

Stated Meeting
February 21, 2019

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COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
STATED MEETING

Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Thursday, February 21, 2019
11:05 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

- - -

1 2/21/19 - STATED - INVOCATION

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good
3 morning. We're going to get started.
4 Can I have a little quiet, please. Thank
5 you.

6 To give our invocation this
7 morning, the Chair recognizes the
8 Reverend Steven Wetzel of the Fraternal
9 Order of Police. He is here today as the
10 guest of Councilman O'Neill.

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

13 (Councilmembers, guests, and
14 visitors rise.)

15 REVEREND WETZEL: Good morning,
16 everyone.

17 (Good morning.)

18 REVEREND WETZEL: Let us pray.

19 Almighty and ever-living God,
20 thank you on behalf of all who are
21 gathered here this day for your many and
22 abundant blessings. Thank you for life
23 itself, for the measure of health we need
24 to fulfill our callings, for sustenance,
25 and for friendship.

1 2/21/19 - STATED - INVOCATION

2 Thank you for the ability to be
3 involved in useful work and for the honor
4 of bearing appropriate responsibilities.
5 Thank you for loving us even so from your
6 boundless and gracious nature.

7 In the Scriptures, you have
8 said that citizens ought to obey the
9 governing authorities since you have
10 established those very authorities to
11 promote peace and order and justice.
12 Therefore, I pray for our Mayor, for the
13 various levels of City officials and, in
14 particular, for this assembled Council.
15 I am asking that you would graciously
16 grant them wisdom to govern amid the
17 conflicting interests and issues of our
18 times, a sense of welfare and true needs
19 of our people, a keen thirst for justice
20 and righteousness, confidence in what is
21 good and fitting, the ability to work
22 together in harmony even when there is
23 honest disagreement, personal peace in
24 their lives and joy in their task.

25 I pray for the agenda set

1 2/21/19 - STATED - APPROVAL OF JOURNAL
2 before them this day. Please give an
3 assurance of what would please you and
4 what would benefit those who live and
5 work here in the City of Philadelphia.

6 It is in your most blessed name
7 we pray, oh Lord.

8 Amen.

9 (Amen.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

11 Thank you so much, Reverend, for those
12 inspiring words.

13 Council will be at ease.

14 (Council at ease.)

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

16 Thank you. Quiet, please. Thank you.

17 Folks, if I can have a little
18 quiet, please. Thank you.

19 Our next order of business is
20 the approval of the Journal of the
21 meeting of Thursday, February 14th, 2019,
22 and the Chair recognizes Councilman
23 Greenlee.

24 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
25 you, Mr. President. I move that the

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1 2/21/19 - STATED - APPROVAL OF JOURNAL
2 Journal of the meeting of Thursday,
3 February 14th, 2019 be approved.

4 (Duly seconded.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

6 Thank you. It has been moved and
7 properly --

8 (Brief interruption for
9 audience members yelling.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

11 Okay. Let's start out with the motion
12 again. Just make the motion.

13 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE:

14 Mr. President, I move that the Journal of
15 the meeting of Thursday, February 14th,
16 2019 be approved.

17 (Duly seconded.)

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

19 Thank you. It has been moved and
20 properly seconded that the Journal of the
21 meeting of Thursday, February 14th, 2019
22 stand approved.

23 All those in favor indicate by
24 saying aye.

25 (Aye.)

1 2/21/19 - STATED - LEAVES

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

3 Those opposed?

4 (No response.)

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The

6 Journal is approved.

7 The next order of business is

8 requests for leave of absence, and the

9 Chair recognizes Councilman Henon.

10 COUNCILMAN HENON: Thank you,

11 Mr. President. On behalf of the

12 majority, there are no requests of leave

13 of absence today.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The

15 Chair thanks the gentleman.

16 The Chair now recognizes

17 Councilman O'Neill.

18 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Thank you,

19 Mr. President. On behalf of the

20 republicans, there are no requests for

21 leave of absence.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The

23 Chair thanks the gentleman.

24 At this time, I would like to

25 dispense with the regular order of

1 2/21/19 - STATED - COMMUNICATIONS
2 business and I would like to welcome and
3 thank everyone who has come down to
4 witness their government in action today.
5 We genuinely appreciate you being here.
6 We hope your stay here today is a
7 knowledgeable one but also a pleasurable
8 one, so much so that you come back again.

9 Today we have no presentations,
10 so we will move directly to
11 communications, and the Chair requests
12 that the Sergeant-of-Arms delivers the
13 messages to the Chief Clerk.

14 Thank you. Mr. Decker, would
15 you please read those messages.

16 CHIEF CLERK: To the President
17 and members of the Council of the City of
18 Philadelphia, I am pleased to advise you
19 that on February 19, 2019, I signed all
20 the bills which were passed by Council at
21 its session on February 7, 2019; and

22 I am submitting herewith for
23 the consideration of your honorable body
24 an ordinance authorizing the revision of
25 lines and grades on a portion of City

1 2/21/19 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 Plan No. 194 by striking from the City
3 Plan the southerly ten feet wide portion
4 of Berks Street from Howard Street to
5 Hope Street in order to conform more
6 closely with existing conditions, all
7 under certain terms and conditions.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
9 Thank you, Mr. Decker. Do you have any
10 additional communications?

11 CHIEF CLERK: I have none,
12 Mr. President.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
14 Thank you very much.

15 Our next order of business is
16 the introduction of bills and
17 resolutions, and the Chair recognizes
18 Councilwoman Blackwell.

19 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank
20 you, Mr. President. I have no bills or
21 resolutions today.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
23 Thank you, Councilwoman.

24 The Chair recognizes Councilman
25 Greenlee.

1 2/21/19 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

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

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
6 Thank you, Councilman.

7 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
8 establishing a parking regulation on 22nd
9 Street, west side, Aspen Street to Brown
10 Street.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: And
12 that bill will be referred to the
13 appropriate committee.

14 The Chair recognizes
15 Councilwoman Reynolds Brown.

16 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Good
17 morning, Mr. President. I offer no bills
18 or resolutions this morning.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
20 Thank you, Councilwoman.

21 The Chair recognizes Councilman
22 Jones.

23 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
24 Mr. President. Today I offer one
25 privileged resolution co-sponsored by

1 2/21/19 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 Councilpersons Bass and Brown.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

4 Thank you, Councilman.

5 CHIEF CLERK: A non-privileged
6 resolution calling on the Administration
7 to commit to increasing funding for FY20
8 to grow the number of youth employed
9 during the summer months.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: And
11 that will be on today's Calendar.

12 I'm sorry. That's
13 non-privileged. That will be next week's
14 Calendar.

15 The Chair recognizes Councilman
16 Green.

17 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you,
18 Council President. On behalf of
19 Councilmember Maria Quinones-Sanchez, I'm
20 introducing one bill and one resolution.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

22 Thank you, Councilman.

23 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
24 authorizing the revision of lines and
25 grades on a portion of City Plan No. 194

1 2/21/19 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 by striking from the City Plan the
3 southerly ten feet wide portion of Berks
4 Street from Howard Street to Hope Street
5 in order to conform more closely with
6 existing conditions.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
8 Referred to committee.

9 CHIEF CLERK: And a privileged
10 resolution declaring March 4th through
11 10th, 2019 as Women in Construction Week
12 in the City of Philadelphia.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: And
14 that will be on today's Calendar.
15 The Chair recognizes Councilman
16 Henon.

17 COUNCILMAN HENON: Thank you,
18 Mr. President. Today I offer one bill.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
20 Thank you, Councilman.

21 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
22 amending Section 16-103 of The
23 Philadelphia Code, entitled "Aesthetic
24 Ornamentation of City Structures," to
25 modify the City's "Percent for Art"

1 2/21/19 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 requirement.

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

5 The Chair recognizes
6 Councilwoman Parker.

7 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Thank
8 you, Mr. President. I have one
9 privileged resolution that is
10 co-sponsored by all of the women of
11 Council, members Reynolds Brown,
12 Blackwell, Gym, Sanchez, and Bass.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
14 Thank you, Councilwoman.

15 CHIEF CLERK: A privileged
16 resolution congratulating and honoring
17 the Pennsylvania Chapter of the National
18 Coalition of 100 Black Women on the 33rd
19 Anniversary of the Madam CJ Walker Awards
20 Luncheon and for the organization's
21 commitment to the educational, political,
22 and economic empowerment of African
23 American women throughout the City of
24 Philadelphia.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: And

1 2/21/19 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 that will be on today's Calendar.

3 The Chair recognizes Councilman
4 Domb.

5 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Good morning,
6 Council President. I have one
7 non-privileged resolution and one bill
8 for introduction co-sponsored by
9 Councilmembers Gym and Squilla.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
11 Thank you, Councilman.

12 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
13 providing for the submission to the
14 qualified electors of the City of
15 Philadelphia of the proposal set forth in
16 a Resolution approved by Council
17 proposing an amendment to The
18 Philadelphia Home Rule Charter to provide
19 that Councilmembers shall not be eligible
20 for election for more than three terms of
21 office.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
23 Referred to committee.

24 CHIEF CLERK: And a
25 non-privileged resolution proposing an

1 2/21/19 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS
2 amendment to The Philadelphia Home Rule
3 Charter to provide for a limitation of
4 Councilmembers' terms in office to no
5 more than three terms.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Also
7 referred to committee.

8 The Chair recognizes Councilman
9 Taubenberger -- I'm sorry; Councilwoman
10 Gym. Sorry.

11 COUNCILWOMAN GYM: No bills or
12 resolutions today, Mr. President.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
14 Thank you, Councilwoman.

15 The Chair recognizes Councilman
16 Taubenberger now.

17 COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: Good
18 morning, Council President and
19 colleagues. I have no bills or
20 resolutions today. Thank you.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
22 Thank you, Councilman.

