



City  
Council  
PHILADELPHIA

# 2024

AN INCREDIBLE YEAR IN COUNCIL



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Dear Council Colleagues, Staff and Constituents,

Over the past year, it has been an honor to serve as your Council President, a role for which I remain deeply grateful. Your trust and collaboration have been invaluable in making progress for the communities we represent.

In my inauguration speech, I pledged that we would bring services and initiatives directly to our constituents. In 2024, we worked to make that happen and will continue to do so in 2025. As Council President, I also remain committed to prioritizing the voices and communities of my fellow members who make up City Council.

This commitment has guided our efforts as we work together to address critical challenges, create opportunities for growth, and build a stronger, more equitable Philadelphia.

This *Year in Review* highlights the milestones we've achieved as a Council—from advancing affordable housing and public safety to fostering economic opportunity. It also emphasizes the power of partnership among members as well as with residents, advocacy organizations, city agencies, the business community and other grassroots organizers. Together, we have proven that by working as one, we can create meaningful change.

As we reflect on the past year, let us also look ahead with a renewed purpose.

While there is much work to be done, I am confident that with your continued dedication and engagement, we will rise to meet every challenge.

Thank you for your service, passion, and belief in the future of our City.

Yours In Service,

Kenyatta Johnson  
2<sup>nd</sup> District

President, Philadelphia City Council



# NEW LEADERSHIP, NEW ERA

PHILADELPHIA ENTERS A NEW CHAPTER WITH  
FRESH LEADERSHIP IN CITY HALL

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On January 2, 2024, Philadelphians witnessed the historic inauguration of Mayor Cherelle L. Parker, the city's first female Mayor. Seventeen City Council members were also sworn in for the 2024–2027 term.

Councilmember **Kenyatta Johnson** (2nd District) was elected Council President, the first new President in over a decade. At-Large Councilmember **Katherine Gilmore Richardson** became Majority Leader, the youngest and first at-large member in the role, At-Large Councilmember **Isaiah Thomas** is the Majority Whip, and 8th District Councilmember **Cindy Bass** remains Deputy Whip.

For the first time since 1951, the Minority Leader and Minority Whip positions are held by members of the Working Families Party, with At-Large Councilmembers **Kendra Brooks** and **Nicolas O'Rourke** serving in these roles.

Returning members include **Mark Squilla** (1st District), **Jamie Gauthier** (3rd District), **Curtis Jones, Jr.** (4th District), **Michael Driscoll** (6th District), **Quetcy Lozada** (7th District), **Cindy Bass** (8th District), **Anthony Phillips** (9th District), **Brian O'Neill** (10th District), and At-Large Councilmembers Kendra Brooks, **Jim Harrity**, Katherine Gilmore Richardson, and Isaiah Thomas.

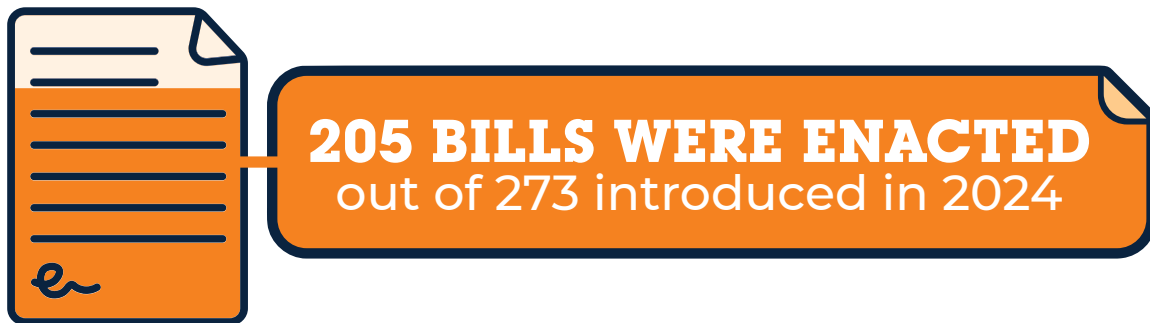
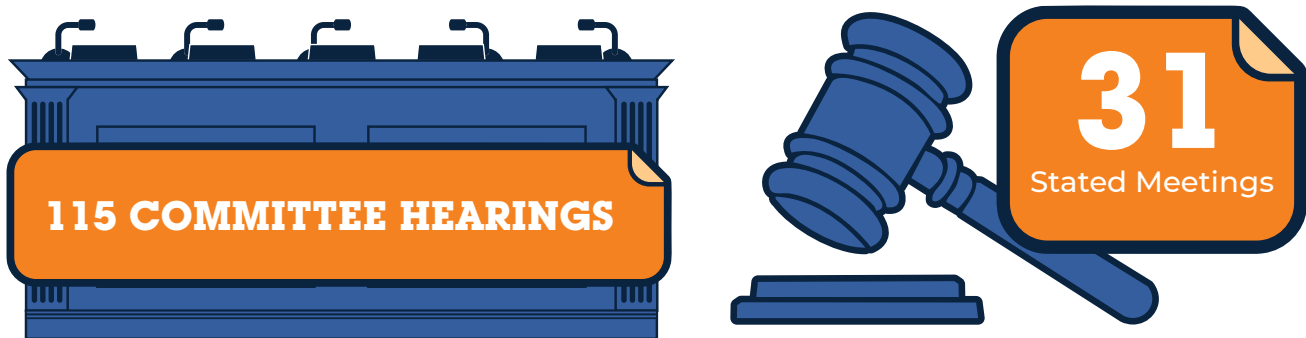
Four new members began their first terms this year: At-Large Councilmember **Rue Landau**, the first openly LGBTQ+ Councilmember in Philadelphia's history; At-Large Councilmember **Dr. Nina Ahmad**, the first South Asian member of City Council; At-Large Councilmember Nicolas O'Rourke; and 5th District Councilmember **Jeffery Young, Jr.**



# LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY AND MILESTONES

According to the Chief Clerk's office, as of January 7, 2025, a total of 273 bills and 620 resolutions were introduced in City Council in 2024. Council convened its first session on January 25 of 2024 and maintained a productive pace throughout the year.

