

LEGISLATIVE *Update*

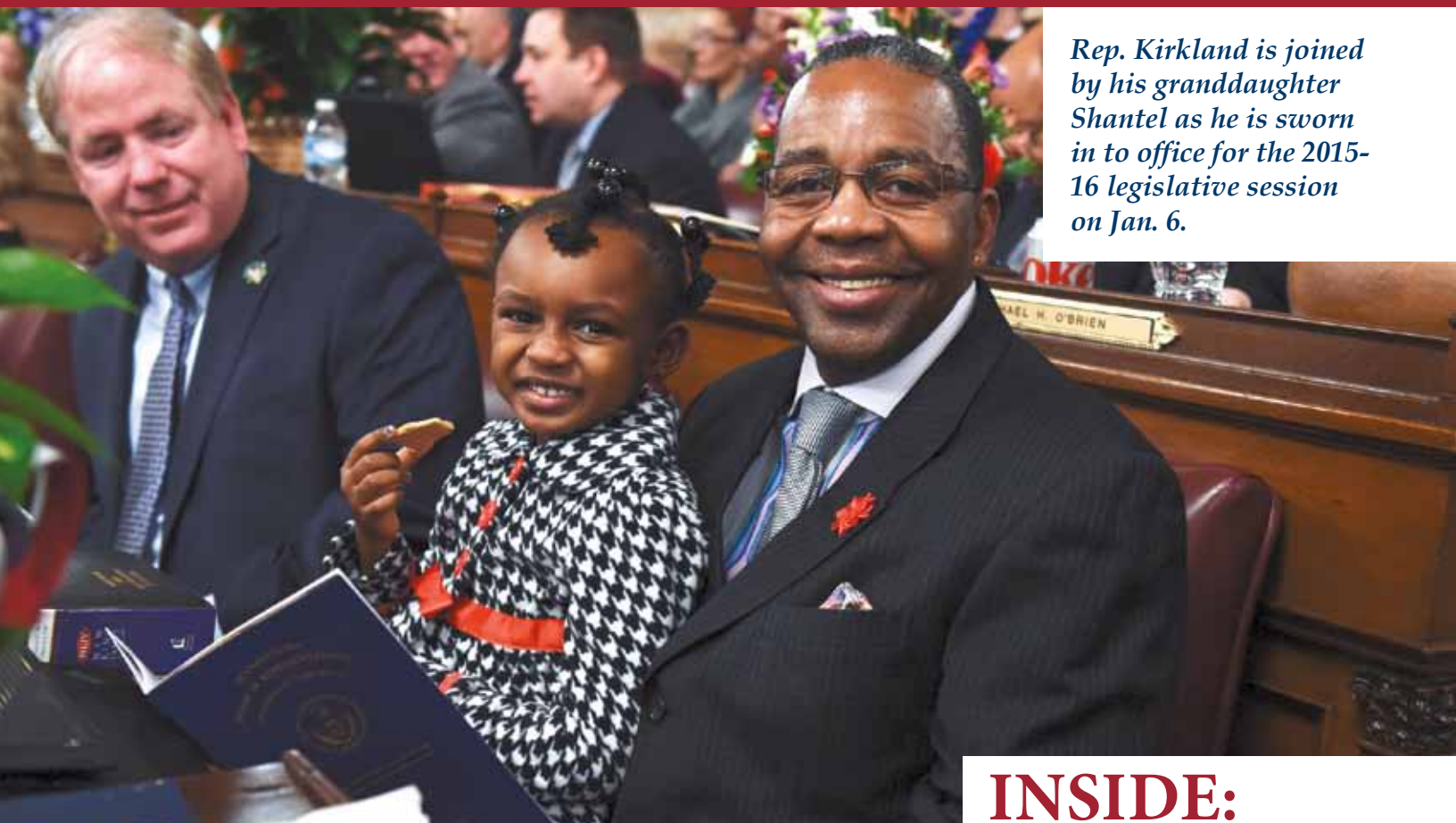
159th Legislative District

REP. THADDEUS KIRKLAND

SPRING 2015
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WORKING WITH YOU



Rep. Kirkland is joined by his granddaughter Shantel as he is sworn in to office for the 2015-16 legislative session on Jan. 6.

INSIDE:

Chester Children's Chorus takes center stage

Public safety tops legislative goals

Annual Christmas luncheon continued success!

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TAKING THE OATH OF OFFICE

On Jan. 6, I took the oath of office to officially begin a new two-year term representing the 159th Legislative District in the House of Representatives. It was a ceremonial day where I was grateful to be surrounded by my colleagues, family and friends.

