

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
STATED MEETING

- - -

Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Thursday, April 30, 2009
10:30 a.m.

- - -

PRESENT:

COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANNA C. VERNA
COUNCILWOMAN JANNIE BLACKWELL
COUNCILMAN DARRELL L. CLARKE
COUNCILMAN FRANK DiCICCO
COUNCILMAN W. WILSON GOODE, JR.
COUNCILMAN BILL GREEN
COUNCILMAN WILLIAM GREENLEE
COUNCILMAN CURTIS JONES, JR.
COUNCILMAN JACK KELLY
COUNCILMAN JAMES F. KENNEY
COUNCILWOMAN JOAN L. KRAJEWSKI
COUNCILMAN BRIAN J. O'NEILL
COUNCILWOMAN MARIA QUINONES-SANCHEZ
COUNCILWOMAN DONNA REED MILLER
COUNCILWOMAN BLONDELL REYNOLDS BROWN
COUNCILMAN FRANK RIZZO
COUNCILWOMAN MARIAN B. TASCO
PATRICIA RAFFERTY, CHIEF CLERK

- - -

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

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

To give our invocation this morning, the Chair welcomes Reverend Arlington Medley of the Victory Community Church. He is here today as the guest of Councilman Goode.

I would ask all members and guests to please rise.

(Members and guests rise.)

REVEREND MEDLEY: You may be seated quickly.

Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice? Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day and oppress all your workers. Look, you fast only to crawl and to fight and to strike with a

1 4/30/09 - STATED - INVOCATION

2 wicked fist. Such fasting as you do
3 today will not make your voice heard on
4 high.

5 If such a fast that I choose a
6 day to humble one's self, is it to bow
7 down the head like a bullrush and to lie
8 in sack cloth and ashes? Will you call
9 this a fast an acceptable day of the
10 Lord? Is not this the fast that I
11 choose, to loose the bonds of injustice,
12 to undo the thongs of the yolk, to let
13 the oppressed go free and to break every
14 yolk. Is it not to share your bread with
15 the hungry and to bring the homeless poor
16 into your house? When you see the naked,
17 to cover them and not to hide yourself
18 from your own ken?

19 Then your light shall break
20 forth like the dawn and your healing
21 shall spring up quickly and your
22 vindicator shall go before you. The
23 glory of the Lord shall be your rear
24 guard. Then you shall call and the Lord
25 will answer. You shall cry for help and

1 4/30/09 - STATED - INVOCATION

2 he will say, Here I am.

3 Quickly, I shared once before
4 that Philadelphia has something of a
5 hearing problem, that being born and
6 raised here, I could share that there was
7 a man who was caught doing something
8 strange and peculiar. He was a
9 95-year-old man who was walking around
10 town, hugging and squeezing a 25-year-old
11 girl. He one day ran smack dab into his
12 doctor, and his doctor said, Arthur, what
13 are you doing?

14 He said, Doctor, I'm doing what
15 you told me to do. You told me to get a
16 hot momma and to be cheerful.

17 The doctor said, No, Arthur. I
18 said you have a heart murmur and to be
19 careful.

20 The hearing problem that's in
21 Philadelphia is described differently in
22 the text just read. It says that maybe
23 we're not hearing well enough from God.

24 Let's bow and pray.

25 Dearest God, again, we come

1 4/30/09 - STATED - INVOCATION

2 asking that you guide us with your eye,
3 that you lead us in your paths of
4 righteousness, that you call us to do not
5 our will, but your will.

6 Lord, let us take up the
7 intention of heaven, that we work for
8 those who are needy, that we give
9 ourselves to the things of righteousness
10 and justice.

11 God, we ask this morning and
12 the rest of our lives that you move by
13 your spirit and have your way, that the
14 kingdoms of this world become the
15 kingdoms of the Christ, that all will be
16 turned over to you, that you, God, will
17 be all in all.

18 So, Lord, we purpose to be
19 steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in
20 your work. For as much as we know, our
21 labor is not in vein in the Lord. Have
22 your way today, for it's in the name of
23 your son we pray.

24 Let everyone say amen.

25 (Amen.)

1 4/30/09 - STATED - APPROVAL OF JOURNAL

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The
3 Chair thanks Reverend Medley for his
4 invocation.

5 Council will be at ease.

6 (Council at ease.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The
8 next order of business is the approval of
9 the Journal of the meeting of Thursday,
10 April, 23rd, 2009, and the Chair
11 recognizes Councilwoman Tasco.

12 COUNCILWOMAN TESCO: Thank you,
13 Madam President. I move that the Journal
14 of the meeting of Thursday, April 23rd,
15 2009 stand approved.

16 (Duly seconded.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: It
18 has been moved and properly seconded that
19 the Journal of the meeting of Thursday,
20 April 23rd, 2009 stand approved.

21 All in favor will indicate by
22 saying aye.

23 (Aye.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Those
25 opposed?

1 4/30/09 - STATED - LEAVES

2 (No response.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The
4 ayes have it, and the Journal is
5 approved.

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

10 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Thank you,
11 Madam President. On behalf of the
12 majority, there are no requests for
13 leaves of absence today.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The
15 Chair thanks the Councilwoman.

16 The Chair recognizes Councilman
17 O'Neill.

18 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Madam
19 President, on behalf of the republicans,
20 there are no requests for leave of
21 absence.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank
23 you.

24 The Chair will dispense with
25 the regular order of business to

1 4/30/09 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

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

10 At this time, the Chair
11 recognizes Councilwoman Miller, who will
12 present a resolution recognizing May 3rd
13 through May 9th, 2009 as Correctional
14 Officers Employees Week.

15 Will Commissioner Giorla and
16 those accompanying him please join the
17 Councilwoman at the podium.

18 I see that the Councilwoman is
19 being joined by Councilman Rizzo.

20 The officers, the correctional
21 officers, can certainly come up to the
22 podium.

23 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Good
24 morning and welcome to City Council.

