

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
STATED MEETING

Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Thursday, February 8, 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

MICHAEL A. DECKER, CHIEF CLERK

- - -

1 2/8/24 - STATED - INVOCATION

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

3 I know that the hour has come and
4 that a quorum of this Council is
5 present. Council will now come to
6 order.

7 Members please take your
8 seats. Visitors will retire to the
9 seats outside the rails. Before
10 proceeding, I will ask all those
11 present to set your cell phone to
12 silent or vibrate.

13 On this special day, we will
14 be having an interfaith invocation
15 and presentation. So first, I'm
16 going to ask for Imam Yahaya Adam of
17 Masjid Al-Jamia of Philadelphia. He
18 is here today as the guest of
19 Councilwoman Jamie Gauthier.

20 I will ask all Members and
21 guests to please rise.

22 (Councilmembers, guests and
23 visitors rise.)

24 IMAM ADAM: Good morning,
25 everyone.

1 2/8/24 - STATED - INVOCATION

2 (Good morning.)

3 IMAM ADAM: I'm Imam Yahaya

4 Adam from Masjid Al-Jima and I'm

5 here to lead the Islamic prayer, and

6 I would like to do it the

7 traditional way, which is always

8 said in Arabic. And I hope and pray

9 God will answer our prayer: (Arabic
10 translation.)

11 Thank you very much. I want
12 to make it brief and I hope and pray
13 this will be a wonderful meeting.

14 Thank you everyone and thank you for
15 having us here. We appreciate it so
16 much. Assalam alaikum wa
17 rehmatullahi wa Barakatuh. Peace be
18 unto you.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

20 Also joining us today from Brooklyn,
21 New York, not a stranger to the City
22 of Philadelphia, former Executive
23 with the DNC who helped propel our
24 last great President to become the
25 President of the United States,

1 2/8/24 - STATED - INVOCATION

2 she's here today in the form of the
3 cloth. Bishop Leah Daughtry,
4 Presiding Prelate of The House of
5 the Lord of Church here on behalf of
6 Majority Leader Councilwoman
7 Katherine Gilmore Richardson.

8 BISHOP DAUGHTRY: Isaiah
9 58:12. Some of you will rebuild the
10 ancient ruins. You will restore the
11 foundations laid long ago. You will
12 be called the repairer of broken
13 walls, the restorer of streets in
14 which to dwell. Let us pray.

15 Oh God, creator of heaven
16 and earth, lover of peace, freedom
17 and justice, we thank you for the
18 grace you have given to us to live
19 in so great a country that it
20 celebrates and embraces the open and
21 exuberant free exchange of ideas.

22 We thank you for those who
23 gather today in this chamber,
24 seeking to fulfill the
25 responsibility of faithful

1 2/8/24 - STATED - INVOCATION
2 citizenship, and who give so freely
3 of their time, their talent and
4 their treasure for a cause and a
5 purpose that is greater than
6 themselves, for them and for
7 ourselves, for the work that must be
8 done, for the bridges that must be
9 built, for the children who must be
10 saved, for the sick who must be
11 healed, for the last who must be
12 first.

13 We ask for strength for the
14 journey, clarity of thought,
15 sharpness of vision, singleness of
16 purpose and the courage of our
17 convictions to make the promise of
18 America the practice of America.
19 Because we ask if it is in your
20 name, we decree and declare that it
21 is so. And all the people of God
22 say Amen.

23 (Amen.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

25 The Chair thanks the Imam and the

1 2/8/24 - STATED - APPROVAL OF JOURNAL

2 Bishop for their invocation.

3 Council will now be at ease.

4 (Council at ease.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

6 Such a great show of unity. The

7 next order of business is the

8 approval of the Journal of the

9 meeting of Thursday, February 1,

10 2024.

11 The Chair recognizes

12 Councilmember Cindy Bass.

13 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank

14 you, Mr. President.

15 I move that the Journal of

16 the meeting of Thursday, February 1,

17 2024 be approved.

18 (Duly seconded.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

20 It has been moved and properly

21 seconded that the Journal of the

22 meeting of Thursday, February 1,

23 2024 stand approved.

24 All those in favor will

25 signify by saying aye.

1 2/8/24 - STATED - LEAVES

2 (Aye.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

4 Those opposed?

5 (No response.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

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

9 The next order of business
10 is the request of leave of absence.
11 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
12 Katherine Gilmore Richardson.

13 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

14 RICHARDSON: Thank you,
15 Mr. President.

16 On behalf of the Majority,
17 there are no requests for leave of
18 absence today.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
20 The Chair thanks the Councilmember.

21 The Chair recognizes
22 Councilmember Kendra Brooks.

23 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: Thank
24 you, Mr. President.

25 On behalf of the Minority,

1 2/8/24 - STATED - MOTION CONCERNING CALENDAR

2 there are no requests for leave of
3 absence today.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

5 The Chair thanks the Councilmember.

6 The Chair recognizes
7 Councilwoman Gilmore Richardson for
8 a motion concerning certain
9 legislative matters that may arise
10 during the course of today's session
11 of Council that were not listed on
12 the Calendar circulated prior to
13 today's session.

14 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

15 RICHARDSON: Thank you,
16 Mr. President.

17 I move that any of the
18 following matters, if considered
19 today, may be added to the agenda
20 for this session of Council and as
21 required by law, subsequently
22 published on an amended agenda after
23 the consideration of those matters:
24 resolutions authorizing hearings,
25 resolutions taking substantive

1 2/8/24 - STATED - MOTION CONCERNING CALENDAR
2 action to be voted on in this
3 session, a motion to withdraw a bill
4 or resolution that is not on the
5 Calendar and a motion placing a
6 resolution on or returning a
7 resolution from the Suspension
8 Calendar that is not listed on
9 today's calendar.

10 The purpose of this motion
11 is to provide the public with notes
12 concerning possible actions with
13 Council to be included on the
14 Calendar that were published prior
15 to today's 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 for today should those
23 matters arise during the course of
24 this session of Council.

25 All those in favor will

1 2/8/24 - STATED - RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

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 now dispense
11 for the record order of business to
12 recognize guests and visitors
13 joining us in the chambers this
14 morning. On behalf of all members
15 of City Council, I welcome you to
16 our Council session. We appreciate
17 you taking the time and joining us
18 as we attend the legislative affairs
19 of our great city. We certainly
20 invite you to come again.

21 We have a couple of guests
22 who are here with us today. And so,
23 at this moment I'm going to dispense
24 with the regular order of business
25 and recognize Councilwoman Katherine

1 2/8/24 - STATED - RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

2 Gilmore Richardson.

3 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

4 RICHARDSON: Thank you, Council
5 President.

6 Good morning, Council
7 President and colleagues. Today I
8 have the humble honor and privilege
9 to welcome again a very special
10 guest to Philadelphia City Council.
11 Today we are joined by Bishop Leah
12 Daughtry, Convener of the 2024 Power
13 Rising Summit.

14 Power Rising provides a safe
15 and inclusive space for an
16 intergenerational network of Black
17 women to turn power into action and
18 create an actionable agenda to be
19 implemented in our communities by
20 leveraging social, political,
21 professional, cultural and economic
22 power. These women are able to
23 utilize their influence for the
24 betterment of ourselves, our
25 communities and our country.

1 2/8/24 - STATED - RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

2 This year's summit is taking
3 place right here in Philadelphia,
4 the birthplace of democracy from
5 February 8th to February 11th.

6 Bishop Leah Daughtry has the
7 distinct honor of being the CEO of
8 the Democratic National Convention.
9 Bishop Daughtry is the only person
10 in the party's history to be the CEO
11 of two, not one but two Democratic
12 National Conventions, including here
13 in the great City of Philadelphia.
14 The first being in 2008 with the
15 nomination of President Barack
16 Obama, and the second convention she
17 chaired was here in Philadelphia in
18 2016 to nominate Secretary Hillary
19 Clinton.

20 I want to thank you for
21 joining us here in the great City of
22 Philadelphia with your special
23 guest, A'shanti Gholar, President
24 and CEO of Emerge; Sharon Daughtry,
25 Executive Director of DB&A; Tina

1 2/8/24 - STATED - RECOGNITION OF GUESTS
2 Akintayo, principal of Akintayo
3 Management Group; and Leah Henderson
4 as well as Simone who has helped us
5 organize this wonderful visit. We
6 welcome you all to the great city of
7 Philadelphia, the City of Brotherly
8 Love and Sister Effectiveness.
9 Thank you.

10 (Applause.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

12 Thank you.

13 The Chair now recognizes
14 Councilmember Jamie Gauthier.

15 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:

16 Thank you so much, Council
17 President.

18 I'd like to take a moment to
19 acknowledge everyone who's here
20 today to help us honor the life and
21 celebrate the memory of Emanuel
22 Kelly. I want to extend a special
23 welcome to Emanuel Kelly's wife,
24 Dyan Kelly, the entire Kelly family
25 welcome and the team from Kelly

1 2/8/24 - STATED - RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

2 Maiello Architects.

3 Emanuel Kelly passed on late
4 last month, but his mark on
5 Philadelphia will live on for
6 generations. He founded Kelly
7 Maiello Architects, one of the first
8 Black-owned architecture firms in
9 the City, and the team behind dozens
10 of public spaces, including the
11 Reading Market, West Philly High,
12 the Criminal Justice Center and
13 much, much more. Recently his firm
14 was also the lead design firm
15 helping Rebuild with the Kingsessing
16 Rec Center.

17 And so, he's left his mark
18 physically on our City's built
19 architecture, but he's also been a
20 leader in the design community and
21 beyond. He was someone that I
22 personally looked up to. He reached
23 out to me many times with
24 encouragement in my fight for
25 affordable housing in the 3rd

1 2/8/24 - STATED - RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

2 District and across the City, and
3 his mark will live on in the City
4 forever.

5 And so, we're going to hear
6 from his loved ones and his friends
7 during public comment. And I just
8 want to welcome them today.

9 Thank you so much, Council
10 President.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
12 Thank you. Can we give the family a
13 round of applause please.

14 (Applause.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
16 Can the Kelly family stand? Can the
17 Kelly family stand?

