled from
23 the Mayor, resolutions taking
24 substantive action to be voted on
25 in this session, a motion to

1 4/4/24 - STATED - MOTION CONCERNING CALENDAR

2 withdraw a bill or resolution that
3 is not on the Calendar, and a
4 motion placing a bill or a
5 resolution on or returning a bill
6 or resolution from the Suspension
7 Calendar that is not listed on
8 today's Calendar.

9 The purpose of this motion
10 is to provide the public with
11 notice concerning possible actions
12 by Council that arose too late to
13 be included on the Calendar that
14 was published prior to today's
15 session.

16 (Duly seconded.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

18 It has been moved and properly
19 seconded that the legislative
20 matters stated by Councilmember
21 Gilmore Richardson may be added to
22 the agenda should those matters
23 arise during the course of this
24 session of Council.

25 All those in favor will

1 4/4/24 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 signify by saying aye.

3 (Aye.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

5 Those opposed?

6 (No response.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

8 The ayes have it and the motion

9 carries.

10 The Chair will dispense
11 with the regular order of business
12 to recognize the guests and
13 visitors joining us in the chambers
14 this morning. On behalf of all
15 members of Council, we welcome you
16 to our Council session. We
17 appreciate you taking the time to
18 join us as we attend to the
19 legislative affairs of our city.
20 We certainly invite you to come
21 again.

22 At this time, the Chair
23 recognizes Councilmember Jones who
24 will present a resolution honoring
25 Dr. Jo-Elle Mogerman for her

1 4/4/24 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS
2 leadership as the first female and
3 first Black Chief Executive Officer
4 and President of the Philadelphia
5 Zoo.

6 Will Dr. Jo-Elle Mogerman
7 and those accompanying her please
8 join the Councilmember at the
9 podium. And she also brought a
10 guest with her as well.

11 Joining Councilmember Jones
12 at the podium is Councilmember --
13 glad I'm up here. Joining
14 Councilmember Jones is
15 Councilmember Jamie Gauthier,
16 Councilmember Isaiah Thomas,
17 Councilmember Mike Driscoll,
18 Councilmember Kathy Gilmore
19 Richardson, Councilmember Quetcy
20 Lozada, Councilmember Rue Landau,
21 Councilmember Jim Harrity and
22 Councilmember Nicolas O'Rourke.

23 Councilmember Jones, the
24 podium is yours.

25 COUNCILMAN JONES:

1 4/4/24 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 Mr. President, we also have Rojo
3 joining us in chambers today, which
4 is the mascot brought today to
5 represent the Zoo.

6 I represent the Zoo only in
7 the parking lot across the street.
8 My colleague Jamie Gauthier
9 represents the rest of the acreage
10 over there but she gave me
11 permission some time ago to take a
12 tour of your zoo, and I
13 rediscovered it. I rediscovered
14 it.

15 It's not our grandparents'
16 zoo. It is a zoo where it is more
17 interactive, it is prolific in its
18 presentation of animal life,
19 plants, mammals, reptiles and also
20 it has a biosphere that
21 incorporates plants and it's
22 amazing. And it is actually a
23 cheap date. Take your kids --
24 well, not so cheap but really good.

25 But what we're here today

1 4/4/24 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 is to recognize that we attracted
3 Philadelphia some talent from
4 St. Louis. We were able to show
5 our best side and Doctor took on
6 the undertaking of moving the
7 needle forward for the zoo. When I
8 did the tour, she pointed out what
9 the goals and objectives were.

10 The certifications -- see I
11 remember, some of the
12 certifications that she wanted to
13 maintain so that we are a first
14 class institution in Philadelphia
15 that is not just in the 3rd
16 District but a national and
17 international attraction. I would
18 also finally say that Philadelphia
19 is full of firsts and the zoo is
20 one of them.

21 We were the first zoo in
22 the nation and we still hold a very
23 high standard that zoos and animal
24 habitats go. Therefore;

25 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:

1 4/4/24 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 Recognizing and honoring

3 Dr. Jo-Elle Mogerman for her

4 leadership as the first female and

5 first Black Chief Officer and

6 President of the Philadelphia Zoo;

7 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

8 RICHARDSON: Whereas Dr. Jo-Elle

9 Mogerman has made history by

10 becoming the first woman and the

11 first Black Chief Executive Officer

12 and President of the nation's

13 oldest zoo, the Philadelphia Zoo

14 and;

15 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Whereas

16 Dr. Mogerman who assumed the role

17 in October 30, 2023 brings a wealth

18 of experience and a clear

19 commitment to the community, animal

20 welfare, staff development and

21 operational excellence making her

22 the ideal President for the

23 Philadelphia Zoo and;

24 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: And

25 whereas Dr. Mogerman's leadership

1 4/4/24 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS
2 and vision have been evident
3 throughout her esteemed career,
4 including her role as Director of
5 the St. Louis Zoo, WildCare Park
6 while she oversaw the planning and
7 development of \$230 million
8 wildlife projects and;

9 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE:

10 Whereas Dr. Mogerman's dedication
11 to conservation, community
12 engagement and operational
13 excellence aligns perfectly with
14 the values and the mission of the
15 Philadelphia Zoo, which has been a
16 pioneer in wildlife conservation
17 and community involvement since its
18 establishment in 1874 and;

19 COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL:

20 Whereas Dr. Mogerman's appointment
21 marks a significant milestone in
22 the history of zoo leadership,
23 exemplifying progress towards
24 greater diversity and inclusion and
25 leadership positions within the zoo

1 4/4/24 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 and aquarium fields and;

3 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:

4 Whereas Dr. Mogerman's management

5 style characterized by inspiring

6 her team, setting visions and

7 capitalizing on strengths will

8 undoubtedly propel the Philadelphia

9 Zoo into a model for zoos of the

10 future. Now, therefore be it;

11 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:

12 Therefore be it resolved by the

13 Council of the City of

14 Philadelphia, that it hereby

15 recognizes and honors Dr. Jo-Elle

16 Mogerman for her leadership as the

17 first female and first Black Chief

18 Executive Officer and President of

19 the Philadelphia Zoo, further

20 resolves that an engrossed copy of

21 this resolution be presented to

22 Dr. Jo-Elle Mogerman as a sign of

23 the admiration and respect of this

24 legislative body.

25 (Applause.)

1 4/4/24 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

3 The Chair recognizes Dr. Mogerman
4 for remarks.

5 DR. MOGERMAN: Well, thank
6 you all. Thank you all very much.
7 This is quite an honor -- and we
8 woke her up because she was
9 sleeping -- is because
10 fundamentally people can't be what
11 they can't see, right. And so, I'm
12 happy and honored to be here, to be
13 the steward of the nation's oldest
14 zoo and to really sort of
15 demonstrate the power of animals in
16 our lives. There's so much that
17 animals and nature have to teach
18 us. And I'm really excited to be
19 heading up the zoo and to work with
20 all of you because nature and
21 wildlife and animals can be a
22 solution to our problems.

23 So as a conservationist, I
24 fundamentally believe that
25 conservation can be a platform for

1 4/4/24 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS
2 social good. I'm looking forward
3 to working with all of you to make
4 Philadelphia a better city and to
5 make sure that the nation's oldest
6 zoo is that leading-edge zoo. And
7 we have some work to do, but we
8 will get there and we'll get there
9 together and we'll uplift the City
10 in the process.

11 So I'm super excited and
12 just the budget, yes --

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
14 Yeah, say it again.

15 DR. MOGERMAN: Supporting
16 the budget would be awesome. And
17 just some of you may not like
18 snakes. But this is really cool.
19 She's a boa constrictor so she's
20 squeezing on my arm. She just woke
21 up. She was smelling me for a
22 moment. But she was in the
23 spotlight a couple of years ago
24 because she gave birth to a baby
25 snake but was never around a male.

1 4/4/24 - STATED - COMMUNICATIONS

2 And some snake species can do that,
3 yes.

4 So she gave birth to a
5 little snake so she's famous. Yep,
6 I'm bringing famousness to the
7 Council today, so I really do thank
8 you all. I'm privileged to be
9 working and honored to be working
10 with you all. And again,
11 Philadelphia Zoo is the nation's
12 oldest zoo and we will make it the
13 best zoo for Philadelphia and for
14 the world. So thank you.

15 (Applause.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
17 Council will now be at ease.

18 (Council at ease.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
20 And the next order of business is
21 communications.

22 The Chair requests that the
23 Sergeant-at-Arms deliver the
24 messages from the Mayor to the
25 Chief Clerk. The Chief Clerk will

1 4/4/24 - STATED - COMMUNICATIONS
2 read the messages from the Mayor
3 and any other communications in her
4 possession.

5 CHIEF CLERK: To the
6 President and members of the
7 Council of the City of
8 Philadelphia. Pursuant to Sections
9 4-604 and 2-307 of the Home Rule
10 Charter, I am today transmitting to
11 the Council the recommendation of
12 the City Planning Commission on the
13 following bills: Bill No. 240020,
14 not for approval; 240058, not for
15 approval; 240119, 240121, 240122,
16 240159, 240177, 240178 for
17 approval.

18 I am transmitting for the
19 consideration of your Honorable
20 Body a resolution confirming the
21 reappointment of Reginald Streater
22 to the Board of Education of the
23 School District of Philadelphia.

24 A resolution confirming the
25 reappointment of Sarah-Ashley

1 4/4/24 - STATED - COMMUNICATIONS

2 Andrews to the Board of Education
3 of the School District of
4 Philadelphia.

5 Confirming the
6 reappointment of Chau Wing Lam to
7 the Board of Education of the
8 School District of Philadelphia.

9 Confirming the
10 reappointment of Joyce Wilkerson to
11 the Board of Education of the
12 School District of Philadelphia.

13 Confirming the appointment
14 of Crystal Cubbage to the Board of
15 Education of the School District of
16 Philadelphia.

17 Confirming the appointment
18 of Wanda Novales to the Board of
19 Education of the School District of
20 Philadelphia.

21 Confirming the appointment
22 of Cheryl Harper to the Board of
23 Education of the School District of
24 Philadelphia.

25 Confirming the appointment

1 4/4/24 - STATED - COMMUNICATIONS
2 of Whitney Jones to the Board of
3 Education of the School District of
4 Philadelphia.

5 Confirming the appointment
6 of Joan Stern to the Board of
7 Education of the School District of
8 Philadelphia.

9 To the President and
10 members of the Council of
11 Philadelphia, I am pleased to
12 advise you that on April 3, 2024 I
13 signed the following bills which
14 were passed by Council at its
15 session on March 14, 2024: Bill
16 No. 240014 and Bill No. 240016.

17 I am pleased to advise you
18 that on April 3, 2024 I signed the
19 following bills which were passed
20 by Council at a session on March
21 21, 2024. Bill Nos. 240010-A,
22 240008, 240009, 240011, 240089-A
23 and 240013-A.

24 Council President, there
25 are no other communications in my

1 4/4/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 possession.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

4 Thank you. The messages will be
5 printed in the Journal.

6 The next order of business
7 is the introduction of bills and
8 resolutions.

9 The Chair recognizes
10 Councilmember Phillips.

11 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: Good
12 morning, president. Good morning,
13 colleagues. And good morning to
14 the City of Philadelphia. I have
15 one resolution, non-privileged
16 resolution, for introduction today.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
18 Thank you.

