

**OFFICE OF THE CITY CONTROLLER
FISCAL YEAR 2023 BUDGET TESTIMONY
CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 2022**

Good morning Council President Clarke and members of City Council. I am City Controller Rebecca Rhyhart. I am pleased to provide testimony on the Office of the City Controller's Fiscal Year 2023 Operating Budget.

The City Controller is the fiscal watchdog and chief auditor for the City of Philadelphia and the financial auditor for the Philadelphia School District. The office's mission is to promote the efficient and effective operation of Philadelphia government so that it can best serve all residents. The office seeks to achieve its mission by identifying cost savings, recommending best practices and modernizations, and exposing waste, fraud and abuse.

Under my leadership, the office has completed our Charter-mandated audits, including the Report on City Departments, City and School District Reports on Internal Control and on Compliance and Other Matters, Citywide and School District Annual Comprehensive Financial Reports, and School District and City Single Audits, among others. My office also continues to monitor city payments to ensure contractual compliance before payments are issued as required under the Charter and conduct investigations based on tips and in conjunction with law enforcement.

Additionally, my office has conducted performance audits, such as our report on the Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual Disability Services, and released data, analysis, and reports on issues of importance to the people of our city, like gun violence, on-time trash collection rates,

prison conditions, and asbestos projects in our schools. In the coming months, my office will release a special audit of police department spending, including resource and staff deployment, as well as an audit of the Philadelphia Medical Examiner's Office, which will include the handling of the remains of MOVE bombing victims. We expect to release the police spending review this June, and the Medical Examiner's performance audit will be released later this summer.

For Fiscal Year 2023, Mayor Kenney has proposed an operating budget of \$10,751,398 for my office. This is an increase of \$442,960 in Class 100 funding, which covers the cost of the wage increases and bonuses that were given to all City employees, as well as restores a previous budget cut to fill vacant positions.

Over the last year, my office has proudly partnered with members of this body, working on gun violence reduction initiatives, quality of life improvements, data releases and special audits. I want to acknowledge the good work of City Council in fighting for Philadelphians year after year and thank City Council for providing my office with the funding necessary to complete our duties and live up to our mission.

This concludes my testimony. I am happy to answer any questions that you may have at this time.