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COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

3

STATED MEETING

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5

Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Thursday, January 31, 2008
10:05 a.m.

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PRESENT:

10

COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANNA C. VERNA

COUNCILWOMAN JANNIE BLACKWELL

COUNCILMAN DARRELL L. CLARKE

11

COUNCILMAN FRANK DiCICCO

COUNCILMAN W. WILSON GOODE, JR.

12

COUNCILMAN BILL GREEN

COUNCILMAN WILLIAM GREENLEE

13

COUNCILMAN CURTIS JONES, JR.

COUNCILMAN JACK KELLY

14

COUNCILMAN JAMES F. KENNEY

COUNCILWOMAN JOAN L. KRAJEWSKI

15

COUNCILMAN BRIAN J. O'NEILL

COUNCILWOMAN MARIA QUINONES-SANCHEZ

16

COUNCILWOMAN DONNA REED MILLER

COUNCILWOMAN BLONDELL REYNOLDS BROWN

17

COUNCILMAN FRANK RIZZO

COUNCILWOMAN MARIAN B. TASCO

18

19

PATRICIA RAFFERTY, CHIEF CLERK

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COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Good morning, everyone. I note that the hour has come and that a quorum of this Council is present.

Council will please come to order. Members will take their seats and visitors will retire to the seats outside the rails.

To give our invocation this morning, the Chair welcomes Reverend Roger Zepernick. He is here from the Church of Christ and San Ambrosia. Today he is here as the guest of Councilwoman Sanchez.

I would ask all members and guests to please rise.

REVEREND ZEPERNICK: Good morning, everybody.

(Good morning.)

REVEREND ZEPERNICK: There is a saying, it's a Native American saying, that says that we should think of our world not as something that we have inherited from our ancestors so much as

1 1/31/08 - STATED - INVOCATION

2 to think of it as something that we are
3 borrowing from our children.

4 Let us pray.

5 Lord God, we give you thanks
6 for your presence with us today, for your
7 constant loving and forgiving presence in
8 our lives. We pray that this day your
9 presence may guide us all to work
10 together, especially the leadership of
11 this city that's represented here today,
12 to work together with patience and
13 humility on the issues affecting our
14 city.

15 We pray that your presence will
16 remind us of your overpowering love for
17 justice, and we pray that you will help
18 us work to make things a little better in
19 Philadelphia and perhaps even that
20 Philadelphia may be a beacon of peace,
21 independence and justice in our world.

22 This prayer is given in the
23 name of Christ Jesus. Amen.

24 (Amen.)

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The

1 1/31/08 - STATED - APPROVAL OF JOURNAL

2 Chair thanks the Reverend for his very
3 inspiring invocation.

4 Council will be at ease.

5 (Council at ease.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
7 next order of business is the approval of
8 the Journal of the meeting of Thursday,
9 January 24, 2008, and the Chair
10 recognizes Councilwoman Tasco.

11 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Thank you,
12 Madam President. I move that the Journal
13 of the meeting of Thursday, January 24,
14 2008 stand approved.

15 (Duly seconded.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: It
17 has been moved and properly seconded that
18 the Journal of the meeting of Thursday,
19 January 24, 2008 stand approved.

20 All in favor will indicate by
21 saying aye.

22 (Aye.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Those
24 opposed?

25 (No response.)

1 1/31/08 - STATED - LEAVES

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
3 ayes have it, and the Journal of the
4 meeting of Thursday, January 24, 2008 is
5 approved.

6 The next order of business is
7 requests for leave of absence, and the
8 Chair recognizes Councilwoman Tasco.

9 Councilwoman Tasco, are there
10 any requests for leave of absence?

11 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Madam
12 President, on behalf of the majority,
13 there are no requests for leave of
14 absence today.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
16 Chair thanks the Councilwoman.

17 The Chair recognizes Councilman
18 Rizzo.

19 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Madam
20 President, I don't believe there's any
21 requests for leave of absences from the
22 republicans. I'll let you know if that
23 changes.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
25 you.

1 1/31/08 - STATED - COMMUNICATIONS

2 The Chair will dispense with
3 the regular order of business to
4 recognize the guests and visitors joining
5 us in Chambers this morning. On behalf
6 of all members of City Council, I welcome
7 you to our Council session. We
8 appreciate your taking the time to join
9 us as we attend to the legislative
10 affairs of our city. We certainly invite
11 you to come again.

12 The next order of business is
13 communications. The Chair requests that
14 the Sergeant-At-Arms deliver the messages
15 to the Chief Clerk.

16 The Chief Clerk will please
17 read the messages from the Mayor.

18 CHIEF CLERK: To the President
19 and members of the Council of the City of
20 Philadelphia, I am transmitting herewith
21 for the introduction and consideration of
22 your honorable body three resolutions
23 reappointing current members to the Board
24 of Directors of the City Avenue Special
25 Services District of Philadelphia and

1 1/31/08 - STATED - COMMUNICATIONS
2 Lower Merion; namely, H. James Tollett,
3 term to expire January 5, 2011; George R.
4 Goldstone, CPM, term to expire January 5,
5 2011; and Reverend Timothy Lannon, term
6 to expire January 5, 2013; and

7 Two resolutions appointing new
8 members to the Board of Directors of the
9 City Avenue Special Services District of
10 Philadelphia and Lower Merion; namely,
11 Bernie Prazenica, term to expire January
12 5, 2012, and Matthew Schure, term to
13 expire January 5, 2012; and