19 Will the Clerk please read
20 the title of the nonprivileged
21 resolution.

22 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
23 authorizing the creation of a task
24 force to study and develop
25 proposals, strategies and

1 4/4/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 recommendations to enhance parental
3 guardian engagement, oversight,
4 accountability and resources within
5 the City of Philadelphia.

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

11 The Chair recognizes
12 Councilmember Kathy Gilmore
13 Richardson.

14 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE
15 RICHARDSON: Good morning, Council
16 President. Good morning,
17 colleagues. Today I offer one
18 privileged resolution. And on your
19 behalf, Council President, one
20 privileged resolution and one bill.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
22 Thank you.

23 Will the Clerk please read
24 the titles of the bill and
25 resolutions.

1 4/4/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged
3 resolution on behalf of Council
4 President honoring Philadelphia
5 76ers' Hall of Famer Allen Iverson
6 for his trailblazing career in the
7 National Basketball Association and
8 recognizing AI as a Philadelphia
9 Basketball Living Legend.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

11 This resolution will be placed on
12 today's Final Passage Calendar.

13 CHIEF CLERK: And a
14 privileged resolution introduced by
15 Katherine Gilmore Richardson,
16 recognizing and supporting the
17 health and wellness of Black mamas
18 and birthing people by
19 acknowledging April 11th through
20 the 17th, 2024 as Black Maternal
21 Health Week in the City of
22 Philadelphia.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

24 This resolution will be placed on
25 today's Final Passage Calendar.

1 4/4/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 CHIEF CLERK: And an
3 ordinance on behalf of the Council
4 President, authorizing
5 encroachments in the nature of a
6 sidewalk café in the vicinity of
7 2201 Christian Street,
8 Philadelphia, Pa 19146
9 ("Property"), under certain terms
10 and conditions.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
12 This bill will be referred to the
13 appropriate Committee.

14 The Chair recognizes
15 Councilmember Jamie Gauthier.

16 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:
17 Good morning, Council President.
18 Today I have one bill.

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

22 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
23 amending Section 9-203 of The
24 Philadelphia Code, entitled
25 "Sidewalk Sales," to revise and

1 4/4/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 clarify certain provisions related
3 to City Parks & Recreation
4 facilities and make related
5 technical changes, all under
6 certain terms and conditions.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
8 This bill will be referred to the
9 appropriate committee.

10 The Chair recognizes
11 Councilmember Isaiah Thomas.

12 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Good
13 morning, Council President.

14 I have nine non-privileged
15 resolutions to introduce on your
16 behalf and one privileged
17 resolution I wanted to introduce
18 that I'm co-introducing with the
19 great fellow from the Northeast,
20 Councilmember Mike Driscoll as well
21 as our Majority Leader and really
22 the strong advocate for
23 apprenticeship programs,
24 Councilmember Gilmore Richardson.

25 Today in the balcony area,

1 4/4/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 we have the young people as well as
3 their teacher Mr. Jarrett from
4 Mayfair. Mayfair students, can you
5 all stand up so we can recognize
6 you and give you a round of
7 applause.

8 (Applause.)

9 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: I had a
10 chance to be on the dope students'
11 podcast and I know other of my
12 colleagues have participated in the
13 amazing podcast and look at some of
14 the great work that Mr. Jarrett
15 does as well as the entire team
16 over there at Mayfair. So thank
17 you all for being here seeing your
18 government in action, and continue
19 to keep up the great work.

20 Thank you, Council
21 President. And thank you,
22 colleagues.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
24 May the Clerk please read the
25 titles of the resolutions.

1 4/4/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged
3 resolution honoring and
4 congratulating the Champion of the
5 Week Evin Jarrett, the Lead
6 Building Trades Instructor, at
7 Mayfair School for his exemplary
8 service expanding vocational
9 trading opportunities for
10 Philadelphia's youth.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
12 This resolution will be placed on
13 today's Final Passage Calendar.

14 (Applause.)

15 CHIEF CLERK: And a
16 non-privileged resolution
17 introduced on the Council
18 President's behalf, confirming the
19 appointment of Crystal Cubbage to
20 the Board of Education of the
21 School District of Philadelphia.

22 Confirming the appointment
23 of Sarah-Ashley Andrews to the
24 Board of Education of the School
25 District of Philadelphia.

1 4/4/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 Confirming the appointment
3 of Joan Stern to the Board of
4 Education of the School District of
5 Philadelphia.

6 Confirming the
7 reappointment of Reginald Streater
8 to the Board of Education of the
9 School District of Philadelphia.

10 Confirming the appointment
11 of Wanda Novales to the Board of
12 Education of the School District of
13 Philadelphia.

14 Confirming the appointment
15 of Whitney Jones to the Board of
16 Education of the School District of
17 the Philadelphia.

18 Confirming the
19 reappointment of Joyce Wilkerson to
20 the Board of Education of the
21 School District of Philadelphia.

22 And confirming the
23 appointment of Cheryl Harper to the
24 Board of Education of the School
25 District of Philadelphia.

1 4/4/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

3 These resolutions will be referred
4 to the appropriate committee.

5 The Chair recognizes
6 Councilmember Curtis Jones.

7 COUNCILMAN JONES: Good
8 morning, Mr. President. Two bills.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
10 Will the Clerk please read the
11 titles of the bills.

12 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
13 amending Section 14-704 of The
14 Philadelphia Code, entitled "Open
15 Space and Natural Resources," by
16 changing the applicability of steep
17 slope protection requirements, for
18 certain stream restoration
19 activities, all under certain terms
20 and conditions.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
22 This bill --

23 CHIEF CLERK: And -- sorry.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
25 Go ahead.

1 4/4/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 CHIEF CLERK: And an
3 ordinance amending Section 14-500
4 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled
5 "Overlay Zoning Districts," by
6 amending Section 14-524, entitled
7 "/FDO, Fourth District Overlay
8 District," to establish use
9 regulations on medical facilities,
10 all under certain terms and
11 conditions.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
13 These two bills will be referred to
14 the appropriate committee.

15 The Chair recognizes
16 Councilmember Rue Landau.

17 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU: Good
18 morning, Council President.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
20 Good morning.

21 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU: I'm
22 co-introducing one bill and one
23 resolution that's held with other
24 Councilpeople right now.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

1 4/4/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 Will the Clerk please read the
3 titles of the bill and resolution.

4 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU: No.

5 CHIEF CLERK: You can go to
6 Lozada.

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

10 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Good
11 morning, Council President.

12 I offer one bill and one
13 privileged resolution.

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

17 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged
18 resolution recognizing and honoring
19 the staff of McPherson Square
20 Library for their heroic efforts in
21 building and maintaining safe
22 spaces within one of the most
23 vulnerable but resilient
24 communities in the City of
25 Philadelphia.

1 4/4/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

3 This resolution will be placed on
4 today's Final Passage Calendar.

5 CHIEF CLERK: And an
6 ordinance authorizing an
7 encroachment in the nature of a
8 staircase in the vicinity of 1951
9 East Monmouth Street Philadelphia,
10 PA 19134, under certain terms and
11 conditions.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

13 This bill will be referred to the
14 appropriate committee.

15 The Chair recognizes
16 Councilmember Jeffrey Young.

17 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Thank
18 you, Mr. President.

19 I offer one bill.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

21 Will the Clerk please read the
22 title of the bill.

23 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
24 amending Section 14-529 of The
25 Philadelphia Code, entitled "/VDO,

1 4/4/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 Fifth District Overlay District,"
3 by removing the exemption from the
4 landscaping standards in the Zoning
5 Code, all under certain terms and
6 conditions.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
8 This bill will be referred to the
9 appropriate committee.

10 The Chair recognizes
11 Councilmember Brooks.

12 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: Good
13 morning, Council President.

14 I have one privileged
15 resolution and one bill to
16 introduce today.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
18 Will the Clerk please read the
19 titles of the bill and the
20 privileged resolution.

21 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged
22 resolution recognizing April 2024
23 as Autism Acceptance & Awareness
24 Month in the City of Philadelphia
25 and commending the work of HUNE,

1 4/4/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 Hispanos Unidos Para Nino's
3 Excepcionales in supporting people
4 living with autism as well as their
5 families and loved ones.

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

9 CHIEF CLERK: And an
10 ordinance amending Chapter 9-800 of
11 The Philadelphia Code, entitled
12 "Landlord and Tenant," to modify
13 requirements and authorizations
14 related to the City's residential
15 Eviction Diversion Program,
16 including associated changes to the
17 landlord and tenant relationship
18 and to make certain technical
19 changes, all under certain terms
20 and conditions.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
22 This bill will be referred to the
23 appropriate committee. Just for
24 correcting the record, the former
25 resolution will be placed on

1 4/4/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 today's Final Passage Calendar.

3 CHIEF CLERK: Yes.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

5 The Chair recognizes Councilmember

6 Jim Harrity.

7 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: Good

8 morning, Council President.

9 I have one privileged

10 resolution co-introduced by

11 Councilwoman Lozada, Driscoll,

12 Squilla and myself.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

14 Will the Clerk please read the

15 title of the resolution.

16 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged

17 resolution honoring Jim Ridgeway,

18 member of the 24th District PDAC,

19 whose lifelong residence in

20 Harrowgate has inspired his

21 community outreach and clean-up

22 efforts.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

24 This resolution will be placed on

25 today's Final Passage Calendar.

1 4/4/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 Council will be at ease for
3 a second.

4 (Council at ease.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

6 Councilmember Harrity, do you have
7 a bill you want to introduce as
8 well?

9 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: I'm
10 sorry. The co-introducer Driscoll
11 is going to put it in. I apologize
12 for the confusion.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

14 Okay. All right. Just for
15 clarity, in terms of the flow only
16 the prime sponsors have to
17 introduce. Even though you're a
18 co-sponsor, we just for the record
19 want the prime sponsor just to
20 introduce and then we go from
21 there. Thank you.

22 The Chair recognizes
23 Councilmember O'Rourke.

24 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE: Thank
25 you, Council President.

1 4/4/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 I have one privileged
3 resolution that I am co-introducing
4 alongside the Councilmember Rue
5 Landau.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
7 Thank you very much.

8 Will the Clerk please read
9 the title of the resolution.

10 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged
11 resolution authorizing the Joint
12 Committees on Housing, Neighborhood
13 Development and the Homeless and
14 Licenses & Inspections to hold
15 public hearings to examine the
16 conditions of rental housing,
17 rental code enforcement and the
18 need for rental repairs throughout
19 the City of Philadelphia.

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

23 The Chair recognizes
24 Councilmember Mike Driscoll.

25 COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL: Good

1 4/4/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 morning, Mr. President.

3 I offer four bills for

4 consideration.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

6 Will the Clerk please read the

7 titles of the bills.

8 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance

9 amending Title 19 of The

10 Philadelphia Code, entitled

11 "Finances, Taxes and Collections,"

12 and Title 21 of The Philadelphia

13 Code, entitled "Miscellaneous," by

14 authorizing access to legal

15 representation for certain owners

16 of blighted and deteriorated

17 dwellings and providing for tax

18 forgiveness and exemptions for

19 improvements to certain

20 deteriorated areas and dwellings to

21 incentivize the creation and

22 improvement of affordable housing

23 units, all under certain terms and

24 conditions.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

1 4/4/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

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

4 CHIEF CLERK: And an
5 ordinance to amend the Philadelphia
6 Zoning Maps by changing the zoning
7 designations of certain areas of
8 land, located within an area
9 bounded by Kensington Avenue,
10 Buckius Street, Frankford Avenue
11 and Tioga Street.