18 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: They
19 might be still in route, but we will
20 receive them when they get here.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
22 Okay. Absolutely. Emanuel was a
23 great gentleman.

24 We do not have any
25 presentations to make today.

1 2/8/24 - STATED - COMMUNICATIONS

2 Therefore, the next order of
3 business is communications.

4 The Chair requests that the
5 Sergeant-of-Arms deliver the
6 messages from the Mayor to the Chief
7 Clerk. The Chief Clerk will read
8 the messages from the Mayor.

9 CHIEF CLERK: To the
10 President and Members of the Council
11 of the City of Philadelphia, I am
12 transmitting for the consideration
13 of your Honorable Body:

14 A resolution authorizing the
15 Philadelphia Land Bank to dispose of
16 2501, 2855, 2857 Amber Street; 2143,
17 2155, 2157 East Birch Street; 2134,
18 2172 East Cambria Street; 2103, 2107
19 East Cumberland Street; 2107 East
20 Dakota Street; 2478, 2480 Emerald
21 Street; 2022 East Fletcher Street;
22 1929, 1935, 1943, 2215 through 2217
23 East Harold Street; 2637, 2639,
24 2643, 2645 and 2649 Janney Street;
25 2936 Jasper Street; 2639, 2641,

1 2/8/24 - STATED - COMMUNICATIONS
2 2643, 2653 Kensington Avenue; 2068
3 East Monmouth Street; 1844 East
4 Oakdale Street; 2140, 2151, 2153 and
5 2156 East Orleans Street; 2646, 2658
6 Ritter Street; 2089 East Somerset
7 Street; 2106, 2133, 2135, 2250, 2252
8 East William Street located in the
9 1st Councilmanic District, all under
10 certain terms and conditions.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

12 Thank you. The messages will be
13 printed in the Journal.

14 The Chief Clerk will please
15 read any other communications in his
16 possession.

17 CHIEF CLERK: I have none,
18 Mr. President.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

20 Thank you, Mr. Chief Clerk.

21 The next order of business
22 is the introduction of bills and
23 resolutions.

24 The Chair recognizes
25 Councilmember Anthony Phillips.

1 2/8/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: Thank
3 you. Good morning, Council
4 President. Good morning, colleagues
5 and good morning, viewing public.

6 Council President, I have no
7 bills or resolutions for today.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
9 Thank you.

10 The Chair recognizes
11 Councilwoman Gilmore Richardson.

12 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE
13 RICHARDSON: Thank you, Council
14 President.

15 I offer no bills or
16 resolutions this morning.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
18 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
19 Gauthier.

20 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:
21 Thank you, Council President.

22 I offer one bill and one
23 privileged resolution today.

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

1 2/8/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 titles of the bill and resolution.

3 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance

4 amending Sections 1 and 2 of an

5 Ordinance, (Bill No. 170086)

6 approved May 22, 2017, entitled "An

7 Ordinance authorizing the revision

8 of lines and grades in a portion of

9 City Plan No. 269," by relocating

10 portions of the houselines and

11 curblines of Convention Avenue from

12 34th Street to Health Sciences

13 Drive.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

15 This bill will be referred to the

16 appropriate committee.

17 CHIEF CLERK: And a

18 privileged resolution honoring,

19 commemorating the life and legacy of

20 revered Philadelphian, Professor and

21 Architect Emanuel Kelly.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

23 This resolution will be placed on

24 today's Final Passage Calendar.

25 The Chair recognizes

1 2/8/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 Councilmember Isaiah Thomas.

3 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Good

4 morning, Council President. Good

5 morning, colleagues. Good morning

6 to the listening public.

7 Today I have two resolutions

8 to offer to the body. Thank you,

9 sir.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

11 Thank you.

12 Will the Clerk please read

13 the titles of the resolutions.

14 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged

15 resolution recognizing and

16 congratulating the Champion of the

17 Week, 5th Grader Emily Ensore, for

18 her work raising money for Project

19 HOME to help end cycles of poverty

20 and homelessness in Philadelphia. A

21 reminder to all of us that little

22 Philadelphians can do big things.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

24 This resolution will be placed on

25 today's Final Passage Calendar.

1 2/8/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 CHIEF CLERK: And a
3 privileged resolution recognizing
4 the impact of Pennsylvania's Clean
5 Slate law and celebrating its recent
6 expansion.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
8 This resolution will be placed on
9 today's Final Passage Calendar.

10 The Chair recognizes
11 Councilmember Curtis Jones, Jr.

12 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank
13 you, Mr. President, colleagues.
14 One resolution today.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
16 Will the Clerk please read the title
17 of the resolution.

18 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged
19 resolution authorizing the City
20 Council Committee on Public Safety
21 to hold public hearings examining
22 witness relocation policies in the
23 City of Philadelphia as well as
24 discuss strategies on creating a
25 housing rehabilitation and witness

1 2/8/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 relocation program that will allow
3 for higher rates of witness
4 attendance and an increase in the
5 closure rate of homicide cases.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

7 This resolution will be placed on
8 today's Final Passage Calendar.

9 The Chair recognizes
10 Councilmember Rue Landau.

11 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU: Good
12 morning, Council President and
13 colleagues.

14 I have one bill to introduce
15 today.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
17 Will the Clerk please read the title
18 of the bill.

19 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
20 amending Chapter 9-600 of The
21 Philadelphia Code, entitled "Service
22 and Other Businesses," to add
23 requirements related to the
24 practices of tax preparation service
25 providers to increase transparency

1 2/8/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 about free tax preparation services

3 in the City of Philadelphia.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

5 This bill will be referred to the

6 appropriate committee.

7 The Chair recognizes

8 Councilmember Quetcy Lozada.

9 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Thank

10 you, Council President.

11 I offer no bills or no

12 resolutions today.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

14 Thank you.

15 The Chair recognizes

16 Councilmember Jeffrey Jay Young.

17 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Thank

18 you, Council President.

19 No bills or resolutions

20 today.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

22 Thank you.

23 The Chair recognizes

24 Councilmember Kendra Brooks.

25 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: Thank

1 2/8/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 you, Council President.

3 I have no bills or

4 resolutions today.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

6 Thank you.

7 The Chair recognizes

8 Councilmember Jim Harrity.

9 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: Good

10 morning, Council President,

11 colleagues.

12 I have one bill for today.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

14 Will the Clerk please read the title
15 of the bill.

16 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
17 amending Chapter 9-2300 of The
18 Philadelphia Code, ("Protection of
19 Displaced Contract Workers"), to
20 provide protections for service
21 employees, including laid-off
22 employees, all under certain terms
23 and conditions.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

25 This bill will be referred to the

1 2/8/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 appropriate committee.

3 The Chair recognizes

4 Councilmember Nicolas Nick O'Rourke.

5 COUNCILMAN O'ROURKE: Thank

6 you, Council President.

7 I have nothing to introduce

8 today.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

10 Thank you.

11 The Chair recognizes

12 Councilmember Mike Driscoll.

13 COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL:

14 Morning, Mr. President.

15 I offer one bill for

16 consideration today.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

18 Will the Clerk please read the title

19 of the bill.

20 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance

21 amending Title 12 of The

22 Philadelphia Code, entitled "Traffic

23 Code," by providing for prohibitions

24 relating to license plate flipping

25 devices and for penalties and

1 2/8/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 enforcement.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

4 This bill will be referred to the

5 appropriate committee.

6 The Chair recognizes

7 Councilmember O'Neill.

8 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Thank

9 you, Mr. President.

10 I have no bills or

11 resolutions.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

13 Thank you.

14 The Chair recognizes

15 Councilmember Mark Squilla.

16 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Good

17 morning, Mr. President.

18 I have one non-privileged

19 resolution.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

21 Will the Clerk please read the title

22 of the resolution.

23 CHIEF CLERK: A

24 non-privileged resolution

25 authorizing the Philadelphia Land

1 2/8/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 Bank to dispose of 2501, 2855 and
3 2857 Amber Street; 2143, 2155 and
4 2157 East Birch Street; 2134, 2172
5 East Cambria Street; 2103 and 2107
6 East Cumberland Street; 2107 East
7 Dakota Street; 2478, 2480 Emerald
8 Street; 2022 East Fletcher Street.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

10 This resolution will be placed on
11 the Final Passage Calendar for
12 consideration at our next session of
13 Council.

14 The Chair recognize
15 Councilmember Cindy Bass.

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

18 I offer one privileged
19 resolution and one bill.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
21 Will the Clerk please read the
22 titles of the bill and resolution.

23 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
24 establishing park regulations in the
25 vicinity of Old York Road and

1 2/8/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 Courtland Street and Loudon Street.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

4 This bill will be referred to the
5 appropriate committee.

6 CHIEF CLERK: A

7 non-privileged resolution renaming
8 the 6000 block of Norwood Street
9 "Frankie Beverly Way."

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

11 Y'all supposed to clap for that one.

12 (Applause.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

14 This resolution will be placed on
15 the Final Passage Calendar for
16 consideration at our next session of
17 Council.

18 There being no reports from
19 Committees today, the next order of
20 business is the consideration of the
21 Calendar as they are no bills -- let
22 me go back to my sister over there.

23 The Chair recognizes

24 Councilmember Nina Ahmad.

25 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD: Thank

1 2/8/24 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 you, Mr. President. The last is the
3 best.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

5 Yes, it is.

6 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD: I have
7 no bills or resolutions to offer
8 today.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

10 Thank you very much. Excuse me for
11 my oversight, Councilmember Ahmad.

12 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD: It's
13 okay.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

15 The next order of business is the
16 consideration of the Calendar. As
17 there are no bills on the First
18 Reading Calendar, the Chair
19 recognizes Councilmember Gilmore
20 Richardson for the purpose of
21 calling up resolutions on the Second
22 Reading and Final Passage Calendars.

23 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

24 RICHARDSON: Thank you,
25 Mr. President.

1 2/8/24 - STATED - BILLS ON 2ND READING

2 The following resolutions
3 are being called up from the Second
4 Reading and Final Passage Calendars
5 today: Nos. 240073, 240074 and
6 240081.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
8 Thank you.

9 Before considering these
10 resolutions, we will consider public
11 comment as follows: Your public
12 comment must concern matters on the
13 Second Reading and Final Passage
14 Calendars for possible action of
15 today's Council session.