23 The Chair recognizes Councilman
24 O'Neill.

25 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Thank you,

1 2/21/19 - STATED - INTRO. OF BILLS

2 Mr. President. I have no bills or
3 resolutions.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

5 Thank you, Councilman.

6 The Chair recognizes

7 Councilwoman Bass.

8 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you,

9 Mr. President. I have no bills or
10 resolutions this week.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

12 Thank you, Councilwoman.

13 The Chair recognizes Councilman

14 Oh.

15 COUNCILMAN OH: Thank you very

16 much. No bills, no resolutions.

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

18 Thank you, Councilman.

19 Councilman Squilla is not here.

20 We'll come back.

21 Thank you very much. That

22 concludes our introduction of bills and

23 resolutions.

24 And our next order of business

25 is reports from committee, and the Chair

1 2/21/19 - STATED - REPORTS

2 recognizes Councilman Jones for a report
3 from the Committee of Commerce and
4 Economic Development.

5 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
6 Mr. President. The Committee of Commerce
7 and Economic Development reports one bill
8 with a favorable recommendation.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
10 Thank you.

11 Mr. Decker, please read that
12 report.

13 CHIEF CLERK: The Committee on
14 Commerce and Economic Development, to
15 which was referred Bill No. 180864,
16 entitled "An ordinance amending Chapter
17 17-1500 of The Philadelphia Code,
18 entitled 'Annual Disparity Study and
19 Participation Goals,' by providing for
20 further detail relating to, among other
21 things, North American Industry
22 Classification System Codes,"
23 respectfully reports it has considered
24 the same and returns the attached bill to
25 Council with a favorable recommendation.

1 2/21/19 - STATED - REPORTS

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
3 Chair again recognizes Councilman Jones.

4 COUNCILMAN JONES:

5 Mr. President, I move that the rules of
6 Council be suspended so as to permit
7 first reading on this day Bill No.
8 180864.

9 (Duly seconded.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

11 Thank you. It has been moved and
12 properly seconded that the rules of
13 Council be suspended so as to permit
14 first reading this day of Bill No.
15 180864.

16 All those in favor say aye.

17 (Aye.)

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

19 Those opposed?

20 (No response.)

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
22 ayes have it. This bill will be placed
23 on our First Reading Calendar today.

24 That concludes our reports from
25 committee, and our next order of business

1 2/21/19 - STATED - BILLS ON CONSENT AGENDA

2 is consideration of the Calendar.

3 I note that the bill just
4 report from committee with a suspension
5 of the rules has been deemed to have had
6 its first reading. It will be on our
7 Final Passage Calendar at our next
8 session of Council.

9 There are no additional bills
10 on the First Reading Calendar today, so
11 the Chair recognizes Councilman Henon for
12 a motion concerning the bills on Second
13 Reading and Final Passage Calendar today.

14 COUNCILMAN HENON: Thank you,
15 Mr. President. I move that the rules of
16 Council be suspended to permit the use of
17 a Consent Agenda to consider the
18 following bills on Second Reading and
19 Final Passage Calendars today: Bill Nos.
20 180996, 181010, 181048, 181065, 181097,
21 181098, 181099, 181104, 190009, 190010,
22 190011, 190014, 190015, and 190063.

23 (Duly seconded.)

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

1 2/21/19 - STATED - BILLS ON 2ND READING
2 properly seconded that the rules of
3 Council be suspended to permit the use of
4 a Consent Agenda to consider bills just
5 read by Councilman Henon.

6 All in favor please indicate by
7 saying aye.

8 (Aye.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

10 Those opposed?

11 (No response.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
13 ayes have it, the motion carries, and we
14 will consider the Consent Agenda shortly.

15 The Chair again recognizes
16 Councilman Henon for the purpose of
17 calling up bills and resolutions on the
18 regular Second Reading and Final Passage
19 Calendar.

20 COUNCILMAN HENON: Thank you,
21 Mr. President. In addition to the bills
22 being considered on the Consent Agenda,
23 the following resolutions and bills are
24 being called up for the Second Reading
25 and Final Passage Calendars today. They

1 2/21/19 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 are: Bill Nos. 190112, 190116, 190096-A,
3 170365, 181103. All other bills and
4 resolutions are being held.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

6 Thank you, Councilman.

7 Before considering the
8 resolutions and bills, we will consider
9 public comment. It will go as follows:

10 If you are interested in
11 testifying on a bill or a resolution that
12 is on the Final Passage Calendar today,
13 if you have not already done so, you may
14 sign up at the table to my left.

15 When your name is called, you
16 will go to the middle of the Council
17 Chambers. There's a podium there.
18 There's a device on that podium. When
19 the light turns green on that device, it
20 will be your time to speak. When the
21 light turns yellow, you will have 30
22 seconds to conclude your remarks. When
23 the light turns red, we'd ask that you
24 please adhere to our guidelines and
25 conclude your remarks. You will be given

1 2/21/19 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 three minutes to testify for a bill or
3 resolution. Thank you very much for your
4 anticipated cooperation.

5 Mr. Decker, please call the
6 first name on the list.

7 CHIEF CLERK: Carlo
8 Aragoncillo, commenting on 190096-A.

9 (Witness approached podium.)

10 MR. ARAGONCILLO: Good morning.
11 My name is Carlo Aragoncillo. This is in
12 regards to Resolution 190096. I've been
13 Director of the Veterans Advisory
14 Commission, City Council. I'm also the
15 former Bravo Company Commander 392nd U.S.
16 Army and also an Iraq War veteran. Thank
17 you, Council President, Council of
18 Philadelphia.

19 So I've been in the position
20 about a year and a half. In that I've
21 seen incredible people, heard amazing
22 accomplishments. These people are
23 spouses, mothers, fathers, brothers,
24 sisters, and our friends.

25 Philadelphia is rich in history

1 2/21/19 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 and tradition. A part of that is the
3 Army, Marine Corps, and the Navy were
4 born here in Philadelphia.

5 Since the inception of the
6 Veterans Advisory Commission in 1957, the
7 Resolution 190096 is the first step in
8 establishing improved services for the
9 Office of Veterans Affairs for
10 Philadelphia by engaging the community,
11 empowering our veterans, and also
12 educating Philadelphians on what it means
13 to be in the military.

14 So on behalf of the over 50,000
15 veterans and family members, thank you,
16 Council President, and I commend this
17 legislative body for making this a
18 reality.

19 Thank you.

20 (Applause.)

21 CHIEF CLERK: Ralph Galati,
22 commenting on 190096-A.

23 (Witness approached podium.)

24 MR. GALATI: Ralph Galati.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good

1 2/21/19 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 morning.

3 MR. GALATI: Born and raised in
4 Philadelphia, proud Vietnam veteran. I'm
5 here in support of Carlo and his team.

6 I have personal experience with
7 the role of Veteran Services in Delaware
8 County, and the fact that you are
9 legitimizing and formalizing this office
10 is significant. It will allow you to
11 present your office proudly to the
12 veterans and their families in the
13 community. It also serves I think as a
14 great conduit for those folks and their
15 demands to this body. So thank you very
16 much for your support.

17 (Applause.)

18 CHIEF CLERK: Charles Ellison,
19 commenting on 190096-A.

20 (Witness approached podium.)

21 MR. ELLISON: Good morning,
22 all. My name is Charlie Ellison. Full
23 time I work at the Travis Manion
24 Foundation. We're a national veteran
25 service organization that develops

1 2/21/19 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 character in future generations. I am
3 also a proud Army non-commissioned
4 officer in my 16th year, several tours in
5 Iraq and Afghanistan, going for my sixth
6 tour in a few months with the New Jersey
7 Army National Guard's 44th Infantry
8 Combat Team.

9 Supporting this resolution goes
10 a long way towards bringing the City of
11 Philadelphia up to par with what other
12 major cities are doing across the United
13 States. The Veterans Affairs Commission
14 here in Philadelphia, and Carlo is the
15 Director of it, they've got a tough task
16 ahead of them with everything from social
17 services for homeless veterans to opioid
18 addiction, a lot of things that all of
19 you are very well versed in in your
20 districts across the City, and this
21 office is a unifying front, a one-stop
22 shop for all veterans' resources. This
23 slight change in the verbiage and naming
24 convention of the office, again, it does
25 a lot to get us up to date with other

1 2/21/19 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 cities across the country and does a lot
3 to establish Philadelphia as a leader in
4 the veterans community in a much-needed
5 space.

6 Thank you.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

8 Thank you for your testimony.

9 (Applause.)

10 CHIEF CLERK: Vasiti Bandy,
11 commenting on 181103.

12 MS. BANDY: Hello. My name is
13 Vashti Bandy and I am commenting -- I am
14 a longtime resident. I have been living
15 at 2133 Catharine Street since I was
16 seven years old, and I am here to speak
17 in opposition to the changes to the LOOP
18 bill that are being proposed today.

19 As a longtime homeowner,
20 homeowners are outraged and I am
21 outreached personally and demand that
22 this bill not be passed. This new bill
23 will have a negative impact especially on
24 low- and moderate-income property owners,
25 as well as minority homeowners like my

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2 mom who are on a limited or fixed income
3 by denying them access to LOOP. This
4 bill will give to the have's and take
5 away from the have not's.

6 The issue at hand is City
7 Council has allocated only a limited
8 number, a limited amount of money for
9 this program, and the new bill will allow
10 people who are upper-income homeowners to
11 grab some at those limited slots that
12 should be available to low- and
13 moderate-income homeowners.

14 Why? Over the next few years,
15 the OPA is going to bring all properties
16 in the City up to their actual market
17 value. That's their plan. This will
18 necessitate and increase an assessment
19 from 150 to 300 percent on all
20 properties. Most of these increases are
21 going to take place in gentrified areas
22 like my neighborhood, including Point
23 Breeze, North Philadelphia, and Southwest
24 Philadelphia and the Graduate Hospital
25 area where I live.

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2 Low- and moderate-income
3 individuals who live in these affected
4 areas will not be able to get LOOP
5 because the demand by upper-income
6 property owners will have already
7 exhausted the amount of money allocated
8 by City Council for this program.

