



# CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

## CITY COUNCIL

Councilmember Allan Domb  
Room 316, City Hall  
Philadelphia, PA 19107  
215-686-3414

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Councilmember At-Large

February 3, 2020

The Honorable Bob Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator, Pennsylvania  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Pat Toomey  
United States Senator, Pennsylvania  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Dwight Evans  
United States Congressman  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Brendan Boyle  
United States Congressman  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mary Gay Scanlon  
United States Congresswoman  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators and Congressional Leaders:

The City of Philadelphia greatly appreciates your continued leadership and support for our people and businesses suffering throughout this pandemic. The most recently adopted relief package will provide some much-needed reprieve for many Philadelphians at the start of this year. However, as you review the 2021 Biden Administration's \$1.9 trillion Covid relief proposal, we ask that you ensure local funding is provided to support our City's financial needs through this pandemic. Our state and local issues remain, and we require your sustained commitment to helping us safely restart our economy. Relatedly and as a feature of that support, we ask that you consider our proposal to provide a 2021 dollar-for-dollar investment tax credit for the purchasing and installation of ventilation, air filtration, and HVAC systems that will help provide safe and healthy indoor spaces for our City.

According to the World Health Organization, the primary manner by which the Covid-19 virus spreads is “by respiratory droplets among people who are in close contact with each other...Aerosol transmission can occur in specific settings, particularly in indoor, crowded and inadequately ventilated spaces, where infected person(s) spend long periods of time with others, such as restaurants, choir practices, fitness classes, nightclubs, offices and/or places of worship.”<sup>1</sup> Philadelphia and many

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<sup>1</sup> [Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\): How is it transmitted? \(who.int\)](https://www.who.int/news-room/qa-detail/coronavirus-how-is-it-transmitted)



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cities alike, are great places to live and work because of their vibrant, diverse, and populous characteristics. However, it's our density that has become our principal liability during this Covid-19 crisis, putting us at risk for a slower and more troublesome economic recovery if we cannot create safer indoor options for our residents and businesses.

In a city of our size with a large daily commuter population and tourism industry, we must find ways to bring back demand for commercial spaces that house thousands of people who add to our broader local economy. The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) asserts that ventilation techniques such as high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) fan and filtration systems, used in concert with ultraviolet germicidal irradiation (UVGI) and other air flow techniques can help reduce exposure and risks to contracting airborne illnesses such as the coronavirus.<sup>2</sup> In order to implement many of these suggestions, our buildings and businesses will have to invest in new infrastructure and technology which comes at a cost.

We respectfully request that both chambers of Congress take up legislation that addresses these concerns in the upcoming legislative year by allowing for a one-time dollar-for-dollar investment tax credit for businesses and office building owners who invest in this type of infrastructure that protects our people and helps bring back demand in our economy. We also ask that the CDC move quickly to establish national standards by which we measure and potentially rate our indoor air filtration quality so that we may use these standards to determine risk and improvement goals for our building structures.

We appreciate your consideration and ongoing leadership during this unprecedented time and look to you as we try to restart our economy as safely as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Allan Domb".

Allan Domb  
Councilmember At-Large

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<sup>2</sup> [Ventilation in Buildings | CDC](#)



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**In Solidarity**

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**Philadelphia City Councilmembers:**

Handwritten signature of Darrell Clarke in blue ink.

Council President Darrell Clarke, District 5

Handwritten signature of Cindy Bass in blue ink.

Councilmember Cindy Bass, District 8

Handwritten signature of Jamie Gauthier in blue ink.

Councilmember Jamie Gauthier, District 3

Handwritten signature of Katherine Gilmore-Richardson in blue ink.

Councilmember Katherine Gilmore-Richardson, At-Large

Handwritten signature of Derek Green in blue ink.

Councilmember Derek Green, At-Large

Handwritten signature of Helen Gym in blue ink.

Councilmember Helen Gym, At-Large

Handwritten signature of Bobby Henon in blue ink.

Councilmember Bobby Henon, District 6



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A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kenyatta Johnson".

Councilmember Kenyatta Johnson, District 2

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Curtis Jones, Jr.".

Councilmember Curtis Jones, Jr., District 4

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Oh".

Councilmember David Oh, At-Large

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian O'Neill".

Councilmember Brian O'Neill, District 10

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cherelle L. Parker".

Councilmember Cherelle Parker, District 9

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maria Quiñones Sánchez".

Councilmember Maria Quiñones Sánchez, District 7

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Squilla".

Councilmember Mark Squilla, District 1

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Isaiah Thomas".

Councilmember Isaiah Thomas, At-Large



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### **Philadelphia Pennsylvania Delegation:**

State Senator Vincent Hughes, 7<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District  
State Senator Sharif Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Senatorial District  
State Senator Christine Tartaglione, 2<sup>nd</sup> Senatorial District  
State Representative Danilo Burgos, 197<sup>th</sup> Legislative District  
State Representative Morgan Cephas, 192<sup>nd</sup> Legislative District  
State Representative Jason Dawkins, 179<sup>th</sup> Legislative District  
State Representative Michael Driscoll, 173<sup>rd</sup> Legislative District  
State Representative Jordan Harris, 186<sup>th</sup> Legislative District  
State Representative Joseph Hohenstein, 177<sup>th</sup> Legislative District  
State Representative Mary Isaacson, 175<sup>th</sup> Legislative District  
State Representative Stephen Kinsey, 201<sup>st</sup> Legislative District  
State Representative Ed Neilson, 174<sup>th</sup> Legislative District  
State Representative Brian Sims, 182<sup>nd</sup> Legislative District  
State Representative Regina Young, 185<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

### **Partnership Organizations:**

African-American Chamber of Commerce PA-NJ-DE  
Asian American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Philadelphia  
Building Owners & Managers Association (BOMA) of Philadelphia  
Center City District  
Chestnut Hill Business District  
Drexel University  
East Passyunk Avenue Business Improvement District  
Fishtown Kensington Area Business Improvement District  
Greater Northeast Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce  
Greater Philadelphia Association of REALTORS  
Greater Philadelphia Hotel Association



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**Partnership Organizations (continued):**

Homeowners Association of Philadelphia (HAPCO)

Independence Business Alliance, Greater Philadelphia LGBTQ+ Chamber of Commerce

Manayunk Development Corporation

Mayfair Business Improvement District

Northern Liberties Business Improvement District

Pennsylvania Restaurant & Lodging Association

Philadelphia Convention & Visitors Bureau

PIDC

Saint Joseph's University

Sustainable Business Network of Greater Philadelphia

Temple University

Thomas Jefferson University and Jefferson Health

University of the Sciences