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

25 Under ideal circumstances,

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

10 When you begin speaking, you
11 will see a green light on the podium
12 when there are 30 seconds remaining,
13 your time on the light will turn
14 yellow, which is your reminder to
15 conclude your remarks. Once the two
16 minutes have passed, the light will
17 turn red and the Sergeant-at-Arms
18 will disconnect the microphone. At
19 that point, please yield the podium
20 to the next speaker if you have not
21 already done so. I also reserve the
22 right pursuant to our rules of
23 Council to limit repetitious
24 comments on the same matter.

25 I will now ask the Chief

1 2/8/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 Clerk to please read the first name
3 of our speaker, and we have a very
4 extensive list today.

5 CHIEF CLERK: The first
6 speaker today, Mr. President, is
7 Queen Judith Robinson.

8 (No response.)

9 CHIEF CLERK: Queen Judith
10 Robinson.

11 (No response.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
13 Will the Clerk please call the next
14 speaker.

15 CHIEF CLERK: The next
16 speaker is Steven Bilski commenting
17 on 240074.

18 (Witness approached
19 podium.)

20 MR. BILSKI: Councilmembers,
21 good morning. I'm Steven Bilski,
22 CEO of Memphis Street Academy
23 Charter School at J.P. Jones. Thank
24 you for allowing me to make public
25 comment today in support of

1 2/8/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Resolution 240074, the establishment
3 of the Kensington Caucus.

4 I wanted to purposely speak
5 at today's City Council meeting to
6 vocalize my school support in this
7 innovative coalition to tackle
8 clean-up efforts in hopes of making
9 Kensington greater. As middle a
10 school in Port Richmond serving
11 Grades 5 through 8, students travel
12 through Kensington's open air drug
13 market on a daily basis.

14 The pervasive presence of
15 violence, crime and drugs become a
16 recipe for trauma that they then
17 carry through the school doors.
18 Every day these students are forced
19 to start their days making their
20 best attempt at blocking out these
21 images and experiences to do their
22 best at concentrating on academics.
23 Far too many suffer in silence as we
24 attempt to meet their holistic and
25 academic needs.

1 2/8/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Recently the landmark
3 Pennsylvania Supreme Court decision
4 William Penn School District versus
5 the Department of Education ruled
6 that the system Pennsylvania uses to
7 fund its public schools is
8 unconstitutionally inequitable.

9 More importantly, the Supreme
10 Court's decision stipulated that
11 education in the state of
12 Pennsylvania is a fundamental right.

13 So when we discuss the
14 magnitude of addressing Kensington's
15 open air drug market, we're really
16 talking about and discussing
17 students' rights to a free
18 education. I have been confronted
19 by countless times by concerned
20 parents, guardians and even students
21 about traversing through their
22 communities and their neighborhoods,
23 often times explaining that the
24 reason they could not come to school
25 was because of the safety concerns

1 2/8/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 in and around the community.

3 Councilmember Lozada said it

4 perfectly, the residents of

5 Kensington deserve collaborative,

6 strategic framework or team work.

7 And we, Memphis Street Academy

8 Charter School, are ready to enter

9 into this partnership. This is why

10 we wholeheartedly support

11 Councilmembers Lozada, Driscoll,

12 Harrity and Squilla's Kensington

13 Caucus to make a positive impact on

14 this community. Thank you.

15 (Applause.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

17 Thank you.

18 Will the Chief Clerk please

19 call the next speaker.

20 CHIEF CLERK: Dyan Kelly.

21 (No response.)

22 CHIEF CLERK: Dyan Kelly.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

24 She's coming.

25 (Witness approached podium.)

1 2/8/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

3 I'm going to ask that the next
4 speaker please also come to the
5 podium to be prepared when your name
6 is called.

7 MS. KELLY: My name is Dyan
8 Kelly. And I'm here to thank the
9 Council for the recognition of my
10 husband and his accomplishments,
11 Emanuel Kelly. I'm reminded of the
12 phrase, it doesn't take great men to
13 do things, but it's doing things
14 that make men great.

15 And the thing I remember
16 about my husband is his warmth and
17 integrity. It reminds me of a poem,
18 The Measure of a Man that goes, the
19 measure of a man is not determined
20 by his show of outward strength or
21 the volume of his voice or the
22 thunder of his actions or his
23 intellect and academic abilities.
24 It is seen rather in terms for the
25 love he has for his family and for

1 2/8/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 everyone. The genuineness of his
3 friendships, the sincerity of his
4 purpose, the quiet courage of his
5 conviction, the fun, laughter, joy
6 and happiness he gives to his family
7 and others, his love of life, his
8 patience and his honesty, and his
9 contentment with what he has.

10 And my husband was very
11 content. I asked him once what made
12 him happy. And he said, I don't do
13 happiness. I do satisfaction and
14 contentment. And I'm where I want
15 to be. I'm doing what I want and
16 I'm with who I want to be with.
17 That's what makes me content.

18 And to my husband of 45
19 years, it was my honor and privilege
20 to share his journey. Thank you.

21 (Applause.)

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

25 CHIEF CLERK: Troy Leonard.

1 2/8/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 (Witness approached podium.)

3 MR. LEONARD: Good morning,

4 everyone. My name is Troy Leonard

5 and I'm the principle and President

6 of Kelly Maiello Architects. I'm

7 here to speak on behalf of Emanuel

8 Kelly. I've known Kelly for 40

9 years in many different capacities.

10 First, as a student while attending

11 Temple University. And secondly,

12 I've known him -- secondly, I've

13 known him as employer when in 1989

14 he hired me as an intern at Kelly

15 Maiello Architects, KMA, and I

16 worked my way up to project

17 architect and finally associate.

18 And then finally, I've known

19 him as an associate and a friend,

20 where in 2015 he turned over the

21 reins of Kelly Maiello and I became

22 the employer and he became the

23 employee, and he took on the title

24 of founding principle where he

25 served in that role until the day he

1 2/8/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 died.

3 There's been great things I
4 can say about Emanuel. But the one
5 consistent thing is that he had
6 integrity and dedication for
7 Philadelphia. And this is
8 exemplified in his three-plus
9 decades as a professor at Temple
10 University where he's taught many
11 young architects who are currently
12 serving as great leaders in this
13 City.

14 Secondly, as a leader where
15 he cofounded Kelly Maiello in the
16 early '70s. And then finally, as a
17 professional where he designed many
18 iconic buildings in Philadelphia.
19 So I can't think of a more deserving
20 person than Emanuel Kelly for this
21 award. Thank you.

22 (Applause.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

24 I just want to say to the Kelly
25 family, I've worked with Emanuel

1 2/8/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 Kelly since I've become a
3 Councilperson in the 2nd
4 Councilmanic District. And he
5 definitely was a giant of a man, and
6 he also showed that we have highly
7 qualified African American
8 architects here in the City of
9 Philadelphia and can build the
10 tallest buildings that you've ever
11 seen in the world.

12 And so, to the family I want
13 to also just personally give my
14 condolences because he was
15 definitely someone that I looked up
16 to in the development community and
17 was very, very supportive of all his
18 efforts, especially when developers
19 would come in my office and say,
20 well, we can't find an architect.
21 Well, here's an example of someone
22 who's doing that type of great work.
23 And so, to the family we will
24 definitely keep you and your family
25 in prayer.

1 2/8/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

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

5 CHIEF CLERK: I'm re-calling
6 Queen Judith Robinson.

7 (Witness approached podium.)

8 MS. ROBINSON: Good morning.
9 Queen Judith Robinson here. Black
10 History 365 so much so. The
11 Kensington bill, we need that city-
12 wide. We can't let that horror flow
13 into other communities. So I
14 understand the opioid crisis is
15 moving across our city. Let's not
16 stop there.

17 I'm going to put a pin in it
18 because I'm going to say to be
19 continued. I have a message from
20 Queen Sapora from Grays Ferry
21 regarding the increase in rental
22 estate taxes. I'm going to bring
23 that mission to her Councilperson,
24 Council President Johnson. Okay.

25 So there's queens in

1 2/8/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 Philadelphia all over Councilman
3 Anthony Phillips and we're going to
4 come out of the woodworks and let
5 you all know we exist. In that
6 regard, sir, Emanuel Kelly,
7 condolences to his family and peace
8 and blessings to them.

9 I am a certified tour guide
10 and I'm going to be doing tours in
11 City Hall shortly, but I'm certified
12 through the Foundation for
13 Architecture back from 2000. And
14 Emanuel Kelly was there to help me
15 through that process. I was the
16 only African American in the class,
17 which I paid to get this knowledge.
18 And he was there with that quality,
19 quiet twinkle in his eye of
20 approval.

21 Then I met him again as I
22 was on the Board of the Advocate
23 Community Development Corporation as
24 he did the refurbishing of the
25 recreation of the gym area that had

1 2/8/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 burned down and how he matched the
3 stone of the old stone of the Church
4 of the Advocate where I'm a docent.

5 I am pushing for a historic
6 Diamond Street, the first historic
7 corridor, Preservation Alliance is
8 still a very White-oriented
9 organization that Foundation for
10 Architecture was almost 25 years
11 ago. They need to get their minds
12 right. They're out of touch with
13 Black queens.

14 With that I'm going to say
15 Friends of Tannerhouse 32nd Ward
16 RCO, get information. Peace.

17 (Applause.)

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

21 CHIEF CLERK: The next
22 speaker is Marnie Loughrey
23 commenting on 240074.

24 (Witness approached podium.)

25 MS. LOUGHREY: My name is

1 2/8/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 Marnie Aument Loughrey. I'm the
3 Democratic Ward Leader of the 33rd
4 Ward and I am the Chair of
5 Kensington Independence Civic
6 Association. I am here in support
7 of the Kensington Caucus. Many of
8 yous know me. I've been here
9 before.

10 I want to take the time to
11 thank Councilwoman Lozada, our
12 newest City Councilperson for the
13 7th District, Councilman Harrity,
14 Councilman Driscoll, and Councilman
15 Squilla who has been fighting this
16 fight with us the longest as he's
17 the senior member of the Caucus. He
18 has walked the streets with us and
19 he has seen our children and what we
20 have to deal with.

