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COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

STATED MEETING

The Met Philadelphia
858 North Broad Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
January 6, 2020
10:02 a.m.

PRESENT:

COUNCIL PRESIDENT DARRELL L. CLARKE
COUNCILWOMAN CINDY BASS
COUNCILWOMAN KENDRA BROOKS
COUNCILMAN ALLAN DOMB
COUNCILWOMAN JAMIE GAUTHIER
COUNCILWOMAN KATHERINE GILMORE RICHARDSON

COUNCILMAN DEREK S. GREEN

14 COUNCILWOMAN HELEN GYM

COUNCILMAN BOBBY HENON

15 COUNCILMAN KENYATTA JOHNSON

COUNCILMAN CURTIS JONES, JR.

16 COUNCILMAN DAVID OH

COUNCILMAN BRIAN J. O'NEILL

17 COUNCILWOMAN CHERELLE L. PARKER

COUNCILWOMAN MARIA D. QUINONES-SANCHEZ

18 COUNCILMAN MARK SQUILLA

COUNCILMAN ISAIAH THOMAS

19

20

MICHAEL A. DECKER, CHIEF CLERK

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MR. TALIAFERRO: Ladies and gentlemen, please be seated. Welcome to the investiture of members of Council, the organization of the City Council, the inauguration of the Honorable James F. Kenney as Mayor, and the investiture of members of the Judiciary, City Commissioners, Sheriff, and Register of Wills.

We ask that you please silence all digital communicative devices, all cell phones for the remainder of the

ceremony. Thank you.

Ladies and gentlemen, please rise and bow your heads for the invocation given by Monsignor Daniel Sullivan from the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

MONSIGNOR SULLIVAN: Let us pray.

Mighty and eternal God, you have revealed your glory to all the nations. God of power and might, wisdom and justice, through you authority is

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rightly administered, laws are enacted, and judgment is decreed.

We pray today for James Kenney, Mayor of the City of Philadelphia. We pray for our City Council, the judges, and all elected officials who are entrusted to guard our welfare. May they be enabled by your powerful protection to discharge their duties with honesty and ability.

May they all seek to preserve peace, promote the common good, continue

14 to bring us the blessings of liberty and

15 equality.

16 We likewise remember in prayer

17 all of those who support the cause of our

18 common good. We pray for our police

19 officers, firefighters, and first

20 responders, whose sole mission is to make

21 Philadelphia our home, a place where all

22 of us can enjoy and share the many

23 blessings with which you have gifted us.

24 Today also we commend to your

25 powerful mercy all the citizens of the

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United States. May we be preserved in union and in peace and gratefully share these blessings with all of our sisters and brothers throughout the world.

Be with us, Lord, today and always.

Amen.

(Amen.)

MR. TALIAFERRO: Ladies and gentlemen, please remain standing as the Philadelphia Police and Fire Departments and the Prison System guards present the

colors, while the Philadelphia Boys Choir and Chorale lead us in singing the National Anthem.

(Colors are presented and the National Anthem sung.)

MR. TALIAFERRO: Ladies and gentlemen, you may now be seated.

And now citizens and friends, please welcome City Council President, the Honorable Darrell L. Clarke, to the podium.

(Applause.)

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COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good morning.

(Good morning.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: We can do better than that. I know there's a little Eagles hangover, but it's all good. They'll be back next year.

So I'd just like to thank everybody so much for being here today to welcome you to the inaugural proceedings for the investiture of City Council, the inauguration of the Mayor, and the

14 induction of the Judiciary and other

15 elected officials.

16 Our special guests joining us

17 today are Monsignor Daniel Sullivan, the

18 Reverend John Roberts, Reverend Martini

19 Shaw, Imam Muhammad Abdul-Aleem, Reverend

20 Naomi Washington-Leapheart, Rabbi Jill

21 Maderer, former Mayor John Street, my

22 mentor, former Mayor Bill Green, former

23 Mayor W. Wilson Goode, Congressman

24 Brendan Boyle, former Congressman Robert

25 Brady, the Honorable Rosalyn Robinson,

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and the Honorable Kevin Dougherty and the Honorable Patrick Dugan and the Honorable Carolyn Nichols.

I also wish to acknowledge the elected officials joining us in the audience today as well as members of the Honorary Inaugural Committee.

This being the day fixed by the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter for the organization of the Council of the City of Philadelphia, the hour has arrived, and we will now proceed with the

organization of Council and the investiture of Councilmembers.

The first order of business will be the election of a temporary chairperson. Nominations are now in order, and the Chair recognizes Councilman Henon.

COUNCILMAN HENON: Thank you, Mr. President. I nominate Councilwoman Cherelle Parker.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The Chair now recognizes Councilman Squilla.

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COUNCILMAN SQUILLA:

Mr. President, I second the nomination.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Are there any other further nominations?

(No response.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Hearing none, the Chair recognizes Councilman Domb.

COUNCILMAN DOMB: Mr. President, I move the nominations be closed.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The

14 Chair thanks the gentleman.

15 The Chair now recognizes

16 Councilman Green.

17 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Mr.

18 President, I second that motion.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: All

20 in favor of the motion say aye.

21 (Aye.)

22 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

23 Those opposed, nay.

24 (No response.)

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The

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ayes have it, and the nominations are closed. There being no further nominations, all in favor of the election of Councilwoman Parker will say aye.

(Aye.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Those opposed?

(No response.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The ayes have it, and Councilwoman Parker has been duly elected temporary Chairperson.

Councilwoman.

14 (Applause.)

15 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Thank

16 you. Thank you, Councilman Clarke.

17 As the first order of business,

18 I appoint Mr. Michael Decker temporary

19 Clerk.

20 I will also at this time remind

21 all Bible holders to please follow the

22 program and make your way to the stage at

23 the appropriate time.

24 The next order of business is

25 the filing of the certificates of

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election. The Clerk will call the roll.

I direct the Clerk to call the roll

beginning with the

Councilpersons-at-large in alphabetical

order and then to proceed with the

District Councilpersons in order of their

district, beginning with the First

District.

CHIEF CLERK: Ms. Kendra

Brooks.

COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: Present.

CHIEF CLERK: Mr. Allan Domb.

14 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Present.

15 CHIEF CLERK: Ms. Katherine

16 Gilmore Richardson.

17 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON:

18 Present.

19 CHIEF CLERK: Mr. Derek Green.

20 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Present.

21 CHIEF CLERK: Ms. Helen Gym.

22 COUNCILWOMAN GYM: Present.

23 CHIEF CLERK: Mr. David Oh.

24 COUNCILMAN OH: Present.

25 CHIEF CLERK: Mr. Isaiah

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Thomas.

COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Present.

CHIEF CLERK: Mr. Mark Squilla.

COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Present.

CHIEF CLERK: Mr. Kenyatta

Johnson.

COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Present.

CHIEF CLERK: Ms. Jamie

Gauthier.

COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:

Present.

CHIEF CLERK: Mr. Curtis Jones,

14 Jr.

15 COUNCILMAN JONES: Present.

16 CHIEF CLERK: Mr. Darrell

17 Clarke.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

19 Present.

20 CHIEF CLERK: Mr. Bobby Henon.

21 COUNCILMAN HENON: Present.

22 CHIEF CLERK: Ms. Maria

23 Quinones-Sanchez.

24 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ:

25 Presente.

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CHIEF CLERK: Ms. Cindy Bass.

COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Present.

CHIEF CLERK: Ms. Cherelle Parker.

COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Present.

CHIEF CLERK: Mr. Brian O'Neill.

COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Present.

CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman Parker, a quorum of the members-elect is present, and I have in my possession certificates of election from the County

14 Board of Elections in Philadelphia

15 indicating their election on November

16 5th, 2019 for a term of four years,

17 commencing the first Monday of January

18 2020.

19 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Thank

20 you.

21 The investiture of members of

22 Council will now proceed. The

23 members-elect will rise to take the oath

24 of office, which will be administered by

25 the Honorable Kevin Dougherty, Justice of

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the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.

(Applause.)

JUSTICE DOUGHERTY: Will each member please rise. Place your left hand on the Bible, raise your right hand, and repeat after me.

(Oath of office administered.)

JUSTICE DOUGHERTY: Congratulations.

(Applause.)

COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: The next order of business is the election of a

14 President of the City Council for

15 Philadelphia to serve for four years,

16 commencing January 6th, 2020.

