

City of Philadelphia



Council of the City of Philadelphia Office of the Chief Clerk Room 402, City Hall Philadelphia

(Resolution No. 250388)

RESOLUTION

Honoring and congratulating the first graduating class of the West Philadelphia Zoo Scholars program for their outstanding accomplishments, leadership, and dedication to the values of conservation, community, and lifelong learning.

WHEREAS, The West Philadelphia Zoo Scholars Program is a groundbreaking initiative by the Philadelphia Zoo in partnership with local schools and community stakeholders, designed to cultivate the next generation of conservation leaders by providing high school students from West Philadelphia with immersive, hands-on experiences in zoological sciences, veterinary medicine, environmental education, and wildlife conservation; and

WHEREAS, The program offers a unique opportunity for students to engage in professional development, mentorship, and experiential learning at the nation's first zoo, building skills in public speaking, scientific inquiry, and community engagement; and

WHEREAS, The inaugural cohort of Zoo Scholars has demonstrated resilience, intellectual curiosity, and an unwavering commitment to protecting wildlife and the natural world, while also serving as ambassadors for conservation within their schools and neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, These students have participated in a rigorous multi-year program that included field research, animal care, environmental justice projects, and leadership training, all while balancing the demands of high school and other extracurricular responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, The Philadelphia Zoo's investment in these students reflects a broader commitment to equity in conservation education, and demonstrates the transformative power of civic institutions partnering with local communities to expand opportunity and inspire future leaders; and

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WHEREAS, The graduation of the first cohort of the West Philadelphia Zoo Scholars marks a significant milestone in the Zoo's legacy and a proud achievement for the City of Philadelphia, showcasing the brilliance, talent, and promise of our city's youth; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, the Council of the City of Philadelphia, Hereby honors and congratulates the first graduating class of the West Philadelphia Zoo Scholars program for their outstanding accomplishments, leadership, and dedication to the values of conservation, community, and lifelong learning.

FURTHER RESOLVED, An Engrossed copy of this resolution be presented to the graduates as an expression of the sincere admiration and respect of this legislative body.

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CERTIFICATION: This is a true and correct copy of the original Resolution, Adopted by the Council of the City of Philadelphia on the twenty fourth day of April, 2025.

Kenyatta Johnson
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Elizabeth McCollum
CHIEF CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Introduced by: Councilmember Gauthier

Sponsored by: Councilmembers Gauthier, Phillips, Landau, Lozada, Brooks,
O'Rourke, Driscoll, Bass and Ahmad