21 This initiative being taken
22 by this body is giving hope back to
23 our children and our community.
24 Many of our community members are
25 standing right here with us. We are

1 2/8/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 letting you know what our children
3 have to see every day, our seniors
4 that cannot come out of their houses
5 to go to a store. We have
6 businesses that shut down because of
7 the issues going on here.

8 And, yes, as the Queen said,
9 this is all over the City. It's all
10 over our country, but Kensington has
11 been inundated the most. When this
12 Caucus and this body under this new
13 Administration gets this together,
14 which yous are doing, this is a
15 project that can spread to the rest
16 of not only our city, but the rest
17 of the state and the rest of the
18 country.

19 Thank you, Philadelphia City
20 Council Councilmembers for being the
21 first, as we have always been the
22 first, to take an initiative to take
23 care of the people that you are
24 elected to take care of. You have
25 my heart and yous have my soul, and

1 2/8/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 I thank you for the future that you
3 are giving our children and our
4 seniors.

5 We here have been fighting
6 for eight years. Eight years this
7 has been going on. And it has taken
8 a new Mayor and a brand new Council
9 to get done what we have been
10 begging and praying for. And I
11 thank yous all for that. And I
12 thank you, Councilman Squilla, for
13 walking with us. I don't know how
14 many times we shut down Kensington
15 and Allegheny. We walked from
16 Sommerset all the way up.

17 This new Administration, I
18 thank you with my heart, I thank you
19 with my soul and I thank you for the
20 future of our children.

21 (Applause.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

23 Thank you.

24 Will the Clerk please call
25 the next speaker.

1 2/8/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 CHIEF CLERK: Suleiman

3 Hassan commenting on 240074.

4 (Witness approached podium.)

5 MR. HASSAN: Good morning.

6 My name is Suleiman Hassan. First
7 and foremost, I'm going to thank
8 everybody that's here today in
9 Council and everyone from the
10 community in the City of
11 Philadelphia. I'm here to represent
12 Soldiers for Recovery as well as One
13 Day At A Time program.

14 I'm going to jump right into
15 it. I grew up in Philadelphia all
16 my life. All my life I've been
17 subjected to trauma, childhood
18 trauma due to my mother's addiction.
19 When I got older, I wound up
20 becoming addicted to drugs and
21 alcohol as well. For over 20 years,
22 I found myself up in Kensington
23 living on the streets, sleeping on
24 the streets, going to the bathroom
25 on the streets. Everything that you

1 2/8/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 see, that was what I was a part of.

3 I turned my life around 10

4 years ago. I started going right

5 back to the same streets that I

6 slept on, went to the bathroom on,

7 did drugs on, helping the community.

8 And due to programs like One Day At

9 A Time, that's like family to me.

10 But we need to understand that

11 people that are up there, they're

12 sick but they're family. And that's

13 a small community that needs our

14 assistance. It needs our help.

15 It's kids out there that

16 can't even walk down the street.

17 It's kids out there that have to

18 walk through glass and feces. And

19 you know, it's terrible. It brings

20 tears to my eyes. And anybody that

21 knows me in this room, they know

22 what I do. I'm out there every day

23 pulling people out from the disease

24 of addiction to give them hope.

25 And it's going to take love.

1 2/8/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 It's going to take programs like One
3 Day At A Time. It's going to take
4 programs like Soldiers for Recovery
5 to get out there to help clean, to
6 give the community back to the
7 people. I've been clean now for 10
8 years and --

9 (Applause.)

10 MR. HASSAN: -- I'm so
11 grateful for it due to One Day At A
12 Time. You have doctors out there,
13 you have lawyers out there. I have
14 developed friends and family out
15 there who have lost their way with
16 Master's degrees, Doctor's degrees,
17 who have just lost their way.

18 I can stand here today and
19 say I'm a grandfather now. We need
20 to -- I'm a homeowner now. I'm a
21 business owner now due to programs
22 like One Day At A Time. So please,
23 please, please help us give the
24 community back to the people.

25 (Applause.)

1 2/8/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

3 Will the Clerk please call the next
4 speaker.

5 CHIEF CLERK: Jamie Gullen.

6 (Witness approached podium.)

7 MS. GULLEN: Good morning.

8 My name is Jamie Gullen and I'm the
9 Managing Attorney of the Employment
10 Unit and Youth Justice Project at
11 Community Legal Services. I want to
12 thank Councilmember Thomas and all
13 of Council for recognizing the
14 expansion of Pennsylvania's Clean
15 Slate law today through a
16 resolution.

17 At Community Legal Services
18 has been at the forefront fighting
19 alongside our clients for the rights
20 of people with criminal records for
21 several decades, and City Council
22 has always been a true partner to us
23 on that work from collaborating on
24 community-based, record-clearing
25 clinics to passing one of the

1 2/8/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 strongest Fair Hiring laws in the
3 country to funding the Promise
4 record clearing initiative, so we
5 thank you for that.

6 Now, with Clean Slate on the
7 precipice of being expanded as of
8 this Monday, felony convictions,
9 including old felony drug
10 convictions will be eligible for the
11 very first time to be sealed under
12 Pennsylvania law.

13 (Applause.)

14 MS. GULLEN: About
15 two-thirds of the clients who
16 approach Community Legal Services
17 Employment Unit every year come to
18 us because they are struggling to
19 find work or advance in their
20 careers because of their criminal
21 court records, often records that
22 are old and completely unrelated to
23 their ability to be excellent
24 employees.

25 That led us in 2018 to

1 2/8/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 advocate for the passage of the
3 first Clean Slate law, which today
4 has already sealed over 45 million
5 records through automation and has
6 become a national model. 12 other
7 states now have their own clean
8 slate laws with more on the way.

9 But now Pennsylvania joins
10 the vast majority of states that
11 allow some felony convictions to be
12 sealed as well, and we know this is
13 going to be so important for the
14 hundreds of thousands of
15 Philadelphians who are living with
16 felony conviction records.

17 Just over the past year
18 through our Promise record-clearing
19 clinics, we've seen that over half
20 of the participants will be eligible
21 to have their records fully cleared
22 under this law. CLS is ready to
23 partner with Council to get the word
24 out about this expansion to as many
25 Philadelphians as possible. We want

1 2/8/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 to help your constituents benefit
3 from this law and we look forward to
4 being able to provide training, to
5 do clinics in the community and to
6 continue to help as many folks as
7 possible get a fresh start.

8 And next up, you'll hear
9 from my amazing colleague Neshea
10 Jackson who will talk about the
11 personal impact that this will have
12 on Philadelphians. Thank you.

13 (Applause.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
15 Will the Clerk please call the next
16 speaker.

17 CHIEF CLERK: Neshea
18 Jackson.

19 (Witness approached podium.)

20 MS. JACKSON: Good morning.
21 My name is Neshea Jackson. I'm a
22 convicted felon, and I've been a
23 convicted felon for over 30 years.
24 For the past 34 years, I have lived
25 my life as a law-abiding citizen.

1 2/8/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Even though I have been an
3 upstanding citizen, I am still a
4 convicted felon.

5 Being a felon has haunted
6 me. I love the law. Time after
7 time I have been denied employment.
8 After every favorable interview, I
9 was told it was a pleasure to speak
10 with you Neshea, only to get an
11 email a few weeks later that
12 started, Thank you for your
13 interest. When it starts like that,
14 you did not get the job.

15 I was previously employed
16 with the City of Philadelphia as a
17 school crossing guard ensuring the
18 safety of students going to and from
19 school. I loved that job. I
20 volunteered with the national
21 organization CASA. I have given
22 four speeches. But when I got the
23 email to speak at City Council, the
24 only thing that came to mind was I
25 started from the bottom, now I'm

1 2/8/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 here.

3 Enough about me. Allow me
4 to share what record clearing means
5 to others. In 2018, Clean Slate
6 gave over 45 million people some
7 sort of record clearing relief. On
8 December 14th, Clean Slate 3.0 was
9 enacted into law which will allow
10 some felony convictions to be sealed
11 for the very first time. Let me
12 repeat that: Felony convictions can
13 be sealed for the very first time.

14 (Applause.)

15 MS. JACKSON: That will mean
16 that felons are now allowed to
17 achieve their employment goals and
18 that their mistakes will no longer
19 define them and they are someone
20 that friends and family can be proud
21 of. I'm in my fourth year of the
22 part of the process and I understand
23 that feeling.

24 I started my application in
25 March of 2020. In October of 2023,

1 2/8/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 the Board of Pardons wrote it on my

3 application, 5-0 application

4 recommended. On --

5 (Applause.)

6 MS. JACKSON: -- January

7 15th, I attended the Barrister's

8 Annual MLK Breakfast in the Crystal

9 Tea Room in Center City with a sea

10 of prominent lawyers, some civic

11 organizations, the Lieutenant

12 Governor, Madam Mayor Cherelle

13 Parker, state and federal judges and

14 along with most of you here today.

15 Just talking about it gives

16 me chills. I attended that event as

17 Neshea Jackson, Paralegal in the

18 Employment Unit at Community Legal

19 Services. It was a dream come true.

20 It takes one person to see you, one

21 person to believe in you. Thank

22 you, Councilmember Thomas.

23 (Applause.)

24 MS. JACKSON: Thank you for

25 the important work that Council

1 2/8/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 does. Thank you for funding the
3 Promise and the United Way and the
4 Clean Slate record clearing
5 initiative. Thank you for seeing
6 us.

7 (Applause.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
9 Will the Clerk please call the next
10 speaker.

11 CHIEF CLERK: Al Klosterman.
12 (Witness approached podium.)

13 CHIEF CLERK: Commenting on
14 240074.

15 MR. KLOSTERMAN: I'm Al
16 Klosterman. I'm a member of the
17 Harrowgate Civic. For too long our
18 community has seen neglect and
19 disinvestment from this City. No
20 one saw or heard us. We felt
21 hopeless. Then redistricting,
22 something changed. We now have
23 three District Councilmembers
24 representing our area and an
25 At-large one who lives in the heart

1 2/8/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 of it.

3 They thought that the best
4 way to aid our community was by
5 banding together. Our members
6 became more -- other members became
7 more sympathetic to the cause. Our
8 community is long worked and fought
9 together in this goal, so we see
10 this as the best approach. We stand
11 together with our Councilmembers of
12 the Kensington Caucus.

