COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
STATED MEETING

Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Thursday, September 28, 2017
10:40 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. We're going to get started now. If the members will take their seats and the visitors and guests retire behind the rail, we will get this show on the road.

To give our invocation this morning, the Chair recognizes Shane Claiborne of The Simple Way. He is here today as the guest of Councilman Oh.

I would ask all members, guests, and visitors to please rise.

(Councilmembers, guests, and visitors rise.)

MR. CLAIBORNE: Thank you. It's an honor and a delight to be here. It's great to have one of my friends with me, also a block captain, Miguel Diaz, 3200 block of Potter Street, where we've been living and working for the last 20 years, a little community near Kensington and Allegheny. And I brought something with me that we made. We are always praying. On our front door, it says "God, heal our hearts, heal our streets,
and heal our world," and this is a plow
that we made out of guns.

We've started taking guns from
our streets and melting them down and
beating them into plows after that
beautiful text. We'll beat our swords
into plow shears. So you keep sending us
guns and we'll keep making some garden
tools.

So let's pray together.

Dear God, we do pray for this
world. We thank you for our city. We
thank you for creating a perfect world,
and we ask that you would forgive us for
the mess that we've made of it.

We pray for those who suffer
today, especially our brothers and
sisters in Puerto Rico. We pray for
those who suffer from violence,
remembering the sin of violence that goes
all the way back to Cain and Abel where
you said the blood cries out to you from
the ground.

We pray for all the lives lost,
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for the natives, for Africans, for all
those whose blood cries out from the
land, for Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown,
Sandra Bland, Tamir Rice, Freddie Gray,
Eric Gardner, Anthony Smith. You know
their names, your children whose blood
cries out from the ground. So heal the
wounds of our streets and have mercy on
us.

We remember that you said that
we're to welcome the foreigner as if they
were our own flesh and blood, for we were
once foreigners in the land of Egypt.
And so today we pray for immigrants and
refugees, women, men, and children, for
the victims of war and persecution, for
the addicted on our streets, for the
homeless, for the imprisoned and the
tortured, for the widows and orphans so
special to you. We know that when we
welcome them, we welcome you.

So forgive us for choosing
ourselves over others, for prioritizing
the rich over the poor, for turning
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others into enemies, and for trusting in
the sword and the gun instead of your
cross.

Forgive us for disrespecting
the earth, for creating a world where so
many have so little and so few have so
much.

Forgive us for building prisons
rather than schools, for building walls
instead of bridges. Forgive us for
forgetting the most vulnerable among us.

And heal us, God. Deliver us
from the tyranny of greed and pride and
power. Deliver us from the contagion of
fear that is rampant across our land.

Forgive us and heal us from the idolatry
of nationalism, the ugliness of racism,
the cancer of hatred.

Deliver us from the ghettos of
poverty and the ghettos of wealth. And I
pray for these, my brothers and sisters,
leaders of our city, that you would break
their hearts with the things that break
yours, that you would give them eyes to
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see those who go unnoticed, that you
would give them courage to overcome evil
with good.

Help them disagree well when
they disagree. Help them to look for
truth where they might not expect to find
it. Give them imagination that they
might think outside the box, and give
them a vision for justice that is big
enough to heal both the oppressed and the
oppressors.

Give them compassion for our
most vulnerable citizens, oh God. Give
us dreams for our city, dreams that you
talk about in scripture where the last
are first and the first are last, where
the mighty are cast from their thrones
and the lowly are lifted up; where the
poor are blessed and the peacemakers are
the children of God; where we will beat
swords into plows and spears into pruning
hooks and guns into farm tools; where
every person will have this day their
daily bread, so may this be a city of
love where all are welcome, no matter who
they are or where they come from; where
we can live without fear as your family.

    In Jesus' name, amen.
    (Amen.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

Thank you so much for those very
inspiring words.

    Council will be at ease.
    (Council at ease.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

Again, thanks for those inspiring words.

    The next order of business is
the approval of the Journal of the
meeting of Thursday, September 21st,
2017, and the Chair recognizes Councilman
Greenlee.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
you, Mr. President. I move that the
Journal of the meeting of Thursday,
September 21st, 2017 be approved.
    (Duly seconded.)
COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

Thank you. It has been moved and
properly seconded that the Journal of the meeting of Thursday, September 21st, 2017 be approved.

All those in favor say aye.

(Aye.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Those opposed?

(No response.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The ayes have it, and the Journal is approved.

The next order of business is requests for leaves of absence, and the Chair recognizes Councilman Henon.

COUNCILMAN HENON: Thank you, Mr. President. On behalf of the majority, there are no requests of leave of absence today.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The Chair thanks the gentleman.

The Chair now recognizes Councilman O'Neill.

COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Thank you, Mr. President. On behalf of the
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republicans, there are no requests for
leave of absence.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
Chair thanks the gentleman.

At this time, I would like to
dispense with the regular order of
business and I would like to welcome and
I want to thank everyone who has taken
time out of their busy day to come down
to witness their government in action.
We hope your stay here today is a very
knowledgeable one but, more importantly,
a pleasurable, so much so that you come
back again. So, again, thank you so much
for coming in.

At this time, the Chair
recognizes Councilman Jones, who will
present a resolution recognizing Minority
Enterprise Development Week, also known
as MED Week. Would Mrs. Iola Harper,
Deputy Director of Commerce, and those
accompanying her please join the
Councilman at the podium.

(Councilmembers and guests
approached podium.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: And joining Councilman Jones we have Councilwoman Blackwell, Councilman Greenlee, Councilman Dobb, Councilwoman Reynolds Brown, Councilwoman Parker, Councilman Taubenberger, Councilman Johnson, Councilman Oh, Councilwoman Quinones-Sanchez, Councilman Green, Councilman Squilla.

COUNCILMAN JONES: So I bring you greetings back from the City of Seattle where progressives live and play and make laws and do things. They make Bill Greenlee look like a hard-core conservative out there.

But one of the discussions and they were talking about human rights and they were talking about civil rights and they were talking about inclusion, both economic and political, and one of the sidebar conversations, which are best at these conferences, is that some of the older civil rights advocates, some of the
lawmakers that go back in the day said that it's like Back to the Future in this country, Back to the Future Part 2, if you would. And I started looking at that analogy and remembering it was one of my favorite movies, and there was a character in that movie called Biff Tannen. Everybody remember Biff Tannen? And so if you didn't, I want to give a description of Biff.

So Biff is a towering, violent, and selfish bully who obtained whatever he wanted by intimidation of others and getting others to do work for him or by cheating. And I brought a picture of Biff, and it's eerily familiar. It's almost separated at birth.

And so when you talk about going back to the future, the future that I want to go back to is when people of every color, good people, fought for what is right and made a stand and did what they could in the field that they could. And in the City when you think of that,
you cannot not mention the late great Lucien Blackwell, who is one of the fathers of affirmative action in this town. You cannot not think of Dr. Edward Robinson. And for you young people, you better Google him, because he was one of the fathers of affirmative action in this town, along with -- from the Northwest.

Yes, you're right.

And the third leg of that stool has to be our Mayor, former Mayor Wilson Goode. And I understand -- I hope I'm not letting the cat out of the bag that his son is going to receive an advocacy award, and I think that's truly appropriate for one of our own to receive that.

So on March 5th, 1969, Richard Nixon wrote an Executive Order. And this shows that it is a bipartisan effort, that republicans can be a part of those good people that want to do good things, and we exhibit that every day with our fellow republicans here.
So many people wanted to be a part of this that I had to X out my part to make sure my sister Maria got her portion in there. But this is to acknowledge the 2017 MED Week celebrations in this town, where we have had our ebb and flow of inclusion, and I will bring forth my sister, and our prayers are with Puerto Rico, to begin this citation.

COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank you. Thank you, Councilman. We have to celebrate our progress and remind us that there's still a sense of urgency about how much more we should be doing.

This is a resolution supporting the National Minority Business Development Agency and recognizing October 2nd through October 6th, 2017 as Philadelphia Minority Enterprise Development Week, which provides critical information, resources, opportunities and inspiration to the minority business community.
COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Since 1983, the U.S. President has proclaimed a National MED, or Minority Enterprise Development, Week observance to recognize the outstanding achievements of Minority Business Enterprises, or MBEs, and to honor those corporations and financial institutions that support minority business development; and

COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: And whereas, annual regional conferences and activities are organized by the United States Department of Commerce Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) in collaboration with the U.S. Small Business Administration Office of Government Contracting and Business Development;

COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Whereas, the MED Week celebration was started locally in Philadelphia in 1984 to honor and promote minority-owned businesses in the Philadelphia area. The organizers of the first MED Week activities were
Barbara Daniel Cox, former Director --
former Managing Director Mayor Wilson Goode -- the organizers of the first MED Week activities were Barbara Daniel Cox, former Director of Mayor Wilson Goode's Women's Commission, and Bilal Abdul Qayyum, Assistant Deputy Director of the City Commerce Department; and

COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Whereas,
the 33rd Anniversary of Philadelphia MED Week is sponsored by corporations, local colleges, universities, hospitals, local and regional government agencies and organizations that are committed to supporting the opportunities for minority businesses; and

COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Whereas,
the sponsors include the African American Chamber of Commerce, Asian American Chamber of Commerce, Greater Philadelphia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the Northeast Chamber of Commerce, the City of Philadelphia's Commerce Department, the Mayor's Office of Diversity and
Inclusion, and the MBDA Business Center of Pennsylvania; and

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: And whereas, it is during MED Week that the City of Philadelphia also recognizes the critical role of OEO leadership and officers in assisting departments in helping them meet their broad responsibilities for developing policies, programs, practices and strategies all designed to achieve its goal regarding M/W/DSBE participation in City contracts;

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Whereas, small businesses in Philadelphia and across the country are the cornerstone of economic growth, creating two-thirds of net new jobs in the country and comprising 50 percent of America's employment; and

COUNCILMAN DOMB: Whereas, the sources of capital, technical resources, and contracting opportunities are essential to the development, growth, and prosperity of minority businesses and MED
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Week will host some of the most prominent contracting organizations and resource providers that stand for the success of the small business community; and

COUNCILMAN GREEN: Whereas,

Philadelphia MED Week has grown exponentially since its inception and this year includes over 40 sponsors offering more than 30 workshops, seminars, and networking opportunities across the region: "City of Philadelphia Open for Business Expo", "REBUILD: We Will Work", "Meet the Lenders", "PHL Airport 2017 Annual Business Opportunity Forum", and "Lighting of the Torch"; now, therefore, be it

COUNCILMAN OH: Resolved, by the Council of the City of Philadelphia, that it hereby supports the National Minority Business Development Agency and recognizes October 2nd through October 6th, 2017 as Philadelphia Minority Enterprise Development (MED) Week, which provides critical information, resources,
opportunities and inspiration to the minority business community.

