

City of Philadelphia



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

(Resolution No. 260360)

RESOLUTION

Honoring the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter by the voters of the City of Philadelphia and celebrating the importance of local government and civic engagement.

WHEREAS, On April 17th of 1951, the voters of the City of Philadelphia voted to adopt the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter, forever changing the trajectory of municipal government in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, Prior to the adoption of the charter, governance in Philadelphia took a few different forms. Prior to 1854, Philadelphia County consisted of the City of Philadelphia and over 25 independent townships, districts and boroughs, each with their own governance and law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, This lack of coordination in such a condensed area led to district and chaos and in 1854, The Pennsylvania General Assembly passed the Act of Consolidation, dissolving the 28 separate entities and creating one municipal entity we know today as the City of Philadelphia; and

WHEREAS, In 1949, The General Assembly passed the First-Class City Home Rule Act, granting cities of the first-class broad authority to self-govern with complete powers of legislation and administration to reduce reliance on the state legislature for municipal affairs, allowing for fiscal flexibility needed by cities with larger populations unique challenges; and

WHEREAS, In the 75 years since, the Charter has served as Philadelphia's "Constitution," providing the legal framework for the City to enact local ordinances, manage its finances, and provide essential services tailored to the unique needs of its diverse neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, The adoption of the Home Rule Charter established a "strong-mayor" government, the 17-member legislative body, 14 departments managed under the Mayor, and the auditing department, now known as the Office of the Controller; and

City of Philadelphia

RESOLUTION NO. 260360 continued

WHEREAS, Those 14 original departments included Police, Fire, Streets, Water, Public Health, Human Services, Recreation, Licenses and Inspections, Records, Public Property, Revenue, Procurement, Commerce, and Law; and

WHEREAS, The 75th Anniversary of the Charter serves as a vital reminder of the power of civic engagement and the importance of a government that is "of, by, and for" the people of Philadelphia; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, Hereby honors and recognizes the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter by the voters of the City of Philadelphia and reaffirm commitment to the principles of transparency, efficiency, and local autonomy enshrined within the Charter.

City of Philadelphia

RESOLUTION NO. 260360 continued

CERTIFICATION: This is a true and correct copy of the original Resolution, Adopted by the Council of the City of Philadelphia on the sixteenth day of April, 2026.

Kenyatta Johnson
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Elizabeth McCollum
CHIEF CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Introduced by: Councilmember Driscoll

Sponsored by: Council President Johnson, Councilmembers Driscoll, Phillips, Gilmore Richardson, Landau, Lozada, Brooks, Harrity, Squilla and Ahmad