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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 402 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY TAYLOR, DONATUCCI, SONNEY, BISHOP, BENNINGHOFF, ROZZI, DUSH, REGAN, HENNESSEY, THOMAS, KIM, CONKLIN, PICKETT, HARKINS, FRANKEL, GREINER, QUIGLEY, BAKER, KIRKLAND, LONGIETTI, BOBACK, BARRAR, DIGIROLAMO, HELM, READSHAW, KILLION, BOYLE, McNEILL, HICKERNELL, C. PARKER, MILLARD, J. HARRIS, SCHLOSSBERG, CORBIN, V. BROWN, O'NEILL, SAMUELSON, HEFFLEY, YOUNGBLOOD, KINSEY, CALTAGIRONE, O'BRIEN, HARHART, KOTIK, COHEN, DAY, ROSS, KAUFFMAN, STAATS, DRISCOLL, MARSICO, W. KELLER, MURT, WHEELAND, MAJOR, GROVE, SANKEY, MAHONEY, COX, GOODMAN, A. HARRIS, PAYNE, BRIGGS, WHITE, MATZIE, M. K. KELLER, FARINA, DAVIDSON, GINGRICH, GILLEN, PHILLIPS-HILL, WATSON, WARD AND D. COSTA, JUNE 23, 2015

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
JUNE 23, 2015

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A RESOLUTION

1 Noting the timely and coordinated actions of emergency personnel  
2 and the Mayor of the City of Philadelphia following an Amtrak  
3 derailment in Port Richmond May 12, 2015, and praising the  
4 particular initiative of area residents and volunteers.

5 WHEREAS, Eight passengers lost their lives when the  
6 northbound Amtrak Northeast Regional Train 188 derailed at the  
7 Frankford Junction curve; and

8 WHEREAS, More than 200 survivors sustained injuries,  
9 including major trauma; and

10 WHEREAS, The nighttime, mass-casualty incident required a  
11 four-alarm response; and

12 WHEREAS, Workers and equipment were deployed and coordinated  
13 to locate the dead and evacuate the injured; and

1       WHEREAS, Downed power lines were disconnected, and train  
2 traffic was discontinued; and

3       WHEREAS, Multiple passenger cars had tipped, leaned or nearly  
4 overturned, presenting unique challenges for responders; and

5       WHEREAS, Telecommunications, lighting and technical rescue  
6 operations were key elements of the lifesaving effort; and

7       WHEREAS, Skilled emergency medical transportation, debris  
8 removal and cleanup were other essential services; and

9       WHEREAS, Police, including SEPTA Transit Police officers,  
10 Amtrak Police officers, Philadelphia Housing Authority Police  
11 officers and canine officers, were among the waves of  
12 responders; and

13       WHEREAS, Rescue teams, including members of Pennsylvania Task  
14 Force 1, and firefighters, including members of Philadelphia  
15 Fire Department Ladder 10 and Battalion 10, as well as medics  
16 and emergency management officials, worked to free survivors  
17 from the wreckage and clear the crash area; and

18       WHEREAS, Volunteer groups, including representatives of the  
19 American Red Cross, the Salvation Army and the Second Alarmers,  
20 provided support at emergency-related sites; and

21       WHEREAS, The Honorable Michael Nutter, Mayor of the City of  
22 Philadelphia, admirably led and coordinated city operations and  
23 interventions; and

24       WHEREAS, Mayor Nutter directed city resources to help crash-  
25 affected persons and advance recovery and cleanup; and

26       WHEREAS, Working with other officials, Mayor Nutter provided  
27 updates on casualties and accounted for each person on the  
28 Amtrak manifest; and

29       WHEREAS, Residents appeared at the scene to give bottled  
30 water and other support to emergency workers; and

1       WHEREAS, Other residents generously opened their homes for  
2 the benefit of responders and victims; and

3       WHEREAS, The House of Representatives salutes the training,  
4 professionalism and selflessness of all responders; and

5       WHEREAS, The House of Representatives further commends Mayor  
6 Nutter's distinguished leadership and the abundant community  
7 spirit engendered by this singular, tragic event; therefore be  
8 it

9       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives note the timely  
10 and coordinated actions of emergency personnel and the Mayor of  
11 the City of Philadelphia following an Amtrak derailment in Port  
12 Richmond May 12, 2015, and praise the particular initiative of  
13 area residents and volunteers; and be it further

14       RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to  
15 Mayor Michael Nutter at the Office of the Mayor, Room 215, City  
16 Hall, Philadelphia, PA 19107.