9 Here is why: Most of the
10 properties in my area have not actually
11 been assessed at their OPA value, at
12 the -- blah, blah, blah. Sorry. Actual.
13 That's the word I was looking for. Have
14 not actually been assessed at the actual
15 value. So as a consequence, someone came
16 in, they bought a house at \$400,000,
17 \$450,000. The assessed property tax
18 value is maybe 300,000 now. When that
19 assessment comes through, it might -- it
20 would be raised. It may be raised 150 to
21 300 percent. But a person who can afford
22 to buy a \$300,000 to \$400,000 house is a
23 completely different person than somebody
24 who, like my mother, came in at \$30,000,
25 bought that house, and has lived in it

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2 for 27 years. So this is not an apples
3 and orange comparison. And if it was an
4 unlimited amount of money, that would be
5 fine, but it's not. It's a limited
6 amount of money. So you're basically
7 forcing people to choose -- you're
8 basically forcing people to -- more
9 people to scramble for less slots, and it
10 is not fair.

11 Don't get me wrong. I support
12 a bill that will help low-income property
13 owners, but this bill is not doing that.

14 And so I thank you. I'm out of
15 time.

16 (Applause.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

18 Ma'am, ma'am, ma'am, real quick.

19 MS. BANDY: Yeah. Can I help
20 you?

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: I'm
22 probably not supposed to talk while I'm
23 up here. Just a real quick question. I
24 just want to make sure I understand.

25 Your issue has to do with more people of

1 2/21/19 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 an upper-income level being --

3 MS. BANDY: Yes.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: So

5 do you know that the current bill as LOOP

6 currently constitutes is the same number

7 as this revised bill in terms of

8 eligibility --

9 MS. BANDY: Yes.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: --

11 from the income perspective? So the same

12 people --

13 MS. BANDY: It's from an income

14 perspective, but it is safe to say that

15 like -- my issue is somebody who came in

16 and bought a \$300,000 house or a \$400,000

17 house. It also fixes that at the tax

18 value.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: And

20 I think your other issue had to do

21 with --

22 MS. BANDY: Yes.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: --

24 making sure that there's not enough

25 money -- that there's enough money to

1 2/21/19 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 make sure that we accommodate the
3 lower-income individuals.

4 MS. BANDY: That's what I want
5 out of this bill. I want this bill to
6 accommodate the lower-income individuals
7 and allow lower-income individuals to
8 actually have access.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: So
10 if there's more people eligible, there
11 needs to be more money. We basically
12 have to raise the cap in terms of the
13 money from the City to accommodate
14 everybody.

15 MS. BANDY: Yeah, exactly.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: All
17 right. I just want to make sure I
18 understand your two --

19 MS. BANDY: I'm so glad you
20 asked me, because I realize I'm reading
21 this and I'm like (indicating), but thank
22 you. Thank you so much.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: I
24 think we're going to be in a position to
25 address both of those issues, but I

1 2/21/19 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 understand.

3 MS. BANDY: Thank you.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

5 You're welcome.

6 (Applause.)

7 CHIEF CLERK: Anthony Fedele.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Oh,

9 I'm sorry. The Chair recognizes

10 Councilman Johnson.

11 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Yeah,

12 Council President. Just for a point of

13 information, and I'll let you clarify at

14 the appropriate time, but there was a

15 significant increase in terms of the cap,

16 more than \$5 million. So the cap was

17 raised to allow more individuals to be a

18 part of it. And also for the record,

19 individuals with tax-abated properties

20 also aren't eligible to participate in

21 the LOOP program.

22 I just wanted to clarify that

23 information just for the record.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

25 Thank you, Councilman. I'm somewhat

1 2/21/19 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 limited in terms of what I'm supposed to
3 say up here, but thank you, sir.

4 CHIEF CLERK: Anthony Fedele,
5 commenting on 190096-A.

6 (Witness approached podium.)

7 MR. FEDELE: Good morning.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good
9 morning.

10 MR. FEDELE: Almost good
11 afternoon actually. My name is Anthony
12 Fedele. I am a United States Army
13 veteran, coming up on 20 years now. I've
14 been in the City for about 13. I used to
15 run a program called The Mission
16 Continues here in Philadelphia and have
17 since handed it off. I'm currently
18 finishing up my MBA at Drexel University,
19 and I'm here to talk about the motion for
20 Carlo and the Veterans Advisory
21 Committee.

22 I wanted to kind of paint a
23 picture of what the veteran space looks
24 like in the City of Philadelphia and why
25 something like this is so important. We

1 2/21/19 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 have an amazing group of what we call
3 professional veterans who are in the
4 business sector, who are very good at
5 promoting the businesses and working
6 alongside each other to bring businesses
7 to Philadelphia. The problem is, there's
8 a much larger group of veterans in the
9 City that are doing a lot of stuff behind
10 the scenes that aren't able to get any of
11 the recognition, aren't able to get any
12 of the support that's desperately needed.

13 I, along with some of my other
14 brothers and sisters, feel like an
15 initiative like this will give Carlo the
16 opportunity to bring some of the
17 resources that are needed to these
18 organizations that are on the ground
19 level that are doing all of the work
20 behind the scenes.

21 We have almost what's called a
22 great divide in this city right now where
23 we have these professional veterans who
24 are running around promoting themselves
25 as the face of the veterans community,

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2 but that's not the case at all. We're
3 already laying a lot of groundwork for
4 programs that we want to bring to the
5 City that other cities are doing, like
6 Pittsburgh and New York City. These
7 programs aren't getting any attention and
8 they're not getting the resources. We're
9 hoping to change that.

10 This movement is happening, and
11 it's going to happen very fast, and I
12 think being able to make this change
13 right now would give Carlo the
14 opportunity to be a part of this movement
15 and bring the City of Philadelphia into
16 the forefront of the veteran space and be
17 a conversation topic for the amount of
18 support that they're able to give the
19 veteran organizations who are doing all
20 the groundwork. I hope that it moves
21 forward, and I thank you.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

23 Thank you for your testimony.

24 (Applause.)

25 CHIEF CLERK: Linda Gerald,

1 2/21/19 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 commenting on 181103.

3 (Witness approached podium.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good
5 morning.

6 MS. GERALD: Good morning,
7 everyone. My name is Linda Gerald. I'm
8 a resident. First of all, I'm not a
9 public speaker. And I'm a resident of --

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Just
11 say your name for the record. Just say
12 your name for the record.

13 MS. GERALD: Linda Gerald.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
15 Thank you.

16 MS. GERALD: I'm a resident.
17 My name is Linda Gerald. I'm a resident
18 of the 1200 block of 30th Street in North
19 Philadelphia. Like I said, I'm not a
20 public speaker, but I'm just here on
21 behalf of the bill. And I just want to
22 say that I am a resident and I've been a
23 resident for maybe over 15 years there in
24 that area, and I think that me as a
25 person to give back to the community,

1 2/21/19 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 that's why I don't want to go anywhere.

3 It seems like there's so much

4 construction around that area, I'm being

5 pushed out of the area, but the Lord has

6 me there for a certain reason, and that

7 is to be a stable person in the

8 community, a senior person, because I run

9 a food bank. There's a food cupboard in

10 the community where we service the people

11 in the neighborhood, and also I work with

12 the Share Program, the Coalition Against

13 Hunger, in which we feed and clothe and

14 visit the people in the community.

15 So I think I would be an asset

16 if I was allowed to stay in -- God is

17 going to let me stay -- in the community

18 to help out, but also to help the other

19 seniors in the community. We do a lot of

20 street ministry, a lot of street work,

21 cleaning the streets, with Habitat for

22 Humanity. We do a lot in that area to

23 help the people, but I think I would be

24 an asset and not a liability. But I

25 would stay there and I've been there

1 2/21/19 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 over -- I'm 68 years old. I've been in
3 the community over 50-some years, but in
4 that area over 15 years. But this bill
5 would allow me to keep functioning in
6 that area as a productive citizen for the
7 City of Philadelphia.

8 Thank you.

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

10 Thank you, ma'am. Thank you for your
11 testimony.

12 (Applause.)

13 CHIEF CLERK: Monty Wilson,
14 commenting on 181103.

15 (Witness approached podium.)

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good
17 morning.

18 MR. WILSON: Good morning,
19 members of Council. My name is Monty
20 Wilson. I'm from Community Legal
21 Services. I'm here today to speak in
22 support of Bill 181103, proposed
23 amendments to the LOOP program.

24 Many of you know that I've been
25 working on behalf of low-income

1 2/21/19 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 homeowners who are struggling with their
3 property taxes for years, and I want to
4 let you know that I appreciate Council's
5 ongoing efforts to help homeowners
6 preserve their homes, particularly when
7 they're struggling with property taxes.

8 CLS supports this bill, because
9 over the years we have seen steady
10 increases in the number of homeowners
11 coming to our office seeking help
12 regarding their property taxes. Last
13 year we saw 279 people coming to us for
14 problems with their property taxes. This
15 year we're on track to see 430 people.
16 An increasing number of those are dealing
17 with their assessment problems. That's
18 becoming the newest thing.

19 Property tax issues are now the
20 number one issue that comes to intake in
21 my office at CLS and the number three
22 issue we see overall.

23 This bill, as many of you know,
24 will help homeowners by reducing the cap
25 in the LOOP program to 150 percent

1 2/21/19 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 increase. That will allow people like
3 Ms. Gerald, who is my client, to cap
4 their taxes, but pay the taxes they can
5 and remain in their home as a valuable
6 asset to the community. Without this
7 amendment, she will not be eligible for
8 LOOP and her tax bill will nearly triple.

9 We strongly support this bill.

10 I understand there is concern about
11 people having access to the bill and
12 low-income homeowners having access to
13 the bill, but I don't see that as a
14 reason to oppose that. I see that to
15 seriously address making sure that
16 there's enough money or at least the cap
17 on the hold harmless provision is high
18 enough that everyone who is eligible for
19 LOOP and can benefit from it gets that
20 benefit.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

22 Thank you. Thank you for your testimony.

23 (Applause.)

24 CHIEF CLERK: Emmanuel Bussie,
25 commenting on 190027.

1 2/21/19 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 (Witness approached podium.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good
4 morning.

5 MR. BUSSIE: Good morning.

6 So I come down Council --

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
8 Manny, say your name.

