

JOURNAL OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF PHILADELPHIA



Thursday, February 7, 2013

PRESENT: 17 - Councilmembers Council President Clarke, Squilla, Johnson, Blackwell, Jones, Henon, Quiñones Sánchez, Bass, Tasco, O'Neill, Reynolds Brown, Greenlee, Goode, Oh, Kenney, Green and O'Brien

Council met, a quorum being present.

Pastor Kevin Johnson of Bright Hope Baptist Church was introduced and offered an appropriate prayer.

COUNCILMEMBER GREENLEE MOVED TO APPROVE THE JOURNAL of the meeting of January 31, 2013.

THE MOTION WAS DULY SECONDED AND AGREED TO.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Sergeant-at-Arms presented messages from the Mayor as follows:

- Transmitting a message advising Council that Bill Nos. 120656-AA and 120918, which were passed by Council on January 24, 2013, were signed by the Mayor on February 6, 2013. (File No. 130103)

THE COMMUNICATION WAS READ.

- Transmitting a bill confirming the appointment of Rev. C. Kevin Gillespie, S.J., Ph.D., as a member of the Board of Ethics, to serve in the term ending November 16, 2014. (File No. 130104)

THE COMMUNICATION WAS READ.

- Transmitting a resolution approving the redevelopment contract of the Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority for the redevelopment and urban renewal of a portion of the Model Cities Urban Renewal Area, identified by house numbers and street addresses as 400 West Susquehanna avenue (including 2152 North Fourth street and 2159 North Leithgow street), 417 West Susquehanna

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avenue (including 2202 North Leithgow street and 2203 North Lawrence street), 2151 North Fourth street and 2153-2155 North Leithgow street; authorizing the Redevelopment Authority to execute the redevelopment contract with Norris Square Civic Association and to take such action as may be necessary to effectuate the redevelopment contract, accompanied by an explanatory letter from the Executive Director of the Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority. (File No. 130105)

THE COMMUNICATION WAS READ.

- 📄 Transmitting a resolution approving the redevelopment contract of the Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority for the redevelopment and urban renewal of a portion of the Model Cities Urban Renewal Area, identified by house numbers and street addresses as 1716-1726 Folsom street, 1730-1750 Folsom street and 703-705 North Eighteenth street; authorizing the Redevelopment Authority to execute the redevelopment contract with Equinox Property Group II, LP and to take such action as may be necessary to effectuate the redevelopment contract, accompanied by an explanatory letter from the Executive Director of the Redevelopment Authority. (File No. 130106)

THE COMMUNICATION WAS READ.

- 📄 Authorizing the plotting upon a portion of City Plan No. 271 of a right of way for sewer and drainage purposes extending from the westerly side of Front Street, north of Callowhill Street, westwardly to the Delaware Expressway, and authorizing acceptance of the grant to the City of the said right of way, under certain terms and conditions. (File No. 130107)

THE COMMUNICATION WAS READ.

- 📄 Transmitting a bill authorizing 39th and Sansom Streets Corporation t/a Cavanaugh's Leprechaun to construct, own and maintain an open air sidewalk café at 119 S. 39th Street, Philadelphia, PA, under certain terms and conditions, accompanied by an explanatory letter from the Streets Commissioner. (File No. 130108)

THE COMMUNICATION WAS READ.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Councilmember Kenney Introduced and Referred the following Bill, Sponsored by Councilmember Kenney:

- 📄 **Bill No. 130078:** An Ordinance Amending Chapter 20-1000 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled “Political Contributions and Expenditures,” by providing for

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contribution limits for incumbents, and making technical changes, under certain terms and conditions.

THE BILL WAS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON LAW AND GOVERNMENT.

Councilmember Kenney Introduced and Ordered Placed On Next Week's Final Passage Calendar the following Resolution, Sponsored by Councilmembers Kenney and Quiñones Sánchez:

Resolution No. 130084: Resolution Urging the 113th Congress <http://www2.nbc4i.com/topics/types/organization/tags/congress/> to enact comprehensive immigration reform as outlined in this resolution that keeps families together, upholds our values as a nation, promotes economic growth, and creates a fair immigration system guided by respect for the human rights of all persons.

Councilmember Blackwell Introduced and Referred the following Bill, Sponsored by Councilmember Blackwell:

Bill No. 130079: An Ordinance Authorizing 39th and Sansom Streets Corporation t/a Cavanaugh's Leprechaun to construct, own and maintain an open-air sidewalk café at 119 S. 39th Street, Philadelphia, PA, under certain terms and conditions.

