

Stated Meeting Invocation  
February 4, 2016

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COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA  
STATED MEETING

Room 400, City Hall  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
Thursday, February 4, 2016  
10:55 a.m.

PRESENT:

COUNCIL PRESIDENT DARRELL L. CLARKE  
COUNCILWOMAN CINDY BASS  
COUNCILWOMAN JANNIE L. BLACKWELL  
COUNCILMAN ALLAN DOMB  
COUNCILMAN DEREK S. GREEN  
COUNCILMAN WILLIAM K. GREENLEE  
COUNCILWOMAN HELEN GYM  
COUNCILMAN BOBBY HENON  
COUNCILMAN KENYATTA JOHNSON  
COUNCILMAN CURTIS JONES, JR.  
COUNCILMAN DAVID OH  
COUNCILMAN BRIAN J. O'NEILL  
COUNCILWOMAN CHERELLE L. PARKER  
COUNCILWOMAN MARIA D. QUINONES-SANCHEZ  
COUNCILWOMAN BLONDELL REYNOLDS BROWN  
COUNCILMAN MARK SQUILLA  
COUNCILMAN AL TAUBENBERGER

MICHAEL A. DECKER, CHIEF CLERK

- - -

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COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good morning, everyone. We have a quorum. I'd ask the guests and visitors to please retire behind the rails and we will get started.

To give our invocation this morning, the Chair recognizes Rabbi Abe Friedman of the Temple Beth Zion-Beth Israel. He is here today as the guest of Councilman Allan Domb.

I would ask all members and guests to please rise.

(Members and guests rise.)

RABBI FRIEDMAN: Mkur fun leb, source of life, we thank you for the gift of this day and the opportunity to serve our community. We ask that you open our hearts to our neighbors in need, to the widow and the orphan, the stranger and the outcast.

Bless us with compassion and strength. Help the work of our hands to grow and to flourish.

Bless our city with health,

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1           2/4/16 - STATED - APPROVAL OF JOURNAL  
2           safety, and prosperity.

3                       Amen.

4                       (Amen.)

5                       COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

6           Thank you so very much, Rabbi.

7           Appreciate it.

8                       Council will be at ease.

9                       (Council at ease.)

10                      COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

11           Thank you, Rabbi.

12                      The next order of business is  
13           the approval of the Journal of the  
14           meeting of Thursday, January 28th, 2016,  
15           and the Chair recognizes Councilman  
16           Greenlee.

17                      COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank  
18           you, Mr. President. I move that the  
19           Journal of the meeting of Thursday,  
20           January 28th, 2016 be approved.

21                      (Duly seconded.)

22                      COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

23           Thank you. It has been moved and  
24           properly seconded that the Journal of the  
25           meeting of Thursday, January 28th, 2016

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1                   2/4/16 - STATED - LEAVES

2           stand approved.

3                   All those in favor say aye.

4                   (Aye.)

5                   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

6           Those opposed?

7                   (No response.)

8                   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The

9           ayes have it, and the Journal is

10           approved.

11                   The next order of business is

12           requests for leaves of absence, and the

13           Chair recognizes Councilwoman Brown.

14                   COUNCILWOMAN BROWN:

15           Mr. President, I have no requests for

16           leaves of absence.

17                   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

18           Thank you, Councilwoman. The Chair

19           thanks the gentlewoman.

20                   And the Chair recognizes

21           Councilman O'Neill.

22                   COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Thank you,

23           Mr. President. On behalf of the

24           republicans, there are no requests for

25           leave of absence.

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1           2/4/16 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2                   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

3           Thank you. The Chair thanks the  
4           gentleman.

5                   At this time, I would like to  
6           dispense with the regular order of  
7           business and I would like to thank  
8           everyone who has taken time out of their  
9           day to come down and witness your  
10          government in action. We actually really  
11          appreciate seeing you every Thursday. We  
12          hope that you enjoy it so much today that  
13          you come back next Thursday. So, again,  
14          we really appreciate it, and thank you  
15          for coming down.

16                   At this time, the Chair  
17          recognizes Councilwoman Reynolds Brown,  
18          who will present a resolution honoring  
19          the African American Children's Book  
20          Project. Would Ms. Vanesse  
21          Lloyd-Sgambati and those accompanying her  
22          please join the Councilwoman at the  
23          podium.

24                   (Councilmembers and guests  
25          approached podium.)

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1           2/4/16 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2                   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: And  
3           joining Councilwoman Reynolds Brown, we  
4           have Councilman Jones, Councilman Green,  
5           Councilwoman Quinones-Sanchez,  
6           Councilwoman Blackwell, and Councilman  
7           Johnson.

8                   COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you,  
9           Mr. President.

10                   One of my absolutely positively  
11           favorite experiences of every year is the  
12           African American Children's Book Project,  
13           this year celebrating its 24th  
14           anniversary, and I want to first applaud  
15           and salute the vision and what I call  
16           stick-to-itiveness in its leader, Vanesse  
17           Lloyd-Sgambati, who every year mounts  
18           this initiative against great odds, but  
19           given her love for books and the supreme  
20           value they have in the lives of African  
21           American children, she makes it happen.

22                   I will also say that I look  
23           with envy and I'm often awestruck by the  
24           discipline of those who take pen to paper  
25           over a sustained period of time and

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1           2/4/16 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2           ultimately come up with a work product.

3                     Please pay attention to the two  
4           books on your desk, compliments of  
5           Vanesse Lloyd-Sgambati and the 24th  
6           Annual African American Children's Book  
7           Project, and we thank her publicly for  
8           that.

9                     A couple of facts. Of the  
10          entire population of the United States,  
11          37 percent of people identify themselves  
12          as a person of color. However, of all  
13          the published children's books over the  
14          past 21 years, only 10 percent contain  
15          multicultural content. So this fact  
16          underscores the supreme value of African  
17          American children reading and looking and  
18          browsing through books where they have  
19          images that look like them.

20                    This morning, honoring the  
21          African American Children's Book Project  
22          on the occasion of the 24th African  
23          American Children's Book Fair and that  
24          February 6th is the kick-off of the  
25          National Literacy Initiative - Preserve a

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1           2/4/16 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2           Legacy, Buy a Book.

3                       Whereas, in 1926, noted  
4           historian Carter G. Woodson and the  
5           Association for the study of negro life  
6           and history announced the second week of  
7           February to be "Negro History Week"; and

8                       Whereas, the 2nd week in  
9           February was chosen because of the  
10          birthdays of President Abraham Lincoln  
11          and Frederick Douglass; and

12                      COUNCILWOMAN GYM: Whereas,  
13          during early American history, African  
14          Americans were not allowed to learn to  
15          read and have books; in some states the  
16          penalty for this infraction was death;  
17          and

18                      Whereas, the importance of book  
19          fairs cannot be understated and for  
20          twenty three years the African American  
21          Children's Book Fair has enhanced  
22          multi-culturalism in our City utilizing  
23          the joy of reading as a tool; and

24                      Whereas, Vanesse Lloyd-Sgambati  
25          created the book fair because she

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1           2/4/16 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS  
2           believes books open up a world of  
3           opportunities for children and after  
4           twenty three years, the African American  
5           Children's Book Fair is the oldest and  
6           largest single-day event for children's  
7           books in the country; and

8                        COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: One of  
9           the most important reasons to encourage  
10          reading in our children is that studies  
11          show that the more our youth read, the  
12          more likely they are to make positive  
13          lifestyle decision as they grow older;  
14          and

15                       Whereas, strictly judging by  
16          attendance, this fair is a tremendous  
17          success as well over 3,500 people  
18          attended the fair in the past years; and

19                       Whereas, rich or poor, no one  
20          leaves empty handed as the books  
21          themselves are priced at a level where  
22          they are more affordable, and posters,  
23          bookmarkers, raffle books are distributed  
24          free of charge to attendees; and

25                       COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Whereas,

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1           2/4/16 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS  
2           two of the esteemed participants will be  
3           Wade and Cheryl Hudson. The Hudsons were  
4           two parents on a desperate search for  
5           children's books that addressed Black  
6           history, Black heritage and Black  
7           experiences. Disappointed by the limited  
8           number and their unreliable availability,  
9           the couple embarked upon a mission to  
10          produce the kind of positive, vibrant  
11          Black-interest books that they wanted for  
12          their own two children; and

13                       Whereas, in 1988, the Hudsons  
14          started Just Us Books, Inc. With Wade  
15          serving as company president and head of  
16          marketing and Cheryl leading the  
17          editorial and art departments, Just Us  
18          Books, Inc. soon became a leading  
19          publisher of multicultural books for  
20          children, opening doors of opportunity  
21          for many authors and illustrators of  
22          color along the way; and

23                       COUNCILMAN GREEN: Whereas, the  
24          Hudsons' trailblazing efforts and  
25          contributions to children's literature

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1           2/4/16 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS  
2           and book publishing have been recognized  
3           widely. They have received the Ida B.  
4           Wells Institutional Builders Award  
5           presented by the National Black Writers  
6           Conference, the Madame CJ Walker Legacy  
7           Award for entrepreneurship given by the  
8           Hurston Wright Foundation and the "Small  
9           Business Pioneer of the Year" distinction  
10          from Income Opportunities magazine, among  
11          others. The books they have published  
12          have enabled children of color everywhere  
13          to see characters who look like  
14          themselves in the books they read and  
15          explore stories that relate to their own  
16          experiences; and

17                   COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL:

18          Whereas, after 27 years Just Us Books is  
19          still one of only a handful of  
20          Black-known publishing companies in the  
21          nation and one of several exclusively  
22          dedicated to producing Black-interest and  
23          multicultural books for children and  
24          young adults; and

25                   Whereas, two additional

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1           2/4/16 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS  
2           individuals being honored for being  
3           champions of literacy in Philadelphia are  
4           Sharon Powell, Senior Director of  
5           Government and Regulatory Affairs for  
6           Comcast Corporation, and Tiffany Tavarez,  
7           Corporate Relations for PECO; and

8                        COUNCILMAN JONES: Whereas, the  
9           fair is also lucky to host terrific  
10          sponsors and partners such as NBC10,  
11          PECO, Wells Fargo, iHeart Radio, Health  
12          Partners Foundation, Councilwoman  
13          Blondell Reynolds Brown and Councilman  
14          Kenyatta Johnson, all whom have been  
15          instrumental in keeping the literary  
16          flames ablaze for our children in the  
17          City of Philadelphia through tireless  
18          contributions to the African American  
19          Children's Book Project. The financial  
20          contributions have enabled the book fair  
21          to give away thousands of brand new books  
22          of guest authors and illustrators  
23          participating in the event. For many  
24          children, it is the first time they owned  
25          a book; and

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1           2/4/16 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2                   COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Whereas,  
3 the 24th Annual African American  
4 Book Fair will be held free of charge on  
5 Saturday, February the 6th from one to  
6 three p.m. at the gymnasium of the  
7 Community College of Philadelphia located  
8 at 17th and Spring Garden Streets; now,  
9 therefore, be it

10                   Resolved, by the Council of the  
11 City of Philadelphia, that we hereby  
12 honor the African American Children's  
13 Book Project on the occasion of the 24th  
14 Annual African American Children's Book  
15 Fair and that February 6th is the  
16 kick-off of the National Literacy  
17 Initiative - Preserve a Legacy, Buy a  
18 Book.

