

City of Philadelphia



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

(Resolution No. 040076)

RESOLUTION

Authorizing the Council Committee of the Whole to hold hearings on the findings and recommendations of the Tax Reform Commission's final report, released on November 15, 2003; and, further authorizing the Committee to seek advice and recommendations on tax policy and tax reform from citizens, financial experts, economists, academia, business executives, and state legislative and executive branch officials.

WHEREAS, City Council is the body authorized by the City Charter to levy taxes and to legislatively determine the rates of such taxes; and

WHEREAS, City Council must be prepared to analyze, evaluate, and make decisions on future tax policy and its impact on the overall general fund budget, the five-year fiscal plan, the delivery of City services, and the business climate of our City; and

WHEREAS, Despite moving from fiscal crisis to regular budgetary surpluses and after small-scale tax reductions, Philadelphia's population loss continued throughout the 1990s and Philadelphia has continuously lagged behind the nation, the Greater Philadelphia Region, and competitor cities in terms of economic growth; and

WHEREAS, The current tax structure presents a competitive disadvantage as the pull exerted by all that the City has to offer is offset by the push of exorbitant taxes that provide a reason for residents and businesses not to locate within the City; and

WHEREAS, There was submitted for the approval or disapproval of the qualified electors of the City of Philadelphia at the election held November 5, 2002, an amendment to the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter relating to the creation, appointment, powers, and duties of a Philadelphia Tax Reform Commission, as ordained by The Council of the City of Philadelphia; and

WHEREAS, In November 2002, 170,000 voters in Philadelphia, with a margin of four-to-one, supported the creation of the first independent Tax Reform Commission in Philadelphia's history; and

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WHEREAS, The Tax Reform Commission's 15 Commissioners and 23 Advisory Committee members spent 10 months, 10,000 hours, and \$500,000 taxpayer dollars conducting a comprehensive review of the City's tax structure; and

WHEREAS, The Tax Reform Commission released its final report on November 15, 2003; and

WHEREAS, On January 22, 2004, all bills that were included in Volume II of the Tax Reform Commission's final report were introduced in City Council as a legislative package that the Commission believes is "the best way to reduce Philadelphia's tax burden, create a fair tax system, and improve the local economy"; and

WHEREAS, It is in the interest of this Council to reduce taxes of Philadelphia residents, workers, and businesses in an equitable manner; reform the tax structure to enhance and improve the City's ability to compete with other jurisdictions in the region and throughout the nation in attracting new residents, businesses, and jobs and retaining current residents, businesses, and jobs; and provide tax fairness and tax equity in apportioning tax burdens; now therefore

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, That the Council Committee of the Whole to hold hearings on the findings and recommendations of the Tax Reform Commission; and, further authorizing the Committee to seek advice and recommendations on tax policy and tax reform from citizens, financial experts, economists, academia, business executives, and state legislative and executive branch officials.

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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 twenty-ninth of January, 2004.

Anna C. Verna
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Patricia Rafferty
CHIEF CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Introduced by: Councilmembers Tasco, Nutter and Goode

Sponsored by: Councilmembers Tasco, Nutter, Goode, DiCicco, Reynolds Brown, Rizzo, Council President Verna, Miller, Ramos, Clarke, Kenney and Krajewski