9 MR. BUSSIE: My name is
10 Emmanuel Bussie for the record. I'm
11 commenting on 190027, I believe. It's
12 related to -- I believe it's related
13 to -- you know I'm not going to talk
14 about that, but for the record, I got to
15 say what it is, oversight. It's going to
16 get into oversight, but it's not -- so
17 let me see my timer. I'm on 2:19. Can
18 you start my timer over, please. Thank
19 you.

20 So I come down here every
21 couple weeks to talk to you guys, rarely
22 ever to criticize. My intent is always
23 to inspire and motivate Council. I
24 consider you my colleagues. I consider
25 most of you my friends.

1 2/21/19 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 I'm coming -- I speak today
3 about oversight. The oversight that I'm
4 talking about is the oversight of Local
5 98. The oversight of Local 98 and its
6 reach into our electoral politics, our
7 local electoral politics.

8 Imma just share with you a
9 little bit about what happened this
10 weekend at Jannie Blackwell's event and
11 why I believe it happened. What happened
12 at Jannie Blackwell's event was
13 disruption. I remember when I was small,
14 my mom and my pop came home, which got me
15 in politics, which got me interested in
16 politics, because they came in and told
17 me about a fight, a fight on the floor of
18 City Council. I was like, what? I mean,
19 I was five or six. And you know who was
20 fighting on the floor of City Council?
21 John Street and Lucien Blackwell,
22 fighting on the floor of City Council.
23 They were disrupting City Council as
24 Councilmembers, but you know why they
25 were disrupting? Because what disruption

1 2/21/19 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 is, an alteration of the norm, a changing
3 of the status quo. So what Lucien
4 Blackwell and John Street was doing was
5 disrupting what was normal, because they
6 thought it wasn't right.

7 Now, I believe that we haven't
8 broken down to the point where we can't
9 have dialogue. So that type of
10 disruption may not be appropriate at this
11 time, because I believe you can come talk
12 to Councilwoman Jannie Blackwell. I
13 don't believe that that level is
14 appropriate at this time. But I'm a big
15 fan of disruption. I'm a huge fan of
16 disruption. I'm willing to disrupt as
17 you can get.

18 But the reason I rise today,
19 because our Councilmembers, good
20 Councilmembers, are indicted. See, the
21 meaning of indicted is to be formally
22 charged or accused, and when you let
23 Bobby Henon go unquestioned without a
24 hearing, it's an indictment of all of
25 you. How can you let this man sit

1 2/21/19 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 here --

3 (Applause.)

4 MR. BUSSIE: -- in Council, a
5 colleague of yours with a 152-page
6 indictment, 116 charges, and you ask no
7 questions?

8 See, that's the problem. It's
9 not the fact that -- it's not whether or
10 not you innocent until proven guilty.
11 You have an obligation due to your
12 Charter to ask questions. How dare you
13 as my representative refuse to ask a
14 question?

15 So, again, this is not a
16 criticism. You are my friends. I love
17 Maria Quinones-Sanchez. I'm going to say
18 it again, I love Maria Quinones-Sanchez.
19 Curt is my man. I absolutely think David
20 Oh is absolutely tremendous. Like, Mark
21 is the man. I mean, you guys are my
22 friends, but it is an indictment of you
23 when you go silent. How dare you?

24 Thank you.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

1 2/21/19 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Thank you for your testimony.

3 (Applause.)

4 CHIEF CLERK: Tiffany Green,
5 commenting on 181103.

6 (Witness approached podium.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good
8 morning.

9 MS. GREEN: Okay. Tiffany
10 Green. I want to speak on Bill 181103.
11 I oppose this bill, and let me say why.
12 Because sometimes a gift is not always a
13 gift, and sometimes it looks like you're
14 helping the poor, but actually you're
15 helping others in return.

16 I believe if this bill is
17 passed, you will see upper-income people
18 come out in droves and apply for LOOP. I
19 think they're sitting back waiting for
20 this bill to go through. And I think
21 that at this particular point, this bill
22 needs to be held, because you have areas
23 like Point Breeze and other areas where
24 we are being bombarded with these
25 high-end houses, and more and more people

1 2/21/19 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 are going to require LOOP.

3 You only have a certain amount
4 of money allocated for LOOP, and so at
5 this particular point, we need to keep it
6 open for low- and moderate-income people.
7 This bill needs to be put on hold until
8 we figure out how to make sure that the
9 needy is in the program and not the
10 upper-income people.

11 I understand what Monty is
12 trying to do. I understand, but Monty
13 has low- and moderate-income people
14 coming to his office. We have not seen
15 the force of upper-income people who will
16 be coming out of the walls when this bill
17 goes through.

18 So I am encouraging City
19 Council to put this bill on hold, because
20 it's not fair that someone living on
21 Lombard Street who house might be
22 reassessed at a million dollars or worth
23 a million dollars but meet the income
24 requirement of under 91,000 can qualify
25 for LOOP. That does not make sense.

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2 (Applause.)

3 MS. GREEN: I think that we
4 need to stop watching -- start watching
5 this, because at this particular point,
6 things are really starting to get out of
7 hand down in the communities regarding
8 this gentrification, and everybody is
9 starting to feel the whole pressure of it
10 and we have to be careful on how much we
11 are giving to upper-income people as
12 opposed to the low income. It looks like
13 we're getting a lot, but in reality when
14 you on the ground floor, it's not really
15 a lot.

16 Also I want to say thank you to
17 Councilman Johnson. I was glad to talk
18 with you regarding us meeting in
19 reference to Bill 180973. Hopefully
20 we'll meet on that 115-page bill, and I'm
21 hoping that we can work something out at
22 this particular time. Okay? All right.

23 Thank you very much.

24 (Applause.)

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

1 2/21/19 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Thank you for your testimony.

3 CHIEF CLERK: M. Shikomba,
4 commenting on 181103.

5 (Witness approached podium.)

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good
7 morning.

8 MS. SHIKOMBA: My name is
9 Madeline Shikomba. Can you hear me?

10 This bill must not be passed.
11 I'm talking about 181 -- I said Madeline
12 Shikomba. I hope you started as my name.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: We
14 got it.

15 MS. SHIKOMBA: This bill must
16 not be passed. Why? Let me tell you
17 what's been happening in my area. I live
18 in the Graduate Hospital area. Half the
19 houses in that area were under-assessed.
20 From 2015 to 2018, the average assessment
21 was \$380,000 on \$500, \$600,
22 million-dollar houses. Now come 2019 to
23 catch up, OPA assessed them to \$600,000,
24 \$700,000. Now, do you think people who
25 have been getting away with

1 2/21/19 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 under-assessments want to pay that
3 difference? No. What do they do? Take
4 their behinds down to Council saying they
5 got to pass a new LOOP bill so that that
6 jump of 150 to 200 percent, they will not
7 be affected. They still can pay that low
8 income. And these people are buying
9 houses at \$450,000 to \$550,000. If you
10 don't believe me, check your facts
11 against the thing. And don't tell me you
12 have your facts, because I have mine.
13 Okay?

14 And remember that that's one of
15 the criteria. They meet the second
16 criteria of residency because most of
17 them have bought their houses in 1997,
18 2004, 2005 and so forth. So they meet
19 the residency. Do they meet the income?
20 Yes. The average income for my area is
21 \$82,989. LOOP, to meet the new income,
22 is 91,800. Don't tell me they don't meet
23 that.

24 They need three criteria to
25 qualify for LOOP. This bill must be

1 2/21/19 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 held, because there's too many of them.

3 I can point to one block. I just went to

4 one block. I went to one block, 2000

5 Bainbridge Street. I counted on that

6 block nearly 15 people qualify for LOOP,

7 15 people. And when they qualify, how

8 much money you going to have left for the

9 low-income people?

10 This bill must not be passed.

11 You must hold it until we straighten out

12 what's going on in here.

13 (Applause.)

14 MS. SHIKOMBA: I'm tired, yet I

15 am (unintelligible), but I want other

16 people to qualify. And I mean the people

17 who really, really need it. You open up

18 this bill and, like Tiffany said, they'll

19 be running down here to qualify, and then

20 when you turn around, you won't have

21 enough money. You have to allocate maybe

22 more money to meet the low-income people

23 who should be on that bill.

24 So I'm telling you right now,

25 please do not pass this bill. I sent you

1 2/21/19 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 a list of the homes in the 2000 block of
3 Bainbridge Street that actually qualify
4 for this. You got my e-mail on this.
5 Look at it.

6 Please do not pass this bill.
7 I want it passed because -- I really
8 favor this bill for people who have low
9 income, but you cannot pass this bill.
10 You have to revise it and amend it.
11 Please do that, and do so now and don't
12 wait until later and then come down here
13 looking sad. I'm telling you, do not
14 pass this bill.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
16 Thank you.

17 (Applause.)

18 CHIEF CLERK: L. Grace Lewis,
19 commenting on 190112.

20 (Witness approached podium.)

21 MS. LEWIS: Good morning.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good
23 morning.

24 MS. LEWIS: My taxes are paid.
25 They are up to date. And I vote. I live

1 2/21/19 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 where they bought a lot, one lot, in the
3 middle of the block.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Just
5 say your name just for the record.

6 MS. LEWIS: Grace, G-R-A-C-E,
7 Lewis, L-E-W-I-S.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
9 Thank you.

10 MS. LEWIS: I live in Point
11 Breeze. Johnson.

12 Hi, Kenyatta.

13 I live where they bought a lot
14 and they are beginning to build a
15 three-story structure, without informing
16 the residents. The construction on that
17 block are two-story houses. That
18 particular lot happens to be across from
19 my house.

20 The building of that house will
21 interrupt my privacy, my serenity, and
22 the sanctuary of my home.

23 I pay taxes. 2019 is up to
24 date. And I vote.

25 The community should not be

1 2/21/19 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 impacted without being informed as to
3 what's going to be happening to where
4 they live. We do not live in barren
5 lands. We live where people pay taxes.
6 My family has paid taxes there for 50
7 years, a half a century. And you're not
8 Indians. You didn't discover anything
9 new. You have come into an organized
10 community, and you need to assimilate to
11 where you have come.

