



City Council President
Darrell L. Clarke

The 5TH District

UPDATE



City Council
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Councilmembers Katherine Gilmore Richardson and Kendra Brooks, Council President Darrell L. Clarke, PA Reps. Donna Bullock and Morgan Cephas, and Register of Wills Tracey Gordon

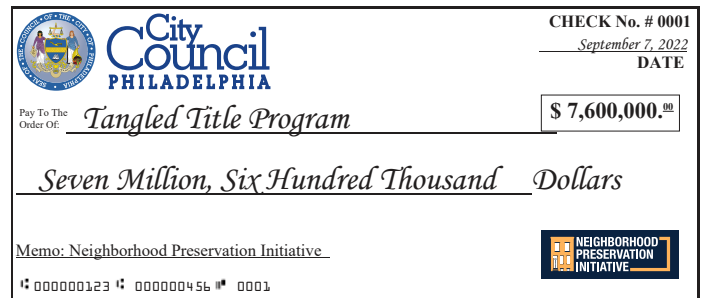
\$7.6 MILLION TO HELP HOMEOWNERS

Thousands of homes in Philadelphia have “tangled titles” – which means the homeowner lacks a clean title to the property. This can impact the property owner’s claim to owning the home, selling it, or building family wealth.

Under President Darrell L. Clarke, City Council is doing something about the problem. This Summer, Council unveiled a \$7.6 Million investment to enable four city legal assistance agencies to help thousands of homeowners clean and clear their tangled titles.

The city funds are being made available through the Neighborhood Preservation Initiative – a \$400 Million program created by City Council to reinvest in and preserve neighborhoods across Philadelphia. The Tangled Title funding is one of many NPI programs.

A 2021 report by the Pew Research Center estimated that Philadelphia has over 10,000 tangled titles. Philadelphia’s tangled properties are worth over \$1.1 billion -- representing a significant amount of family wealth.



Residents with tangled titles should call the Save Your Home Philly Hotline is 215-334-4663.

AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM COMES TO THE PARKWAY



Mayor Jim Kenney, Council President Darrell L. Clarke, Councilmembers Mark Squilla, and Isaiah Thomas

For years, the African American Museum has been located off the beaten path in Old City. That is finally going to change. This Summer, Council President Clarke, Council colleagues and Mayor Kenney announced the Museum will relocate to the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, as part of the redevelopment of 1801 Vine and 1901 Wood Streets. Four teams have been selected to propose new developments at the site – including a new African American Museum on the Parkway. Council President Clarke, whose Fifth District includes the new site, said, “This is an important day not only for Philadelphia and the African American Museum, but for Black history in our city. From the protests to desegregate Girard College to the first legislative act ever passed by a democracy to outlaw slavery, African Americans have played vital roles in our city and Commonwealth’s histories. The African American Museum should be right here, on the Parkway.”

URBAN YOUTH RACING SCHOOL’S CELEBRITY GRAND PRIX RACE



PA Reps. Amen Brown and Danilo Burgos, PA Sens. Sharif Street and Anthony H. Williams, join City Council at race



The Urban Youth Racing School is a non-profit with a mission: educate inner-city children and youth about the exciting world of motorsports, and show pathways to careers and employment. To date, the racing school has impacted over 7,500 youths. Last Summer, the organization brought NASCAR driver Kyle Larson and others to West Philadelphia’s Fairmount Park, where they staged a Celebrity Grand Prix race. City Council stepped to the plate, and celebrity drivers in the Grand Prix included Council President Clarke and Councilmember Isaiah Thomas, who were cheered on by their colleague Cindy Bass. Several members of the General Assembly joined the race too.

GIANT STORE OPENING ON BROAD & SPRING GARDEN



For too long, the North Broad Street corridor was a food desert. Thanks to Council President Clarke and others, that is changing. First, an Aldi supermarket opened on Ridge Avenue near Broad. Then, the first supermarket in the Sharswood section of North Philadelphia in decades opened. This summer brought a third grocery store to the North Broad area – a new Giant store at Broad and Spring Garden Streets. The 50,700-square-foot market opened its doors in June. The Giant supermarket is an anchor tenant for developer Alterra Property Group's residential development. This was the fourth supermarket Giant has opened in Philadelphia in the last several years. Giant's investment in Philadelphia not only means another supermarket and food access for the North Broad Street corridor, it means jobs for the community.

NEW SUPERMARKET IN SHARSWOOD – FIRST IN DECADES



Council President Clarke tours Grocery Outlet with store operator Donta Rose, White House Domestic Policy Adviser Susan E. Rice, and U.S. HUD Secretary Marcia L. Fudge

The first full-service supermarket in decades is open in Sharswood in North Philadelphia. Grocery Outlet opened its newest store over the Summer at 21st Street and Ridge Avenue. The area was long known as a “food desert.” That’s changing. With its central location, shoppers don’t even necessarily need a car.