17 Nominations are now in order,

18 and the Chair recognizes Councilwoman

19 Gilmore Richardson.

20 COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: I

21 proudly and with great honor nominate

22 Darrell L. Clarke.

23 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Y'all can

24 clap.

25 (Applause.)

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COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Thank you.

At this time, the Chair recognizes Councilman Thomas.

COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Madam Chair, I second the nomination.

COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Are there any further nominations?

(No response.)

COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Hearing none, the Chair recognizes Councilwoman Gauthier.

14 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Madam

15 Chair, I move the nominations be closed.

16 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: The Chair

17 recognizes Councilwoman Brooks.

18 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: Madam

19 Chair, I second that motion.

20 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: All in

21 favor will say aye.

22 (Aye.)

23 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Those

24 opposed, nay.

25 (No response.)

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COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: There being no further nominations, all those in favor of the election of the Honorable Darrell L. Clarke as President of the City Council of Philadelphia will say aye.

(Aye.)

COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Those opposed, nay.

(No response.)

COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: The ayes have it. However, the temporary Clerk

14 will call the roll.

15 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman

16 Bass.

17 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Aye.

18 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman

19 Brooks.

20 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: Aye.

21 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Domb.

22 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Aye.

23 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman

24 Gauthier.

25 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Aye.

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CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman Gilmore Richardson.

COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Aye.

CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Green.

COUNCILMAN GREEN: Aye.

CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman Gym.

COUNCILWOMAN GYM: Aye.

CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Henon.

COUNCILMAN HENON: Aye.

CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Johnson.

COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Aye.

CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Jones.

COUNCILMAN JONES: Aye.

CHIEF CLERK: Councilman O'Neill.

COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Aye.

CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Oh.

COUNCILMAN OH: Aye.

CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman Parker.

COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Aye.

CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman Quinones-Sanchez.

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COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Aye.

CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Squilla.

COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Aye.

CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Thomas.

COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Aye.

CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Clarke.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Aye.

COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: The ayes are 17 and the nays are zero. Councilman

14 Clarke, having been unanimously chosen by

15 the members of Council, I declare that

16 Councilman Clarke is the duly elected

17 President of this body.

18 Let's give our President a

19 round of applause.

20 (Applause.)

21 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: I appoint

22 Councilwoman Gym, Councilman Jones,

23 Councilman Johnson, and Councilwoman Bass

24 to escort Council President Clarke to the

25 rostrum. And joining Council President

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at the rostrum will be Nita Wroten.

The oath of office will be

administered by the Honorable Rosalyn

Robinson, Judge of the Court of Common

Pleas.

(Applause.)

JUDGE ROBINSON: Place your

left hand on the Bible and raise your

right hand and repeat after me.

(Oath of office administered.)

JUDGE ROBINSON:

Congratulations.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

15 Thank you.

16 (Applause.)

17 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: It is my

18 honor and my privilege to present to each

19 of you President of the City Council of

20 Philadelphia, the Honorable Darrell L.

21 Clarke.

22 (Applause.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good

24 morning.

25 (Good morning.)

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2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: It's

3 an exciting day, and this will be an

4 exciting year.

5 I want to thank everybody who

6 has come here today for the investiture

7 and the organization of City Council.

8 This is truly democracy in action, and I

9 hope that you find today not only a

10 pleasurable one but an interesting one,

11 and it will be that.

12 We are proud to bring this

13 inauguration to The Met Philadelphia for

14 the first time and celebrate the

15 continuation of the North Broad Street

16 Renaissance.

17 (Applause.)

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Its

19 Chair, Ken Scott, sitting right in front

20 of me.

21 They strategically placed you,

22 Ken. I asked that to be done.

23 So before we begin, I just want

24 to take one moment to express my sincere

25 gratitude and appreciation to four very

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2 special people not only to me but of all

3 of us, Councilmembers who are concluding

4 their term. They leave a legacy that

5 will be truly written in stone -

6 Councilman Bill Greenlee, Councilwoman

7 Blondell Reynolds Brown, Councilmember Al

8 Taubenberger, and Council Lady Jannie

9 Blackwell.

10 Let's give them a hand.

11 (Applause.)

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: They

13 were awesome.

14 And to the newest members, you

15 got some pretty big shoes to fill. So I

16 want to acknowledge the four newly

17 elected members being sworn in today -

18 Councilwoman Kathy Gilmore Richardson.

19 (Applause.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

21 Councilwoman Kendra Brooks.

22 (Applause.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

24 Councilwoman, I see you brought the crowd

25 that you had at your inauguration party

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Saturday night.

And Councilwoman Jamie

Gauthier.

(Applause.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: And

probably the only person that I can't

beat in basketball on the stage,

Councilman Isaiah Thomas.

(Applause.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

Lastly, I just want to say it is truly an

honor to have allowed me and a privilege

14 to have served as your Council President

15 for the last four years. I want to thank

16 my members for again giving me this

17 awesome opportunity. You guys, thank you

18 all so much. We look forward to

19 continuing some very good things for the

20 City of Philadelphia. So to all of you,

21 thank you so much.

22 (Applause.)

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Now

24 the work begins.

25 So four years ago, I stood on

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2 stage at the last inauguration and I made

3 a number of pledges as we sought new ways

4 to grow our city's economy while helping

5 more Philadelphians participate in that

6 growth, and we made some progress.

7 I said we would unveil a

8 comprehensive energy strategy to help

9 homeowners, businesses, City government

10 increase efficiencies, reduce costs, and

11 create 10,000 jobs over the next decade.

12 And I got kicked three, four times by my

13 staff that said, Darrell, what in the

14 world are you saying.

15 But I meant it. No, we didn't

16 get 10,000 new jobs yet, but I'm happy to

17 say that with the Philadelphia Energy

18 Authority and the Office of

19 Sustainability of Philadelphia, we have

20 more than 1,000 new jobs in the very,

21 very awesome energy-efficient projects

22 coming on board.

23 (Applause.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: More

25 Philadelphians have actually installed

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solar systems in their homes, and over $100 million has been invested by companies and government agencies to retrofit their buildings to become more energy efficient.

Our comprehensive energy strategy is saving energy, reducing utility costs and, more importantly, creating jobs.

We promise to continue our efforts to ensure equitable growth throughout Philadelphia and make sure

14 every neighborhood is a community of

15 choice. That is very important.

16 And while we have made much

17 progress, we still have much more work to

18 do.

19 Our Philly First Home

20 initiative -- this was really, really a

21 special program, which provides one-time

22 grants to help first-time homebuyers

23 afford the down payment and closing costs

24 of their home -- is working extremely

25 well. And if anybody bought a home

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recently, you understand what a challenge

that is.

So as a result of that, in six

months, this program has helped nearly

900 homebuyers achieve their dream of the

most significant investment in one's

lifetime, buying a home in the City of

Philadelphia.

(Applause.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: This

program is also helping to stabilize our

middle neighborhoods and returning money

14 to the City.

15 Now, frequently we spend money,

16 and it doesn't necessarily come back. In

17 this program, in return of 8 million in

18 grants, the City actually realized $4.5

19 million to the City in real estate

20 transfer tax. That's nearly a 60 percent

21 return on investment. That's a win-win

22 for everybody.

23 But this is no time to rest on

24 our laurels. We must build on all of the

25 positive momentum happening in

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2 Philadelphia, particularly in our

3 downtown area. From the Comcast

4 Technology Center to the FMC Tower in

5 West Philly, our skyline is growing, our

6 economy is booming. Look out, New York,

7 we're coming for you.

8 (Applause.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Our

10 world-class academic institutions -

11 Temple, Penn, Drexel, La Salle, and St.

12 Joe's - are producing thousands of

13 college graduates, ready to take on the

14 world, and increasingly these graduates

15 are staying in Philly, drawn to our

16 neighborhoods, our affordability, our

17 vibrant arts and culture, and restaurant

18 scene that continues to grow.

19 That momentum is real, and we

20 should take a moment to celebrate it.

21 But this is not the only story

22 happening in the City of Philadelphia.

23 We also are home to 400,000 people living

24 in poverty. I want you to take that in

25 for a moment. That's one in every four

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2 person in the City that's living at or

3 below the poverty rate that is hovering

4 around 24 percent.

5 That's unacceptable to me, and

6 I assume that it's unacceptable to all of

7 you in this room.

8 So City Council took its first

9 steps to address the significant problem.