13 The proposed triage center
14 is the best idea we've heard yet to
15 fix so many wrongs in a
16 compassionate and positive way. The
17 drug users are being directed to
18 treatment and medical care and
19 housing afterwards. The residents
20 will start seeing their neighborhood
21 become clean and safe again. But
22 stores and other amenities
23 returning. Children and elders
24 could walk about without fear.

25 Our civic meeting last week

1 2/8/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 was one of our largest and most
3 enthusiastic. People have a real
4 feeling of hope. We, the community,
5 are on board with this proposal. It
6 needs to be done. Give us back our
7 community.

8 (Applause.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
10 Will the Clerk please call the next
11 speaker.

12 CHIEF CLERK: Darlene
13 Burton.

14 (Witness approached podium.)

15 MS. BURTON: Good morning.
16 My name is Darlene Burton. I stand
17 before you, Council President and
18 Distinguished Members of Council as
19 a 28-year resident of the Harrowgate
20 area. When I tell you that this
21 Caucus listens to the residents of
22 our community and has given us hope
23 that we will once again have the
24 neighborhood that I moved to 28
25 years ago for a better life. I'm so

1 2/8/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 nervous right now because not only
3 do I stand you before as a community
4 member, I stand before you as
5 someone who has been affected by the
6 opioid epidemic.

7 Because last year I was
8 sweeping in front of my house and I
9 had on sandals and it was a needle
10 in the broom and I didn't see it,
11 and it hit my foot. So I have to
12 get HIV testing every three months
13 for a drug that I've never used. I
14 have grandkids that my children are
15 fearful to let come to my house
16 because where I live at, the same
17 neighborhood I raised them.

18 I'm asking you to approve
19 this Caucus because we need our
20 community back. We're tired of
21 living like this. We're tired of
22 being a containment facility for the
23 drugs not only in this City but in
24 the country. Any two times Mexico
25 uses your neighborhood as a

1 2/8/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 cautionary tale for not using drugs
3 when the drugs mostly come from
4 Mexico, you know you're in deep.
5 We're asking y'all to please give us
6 the Kensington Caucus to give hope
7 and a voice back to the residents of
8 my community. Thank you.

9 (Applause.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

11 Thank you.

12 Will the Clerk please call
13 the next speaker.

14 CHIEF CLERK: Crystal
15 Anderson commenting on 240074.

16 (Witness approached podium.)

17 MS. ANDERSON: My name is
18 Crystal Anderson. Good morning,
19 everybody. I just want to say I all
20 too well know the disease of
21 addiction. Every family has or has
22 had a turn. Every city has a
23 Kensington Avenue, and year after
24 year programs have been created to
25 combat the war on drugs.

1 2/8/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 While we all want to help
3 the problem, in my opinion providing
4 addicts with clothes, clean needles,
5 wound care treatment, condoms, crack
6 pipes and all kinds of paraphernalia
7 keep them sick. Now, we're not
8 opposing treatment. In the '80s and
9 the '90s, Black people were given
10 substantial amount of prison time,
11 families were broken up and kids
12 were thrown in foster care. Now
13 that the drugs have hit a different
14 demographic, it's an epidemic and
15 now I see a lot of coddling.
16 Where's the tough love? It's not
17 pretty, but it's a step toward the
18 right direction.

19 We're tired of being sick
20 and tired. In the last past 20-plus
21 years, residents cannot come outside
22 their doors without seeing nodding,
23 shooting up in public, dirty
24 needles, littering and seeing human
25 feces on the ground. What kind of

1 2/8/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 quality of life is that for the
3 residents. We do not have to be
4 subjected to that. The Kensington
5 Caucus' number one priority is to
6 come together as one and to restore
7 quality of life in our community.
8 Thank you very much.

9 (Applause.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

11 Thank you.

12 Will the Clerk please call
13 the next speaker please.

14 CHIEF CLERK: Daisie Cardona
15 commenting on 240074.

16 (Witness approached podium.)

17 MS. CARDONA: My name is
18 Daisy Cardona. I'm a lifelong
19 Kensington resident and youth
20 activist. I teach at the Rubble
21 Arts School for gymnastics and
22 tumbling with our scholarship
23 program. I was sitting today
24 wondering what to bring forth for
25 you today, because frankly every

1 2/8/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 time we've been here fighting and
3 rooting for our community, we've had
4 people slamming on glass and just
5 fighting to try and silence us.

6 I have been -- I have
7 seen -- I've lived in Kensington my
8 whole life. I have seen this every
9 single day since I was a little girl
10 so as have all of my students, a
11 bunch of my students and all the
12 kids I see every day, our residents,
13 our elders, both young and old. And
14 this is not fair.

15 I'm here today to support
16 the Kensington Caucus, which frankly
17 my park is McPherson Square. Yet
18 everyone knows it as Needle Park and
19 I went and inspected it and it's in
20 pieces. It is not safe and it is
21 not fair for a community to be this
22 way.

23 (Applause.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

25 Will the Clerk please call the next

1 2/8/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 speaker.

3 CHIEF CLERK: Shannon

4 Farrell commenting on 240074.

5 (Witness approached podium.)

6 MS. FARRELL: Shannon

7 Farrell, President of the Harrowgate

8 Civic Association and 45th Ward

9 Democratic Ward leader. So I've

10 lived in Harrowgate my entire life.

11 And last spring we sat in Conwell

12 and we listened to a Public Safety

13 hearing where a 10-year-old child

14 got up and said, I worry at night

15 and can't sleep because I have to

16 get my 6-year-old sister to school

17 safely. And then when I'm in

18 school, I'm worried that I'm not

19 going to get my 6-year-old sister

20 home safely.

21 36 years ago when I was a

22 10-year-old walking my siblings back

23 and forth to school, I wasn't

24 worried about it. Actually I just

25 wanted to make sure you don't get

1 2/8/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 hit by a car. That was the big
3 concern I had. Get to school, don't
4 get hit by a car, come home.

5 He talked about having to
6 walk over dirty needles, pass drug
7 dealers, other schools being on
8 lockdown for shootings. That is the
9 perspective that we have to look at.
10 Everything we do for now on does it
11 make that 10-year-old safe, does it
12 make his 6-year-old sister safe,
13 does it make all the kids in the
14 community safe.

15 For six years I've sat in
16 meetings with the past
17 Administration, sat with some
18 Councilmembers and they consistently
19 insisted that the most vulnerable
20 people in our community were the
21 drug users and not the children. So
22 I support the Kensington Caucus
23 because they know the children and
24 our senior citizens are our most
25 vulnerable citizens and will

1 2/8/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 prioritize them for once because
3 it's been years since anybody's
4 cared about them. Thank you.

5 (Applause.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
7 Will the Clerk please call the next
8 speaker.

9 CHIEF CLERK: Paul Newman
10 commenting on 240073.

11 (Witness approached podium.)

12 MR. NEWMAN: My name is Paul
13 Newman. Virtually absent from D-Day
14 Iconic photos, documentary footage
15 and films are images of the 1700
16 Black soldiers who also landed on
17 Omaha Beach. Overbrook High
18 graduate Waverly B. Woodson served
19 as a combat medic in the all Black
20 320th Barrage Balloon Battalion. A
21 mine floating in the English Channel
22 damaged the LST transporting Woodson
23 and its unit to the beach.

24 The explosion lodged
25 shrapnel near Woodson's groin and

1 2/8/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 back. His wound was superficially
3 bandaged. Instead of seeking
4 further treatment, Woodson stayed
5 with his fellow medics as they set
6 up a field dressing station. They
7 treated all soldiers regardless of
8 race. They worked as German machine
9 gun power and mortar rounds landed
10 near them.

11 Over the next 30 hours,
12 Woodson and four other medics
13 treated over 200 soldiers. They
14 removed bullets and shrapnel, set
15 broken limbs, dispensed plasma and
16 even amputated a foot. After
17 working nonstop for 30 hours and as
18 Woodson walked to receive further
19 treatment for his own wounds, some
20 soldiers spotted his medic arm band
21 and frantically called out to him.
22 They had pulled three men from the
23 frigid waters of the English
24 Channel. The men weren't breathing.
25 An utterly exhausted Woodson

1 2/8/24 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 ignored his own needs, performed
3 artificial respiration and saved
4 three more lives. Woodson was
5 awarded a bronze star for his
6 bravery. In the 1990s, Woodson's
7 outstanding bravery was considered
8 for the Congressional Medal of
9 Honor, but most of his service
10 records were burned during a massive
11 1973 fire. He wasn't selected.

12 In 1994, he was awarded
13 France's Legion of Honor, that
14 country's highest decoration. Two
15 years ago the United States Army
16 Rock Island Arsenal Health Clinic
17 was renamed in his honor. I'm here
18 to ensure Waverly B. Woodson, Jr.
19 isn't forgotten in the city where he
20 was born and grew up by having his
21 name added to the 1200 block of
22 North 58th Street, his childhood
23 home. Thank you.

24 (Applause.)

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

1 2/8/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 Thank you.

3 Anyone else on the public
4 comment sign-in sheet?

5 CHIEF CLERK: There are no
6 other speakers today, Mr. President.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
8 That concludes today's public
9 comment period.

10 We will now consider the
11 resolutions on the Second Reading
12 and Final Passage Calendars. Will
13 the Clerk please read the title of
14 the resolution 240073.

15 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
16 also naming the 1200 block of North
17 58th Street "Waverly B. Woodson, Jr.
18 Way" in honor of war hero Waverly
19 Bernard Woodson, Jr., for his
20 courageous and self-less service
21 during World War II.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
23 Okay. That's for Councilmember
24 Jones. And so, when he comes back,
25 we will go back to that particular

1 2/8/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 bill.

3 Will the Clerk please the
4 title of Bill 240074.

5 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
6 establishing the Kensington Caucus
7 to represent the united legislative
8 front in addressing the crisis in
9 the Kensington area.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
11 The Chair recognizes Councilwoman
12 Quetcy Lozada for a motion on the
13 resolution.

14 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Thank
15 you, Council President.

16 I move for the adoption of
17 the resolution.

18 (Duly seconded.)

