

3rd District Virtual Town Hall with Councilmember Jamie R. Gauthier

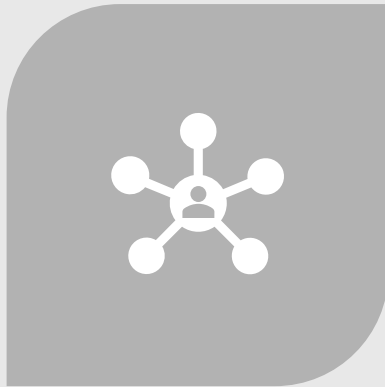


@CouncilmemberJG

#VCvirtualJawn
#AskJamie



GOALS:



DEVELOP A SENSE OF CONNECTIVITY
BETWEEN OUR OFFICE AND
COMMUNITY, PARTICULARLY
COMMUNITY LEADERS.



GIVE AND GARNER INFORMATION
ABOUT RESOURCES NEEDED FOR AND
AVAILABLE TO COMMUNITY.



CREATE A SHARED MOMENT OF
COOPERATIVE SPIRIT.

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AGENDA:



CONTEXT SETTING &
WELCOME



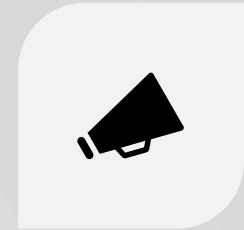
FRAMING THE
BIGGEST ISSUES



WHAT ARE YOU
HEARING? (BREAK
OUT GROUPS)



REPORT OUT



Q & A
/ANNOUNCEMENTS



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FRAMING THE BIGGEST ISSUES

The background of the slide features a blue-toned image of a city skyline, likely Philadelphia, with various medical and scientific icons overlaid. These icons include a first aid kit, test tubes, a person with a stethoscope, a water drop, a syringe, and a microscope. A white line graph is also visible on the left side of the background.

MEDICAL INFORMATION:

- **Updates on COVID-19:**

- Get the latest updates from the City at www.phila.gov/covid-19
- The number of Coronavirus cases here in Philadelphia is growing rapidly – today alone there were 539 new presumptive positive cases, and people from every ZIP code in the city have fallen ill.
- It is more important than ever that we stay home whenever possible. If you must go out for some reason – to work, to buy food, or to care for a friend or loved one – please practice social distancing by leaving at least six feet between you and anyone who lives outside your household.
This is crucial to keep our community safe.
- Call (800) 722-7112 to speak to a health care professional on the Greater Philadelphia Coronavirus Helpline
- Text **COVIDPHL** to **888-777** to receive updates to your phone

HOUSING:

- **Utilities:** PGW, PECO, and the Water Department have all committed to eliminating shutoffs until this crisis is over. Verizon, Comcast, AT&T, and Sprint are not charging late fees or terminating service during this time. They are also providing additional data at no cost, in most cases. If you have another provider, reach out to their customer service to find out what their policy is.
- **Rental support:** There is currently a freeze on all evictions and foreclosures through at least the end of April.
- **Mortgage relief:** if you're a homeowner and you're concerned about not being able to make your mortgage payments, reach out to your lender directly. Banks are offering various forms of mortgage assistance programs, loans, and lines of credit.





FOOD ACCESS:

- **Senior support:** PCA has committed to continuing its home-delivered meals program throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, PCA is working with senior centers throughout the city to provide grab-and-go lunch options. Visit pcaCares.org/seniorcenters to find a senior center near you.
- **Families and Individual support:** Philly residents can pick up a free box with 5 days' worth of food for their household, at different locations throughout the city.
 - Sites are open Mondays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
 - Residents can pick up one box per household. Supplies will last up to five days.
 - Residents do not need to present an ID or proof of income for eligibility.