Further resolved, that an engrossed copy of this resolution be presented to the Philadelphia MED Week Committee as evidence of the strong support and sincere sentiments of this legislative body.

COUNCILMAN JONES: Before we bring up representatives from MED Week, I would be remiss, Mr. President, if I didn't recognize titans in this Chamber. She's not up here, but she should be. Councilwoman Bass fought hard during the Rebuild process to make sure inclusionary language was in the Rebuild legislation, and I want to, as she talks to our republican colleague, just recognize Cindy Bass for her contribution during Rebuild and all she did to keep this hope alive in Rebuild.

Also, everybody voted for it, but particularly Councilwoman Parker who also, with Councilwoman Brown, were the
voices of the President and others to make sure that all people were included in this process.

So I would be remiss. We ran out of whereases, that's all, but whereas, you were here when it counted.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

That's called cleaning it up.

The Chair recognizes Ms. Harper for remarks.

MS. HARPER: Good morning.

(Good morning.)

MS. HARPER: It is indeed an honor for the Office of Economic Opportunity to lead Philadelphia's 33rd Annual Minority Enterprise Development Week.

Nationally, minority-owned firms employ millions of workers, and they generate more than one trillion dollars in economic output. These businesses play a huge role in revitalizing and stabilizing our community, and we are proud to support
these firms by providing resources, information, and access that they need to grow in scale.

The theme for this year is All Roads Lead to Inclusion. To live up to that theme, we have planned a week jam-packed with events designed to connect minority, women, disabled-owned enterprises to the billions of dollars in economic opportunity in this region.

The City of Philadelphia co-sponsors this event with the African American, Asian, and Hispanic Chambers, as well as the Minority Business Development Agency, and there are 50 organizations and leaders that have come together to disseminate information on how to plug into opportunities with Schuylkill Yards, Rebuild, Navy Yard, PGW, Philadelphia Airport, just to name a few.

There are also sessions for those interested in hotel ownership, doing business with educational and
medical institutions, and there is even a meetup for young entrepreneurs in the City. We have programs that are available that list all of the activities.

And for those in City Council, we left you a gift on your table. For the first time ever, we are offering MED Week coupons. So we hope that you will visit the businesses on the corridors in the City of Philadelphia and actually use these coupons. We are piloting this for the first year in West Philadelphia, and if these coupons are actually used, we will spread this throughout the City. So we hope you use those coupons.

In closing, I'd like to ask the Office of Economic Opportunity officers to stand up. So if you're an OEO officer and you're here, please stand.

(Appause.)

MS. HARPER: I'd like to ask the staff members of the Office of Economic Opportunity to also stand.
(Applause.)

MS. HARPER: And then, finally, I'd like to ask all of our partners with MED Week to stand up as well.

(Applause.)

MS. HARPER: And I want to say that these are the individuals that are out here every single day fighting, advocating, supporting, and making sure that women, minorities, and disabled business owners actually do receive their fair share of the pie.

So we are excited about MED Week, and we certainly hope that you will join us.

(Applause.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

Council will be at ease.

(Council at ease.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

Thank you very much.

And our next order of business is communications. The Chair requests that the Sergeant-of-Arms delivers the
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messages from the Mayor to the Chief Clerk.

Mr. Decker, would you please read those messages.

CHIEF CLERK: To the President and members of the Council of the City of Philadelphia, I am pleased to advise you that on September 26, 2017, I signed the following bills which were passed by Council at its session on September --

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

Mr. Decker, hold on one second.

Folks, could you all please hold it down. Thank you.

CHIEF CLERK: I am pleased to advise you that on September 26, 2017, I signed the following bills which were passed by Council at its session on September 14, 2017: Bill Nos. 170406 and 170468.

And I am submitting herewith for the consideration of your honorable body a resolution approving the action of the Boards of the Philadelphia Industrial
Development Corporation and the Philadelphia Authority for Industrial Development to sell Parcel G, located at Island and Bartram Avenues, in the Eastwick Urban Renewal Area - Stage "A" Industrial, containing approximately 20 and eight-tenths acres to the City of Philadelphia; and

An ordinance authorizing the revision of lines and grades on a portion of City Plan No. 359 by relocating the southwesterly houseline and curbline of Byberry Road, from The Roosevelt Boulevard to a point northwestwardly therefrom; and

An ordinance amending Section 2 of an ordinance (Bill No. 130355) approved June 17, 2013, entitled "An ordinance authorizing the plotting upon a portion of City Plan No. 58 of a two feet wide area for public pedestrian use extending along the southerly side of Pearl Street, from Tenth Street to a point approximately one-hundred
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thirty-eight feet westwardly therefrom,"

by extending the period for compliance

with the terms and conditions stated

therein; and

An ordinance authorizing the

relocation of the southerly curbline of

Carpenter Street, from Broad Street to

Fifteenth Street on City Plan No. 15S, a

variable distance southwardly, so as to

widen the cartway of said Carpenter

Street, all under certain terms and

conditions.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

Those messages will be printed in today's

Journal.

Mr. Decker, do you have any

additional communications?

CHIEF CLERK: I have none,

Mr. President.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

Thank you very much.

And the next order of business

is the introduction of bills and

resolutions, and the Chair recognizes
COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning. I offer one resolution co-sponsored by members Green, Parker, Gym, Bass, and Sanchez, and one bill. Thank you, Mr. President.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you, Councilwoman.


COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Referred to committee.

CHIEF CLERK: And a non-privileged resolution urging the President of the United States to Affirm the "Clean Water Rule."

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

And the Chair recognizes
 Councilwoman Blackwell.

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

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

Thank you, Councilwoman.

COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: One privileged resolution.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

Thank you, Councilwoman.

CHIEF CLERK: A non-privileged resolution calling on the United States Congress to fight hunger in Philadelphia by opposing any efforts to block grants, reduce funding, or structurally change the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in any way that would negatively impact its recipients, and oppose efforts to cut other federally funded nutrition programs.

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

The Chair recognizes Councilman
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Greenlee.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank you, Mr. President. On your behalf, I offer one bill.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

Thank you, Councilman.

CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance to amend the Philadelphia Zoning Maps by changing the zoning designations of certain areas of land located within an area bounded by Girard Avenue, 6th Street, Berks Street and 10th Street.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

Referred to committee.

The Chair recognizes Councilman Henon.

COUNCILMAN HENON: Thank you, Mr. President. Today I have one bill and one privileged resolution.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

Thank you, Councilman.

CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance to amend Title 11 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled "Streets," by revising certain
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provisions of Chapter 11-600, entitled "Construction, Encroachments, and Projections Over, On, and Under Streets," to amend the encroachment regulations for signage, all under certain terms and conditions.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Referred to committee.

CHIEF CLERK: And a privileged resolution recognizing October 2017 as Manufacturing Month in The City of Philadelphia.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: And that will be on this week's Final Passage Calendar.

The Chair recognizes Councilman Jones.

COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you, Mr. President. I have one bill and one privileged resolution co-authored by Henon, Taubenberger, Domb, Oh, and Blackwell.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you, Councilman.
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CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance amending Chapter 14-1000 of The Philadelphia Code, (entitled "Historic Preservation") to establish a temporary demolition moratorium with respect to properties in the area of Ridge Avenue between Wissahickon Creek and Northwestern Avenue.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Referred to committee.

CHIEF CLERK: And a privileged resolution hereby declaring the week of October 1st through October 8th as the second annual "Philadelphia Legacy Week," which will be set aside to commemorate major contributions by Philadelphia individuals and institutions by honoring Walter P. Lomax, John Chaney, Ruth Wright Hayre and David Shulkin.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: And that will be on this week's Final Passage Calendar.

The Chair recognizes Councilman Johnson.
COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Council President, I have four resolutions and two bills.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you, Councilman.

COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: You're welcome.

CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance establishing an amended parking regulation change in the vicinity of: Elmwood Avenue and 68th Street.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Referred to committee.

CHIEF CLERK: And an ordinance authorizing the relocation of the southerly curbline of Carpenter Street, from Broad Street to Fifteenth Street on City Plan No. 15S, a variable distance southwardly, so as to widen the cartway of said Carpenter Street.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: And that will be referred to committee.