19                   COUNCILWOMAN BASS: And further  
20 resolved, that an engrossed copy of this  
21 citation be presented to representatives  
22 of the African American Children's Book  
23 Project, Wade and Cheryl Hudson, Sharon  
24 Powell, and Tiffany Tavarez for their  
25 hard work and efforts in the promotion of

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1           2/4/16 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS  
2           children's literacy, as evidence of the  
3           sincere sentiments of this legislative  
4           body.

5                           (Applause.)

6                           COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: And  
7           the Chair recognizes Ms. Sgambati for  
8           remarks.

9                           MS. SGAMBATI: Thank you so  
10          very, very much. You know, every time I  
11          come into Chambers, I'm overwhelmed,  
12          because when I'm surrounded by all of  
13          these people who can read, but I know  
14          most of them from when they got their  
15          start. And reading is power. And I  
16          can't impress upon you what this book  
17          fair means to our children.

18                          Last year a young woman came up  
19          to me and she said, Here's a book I got  
20          from the NBC10-Telemundo Reading Circle  
21          ten years ago, and she said, We were  
22          homeless, but every year we came to this  
23          book fair. She said, This was the only  
24          thing I owned. She said, I'm in college  
25          now and I have a daughter and a husband.

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1           2/4/16 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2                   Reading is power. And I can't  
3           impress upon you -- Councilman Kenyatta  
4           Johnson said to me -- he called me up in  
5           December. He was in the bookstore  
6           looking for books for his son, and he  
7           said, There's no books here. We live in  
8           a city that's over 40 percent African  
9           American, African American children's  
10          books, but we live in a city that's over  
11          40 percent some odd numbers of African  
12          American. This should not be happening.

13                   And unfortunately I did not  
14          follow the proper protocol. I have to  
15          acknowledge Councilman Clarke, President  
16          Clarke, members of Council and you, our  
17          guests. But these people just overwhelm  
18          me.

19                   And I want to thank Wade and  
20          Cheryl Hudson, because they are the stars  
21          of the children's book world, being able  
22          to produce the wonderful books that they  
23          do. But it is the corporate partners  
24          that allow me also to give away brand new  
25          books to educators. An educator can walk

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1           2/4/16 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS  
2           out of there with over five books, almost  
3           worth \$100, because of the corporate  
4           partnerships that I've arranged. And  
5           people like PECO, you'll meet Tiffany  
6           Tavarez later and Ramona Riscoe, who is  
7           here also, who really got this ball  
8           started, and Mellanie Lassiter, Wells  
9           Fargo, Health Partners Plans, Health  
10          Partners Foundation, Always Best Care,  
11          Kenyatta Johnson, and Jannie Blackwell.  
12          She wasn't mentioned in the citation, but  
13          Jannie comes every year. I'm getting  
14          familiar, but Jannie is here every year.  
15          She came on board as a sponsor, which  
16          enabled us to do more things. And also  
17          Tierney and Councilwoman Marian B. Tasco.  
18          Before she left these halls, she had sent  
19          me a check for the Children's Book Fair.  
20                        So I'm really grateful for all  
21          of that. I encourage you to come. And  
22          new members of Council, trust me, trust  
23          me. This is an event you need to  
24          support. You need to come out, and  
25          you'll meet a constituency that's not

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1           2/4/16 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2           normally reflected in newspapers and on  
3           television. Those little boys come in  
4           there because they want to learn. Those  
5           parents come in there because they want  
6           to give to their children a better world.

7                        So I thank you very much for  
8           your time, and I'll pass the ball over to  
9           Wade and Cheryl Hudson.

10                      MS. HUDSON: Good morning and  
11           thank you so much for this great honor.  
12           Wade and I have been in the trenches with  
13           children's books really for 40 years, but  
14           our company is 28 years old this year,  
15           and we are in the business of providing  
16           great books for all children, but African  
17           American children are the centers and  
18           stars of our books. So thank you so much  
19           for this great honor.

20                      MR. HUDSON: And I would just  
21           like to ask us to give a round of  
22           applause for the hard work and dedication  
23           of Vanesse.

24                      (Applause.)

25                      MR. HUDSON: Vanesse is not

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1           2/4/16 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2           just talking the talk. She is walking  
3           the walk, and we thank her and we look  
4           forward to participating in this very  
5           important book festival every year.

6                         We thank you, and God bless all  
7           of you.

8                         (Applause.)

9                         MS. POWELL: Good morning. I'm  
10          Sharon Powell, Senior Director for  
11          Comcast. I want to thank Vanesse for the  
12          extraordinary work that she and her team  
13          do throughout the year and every year. I  
14          am proud and honored to be a part of  
15          promoting literacy and digital literacy  
16          in our communities through Comcast  
17          Internet Essentials. I especially want  
18          to thank Charisse Lillie and Kathleen  
19          Sullivan for their ongoing support and  
20          all members of Council, and we hope to  
21          see you this Saturday.

22                         Thank you.

23                         (Applause.)

24                         MS. TAVAREZ: I warned Vanesse  
25          that if this included access to a

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1           2/4/16 - STATED - PRESENTATIONS

2           microphone, this may take a minute.

3                        So first and foremost, the work  
4           that I do cannot be done alone. That  
5           requires a team, and a solid team at  
6           that. So I'd like to thank the PECO  
7           Corporate Relations team, which is  
8           represented today here by Ramona Riscoe  
9           Benson and Michele Garrity, and of course  
10          the force of nature that is known as  
11          Vanesse Lloyd-Sgambati and of course  
12          Council today.

13                      When I looked up the word  
14          "literacy," it meant the ability to read  
15          and write and the possession of  
16          education, and I am really honored and  
17          humbled to be deemed a champion of that.  
18          My mother did not raise no fool. Now I  
19          have proof that she did raise a champion.

20                      Thank you.

21                      COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

22          Thank you.

23                      Council will be at ease.

24                      (Council at ease.)

25                      COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

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1           2/4/16 - STATED - COMMUNICATIONS

2           Thank you very much. The next order of  
3           business is communications. The Chair  
4           requests that the Sergeant-of-Arms  
5           delivers the messages from the Mayor to  
6           the Chief Clerk.

7                        SERGEANT-OF-ARMS: There is no  
8           communications from the Mayor this  
9           morning.

10                      COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

11           Mr. Decker, would you --

12                      CHIEF CLERK: There are no  
13           messages from the Mayor, Mr. President.

14                      COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: You  
15           have no messages? Any other  
16           communications whatsoever?

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

19                      COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

20           Thank you very much.

21                      We will now move towards the  
22           introduction of bills and resolutions,  
23           and the Chair recognizes Councilwoman  
24           Reynolds Brown.

25                      COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Good

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1           2/4/16 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS  
2 morning, Mr. President. I offer this  
3 morning one non-privileged resolution.

4           COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:  
5 Thank you, Councilwoman.

6           CHIEF CLERK: A non-privileged  
7 resolution supporting the passage of the  
8 Pennsylvania General Assembly's House  
9 Bill No. 262 to help combat human  
10 trafficking throughout Pennsylvania.

11           COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: That  
12 will be on next week's Final Passage  
13 Calendar.

14           The Chair recognizes  
15 Councilwoman Blackwell.

16           COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank  
17 you, Mr. President. Today I introduce  
18 one non-privileged resolution.

19           COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:  
20 Thank you, Councilwoman.

21           CHIEF CLERK: A privileged  
22 resolution calling for the City Council  
23 Committee on Education and the Committee  
24 on Children and Youth to hold hearings on  
25 the establishment of a plan to deal with

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1           2/4/16 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2           the transition from Pre-K to  
3           Kindergarten.

4                    COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: That  
5           will be on this week's Final Passage  
6           Calendar.

7                    The Chair recognizes Councilman  
8           Greenlee.

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

12                   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:  
13          Thank you, Councilman.

14                    The Chair recognizes Councilman  
15          Henon.

16                    COUNCILMAN HENON: Thank you,  
17          Council President. Today I have two  
18          bills.

19                    COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:  
20          Thank you, Councilman.

21                    CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance  
22          establishing a no truck parking  
23          regulation on both sides of Torresdale  
24          Avenue, from Ashburner Street to the  
25          Pennypack Creek.

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1           2/4/16 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2                   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

3 Referred to committee.

4                   CHIEF CLERK: And an ordinance  
5 establishing a no tractor trailer parking  
6 regulation on both sides of Torresdale  
7 Avenue, from Rhawn Street to the  
8 Pennypack Creek.

9                   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Also  
10 referred to committee.

11                   The Chair recognizes Councilman  
12 Jones.

13                   COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,  
14 Mr. President. I have a resolution today  
15 offered by you and all members of Council  
16 and I wish to be recognized after the  
17 title of the resolution is introduced for  
18 a motion on the resolution.