25 Recognizing May 3rd through May

1 4/30/09 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 9th, 2009 as Correctional Employees Week.

3 Whereas, the employees of the
4 Philadelphia Prison System manage a
5 population of over 9,000 inmates, 24
6 hours a day, 365 days a year; and

7 Whereas, our prison employees
8 are responsible for the safety, security,
9 dignity and well-being of those who are
10 charged to their care; and

11 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Whereas, by
12 carrying out their duties effectively,
13 the men and women who work at the
14 Philadelphia Prison System are protecting
15 our communities, enabling the smooth
16 function of our criminal justice system;
17 and

18 Whereas, within a controlled
19 environment, our correctional employees
20 provide the guidance, instruction, skills
21 and opportunities that allow people to
22 remake their lives and reconnect with
23 their families and communities; and

24 Whereas, most importantly, our
25 correctional employees have demonstrated

1 4/30/09 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 a vision of correctional system that
3 works hand in hand with our communities
4 and neighborhoods to support and
5 encourage those who change their lives
6 and begin to reach the promise and
7 potential that is within each of us; and

8 Whereas, the correctional
9 employees are a vital partner in the
10 public safety picture;

11 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: And
12 whereas, no group of Philadelphia's
13 public servants have a more difficult or
14 less publicly visible job than the women
15 and men who work in our correctional
16 facilities, parole and probation offices.

17 And now, therefore, be it
18 resolved, by the City Council of
19 Philadelphia, that May 3rd through May
20 9th, 2009 be recognized as Correctional
21 Employees Week.

22 Further resolved, that an
23 engrossed copy of this resolution be
24 presented to Commissioner Louis Giorla as
25 evidence of the sincere sentiments of

1 4/30/09 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 this legislative body.

3 Certification, this is a true
4 and correct copy of the original
5 resolution, adopted by the Council of the
6 City of Philadelphia on the 2nd day of
7 April 2009. Signed by Anna C. Verna,
8 President of City Council. Introduced by
9 Donna Reed Miller and Councilmember Frank
10 Rizzo and co-sponsored by all members of
11 City Council.

12 (Applause.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
14 Chair recognizes Commissioner Giorla for
15 remarks.

16 COMMISSIONER GIORLA: Good
17 morning. Madam President, Councilwoman
18 Miller, Councilman Rizzo, members of
19 Council and guests, on behalf of the men
20 and women of the Philadelphia Prison
21 System -- and I say "on behalf," because
22 without their support and without their
23 hard work and dedication, I would not be
24 anywhere near as confident in my job as I
25 am today. On behalf of them, I'd like to

1 4/30/09 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 say thank you. And behind me at the
3 podium here are some of the
4 representatives of that fine correctional
5 workforce, which is no doubt the finest
6 correctional workforce in the country.

7 Thank you.

8 (Applause.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:

10 Council will be at ease.

11 (Council at ease.)

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

14 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank
15 you, Madam President. I would like to
16 introduce to you and present students
17 with their leader from University City
18 High School in my district. We were out
19 in the hallway talking, and they are here
20 as our guests and we're very happy to
21 have them.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Are
23 they here?

24 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Yes.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:

1 4/30/09 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 Please stand.

3 (Applause.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:

5 Welcome.

6 At this time, the Chair
7 recognizes Councilwoman Blackwell, who
8 will present a resolution recognizing the
9 West Philadelphia High School Automobile
10 Academy.

11 Will Mr. Simon Hauger and those
12 accompanying him please join the
13 Councilwoman at the podium.

14 I see that Councilwoman is
15 being accompanied by Councilwoman Brown
16 and Councilman Green.

17 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank
18 you, Madam President.

19 City Council resolution
20 honoring and recognizing the West
21 Philadelphia High School Automobile
22 Academy for Mechanics and Engineering and
23 the Hybrid X Team on their participation
24 in the Automotive X Prize Competition to
25 develop and market a car that gets 100

1 4/30/09 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 miles to the gallon.

3 Whereas, the West Philadelphia
4 High School Automotive Academy has won
5 several awards for engineering
6 environmentally responsible automotive
7 prototypes, including the first place
8 prize in 2005 and 2006 Hybrid K-1 Attack,
9 a competition to develop a car achieving
10 100 miles per hour in four seconds while
11 achieving at least 60 miles to the
12 gallon; and

13 Whereas, the current
14 competition will give the Academy an
15 opportunity to win a share of the \$10
16 million purse in a contest that pitted
17 the Academy against 100 other teams from
18 around the world, including colleges and
19 universities; and

20 Whereas, the Hybrid X team is
21 the only team comprised entirely of high
22 school students; and

23 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Whereas, the
24 team is confident of its chances, with
25 team member Sekou Kamara saying, "We can

1 4/30/09 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 easily achieve 100 miles per gallon. We
3 built a car that had 200 miles per
4 gallon"; and

5 Whereas the team is employing a
6 light-weight carbon body and a hybrid
7 electric engine that runs on biodiesel;
8 and

9 Whereas, the competition also
10 requires the teams to develop a plan to
11 sell 10,000 units per year, emphasizing
12 the need to build cars that are both
13 environmentally responsible and pleasing
14 to consumers; and

15 Whereas -- hopefully they'll
16 build those in Philadelphia.

17 Whereas, programs like the
18 Automobile Academy give students hands-on
19 training that keeps them interested in
20 school and equips them with marketable
21 skills in life and after graduation;

22 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: And
23 whereas, we are extremely proud and
24 delighted to support the West
25 Philadelphia High School Automobile

1 4/30/09 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 Academy for Mechanics and Engineering and
3 the Hybrid X Team as they participate in
4 this challenging competition.