CHIEF CLERK: And a privileged resolution honoring and recognizing City
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Year Greater Philadelphia for its 20 years of service to the City of Philadelphia.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: This week's Calendar.

CHIEF CLERK: And a privileged resolution honoring the life and legacy of Thurgood Marshall on the 50th Anniversary of his swearing-in to the United States Supreme Court.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: This week's Calendar.

CHIEF CLERK: And a non-privileged resolution approving the action of the Boards of the Philadelphia Industrial Development Corporation and the Philadelphia Authority for Industrial Development to sell property in the vicinity of 76th Street and Holstein Avenue in the Eastwick Urban Renewal Area – Stage "A" Industrial, containing approximately two acres to Pio Construction & Roma Concrete.

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

CHIEF CLERK: And a non-privileged resolution also naming Chelwynde Avenue, between Bialy Street and South 74th Street, "Akyra Murray Way."

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

The Chair recognizes Councilwoman Quinones-Sanchez.

COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank you, Council President. I have one resolution. I wish to be recognized after the title of the bill [sic] to speak on it and to ask for a rules suspension.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you, Councilwoman.

CHIEF CLERK: A non-privileged resolution urging President Trump, the United States Congress, and its leadership at the House and Senate to act
quickly in their federal relief efforts
to assist the over 3.4 million United
States citizens who live in Puerto Rico
following the devastation of Hurricane
Maria on September 20, 2017.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
Chair recognizes Councilwoman
Quinones-Sanchez.

COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: I move
for the suspension of the rules of
Council to allow -- to permit second
reading and passage on today's Calendar.

(Duly seconded.)

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

All those in favor say aye.

(Aye.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
Those opposed?

(No response.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
ayes have it, and that will be on today's
Final Passage Calendar.

The Chair recognizes Councilman
Green.

COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: I was going to speak on it. I'm sorry.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: I'm sorry.

COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: I was going to speak on the resolution before --

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: You want to speak now? I'm sorry, Councilwoman.

COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: That's okay.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The Chair recognizes Councilwoman Sanchez.

COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank you, Council President. I want to thank all of my colleagues who over the last week have reached out personally, e-mail, text, and particularly those of you who attended the parade on Sunday, Councilmen Johnson, Oh, Squilla, Councilman Green, Councilwoman Gym, and Councilman Greenlee and everyone.
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This afternoon at 5 o'clock the Mayor is hosting a press conference with the congressional delegation, Congressmen Brady, Boyle and Evans, along with Senator Casey, and we have gotten a public statement by Senator Toomey.

While I am puzzled and bewildered by public policy through Twitter, I do want to recognize that this morning through Twitter the President is issuing a ten-day waiver of the Jones Act, which is one of the pieces of legislation we'll be speaking to at 5 o'clock. But it is not enough.

The Naval Hospital that is being shipped to Puerto Rico as part of the relief efforts is still nine days away. So giving us a ten-day reprieve is not sufficient. And I want to thank Governor Wolf, who also joined us on Sunday and made a personal pledge of $15,000. The Mayor made a pledge of $5,000 for local relief efforts.

The situation in Puerto Rico is
dire. Let me repeat that. The situation in Puerto Rico is dire. Federal officials who oversaw the Katrina relief efforts in New Orleans say it is much more devastating, and at this point in the relief efforts, they had tens of thousands of boots on the ground from the federal government. We are nowhere near this.

As the President has acknowledged, Puerto Rico is surrounded by an ocean, a big, big ocean, two oceans actually, but I'm not going to correct that at this point, and it's not -- does not have access through roads, and it's for this reason that the ten-day waiver is not sufficient.

With the group with our congressional leadership and Unidos PA'PR, which is led by Representative Cruz, Vazquez, and myself and many leaders, including former Councilman Ortiz, who will join us this morning in our relief efforts, what we're calling
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for is an immediate, immediate allocation. FEMA is still in its assessment before it can issue a report, before it can develop a budget, before it can ask for an allocation. That is two to three weeks away. That is not enough. And so we're asking for an immediate FEMA allocation for relief efforts in Puerto Rico.

I will note that the U.S. Virgin Islands do not have to abide by the Jones Act. So we are literally a 45-minute boat drive, and they have abilities that we don't in Puerto Rico to activate relief.

We are asking the U.S. Army of Engineers to immediately oversee the dam that has been breached, and those of us who remember Katrina, the dangerous situation that that creates, and the possible relocation of 70,000 people. We want them to take leadership in that. We want the deployment and the activation of thousands of emergency
responders, and we want to break the bottleneck that exists both at the airport and on the naval base.

I know there's discussion that there's products at the port that can't get to folks. Folks, I need to put this in context. At the port we have a million liters of water. There are 3.4 million people on the island. What is on the port is not sufficient. And so that is why it is important that we get an immediate release of the Jones Act, not for ten days but at least a year, which is what our Senate counterparts are requesting, Schumer and Casey, and our Puerto Rican congressional delegation of Velazquez, Gutierrez, Serrano, and Darren Soto are requesting.

This is dire. Yes, we are going to be, whether it's coordinated through FEMA or not, bombarded by Puerto Ricans once commercial flights are up and going. There's only ten commercial flights a day, as the air tower is not
functioning.

So I want to again recognize all of my colleagues for co-sponsoring this resolution, for understanding the dire needs that exist on the island of Puerto Rico, and I can say that the American citizens on Puerto Rico need immediate action. And everything -- no one is doubting the level of commitment of the folks who are on the ground. I think what we are lacking is the leadership to say that what we're doing on the ground is not enough.

So thank you all, thanks for the folks, every single non-profit leader, every -- you have young people, folks in colleges. Everybody wants to help. Right now we don't have the capacity to store stuff, to ship stuff. Even our own Salvation Army through the efforts of the Mayor and the work we are doing, we finally got some relief. Things shipped yesterday. So we're not even prepared to take stuff to be able to
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ship to Puerto Rico.

So I want to thank all of you
and particularly the congressional
delegation for their support and standing
with the 150,000 Puerto Ricans in
Philadelphia and the 400,000 Puerto
Ricans that are here in Pennsylvania.

Thank you, Council President.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

Thank you, Councilwoman.

(Applause.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

Thank you, Councilwoman, for your
continued commitment.

The Chair recognizes Councilman
Green.

COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you,
Council President. I want to thank
Councilwoman Sanchez for her update on
the information regarding Puerto Rico and
for offering her advocacy regarding this
important issue.

I have two privileged
resolutions.
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COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

Thank you, Councilman.

CHIEF CLERK:  A privileged
resolution authorizing the Committee on
Public Health & Human Services to hold
hearings regarding board and leadership
diversity among foundations and
non-profit organizations in Philadelphia.

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

CHIEF CLERK:  And a privileged
resolution authorizing the Special
Committee on Criminal Justice Reform to
hold hearings regarding the role of a
bail fund in Philadelphia.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:  This
week's Calendar.

The Chair recognizes
Councilwoman Parker.

COUNCILWOMAN PARKER:  Thank
you, Mr. President. Today I offer one
privileged resolution that is primely
co-authored by Councilman Brian O'Neill
along with Councilmembers Jones, Oh,
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Taubenberger, Henon, Green, Greenlee, Domb, and Gym, and I wish to be recognized to comment after the title is read.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
Thank you, Councilwoman.

CHIEF CLERK: A privileged resolution authorizing the City Council Committee on Labor & Civil Service to hold hearings regarding the State's recent legalization of medical marijuana and to address questions related to medical marijuana's potential impact on employers and employees in Philadelphia.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The Chair recognizes Councilwoman Parker.

COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Thank you, Mr. President. It is no secret that we in the Ninth Councilmanic District, along with residents in the Stenton Avenue area, had the issue of medical marijuana on our radar beginning this spring as it related to the potential of a medical marijuana dispensary being
located in a residential area.

I want to give a special thanks to the residents in that area for their activism, but also give a special thanks to all of my colleagues, and in particular I want to say thank you to you, Councilman Brian O'Neill, for your support.

You may remember that we had to pass legislation after Council passed its law regulating the zoning of medical marijuana dispensaries in the City of Philadelphia. We had to pass a bill clarifying the legislative intent of this body to prohibit a dispensary from being located within 500 feet of any type of school and other places where children congregate such as parks, pools, libraries, recreation centers and, equally important, day cares. And whether it was by omission or we thought we were sort of functioning in a court with state law, but we learned that the very bill that we as a Council thought we
did our due diligence in passing was the 
actual tool that was used against us 
during our fight in zoning. And I wanted 
to say a special thanks to Councilman 
Brian O'Neill, because I think maybe it 
was your legal prowess and/or your years 
of experience relative to zoning where 
you knew that the fix was needed for this 
body. So I want to say thank you.

But during this time,
Mr. President, and for the benefit of all 
residents in the City of Philadelphia, 
instead of thinking we know what's best, 
another issue came up from the community 
that I hadn't given a lot of thought to, 
and that was relative to employment in 
the City of Philadelphia and how the 
medical marijuana industry would impact 
employers and employees.

Now, everyone was 
overwhelmingly supportive, particularly 
the residents that I communicated with, 
and I've seen various polls, but the 
question of what will happen to employees
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who are also medical marijuana patients

but whose employers do drug testing, and

when this issue was raised from the

community, I immediately heard phones in

the offices of District Councilmembers

sort of ringing with folks questioning if

that occurs when it is implemented. You

know, I was fired wrongly. I am a

patient receiving this much-needed

medicine.

