

The Neighbors Report

Presents the 4th district

Councilman Curtis Jones, Jr.



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Save Our Homes

I have been an advocate for keeping citizens in their homes through our difficult economic times with several legislative resolutions to the local, state and federal assemblies as well as through activism with my neighbors and council colleagues. Successfully, our message was heard and the U.S. Congress enacted and funded President Obama's \$1 billion **Emergency Homeowners' Loan Program** allocating \$106 million to Pennsylvania.

The **Emergency Homeowners' Loan Program** is real help in real time and is available to the 4th district. You may qualify if you are experiencing unemployment or underemployment (15% loss of income or more) caused by adverse economic or medical conditions. All approved homeowners are eligible to receive E.H.L.P. assistance to pay for housing and additional expenses, such as: mortgage principal, interest, home insurance, premiums, taxes, hazard flood insurance, ground rents, condo and associate fees, as well as reasonable attorney fees, to bring them current as well as provide ongoing monthly assistance to help maintain mortgage payments and keep Philadelphians in their homes. Eligible homeowners can pay as little as \$25 per month. I am encouraging all in need to immediately take advantage of the **Emergency Homeowners' Loan Program** applications for the deadline of Friday, September 30th is rapidly approaching. For further assistance please contact your local district HUD-Approval centers at Carroll Park Community Council, located at 5218 Master Street and via telephone at (215)877.1157 or Intercommunity Actions Senior Center, 6012 Ridge Avenue and via phone for convenience at (215).487.0914. I urge those in need to apply. Please do not let the deadline of September 30th pass by without taking advantage of these valuable and helpful resources.

Councilman Curtis Jones, Jr. presents

The Neighbors' Report



Reviving Philadelphia's Industrial Lands: Hunting Park West

Bakers Square is a 220,000 square foot shopping center located at Fox Street, Hunting Park Avenue and Roberts Streets in the Hunting Park West section of Philadelphia at the former headquarters of the famed Tasty Baking Company. The Bakers Square project will entail an expansive endeavor encompassing 30 acres and anchored by a Brown's ShopRite bringing over 300 permanent jobs directly to the area, all a part of the Philadelphia City Planning Commission Redevelopment Initiative. *"I'm pleased the plans for this site went from vast gambling to healthy groceries"* stated **Councilman Jones**. There are several projects proposed to join Bakers Square and these projects will join the reviving business community of Temple University Health Systems, Philadelphia University, the Salvation Army KROC center and Pep Boys Corporate Offices, just to name a few behind the re-establishment and development of this area. The \$65 million project will serve the communities of: Allegheny West, Paradise, East Falls, and Swampoodle.



Councilman Jones Sponsors "Growing Greener" Resolution

The Renew Growing Greener Coalition is the Commonwealth's largest coalition of conservation, recreation and environmental organizations. *"Growing Greener has accomplished a great deal in Philadelphia, such as large scale projects of continuing the Schuylkill River Bike Trail and participating in smaller community projects with the Centennial Lake clean-up,"* stated **Councilman Curtis Jones, Jr.**, sponsor of the resolution. These funds have been used for more than 100 environmental initiatives throughout our city, including watershed protection, cost-saving energy projects, and community park and recreation renovations. Since its establishment, Growing Greener has created a tremendous legacy of success, preserving more than 25,000 acres of Pennsylvania's family farmland, conserving more than 21,000 acres of threatened open space, adding 26,000 acres to state parks and forests, and restoring over 16,000 acres. In addition, **Councilman Jones** noted that preserved open space generates hundreds of millions of dollars in economic benefits for Philadelphia. The city's park system alone increases residential property values in the city by \$689 million.

Councilman Curtis Jones, Jr. joined by Councilwomen Maria Quiñones-Sánchez and Jannie L. Blackwell with The Philadelphia Unemployment Project for a rally against March Sheriff Sales and for the Emergency Homeowner's Loan Assistance program.



To become your block's contact for events, projects and rewards, please give my office a call.



4th Annual "Winning the Future" Block Captain Boot Camp

"Unifying and maintaining communities is done block by block!" - Councilman Curtis Jones, Jr.

In an effort to inform and revitalize neighborhood leaders in the 4th Councilmanic district, **Councilman Curtis Jones, Jr.** was joined by **U.S. Congressman Chaka Fattah, Mayor Michael A. Nutter, Pennsylvania Senator Vincent Hughes, Councilwoman Blondell Reynolds Brown, Councilman Jim Kenney** and over 200 block captains at the High School of the Future, Parkside Avenue on Saturday, April 30th.