5 Now, therefore, be it resolved
6 that the Philadelphia City Council hereby
7 honors and recognizes the West
8 Philadelphia High School Automobile
9 Academy for Mechanics and Engineering and
10 the Hybrid X Team on their participation
11 in the Automotive X Prize Competition to
12 develop and market in Philadelphia a car
13 that gets 100 miles to the gallon.

14 Further resolved, that an
15 engrossed copy of this resolution be
16 presented to the leadership of the
17 Academy and the Hybrid X Team as a
18 sincere appreciation of this Council's --
19 as a sincere expression of this Council's
20 appreciation and recognition.

21 Certification, that this is a
22 correct and true copy of the original
23 resolution, adopted by the City Council
24 on the 19th day of March 2009.

25 Introduced by Councilmembers Jannie

1 4/30/09 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2 Blackwell and Bill Green, and supported
3 by all members of the Philadelphia City
4 Council.

5 Congratulations.

6 (Applause.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The
8 Chair recognizes Mr. Hauger for remarks.

9 MR. HAUGER: Thank you very
10 much. Thank you, Councilwoman Blackwell.
11 We just really appreciate the City's
12 support.

13 Thank you, Councilman Kenney,
14 for all your support as well.

15 It's a great privilege to work
16 with students that have vision to impact
17 the automotive market. One of the most
18 exciting things not only winning major
19 competitions in the past but the current
20 competition that we're in, there's 111
21 teams from 11 different countries, and
22 Popular Mechanics rated us in the top 10
23 alongside million-dollar corporations.
24 So it's just a great privilege to see
25 young minds being engaged and being a

1 4/30/09 - STATED - COMMUNICATIONS

2 part of that process, and we do intend to
3 create a business plan that we can build
4 10,000 vehicles a year and make them
5 affordable so teachers like myself can
6 afford to drive a 100-mile-per-gallon
7 vehicle.

8 So we deeply appreciate your
9 support. And continue to watch us as we
10 get ready for this competition.

11 Thank you.

12 (Applause.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:

14 Council will be at ease.

15 (Council at ease.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
17 next order of business is communications.
18 The Chair requests that the
19 Sergeant-At-Arms deliver the messages to
20 the Chief Clerk.

21 The Chief Clerk will please
22 read the messages from the Mayor.

23 CHIEF CLERK: To the President
24 and members of the Council of the City of
25 Philadelphia, I am pleased to advise you

1 4/30/09 - STATED - COMMUNICATIONS

2 that on April 29th, 2009, I signed all of
3 the bills that were passed by Council at
4 its session on April 16th and April 23rd,
5 2009; and

6 I am submitting herewith for
7 the consideration of your honorable body
8 an ordinance authorizing the Public
9 Property Commissioner and the Procurement
10 Commissioner, on behalf of the City of
11 Philadelphia, to enter into an agreement
12 with Motorola, Inc. for the upgrade of
13 the City's 800 megahertz trunked
14 municipal radio communications system;
15 and

16 An ordinance authorizing the
17 Office of the City Treasurer, on behalf
18 of the City, to enter into an agreement
19 with Wachovia Bank for provision of
20 payroll banking services to the City; and

21 An ordinance amending Chapter
22 19-200 of The Philadelphia Code, by
23 authorizing the City Treasurer to deposit
24 funds in TD Bank National Association;
25 and

1 4/30/09 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 An ordinance amending Title 14
3 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled
4 "Zoning and Planning," by creating a new
5 Section 14-1636, entitled "Delaware River
6 Conservation District," all under certain
7 terms and conditions.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
9 you. The messages will be printed in the
10 Journal.

11 I would ask the Chief Clerk to
12 please read any other communications in
13 her possession.

14 CHIEF CLERK: That's all I
15 have, Madam President.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
17 you very much.

18 The next order of business is
19 the introduction of bills and
20 resolutions.

21 The Chair recognizes Councilman
22 Kenney.

23 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you.
24 I have no bills or resolutions today.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank

1 4/30/09 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 you.

3 The Chair recognizes
4 Councilwoman Blackwell.

5 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank
6 you, Madam President. Today I introduce
7 two resolutions, one co-sponsored by
8 yourself, Councilman Rizzo and several
9 other members of Council.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERA: Thank
11 you.

12 The Chief Clerk will please
13 read the resolution.

14 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
15 recognizing Dr. Constantine Papadakis,
16 President of Drexel University from 1996
17 until his death on April 5th, 2009, for
18 his outstanding service to the City of
19 Philadelphia.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERA: The
21 Chair recognizes Councilwoman Blackwell.

22 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank
23 you, Madam President. We will ask for a
24 standing vote showing support of the
25 resolution.

1 4/30/09 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank
3 you.

4 Those standing will be voting
5 in the affirmative of the adoption.

6 Councilwoman Tasco,
7 Councilwoman Miller.

8 (All Councilmembers standing.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The
10 resolution has been adopted.

11 CHIEF CLERK: And a resolution
12 calling on the City Council Committee on
13 Public Health and Human Services to hold
14 hearings to investigate the City's
15 response strategies to the public health
16 risks posed by the spread of swine flu.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The
18 Chair recognizes Councilwoman Blackwell.

19 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank
20 you, Madam President. I move for the
21 adoption of the resolution.

22 (Duly seconded.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: It
24 has been moved and seconded that the
25 resolution be adopted.

1 4/30/09 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 All in favor will say aye.

3 (Aye.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Those
5 opposed?

6 (No response.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The
8 ayes have it, and the resolution will be
9 referred to the appropriate committee.

10 The Chair recognizes Councilman
11 Greenlee.

12 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
13 you, Madam President. I have no bills or
14 resolutions today.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The
16 Chair thanks the gentleman.

17 The Chair recognizes
18 Councilwoman Krajewski.

19 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Thank
20 you, Madam President. I offer three
21 bills.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank
23 you.