And unfortunately the law, the

act in and of itself, has not effectively

answered the question, and this is why

this resolution calls for a hearing on

medical marijuana's potential impact on

employers and employees in Philadelphia.

And we knew we were there when we read an

article in the Legal Intelligencer that

was written by an attorney named John

McQueary and he highlighted these same

concerns, and I want to just quote him

for the record. "The imprecision of the

Medical Marijuana Act's statutory

language addressing employment injects
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needless uncertainty into the employer
and employee relationship, which likely
will not be resolved absent litigation."

Now, this is a product and a
medicine that we know will help our
constituents, but the unintended
consequences, unless we hash them out,
could be this legislative body or local
legislative bodies across the
Commonwealth introducing a litany of
bills and resolutions regarding the issue
when we should really be asking the
private sector to help us drive the
discussion so we can forward our
recommendations to our Governor, along
with our both republican and democratic
leaders in Harrisburg, and we can begin
to give a guide to our residents on how
we should proceed relative to employment
and employees. And you heard me say that
I don't think government should literally
drive this discussion, which is why I'm
extremely pleased that the Chamber, our
Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce,
they are having a forum on this very issue coming up shortly, so that we will use the information that is gathered from the private sector to inform our efforts here in Council, and we will be dependent on your legal expertise and prowess, Councilman O'Neill, to help us through this process, along with all of our colleagues, so that we can try to do whatever we need to do right the first time and not have to come back and fix anything.

So thank you, Mr. President, for your leeway. And again to my colleagues, thank you for your support.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
Thank you, Councilwoman. And that will be on today's Final Passage Calendar.

The Chair recognizes Councilman Domb.

COUNCILMAN DOMB:  Good morning, Council President. I have one privileged resolution co-sponsored by Councilmembers Parker, Brown, Green, Taubenberger, Oh,
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COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
Thank you, Councilman.

CHIEF CLERK: A privileged
resolution honoring and congratulating
the honorees of the 2017 Stellar StartUps
competition.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: And
that will be on today's Final Passage
Calendar.

The Chair recognizes
Councilwoman Gym.

COUNCILWOMAN GYM: Good
morning, Council President. No bills or
resolutions today.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
Thank you, Councilwoman.

The Chair recognizes Councilman
Taubenberger.

COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: Good
morning, Council President and
colleagues. I have two privileged
resolutions, and once the title is read,
I'd like to speak on the one briefly.
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COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
Thank you, Councilman.

CHIEF CLERK: A privileged resolution authorizing the Committee on Housing, Neighborhood Development, and the Homeless to hold hearings to discuss the impact of squatting in Philadelphia, the victims of squatting and additional measures and best practices to prevent squatting.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: This one?

COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: Yes. Yes. I'd like to just say --

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The Chair recognizes Councilman Taubenberger.

COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: -- a word on that.

Owning your own home is the American dream. Losing your home to squatters is really an unbelievable nightmare. I have witnessed three times over the summer and having my office work on a fourth situation, which is very,
very, very difficult. I then spoke to Councilwoman Blondell Reynolds Brown and Councilman Allan Domb and Councilman Brian O'Neill during this process, and that resulted in today's request for a hearing as a privileged resolution. And I really want to thank all my colleagues, including yourself, for co-sponsoring with me on this. I think it's very, very important that we get to the bottom of it, because the people that are squatting, for the most part, are very organized and they're using it as a bit of a crime spree, and it has added a degree of lawlessness.

This also originated with State Representative John Taylor in a home only four doors from his own home as well. So it's something we as a city government need to take a very, very serious look at.

Council President, thank you.

And, colleagues, thank you for your co-sponsorship.
COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

Thank you, Councilman. That will be on today's Final Passage Calendar.

CHIEF CLERK: And a privileged resolution recognizing the 70th Anniversary of Temple University's Army Reserve Officer Training Corps Red Diamond Battalion and honoring its tradition of excellence in providing quality Officers to the United States Army from the City of Philadelphia.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

Today's Final Passage Calendar.

The Chair recognizes Councilman O'Neill.

COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Thank you, Mr. President. I offer one bill.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

Thank you, Councilman.

CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance authorizing the revision of lines and grades on a portion of City Plan No. 359 by relocating the southwesterly houseline and curbline of Byberry Road, from The
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Roosevelt Boulevard to a point northwestwardly therefrom.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
Referred to committee.

And the Chair recognizes Councilman Squilla.

COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Thank you, Mr. President. I offer one bill and one privileged resolution.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
Thank you, Councilman.

CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance amending Section 2 of an ordinance (Bill No. 130355) approved June 17, 2013, entitled "An ordinance authorizing the plotting upon a portion of City Plan No. 58 of a two feet wide area for public pedestrian use extending along the southerly side of Pearl Street, from Tenth Street to a point approximately one-hundred thirty-eight feet westwardly therefrom."

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
Referred to committee.
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CHIEF CLERK: And a privileged resolution congratulating and honoring the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society and the Philadelphia Flower Show on winning the Grand Pinnacle Gold award for best overall event In The World from the International Festival and Events Association.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: This week's Calendar.

And the Chair recognizes Councilwoman Bass.

COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you, Mr. President. I offer one bill.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you, Councilwoman.

CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance revising parking restrictions on Maplewood Avenue, between Greene Street and Wayne Avenue.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: That will be referred to the appropriate committee.

The Chair recognizes Councilman
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Oh.

COUNCILMAN OH: Thank you very much, Council President. I offer one bill, and may I be heard on it after the title is read?

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
Certainly.

COUNCILMAN OH: Thank you very much.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
Thank you, Councilman.

CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance amending Title 10 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled "Regulation of Individual Conduct and Activity," Chapter 10-800, entitled "Safety," by adding a new Section 10-840, entitled "Squatters," establishing and clarifying procedures to remove squatters from real property, all under certain terms and conditions.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The Chair recognizes Councilman Oh.

COUNCILMAN OH: Thank you very much, Council President. Last week on
Thursday I told the story of a pastor and his wife who went on a brief vacation, came back and found that the church's home for pastors that he doesn't live in, the adjacent home for the church, was occupied by a woman. They asked her to leave. She refused to leave. They called the police. The police came, and then the police told the woman she had 48 hours to leave. The pastor said, you can have 72.

After 72 hours, when he came back, the locks had been changed, and he called the police again. The police came. They didn't know what to do. They weren't sure because she said she was renting through Craigslist. And so he contacted the DA's office for an informal piece of advice from the Assistant DA. The Assistant DA, according to the officer, said tell them to file in Landlord-Tenant Court, which is what he did.

Two and a half months later,
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without any resolution to this problem
and the damage of property, I spoke on
the floor and said I am seeing the
District Attorney tomorrow. I did.
Friday I went to see Kelley Hodge, our
DA, sat down with the Deputy Chief, and
we discussed this matter. And by the end
of the day, the police, Northwest
Detectives, came out to the home with an
arrest warrant. She fled the building.
The pastor and his wife are in possession
of the property.

In our discussion, what I
learned is, there is no squatters' rights
law in Philadelphia. I have heard from
numerous police officers that are friends
of mine, Oh, that's Philadelphia
squatters' rights bill or law. And I
thought there was. I talked with
Councilman Derek Green last week about,
hey, let's work on this ordinance. There
is no ordinance. It's an urban myth.
It's an urban legend. I'm not sure where
it came from, but I don't think it's
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evenly applied. I believe that there are situations where in the wealthier sections of Philadelphia, there is no problem. People are removed if this ever happened. But in poorer neighborhoods, when someone occupies a building, a home, there is confusion. I'm not blaming the police, because even it appears the Assistant DA who responded did not know what the answer is.

So I'd like to say there's no such thing as a squatters' rights bill in Philadelphia. It's just a criminal trespass, a burglary, and the person occupying the home should be removed. If they have a lease, if they have evidence that they are properly in the building, if there is a dispute, that goes to Landlord-Tenant Court, and certainly Philadelphia is very sympathetic to tenants, but it should not shield criminals.

To clarify this for the police and for our authorities, I'm introducing
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a bill, a civil bill, because I think the problem in that case is really this, that when the police came out, they didn't know what to do, and so without criminal action and guidance, they could not act. They didn't know what to do. In the meantime, they didn't have any identification of this person, and now two and a half months later, they don't know who she is. And there's no incentive for this person to leave, and there's no expeditious process.

So what I'm introducing, a bill that does prohibit people from scamming keys for cash from occupying real property that does not belong to them under the guise of being a tenant when in fact they are not. And what this bill provides is that the owner of record shall be presumed the actual and current owner, that the person in the building will be able to rebut that presumption with bona fide evidence, and that the penalty for improperly occupying a
building of this nature shall be a fine of not more than $300 or imprisonment of 90 days or both. That's a very typical type of civil penalty.

However, once they have been notified by the police officer who is required to get their identification from a driver's license or anything like that, they have 48 hours to leave, and if they don't leave, they incur a fine of $300 for every day that they're in the building that they're not supposed to be there, and there will be an expedited civil court date, which I will work out with the court, that if there is a dispute, that we'll have a hearing within 30 days.

The reason I think this is so critical, Council President and colleagues, is we can imagine that if someone came to a home that was the home of, for example, a deceased aunt and found someone in the building who didn't belong there who refused to leave and the
police could not or would not remove them, that we can end up in a very deadly situation, and I think for everyone concerned, we should clarify between tenants and those who have a legal dispute from people who are simply violating the law and taking possession of property. I've heard from folks all over the City about horrendous stories and about people who occupy homes and sell drugs and they can't seem to get anyone to remove them, and I think the process has to be established by this Council body.

