

JOURNAL OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF PHILADELPHIA



Thursday, February 20, 2025

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

EXCUSED: 1 - Councilmember Harrity

Council met, a quorum being present.

Archbishop Mary Palmer, Presiding Prelate of the Philadelphia Council of Clergy, was introduced and offered an appropriate prayer.

COUNCILMEMBER BASS MOVED TO APPROVE THE JOURNAL

of the meeting of Thursday, February 13, 2025

THE MOTION WAS DULY SECONDED AND AGREED TO.

LEAVES OF ABSENCE

Councilmember Harrity

THE REQUEST WAS GRANTED.

COMMUNICATIONS

Transmitting a Resolution authorizing the Philadelphia Land Bank to dispose of 1124 S 56th Street located in the 3rd Councilmanic District in accordance with the terms of Chapter 16-700 of The Philadelphia Code. (File No. 250145)

THE COMMUNICATION WAS READ AND FILED.

Transmitting a Resolution authorizing the Philadelphia Land Bank to dispose of 623 Rear N 55th Street located in the 4th Councilmanic District in accordance with the terms of Chapter 16-700 of The Philadelphia Code. (File No. 250146)

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THE COMMUNICATION WAS READ AND FILED.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

Bill No. 250123: An Ordinance Amending Section 6-503 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled "Licenses and Permits," to provide for the suspension of licenses for businesses not in compliance with applicable state regulations and/or whose physical layout significantly differs from the originally approved floor plan, all under certain terms and conditions.

THE BILL WAS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON LICENSES AND INSPECTIONS.

Councilmember Phillips Introduced and Ordered Placed on This Week's Final Passage Calendar the following Resolution for Council President Johnson, Sponsored by Councilmembers Phillips, Ahmad, Bass, Brooks, Driscoll, Gauthier, Gilmore Richardson, Jones, Landau, Lozada, O'Neill, O'Rourke, Thomas and Young:

Resolution No. 250124: Resolution Commending and recognizing NFL Hall of Famer Merrill Reese for his nearly fifty-year career as the voice of the Philadelphia Eagles and his exceptional contributions to broadcasting in sports.

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

Resolution No. 250125: Resolution Condemning President Donald J. Trump for moving our nation closer to a constitutional crisis by likening himself to, and acting like, a king.

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

Resolution No. 250126: Resolution Authorizing the Committee on the Environment to conduct a hearing to evaluate progress on the implementation of the Philly Tree Plan, determine how to expedite progress and what, if any, additional policies might promote the City's sustainable greening goals.

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

Resolution No. 250127: Resolution Authorizing the Philadelphia Land Bank to

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dispose of 623 Rear N 55th Street located in the 4th Councilmanic District in accordance with the terms of Chapter 16-700 of The Philadelphia Code.

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

Resolution No. 250128: Resolution Recognizing February 20th, 2025 as World Day of Social Justice in the City of Philadelphia.

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

Resolution No. 250129: Resolution Honoring the Life and Legacy of legendary jazz host Bob Perkins

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

Resolution No. 250130: Resolution Condemning the unconstitutional actions taken by the Department of Government Efficiency to dismantle the federal government.

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

Resolution No. 250131: Resolution Recognizing and celebrating Queen Judith Robinson for her tireless advocacy, insistence on being heard, and for her work to amplify voices of communities in North Philadelphia for the benefit of the entire City of Philadelphia, on the occasion of Black History Month.

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

Resolution No. 250132: Resolution Celebrating and commending Martha Williams for her commitment to her communities, family and people across Philadelphia, and for her insistence on seeing the humanity of people who are incarcerated, on the occasion of Black History Month.

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

Resolution No. 250133: Resolution Honoring and celebrating Patricia “Mama Patt” Vickers for her work to love and care for people across Philadelphia, her commitment to justice, and her resolve to reduce the suffering of incarcerated people, on the occasion of Black History Month.

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

Resolution No. 250134: Resolution Celebrating and recognizing Sandra “Nan” Hill for her relentless work to improve the lives of people around her and to recognize the dignity of every person, particularly people who are incarcerated, on the occasion of Black History Month.