12 New structure is wonderful.
13 Change is going to happen no matter what
14 happens, but you have to conform. There
15 are many, many areas in South Philly with
16 lots of lots where you can start
17 something new. I object, and I'm going
18 to protest the building of that building,
19 because I don't feel free in my home.

20 I like to keep my curtains
21 open. I have cafe curtains so you can't
22 see from the street, but my drapes I keep
23 open, so every time I walk in my bedroom,
24 I see the sky, whether it's the night sky
25 or the day sky. When I lay in my bed, I

1 2/21/19 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 can see the planes ascending and
3 descending from the airport, and I even
4 see that big star and the Big Dipper
5 twinkling at me from my room. I don't
6 want to have to lose that privilege.

7 Now, what I want them to do is
8 stop that building, because not only are
9 they building without informing the
10 community, I see where they have
11 disrupted the foundation of the
12 neighboring streets. They've already had
13 to call License and Inspection at my
14 behest.

15 Thank you.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
17 Thank you for your testimony, ma'am.

18 (Applause.)

19 CHIEF CLERK: Jacqueline
20 Wiggins, commenting on 181103.

21 (Witness approached podium.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good
23 morning.

24 MS. WIGGINS: Good morning. My
25 name is Jacqueline Wiggins. I'm also a

1 2/21/19 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 committee person, 32nd Ward, 11th
3 Division, and I am speaking today about
4 Bill 181103, and thank you, Council
5 President Clarke, for giving a few
6 minutes this morning with respect to
7 understanding or trying to understand
8 this bill.

9 I'm in opposition for this
10 reason, and it was mentioned by the
11 previous speaker. It has to do with
12 people understanding what this is about.
13 There are many senior citizens like
14 myself who live in North Central
15 Philadelphia who probably don't have a
16 clue as to what is going to happen. What
17 they look like something that will help,
18 but we need clarification.

19 And so I stand before you
20 requesting that every single
21 Councilperson, district and at-large,
22 would please, please rethink this
23 particular bill so that more people, more
24 homeowners, particularly African American
25 homeowners, can understand what is going

1 2/21/19 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 on.

3 The gentrification in our
4 neighborhood is absolutely outrageous.
5 Of course, there's always going to be
6 time for things to be renewed, but with
7 this particular bill, I think that we
8 really have to have residents understand
9 more clearly. We need more time. We
10 need more time to understand what "Tax
11 Exemptions for Longtime Owner-Occupants
12 of Residential Properties" to revise the
13 standards for eligibility and the benefit
14 determination, under certain terms and
15 conditions. Bill 181103 needs further
16 clarification.

17 Thank you.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

19 Thank you for your testimony.

20 (Applause.)

21 CHIEF CLERK: Carol Green,
22 commenting on 170408.

23 (Witness approached podium.)

24 MS. GREEN: Excuse me. My name
25 is Carol Green and I need prayer. I'm

1 2/21/19 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 going to comment on Bill 170408. And
3 first of all, I wanted to say, I wanted
4 to apologize to everyone here who might
5 be looking at me. Maybe they can see me
6 on TV if I'm on television. I'm going to
7 apologize for what I did last week if I
8 was wrong. Please forgive me for that if
9 I was out of order.

10 And I know like when I used to
11 go to school, there was a teacher there
12 named Ms. Intenzo that I'm fond of, and
13 during that time, the teachers were
14 allowed to beat you. And she would teach
15 us with a pointer, like she would point
16 on the geography map, if that's what you
17 call it, but she would -- she could beat
18 us with the pointer if we were
19 disobedient. And she didn't hit us real
20 hard, but they could beat you in school.
21 And what I would like is if children that
22 are in school that are disobedient, that
23 are very disruptive, maybe they're really
24 upset about something and they're very
25 disruptive in the classroom, I'm not

1 2/21/19 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT
2 saying that they should be beat, but what
3 I'm saying is that God -- that the people
4 should let God lead them as to what to do
5 with the children. I don't know if they
6 should be suspended from school, but to
7 disrupt the school is not good. And in
8 Proverbs Chapter 23, if you read that,
9 you'll see it's all right with God if we
10 beat the children as long as we don't
11 abuse them.

12 Thank you.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

14 Thank you for your testimony.

15 CHIEF CLERK: Ogbonna Hagins,
16 commenting on 190112.

17 (Witness approached podium.)

18 MR. HAGINS: How y'all doing?

19 Great morning.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good
21 morning.

22 MR. HAGINS: My name is Ogbonna
23 Hagins and I'm actually -- I'm going to
24 actually speak on 181103.

25 I'm a resident of the Second

1 2/21/19 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 District, and I've actually witnessed the
3 gentrification firsthand. When I first
4 got my property, it was about \$30,000,
5 and it's been assessed now well over 300.
6 But one thing I want to mention is that
7 the people who have come into the
8 neighborhood are extremely well off, and
9 in regards to them not having their
10 properties assessed at the market value
11 and it's going to be freezed, it's
12 like -- it's a war against the poor, you
13 know, and I think that what's going on
14 here is that our representatives are not
15 looking at and identifying long-term
16 residents and the needs that they have.

17 So I am definitely opposed to
18 this. I'm definitely opposed to it. And
19 I'm opposed to a lot of things that's
20 going on in the Second District, and
21 that's one of the reasons why I'm running
22 for the Second District seat. So we have
23 to stop not caring about poor people.
24 There's a constant war against poor
25 people that obviously when you look at

1 2/21/19 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 the district, certain areas are not being
3 tended to. Is it because they didn't
4 vote? Is it because -- why?

5 So for me, for me as a citizen
6 of Philadelphia, an Afro American, with a
7 large population, the poorest big city,
8 as they say, it's blood on y'all hands
9 that our people are losing out. The Afro
10 Americans in this city are losing out
11 with a majority of Afro American
12 leadership.

13 I oppose this bill.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

15 Thank you for your testimony.

16 (Applause.)

17 CHIEF CLERK: Rochelle Bilal,
18 commenting on 181103.

19 (Witness approached podium.)

20 MS. BILAL: Good morning. I'm
21 speaking against Bill 181103. And in my
22 three minutes, let me try to say this:
23 Long-term residents gets very little from
24 this city. Around we are turned to say
25 that people who can afford to pay their

1 2/21/19 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 taxes and the increases get a break. So
3 when you start telling us this, then you
4 just about to give some more Trump breaks
5 in this city.

6 Trump give breaks to the rich,
7 and now our City Council want to give
8 breaks to the rich also?

9 (Applause.)

10 MS. BILAL: That is a problem
11 when you're going around here telling us
12 that you don't want Trumpism in this
13 city. Yet here it is again.

14 You really need to go back and
15 look at this bill. You also need to
16 consider businesses, non-profit
17 organizations that been in this city,
18 that has property here since 1972, that
19 does reach out for the City, that gets no
20 break. None.

21 We have a building on Girard
22 Avenue who taxes went from \$1,500 to dag
23 near \$8,000 in one year, and because we
24 been there since 1972, we don't get a
25 homestead. Nothing. We don't get a

1 2/21/19 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 break. Nothing.

3 So if you're going to do this,
4 start looking at those who work, give to
5 the City, pay they taxes, do developments
6 and do programs that works with the
7 people in the City before you keep trying
8 to give the rich another break. Can we
9 get some breaks?

10 We are asking City Council to
11 start looking at those who need a break.
12 And it's not those who can afford. How
13 many Trump breaks do you want to give in
14 this city? How many?

15 I'm just saying, I hear what
16 you're trying to do with this. I know
17 you're trying to include other people.
18 I'm just saying take it back, look at it,
19 look at the parameters that you're
20 dealing with, and then let's come back
21 and discuss this again like grown people
22 here and constituents of the City who pay
23 taxes every single day.

24 (Applause.)

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

1 2/21/19 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 Thank you.

3 MS. BILAL: And I got 35
4 seconds. That's right. You can't cut me
5 off, Council President.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: 30
7 seconds.

8 MS. BILAL: Now I got 29
9 seconds. So Imma use every bit of this.

10 I'm just saying as a
11 constituent in this city -- and I'm not
12 telling nobody what position I'm running
13 for. I'm just letting you know this bill
14 needs to go back and you need to take a
15 real good look at it, and then look at
16 the businesses that been here forever.

17 Thank you.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

19 Thank you for your testimony.

20 (Applause.)

21 CHIEF CLERK: Joy Crudup,
22 commenting on 181103.

23 (Witness approached podium.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good
25 morning.

1 2/21/19 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 MS. CRUDUP: Good morning.

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: I'm
4 sorry. Good afternoon.

5 MS. CRUDUP: My name is Joy
6 Crudup. This is my first time ever being
7 down here, but I'm here to speak on Bill
8 181103.

9 I am a resident of the 2100
10 block of North Marvine Street, which is
11 in North Philly, and actually I had no
12 idea about this bill until I came down
13 here this morning, and I am opposed to
14 the bill. I don't believe that new
15 developers who come into our city who had
16 a ten-year tax abatement already should
17 be eligible for a bill when you have
18 people who lived here for years and years
19 and they are struggling. That was the
20 purpose of the LOOP bill. So it's not
21 fair that those who had a ten-year tax
22 abatement are able to benefit from the
23 same thing that we benefit from, because
24 we're struggling a little.

25 Also I wanted to say that the

1 2/21/19 - STATED - PUBLIC COMMENT

2 housing that I live in in the 2100 block
3 of Marvine Street, they weren't built by
4 developers. My aunt and -- well, two of
5 my aunts and another young lady came in
6 and sat down with Mayor Goode and some
7 other people and they got funding so that
8 those houses could be built. So it's not
9 fair for us who have lived there all this
10 time. And, Mr. Clarke, you are from --
11 if I'm not mistaken, you are from
12 Yorktown, and I do know that your dad had
13 a company, because they used to come and
14 cut our grass every other year. And I
15 just want you to take a moment and think
16 back to your parents and if they were
17 here now living in Yorktown and had all
18 these developers, would they be okay with
19 this bill being passed?

