

JOURNAL OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF PHILADELPHIA



**Thursday, February 7, 2008**

PRESENT: 17 - Councilmembers Blackwell, Clarke, Council President Verna, DiCicco, Goode, Green, Greenlee, Jones, Kelly, Kenney, Krajewski, Miller, O'Neill, Reynolds Brown, Rizzo, Sanchez and Tasco

Council met, a quorum being present.

Reverend Ellis I. Washington of St. Matthew A.M.E. Church was introduced and offered an appropriate prayer.

COUNCILMEMBER TASCO MOVED TO APPROVE THE JOURNAL

of the meeting of January 31 and February 4, 2008

THE MOTION WAS DULY SECONDED AND AGREED TO.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

The Sergeant-at-Arms presented messages from the Mayor as follows:

- Transmitting a bill authorizing and directing the revision of lines and grades on a portion of City Plan Nos. 361 and 367 by placing on the City Plan a fifteen feet wide right of way for drainage purposes adjacent to the northwesterly side of Bustleton Avenue and extending from Scotchbrook Drive to a point approximately six-hundred seventy-one feet northeastwardly therefrom, under certain terms and conditions. (File No. 080146)

THE COMMUNICATION WAS READ.

- Transmitting a bill authorizing and directing the revision of lines and grades on a portion of City Plan Nos. 387 and 402 by striking from the City Plan and vacating the westerly thirty-two feet wide and variable width portion of Island Avenue from a point approximately nine-hundred one feet south of Penrose Avenue to a point approximately one-hundred two feet south of Escort Street and by placing on the City Plan a right of way for drainage purposes, water main purposes, gas main purposes, and public utility purposes within the lines of the portion of Island Avenue being stricken from the City Plan by authority of this

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Ordinance. (File No. 080147)

THE COMMUNICATION WAS READ.

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

Councilmember Blackwell Introduced the following Bill, Sponsored by Councilmember Blackwell:

- ☐ **Bill No. 080129:** An Ordinance Granting permission to Sunil Shroff, owner and operator of the newsstand located on the northwest corner of Fortieth Street and Spruce Street, to construct, use and maintain conduits for fiber optic facilities in, under and across the northwest corner of Fortieth Street and Spruce Street, for the purpose of supplying electrical service and telephone service to said newsstand.

THE BILL WAS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON STREETS AND SERVICES.

Councilmember Greenlee Introduced the following Bill, Sponsored by Councilmember Greenlee:

- ☐ **Bill No. 080130:** An Ordinance Amending Title 14 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled "Zoning and Planning," by amending Chapter 14-300, entitled "Commercial Districts," by adopting a new Section, entitled "Transit-Oriented Development District," to promote mixed use higher density development in certain areas in order to encourage the use of public transit and less reliance on automobiles, all under certain terms and conditions.

THE BILL WAS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES.

Councilmember Krajewski Introduced the following Bill, Sponsored by Councilmember Krajewski:

- ☐ **Bill No. 080131:** An Ordinance Authorizing and directing the revision of lines and grades on a portion of City Plan Nos. 305 and 306 by placing on the City Plan Delaware Avenue from Lewis Street to Buckius Street; authorizing the opening of said Delaware Avenue from Lewis Street to Buckius Street, the opening of the unopened portions of Delaware Avenue (currently on the City Plan, partially opened) from the northeasterly side of Lewis Street to a point approximately two-hundred five feet southwestwardly therefrom, and the opening of the unopened portions of Buckius Street (currently on the City Plan, partially opened) from Delaware Avenue to Bath Street; and authorizing the acquisition of certain slope easements adjacent to the right-of-way lines of Delaware Avenue as proposed to be placed on the City Plan and opened by authority of this Ordinance.

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THE BILL WAS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON STREETS AND SERVICES.

Councilmember Tasco Introduced the following Bill:

-  **Bill No. 080132:** An Ordinance Authorizing and directing the revision of lines and grades on a portion of City Plan Nos. 387 and 402 by striking from the City Plan and vacating the westerly thirty-two feet wide and variable width portion of Island Avenue from a point approximately nine-hundred one feet south of Penrose Avenue to a point approximately one-hundred two feet south of Escort Street and by placing on the City Plan a right-of-way for drainage purposes, water main purposes, gas main purposes, and public utility purposes within the lines of the portion of Island Avenue being stricken from the City Plan by authority of this Ordinance.

THE BILL WAS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON STREETS AND SERVICES.

Councilmember Sanchez Introduced the following Bill, Sponsored by Councilmember Sanchez:

-  **Bill No. 080133:** An Ordinance Authorizing and directing the revision of lines and grades on a portion of City Plan Nos. 361 and 367 by placing on the City Plan a fifteen feet wide right-of-way for drainage purposes adjacent to the northwesterly side of Bustleton Avenue and extending from Scotchbrook Drive to a point approximately six-hundred seventy-one feet northeastwardly therefrom, under certain terms and conditions.

THE BILL WAS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON STREETS AND SERVICES.

