

City of Philadelphia

*City Council
Chief Clerk's Office
402 City Hall
Philadelphia, PA 19107*



Meeting Minutes (Long)

Thursday, February 12, 2026

10:00 AM

Room 400, City Hall

CITY COUNCIL

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: 16 - Councilmembers Bass, Driscoll, Gauthier, Gilmore Richardson, Harrity, Jones, Lozada, O'Neill, Phillips, Squilla, Thomas, Ahmad, Landau, O'Rourke, Young and Council President Johnson

ABSENT: 1 - Councilmember Brooks

INVOCATION

Council met, a quorum being present.

REVEREND JEFFREY JORDAN, SENIOR PASTOR OF WHOSOEVER METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH, was introduced and offered an appropriate prayer.

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

COUNCILMEMBER BASS MOVED TO APPROVE THE JOURNAL
of Thursday February 5, 2026.

THE MOTION WAS DULY SECONDED AND AGREED TO.

LEAVES OF ABSENCE

Councilmember Brooks

THE REQUEST WAS GRANTED.

COMMUNICATIONS

There were no Communications from the Mayor.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

Bill No. 260095: An Ordinance Authorizing the installation, ownership and maintenance of an elevator encroachment in the vicinity of 3400 Aramingo Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19134, under certain terms and conditions.

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

Councilmember Gilmore Richardson Introduced the following Resolution for Council President Johnson, Sponsored by Councilmember Gilmore Richardson:

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Resolution No. 260096: Resolution Confirming the appointment of Wesley R. Payne, IV, as a member of the Board of Ethics, to serve in the term ending November 16, 2029.

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

Resolution No. 260097: Resolution Expressing support for Jerome Richardson and our First Amendment rights in the face of political persecution against protestors by the Trump Administration.

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

Resolution No. 260098: Resolution Celebrating and recognizing February 15th as 215 Day of Giving, an annual observance that honors Philadelphia's identity while strengthening and highlighting the role of nonprofit organizations servicing under-resourced and underserved communities.

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

Resolution No. 260099: Resolution Renaming the 3000 Block of West Harper Street "Joyce Hill Way" to honor the life and legacy of Joyce Hill.

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

Resolution No. 260100: Resolution Honoring and Recognizing the Observance of the Holy Month of Ramadan in the City of Philadelphia.

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

Resolution No. 260101: Resolution Authorizing the Committee on Housing, Neighborhood Development, and the Homeless to hold hearings to examine the Office of Property Assessment, its assessment methodology, appeals process, and the impact of rising property assessments and property taxes on Philadelphia residents.

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

Resolution No. 260102: Resolution Authorizing a joint hearing between the Committee on Public Safety and the Committee on Parks, Recreation and Cultural

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Affairs to examine the presence of firearms in public recreation spaces, the enforcement of existing laws, and strategies to reduce gun violence in parks and playgrounds across the City of Philadelphia.

Councilmember Ahmad Introduced and Ordered Placed on This Week's Final Passage Calendar the following Resolution for Councilmember Bass, Sponsored by Councilmembers Ahmad, Phillips, Gilmore Richardson, Jones, Landau, Brooks, Harrity, O'Rourke and Driscoll:

Resolution No. 260103: Resolution Honoring and recognizing Reverend Michael A. Major, Sr. during Black History Month for his extraordinary leadership, faith-driven service, and unwavering commitment to the renewal, restoration, revitalization of the Nicetown-Tioga community and celebrating his Installation as Senior Pastor at Zion Baptist Church

Councilmember Ahmad Introduced and Ordered Placed on This Week's Final Passage Calendar the following Resolution for Councilmember Bass, Sponsored by Councilmembers Ahmad, Phillips, Gilmore Richardson, Landau, Brooks, Harrity, O'Rourke and Driscoll:

Resolution No. 260104: Resolution Recognizing and honoring February 20, 2026, as “Love Your Pet Day” in the City of Philadelphia

Councilmember Ahmad Introduced and Ordered Placed on This Week's Final Passage Calendar the following Resolution for Councilmember Bass, Sponsored by Councilmembers Ahmad, Phillips, Gilmore Richardson, Jones, Landau, Brooks, Harrity, O'Rourke and Driscoll:

Resolution No. 260105: Resolution

Councilmember Ahmad Introduced and Ordered Placed on This Week's Final Passage Calendar the following Resolution for Councilmember Bass, Sponsored by Councilmembers Ahmad, Phillips, Gilmore Richardson, Jones, Landau, Brooks, Harrity, O'Rourke and Driscoll:

Resolution No. 260106: Resolution Honoring Bishop J. Louis Felton from The Mt. Airy Church of God in Christ for his extraordinary lifetime of service, leadership, and lasting contributions to the spiritual, civic, and social well-being of the City of Philadelphia during Black History Month

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

Resolution No. 260107: Resolution Recognizing February 17, 2026, as the Lunar New Year and celebrating the cultural and historical significance of Philadelphia’s Asian American and Pacific Islander communities.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON LAW AND GOVERNMENT

Bill No. 251098: An Ordinance Providing for the submission to the qualified electors of the City of Philadelphia of the proposal set forth in a Resolution approved by Council proposing an amendment to The Philadelphia Home Rule Charter relating to the creation of the Office of the Youth Ombudsperson; and authorizing and directing the appropriate officers to publish notice and to make arrangements for the special election.