14 A resolution confirming the
15 appointment of Lori Shorr as the Public
16 School Family and Child Advocate; and

17 An ordinance authorizing the
18 President of the Fairmount Park
19 Commission, the Executive Director of
20 Fairmount Park and the Procurement
21 Commissioner, on behalf of the City of
22 Philadelphia, to enter into a Concession
23 Agreement with Billy Casper Golf, LLC,
24 all under certain terms and conditions;
25 and

1 1/31/08 - STATED - COMMUNICATIONS

2 An ordinance amending Bill No.
3 070368, entitled "An ordinance approving
4 Fiscal Year 2008 Capital Budget providing
5 for expenditures for the capital purposes
6 of the Philadelphia Gas Works," by
7 approving a revised Capital Budget for
8 Fiscal Year 2008; and

9 An ordinance authorizing and
10 directing the revision of lines and
11 grades on a portion of City Plan No. 305
12 and 306 by placing on the City Plan
13 Delaware Avenue from Lewis Street to
14 Buckius Street.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
16 you. The messages will be printed in the
17 Journal.

18 I would ask the Chief Clerk to
19 please read any other communications in
20 her possession.

21 CHIEF CLERK: That's all I
22 have, Madam President.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
24 you.

25 The next order of business is

1 1/31/08 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 the introduction of bills and
3 resolutions, and the Chair recognizes
4 Councilman Kenney.

5 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you,
6 Madam President. I offer three
7 resolutions, one on behalf of Councilman
8 DiCicco and myself.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
10 you.

11 The Chief Clerk will please
12 read the title of the resolutions.

13 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
14 recognizing the Electric Factory
15 Concerts, one of the world's most
16 successful and influential concert
17 promoters, on the occasion of their 40th
18 anniversary.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
20 Chair recognizes Councilman Kenney.

21 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: I move the
22 adoption of the resolution.

23 (Duly seconded.)

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

1 1/31/08 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 the resolution be adopted.

3 All in favor will signify by
4 saying aye.

5 (Aye.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Those
7 opposed?

8 (No response.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
10 ayes have it and the resolution is
11 adopted.

12 CHIEF CLERK: And a resolution
13 authorizing the Committee on Streets and
14 Services to hold public hearings to
15 investigate sidewalk closures during
16 construction projects and examine ways to
17 improve pedestrian access to these
18 sidewalks by requiring covered and
19 protected walkways around construction
20 sites.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:
22 Again, the Chair recognizes Councilman
23 Kenney.

24 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: I move for
25 its adoption.

1 1/31/08 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Do I
3 hear a second?

4 (Duly seconded.)

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

8 All in favor will please say
9 aye.

10 (Aye.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Those
12 opposed?

13 (No response.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
15 ayes have it and the resolution is
16 adopted.

17 CHIEF CLERK: And a resolution
18 authorizing the Committee of the
19 Environment to hold public hearings to
20 examine Philadelphia International
21 Airport's recycling policies and goals,
22 and to explore alternate approaches to
23 increasing the Airport's recycling rate
24 on both public and internal waste.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The

1 1/31/08 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 Chair recognizes Councilman Kenney.

3 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: I move the
4 adoption of the resolution.

5 (Duly seconded.)

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

9 All in favor will say aye.

10 (Aye.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Those
12 opposed?

13 (No response.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
15 ayes have it.

16 Is that to be referred to a
17 committee for public hearings?

18 CHIEF CLERK: Yes.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: It
20 will be referred to the appropriate
21 committee. Thank you.

22 The Chair recognizes
23 Councilwoman Blackwell.

24 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank
25 you, Madam President. Today I introduce

1 1/31/08 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 one resolution.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
4 you.

5 The Chief Clerk will please
6 read the title of the resolution.

7 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
8 authorizing the Commissioner of Public
9 Property to execute and deliver to the
10 Redevelopment Authority deeds located in
11 the 3rd and 6th Wards of the City of
12 Philadelphia.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
14 Chair recognizes Councilwoman Blackwell.

15 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank
16 you, Madam President. I move for the
17 adoption of the resolution.

18 (Duly seconded.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: It
20 has been moved and properly seconded that
21 the resolution be adopted.

22 All in favor will indicate by
23 saying aye.

24 (Aye.)

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Those

1 1/31/08 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 opposed?

3 (No response.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The
5 ayes have it and the resolution is
6 adopted.

7 The Chair recognizes Councilman
8 Greenlee.

9 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
10 you, Madam President. I have no bills or
11 resolutions today.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank
13 you.

14 The Chair recognizes
15 Councilwoman Krajewski.

16 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Thank
17 you, Madam President. I did have one
18 resolution that I intended to introduce
19 today, as you know, on the EMS, because
20 this is a very, very important issue, but
21 we will be meeting with the Mayor,
22 yourself and Councilman Kenney, today.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: To
24 discuss it. Thank you.

25 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Thank

1 1/31/08 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 you.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
4 you very much.

5 Councilwoman Krajewski, did you
6 have a bill?

7 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: I have
8 one resolution.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
10 you.

11 The Chief Clerk will please
12 read the title of the resolution.

13 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
14 honoring the Sounds of Liberty Barbershop
15 Chorus on their 60th anniversary.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
17 Chair recognizes Councilwoman Krajewski.

18 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: I also
19 have one bill.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
21 you. Councilwoman, the resolution --

22 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: I move
23 the adoption of the resolution.

24 (Duly seconded.)

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: It

1 1/31/08 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 has been moved and properly seconded that
3 the resolution be adopted.

4 All in favor will say aye.
5 (Aye.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Those
7 opposed?

8 (No response.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
10 ayes have it and the resolution is
11 adopted.