"If you don't have a car, you can't get places. This is a good thing for us," said Joyce Johnson of North Philadelphia, as she waited in line to enter the new store. Donta Rose worked for Grocery Outlet on the corporate side and now has transitioned into an independent operator of the new store.

Council President Clarke worked closely with the Philadelphia Housing Authority and President Kelvin Jeremiah, a champion of the new store and a much larger neighborhood revitalization underway in Sharswood.

TRIP TO TRENTON TO COLLABORATE ON VIOLENCE PREVENTION



Council President Darell L. Clarke walks Trenton streets with Mayor Reed Gusciora.



Councilmembers Katherine Gilmore Richardson, Curtis Jones Jr. and Mark Squilla join Council President with community leaders

City Council is no stranger to the tactic of going to other cities to hear ideas that work elsewhere, and learn what might work in Philadelphia. Council has traveled to New York City, Baltimore, Camden and other cities to explore policies to better serve Philadelphia residents. In October, Council traveled to Trenton, to learn how that city has significantly reduced gun violence. The message Council heard: Collaboration among all branches of government – police and public safety, the mayor, human services – has much to do with Trenton’s success in reducing gun crime. Council vowed to return to Philadelphia and push for stronger collaboration among every agency involved in our city’s gun violence. Six Councilmembers went to Trenton, a signal of their commitment to reducing gun violence.

LONG-PLANNED MUSEUM & GARDENS HONORING ALEXANDER CALDER



The Benjamin Franklin Parkway in Center City has come alive, with the Barnes Museum, the Rodin Museum, and the Philadelphia Museum of Art making it an arts and culture destination. There is more coming, as a long-delayed vision to build a museum for the art of Alexander Calder is finally becoming a reality. Council President Clarke joined Mayor Kenney, Joe Neubauer of the Neubauer Foundation, Alexander Rower, Calder’s grandson, Marsha Perelman and others to break ground on a Calder Gardens that will be built along the Parkway between 21st and 22nd Streets. The museum and gardens will house a series of sculptures designed by Calder, and plans to open in 2024.

CHUBB INVESTMENT IN CENTER CITY PRODUCING OVER 1,200 JOBS



Council President Clarke, Governor Wolf, Mayor Kenney and PA Rep Jordan Harris announced plans for Chubb's new office in Philadelphia, bringing thousands of family-sustaining jobs to Philadelphia. Chubb is the world's largest property and casualty insurer. Its new office will occupy a state-of-the-art building to be built by the Parkway Corporation at 2000 Arch Street.

Chubb will add 1,250 new employees in Philadelphia, and is committing to creating and retaining a total of 3,200 jobs in Pennsylvania. Chubb's Philadelphia workforce will include new roles in technology, finance, underwriting and claims. There will also be hires into Chubb's apprentice program, which offers roles for individuals without a four-year college degree. "This is a tremendous day for Philadelphia," said Council President Darrell L. Clarke. "We thank the Parkway Corporation and the Zuritskys. We thank Chubb for its commitment to Philadelphia -- a great place to work and live."

TREE REMOVAL PROGRAM



Councilmember Cindy Bass & Council President Darrell L. Clarke discuss tree removal program.

Alley trees located in alleys behind row-homes that pose a threat to public safety are being targeted for removal, thanks to the Neighborhood Preservation Initiative (NPI). NPI is the \$400 million neighborhood preservation program created by City Council.

Using NPI funds for infrastructure, the city has begun working with residents to remove alley trees that pose a hazard. Alley trees contribute to the deterioration of homes, power lines and safe emergency egress in neighborhoods. There are thousands of alley trees affecting homes.

The city's Community Life Improvement Program (CLIP) is fulfilling requests for alley tree removal. Trees must be in the rear of the property, in or near alley ways. The tree must be encroaching or endangering buildings, power lines or creating public safety issues. Residents may submit information for tree removal by contacting their Councilmember.

Information is available at www.phlcouncil.com.

FOTTERAL SQUARE PARK GETS A REBUILD IN NORTH PHILLY



Council President Clarke joins 37th Ward leader El Amor Brawne Ali, Mayor Kenney and others at groundbreaking

Improvements are on the way at Fotteral Square Park in North Philadelphia, thanks to a \$3.5 million renovation that broke ground in September. A cornerstone in the 5th District's Fairhill neighborhood, Fotteral Square is set to undergo upgrades that include a new playground, a refresh to the basketball court, ADA accessibility, a soccer mini-pitch and more.

"We need safe spaces for our children to play, our families to recreate, and our neighbors to gather peacefully, now more than ever," Council President Darrell L. Clarke said. "A new playground, upgrades to the basketball court, a new soccer field – these are badly needed for the residents who live here. This is an important day for the people of this community." The Rebuild project will revitalize a park that spans the 2400 block of North 11th Street between West Cumberland Street and West York Street.