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

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

25 (Ayes.)

1 2/8/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

3 Those opposed?

4 (No response.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

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

8 (Applause.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

10 Will the Clerk please read the title
11 of Resolution No. 240081.

12 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
13 recognizing nonprofit Half a Million
14 Kids to bring awareness to children
15 living in the foster care system and
16 ways Philadelphia can work
17 collaboratively to help find
18 permanent homes for foster kids.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

20 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
21 Cindy Bass.

22 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank
23 you, Mr. President.

24 I move for the adoption of
25 the resolution.

1 2/8/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 (Duly seconded.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

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

6 All those in favor will
7 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 (Applause.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

17 Will the Clerk please read the title
18 of Resolution No. 240073.

19 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
20 also naming the 1200 block of North
21 58th Street "Waverly B. Woodson, Jr.
22 Way" in honor of war hero Waverly
23 Bernard Woodson, Jr., for his
24 courageous and self-less service
25 during World War II.

1 2/8/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

3 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
4 Curtis Jones for a motion on the
5 resolution.

6 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank
7 you, Mr. President.

8 I move for the adoption.

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 motion
22 carries.

23 Will the Clerk --

24 (Applause.)

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

1 2/8/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 Will the Clerk please read any
3 additional resolutions on today's
4 Final Passage Calendar.

5 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
6 honoring and commemorating the life
7 and legacy of revered Philadelphian,
8 Professor and Architect Emanuel
9 Kelly introduced today by
10 Councilmember Gauthier.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
12 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
13 Jamie Gauthier.

14 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:
15 Thank you, Council President.

16 I move for the adoption of
17 the resolution.

18 (Duly seconded.)

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

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

25 (Aye.)

1 2/8/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

3 Those opposed?

4 (No response.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

6 The ayes have it, and the resolution
7 is adopted.

8 CHIEF CLERK: And a
9 resolution recognizing,
10 congratulating Champion of the Week,
11 5th grader Emily Enscoe, for her
12 work raising money for Project HOME
13 to help end cycles of poverty and
14 homelessness in Philadelphia. A
15 reminder to all of us that little
16 Philadelphians can do big things,
17 introduced today by Councilmember
18 Thomas.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
20 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
21 Thomas.

22 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank
23 you, Council President.

24 I move for the adoption of
25 the resolution.

1 2/8/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 (Duly seconded.)

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 res --
17 and a resolution recognizing the
18 impact of Pennsylvania's Clean Slate
19 law and celebrating its recent
20 expansion, introduced today by
21 Councilmember Thomas.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

23 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
24 Isaiah Thomas.

25 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank

1 2/8/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 you, Council President.

3 I want to thank the team at
4 Community Legal Services as well as
5 the Public Defender's Office for all
6 they do. And most importantly, I
7 want to thank our colleagues in
8 Harrisburg who I call up all the
9 time to do a lot of different
10 things, and this is one of the
11 situations that we got right.

12 So with that level of
13 gratitude, I move for the adoption
14 of the resolution.

15 (Duly seconded.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

17 It has been moved and properly
18 seconded that the resolution be
19 adopted.

20 All those in favor will
21 signify by saying aye.

22 (Aye.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

24 Those opposed?

25 (No response.)

1 2/8/24 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

3 The ayes have it, and the resolution
4 is adopted.

5 (Applause.)

6 CHIEF CLERK: And a
7 resolution authorizing the City
8 Council Committee on Public Safety
9 to hold public hearings, examining
10 witness relocation policies in the
11 City of Philadelphia as well as
12 discuss strategies on creating a
13 housing rehabilitation and witness
14 relocation program that will allow
15 for higher rates of witness
16 attendance and an increase in the
17 closure rate of homicide cases,
18 introduced today by Councilmember
19 Jones.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

21 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
22 Jones for a motion on the
23 resolution.

24 COUNCILMAN JONES: Before I
25 do that, I want to be voted aye on

1 2/8/24 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 all bills and resolutions I may have
3 missed, and I move for the adoption
4 of the resolution.

5 (Duly seconded.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

7 It has been moved and properly
8 seconded that the resolution be
9 adopted.

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

12 (Aye.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

14 Those opposed?

15 (No response.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

17 The ayes have it, and the resolution
18 is adopted.

19 CHIEF CLERK: There are no
20 other resolutions on the Final
21 Passage Calendar, Mr. President.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

23 That completes our Calendar for
24 today.

25 The time we've all been

1 2/8/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 waiting for. Are there any speeches
3 on the part of the Minority?

4 (No response.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

6 Are there any speeches on the part
7 of the Majority?

8 The Chair recognizes the
9 Gentle Lady from Kensington, Quetcy
10 Lozada.

11 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Thank
12 you, Council President.

13 I came in here this morning
14 and I was going to say a whole lot
15 of things, but I don't think I have
16 to say anything, right. I think
17 that the community residents who
18 showed up on behalf of their
19 neighbors in the Kensington
20 community have said enough. I also
21 believe that the images that they
22 brought us to see today, that our
23 children unfortunately witness
24 through the lens of their eyes on a
25 daily basis, are exactly the reason

1 2/8/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 why it was important for my
3 colleagues and I to come together
4 collaboratively and strategically
5 and very intentionally work with one
6 another to ensure that the
7 residents, that the children in that
8 community became our priority.

9 And I want to make it really
10 clear. To many who have reached out
11 over the course of the weekend, over
12 the course of this week, who
13 consistently said that as a Caucus
14 we were not compassionate, that we
15 were not taking people suffering
16 into consideration, and I want them
17 to know that that is far from true,
18 that because we do, because we
19 understand their suffering, because
20 we are living by the oath that we
21 took to protect and serve people,
22 that what will happen over the next
23 few I'm going to say years, because
24 I believe that's what's going to
25 happen in Kensington in order to

1 2/8/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 restore the quality of life will
3 take us a few years, will be
4 difficult to see.

5 Last Thursday as we sat here
6 and we introduced the resolution to
7 form the Kensington Caucus, there
8 was an operation that took place and
9 we were blamed for that operation,
10 right. The Mayor and the
11 Administration was blamed for an
12 operation that none of us had
13 anything to do with.

14 It was clarified in the
15 WHYY, it was clarified by the
16 Kensington Voice that we had nothing
17 to do with it. But let me say that
18 although we had nothing to do with
19 it, we are very supportive of our
20 public safety partners who help
21 protect communities like Kensington
22 who for many years have been under
23 occupation, because people have been
24 afraid to make difficult decisions.
25 The next few years will be difficult

1 2/8/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 and the optics of it will be more
3 difficult.

4 But we should ask ourselves
5 should our children be seeing those
6 images every day or is it better for
7 them to see an increase of police
8 presence. Is it safe for them to
9 walk by this every day or is it safe
10 for them to walk by individuals who
11 are there to ensure their safety.

12 We have a responsibility as
13 a city to ensure that our children,
14 particularly those who we have
15 failed over the course of the last
16 few years, live and are given a
17 better quality of life. And so, I
18 want to say thank you to all of my
19 colleagues who have questions about
20 why we formed the Caucus, why it was
21 necessary to form a Caucus.

22 I want to say thank you.
23 Thank you for the opportunity to
24 have a conversation about the
25 importance of it. I said last week

1 2/8/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 thank you for calling and your

3 willingness to work and support us.

4 When things get difficult, don't

5 assume. Don't assume that we are

6 doing it because we are prioritizing

7 one over the other. Both

8 communities, both populations in

9 that community are equally as

10 important to us as a Caucus.

11 We have a responsibility to

12 ensure that those individuals who

13 are living on our street have

14 quality of life as well. We need to

15 figure out where do we take them,

16 what do we do with them. What we

17 can't do is allow them to continue

18 to live in the condition that they

19 are living in.

20 (Applause.)

21 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Thank

22 you, Council President.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

24 The Chair recognizes Councilmember

25 from the great Northeast, Councilman

1 2/8/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 Mike Driscoll.

3 COUNCILMAN DRISCOLL: Well,
4 thank you, Mr. President.

5 And I echo Councilwoman
6 Lozada's call to arms along with
7 Councilmember Harrity and Squilla
8 and all our colleagues today that
9 voted for this. This is -- a
10 journey of 1,000 miles begins with a
11 single step and that step begins
12 today. And we will be working with
13 the Administration and bringing back
14 ideas to this whole body so that we
15 can fulfill our promise to these
16 wonderful neighbors that came down
17 here. And thank you for coming down
18 here today. It was very important.

19 Secondly, Mr. President,
20 back in December the L&I Task Force
21 completed its work. We compiled a
22 31-page report, which we sent to all
23 the Councilmembers. There is a hard
24 copy on every Councilmember's desk
25 today. Mayor Parker will be having

1 2/8/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 a press conference at 1:00 p.m. to
3 some big news with regard to L&I.

4 And this document isn't
5 finished. It's a living, working,
6 breathing document that we will
7 endeavor to continue to improve so
8 that we can give suggestions to
9 Mayor Parker and whoever she
10 appoints to Commissioner of L&I.
11 And as Chair of L&I, I will be
12 informing you, my colleagues, of our
13 progress as that department beefs up
14 and gets to some real work.

15 And then lastly, I just
16 wanted to comment since I've been on
17 this body, I've been fighting to
18 protect our city and its residents
19 from pervasive problems that detract
20 from the quality of life for all
21 Philadelphians. Last year our
22 Council enacted legislation cracking
23 down on drifting and cracking down
24 on boom parties.

25 Well, recent years we saw

1 2/8/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 bad actors from across our region
3 pour into our city with reckless
4 driving, endangering lives and
5 severely affecting our quality of
6 life. This recently enacted
7 legislation raised penalties on
8 these acts, subjecting vehicle
9 owners to large fines and a possible
10 seizure of their vehicles. We sent
11 a message that Philadelphia will not
12 tolerate this behavior.

13 Now is the time to turn our
14 attention to another nuisance with
15 potentially devastating
16 ramifications, the use of tag
17 flippers. They're devices that flip
18 or rotate the vehicle's license
19 plate. It's proliferating our city.
20 They're designed, built and used by
21 people to conceal their identity
22 often while committing crimes such
23 as speeding, reckless driving, toll
24 evasion, among others.