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

15 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
16 amending Section 14-533 of The
17 Philadelphia Code, entitled "/MIN,
18 Mixed Income Neighborhoods Overlay
19 District," to expand the applicable
20 area in the vicinity of Buckius
21 Street and Tioga Street, all under
22 certain terms and conditions.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
24 This bill will be referred to the
25 appropriate committee.

1 4/4/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 CHIEF CLERK: And an
3 ordinance amending Title 14 of The
4 Philadelphia Code by amending
5 Section 14-702, entitled "Floor
6 Area, Height and Dwelling Unit
7 Density Bonuses," to amend
8 provisions related to the Transit
9 Improvements bonus and by making
10 related changes, all under certain
11 terms and conditions.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
13 This bill be referred to the
14 appropriate committee.

15 The Chair recognizes
16 Councilmember O'Neill.

17 (No response.)

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
19 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
20 Mark Squilla.

21 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Thank
22 you, Mr. President.

23 I offer one bill.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
25 Will the Clerk please read the

1 4/4/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 title of the bill.

3 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
4 authorizing the installation,
5 ownership and maintenance of
6 various encroachments along the 700
7 block of Sansom Street,
8 Philadelphia, PA 19106, under
9 certain terms and conditions.

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

13 The Chair recognizes
14 Councilmember Cindy Bass.

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

17 No bills or resolutions.

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

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

23 No bills or resolutions.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
25 The next order of business is

1 4/4/24 - STATED - REPORTS

2 reports from Committees.

3 The Chair recognizes
4 Councilmember Mark Squilla for a
5 report from the Committee on
6 Appropriations.

7 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Thank
8 you, Mr. President.

9 The Committee reports out
10 three bills with a favorable
11 recommendation.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
13 Thank you.

14 Will the Chief Clerk please
15 read the report.

16 CHIEF CLERK: To the
17 President and members of the
18 Council of City of Philadelphia,
19 the Committee on Appropriations to
20 which was referred Bill No. 240176,
21 entitled authorizing transfers in
22 appropriations for Fiscal Year 2024
23 from the General Fund, certain or
24 all City offices, departments,
25 boards and commissions, and the

1 4/4/24 - STATED - REPORTS

2 Grants Revenue Fund, certain or all
3 City offices, departments, boards
4 and commissions, to the General
5 Fund, certain or all City offices,
6 departments, boards and commissions
7 and to the Aviation Fund, certain
8 or all City offices, departments,
9 boards and commissions,
10 respectfully reports it has
11 considered and amended the same and
12 returns the attached bill to
13 Council with a favorable
14 recommendation.

15 The Committee on
16 Appropriations to which was
17 referred Bill No. 240177, entitled
18 amending Bill No. 230145, entitled
19 "An Ordinance To adopt a Fiscal
20 2024 Capital Budget," by revising
21 various appropriation amounts and
22 totals, all under certain terms and
23 conditions, respectfully reports it
24 has considered and amended the same
25 and returns the attached bill to

1 4/4/24 - STATED - REPORTS

2 the Council with a favorable
3 recommendation.

4 Bill No. 240178, entitled
5 amending Bill No. 230144, entitled
6 "An Ordinance To adopt a Capital
7 Program for the Six Fiscal Years
8 2024, 2029 inclusive, by revising
9 various appropriation amounts and
10 totals, to conform to amendments to
11 the FY2024 Capital Budget
12 Ordinance, all under certain terms
13 and conditions, respectfully
14 reports it has considered and
15 amended the same and returns the
16 attached bill to Council with a
17 favorable recommendation.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
19 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
20 Squilla for a motion.

21 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Thank
22 you, Mr. President.

23 I move that the rules of
24 Council be suspended to admit first
25 reading this day of Bill Nos.

1 4/4/24 - STATED - REPORTS

2 240176, 240177, 240178 that were
3 just read into the record by the
4 Chief Clerk.

5 (Duly seconded.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

7 It has been moved and properly
8 seconded that the rules of Council
9 be suspended so as to permit first
10 reading this day of Bill Nos.
11 240176, 240177 and 240178.

12 All those in favor of the
13 motion will signify by saying aye.
14 (Aye.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

16 Those opposed?

17 (No response.)

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

19 The ayes have it. The motion
20 carries. Bill Nos. 240176, 240177
21 and 240178 will be placed on our
22 First Reading Calendar for today.

23 The Chair recognizes Nina
24 Ahmad for a report from the
25 Committee on Public Health and

1 4/4/24 - STATED - REPORTS

2 Human Services.

3 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD: Thank
4 you, Mr. President.

5 The Committee on Public
6 Health and Human Services reports
7 out two bills with a favorable
8 recommendation.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
10 Will the Clerk please read the
11 report.

12 CHIEF CLERK: To the
13 President and members of the
14 Council of the City of
15 Philadelphia, the Committee on
16 Public Health and Human Services to
17 which was referred Bill No. 240015
18 entitled adding a new Chapter
19 6-1600 to The Philadelphia Code,
20 entitled "City Reports On Opioid
21 Antidote Use," to require certain
22 reports from the City from the
23 Office of the Managing Director to
24 Council concerning the City's use
25 of opioid antidote, all under

1 4/4/24 - STATED - REPORTS

2 certain terms and conditions,
3 respectfully reports it has
4 considered the same and returns the
5 attached bill to Council with a
6 favorable recommendation.

7 And Bill No. 240017,
8 entitled adding a new Chapter
9 10-2700 to The Philadelphia Code,
10 entitled "City Reports with
11 Impermissible Camping," to require
12 certain reports from the Office of
13 the Managing Director to Council
14 concerning camping activities
15 carried out in violation of the
16 Code in the City's efforts to
17 address such activities, all under
18 certain terms and conditions,
19 respectfully reports it has
20 considered the same and returns the
21 attached bill to Council with a
22 favorable recommendation.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
24 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
25 Ahmad for a motion.

1 4/4/24 - STATED - REPORTS

2 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD: Thank
3 you, Mr. President.

4 I move that the rules of
5 Council be suspended to permit
6 first reading of this day of Bill
7 Nos. 240015 and 240017 that were
8 just read into the record by the
9 Chief Clerk.

10 (Duly seconded.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
12 It has been moved and properly
13 seconded that the rules of Council
14 be suspended so as to permit first
15 reading this day of Bill Nos.
16 240015 and 240017.

17 All those in favor of the
18 motion will signify by saying aye.

19 (Aye.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
21 Those opposed?

22 (No response.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
24 The ayes have it. The motion
25 carries. Bill Nos. 240015 and

1 4/4/24 - STATED - BILLS ON 2ND READING

2 240017 will be placed on our First
3 Reading Calendar for today.

4 The next order of business
5 is the consideration of the
6 Calendar. I note that the bills
7 just reported from Committee with
8 the suspension of the rules have
9 been deemed to have had a first
10 reading. These bills will be
11 placed on the Second Reading and
12 Final Passage Calendar for our next
13 session of Council.

14 As there are no additional
15 bills on the First Reading
16 Calendar, the Chair recognizes
17 Councilmember Gilmore Richardson
18 for the purpose of calling up bills
19 and resolutions on the Second
20 Reading and Final Passage Calendar.

21 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

22 RICHARDSON: Thank you,
23 Mr. President.

24 The following bills and
25 resolutions are on the Second

1 4/4/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 Reading and Final Passage Calendar
3 for today: Nos. 240223, 240227,
4 240229, 240230, 240020-A, 240066,
5 240019 and 240087.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
7 Thank you. Before considering
8 these bills and resolutions, we
9 consider public comment as follows:
10 Your public comment must concern
11 matters on the Second Reading and
12 Final Passage Calendars for
13 possible action at today's Council
14 session. All speakers must sign up
15 in order to testify.

16 If you have not already
17 signed up for today's session,
18 please do so now by giving your
19 name to Ms. Hasson at the table
20 outside the rails to my left. Once
21 you have signed up, you will be
22 called in the order in which your
23 name appears on the sign-up sheet.

24 Under ideal circumstances,
25 public commenters each will have

1 4/4/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 three minutes to speak. However,
3 this time may vary from session-to-
4 session. And due to today's
5 volume, the time limit will be two
6 minutes. In order to be fair to
7 all those wishing to speak, I
8 intend to hold faithfully to the
9 two-minute limit.

10 When you will begin
11 speaking, you will see a green
12 light on the podium. When there
13 are 30 seconds remaining to your
14 time, the light will turn yellow,
15 which is your reminder to conclude
16 your remarks. Once two minutes has
17 passed, the light will turn red and
18 the Sergeant-at-Arms will
19 disconnect the microphone.

20 At that moment, please
21 yield the podium to the next
22 speaker if you have not already
23 done so. I also reserve the right
24 pursuant to our rules of Council to
25 limit repetitious comments on the

1 4/4/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 same matter.

3 I will now ask the Chief
4 Clerk to please read the name of
5 our first speaker.

6 CHIEF CLERK: Harris Muhzer
7 on the Biden ACP Act.

8 (No response.)

9 CHIEF CLERK: William
10 Detoro Vargas on autism awareness.

11 (Witness approached
12 podium.)

13 MR. VARGAS: Good morning.
14 My name is William Detoro Vargas.
15 Today I stand before you deeply
16 moved and grateful as an individual
17 with autism to express my heartfelt
18 thanks to all those who championed
19 the cause of people with
20 disabilities.

21 The City of Philadelphia's
22 decision to pass the resolution in
23 honor of HUNE, the organization I
24 represent, alongside recognizing
25 Autism Acceptance Month, truly

1 4/4/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 embodies the spirit of inclusivity
3 with values so highly. It is
4 immense pride and honor that I
5 address you today as someone with
6 autism.

7 First and foremost, my
8 sincere appreciation goes to Mayor
9 Parker, Amy Nieves, the former
10 Executive Director of the
11 Commission with Disabilities,
12 Council President Johnson,
13 Councilmember Brooks who sponsored
14 this resolution as well as our
15 local District Councilmember Quetcy
16 Lozada for their unwavering support
17 and dedication.

18 The commendable efforts of
19 the Mayor's Commission on
20 Disabilities, particularly under
21 the leadership of Amy have
22 significantly impacted our
23 community. In 2023 Amy played a
24 pivotal role in the relaunch of the
25 Philadelphia's Disabilities

1 4/4/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Characteristics Map, achieving
3 global recognition for disabilities
4 the collaborations with the U.S.
5 Census.

6 I also want to mention that
7 furthermore Philadelphia's
8 designation as the first sensory-
9 inclusive certified by U.S.
10 KultureCity marks an historic
11 achievement. Autism Acceptance
12 Month does not only celebrate
13 individuals with autism, but also
14 to reflect on and recognize the
15 progress and ongoing efforts on
16 behalf of people with disabilities.
17 This month is a time for both
18 education and reflection as we
19 contemplate our achievements and
20 path forward. Thank you.

21 (Applause.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

23 Thank you.

24 Will the Clerk please call
25 the next speaker.

1 4/4/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 CHIEF CLERK: Paul Birdsong

3 on blueprint communities.

4 (Witness approached

5 podium.)

6 MR. BIRDSONG: My name is

7 Paul Birdsong. I'm the General of

8 the New Age Panther Party in

9 Michigan and in Philadelphia, and I

10 am a Deputy General of the chapter

11 in Los Angeles. I'm here to speak

12 about Resolution 240229. It says

13 at the bottom of the resolution,

14 the City of Philadelphia supports

15 and promotes neighborhood and/or

16 community revitalizations,

17 including the adaptive reuse of

18 older buildings, investment in

19 public infrastructure, active

20 transportation, supported community

21 engagement activity, building local

22 leadership, developing

23 collaborative partnerships and

24 participating and practicing some

25 local and regional planning skills.