12 CHIEF CLERK: And an ordinance
13 amending Chapter 10-1200 of The
14 Philadelphia Code, entitled "Posting of
15 Signs," by authorizing code officials to
16 issue a single code violation notice for
17 multiple sign violations by the same
18 person.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
20 bill will be referred to the appropriate
21 committee.

22 The Chair recognizes
23 Councilwoman Tasco.

24 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Madam
25 President, I offer two resolutions on

1 1/31/08 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 your behalf and one bill on my --

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
4 you.

5 The Chief Clerk will please
6 read the title of the bill.

7 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
8 amending Bill No. 070368, entitled "An
9 ordinance approving the Fiscal Year 2008
10 Capital Budget providing for expenditures
11 for the capital purposes of the
12 Philadelphia Gas Works.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
14 bill will be referred to the appropriate
15 committee.

16 CHIEF CLERK: And a resolution
17 authorizing the Commissioner of Public
18 Property to execute and deliver to the
19 Redevelopment Authority deeds located in
20 the 36th, 40th and 48th Wards of the City
21 of Philadelphia.

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

24 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: I move for
25 the adoption of the resolution.

1 1/31/08 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 (Duly seconded.)

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

6 All in favor will indicate by
7 saying aye.

8 (Aye.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Those
10 opposed?

11 (No response.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
13 ayes have it and the resolution is
14 adopted.

15 CHIEF CLERK: And a resolution
16 confirming the appointment of Lori Shorr
17 as the Public School Family and Child
18 Advocate.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
20 Chair recognizes Councilwoman Tasco.

21 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Doesn't
22 that go to committee?

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: That
24 will be referred to the committee, and I
25 believe the hearing is scheduled for

1 1/31/08 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 Monday at 10 o'clock.

3 The Chair recognizes

4 Councilwoman Miller.

5 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Thank
6 you, Madam President, and good morning.

7 Today I have two resolutions.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
9 you.

10 The Chief Clerk will please
11 read the title of the first resolution.

12 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
13 recognizing, honoring and celebrating
14 Central High School's Girls Basketball
15 Team and Coach Frank Greco for their
16 amazing 100 consecutive victories.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
18 Chair recognizes Councilwoman Miller.

19 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: I move
20 for the adoption of the resolution.

21 (Duly seconded.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: It
23 has been moved and properly seconded that
24 the resolution be adopted.

25 All in favor will please say

1 1/31/08 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 aye.

3 (Aye.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Those
5 opposed?

6 (No response.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
8 ayes have it and the resolution is
9 adopted.

10 CHIEF CLERK: And a resolution
11 authorizing the Commissioner of Public
12 Property to execute and deliver to the
13 Redevelopment Authority deeds located in
14 the 11th, 12th, 13th and 59th Wards of
15 the City of Philadelphia.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:
17 Again, the Chair recognizes Councilwoman
18 Miller.

19 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: I move
20 for the adoption of the resolution.

21 (Duly seconded.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: It
23 has been moved and properly seconded that
24 the resolution be adopted.

25 All in favor will please say

1 1/31/08 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
 2 aye.
 3 (Aye.)
 4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Those
 5 opposed?
 6 (No response.)
 7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
 8 ayes have it and the resolution is
 9 adopted.
 10 The Chair recognizes
 11 Councilwoman Sanchez.
 12 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: I offer
 13 nothing today. Thank you.
 14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
 15 you.
 16 The Chair recognizes Councilman
 17 Green.
 18 COUNCILMAN GREEN: I offer no
 19 bills or resolutions.
 20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
 21 Chair thanks the gentleman.
 22 The Chair recognizes Councilman
 23 Jones.
 24 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you.
 25 I have eight resolutions and one bill

1 1/31/08 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 today, Madam President.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
4 you.

5 The Chief Clerk will please
6 read the title of the bill.

7 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
8 continuing a neighborhood improvement
9 district beyond the date of termination
10 of such district in an area that
11 generally includes both sides of Ridge
12 Avenue from Main Street to 7220 Ridge
13 Avenue and certain blocks of streets that
14 intersect the portion of Ridge Avenue,
15 which is known as the Roxborough
16 District.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
18 bill will be referred to the appropriate
19 committee.

20 CHIEF CLERK: And a resolution
21 authorizing the Council Committee on
22 Housing, Neighborhood Development and the
23 Homeless to hold hearings on the problems
24 of foreclosure in Philadelphia and the
25 extent to which subprime mortgages

1 1/31/08 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 contribute to the problem, and further
3 investigate the possibility of imposing a
4 moratorium on sheriff's sales on those
5 foreclosures.

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

8 COUNCILMAN JONES: I move for
9 the adoption of the resolution.

10 (Duly seconded.)

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

14 All in favor will say aye.

15 (Aye.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Those
17 opposed?

18 (No response.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
20 ayes have it and the resolution will be
21 referred to the appropriate committee.

22 CHIEF CLERK: And a resolution
23 authorizing City Council's Committee on
24 Commerce and Economic Development and
25 Public Health and Human Services to hold

1 1/31/08 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 joint public hearings on how the
3 consolidation of anti-poverty
4 applications will stimulate the City's
5 economy while at the same time helping
6 those who most need these services.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:
8 Again, the Chair recognizes Councilman
9 Jones.

10 COUNCILMAN JONES: I move for
11 the adoption of this resolution, Madam
12 President.

13 (Duly seconded.)

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

17 All in favor will signify by
18 saying aye.

19 (Aye.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Those
21 opposed?

22 (No response.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
24 ayes have it and the resolution will be
25 referred to the appropriate committee.