COUNCILMEMBER GILMORE RICHARDSON MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES OF THE COUNCIL SO AS TO PERMIT CONSIDERATION THIS DAY OF BILL NO. 251098.

THE MOTION WAS DULY SECONDED AND AGREED TO.

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

Resolution No. 251108, as amended: Resolution Proposing an amendment to the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter providing for the creation of the Office of the Youth Ombudsperson; and providing for the submission of the proposed amendment to the electors of Philadelphia.

THE RESOLUTION WAS ORDERED PLACED ON FINAL PASSAGE CALENDAR FOR NEXT MEETING..

CONSIDERATION OF THE CALENDAR

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jeremy Blatstein	250917
Jody Applebaum	250989
Amanda Eldridge	250989
Samantha Craven	250989
Charles Hull	250989
Adam Oldman	260086
David Alexa Jenkins	241070
Jonathan Stein	260086
John McAuley	260086
Lynn Landes	250768 250843
Elaine Petrossian	250988
Marie Marinakis	250989
Robert Gray	241070 250989
Jessica Graaf	250989
Devon Rodriguez Cayro	250989
Vanessa Raymond-Garcia	250980

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Ian Griffin 250989

Darrien Johnson Thomas Intro

Emanuel Clark Thomas Intro

Ryan Harris Thomas Intro

Ogbonna Haggins 241070

James Buck III Bass Intro

Rev. Dr. Suzanna Kershaw Bass Intro

Rev. Michael Major Bass Intro

Rev. James Buck Jr Bass Intro

SEE NOTES OF TESTIMONY FOR FULL COMMENT FROM STATED MEETING OF THURSDAY,
FEBRUARY 12, 2026.

Please note that this is an in-person meeting, and it is open to the public. This meeting may also be viewed on Xfinity Channel 64, Fios Channel 40 or <http://phlcouncil.com/watch-city-council/>

Public comment will be received in-person regarding those matters printed on the agenda on the following pages. Speakers interested in participating in public comment at this meeting may call 215-686-3406 by no later than 3 p.m. the day before the meeting and they must submit the following information:

- **Full name (including proper pronunciation and spelling)**
- **Identify the bill number or resolution number that will be addressed**
- **State whether you support or oppose that particular bill or resolution**
 - **Telephone number where you can be reached**

Speakers may also sign-up to participate in public comment on the day of the meeting in Room 400, City Hall. Speakers who submitted the above information within the required time frame will be added to the list. Speakers will have up to three minutes to speak; the Council President, however, reserves the right based on circumstances to establish a different time limit. The Council President may also limit testimony where repetitious comments are offered on an agenda item.

ORDER OF BUSINESS IN A COUNCIL SESSION

Note: Some items do not occur at every session:

Invocation.

Approval of the journal of the preceding meeting.

**Requests by Councilmembers for permission to be absent from
the session.**

Reading of communications from the Mayor.

**Introduction of bills and resolutions (to be referred to
appropriate Committees of Council).**

Reports from Committees of Council.

Special business.

Bills on first reading.

**Public comment on bills and resolutions on the Second
Reading and Final Passage Calendars - titles are printed below.**

**Bills that Council passed but that need to be returned by the
Mayor for reconsideration.**

**Consideration of bills and resolutions on the Second Reading
and Final Passage Calendars.**

Bills and resolutions on the Suspension Calendar.

Speeches by Councilmembers.

BILLS ON FIRST READING

Bill No. 251098: An Ordinance Providing for the submission to the qualified electors of the City of Philadelphia of the proposal set forth in a Resolution approved by Council proposing an amendment to The Philadelphia Home Rule Charter relating to the creation of the Office of the Youth Ombudsperson; and authorizing and directing the appropriate officers to publish notice and to make arrangements for the special election.

THE BILL WAS READ AND ORDERED PLACED ON NEXT WEEK'S SECOND READING CALENDAR.

BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS ON FINAL PASSAGE

Councilmember Landau called up:

Resolution No. 260086: Resolution Commending the Pennsylvania General Assembly for including the Working Pennsylvanians Tax Credit in the 2025-2026 budget, a crucial new tool to provide essential resources and lift families out of poverty across the Commonwealth.

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

Councilmember Harrity called up:

Resolution No. 260089: Resolution Calling on the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to establish a comprehensive regulatory framework and conduct a formal safety and labor impact review of driverless rideshare vehicles

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operating in Philadelphia and throughout Pennsylvania.