I am humbled to be afforded the opportunity to continue my work in public service. I currently serve residents of the City of Chester, Chester Township, Lower Chichester Township, portions of Ridley and Upper Chichester townships, Eddystone, Marcus Hook, Trainer, Upland and Parkside.



Rep. Kirkland is joined by Rep. Jake Wheatley, D-Allegheny, as he is sworn in to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.



Pennsylvania lawmakers took the oath of office for the 2015-16 legislative session on Tuesday, Jan. 6. The ceremony marked the beginning of the 199th session of the General Assembly.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: CHESTER CHILDREN'S CHORUS

It was a distinct pleasure to proudly welcome the Chester Children's Chorus to the state Capitol on Jan. 20 as they took the stage to perform during Gov. Tom Wolf's inauguration.

Under the direction of John Alston, the chorus sang three songs before the governor was sworn in; it also had the honor of singing "America the Beautiful" to close the inauguration ceremony.

The inauguration of a governor is an important part of our state's history and this chorus has made their footprint in the story of our current governor. It was a proud moment in my career to share the voices of Chester Children's Chorus with the entire state of Pennsylvania.

Congratulations!



AROUND THE DISTRICT...

TRICK-OR-TREAT



Rep. Kirkland opened his district office doors last Halloween, welcoming area children and offering trick-or-treaters important safety tips.

2014 CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON



For over two decades, it has been a privilege to celebrate the holiday season with thousands of seniors from the 159th Legislative District.

This event is an annual highlight of mine, as I always look forward to celebrating the season with so many friends. Through the years, I have made countless memories and developed innumerable friendships. Thank you to everyone who helped make the 2014 luncheon another success!

KIRKLAND HOSTS 'TAKE CARE OF THE MAN' HEALTH PROGRAM

In an effort to educate and empower men to lead a healthy lifestyle, I recently held a two-day "Take Care of the Man" program. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, men on average die nearly five years before women. Preventive care, disease management and leading an overall healthy lifestyle were key topics discussed at the event. As a state legislator, I find it incumbent upon me to lead this conversation



and do what I can to change the trends facing men's health.

Rep. Kirkland:

"All too often men, in particular African-American men, don't pay enough attention to their health needs until a crisis occurs. They need to step up to the plate when it comes to healthy initiatives. In short, when it comes to annual checkups, men should lead by example."

– SCOOP USA
Feb. 20, 2015



KIRKLAND FOCUSES ON PUBLIC SAFETY

The well-being and safety of the citizens living in the 159th Legislative District is of paramount importance to me. It is also imperative to fully support the needs of those who protect and serve us each and every day. I will continue to do everything possible to protect the neighborhoods we call home. That is why I have introduced the following pieces of legislation:

House Bill 419 – Is designed to assist those seeking to have a conviction on a criminal record expunged. Under the bill, the individual would not be eligible if convicted of a sexual crime, violent crime, a crime that endangers the public, or a crime that carries a punishment of life imprisonment. Also, at least 18 months would have to have passed since the individual has been released from the jurisdiction of the court, and the individual would not be able to have convictions as an adult of any misdemeanor or felony other than a minor traffic violation. Only one conviction would be eligible for expungement under this bill.

Currently awaiting consideration in the House Judiciary Committee

House Bill 420 – Would require Pennsylvania law enforcement officers to wear body cameras, which would record both audio and video. Both local and state law enforcement agencies would be responsible for officer training, and purchasing and maintaining the cameras and associated equipment. The cost of implementing body cameras would be subsidized through the proceeds of forfeited property currently in the custody of the Attorney General or county district attorneys.

In addition, the legislation is designed to protect both police officers and the person being detained.

House Bill 420 is a companion bill to H.B. 418 and is also currently awaiting consideration in the House Judiciary Committee.

Rep. Kirkland on his body camera bill:

"It clearly tells the story about what happened. The cost is greater than when you don't have something like this. You could lose the life of a police officer or of an innocent victim. That outweighs any cost."

**– Delaware County Daily Times
Jan. 16, 2015**

This is why I sponsored House Bill 418.



House Bill 418 – Would prohibit the use of human silhouette targets at Pennsylvania shooting ranges. Exceptions would be granted for law enforcement officers, military personnel or certain other public safety professionals. Examples of replacement silhouette targets include white-tailed deer, black bear, wild turkey and elk.

Currently awaiting consideration in the House Judiciary Committee

PROTECT AND SERVE

I recently held a town hall-style event, "Protect and Serve: Forum on Police and Community Relations," to have an open discussion about how to strengthen the relationship between local residents and law enforcement. Building mutual trust between community members and police is vital in eliciting a good long-term relationship. I thank all attendees and participants for coming out to ask questions, share experiences and work together for the common good.