FISHTOWN SENIOR FAIR



Council President and staffer Venise Whitaker in Fishtown

There are few groups more deserving of our respect than our senior citizens. They've worked, paid their taxes, raised families, and given back to their communities for decades. Now, it's time we helped them. Council President Clarke hosted a Senior Fair in Fishtown that attracted well over a hundred seniors from many neighborhoods. There were 15 city agencies present at the Holy Name of Jesus Parish Hall. Seniors needing help and assistance from the Basic Systems Repair program to fix up their homes, or the Tangled Title program to help clear the title to their homes – their most important investment – were on hand to serve seniors throughout the day. SEPTA was there to help seniors obtain their SEPTA passes for travel citywide.



Congressman Dwight Evans joins Council President Clarke, Habitat officials and former Mayor John F. Street

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY BUILDING HOMES IN STRAWBERRY MANSION

When you hear “Habitat for Humanity”, you know what it means: Decent, affordable homes, built by a caring, national non-profit organization, with the assistance and support of the very people Habitat was created to help: Homebuyers. That’s what is happening now in Strawberry Mansion, where ground is broken on Coltrane Commons, a 21-unit affordable home development at 33rd Street and West Oxford Street on the edge of Fairmount Park.

Council President Clarke, long a supporter of Habitat’s work in Philadelphia, was at the groundbreaking in October, along with Corinne O’Connell, Habitat’s CEO in Philadelphia, former Mayor John F. Street, Congressman Dwight Evans, and others. In a first for Habitat, the development includes single, duplex and triplex units to accommodate diverse family types.

TURN THE KEY AFFORDABLE HOME OWNERSHIP PROGRAM MOVES FORWARD



City Council’s Turn The Key Affordable Homeownership Program – a plan to build 1,000 affordable homes for sale on city-owned land across Philadelphia – is underway. The first groundbreaking took place in Grays Ferry, where Council President Clarke joined Councilmember Kenyatta Johnson to break ground on 25 Turn The Key homes – part of the \$400 million Neighborhood Preservation Initiative created by Council in 2020.

Turn The Key will facilitate the sale of 1,000 new, energy-efficient, 3 bedroom, 1 ½ bath homes. The first homes to be built in Grays Ferry will cost \$230,000. NPI’s Mortgage Affordability Program will offer loans up to \$75,000 (subject to household income) to further reduce the cost. Turn the Key included a preference for income-qualified city workers.

Go to phdcp.org/residents/homebuyers-and-renters/turn-the-key/ to learn more.



5th District Happenings

STRAWBERRY MANSION DAY RETURNS

Strawberry Mansion Day. Just hearing the term brings a smile to peoples' faces. For the first time in three years, Strawberry Mansion Day returned to North Philadelphia in Fairmount Park at Mander Recreation Center. The COVID-19 pandemic made large gatherings not possible in 2020 and 2021, so Council President Clarke, his team and Strawberry Mansion Neighborhood Advisory Council worked hard to bring Strawberry Mansion Day back this Fall. There were tents with services for residents to access. There was playground equipment for children. Music for every age, and of course, food and drinks for residents.

Council President Clarke took the stage midway through the Day to welcome a host of public officials, including now Pennsylvania Governor-elect Josh Shapiro, members of City Council, City Commissioners, and former Councilmembers. If it's Strawberry Mansion Day, public figures know where they need to be – meeting the hard-working people of Strawberry Mansion!



MLK CENTER BASKETBALL COURT GETS A FACELIFT



The legacy of one of the most famous basketball players to ever come out of the Philly region – Kobe Bryant – lived on this Fall as the late, great Lakers star's Mamba Mambacita Sports Foundation dedicated a new, resurfaced basketball court at the MLK Recreation Center at 21st & Cecil B. Moore Streets.

The court was resurfaced through a partnership between the Foundation and BODYARMOR, which also hosted a youth basketball clinic for area youths one October afternoon.

STREET RENAMED FOR LONGTIME COMMUNITY LEADER HELEN BROWN

There's always a community resident who leads by deeds and actions, not headlines or public acclaim. That was Helen Brown, a longtime force for good in her community near 23rd and Berks Streets. Whether neighbors needed assistance with food, jobs, education or homeownership, Helen Brown was always there for them.

So it was only fitting when City Council renamed the 1800 block of North 23rd Street, from West Berks Street to West Montgomery Avenue in honor of this tireless community organizer, who has passed away. That block is now known as Helen Brown Way, forevermore.



AT THANKSGIVING, A TURKEY GIVEAWAY BY BOXER JESSE HART



Jesse Hart knows what it's like to have a Thanksgiving dinner with no turkey in the middle of the table. He remembers that feeling and that's why he wants to make sure families in his North Philly neighborhood don't go without at Thanksgiving.