10 Council released a report. It's called

11 Narrowing the Gap. You can go to

12 phlcouncil.com, a shameless plug, to look

13 at that document, and it talks about

14 strategies aimed at alleviating poverty

15 in the City, and it utilizes best

16 practices from around the country and

17 around the globe.

18 Next, Council created a Special

19 Committee on Poverty Reduction and

20 Prevention, and we put top people in

21 charge - Councilmember Quinones-Sanchez,

22 Eva Gladstein of the Kenney

23 Administration, Sharmain Matlock Turner

24 of the Urban Affairs Coalition, and my

25 good friend, Mel Wells of One Day At A

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Time.

This past fall, the Special Committee met at City Hall and in neighborhoods around Philadelphia, hundreds of citizens and stakeholders participating, lending their best ideas to create jobs and develop additional strategies.

I want you to get this next one. Philadelphians are currently eligible for over $450 million in federal and state benefits. That's $450 million.

14 But for various reasons, they're not

15 receiving those benefits. We're working

16 with experts to develop an actionable,

17 and I say actionable plan, to get these

18 benefits to eligible Philadelphians.

19 Can you imagine the impact on

20 poverty when we obtain several hundred

21 million dollars in benefits for

22 Philadelphians? It will be significant.

23 Soon the Special Committee will

24 meet again to issue a complete set of

25 actionable recommendations for the City

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to help lift 100,000 people out of poverty by 2024, and we believe in setting goals.

As I like to say, in the 1960s -- and I'm not sure I was around then. Somebody told me about it. I know folks will be on that Twitter trying to figure out how old is this guy.

Our country, we rallied together to send a man to the moon, and everyone - academics, engineers, political leaders, everybody - worked

14 together and America achieved its

15 moonshot.

16 This is our city's moonshot.

17 We must resolve this very, very troubling

18 problem.

19 So I'm calling on everyone -

20 the business community, our top

21 universities, colleges, non-profit

22 organizations, City government, and all

23 of our citizens - to work together to

24 achieve this goal. That's an effort

25 worthy of a world-class city.

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2 And that is just the beginning

3 of what we can do and must do working

4 together.

5 So last year much attention was

6 paid to the City's effort to attract

7 Amazon to Philadelphia. And we didn't

8 win; they made a mistake. But we did

9 learn what happens when the business

10 community and local government works

11 together. Philadelphia and Pennsylvania

12 put together a very competitive bid for

13 Amazon. And you know what? We didn't

14 get it, but it taught us a lot.

15 We need to keep working

16 collaboratively - the Mayor's Office, the

17 City Council, the business community, the

18 Chamber of Commerce, our academic and

19 non-profit leaders - to attract more

20 companies and jobs to the City of

21 Philadelphia.

22 And we may not have gotten

23 Amazon, actually No. 5 on the Fortune 500

24 list, but why can't we work together and

25 attract companies from the Fortune 1,000

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2 list? That will be a goal.

3 (Applause.)

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: And

5 one good example is our growing

6 healthcare sector. Companies like

7 Independence Blue Cross, Penn Medicine,

8 Temple Health all employ thousands of

9 people in Philadelphia. But what about

10 all of the other companies emerging in

11 the biosciences and life sciences field?

12 This is what we need to do, go

13 aggressively. As aggressively as we went

14 after Amazon, we should go aggressively

15 after those particular fields.

16 So we need to work together,

17 and it means jobs and opportunity for all

18 of our citizens.

19 So while we're talking about

20 collaboration, I want to do this. Let's

21 put to rest once and for all any notion

22 that City Council is somehow

23 anti-business.

24 City Council represents a wide

25 array of constituencies, from domestic

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2 workers to the largest corporations in

3 the City. Every constituency deserves

4 equity and fairness under the law, and

5 Council works to balance those interests

6 every day in each bill or piece of

7 legislation that we introduce. That is

8 our job.

9 We are for workers and we are

10 for job-creating companies and for equity

11 and opportunity for every individual and

12 industry in the City.

13 So when we work together, we

14 achieve these goals. When we stand

15 divided, we achieve none of them.

16 Our recent reform to the City's

17 tax abatement is a good example. And I

18 had to bring up something controversial

19 today, because it's in my nature.

20 So some stakeholders wanted us

21 to take no action to reform the abatement

22 program, and it's credited with helping

23 to ignite a building boom in the last

24 decade in the City of Philadelphia that

25 was unprecedented. And other

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stakeholders wanted us to do away with it in its entirety.

But what Council did was get to work. Our staff carefully studied the history and the impact of the abatement, and in the end, we altered the abatement for new residential construction over the next decade, and we project that it will generate over $300 million in additional revenues for our public school and essential City services. We kept the abatement in place for commercial

14 activity, because that creates jobs.

15 So we did the appropriate

16 balancing act and we made sure that we

17 continue to be competitive. So that's

18 what we do when we work together.

19 So as we focus on an economic

20 agenda that creates good-paying jobs for

21 everyone in our City, we must also pay

22 attention to a growing gap between the

23 jobs created by our technology economy

24 and the skills possessed by our adults in

25 our city.

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This skills gap is one of the many issues associated with income inequality in Philadelphia, and we must narrow that skills gap.

We need more adult education classes and curriculum for citizens across our city. The Community College of Philadelphia is playing a role, but we need more access to classrooms for adults who want to work but need to learn the skills to get the technology and healthcare jobs of today.

14 On a recent trip to Baltimore,

15 I met with Mayor Young and I learned what

16 they're doing on this particular issue.

17 By the end of the year, 75 percent of

18 Baltimore's public schools will be

19 community schools, and over half of them

20 offer robust financial literacy, job

21 training, and workforce development for

22 adults living in that neighborhood.

23 That's important.

24 Our expansion of community

25 schools in Philadelphia is encouraging,

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2 and I want to thank the Mayor.

3 Mayor, thank you so much, from

4 that time we rode on that little

5 rickety -- I don't know what you call it,

6 on that river in Cincinnati when we saw

7 the first community school and we were

8 holding our breath. Thank you for

9 keeping your commitment for this

10 community school initiative. We really

11 appreciate that.

12 (Applause.)

13 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: And

14 another issue that arises from a lack of

15 economic opportunity is crime. And

16 although violent crime declined slightly

17 in Philadelphia last year, unfortunately

18 shootings and homicides did not.

19 More than 100 people, 100

20 people younger than the age of 18, were

21 shot in 2019. We're talking toddlers,

22 we're talking children, we're talking

23 infants. That is totally unacceptable.

24 So Council has done a few

25 things, but we're going to need all of

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2 you. Council has taken action to protect

3 our citizens, prohibiting guns at

4 playgrounds, making it more difficult to

5 allow individuals who have protection

6 orders to get weapons. We funded, with

7 the Administration, a significant amount,

8 millions of dollars, to ensure that we

9 have violence prevention programs in the

10 City of Philadelphia, meaningful

11 programs. And, most importantly, in

12 2020, we will support our new police

13 commissioner, Danielle Outlaw.

(Applause.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: But as she said herself last week, she cannot do this alone. She needs all of our help. We need all of your help. So together we can make our neighborhoods safer, but we must work together.

These issues all intersect with each other, 400,000 people living in poverty, a growing skills gap for people who want to work but they lack the skills needed in today's economy, a lack of

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hope, too many guns on our street, too many people willing to use them.

So to every citizen out there watching this inauguration who might think cynically that nothing will ever change, I simply say this: There is nothing we cannot achieve if we work together.

Working together, we can lift 100,000 people out of poverty.

Working together, we can create access to adult education that narrows

14 the skills gap and helps individuals get

15 on track to find jobs paying a living

16 wage.

17 Working together, we can

18 support our new police commissioner and

19 her efforts to reform our criminal system

20 and make all of our neighborhoods safer

21 for all our citizens.

22 Let that be our moonshot.

23 Now, I'm not suggesting the

24 challenges that lie ahead are easy. I am

25 saying that solving these problems is

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2 essential to our future as a city that

3 serves every citizen in the City of

4 Philadelphia.

5 President Obama said this --

6 man, do I miss him, I'm telling you.

7 (Applause.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: I'm

9 talking about changing something to allow

10 a third term. Oh, my God.

11 I'm sorry. I'm going off

12 script. I couldn't help it.

13 So when you think about the

14 challenges we face -- this is what

15 President Obama said -- these are

16 challenges that require us to look

17 forward, not backwards. That's

18 important. You got to look forward.