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

Resolution No. 250135: Resolution Honoring and celebrating Yvonne Newkirk as a pillar of her community for her relentless work to improve the lives and protect the dignity of people who are incarcerated across Pennsylvania, on the occasion of Black History Month.

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

Resolution No. 250136: Resolution Honoring and celebrating the life of Brenda Harris, one of the Founding Members of the Coalition to Abolish Death By Incarceration (CADBI), and a Black woman whose profound love of her communities improved the lives of her neighbors and people across Philadelphia, on the occasion of Black History Month.

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

Resolution No. 250137: Resolution Celebrating and honoring Lorraine “Mrs. Dee Dee” Haw for her constant pursuit of justice, her ability to speak truth to power across Philadelphia and Pennsylvania, and for her infinite love for the people and communities around her, on the occasion of Black History Month.

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

Resolution No. 250138: Resolution Calling on Immigration and Customs Enforcement to immediately release Sereyrath “One” Van from Moshannon Valley Processing Center and calling on Philadelphia’s Members of the United States Congress to champion welcoming immigration policies in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and to recognize Philadelphia as a City of second chances, especially for formerly incarcerated non-citizens.

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

Resolution No. 250139: Resolution Honoring the public servants at the local, state, and federal level who made the unforgettable Eagles Super Bowl Parade possible and recognizing all public servants for their dedication to the communities they serve.

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

Resolution No. 250140: Resolution Honoring and recognizing the Tesla Science Foundation (TSF) by declaring February 24th 2025 “Tesla Science Foundation Day” in the City of Philadelphia, celebrating the work of TSF in cultivating scientific innovation and advancing the legacy of Nikola Tesla in the City of Philadelphia.

Councilmember Squilla Introduced and Ordered Placed on This Week's Final Passage Calendar the following Resolution for Council President Johnson, Sponsored by Councilmembers Squilla, Ahmad, Bass, Brooks, Driscoll, Gauthier, Gilmore Richardson, Jones, Landau, Lozada, O'Neill, O'Rourke, Phillips, Thomas and Young:

Resolution No. 250141: Resolution Calling for the preservation of the University of the Arts' Hamilton Hall and Furness Hall as vital spaces for the arts in the City of Philadelphia.

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

Resolution No. 250142: Resolution Recognizing Friday, February 21, 2025, as International Mother Language Day to honor the brave souls who, on this day in 1952, sacrificed their lives to retain the right to use their mother language Bangla also known as Bengali.

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

Resolution No. 250143: Resolution Authorizing the Philadelphia Land Bank to dispose of 4701 Sansom Street located in the 3rd Councilmanic District in accordance with the terms of Chapter 16-700 of The Philadelphia Code.

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

Resolution No. 250144: Resolution Authorizing the Philadelphia Land Bank to

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dispose of 1124 S 56th Street located in the 3rd Councilmanic District in accordance with the terms of Chapter 16-700 of The Philadelphia Code.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

There were no reports from Committees.

CONSIDERATION OF THE CALENDAR

PUBLIC COMMENT

Coach Jade Roane 241097
Head Coach Gene Faust 241097
Kate Perez 240427
Dana Lomax-Biker Brooks Resolution
Sean Damon Brooks Resolution
Saleem Holbrook Brooks Resolution
Nathaniel Grimes Brooks Resolution
Abul Hafiz Ahmad Resolution
Lynn Landes 240665
Jeremy Blatstein 240427
Ashley Redfearn Driscoll Resolution
David Jenkins Alexander 240304-A
Muti Aju Amu Osaboro 240304-A
Ogbonna Hagins 241097
Keith Crippen 241097

SEE NOTES OF TESTIMONY FOR FULL COMMENT FROM STATED MEETING OF THURSDAY,
FEBRUARY 20, 2025.

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 AND RESOLUTIONS ON FINAL PASSAGE

Councilmember Bass called up:

Resolution No. 241097: Resolution Honoring the Simon Gratz High School Football Team for winning the 2024 Public League Championship and celebrating their resilience and excellence.