THE BILL WAS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON STREETS AND SERVICES.

Councilmember Blackwell Introduced and Moved to Be Placed on This Week's Final Passage Calendar - Rules Suspended the following Resolution, Sponsored by Councilmember Blackwell:

Resolution No. 130085: Resolution Recognizing Mr. Nelson Mandela Myers for his acts of kindness and community involvement.

Councilmember Blackwell Introduced and Moved to Be Placed on This Week's Final Passage Calendar - Rules Suspended the following Resolution, Sponsored by Councilmember Blackwell:

Resolution No. 130086: Resolution Recognizing the State House and State Senate's efforts in investigating the potential misuse of religion to commit crimes particularly in the case of Nai'lla Robinson, who was abducted from her Bryant School classroom.

Councilmember Greenlee Introduced and Ordered Placed On Next Week's Final Passage Calendar the following Resolution for Councilmember Council President Clarke, Sponsored by Councilmember Greenlee:

Resolution No. 130087: Resolution Approving the redevelopment contract of the

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Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority for the redevelopment and urban renewal of a portion of the Model Cities Urban Renewal Area, identified by house numbers and street addresses as 1716-1726 Folsom street, 1730-1750 Folsom street and 703-705 North Eighteenth street; authorizing the Redevelopment Authority to execute the redevelopment contract with Equinox Property Group II, LP and to take such action as may be necessary to effectuate the redevelopment contract.

Councilmember Henon Introduced and Ordered Placed on This Week's Final Passage Calendar the following Resolution, Sponsored by Councilmembers Henon, Johnson, Bass, O'Brien, Oh and Squilla:

- 📄 **Resolution No. 130088:** Resolution Authorizing City Council's Committee of the Whole to hold public hearings on the procedures that the City currently employs and proposes to employ to collect the delinquent real estate taxes owed the City and School District by owner-occupants, the effectiveness or shortcomings of existing and proposed procedures, and the additional measures and resources required to improve the system for collecting delinquent real estate taxes owed by owner-occupants.

Councilmember Tasco Introduced and Ordered Placed on This Week's Final Passage Calendar the following Resolution, Sponsored by Councilmembers Tasco and Reynolds Brown:

- 📄 **Resolution No. 130089:** Resolution Honoring Delta Sigma Theta Sorority on its 100th Anniversary.

Councilmember Johnson Introduced and Referred the following Bill, Sponsored by Councilmember Johnson:

- 📄 **Bill No. 130080:** An Ordinance To amend the Philadelphia Zoning Maps by changing the zoning designations of certain areas of land located within an area bounded by Mifflin Street, Broad Street, Mckean Street and 15th Street.

THE BILL WAS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES.

Councilmember Johnson Introduced and Ordered Placed On Next Week's Final Passage Calendar the following Resolution, Sponsored by Councilmember Johnson:

- 📄 **Resolution No. 130090:** Resolution Authorizing City Council's Committee of the Whole to hold public hearings to examine the City's efforts to collect delinquent real estate taxes owed by owners of residential investment properties and the additional measures and resources required to reduce real estate tax delinquency.

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Councilmember Quiñones Sánchez Introduced and Ordered Placed On Next Week's Final Passage Calendar the following Resolution, Sponsored by Councilmember Quiñones Sánchez:

- 📄 **Resolution No. 130091:** Resolution Authorizing the Commissioner of Public Property to execute and deliver to the Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority, without consideration, deeds conveying conditional fee simple title to certain City-owned lots or pieces of ground with the buildings and improvements thereon, situate in the Seventh, Eighteenth, Nineteenth, Thirty-seventh and Forty-third Wards of the City of Philadelphia, pursuant to Chapter 16-400 of The Philadelphia Code and authorizing the Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority to dispose of such properties for rehabilitation and/or improvements in accordance with terms of Chapter 16-400 of The Philadelphia Code.

Councilmember Quiñones Sánchez Introduced and Ordered Placed On Next Week's Final Passage Calendar the following Resolution, Sponsored by Councilmember Quiñones Sánchez:

- 📄 **Resolution No. 130092:** Resolution Approving the redevelopment contract of the Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority for the redevelopment and urban renewal of a portion of the Model Cities Urban Renewal Area, identified by house numbers and street addresses as 400 West Susquehanna avenue (including 2152 North Fourth street and 2159 North Leithgow street), 417 West Susquehanna avenue (including 2202 North Leithgow street and 2203 North Lawrence street), 2151 North Fourth street and 2153-2155 North Leithgow street; authorizing the Redevelopment Authority to execute the redevelopment contract with Norris Square Civic Association and to take such action as may be necessary to effectuate the redevelopment contract.

