



*Frank*  
**Burns**  
 State Representative

72nd Legislative District

# PRIORITIZING PUBLIC SAFETY

## Burns' Blueprint for Johnstown Best Way to Make City Safer, Cleaner

### Hire More Police, Eliminate Blight – and Reform Public Housing!

Rep. Burns doesn't like saying "I told you so," but when it comes to the violent crime wave sweeping over Johnstown and putting many residents on edge, he really did tell the mayor and council so. And they ignored him.

Back in May 2022, Rep. Burns called for the city to put more police at the top of the list for spending \$30.7 million in federal American Rescue Plan money, saying crime was bad and only going to get worse. He got brushed off.

In May 2024, Rep. Burns urged city leaders to hire more police instead of spending \$8 million to redo Central Park, and

“ I'm sure the public would be satisfied with some minor upgrades to the park ... but spending \$8 million when the city has so many other pressing needs seems ridiculous to the average person in Johnstown. ”

- Rep. Burns, in 2024 letter to the mayor and every council member

he called for putting a State Police substation in Johnstown – ideas that got no official support.

Hoping the power elite would finally listen, this January – before the spate of 12 shootings or weapons-related incidents that occurred between March and May – Rep. Burns proposed a new blueprint for Johnstown to prosper. His plan's

foundation is enhanced public safety, including more police and crime-fighting technology, followed by stronger neighborhood cleanup and blight elimination efforts.

Rep. Burns believes his plan would turn Johnstown around faster and get more long-lasting results, versus the mayor's convening of a "task force" to study the crime problem.

**OWTAJ**  
 YOUR NEWS LEADER

**REP. BURNS URGES FOR MORE POLICE OFFICERS IN JOHNSTOWN**

**OWTAJ**  
 YOUR NEWS LEADER

**JOHNSTOWN RESIDENTS PLEAD FOR COUNCIL TO 'TAKE ACTION' AGAINST RECENT VIOLENCE**

“ Public safety must come first. Let's be honest: No employer will choose to open shop in an area where crime and disorder are allowed to run unchecked. Families and workers will not return downtown if they don't feel safe. ”

- Rep. Burns, in his new blueprint for Johnstown

# Burns Calls For JHA Board to Resign

## Time to 'right-size' public housing

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NORTHWEST DELEGATION

June 1, 2026

The Honorable Sylvia King  
Mayor, City of Johnstown  
401 Main St.  
Johnstown, PA 15901

Dear Mayor King:

As you search for ways to promote positive change for Johnstown, including making it a safer and more attractive city for residents and businesses, I respectfully ask you to join me in formally calling for the resignation of the current members of the Johnstown Housing Authority Board of Directors. That would pave the way for you to appoint new JHA leadership committed to working with HUD to right-size public housing in our region to reflect actual local demand, including the demolition of outdated and excess units that no longer serve the long-term interests of our community.

For far too long, the City of Johnstown has borne the weight of failed housing policies that continue to place extraordinary strain on our taxpayers, public safety personnel, schools, hospitals, and social service agencies. Our city simply cannot continue down this path.

I remind you that according to information previously provided by the Johnstown Housing Authority:

- Approximately 80 families per month were moving into Johnstown for public housing opportunities, with the hope of securing a Section 8 voucher.
- Nearly half of Housing Authority units are occupied by individuals from outside Cambria County.
- Johnstown reportedly has five times the number of public housing units compared to similarly sized cities.
- The average annual income of individuals relocating to Johnstown through this system is approximately \$12,500.

Everyone knows that the Johnstown Housing Authority has significantly more units than it needs to fulfill LOCAL public housing demand. But it's done nothing to stop this oversupply from powering a revolving door of Section 8 voucher seekers, primarily from Philadelphia, who create a perpetual transient population in Cambria County,

Rep. Burns is as tired of the excuses as you are – so he's formally asked Johnstown's mayor and city council (which appoints JHA board members) to request resignations from the entire current board. That would pave the way for them to appoint a new board committed to taking the lead on working with HUD, local elected officials, and the community to shrink JHA's inventory once and for all.