Each year, Councilman Jones gathers captains from zipcodes 19127, 19128, 19129, 19131, 19132 and 19151 for a compact day of lectures and workshops full of rules, ideas, and tips to maintain communities and re-establish neighborhoods. Seminar topics led by experts ranged from: *"Policing Your Neighborhood," "College Student Housing," "Greening One's Home," "CDC Capacity Building" and "City Service Requests."*

This year's efforts were especially designed to *"Win the Future."* Councilman Curtis Jones, Jr. credits his father for his "Block Captain Boot Camp" initiative, who believed captains are honorary representatives of their neighborhoods and are essential to community organization and development. In addition to the workshops, each year features the 'Best BLOCK Contest.' The contest rewards Block Captains for making vital improvements to their environment. The *"Winning the Future"* boot camp was intended to motivate and excite block residents, recognize leaders for their achievements in their neighborhoods, and to portray the significance of community organization to the City of Philadelphia.

"Block captains are boots on the ground of everyday concerns," stated Councilman Curtis, Jones, Jr.

Foster Care Advisory Law

"It is critical for those with a voice to speak for the voiceless."-Councilman Curtis Jones, Jr.

The Foster Care Advisory law, Bill# 100755 sponsored by **Councilman Curtis Jones, Jr.** establishes new standards for foster care that will ensure siblings and their families are able to maintain contact. The bill passed out of the Committee on Public Health and Human Services on June 1st to amend Title 21 of the Philadelphia Code by creating a new Chapter 21-1800, entitled "Foster Care," and was passed by the whole council body unanimously on June 16th.

Bill # 100755, also provides that former foster children who are now adults as well as current foster children the ability to consult within the Department of Human Services on policies concerning the placement of children with foster parents. Such consultations will be through additions to an already established advisory board or through a new entity. However, such entity will adopt no less than four (4) former foster care persons and one (1) current foster care child as consultants.



The Good Neighbor Law By a vote of 17-0, City Council body passed Bill # **100613**, sponsored by our **Councilman Curtis Jones, Jr.**, to provide for additional penalties for certain violations with respect to properties located within Educational Housing districts. The bill seeks to crack down on landlords who are repeat offenders against zoning ordinances, specifically the law that bans more than three unrelated persons from living together in a single family unit within Educational Housing Districts. This law enforces a fair and effective "three strike" system against landlords who may knowingly or repeatedly violate the law by stripping them of their licenses for that specific property for three years.

Housing students over the legal three unrelated persons limit increases traffic, trash, noise, and other disturbances. Councilman Jones calls it his "**Good Neighbor**" bill. The bill creates an environment where new residents and long-time residents can better coexist and become better neighbors. Bill # 100613 seeks to promote a better quality of life in the neighborhood for both students and all residents. Most importantly, it promotes public safety. Houses with a large number of students often spur out of control parties, excessive noise and public intoxication that are not only a nuisance to the community but pose a public safety risk. The new law is intended to affect landlords, students and communities in and around 4th district college campuses such as, Saint Joseph's and Philadelphia Universities. The "**Good Neighbor**" bill seeks to improve neighborhood relations in the communities of Wynnefield, Overbrook Farms, Roxborough, Manayunk, East Falls, and education housing in the Eighth Councilmanic District as well.



Neighbor" bill. The bill creates

"The 'Good Neighbor' bill will allow new and existing residents to coexist and become better neighbors. We've tragically seen students housed in overcrowded homes attract negative attention of crime. This bill will help curb those risks while also creating more responsible landlords by enforcing already existing zoning laws through a fair and effective three-strike system."- Councilman Curtis Jones, Jr.

Youth Violence Town Hall Meeting and Honoring "Lady B"

This Spring, **Councilman Curtis Jones, Jr.** partnered with WRNB radio and the Peace and Love Foundation for a town hall meeting on youth violence with students, legislators, parents and school administrators. The objective of the town hall meeting was to discuss alternatives to youth violence such as: flash mobs, bullying, verbal slurs, and lack of respect for life and elders by creating safer communities, while assisting our youth with solutions to manage their anger, emotions, and frustrations in their lives, schools and neighborhoods.

Furthermore, **Councilman Curtis Jones, Jr.** honored radio personality Wendy "Lady B" Clark for her pioneering work in music and her commitment to the community and preventing youth violence. In addition, to her artistic achievements, Wendy "Lady-B" Clark has committed to using her resources and talent to improve the City of Philadelphia through her radio talk show, "The Street Beat" as a community forum to discuss civil issues, promote anti-violence initiatives and peaceful resolutions to violence among the youth of Philadelphia.



"Alley -Way Clean-Up" Project I am pleased to announce my offices have assisted with over 2,600 constituent service requests regarding policing, sanitation, streets, traffic, recreation and licenses and inspection, with a closed rate of 82%. In particular, this year's "Alley Way Clean-Up" project has been a huge success. My office has partnered with local block captains, Philadelphia's Anti-Violence and Anti-Graffiti network, the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Servicers and the Gaudenzia House to remove excessive waste, trash and debris from 4th district alley-ways throughout West and Northwest Philadelphia. So far, over 70 alley-ways, which are private properties, from Adler Street to Girard Avenue, have been repaired with more requests coming in each day. If your neighborhood is interested in the "Alley-Way" Clean-Up project please contact Keith Dial, at keith.dial@phila.gov of my offices. As always, please do not hesitate to contact my offices regarding servicing our communities.