Councilmember Green Introduced and Referred the following Bill, Sponsored by Councilmember Green:

- 📄 **Bill No. 130081:** An Ordinance Amending Chapter 19-1300 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled “Real Estate Taxes,” and Chapter 19-1800 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled “School Tax Authorization,” by eliminating the homestead exclusion and making conforming changes, all under certain terms and conditions.

THE BILL WAS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

Councilmember Green Introduced and Referred the following Bill, Sponsored by Councilmembers Green and Kenney:

- 📄 **Bill No. 130082:** An Ordinance Amending Chapter 20-1000 of The Philadelphia

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Code, entitled "Political Contributions and Expenditures," by further providing for disclosure of contributions and expenditures, under certain terms and conditions.

THE BILL WAS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON LAW AND GOVERNMENT.

Councilmember O'Brien Introduced and Ordered Placed on This Week's Final Passage Calendar the following Resolution, Sponsored by Councilmember O'Brien:

- ☐ **Resolution No. 130093:** Resolution Authorizing City Council's Committee of the Whole to investigate and hold public hearings reviewing the system utilized by the City of Philadelphia to collect delinquent real estate taxes, the effectiveness and shortcomings of the existing system, and the new methods and resources proposed by the Administration to increase the collection of delinquent real estate taxes.

Councilmember Reynolds Brown Introduced and Moved to Be Placed on This Week's Final Passage Calendar - Rules Suspended the following Resolution, Sponsored by Councilmember Reynolds Brown:

- ☐ **Resolution No. 130094:** Resolution Supporting House Bill 34 which requires the design, construction and renovation of certain State-owned or State-leased buildings to comply with specified energy and environmental building standards; and providing for the powers and duties of the Department of General Services.

Councilmember Jones Introduced and Referred the following Bill, Sponsored by Councilmember Jones:

- ☐ **Bill No. 130083:** An Ordinance Authorizing the plotting upon a portion of City Plan No. 271 of a right-of-way for sewer and drainage purposes extending from the westerly side of Front Street, north of Callowhill Street, westwardly to the Delaware Expressway, and authorizing acceptance of the grant to the City of the said right-of-way, under certain terms and conditions.

THE BILL WAS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON STREETS AND SERVICES.

Councilmember Jones Introduced and Referred the following Resolution for Councilmember Council President Clarke, Sponsored by Councilmember Jones:

- ☐ **Resolution No. 130095:** Resolution Approving the appointment of Aronda Smith to the Veterans' Advisory Commission.

THE RESOLUTION WAS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE.

Councilmember Jones Introduced and Referred the following Resolution for Councilmember Council President Clarke, Sponsored by Councilmember Jones:

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☐ **Resolution No. 130096:** Resolution Confirming the appointment of Rev. C. Kevin Gillespie, S.J., Ph.D., as a member of the Board of Ethics, to serve in the term ending November 16, 2014.

THE RESOLUTION WAS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE.

Councilmember Squilla Introduced and Ordered Placed on This Week's Final Passage Calendar the following Resolution, Sponsored by Councilmembers Squilla, Johnson, Henon, Bass, Oh and O'Brien:

☐ **Resolution No. 130097:** Resolution Authorizing City Council's Committee of the Whole to hold public hearings on the procedures that the City currently employs and proposes to employ to collect delinquent commercial real estate taxes owed the City and School District, the effectiveness or shortcomings of existing and proposed procedures, and the additional measures and resources required to improve the system for collecting delinquent real estate taxes.

Councilmember Bass Introduced and Ordered Placed on This Week's Final Passage Calendar the following Resolution, Sponsored by Councilmember Bass:

☐ **Resolution No. 130098:** Resolution Authorizing City Council's Committee of the Whole to hold public hearings on vacant, tax delinquent properties in the City, the impact of such properties on the City, and the procedures that the City currently employs and proposes to employ to collect delinquent real estate taxes from such properties and the efficacy of those procedures.

Councilmember Oh Introduced and Ordered Placed on This Week's Final Passage Calendar the following Resolution, Sponsored by Councilmember Oh:

☐ **Resolution No. 130099:** Resolution Authorizing City Council's Committee of the Whole to hold public hearings on the procedures that the City currently employs and proposes to employ based on accepted best practices to collect the delinquent real estate taxes owed the City and School District of Philadelphia.