24 The Chief Clerk will please
25 read the title of the first bill.

1 4/30/09 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
3 amending Title 14 of The Philadelphia
4 Code, entitled "Zoning and Planning," by
5 creating a new Section 14-1636, entitled
6 "Delaware River Conservation District."

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERA: The
8 bill will be referred to the appropriate
9 committee.

10 CHIEF CLERK: And an ordinance
11 authorizing Mayfair Community Development
12 Corporation, 2990 Saint Vincent Street,
13 to construct, own and maintain
14 streetscape improvements on the public
15 footways of Frankford Avenue.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERA: The
17 bill will be referred to the appropriate
18 committee.

19 CHIEF CLERK: And an ordinance
20 amending Title 14 of The Philadelphia
21 Code, entitled "Zoning and Planning," by
22 amending Section 14-1619, entitled
23 "Frankford Avenue Special District
24 Controls," by changing the boundaries of
25 the area subject to the controls of the

1 4/30/09 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 District, by changing the name of the
3 District and adding provisions with
4 regard to signs.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: This
6 bill will be referred to the appropriate
7 committee.

8 The Chair recognizes
9 Councilwoman Tasco.

10 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Madam
11 President, I offer one bill on my behalf,
12 two privileged resolutions on my behalf
13 and two bills for the Administration.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The
15 Chief Clerk will please read the title of
16 the first bill.

17 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
18 authorizing the Office of the City
19 Treasurer, on behalf of the City, to
20 enter into an agreement with Wachovia
21 Bank for provision of payroll banking
22 services to the City.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The
24 bill will be referred to the appropriate
25 committee.

1 4/30/09 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 CHIEF CLERK: And an ordinance
3 amending Chapter 19-200 of The
4 Philadelphia Code, entitled "City Funds -
5 Deposits, Investments, Disbursements," by
6 authorizing the City Treasurer to deposit
7 funds in TD Bank National Association.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: This
9 bill will be referred to the appropriate
10 committee.

11 CHIEF CLERK: And an ordinance
12 amending Chapter 19-200 of The
13 Philadelphia Code, entitled "City Funds -
14 Deposits, Investments, Disbursements," by
15 amending Section 19-201, entitled "City
16 Depositories," by authorizing the City
17 Treasurer to deposit funds in City
18 National Bank, under certain terms and
19 conditions.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: This
21 bill will be referred to the appropriate
22 committee.

23 CHIEF CLERK: And a resolution
24 recognizing and acknowledging Mothers in
25 Charge on the launch of its first

1 4/30/09 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 publication entitled, "Mothers in Charge,
3 Faces of Courage."

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The
5 Chair recognizes Councilwoman Tasco.

6 COUNCILWOMAN TESCO: Thank you,
7 Madam President. That resolution is
8 co-sponsored by Councilwoman Blondell
9 Reynolds Brown, and I move for the
10 adoption of the resolution.

11 (Duly seconded.)

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

15 All in favor will say aye.

16 (Aye.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Those
18 opposed?

19 (No response.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The
21 ayes have it and the resolution is
22 adopted.

23 CHIEF CLERK: And a resolution
24 calling upon the Mayor to create a
25 Philadelphia Conservatorship Program.

1 4/30/09 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The
3 Chair recognizes Councilwoman Tasco.

4 COUNCILWOMAN TESCO: I move for
5 the adoption of the resolution.

6 (Duly seconded.)

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

10 All in favor will indicate by
11 saying aye.

12 (Aye.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Those
14 opposed?

15 (No response.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The
17 ayes have it and the resolution is
18 adopted.

19 The Chair recognizes
20 Councilwoman Miller.

21 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Thank
22 you, Madam President. Today I offer two
23 resolutions.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank
25 you.

1 4/30/09 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 The Chief Clerk will please
3 read the title.

4 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
5 authorizing City Council's Committee on
6 Public Safety to host a series of
7 roundtables across the City focusing on
8 police community relations between the
9 Philadelphia Police Department and the
10 citizens of Philadelphia, while fostering
11 and encouraging improved relationships.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The
13 Chair recognizes Councilwoman Miller.

14 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: I'd like
15 to speak on this resolution.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna:
17 Please do.

18 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: The
19 purpose of this resolution is not to
20 point the finger at anyone, but rather to
21 create an opportunity for key
22 stakeholders to come together and discuss
23 the issue, with the intention of
24 improving relationships and partnerships
25 between the police and the communities.

1 4/30/09 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 If we work together, we will succeed.

3 We purposely chose to call
4 these roundtables and not hearings or
5 meetings because the roundtable signifies
6 a unified group, having no head or foot,
7 but rather an equality of all those
8 involved coming together for a common
9 goal, stopping the violence and crime.

10 These roundtables will take place
11 throughout the City, with the hopes of
12 reaching the neighborhoods and
13 communities individually. Not all
14 neighborhoods have the same issues, and
15 we intend to target high-risk areas and
16 address their concerns individually.
17 This effort will only work if everyone is
18 involved and takes an active part.

19 The goal is just to bring peace
20 on the streets. And so I move for the
21 adoption of the resolution.

22 (Duly seconded.)

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

1 4/30/09 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 All in favor will say aye.

3 (Aye.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Those
5 opposed?

6 (No response.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The
8 ayes have it and the resolution is
9 adopted and will be referred to the
10 appropriate committee.

11 CHIEF CLERK: And a resolution
12 honoring and recognizing Imhotep
13 Institute Charter School as 2009
14 Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic
15 Association State Boys Basketball
16 Champions.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The
18 Chair again recognizes Councilwoman
19 Miller.

20 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: This
21 resolution is also co-sponsored by
22 Councilwoman Brown, and I move for the
23 adoption.

24 (Duly seconded.)

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: It

1 4/30/09 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 has been moved and properly seconded that
3 the resolution be adopted.