19                   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:  
20 Thank you, Councilman.

21                   CHIEF CLERK: A non-privileged  
22 resolution appointing members to the  
23 "Special Committee on Criminal Justice  
24 Reform," who will conduct public hearings  
25 examining the Philadelphia criminal

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1           2/4/16 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS  
2           justice system for the impact of current  
3           policies, and offer recommended  
4           strategies for reform that are in the  
5           best interest of public safety and the  
6           public good.

7                        COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

8           Thank you. That resolution will be on  
9           this week's -- you want to do that now,  
10          Councilman?

11                      The Chair recognizes Councilman  
12          Jones.

13                      COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,  
14          Mr. President. I move that the rules of  
15          Council be suspended to permit  
16          consideration of this resolution on  
17          today's Final Passage Calendar.

18                      (Duly seconded.)

19                      COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

20          Thank you. It's been moved and properly  
21          seconded.

22                      All those in favor of  
23          suspension of the rules?

24                      (Aye.)

25                      COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

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1           2/4/16 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2           Those opposed?

3                     (No response.)

4                     COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The  
5           ayes have it, and that will be on this  
6           week's Final Passage Calendar.

7                     Thank you, Councilman.

8                     The Chair recognizes Councilman  
9           Johnson.

10                    COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you,  
11           Council President. I have two bills, two  
12           privileged resolutions and one  
13           non-privileged resolution, and all  
14           resolutions are signed by all members of  
15           Council.

16                    COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:  
17           Thank you, Councilman.

18                    COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you,  
19           Council President.

20                    CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance  
21           amending Chapter 19-1500 of The  
22           Philadelphia Code, entitled "Wage and Net  
23           Profits Tax," to provide a tax credit and  
24           refund of excess taxes paid for certain  
25           low-income taxpayers.

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1           2/4/16 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2                   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: That  
3 bill will be referred to the appropriate  
4 committee.

5                   CHIEF CLERK: And an ordinance  
6 providing for the submission to the  
7 qualified electors of the City of  
8 Philadelphia of the proposal set forth in  
9 a Resolution approved by Council  
10 proposing an amendment to the  
11 Philadelphia Home Rule Charter to provide  
12 for the creation, appointment, powers and  
13 duties of a Commission on Youth Gun  
14 Violence.

15                   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: That  
16 bill will be referred to committee.

17                   CHIEF CLERK: And a privileged  
18 resolution Congratulating and Honoring  
19 Patrick Murphy for his recent appointment  
20 as Acting Secretary of the United States  
21 Army.

22                   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: That  
23 resolution will be on this week's Final  
24 Passage Calendar.

25                   CHIEF CLERK: And a privileged

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1           2/4/16 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS  
2           resolution authorizing City Council's  
3           Committee on Commerce and Economic  
4           Development to hold hearings to examine  
5           youth employment strategies and youth job  
6           training to increase youth employment in  
7           the City of Philadelphia.

8                   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: This  
9           week's Final Passage Calendar.

10                   CHIEF CLERK: And a  
11           non-privileged resolution proposing an  
12           amendment to the Philadelphia Home Rule  
13           Charter to provide for the creation,  
14           appointment, powers and duties of a  
15           Commission on Youth Gun Violence.

16                   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: That  
17           will be referred to committee.

18                   The Chair recognizes  
19           Councilwoman Quinones-Sanchez.

20                   COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank  
21           you, Mr. President. No bills or  
22           resolutions.

23                   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:  
24           Thank you, Councilwoman.

25                   The Chair recognizes Councilman

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1           2/4/16 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2           Green.

3                   COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you,  
4           Council President. Today I have no bills  
5           or resolutions.

6                   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:  
7           Thank you, Councilman.

8                   The Chair recognizes  
9           Councilwoman Parker.

10                  COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Thank  
11           you, Mr. President. I have one  
12           privileged resolution also sponsored by  
13           Councilmembers Johnson, Blackwell,  
14           Reynolds Brown, Domb, Taubenberger, and  
15           Green, and I wish to be recognized to  
16           speak on the resolution when you deem  
17           appropriate, Mr. President.

18                  COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:  
19           Thank you, Councilwoman.

20                  CHIEF CLERK: A privileged  
21           resolution authorizing Council's  
22           Committee on Labor and Civil Service to  
23           convene public hearings examining the  
24           state of retirement security for private  
25           and public sector workers in the City of

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1           2/4/16 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 Philadelphia.

3           COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

4 Thank you. That resolution will be on  
5 this week's Final Passage Calendar.

6           The Chair recognizes Councilman  
7 Domb.

8           COUNCILMAN DOMB: Thank you,  
9 Council President. I have no bills or  
10 resolutions today.

11           COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

12 Thank you, Councilman.

13           The Chair recognizes  
14 Councilwoman Gym.

15           COUNCILWOMAN GYM: Thank you,  
16 Mr. President. I have one resolution  
17 co-sponsored by yourself as well as  
18 Councilmembers Squilla, Johnson,  
19 Blackwell, Jones, Quinones-Sanchez, Domb,  
20 and Green. Thank you.

21           COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

22 Thank you, Councilwoman.

23           CHIEF CLERK: A non-privileged  
24 resolution calling on the Federal Housing  
25 Finance Agency, Freddie Mac, Fannie Mae,

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1           2/4/16 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS  
2           and the U.S. Department of Housing and  
3           Urban Development to reform their  
4           programs for the sale of distressed  
5           mortgage notes in order to better protect  
6           homeowners from foreclosure and  
7           facilitate community redevelopment.

8                   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: And  
9           that resolution will be on next week's  
10          Final Passage Calendar.

11                   The Chair recognizes Councilman  
12          Taubenberger.

13                   COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: Thank  
14          you, Council President and colleagues. I  
15          have one privileged resolution.

16                   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:  
17          Thank you, Councilman.

18                   CHIEF CLERK: A privileged  
19          resolution recognizing the talents of  
20          Kathleen "Kat" Webb for her winning  
21          submission marketing "meterUP" for the  
22          City of Philadelphia and for the  
23          Philadelphia Parking Authority.

24                   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:  
25          Thank you. That will be on this week's

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1           2/4/16 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2           Final Passage Calendar.

3                   The Chair recognizes Councilman  
4           O'Neill.

5                   COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Thank you,  
6           Mr. President. I have no bills or  
7           resolutions.

8                   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:  
9           Thank you, Councilman.

10                   The Chair recognizes Councilman  
11           Squilla.

12                   COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Thank you,  
13           Mr. President. I offer three bills and  
14           one non-privileged resolution.

15                   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:  
16           Thank you, Councilman.

17                   CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance to  
18           amend Title 14 of The Philadelphia Code,  
19           entitled "Zoning and Planning," by  
20           establishing the Broad Street Area,  
21           Mid-South within the Center City Overlay  
22           District; and

23                   An ordinance amending Section  
24           9-213 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled  
25           "Farmers' Markets," by adding a

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1           2/4/16 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2           permissible location; and

3                     An ordinance to amend the  
4           Philadelphia Zoning Maps by changing the  
5           zoning designations of certain areas of  
6           land located within an area bounded by  
7           Cypress Street, Watts Street, Pine  
8           Street, and Broad Street.

9                     COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

10          Those three bills will be referred to the  
11          appropriate committees.

12                    CHIEF CLERK:   And a  
13          non-privileged resolution authorizing the  
14          Commissioner of Public Property to  
15          execute and deliver to the Philadelphia  
16          Redevelopment Authority, without  
17          consideration, deeds conveying  
18          conditional fee simple title to certain  
19          City-owned lots or pieces of ground with  
20          the buildings and improvements thereon,  
21          situate in the Twenty-Fifth and  
22          Thirty-First Wards of the City of  
23          Philadelphia.

24                    COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:   And  
25          that resolution will be on next week's

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1           2/4/16 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2           Final Passage Calendar.

3                     The Chair recognizes

4           Councilwoman Bass.

5                     COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you,

6           Mr. President. I offer no bills or

7           resolutions this week.

8                     COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

9           Thank you, Councilwoman.

10                    The Chair recognizes Councilman

11           Oh.

12                    COUNCILMAN OH: Thank you,

13           Council President. I offer one

14           privileged resolution co-sponsored by

15           Councilman Allan Domb.

16                    COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

17           Thank you, Councilman.

18                    CHIEF CLERK: A privileged

19           resolution authorizing a joint public

20           hearing between Council's Committee on

21           Streets and Services and Committee on

22           Education to investigate the allocation

23           of funds from the revenues generated by

24           the Red Light Camera Enforcement Program

25           and the parking meter rate increase that

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1           2/4/16 - STATED - SPECIAL BUSINESS  
2           took effect in 2014, as well as the costs  
3           associated with administering those  
4           programs.

5                        COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: That  
6           will be on this week's Final Passage  
7           Calendar.

8                        Thank you very much. That  
9           concludes the introduction of bills and  
10          resolutions. The next order of business  
11          is committee reports. We do not have any  
12          reports from committee today, so we will  
13          move to our special business. And the  
14          special business will reference a motion  
15          to withdraw Bill No. 160016, and at this  
16          time, the Chair recognizes Councilman  
17          Squilla.

18                      COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Thank you,  
19          Mr. President. Before I move forward  
20          with the motion, I'd like to thank all of  
21          the leaders of the music industry and the  
22          people that have worked with me on this  
23          bill. We decided to move forward with a  
24          withdrawal because we are going to amend  
25          it, but there was so much confusion and

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1           2/4/16 - STATED - SPECIAL BUSINESS  
2           misinformation out there, we thought,  
3           working with the industry, the best way  
4           to go would be to withdraw this bill. So  
5           I want to thank them for their help and  
6           looking forward to working with them in  
7           crafting new legislation that we can  
8           reintroduce. But today Bill No. 16 was  
9           introduced on January 21st, 2016 and was  
10          referred to Committee of License and  
11          Inspections. I would now like to  
12          withdraw the bill from further  
13          consideration by the Council.

14                           (Duly seconded.)