1 1/31/08 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 CHIEF CLERK: And a resolution
3 initiating action to continue a
4 neighborhood improvement district beyond
5 the date of termination of such district,
6 in an area that generally includes both
7 sides of Ridge Avenue from Main Street to
8 7220 Ridge Avenue and certain blocks of
9 streets that intersect the portion of
10 Ridge Avenue, which is known as the
11 Roxborough District.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
13 Chair recognizes Councilman Jones.

14 COUNCILMAN JONES: I move for
15 the adoption of this resolution, Madam
16 President.

17 (Duly seconded.)

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: It
19 has been moved and properly seconded that
20 the resolution be adopted.

21 All in favor will say aye.

22 (Aye.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Those
24 opposed?

25 (No response.)

1 1/31/08 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
3 ayes have it and the resolution is
4 adopted.

5 CHIEF CLERK: And a resolution
6 appointing Bernie Prazenica to the Board
7 of Directors of the City Avenue Special
8 Services District of Philadelphia and
9 Lower Merion.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
11 resolution will be referred to the
12 appropriate committee

13 CHIEF CLERK: And a resolution
14 appointing Matthew Schure to the Board of
15 Directors of the City Avenue Special
16 Services District of Philadelphia and
17 Lower Merion.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
19 resolution will be referred to the
20 appropriate committee.

21 CHIEF CLERK: And a resolution
22 reappointing George Goldstone to the
23 Board of Directors of the City Avenue
24 Special Services District of Philadelphia
25 and Lower Merion.

1 1/31/08 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
3 resolution will be referred to the
4 appropriate committee.

5 CHIEF CLERK: And a resolution
6 reappointing H. James Tollett to the
7 Board of Directors of the City Avenue
8 Special Services District of Philadelphia
9 and Lower Merion.

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

13 CHIEF CLERK: And a resolution
14 reappointing Reverend Timothy Lannon to
15 the Board of Directors of the City Avenue
16 Special Services District of Philadelphia
17 and Lower Merion.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: This
19 resolution will be referred to the
20 appropriate committee, and the Chair
21 recognizes Councilman Goode.

22 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you,
23 Madam President. I offer one resolution.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
25 you.

1 1/31/08 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 The Chief Clerk will please
3 read the title of the resolution.

4 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
5 authorizing City Council's Committee on
6 Commerce and Economic Development to
7 investigate, and to hold hearings on, the
8 issue of diversity within Philadelphia
9 Building and Construction Trades, and
10 further authorizing the Committee to
11 issue subpoenas to compel the attendance
12 of witnesses and the production of
13 documents and other evidence.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The
15 Chair recognizes Councilman Goode.

16 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you,
17 Madam President. I move for the
18 adoption.

19 (Duly seconded.)

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

23 All in favor will say aye.

24 (Aye.)

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Those

1 1/31/08 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 opposed?

3 (No response.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The
5 ayes have it and the resolution will be
6 referred to the appropriate committee.

7 The Chair recognizes
8 Councilwoman Brown.

9 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you,
10 Madam President. I offer one bill on
11 behalf of the Administration.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank
13 you.

14 The Chief Clerk will please
15 read the title of the bill.

16 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
17 authorizing the President of the
18 Fairmount Park Commission, the Executive
19 Director of Fairmount Park and the
20 Procurement Commissioner, on behalf of
21 the City of Philadelphia, to enter into a
22 Concession Agreement with Billy Casper
23 Golf, all under certain terms and
24 conditions.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The

1 1/31/08 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 bill will be referred to the appropriate
3 committee.

4 At this time, the Chair
5 recognizes Councilman DiCicco.

6 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: Thank you,
7 Madam President. I offer five bills, two
8 privileged resolutions and one resolution
9 regarding a Charter change that was
10 co-sponsored by Councilman Green.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
12 you.

13 The Chief Clerk will please
14 read the title of the first bill.

15 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
16 providing for the submission to the
17 qualified electors of the City of
18 Philadelphia of an amendment to the
19 Philadelphia Home Rule Charter to create
20 an independent Police Advisory Commission
21 and provide for its funding, and to
22 empower Council to provide by ordinance
23 for the appointment, powers and duties of
24 such a Commission, as approved by
25 Resolution of the City Council.

1 1/31/08 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

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

5 CHIEF CLERK: And an ordinance
6 amending Title 14 of The Philadelphia
7 Code, entitled "Zoning and Planning," by
8 adding a new Section 14-908, entitled
9 "Queen Village Neighborhood Conservation
10 District."

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

14 CHIEF CLERK: And an ordinance
15 granting permission to Shailesh
16 Tilvawala, owner and operator of the
17 newsstand located on the northeast corner
18 of 8th and Market Street.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
20 bill will be referred to the appropriate
21 committee.

22 CHIEF CLERK: And an ordinance
23 to amend the Philadelphia Zoning Maps by
24 changing the zoning designations of
25 certain areas of land located within an

1 1/31/08 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 area bounded by Delaware Avenue,
3 Marlborough Street Right-of-way, Delaware
4 River and the former Shackamaxon Street.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
6 bill will be referred to the appropriate
7 committee.

8 CHIEF CLERK: And an ordinance
9 authorizing and directing the revision of
10 lines and grades on a portion of City
11 Plan Nos. 12-S, 19-S, 71, 238 and 308 by
12 revising the curblines and grades of
13 Christopher Columbus Boulevard.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
15 bill will be referred to the appropriate
16 committee.

17 CHIEF CLERK: And a resolution
18 proposing an amendment to the
19 Philadelphia Home Rule Charter to create
20 an independent Police Advisory Commission
21 and provide for its funding, and to
22 empower Council to provide by ordinance
23 for the appointment, powers and duties of
24 such Commission.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The

1 1/31/08 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 resolution will be referred to the
3 appropriate committee.