4 All in favor will say aye.

5 (Aye.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Those
7 opposed?

8 (No response.)

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

12 The Chair recognizes
13 Councilwoman Sanchez.

14 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank
15 you, Madam President. I have no bills or
16 resolutions.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
18 you.

19 The Chair recognizes Councilman
20 Green.

21 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you,
22 Madam President. No bills or
23 resolutions.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
25 you.

1 4/30/09 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 The Chair recognizes Councilman
3 Jones.

4 COUNCILMAN JONES: I have one
5 resolution, Madam President.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank
7 you.

8 The Chief Clerk will please
9 read the title of the resolution.

10 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
11 authorizing City Council's Committee on
12 Technology and Information Services to
13 hold hearings on the adequacy of the
14 City's Internet and e-mail services,
15 exploring the feasibility of a separate
16 Internet server for the City.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The
18 Chair recognizes Councilman Jones.

19 COUNCILMAN JONES: This
20 resolution was co-introduced by
21 Councilman Green. I move for the
22 adoption.

23 (Duly seconded.)

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

1 4/30/09 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 the resolution be adopted.

3 All in favor will say aye.

4 (Aye.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Those
6 opposed?

7 (No response.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
9 ayes have it and the resolution will be
10 referred to the appropriate committee.

11 The Chair recognizes Councilman
12 Goode.

13 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you,
14 Madam President. I offer one bill
15 co-introduced by the Commerce and
16 Economic Development Committee.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
18 you.

19 The Chief Clerk will please
20 read the title.

21 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
22 amending Section 19-2604 of The
23 Philadelphia Code, relating to tax rates
24 and credits for the business privilege
25 tax, by amending the provisions providing

1 4/30/09 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 a credit for contributions to community
3 development corporations to allow two
4 businesses to apply jointly for the
5 credit, under certain terms and
6 conditions.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The
8 bill will be referred to the appropriate
9 committee.

10 The Chair recognizes
11 Councilwoman Brown.

12 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you,
13 Madam President. I offer two resolutions
14 today, one addressing House Bill 300
15 co-sponsored by Councilmembers Jones,
16 Tasco and DiCicco, and the one addressing
17 the law firms co-sponsored by
18 Councilmembers Miller, Greenlee and
19 Sanchez. Thank you, Madam President.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna:
21 You're welcome.

22 The Chief Clerk will please
23 read the title of the first resolution.

24 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
25 authorizing Council's Committee on Law

1 4/30/09 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 and Government to hold public hearings
3 examining the level of participation of
4 minorities and females in private sector
5 law firms that are awarded contracts by
6 the Law Department of the City of
7 Philadelphia.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The
9 Chair recognizes Councilwoman Brown.

10 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you,
11 Madam President. I move for the
12 adoption.

13 (Duly seconded.)

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

17 All in favor will say aye.

18 (Aye.)

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Those
20 opposed?

21 (No response.)

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

1 4/30/09 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 CHIEF CLERK: And a resolution
3 urging the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's
4 House of Representatives to pass House
5 Bill 300, amending the Pennsylvania Human
6 Relations Act to prohibit discrimination
7 based on sexual orientation and gender
8 identity or expression.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The
10 Chair recognizes Councilwoman Brown.

11 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you,
12 Madam President. I move for the
13 adoption.

14 (Duly seconded.)

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

18 All in favor will say aye.

19 (Aye.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Those
21 opposed?

22 (No response.)

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

1 4/30/09 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 The Chair recognizes Councilman
3 DiCicco.

4 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: Thank you,
5 Madam President. I offer seven bills,
6 four of which were co-sponsored by
7 Councilmembers Kenney, Goode, Greenlee,
8 Brown and Jones.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
10 you.

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

13 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
14 amending Chapter 19-1300 of The
15 Philadelphia Code, entitled "Real Estate
16 Taxes," by specifying a rate for future
17 tax years that is dependent on total
18 taxable assessed values certified by the
19 Board of Revision of Taxes.

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

23 CHIEF CLERK: And an ordinance
24 amending Chapter 19-1300 of The
25 Philadelphia Code, entitled "Real Estate

1 4/30/09 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 Taxes," by providing that real estate
3 taxes levied under that Chapter shall be
4 based on the average of several years of
5 assessed values, so as to smooth out the
6 effect of rapid increases in property
7 values.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The
9 bill will be referred to the appropriate
10 committee.

11 CHIEF CLERK: And an ordinance
12 amending Chapter 19-1800 of The
13 Philadelphia Code, entitled "School Tax
14 Authorization," by providing that real
15 estate taxes levied under that Chapter
16 shall be based on the average of several
17 years of assessed values, so as to smooth
18 out the effect of rapid increases in
19 property values, and by making technical
20 amendments, under certain terms and
21 conditions.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The
23 bill will be referred to the appropriate
24 committee.

25 CHIEF CLERK: And an ordinance

1 4/30/09 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 amending Chapter 19-1800 of The
3 Philadelphia Code, entitled "School Tax
4 Authorization," by specifying a rate for
5 future tax years that is dependent on
6 total taxable assessed values certified
7 by the Board of Revision of Taxes.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: This
9 bill will be referred to the appropriate
10 committee.

11 CHIEF CLERK: And an ordinance
12 authorizing the revision of lines and
13 grades on a portion of City Plan Nos. 146
14 and 271 by striking from the City Plan
15 and vacating Shackamaxon Street from
16 Delaware Avenue to a dead end and
17 reserving and placing on the City Plan a
18 right-of-way.

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

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

1 4/30/09 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 area bounded by Christopher Columbus
3 Boulevard, Reed Street, the Delaware
4 River and Tasker Street.

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

8 CHIEF CLERK: And an ordinance
9 amending Chapter 14-400 of The
10 Philadelphia Code, entitled "Commercial
11 Entertainment District," by revising and
12 clarifying requirements relating to
13 parking, height regulations, gross floor
14 area and permitted uses, all under
15 certain terms and conditions.