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

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

Bill No. 250988, as amended: An Ordinance Amending Chapter 9-600 of The Philadelphia Code (entitled “Service and Other Businesses”) to add business hour restrictions in the Fifth Councilmanic District; and amending Section 14-529 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled “/VDO, Fifth District Overlay District,” to restrict certain commercial uses and make other related changes, all under certain terms and conditions

THE BILL WAS READ AND PASSED.

The Ayes and Nays were as follows:

Absent: 1 Councilmember Brooks

Ayes: 16 Councilmembers Bass, Driscoll, Gauthier, Gilmore Richardson, Harrity, Jones, Lozada, O'Neill, Phillips, Squilla, Thomas, Ahmad, Landau, O'Rourke, Young and Council President Johnson

Nays: 0

Bill No. 250989, as amended: An Ordinance Amending Title 10 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled “Regulation of Individual Conduct and Activity,” by adding a new Section to impose a temporary moratorium on the breeding and transfer of puppies, all under certain terms and conditions.

THE BILL WAS AMENDED.

Bill No. 251031: An Ordinance Repealing in its entirety Bill No. 241055 (approved December 23, 2024), entitled “An ordinance to amend the Philadelphia Zoning Maps by changing the zoning designations of certain areas of land located within an area bounded by Packer Avenue, Seventh Street, Pattison Avenue, and Darien Street. To amend Title 14 of The Philadelphia Code by adding Section 14-541 entitled “/PAK, Packer Avenue Overlay District and making other related changes, all under certain terms and conditions.”

THE BILL WAS READ AND PASSED.

The Ayes and Nays were as follows:

Absent: 1 Councilmember Brooks

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Ayes: 16 Councilmembers Bass, Driscoll, Gauthier, Gilmore Richardson, Harrity, Jones, Lozada, O'Neill, Phillips, Squilla, Thomas, Ahmad, Landau, O'Rourke, Young and Council President Johnson

Nays: 0

RESOLUTIONS

Councilmember Thomas called up:

Resolution No. 260098: Resolution Celebrating and recognizing February 15th as 215 Day of Giving, an annual observance that honors Philadelphia's identity while strengthening and highlighting the role of nonprofit organizations servicing under-resourced and underserved communities.

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

Councilmember Jones called up:

Resolution No. 260100: Resolution Honoring and Recognizing the Observance of the Holy Month of Ramadan in the City of Philadelphia.

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

Councilmember Lozada called up:

Resolution No. 260101: Resolution Authorizing the Committee on Housing, Neighborhood Development, and the Homeless to hold hearings to examine the Office of Property Assessment, its assessment methodology, appeals process, and the impact of rising property assessments and property taxes on Philadelphia residents.

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

Councilmember Lozada called up:

Resolution No. 260102: Resolution Authorizing a joint hearing between the Committee on Public Safety and the Committee on Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs to examine the presence of firearms in public recreation spaces, the enforcement of existing laws, and strategies to reduce gun violence in parks and playgrounds across the City of Philadelphia.

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

Councilmember Bass called up:

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Resolution No. 260103: Resolution Honoring and recognizing Reverend Michael A. Major, Sr. during Black History Month for his extraordinary leadership, faith-driven service, and unwavering commitment to the renewal, restoration, revitalization of the Nicetown-Tioga community and celebrating his Installation as Senior Pastor at Zion Baptist Church

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

Councilmember Bass called up:

Resolution No. 260104: Resolution Recognizing and honoring February 20, 2026, as “Love Your Pet Day” in the City of Philadelphia

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

Councilmember Bass called up:

Resolution No. 260105: Resolution

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

Councilmember Bass called up:

Resolution No. 260106: Resolution Honoring Bishop J. Louis Felton from The Mt. Airy Church of God in Christ for his extraordinary lifetime of service, leadership, and lasting contributions to the spiritual, civic, and social well-being of the City of Philadelphia during Black History Month

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

Councilmember Ahmad called up:

Resolution No. 260107: Resolution Recognizing February 17, 2026, as the Lunar New Year and celebrating the cultural and historical significance of Philadelphia’s Asian American and Pacific Islander communities.

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

SPECIAL BUSINESS

There was no Special Business today.

SPEECHES

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Councilmember O'Rourke, Councilmember Phillips, Councilmember Young, Councilmember Bass, Councilmember Harrity, Councilmember Ahmad, Councilmember Lozada, Councilmember Landau, Councilmember Young, and Councilmember Thomas

SEE NOTES OF TESTIMONY FROM STATED MEETING OF THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2026.

ADJOURNMENT

COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS MOVED TO ADJOURN

until Thursday February 19, 2026 at 10:00 AM.

THE MOTION WAS DULY SECONDED AND AGREED TO.