15                           COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

16          Thank you. It's been moved and properly  
17          seconded.

18                           All those in favor?

19                           (Aye.)

20                           COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

21          Those opposed?

22                           (No response.)

23                           COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The  
24          ayes have it, and the Chair recognizes  
25          Councilman Squilla.

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1 2/4/16 - STATED - SPECIAL BUSINESS

2 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Would you  
3 like to read the title of the bill.

4 CHIEF CLERK: Bill No. 160016,  
5 entitled "An ordinance amending Section  
6 9-703 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled  
7 'Special Assembly Occupancies,' by  
8 providing for additional types of  
9 activity to be regulated, amending the  
10 application procedures and increasing the  
11 fee for a Special Assembly Occupancy  
12 license and for Promoter registration,  
13 clarifying the role of the Police  
14 Department in the approval of licenses,  
15 and making other technical changes."

16 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Thank you.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:  
18 Thank you. Sorry. The Chair recognizes  
19 Councilman Squilla.

20 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Thank you,  
21 President Clarke. I move that Bill No.  
22 160016 be withdrawn.

23 (Duly seconded.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:  
25 Thank you. It has been moved and

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1 2/4/16 - STATED - BILLS ON 2ND READING  
2 properly seconded that Bill No. 160016 be  
3 withdrawn.

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

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:  
7 Those opposed?

8 (No response.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The  
10 ayes have it, the motion passes, and Bill  
11 No. 160016 is withdrawn.

12 We will now move to our  
13 consideration of the Calendar. There  
14 being no bills on the First Reading  
15 Calendar, the Chair now recognizes  
16 Councilman Henon for the purpose of  
17 calling up bills and resolutions on the  
18 Second Reading and Final Passage  
19 Calendar.

20 COUNCILMAN HENON: Thank you,  
21 Mr. President. The following resolutions  
22 are being called up for the Second and  
23 Final Passage Calendars today:  
24 Resolution Nos. 160079, 160082, 160083,  
25 160084, and 160090. All other

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1           2/4/16 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2           resolutions are being held.

3                   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

4           Thank you, Councilman.

5                   Before considering these bills  
6           and resolutions on the Final Passage  
7           Calendar today, we will have our public  
8           comment session. The public comment  
9           session will go as follows:

10                   If you are interested in  
11           testifying on a bill or resolution that  
12           is on the Second Reading and Final  
13           Passage Calendar today, if you have not  
14           already done so, I'd ask that you sign up  
15           at the table to my left. When your name  
16           is called, you will go to the podium in  
17           the middle of the Council Chambers.  
18           There's a device on that podium. When  
19           the light turns green, it will be your  
20           time to speak. When the light turns  
21           yellow, you will be given 30 seconds to  
22           conclude your remarks. When the light  
23           turns red, we'd ask that you please  
24           adhere to the guidelines and conclude  
25           your remarks. You will be given three

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1           2/4/16 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT  
2           minutes to testify on the bill or the  
3           resolution.

4                     Mr. Decker, please call the  
5           first name.

6                     CHIEF CLERK: Joe Danihel,  
7           commenting on 160079.

8                     (Witness approached podium.)

9                     COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:  
10          Thank you. Good morning.

11                    MR. DANIHEL: Well, if it was a  
12          good morning, then somebody would have  
13          contacted me.

14                    How many months have I got to  
15          come to this body and ask to see you  
16          respond to stealing my house? At this  
17          time, I am without my home at 1038 West  
18          Wyoming due to the egregious actions and  
19          inactions of this legislative body.

20                    Recently you passed a  
21          resolution to not marginalize Muslims by  
22          giving them public acknowledgment of  
23          their holiday. I feel marginalized.  
24          James Dupree felt marginalized.  
25          Dr. Turner felt marginalized. So many

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1           2/4/16 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2           others felt marginalized, but failed to  
3           come forward and speak. How can you not  
4           feel marginalized when all you've worked  
5           for has been stripped from you and given  
6           to another?

7                         This is a clear violation of 42  
8           USC 1982, which I've read in previous  
9           meetings, and the U.S. Constitution.  
10          Philadelphia should hang its head. I,  
11          like Dr. Turner and James Dupree, fight  
12          for those who cannot. You as agencies  
13          and agents are bound by an oath of office  
14          to obey, defend, and support the  
15          Constitution.

16                        Like in Flint, Michigan, this  
17          government stalls while the people  
18          suffer. Council passes paperwork  
19          regarding national issues for which they  
20          have no jurisdiction while ignoring this  
21          issue. As in the words of Eleanor  
22          Roosevelt on December 7th, 1941, I am one  
23          of the free and incomparable people of  
24          the United States of America, even though  
25          my enemies are not foreign but domestic.

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1           2/4/16 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2                   These articles and previous  
3           submissions require immediate de-funding  
4           and investigation of the Philadelphia  
5           Redevelopment Authority before more laws  
6           as in above and previously mentioned are  
7           violated by you, the agents and agencies  
8           of the government, and are now duly  
9           notified since December 3rd, 2015. You  
10          are, in this member of the people's  
11          opinion, accessories after the fact.

12                   I quote Walter Williams. "No  
13          matter how worthy the cause, it is  
14          robbery, theft, and injustice to  
15          confiscate the property of one person and  
16          give it to another to whom it doesn't  
17          belong."

18                   You have taken an oath to  
19          support, obey, and defend the  
20          Constitution and the laws. Now let's get  
21          to work. This government is required by  
22          law to make me whole and pay this bill.

23                   I look forward to somebody  
24          finally addressing this issue.

25                   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

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1           2/4/16 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2           Thank you for your testimony, sir.

3                   CHIEF CLERK: Tiffany Green,  
4           commenting on 160083.

5                   (Witness approached podium.)

6                   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good  
7           morning.

8                   MS. GREEN: Good morning. Good  
9           morning, City Council. It's been a long  
10          time since I've seen many of you.  
11          However, I want to speak to this Bill  
12          160083.

13                   According to many reports,  
14          Philadelphia has one of the highest  
15          poverty rates in the country. This is a  
16          stain on Philadelphia, because for the  
17          past four years, many other bills, the  
18          zoning bills that have been passed, have  
19          been giving preferential treatment to  
20          developers. And we talk about -- we've  
21          come down here time and time since 2012  
22          to talk about the gentrification and,  
23          like this gentleman here, feel like it's  
24          being disregarded.

25                   Well, gentrification, let's

1           2/4/16 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2           talk about that, because the reality is  
3           that gentrification is an intentional  
4           attack on low-income and minority  
5           communities for removal. And the problem  
6           is is that our City properties are  
7           constantly being sold to developers  
8           without any kind of accountability,  
9           without anything in place to state that  
10          they need to build low affordable.

11                        But what I want to do today is,  
12          I want to put in some new terminology  
13          towards this land banking, which is  
14          low-wage, low affordable housing, because  
15          there are certain terms being concocted  
16          in certain offices regarding workforce  
17          development, workforce development  
18          housing, which is right now \$200,000,  
19          according to certain officials. Well, at  
20          this time, we had the 1300 block of  
21          Bouvier sold 16 houses. Eight went  
22          towards workforce development; the other  
23          went high end, \$500,000 and \$200,000 on  
24          the other end. That is not going to help  
25          a city who has one of the highest poverty

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1           2/4/16 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2           rates.

3                         Yet, at the same time, we don't  
4           seem to be getting what we need to  
5           sustain our communities. We have blocks  
6           that used to be full of people of color.  
7           Now you go back months later and they're  
8           not there anymore. These people are  
9           being pushed out, and it's not being  
10          addressed.

11                        We're asking the new City  
12          Council members and this new class with a  
13          new attitude and a new focus on  
14          addressing the highest poverty rate in  
15          the country. That is embarrassing.  
16          Really it is embarrassing. And if I was  
17          a City Council person or elected, I would  
18          feel really embarrassed that this is on  
19          us, higher than New York and in  
20          California. That means something is  
21          wrong in Denmark, and that means that you  
22          need to address this issue now.

23                        Regarding these properties,  
24          you're going to vote on the properties  
25          that have three pages of properties.

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1           2/4/16 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2           We're asking that -- right now Point  
3           Breeze has not received the 300  
4           affordable housing that was promised to  
5           us by Council President on radio. And  
6           the thing about it is, we want these  
7           properties addressed for low wage. Low  
8           wage mean less than between \$8 and \$15 an  
9           hour. Okay? Because at this particular  
10          point, companies don't even want to --  
11          you have people working at the airport  
12          who are not even getting paid a little  
13          bit more than minimum wage. How are you  
14          going -- you're looking to pay. You  
15          can't even find apartments for \$650 now.

16                    We need to address the poverty  
17          rate in Philadelphia. We can't say we're  
18          going to be the healthiest city, we're  
19          going to be the most sustainable city,  
20          and yet we have the highest poverty rate  
21          in the country? There's something wrong  
22          with this.

23                    This is not a popular fight.  
24          Otherwise I would be standing up there  
25          taking pictures with you all, but I'm not

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1           2/4/16 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT  
2           about popularity. I'm about helping the  
3           poor and maintaining our communities,  
4           particularly our African American  
5           community. We want these properties  
6           addressed for low wage, low affordable.  
7           If you want to follow New York, well, the  
8           new term in New York is low-wage housing.  
9           We want this low-wage housing, and we're  
10          asking that even though it's going to go  
11          through the process, we don't want to  
12          play games, we don't want no word games  
13          or anything. We want these three pages  
14          of houses to be designated for low-wage  
15          housing, because as of now, we got less  
16          than 25 low-wage housing in the last four  
17          years and we sold over 100, between 100  
18          and 200 City-owned properties in  
19          Philadelphia.

20                   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

21           Thank you. Thank you, Ms. Green.

22                   CHIEF CLERK: There are no  
23           other speakers on the public comment  
24           list, Mr. President.

25                   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

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1           2/4/16 - STATED - 2ND READING

2           Thank you very much.

3                       We will now consider the  
4           resolutions on the Second Reading and  
5           Final Passage Calendar.

