

City of Philadelphia



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

(Resolution No. 090854)

RESOLUTION

Recognizing and thanking Governor Edward Rendell for his involvement in mediating the 2009 SEPTA strike and for helping to broker a deal between SEPTA officials and the Transport Workers Union Local 234.

WHEREAS, On November 3rd at 3 a.m., SEPTA caught the region off guard by going on strike and halting the services of all buses, subways, and trolleys; and

WHEREAS, The strike lasted six days leaving around 450,000 riders, including students, to find other methods of transportation and causing widespread delays, especially for commuters who either drove or crowded onto the congested Regional Rail lines; and

WHEREAS, The Transport Workers Union Local 234, which represents over 5,000 workers, first threatened to strike during the World Series games in Philadelphia, which would have paralyzed the City during one of its most public moments; and

WHEREAS, Governor Rendell was both instrumental in preventing the strike from happening during the World Series games and in brokering a deal to end the strike on November 9th; and

WHEREAS, Local president Willie Brown said the major reasons for the strike were disagreements over increased pension contributions from workers, job “picking” rights, and the length of the contract. He said that the union wanted 3 percent wage increases for each year of a four-year contract; and

WHEREAS, Governor Rendell responded saying that SEPTA was rejecting a contract that was much better than terms being received by workers in the private sector and those at the transit agency in Pittsburg; and

WHEREAS, While Governor Rendell had agreed to give SEPTA over \$6 million from an economic development fund to pay for certain provisions in the contract, he pressured the union by threatening to withhold the state money if the strike continued for too long; and

City of Philadelphia

RESOLUTION NO. 090854 continued

WHEREAS, Governor Rendell worked tirelessly to negotiate an agreement and prevent a strike; and

WHEREAS, When SEPTA surprised the City by going on strike, Governor Rendell, despite frustrations, never gave up and continued talks until an agreement was reached. His involvement accelerated the conversations and helped bring the two sides together to end the strike; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, That Council does hereby recognize and thank Governor Edward Rendell for his crucial involvement in mediating the 2009 SEPTA strike and for helping to broker a deal between SEPTA officials and the Transport Workers Union Local 234.

City of Philadelphia

RESOLUTION NO. 090854 continued

City of Philadelphia

RESOLUTION NO. 090854 continued

CERTIFICATION: This is a true and correct copy of the original Resolution, Adopted by the Council of the City of Philadelphia on the nineteenth of November, 2009.

Anna C. Verna
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Michael A. Decker
CHIEF CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Introduced by: Councilmembers Kenney, DiCicco and Green

Sponsored by: Councilmembers Kenney, DiCicco, Green, Jones, Goode, Greenlee, Blackwell, Sanchez, Miller, O'Neill, Krajewski, Clarke and Reynolds Brown