

The Neighbors' Report

Councilman Curtis Jones, Jr.
Presents the 4th district



Site Visit with Upper Wissahickon Civic Association

District Tours

Throughout the summer, I spent time each week touring the communities of the 4th district and addressing the concerns of my fellow neighbors in those communities. I visited the neighborhoods of *Hestonville, Overbrook, East Falls, Felton, Belmont Village, Wynnefield, Carroll Park, Swam-Poodle, Paradise and Upper Wissahickon.*

During the tours, I brought together neighborhood leaders and community organizers with various key city departments and agencies including: **Streets, Water, Parks & Recreation, Police, Sanitation, SEPTA, Public Property and Licenses and Inspection** to deal with constituent requests ranging from pot-holes, to traffic or abandoned properties--and the list could go on. It's what I like to refer to as the meat and potatoes of being a Council Member.

While my constituents care about the bills I have introduced and that Council has passed into law, such as the Foster Care Advisory law, in which allows former and current foster persons the right to speak on behalf of a sibling and be a part of an advisory board for the Department of Human Services, or the Student Internship Tax credit, which incentivizes the hiring of students. Yet, having the streets cleaned, trees removed, addressing safety concerns, and getting playgrounds repaired affects my neighbors' daily lives and are just as important. I very much enjoyed my Summer with my neighbors by visiting all the wonderfully diverse neighborhoods of the 4th district and providing quality services citizens deserve. As always, I pride myself on being a representative of the people and it is my pleasure to be a public servant for the hard working people of Philadelphia.

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Site Visits with: 1. (N.O.A.H.) Overbrook Civic Assoc. 2. Wynnefield Residents Assoc., 3. in East Falls 4. Pastor Adams of 'Good Shephard' keeping Felt Association clean and 6. lastly, with Hestonville Association planning the future



1. At K. W. Reed's Grand School Opening of Young Men's Christian Academy 2. At Hayes Manor 3. With Councilwoman Jannic Blackwell and Bishop Reed and 4. At the ESPM Hair Zone during "Success for School" Give-Away

Councilman Jones Readies Students for School

On Saturday, September 3rd Councilman Jones delivered throughout the district over 500 book-bags, school supplies, and treats to honor and support local students preparing for the academic year. ***"A new academic year is a time for celebration. I'm celebrating the new school season by filling students' bookbags for success."***-Councilman Curtis Jones, Jr.

The Philadelphia School District is responsible for educating over a 153,000 students this year and there must be only one objective- to get the job done! Factors essential to the success of our students include attendance, achievement and accountability of all; returning to the basics by providing trades supplemental trade programs within our school. Our education system must be supported by strategically diverse and collaborative partnerships, for in the words of Frederick Douglas "It is easier to build strong children than repair broken men." At the end of the day, the goal must be to prepare a productive workforce for Philadelphia. Councilman Jones participated in several 1st Day of School activities including the Robert E. Lamberton Elementary, Dimmer Beeber Middle School, and the K.W. Reed Christian Academy.

Roxborough Streetscape Project



"Streetscape" Ribbon Cutting with U.S. Congressman Chaka Fattah and Roxborough Development Corp.'s Bernard Guet

This Fall, with the partnerships of U.S. Congressman Chaka Fattah and State Senator Vincent Hughes, the Roxborough Development Corporation is able to break ground and establish the "Ridge Avenue Streetscape Project." A project that will spruce and rejuvenate the Central Business District of Ridge Avenue with new sidewalks, signage and landscaping.

The \$2.2 million project was funded, through an \$800,00 federal "Home Town Streets grant" from Congressman Fattah's office, nearly \$1 million of state funding from State Senator's office and a \$500,000 grant through the "Targeted Neighborhood Support Program" by Councilman Curtis Jones.

"Mornings with Bill" to Discuss Incarceration in Inner-Cities

Councilman Jones joined **Palmer Seminary, the Black Clergy of Philadelphia, the African American Interdenominational Ministries and WURD900** to welcome Michelle Alexander acclaimed author of "New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Color Blindness" to discuss the impact of the growing crime rate and skyrocketing incarceration of African American and Hispanic men within the criminal justice system.



Eco-Arts Festival

This year, **Councilman Curtis Jones, Jr.** served as Co-Chair for Philadelphia's EcoArts festival in Manayunk, partnered with the Manayunk Development Corporation, CBS3 and Philly.com.

My EcoChamp honorees are *Streets Commissioner Clarena Tolson* and critically acclaimed *filmmaker Josh Fox* for his work in "Gasland." For EcoArts festival Councilman Jones was joined by the UnLitter Us campaign, Recycle Bank, Greenworks and the Water department to encourage and assist residents on energy efficiency advice and tips. Additionally, on September 25th Main Street became the 1st official UnLitter Us Litter Free Zone with signage.

"Being environmentally friendly is an important part of my Council agenda which I instill through providing watershed protection, cost-saving energy bills, and energy job-creation projects. Being Green is about efficiency and these are attractive reasons to be Green" stated Councilman Jones.



1. Temple students transferring energy into electricity 2. Comm. Tolson using the eco-friendly phone 3. Acknowledging sponsors 4. Speaking with director Josh Fox 5. MDC Director Jane Lipton with "My EcoChamp" awardees



President Obama's American Jobs Act

On Thursday, September 22nd Councilmen Jones and Goode passed a resolution supporting President Obama's Urgent American Jobs Act and calling on Mayor Nutter to establish complementary job creation programs at the local level. The American Jobs Act reflects a commitment to strengthen the recovery and help increase access to jobs for all Americans. With a commitment to rebuilding and revitalizing communities across the country this act will target investments to the communities hardest hit by the recession. Such as 40 percent, or \$10 billion, will be directed towards the top 100 largest high-need public school districts, benefiting Philadelphia as the 8th largest public school district. Furthermore, this resolution calls for much more to be done to deal with the long-term unemployed and for maximum effects particularly in Philadelphia, such as a complementary job creation initiative including benefits for on-the-job training to match residents with potential employers by offering incentives for employers of tax credits, and wage subsidies.

Prior to introduction all Democratic Council members co-sponsored the resolution: *Maria Quinones-Sanchez, Donna Reed Miller, Council President Anna Verna, Frank DiCicco, Joan Krajewski, Bill Greenlee, Jim Kenney, Marian Tasco, Darrell L. Clarke, Jannie L. Blackwell, Bill Green, and Blondell Reynolds Brown.*

For the **Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Inc. (CBCF)** and the 41st Annual Legislative Conference (ALC) Councilman Jones participated as a panelist on a forum for transportation and sustainable communities. Given the Councilman's commitment and leadership role he discussed future initiatives to assist with Philadelphia's overall goal of a prominent and superb SEPTA public transportation system and transit oriented development such as, *Market Street West*. *"Transportation impacts everyday life, including employment opportunities, housing and education options, as well as access to health care, goods and services. I am proud to be a part of the leadership discussion to make our City's Public Transportation system even more accessible and valuable for residents as well as visitors"* said Councilman Curtis Jones, Jr.

Jones Goes to Washington



Proposed Configurations for Philadelphia Market Street West

"Public transportation is the background of flourishing neighborhoods and commercial corridors. Without successful, safe, and the most modern transit options a City cannot flourish to its full capacity and capabilities." –Councilman Jones



*"I am not here for the next poll.
I am here for the next generation."*
-Councilman Curtis Jones, Jr.

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