## HERE ARE SOME OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF CITY COUNCIL 2024 YEAR IN REVIEW:



**17**  
in Mayor's Office

**2**  
not assigned  
to committee

**2**  
withdrawn

**3**  
on the calendar  
for Jan. 23, 2025

**36**  
still in  
committee

**8**  
held in  
committee



**4**  
still in  
committee

**3**  
withdrawn at a  
Stated Meeting

**1**  
withdrawn  
while in  
committee

**5**  
on final passage  
for Jan. 23, 2025

# A HISTORIC INVESTMENT

## MAYOR CHERELLE PARKER SIGNS TRANSFORMATIVE FY25 BUDGET



Philadelphia Mayor Cherelle L. Parker signed into law the **\$6.37 billion** Fiscal Year 2025 (FY '25) Operating Budget and the **\$5.46 billion** FY '25 Capital Budget, alongside a bill increasing the City's Homestead Exemption from **\$80,000** to **\$100,000**. City Council unanimously approved these measures on June 13, the final session before its summer recess, following extensive negotiations between Council leadership, councilmembers, and the Parker Administration.

### KEY INVESTMENTS IN THE FY '25 BUDGET

#### Public Safety & Community Investment

- Hiring **400** new police officers, expanding recruitment efforts to strengthen public safety.
- **\$29 million** for violence prevention grants, with an additional **\$4.8 million** secured by Council.
- **\$18 million** in additional borrowing for capital upgrades to recreation centers and libraries.

#### Tax Relief & Housing Support

- The Homestead Exemption increase will save eligible homeowners **\$1,400** annually on property taxes.
- A new low-income property tax freeze.
- **\$19 million** for rental assistance, bringing the total Housing Trust Fund allocation to **\$34 million**.
- **\$5 million** for the Philadelphia Energy Authority's Built to Last home repair program, helping homeowners make necessary repairs and stay in their homes.
- **\$14 million** to redevelop the U.C. Townhomes site, creating 70 new permanent affordable housing units.
- **\$750,000** for tangled title support to help families secure property ownership.





## Education & Workforce Development

- **\$5 million** in additional funding for the Community College of Philadelphia to support students and faculty.
- Expanded paid parental leave for city employees, with **\$8 million** allocated to support working parents.
- **\$10 million** for workforce development and employer partnerships, focusing on high-growth industries like life sciences, logistics, and building trades.



## School & Youth Investments

- Increasing the School District's share of the millage rate from **55% to 56%**, adding **\$24 million** in new school investments for FY '25 and nearly **\$129 million** over five years.
- Support for K-12 schools, providing extended-day enrichment and career development programs.



## Community Investments

- Housing production and preservation investments, supporting initiatives like Turn the Key, Restore Repair Renew, and the Basic Systems Repair Program.
- A streamlined home improvement application process to make City-funded housing repair programs more accessible.



## Arts & Cultural Funding

- **\$1 million** each for the Mann Center and Dell Music Center, doubling the Mayor's initial investment.
- **\$1 million** restored to Mural Arts Philadelphia, preventing proposed budget cuts.

The FY '25 budget reflects Parker's commitment to strengthening public safety, supporting housing and economic development, and improving educational opportunities. It also marks the first budget under **Council President Kenyatta Johnson's** leadership.

The budget took effect on July 1, 2024, and will run through June 30, 2025, ensuring continued investment in Philadelphia's future.



# BUILDING A MORE INCLUSIVE PHILADELPHIA

COUNCIL LAUNCHES SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO ADVANCE DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION IN CITY AND PRIVATE SECTOR



**Resolution #240107** created City Council's Special Committee on City and Private Sector Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policies, also known as DEI policies, to examine the impact of such policies and to provide practical, evidence-based recommendations to enhance City policy effectiveness in the promotion of minority, women-owned and disabled-owned businesses in Philadelphia.

While minority, women, and disabled-owned businesses (M/W/DSBEs) play a vital role in providing thousands of jobs in Philadelphia, they also create revenue that directly supports City functions and support our local economy.

The Special Committee's duties include convening regular meetings for planning and coordination; tracking the City's progress in addressing barriers for

M/W/DSBEs; examining the efficacy of current programs and policies; identifying regional and national best practices; and holding public hearings to obtain public input.

The Special Committee will also submit a full report to the Council and the Mayor and make its findings and recommendations available to the public.





## FROM PROPOSAL TO PROGRESS

MAJORITY LEADER KATHERINE GILMORE RICHARDSON'S LEGISLATION  
INSPIRES ACTION BY MAYOR PARKER'S ADMINISTRATION



Mayor Parker's administration announced in February it was retaining an independent accounting firm to conduct a forensic investigation of the finances of the City's Office of Homeless Services (OHS), together with the City Office of Inspector General.

The Parker administration has retained the accounting firm of Horsey, Buckner & Heffler LLP to perform the forensic investigation of OHS.

“The diligence and leadership from Councilmember Katherine Gilmore Richardson (At-Large), who has shined a spotlight on OHS for months, highlighted potentially questionable practices, and introduced legislation to address these issues.”

**Cherelle L. Parker**  
Mayor of Philadelphia

Council approved *Resolution #240027* and *Bills #240030* and *#240005* that would address OHS.



# PHILADELPHIA'S 2026 VISION

CITY COUNCIL GEARS UP FOR 2026 WITH LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING

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As Philadelphia prepares for 2026 — hosting several FIFA World Cup Games, America's 250th birthday (Semiquincentennial) and the Major League Baseball All Star Game — Council's Legislative Oversight Committee, chaired by Councilmember **Isaiah Thomas (At-Large)** hosted a hearing in November to make sure that Philadelphia is ready.

Industry leaders, elected officials and others gathered at the Independence Visitors Center in Old City to preview the exciting plans that will drive tourism while reinforcing the existing needs of the public sector, in terms of preparedness and investment.

Michael Newmuis, 2026 director for the City of Philadelphia, says the mayor will present a budget proposed for funding 2026 events in her proposed fiscal year 2026 operating and capital budget proposal, which will be presented to City Council this coming spring.

According to the Philadelphia Business Journal, The City has given about \$1 million to Philadelphia250, the nonprofit helping to plan the nation's 250th anniversary celebrations in the region and has also committed \$3.5 million for upgrades at Lemon Hill in East Fairmount Park, which will be the location for the FIFA Fan Festival during the World Cup.



# UNITING FOR CHANGE

## CITY COUNCIL HOLDS URGENT TOWN HALLS TO CONFRONT YOUTH GUN VIOLENCE



Council President **Kenyatta Johnson (2nd District)** and Councilmembers **Anthony Phillips (9th District)**, **Brian O'Neill (10th District)**, and **Mike Driscoll (6th District)** held a Peace Not Guns Healing Town Hall in March at Northeast High School (NEHS) to address rising violent crime affecting youth. Hundreds attended, including students, parents, activists, and advocates.

