

City of Philadelphia



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

(Resolution No. 260065)

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the life and legacy of Joseph R. Syrnick for his distinguished career of public service to the City of Philadelphia and his visionary leadership in transforming the Schuylkill River Corridor, Trail, and Waterfront.

WHEREAS, Joseph R. Syrnick was born on December 19, 1946 in Philadelphia and was raised in Manayunk. He graduated from Roman Catholic High School in 1964 and earned his Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in Civil Engineering from Drexel University in 1969 and 1971 respectively, laying the foundation for his career in public service; and

WHEREAS, In 1971, Mr. Syrnick began his career with the Philadelphia Streets Department, where he spent 34 years overseeing hundreds of public works and infrastructure projects to support the functionality and safety of the City; and

WHEREAS, In 1986, he was appointed Chief Engineer and Surveyor for the Streets Department, supervising major projects such as the Schuylkill Expressway reconstruction, Martin Luther King Jr. Drive improvements, South Broad Street streetlight and tree installation, and safety enhancements in Fairmount Park and along Kelly Drive; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Syrnick's leadership advanced bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure throughout the City. He is responsible for the beautification of Penrose Avenue, the creation of a bikeway in Schuylkill River Park, and countless collaborations with civic partners to enhance alternative transportation and public space; and

WHEREAS, Following his retirement from the Streets Department in 2005, he became President and CEO of the Schuylkill River Development Corporation (SRDC), the nonprofit organization working in partnership with public agencies to revitalize the Schuylkill River corridor; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Syrnick's engineering expertise and deep familiarity with City, State, and Federal agencies and City Council enabled SRDC to secure millions of dollars in funding and successfully deliver numerous complex capital projects, including Grays Ferry Crescent, the

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CSX Connector Bridge, the Schuylkill River Boardwalk, Bartram's Mile, the Christian to Crescent Connector Bridge, and the long-awaited Swing Bridge; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Synchron is remembered transforming the once-inaccessible industrial riverfront into a continuous, world-class public trail and greenway connecting neighborhoods and expanding access to the Schuylkill River; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, Hereby honors the life and legacy of Joseph R. Synchron for his distinguished career of public service to the City of Philadelphia and his visionary leadership in transforming the Schuylkill River Corridor, Trail, and Waterfront.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That an Engrossed copy of this Resolution be presented to Mr. Joseph Synchron's family as a symbol of the City of Philadelphia's appreciation.

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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-ninth day of January, 2026.

Kenyatta Johnson
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Elizabeth McCollum
CHIEF CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Introduced by: Councilmember Jones for Council President Johnson

Sponsored by: Council President Johnson, Councilmembers Jones, Phillips, Gilmore Richardson, Gauthier, Thomas, Landau, Lozada, Brooks, Harrity, O'Rourke, Driscoll, Bass and Ahmad