6                       Mr. Decker, would you please  
7           read the title of 160079.

8                       CHIEF CLERK: A resolution  
9           authorizing the Commissioner of Public  
10          Property to execute and deliver to the  
11          Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority,  
12          without consideration, deeds conveying  
13          conditional fee simple title to certain  
14          City-owned lots or pieces of ground with  
15          the buildings and improvements thereon,  
16          situate in the Thirty-Seventh and  
17          Forty-Third Wards of the City of  
18          Philadelphia.

19                      COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The  
20          Chair recognizes Councilman Greenlee.

21                      COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank  
22          you, Mr. President. I move the adoption  
23          of the resolution.

24                      (Duly seconded.)

25                      COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: It's

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1           2/4/16 - STATED - 2ND READING

2           been moved and properly seconded.

3                   All those in favor say aye.

4                   (Aye.)

5                   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

6           Those opposed?

7                   (No response.)

8                   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The

9           ayes have it, and Resolution 160079 is

10          adopted.

11                   Mr. Decker, 160082.

12                   CHIEF CLERK: A resolution

13          calling on the United States Department

14          of Justice to conduct a complete and

15          thorough investigation of the water

16          supply disaster in Flint, Michigan that

17          may have exposed 99,763 people to lead

18          poisoning.

19                   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The

20          Chair recognizes Councilman Johnson.

21                   COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you,

22          Council President. I move for the

23          adoption of the resolution.

24                   (Duly seconded.)

25                   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: It's

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1           2/4/16 - STATED - 2ND READING

2           been moved and properly seconded.

3                   All those in favor?

4                   (Aye.)

5                   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

6           Those opposed?

7                   (No response.)

8                   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The

9           ayes have it, and Resolution 160082 is

10          adopted.

11                   Mr. Decker, 160083.

12                   CHIEF CLERK: A resolution

13          authorizing the Philadelphia

14          Redevelopment Authority to dispose of

15          certain properties located in the Second

16          Councilmanic District that will be

17          transferred by the City to the Authority,

18          by conveyance of such properties to the

19          Philadelphia Land Bank in accordance with

20          the terms of Chapter 16-700 of The

21          Philadelphia Code.

22                   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The

23          Chair again recognizes Councilman

24          Johnson.

25                   COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you,

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1           2/4/16 - STATED - 2ND READING

2           Council President. I move for the  
3           adoption of the resolution.

4                   (Duly seconded.)

5                   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: It's  
6           been moved and properly seconded.

7                   All those in favor?

8                   (Aye.)

9                   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:  
10          Those opposed?

11                   (No response.)

12                   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The  
13          ayes have it, and Resolution 160083 is  
14          adopted.

15                   Mr. Decker, 160084.

16                   CHIEF CLERK: A resolution  
17          authorizing the Commissioner of Public  
18          Property to execute and deliver to the  
19          Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority,  
20          without consideration, deeds conveying  
21          conditional fee simple title to certain  
22          City-owned lots or pieces of ground with  
23          the buildings and improvements thereon,  
24          situate in the Thirty-Sixth Ward of the  
25          City of Philadelphia.

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1           2/4/16 - STATED - 2ND READING

2                   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: One  
3 more time, the Chair recognizes  
4 Councilman Johnson.

5                   COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you,  
6 Council President. I move for the  
7 adoption of the resolution.

8                   (Duly seconded.)

9                   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: It's  
10 been moved and properly seconded.

11                   All those in favor?

12                   (Aye.)

13                   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:  
14 Those opposed?

15                   (No response.)

16                   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The  
17 ayes have it, and Resolution 160084 is  
18 adopted.

19                   Mr. Decker, 160090.

20                   CHIEF CLERK: A resolution  
21 urging The Pennsylvania General Assembly  
22 to legislate a State Local Preference for  
23 contracting processes involving entities  
24 using state and local government funds.

25                   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

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1           2/4/16 - STATED - 2ND READING

2           Thank you very much.

3                   The Chair recognizes Councilman

4           Oh.

5                   COUNCILMAN OH: Thank you very  
6           much, Council President. I move for the  
7           adoption of the resolution.

8                   (Duly seconded.)

9                   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: It's  
10          been moved and properly seconded.

11                   All those in favor?

12                   (Aye.)

13                   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

14          Those opposed?

15                   (No response.)

16                   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The  
17          ayes have it, and Resolution 160090 is  
18          adopted.

19                   Mr. Decker, do you have any  
20          additional resolutions?

21                   CHIEF CLERK: A resolution  
22          calling for the City Council Committee on  
23          Education and the Committee on Children  
24          and Youth to hold hearings on the  
25          establishment of a plan to deal with the

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1           2/4/16 - STATED - 2ND READING

2           transition from Pre-K to Kindergarten,  
3           introduced by Councilwoman Blackwell.

4                   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The  
5           Chair recognizes Councilwoman Blackwell.

6                   COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank  
7           you, Mr. President. I note that this was  
8           co-signed by Councilman Kenyatta Johnson,  
9           Maria Sanchez, Mark Squilla, Gym,  
10          Cherelle Parker, Derek Green, Cindy Bass,  
11          and Blondell Reynolds Brown, and we move  
12          for its adoption.

13                   (Duly seconded.)

14                   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:  
15          Thank you. It's been moved and properly  
16          seconded.

17                   All those in favor?

18                   (Aye.)

19                   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:  
20          Those opposed?

21                   (No response.)

22                   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The  
23          ayes have it, and that resolution is  
24          adopted.

25                   CHIEF CLERK: And a resolution

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1           2/4/16 - STATED - 2ND READING  
2           appointing members to the "Special  
3           Committee on Criminal Justice Reform,"  
4           who will conduct public hearings  
5           examining the Philadelphia criminal  
6           justice system for the impact of current  
7           policies, and offer recommended  
8           strategies for reform that are in the  
9           best interest of public safety and the  
10          public good, introduced by Councilman  
11          Jones on behalf of Council President  
12          Clarke.

13                    COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

14          Thank you. The Chair recognizes  
15          Councilman Jones.

16                    COUNCILMAN JONES:

17          Mr. President, on your behalf, I move for  
18          the adoption.

19                    (Duly seconded.)

20                    COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: It's  
21          been moved and properly seconded.

22                    All those in favor?

23                    (Aye.)

24                    COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

25          Those opposed?

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1           2/4/16 - STATED - 2ND READING

2                   (No response.)

3           COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The  
4 ayes have it, and that resolution is  
5 adopted.

6           CHIEF CLERK: And a resolution  
7 Congratulating and Honoring Patrick  
8 Murphy on his recent appointment as  
9 Acting Secretary of the United States  
10 Army, introduced by Councilman Johnson.

11           COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The  
12 Chair recognizes Councilman Johnson.

13           COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you,  
14 Council President. I move for the  
15 adoption of the resolution.

16                   (Duly seconded.)

17           COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: It's  
18 been moved and properly seconded.

19                   All those in favor?

20                   (Aye.)

21           COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:  
22 Those opposed?

23                   (No response.)

24           COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The  
25 ayes have it, and that resolution is

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1           2/4/16 - STATED - 2ND READING

2           adopted.

3                   CHIEF CLERK: And a resolution  
4           authorizing City Council's Committee on  
5           Commerce and Economic Development to hold  
6           hearings to examine youth employment  
7           strategies and youth job training to  
8           increase youth employment in the City of  
9           Philadelphia, introduced by Councilman  
10          Johnson.

11                   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The  
12          Chair recognizes Councilman Johnson.

13                   COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you,  
14          Council President. I move for the  
15          adoption of the resolution.

16                   (Duly seconded.)

17                   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: It's  
18          been moved and properly seconded.

19                   All those in favor?

20                   (Aye.)

21                   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:  
22          Those opposed?

23                   (No response.)

24                   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The  
25          ayes have it, and that resolution is

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1           2/4/16 - STATED - 2ND READING

2           adopted.

3                   CHIEF CLERK: And a resolution  
4           authorizing Council's Committee on Labor  
5           and Civil Service to convene public  
6           hearings examining the state of  
7           retirement security for private and  
8           public sector workers in the City of  
9           Philadelphia, introduced by Councilwoman  
10          Parker.

11                   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The  
12          Chair recognizes Councilwoman Parker.

13                   COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Thank  
14          you, Mr. President. Mr. President,  
15          before I move for the adoption of the  
16          resolution, I just wanted to note for the  
17          record that soon after the November  
18          General Election, I received a  
19          congratulatory call from a friend. And  
20          after he got through his niceties, he  
21          asked me, with the issue of economic  
22          growth and neighborhood stabilization in  
23          mind, if I had obtained any income  
24          demographic research, specifically about  
25          the people who make up this new 9th

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1           2/4/16 - STATED - 2ND READING

2           District constituency that I was about to  
3           serve. And then we started talking about  
4           the state of retirement security for  
5           residents in the district, and he began  
6           asking me a number of questions. He  
7           asked me if I knew the number of  
8           residents who were currently of  
9           retirement age, the rate at which others  
10          were quickly approaching retirement age.  
11          And of those, Mr. President, he wanted to  
12          know how many were homeowners. And of  
13          those homeowners, how many depended on  
14          Social Security as their only income  
15          stream, how many of them had access to  
16          assured monthly income, what we know as a  
17          guaranteed retirement pension versus some  
18          other form of retirement savings, or how  
19          many of them were even fortunate enough  
20          to have both Social Security and some  
21          form of a supplemental retirement income.

22                    As the conversation continued,  
23           he wanted to know if I had received a  
24           detailed account of how many of these  
25           residents worked in both the private and

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1           2/4/16 - STATED - 2ND READING  
2           the public sector. And of the  
3           private-sector industries that are  
4           demonstrating the most growth in the City  
5           of Philadelphia, how many of them offered  
6           some form of retirement benefits to  
7           employees.

8                         Well, when I realized that I  
9           did not have the answers to these very  
10          basic questions about this constituency I  
11          was about to serve and that it was very  
12          possible that quite a few of them were  
13          already or would soon be facing a  
14          precarious financial future, it was then  
15          that I decided that an informational  
16          fact-finding hearing regarding the state  
17          of retirement security could help inform  
18          our decision-making, and not only for the  
19          benefit of the 9th District but for the  
20          City as a whole.