"Service is the price we pay for the space we occupy." -Councilman Curtis Jones, Jr.



Navy Week This year's National Navy Week was held at the Carousel House within Fairmount Park. The Philadelphia Navy Week celebration 2011, gave area residents an opportunity to meet some of the Navy's Sailors and learn about the Navy's critical mission and its broad-ranging capabilities. The U.S. Navy conducts approximately 20 Navy Weeks each year, reaching out to communities across the country to show Americans the investment they have made in their Navy. During a Navy Week celebration, the Navy concentrates a variety of outreach events in a

metropolitan area for a week, sharing the Navy story with as many people as possible. Philadelphia was honored to have the Navy adopt the Carousel House as a project. The project constructed a new cement walkway from the track to the existing parking area, outdoor beatification, radiator covers, painting of the gym and lobby as well as clean-up of the facility. Councilman Curtis Jones, Jr. attended, participated and spoke on behalf of the City for the kick-off.

Aging In a New Age

“Creating a City for All Ages”

The Philadelphia Corporation of Aging estimates by the year 2015, over a third of the population of Philadelphia will be over the age of 55. As Councilman of a district with many naturally occurring retiring communities I want this statistic to be an advantage for the City. Philadelphia has the opportunity to maximize the valuable resource of its aging Philadelphians. Therefore in celebration of Older Americans month, I along with the Mayor’s Commission on Aging and keynote speaker Rev. Mayor Wilson Goode, Sr. held an **“Aging in a New Age”** Summit on Monday, May 9th at WHYY headquarters with satellite sites throughout the city at the Salvation Army KROC Center, NewCourtland Education Center, South Philadelphia Senior Center and Haddington Senior Service center in order to engage a broader group of seniors and community members.

The seminars focused on opportunities and challenges with “Generational Game Changers,” “The Grey Economy: The Double Edged Sword,” “The House the Boomers Built,” “The Good Life in the 4th Quarter.” **“Aging in a New Age”** hosted local, state and federal department heads and community leaders to ensure that as a City we take a proactive approach to the rapid growth of our older population, a population with years of experience, and strength in its diversity of perspectives and backgrounds. With **“Aging in a New Age”** we will not lose our older community members due the City’s inaccessibility.

In addition, it is the objective of the summit to create policy and legislation to attract people of all ages to Philadelphia as a live-able city. “Aging in a New Age” advanced the importance of the transforming the City of Philadelphia into an accessible environment for all ages. **“Aging in a New Age”** discussed topics including: demographics, legislative issues and policy resources of and available to the aging population. Councilman Jones and the Mayor’s Commission on Aging will present a **“White Paper Report”** with requests to shift our City’s paradigm of the older population. More importantly, it will promote new models of social and economic engagement that will utilize the assets of all.

“Philadelphia is home to all ages and we will be age-friendly.” – Councilman Curtis Jones, Jr.



Addressing Philadelphia's Public Education

When the Mayor's administration released the \$4 billion City budget, of which Council only controls roughly 40-percent or \$1.5 billion, we immediately went to work on how best to prioritize those funds. We heard testimony from agencies, groups and concerned citizens from all over Philadelphia. Payments towards city debt services, employee pensions and our overcrowded prison system had to be met, as well as funding for our brave men and women of the Philadelphia Police and Fire Departments who keep our city safe. Funding for the School District had to be a top priority as well.

Two years ago, in his remarks to Congress, **President Obama** declared, *"The countries that out-educate us today will out-compete us tomorrow."* The President's goal to ensure that every child has access to a competitive education cannot be met without the cooperation of cities and localities across the country. My colleagues, along with the administration, were diligent in working together for a suitable option to assist our School District. As we debated late into the evening on how best to fix the deficit problem, it was clear there would be no easy solution. In the end, we aggressively rallied for the Philadelphia School District and will hold the School District Administration responsible through the City's new *Education Accountability Agreement*, an unprecedented commitment for the state controlled district to share its finances with the City. As I have stated from the very beginning of this school budget crisis, we will either pay now with the proper investment in public education or we will pay later by funding prisons and parole officers. I voted to support public education, for without it the progress Philadelphia has made in recent years will certainly be reversed. I am adamant that the funds secured are to support Philadelphia's children and increase resources in areas from early childhood education to class size reduction, accelerated school programs and transportation for public and parochial schools.



"It was my pleasure along with the Managing Director's Office, the Department of Licenses and Inspection, our Municipal Court and our prestige police officers to be involved with the community in making the Philadelphia International Cycling Championship Tour an event the 4th district can once again take pride in."
- Councilman Curtis Jones, Jr.



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