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

19 The Chair recognizes Councilman
20 O'Neill.

21 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Madam
22 President, I have no bills or
23 resolutions.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
25 you.

1 4/30/09 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 The Chair recognizes Councilman
3 Clarke.

4 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you,
5 Madam President. I have one bill and one
6 resolution.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank
8 you.

9 The Chief Clerk will please
10 read the title of the bill.

11 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
12 authorizing the Commissioner of Public
13 Property and the Procurement
14 Commissioner, on behalf of the City, to
15 enter into an agreement with Motorola for
16 the upgrade of the City's 800 megahertz
17 trunked municipal radio communications
18 system.

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

22 CHIEF CLERK: And a resolution
23 authorizing the Commissioner of Public
24 Property to execute and deliver to the
25 Redevelopment Authority of the City of

1 4/30/09 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 Philadelphia deeds located in the 47th
3 Ward of the City of Philadelphia.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
5 Chair recognizes Councilman Clarke.

6 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: I move for
7 the adoption.

8 (Duly seconded.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: It
10 has been moved and seconded that the
11 resolution be adopted.

12 All in favor will say aye.

13 (Aye.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Those
15 opposed?

16 (No response.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
18 ayes have it and the resolution is
19 adopted.

20 The Chair recognizes Councilman
21 Kelly.

22 COUNCILMAN KELLY: Madam
23 President, I have no bills or resolutions
24 today.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank

1 4/30/09 - STATED - REPORTS

2 you.

3 The Chair recognizes Councilman
4 Rizzo.

5 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Madam
6 President, no bills or resolutions today.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank
8 you.

9 The next order of business is
10 reports from committees, and the Chair
11 recognizes Councilman Clarke for a report
12 from the Committee on Public Property and
13 Public Works.

14 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you,
15 Madam President.

16 Madam President, the Committee
17 of Public Property and Public Works
18 reports two bills with a favorable
19 recommendation.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank
21 you.

22 The Chief Clerk will please
23 read the report.

24 CHIEF CLERK: To the President
25 and members of the Council of the City of

1 4/30/09 - STATED - REPORTS

2 Philadelphia, the Committee on Public
3 Property and Public Works, to which was
4 referred Bill No. 080951, entitled "An
5 ordinance authorizing the Commissioner of
6 Public Property, on behalf of the City,
7 to accept from the Delaware River Port
8 Authority conveyance of title to certain
9 parcels of land located in the vicinity
10 of 8th and Race Streets and Florist
11 Street, between 2nd and 4th Street, under
12 certain terms and conditions" --

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
14 you.

15 The Chair recognizes Councilman
16 Clarke.

17 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: I move that
18 the rules of Council be suspended so as
19 to permit first reading this day of Bill
20 Nos. 080951 and 090263.

21 (Duly seconded.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: It
23 has been moved and properly seconded that
24 the rules of Council be suspended so as
25 to -- I'm sorry. We have another one.

1 4/30/09 - STATED - REPORTS

2 CHIEF CLERK: And Bill No.

3 090263, entitled "An ordinance
4 authorizing the Commissioner of Public
5 Property, on behalf of the City, to
6 execute and deliver to the Philadelphia
7 Authority for Industrial Development a
8 deed located in the vicinity of the
9 intersection of Belmont Avenue and
10 Monument Road for further conveyance to
11 the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, for
12 nominal consideration, under certain
13 terms and conditions," respectfully
14 reports it has considered the same and
15 returns the attached bills to Council
16 with a favorable recommendation.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna:

18 Councilman Clarke.

19 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you,
20 Madam President. I move that the rules
21 of Council be suspended so as to permit
22 first reading this day of Bill Nos.
23 080951 and 090263.

24 (Duly seconded.)

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: It

1 4/30/09 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 has been moved and properly seconded that
3 the rules of Council be suspended so as
4 to permit first reading this day of the
5 bills just reported from committee.

6 All in favor will say aye.

7 (Aye.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Those
9 opposed?

10 (No response.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: The
12 ayes have it, and the bills just read
13 will be placed on our First Reading
14 Calendar for today.

15 The next order of business is
16 consideration of the Calendar. I note
17 that the bills just reported from
18 committee will be suspended and our rules
19 now are that it has been deemed to have
20 had a first reading. They will be placed
21 on the Second Reading and Final Passage
22 Calendar for our next session of Council.

23 There are no additional bills
24 on the First Reading Calendar.

25 Therefore, the Chair recognizes

1 4/30/09 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 Councilwoman Tasco for the purpose of
3 calling up bills on the Second Reading
4 and Final Passage Calendar to be
5 considered today.

6 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Thank you,
7 Madam President. Bill Nos. 080268 and
8 090124 are being called up for Second
9 Reading and Final Passage Calendar today.
10 All other bills are being held.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
12 you.

13 The Chief Clerk will please
14 read the title of Bill No. 090268.

15 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
16 authorizing the Commissioner of Public
17 Property, on behalf of the City, to enter
18 into an agreement to lease the Lincoln
19 Financial Mural Arts Center at the Thomas
20 Eakins House located at 1729 Mount Vernon
21 Street, all under certain terms and
22 conditions.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: This
24 bill having been read on two different
25 days, the question now is shall the bill

1 4/30/09 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 pass finally.

3 The Chief Clerk will please
4 call the roll.

5 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman
6 Blackwell.

7 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Aye.

8 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman
9 Clarke.

10 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Aye.

11 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman
12 DiCicco.

13 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: Aye.

14 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Goode.

15 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Aye.

16 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Green.

17 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Aye.

18 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman

19 Greenlee.

20 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Aye.

21 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Jones.

22 COUNCILMAN JONES: Aye.

23 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Kelly.