25 A tag flipper could be used

1 2/8/24 - STATED - SPEECHES
2 by someone fleeing a scene of an
3 accident, perhaps somewhere where
4 someone loses their life. The
5 vehicle's caught on camera, but the
6 tag flipper prevents the driver from
7 being held accountable. The tag
8 flipper prevents a family from
9 finding solace in the unrest and the
10 conviction of their family.

11 So today I've introduced a
12 bill to give our law enforcement
13 officers the tool necessary to
14 remove these devices from our City
15 streets and roads. This legislation
16 will impose a \$2,000 fine on anyone
17 caught selling, purchasing,
18 installing or possessing one of
19 these malignant devices.

20 Tag flipping devices,
21 marketed as 007 devices, belong in a
22 James Bond movie. Tag flippers do
23 not belong on the streets of
24 Philadelphia. So thank you,
25 Councilmembers Harrity, Phillips,

1 2/8/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 Squilla, Thomas and Lozada for
3 co-sponsoring this forceful message
4 that we'll send to the criminals.

5 Thank you, Mr. President.

6 (Applause.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

8 Thank you. Good work on the L&I
9 Task Force as well.

10 The Chair recognizes
11 Councilmember Jeffrey Jay Young.

12 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Thank
13 you, Mr. President.

14 I just want to echo the
15 words of my cousin who actually
16 testified today, Ms. Crystal Brown,
17 regarding the issues that are in
18 Kensington. There was a time where
19 folks who looked like us were
20 treated differently for the same
21 similar issues that are taking place
22 in Kensington, and I just want to
23 make sure that I work with the
24 Caucus to ensure that they are being
25 considerate of the public safety

1 2/8/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 needs as well as the health needs of
3 those in that particular area.

4 We all know that when folks
5 have the ability to move, when heavy
6 enforcement is on one area, they
7 tend to move to another area. The
8 5th Council District is very close
9 to Kensington. That's why I want to
10 ensure that I work with the Caucus
11 to make sure their policies that
12 keep everyone in this City safe from
13 the drug epidemic.

14 So thank you so much,
15 Mr. President.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
17 Thank you.

18 The Chair recognizes the
19 gentleman from Kensington,
20 Councilman Jim Harrity.

21 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: Thank
22 you, Council President. Thank you,
23 colleagues.

24 First, I'd like to just send
25 my condolences and my respect of the

1 2/8/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 family of Emanuel Kelly. I had the
3 pleasure of waiting on him for a few
4 years in Holt's when I worked down
5 there. He was always a gentleman,
6 so I appreciate that we actually are
7 honoring him. It's long overdue.

8 Sec -- there's a lot going
9 on in Council. Secondly, I'd like
10 to commend my colleagues, Councilmen
11 Driscoll, Squilla and Councilwoman
12 Lozada for the Kensington Caucus
13 bill. This is something that's
14 needed. As the Councilwoman said,
15 we've got a lot of emails from a lot
16 of different people. Most of them
17 were form letters that were just
18 coming in.

19 And it kind of struck me,
20 one of the lines in there, which
21 said that we were harassing people
22 participating in the street
23 economics, so that is just a nice
24 way of saying that we were harassing
25 the drug dealers who are poisoning

1 2/8/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 our residents and our children.

3 As you heard tales, we have
4 people who live there and have lived
5 there for years and seen the many
6 different phases that the
7 neighborhood is going through. But
8 when the lady testified about
9 sweeping out in front of her house
10 and getting stuck with a used
11 hyperdermic needle and now having to
12 be tested every three months, that's
13 just horrible. And the fact of the
14 matter is we have a child that the
15 same thing happened to, and now that
16 child has to be tested every three
17 months also.

18 As somebody in recovery, I
19 just want people to know that some
20 of us don't go willingly. Some of
21 us get recovery because we get sent
22 to jail or we get mandatory into a
23 rehab. You know, people look at it
24 as we're forcing people in. Well,
25 we have a saying for that in

1 2/8/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 recovery, and that's called a power
3 greater than myself. We call it
4 being touched by God's grace,
5 because we all know that if it was
6 up to us, we'd still be out there
7 doing our addiction. Even in our
8 sickness, we ask that somebody else
9 help us, that God help us or whoever
10 you decide to call your higher
11 power. We don't really care about
12 that, just as long as you believe in
13 something bigger than yourself.

14 For me I believe in God, but
15 I also believe in recovery. And I
16 know for a fact that if you work a
17 program and follow the steps, you
18 can get your life back, you can get
19 your family back and you can do
20 things that are beyond your wildest
21 imagination.

22 13 years ago, I would have
23 never thought that I would be
24 sitting in this chamber. But
25 through recovery here I am. So --

1 2/8/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 (Applause.)

3 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: I

4 commend all my colleagues in this
5 body and our Council President for
6 allowing us to form this committee.
7 We look forward to working with all
8 of you because we all chair
9 different committees that are going
10 to be needed in order to do the
11 right thing over there to make
12 everybody feel safe, not just the
13 residents, but the addicts also.
14 Sometimes we need help beyond
15 ourselves.

16 So I thank you all and I
17 look forward to working with the
18 Kensington Caucus in the future to
19 better that neighborhood. Thank
20 you.

21 (Applause.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

23 Thank you.

24 The Chair recognizes
25 Councilmember Curtis Jones.

1 2/8/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank
3 you, Mr. President.

4 And I'm going to state for
5 the record again and again until my
6 brethren and sistren in the
7 Kensington Caucus, I'm an honorary
8 member and when we did those --

9 (Applause.)

10 COUNCILMAN JONES: When we
11 did those hearings at Conwell,
12 that's what baptized us all to make
13 a commitment to that neighborhood.
14 And until Kensington is safe, no
15 neighborhood, no neighborhood in
16 Philadelphia is safe. So I commend
17 you on what you're doing.

18 (Applause.)

19 COUNCILMAN JONES: So I rise
20 today to thank you, Mr. President,
21 and our Mayor, Mayor Cherelle
22 Parker, for being at the Budget
23 hearings, the Budget presentation of
24 our Governor this week where there
25 was a lot of good news, a lot of

1 2/8/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 bright things to look forward to, in
3 education, in economic development,
4 in public higher education. A lot
5 of good hallmarks, high points in
6 that budget.

7 One of the things that was
8 raised by the Governor was the
9 skilled games issue, where he cited
10 that he was going to finally get a
11 hold of that process. That in 2017
12 when they opened the flood gates to
13 say that these kinds of games should
14 be allowed at truck stops, that
15 opened the further gates to our
16 neighborhoods for the
17 overproliferation of these bandit
18 machines in places like Kensington.

19 So what he talked about was
20 a 42 percent tax on these machines,
21 which would equate to \$150 million
22 of revenue that could be dedicated
23 to things like education, things
24 like drug treatment that we can then
25 kind of tap into. Because at this

1 2/8/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 point, we don't know what they make.

3 At this point, we don't know where

4 they are. At this point, they don't

5 have a unified payout.

6 I think to when my former

7 DiCicco had to go to all of those

8 hearings, all of those community

9 meetings to establish casinos in

10 Philadelphia. He stood up to a lot

11 of scrutiny, a lot of criticism, a

12 lot of regulation just to be able to

13 legally put those machines in

14 neighborhoods with a community

15 benefit agreement attached.

16 So thank you, Mr. President,

17 for giving us a date for those

18 hearings so that we can, once again

19 third times a charm, try to

20 regulate. One of the things that

21 this Governor actually implements

22 these things, then will supersede

23 what we will do. They will be big

24 brother to little brother and

25 sister.

1 2/8/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 And so, we will be able to
3 license them. We will able to
4 permit, scan, track where they are.
5 And the L&I Nuisance Task Force will
6 be able to regulate where they are
7 and what kind of crime they are
8 attracting. And I'm aware that this
9 is a powerful lobby. And I'm aware
10 that probably because of what we're
11 doing right here, that has got our
12 state colleagues ready to move. I
13 get it.

14 But sometimes gravity
15 happens and anti-gravity, that from
16 a local level we make bigger
17 brothers, sisters move on an issue
18 that has set high since 2017.
19 Better later than never.

20 Thank you, colleagues and
21 Mr. President.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
23 Thank you, Councilman Jones.

24 The Chair recognizes
25 Councilmember Anthony -- popped in

1 2/8/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 there. Excuse me.

3 The Chair recognizes

4 Councilwoman Katherine Gilmore

5 Richardson.

6 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

7 RICHARDSON: Thank you. Thank you

8 so much, Council President.

9 I wanted to take this

10 opportunity to thank and

11 congratulate our colleague Mike

12 Driscoll and his team, Tom and Jacob

13 and so many others who work very,

14 very hard on the Joint Task Force on

15 regulatory reform for the Department

16 of Licenses & Inspections. So I

17 wanted to applaud you and thank you

18 for that great work. And also --

19 (Applause.)

20 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

21 RICHARDSON: Congratulations. And

22 also to the Kensington Caucus, I

23 look forward to continuing to work

24 with each of you on that very

25 important work for the Kensington

1 2/8/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 community.

3 Council President, today I
4 wanted to also thank General Manager
5 Leslie Richards, Acting Board Chair
6 Ken Lawrence, our Chair of
7 Transportation Councilmember
8 Driscoll, Vice-Chair of
9 Transportation Councilmember Young,
10 Councilmember Cindy Bass and so many
11 of you who have worked with us on
12 the SEPTA Bus Revolution Plan. I
13 wanted to thank them.

14 At SEPTA, Wendy, for your
15 partnership and your collaboration,
16 for your willingness to take the
17 late phone calls into the evening
18 and into the night. I am certainly
19 appreciative of the opportunity so
20 that we can assure that every
21 Philadelphian is heard in this
22 process and not just a vocal few.

23 I want to thank you,
24 colleagues, for attending the
25 briefing last week when we were able

1 2/8/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 to see a number of data points that
3 were shared. And as a result of the
4 information that we received, were
5 able to work with SEPTA to ensure
6 that we have additional community
7 and civic engagement opportunities
8 in four Council Districts on both
9 sides of each District.