1 4/4/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 My thing is you have a
3 group in Philadelphia that is ready
4 to stand up and serve the community
5 that's made up of civilians. We
6 mentioned this yesterday in the
7 budget meeting. These groups,
8 these community organizations that
9 are ready to actively -- if you put
10 into a city where killing is
11 happening as rapidly as it is here,
12 that money is going to go to waste.

13 The money needs to go into
14 protecting those resources. If
15 we're going to beautify the City,
16 we need civilian oversight and we
17 need people from the community that
18 can get paid to be there to police
19 those neighborhoods and those
20 communities and keep them safe.

21 We also need that
22 state-of-the-art forensics lab that
23 the Mayor proposed so that we can
24 protect this City and solve the
25 crimes, the 50 percent of the

1 4/4/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 homicides that aren't solved here

3 every year so they can be solved.

4 This needs to happen right now.

5 I was watching an old news

6 clip that there's already a state-

7 of-the-art community in University

8 City that can be used for this

9 right now. So my question is,

10 people, what are we waiting for,

11 what are we waiting for. It's

12 already there. We don't have to

13 wait. We can have justice and

14 closure now. What are we waiting

15 for.

16 Give me a logical excuse

17 while we're waiting. Why these

18 mothers from 2018 are still waiting

19 to find out who killed their child.

20 I see the red light. All power to

21 the people.

22 (Applause.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

24 Clerk, please call the next

25 speaker.

1 4/4/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 CHIEF CLERK: Marvin

3 Robinson on rental code resolution.

4 (Witness approached
5 podium.)

6 MR. ROBINSON: First of
7 all, I want to give my honor to my
8 Lord and Saviour, to the President,
9 to City Council, to everybody here.
10 My name is Marvin Robinson. I'm a
11 member of Rental United
12 Philadelphia. I'm a committee
13 person and the Second Vice-
14 president of the 4th Ward, the
15 Executive Board. I'm also the
16 mayor of West Philadelphia, those
17 that know me.

18 I'm here on behalf of
19 supporting a resolution for rental
20 repair. I want to say I appreciate
21 those who came out to our press
22 conference meeting yesterday. To
23 the City Councilmembers that was
24 there, can y'all please raise y'all
25 hands to let the people know who

1 4/4/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 was at the press conference.

3 (Hands raised.)

4 MR. ROBINSON: Thank you
5 very much. Also, I'm here because
6 I had my own experience about
7 renting from landlords, bad
8 landlords. They need to be held
9 accountable more. So what we're
10 trying to come up with, a
11 resolution to hold landlords and
12 realtors more accountable for their
13 actions that they're not taking
14 care of the tenants.

15 It's over 50 percent of
16 renters in Philadelphia, so that's
17 50 percent house-owned and 50
18 percent rental. And no renter
19 should have to go through suffering
20 in a way that I've seen people
21 suffering in my community.
22 Remember, I'm a committee person so
23 I deal with a lot of people and I
24 hear their concerns.

25 So I'm going to let you

1 4/4/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 know about mines a little bit and
3 I'm not going to take too long
4 because I know this bell is going
5 to go off. But I want to just
6 share this with y'all. Please,
7 this should not be a bill. And
8 hopefully, if it do come to be a
9 bill, that it shouldn't take long
10 for all City Councilors to come
11 together because this a
12 responsibility for all y'all in the
13 City of Philadelphia.

14 My main concern is
15 hopefully that those that are
16 sponsoring this bill, that the rest
17 of City Council will continue to
18 support this bill because this
19 helps everybody in the City of
20 Philadelphia.

21 And another thing I wanted
22 to also say, I'm here because when
23 big time realtors come into my
24 neighborhood buying up these
25 properties, kicking low-income

1 4/4/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 people out and then when it's time
3 for them to go back in there, they
4 can't afford the homes. I saw that
5 in my neighborhood in the 4th Ward.
6 I had saw that.

7 Also, we had a garden that
8 they had took away from us -- all
9 right, one minute. They took the
10 garden away from us and we let the
11 people know that we cannot allow
12 realtors keep coming in our
13 neighborhoods doing what they
14 doing. So thank you. I will be
15 here every day as long as we try to
16 get this bill passed when it comes
17 to being passed because this is
18 commonsense.

19 And I don't mean to take up
20 this time. And I'm not here to
21 fuss with nobody, but I'm here to
22 let y'all know we need this
23 resolution to come to be a bill.
24 Thank you.

25 (Applause.)

1 4/4/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

3 Will the Clerk please call the next
4 person for public comment.

5 CHIEF CLERK: Mark Postell,
6 blueprint communities.

7 (Witness approached
8 podium.)

9 MR. POSTELL: Good morning.
10 I'm Mark Postell, concerned citizen
11 of Philadelphia. I was here
12 yesterday at the budget meeting.
13 And I'm here in support of
14 directing funding for citizens that
15 really want to be a part of a
16 visible presence on the street.

17 I believe it's very
18 necessary. The Mayor declared us
19 in a state of emergency January
20 1st. And to be quite honest, I
21 believe we've been in a state of
22 emergency before January 1st and I
23 believe we still are. Petty crimes
24 like children smashing windows and
25 denting cars, to the senseless

1 4/4/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 violence and gun murders out here
3 that's taking place, we're losing a
4 lot of people and I believe a
5 visible presence on the streets,
6 Feet on the Street, Boots on the
7 Ground, Town Watch 2.0, Guardian
8 Angels, whatever you want to call
9 it is necessary.

10 We have too many
11 organizations ready, willing and
12 able to get out there on the
13 street. I joined a movement called
14 Operation Hug a Block, and it was
15 77 nights from 10:00 p.m. to
16 4:00 a.m. we was out there trying
17 to deter the violence on the
18 streets.

19 And statistically shown we
20 made an impact. And I believe even
21 if people like you more importantly
22 who joined us on the first night of
23 Operation Hug the Block,
24 Mr. President, and, Mr. O'Rourke,
25 you joined us a few times out there

1 4/4/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 on it, I believe that's very
3 important for our community to see
4 how much you guys really care, you
5 know.

6 And I think citizens would
7 join us more if you guys were out
8 there along with police and high-
9 ranking officials off duty come and
10 join us to walk the streets. It's
11 enough of us. It's more love than
12 it is the hate out there, but the
13 hate is shining through in our
14 city. And it's scary.

15 I'm a parent of four and
16 I'm scared for my son to walk three
17 blocks to the left and one block
18 up. And we don't deserve that. We
19 deserve a more healthier way of
20 life. And at the end of the day we
21 have the money to do it, so I
22 support direct funding to groups
23 like Philly Troops and Feet on the
24 Street, Boots on the Ground. Thank
25 you.

1 4/4/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 (Applause.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

4 Thank you.

5 Will the Clerk please call
6 the next speaker for public
7 comment.

8 CHIEF CLERK: Kate Perez on
9 Biden's ACP Act.

10 (Witness approached
11 podium.)

12 MS. PEREZ: My name is
13 Kate. The Affordable Connectivity
14 Program can offer household
15 discounts on their Internet service
16 up to \$30 and \$75 for people on
17 qualifying tribal lands. In some
18 cases this makes the Internet free.

19 There's three ways to be
20 eligible for the ACP program. The
21 households can already meet their
22 providers low Internet program or
23 they can qualify -- or they should
24 be at or 200 percent below the
25 federal poverty line. Someone in

1 4/4/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 this household has to be qualified
3 for government assistance program.
4 Those are programs like SNAP and
5 WIC.

6 SNAP is what we knew as
7 food stamps and the program
8 actually also took a huge cut last
9 year, which lost people about \$82
10 of SNAP benefits a month. The WIC
11 program is actually also facing a
12 funding cliff despite having
13 supported the development of 2 out
14 of 5 American babies.

15 It's hard to imagine how
16 nearly all of our welfare programs
17 are chronically underfunded, but we
18 still have billions of dollars to
19 send to foreign militaries. April
20 is our last fully-funded month of
21 the Affordable Connectivity
22 Program. Meaning that soon 20
23 million Americans might not have
24 access to the Internet any more.

25 That's about 1 in 5

1 4/4/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Americans who don't have access to

3 the Internet cost as a factor.

4 These are our most vulnerable

5 population, and the government

6 keeps dragging their feet on

7 ensuring that these programs are

8 fully funded.

9 20 million households might

10 not have the expendable income.

11 And \$30 a month is \$360 a year.

12 That's maybe enough for a doctor's

13 visit, maybe some blood work. We

14 use the Internet for essentials

15 like finding doctors and having the

16 privilege to be in the country that

17 still has functional hospitals.

18 We use the Internet to

19 contact our families and we're

20 lucky to live in a country where we

21 still have families to call. We

22 need a ceasefire and we need a

23 permanent arms embargo against

24 Israel. Thank you.

25 (Applause.)

1 4/4/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

3 Will the Clerk please call the next
4 speaker.

5 CHIEF CLERK: Kate Wallis
6 on autism awareness.

7 (Witness approached
8 podium.)

9 DR. WALLIS: Good morning,
10 Council President. My name is
11 Dr. Kate Wallis and I'm speaking in
12 support of Councilmember Brooks'
13 resolution recognizing April 2024
14 as Autism Acceptance & Awareness
15 Month in the City of Philadelphia.

16 I am a developmental and
17 behavioral pediatrician at
18 Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
19 or CHOP, a researcher at CHOP's
20 Center for Autism Research and a
21 faculty member at CHOP's Policy
22 Lab. As a clinician who cares for
23 many autistic children from early
24 childhood through young adulthood,
25 a health equity researcher who

1 4/4/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 studies autism, I am thrilled to
3 voice my support for the proposed
4 resolution, recognizing April 2024
5 as Autism Acceptance & Awareness
6 Month and commending the work of
7 HUNE, Hispanos Unidos Para Nino's
8 Excepcionales and the Philadelphia
9 Autism Project in supporting people
10 living with autism as well as their
11 families and loved ones.

12 As a developmental and
13 behavioral pediatrician, I have the
14 privilege of working with children
15 and families on the autism
16 spectrum. I am also the lead
17 researcher on the study cited in
18 the resolution that 1 in 31
19 children across the Philadelphia
20 region meets criteria for autism or
21 3.2 percent of all children.

22 While decades of data found
23 that children who identify as Black
24 or Latina were underidentified as
25 being on the autism spectrum, more

1 4/4/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 recent national and our own local
3 data suggests that Black, Hispanic,
4 Latina and Asian children are least
5 as likely as White children to have
6 autism.

7 This means that autism is a
8 form of neurodivergance that
9 affects every population across the
10 City and that every Councilperson
11 represents a district in which
12 children and families on the
13 spectrum reside. We are so
14 grateful to City Council for
15 recognizing the importance of
16 autism in Philadelphia through this
17 resolution.

18 We know, however, there's a
19 lot of work to do to help all
20 autistic children and families and
21 children achieve health equity in
22 terms of support services and
23 ultimately outcomes and prosperity.
24 CHOP is committed to ameliorating
25 health disparities in autism

1 4/4/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 through our clinical programs,
3 research and community outreach.
4 We are hopeful that we can serve as
5 a resource and a partner for City
6 Council to make the lives of
7 families better. Thank you again
8 for the opportunity to speak today
9 and for recognizing April 2024 as
10 Autism Acceptance & Awareness
11 Month.