Thank you very much.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you, Councilman.

(Appause.)

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

That concludes our introduction of bills and resolutions. We have no
committee reports today, so we will move towards the consideration of the Calendar.

There are no bills on the First Reading Calendar today, and the Chair recognizes Councilman Greenlee for the purpose of calling up resolutions and bills on the Final Passage Calendar today.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank you, Mr. President. The following resolutions and bills are being called up from the Second Reading and Final Passage Calendar today: Nos. 170735, 170519, and 161106. All other resolutions and bills are being held.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you, Councilman.

Before considering the bills and resolutions on the Final Passage Calendar, we will have our public comment session. It will go as follows:

If there is a bill or resolution that is on the Final Passage
Calendar today, if you have not already done so, you may sign up at the table to my left. When your name is called, you will go to the podium in the middle of the Council Chamber. There's a device on that podium. When the light turns green, it will be your time to speak. When the light turns yellow, you will have 30 seconds to conclude your remarks. When the light turns red, we will ask that you please adhere to the guidelines and conclude your remarks. You will have three minutes to testify.

Mr. Decker, please call the name of the first individual testifying today.


(Witness approached podium.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good morning.

MR. GIBBS: Good morning,
Mr. President, members of Council. As the President of the Barristers' Association of Philadelphia, I join my voice with Councilman Johnson and thank him for this resolution.

Fifty years ago, Justice Marshall was sworn into the Supreme Court of these United States. His career was admirable on the court, but what he did before he got to the court as a lawyer in Brown versus the Board of Education, as a lawyer who lost cases on purpose so that he can make laws of the land so that we all could be free and equal, and that under the eyes of the law, he is deserving of every honor that we can give him, and we will ask that all of Council support Justice Marshall's resolution sponsored by Councilman Johnson.

Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

Thank you for your testimony, sir.

CHIEF CLERK: Tianna Kalogerakis.
(No response.)

CHIEF CLERK: Reverend Luis Cortes.

(Witness approached podium.)

REVEREND CORTES: Good morning, Honorable Council President Clarke and Honorable members of our Philadelphia City Council. Thank you for allowing me to briefly address the issue of Puerto Rico's humanitarian crisis and highlight some steps towards the relief that this body can effect, not only for the people currently suffering in Puerto Rico but also for your constituents here in our city.

Close to 150,000 Puerto Ricans live in Philadelphia, representing approximately 8.5 percent of our population. Almost all have not just one but several family members in Puerto Rico as well as friends and other loved ones. There are also 250,000 Puerto Ricans spread throughout this state, primarily the cities of Reading, Allentown,
Bethlehem, Lancaster, and York. As such, Puerto Rico's plight is being acutely felt in our Commonwealth and in our city. As a result of this Category 5 hurricane called Maria, Puerto Rico has suffered a complete loss of its basic infrastructure. This loss is comparable to the effects of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans.

Currently, there is no electrical infrastructure left on the island, and it is expected it will take four to six months to restore it. Most of the island has no capacity for communication, either internally or externally. We are deeply concerned that seven days into this event, we still don't know if four hospitals in the western part of the island are open. We do know that four functioning hospitals are overwhelmed and are partially working due to a lack of power of the basic resources.

The Puerto Rican and Hispanic
community elected officials of Philadelphia are of one accord, State Senator Tartaglione, State Representative Cruz and Vazquez, and Councilwoman Maria Quinones-Sanchez. We ask that our City Council add your voice to theirs and hundreds of others asking Congress to pass a supplemental appropriations bill to ensure that there will be adequate resources in the FEMA Disaster Relief Fund and the Department of Housing and Urban Development Disaster Recovery CDBG Grant. We also feel that ten days for the Jones Act is not enough and it needs to be extended.

We feel the tremendous urgency of this situation and the need for immediate action. More than half of our organization, Esperanza's staff and stakeholders, are Puerto Rican or married into Puerto Rican families. Most of them have still not been able to hear from their loved ones a week into this catastrophe. Economic conditions on the
island are well past the breaking point.

We ask that you encourage the Treasury Department to ensure there is enough cash delivered to the island to address the economic situation. We also ask that you ask the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to take on the threat of breach in Guajataka.

Finally, we can ask what can City Council and the City of Philadelphia do directly. Can we consider matching what New York City is doing, as they have pledged to send over 1,500 volunteers, starting with 100 firefighters and police rescue workers.

If the American citizens in Puerto Rico are not assisted, they will need to migrate in unprecedented numbers to the mainland of the United States, Pennsylvania, and Philadelphia will need to receive hundreds, if not thousands of people, fleeing the uninhabitable conditions on our island.

How do we as a city prepare? I
believe our first responsibility is to repair the island of Puerto Rico quickly, and anything our city and state can do to aid in this repair should be considered an investment in our mutual prosperity.

Thank you, Council.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
Thank you for your testimony.

CHIEF CLERK: Angel Ortiz.
(Witness approached podium.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good morning, Councilman.

COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Good morning. Thank you, President Clarke and members of City Council. I haven't spoken on this floor for a very long time, and I'm very angry today, because Puerto Rico is being treated with contempt by the federal government, being treated with contempt by the President of the United States.

People are dying in Puerto Rico. It's no longer a matter. You see it every day on CNN and MSNBC and every
TV station.

Ten days waiver of the Jones Act is laughingly stupid. It takes ten days from one boat to reach Puerto Rico from Jacksonville, ten days.
Puerto Rico because of its colonial situation cannot get food from any other source. Food has to be delivered to Puerto Rico. Food is scarce in Puerto Rico. The whole agricultural business of Puerto Rico has been destroyed. We are a colonial property of the United States.

Wall Street right now wants $72 billion to be paid, $72 billion. There's no money for Wall Street in Puerto Rico, and Congress has to act on that. And this Council and this party and this city has to stand up behind the Puerto Rican people. And we have to say to our congressional delegation, to our people, the debt that is owed to Wall Street has to be eliminated. Aid has to be introduced immediately in the House of
Representatives.

Today, Wyden still has not introduced a bill for emergency aid to Puerto Rico today. Trump has not asked the House of Representatives for a certain amount of money of aid to Puerto Rico. We as a body, the representatives of the City of Philadelphia, we have to stand together behind Governor Wolf, behind the Puerto Rican community of this city, behind the community of this nation. We are five million strong in the continental United States, and what they're trying to do, I believe, is ethnic cleansing of Puerto Rico.

The real estate has become very valuable. Gentrification of Puerto Rico will be taking place. People will have to evacuate the island, because there is no jobs and no future there. We need what we call a Marshall Plan for Puerto Rico, and we need the government of the United States and the Congress to be responsible for 118 years of colonialism
that have perpetuated this situation.

We ask. We are not begging.

We're demanding. Puerto Ricans have died in every war that United States has fought in the last hundred years. Martin Luther King said that there's a check that is to be given to the African American community. There's an uncashed check to be given to the people of Puerto Rico. And we have to demand it, not just as Puerto Ricans from the City but as citizens of the City of Philadelphia, that we stand up and we say stop it, Mr. Trump.

The ocean is big. The island is surrounded by water, because that's what islands are. They are surrounded by water. And we speak Spanish, but we're not Mexican. So don't confuse us. You can't build a wall around Puerto Rico. We already have an ocean. And you cannot prevent us from coming in, because we are citizens of the United States. We were made citizens in 1917 so we could fight
in your wars.

So now we're asking. We're not begging. We want what is given to us, what is owed to the people of Puerto Rico. We don't want evacuation and gentrification of the island. We need the people of Puerto Rico to be able to stay in Puerto Rico and build a future with Puerto Rico.

So I ask this Council to stand up and challenge Trump and the House and the Senate in Washington and say give to the Puerto Ricans what they're owed.

(Applause.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

Thank you for your testimony.

CHIEF CLERK: Darrell Davis.

(Witness approached podium.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good morning.

MR. DAVIS: Good morning. Good morning, Council President Clarke, Councilwoman Parker, and members of City Council. My name is Darrell Davis,
Manager of Local Government and Civic Affairs at the Chamber of Commerce for Greater Philadelphia. Thank you for offering the opportunity to submit public comment today on the resolution that authorizes City Council to hold hearings regarding the Medical Marijuana Act.

The Chamber's mission is to attract, retain, and grow jobs for the City and region. We follow principles of economic competitiveness to guide our public policy, and we'll work with other organizations to advance the agenda leading to economic growth and prosperity.

The Medical Marijuana Act was signed into law by Governor Tom Wolf on April 17th, 2016 after approval by both the State House and State Senate. The law allows for the removal of criminal penalties for medical marijuana usage in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and became effective May 17th, 2016.

To assist businesses and
organizations in the Greater Philadelphia region comply with the newly passed state Medical Marijuana Act, the Chamber is hosting a workshop for businesses and civic organizations on October 18th at the Chamber offices at 8:00 a.m. The workshop will educate attendees on the provisions of the Act as well as discuss how medical marijuana impacts employment law. HR professionals, counseling, employers are encouraged to attend. For additional information, please speak with myself or my colleague, Liz Ferry. We look forward to using what we learn at the October 18th event to inform our testimony for the upcoming City Council hearing on medical marijuana's impact on employers and employees in Philadelphia.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit public comment today.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

Thank you for your testimony.

CHIEF CLERK: Samira Harris.

(Witness approached podium.)
COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good morning.

MS. HARRIS: Good morning.