20 I have nothing else to say, but
21 please don't pass the bill.

22 Thank you.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

24 Thank you for your testimony, ma'am.

25 (Applause.)

1 2/21/19 - STATED - CONSENT AGENDA

2 CHIEF CLERK: There are no
3 other speakers on the public comment
4 list, Mr. President.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
6 Thank you very much.

7 That concludes our public
8 comment session, and we will now consider
9 today's Bill Consent Agenda.

10 I would ask Mr. Decker to read
11 the titles of all the bills on the
12 Consent Agenda. After each title is
13 read, any member may object to the
14 inclusion of the bill on the Consent
15 Agenda. Upon such an objection and
16 without debate, the bill will be
17 immediately removed from the Consent
18 Agenda and placed on our regular Final
19 Passage Calendar.

20 Mr. Decker, can you please now
21 read the titles of the bills on the
22 Consent Agenda.

23 CHIEF CLERK: Bill No. 180996,
24 entitled "An ordinance authorizing the
25 revision of lines and grades on a portion

1 2/21/19 - STATED - CONSENT AGENDA
2 of City Plan No. 118 by striking from the
3 City Plan and vacating a widened portion
4 of Warnock Street, on the easterly side
5 thereof between Berks Street and Norris
6 Street, and relocating the easterly
7 housetline of said Warnock Street so as to
8 align with the easterly houseline of the
9 unaffected portions of Warnock Street as
10 extending from Berks Street to said
11 Norris Street"; and

12 Bill No. 181010, entitled "An
13 ordinance authorizing the revision of
14 lines and grades on a portion of City
15 Plan Nos. 12-S and 19-S by relocating the
16 northeasterly houseline and curbline of
17 Tasker Street, from Christopher Columbus
18 Boulevard to a point southeastwardly
19 therefrom, relocating the southeasterly
20 curbline of said Christopher Columbus
21 Boulevard from Tasker Street to Reed
22 Street varying distances northwestwardly,
23 and relocating a portion of the
24 southwesterly curbline of Dickinson
25 Street, from said Christopher Columbus

1 2/21/19 - STATED - CONSENT AGENDA

2 Boulevard to a point northwesterly
3 therefrom, a uniform distance
4 northeastwardly"; and

5 Bill No. 181048, entitled "An
6 ordinance authorizing Mohammed Talouli to
7 construct, own and maintain a proposed
8 exterior stairway at 4955 through 57
9 Frankford Avenue"; and

10 Bill No. 181065, entitled "An
11 ordinance establishing parking
12 regulations on Germantown Avenue, East
13 Hortter Street to Gorgas Lane, both
14 sides"; and

15 Bill No. 181097, entitled "An
16 ordinance establishing a parking
17 regulation on Haverford Avenue, both
18 sides, 31st Street to 32nd Street"; and

19 Bill No. 181098, entitled "An
20 ordinance establishing a parking
21 regulation on 46th Street, east side,
22 Larchwood Avenue to Osage Avenue"; and

23 Bill No. 181099, entitled "An
24 ordinance establishing parking
25 regulations in the vicinity of: Locust

1 2/21/19 - STATED - CONSENT AGENDA
2 Street and South 45th Street; South 46th
3 Street and Spruce Street; South 45th
4 Street and Kingsessing Avenue; Wiota
5 Street and Powelton Avenue; Stiles Street
6 and North 50th Street; Springfield Avenue
7 and Farragut Street; St. Marks Street and
8 Spruce Street"; and

9 Bill No. 181104, entitled "An
10 ordinance establishing parking
11 regulations in the vicinity of: Wilder
12 Street and South 12th Street; Tasker
13 Street and South 8th Street; Gerritt
14 Street and South 12th Street; Reed Street
15 and South 12th Street; Dickinson Street
16 and South 9th Street; South 11th Street
17 and Wharton Street"; and

18 Bill No. 190009, entitled "An
19 ordinance establishing a no parking
20 regulation on Ivy Hill Road in the
21 vicinity of Mansfield Avenue"; and

22 Bill No. 190010, entitled "An
23 ordinance amending Chapter 12-2700 of The
24 Philadelphia Code, entitled 'Permit
25 Parking Districts,' by creating a new

1 2/21/19 - STATED - CONSENT AGENDA

2 Permit Parking District 36 in the
3 vicinity of Cottman Avenue, Roosevelt
4 Boulevard and the Tacony Creek"; and

5 Bill No. 190011, entitled "An
6 ordinance amending Section 9-213 of The
7 Philadelphia Code, entitled 'Farmers'
8 Markets,' by revising the limitations on
9 a permissible location on Castor Avenue";
10 and

11 Bill No. 190014, entitled "An
12 ordinance granting permission to Vincent
13 Cappello, owner and operator of Vinny's
14 Fruit and Produce located in the
15 right-of-way on the north side of
16 Dickinson Street between 9th Street and
17 10th Street, to install, use and maintain
18 certain electrical wires, conduits and
19 appurtenances in, under and over the
20 right-of-way on the north side of
21 Dickinson Street between 9th Street and
22 10th Street"; and

23 Bill No. 190015, entitled "An
24 ordinance establishing parking
25 restrictions on East Gowen Avenue, Devon

1 2/21/19 - STATED - CONSENT AGENDA
2 Street to Ardleigh Street, south side";
3 and

4 Bill No. 190063, entitled "An
5 ordinance amending Section 12-701 of The
6 Philadelphia Code, entitled 'Designation
7 of Bicycle Lanes,' to authorize bicycle
8 lanes on North 10th Street and North 13th
9 Street, each from Spring Garden Street to
10 Buttonwood Street; and establishing no
11 stopping regulations within the same
12 limits; all under certain terms and
13 conditions."

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
15 Thank you, Mr. Decker.

16 These bills having been read on
17 two different days, the question for each
18 bill now is shall the bill pass finally.
19 Mr. Decker shall call the roll, and upon
20 being called, each Councilmember shall
21 vote aye on each of the bills, nay on
22 each of the bills or indicate those bills
23 for which the member is voting aye and
24 those bills for which the member is
25 voting nay.

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1 2/21/19 - STATED - CONSENT AGENDA

2 Mr. Decker, please call the
3 roll.

4 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman
5 Bass.

6 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Aye on all
7 bills.

8 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman
9 Blackwell.

10 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Aye on
11 all bills.

12 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Domb.

13 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Aye on all
14 bills.

15 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Green.

16 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Aye on all
17 bills.

18 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman
19 Greenlee.

20 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Aye on
21 all bills.

22 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman Gym.

23 COUNCILWOMAN GYM: Aye on all
24 bills.

25 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Henon.

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1 2/21/19 - STATED - CONSENT AGENDA
2 COUNCILMAN HENON: Aye on all
3 bills.
4 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman
5 Johnson.
6 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Aye on all
7 bills.
8 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Jones.
9 COUNCILMAN JONES: Aye on all
10 bills.
11 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman
12 O'Neill.
13 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Aye on all
14 bills.
15 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Oh.
16 COUNCILMAN OH: Aye on all
17 bills.
18 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman
19 Parker.
20 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Aye on
21 all bills.
22 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman
23 Quinones-Sanchez.
24 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Aye on
25 all bills.

1 2/21/19 - STATED - CONSENT AGENDA

2 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman

3 Reynolds Brown.

4 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Aye on all

5 bills.

6 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman

7 Squilla.

8 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Aye on all

9 bills.

10 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman

11 Taubenberger.

12 COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: Aye

13 on all bills.

14 CHIEF CLERK: Council President

15 Clarke.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Aye

17 on all bills.

18 The majority of members voting

19 in the affirmative for each of the bills,

20 the bills on the Consent Agenda are

21 passed.

22 We will now consider the bills

23 and resolutions on the regular Second

24 Reading and Final Passage Calendar.

25 Mr. Decker will please read

1 2/21/19 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 190112.

3 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
4 authorizing the Commissioner of Public
5 Property to execute and deliver to the
6 Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority,
7 without consideration, deeds conveying
8 conditional fee simple title to certain
9 City-owned lots or pieces of ground with
10 the buildings and improvements thereon,
11 situate in the Thirtieth Ward of the City
12 of Philadelphia.

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
14 Chair recognizes Councilmember Johnson.

15 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: I move for
16 the adoption of the resolution.

17 (Duly seconded.)

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

20 All those in favor say aye.

21 (Aye.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

23 Those opposed?

24 (No response.)

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The

1 2/21/19 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 ayes have it. Resolution 190112 is
3 adopted.

4 Mr. Decker, 190116.

5 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
6 calling on the State Legislature of
7 Pennsylvania, the Governor of
8 Pennsylvania, and the federal government
9 to mandate these certain education
10 initiatives in Pennsylvania and to
11 mandate these initiatives nationwide.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
13 Chair recognizes Councilmember Domb.

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

17 (Duly seconded.)

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

20 All those in favor say aye.

21 (Aye.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
23 Those opposed?

24 (No response.)

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The

1 2/21/19 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 ayes have it. Resolution 190116 is
3 adopted.

4 Mr. Decker, 190096-A.

5 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
6 designating the office within City
7 Council that currently serves the needs
8 of veterans and their families as the
9 Office of Veterans Affairs; confirming
10 the continuing responsibility of the
11 Veterans Advisory Commission to provide
12 assistance to that Office; and amending
13 and restating Resolution No. 060059 (as
14 amended by Resolution No. 070094) to
15 further provide for the powers and duties
16 of the Veterans Advisory Commission and
17 the method of appointing its
18 commissioners.

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

21 COUNCILMAN OH: Thank you very
22 much, Council President. On your behalf,
23 I move for the adoption of the
24 resolution.

25 (Duly seconded.)

1 2/21/19 - STATED - 2ND READING

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

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

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
7 Those opposed?

8 (No response.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
10 ayes have it. Resolution 190096-A is
11 adopted.

12 Mr. Decker, please read the
13 title of 170365.

14 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance
15 amending Chapter 19-200 of The
16 Philadelphia Code, entitled 'City Funds -
17 Deposits, Investments, Disbursements,' by
18 amending Section 19-201, entitled 'City
19 Depositories,' by authorizing the City
20 Treasurer to deposit funds in Santander
21 Bank, National Association.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
23 Chair recognizes Councilman Green.