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

RESOLUTIONS

Councilmember Phillips called up:

Resolution No. 250124: Resolution Commending and recognizing NFL Hall of Famer Merrill Reese for his nearly fifty-year career as the voice of the Philadelphia Eagles and his exceptional contributions to broadcasting in sports.

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

Councilmember Gauthier called up:

Resolution No. 250126: Resolution Authorizing the Committee on the Environment to conduct a hearing to evaluate progress on the implementation of the Philly Tree Plan, determine how to expedite progress and what, if any, additional policies might promote the City's sustainable greening goals.

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

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Councilmember Landau called up:

Resolution No. 250128: Resolution Recognizing February 20th, 2025 as World Day of Social Justice in the City of Philadelphia.

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

Councilmember Young called up:

Resolution No. 250129: Resolution Honoring the Life and Legacy of legendary jazz host Bob Perkins

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

Councilmember Brooks called up:

Resolution No. 250131: Resolution Recognizing and celebrating Queen Judith Robinson for her tireless advocacy, insistence on being heard, and for her work to amplify voices of communities in North Philadelphia for the benefit of the entire City of Philadelphia, on the occasion of Black History Month.

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

Councilmember Brooks called up:

Resolution No. 250132: Resolution Celebrating and commending Martha Williams for her commitment to her communities, family and people across Philadelphia, and for her insistence on seeing the humanity of people who are incarcerated, on the occasion of Black History Month.

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

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Resolution No. 250133: Resolution Honoring and celebrating Patricia “Mama Patt” Vickers for her work to love and care for people across Philadelphia, her commitment to justice, and her resolve to reduce the suffering of incarcerated people, on the occasion of Black History Month.

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Councilmember Brooks called up:

Resolution No. 250134: Resolution Celebrating and recognizing Sandra “Nan” Hill for her relentless work to improve the lives of people around her and to recognize the

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dignity of every person, particularly people who are incarcerated, on the occasion of Black History Month.

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

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THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

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Resolution No. 250137: Resolution Celebrating and honoring Lorraine “Mrs. Dee Dee” Haw for her constant pursuit of justice, her ability to speak truth to power across Philadelphia and Pennsylvania, and for her infinite love for the people and communities around her, on the occasion of Black History Month.

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

Councilmember O'Rourke called up:

Resolution No. 250139: Resolution Honoring the public servants at the local, state, and federal level who made the unforgettable Eagles Super Bowl Parade possible and recognizing all public servants for their dedication to the communities they serve.

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

Councilmember Driscoll called up:

Resolution No. 250140: Resolution Honoring and recognizing the Tesla Science Foundation (TSF) by declaring February 24th 2025 “Tesla Science Foundation Day”

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in the City of Philadelphia, celebrating the work of TSF in cultivating scientific innovation and advancing the legacy of Nikola Tesla in the City of Philadelphia.

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

Councilmember Squilla called up:

Resolution No. 250141: Resolution Calling for the preservation of the University of the Arts' Hamilton Hall and Furness Hall as vital spaces for the arts in the City of Philadelphia.

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

Councilmember Ahmad called up:

Resolution No. 250142: Resolution Recognizing Friday, February 21, 2025, as International Mother Language Day to honor the brave souls who, on this day in 1952, sacrificed their lives to retain the right to use their mother language Bangla also known as Bengali.

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

SPEECHES

Councilmember Brooks, Councilmember O'Rourke, Councilmember Gilmore Richardson, Councilmember Thomas, Councilmember Bass, Councilmember Gauthier, Councilmember Ahmad, Councilmember Young, Councilmember Lozada, Councilmember Phillips, Councilmember Landau, and Councilmember Squilla.

SEE NOTES OF TESTIMONY FROM STATED MEETING OF THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2025.

ADJOURNMENT

COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS MOVED TO ADJOURN

to Thursday February 27, 2025.

THE MOTION WAS DULY SECONDED AND AGREED TO.