Good morning, Council President Clarke and members of Council. My name is Samira Harris and I'm here to comment on the resolution that Councilwoman Cherelle Parker introduced today calling for a hearing on medical marijuana's potential impact on employers and employees in Philadelphia.

I am a registered nurse in the Intensive Care Unit at Einstein Medical Center of Philadelphia. I'm an active member in the Einstein Nurses Union and I'm also a member of the Executive Board for the Pennsylvania Association of Staff Nurses and Allied Professionals, which is also known as PASNAP. I'm also a resident of Mount Airy and I live directly across the street from where the medical marijuana dispensary Councilwoman Parker spoke of was to be built.

As a medical professional, I
support the medicinal use of medical marijuana for patients in need. However, I do have some concerns about how employers may handle employees who are also medical marijuana patients. For example, PASNAP has thousands of members, and it stands to reason that some of them will be medical marijuana patients. PASNAP members also work for large hospitals that employ drug testing upon hiring and on a random basis after hiring. And of course this is with good reason. A medical professional should never be at work while under the influence of any prohibited substance.

However, what about a medical professional who is also a medical marijuana patient and only uses medical marijuana during their off hours? As you may be aware, marijuana stays in one's system for up to 30 days, and drug tests don't distinguish whether you consumed marijuana during or outside of work hours. What are these employers going to
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Do if one of their employees test positive for marijuana but said employee is a medical marijuana patient with a valid prescription?

It is because of unanswered questions like these that I applaud Councilwoman Parker for introducing her resolution today calling for a hearing on medical marijuana's potential impact on employers and employees in Philadelphia. I look forward to the hearing later this fall. It is imperative that we get some of these questions answered before medical marijuana becomes a reality early next year.

Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

Thank you so much for your testimony.

CHIEF CLERK: Harry Barnum.

(No response.)

CHIEF CLERK: Harry Barnum.

(Witnesses approached podium.)

MR. BARNUM (through interpreter): Well, it's almost noon, so
good afternoon, Councilmembers, Council President. I'm speaking on 170408, and I understand that this is a strict penalty suspending students in grades one to five, and I think those students should be disciplined in the school, supported in the school rather than being suspended.

When they're suspended and sent home, they have the opportunity to get into trouble. The parents aren't there. Everything can go awry. They need to be educated. I think it's important to teach these students in grades one to five, especially students who are disabled, blind, deaf, hard of hearing. When they're punished and sent home, that is not good. They need to have skilled counselors and teachers and principals who know how to deal with these children and discipline them correctly in the school so that they can improve and encourage them to improve their lives and support them.
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It's a teacher's responsibility to teach and support these students rather than to punish them and suspend them. I think the students need to be kept in the school.

Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

CHIEF CLERK: Greg Brinkley, commenting on 170408.

(Witness approached podium.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good morning.

MR. BRINKLEY: Good morning, Councilman. I wasn't really planning on speaking today. This was an impromptu appearance by me, but I do support the bill by Council Lady Helen Gym on permanently -- I'm against them suspending children one through five, one through fifth grade, because of the disparities that happen in the school. This is a known fact that a lot of African American students are dealt with differently. I do support finding other
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ways to address their behavior.

But I think consistent with this issue, I wanted to talk about an issue that's on my heart. I meant to speak two weeks ago on the issue of police brutality, and I wasn't able to make it down here, and I had prepared text. So I'd kind of like today, because I was down here to do something else, and I was directed here. I had a meeting to go to that got cancelled. So I need to say what I need to say.

I've been an advocate fighting against police brutality for years. And I say, with all due respect to the African American Councilpeople in here, whether I respect you or not, this issue needs to be addressed, and I don't hear enough of that coming from the African American elected officials about what's going on with the police and the shootings.

Every day I worry about my grandchildren walking out here, being
shot down by some -- by some of the bad police officers. I'm not anti-law enforcement. I'm a retired corrections officer. But what I'm saying is, when I see Councilmen Henon, Squilla, and Brian O'Neill attend a rally on taxpayers' time to support the political bully John McNesby, they stood up and said what they had to say. My question to them is, did you have black constituents in your neighborhoods? So do we matter? Don't we matter? And I don't understand how could African American Councilpeople specifically -- your children are being subject to that. How do you not say anything when the majority of what goes on in the Police Department affects us? How do you not say anything about that? It doesn't make sense to me, and at some point, at some point, you've got to grow -- you've got to say something about that, because we can have an effect on that as black people, as black police officers, as black Councilpeople. We got
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to start saying something about that.

And I needed to say that.

That's on my heart. It's not going to go away, Council President Clarke, whether you arrest people, whether you throw them out of here or not. It's not going to go away, because we're not going to let it. They're killing our children, and we need to do something about it.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

Thank you. And we will continue the dialogue. Thank you for your testimony.

CHIEF CLERK: Joe Danihel,

commenting on 170641 and 170735.

(Witness approached podium.)

MR. DANIHEL: Okay. This is an official decree of the people in writ of mandamus quo warranto and, as such, requires immediate action and remedy.

Every week this Council, Mayor, and others transfer private property to the government, probably illegally. Last week, Council noted theft of property rights is not right. It is a big, big
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problem, and it is a degree of
lawlessness. Last week, Council noted
district attorneys are violating your
sworn duty, oath, and law by refusing to
prosecute theft of property rights
crimes. These are new cases. Council,
Mayor, and others cannot take on new
theft of property rights case until they
resolve my repeatedly avoided theft of
property rights case. This will clearly
violate equal treatment causes and be
cruel and unusual punishment.

This Council, Mayor, and others
cannot discriminate and must be first
come, first-served. Avoiding a known
duty or task is a clear violation of your
oath and law.

If police, firemen or veterans
took decades to perform their sworn duty,
there would be hell to pay. Council,
Mayor, and others cannot remain above the
law. Council, Mayor, and others are
required to provide immediate remedy.
Constitutions require immediate remedy of
this breach of law, breach of close, breach of judiciary duties. Your oath of office requires you to act or face prison.


I call for the federal and Commonwealth governments to perform their constitutional obligations to investigate and prosecute all involved in the illegal theft and deed transfer of my home, 1038 West Wyoming. The denial of God-given 42 USC 1982 property rights for 23 years is egregious, extraordinary, oath-violating, and requires immediate remedy.

A just government must obey the rule of law. This color of law government must have its Charter to govern revoked until a constitutionally
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2 compliant government is installed.
3 Public servants cannot refuse their sworn
4 duty to act any more than a fireman can
5 refuse to fight a fire.
6 The sovereign people require
7 Constitution and laws be enforced. Jail
8 is required for all who violate oath or
9 law.
10 I remind Council, it takes a
11 lot of cooperation to create and allow
12 monumental corruption.
13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
14 Thank you for your testimony.
15 CHIEF CLERK: There are no
16 other speakers on the public comment
17 list, Mr. President.
18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
19 Thank you very much, Mr. Decker.
20 We will now consider the bills
21 and resolutions on the Final Passage
22 Calendar.
23 And, Mr. Decker, if you can
24 read the title of 170735.
25 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
calling on the United States Congress to fight hunger in Philadelphia by opposing any efforts to block grants, reduce funding, or structurally change the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, and oppose efforts to cut other federally funded nutrition programs.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

Thank you.

The Chair recognizes Councilman Greenlee.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank you, Mr. President. On behalf of Councilwoman Blackwell, I move that Resolution No. 170735 be withdrawn.

(Duly seconded.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

Thank you. It's been moved and properly seconded that Resolution 170735 be withdrawn.

All those in favor say aye.

(Aye.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

Those opposed?
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(No response.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The ayes have it. 170735 is withdrawn.

Mr. Decker, 170519.

CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance amending Chapter 19-1300 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled "Real Estate Taxes," by creating a tax foreclosure diversion program that requires housing counseling assistance, updating tax installment payment agreements to help taxpayers with financial hardships, and other related items.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The Chair recognizes Councilwoman Bass.

COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you, Mr. President. I'm offering an amendment to Bill No. 170519. It's been circulated to all members.

(Duly seconded.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you. It's been moved and seconded that amendments to 170519 be approved. All those in favor say aye.
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(Aye.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

Those opposed?

(No response.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The ayes have it. Amendments to 170519 are approved, and 170519 will be placed on our Second Reading and Final Passage Calendar at our next session of Council.

Mr. Decker, 161106.

CHIEF CLERK: Bill No. 161106, entitled "An ordinance amending Chapter 17-1600 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled 'Economic Opportunity Plans,' by further providing with respect to Section 17-1603, entitled 'Economic Opportunity Plans: Contents,' including but not limited to, changes in the criteria which require a Project or Contract Oversight Committee, all under certain terms and conditions."

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: This bill has been heard on two separate days.

The question is shall the bill pass
finally.

Mr. Decker, call the roll.

CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman Bass.

COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Aye.

CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman Blackwell.

(No response.)

CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Domb.

COUNCILMAN DOMB: Aye.

CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Green.

COUNCILMAN GREEN: Aye.

CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Greenlee.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Aye.

CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman Gym.

COUNCILWOMAN GYM: Aye.

CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Henon.

COUNCILMAN HENON: Aye.

CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Johnson.

COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Aye.

CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Jones.

COUNCILMAN JONES: Aye.
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CHIEF CLERK: Councilman O'Neill.

COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Aye.

CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Oh.

COUNCILMAN OH: Aye.

CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman Parker.

COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Aye.

CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman Quinones-Sanchez.

COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Aye.

CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman Reynolds Brown.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Aye.

CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Squilla.

COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Aye.

CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Taubenberger.

COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: Aye.

CHIEF CLERK: Council President Clarke.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Aye.

The ayes are 16; the nays are
zero. A majority of members present voting in the affirmative, the bill passes.

Mr. Decker, do you have any additional resolutions?

CHIEF CLERK: A resolution recognizing October 2017 as Manufacturing Month in The City of Philadelphia, introduced by Councilman Henon.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The Chair recognizes Councilman Henon.

COUNCILMAN HENON: I move for the adoption.

(Duly seconded.)

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

All those in favor say aye.

(Aye.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Those opposed?

(No response.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The ayes have it. The resolution is adopted.

CHIEF CLERK: And a resolution
hereby declaring the week of October 1st through October 8th as the second annual "Philadelphia Legacy Week," which will be set aside to commemorate major contributions by Philadelphia individuals and institutions by honoring Walter P. Lomax, John Chaney, Ruth Wright Hayre and David Shulkin, introduced by Councilman Jones.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The Chair recognizes Councilman Jones.

COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you, Mr. President. I move for its adoption.

(Duly seconded.)

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

All those in favor say aye.

(Aye.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Those opposed?

(No response.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The ayes have it, and that resolution is adopted.
The Chair recognizes Councilwoman Blackwell.

COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you, Mr. President. I would like to be recorded as voting for legislation. I think I missed legislation. And I thank my colleague for putting in my resolution.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Yes.

COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you, Councilwoman. The record shall reflect that you're voting in the affirmative on those bills and resolutions.

COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you.

CHIEF CLERK: And a resolution honoring and recognizing City Year Greater Philadelphia for its 20 years of service to the City of Philadelphia, introduced by Councilman Johnson.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
Chair recognizes Councilman Johnson.

COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Council President, I move for the adoption of the resolution.

(Duly seconded.)

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

All those in favor say aye.

(Aye.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Those opposed?

(No response.)

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

CHIEF CLERK: And a resolution honoring the life and legacy of Thurgood Marshall on the 50th Anniversary of his swearing-in to the United States Supreme Court, introduced by Councilman Johnson.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The Chair one more time recognizes Councilman Johnson.

COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Council
President, I move for the adoption of the resolution.

(Duly seconded.)

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

All those in favor say aye.

(Aye.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Those opposed?

(No response.)

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

CHIEF CLERK: And a resolution urging President Donald Trump, the United States Congress, and its leadership at the House and Senate to act quickly in their federal relief efforts to assist the over 3.4 million United States citizens who live in Puerto Rico following the devastation of Hurricane Maria on September 20, 2017, introduced by Councilwoman Quinones-Sanchez.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
Chair recognizes Councilwoman Quinones-Sanchez.

COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank you, Mr. President. I want to once again thank my Council colleagues for consistently supporting my island nation of Puerto Rico, and with that, I motion for the adoption.

(Duly seconded.)

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

All those in favor say aye.

(Aye.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Those opposed?

(No response.)

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

CHIEF CLERK: And a resolution authorizing the Committee on Public Health & Human Services to hold hearings regarding board and leadership diversity among foundations and non-profit
organizations in Philadelphia, introduced by Councilman Green.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The Chair recognizes Councilman Green.

COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you, Council President. I move for the adoption of the resolution.

(Duly seconded.)

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

All those in favor say aye.

(Aye.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Those opposed?

(No response.)

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

CHIEF CLERK: And a resolution authorizing the Special Committee on Criminal Justice Reform to hold hearings regarding the role of a bail fund in Philadelphia, introduced by Councilman Green.
COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The Chair one more time recognizes Councilman Green.

COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you, Council President. I move for the adoption of the resolution.

(Duly seconded.)

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

All those in favor say aye.

(Aye.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Those opposed?

(No response.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The ayes have it. That resolution is adopted.

CHIEF CLERK: And a resolution authorizing City Council's Committee on Labor & Civil Service to hold hearings regarding the State's recent legalization of medical marijuana and to address questions related to medical marijuana's potential impact on employers and
employees in Philadelphia, introduced by Councilwoman Parker.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The Chair recognizes Councilwoman Parker.

COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Thank you, Mr. President. I move for the adoption.

(Duly seconded.)

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

All those in favor say aye.

(Aye.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Those opposed?

(No response.)

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

CHIEF CLERK: And a resolution honoring and congratulating the honorees of the 2017 Stellar StartUps competition, introduced by Councilman Domb.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The Chair recognizes Councilman Domb.
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COUNCILMAN DOMB: Thank you, Council President. I move for the adoption of the resolution.

(Duly seconded.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: It's been moved and properly seconded. All those in favor say aye.

(Aye.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Those opposed?

(No response.)

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

CHIEF CLERK: And a resolution authorizing the Committee on Housing, Neighborhood Development, and the Homeless to hold hearings to discuss the impact of squatting in Philadelphia, the victims of squatting and additional measures and best practices to prevent squatting, introduced by Councilman Taubenberger.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
Chair recognizes Councilman Taubenberger.

COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: Thank you, Council President. I move for the adoption of the resolution.

(Duly seconded.)

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

All those in favor say aye.

(Aye.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Those opposed?

(No response.)

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

CHIEF CLERK: And a resolution recognizing the 70th anniversary of Temple University's Army Reserve Officer Training Corps Red Diamond Battalion and honoring its tradition of excellence in providing quality Officers to the United States Army from the City of Philadelphia, introduced by Councilman Taubenberger.
COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The Chair again recognizes Councilman Taubenberger.

COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: Thank you, Council President. I move for the adoption of the resolution.

(Duly seconded.)

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

All those in favor say aye.

(Aye.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Those opposed?

(No response.)

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

CHIEF CLERK: And a resolution congratulating and honoring the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society and the Philadelphia Flower Show on winning the Grand Pinnacle Gold award for best overall event In The World from the International Festival and Events.
COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The Chair recognizes Councilman Squilla.

COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Thank you, Mr. President. I move for the adoption of the resolution.

(Duly seconded.)

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

All those in favor say aye.

(Aye.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Those opposed?

(No response.)

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

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

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you very much.

Are there any speeches on
behalf of the minority?

The Chair recognizes Councilman

Oh.

COUNCILMAN OH: Thank you very much, Council President. First, I would just like to thank Councilwoman Maria Quinones-Sanchez for the opportunity to participate in her resolution and all the speakers. It's a very dire situation for our fellow citizens, and I just wonder that if we were talking about New Jersey, Florida or another state of U.S. citizens how quick would our response be. And certainly I would urge everyone to support immediate financial aid, waivers of whatever obstructions there are for the people of the island of Puerto Rico.

I would also like to just point out that Shane Claiborne left everyone a book, and this book is actually the 10th anniversary edition. His first book sold over 300,000 copies, raised over $500,000, of which he keeps none of it. He distributes the money. He used it for
not only his charitable work but also
dozens of others here in Philadelphia.

He lives very modestly. He's kind of like the real deal, living the faith and right in the community and doing exactly what he said, helping people and using his abilities to build a better example of a peaceful life in one of the toughest parts of Philadelphia.

And, finally, I'd like to just say that for anyone who is interested in filmmaking, of which I think there are many, one of the problems is how do you raise money, how do you produce and distribute your film. And I have five experts who will talk about that tonight, 6:00 to 8:00 at Community College, 17th and Spring Garden at the Bonnell Building. It's free. If you would like to know how to raise money or what you need to do to produce or distribute your film, I welcome you. I encourage you to come.

In my conversations with some
of these experts, I've been amazed at how things I never thought had anything to do with financing a film actually has a great deal to do in the many different ways that films can be financed. I have spoken to some documentary filmmakers who have done fantastic work, and then the one part of the film was not properly dealt with on a legal basis, they weren't authorized, they didn't think they needed authorization, the whole film is no good.

And so I have experts who have done major motion pictures, local documentaries, and they're here to help and meet anyone, with your efforts.

Thank you very much.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

Thank you, Councilman.

On behalf of the majority, the Chair recognizes Councilman Henon.

COUNCILMAN HENON: Thank you, Mr. President. I have a few things. One, I want to start off on a light note, as you had mentioned during caucus. So
sometimes we take ourselves a little too serious. I guess as the business that we're in, because we're dealing with serious things that impact people's lives, but I want to thank all my colleagues who participated in the talent show last night. It was pretty awesome. Everybody was great. It's our second time that we've had this benefit, and last night was to benefit the Symphony for a Broken Orchestra. Councilmembers Clarke, Jones, Greenlee, Bass, Gym, Taubenberger, Green. Mike Decker, the real fast speaker, our Clerk, was one of the judges, Commissioner Deeley. Our own Billy Ivers gave us a little rendition of Frank Sinatra, Mark Siegel. My staff and all the other staff who helped out putting the event together, it was an incredible evening. We all laughed, because, you know, not all of us have talent. So it's kind of humorous. We raised over $50,000 for the charity of Symphony for a Broken Orchestra.
And I want to give special thanks to the 2013 winner, Councilwoman Blackwell, a/k/a Jannie from Cheyney, who presented the Golden Unicorn Award, which, by the way, was -- I think it was arts and crafts. It was an arts project for the trophy. And Councilman Squilla. For those that were there, Councilman Squilla.

Councilman Squilla, I've got you, babe, and thanks for blowing our mind. And for those who want to still donate to the cause, you can go to symphonyforabrokenorchestra.org.