24 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you,
25 Council President. I move for this bill

1 2/21/19 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 to be moved to the Suspension Calendar.

3 (Duly seconded.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: It's

5 been moved and properly seconded.

6 All those in favor say aye.

7 (Aye.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

9 Those opposed?

10 (No response.)

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The

12 ayes have it, and Bill No. 170365 will be

13 placed on the Suspension Calendar.

14 Mr. Decker, please read the

15 title of 181103.

16 CHIEF CLERK: An ordinance

17 amending Chapter 19-3900 of The

18 Philadelphia Code, entitled 'Tax

19 Exemptions for Longtime Owner-Occupants

20 of Residential Properties,' to revise the

21 standards for eligibility and the benefit

22 determination.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

24 Thank you.

25 The Chair recognizes Councilman

1 2/21/19 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 Johnson.

3 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you,
4 Council President. I just wanted to
5 clarify just some facts regarding this
6 bill.

7 On various occasions, we have
8 amended this bill, all in the sole effort
9 to protect those who are most vulnerable,
10 and although we may sometimes disagree
11 with advocates regarding their
12 perspective, our primary purpose and
13 mission has always been to protect
14 long-term residents.

15 Just to give you an example, we
16 have raised the cap \$5 million. As this
17 bill stands right now, it will cover
18 3,400 new individuals who will be able to
19 be protected in their homes if their
20 property value has risen more than half.
21 Before your property value had to have
22 risen triple, but we've had hundreds of
23 people who will come to my office and
24 say, listen, my tax bill didn't triple,
25 but I still can't qualify for LOOP. This

1 2/21/19 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 helps that individual who taxes increased
3 by 200 percent, 250 percent. It allows
4 them to stay inside their home.

5 Under this new LOOP bill, 80
6 percent, 80 percent of new potential LOOP
7 properties were assessed at \$150,000 or
8 less. I want to clarify that. Eighty
9 percent of new potential LOOP properties
10 were assessed at below \$150,000 for FY18.
11 That also speaks to areas that are
12 gentrifying areas that have low-income to
13 moderate-income neighborhoods.

14 Also individuals who are
15 eligible in terms of income criteria, now
16 the 150 percent AMI, what the
17 Administration didn't support during the
18 last amendment of LOOP, that advocacy
19 came from advocates who are advocating
20 today against the bill. They advocated
21 and said can you raise it from 120 to
22 150, which actually opens it up for
23 individuals to have more of a high level
24 income to participate in the LOOP
25 program. That's where the advocacy came

1 2/21/19 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 from, and it's also stated for the
3 record.

4 But here's how much money that
5 a family can make in order for them to
6 participate in the LOOP program. For a
7 family of one, \$91,000; family of two,
8 104 -- roughly \$105,000; and a
9 four-person family, \$131,000, right?

10 Now, we don't want to get into
11 rich versus poor, but those numbers are
12 basically moderately income individuals.
13 You may be living in a gentrifying
14 neighborhood but work for the School
15 District with you and your wife and your
16 family and only make a total of \$104,000.
17 You may be working at the Philadelphia
18 International Airport and only make 100.
19 You may be working at SEPTA and live in a
20 gentrifying neighborhood with a family of
21 four, right, and only making \$131,000 and
22 you will still be able to participate in
23 the LOOP program.

24 So I just wanted to clarify
25 what some of the facts are as relates to

1 2/21/19 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 who is actually able to participate and
3 also this misnomer that if you have a
4 tax-abated home, you're able to
5 participate in the LOOP program. Again,
6 that's not factual information.

7 Each time we have amended this
8 bill, it's all in an effort to advocate
9 for those who are most vulnerable.
10 That's why we found an additional \$5
11 million to help individuals participate
12 in this program.

13 And so I just wanted to state
14 that for the record, and I will be voting
15 yes on this particular bill. And as we
16 move forward, we have no problem
17 educating, sitting down, and informing
18 rather it's advocates or individuals who
19 have questions regarding this bill, but
20 our intention has always been pure from
21 day one, and that's to fight to make sure
22 long-term residents and those who are
23 vulnerable when it comes to
24 gentrification and an increase in
25 property values and real estate taxes the

1 2/21/19 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 opportunity for them to stay inside their
3 home.

4 Thank you very much, Council
5 President.

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
7 Thank you, Councilman.

8 The Chair recognizes Councilman
9 Squilla.

10 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Thank you,
11 Mr. President. I wanted to add to my
12 colleague Councilman Johnson on some of
13 the facts on this bill.

14 When this was first given to us
15 by the State Legislature allowing us to
16 look into it, it was called the
17 gentrification bill. It was done by the
18 state, and they allowed us the right to
19 go in for long-term owner-occupants. And
20 so the bill is to protect long-term
21 owner-occupants. And the reason of the
22 change is, it's the same bill that was
23 introduced and passed that helped 17,000
24 individuals back when AVI was initiated
25 in 2013, and those individuals this year

1 2/21/19 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 that lived in those homes, because of OPA
3 and their assessment process, have
4 increased 40 percent in one year on
5 average. That tells you that they're in
6 gentrified neighborhoods. That tells you
7 that their prices are astronomical and
8 they were to be moved out of their homes.
9 This protection is put in place.

10 Now, because of AVI, when it
11 was first initiated, it was 300 percent.
12 You had to triple in value of assessment
13 in order to get in. Well, now we see
14 that that will never happen again.

15 Also we have put a cap on it at
16 \$20 million. That cap was factored into
17 the rate that we voted on in order to put
18 that money in there so it wouldn't
19 affect -- what we did was, it was
20 supposed to be comparable to taxes from
21 the year before in 2012 to 2013. So
22 since it was going to be an even spread,
23 we increased our rate enough to cover the
24 LOOP participants. So there was no loss
25 of revenue to the City or to the School

1 2/21/19 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 District and the \$20 million at that time
3 would be captured.

4 Now, the reason why this year
5 the assessments and the taxes owed on
6 LOOP went from \$15 million to \$20 million
7 is because these assessment rates
8 skyrocketed, and fortunately or
9 unfortunately, we're working with the
10 City Revenue Department to see if we
11 could challenge some of these
12 assessments, because when you're in LOOP,
13 those people aren't challenging the large
14 assessment increases because their taxes
15 stay the same because they're in LOOP,
16 they're being protected. So I think we
17 as a city need to look at that, to
18 assess -- to go in and challenge those
19 assessments and, therefore, we would
20 never even reach our cap if we were able
21 to challenge those assessments and,
22 therefore, we then know that the people
23 that need to be protected will be
24 protected.

25 All this bill does is allow

1 2/21/19 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 anybody now instead of going up 300
3 percent to go up 150 percent in assessed
4 value in one year to be eligible. Does
5 it capture everybody? Are there
6 sometimes people that just miss? Yes,
7 but we need to be able to protect our
8 long-term owner-occupants and we need to
9 be able to help keep the affordability
10 for our people who are living in the
11 neighborhoods that are rapidly
12 increasing, and I also will be voting yes
13 on this bill.

14 Thank you.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

16 Thank you, Councilman.

17 The Chair recognizes Councilman

18 Oh.

19 COUNCILMAN OH: Thank you very
20 much, Council President. I am supporting
21 this bill as well. There were questions,
22 can we hold the bill and fix the problems
23 at OPA. What I tried to explain is,
24 because of the separation of powers, OPA
25 is under the Administration and we cannot

1 2/21/19 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 fix it. So we do have a bill. We have
3 other bills coming up to deal with, as
4 best we can through the legislative
5 process, the Office of Property
6 Assessment.

7 (Applause.)

8 COUNCILMAN OH: Yeah,
9 absolutely. But what we have on the
10 floor today, if we don't pass it, it will
11 not provide the help that a lot of
12 seniors and people need.

13 So I will be voting for this
14 bill to help those that we can help right
15 now, and we will continue our fight to
16 ensure that people are protected from
17 these overly large assessments, which is
18 driving this problem.

19 Thank you.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

21 Thank you, Councilman.

22 The Chair recognizes Councilman
23 Jones.

24 COUNCILMAN JONES:

25 Mr. President, my intentions when I

1 2/21/19 - STATED - 2ND READING
2 walked in here was to vote against this
3 bill. The reason I wanted to vote
4 against it at the time is because there
5 was a lot of information presented that
6 wasn't clarified. My colleague has spent
7 a lot of time clarifying it, along with
8 my colleague Councilman Squilla, along
9 with Mr. Christmas, who is the 18th
10 member of this body, to give me a little
11 better understanding.

12 Why I rise today to talk about
13 this is, the initial problem is in our
14 assessments and the assessment problem.
15 That pebble ripples throughout every
16 community. When we start getting it
17 wrong, we're getting it wrong in a whole
18 lot of different rooms and arenas. So
19 how can we be wrong on assessments and
20 right on Sheriff Sales?

21 (Applause.)

22 COUNCILMAN JONES: So the
23 problem extends beyond what we're
24 struggling with right now. If we don't
25 get this right, how can we fairly look

1 2/21/19 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 taxpayers in the eye and say your
3 property is worth X, Councilwoman
4 Blackwell, and though you live right next
5 door to Councilman Green, his property is
6 worth Y, and why is it so much more. We
7 have to fix this or all of these other
8 remedies that we're attempting to do in
9 good faith don't make sense. They're not
10 uniform. They're not accurate. So we
11 got to get to -- Mr. President, you did
12 an assessment of the assessors, and it
13 wasn't right.

14 So I'm going to vote for this,
15 holding my nose, because it doesn't help
16 everybody, but the real problem is in a
17 fair valuation of properties in the
18 system, because that's where the problem
19 begins and continues to keep creating a
20 problem throughout.

