

RESOLUTION

Calling on the District Attorney to be transparent by disclosing the law that he claims requires covering up the “Wall of Remembrance” memorial to fallen Philadelphia police officers, as well as, the law that prohibits him from providing further explanation.

WHEREAS, Recent reports and photographs show the Wall of Remembrance in the District Attorney’s office – a memorial to Philadelphia police officers killed in the line of duty – covered and draped over with a branded backdrop for media engagements and press conferences; and

WHEREAS, This visual rightfully raised concerns among active and retired officers, their families, the Police Commissioner, former District Attorneys, and the public at-large; and

WHEREAS, In response to these concerns, the District Attorney’s office asserted that there was a legal basis for covering the memorial; and

WHEREAS, “We are legally required to cover the Wall of Remembrance when this room is used for certain purposes,” said an office spokesperson; and

WHEREAS, When asked to elaborate, the spokesperson is reported to have refused to share which law would have been broken by leaving the memorial uncovered by saying that the law prohibits her from further explanation; and

WHEREAS, Councilmember At-Large David Oh sent a letter formally requesting the District Attorney identify the laws referenced; and

WHEREAS, District Attorney Krasner doubled down in a press conference days later when asked about the concerns, again asserting a legal basis for the covering without disclosing a specific law; and

WHEREAS, Krasner’s two predecessors, Seth Williams and Lynne Abraham, pushed back against the notion that there is a legal basis for covering the memorial; and

WHEREAS, The District Attorney can quickly dissolve any concerns and controversies by simply disclosing the laws that required him to cover the memorial and prohibit further explanation; and

WHEREAS, The people of Philadelphia are entitled to truthful and courteous answers from their public officials; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, that it hereby calls on the District Attorney’s office to publicly disclose the alleged legal requirement for covering the “Wall of Remembrance” memorial to fallen Philadelphia police officers.

February 25, 2021

DAVID OH
Councilmember At-Large