Second here is, I introduced, along with most members of City Council, again as we have been doing since 2012, recognizing October as Manufacturing Month here in the City of Philadelphia, still manufacturing, "workshop of the world," employs over 20,000 jobs in the City of Philadelphia. We regularly have a hard time filling -- difficulty filling some of those open positions. So we
constantly are working with the School District, other non-profits, and City agencies and elected officials to really try to promote sustainable jobs. Usually it's the first Friday of October. It recognizes Manufacturing Day, and on that day you'll be notified. I'll send something around. All kinds of partners with makers and creative economy, innovative technology, and events, manufacturing with our schools. It's going to be an awesome day to showcase what manufacturing means to the City of Philadelphia and where the job opportunities are. So it's a sector to highlight.

And with that, there couldn't be a better time to talk about why Amazon is so appealing in lieu of this resolution, because we have a broad, diverse economy. We have a stable business environment, and we have a ready and available workforce who wants to work for Amazon. So I want Amazon to know
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that as a city.

We have a transportation network that is second to none. Our infrastructure includes our highways, our airport. Our logistics economy is here. It's built, and it's ready for growth. And it's actually exciting to talk about some potential business growth here in our city, especially to that magnitude.

So I don't know what happens with Amazon. I hope that we are able to attract them on what the City has to offer, because I think we do have exactly what they're looking for. And change is accepted by the City of Philadelphia and affordability is here in all kinds of levels, multitude of levels.

So that's my Amazon pitch tying in with manufacturing, because we are a city that welcomes this kind of opportunity.

So thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

Thank you, Councilman.
The Chair recognizes Councilwoman Reynolds Brown.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you, Mr. President. Three points I'd like to make. First, I want to underscore remarks by Councilman Oh and salute and applaud and lift up Councilwoman Sanchez, because it's been her teaching and because of her exposing and deepening my understanding of her culture that has really sensitized me to the horror of pictures that we're watching on a daily basis on CNN and MSNBC. So applauding her leadership on this is certainly in order.

Secondly, we live in a time now where statues, monuments, and landmarks are driving dialogue on race and representation around the country, and this week Philadelphia joined that dialogue, gaining national recognition in a wonderful way. We know that Mayor Kenney has been on this journey for almost 14 years, and I wanted to
personally commend the Mayor for completing this journey and advocating forever, as long as I've known him, for the recognition of the Octavius Catto statue that is now real.

The little known black history fact is that Mr. Catto was a legendary American figure whose young life and contributions were cut short at the tender age of 32 on Election Day during Election Day violence. The unveiling of the statue certainly demonstrates at a very, very needed time that art and culture does bring people together.

And so I applaud Mayor Kenney for understanding that art has the ability to touch our lives, ignite our spirits, and influence the challenges our societies face every day, that statue, the unveiling of that statue this week, and when you look down at the crowd, the diversity of cultures and races and people reminded me that art has value.

In that spirit, I want to
remind my colleagues that the Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance once again will be updating us and our staffs immediately following City Council, where annually they share with us the most recent data and the economic benefits around arts and culture. For those of us who follow this and the hospitality industry, we know but for the arts and culture community, the hospitality industry in this town would not be what it is.

And then, lastly, I do not want it to go unrecognized, Councilman Green's resolution where he is deepening the conversation and discussion around diversity and minority participation on boards. All the research points to the fact that where you have diverse boards, you actually have better outcomes. And so his work and resolution to now look at non-profit boards, particularly those associated with the City, will further advance why we need to do better when it
comes to women and people of color on boards.

Thank you, Mr. President.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

Thank you, Councilwoman.

The Chair recognizes

Councilwoman Gym.

COUNCILWOMAN GYM: Thank you very much, Council President. I also want to thank Councilwoman Quinones-Sanchez for joining the growing call for justice for Puerto Rico, which was impacted not only by Hurricane Maria but also by the effort to really exploit Puerto Rico, particularly around corporate debt and other types of abuses that have wreaked terrible tragedy on the people and property there.

So earlier today the Pennsylvania Supreme Court made a landmark ruling on the Pennsylvania school funding case that was heard in arguments a year ago. They ruled in our favor, which is that the court absolutely
does have jurisdiction over the rights --
over whether the Pennsylvania Legislature
is meeting its constitutional
requirements for equal protection under
the law and for fair and equitable school
funding across districts.

Historically, for the last two
decades or more, the Pennsylvania Supreme
Court has deferred to the Pennsylvania
Legislature on this effort, but this
morning the court said very clearly and
unequivocally that the Pennsylvania
Legislature does not have the right to
self-police itself on its own
constitutional mandate. And there is
ample evidence that the Pennsylvania
State Legislature, when it comes to
school funding, has failed its
constitutional mandate to provide a
thorough and efficient form of education
for every child in the Commonwealth.

I was proud before coming into
City Council to be one of the supporters
of this lawsuit. There are many others
who are going to be active on it. What it means next is that we get a trial. We get a trial to talk about whether school funding is fair and equal, whether it's fair for children in Reading to be given $6,200 per instructional expenses while students in Lower Merion can get three times more, whether we get half of what Lower Merion may get on an absolute school funding distribution level. All of those questions now get to go to trial, and we will have a robust trial in which all of these things will be brought to the forefront.

But I want to thank City Council in particular for always being on the right side of this issue, for stepping up when it was required, for holding the state accountable in this important time, and that we have more leverage than ever to tell Harrisburg, which has not yet passed a viable revenue budget, that they need to prioritize school funding. The best way to solve
this is to fix it, not to avoid it, not
to defer it, not to go through court
hearings over and over and over again,
but to fix it.

But I feel that this ruling by
the Pennsylvania Supreme Court sets
Pennsylvania finally on a fairer path,
and I'm glad that we'll be right there
with them.

Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

Thank you, Councilwoman.

The Chair recognizes Councilman
Jones.

COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
Mr. President. I too lend my voice to
justice for Puerto Rico. When you think
about the political struggle that they've
had over the decades whether to be a
Commonwealth, whether to it be an
independent state or a 51st state within
the structure of the United States, these
are constant debates that they've had.
But I have to believe the actions or
inactions coming from Washington will help shape that political opinion.

As former Councilman Ortiz mentioned, Puerto Ricans have shed blood throughout the history of this country to establish this nation, and for me it's real clear that they should be treated like any other state, whether it's Florida, whether it's Houston or Puerto Rico. To me it doesn't matter how you voted. Whether you are a democrat or a republican-influenced state, we are talking about human lives. We're talking about not your investments and insurance claims. We're talking about whether people have the basic necessities, food, water, and shelter, not to mention luxuries like electricity.

So if we are able to do a Marshall Plan for Germany who we fought, then we should be able to do a Marshall Plan for an island who lent in our defense. And it's just simple as that, and we need to roll up our sleeves and
support justice for Puerto Rico.

I have two quick announcements too. Tuesday on the MED Week workshops, we will be doing a workshop at Pipeline, 30 South 15th Street on Rebuild, and the focus of that will be We Will Work, and it's very appropriate and very appropriate from my colleagues, and I join that chorus to make sure that things are heard.

And then, finally, on a lighter note, we're going to continue our jazz series. And I want to say for the record I got the idea of jazz in the park from Councilwoman Bass, so that we're clear where I got it from, and we hope to continue that up at Nichols Park tomorrow from 11:30 to 2:00. For seniors there will be a free lunch. And there's no such thing as a free lunch, but there will be tomorrow.

Thank you, Mr. President.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

Thank you, Councilman.
The Chair recognizes Councilman Domb.

COUNCILMAN DOMB: Thank you, Council President. I agree with the comments of my colleagues earlier, but I wanted to bring three issues that are constantly on my mind to the focus, because we can't lose track. And one to pensions, two is reserve fund, and three is the school situation, which is going to cost a billion dollars the next four years.

And on the pension fund, we're working on a plan, but we're still 6 billion underfunded. We're at 45 percent. We can't lose sight of that. That's a big issue.

Reserve fund projection in the Five Year Plan I think in 2019 or 2020 is going below one percent to 0.6, which is dangerously low, which could create us to slip in our bond ratings. We need to address that issue. And the school issue which is out there, hanging out there, a
billion dollars.

So I'm bringing these issues up because I think we need to work together, the Administration, Council, everyone in government, to figure out how to solve these three big problems, but we need long-term solutions to get this done. We just can't wait. We got to do it now, and we can't do this by just continually raising taxes. We need to do this by looking at efficiencies in government and figuring out how to save money in all areas.

So thank you, Council President.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

Thank you, Councilman.

The Chair recognizes Councilwoman Blackwell.

COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you, Mr. President. I wanted to associate myself with all the comments made by my colleagues today. One of Lucien Blackwell's heroes was Octavius V.
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Catto. We called him Catto in those days as well. He and DuBois were his favorites.

And I also wanted to say a special thank you to our colleague Maria Quinones-Sanchez and what she's done for Puerto Rico, people, and all the people there, and what a wonderful job she does when it comes to the parade and all the people. I mean, it's just fabulous. So we commend her for all that she does and say a special thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

Thank you. Thank you, Councilwoman.

And with that, the Chair recognizes Councilwoman Reynolds Brown for a motion to adjourn.

COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Yes, Mr. President. I move that Council stand adjourned until Thursday, October 5th at 10:00 a.m.

(Duly seconded.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

Thank you. It has been moved and
properly seconded that Council stand adjourned until Thursday, October 5th, 2017, 10:00 a.m.

All those in favor say aye.

(Aye.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

Those opposed?

(No response.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The ayes have it.

Thank you all very much.

(Stated Meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.)
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

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