12 (Applause.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
14 Thank you.

15 Will the Clerk please call
16 the next person for public comment.

17 CHIEF CLERK: Jamiel Owens
18 on Autism Awareness.

19 (Witness approached
20 podium.)

21 MR. OWENS: Good morning,
22 Council President. My name is
23 Jamiel Owens and I'm speaking in
24 support of Councilmember Brooks'
25 resolution recognizing April 2024

1 4/4/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 as Autism Acceptance & Awareness
3 month in the City of Philadelphia.
4 First, I would like to thank
5 Councilmember Brooks and her staff
6 as well as all of the
7 Councilmembers here today for
8 allowing me and my colleague
9 Dr. Wallis to speak. And a special
10 congratulations to HUNE and the
11 Philadelphia Autism Project for all
12 of the amazing work they have done
13 and will continue to do.

14 I am the Family Relations
15 Coordinator at the Children's
16 Hospital of Philadelphia's Center
17 for Autism Research. I'm also a
18 father of an autistic child and a
19 lifelong Philadelphia resident.
20 The reality for most parents with a
21 child with special needs is that
22 they will never have a normal
23 child.

24 Our thoughts often take off
25 into a space of depression and

1 4/4/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 regret. When my son Shane was
3 diagnosed at the age 3, I did what
4 most men do. I rationalized my
5 son's worth in society based on the
6 diagnosis he was given, the direct
7 correlation with the painful stain
8 and blow to my ego and pride.

9 For his mother, she blamed
10 herself for birthing a child who
11 had already been characterized and
12 labeled without even having the
13 chance to explore the world in
14 timeless innocence, which we as
15 adults try to achieve again every
16 day.

17 As I read this to all of
18 you right now, another marriage
19 will be annuled due to the stress
20 of the diagnosis. Another child
21 has been placed in the corner of a
22 room and left alone because they
23 are not understood. Right now a
24 father is at work masking the
25 stress and sadness of their child

1 4/4/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 because he feels he has no one. A
3 mother has given their autistic
4 child away to another family member
5 because they feel alone and they
6 are using the term too often said
7 which is autism one.

8 Each one of you are here
9 today because the public believes
10 in you and I believe in you. My
11 ask for each one of you is to join
12 us in educating and supporting the
13 families in which we all serve. My
14 reason is simply that I cannot love
15 my son and advocate for him without
16 doing the same for other autistics
17 like him and their families. Thank
18 you.

19 (Applause.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
21 Thank you.

22 Will the Clerk please call
23 the next speaker.

24 CHIEF CLERK: Cleopatra
25 Robinson.

1 4/4/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 (Witness approached
3 podium.)

4 MS. ROBINSON: Good
5 morning. I am Cleopatra Robinson
6 and I am the Founder and Executive
7 Director of A Home From Shana
8 Foundation, which is a 501(c)(3)
9 that is raising awareness of the
10 Black maternal mortality crisis and
11 working to improve birth outcomes
12 by educating families on doing the
13 support, safe childbirth and
14 childbirth rights.

15 I would like to thank
16 Council President Johnson and
17 Majority Leader Gilmore Richardson
18 for her continued support behind
19 Black maternal health and all
20 Councilmembers before me. It's
21 critical that you support Black
22 Maternal Health Week.

23 Black Maternal Health Week
24 is considered a week of activism
25 and community building founded by

1 4/4/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 Black Mamas Matter Alliance to
3 raise awareness, inspire activism
4 and strengthen organizing for Black
5 maternal health. For seven days,
6 Black maternal health-focused
7 organizations from across the
8 country align with the same mission
9 as we collaborate and host events
10 that create widespread impact to
11 support Black birthing people in
12 maternal health.

13 Council President and
14 Councilmembers, as I am in support
15 of recognizing a week to Black
16 maternal health, I ask that you not
17 only acknowledge Black Maternal
18 Health Week but that you support
19 grassroots organizations like A
20 Home From Shana Foundation that are
21 actually here in Philadelphia that
22 advocate and support Black and
23 Brown pregnant people in your
24 communities that are showing up 10
25 toes down the other 358 days of the

1 4/4/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 year. Thank you.

3 (Applause.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

5 Will the Clerk please call the next
6 speaker.

7 CHIEF CLERK: Saleemah
8 McNeil.

9 (Witness approached
10 podium.)

11 MS. McNEIL: Good morning
12 and thank you all for coming.
13 Again, my name is Saleemah McNeil.
14 I'm the Founder and Executive
15 Director of Oshun Family Center.
16 Thank you Councilmembers,
17 especially Councilmembers Nina
18 Ahmad and Katherine Gilmore
19 Richardson who have been alongside
20 with me in this fight for Black
21 maternal health since the
22 beginning.

23 Again, Oshun Family Center
24 is a nonprofit organization here in
25 Philadelphia geared towards helping

1 4/4/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 to reduce the disparities in Black
3 maternal morbidity and mortality.
4 And we do that in several ways. We
5 do that by providing mental health
6 support where reproductive
7 psychotherapists will understand
8 the plight of Black birthing
9 families. We provide doula support
10 and lactation support through other
11 clinical trial collaboration that
12 we have with Temple University.

13 This unprecedented with us
14 being able to sit at the table with
15 Black women securing research
16 studies on Black bodies. We have
17 been victimized by the health
18 system for generations and we're
19 looking to change that today in
20 moving forward. We know what the
21 issues are.

22 We know that we are dying
23 three to four times higher than our
24 White counterparts for reasons such
25 cardiovascular disease, racism,

1 4/4/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 opioid disorder and mental health
3 disorders that will result in
4 suicide. I come to you today as an
5 advocate as a maternal mental
6 health disrupter and a parent and
7 victim myself of the hospital
8 system.

9 I am entering my 18th
10 parenting anniversary tomorrow.
11 And throughout that journey, I have
12 learned so much because being a
13 survivor of a traumatic birthing
14 experience has really fostered the
15 work that I do here today. So I
16 welcome you all to join us in the
17 fight of Black maternal morbidity
18 and mortality in creating better
19 health systems for our families to
20 thrive because it starts at
21 inception. Well, thank you all so
22 much.

23 I was about to say did they
24 cut my mic because I seen the
25 green. I'm here today to garner

1 4/4/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 your support for the resolution
3 that's being introduced for us to
4 recognize Black Maternal Health
5 Week for April 11th through 17th
6 annually. This is something that
7 we do every year.

8 Oshun Family Center with
9 other community-based organizations
10 are the ones who are leading this
11 mission. So join us this year and
12 every year moving forward for Black
13 Maternal Health Week April 11th
14 through the 17th. And I encourage
15 you all to check your emails for
16 your invitations. Thank you.

17 (Applause.)

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

21 CHIEF CLERK: Tuesday
22 Chalmers.

23 (Witness approached
24 podium.)

25 MS. CHALMERS: Hi. My name

1 4/4/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 is Tuesday Chalmers. I'm the teen
3 librarian at McPherson Square
4 branch, and I just kind of wanted
5 to tell you about us. Thank you,
6 Councilwoman Lozada, for inviting
7 me here. I stand in front of you
8 as a librarian, but more
9 importantly as a longtime resident
10 in Harrowgate and Kensington. I
11 grew up there, so McPherson has
12 always had a special place in my
13 heart.

14 It has a rich history in
15 the neighborhood past and present,
16 and our staff continue to pave the
17 way for the future youth. It is a
18 safe hub for all. The library has
19 a heavily-attended afterschool
20 program and it provides lunches
21 daily. We make sure that no child
22 goes hungry and there's always a
23 fun activity to do.

24 Families can attend music
25 lessons, cooking lessons, chicken

1 4/4/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 story time which is one of my
3 favorites, sign-making, gardening,
4 arts and crafts and for adults we
5 have career workshops, crochet.
6 And during the year, the library
7 collaborates with other City
8 agencies, with Parks & Rec, MDO and
9 the Philadelphia Police to activate
10 a safe space outside and host large
11 events such as the Fall Fest and
12 the Winter Fest.

13 This past December
14 McPherson gave out 500-plus toys to
15 our youth during Winter Fest. The
16 staff at McPherson has participated
17 in Narcan and Stop the Bleed
18 trainings. The library has a
19 hygiene closet for our patrons in
20 need. We truly care about our
21 community and try every day to make
22 the library place a safe and
23 inclusive -- sorry. I'm honored to
24 stand in front of you and share my
25 story, and thank you all for

1 4/4/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 listening.

3 (Applause.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

5 Thank you.

6 Will the Clerk please call
7 the next speaker.

8 CHIEF CLERK: Samuel
9 Kuttab.

10 (Witness approached
11 podium.)

12 MR. KUTTAB: Samuel Kuttab.
13 Is this about the resolution -- no,
14 I didn't think so because I was
15 going to ask for equal time as the
16 snake.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
18 Okay. Thank you, Sam. Good to see
19 you though.

20 Will the Clerk please call
21 the next speaker.

22 CHIEF CLERK: (Inaudible).

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

1 4/4/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 CHIEF CLERK: Winnie Zhou.

3 (No response.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

5 That concludes today's public
6 comment period.

7 We will now consider the
8 bills and resolutions on the Second
9 Reading and Final Passage Calendar.

10 Will the Clerk please read
11 the title of Resolution No. 240223.

12 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
13 approving the redevelopment
14 contract of the Philadelphia
15 Redevelopment Authority for the
16 redevelopment and urban renewal of
17 a portion of the 44th and Aspen
18 Urban Renewal Area, identified by
19 house number and street address as
20 644-646 North 40th Street, a
21 portion of the Mantua Urban Renewal
22 Area, identified by house numbers
23 and street addresses as 827, 843,
24 847, 849, 841, 865 and 867 North
25 40th Street and a portion of the

1 4/4/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 Sarah Allen Urban Renewal Area,
3 identified by house numbers and
4 street addresses as 818 North 40th
5 Street, 830 North 40th Street; and
6 authorizing the Redevelopment
7 Authority to execute the
8 redevelopment contract with North
9 40th Street LP and to take such
10 action as may be necessary to
11 effectuate the redevelopment
12 contract.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
14 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
15 Jamie Gauthier for a motion
16 regarding 240223.

17 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank
18 you, Council President.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
20 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
21 Thomas on Jamie Gauthier's behalf.

22 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank
23 you, Council President. On behalf
24 of Councilmember Gauthier, I move
25 for the adoption of the resolution.

1 4/4/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 (Duly seconded.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

4 It has been moved and properly
5 seconded that Resolution No. 240223
6 be adopted.

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

9 (Aye.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

11 Those opposed?

12 (No response.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

14 The motion carries and the
15 resolution is adopted.

16 Will the Clerk please read
17 the title of Resolution No. 240227.

18 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
19 calling on President Biden and
20 Congress to prioritize a permanent
21 reauthorization and funding of the
22 bipartisan Affordable Connectivity
23 Program, ACP.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

25 The Chair recognizes Councilmember

1 4/4/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 Rue Landau for a motion regarding
3 Resolution No. 240227.

4 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU: Thank
5 you, Council President.

6 I move for the adoption of
7 the resolution.

8 (Duly seconded.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
10 It has been moved and properly
11 seconded that Resolution No. 240227
12 be adopted.

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

15 (Aye.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
17 Those opposed?

18 (No response.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
20 The ayes have it. The motion
21 carries. The resolution is
22 adopted.