24 COUNCILMAN KELLY: Aye.

25 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman

1 4/30/09 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 Kenney.

3 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Aye.

4 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman

5 Krajewski.

6 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Aye.

7 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman

8 Miller.

9 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Aye.

10 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman

11 O'Neill.

12 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Aye.

13 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman

14 Reynolds Brown.

15 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Aye.

16 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Rizzo.

17 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Aye.

18 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman

19 Sanchez.

20 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Aye.

21 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman

22 Tasco.

23 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Aye.

24 CHIEF CLERK: Council President

25 Verna.

1 4/30/09 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Aye.

3 The ayes are 17; the nays are
4 zero. A majority of all members having
5 voted in the affirmative, the bill
6 passes.

7 We will now consider Bill No.
8 090124.

9 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
10 approving the dental amalgam brochure
11 adopted by the Board of Health pursuant
12 to Section 9-3102 of The Philadelphia
13 Code.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: This
15 bill having been read on two different
16 days, the question now is shall the bill
17 pass finally.

18 The Chief Clerk will please
19 call the roll.

20 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman
21 Blackwell.

22 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Aye.

23 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman
24 Clarke.

25 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Aye.

1 4/30/09 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman
3 DiCicco.
4 COUNCILMAN DiCICCO: Aye.
5 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Goode.
6 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Aye.
7 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Green.
8 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Aye.
9 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman
10 Greenlee.
11 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Aye.
12 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Jones.
13 COUNCILMAN JONES: Aye.
14 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Kelly.
15 COUNCILMAN KELLY: Aye.
16 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman
17 Kenney.
18 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Aye.
19 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman
20 Krajewski.
21 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Aye.
22 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman
23 Miller.
24 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Aye.
25 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman

1 4/30/09 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 O'Neill.

3 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Aye.

4 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman

5 Reynolds Brown.

6 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Aye.

7 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Rizzo.

8 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Aye.

9 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman

10 Sanchez.

11 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Aye.

12 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman

13 Tasco.

14 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Aye.

15 CHIEF CLERK: Council President

16 Verna.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Aye.

18 The ayes are 17; the nays are
19 zero. A majority of all members having
20 voted in the affirmative, the bill
21 passes.

22 This concludes our Calendar for
23 today.

24 Are there speeches on the part
25 of the minority?

1 4/30/09 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 The Chair recognizes Councilman
3 Kelly.

4 COUNCILMAN KELLY: Thank you,
5 Madam President.

6 I would like to inform my
7 colleagues that today I will be joined by
8 Philadelphia Police Commissioner Charles
9 Ramsey to announce the launch of Project
10 Lifesaver in the City of Philadelphia.

11 Project Lifesaver is a non-profit company
12 that provides the technology and training
13 to locate at-risk children and adults who
14 suffer from autism, Alzheimer's disease,
15 other disabilities and various forms of
16 dementia. The technology is currently
17 being used in over 530 communities
18 nationwide, and I am proud to say that it
19 will shortly be available here in
20 Philadelphia.

21 If any of my colleagues have
22 constituents who suffer from autism,
23 Alzheimer's disease, other disabilities
24 or various forms of dementia who might be
25 interested in this technology, please

1 4/30/09 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 have them contact my office so that I can
3 put them in touch with the folks at
4 Philadelphia Project Lifesaver.

5 Thank you, Madam President.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna:

7 You're welcome.

8 The Chair now recognizes
9 Councilwoman Blackwell.

10 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank
11 you, Madam President.

12 I did not acknowledge
13 Councilman Kenney, who has worked so hard
14 with the West Philadelphia Automotive
15 School. In fact, he's worked with them
16 being involved with the Navy and many
17 other national programs. I wasn't aware,
18 and I thank him for that.

19 I would also like to mention
20 that the Partnership for Prescription
21 Assistance is outside in the hallway
22 again to inform your constituents, and
23 also all of you can get brochures.
24 Again, this is called the Montel Williams
25 program that gives free prescriptions to

1 4/30/09 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 people in need.

3 Thank you, Madam President.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA:

5 You're welcome.

6 The Chair recognizes Councilman

7 Jones.

8 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,

9 Madam President.

10 Today I rise to speak about

11 Recommendation 75, which is an

12 administrative ruling by the Pennsylvania

13 courts which allows the local

14 municipality to forgive support cases'

15 arrears deemed uncollectible.

16 Now, I understand the general

17 purpose of this recommendation is to take

18 incarcerated individuals that need to

19 come home to find gainful employment and

20 put them back into the workforce so that

21 they could pay the arrears, but the

22 unintended consequences, the impact has

23 been devastating to custodial parents

24 who, after all of these years, all of the

25 recessions, all of the ups and downs of

1 4/30/09 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 raising a child, had borne that financial
3 burden, are now told at the end of the
4 day, forget about it, you can't collect
5 what is due to the child.

6 We need to take a look at this
7 and its unintended consequences, because
8 to put a case, quote, on a cold case
9 status and make it an uncollectible case
10 does not stop the financial clock for
11 food, clothing and shelter for young
12 people in the City of Philadelphia. And,
13 in fact, many of these cases wind up on
14 our burden in DHS and, unfortunately, in
15 the juvenile criminal justice system.
16 And I rise to say that we need to address
17 that.

18 Our court system does many
19 wonderful things, and the best part of
20 these budget hearings is hearing about
21 them. Recommendation 75 is not one of
22 them.

23 Thank you, Madam President.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank
25 you.

1 4/30/09 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 The Chair recognizes Councilman
3 Green.

4 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you,
5 Madam President.

6 The Mayor told us back in March
7 that it was time for us to stand up and
8 be counted or sit down and be quiet.
9 Make no mistake, Madam President, City
10 Council is standing up. Councilmembers
11 are asking serious questions during
12 budget hearings to identify potential
13 savings and drive down the costs of
14 government. Councilmembers are
15 generating alternative revenue proposals
16 to protect hard-working Philadelphia
17 families from double-digit property tax
18 increases.