21                        Now, while I had hoped,  
22          Mr. President, that we would have been  
23          one of the leading cities to begin  
24          studying this issue, but unfortunately  
25          the Big Apple beat us to the punch. When

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1           2/4/16 - STATED - 2ND READING

2           conducting my own research, I learned  
3           that we wouldn't be the only city, that  
4           New York had just produced a report in  
5           June of 2015 highlighting the need for  
6           municipal government to explore ways that  
7           it can help -- and I quote -- "provide a  
8           path towards retirement security for its  
9           residents."

10                        So while we, like every city  
11           and state in this nation, are grappling  
12           with the challenge of coming up with  
13           realtime solutions to address the fiscal  
14           realities regarding our municipal pension  
15           fund -- and I want to thank Mayor Kenney  
16           for the record for taking the lead in  
17           fostering a spirit of a collaborative  
18           approach in the development of potential  
19           remedies to address this issue -- I also  
20           think that it is equally important that  
21           we have some sense of the overall state  
22           of retirement security for both the  
23           private and public-sector workers in our  
24           city.

25                        So it is my hope that this

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1           2/4/16 - STATED - 2ND READING

2           public hearing will add value to the  
3           conversation by serving as a  
4           data-gathering vehicle to, one, explore  
5           the broad range of ideas aimed at  
6           ensuring retirement security for the  
7           benefit of all of Philadelphia's  
8           workforce, both private and public, and  
9           to identify innovative and successful  
10          tools for creating financial security for  
11          retirees from a survey of research  
12          findings regarding the efficacy of  
13          national, state, and regional policy  
14          options already tested and those being  
15          explored around the nation. And it's  
16          with this spirit in mind, Mr. President,  
17          that I ask for an affirmative vote.

18                         (Duly seconded.)

19                         COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

20          Thank you. It has been moved and  
21          properly seconded.

22                         All those in favor?

23                         (Aye.)

24                         COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

25          Those opposed?

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1           2/4/16 - STATED - 2ND READING

2                   (No response.)

3           COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The  
4 ayes have it, and that resolution is  
5 enthusiastically adopted.

6           CHIEF CLERK: And a resolution  
7 recognizing the talents of Kathleen "Kat"  
8 Webb for her winning submission marketing  
9 "meterUP" for the City of Philadelphia  
10 and for the Philadelphia Parking  
11 Authority, introduced by Councilman  
12 Taubenberger.

13           COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The  
14 Chair recognizes Councilman Taubenberger.

15           COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: Thank  
16 you, Mr. President. I think it's a great  
17 thing when an authority that works for  
18 the City of Philadelphia comes up with  
19 the most modern technology to be able to  
20 pay your parking meter by telephone and  
21 by cell phone, but what is really special  
22 about this is when you have an employee  
23 who comes up with a marketing idea of  
24 calling it meterUP. And that should be  
25 acknowledged, and that was what I do with

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1           2/4/16 - STATED - 2ND READING  
2           that resolution and, Mr. President, I  
3           move for the adoption of the resolution.

4                   (Duly seconded.)

5                   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

6           Thank you. It's been moved and properly  
7           seconded.

8                   All those in favor?

9                   (Aye.)

10                  COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

11           Those opposed?

12                   (No response.)

13                  COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The  
14           eyes have it, and that resolution is  
15           adopted.

16                  CHIEF CLERK: And a resolution  
17           authorizing a joint public hearing  
18           between Council's Committee on Streets  
19           and Services and Committee on Education  
20           to investigate the allocation of funds  
21           from the revenues generated by the Red  
22           Light Camera Enforcement Program and the  
23           parking meter rate increase that took  
24           effect in 2014, as well as the costs  
25           associated with administering those

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1           2/4/16 - STATED - 2ND READING

2           programs, introduced by Councilman Oh.

3                   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The  
4           Chair recognizes Councilman Oh.

5                   COUNCILMAN OH: Thank you. I  
6           move for the adoption of the resolution.

7                   (Duly seconded.)

8                   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: It's  
9           been moved and properly seconded.

10                   All those in favor?

11                   (Aye.)

12                   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:  
13           Those opposed?

14                   (No response.)

15                   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The  
16           ayes have it, and that resolution is  
17           adopted.

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

21                   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:  
22           Thank you very much, Mr. Decker.

23                   Are there any speeches on the  
24           part of the minority?

25                   And the Chair recognizes

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2           Councilman Oh.

3                   COUNCILMAN OH: Thank you very  
4           much, Council President. I'd like to  
5           note that this Chamber is quiet today.  
6           It's quiet because Councilman Squilla  
7           exercised great leadership and  
8           reasonableness in meeting with the  
9           leaders of the music industry. And in  
10          speaking with them, you know, he heard  
11          them and he acted in a democratic  
12          process, and today shows how much they  
13          believe in his sincerity and they  
14          understand that he's trying to do a good  
15          thing and they understand that he will  
16          continue forward but with their input,  
17          and I'd like to really express to him my  
18          admiration. A lot of politicians would  
19          dig their heels in. He certainly didn't  
20          do that, and as a result, our city is  
21          labeled a pro music city, a city of the  
22          creative economy.

23                   So thank you, Councilman  
24          Squilla.

25                   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

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2           Thank you, Councilman.

3                   Speeches on the part of the  
4           majority?

5                   And the Chair recognizes  
6           Councilman Henon.

7                   COUNCILMAN HENON: Thank you,  
8           Council President. I just wanted to make  
9           a comment on a resolution that  
10          Councilwoman Helen Gym has introduced  
11          today along with yourself, Curtis Jones,  
12          Quinones-Sanchez, Blackwell, and Derek  
13          Green.

14                   There's kind of a cause and  
15          effect that happens with the quality of  
16          life in our neighborhoods because of the  
17          irresponsible social injustice that comes  
18          along with hedge funds and the banks in  
19          our neighborhoods and there's an effect  
20          that we're left with. And I think about  
21          all the hard work and the passion and  
22          admission that former Councilwoman Tasco  
23          put into predatory lending and these  
24          practices that created the mortgage  
25          crisis that we have here. So I want to

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2           commend us taking a look at that as a  
3           Council and taking a look at it in depth,  
4           because the sale of these distressed  
5           mortgages are extremely concerning. The  
6           social injustice, the adverse impact that  
7           they have in our neighborhoods, and when  
8           these mortgages are sold, people fail to  
9           realize that these homeowners, not only  
10          are they forced out, that the communities  
11          are not only losing neighbors, they're  
12          losing friends, they're losing family  
13          members, but it ends up with a vacant  
14          house that also goes often unmaintained.  
15          And then the sale of these distressed  
16          mortgages breeds blight, the possibility  
17          of crime, and it lowers the property  
18          values. And we have all the data that  
19          supports property maintenance violations  
20          and all of the other violations that  
21          decreases the property value near 20  
22          percent in our neighborhood, and that is  
23          the start of the window theory, the  
24          broken window theory, where it just  
25          brings everything else down and it

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2                   invites the crime in our neighborhood.

3                   So if you think about what an  
4                   investment property looks like, most of  
5                   the banks and the hedge funds who are the  
6                   investment owners, they don't live near  
7                   the property, and when it remains vacant,  
8                   here's what happens: the weeds grow, the  
9                   yards get unkept, people dump things, the  
10                  roof caves in, the windows are broke, and  
11                  the storms cause all kinds of other  
12                  property maintenance violations with  
13                  sewage pipes and the pavements. So they  
14                  don't maintain the properties. And I  
15                  have held hearings, along with this  
16                  Council body, several times in the past  
17                  dealing with bad investors, bad  
18                  neighbors, bad actors when it comes to  
19                  absentee landlords, and I plan on doing  
20                  the same, and I think this is a perfect  
21                  opportunity to talk about the effect that  
22                  it has on the social injustice of the  
23                  cause on what we're left with in our  
24                  neighborhood. And I think it's time that  
25                  we continue to look deeper into this and

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2           take it to the neighborhoods.

3                   So I'll be holding hearings,  
4           joint hearings with Public Safety and L&I  
5           as we had done before, subpoenaing  
6           landlords, subpoenaing property managers,  
7           subpoenaing banks in foreclosures on the  
8           unsold properties, unkept properties,  
9           especially now in light of this with the  
10          great work I think this Council is going  
11          to do with the concerns that we have here  
12          on the predatory lending and mortgage  
13          crisis that we have, so nobody else who  
14          doesn't live in our neighborhood and  
15          doesn't live in the City of Philadelphia  
16          should dictate when and how our  
17          neighborhoods are kept.

18                   So I applaud all the  
19          Councilmembers and sponsor of this bill  
20          in looking at this deeper.

21                   Thank you.

22                   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

23          Thank you, Councilman.

24                   The Chair recognizes  
25          Councilwoman Gym.

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2                   COUNCILWOMAN GYM: Thank you  
3 very much, Council President Clarke, and  
4 thank you very much my colleague, Bobby  
5 Henon, for framing up the issue. I  
6 especially want to thank all my  
7 colleagues on Council, my co-sponsors and  
8 those who signed on to this bill to  
9 support today's resolution that talks  
10 about how we are going to craft a message  
11 to our federal housing agencies to change  
12 the way they restructure the sale of  
13 distressed mortgage notes.

14                   Today, across the country  
15 locally elected officials and community  
16 organizations are calling upon all of our  
17 federal housing agencies to end this  
18 process of mass auctions for distressed  
19 mortgages to Wall Street speculators and  
20 instead to prioritize the bulk sale of  
21 delinquent mortgage pools to local  
22 non-profit housing agencies.

23                   Since 2012, the federal  
24 agencies - HUD, Fannie Mae, and Freddie  
25 Mac - have auctioned off nearly 200,000

1                   2/4/16 - STATED - SPEECHES

2           delinquent mortgages. Over 90 percent of  
3           these mortgages have been sold to hedge  
4           funds and private-equity firms. A  
5           national investigation by the New York  
6           Times revealed that a shocking number of  
7           these resales move quickly into  
8           foreclosure and then are snapped up by  
9           developers.