Councilmember Green Introduced the following Bill, Sponsored by Councilmember Green:

-  **Bill No. 080134:** An Ordinance Amending Section 19-1303(3) of The Philadelphia Code, entitled "Authorization to Offer Exemptions from Real Estate Taxes on Improvements to Deteriorated Industrial, Commercial or Other Business Properties," by revising the boundaries of the area in which properties are eligible for exemptions, under certain terms and conditions.

THE BILL WAS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

Councilmember DiCicco Introduced the following Bill, Sponsored by Councilmember DiCicco:

-  **Bill No. 080135:** An Ordinance Designating the Family Court Building located at 1801 Vine Street as "The Judge Nicholas A. Cipriani Family Court Building."

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THE BILL WAS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC PROPERTY AND PUBLIC WORKS.

Councilmember Clarke Introduced the following Bill, Sponsored by Councilmember Clarke:

- 📄 **Bill No. 080136:** An Ordinance Authorizing the Free Library of Philadelphia, on behalf of the City of Philadelphia to accept a grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Education for renovations to the Central Library Branch of the Free Library at 1901 Vine Street, pursuant to terms and conditions established by the Commonwealth.

THE BILL WAS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

Councilmember Clarke Introduced the following Bill, Sponsored by Councilmember Clarke:

- 📄 **Bill No. 080137:** An Ordinance Amending Chapter 9-600 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled “Service and Other Businesses,” to add a new Section 9-630 regulating the operation of certain take out food establishments that have limited seating, all under certain terms and conditions.

THE BILL WAS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON LICENSES AND INSPECTIONS.

**RESOLUTIONS**

Councilmember Kenney Introduced the following Resolution, Sponsored by Councilmember Kenney:

- 📄 **Resolution No. 080138:** Resolution Authorizing the Committee on the Environment to hold public hearings to examine the Procurement Department's purchasing policies and goals related to sustainable and energy efficient products.

THE RESOLUTION WAS READ.

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED & REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT.

Councilmember Tasco Introduced the following Resolution, Sponsored by Councilmembers Tasco, Miller, Jones, Reynolds Brown, Sanchez, O'Neill and Clarke:

- 📄 **Resolution No. 080139:** Resolution Authorizing the Council Committee on Public Health and Human Services to hold hearings to investigate the City funding and operational changes of Philadelphia Safe and Sound and its impact on the delivery of social services in Philadelphia.

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THE RESOLUTION WAS READ.

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED & REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.

Councilmember Tasco Introduced the following Resolution, Sponsored by Councilmembers Tasco, Green, Jones, Reynolds Brown, Blackwell and Sanchez:

- 📄 **Resolution No. 080140:** Resolution Authorizing the Council Committee on Public Health and Human Services to hold hearings on the findings and recommendations of the Urban League of Philadelphia's report, *The State of Black Philadelphia*, and further authorizing the Committee to seek advice and recommendations on how Philadelphia can level the economic playing field for all citizens.

THE RESOLUTION WAS READ.

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED & REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.

Councilmember Miller Introduced the following Resolution, Sponsored by Councilmember Miller:

- 📄 **Resolution No. 080141:** Resolution  
**Proclaiming April 25th - 27th 2008 as “Global Youth Service Day.”**

The City Council of Philadelphia designates April 25th - 27th 2008 as “Global Youth Service Day” in Philadelphia and encourages that all local organizations encourage, facilitate and ultimately volunteer to do their part in community improvement projects.

THE RESOLUTION WAS READ.

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

Councilmember Green Introduced the following Resolution, Sponsored by Councilmembers Green and Goode:

- 📄 **Resolution No. 080142:** Resolution **Declaring that certain areas of the City, specifically the area bounded by Delaware Avenue, Shackamaxon Street (Extended), the Delaware River, and Ellen Street (Extended) and the area bounded by Christopher Columbus Boulevard, (former) Reed Street, the Delaware River, and Tasker Street (Extended), as a result of the extraordinary act of the Pennsylvania Gaming Board in granting gaming licenses to those particular sites, are no longer found to be deteriorated under §19-1303(3) of The Philadelphia Code.**

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THE RESOLUTION WAS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

Councilmember Reynolds Brown Introduced the following Resolution, Sponsored by Councilmembers Reynolds Brown, Jones, Sanchez and Krajewski:

- ☐ **Resolution No. 080143:** Resolution Authorizing the creation of a Special Committee on Gender Parity of the City Council of Philadelphia, to identify problems related to the social, political, educational and economic empowerment of women and to explore and develop initiatives to advance parity for women.

THE RESOLUTION WAS READ.

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

Councilmember DiCicco Introduced the following Resolution, Sponsored by Councilmember DiCicco:

- ☐ **Resolution No. 080144:** Resolution Authorizing Philadelphia City Council's Committee of the Whole to investigate the conditions and provisions of the agreements between the City of Philadelphia and HSP Gaming, d/b/a SugarHouse Casino and between the City of Philadelphia and Philadelphia Entertainment and Development Partners, d/b/a Foxwoods Casino.

THE RESOLUTION WAS READ.

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED & REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE.