Councilmember Oh Introduced and Ordered Placed on This Week's Final Passage Calendar the following Resolution, Sponsored by Councilmember Oh:

☐ **Resolution No. 130100:** Resolution Authorizing Council's Committee on Global Opportunities and the Creative/Innovative Economy to hold hearings to investigate the economic and environmental impact of converting Philadelphia's fleet vehicles to run on compressed natural gas and other alternative fuels.

Councilmember Oh Introduced and Ordered Placed on This Week's Final Passage Calendar the following Resolution, Sponsored by Councilmember Oh:

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- 📄 Opportunities and the Creative/Innovative Economy to hold hearings to investigate the feasibility, benefits, and costs to establishing a 24-hour arts and innovation section for the City of Philadelphia.

Councilmember Oh Introduced and Moved to Be Placed on This Week's Final Passage Calendar - Rules Suspended the following Resolution, Sponsored by Councilmember Oh:

- 📄 **Resolution No. 130102:** Resolution Encouraging the United States Navy to commission the USS Somerset (LPD-25) in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

- 📄 **Bill No. 120109, as amended:** An Ordinance Amending Title 21 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled “Miscellaneous,” by requiring the Finance Director to provide to Council, by the time of the submission of the Mayor's proposed annual operating budget, program-based budgeting detail that identifies both the cost of performing specific functions funded by appropriations made by the City as well as the effectiveness of such functions, following procedures to be adopted by the Finance Director, all under certain terms and conditions.

COUNCILMEMBER GREEN MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES OF THE COUNCIL SO AS TO PERMIT CONSIDERATION THIS DAY OF BILL NO. 120109.

THE MOTION WAS DULY SECONDED AND AGREED TO.

THE BILL WAS ORDERED PLACED ON THIS DAY’S FIRST READING CALENDAR.

CONSIDERATION OF THE CALENDAR

BILLS ON FIRST READING

- 📄 **Bill No. 120109, as amended:** An Ordinance Amending Title 21 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled “Miscellaneous,” by requiring the Finance Director to provide to Council, by the time of the submission of the Mayor's proposed annual operating budget, program-based budgeting detail that identifies both the cost of performing specific functions funded by appropriations made by the City as well as the effectiveness of such functions, following procedures to be adopted by the Finance Director, all under certain terms and conditions.

THE BILL WAS ORDERED PLACED ON NEXT WEEK’S SECOND READING CALENDAR.

PUBLIC COMMENT

BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS ON FINAL PASSAGE

☐ **Resolution No. 130070:** Resolution Authorizing the Commissioner of Public Property to execute and deliver to the Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority, without consideration, deeds conveying conditional fee simple title to certain City-owned lots or pieces of ground with the buildings and improvements thereon, situate in the Twenty-eighth, Twenty-ninth and Thirty-second Wards of the City of Philadelphia, pursuant to Chapter 16-400 of The Philadelphia Code and authorizing the Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority to dispose of such properties for rehabilitation and/or improvements in accordance with terms of Chapter 16-400 of The Philadelphia Code.

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

☐ **Resolution No. 130074:** Resolution Authorizing the Commissioner of Public Property to execute and deliver to the Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority, without consideration, deeds conveying conditional fee simple title to certain City-owned lots or pieces of ground with the buildings and improvements thereon, situate in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Wards of the City of Philadelphia, pursuant to Chapter 16-400 of The Philadelphia Code and authorizing the Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority to dispose of such properties for rehabilitation and/or improvements in accordance with terms of Chapter 16-400 of The Philadelphia Code.

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

☐ **Resolution No. 130085:** Resolution Recognizing Mr. Nelson Mandela Myers for his acts of kindness and community involvement.

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

☐ **Resolution No. 130086:** Resolution Recognizing the State House and State Senate's efforts in investigating the potential misuse of religion to commit crimes particularly in the case of Nai'lla Robinson, who was abducted from her Bryant School classroom.

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

☐ **Resolution No. 130088:** Resolution Authorizing City Council's Committee of the Whole to hold public hearings on the procedures that the City currently employs and proposes to employ to collect the delinquent real estate taxes owed the City and School District by owner-occupants, the effectiveness or shortcomings of existing and proposed procedures, and the additional measures and resources required to improve the system for collecting delinquent real estate taxes owed by owner-occupants.

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THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED & REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE.

- ☐ **Resolution No. 130089:** Resolution Honoring Delta Sigma Theta Sorority on its 100th Anniversary.