4 CHIEF CLERK: And a resolution
5 honoring and recognizing Old Saint
6 Joseph's Church on the event of its 275th
7 anniversary.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
9 Chair recognizes Councilman DiCicco.

10 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: Thank you,
11 Madam President. I move for the adoption
12 of the resolution.

13 (Duly seconded.)

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

17 All in favor will say aye.

18 (Aye.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Those
20 opposed?

21 (No response.)

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

25 CHIEF CLERK: And a resolution

1 1/31/08 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 authorizing the Commissioner of Public
3 Property to execute and deliver to the
4 Redevelopment Authority deeds located in
5 the 31st Ward of the City of
6 Philadelphia.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna:
8 Again, the Chair recognizes Councilman
9 DiCicco.

10 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: Thank you,
11 Madam President. I move for the adoption
12 of the resolution.

13 (Duly seconded.)

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

17 All in favor will say aye.

18 (Aye.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Those
20 opposed?

21 (No response.)

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

25 The Chair recognizes Councilman

1 1/31/08 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 O'Neill.

3 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Madam
4 President, I am waiting for a bill. It
5 hopefully will be here before the end of
6 the session. I just got a call. The
7 blue backer is being printed out, so
8 hopefully we'll hold on. Thank you.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Okay.

10 The Chair recognizes Councilman
11 Clarke.

12 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you,
13 Madam President. I have two bills and
14 one resolution.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
16 you.

17 The Chief Clerk will please
18 read the title of the bill.

19 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
20 amending Title 9 of The Philadelphia
21 Code, entitled "Regulation of Businesses,
22 Trades and Professions," by adding a new
23 Section 9-630, entitled "Sale of Used
24 Cars," providing for protection against
25 sale of cars in need of substantial

1 1/31/08 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 repairs, commonly known as the "lemon
3 law," all under certain terms and
4 conditions.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
6 bill will be referred to the appropriate
7 committee.

8 CHIEF CLERK: And an ordinance
9 amending Title 9 of The Philadelphia Code
10 by amending Section 9-203 relating to
11 Street Vendors and Section 9-205 relating
12 to Sidewalk Sales, by prohibiting street
13 and sidewalk vending on certain portions
14 of 17th Street.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: This
16 bill will be referred to the appropriate
17 committee.

18 CHIEF CLERK: And a resolution
19 authorizing the Commissioner of Public
20 Property to execute and deliver to the
21 Redevelopment Authority deeds located in
22 the 32nd, 43rd and 47th Wards of the City
23 of Philadelphia.

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

1 1/31/08 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: I move for
3 the adoption.

4 (Duly seconded.)

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

8 All in favor will say aye.

9 (Aye.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Those
11 opposed?

12 (No response.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
14 ayes have it and the resolution is
15 adopted.

16 The Chair recognizes Councilman
17 Kelly.

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

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

23 The Chair recognizes Councilman
24 Rizzo.

25 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Madam

1 1/31/08 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 President, no bills or resolutions today.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
4 you.

5 We have neither reports from
6 committees nor bills on the Second
7 Reading Calendars today.

8 Are there any speeches on the
9 part of the minority?

10 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Madam
11 President?

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
13 Chair recognizes Councilman O'Neill.

14 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Since this
15 is such a short meeting, I would normally
16 not ask for a two-minute recess to
17 introduce a bill, but this is a rather
18 important issue, the Fox Chase Cancer
19 Center. It was brought to a resolution
20 yesterday by the Mayor, and both boards
21 have to vote, but I believe everything
22 was worked out and the bill is being
23 printed. I understand Mr. Auerbach is on
24 his way down with it, so if we could --

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:

1 1/31/08 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 That's fine. We have a couple members
3 from the majority that would like to be
4 recognized.

5 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Terrific.
6 Talk on.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: So I
8 think this will work out fine.

9 Councilman DiCicco.

10 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: Thank you,
11 Madam President.

12 Yesterday the Governor made
13 some comments about this City Council
14 which appeared in today's Metro, and
15 normally I kind of let these things pass
16 because I know everyone has a bad day and
17 I'm told -- although I have the highest
18 respect for the Governor, especially when
19 he was Mayor, that he has more of those
20 bad days than some of us, and maybe
21 yesterday was one of those days. I don't
22 know. But I need to go on the record to
23 officially respond to those comments and
24 more importantly for me is to take this
25 opportunity once again to thank my

1 1/31/08 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 colleagues for the support they've given
3 me in this very important issue about
4 casino development in the City of
5 Philadelphia. And no disrespect to the
6 new faces in Council, the folks that were
7 here before you, and I would hope that
8 you will continue to give me the same
9 support.

10 I recognize and I've always
11 recognized the importance of casinos in
12 terms of creating jobs and the tax
13 revenues that we anticipate, and I have
14 always been in favor of casinos. I
15 remember back in 1995 when I first ran
16 for public office, I was not an incumbent
17 and along the same river wards that I
18 represent today a casino, which was then
19 being referred to as river boat gaming,
20 was not a very popular thing. And in
21 face of the possible voter backlash in
22 1995, as I campaigned throughout the
23 river wards and people would ask me the
24 question, do you support river boat
25 gaming, my answer was always yes. And

1 1/31/08 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 they looked at me kind of strange, those
3 folks in those days, because they didn't
4 know me, that why would a person who is
5 running for office, understanding and
6 knowing that people in those communities
7 along the river were opposed to gaming,
8 be supportive of gaming when he's asking
9 us for our vote.