Panelists featured Police Commissioner Kevin Bethel, Chief Public Safety Director Adam Geer, and other key officials. Elected leaders, including City Councilmembers, PA State Senators, and Representatives, were also present.

The meeting followed the March 6 shooting at a SEPTA bus stop near NEHS, injuring eight students. Police have arrested several suspects. Another Peace Not Guns Town Hall hosted in partnership with Councilmember **Cindy Bass (8th District)**, was held at Imhotep Institute Charter High School after a March 4 shooting in West Oak Lane that killed 17-year-old Dayemen Taylor and injured four others. Councilmembers **Jeffery Young, Jr. (5th District)** and **Isaiah Thomas (At-Large)** also hosted an anti-gun violence town hall in North Philadelphia.

Council President **Kenyatta Johnson (2nd District)** remains committed to spreading a citywide message of "Peace Not Guns" throughout his term.





# NEIGHBORHOOD VOICES MATTER

CITY COUNCIL ENGAGES PHILADELPHIA'S COMMUNITIES  
WITH FY25 BUDGET TOWN HALL TOUR



Council President **Kenyatta Johnson (2nd District)** held Neighborhood Budget Town Halls across five Council Districts wherein constituents could provide feedback, address issues of concern and speak on their priorities on Mayor Parker's proposed \$6.29 Billion Fiscal Year 2025 (FY '25) budget.



Council partnered with area schools and recreation centers, including West Philadelphia High School, South Philadelphia High School, Martin Luther King, Jr. High School, Philadelphia Charter School for Arts and Sciences, and John F. Street Community Center to provide accessible spaces outside of City Hall for residents to attend the Budget Town Hall meetings.



Council President **Kenyatta Johnson (2nd District)** and each District Councilmember led the conversation while City Council's finance team provided an overview on the City's current financial health, and a timeline of how the budget process works.



For those unable to give input in-person at Neighborhood Budget Town Halls, City Council provided an online survey for constituents to provide their thoughts which was available in English and Spanish.





# STRONGER TRANSIT, STRONGER CITY

SEPTA SECURES CRITICAL FUNDING AS GOV. SHAPIRO  
RESPONDS TO CITY COUNCIL

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Council approved *Resolution #241075* in November, introduced by Councilmember **Nicolas O'Rourke (At-Large)** on behalf of Council President **Kenyatta Johnson (2nd District)**, urging Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro and the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission to prevent SEPTA fare hikes and service cuts by redirecting federal highway funds.

Johnson and 16 Councilmembers urged state action on SEPTA's \$240 million deficit.

As a result, Governor Josh Shapiro announced at SEPTA's Frankford Transportation Center that he would allocate \$153 million to SEPTA, preventing service reductions and delaying fare hikes.

Attending were Council President **Kenyatta Johnson (2nd District)**; Councilmembers **Mike Driscoll (6th District)**, **Jeffery Young, Jr. (5th District)**, **Jamie Gauthier (3rd District)**, **Quetcy Lozada (7th District)**, **Anthony Phillips (9th District)**, **Rue Landau (At-Large)**, **Jim Harrity (At-Large)**, **Nina Ahmad (At-Large)**, **Kendra Brooks (At-Large)**, and **Nicolas O'Rourke (At-Large)**.





# TAKING ACTION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

## HEARINGS HELD ON UNIVERSITY OF THE ARTS CLOSURE



**Resolution #240601** introduced by Councilmember **Mark Squilla (1st District)** authorized Council's Education Committee to hold hearings to examine the sudden closing of the University of the Arts (UArts).

UArts officials announced that the institution was closing for good after 150 years of operation on June 7. The UArts campus is in both Squilla and Council President **Kenyatta Johnson's (2nd District)** Council Districts. The hearing looked at the negative impact that the sudden closing will have on Philadelphia's higher education system, and the UArts student body and staff.





# STRENGTHENING PHILADELPHIA'S FOOD SYSTEMS

## PHILADELPHIA CITY COUNCIL LAUNCHES FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY TASK FORCE

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*Resolution #240125* was approved in March that authorized the creation of the Philadelphia Task Force on Food and Nutrition Security to study and develop proposals, strategies, and recommendations to alleviate hunger and increase access to high quality food in the City of Philadelphia. The resolution was sponsored by Council President **Kenyatta Johnson (2nd District)**.

More than 210,000 Philadelphians, 13.6% of the city's residents, struggle with food insecurity, according to Feeding America's 2023 Map the Meal Gap report, which is based on 2021 data from the U.S. Census Bureau and the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Children are particularly impacted as 25% of Philadelphia youth are considered food insecure. This issue disproportionately impacts people of color as 22% of Black households and 23% of Hispanic households struggle to access enough healthy food.

Within one year of its first meeting, the Task Force shall prepare and distribute to the Mayor, Members of City Council, and any interested members of the public a report of its findings and its strategic plan to address food insecurity in Philadelphia.





# BOLD ACTION AGAINST HOUSING INSECURITY

## COUNCILMEMBER JAMIE GAUTHIER LAUNCHES DEFYING DISPLACEMENT CAMPAIGN

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Councilmember **Jamie Gauthier (3rd District)** introduced a package of bills in 2024 that made up phase one of her new “Defying Displacement” campaign.

As the Chair of Council’s Committee on Housing, Neighborhood Development, and the Homeless, she took a series of legislative and budgetary actions this legislative term, under the “Defying Displacement” umbrella, to achieve housing justice.

The legislation introduced by Councilmember Gauthier:

- Strengthen protections for residents using housing vouchers
- Froze property taxes for low-income homeowners
- Invest revenue generated by developers buying “density” bonuses back into neighborhoods

Thanks to Defying Displacement bills becoming laws, thousands of homeowners have applied for the City’s new low-income tax freeze, more landlords welcome tenants using housing vouchers, and voters in the May 2025 primary will decide whether to compel the City to stop underfunding affordable housing programs.

The package of legislation was also supported by Councilmember **Rue Landau (At-Large)**, Vice Chair of Council’s Committee on Housing.





# A VICTORY FOR THE COMMUNITY

## BRITH SHALOM HOUSE JOINS THE PHILADELPHIA AFFORDABLE HOUSING AUTHORITY

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On September 4, the Philadelphia Housing Authority (PHA) finalized its \$24 million purchase of Brith Sholom House, a neglected 12-story senior housing complex in Wynnefield Heights. This move ensures a more stable future for approximately 100 tenants as PHA plans to renovate and maintain the 356 affordable housing units.