23 The Clerk will please read
24 the title of Resolution No. 240229.

25 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution

1 4/4/24 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 authorizing the participation of
3 Philadelphia in the 2024 cohort of
4 the Philadelphia Blueprint
5 Communities Program.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
7 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
8 Lozada for a motion regarding
9 Resolution No. 240229.

10 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Thank
11 you, Council President.

12 I move for the adoption of
13 the resolution.

14 (Duly seconded.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
16 It has been moved and properly
17 seconded that Resolution No. 240229
18 be adopted.

19 All those in favor of the
20 motion will signify by saying aye.

21 (Aye.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
23 Those opposed?

24 (Duly seconded.)

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

1 4/4/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 The ayes have it and the motion
3 carries. The resolution is
4 adopted.

5 The Clerk will please read
6 the title of Resolution No. 240230.

7 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
8 authorizing the Commissioner of
9 Public Property to execute and
10 deliver to the Philadelphia
11 Redevelopment Authority deeds
12 conveying fee simple title to 2903,
13 2907 and 2925 Cecil B. Moore Avenue
14 in the 5th Councilmanic District of
15 the City of Philadelphia and
16 further authorizing the
17 Philadelphia Redevelopment
18 Authority to transfer to the
19 Philadelphia Land Bank fee simple
20 title to such properties pursuant
21 to Section 16-405 of The
22 Philadelphia Code.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
24 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
25 Young for a motion regarding

1 4/4/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 Resolution No. 240230.

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

5 I move for its adoption.

6 (Duly seconded.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

8 It has been moved and properly
9 seconded that Resolution No. 240230
10 be adopted.

11 All those in favor will
12 signify by saying aye.

13 (Aye.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

15 Those opposed?

16 (No response.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

18 The motion carries. The resolution
19 is adopted.

20 Will the Clerk please read
21 the title of Bill No. 240019.

22 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
23 adopting an amendment to Section V
24 of the Articles of Incorporation of
25 the Philadelphia Authority for

1 4/4/24 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 Industrial Development by
3 increasing the Authority's term of
4 existence to a date 50 years from
5 the date of approval of Articles of
6 Amendment by the Secretary of the
7 Commonwealth, under certain terms
8 and conditions.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
10 This bill having been read on two
11 different days, the question now is
12 shall the bill pass finally.

13 Will the Chief Clerk please
14 call the roll.

15 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
16 Phillips.

17 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: Aye.

18 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
19 Gilmore Richardson.

20 (No response.)

21 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
22 Gauthier.

23 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:

24 Aye.

25 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember

1 4/4/24 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 Thomas.
3 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Aye.
4 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
5 Jones.
6 COUNCILMAN JONES: Aye.
7 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
8 Landau.
9 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU: Aye.
10 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
11 Lozada.
12 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Aye.
13 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
14 Young.
15 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Aye.
16 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
17 Brooks.
18 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: Aye.
19 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
20 Harrity.
21 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: Aye.
22 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
23 O'Rourke.
24 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE: Aye.
25 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember

1 4/4/24 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 Driscoll.
3 COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL: Aye.
4 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
5 O'Neill.
6 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Aye.
7 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
8 Squilla.
9 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Aye.
10 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
11 Bass.
12 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Aye.
13 CHIEF CLERK: Councilmember
14 Ahmad.
15 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD: Aye.
16 CHIEF CLERK: And, Council
17 President Johnson.
18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
19 Aye. The ayes are 16. The nays
20 are 0. A majority of all members
21 having voted in the affirmative,
22 the bill passes.
23 Will the Clerk please read
24 any additional resolutions on
25 today's Calendar.

1 4/4/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

3 A privileged resolution introduced
4 by Councilmember Gilmore Richardson
5 on the Council President's behalf
6 honoring the Philadelphia 76ers'
7 Hall of Famer Allen Iverson for his
8 trailblazing career in the National
9 Basketball Association, recognizing
10 AI as a Philadelphia Basketball
11 Living Legend.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

13 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
14 Thomas for a motion on the
15 resolution.

16 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank
17 you, Council President.

18 On behalf of Councilmember
19 Gilmore Richardson and on your
20 behalf, I move for the adoption of
21 the resolution.

22 (Duly seconded.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

24 It has been moved and properly
25 seconded the resolution be adopted.

1 4/4/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

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

4 (Aye.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

6 All those in favor of the motion
7 will signify by saying aye.

8 (Aye.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

10 Those opposed?

11 (No response.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

13 The ayes have it and the resolution
14 is adopted.

15 CHIEF CLERK: And a
16 privileged resolution introduced by
17 Councilmember Gilmore Richardson
18 recognizing and supporting the
19 health and wellness of Black mamas
20 and birthing people by
21 acknowledging April 11th through
22 the 17th, 2024 as Black Maternal
23 Health Week in the City of
24 Philadelphia.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

1 4/4/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

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

5 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank
6 you, Council President.

7 Again, on behalf of
8 Councilmember Gilmore Richardson I
9 move for the adoption of the
10 resolution.

11 (Duly seconded.)

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

16 All those in favor will
17 signify by saying aye.

18 (Aye.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
20 Those opposed?

21 (No response.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
23 The ayes have it and the resolution
24 is adopted.

25 CHIEF CLERK: And a

1 4/4/24 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 resolution honoring and
3 congratulating the Champion of the
4 Week Evin Jarrett, the Lead
5 Building Trades Instructor, at
6 Mayfair School for his exemplary
7 service expanding vocational
8 training opportunities for
9 Philadelphia's youth introduced by
10 Councilmember Thomas.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
12 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
13 Isaiah Thomas for a motion on the
14 resolution.

15 (Duly seconded.)

16 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank
17 you, Council President.

18 I move for the adoption of
19 the resolution.

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

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

1 4/4/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 (Aye.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

4 Those opposed?

5 (No response.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

7 The ayes have it and the resolution
8 is adopted.

9 CHIEF CLERK: And a
10 resolution introduced by
11 Councilmember Lozada recognizing
12 and honoring the staff of McPherson
13 Square Library for their heroic
14 efforts in building and maintaining
15 safe spaces within one of the most
16 vulnerable but resilient
17 communities in the City of
18 Philadelphia.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
20 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
21 Lozada for a motion on the
22 resolution.

23 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Thank
24 you, Council President.

25 I move for the adoption of

1 4/4/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 the resolution.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

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

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

9 (Aye.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

11 Those opposed?

12 (No response.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

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

16 CHIEF CLERK: And a
17 resolution introduced by
18 Councilmember Brooks recognizing
19 April 2024 as Autism Acceptance &
20 Awareness Month in the City of
21 Philadelphia and commending the
22 work of HUNE, Hispanos Unidos Para
23 Nino's Excepcionales, in supporting
24 people living with autism as well
25 as their families and loved ones.

1 4/4/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

3 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
4 Brooks.

5 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: Thank
6 you, Council President.

7 I move for the adoption of
8 the resolution.

9 (Duly seconded.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

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

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

16 (Aye.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

18 Those opposed?

19 (No response.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

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

23 CHIEF CLERK: And a
24 resolution introduced by
25 Councilmember Harrity, a resolution

1 4/4/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 honoring Jim Ridgeway, member of
3 the 24th District PDAC, whose
4 lifelong residence in Harrowgate
5 has inspired his community outreach
6 and clean-up efforts.

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

10 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: I move
11 for the adoption of the resolution.
12 (Duly seconded.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
14 It has been moved and properly
15 seconded that the resolution be
16 adopted.

17 All those in favor will
18 signify by saying aye.

19 (Aye.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
21 Those opposed?

22 (No response.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
24 The ayes have it and the resolution
25 is adopted.

1 4/4/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 CHIEF CLERK: And a

3 resolution introduced by

4 Councilmember O'Rourke authorizing

5 the Joint Committees on Housing,

6 Neighborhood Development and the

7 Homeless and Licenses and

8 Inspections to hold public hearings

9 to examine the conditions of rental

10 housing, rental code enforcement

11 and the need for rental repairs

12 throughout the City of

13 Philadelphia.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

15 The Chair recognizes Councilmember

16 O'Rourke.

17 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE: I

18 move for the adoption of the

19 resolution.

20 (Duly seconded.)

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

22 It has been moved and properly

23 seconded that the resolution be

24 adopted.

25 All those in favor will

1 4/4/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 signify by saying aye.

3 (Aye.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

5 Those opposed?

6 (No response.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

8 The ayes have it and the resolution
9 is adopted.

10 (Applause.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

12 There are no more resolutions on
13 the Calendar for today.

14 Are there any speeches on
15 the part of the Minority?

16 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: Yes,
17 Council President.

18 The Eviction Diversion
19 Program is set to expire this June.
20 The bill I am introducing today
21 along with my colleagues
22 Councilmember Gauthier,
23 Councilmember O'Rourke,
24 Councilmember Landau and
25 co-sponsored by -- let me go

1 4/4/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 through the list. Councilmembers
3 Isaiah Thomas, Nina Ahmad, Curtis
4 Jones, Jim Harrity, Quetcy Lozada
5 and Mike Driscoll joining us as
6 co-sponsors. And we have a strong
7 majority and growing support for
8 making eviction diversion permanent
9 in Philadelphia.

10 Eviction Diversion is a
11 program that works. At yesterday's
12 press conference we heard from
13 Haniah Harvey, a Black mother who
14 was briefly homeless after the
15 apartment she was living in was
16 deemed unsafe by L&I. She lived in
17 a hotel room with her son for three
18 weeks exhausting her savings. Even
19 after she found a new apartment and
20 a new job at Amazon, she still had
21 to sell her car in order to keep up
22 with rent.

23 She knew she needed to do
24 everything in her power to avoid an
25 eviction filing. For people who

1 4/4/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 have eviction filings on their
3 record, it's next to impossible to
4 find livable housing. And the
5 people most impacted by eviction
6 filings are Black mothers like
7 Haniah Harvey.

8 Thanks to the Eviction
9 Diversion Program, Haniah is able
10 to avoid an eviction filing, stay
11 in a home with her son. And
12 yesterday she shared that the
13 program helped her get through the
14 most difficult times in her life.
15 She told us with pride that she now
16 is able to pay her rent on time.

17 And for Haniah and
18 thousands of other Philadelphia
19 families, Eviction Diversion has
20 been a lifesaver. A crucial factor
21 in the program's success has been
22 rental assistance or targeted
23 financial assistance which helped
24 roughly 38,000 landlords recoup
25 past due rent last year.

1 4/4/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 With the support of
3 leadership of Council President
4 Johnson, the City contributed 60
5 million in rental assistance over
6 the past two years, making it
7 possible for thousands of landlords
8 and renters to avoid going to court
9 over eviction filing. The program
10 is a national model praised by the
11 White House and by Governor Shapiro
12 for stabilizing neighborhoods and
13 keeping people in their homes. And
14 now that Philadelphia has become a
15 leader in housing justice, we
16 cannot go back. And in the midst
17 of a national housing crisis, we
18 must continue this program that is
19 proven popular and effective at
20 keeping families in their homes.

21 Today I'm also introducing
22 a resolution to recognize April as
23 Autism Acceptance & Awareness Month
24 in Philadelphia and to commend the
25 work of HUNE in supporting people

1 4/4/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 living with autism as well as their
3 families and loved ones. Groups
4 like HUNE have helped to raise
5 awareness about autism, which has
6 led to more and early diagnosis and
7 better health outcomes.

