



Looking back on my first year in public office, I can certainly say it has been an eye-opening experience that has allowed me to see firsthand the difficult and challenging issues facing our city. Despite these challenges, the future of our city is bright and I am honored to be able to serve the citizens of Philadelphia and to help build upon the tremendous progress made in recent years. In order for us to build upon this progress, we must come together to successfully tackle some of our city's most pressing issues which include: obtaining additional funding necessary to address our climbing pension obligations, the need for modernization throughout city government, the state of our school system, hundreds of millions of dollars in accrued tax delinquencies, a consistently high poverty rate, inadequate resources and services for our homeless population and the lack of eligible Philadelphians benefiting from the Earned Income Tax Credit.

These are the very issues that guided my path while running for City Council and have dictated my priorities since I assumed office. One year later, and as my first year in public office comes to a close, there is no better time to take a look back at all the progress that has been made over this past year.

My First Year In Office (January 4, 2016 – January 4, 2017)

Delinquent Taxes. Increasing the City's collection of delinquent taxes and cleaning up our books has been my top priority. With approximately \$500 million owed in delinquent real estate taxes alone, (55 percent of which is owed to the Philadelphia School District) I am determined to continue helping the City find a better way to collect this money. As such, I requested that the National Tax Lien Association perform a feasibility study to determine whether Philadelphia would be successful in utilizing the Tax Lien Securitization Method most notably used by the City of New York. Given the study's favorable conclusions, in July I joined Mayor Kenney and Council President Clarke at a press conference announcing the issuance of a Request for Proposal (RFP) to determine the best way for the City to increase its delinquent tax collections. As my time in office continues, I look forward to working with my Council

colleagues and members of the Administration to make sure we collect every dollar owed to the City and to our School District.

The Earned Income Tax Credit. The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is widely believed to be the best way to pull the working poor out of poverty. With a poverty rate in Philadelphia of



approximately 26 percent and a deep poverty rate of about 12.9 percent, the EITC provides Federal money to all eligible Philadelphians. As with my campaign and now while being in office, I

have continued taking every opportunity to help promote the EITC. Last year, I teamed up with the City's Revenue Department, my Council colleagues and two non-profits, the Urban Affairs Coalition and the Campaign for

Working Families, to get the message out about the EITC. Additionally, I introduced and passed two Resolutions highlighting the benefits of the EITC and urging others to get the word out. With 40,000 eligible Philadelphians not receiving this credit we are leaving \$100 million in Washington D.C. Until every eligible Philadelphian gets this money, I will continue year after year to get the word out about the benefits of the EITC!

Engagement of Philadelphia’s Tech and Startup Community.

The economic multiplier for tech jobs is 5 to 1. This means that every new job in tech creates five additional jobs!



There is no other job sector that produces close to this type of job growth. That is why over the past year I have visited almost a dozen tech companies and startups throughout our city, including Curalate, WebLinc, and Sidecar in an

effort to bring visibility and well-deserved recognition to some of our city’s booming tech and startup companies. In addition to working with both StartupPHL and Philly Startup Leaders, two great entities helping to further tech and startup companies in Philadelphia, getting coding in our public schools has been a continual topic of discussion. Meeting with groups such as TechGirlz and Coded by Kids has sparked dynamic partnerships intended on helping our youth learn valuable skills leading to fulfilling and well-paying future employment. Supporting growth and diversity in Philadelphia’s tech and startup community, as well as working with these entities, is something I look forward to as I head into my second year in office.

Donating my salary to our schools.

Believing that all children deserve a first-rate education and the resources necessary for their future, I made a commitment when running for office that I would donate my entire City

Council Salary to support our public schools. This – by far – has been one of the most satisfying parts of my job. Over this past year, I have visited more than two dozen schools throughout the city, and to date, have donated approximately \$60,000 to 23 Philadelphia public



schools. These funds have been used to purchase and support things such as books,

online literacy and computer programs, culinary arts programs, transportation to and from museums and libraries, and drumming sessions to support positive behavioral and mental health practices. Although each school I have visited has had its own unique set of difficulties, what has stood out to me the most is the unwavering dedication and hard work of the



many incredible principals, faculty members and students that we have within our school system. In the coming year, I look forward to many more school visits and to being

able to contribute to the betterment of our schools and the deserving students that they serve.

Funding for Youth Homelessness Initiatives.

As the Chair of City Council’s Committee on Housing, Neighborhood Development and the Homeless I worked with my Council colleagues Councilwoman Blackwell and Councilwoman Gym to organize a first-of-its-kind hearing to discuss the issue of youth



homelessness in our city. As a result of this hearing we requested money be set aside in the City’s budget to provide additional

housing, resources and services for youth experiencing homelessness. We were able to secure \$700,000 which was awarded to a

coalition of advocacy groups as a result of an RFP that was issued. This money provides for a 12 percent expansion of our youth homelessness system and is a great start towards our ultimate goal of eliminating youth homelessness in Philadelphia.

Supporting the Sugar-Sweetened Beverage Tax and its Associated Initiatives.

The Sugar-Sweetened Beverage (SSB) Tax was a notable topic throughout this year's budget process. Given the tremendous initiatives this new tax sets out to support, I ultimately decided to vote in favor of the tax. Rebuilding our city's recreational centers and parks in addition to expanding quality Pre-K and funding 25 community schools are things our city and its residents not only need but deserve. Additionally, the tax will help towards building up the City's fund balance which, in addition to funding our pension liability, has been a focus of mine throughout this past year.

2016 Legislative Accomplishments.

This past year I introduced several pieces of legislation in an effort to bring business efficiencies into City government. One such piece was a bill requiring that an applicant obtaining any license or



permit from the City be required to provide proof of tax compliant status via a tax compliance certificate. This legislation went into effect on January 1 and will ensure that those owing the City or school district money

must first come into compliance before receiving the benefit of a City-issued permit or license. Stemming from my theme of government efficiencies, this past session I introduced a bill co-sponsored by Council President Clarke and Councilman Greenlee which would require the Director of Finance to supply City Council with a report analyzing the efficacy of various tax incentives and

exemptions. This will allow the City to accurately evaluate the success of these programs so that where necessary they can be revised or eliminated.

Looking Forward to 2017. As I begin my second year in office, I will be committed to expanding upon last year's efforts in addition to tackling the following priorities: improving the fiscal and financial health of our city including our unfunded pension liability and insufficient fund balance levels, incorporating financial literacy and coding into our public schools, modernizing the City's internal technology and infrastructure, assisting the Office of Property Assessment in ensuring accurate real estate assessments, and increasing the overall effectiveness and efficiency of our city government.

I want to acknowledge and thank all of you who made my first year in office a successful one and I look forward to working tirelessly to improve the city we all know and love.

Sincerely,



Allan Domb
Councilman At-Large



The Office of
Councilman At-Large
Allan Domb