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

- ☐ **Resolution No. 130090:** Resolution Authorizing City Council's Committee of the Whole to hold public hearings to examine the City's efforts to collect delinquent real estate taxes owed by owners of residential investment properties and the additional measures and resources required to reduce real estate tax delinquency.

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED & REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE.

- ☐ **Resolution No. 130093:** Resolution Authorizing City Council's Committee of the Whole to investigate and hold public hearings reviewing the system utilized by the City of Philadelphia to collect delinquent real estate taxes, the effectiveness and shortcomings of the existing system, and the new methods and resources proposed by the Administration to increase the collection of delinquent real estate taxes.

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED & REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE.

- ☐ **Resolution No. 130094:** Resolution Supporting House Bill 34 which requires the design, construction and renovation of certain State-owned or State-leased buildings to comply with specified energy and environmental building standards; and providing for the powers and duties of the Department of General Services.

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

- ☐ **Resolution No. 130097:** Resolution Authorizing City Council's Committee of the Whole to hold public hearings on the procedures that the City currently employs and proposes to employ to collect delinquent commercial real estate taxes owed the City and School District, the effectiveness or shortcomings of existing and proposed procedures, and the additional measures and resources required to improve the system for collecting delinquent real estate taxes.

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

- ☐ **Resolution No. 130098:** Resolution Authorizing City Council's Committee of the Whole to hold public hearings on vacant, tax delinquent properties in the City, the impact of such properties on the City, and the procedures that the City currently employs and proposes to employ to collect delinquent real estate taxes from such properties and the efficacy of those procedures.

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

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☐ **Resolution No. 130099:** Resolution Authorizing City Council's Committee of the Whole to hold public hearings on the procedures that the City currently employs and proposes to employ based on accepted best practices to collect the delinquent real estate taxes owed the City and School District of Philadelphia.

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED & REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE.

☐ **Resolution No. 130100:** Resolution Authorizing Council's Committee on Global Opportunities and the Creative/Innovative Economy to hold hearings to investigate the economic and environmental impact of converting Philadelphia's fleet vehicles to run on compressed natural gas and other alternative fuels.

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED & REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON GLOBAL OPPORTUNITIES & CREATIVE/INNOVATIVE ECONOMY.

☐ **Resolution No. 130101:** Resolution Authorizing Council's Committee on Global Opportunities and the Creative/Innovative Economy to hold hearings to investigate the feasibility, benefits, and costs to establishing a 24-hour arts and innovation section for the City of Philadelphia.

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED & REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON GLOBAL OPPORTUNITIES & CREATIVE/INNOVATIVE ECONOMY.

☐ **Resolution No. 130102:** Resolution Encouraging the United States Navy to commission the USS Somerset (LPD-25) in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

**BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS ON SECOND READING AND FINAL
PASSAGE**

☐ **Bill No. 120958:** An Ordinance To amend the Philadelphia Zoning Maps by changing the zoning designations of certain areas of land located within an area bounded by Allegheny Avenue, American Street, Lippincott Street, 2nd Street, a railroad right-of-way and 5th Street.

THE BILL WAS READ AND PASSED.

The Ayes and Nays were as follows:

Ayes: 17 - Councilmembers Council President Clarke, Squilla, Johnson, Blackwell, Jones, Henon, Quiñones Sánchez, Bass, Tasco, O'Neill, Reynolds Brown, Greenlee, Goode, Oh, Kenney, Green and O'Brien

Nays: 0

☐ **Bill No. 121033:** An Ordinance To amend the Philadelphia Zoning Maps by changing the zoning designations of certain areas of land located within an area bounded by Grant Avenue, Lavender Street, Primrose Road, Holyoke Road,

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and Academy Road.

THE BILL WAS READ AND PASSED.

The Ayes and Nays were as follows:

Ayes: 17 - Councilmembers Council President Clarke, Squilla, Johnson, Blackwell, Jones, Henon, Quiñones Sánchez, Bass, Tasco, O'Neill, Reynolds Brown, Greenlee, Goode, Oh, Kenney, Green and O'Brien

Nays: 0

SPEECHES

COUNCILMEMBERS OH, KENNEY, JONES, BASS, TASCO, O'BRIEN AND JOHNSON -
(SEE NOTES OF TESTIMONY).

COUNCILMEMBER REYNOLDS BROWN MOVED TO ADJOURN

THE MOTION WAS DULY SECONDED AND AGREED TO.