10                   In January, Fannie Mae  
11           announced that it will conduct its  
12           largest sale yet of thousands of  
13           delinquent mortgages that will take place  
14           in the coming weeks. This is why I am  
15           proud to be part of Philadelphia City  
16           Council, which is pushing back against  
17           such practices and standing up for the  
18           public interest.

19                   We are not going to be alone.  
20           Last September, I joined Senator  
21           Elizabeth Warren and municipal officials  
22           across the country to demand an end to  
23           this practice and uphold our Council's  
24           responsibility to preserve homeownership  
25           and create more affordable housing. We

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2           have plenty of solutions at our hands.

3           We have CDFIs, community development

4           financial institutions, which could buy

5           these delinquent mortgages and work to

6           save homes from foreclosure. Their best

7           practice involves involving our own

8           municipal Land Bank that are preferable

9           to mass auctions to Wall Street agencies.

10          We should know when these auctions are

11          moving in our city and make sure that

12          federal agencies sit down with local

13          government bodies to pursue alternatives

14          that get these mortgages into the hands

15          of mission-driven non-profits or into our

16          Land Bank. And given the timing, we

17          especially want Fannie Mae to talk with

18          our city and our non-profit partners

19          before selling off one more troubled

20          mortgage to another outside speculator.

21                   I'm proud to do this also as a

22          board member of Local Progress, an

23          organization of passionate and

24          progressive municipal officials and an

25          organization, not surprisingly, founded

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2           by our own brilliant, passionate, and  
3           forward-thinking colleague Wilson Goode,  
4           Jr.

5                   In the coming weeks, our office  
6           will be working closely with the Council  
7           President's office, all of you, and the  
8           broader public to craft a letter to HUD,  
9           Freddie Mac, and Fannie Mae that outlines  
10          our concerns and helps figure out a local  
11          solution that protects our families and  
12          rebuilds our communities.

13                   I see this as a partnership  
14          among all of us, and our office is always  
15          open to discussing this issue with you,  
16          with the broader public, and I look  
17          forward to it.

18                   Thank you very much.

19                   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

20          Thank you very much, Councilwoman.

21                   The Chair recognizes Councilman  
22          Johnson.

23                   COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you,  
24          Council President. I want to first and  
25          foremost thank you for appointing me to

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2           work in partnership with Councilman  
3           Curtis Jones and several other members of  
4           the law enforcement/criminal justice  
5           community on the newly established  
6           Special Committee on Criminal Justice  
7           Reform.

8                   Similarly, to complement your  
9           efforts, I introduced today a bill  
10          seeking a Charter change to establish a  
11          Commission on Youth Gun Violence. This  
12          issue has always been a passion of mine,  
13          and earlier this week I had to visit a  
14          friend that I've grown up with whose son  
15          was murdered in the streets of  
16          Philadelphia, which has become all too  
17          often the norm, a young man shot more  
18          than 30 times, and, you know, this has  
19          been a similar act of senseless gun  
20          violence that has taken place on a  
21          regular basis day in and day out.

22                   And so my sole focus and effort  
23          is to begin collaborating and working in  
24          partnership with our Councilmembers, the  
25          new Administration to make sure that we

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2           make sure that this issue is the number  
3           one issue that we're addressing,  
4           specifically as it relates to saving our  
5           young people, because at the end of the  
6           day, we're never going to move forward as  
7           a progressive city if the City isn't  
8           safe. My son won't grow up in a  
9           neighborhood free from violence if we  
10          don't make sure that this is the number  
11          one priority. Young people should never  
12          have to walk outside fearing that they  
13          may be robbed, shot or dodging bullets.

14                   And so I look forward in making  
15          sure that we engage on this issue from a  
16          variety of different public and private  
17          partnerships but, most importantly,  
18          listening to the community. And so I  
19          just want to thank you again for the  
20          appointment, and I look forward in making  
21          sure that we make this commission one  
22          that will really change the face of how  
23          we approach youth gun violence,  
24          specifically the issue of youth gun  
25          violence, and how it has an impact on our

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2                   surrounding community.

3                   Similarly, I called for  
4                   hearings today on the issue of youth  
5                   employment. I know oftentimes we get  
6                   calls before the summer even arrives, in  
7                   April, from our constituents asking for  
8                   opportunities for young people for  
9                   gainful employment throughout the summer,  
10                  but also as a way and mean to help our  
11                  young people get off the corner. So I do  
12                  look forward in finding ways, creative  
13                  ways, and I'm going to actually seek the  
14                  partnership and work in conjunction and  
15                  put her on the spot, Councilwoman  
16                  Cherelle Parker, because I remember when  
17                  I served in the State House with her, I  
18                  would go up to Ogontz Avenue and  
19                  participate in probably one of the  
20                  biggest youth employment fairs that the  
21                  City of Philadelphia has actually seen.  
22                  And so I believe that those type of  
23                  initiatives can be duplicated citywide if  
24                  we work in partnership with the  
25                  Administration but, most importantly, the

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2           private sector, making sure that  
3           organizations such as the Greater  
4           Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, PIDC,  
5           they put some level of skin in the game.  
6           How can we have the greatest city when it  
7           comes to eds and meds, but we don't have  
8           a pipeline, a school-to-career pipeline,  
9           with our young people? We don't do  
10          PILOTs, so there should be some level of  
11          giveback as it relates to providing young  
12          people an opportunity to participate in  
13          our workforce.

14                    So I just want to thank all my  
15          colleagues for affirmatively voting  
16          particularly on that resolution and look  
17          forward to getting to work on those two  
18          key issues.

19                    Thank you very much and take  
20          care, Council President.

21                    COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

22          Thank you, Councilman.

23                    The Chair recognizes Councilman  
24          Jones.

25                    COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,

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2           Mr. President. Today I rise to recognize  
3           the fact that February is Black History  
4           Month. Carter G. Woodson established it.  
5           At first it was only a week, and then  
6           society was generous enough to give us a  
7           month.

8                   Names like Martin Luther King,  
9           President Nelson Mandela, soon former  
10          President Obama will all be a part of  
11          future celebrations in classrooms and  
12          workplaces to honor their contribution  
13          internationally and locally. There will  
14          be stamps, they will be on calendars,  
15          they will be part of plays and  
16          processions and movies.

17                   But the way, when you think  
18          about it, how they got to be on stamps is  
19          by putting in the work every day. And I  
20          bring that here locally today, that  
21          people who testified today, some of them  
22          did not testify today, have real life  
23          issues that in our processes as we do  
24          hearings, as we change laws, as we impact  
25          budgets, whether through the Criminal

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2           Justice Reform Committee that you put  
3           together that I'm proud to be a part of  
4           or through the legislation that was  
5           introduced by Councilwoman Gym and what  
6           we are going to do next week dealing with  
7           locally the Sheriff's Department, the  
8           service of official documents to take a  
9           look at from a hearing we did a while  
10          ago, the way we get on -- and I never  
11          want to be on a mural ever, but the way  
12          that you earn your way on that Black  
13          History Month calendar is to put in the  
14          work on tough issues every day. And I'm  
15          really encouraged by my colleagues, and I  
16          got excited about the retirement thing  
17          that you're talking about, because I'm  
18          closer to that than graduation. You know  
19          what I mean? So it's real. It's real  
20          out there. But those kinds of issues are  
21          what your leadership and this body puts  
22          in every day. And we sometimes aren't on  
23          the same timetable as people who have a  
24          sense of urgency, particularly when  
25          you're facing losing your home and

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2                   homelessness, but it is a process by  
3                   which you make long-term change,  
4                   sustainable change. You have to find  
5                   resources through a budget, when we  
6                   talked about it today. You can't just  
7                   say I want criminal justice to change.

8                   Somebody said in this Chamber  
9                   once, yeah, we want to do good, but we  
10                  doggone sure better know how much "good"  
11                  costs. And as we go through those  
12                  processes, we just hope that our  
13                  constituents can hold on just a little  
14                  longer while we try to make a real  
15                  difference for all of you.

16                  That's how you make history,  
17                  Mr. President.

18                  COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

19                  Thank you, Councilman.

20                  The Chair recognizes  
21                  Councilwoman Reynolds Brown.

22                  COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you,  
23                  Mr. President. For the record, I'd like  
24                  to remind my colleagues that annually we  
25                  celebrate African American History Month

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2                   and if we could save the date of  
3                   Thursday, February 25th, we will again  
4                   have a very culturally rich experience.

5                   My remarks go to the universal  
6                   pre-K, and I'm following this issue  
7                   closely because you may recall,  
8                   Mr. President, that then-Councilman  
9                   Clarke urged me to negotiate with  
10                  Councilman Brian O'Neill on my very first  
11                  bill here, which was a zoning bill for  
12                  child care. And that bill has actually  
13                  been attempted by former Councilman John  
14                  White and dearly beloved Happy Fernandez,  
15                  but after reading the testimony of a  
16                  decade before me, we were ultimately  
17                  successful in winning and gaining a  
18                  win-win scenario with my very first child  
19                  care bill.

20                  So this afternoon I'm speaking  
21                  now about the implementation of the  
22                  universal pre-kindergarten program we're  
23                  all anticipating here in the City of  
24                  Philadelphia. As Vice Chair of Council's  
25                  Committee on Education, I was proud to

1                   2/4/16 - STATED - SPEECHES  
2           join Councilwoman Jannie Blackwell and  
3           several members of City Council earlier  
4           this week where the Commission on  
5           Universal Pre-K formally released its  
6           draft -- and the operative word here is  
7           "draft" -- report to the Kenney  
8           Administration and to our legislative  
9           body.

10                   I want to salute the chairs of  
11           that Commission, Sharon Easterling and  
12           Dr. Loretta Sweet Jammott, for lending  
13           their brilliant expertise, time, and  
14           sacrifice on this matter. And the record  
15           should reflect that it was Councilwoman  
16           Jannie Blackwell who initially introduced  
17           this legislation last year so that we can  
18           closely examine this issue.