19 So let's look forward and craft

20 solutions that make Philadelphia a more

21 thriving, inclusive, and a safer city for

22 everyone.

23 So today I want to thank

24 everyone who has come to The Met

25 Philadelphia, North Broad Street, right

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in the heart of North Philadelphia for this awesome inauguration, and I want to thank all of you for continuing to love our City of Philadelphia.

God bless you all. Thank you so much.

(Applause.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

Thank you. Thank you. Now back to business.

The next order of business is the election of the Chief Clerk of the

14 Council of the City of Philadelphia.

15 Nominations are now in order, and the

16 Chair recognizes Councilman O'Neill.

17 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Thank you,

18 Mr. President. I nominate Mr. Michael

19 Decker.

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The

21 Chair thanks the Councilman.

22 And the Chair recognizes

23 Councilwoman Gym.

24 COUNCILWOMAN GYM:

25 Mr. President, I second that nomination.

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COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

Thank you, Councilwoman.

Are there any further

nominations?

(No response.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

Hearing none, the Chair recognizes

Councilman Johnson.

COUNCILMAN JOHNSON:

Mr. President, I move that the

nominations be closed.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

Thank you, Councilman.

The Chair recognizes

Councilwoman Bass.

COUNCILWOMAN BASS:

Mr. President, I second the motion.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

Thank you, Councilwoman.

It's been moved and properly

seconded that the nominations be closed.

All those in favor of that

motion will say aye.

(Aye.)

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COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

Those opposed?

(No response.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The ayes have it, and the motion is carried. There being no further nominations, all in favor of the election of Mr. Decker as Chief Clerk of the Council will say aye.

(Aye.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

Those opposed?

(No response.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The

15 ayes have it. However, the Chief Clerk

16 will call the roll.

17 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman

18 Bass.

19 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Aye.

20 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman

21 Brooks.

22 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: Aye.

23 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Domb.

24 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Aye.

25 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman

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Gauthier.

COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Aye.

CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman

Gilmore Richardson.

COUNCILWOMAN RICHARDSON: Aye.

CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Green.

COUNCILMAN GREEN: Aye.

CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman Gym.

COUNCILWOMAN GYM: Aye.

CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Henon.

COUNCILMAN HENON: Aye.

CHIEF CLERK: Councilman

14 Johnson.

15 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Aye.

16 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Jones.

17 COUNCILMAN JONES: Aye.

18 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman

19 O'Neill.

20 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Aye.

21 CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Oh.

22 COUNCILMAN OH: Aye.

23 CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman

24 Parker.

25 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Aye.

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CHIEF CLERK: Councilwoman Quinones-Sanchez.

COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Aye.

CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Squilla.

COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Aye.

CHIEF CLERK: Councilman Thomas.

COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Aye.

CHIEF CLERK: Council President Clarke.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Aye.

14 The ayes are 17; the nays are

15 zero. Mr. Decker, having received a

16 unanimous vote of the members of Council,

17 I now declare Mr. Michael Decker duly

18 elected Chief Clerk of the City Council

19 of Philadelphia.

20 (Applause.)

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

22 Councilman Squilla and Councilman Oh will

23 please escort Mr. Decker to the rostrum.

24 The Honorable Judge Dougherty will

25 administer the oath of office to

1/6/20 - STATED MEETING

Mr. Decker.

JUSTICE DOUGHERTY: Mr. Decker, place your left hand on your Bible, raise your right hand, repeat after me.

(Oath of office administered.)

JUSTICE DOUGHERTY: Congratulations, sir.

(Applause.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you.

Mr. Decker, I see you were a little slow on the draw. You got all

14 choked up from that nomination. It's all

15 good.

16 Mr. Decker is an awesome

17 fixture in the City Council of

18 Philadelphia.

19 (Applause.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: At

21 this time, I will name the officers of

22 the City Council. Please be advised that

23 by a vote of the democratic members of

24 Council, the Honorable Cherelle Parker

25 was elected Majority Leader, the

1 1/6/20 - STATED MEETING

2 Honorable Curtis Jones, Jr. was elected

3 Majority Whip, and the Honorable Mark

4 Squilla was elected Majority Deputy Whip

5 of the Council.

6 (Applause.)

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

8 Thank you.

9 The next order of business is

10 the introduction of a resolution

11 concerning the rules of government of the

12 Council of the City of Philadelphia, and

13 the Chair recognizes Councilwoman

14 Quinones-Sanchez.

15 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank

16 you, Mr. President. I offer the

17 following resolution.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The

19 Chief Clerk will read the title of the

20 resolution.

21 CHIEF CLERK: A resolution to

22 provide rules for the government of the

23 Council of the City of Philadelphia.

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The

25 Chair recognizes Councilman Jones.

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COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you, Mr. President. I move that the rules, as set forth in this resolution, be adopted the temporary rules of the Council of the City of Philadelphia until the permanent rules are adopted.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you. The Chair thanks the Councilman.

The Chair recognizes Councilman Henon.

COUNCILMAN HENON: Thank you,

14 Mr. President. I second that motion.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: All

16 in favor of the motion will say aye.

17 (Aye.)

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

19 Those opposed?

20 (No response.)

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The

22 ayes have it, and the motion is carried

23 and the rules contained in this

24 resolution have been adopted temporarily.

25 The resolution will be placed on the

1/6/20 - STATED MEETING

Final Passage Calendar for consideration at our next session of Council.

The organization of the Council of the City of Philadelphia and the investiture of the City Council members are complete, in accordance with the provisions of the Home Rule Charter.

The Council is honored by the presence of the Reverend John Roberts. I ask you all please to rise, and I invite Reverend Roberts to lead us in prayer, my minister, Reverend Roberts.

14 REVEREND ROBERTS: The Bible

15 says any two touching in the green asking

16 anything in his name, that he would do

17 it.

18 I want to ask that you will

19 take your neighbor by the hand.

20 Our Heavenly Father, we thank

21 you again for not only did you wake us

22 up, but you helped us to get up. You

23 gave us a portion of health and strength

24 where we were able to bathe ourselves and

25 put our own clothes on without any

1/6/20 - STATED MEETING

assistance. And you brought us safely to this place on today.

I ask now that you would bless everyone under the sound of my voice. Thank you for our President of City Council, my brother and friend, Darrell Clarke, for those that will be working along with him in City Council.

I pray now even for the great Mayor of this city and all the elected officials that I know. Thank you so much for bringing us together.

14 You are a God who cares about

15 all of us, because all lives matter to

16 you.

17 Now, if you bless us, we'll be

18 blessed. If you help us, we'll be

19 helped. If you touch us, we'll be

20 healed.

21 Bless this day and make us a

22 blessing to the day, for you said in your

23 word how good and how pleasant it is for

24 brethren to dwell together in unity. For

25 united we stand, but divided we fall.

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Now we ask, oh God, that you would bless all of us today. Give us wisdom and knowledge and understanding, these great leaders of this city. You said in your word that when the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice, but when the wicked rule, the people mourn.

Wipe the tears away. Put rejoicing down in our hearts and in our souls for these great leaders of this great City of Brotherly Love and Sisterly Affection.

I ask that you would do this, bind us together, make us one in the spirit.

We ask this in Jesus' name. And as always, Lord, thank you for listening.

Amen.

(Amen.)

(Applause.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

Thank you, Reverend Roberts.

At this time, I invite the

1 1/6/20 - STATED MEETING

2 Saint Thomas Gospel Choir to perform

3 "This is the Day." The choir is directed

4 by Walt Blocker.

5 Saint Thomas Choir.

6 (Saint Thomas Gospel Choir

7 performs.)

8 (Applause.)

9 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: All

10 right. That's right. I heard that.

11 So today we are also honored by

12 the presence of the Reverend Martini

13 Shaw. Before we proceed with the

14 induction of the Mayor of the City of

15 Philadelphia, I invite Reverend Shaw to

16 lead us in prayer.

17 REVEREND SHAW: Let us pray.

18 Almighty and eternal God, the

19 God of Abraham, Isaac, Rebecca, Sarah,

20 Muhammad, and Jesus, this morning, oh

21 Lord, we give you thanks, we give you

22 praise, we give you honor as we lift in

23 prayer our beloved and diverse City of

24 Philadelphia, a city founded and grounded

25 in both brotherly love and sisterly

1 1/6/20 - STATED MEETING

2 affection.

