

City of Philadelphia



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

(Resolution No. 050148)

RESOLUTION

Authorizing City Council's Committee on Transportation and Public Utilities to hold public hearings to investigate the operations of CSX Transportation [CSXT] in and around the City of Philadelphia and their impact on the public health, safety and welfare of the residents of Philadelphia, and authorizing the issuance of subpoenas by the chair of the committee to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents to the full extent authorized under Section 2-401 of the Home Rule Charter.

WHEREAS, This Council, by Resolution No. 041090 (adopted on December 16, 2004), has publicly deplored the efforts by CSXT to deprive Philadelphians of public access to one of the City's treasures, the Schuylkill River Park and its trails through a misguided lawsuit and also deplored CSXT's contempt for the City as demonstrated by its refusal to promptly and appropriately repair its structural supports and bridge over 25th Street and by its practice of parking trains filled with noxious garbage along side the Fidler Square neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, CSXT transports extremely toxic chemicals throughout its rail network in the Northeast, including on tracks through the City of Philadelphia, placing the residents of Philadelphia at grave peril. Just last month, a train derailment ruptured a Norfolk Southern tank car and unleashed a choking cloud of caustic chlorine gas near the small town of Graniteville, S.C., killing nine people and injuring 250; and

WHEREAS, Terrorists targeting train cars carrying hazardous cargos could turn CSXT trains into weapons of mass destruction, leading to the death of 100,000 Philadelphia residents within a half an hour; and

WHEREAS, Washington, DC has recently passed legislation prohibiting CSXT from transporting hazardous materials through the downtown areas of the District of Columbia in an effort to protect the nation's capitol from terrorism; now therefore be it

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RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, That the Committee on Transportation and Public Utilities is hereby authorized to hold public hearings to investigate the operations of CSXT Transportation in and around the City of Philadelphia and their impact on the public health, safety and welfare of the residents of Philadelphia, and authorizes the issuance of subpoenas by the chair of the committee to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents to the full extent authorized under Section 2-401 of the Home Rule Charter.

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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 seventeenth of February, 2005.

Anna C. Verna
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Patricia Rafferty
CHIEF CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Introduced by: Councilmember Nutter for Council President Verna

Sponsored by: Council President Verna, Councilmembers Nutter, Clarke, Kelly and Rizzo