10 And I say that just to make a
11 point, that I am not doing this for any
12 political reasons. I've been elected.
13 I've been nominated in the primary and
14 re-elected, as everyone else has been in
15 this room, to another four terms. It's
16 been highly publicized that I'm in the
17 DROP program, which means I won't be back
18 in 2012, unless there's a draft movement.
19 Who knows.

20 But seriously, so politically I
21 have nothing to lose. There is nothing
22 for me to lose but my reputation and the
23 disruption of thousands and thousands of
24 people who have placed their trust in me
25 for these 12 years and re-elected me for

1 1/31/08 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 another four years to do a job. Because
3 that's what we're all hired to do, a job.
4 And I think we've done a good job to
5 date.

6 I reached out for the Governor
7 on two, three occasions over the past
8 year to have a conversation about the
9 potential and possibility of re-siting
10 these casinos. The silence was
11 deafening.

12 I have reached out to the
13 Governor to talk about the traffic
14 patterns and traffic studies that we've
15 been asking for. We've had public
16 hearings, as you all know, and I'm sure
17 some of you would like to forget the
18 hours that we spent in this room with
19 packed chambers of people who are
20 seriously concerned about the impact of
21 these casinos on their communities. EPA
22 studies.

23 All of those things that are
24 important to all of us in particular --
25 and, again, no disrespect to the at-large

1 1/31/08 - STATED - SPEECHES
2 folks -- who represent specific Council
3 districts, any time there's a
4 development, whether it's a small
5 development or a large development, we
6 engage in a conversation. We have
7 discussions with the developers and the
8 community groups, who we're not being
9 extorted by, and least of all me again,
10 because this is my last four years. They
11 can't impeach me, I don't think, if I
12 didn't represent them according to the
13 way they would like for me to represent
14 them. But we do it because it's the
15 right thing to do. But when the Governor
16 says that we are gutless, I think that is
17 an insult, not to me but to the rest of
18 the folks in this body who have placed
19 their trust in me when I asked you for
20 your support in not moving certain pieces
21 of legislation or refusing to do certain
22 pieces of legislation because it was in
23 the best interest of the people I
24 represent. But ultimately at the end of
25 the day, we all represent the same

1 1/31/08 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 people. These are citizens and people
3 who live in the City of Philadelphia.

4 So to call us gutless I think
5 is an insult. I think if we had done
6 what the Governor is suggesting to do,
7 just approve these casinos, without
8 having looked at the impact not only to
9 the residential community but to the
10 businesses that are down on Columbus
11 Boulevard and Delaware Avenue and to the
12 port industry and the impact on those
13 jobs that may be a negative impact -- we
14 don't know because we can't have that
15 conversation or haven't had it to the
16 depth that we should have -- then we
17 would have been irresponsible. And I'd
18 rather be called gutless than
19 irresponsible, because that's what we
20 were elected to do, is to be responsible
21 to the people we have represented.

22 Councilwoman Blackwell got
23 accused of a lot of crazy things because
24 she was holding up legislation, but it
25 was important. And I may have disagreed

1 1/31/08 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 with her privately, but I don't know what
3 goes on in her district, because that's
4 not where I spend my time. I spend my
5 time in the neighborhoods that I
6 represent. So I rely on her comments and
7 her expertise to tell me and the rest of
8 us what was important to the folks that
9 she represents, which, again, ultimately
10 we all represent, because this is the
11 City Council of the City of Philadelphia.
12 The Governor is the Governor of the
13 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. We just
14 happen to be a county in the Commonwealth
15 of Pennsylvania. But our first
16 responsibility is to the people of this
17 city. And to call us gutless I think is
18 a disgrace, and if he was having one of
19 those tantrum days, get over it,
20 Governor, because I ain't giving up.

21 Thank you. Thank you, Madam
22 President.

23 (Applause.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
25 you.

1 1/31/08 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 The Chair recognizes
3 Councilwoman Tasco.

4 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Well, my
5 comments are very mild. But I agree with
6 him.

7 I just want to note that we are
8 broadcasting again to the citizens of
9 Philadelphia through WURD. They began
10 last week and will be carrying the
11 Council sessions, which so many of our
12 citizens missed during the time we had no
13 coverage. And the show is co-sponsored
14 by William "Billy" Anderson, Thera
15 Martin-Connelly and, on occasion,
16 Christopher Booth. But they're here
17 today and will be every Thursday. And
18 their format will be different. They
19 will have Councilmembers on to talk about
20 what's happening in Council and then
21 after to talk about what happened after
22 Council. So it will be more of an
23 analysis for the public to know and
24 understand what we did in a session.

25 So we're pleased to have them,

1 1/31/08 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 and thanks to you.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
4 you.

5 Councilwoman Miller.

6 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Thank
7 you. Good morning. I just wanted to
8 give an update on the Building Trades
9 complying with Council's bill that asked
10 and requests information on a commitment
11 to the diversity plan and the membership
12 data and the five-year goals that
13 includes --

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:
15 Councilwoman, I don't know if anybody
16 else can hear you.

17 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: I'm
18 sorry. I've had a cold, Council
19 President, for the last three weeks and
20 sometimes it's a little difficult.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:
22 That's fine.

23 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: I'll try
24 not to cough.

25 I want to give an update on the

1 1/31/08 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 Building Trades and where we are as it
3 relates to the Convention Center
4 expansion and the Building Trades
5 complying with Council's bill that
6 requests information on their commitment
7 to a diversity plan, their membership
8 data and the five-year goals that lays
9 out what they plan to do regarding
10 inclusion and increasing their numbers,
11 if they need to.