21 Thank you, Mr. President.

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

23 Thank you, Councilman.

24 The Chair recognizes Councilman
25 Johnson.

1 2/21/19 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Yes, but
3 Council President, with all due respect
4 to my colleague, and he's a very hard
5 advocate on this issue and I do
6 appreciate his support, but I also just
7 want to clarify. Although we are
8 fighting the Administration to make sure
9 we get assessments correct, people are
10 losing their houses in South Philadelphia
11 on a day-to-day basis, every single day.
12 That's why it's important to move forward
13 with this legislation, so tomorrow and
14 Monday when that person comes to my
15 office who says, I want to qualify for
16 LOOP and my taxes didn't triple, it's
17 opened up for them to save their home
18 today, not tomorrow, not next week, but
19 today.

20 And so I just want to state
21 that for the record, because at the end
22 of the day, the number one issue when
23 individuals come into my office is
24 addressing the issue of high real estate
25 taxes and how we can stay inside our

1 2/21/19 - STATED - 2ND READING

2 homes. This opens up that process to
3 3,400 individuals. Eighty percent of
4 them live in primarily low-income to
5 moderate-income neighborhoods, and it
6 will allow them to stay inside their
7 homes.

8 And so I just wanted to state
9 that for the record, because at the end
10 of the day, yes, we have to fix the
11 assessments, right, but people are losing
12 their homes every single day until that
13 process gets done, and this is a step in
14 the right direction to help the 3,400
15 individuals, primarily from low-income
16 neighborhoods, changing neighborhoods,
17 stay inside their homes. I just wanted
18 to state that just for the record, and I
19 do appreciate individuals' support.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

21 Thank you, Councilman.

22 The Chair recognizes Councilman
23 Jones.

24 COUNCILMAN JONES: For the
25 record's record, I support it today

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2 because I understand that urgency, but
3 what I also found out today and I share
4 with my colleagues in here is that it's
5 not just a South Philly, North Philly
6 thing anymore. Them Sheriff Sales are
7 spinning up in Wynnefield, Overbrook,
8 Cedar Park, and other places. So we all
9 have that sense of urgency and why we are
10 paying particular attention to this bill
11 and other corrections.

12 So I agree there's an urgency.
13 As the real President, who has now left
14 the White House, used to say, there's an
15 urgency of now, but there's also a
16 righting of the ship as we go forward,
17 Mr. President.

18 So thank you.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

20 Thank you, Councilman. Councilman, what
21 did you say? The real President?

22 COUNCILMAN JONES: I don't need
23 to...

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: All
25 right. Okay.

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2 No more discussion. No more
3 debate. 181103, this bill has been heard
4 on two separate occasions. The question
5 is shall the bill pass now.

6 Mr. Decker, please call the
7 roll.

8 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman
9 Bass.

10 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Aye.

11 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman
12 Blackwell.

13 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Aye.

14 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Domb.

15 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Aye.

16 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Green.

17 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Aye.

18 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman

19 Greenlee.

20 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Aye.

21 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman Gym.

22 COUNCILWOMAN GYM: Aye.

23 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Henon.

24 COUNCILMAN HENON: Aye.

25 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman

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2 Johnson.

3 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Aye.

4 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Jones.

5 COUNCILMAN JONES: Aye.

6 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman

7 O'Neill.

8 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Aye.

9 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Oh.

10 COUNCILMAN OH: Aye.

11 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman

12 Parker.

13 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Aye.

14 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman

15 Quinones-Sanchez.

16 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Aye.

17 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman

18 Reynolds Brown.

19 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Aye.

20 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman

21 Squilla.

22 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Aye.

23 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman

24 Taubenberger.

25 COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: Aye.

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2 CHIEF CLERK: Council President
3 Clarke.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Aye.

5 The ayes are 17; the nays are
6 zero. A majority of members present
7 voting in the affirmative, the bill
8 passes.

9 Mr. Decker, 180996. I'm sorry.
10 That was on Consent. No more bills on
11 the regular Second Reading and Final
12 Passage Calendar.

13 Mr. Decker, do you have any
14 additional resolutions?

15 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution
16 declaring March 4th through 10th, 2019 as
17 Women in Construction Week in
18 Philadelphia, introduced by Councilman
19 Green on behalf of Councilwoman
20 Quinones-Sanchez.

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

24 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: I move
25 for the adoption.

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2 (Duly seconded.)

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

5 All those in favor say aye.

6 (Aye.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
8 Those opposed?

9 (No response.)

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

13 CHIEF CLERK: And a resolution
14 congratulating and honoring the
15 Pennsylvania Chapter of the National
16 Coalition of 100 Black Women on the 33rd
17 Anniversary of the Madam CJ Walker Awards
18 Luncheon and for the organization's
19 commitment to the educational, political,
20 and economic empowerment of African
21 American women throughout the City of
22 Philadelphia, introduced by Councilwoman
23 Parker.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
25 Chair recognizes Councilwoman Parker.

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2 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Thank
3 you, Mr. President. I move for the
4 adoption of the resolution.

5 (Duly seconded.)

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

8 All those in favor say aye.

9 (Aye.)

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
11 Those opposed?

12 (No response.)

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

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

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
19 Thank you very much.

20 Any speeches on behalf of the
21 minority?

22 (No response.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Any
24 speeches on behalf of the majority?

25 The Chair recognizes

1 2/21/19 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 Councilwoman Bass.

3 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you,
4 Mr. President. I wanted to take this
5 opportunity to call attention to the
6 flags that have been placed on each
7 member's desk and recognize the man who
8 created them.

9 Several decades ago, Mr. Oliver
10 Adams came up with the idea of a national
11 symbol which recognizes the diaspora of
12 black Americans. He believed that the
13 term "Afro Americans" more accurately
14 reflected not just our African heritage
15 but the many nationalities we represent,
16 Jamaicans, Haitians, Canadians, Ugandans,
17 Somalians, and Liberians, among many
18 others.

19 In 1987, Mr. Adams copyrighted
20 his logo "thank God I'm Afro American."
21 A copy of the logo hangs in the Martin
22 Luther King, Jr. Library and archives in
23 Atlanta. He hopes it will become a
24 national symbol for Afro Americans in
25 this country and others.

1 2/21/19 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 While pursuing his visionary
3 dream, Mr. Adams has also been a
4 successful businessman. He owned and
5 operated a bakery for over 30 years in
6 the Allegheny West neighborhood of my
7 district and for the last few years has
8 been continuing to market his logo
9 nationwide. Mr. Adams believes that
10 everyone should have a dream, and we wish
11 him the best in his endeavor to create a
12 spirit of community and national pride
13 all over the world.

14 And if Mr. Adams could stand
15 and we could recognize him and thank him
16 for the flag and for his tireless work.

17 (Applause.)

18 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: We
19 appreciate you.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
21 Thank you, Councilwoman.

22 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
24 Congratulations, sir.

25 Thank you.

1 2/21/19 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 (Applause.)

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

5 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you,
6 Council President. This week
7 Councilmember Cherelle Parker introduced
8 a resolution regarding the Power Up
9 program and their ability to help
10 mom-and-pop businesses to start a
11 business in the City of Philadelphia and
12 then grow through the success of that
13 program. This program, along with the
14 Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses
15 program, are two programs that are run
16 out of the Community College of
17 Philadelphia, and as we talk about the
18 major issue of poverty in our city, the
19 growth of small businesses is very
20 important, especially on our commercial
21 corridors, from Washington Lane to
22 Washington Avenue.

23 Tuesday of this week I had an
24 opportunity to go to the kick-off for a
25 program that also helps small businesses

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2 to grow called Inner City Capital
3 Connections. On each of the desks of my
4 members in Council I left a brochure and
5 information about Inner City Capital
6 Connections, and they are coming back to
7 Philadelphia with a new cohort of
8 applicants. That will start on
9 Wednesday, May 22nd of this year. If you
10 know a business that qualifies, please
11 recommend them to this outstanding
12 program.

13 We've had a number of alumni in
14 the City of Philadelphia that have come
15 out of the ICCC program, including
16 Perryman Construction. Since 2005, and
17 this is a national program, about 2,000
18 alumni have graduated from this program
19 in cities all around the country. These
20 small businesses have averaged about 160
21 percent in growth in revenue, created
22 close to 20,000 jobs, and raised \$1.9 to
23 \$2 billion in capital. This is a mini
24 MBA program, and they focus on the five
25 C's of capacity, coaching, capital,

1 2/21/19 - STATED - SPEECHES

2 connections, and contracts.

3 So if you know businesses in
4 your districts or businesses throughout
5 the City of Philadelphia that can benefit
6 from this program, please recommend them
7 so we can continue to grow small
8 businesses in the City of Philadelphia
9 and address the poverty in our city.

10 Thank you.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

12 Thank you, Councilman.

13 The Chair recognizes Councilman
14 Squilla.

15 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Thank you,
16 Mr. President. Real quick, I just wanted
17 to -- last week there was an invitation
18 on every Councilmember's desk for the
19 Party at the Market. It's the Reading
20 Terminal Market, who is one of our great
21 historic markets here we have in
22 Philadelphia. It's one of their biggest
23 fundraisers, but they wanted to invite
24 all the Councilmembers as their guests
25 Saturday from 7:30 on. So hopefully if

1 2/21/19 - STATED - ADJOURNMENT

2 anybody has that time Saturday night to
3 attend, it would be greatly appreciated.

4 Thank you.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

6 Thank you, Councilman.

7 That concludes our speeches on
8 behalf of the minority and majority.

9 The Chair recognizes

10 Councilwoman Reynolds Brown for a motion
11 to adjourn.

12 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Thank you,
13 Mr. President. I move that Council stand
14 adjourned until Thursday, February 28th,
15 2019 at 10:00 a.m.

16 (Duly seconded.)

17 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

18 Thank you. It has been moved and
19 properly seconded that Council stand
20 adjourned until Thursday, February 28,
21 2019, 10:00 a.m.

22 All those in favor say aye.

23 (Aye.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

25 Those opposed?

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2 (No response.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The
4 ayes have it.

5 Thank you all very much.

6 (Stated Meeting adjourned at
7 12:35 p.m.)

8 - - -

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CERTIFICATE

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

MICHELE L. MURPHY
RPR-Notary Public

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

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