Councilmember Clarke Introduced the following Resolution, Sponsored by Councilmember Clarke:

- ☐ **Resolution No. 080145:** Resolution Authorizing the Commissioner of Public Property to execute and deliver to the Redevelopment Authority of the City of Philadelphia, without consideration, deeds conveying conditional fee simple title to certain city-owned lots or pieces of ground with the buildings and improvements thereon, situate in the Eighteenth, Thirty-second and Forty-seventh Ward of the City of Philadelphia, pursuant to Chapter 16-400 of The Philadelphia Code and authorizing the Redevelopment Authority of the City of Philadelphia to dispose of such properties for rehabilitation and/or improvements in accordance with terms of Chapter 16-400 of The Philadelphia Code.

THE RESOLUTION WAS READ.

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

**REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES**

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**COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS**

☐ **Bill No. 080009:** An Ordinance Authorizing transfers in appropriations for Fiscal Year 2008 within the Grants Revenue Fund from the Director of Finance - Provision for Other Grants to the Police Department, the Law Department and the City Commissioners.

COUNCILMEMBER KRAJEWSKI MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES OF THE COUNCIL SO AS TO PERMIT CONSIDERATION THIS DAY OF BILL NO. 080009.

THE MOTION WAS DULY SECONDED AND AGREED TO.

THE BILL WAS ORDERED PLACED ON THIS DAY'S FIRST READING CALENDAR.

☐ **Bill No. 080010:** An Ordinance Authorizing transfers in appropriations for Fiscal Year 2008 from the General Fund, certain or all City offices, departments, boards and commissions and from the Grants Revenue Fund, the Director of Finance - Provision for Other Grants to the General Fund, certain or all City offices, departments, boards and commissions.

COUNCILMEMBER KRAJEWSKI MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES OF THE COUNCIL SO AS TO PERMIT CONSIDERATION THIS DAY OF BILL NO. 080010.

THE MOTION WAS DULY SECONDED AND AGREED TO.

THE BILL WAS ORDERED PLACED ON THIS DAY'S FIRST READING CALENDAR.

**CONSIDERATION OF THE CALENDAR**

**BILLS ON FIRST READING**

☐ **Bill No. 080009:** An Ordinance Authorizing transfers in appropriations for Fiscal Year 2008 within the Grants Revenue Fund from the Director of Finance - Provision for Other Grants to the Police Department, the Law Department and the City Commissioners.

THE BILL WAS ORDERED PLACED ON NEXT WEEK'S SECOND READING CALENDAR.

☐ **Bill No. 080010:** An Ordinance Authorizing transfers in appropriations for Fiscal Year 2008 from the General Fund, certain or all City offices, departments, boards and commissions and from the Grants Revenue Fund, the Director of Finance - Provision for Other Grants to the General Fund, certain or all City offices, departments, boards and commissions.

THE BILL WAS ORDERED PLACED ON NEXT WEEK'S SECOND READING CALENDAR.

**SPEECHES**

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COUNCILMEMBERS DICICCO, KENNEY, - CASINO CONVERSATION AND DEBATE REGARDING COUNCILMEMBER GREEN'S RESOLUTION INTRODUCED - (SEE NOTES OF TESTIMONY)

COUNCILMEMBER BROWN - RFP'S SURROUNDING THE GOLF COURSES IN THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA - (SEE NOTES OF TESTIMONY)

COUNCILMEMBER GREEN - MAKES FINAL POINT THAT HE BELIVES THAT WE'LL GET ADDITIONA REVENUE IF WE REMOVE THE ABATEMENT - (SEE NOTES OF TESTIMONY)

COUNCILMEMBER CLARKE AND DICICCO - FURTHER CASINO GAMING CONVESATIONS - (SEE NOTES OF TESTIMONY)

COUNCILMEMBER GOODE - CO-SPONSOR OF COUNCILMEMBER GREEN'S RESOLUTION - HIS POSITION CONSISTENT WITH THE POSITION HE HAS TAKEN OVER THE LAST EIGHT OR NINE YEARS WITH REGARD TO TAX INCREMENT FINANCING AND THE FACT THAT COUNCIL GOVERNMENT WERE GIVING TAX INCENTIVES WHERE THEY WERE NOT NEEDED - (SEE NOTES OF TESTIMONY)

COUNCILMEMBER KENNEY - TIF'S AND TAX ABATEMENTS - (SEE NOTES OF TESTIMONY)

COUNCILMEMBER GOODE - TO SUGGEST THAT AN AT-LARGE COUNCILMEMBER CAN'T TAKE ON AN ISSUE OF A TIF BECAUSE IT IS IN A DISTRICT JUST DOESN'T FLY - (SEE NOTES OF TESTIMONY)

COUNCILMEMBER GREEN - ELIMINATING THE TAX ABATEMENT - (SEE NOTES OF TESTIMONY)

COUNCILMEMBER KENNEY - AN AT-LARGE COUNCILMEMBER CAN DO ANYTHING THEY'D LIKE - (SEE NOTES OF TESTIMONY)

COUNCILMEMBER GREEN - THIS IS NOT A PERSONAL ISSUE - (SEE NOTES OF TESTIMONY)

COUNCILMEMBER CLARKE MOVED TO ADJOURN

THE MOTION WAS DULY SECONDED AND AGREED TO.