12 Yesterday was the date set to
13 receive the packets from 17 unions
14 involved in the Convention Center
15 expansion project. We did receive 11
16 packets, and most were incomplete. The
17 unions actually will be working over this
18 weekend to complete the package as we
19 expect them to be completed. I don't
20 want to state a reason why some were
21 complete and some weren't, but we did get
22 11.

23 I just want to let people know
24 the ball is in their court. City Council
25 members and the legislative staff of

1 1/31/08 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 many, many members have worked very hard
3 since December and we've made ourselves
4 readily available, and you know that.
5 We've had meetings in your office.

6 So there's been many meetings
7 and there's been many long six, seven
8 hour working sessions. And I just want
9 to reiterate that Council has cooperated.
10 We've done everything we can to reach
11 out. The ball is in their court, and we
12 do expect to receive packages that are
13 more complete than those that we received
14 yesterday on Monday.

15 Thank you.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
17 you.

18 The Chair recognizes Councilman
19 Jones.

20 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
21 Madam President.

22 Today I introduced two
23 seemingly unrelated resolutions, but both
24 of them are to deal with a serious
25 problem facing Philadelphians. One is

1 1/31/08 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 the mortgage foreclosure rate that we are
3 seeing, which is on an increase, and the
4 second is access to anti-poverty programs
5 and dollars that can serve as a stimulus
6 to our most needy population in
7 Philadelphia. I'm grateful to this
8 Council for the work that has already
9 been done on these issues, particularly
10 predatory lending by Councilwoman Tasco,
11 and I'm encouraged and look forward to
12 working with her on this issue going
13 forward.

14 But I heard the President of
15 the United States in his last -- I'm
16 going to say it again -- his last State
17 of the Union Address talk about the
18 country sliding into a slight recession.
19 Well, here in Philadelphia we've been hit
20 especially hard by that recession. And
21 when the nation catches a cold, it seems
22 like Philadelphia catches pneumonia.

23 We are looking at the erosion
24 of a middle class that can be impacted by
25 the subprime market that is going awry.

1 1/31/08 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 If you look at some statistics recently,
3 October 2007, 16 percent of the subprime
4 loans were 90 days delinquent or more.
5 That's up three times from 2005. But
6 last week, January 25, 2008, that rate
7 climbed to 21 percent. Subprime loans
8 disproportionately, three times as much,
9 affect low-income neighborhoods. They
10 are more likely to be in minority
11 communities impacting the poor.

12 Closely linked to the predatory
13 lending is the current foreclosure rate.
14 This is particularly alarming when we
15 look at almost two million loans are to
16 be rescheduled in the next 18 months.
17 That impact will be felt by individuals,
18 not directly impacted by their own
19 individual mortgages, but the increase of
20 venture capitalists -- in this case
21 vulture capitalists that are taking
22 advantage of people and getting deep
23 discounts on units in Philadelphia --
24 affect each and every one of us and
25 potentially even our bond rating, as

1 1/31/08 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 we've seen in cities like Cleveland, Ohio
3 and the Sierra Pacific where they've had
4 to adjust their interest up from 4.8 to 6
5 percent.

6 Finally, Madam President, the
7 subprime lending and foreclosure crisis
8 particularly hits hard our seniors where
9 they're at the point in life where they
10 may have to choose between heating,
11 eating and paying their mortgage. I met
12 a young -- a lady who was not so young at
13 56th and Haverford. We were doing
14 petitions. It was cold. She was sitting
15 on a bench outside. After getting her
16 signature, I asked her why was she
17 sunning in the winter, and she explained
18 to me, Madam President, that it was
19 warmer outside than in her house, because
20 she could not afford to fix her heater.

21 We need to stop some of the
22 things that are going on that are
23 impacting our low and moderate-income
24 communities. We need to protect the
25 eroding middle class. We need to

1 1/31/08 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 consider streamlining some of the
3 application processes that we go through
4 in anti-poverty programs.

5 There are families who are
6 leaving money on the table because they
7 cannot navigate the bureaucracy.
8 Healthcare, daycare, LIHEAP, even Hooked
9 on Phonics for Title I young people are
10 being left on the table because of the
11 application process. Entities have
12 estimated, experts, have estimated that
13 we can have as much as \$12,000 per family
14 if we coordinate these activities.

15 So I say this to you and my
16 colleagues here today that so many low
17 and moderate-income people live from
18 paycheck to paycheck. I even think
19 that's the American way. But many of our
20 poor are one paycheck away from
21 homelessness, and that is not okay with
22 me.

23 So I support those resolutions.
24 I hope that we can work together on
25 finding some solutions to this. I have

1 1/31/08 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 total optimism about the future of
3 Philadelphia, but I'm always going to
4 remind us, always, about the 24 percent
5 of people in this town that live under
6 the poverty guidelines.

7 Thank you very much.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:

9 You're welcome.

10 The Chair recognizes
11 Councilwoman Brown.

12 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you,
13 Madam President.

14 I wish to inform my colleagues
15 that this afternoon at 3 o'clock my
16 office will be convening more than a
17 dozen environmental and "green"
18 organizations, along with representatives
19 from the Administration, where we will
20 take hopefully a big picture look-see
21 assessment collectively on how we can
22 raise the awareness in the celebration of
23 Earth Day. Today that meeting is at 3
24 o'clock in City Council Caucus Chambers,
25 and all are invited who are interested in

1 1/31/08 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 doing what we can collectively as a city
3 and raising the awareness of Earth Day.

4 Thank you, Madam President.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:

6 You're welcome.

7 The Chair recognizes Councilman
8 Clarke.

9 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you,
10 Madam President.

11 I'll be very brief, because I
12 understand --

13 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: I'm good
14 now, yeah.

15 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: You're
16 good, Councilman? All right.