Hart is a professional boxer, just like his father was -- middleweight contender Eugene "Cyclone" Hart, who always made it a point to give back to his community. Jesse follows his father's example, and gave out turkeys and canned goods to families in need this Thanksgiving, assisted by Council President Clarke.

GIRARD COLLEGE INVESTS NEW PRESIDENT F. CHRISTOPHER GOINS

Girard College is in its 175th year, and its mission is as relevant as ever: To educate young people and give them the chance to realize their fullest potential in this life.

In September, the College celebrated the investiture of F. Christopher Goins as the 19th President in Girard College's long history, at a ceremony attended by many public officials and residents of the community. On hand to celebrate with President Goins was Lynette Brown-Sow, chair of the Girard College Committee for the Board of Directors of City Trusts, and Curtis Wilkerson, chief of staff for Council President Darrell Clarke.



Legislative Update



Councilmembers Katherine Gilmore Richardson, Isaiah Thomas, Curtis Jones Jr., Kendra Brooks, Mike Driscoll, Kenyatta Johnson, and Cindy Bass prepare for Council Meeting.

Expanding Neighborhood Improvement & Cleanups. Council supports the city Community Life Improvement Program (CLIP), which targets blight and neighborhood nuisances that can erode quality of life. Council appropriated \$5 million more for CLIP this year.

Poverty Reduction. City Council created and funded a Poverty Action Fund with a goal of lifting 100,000 people out of poverty. Council appropriated \$10 million more for the Action Fund's work in reducing poverty.

Public Safety Enforcement Officers. Council President Clarke and Council have championed this issue for several years. An arbitration ruling this Fall means the city can move forward and hire Public Safety Enforcement Officers, who can direct traffic, write tickets for abandoned cars, freeing up Police Officers to focus on violent crime.

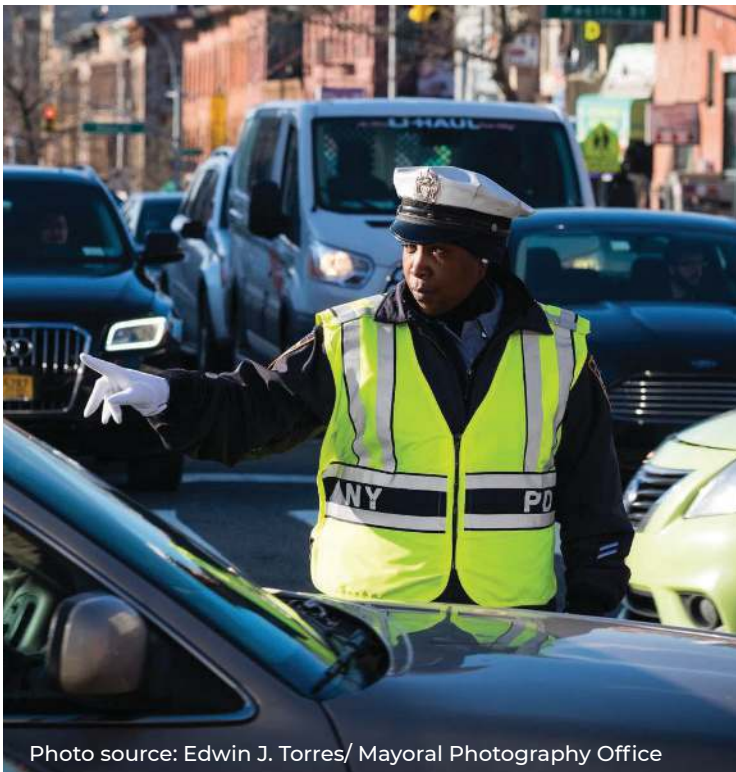


Photo source: Edwin J. Torres/ Mayoral Photography Office

Security Cameras. Council has strategically acted on this issue, believing that more security cameras – near school buildings, recreation centers and other public places can help keep residents safer from gun violence. Council has appropriated \$4.9 million over the current Five-Year Plan to fund the purchase and installation of more security cameras and infrastructure to support them across the city.

Reforming the Zoning Board. For too long, the Zoning Board of Adjustment was too influenced by development interests and lacked neighborhood voices. The board paid too little attention to community concerns about gentrification. Thanks to City Council and a Home Rule Charter change approved by voters, the Zoning Board will be expanded to include new neighborhood voices that better reflect the communities they serve. There will also be a more transparent public process of appointing and confirming new members.



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City Council Check-In With Darrell Clarke



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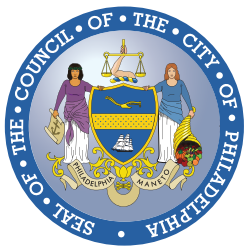
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