The acquisition follows tenant appeals to PHA last May and approval by the PHA Board in August. Officials attending the announcement included Mayor Cherelle L. Parker, Council President **Kenyatta Johnson (2nd District)**, former City Council President Darrell Clarke (PHA Board Commissioner), Councilmember **Curtis Jones, Jr. (4th District)**, Councilmember **Rue Landau (At-Large)**, Pennsylvania State Senator Vincent Hughes, and Pennsylvania State Representative Amen Brown. The Parker administration has pledged \$8 million toward renovations, with a full assessment determining the project timeline. Sale proceeds will settle outstanding liens.



# RACING RECKLESSNESS

COUNCIL CALLS FOR SOLUTIONS TO ILLEGAL STREET RACING PROBLEM



City Council's Committees on Public Safety and Streets & Services held a hearing in October on **Resolution #240482** sponsored by Councilmember **Jeffery Young, Jr. (5th District)** investigating illegal street racing meetups in Philadelphia.

The street racing hearing happened just one week after so-called “drifting” drivers and spectators took over parts of Philadelphia streets and parking lots on September 21-22 resulting in viral videos and drawing international attention.

**JEFFERY YOUNG JR.**  
5TH DISTRICT COUNCILMEMBER

**City Council**  
PHILADELPHIA  
PHILCouncil.com

**City Hall, Room 400, October 1st at 10am**

**PUBLIC HEARING ON  
ILLEGAL  
STREET RACING**



If you are interested in providing testimony to the Committee, please email  
Jawad Pullin, Legislative Director at [jawad.pullin@phila.gov](mailto:jawad.pullin@phila.gov)

Office of Jeffery Young, Jr., 5th District Councilmember | City Hall, Office 586 | (215) 686-3443

 @cmjyoungjr  @cmjyoungjr  @cmjyoungjr  [PHLCouncil.com/JefferyYoungJr](http://PHLCouncil.com/JefferyYoungJr)

Philadelphia Police Deputy Commissioner Frank Healy testified that the Police Department is exploring the use of drones, spike strips, and automated plate readers in its response to illegal street racing and car meetups. Healy says the drones could be in use within the next few weeks and be used to track suspects without involving a possible dangerous chase in a police car. Spike strips could be used around the area of a meet-up to prevent cars from escaping.

Members of the public testified at the hearing that Council should do more to deal with racing motorcycles, loud cars, and racing meetups.



# ACCOUNTABILITY IN ACTION

## COUNCILMEMBER MIKE DRISCOLL'S REFORM TASK FORCE SPURS KEY L&I IMPROVEMENTS

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Back in February, Mayor Parker announced that Basil Merenda would become the new Licenses and Inspections (L&I) Commissioner for Inspections, Safety and Compliance, and Bridget Collins-Greenwald is the L&I Commissioner for Quality of Life.

During the press conference, Mayor Parker specifically praised the work of the Joint Task Force on Regulatory Reform for Licenses and Inspections, a panel chaired by Merenda and Councilmember **Mike Driscoll (6th District)**, Chair of Council's Committee on Licenses and Inspections.

# KENSINGTON CLEANUP TAKES CENTER STAGE

NEW SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON KENSINGTON  
TACKLES ROOT CAUSES OF CRISIS

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In May 2024, Mayor Cherelle Parker's Administration completed a month-long encampment resolution process on the 3000-3100 blocks of Kensington Avenue.

Councilmember **Quetcy Lozada (7th District)** expressed support for the efforts in Kensington, which is part of her district, and highlighted the creation of the Kensington Caucus to focus on legislative improvements in the area.

City Council also established a Special Committee on Kensington with Councilmembers **Quetcy Lozada (Chair, 7th District)**, **Curtis Jones, Jr. (Vice Chair, 4th District)**, **Mark Squilla (1st District)**, **Mike Driscoll (6th District)**, **Nina Ahmad (At-Large)**, and **Jim Harrity (At-Large)**.

The committee's goal is to address challenges in Kensington, including drug activity, crime, housing, job creation, and addiction treatment. Their work will include regular meetings, evaluating current policies, and engaging the community to identify solutions. The cleanup of Kensington remains a priority for both Council and Mayor Parker's Administration moving into 2025.



# SAFER STREETS FOR PHILADELPHIA

MAYOR CHERELLE PARKER ENACTS  
“GET OUT THE BIKE LANE” BILL

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Mayor Cherelle Parker signed **Bill #240657**, the “Get Out The Bike Lane” law, aimed at pedestrian and bicycle safety. Sponsored by Council President **Kenyatta Johnson (2nd District)** and Councilmember **Jamie Gauthier (3rd District)**, it followed the death of Dr. Barbara Ann Friedes, killed in a bike lane crash near 18th and Spruce Streets. Advocates, including the Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia, pushed for its passage. The law fines \$125 in Center City and University City, and \$75 elsewhere for stopping or standing in bike lanes.

The Philadelphia Parking Authority is responsible for enforcing the No Stopping In The Bike Lane law and enforcement is underway citywide. The Philadelphia Streets Department is responsible for installing the new signage and that will happen throughout 2025.



# BRINGING ANSWERS TO HOMEOWNERS

PHILADELPHIA RESIDENTS GET PROPERTY TAX HELP  
THROUGH COUNCIL-LED WORKSHOPS



City Council's 2024 property tax relief workshops helped thousands of homeowners across Philadelphia. Representatives from the Office of Property Assessment, the Revenue Department, Community Legal Services, Register of Wills, and Recorder of Deeds answered questions and enrolled residents in programs on the spot.

These events provided critical information on tax relief programs designed to keep residents in their homes, including the Homestead Exemption, Longtime Owner-Occupied Program (LOOP), Senior Tax Freeze, and Low-Income Tax Freeze.

Council's public outreach campaign included neighborhood billboards, digital ads, radio commercials in English and Spanish, and letters sent to tens of thousands of homes, ensuring more Philadelphians were informed about available property tax relief options.





# FROM FREE LAUNDRY TO JAZZ CONCERTS

COUNCILMEMBER CINDY BASS TRANSFORMS THE 8TH DISTRICT  
WITH PLAYGROUNDS, EVENTS & SUPPORT

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In 2024, Councilmember **Cindy Bass (8th District)** introduced legislation renaming the 6100 block of Norwood Street after legendary musician and Philadelphia native Frankie Beverly. She also spearheaded transformative initiatives in Philadelphia's 8th Council District focusing on revitalization and resident engagement. Key milestones included the groundbreaking of Heritage Playground, Barrett Playground, Panati Playground, and Nicetown Sports Court, creating safe recreational spaces for her constituents.