3 As we begin this new year of

4 2020, we pray for unity where there is

5 division and separation. We pray for

6 peace where there is discord and turmoil.

7 We pray for love where there is hatred

8 and antipathy. We pray for light where

9 there is darkness and uncertainty. We

10 pray for order where there is disorder

11 and chaos. We pray for justice where

12 there is injustice and inequality. We

13 pray for healing where there is sickness,

pain, and suffering. We pray for joy

where there is sadness and despair. We

pray for the eradication of all forms of

racism and sexism and ageism. We pray

for an end to xenophobia, homophobia, and

all other phobias that divide and plague

our city and poison our nation.

We pray that we may strive for

justice and peace among all people and

respect the dignity of every human being.

Unite us, oh Lord, that we may be more

loving and compassionate, more giving and

1 1/6/20 - STATED MEETING

2 welcoming, that we may be a haven of your

3 blessings.

4 And, oh Lord, bless our Mayor,

5 bless our City Council, bless all those

6 elected to public office that they may

7 serve with integrity, dignity, and

8 faithfulness.

9 May the spirit of brotherly

10 love and sisterly affection always guide

11 our thoughts and inform our actions.

12 In the name of the omnificent,

13 omniscient, and omnipresent God who is

14 able to do exceedingly and abundantly

15 above all that we can ask or imagine,

16 Lord, hear our prayer.

17 Amen.

18 (Amen.)

19 (Applause.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

21 Thank you so much, Reverend.

22 We will now proceed with the

23 induction of the Mayor of the City of

24 Philadelphia. The Chair appoints

25 Councilman Green, Councilman O'Neill,

1/6/20 - STATED MEETING

Councilwoman Quinones-Sanchez, and Councilman Oh to escort the Honorable James F. Kenney, Mayor of the City of Philadelphia, to the rostrum. The Chair also invites Mrs. Barbara Kenney to join him at the podium.

The Chief Clerk will read the certificate of election of the Honorable James F. Kenney as the Mayor of the City of Philadelphia.

CHIEF CLERK: Jim Kenney, at an election held November 5, 2019, you were

14 duly elected Mayor of the City of

15 Philadelphia for a four-year term,

16 commencing the first Monday of January

17 2020.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The

19 Honorable Kevin Dougherty, Justice of the

20 Pennsylvania Supreme Court, will

21 administer the oath of office to the

22 Mayor.

23 JUSTICE DOUGHERTY: Place your

24 left hand on the Bible, raise your right

25 hand.

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(Oath of office administered.)

JUSTICE DOUGHERTY:

Congratulations, Mr. Mayor.

(Standing ovation.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

Thank you.

The members of City Council, reverend clergy, elected officials, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, I have the distinct honor to present to you His Honor, the Mayor of the City of Philadelphia, the Honorable

14 James F. Kenney.

15 (Applause.)

16 MAYOR KENNEY: Good morning.

17 (Good morning.)

18 MAYOR KENNEY: I want to begin

19 by thanking my family for their support,

20 especially my mother, Barbara.

21 I want to take a moment to

22 honor my father who is no longer with us,

23 but is still by my side today and every

24 day.

25 (Applause.)

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MAYOR KENNEY: I want to thank Council President Clarke and my friends in City Council for having me, as after all, this is your Council session.

I want to specifically congratulate the new members of City Council. This new generation of thoughtful, conscientious leaders will help make this city a better place for decades to come.

I congratulate our distinguished judges, our City

14 Commissioners, Sheriff Bilal, and

15 Register of Wills Gordon on taking their

16 oaths of office today.

17 I want to acknowledge former

18 Mayor Goode and Mayor Green, also Mayor

19 Street, Congressman Boyle, Councilman

20 Evans, also Councilman Brady, and I want

21 to recognize the members of our

22 Administration who are here and the many

23 more who are working throughout the City

24 right now. Whether they're sanitation

25 workers out in the cold making sure our

1 1/6/20 - STATED MEETING

2 streets are clean or police officers and

3 firefighters racing to save someone's

4 lives, it's these individuals who make

5 this city run, and we owe them all of our

6 thanks.

7 (Applause.)

8 MAYOR KENNEY: It has been a

9 real honor to serve as your Mayor these

10 last four years, and I'm very grateful to

11 have earned another term to build on that

12 progress that we've made together.

13 In 2016, we embarked on a

14 mission to tackle some of Philadelphia's

15 biggest challenges - a struggling public

16 education system, an inequitable criminal

17 justice system, intergenerational

18 poverty, record-setting public health

19 crises, and much more.

20 Our goal was clear - to

21 increase equity and opportunity so all

22 Philadelphians, regardless of their zip

23 code, can reach their potential and lead

24 fulfilling lives.

25 We've been driven by our

1 1/6/20 - STATED MEETING

2 guiding principles of courage,

3 compassion, and collaboration.

4 Courage to do what is hard,

5 compassion to always put our most needy

6 people first, and collaboration because

7 we know that making real impact is only

8 possible when we work alongside residents

9 and have partnerships that span the

10 public, private, and non-profit sectors

11 of our city.

12 Over the last four years, we

13 have made significant progress.

14 Philadelphia is a dynamic, diverse city

15 with a strong economy. Our job growth

16 outpaces the national average.

17 Unemployment and poverty are at their

18 lowest rates in a decade. Our reputation

19 as a welcoming city fuels population

20 growth, and overall our neighborhood

21 schools are improving.

22 Think for a second about how

23 just several years ago few could have

24 imagined us gathered here today in this

25 century-old, brilliant, ornate building

1 1/6/20 - STATED MEETING

2 which was held together for years only

3 through the valiant work of the Holy

4 Ghost Church community. And I thank them

5 for saving this building.

6 (Applause.)

7 MAYOR KENNEY: Now this venue

8 serves as an anchor of the renaissance

9 underway here on North Broad Street. And

10 it's symbolic of the renewed energy that

11 is happening on many of our commercial

12 corridors.

13 Yet despite this progress, we

14 know that huge challenges remain. These

15 challenges are grounded in economic and

16 racial inequality that have been building

17 for decades.

18 We must continue to confront

19 our greatest challenges and capitalize on

20 new opportunities with the courage,

21 conviction, and resilience that we as

22 Philadelphians possess.

23 I know it's possible because I

24 have seen it firsthand. I've seen it

25 through the eyes of our three- and

1 1/6/20 - STATED MEETING

2 four-year-old children who are

3 experiencing a nurturing and rigorous

4 learning environment of our City-funded

5 pre-K programs.

6 I've seen it in the faces of

7 families whose lives have been changed

8 forever because we were able to help them

9 buy their first home.

10 And over the past four years,

11 I've seen it at countless community

12 meetings, rallies, marches, and festivals

13 where residents from diverse backgrounds

14 and neighborhoods gather to voice

15 concerns, fight for causes, enjoy our

16 amenities, and celebrate all that makes

17 Philadelphia unique.

18 Today we'll release a report

19 that outlines our renewed priorities for

20 this next term. There are five key areas

21 where we plan to focus our energies.

22 First, and let me be very

23 clear, nothing is more important to our

24 Administration than creating a safer and

25 more just city for all of us.

1 1/6/20 - STATED MEETING

2 It's no secret that the hardest

3 part of this job for me has been

4 addressing the senseless and unspeakable

5 violence that happens on our streets

6 every day.

7 Talking to moms and dads,

8 brothers and sisters, aunts and uncles of

9 the young men and women cut down on the

10 streets of Philadelphia has left deep

11 scars on our communities and, frankly, on

12 me personally also.

13 These young people, like little

14 Nikolette Rivera, who was murdered in her

15 living room this past October as she was

16 held in her mother's arms, will never

17 meet their potential, a loss that impacts

18 all of us in this room and every single

19 Philadelphian.

20 And it will take all of us

21 working together to make the progress we

22 know is possible.

23 Our Administration will deploy

24 every tool and resource at our disposal

25 to make sure more families do not suffer

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the same fate.

We are committed to reducing shootings and homicides and fighting for commonsense gun control so these tragedies can end once and for all.

(Applause.)

MAYOR KENNEY: Along with our new Police Commissioner, Danielle Outlaw, we will transform community relations and make the reforms necessary to restore trust and accountability between the Department and its residents, especially

14 in black and brown communities.

15 (Applause.)

16 MAYOR KENNEY: While most

17 police officers perform their duties with

18 compassion and integrity, those who fail

19 to meet the standards of professional

20 conduct or demonstrate racist or sexist

21 behaviors must and will be held

22 accountable.