EDUCATION:

- Under Governor Wolf's directive, all schools in Pennsylvania are closed until further notice. This includes public K-12 schools, brick and mortar and cyber charter schools, private and parochial schools, career and technical centers (CTCs), intermediate units (IUs). For more information: <https://www.education.pa.gov/Schools/safeschools/emergencyplanning/COVID-19/Pages/AnswersToFAQs.aspx>
- The School District is also working closely with the City of Philadelphia and Internet service providers to identify Internet access options available to our students and families. A comprehensive list of information and resources is: <https://www.philasd.org/technologyservices/gettingconnected/>
- The School District of Philadelphia has launched a plan to ensure all students have access to digital learning opportunities in the event that schools remain closed long term due to COVID-19 (coronavirus) response efforts. The District will loan a Chromebook to every District K-12 student who needs one for learning at home. To keep up to date on distribution: <https://www.philasd.org/coronavirus/chromebooks/>

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EMPLOYMENT AND SMALL BUSINESS:

- For individuals and families, COMPASS is an online tool for Pennsylvanians to apply for many health and human service programs and manage benefit information. This includes health care, food benefits, cash assistance, childcare, and more.
<https://www.compass.state.pa.us/compass.web/Public/CMPHome>
- The COVID-19 Small Business Relief Fund offers grants or zero-interest loans to Philadelphia small businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Please refer to the application details for more information about what you'll need to complete your application.
https://www.phila.gov/programs/philadelphia-covid-19-small-business-relief-fund/?mc_cid=e610c84755&mc_eid=eda5e48c86

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WHAT ARE YOU HEARING?

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

- What are the priorities in your neighborhood?
- What are we missing in terms of resources
- What do you and your community need?

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Q&A RESPONSES



The city is not allowing us to deliver the food boxes to the senior and shut-ins. Are they working on a solution for the food insecure who can't leave the home or shouldn't leave their homes? We currently have about 250 seniors that we are trying to deliver to.

Our office is aware of this issue and is currently in communication with the Managing Director's Office to find a solution. In the meantime, the Philadelphia Corporation for Aging is providing meals for seniors who are isolated during the pandemic. Non-seniors are able to pick up meals for seniors but should bring the name and age of the senior they are picking up for. Senior facilities are also delivering meals. For more resources for seniors, contact the PCA Helpline at 215-765-9040.

Senior Centers Providing Meals in the District:

Firehouse Active Adult Center

5311 Haverford Avenue (19139)

215-472-6188

West Philadelphia Community Center

1016-26 N. 41st Street (19104)

215-386-0379

CHCS Star Harbor Senior Center Satellite

4700 Springfield Avenue (19143)

215-726-7468

Southwest Senior Center

6916 Elmwood Avenue (19142)

215-937-1880

Will these utility companies forgive missed payments for anyone during this time, or will some people find themselves owing several months' payment at the end?

PGW suspending non-payment terminations and we plan to waive new late payment charges. This termination freeze will remain in place until further notice. Please note that regular billing will continue for all customers. They strongly encourage our customers to make arrangements to stay current on their bill during the freeze to prevent termination once the moratorium is removed

PWD is waiving all late fees at the moment. If you are experiencing a hardship, they recommend you apply for the Tiered Assistance Program, even if the applications aren't being processed at the moment. <https://www.phila.gov/services/water-gas-utilities/pay-or-dispute-a-water-bill/water-bill-customer-assistance/>

PECO is suspending service disconnections and waiving new late payment charges through at least May 1, 2020. In addition, PECO will continue to remind customers of existing bill assistance resources and energy assistance programs to support them through temporary or extended financial hardship.

Comcast will not disconnect a customer's internet service or assess late fees if they contact us and let us know that they can't pay their bills during this period. Verizon will not charge you a late fee or terminate your service if you are experiencing hardship because of COVID-19 and cannot pay your bill in full. This policy is currently in effect through May 13, 2020.



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I was concerned about what will have to be paid back in regards to the utility companies as well and does this apply to those who have had delinquent payments before this all came about?

We have to look into the situation of those who have had delinquent payments before COVID-19.