19                   It is a fact that early  
20           childhood education is indeed one puzzle  
21           required to end the cycle of poverty in  
22           Philadelphia, and what we know in the  
23           words of Victor Hugo is that he who opens  
24           a school door closes a prison. He who  
25           opens a school door closes a prison.

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2                   There is a lot of data that backs up in  
3                   fact that research; that is, early  
4                   childhood education is a proven way to  
5                   break the prison pipeline.

6                   It's a fact also that 44 of 50  
7                   states in the United States already have  
8                   universal pre-K. 44 out of 50. So  
9                   Philadelphia is poised to get in line and  
10                  make it real for the citizens of our  
11                  city.

12                  As we go down this road to  
13                  implement universal pre-K, there are a  
14                  couple of important issues that were  
15                  raised this week that need to be  
16                  underscored, put in capital letters, and  
17                  bold print. It is crucial that we  
18                  increase and maximize community  
19                  engagement at every step along the way.  
20                  Anything less than complete community  
21                  engagement across all neighborhoods in  
22                  this city is unacceptable.

23                  I want to thank Councilmembers  
24                  Maria Quinones-Sanchez and Helen Gym who  
25                  raised probing questions about ensuring a

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2                   culturally rich engagement process. And  
3                   I want to thank Councilmembers Domb,  
4                   Taubenberger, and Squilla for raising  
5                   those preliminary questions around budget  
6                   and funding.

7                   Community engagement is the  
8                   concern. Making sure that there are no  
9                   winners -- forgive me. Making sure that  
10                  there are no losers in this process is  
11                  what is percolating around whispers on  
12                  this issue.

13                  So we're asking the  
14                  Administration, as they've already  
15                  started, to work closely with us, to be  
16                  proactive with members of Council as we  
17                  frame out a universal pre-K, because,  
18                  yes, it is a complex issue and, yes,  
19                  there are a lot of stakeholders.

20                  In closing, we want everyone at  
21                  the table early. We're asking  
22                  Councilmembers to respond to that draft  
23                  document. And I'll close where I  
24                  started, in that he who opens a school  
25                  door closes a prison. We want to make

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1                   2/4/16 - STATED - SPEECHES  
2           universal pre-K real and we want to make  
3           sure that it is equitable in the  
4           distribution of those funds across this  
5           city.

6                   Thank you, Mr. President.

7                   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

8           Thank you, Councilwoman.

9                   The Chair recognizes Councilman  
10          Domb.

11                   COUNCILMAN DOMB: Thank you,  
12          Mr. President. I'd like to acknowledge  
13          and thank Councilwoman Parker for putting  
14          forth today's resolution, which I was  
15          proud to co-sponsor, to call for hearings  
16          on the state of retirement security in  
17          our city.

18                   There's no question that  
19          retirement security is an issue that  
20          requires the attention of this honorable  
21          legislative body, and the City's  
22          workforce and taxpayers deserve our  
23          attention. And while I look forward to  
24          the potential hearings that will examine  
25          the issue for both the private and public

1                   2/4/16 - STATED - SPEECHES

2                   sectors, for the moment I'd like to focus  
3                   on the City of Philadelphia.

4                   Philadelphia is approximately  
5                   45 to 46 percent funded, with an unfunded  
6                   liability of over \$5.7 billion and the  
7                   last two to three months has grown  
8                   another 200 to 250 million due to the  
9                   unstable equity markets. It's probably  
10                  close to \$6 billion.

11                  Rob Dubow, our Finance  
12                  Director, pointed out to me that the  
13                  majority portion of our serious problem  
14                  dates back to 1967 to 1987. 5.1 billion  
15                  is attributed to that period. Actually  
16                  since 1987, the City has done a pretty  
17                  good job overall, but we're paying for  
18                  what happened from '67 to '87.

19                  We spend approximately 16  
20                  percent of our \$4 billion budget - 640  
21                  million on pensions, 450 to 460 on the  
22                  old problems. Each year this share  
23                  increases, along with contractual  
24                  obligations. All this means is less  
25                  money for what otherwise we could do as a

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1                   2/4/16 - STATED - SPEECHES  
2           city for services, for education,  
3           classrooms, health and well-being of our  
4           citizens. The list goes on. But until  
5           we fix this elephant in the room, the  
6           pension, we'll never have the money.

7                   In September 2015, Moody's  
8           Investors Service issued a report that  
9           stated if Philadelphia fails to fund the  
10          pension plan on a sound basis moving  
11          forward, our bond ratings may go down.  
12          What does this mean? Higher interest  
13          costs, less appealing in the marketplace.  
14          We must do what it takes and make this as  
15          a major priority. Even if it may not  
16          seem popular in the moment, we must lead  
17          and think long term even when it requires  
18          short-term sacrifice. We must strengthen  
19          our municipal pension system that will  
20          lead to a stronger city in the future for  
21          our children and our grandchildren.

22                   Thank you, Mr. President.

23                   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

24           Thank you, Councilman. I think we all  
25           concur.

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1                   2/4/16 - STATED - SPEECHES

2                   The Chair recognizes  
3 Councilwoman Quinones-Sanchez.

4                   COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank  
5 you, Mr. President. And staying with the  
6 theme of the African American month and  
7 celebration, I want to paraphrase Malcolm  
8 X when he said that the best anti-poverty  
9 strategy was education. And education  
10 was about preparing for our future.

11                  A few weeks ago, Council  
12 President, you honored Community College  
13 of Philadelphia for their role in the  
14 City of Philadelphia and the vital role  
15 that they need to play as we re-train and  
16 provide opportunities for our returning  
17 citizens and for the changing economy.  
18 They are not only the host of the African  
19 American book sale this week, and I  
20 encourage all of my Council colleagues,  
21 particularly the new ones, to go to the  
22 fair, and while you're there, join me as  
23 Community College of Philadelphia hosts a  
24 Latino College Day with stakeholders  
25 throughout the City of Philadelphia.

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1                   2/4/16 - STATED - SPEECHES

2                   Community College and its  
3                   opportunities are vital as we prepare for  
4                   the future. As we talk about pre-K,  
5                   public education, the K to 16 continuum,  
6                   Community College is a key strategic  
7                   partner in doing that, as we talk about  
8                   pre-K and the workforce opportunities  
9                   that it creates in training many women  
10                  who look like me and in an industry so  
11                  vitaly important.

12                  So I want to invite all of you,  
13                  come to Community College. You can do  
14                  the Latino College Day. You can do the  
15                  African American book fair, and my  
16                  colleagues can learn about the valuable  
17                  work that we still need to do around  
18                  educating our young folks and cutting  
19                  that pipeline to jail.

20                  Thank you.

21                  COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

22                  Thank you, Councilwoman.

23                  The Chair recognizes

24                  Councilwoman Blackwell.

25                  COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank

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1                   2/4/16 - STATED - SPEECHES

2           you, Mr. President. Let me acknowledge  
3           all that has been said about Black  
4           History Month, and maybe our young people  
5           would do better in school if they felt  
6           that the academic agenda was inclusive.  
7           It still isn't after all this time.  
8           We're still not there.

9                   And with regard to universal  
10           pre-K, we are excited about that and we  
11           want to make sure there that whatever  
12           happens, that all monies and programs are  
13           meted out equally. And we're concerned  
14           because I'm worried about us spending  
15           money on programs that do not hit all  
16           children or that are especially programs  
17           and private programs that we fund.  
18           That's a big issue we need to look at.

19                   And I want to also commend the  
20           Governor on holding up these Keystone  
21           Exams. We know our children can't pass  
22           them and graduate from school. So I'm  
23           glad he postponed that and is studying  
24           that issue. I still say anybody who does  
25           any job or has any focus for 12 years

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1                   2/4/16 - STATED - SPEECHES  
2           generally learns that job. It is only in  
3           our kids, not only our children because I  
4           know it exists across this country too,  
5           but it's unconscionable that after 12  
6           years our children can't read, write, and  
7           count. It means that we are failing, not  
8           them.

9                   So we have a lot to look at.  
10          They tell me that, going back to  
11          universal pre-K, they want to look in the  
12          district and see programs that don't  
13          work, cut them out, and deal with other  
14          interesting ways for funding. And that's  
15          one of the reasons that we're going to  
16          have hearings somehow between now and  
17          June to talk about fairness and equity  
18          and equality when it comes to education  
19          and programs.

20                   So this will be an important  
21          year. We realize education is real  
22          important. As I've said even with regard  
23          to community schools, which is a big  
24          focus, some people would just like to  
25          have clean schools and toilet paper in

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1           2/4/16 - STATED - ADJOURNMENT

2           the bathrooms and a chance to get  
3           something that looks like other schools  
4           in other neighborhoods.

5                        So we've got a big job to do,  
6           and we're committed to doing our part to  
7           make sure that we improve the quality of  
8           life in education and beyond.

9                        Happy Black History Month,  
10          everyone. Thank you.

11                       COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:  
12          Thank you, Councilwoman.

13                       That concludes the speeches on  
14          the part of the minority and majority,  
15          and with that, the Chair recognizes  
16          Councilwoman Reynolds Brown for a motion  
17          to adjoin.

18                       COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you,  
19          Mr. President. I move that City Council  
20          stand adjourned until Thursday, February  
21          11th, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.

22                       (Duly seconded.)

23                       COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:  
24          Thank you. It's been moved and properly  
25          seconded that Council stand adjourned

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1           2/4/16 - STATED - ADJOURNMENT  
2           until Thursday, February 11th, 2016,  
3           10:00 a.m.

4                   All those in favor?  
5                   (Aye.)

6                   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:  
7           Those opposed?

8                   (No response.)

9                   COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The  
10          ayes have it.

11                   Thank you all very much.

12                   (Stated Meeting adjourned at  
13          12:10 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the proceedings, evidence and objections are contained fully and accurately in the stenographic notes taken by me upon the foregoing matter, and that this is a true and correct transcript of same.

-----  
MICHELE L. MURPHY  
RPR-Notary Public

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

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