Her office held the Walking, Talking and Doing series, pop-ups called "Meet Us on Broad Street" along Broad Street Line subway stops as a form of making government accessible to the people. Additionally, Councilwoman Bass held food giveaways that fed more than 6,000 residents monthly, distributed 7,000 toys to over 50 organizations during the holiday season, hosted a Free Laundry Day, and events such as Oldies in the Park and Jazz, Funk, and Soul concerts fostered community spirit.

She helped hundreds of residents during her expungement clinic to clear records through partnerships with the Office of Reentry and others.



## PARENT TASK FORCE & CURFEW REFORM

COUNCILMEMBER ANTHONY PHILLIPS LEADS CHARGE FOR SAFER NIGHTS, STRONGER FAMILIES, AND CLEANER STREETS

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Councilmember **Anthony Phillips (9th District)** championed curfew reform legislation to reduce after-hours nuisance activity along Ogontz Avenue. This law empowers the Philadelphia Police Department to enhance enforcement and set clear business curfews, addressing late-night safety concerns and preventing disturbances. Passed by City Council, the curfew aims to reduce crime and improve the quality of life for residents and businesses.

Phillips also led the Parent Task Force, bringing together parents, educators, and community leaders to address challenges in at-risk neighborhoods, providing valuable input for City Council policies. Additionally, he introduced the Encroaching Tree Bill, which holds negligent property owners accountable for dangerous trees. The bill addressed a hazardous 20-year-old tree on Marcella Street in Lawncrest, which has now been removed, resolving a longstanding safety hazard.



# BIG WINS FOR THE FAR NORTHEAST

COUNCILMEMBER BRIAN O'NEILL DELIVERS MAJOR TAX SAVINGS AND RECREATION UPGRADES

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Councilmember **Brian O'Neill (10th District)** co-introduced and passed legislation which increased the Homestead Exemption by 25% from \$80,000 - \$100,000. This bill helped over 30,000 enrolled owner-occupants in the Far Northeast save an average of \$1,400 annually.

Councilmember O'Neill cut the ribbon this fall at Fox Chase Recreation Center to celebrate the numerous improvements made throughout the facility. The \$2.5 million project, which has been completed over the past 18 months, includes refurbished and colored tennis, hockey, and basketball courts. In addition, an unused hockey court was converted into a multi-sport court for pickleball and futsal. The project also includes the installation of a new spray-ground and security cameras. New landscaping was also completed and the driveway was relocated which allowed for a new, expanded play area with state-of-the-art equipment.



# NEW BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

COUNCILMEMBERS APPROVE EIGHT NEW BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS IN MAY

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Philadelphia City Council in 2024 confirmed eight of Mayor Parker's Board of Education nominees: Reginald Streater, Sarah-Ashley Andrews, Chau Wing Lam, Crystal Cubbage, Cheryl Harper, Whitney Jones, Wanda Novales, and Joan Stern.

Under law, Parker's selections had to be submitted to the City Council for possible confirmation. Council members voted 14-2 during a Committee of the Whole hearing to withdraw the nomination of Joyce Wilkerson to the Philadelphia Board of Education.

Eight school board members were sworn in for new terms in 2024.

Councilmember **Isaiah Thomas (At-Large)**, chair of Council's Education Committee, introduced and Councilmembers approved **Resolution #240393** authorizing the Education Committee to hold hearings to explore possible reforms to the school board nomination, confirmation, and governance processes.



# TRANSFORMING NON-PROFIT SUPPORT

MAJORITY LEADER GILMORE RICHARDSON UNVEILS KEY FINDINGS FROM CITY COUNCIL'S NON-PROFIT TASK FORCE



Majority Leader **Katherine Gilmore Richardson (At-Large)** stood alongside Councilmembers, Parker Administration officials and representatives from Philadelphia's non-profit community in early December to release a long-anticipated report from City Council's Non-Profit Provider Task Force (Task Force).

The Task Force was established following legislation (**Resolution #240614**) introduced by Gilmore Richardson seeking to significantly improve the way the City of Philadelphia does business with non-profit service providers.

Made up of members from the non-profit sector and various City departments, this Task Force was responsible for reviewing the City's contract and procurement processes with non-profit providers in addition to proposing recommendations for improved business practices.





# CITY COUNCIL DEMANDS CLARITY

COUNCILMEMBERS JEFFERY YOUNG AND JIM HARRITY HELD HEARINGS ON MAYOR PARKER'S ADMINISTRATION INITIATIVES IN MAY

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Philadelphia City Council approved **Resolution #240512**, sponsored by Councilmember **Jeffery Young, Jr. (5th District)**, to hold hearings on the use and occupancy of the former Philadelphia Nursing Home at 2100 W. Girard Avenue by the City and its contractors. The resolution also authorizes subpoenas to compel Mayor Cherelle L. Parker and her administration to provide documents and testify on their plans for the facility.

The Parker Administration's FY25 budget includes \$100 million to establish triage centers for individuals experiencing substance use disorder, aiming to combat open-air drug markets in Kensington. Council approved the funding, with the first triage centers expected to open in early 2025. Young called for the hearings after the administration expanded services at the Fairmount facility without prior consultation with local residents.

Additionally, Council approved **Resolution #240514**, sponsored by Councilmember **Jim Harrity (At-Large)**, allowing the Labor and Civil Services Committee to hold a hearing on Mayor Parker's proposed Return to Office Policy. The policy, announced days earlier, requires all city employees to transition back to full-time, in-office work starting July 15, 2024.



# NEW LAWS FOR A STRONGER PHILADELPHIA

MAYOR PARKER SIGNS LEGISLATION CHAMPIONED BY COUNCILMEMBERS  
QUETCY LOZADA, MIKE DRISCOLL & CURTIS JONES, JR.

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Mayor Parker signed three bills into law in April 2024 that restrict business hours in Kensington, tag flipping devices and a ban on so-called skill games in Philadelphia.

- Kensington Business Hours Restriction (**Bill #240013-A**): Limits business operations from 11 PM to 6 AM, except for restaurants with liquor licenses, impacting about 90 businesses. Violators face a \$500 daily fine. The measure expires January 1, 2028.
- Skill Games Ban (**Bill #240010-A**): Prohibits gambling machines in businesses without a casino or liquor license. Enforcement is paused pending a court ruling.
- Tag Flipping Ban (**Bill #240089-A**): Outlaws devices that conceal or alter license plates, imposing a \$2,000 fine for violations.