8 As the Chair of the
9 Committee on People of
10 Disabilities, I want to thank HUNE
11 for their important work to
12 increase awareness and build a
13 culture of care and support around
14 children with autism. This April
15 let's keep building on the progress
16 that we've made by recognizing,
17 embracing and supporting people
18 with autism and their families.

19 Thank you so much, Council
20 President.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
22 You're welcome. Good job.

23 The Chair recognizes
24 Councilmember O'Rourke.

25 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE: Thank

1 4/4/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 you, Council President.

3 I'd like to start by
4 acknowledging the presence of
5 someone I love very dearly. I had
6 the benefit of having my wife here
7 on the first Council session, but
8 today I have the benefit of having
9 my mother and my only begotten
10 nephew who are in the chamber here
11 behind me. Can y'all just wave to
12 the people?

13 (Applause.)

14 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE: My
15 nephew is a citizen of the
16 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on the
17 other side of the mountains way up
18 there near Erie, and my mother
19 happens to be a resident of
20 Scottsdale, Arizona. So I'm
21 grateful to have them with us --

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
23 Welcome.

24 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE: --
25 this week and this weekend. I'd

1 4/4/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 also like to go on by saying thank
3 you to my partners and my fellow
4 toilers when it comes to this Our
5 Philly Neighborhoods platform,
6 namely, Member Gauthier, Member
7 Landau and of course the esteemed
8 trailblazing Minority leader
9 herself Kendra Brooks.

10 These leaders, these
11 sisters, these women all bring
12 critical insight and experience to
13 this package and it's been a
14 wonderful learning experience
15 really to see it all come together.
16 And I want us to think about what's
17 on the table here for a second.

18 Philadelphia is a beautiful
19 city with housing stock, however,
20 that doesn't always age as
21 beautifully. That's why a range of
22 repair programs have more folks
23 signed up to participate than
24 actual resources to serve them.
25 And if homeowners are dealing with

1 4/4/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 these struggles in properties
3 they're often fighting to hold
4 onto, I think it wouldn't be hard
5 to say that we all know that
6 renters are facing these struggles
7 as well.

8 So Councilmember Landau and
9 I are introducing a resolution
10 calling for a hearing into how L&I
11 ensures that rental buildings are
12 up to code and that landlords are
13 actually treating their tenants
14 with dignity that they deserve.
15 Tenants by the way aren't just
16 sitting around and waiting for
17 this. They have been fighting for
18 decades upon decades.

19 And since I've already
20 called out the names of some strong
21 women, I want to name a few more as
22 a way to talk a bit about Philly's
23 history of tenant organizing.
24 Let's start with Lucy Spease. The
25 history buffs will know that

1 4/4/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 Mrs. Spease was a resident of the
3 old 7th Ward, the one that
4 W.E. Du Bois himself wrote about,
5 the one that was recently
6 celebrated through a month's long
7 tribute.

8 We cherish the culture that
9 was fostered in this space, but
10 let's be frank. The old 7th Ward
11 was slum lord central. Ms. Spease
12 lived in one such slum with her
13 three children, and tragically they
14 died there as well. One cold
15 December evening in 1936 their
16 building collapsed and the Spease
17 building perished along with a few
18 other co-tenants.

19 That strategy spurred
20 authorities to take that era's idea
21 of bold action to build public
22 housing in the wake of the
23 collapse, but it also spurred
24 residents in the 7th Ward to join
25 organizers as the Tenants League.

1 4/4/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 This Black grassroots formation was
3 firmly at the vanguard of the fight
4 for fair and safe housing, applying
5 people power in a time when Black
6 folks demand were supposed to be
7 channeled through preselected
8 "leaders."

9 I also want to name
10 Ms. Eden Gibson, a member of
11 Renters United Philadelphia --
12 (Applause.)

13 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE: --
14 who joined my colleagues and I
15 yesterday as we announced this
16 particular platform. Her and
17 co-tenants are dealing with pipes
18 that are probably older than her
19 and as with so many Philadelphians.
20 One day those pipes burst. This
21 was after over 20 calls to her
22 landlord, who basically said he'd
23 get around to it.

24 For Ms. Gibson and her
25 daughter this led to intolerable

1 4/4/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 living conditions and hospital
3 visits. Which way did she turn
4 becomes the question. To
5 community, to organizing as part of
6 a larger movement, one that
7 includes today's grassroots
8 formations like Philly Thrive, the
9 Philadelphia Rent Control
10 Coalition, the Philly Tenants Union
11 and the West Oak Lane Tenants who
12 recently called out their landlord
13 in tandem with DSA.

14 Given this history and this
15 present reality, the least we can
16 do as legislators is bring real
17 public oversight to these patterns
18 of lacking code enforcement.
19 Sadly, the era of slumlords in
20 Philly has not ended. I'm not
21 saying all large landlords fit this
22 mold, but it would be a lie to say
23 that none of them do.

24 So we do need to know how
25 L&I recognizes bad actors and make

1 4/4/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 them do their job. It's the least
3 that we can do so that folks on the
4 outside understand what they're
5 facing as they organize for a city
6 that offers renters protection not
7 precarity. I believe it's a noble
8 thing and been glory to this body
9 if we're able to pass it.

10 Thank you so much for your
11 time, Council President. Thank
12 you.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
14 You're welcome. Good job.
15 (Applause.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
17 Speeches on behalf of the Majority,
18 the Chair recognizes Councilmember
19 Jones.

20 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank
21 you, Mr. President.

22 As we conclude Ramadan, as
23 we concluded Easter, as we look
24 forward to Passover, the one thing
25 that I've prayed on and I've

1 4/4/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 learned is that you could pray for
3 peace but you can't legislate it.
4 And what we have realized is that
5 if both sides don't like something,
6 we should probably listen. And in
7 an effort to change the world, we
8 should begin under our feet.

9 So I join my colleague in
10 understanding that and hope that we
11 can pray for both peace in
12 Philadelphia and peace in the
13 Middle East, but we cannot
14 legislate it.

15 Thank you, Mr. President.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
17 You're welcome, Councilmember
18 Jones.

19 (Applause.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
21 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
22 Jamie Gauthier.

23 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:

24 Thank you, Council President.

25 I just wanted to commend

1 4/4/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 Minority Leader Brooks for her
3 leadership and her office's
4 leadership in working on the
5 Eviction Diversion Program and
6 making it permanent. And I'm also
7 grateful to all of our colleagues,
8 so many of our colleagues that
9 co-sponsored.

10 This program was something
11 that was borne out of crisis. It
12 came during the pandemic when we
13 were being inundated with calls
14 from people who were scared that
15 they would get evicted during the
16 biggest global health crisis of our
17 time. But sometimes the best ideas
18 are borne out of crisis. And just
19 because we're out of the crisis
20 period doesn't mean that the
21 Eviction Diversion Program and
22 other good ideas that came during
23 the pandemic shouldn't stay in
24 place. So I'm really excited about
25 the effort to make it permanent.

1 4/4/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 And I just wanted to remind
3 us about some of the good outcomes
4 that we have seen. Prior to the
5 pandemic, Philadelphia was the
6 fourth highest evicting city in the
7 entire country. As Councilmember
8 Brooks said when we're talking
9 about evictions, mostly we're
10 talking about Black and Brown
11 women, single moms getting
12 essentially kicked out on the
13 street and then having a black mark
14 on their records for years and
15 years and years.

16 And thanks to Eviction
17 Diversion, we have an average of
18 10,000 fewer evictions every single
19 year than we did prepandemic. And
20 I also want to encourage us to as
21 we go through these budget
22 negotiations make sure that rental
23 assistance gets into the budget.

24 Eviction diversion works
25 best when there is rental

1 4/4/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 assistance on the table because
3 many times it's sort of a payment
4 issue. When we were flushed with
5 rental assistance, we were able to
6 offset over 75 percent of evictions
7 and stop filings from even
8 happening. And it's imperative
9 that we make sure that we still
10 have that as a resource.

11 And we know from the budget
12 hearings, a lot of that money is
13 not included in the current
14 proposal, but I think we should
15 be -- I want to encourage us not to
16 be penny wise and pound foolish
17 because we're going to pay that
18 money one way or another.

19 When people lose their
20 homes, that's a draw on the mental
21 health system or the criminal legal
22 system. I think it contributes to
23 violence in our communities so
24 we're going to put the money out
25 either way and we actually have a

1 4/4/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 great return on our investment if
3 we can help people fill the
4 everyday gap that they have between
5 their income and their housing
6 expenses.

7 So thanks to so many
8 Councilmembers for supporting. I
9 hope that this gets through
10 successfully and I hope that we can
11 replenish the rental assistance
12 funding that helps Eviction
13 Diversion to perform so well.
14 Thank you.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
16 You're welcome. Good job.

17 The Chair recognizes
18 Councilmember Anthony Phillips.

19 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: Thank
20 you, Council President. Council
21 President Johnson and colleagues, I
22 offer today a non-privileged
23 resolution that addresses a very
24 important issue in the City of
25 Philadelphia.

1 4/4/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 No issue is more obvious
3 today in America than our failure
4 to truly support and empower and
5 resource parents and families in
6 the educational and life outcomes
7 of their children. It is a
8 national crisis that transcends
9 race, religion and social economic
10 status.

11 We need to know more,
12 investigate everything, explore
13 innovative ideas, listen to every
14 corner and remove all barriers,
15 whatever they may be, between
16 success and our children, and we
17 need to move now. We are very
18 conscious of the fact that we are
19 recognizing that parents are doing
20 the best they can.

21 And what this resolution
22 says is that we see you and we hear
23 you, but we also want to figure out
24 ways in which we can do to further
25 support you with resources and care

1 4/4/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 and support. The closest thing to
3 a silver bullet that exists in
4 educational outcomes for children
5 is parental and family engagement
6 in the educational lives of
7 children.

8 Engagement is not passive.

9 It is not just simply showing up at
10 an every-once-in-a-while event or
11 PTA meeting at school. Those are a
12 start, but they are hardly enough
13 to shape real positive gains in
14 educational outcomes, healthy uses
15 of social media, strong parent and
16 guardian relationships with
17 children or a mentally healthier
18 child on an individual- or
19 society-wide basis.

20 The Annie Casey Foundation
21 introduced an exploration of issues
22 around parental involvement and
23 engagement this way. If you could
24 wave a magic wand that would
25 improve the chances of school

1 4/4/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 success for your children as well
3 as their classmates, would you take
4 up that challenge.

5 Needless to say, we know
6 that tens of thousands of parents
7 and guardians would answer yes. We
8 know that an overwhelming majority
9 of teachers and educators in the
10 City would resoundingly answer yes
11 also. But the two most important
12 elements, parents and teachers
13 already aligned, it is now time for
14 us to formalize, empower and
15 embolden serious stakeholders to
16 tell us what to do and to inform
17 our work as policymakers. The two
18 most invested parties in education
19 are parents/guardians and teachers.

20 Council President, our
21 Mayor's recent declaration of a
22 state of emergency confirmed what
23 all of us already know and, that
24 is, there's a great peril lurking
25 in our city that compromises

1 4/4/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 children, students, families,
3 entire schools and our future.

4 Gun violence last year to
5 the tune of 3,000 incidents with 17
6 percent involving people under 21,
7 social media accelerated and driven
8 mayhem and crime, compromising
9 mental health realties and parents
10 and guardians at our wits' end
11 indicate to us that it is time for
12 us to do a comprehensive dive into
13 solutions and steps that we can
14 take to improve our City's
15 compromised outcomes. That is why
16 this resolution authorized the
17 creation of the Parent/Guardian
18 Engagement Task Force. It's so
19 vital.