## BURNS: Close the Public Housing 'Loophole' Now!

After Johnstown police reported 550 calls in one month to Johnstown Housing Authority properties, Rep. Burns renewed his call to downsize the city's public housing. Rep. Burns has been the loudest voice on the issue, citing an excess of public housing being filled by Section 8 seekers from Philadelphia. He is the sponsor of a new House resolution urging the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to enact policies to stop the abuse of the system.

## The Tribune - Democrat

### BURNS ASKS HUD TO CONDUCT AUDIT ON SECTION 8 POLICIES

“I'm asking them to start by verifying the money is being spent properly and the rules are being followed.”

- Rep. Burns

## Burns Seeks State Police Substation in Johnstown

Seeking additional resources to address one of the highest crime rates in Pennsylvania, Rep. Burns has asked Gov. Shapiro to establish a state police substation in Johnstown.

With the city struggling with a mix of crime, poverty, and a large transient public housing population coming largely from Philadelphia, Rep. Burns sees a state police substation as one way to help bring the situation under control.



**STATE REP. FRANK BURNS IS CALLING ON GOVERNOR SHAPIRO TO OPEN A STATE POLICE SUBSTATION IN JOHNSTOWN, CITING CONCERN OVER HIGH CRIME RELATED TO THE HOMELESS POPULATION**

# Burns' Seniority And Experience Bring Millions for Public Safety



East Conemaugh Borough Police  
**\$47,610**



Johnstown Public Safety Building  
**\$2.5 million**



Blacklick Valley Foundation & Ambulance  
**\$202,713**



Nanty Glo Fire Co.  
**\$259,033**



West Hills Police Dept.  
**\$20,850**



Cambria County Crime Stoppers  
**\$48,000**

## And That's Not All!

**Rep. Burns Has Also Secured These Public Safety Grants Totaling More Than \$1.6 Million!**

- ✓ Johnstown Police Department: **\$200K for a mobile unit**
- ✓ City of Johnstown: **\$200K for a crime prevention initiative**
- ✓ Greater Johnstown School District: **\$177K for school safety**
- ✓ Forest Hills School District: **\$156K for school safety**
- ✓ Blacklick Valley School District: **\$137K for school safety**
- ✓ Victim Services Inc.: **\$125K for programs and services for victims**
- ✓ Upper Yoder Township: **\$69K for a police vehicle**
- ✓ Citizens Fire Co. of Vintondale: **\$64K for a rescue vehicle**
- ✓ Ebensburg Borough: **\$53K for pedestrian safety**
- ✓ Cambria County Child Advocacy Center: **\$50K for services for child abuse victims**
- ✓ Cambria Township VFC: **\$47K for an EMS vehicle**
- ✓ Conemaugh Township: **\$44K for police equipment**
- ✓ Middle Taylor Township VFC: **\$26K for a siren**
- ✓ West Hills Regional Fire Dept.: **\$25K for equipment**



# Frank Burns

State Representative

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“ Representative Burns and his staff helped out tremendously and we are now able to purchase a new PTU (Prisoner Transport Unit) that we would not have been able to purchase. ”

*- Johnstown Police Chief Mark Britton*



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## BURNS HELPS KEEP FAMILIES SAFE



Working to keep women safe and off the street when they are in need, Rep. Burns brought a special assistant to the House majority leader to Cambria County to assess the needs of the Women's Help Center. The Help Center houses between 28 and 35 women and children at any given time. The result of Rep. Burns' efforts was five grants totaling more than \$1 million for rental assistance, shelter operations, and cooling systems.



“ Really it has been pretty monumental to us, to get that level of (state) attention to the housing issues here in Cambria County. ”

*- Roxann Tyger, Help Center executive director*



## Burns' 'Bless the Badge' Event Honors Local Police

Staying in close touch with Cambria County law enforcement, Rep. Burns recently held his annual "Bless the Badge" luncheon with local first responders. The event demonstrates his strong commitment to supporting police and other first responders and allows him to discuss how to keep pushing for more resources and other steps to reduce crime.