Councilmembers **Curtis Jones, Jr. (4th District)**, **Jeffery Young, Jr. (5th District)**, **Mike Driscoll (6th District)**, **Quetcy Lozada (7th District)**, and **Jim Harrity (At-Large)** attended the bill signing.



# STANDING STRONG FOR REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

CITY COUNCIL DEFENDS REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM  
WITH A BOLD NEW RESOLUTION

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Philadelphia City Councilmember **Dr. Nina Ahmad (At-Large)** introduced *Resolution #240297* in April, which urges the federal government to take immediate action to protect and enshrine reproductive rights and ensure abortion access for all birthing people.

In September 2024, **Minority Leader Kendra Brooks (At-Large)** passed legislation to authorize a Reproductive Freedom Task Force in Philadelphia.

As Chair of the Task Force, **Councilmember Brooks** convenes quarterly meetings of providers, advocates, and leaders of key city departments to improve access to reproductive healthcare.

Thousands of people have been forced to cross state lines in search of safe abortions and reproductive care.

In order to meet the need, City Council awarded \$500,000 in funding to Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania and an additional \$450,000 for other local providers of reproductive healthcare.



# CLEAN ENERGY VICTORY

COUNCILMEMBER DR. NINA AHMAD'S GROUNDBREAKING  
EV BILL SIGNED INTO LAW

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Philadelphia Mayor Parker signed **Bill #240674**, sponsored by Councilmember **Dr. Nina Ahmad (At-Large)**, into law in October. The ordinance directs the City's Department of Licenses and Inspections to ensure that electric vehicle (EV) chargers in Philadelphia parking spaces are structurally safe, fully operational, and meet all necessary safety standards. This legislation aligns with the final rule for National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Standards and Requirements, ensuring that EV charging stations across the city remain safe, reliable and accessible for residents and visitors.

By enforcing these new regulations, the city aims to enhance the quality and availability of EV charging infrastructure, supporting Philadelphia's broader sustainability and clean energy goals. The ordinance represents a proactive step in fostering greener transportation solutions while protecting consumers from faulty or unsafe charging stations. It will officially take effect on April 1, 2025, strengthening the city's commitment to a cleaner, more efficient future.



# STRONGER PROTECTIONS, REGULATE TAX PREPARERS

COUNCILMEMBER RUE LANDAU CHAMPIONS  
CONSUMER RIGHTS IN PHILADELPHIA

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In 2024, Councilmember **Rue Landau (At-Large)** was proud to introduce and pass a Consumer Protection Ordinance on behalf of Mayor Cherelle Parker to shield hardworking Philadelphians from deceptive business practices. The ordinance empowers the Law Department to investigate violations and seek remedies in the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas, imposing penalties of up to \$2,000 per violation and securing restitution for consumers. Targeting predatory tactics like misleading financing and false advertising, the law strengthens protections for working families and aligns with state consumer laws.

She also introduced legislation, which City Council passed and Mayor Parker signed into law, to regulate paid tax preparers, ensuring Philadelphians receive clear pricing and are shielded from hidden fees. Many rely on tax services, making transparency crucial in preventing unfair practices. This new law holds tax preparers accountable, protecting residents from exploitation while reinforcing economic fairness and consumer rights.



# MOBILIZING VOTERS

## NONPARTISAN EVENTS FEATURE CITY COUNCILMEMBERS PROMOTING VOTER TURNOUT



Minority Leader **Kendra Brooks (At-Large)** hosted more than 300 students from over a dozen high schools citywide gathered at the Art Museum in November to learn about the electoral process and register for the 2024 November election at her third annual “New Voter Party” for high school seniors.

The Philadelphia City Commissioners Office (City Commissioners) brought voting machines to help the young voters get prepared for election day.

Councilmember **Jamie Gauthier (3rd District)**, the Committee of 70, PA Youth Votes and Mural Arts Philadelphia also participated in the event.



Council President **Kenyatta Johnson's** office partnered with Philadelphia City Commissioner Chairman Omar Sabir to host a nonpartisan Youth Voter Registration Event outside Philadelphia City Hall.

Councilmembers also participated in ribbon cuttings of The City Commissioner's Satellite Election Offices (SEO) across Philadelphia. The SEO's provided voter registration and in-person mail ballot services.



# THE ANGEL DAVIS EVICTION ACCOUNTABILITY BILL

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBERS KENDRA BROOKS,  
JAMIE GAUTHIER, NICOLAS O'ROURKE AND RUE LANDAU

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In March 2023, a private armed contractor of Philadelphia's landlord tenant officer (LTO), shot Angel Davis in the head while trying to evict her from her North Philadelphia home, putting her in critical condition and causing significant permanent brain damage. Within four months, LTO contractors opened fire on a tenant's dog while serving an eviction in Olney and shot a tenant in front of her child while attempting to evict her in Kensington.

In response to the shootings, Councilmembers **Kendra Brooks (At-Large)** and **Jamie Gauthier (3rd District)** held a hearing of City Council's Housing Committee in 2024 that exposed widespread concerns with the landlord-tenant office, including persistent violence and a lack of oversight, training, ethics guidelines, and public accountability. Following the hearing, a majority of the members of City Council signed a statement calling for greater accountability for evictions in Philadelphia.

The Angela Davis Eviction Accountability bill was signed into law in mid-2024 and is in effect today.



## RENT CONTROL REINFORCED

COUNCIL PASSES SWEEPING LEGISLATION TO  
END ALGORITHMIC RENT PRICE-FIXING

---



Council approved **Bill #240823**, prohibiting rental price-fixing in both algorithmic and personal forms. Sponsored by Councilmember **Nicolas O'Rourke (At-Large)**, the bill received overwhelming, veto-proof support upon introduction and now heads to Mayor Parker's desk for consideration. This legislation aims to prevent unfair pricing practices that contribute to rising rental costs and housing instability, ensuring a more transparent and equitable housing market for Philadelphia residents.

O'Rourke stated that the bill was driven by numerous factors, including the struggles of Philly tenants, tenant unions, and the documented impact of revenue management software on rental prices. By passing this legislation, Philadelphia joins San Francisco as only the second U.S. city to enact such a ban, reinforcing the city's commitment to protecting renters and promoting housing affordability.



# PHILADELPHIA TAX COMMISSION RETURNS

CITY COUNCIL ASSEMBLES 15-MEMBER TEAM TO  
REVAMP PHILLY'S TAX POLICIES

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City Council approved **Resolution #240108**, sponsored by Council President **Kenyatta Johnson (2nd District)**, to relaunch the Philadelphia Tax Reform Commission for a comprehensive tax review.