19 The claim that the
20 budget-related proposals presented to the
21 Administration by City Council leadership
22 earlier this week lacked details is
23 belied by the facts. In fact, the sales
24 tax alternative presented by Council
25 finds common ground with the

1 4/30/09 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 Administration, a sales tax increase
3 being the one revenue side option the
4 Administration and Council can agree
5 upon. In fact, the proposal included
6 numerous savings on the spending side
7 that were drawn directly from
8 departmental testimony during the ongoing
9 budget hearings, including, for instance,
10 cutting spending on non-essential cell
11 phones by a million, saving tens of
12 millions of dollars by not filling vacant
13 positions during the current budget
14 crisis.

15 Denigrating Council's work in
16 this regard by challenging one aspect of
17 the sales tax alternative or by falsely
18 claiming that Council's proposal lacked
19 details rather than engaging on the ideas
20 is an easy out. Closing the budget gap
21 by raising property taxes before we have
22 squeezed every last dollar of efficiency
23 savings out of City government also is
24 the easy way out.

25 Our constituents are depending

1 4/30/09 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 upon us to do the heavy lifting needed to
3 find viable options to the Mayor's budget
4 proposal. City Council has demonstrated
5 during this budget season that it is
6 ready, willing and able to carry the
7 load.

8 Madam President, it is time to
9 put childish things aside and come
10 together as a government to guide our
11 city through this fiscal crisis.

12 Thank you, Madam President.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna:

14 You're welcome.

15 The Chair recognizes
16 Councilwoman Tasco.

17 COUNCILWOMAN TESCO: Thank you,
18 Madam President.

19 Madam President, I just want to
20 impress upon -- thank the members of
21 Council, for one thing, for passing the
22 resolution asking for the Mayor to set up
23 a conservatorship program, and I just
24 want to point out that this program,
25 which comes as a result of Governor

1 4/30/09 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 Rendell's approval into law, the
3 Abandoned and Blighted Property
4 Conservatorship Act 2188.

5 All of us have problems with
6 blighted properties in our district that
7 sit for years and years and years. This
8 gives the City, if the City sets up a
9 program under the state law, the
10 community organization to, through a
11 series of legal maneuvers, go in and take
12 control of the property, rehab it and
13 then try and get it back on the market.
14 It doesn't take away the ownership or the
15 power of the owner, but that owner has
16 some responsibility also, but it prevents
17 us from having blighted properties, such
18 as I have in my district, because people
19 pay the taxes, but they still are
20 blighted and they sit there for years.

21 So I thank Councilmembers for
22 supporting this and want you to know we
23 will e-mail you a copy of the Act so that
24 you'll know more specifically what the
25 Act does, and I do hope the Mayor will

1 4/30/09 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 set up this program.

3 Thank you.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank
5 you.

6 The Chair recognizes
7 Councilwoman Brown.

8 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you,
9 Madam President.

10 I've been here for nine years,
11 and I will say to you that this is the
12 first budget experience I have had where
13 I have seen you and Councilwoman Tasco,
14 Councilman Clarke, Councilman Brian
15 O'Neill and Councilman Rizzo gathered
16 together repeatedly over the last many
17 weeks and have been very thoughtful, have
18 been very deliberative, have leaned on
19 expert staff to crunch numbers and then
20 have sat with us members of the team to
21 explain to us, ask for input -- and I
22 repeat, ask for input -- and engage us in
23 a way where we could indeed come up with
24 what I believe to be a responsible
25 alternative measure that moves us to the

1 4/30/09 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 goal that we all want. And as I sat in
3 this meeting this week, as I've made it
4 my business to learn quietly what all of
5 this means, I am extremely pleased that
6 leadership has done what leadership is
7 required to do, engage the members in a
8 way that all of us get it so that we can
9 then articulate it in a way to respond to
10 letters that we get. And we still get
11 letters. I still get e-mails. But as I
12 was sharing where we are with Senator
13 Vincent Hughes earlier this week, his
14 comment was, You all are really -- I'm
15 proud of you from where I sit, and we
16 understand up here in Harrisburg that all
17 of you, both the second floor and the
18 fourth floor, must come to Harrisburg
19 unified so that we do what citizens are
20 asking us to do, and, that is, do not --
21 I repeat, do not -- increase the property
22 tax.

23 I commend the leadership of
24 this City Council.

25 Thank you, Madam President.

1 4/30/09 - STATED - ADJOURNMENT

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank
3 you very much.

4 Any further comments?

5 (No response.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Thank
7 you.

8 The Chair recognizes Councilman
9 Clarke for a motion to adjourn.

10 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you,
11 Madam President. I move that Council
12 stand adjourned until Thursday, May 7th,
13 2009, 10:00 a.m.

14 (Duly seconded.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: It
16 has been moved and seconded that Council
17 stand adjourned until Thursday, May 7th
18 at 10:00 a.m.

19 All in favor will say aye.

20 (Aye.)

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: Those
22 opposed?

23 (No response.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT Verna: The
25 ayes have it. The motion carries.

1 4/30/09 - STATED - ADJOURNMENT

2 Thank you.

3 (Stated Meeting adjourned at

4 11:20 a.m.)

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1
2 CERTIFICATE

3 I HEREBY CERTIFY that the
4 proceedings, evidence and objections are
5 contained fully and accurately in the
6 stenographic notes taken by me upon the
7 foregoing matter on April 30, 2009, and that
8 this is a true and correct transcript of same.

9
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12
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14 _____
15 MICHELE L. MURPHY
16 RPR-Notary Public
17
18

19 (The foregoing certification of this
20 transcript does not apply to any reproduction
21 of the same by any means, unless under the
22 direct control and/or supervision of the
23 certifying reporter.)
24
25