20 None of us attended K to 12
21 with the ever-consuming specter of
22 social media as it exists today.
23 What that means alone demands
24 consideration and recommendations
25 to the Mayor and to us. The task

1 4/4/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 force will be comprised of parents,
3 guardians, teachers, students,
4 public SEPTA employees,
5 practitioners and experts. Six
6 months after its creation we will
7 receive a report of actionable
8 information that can inform our
9 work and call greater attention to
10 parental engagement.

11 Council President, thank
12 you for your leadership and
13 activism around this issue.
14 Colleagues, thank you for your
15 leadership around this issue as
16 well which we all care deeply
17 about. I encourage every member to
18 support this resolution when it's
19 called up for vote next week.
20 Thank you.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
22 You're welcome.

23 The Chair recognizes
24 Councilmember Quetcy Lozada.

25 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Thank

1 4/4/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 you, Council President.

3 I've had the privilege of

4 the last six weeks of welcoming

5 some amazing scholars Sankofa

6 Freedom Academy Charter School.

7 I'd like to recognize Will Nestles,

8 Samia Harper and Zaire White and

9 also Teacher Chuck McLaughlin who

10 are here joining us today. I'd

11 like to say thank you to them for

12 their time in our office for

13 sharing their wisdom with us as

14 young people. I wish them the best

15 in their continued academic journey

16 and I invite them to come back and

17 join us as often as they --

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

19 Can they stand? Can y'all stand?

20 Let's give them a round of

21 applause.

22 (Applause.)

23 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Often

24 times when we hear about Kensington

25 we always hear about the negative.

1 4/4/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 But in the midst of all the chaos
3 lies a beacon of hope in the
4 community, McPherson Library.
5 McPherson is a safe place where
6 children are sheltered from the
7 trauma that they experience every
8 day. It's staffed with hard-
9 working librarians who are there to
10 foster their growth.

11 At McPherson Square
12 Library, they are more than just
13 librarians. They are first-aid
14 nurses, therapists, teachers and
15 guidance counselors. Their work
16 has made McPherson an oasis. I
17 want to thank the McPherson Library
18 staff for everything they do for
19 our children every day.

20 Joining me today as you
21 heard earlier is Tuesday Chalmers,
22 a librarian at McPherson. I
23 encourage all of you to speak with
24 her, get to know her, get to know
25 about her work as well as some of

1 4/4/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 the challenges that they experience
3 every day. I'm grateful for
4 everything they do on the ground.
5 Their work in Kensington is not
6 easy, but they show up every day
7 regardless of whether they have the
8 necessary resources to be able to
9 provide our families with the
10 supports that they need. And so,
11 just want to recognize Tuesday for
12 everything she does on a daily
13 basis.

14 (Applause.)

15 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Thank
16 you, Council President.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
18 You're welcome.

19 The Chair recognizes
20 Councilmember Jeffrey Jay Young.

21 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Thank
22 you, Mr. President.

23 Just want to talk about two
24 quick issues. One thing I've been
25 keeping my eye on and paying

1 4/4/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 attention to is the efforts by some
3 of the largest corporations in this
4 country to essentially use the
5 courts to defeat what their workers
6 have been trying to collectively
7 come together to protect their
8 rights.

9 So I got to call out these
10 companies; Amazon, Trader Joe's and
11 Starbucks. Their workers have all
12 agreed to unionize essentially to
13 collectively bargain for workplace
14 protections. However, because
15 these companies and organizations
16 were not successful in defeating
17 the right to collectively bargain
18 and organize, they have now sued to
19 essentially say that the National
20 Labor Relations Board is
21 unconstitutional. So they're
22 trying to dismantle the system that
23 allows workers to collectively
24 bargain.

25 I think we should keep an

1 4/4/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 eye on that, Mr. President, because
3 it's going to have chilling effects
4 here locally as some of those
5 companies are some of the largest
6 employers in our region. And if we
7 support workers rights to organize,
8 we have to be vigilant and be
9 respectful of that collective
10 bargaining process.

11 And so, I just want to let
12 folks know that's something I'm
13 paying close attention to because
14 again if they're trying to use the
15 courts to say that the structure of
16 the National Labor Relations Board
17 is unconstitutional, then they're
18 going to continue to use the courts
19 in other ways as well. So I think
20 it's something I have to pay
21 attention to locally.

22 So bringing it back to
23 Philadelphia's focus specifically,
24 today at 8:00 a.m. Benjamin
25 Franklin High School held an

1 4/4/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 emergency meeting because asbestos
3 was found in the schools. I have a
4 staffer who is a former teacher at
5 Ben Franklin who understands that
6 issue intimately who tried to
7 intervene in this meeting on my
8 behalf to get information to let my
9 constituents know what's going on,
10 but he was denied entrance into
11 this meeting.

12 So I'm looking forward to
13 the upcoming budget hearing with
14 the School District of Philadelphia
15 and also the confirmation hearings
16 of the School Board appointees.

17 So I just wanted to put
18 that on the record, Mr. President.
19 Thank you.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
21 Thank you, Mr. Young. I look
22 forward to a very, very robust
23 discussion.

24 The Chair recognizes
25 Councilmember Rue Landau.

1 4/4/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU: Thank
3 you, Council President. Today I
4 was incredibly proud to
5 co-introduce an extension of the
6 Eviction Diversion Program. For
7 those of you who know me, housing
8 justice has been my life's work and
9 I could not be more excited to get
10 this legislation on the floor. If
11 you're out there listening, say it
12 with me, Housing Is a Human Right.

13 (Housing Is a Human Right.)

14 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU: Thank
15 you so much to my fellow
16 Councilmembers Brooks, Gauthier and
17 O'Rourke for co-introduction and
18 for all of your work and your
19 offices' work on this legislation.
20 Yesterday we stood together with
21 our colleagues Councilmembers
22 Thomas and Ahmad to speak about the
23 importance of expanding this
24 program which has been a
25 gamechanger and a lifesaver for so

1 4/4/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 many people across Philadelphia
3 since it was originally put in
4 place. And today I am so proud
5 that we have the support of 10
6 Councilmembers for this crucial
7 lifeline.

8 This initiative has proven
9 to be a beacon of hope for
10 countless Philadelphians facing the
11 thread of homelessness, providing a
12 vital safety net during times of
13 economic uncertainty. At its core,
14 the Eviction Diversion Program
15 represents a compassionate and
16 pragmatic approach to addressing
17 housing insecurity.

18 Here in Philadelphia it's
19 an understatement to say we are
20 facing a housing crisis. A quarter
21 of Philadelphians are renters who
22 are cost-burdened. Think about
23 that. That's 1 in 4 of our
24 neighbors. That means they need to
25 make tough decisions every month to

1 4/4/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 keep a roof over their heads,
3 including whether or not to buy
4 groceries, baby formula and even
5 utilities like gas to keep warm.

6 Housing insecurity is one
7 of the biggest crises in
8 Philadelphia and it is why I cannot
9 be more excited to move this
10 legislation forward. I spent a
11 decade as a housing attorney at
12 Community Legal Services where I
13 fought for thousands of low-income
14 families to remain in safe,
15 affordable, quality and accessible
16 housing when they were facing
17 eviction.

18 Later as the Director of
19 the Fair Housing Commission, I
20 helped craft this very legislation
21 that created the Eviction Diversion
22 Program alongside Councilmembers
23 Gauthier and Brooks as well. I
24 know firsthand how important this
25 program has been to renters across

1 4/4/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 the City. And as you can hear from
3 all of the incredible housing
4 organizers in the City, this is
5 well fought and won success, all of
6 their hard work on the ground.

7 By mandating mediation
8 between landlords and tenants in an
9 easy and efficient forum before
10 resorting eviction, we provide a
11 pathway towards resolution that
12 prioritizes stability and fairness
13 for all. This helps tenants remain
14 in their homes and with a funded
15 rental assistance TFA program, it
16 also ensures that small mom-and-pop
17 landlords who make up 70 percent of
18 landlords in Philadelphia receive
19 the rent they are owed, thereby
20 preserving the integrity of our
21 housing market and instead of
22 having them sell their properties
23 to commercial landlords often who
24 do not live in Philadelphia.

25 In a city where poverty

1 4/4/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 rates remain high, preserving this
3 lifeline for vulnerable residents
4 is not just a moral imperative but
5 also a sound economic investment in
6 our collective future. Making the
7 Eviction Diversion Program a
8 permanent fixture of Philadelphia's
9 housing policy affirms our
10 commitment to equity, justice and
11 compassion for all residents,
12 especially those who are most
13 vulnerable.

14 Second, I was also very
15 proud to introduce a resolution
16 with my colleague Nic O'Rourke to
17 take a look at ways that we can
18 enhance and empower L&I in their
19 inspections of rental properties
20 and look at our code enforcement
21 process holistically to help both
22 landlords and tenants by ensuring
23 that rental housing is repaired and
24 up to code and also pointing
25 landlords in the direction of

1 4/4/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 programs that can help them

3 subsidize this, if needed.

4 I want to thank my

5 colleague Mike Driscoll

6 co-sponsoring this piece as well.

7 As a housing attorney, I've

8 advocated and stood by so many

9 Philadelphians harshly affected by

10 landlords to address this very

11 important issue ensuring that our

12 neighborhoods are safe.

13 And finally just one piece,

14 I want to thank my colleagues and

15 advocates who spoke today calling

16 for the U.S. Congress to extend the

17 broadband discount program and

18 supporting my resolution around the

19 Affordable Connectivity Program.

20 As we learned during the pandemic,

21 it is fundamentally important that

22 our neighbors have access to high

23 quality, affordable and reliable

24 Internet.

25 Today approximately 1 in 5

1 4/4/24 - STATED - ADJOURNMENT
2 Americans without home Internet
3 cite cost as a factor. And 43
4 percent of adults with household
5 income under \$30,000 do not have
6 high speed Internet at home. Right
7 here in the Commonwealth the
8 failure of the U.S. Congress will
9 affect over 750,000 residents. So
10 thank you to the members of the
11 Council who co-sponsored this
12 resolution because this will affect
13 our neighbors here in Philadelphia.
14 Thank you.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
16 Good job.

17 As there are no more
18 speeches, the Chair recognizes
19 Councilmember Isaiah Thomas for a
20 motion to adjourn.

21 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank
22 you, Council President.

23 I move that Council stand
24 adjourned until next Thursday,
25 April 11th at 10:00 a.m.

1 4/4/24 - STATED - ADJOURNMENT

2 (Duly seconded.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

4 It has been moved and properly
5 seconded that Council stand
6 adjourned until Thursday, April 11,
7 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

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

10 (Aye.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

12 Those opposed?

13 (No response.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

15 The ayes have it and this meeting
16 is adjourned.

17 - - -

18 (Stated Meeting adjourned
19 at 11:48 a.m.)

20 - - -

21

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23

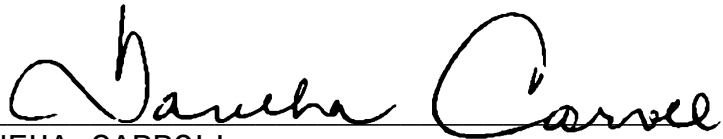
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C E R T I F I C A T I O N

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

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

TANEHA CARROLL
Court Reporter - Notary Public

(The foregoing certification of this
transcript does not apply to any reproduction
of the same by any means, unless under the
direct control and/or supervision of the
certifying reporter.)

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