The 15-member commission includes:

- **Council Appointees:** Paul Levy, Richard Vague (Co-Chair), Jovan Goldstein, Ryan Boyer
- **Mayor Appointees:** Matt Stitt (Co-Chair), Folasade Olanipekun-Lewis, Jerry Sweeney, Greg Segall
- **City Controller Appointee:** Allan Domb
- **Chamber of Commerce Representatives:** Jennifer Karpchuk (Greater Philadelphia Chamber), Derek Green (African American Chamber), Victor Garrido (Hispanic Chamber), Daniel McElhatton (Northeast Philadelphia Chamber), Dr. Khine Arthur (Asian American Chamber), Zach Wilcha (Independence Business Alliance)

The commission released tax reform recommendations before Mayor Parker's Fiscal Year 2026 budget address. Originally formed in 2002, this new iteration will assess tax policies in light of post-pandemic economic challenges.



# BUILDING THE FUTURE FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

## VARE REC CENTER REOPENS & TANAY STREET RENAMED



In November 2024, Philadelphia City Council **President Kenyatta Johnson (2nd District)**, Mayor Cherelle L. Parker, and community leaders celebrated the grand reopening of Vare Recreation Center, the first Rebuild Philadelphia project exceeding \$20 million. The renovations feature an indoor basketball gym, a new gymnastics gym, and the City's first fiber-optic, high-speed internet in a rec center, powering a state-of-the-art computer lab. A new outdoor football field is set for completion in 2025. Rebuild, funded by the Philadelphia Beverage Tax, continues to invest millions to improve parks, rec centers, and libraries across the city while promoting economic inclusion for minority- and women-owned businesses.

Philadelphia City Council also passed legislation to rename all 30 blocks of Taney Streets throughout Philadelphia to LeCount Street, honoring Caroline LeCount, a 19th-century Philadelphia educator and civil rights pioneer. The Rename Taney Street Coalition led advocacy efforts to replace the name of Roger B. Taney, author of the 1857 Dred Scott decision that denied citizenship to African Americans. The legislation was sponsored by Johnson and Councilmembers **Curtis Jones, Jr. (4th District)** and **Jeffery Young, Jr. (5th District)**. New LeCount Street signage is set for installation by the end of 2025.



# TARGETING RESIGN-TO-RUN REQUIREMENT

COUNCILMEMBER ISAIAH THOMAS SEEKS TO OVERTURN  
RESIGN-TO-RUN RULE WITH NEW LEGISLATION

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Majority Whip **Isaiah Thomas (At-Large)** introduced **Bill #241056** and **Resolution #241070** in mid-November proposing an amendment to the City Charter to remove the requirement that city employees must resign their positions to run for public office.

The proposed measure would amend the charter to enable city employees (ranging from civil servants, appointed officers, and elected officials) to run for offices at the city, state, and federal level regardless of their employment status with the City of Philadelphia.

If the legislation is reported out of the Council's Committee on Law and Government favorably and passed by Council, it would need to be either approved or vetoed by Mayor Parker. If approved by the Mayor, the question would need to be approved via ballot measure by Philadelphia voters. If passed, the proposal would be implemented upon passage and following the certification of the election.

The earliest that a ballot question could be up for a public vote would be sometime in 2025.



# HONORING STRENGTH

## CITY COUNCIL PAYS TRIBUTE TO THE LONE SURVIVOR OF 1963 CHURCH BOMBING



Mrs. Sarah Collins Rudolph, lone survivor of the 1963 16th Street Baptist Church bombing in Birmingham, Alabama which took the lives of four little girls — 14-year-olds Addie Mae Collins, Denise McNair, Carole Robertson, and 11-year-old Cynthia Wesley — was the guest of Councilmember **Curtis Jones, Jr. (4th District)** in the Council chambers. Council also approved a Resolution honoring Rudolph. She was greeted with a standing ovation from Councilmembers and the audience.

The deaths of the four little girls shocked the nation and drew international attention to the violent struggle for civil rights in Birmingham.





# TAKING CENTER STAGE

PHILADELPHIA'S STAR ERIKA ALEXANDER  
CELEBRATED FOR HER CONTRIBUTIONS

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Philadelphia City Council recognized award-winning Philadelphia actress Erika Alexander, who was joined by family and friends in City Council. Alexander was born in the small town of Winslow, Arizona in 1969. Her family moved to East Mt. Airy in Northwest Philadelphia in 1983, and she graduated from Philadelphia High School for Girls in 1987 (Class 231). She joined the New Freedom Theatre, located at Broad and Master Streets, in North Philadelphia when she was 14 years old.

Councilmember **Jeffery Young, Jr. (5th District)** honored her with a resolution ceremonially renaming Master Street between Broad Street and Carlisle Street in North Philadelphia as “Erika Alexander Way.”

Alexander would receive her breakout role in 1993, being cast as high-powered attorney Maxine Shaw on FOX TV’s Living Single, a role for which she would receive multiple NAACP Image Awards for Outstanding Actress in a Comedy Series. She would portray Shaw for five years until 1998 and her character has served as an inspiration for many Black female lawyers and leaders nationwide.



# HONORING A LEGACY

## FUNERAL SERVICES HELD FOR CHIEF CLERK MICHAEL DECKER

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City Councilmembers, staff, family, and friends gathered at Holy Innocents Church in Juniata on March 1 to pay their respects at the funeral service for Chief Clerk Michael Decker. Decker, who began his career with City Council in January 1988, was appointed Chief Clerk in 2009 during the tenure of the late Council President Anna C. Verna. He served under three Council Presidents—Verna, Darrell Clarke, and Kenyatta Johnson—until his untimely passing at the age of 58.

To honor his legacy, City Council passed a resolution on February 29, sponsored by Councilmember **Brian O'Neill (10th District)**, to remember Decker's contributions to the Council. The resolution was presented to his family at the service.

In a tribute to his decades of service, the podium Decker stood behind every week in Council was draped in black cloth during the ceremony. Following his passing, Elizabeth "Liz" McCollum-Nazario was appointed interim Chief Clerk.

McCollum-Nazario, who served admirably in the role throughout 2024, was named the permanent Chief Clerk in 2025.