10 Again, I think it's
11 important to state for the record,
12 Mr. President, that I applaud SEPTA
13 for their deep collaboration, for
14 their commitment to working together
15 to get this plan right. SEPTA's
16 work really should serve as a model
17 for other agencies and organizations
18 on how you continue to work to get
19 something right.

20 This is the first time this
21 plan will be changed, all of our bus
22 routes in 70 years. So if it takes
23 a few more days or a few more weeks,
24 folks have to be okay with that.
25 Together we are working to ensure

1 2/8/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 that SEPTA is not only fully funded,
3 but that our transit system provides
4 a safe and a pleasurable experience
5 for all of us.

6 And I want everybody to hear
7 me clearly on this, this is
8 important: For all those who were
9 loudest in 2020 that Black Lives
10 Matter, for all those who stood with
11 us and did this (indicated fist pump
12 in air), for all those who claim
13 that they believe in racial equity
14 when making decisions, show us right
15 now that you believe in that in this
16 defining moment in our transit
17 system. Show us that you mean what
18 you said because we do not only hear
19 what you say, we are watching what
20 you do.

21 Philadelphia has
22 deeply-rooted communities,
23 especially Black and Brown
24 communities, that have been using
25 the bus transit system for

1 2/8/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 generations and we rely on the bus
3 for our everyday lives to buy food,
4 medicine, to get to work, to pick up
5 our children, to go to the doctor's
6 office. So understanding the needs
7 of riders in Wynnefield, in
8 Strawberry Mansion, in Lawncrest,
9 Olney, Nicetown, Hunting Park, just
10 to name a few, requires a deep
11 understanding of how residents in
12 those neighborhoods live and what
13 they actually need. And I'm adding
14 in the Northeast as well because
15 they deserve a voice in this process
16 and not just two meetings.

17 To many residents, the
18 current version of the bus plan was
19 another example of a tale of two
20 cities, a place where changes
21 benefit more affluent communities
22 and leaves those who have lived here
23 and held this City on their
24 shoulders the longest behind.

25 For years I've been watching

1 2/8/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 as experts and specialists show up
3 in our neighborhoods and tell us
4 what we need and what will make our
5 lives better without ever really
6 listening to what we want. I want
7 to be clear, you can't be for us
8 without us. I'm a lifelong
9 Philadelphian who has seen growth
10 and development explode in our city.
11 And I've waited with my family
12 members and friends from Seybert
13 Street down to Jackson Street for
14 that growth to benefit all of us.

15 So working with SEPTA in a
16 partnership and in a collaborative
17 manner to ensure that the biggest
18 transportation project
19 intergeneration truly meets the
20 needs of all of our residents is how
21 we ensure that racial equity can be
22 a reality in America's poorest big
23 city.

24 So I thank you very much for
25 your partnership and your

1 2/8/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 collaboration and for all of those
3 who are understanding the need for
4 us to ensure that we get this right
5 for every single Philadelphian, not
6 just those who are the vocal few.
7 Thank you.

8 (Applause.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

10 Thank you.

11 The Chair recognizes
12 Councilmember Anthony Phillips.

13 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: Thank
14 you, Council President.

15 I just want to say I think
16 so highly of Councilwoman Katherine
17 Gilmore Richardson. She's our
18 Majority Leader and this weekend is
19 her 40th birthday. And we just want
20 to say thank you for always
21 advocating for our -- just amazing.

22 And I also want to tell
23 Council President, I said, see,
24 people stick around for us at the
25 end because you start us on time.

1 2/8/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 So I just want to say thank you,
3 good sir.

4 I won't be like a pastor, I
5 won't be long, I'm just going to
6 come for -- I'm really not going to
7 be long. I just want to say to my
8 colleague Councilmember Driscoll,
9 thank you for your work around the
10 L&I piece of legislation, credible.
11 We have to get that right. And also
12 to the Kensington Caucus led by
13 Councilwoman Lozada, I mean just
14 amazing.

15 The City of Philadelphia, we
16 are going to get this done. And
17 Lozada's been leading the charge,
18 and I know the Mayor has her back
19 and we're going to get this one
20 done. I know it for sure.

21 (Applause.)

22 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: I come
23 before you today because when I
24 started on City Council, I wanted to
25 be able to make as much impact in

1 2/8/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 the City of Philadelphia. There was
3 a lot of noise around the City of
4 Philadelphia about who is this
5 person who's going to replace
6 Cherelle Parker on Philadelphia City
7 Council. And then out of nowhere
8 this guy who is not as political,
9 Anthony Phillips comes out of the
10 pocket and they're like, who the
11 heck is he.

12 And I just wanted to do
13 right by her to make sure that folks
14 understood and respected why she was
15 able to push me and I also wanted to
16 do right by the City of Philadelphia
17 because I love, love, love service.
18 So coming out of the gate I wanted
19 to see how it can be as impactful
20 and learn all at the same time.

21 And so, when we first
22 started we had a lot of staff
23 transition. Rachel Meadows left our
24 office shortly after I started to go
25 work for the Mayor, and she's

1 2/8/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 incredible as a legislative
3 director. And me having a youth
4 development background, I was
5 looking for somebody that kind of
6 fit my style and how we'd work.

7 And I found -- well, didn't
8 find, but I was able to identify and
9 work with a young man by the name of
10 Jemille Duncan who is behind me
11 today. Jemille has been in
12 government since he was 14 years
13 old. And let me tell you --

14 (Applause.)

15 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: I met
16 Jemille when I was doing youth work
17 in the City of Philadelphia with an
18 organization called UrbEd. Jemille
19 was first brought into government by
20 State Senator Sharif Street, who
21 also worked closely with Councilman
22 Jim Harrity when he was Chief of
23 Staff over at State Senator Sheriff
24 Street. They were struck by his
25 intelligence as an 8th grader going

1 2/8/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 into the 9th grade.

3 And they said, well, I want
4 you to come intern and work with us.
5 And lo and behold, he became a quick
6 learner and became really on top of
7 government work and so forth. And I
8 must say to you, he's one of the
9 most intelligent young people I've
10 met ever in my life.

11 So at the age of 18, we
12 brought him here back to City
13 Council after working for two other
14 members. And thus far, we've put
15 together about a couple of bills,
16 major ones, ski masks, speed
17 cushions, and we also were able to
18 work closely on some resolutions and
19 hearings and so forth.

20 Jemille has been a partner,
21 and what I say is good crime to the
22 City of Philadelphia with me. And
23 we're going to miss him because my
24 predecessor also found a way to love
25 him. He's going to be working in

1 2/8/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 the Mayor's Office transitioning
3 starting next week in the
4 Legislative Affairs. So Jemille
5 Duncan, today is his last day. I
6 don't expect him coming back to City
7 Council.

8 (Applause.)

9 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: And I
10 just wanted to quickly acknowledge
11 you and say thank you, my brother,
12 and thank you for your service to
13 the City of Philadelphia and we look
14 forward to seeing all of the things
15 that you do. Well wishes and best
16 of luck. Congratulations.

17 (Applause.)

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:
19 Thank you. Congratulations, young
20 man.

21 The Chair recognizes
22 Councilmember Nina Ahmad.

23 COUNCILWOMAN AHMAD: Thank
24 you, Council President.

25 I just wanted to make sure I

1 2/8/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 told the Kensington Caucus as the
3 Chair of Public Health Committee
4 that I will be working very closely
5 with them so we have evidence-based,
6 sensible solutions to the problems
7 we are encountering, and that we do
8 it in an equitable and compassionate
9 way. And I pledge to you that we
10 will bring your hearings up, the
11 Committee hearings, and we will work
12 on it.

13 And I commend all of you for
14 being proactive. And I think as the
15 community has responded today by
16 saying they've been given hope, so I
17 join them in saying I have hope and
18 I look forward to working with all
19 of you and looking at this as a
20 public health epidemic so we can get
21 some real solutions to resolve this
22 matter. Thank you.

23 (Applause.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

25 Thank you.

1 2/8/24 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 Hearing no more speeches, I
3 think since I've been -- since 2011
4 as a Former State Representative
5 making the transition to City
6 Council, I've been here since 2011,
7 this is probably the first time or
8 this is the first time that I've
9 seen the whole Council body pretty
10 much rally around supporting their
11 colleagues in addressing the issue,
12 right, regardless if it's your
13 representative or not. And that's
14 the only way we're going to move
15 this great City of Philadelphia
16 forward by working together.

17 (Applause.)

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

19 So I commend the spirit of
20 collaboration on addressing the
21 issue. I want to also say because
22 we won't have an opportunity to see
23 this young lady between now -- well,
24 you will get a chance to see her
25 between now and next week, but

1 2/8/24 - STATED - ADJOURNMENT
2 between now and next session of
3 Council, let's acknowledge --
4 because it's a milestone -- the 40th
5 birthday of our Majority Leader
6 Katherine Gilmore Richardson.

7 (Applause.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

9 It's a big deal. And I won't see
10 everybody before next Thursday, so
11 Happy Valentines Day, y'all.

12 With that being said, the
13 Chair recognizes Councilmember
14 Thomas for a motion to adjourn.

15 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank
16 you, Council President. I echo your
17 sentiments with the Happy Birthday
18 as well as the Happy Valentine's
19 Day.

20 I move that Council stand
21 adjourned until Thursday, February
22 15, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. promptly.

23 (Duly seconded.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

25 It has been moved and properly

1 2/8/24 - STATED - ADJOURNMENT

2 seconded that Council stand

3 adjourned until Thursday, February

4 15, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

5 All in favor will signify by

6 saying aye.

7 (Aye.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

9 Those opposed?

10 (No response.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHNSON:

12 The ayes have it, and this Council

13 session is adjourned.

14 - - -

15 (Stated Meeting adjourned at

16 11:32 a.m.)

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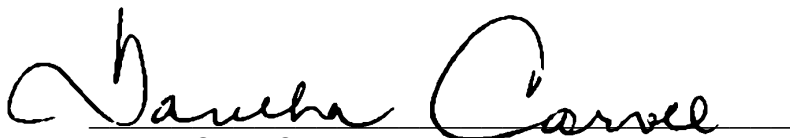
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C E R T I F I C A T I O N

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, reading "Taneha Carroll", is written over a horizontal line.

TANEHA CARROLL
Court Reporter - Notary Public

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