17 Madam President, I haven't been
18 speaking about this issue in a very
19 public way in this Chambers about the
20 casino issue, but I feel the need to
21 reference it to some degree today.

22 I, like Councilman DiCicco,
23 think that the Governor's statements, if
24 in fact he made them in that way, were
25 inappropriate. I concur with him that

1 1/31/08 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 this is not a gutless Council. We have
3 very difficult issues before us on a
4 daily basis and I think that we've stood
5 up and we've taken appropriate stands in
6 a meaningful way.

7 But I'm a little concerned as
8 we continue to move forward that one of
9 the facilities that's being proposed, the
10 SugarHouse, is not being accurately
11 characterized in a public way about the
12 level of support and the true sense of
13 the level of opposition in the Fishtown
14 community, particularly the part of the
15 community that I represent. As you know,
16 the facility is located in Councilman
17 DiCicco's district, and directly across
18 the street is the district that I
19 represent where essentially most of the
20 residents of Fishtown live, and then
21 there's a small part of Northern
22 Liberties that is in close proximity.
23 And over the past year, I have to give
24 credit where credit is due, that the
25 representatives from SugarHouse got

1 1/31/08 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 involved in this process when there was
3 almost 100 percent opposition to the site
4 and they have diligently worked over a
5 period of time and kind of, frankly
6 speaking, turned it around. I have
7 received more than 500 individually
8 signed postcards from residents of
9 Fishtown stating their support for this
10 facility.

11 If you happen to be riding
12 through Fishtown, you will see on the
13 facades of a whole lot of houses little
14 red ribbons, indicating their support for
15 this facility.

16 I must acknowledge that in a
17 couple of community meetings that I had
18 as what is referred to as ground zero,
19 the area directly adjacent to the site,
20 there is significant concerns and
21 opposition, and it is understandable,
22 because those people will be impacted by
23 this facility more than anyone else.

24 With those meetings, we had
25 attempted during the last Administration

1 1/31/08 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 to have -- we actually had several
3 meetings to talk about remediating any
4 problems associated with the facilities,
5 and we were making progress. That
6 Administration ended. The new
7 Administration is in place. I've reached
8 out to the point person, Ms. Gillen, for
9 casinos to try and continue those
10 discussions.

11 And the reason I speak today,
12 that at some point I think the
13 significant -- and I mean significant --
14 number of individuals in the Fishtown
15 community that support the SugarHouse
16 casino, if it is done in an appropriate
17 way, should have a voice. As we move
18 ahead, as their representative, I think I
19 am duty-bound to continue to speak on
20 behalf of the individuals to in fact
21 support this development and speak on
22 behalf of those individuals who are
23 opposed to it for a number of different
24 issues. But as this thing moves forward,
25 I just want to say today I'm going to

1 1/31/08 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 start elevating the level of discussion
3 for those individuals, all of the
4 individuals who are around the area, so
5 it's not characterized in a way that
6 people are under the impression that
7 everyone in the Fishtown community or in
8 the adjacent community is opposed to the
9 SugarHouse site, because that's just not
10 the facts.

11 So, Madam President, as we move
12 ahead, I want to continue to work with my
13 good friend and colleague, Councilman
14 DiCicco, in the event that this
15 ultimately ends up at that site, but
16 these people do need to have a voice at
17 some point.

18 Thank you.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank
20 you.

21 The Chair recognizes Councilman
22 O'Neill.

23 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Yes, Madam
24 President. And to think I needed a
25 two-minute recess.

1 1/31/08 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 I offer one bill.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank
4 you.

5 The Chief Clerk will please
6 read the title of the bill.

7 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
8 authorizing the President of the
9 Fairmount Park Commission, the Executive
10 Director of Fairmount Park and the Public
11 Property Commissioner, on behalf of the
12 City of Philadelphia, to enter into a
13 lease with the Philadelphia Authority for
14 Industrial Development to lease
15 City-owned land south of Shelmire Avenue
16 adjacent to the campus of the Fox Chase
17 Cancer Center to PAID, under which PAID
18 will enter into a sublease with the
19 Fairmount Park Conservancy, a
20 Pennsylvania non-profit corporation,
21 under which the Conservancy would enter
22 into a sublease and other agreements with
23 Fox Chase, pursuant to which Fox Chase
24 will construct, maintain and operate
25 cancer research and treatment facilities

1 1/31/08 - STATED - ADJOURNMENT

2 on the property.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
4 you. The bill will be referred to the
5 appropriate committee.

6 At this time, the Chair
7 recognizes Councilwoman Tasco for a
8 motion to recess. Oh, I'm sorry. I'm
9 sorry. Old habits just never die.

10 Councilman Clarke.

11 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Madam
12 President, this is my shining moment.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: I'm
14 sorry.

15 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: This is my
16 big thing. You can't take this away from
17 me.

18 Thank you, Madam President.
19 Madam President, I move that Council be
20 recessed until Monday, February the 4th,
21 2008 until 10:30 a.m.

22 (Duly seconded.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
24 you.

25 All in favor will please say

1 1/31/08 - STATED - ADJOURNMENT

2 aye.

3 (Aye.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Those
5 opposed?

6 (No response.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
8 ayes have it. Council will stand in
9 recess until Monday at 10:30.

10 Thank you very much.

11 (Council recessed at 10:45
12 a.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

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I HEREBY CERTIFY that the

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proceedings, evidence and objections are

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contained fully and accurately in the

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stenographic notes taken by me upon the

7

foregoing matter on January 31, 2008, and that

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this is a true and correct transcript of same.

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MICHELE L. MURPHY

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RPR-Notary Public

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