# PHILADELPHIA 76ERS ARE STAYING IN PHILADELPHIA

SIXERS JOIN COMCAST FOR ARENA IN SOUTH PHILADELPHIA SPORTS COMPLEX

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On January 13, 2025, the Sixers and Comcast Spectacor - owners of the Flyers and Wells Fargo Center - announced a joint partnership to build a new arena at the South Philadelphia sports complex and revitalize East Market Street.

The South Philly arena complements Comcast's \$1 billion redevelopment plan to transform the sport complex into a year-round destination for work and entertainment. The city must now negotiate a deal with the Sixers and Comcast, including a community benefits agreement and tax arrangements. City Council approval is required before construction can begin in Johnson's Second Council District.

Participating in the important announcement was Brian Roberts, Chairman and CEO, of Comcast Corporation, National Basketball Association (NBA) Commissioner Adam Silver, Wanda Sykes, WNBA advocate, Daniel Hilferty, Chairman/Chief Executive Officer of Comcast Spectacor; Ryan Boyer, Business Manager, Philadelphia Building and Construction Trades Council; and Harris Blitzler Sports & Entertainment (HBSE) Founder Josh Harris and partner David Adelman. HBSE owns and operates the Sixers.

Commissioner Silver also announced that the Sixers and Comcast are working together to bring a Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) team to Philadelphia in the future.





# HOW TO WATCH PHILADELPHIA CITY COUNCIL LIVE:

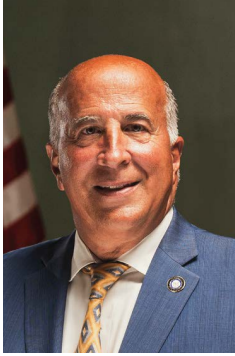
Watch meetings live on Xfinity Channel 64,  
Fios Channel 40 and stream at [PHLCouncil.com/watch](http://PHLCouncil.com/watch)  
Listen to Meetings live on WURD Radio 96.1 FM



**City  
Council**  
PHILADELPHIA



# DISTRICT COUNCILMEMBERS



1ST DISTRICT  
**MARK SQUILLA**



2ND DISTRICT  
**KENYATTA JOHNSON**  
COUNCIL PRESIDENT



3RD DISTRICT  
**JAMIE GAUTHIER**



4TH DISTRICT  
**CURTIS JONES JR.**



5TH DISTRICT  
**JEFFERY YOUNG, JR.**



6TH DISTRICT  
**MIKE J. DRISCOLL**



7TH DISTRICT  
**QUETCY LOZADA**

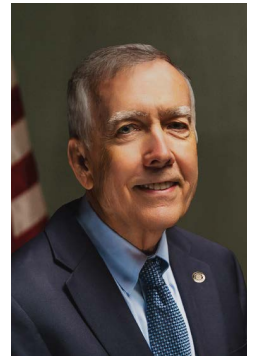


8TH DISTRICT  
**CINDY BASS**

DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP



9TH DISTRICT  
**ANTHONY PHILLIPS**



10TH DISTRICT  
**BRIAN O'NEILL**

# AT-LARGE COUNCILMEMBERS



COUNCILMEMBER AT-LARGE  
**KATHERINE GILMORE RICHARDSON**  
MAJORITY LEADER



COUNCILMEMBER AT-LARGE  
**ISAIAH THOMAS**  
MAJORITY WHIP



COUNCILMEMBER AT-LARGE  
**KENDRA BROOKS**  
MINORITY LEADER



COUNCILMEMBER AT-LARGE  
**NICOLAS O'ROURKE**  
MINORITY WHIP



COUNCILMEMBER AT-LARGE  
**JIM HARRITY**



COUNCILMEMBER AT-LARGE  
**RUE LANDAU**



COUNCILMEMBER AT-LARGE  
**NINA AHMAD**



# SEATING ORDER



## DIRECTORY

PHILADELPHIA 19107-3290

### PRESIDENT

	ROOM	PHONE	FAX
Kenyatta Johnson	Room 494, City Hall	(215) 686-2070	(215) 686-1946

### CHIEF CLERK

Elizabeth McCollum Nazario	Room 402, City Hall	(215) 686-3410/11	(215) 686-1910
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### AT-LARGE

	ROOM	PHONE	FAX
Katherine Gilmore Richardson	Room 581, City Hall	(215) 686-0454/55	(215) 686-1926
Isaiah Thomas	Room 330, City Hall	(215) 686-3446/47	
Nina Ahmad	Room 584, City Hall	(215) 686-3450/51	(215) 686-2013
Jim Harrity	Room 408, City Hall	(215) 686-8295/96	(215) 686-2019
Rue Landau	Room 592, City Hall	(215) 686-3420/21	
Kendra Brooks	Room 312, City Hall	(215) 686-0461/0462	(215) 686-1933
Nicolas O'Rourke	Room 319, City Hall	(215) 686-3452/53	



## 1ST DISTRICT

	ROOM	PHONE	FAX
Mark Squilla	Room 332, City Hall	(215) 686-3458/59	(215) 686-1931

## 2ND DISTRICT

Kenyatta Johnson	Room 580, City Hall	(215) 686-3412/13	(215) 686-1932
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## 3RD DISTRICT

Jamie Gauthier	Room 316, City Hall	(215) 686-0459/60	(215) 686-1929
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## 4TH DISTRICT

Curtis Jones, Jr.	Room 404, City Hall	(215) 686-3416/17	(215) 686-1934
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## 5TH DISTRICT

Jeffery Young, Jr.	Room 586, City Hall	(215) 686-3442/43	(215) 686-1901
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## 6TH DISTRICT

Mike Driscoll	Room 313, City Hall	(215) 686-3444/45	(215) 686-1935
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## 7TH DISTRICT

Quetcy Lozada	Room 484, City Hall	(215) 686-3448/49	(215) 686-1936
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## 8TH DISTRICT

Cindy Bass	Room 508, City Hall	(215) 686-3424/25	(215) 686-1937
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## 9TH DISTRICT

Anthony Phillips	Room 594, City Hall	(215) 686-3454/55	(215) 686-1938
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## 10TH DISTRICT

Brian J. O'Neill	Room 562, City Hall	(215) 686-3422/23	(215) 686-1939
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**IN MEMORIAM  
CHIEF CLERK MICHAEL ANDREW DECKER  
1966-2024**



The cornerstone of City Council since 1988.  
Chief Clerk from September 2009 to February 2024.

Rest In Peace.





## CONTRIBUTORS

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Emanuel Wilkerson, Chief of Staff, Councilmember Anthony Phillips | Finian Killion, Intern,  
Councilmember Brian O'Neill | Alyssa Moore, Director of Communications, Councilmember Rue Landau

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