23 (Applause.)

24 MAYOR KENNEY: All the while,

25 we will implement with urgency our

1 1/6/20 - STATED MEETING

2 violence prevention strategy, the

3 Philadelphia Roadmap to Safer

4 Communities, which combines proven

5 data-driven and community-informed

6 approaches that have successfully reduced

7 violence in other major cities.

8 And we'll continue to partner

9 with grassroots community groups each

10 step of the way, because those closest to

11 the challenges often have the best

12 solutions.

13 Since 2015, we have been taking

14 a comprehensive approach to criminal

15 justice reform to safely reduce our

16 prison population and to close the House

17 of Correction.

18 (Applause.)

19 MAYOR KENNEY: A century-old

20 dungeon that was a constant reminder of

21 what mass incarceration really looks

22 like.

23 As a result, 3,000 fewer

24 Philadelphians are behind bars. And we

25 closed that prison ahead of schedule.

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(Applause.)

MAYOR KENNEY: We will continue this work to reduce our jail population, focusing on reducing racial and ethnic disparities that persist in our system.

(Applause.)

MAYOR KENNEY: Next, to ensure our young people reach their full potential, we must follow the rest of the civilized world and make the investments necessary to improve the quality of education available to all of our kids.

14 (Applause.)

15 MAYOR KENNEY: This isn't just

16 the right thing to do. Our city's future

17 depends on it.

18 For years, we watched as the

19 School District of Philadelphia was cut

20 to the bone, with significant capital

21 investments trimmed, nurses, counselors,

22 and librarians let go, and barely enough

23 money to keep the lights on.

24 But it's a new era, and we will

25 not fail another generation of our

1/6/20 - STATED MEETING

children.

(Applause.)

MAYOR KENNEY: Together we regained control of our schools by establishing a local Board of Education, and we matched it with more, along with Council, with more than a billion dollars in City funding.

Now is the time to deliver on the promise of local control. This means working with the District and Harrisburg to prioritize investments to ensure all

14 our kids and school staff have safe and

15 welcoming facilities equipped with modern

16 technology.

17 It means that all students are

18 exposed to career-connected activities so

19 they're actually prepared for college and

20 careers.

21 (Applause.)

22 MAYOR KENNEY: It means our

23 dynamic teachers are properly supported

24 so they can set high standards for

25 student success.

1 1/6/20 - STATED MEETING

2 And fulfilling the promise of

3 local control means greater access to

4 quality supportive services so children

5 and families' social, behavioral, and

6 health needs are met.

7 Over the next four years, we'll

8 continue growing our City-led PHLpreK,

9 community schools, and out of school time

10 initiatives that have become lifelines

11 for students and their families.

12 We'll drastically expand

13 behavioral health supports across all

14 schools.

15 (Applause.)

16 MAYOR KENNEY: Building on this

17 success, we will create a new Office of

18 Children and Families and a Children and

19 Families Cabinet charged with working

20 across City departments to ensure that

21 all policies, resources, and services for

22 children and families are aligned,

23 coordinated, and developed in close

24 partnership with the School District of

25 Philadelphia.

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(Applause.)

MAYOR KENNEY: In the second term, we will also tackle new education priorities like working with the Community College of Philadelphia to help more high school students transition to college and allow for more to attend CCP tuition free so they can successfully graduate.

(Applause.)

MAYOR KENNEY: In Philadelphia and across the nation, the rising cost of

14 higher education and childcare as well as

15 food insecurity and spiraling student

16 debt is harming too many students'

17 ability to graduate. And I know this

18 keeps many parents and students awake at

19 night.

20 Yet if Philadelphia is to be a

21 talent magnet for new companies and serve

22 the rapidly changing needs of our labor

23 market, we must do more to help residents

24 gain a credential or post-secondary

25 degree.

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That is why our Administration will be focused on creating a more accessible and affordable Community College for Philadelphians.

(Applause.)

MAYOR KENNEY: Last year we asked City residents to rate our services and tell us their priorities.

Overwhelmingly people were most concerned with the condition of our streets. So let me say that we've heard you loud and clear, and making our streets safer and

14 cleaner will be another major priority.

15 (Applause.)

16 MAYOR KENNEY: You're welcome.

17 We've made tremendous progress

18 with a $200 million capital investment

19 for repaving, and we've more than doubled

20 the miles of streets paved since the year

21 2015. But we still have a long way to

22 go.

23 This term we will return our

24 roads to a state of good repair and

25 ensure that all users of our roadways are

1 1/6/20 - STATED MEETING

2 safer by adding 40 miles of protected

3 bike lanes.

4 (Applause.)

5 MAYOR KENNEY: And we will

6 support SEPTA's ambitious redesign of the

7 bus network so that Philadelphians can

8 more quickly and efficiently get to their

9 jobs and other places.

10 (Applause.)

11 MAYOR KENNEY: And for cleaner

12 streets, we will continue to ramp up

13 illegal dumping enforcement and build on

14 our successful street sweeping pilot

15 program by expanding street cleaning to

16 every neighborhood and commercial

17 corridor by the year 2023.

18 (Applause.)

19 MAYOR KENNEY: Yes, you heard

20 that right, every neighborhood, which

21 will even require folks to move their

22 cars.

23 (Applause.)

24 MAYOR KENNEY: While we're

25 improving the condition of streets, we

1 1/6/20 - STATED MEETING

2 will also remain focused on creating

3 inclusive and resilient neighborhoods and

4 making sure that our economic growth

5 extends far beyond Center City.

6 We'll continue our historic

7 investments in housing affordability,

8 homeless services, and homeownership.

9 This will help stabilize Philadelphians

10 struggling amid poverty and grow our

11 middle class.

12 To gain quality jobs, we'll

13 increase entrepreneurial support for

14 businesses owned by people of color,

15 women, and immigrants.

16 (Applause.)

17 MAYOR KENNEY: And implement a

18 robust business and job growth strategy.

19 And we'll continue our

20 extensive efforts to save more lives from

21 the opioid overdose and help

22 neighborhoods like Kensington recover

23 from the traumatic toll the opioid crisis

24 has inflicted on our communities.

25 (Applause.)

1/6/20 - STATED MEETING

MAYOR KENNEY: The opioid crisis is a national epidemic, but it's clear to me that cities like ours are on the front line of this battle. We must step up to solve it, as we've been doing the past few years.

While some in Harrisburg and those working at the behest of the President are more concerned about scoring political points, we are focused on saving the souls suffering from addiction.

14 (Applause.)

15 MAYOR KENNEY: And, yes, that

16 means supporting the creation of overdose

17 prevention sites to save lives and give

18 more people an entry point to treatment.

19 (Applause.)

20 MAYOR KENNEY: And that's not

21 the only thing our city needs to lead on.

22 We will continue doing everything we can

23 to address the climate crisis by

24 delivering on the Paris Climate Agreement

25 and meeting our own ambitious climate

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2 goals.

3 (Applause.)

4 MAYOR KENNEY: Finally, to

5 restore equity to our neighborhoods,

6 we'll continue the phenomenal progress of

7 Rebuild by revitalizing 72 parks,

8 recreation centers, playgrounds, and

9 libraries.

10 (Applause.)

11 MAYOR KENNEY: After decades of

12 disinvestment, these public spaces are

13 finally getting the attention our

14 residents, especially our kids, deserve.

15 (Applause.)

16 MAYOR KENNEY: I'm extremely

17 grateful to everyone involved in Rebuild,

18 from the staff, non-profit partners,

19 diverse businesses, and apprentices who

20 are on their way to building careers in

21 the trades.

22 I also want to thank the

23 community members who participate in the

24 design process, funders like the fabulous

25 William Penn Foundation -- thank you so

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2 much -- and City Council for enacting the

3 beverage tax.

4 (Applause.)

5 MAYOR KENNEY: Got a hand for

6 the beverage tax.

7 And our last major priority

8 this term is grounded in our work to make

9 a more diverse, efficient, and effective

10 government that delivers better customer

11 service to residents and businesses.

12 We plan to look at every policy

13 and program through a racial equity lens

14 so we can better address the racial

15 disparities that have plagued communities

16 of color for far too long.

17 (Applause.)

18 MAYOR KENNEY: For example,

19 we'll reform burdensome fines and fees

20 and bring fairness to more residents, and

21 we'll provide more support to returning

22 citizens so they can contribute to our

23 society in a meaningful way.