**What relief does the legislation passed this morning by city council provide?**

The majority of the bill will be used to pay frontline workers, fund testing sites, buy personal protective equipment, and maintain other essential services. \$2 million will go towards business relief and \$500,000 for nonprofits.

How can we protect independent contractors and gig economy workers?

Below are some funds and resources for gig workers.

[COVID-19 Freelance Artist Resources](#)

[Philadelphia Performing Artists' Emergency Fund Application](#)

[GOFUNDME: Philly Performance Artist Fund](#)

[GOFUNDME: philadelphia food service relief](#)

[Queer Writers Of Color Relief Fund](#)

[Art Open Calls Artist Resource](#)

[Feminist Flea Artist Support Doc](#)

[Philadelphia restaurant server relief fund](#)

[USBG National Charity Foundation Bartender Emergency Assistance](#)

[Gig workers collective medical and utility resources](#)

[She Shreds Mag Supporting Live Musicians Resource](#)

[National Domestic Workers Alliance: Take care of the people who care for us. Donate to the Coronavirus Care Fund!](#)

[Peer to Peer Wealth Distribution](#)

We are a newly formed small Investment group. Our projects are on hold due to the times. What can we do to get our projects through L&I?

L&I has created a site for how to manage projects during the pandemic. You can find their updated guidelines here: <https://www.phila.gov/2020-03-20-li-issues-guidance-on-construction-work/>

Any plans to do a complete shutdown of the city?

The Governor has enacted a Shelter in Place order for the entire state. The Mayor is strongly recommending residents move about only where necessary, i.e. getting groceries or seeking medical attention if you are not an essential worker. Currently, there are no plans at present for a curfew or mandatory shelter in place orders.

If you are an essential employee and feel that your workplace is not following safe practices, where do you report this? I have a community member who was told she still had to report to work in spite of the fact that a coworker who she was in close contact with was diagnosed with COVID.

Please contact 311 by dialing 3-1-1 over the phone or reporting it online at phila.gov/311. You can also contact our office at 215-686-0460 and we can also make a report.

**Are there plans to continue sessions such as this?**

Yes, we plan to continue hosting virtual Town Halls as the pandemic persists. The tentative dates are:

April 16th

April 30th

May 14th

May 30th

Can a resource be provided to landlords in addition to tenants?

Councilmembers Gauthier, Brooks, Gym, and Johnson are putting pressure on our state legislators to not only issue a rent moratorium, but also a moratorium on mortgages. As of right now, there are currently eviction and foreclosure moratoriums in place.

They are also looking working with local and national partners to develop policies that support renters, homeowners, as well as landlords to alleviate the financial burdens as a result of COVID-19.

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FOOD DISTRIBUTION SITES IN THE 3RD DISTRICT



Sayre High School
5800 Walnut Street (19139)

Mastery Charter School — Shoemaker Campus
5301 Media Street (19131)

West Philadelphia High School
4901 Chestnut Street (19104)

Philadelphia Learning Academy
4300 Westminster Avenue (19104)

Belmont Charter School
907 N. 41st Street (19104)

West Park Apartments
300 N. Busti Street (19104)

Mitchell Elementary School
5500 Kingsessing Avenue (19143)

Hardy Williams Mastery Charter School
5400 Warrington Avenue (19143)

Mastery Charter School Harrity Elementary
5601 Christian Street (19143)

Richard Allen Preparatory Charter School
2601 S. 58th Street (19143)

Bartram Village
5404 Gibson Drive (19143)

Benjamin B. Comegys School
5100 Greenway Avenue (19143)

For more information on all the items we talked about during this town hall please refer to:

COVID-19 Resource Guide

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1RyUv3UkEY10B60dk5uco8g1-jzAzRS8qwB3GAMV_qIg/edit?usp=sharing



CONTACT US:

If you have question related to the Virtual Town Hall:

<https://forms.gle/K7AkHfgRoLobQoyQ9>

or

Reach out to our office:

215-686-0460

Martese.Clark@phila.gov

THANK YOU. BE WELL.