

Legislation Text

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Authorizing City Council Public Safety Committee to conduct Public Hearings to investigate the "Sinking Homes" problem, affecting residents in the Feltonville section of the City of Philadelphia.

WHEREAS, For several years residents of the Feltonville community have registered complaints and expressed concern with regard to the safety and structural integrity of their homes which are situated on or near the reclaimed valley of the Wingohocking Creek; and

WHEREAS, The City of Philadelphia, through Senator Arlen Specter, Senator Rick Santorum, U.S. Representative Robert Brady, has requested the assistance of the US Army Corps of Engineers to investigate the problem; and

WHEREAS, On July, 2000 the Army Corps of Engineers issued it's Logan (Feltonville) Sinking Homes Study including findings that "portions of the Feltonville section of Philadelphia are situated on the reclaimed valley of the former Wingohocking Creek that has been filled in with miscellaneous fill including ash and cinders." It was further noted that many buildings in the area are "experiencing significant stress and are progressively becoming more unstable with time" due to the differential settlement of the fill; and

WHEREAS, The Army Corps of Engineers' Feltonville report, recommends further investigation and monitoring of the problem including an immediate inspection of the sewer, water and natural gas infrastructure and a detailed structural inspection of the homes located in the affected areas; and

WHEREAS, The Feltonville sinking homes problem is historically rooted to diverted creeks and streams and may be eligible for assistance under the Southeastern Pennsylvania Environmental Assistance Program, Section 566 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996; and

WHEREAS, The magnitude of the Feltonville "Sinking Homes" problem may require the condemnation of homes, the relocation of residents and repairs to utilizes and street infrastructures and is beyond scope of resolution by homeowners without government intervention and assistance; and

WHEREAS, A substantial number of families in the Feltonville community are currently living in unsafe structures which poses a threat to public safety; now therefore

RESOLVED, THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, Authorizes the City Council Public Safety Committee to conduct public hearings to investigate, evaluate the progress and plans made by the City of Philadelphia pursuant to the resolution of the "Feltonville Sinking Homes" problem.