24 (Applause.)

25 MAYOR KENNEY: We also plan to

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embed data, evaluation, and human-centered design in more City operations.

These are among the top priorities for this term, and everything we do, every policy, every program, aims to lift at least 100,000 Philadelphians out of poverty.

(Applause.)

MAYOR KENNEY: Our approach to reducing poverty focuses on providing support to those in need now, helping

14 Philadelphians raise their incomes, and

15 enacting policies and investments that

16 will break the cycle of intergenerational

17 poverty for good.

18 I want to again thank the

19 incredibly talented and dedicated members

20 of the cabinet and staff who have been

21 instrumental in pushing forward our

22 progressive agenda these past four years.

23 City government would not run

24 without the 30,000-plus public servants

25 who work on behalf of residents every

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day. No words can adequately express my appreciation for all of you. Thank you for showing up and doing the work with compassion and integrity.

And thank you to the residents of our great city who continue to voice their opinions and concerns and tell us what they want to see. We hear you.

As Mayor, I recognize that thousands of Philadelphia children are kept awake at night by difficult concerns that no child should bear - a parent

14 losing a job, an empty stomach,

15 overcrowded classrooms, or gunfire right

16 outside their window. It should not be

17 that way.

18 I want all Philadelphia

19 children to sleep soundly at night and

20 wake in the morning with the desire and a

21 quality education to go out and conquer

22 the world.

23 (Applause.)

24 MAYOR KENNEY: More than

25 anything else, that is the goal that will

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2 drive our Administration over the next

3 four years. And with your help, I'm

4 confident we can achieve it.

5 Thank you, God bless you, and

6 Happy New Year.

7 (Standing ovation.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

9 Thank you. Again, Mr. Mayor,

10 congratulations.

11 I now invite the Imam Muhammad

12 Abdul-Aleem to offer a prayer for the

13 City.

14 (Applause.)

15 IMAM ABDUL-ALEEM: Peace be

16 upon you and with God's name, the

17 merciful benefactor, the merciful

18 redeemer.

19 I'd like to begin this prayer

20 for the City. I want to make first a

21 comment that when I was given this

22 beautiful and very humbling opportunity,

23 I thought of a prayer that was given by

24 the great prophet Ibrahim, where he

25 prayed to God for a city of safety and

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2 security. So God willing, I want to

3 share with you some of the things that we

4 have written about in relationship to

5 those verses in the Quran, and I hope

6 that the invitation given by Council

7 President and our Mayor and City Council

8 that we will honor you giving us this

9 opportunity.

10 So this prayer is, our merciful

11 benefactor, our redeemer who opens for

12 all people a way to good conscience and a

13 good life.

14 Grant to the City that it may

15 continue to be a prosperous city and as

16 the people of faith taking pride in human

17 dignity, industry, and service.

18 Let us pray that this great

19 city pursuing liberty and justice in the

20 face of injustice be an inspiration to

21 other cities and to this nation to move

22 towards social and economic justice for

23 all.

24 Grant that this city always

25 have a heart for charity, compassion,

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repentance, and mercy for the weak and the less fortunate among us.

Grant that we as human beings always have more hope than trouble and ever-growing goodness and in wisdom.

Bless us to always cherish our freedom and the noble essence of our common human essence.

Grant that we, the citizens of this city, understand better our brothers and sisters in the City and around the world, and reject unsuitable racism for a

global community of brotherhood and peace.

Bring all our citizens, government, and members of all the branches of government together, those of great means and small means, to appreciate more our city's pledge of liberty, peace, and justice for all.

Bless all citizens. Share in the responsibility to make our city work for all of us.

Bless our homes and our

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2 schools. Bless the parish and our

3 troubled youth, our burdened

4 neighborhoods to never be without hope or

5 direction.

6 Bless marriage and family life

7 in our city. Bless us as citizens of

8 this great city to keep the best of our

9 ways. Bless us as citizens to live up to

10 the noble name of the City of Brotherly

11 Love and Sisterly Affection.

12 Bless us with the spirit of

13 love and unity as we work together to

make our city a shared freedom space.

Bless us in our neighborhoods

to return the neighbor back to the hood.

Bless us to establish the City

as the city of safety and security for

all citizens.

Bless us to have more pride in

industry and self-reliance.

Bless the workers of our city,

those in uniform and those not in

uniform.

Bless the efforts of this

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leadership body and all efforts to make progress for jobs and more opportunity for us in this great city for us.

Bless us to understand this great time in which we live, the time of the human being. Bless us to wake up to human life and stop the senseless violence that goes on in our neighborhoods.

Bless us to better appreciate the environment and our relationship to Mother Earth.

14 Bless our leaders with the

15 patience and the wisdom to lead us in

16 these challenging times. Increase our

17 elected officials - our Mayor, our City

18 Council President, every member of the

19 City Council, City Commissioners, the

20 Sheriff, the Register of Wills, and every

21 member of the justice system - with the

22 excellence of the human spirit and the

23 excellence of intellect of statesmen that

24 we may build a better world for us all.

25 Bless us to learn to live

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together as human beings in service to God.

Ameen.

(Applause.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: So to celebrate the inauguration of Mayor James F. Kenney, the Saint Thomas Gospel Choir will perform "Total Praise." The choir again is directed by Walt Blocker.

(Saint Thomas Gospel Choir performs.)

(Applause.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: I

15 know this event was free today, but that

16 was worth the price of admission.

17 (Applause.)

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

19 Thank you.

20 I now invite the Reverend Naomi

21 Washington-Leapheart to offer a reading

22 in celebration of the inauguration of

23 Mayor James F. Kenney.

24 (Applause.)

25 REVEREND WASHINGTON-LEAPHEART:

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2 Good morning.

3 (Good morning.)

4 REVEREND WASHINGTON-LEAPHEART:

5 It is my joy to serve the City as the

6 Director for Faith-Based and Interfaith

7 Affairs in the Mayor's Office of Public

8 Engagement, and it's my honor to this

9 morning offer a word of encouragement to

10 all of you as you begin this new term of

11 leadership and of service.

12 As I prepared for today, I

13 couldn't help but think about how this

14 date, January 6th, happens to connect to

15 another important celebration on my

16 religious calendar. Today many

17 Christians observe the holiday of

18 Epiphany. We call it Epiphany because

19 the word is derived from the Greek word

20 that means appearance.

21 On this day, we celebrates the

22 first time the divine presence physically

23 appeared to human beings.

24 According to our sacred text,

25 the clue that revealed the location of

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2 this divine presence was a star in the

3 night sky. In other words, an ordinary

4 light led the people to an extraordinary

5 light.

6 One of my spiritual practices

7 for Epiphany is to have someone else

8 choose for me something called a star

9 word. A star word is something that can

10 operate like a guiding light in my life

11 throughout the year, and my task is to

12 make sense of this word, this mysterious

13 word.

14 So I ask questions like what

15 does this word mean to me, how can it

16 reveal my direction, how can it reveal

17 what I'm supposed to do and be.

18 Well, I asked the same person

19 who chose my star word last year to send

20 me a list of star words, and this morning

21 I selected a star word for you, all of

22 you who are making a commitment to

23 leadership. Your star word is craft.

24 Craft.

25 Now, I don't know how this word

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2 will show up for you over and over this

3 year. I don't know how it will be a

4 guiding light to you. I don't know what

5 it might personally mean for you, but I

6 offer it to you today, craft.

7 Perhaps this word is inviting

8 you to approach your role or your

9 position or your task like a wood worker

10 approaches the delicate precise work of

11 making something out of a shapeless block

12 of wood.

13 Perhaps the word is inviting

you to let your imagination run free,

like a child who can take two and a half

crayons and some old-school Elmer's glue

and some orange M&Ms and create something

beautiful that you want to hang on your

refrigerator.

Perhaps this word is inviting

you to, like a chef, craft new recipes

for justice and wellness and wholeness

for the residents of this city, using

whatever we got in our cupboards to make

something good, something that will fill

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2 us up, something that won't leave us

3 hungry.

4 Perhaps this word is inviting

5 you to carve out of your schedules and

6 your workload time to rest, time to

7 refresh, time to be a full human being, a

8 partner, a parent, a family member, a

9 friend.

10 May you craft what you need to

11 be well.

12 Now, crafting is not easy, but

13 it is in some ways an element of the work

14 that you're vowing to do today. You are

15 crafting and creating all the time.

