

JOURNAL OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF PHILADELPHIA



Monday, October 17, 2005

PRESENT: 16 - Councilmembers Reynolds Brown, Goode, Kelly, Kenney, Ramos, Rizzo, DiCicco, Council President Verna, Blackwell, Nutter, Clarke, Krajewski, Mariano, Miller, Tasco and O'Neill

SPECIAL COUNCIL SESSION

PROCEEDINGS BEGIN

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR COUNCILMEMBER DAVID COHEN

COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA EXPRESSES THE HEART FELT SYMPATHY OF COUNCILMEMBERS TO MRS. FLORENCE COHEN AND FAMILY.

Council met, a quorum being present.

Reverend Isaac Miller from the Church of the Advocate was introduced and offered an appropriate prayer.

TRIBUTE

CANTOR STEPHEN FRIEDMAN FROM TEMPLE SINAI

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

COUNCILMEMBER BLACKWELL MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES OF COUNCIL SO AS TO PERMIT THE IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION OF THIS RESOLUTION AT THE TIME OF INTRODUCTION.

THE MOTION WAS DULY SECONDED AND AGREED TO.

RESOLUTIONS

Councilmember Council President Verna Introduced the following Resolution, Sponsored by Councilmembers Council President Verna, Clarke, Mariano, Rizzo, Ramos, Goode, Miller, DiCicco, Tasco, Kelly, Reynolds Brown, Krajewski, Blackwell, Nutter, Kenney and

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O'Neill:

 **Resolution No. 050855:**Resolution mourning the death and honoring the memory of David Cohen.

WHEREAS, David Cohen was ninety years old when, on October 3, 2005, God in his wisdom took him from our midst. This City, Commonwealth and Country have lost a true friend and a wonderful gentleman; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cohen hails from a family that immigrated to Philadelphia from the Ukraine at the beginning of the twentieth century. David Cohen was bright, but a terrible paperhanger, so his six older siblings decided to send him to the University of Pennsylvania at age sixteen, rather than having him work in their wallpaper business. In 1937, David Cohen graduated first in his class from the University of Pennsylvania School of Law at age twenty-three. He moved to Washington, DC to work as a lawyer in President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal Rural Electrification Administration. Mr. Cohen's desire to help the "little people" and his liberal views were formed in this first job. He wanted to make government more relevant to all; and

WHEREAS, In 1943, David Cohen was drafted into the United States Army. He courageously served in New Guinea during World War II. Upon his return, he married Florence Herzog in 1946 and they lived in New York City. In 1952, the Cohens returned to the Ogontz section of Philadelphia to raise their growing family. By their example, they taught their four children the values of integrity, hard work, equality for all and a belief in public service; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cohen entered democratic politics in the city as a committeeman in the forty-ninth ward in 1952. He worked on the presidential campaign of Adlai Stevenson. In 1965, he took up the cause of racial bias in voter registrations in Mississippi and marched with Martin Luther King, Jr. from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama. In that same year, Mr. Cohen was elected ward leader in the seventeenth ward, and in 1967, he was elected councilman from the eighth district, serving the northwest section of Philadelphia. Mr. Cohen resigned his council seat for an unsuccessful bid for mayor in 1971, but he was elected back into a city council at-large seat in 1979, a position which he held until his death; and

WHEREAS, Councilman David Cohen's principles, always strong, served him well in life and in City Council. Together with his wife, Florence, they championed the causes of senior citizens, environmentalists, and the poor. There was no issue too burdensome for Councilman Cohen, if it meant serving his constituents; and

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WHEREAS, A good and true legend has left us. We, his colleagues, fondly recall the hours we spent with him and the words of wisdom he imparted. We will miss him, and we will forever remember him in our hearts and minds, and in the lasting history of our city; now therefore

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, That we hereby mourn the death and celebrate the life of the honorable David Cohen. To his wife, Florence, his children, Mark, Denis, Sherrie and Judy, and his grandchildren, we extend our most profound condolences.

RESOLVED, That an Engrossed copy of this resolution be presented to Florence Cohen as evidence of the sincere respect of this legislative body.

THE RESOLUTION WAS READ.

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED BY STANDING VOTE.

GUEST SPEAKERS

SEE NOTES OF TESTIMONY - EXTENSIVE LIST

COUNCILMEMBER TASCO MOVED TO ADJOURN.

THE MOTION WAS DULY SECONDED AND AGREED TO.