16 Leadership, as Nayyirah Waheed

17 would say, is flower work. She writes

18 this: Flower work is not easy.

19 Remaining soft in the fire takes time.

20 And so I leave you with the

21 word "craft." May it be your light. May

22 you know that sometimes leadership is

23 art, just like it's science. It is

24 always creating.

25 May leadership be for you a

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work of art, and may this word "craft" reveal to you what you need for this term of service.

And remember, lastly, that sometimes you will be someone else's star. So lead them to the light.

Congratulations to you all and God bless you.

(Applause.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

Thank you. Thank you so much, Reverend.

At this time, the Chair invites

14 the newly elected officials to take the

15 oath of office in the presence of the

16 Council, the Mayor, and other

17 dignitaries. Would the retention judges

18 of the Common Pleas Court please rise and

19 take the oath of office. The Clerk will

20 read the certificates of election for the

21 retention judges of the Court of Common

22 Pleas.

23 CHIEF CLERK: Ida Chen, Roxanne

24 E. Covington, Glynnis D. Hill, Karen

25 Shreeves-Johns, Diane R. Thompson, Donna

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2 M. Woelpper, and Sheila Woods-Skipper, at

3 an election held November 5, 2019, you

4 were duly retained Judge of the Court of

5 Common Pleas of Philadelphia County for a

6 ten-year term, commencing the first

7 Monday of January 2020.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

9 Thank you.

10 The Honorable Judge Dougherty

11 will administer the oath of office.

12 JUSTICE DOUGHERTY: To my

13 colleagues and friends, please put your

14 left hand on the Bible and raise your

15 right hand.

16 (Oath of office administered.)

17 JUSTICE DOUGHERTY:

18 Congratulations.

19 (Applause.)

20 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The

21 Chair now invites the newly elected

22 judges of the Common Pleas Court to

23 please rise and take the oath of office.

24 The Clerk will read the certificates of

25 election for the newly elected judges of

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2 the Court of Common Pleas.

3 CHIEF CLERK: Carmella

4 Jacquinto, Crystal B. Powell, at an

5 election held November 5, 2019, you were

6 duly elected Judge of the Court of Common

7 Pleas of Philadelphia County for a

8 ten-year term, commencing the first

9 Monday of January 2020.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: And

11 Judge Dougherty will --

12 JUSTICE DOUGHERTY: Welcome to

13 the First Judicial District.

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

15 Judge, please administer the oath of

16 office.

17 JUSTICE DOUGHERTY: Would you

18 please place your left hand on the Bible

19 and raise your right hand.

20 (Oath of office administered.)

21 JUSTICE DOUGHERTY:

22 Congratulations, Your Honors.

23 (Applause.)

24 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

25 Thank you.

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The Chair now invites the retention judges of the Municipal Court of Philadelphia to stand and take the oath of office. The Clerk will please read the certificates of election for the retention judges of the Municipal Court of Philadelphia.

CHIEF CLERK: Martin S. Coleman, Jacquelyn Frazier-Lyde, at an election held November 5, 2019, you were duly retained Judge of the Municipal Court of Philadelphia County for a

14 six-year term, commencing the first

15 Monday of January 2020.

16 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

17 Thank you.

18 The Honorable Patrick Dugan,

19 President Judge of the Philadelphia

20 Municipal Court, will administer the oath

21 of office.

22 JUDGE DUGAN: Please take your

23 Bibles in your left hands, raise your

24 right hands, and repeat after me.

25 (Oath of office administered.)

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JUDGE DUGAN: Congratulations, judges. Congratulations.

(Applause.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: The Chair now invites the City Commissioners to stand as their names are called. They are Lisa Deeley, Omar Sabir, and Al Schmidt. The Chief Clerk will now read the certificates of election for the City Commissioners.

CHIEF CLERK: Lisa Deeley, Omar Sabir, and Al Schmidt, at an election

14 held November 5, 2019, you were duly

15 elected City Commissioners of

16 Philadelphia County for a term of four

17 years, commencing the first Monday of

18 January 2020.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

20 Thank you.

21 The Honorable Carolyn Nichols,

22 Judge of the Pennsylvania Superior Court,

23 will administer the oath of office.

24 JUDGE NICHOLS: Please take

25 your Bible in your left hand and raise

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your right hand and repeat after me.

(Oath of office administered.)

JUDGE NICHOLS:

Congratulations.

(Applause.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

Congratulations.

The Chair invites the newly elected Sheriff of Philadelphia, Rochelle Bilal, to stand and take the oath of office. The Clerk will please read the certificate of election for the Sheriff

14 of Philadelphia.

15 CHIEF CLERK: Rochelle Bilal,

16 at an election held November 5, 2019, you

17 were duly elected Sheriff of the City of

18 Philadelphia for a four-year term,

19 commencing the first Monday of January

20 2020.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

22 Judge Carolyn Nichols will also

23 administer the oath of office.

24 JUDGE NICHOLS: All right.

25 Please place your left hand on the Bible

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2 and raise your right hand and repeat

3 after me.

4 (Oath of office administered.)

5 JUDGE NICHOLS:

6 Congratulations.

7 (Applause.)

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

9 Congratulations.

10 The Chair now invites Tracey

11 Gordon, Register of Wills, to stand to

12 take her oath of office. The Chief Clerk

13 will read the certificate of election for

14 the Register of Wills.

15 CHIEF CLERK: Tracey Gordon, at

16 an election held November 5, 2019, you

17 were duly elected Register of Wills of

18 the City of Philadelphia for a four-year

19 term, commencing the first Monday of

20 January 2020.

21 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

22 Judge Nichols will please administer the

23 oath of office.

24 JUDGE NICHOLS: Please place

25 your left hand on the Bible and raise

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your right hand, repeat after me.

(Oath of office administered.)

JUDGE NICHOLS:

Congratulations.

(Applause.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

Congratulations.

For our final musical selection

today, the Girard Academic Music Program

Concert Choir will perform "This is Me."

The choir is directed by Christina

Blankenship.

(Girard Academic Music Program Concert Choir performs.)

(Applause.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: That was truly lovely.

As we conclude the ceremony today -- before I say that, I'm not supposed to say this, that after the session today, there will be a lot of activities in City Hall, third, fourth, and fifth floor. The Councilmembers will be doing their thing.

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The reason why I wasn't supposed to announce it, because we only bought enough food for so many people. So it's first come, first served.

Also, I believe the Mayor has a concert tonight. Tickets are probably gone, but I'm saying it anyway.

So I want to thank the Inaugural Committee for their hard work for today's ceremony. I also want to thank our clergy members for being with us and offering their prayers for us and

for our city.

The Chair now invites Rabbi

Jill Maderer to give a final benediction,

and I ask that all members and guests

please stand for the benediction.

RABBI MADERER: Today, we who

call God many different names and we who

choose not to call to God at all, we

Jewish, Christian, Muslim, Hindu, and

Buddhist Philadelphians of diverse

neighborhoods, races, sexual

orientations, genders, countries of

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2 origin, and languages, today we honor

3 democracy, and we rededicate ourselves to

4 the preservation of democracy, our

5 democracy which is threatened with every

6 act of hate, every system of inequity,

7 every disrespect of difference.

8 This Hanukkah, heeding my

9 tradition's mandate to be public with my

10 faith, to be visible with my Judaism by

11 displaying the lights of the holiday, I

12 set my hanukkiah, my Hanukkah Menorah, in

13 the window just a few blocks from here.

14 Even amid a week of

15 anti-Semitic attacks, I had faith in my

16 neighbors and in their solidarity.

17 It is for all of us to create a

18 city where we have faith in one another,

19 where we stand with each other,

20 especially with our most vulnerable

21 populations, where we do not only defend

22 our own particular group but where we

23 stand with each other in solidarity.

24 Holy one of blessing, be with

25 our city's elected officials that they

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may stand with us. Give them the strength, vision, and courage to demonstrate again and again that the people can count on them. And give us the strength to demonstrate that our leaders can count on their citizens, that they can count on us.

God, be with us and inspire us to be with each other.

Amen.

(Amen.)

(Applause.)

14 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

15 Thank you, Rabbi Maderer.

16 Would the visitors and guests

17 kindly be seated for the conclusion of

18 the session.

19 The Chair now recognizes

20 Councilman Jones.

21 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,

22 Mr. President. I move that the Council

23 stand adjourned until Thursday, January

24 23rd, 10:00 a.m.

25 (Duly seconded.)