



State Representative • 202nd Legislative District

Jared Solomon

Castor Gardens & Oxford Circle Edition

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Castor Gardens/Oxford Circle

The success and sustainability of our neighborhoods are tied to that of our commercial corridors such as Castor, Bustleton, and Rising Sun avenues. If they thrive, not only do we have great places to shop and eat, but our communities are safer, our people have jobs, and our neighborhoods have a shared sense of identity. If they fail, we are all less safe, we lack local opportunities for employment, and we retreat back into our own bubbles.

Here's how we are turning things around:

- **Targeting Trash:** Litter is the most visible sign of a corridor in decline, and we have tackled it head-on. In February, working with the World Mission Church of God, we held a cleanup that removed more than 3,000 pounds of trash and litter from Castor Avenue. We helped residents and businesses organize multiple clean-up events throughout the spring and summer.
- **Street Cleaning:** Starting in October, we are bringing weekly street cleaning to the core of each commercial corridor – Castor, Bustleton, and Rising Sun (including 5 Points) - thanks to the generosity of Steve Prince of Steaks, and the work of Jidan Cleaning and the Streets Department. Local community partners are applying for grant funding to extend this program in 2018.
- **Small-Business Support:** We helped four businesses get \$10,000 grants from the Merchants Fund to buy new equipment. Through our Small Business Summit in July, we shared this success story and now numerous businesses are working to access these funds to stabilize and grow.

- **Commercial Corridor Manager:** Since day one, my team has worked with business leaders and community development corporations to grow their engagement with the business community. In particular, we support the Oxford Circle Christian Commonwealth Development Association (CCDA) in applying for \$40,000 in funding from the state Department of Community and Economic Development to fund a commercial corridor manager for the Lower Northeast.
- **Bringing Back the Business Association:** My office has been integral in supporting the rebirth of the newly renamed Castor Bustleton Cottman Business Association (CBCBA) because we need a strong association to advocate for the shared interests of small-business owners along our commercial corridors.
- **Playground for Max Myers:** In October, after years of advocacy from both before and after I became your State Representative, the City broke ground on a new playground at Max Myers Recreation Center. With vital financial support from Councilwoman Maria Quiñones-Sanchez, Councilman Bobby Henon and Parks and Rec, our community will have a great new neighborhood space.

This is just the beginning. For our commercial corridors and our neighborhoods to achieve their full potential, we are targeting both quick wins to demonstrate what is possible, and laying the foundation for success in the medium and long term. Contact my office at 215-342-6340 and we will send you a copy of our full commercial corridor vision.



Reps. Solomon and John Taylor, along with community leaders at Castor and Magee Avenues, announcing new legislation targeting trash and litter.



Rep. Solomon is joined by Councilmembers Bobby Henon and Maria Quiñones-Sanchez, Parks and Rec. Commissioner Kathryn Ott Lovell and Spruance Elementary students at the groundbreaking for a new playground at Max Myers Recreation Center, October 23, 2017.



Rep. Solomon and members of the World Mission Church of God cleaning Castor Avenue, February 26, 2017.



Rep. Solomon stands with Tomika Miles of Journey Hair Salon on Castor Avenue, cutting the ribbon on \$10,000 of new equipment she received from the Merchants Fund.

Letter from Jared

Since I took the oath of office to serve you in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, I have worked tirelessly to deliver the improvements Northeast Philadelphia requires and I promised during my campaign. The neighborhoods where I was born and raised have changed; in some ways for the better, in some ways for the worse.

But our power lies in our people and our ability to work together as residents, business owners, faith and civic leaders. My



Rep. Solomon and students from Northeast High when he attended their Career Day.

goal has been and is always to lead and support these wonderful people and institutions to bring about meaningful, positive and lasting change to the northeast. This newsletter outlines what I and my staff have done to achieve this in the short time I have been in office so far.

1. Showcasing the Lower

Northeast: We have great things going on here and we are sharing our story with the city and region.

• Night Market on Rising Sun

Avenue: In May, in partnership with the Food Trust and Burholme Civic Association, we brought dozens of food trucks, music, and thousands of people to celebrate our community in an epic block party.

• Philadelphia Orchestra at

Northeast High School: In June, I brought the world-renowned Philadelphia Orchestra to Northeast High's football stadium to give a free concert under the stars.

• Philly Inquirer on Northeast

Food: I gave a Philadelphia Inquirer food critic a tour of the great restaurants in the Lower Northeast as part of a huge profile he wrote on eating your way through northeast Philadelphia.

• **Pennsylvania Ballet:** In October I brought the wonderful Pennsylvania Ballet to Northeast High for a free dance performance that also

highlighted the talented student dancers at the school.

2. Improving the Lower Northeast:

My team is getting quick wins that move our neighborhood in the right direction.

• Street Cleaning:

Starting this fall, weekly street cleaning is coming to Castor, Bustleton and Rising Sun avenues for the first time!

• Supporting

Small Businesses: We have helped small business organizations access thousands of dollars in improvement grants.

• **After-school Programs:** We matched schools like Wilson, Zeigler and Carnell and nonprofit organizations to bring resources that support our young people.

• **Nuisance Issues:** Both in the office and out on the street, my team is not only responding to your concerns, but proactively searching, finding, and reporting nuisance problems so they can be fixed promptly.

3. Serving the Lower Northeast:

My goal is to have the best constituent services in the state.

• Hours:

My office is open more than any other legislative office in the state – 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

weekdays, and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays. You should not need to take time off work to meet with me or call my office.

• **Multilingual:** Our area is almost 30 percent foreign-born, so I have built a team of staff, interns and volunteers who speak Spanish, Chinese, Arabic, and Portuguese.

• **Constituent Work:** My team and I have helped thousands of residents



Keep an eye out for Greg and Will in their orange shirts cleaning our commercial corridors each week.

4. Building up the Lower

Northeast: To achieve our goals, we need committed citizens, strong civic organizations, and productive partnerships with all stakeholders.

• **Super Volunteers:** I have created a network of more than 60 volunteers around the district who organize their blocks for cleanups and spread the word about activities.

• **Lower Northeast Neighborhood Partnership:** We are pioneering a model of collaboration between elected officials, city agencies, school principals, and business, faith and civic leaders to coordinate approaches to address persistent problems.

• Faith Leader Conversations:

Faith and government need to work together to serve their respective constituents, so I convene regular meetings with leaders of all faiths to foster this sense of shared endeavor.

5. Fighting for the Lower

Northeast in Harrisburg: The needs of our district drive my legislative agenda in the state Capitol, working in a bipartisan way to help all Pennsylvanians.

• **Schools-to-Work Pipeline, H.B. 1522:** We need a direct link between our schools and local business community to ensure all young people have an opportunity regardless if they are going to college.

• **Supporting our Veterans, H.B. 1231:** Our state needs to better serve those Pennsylvanians who served our country so honorably.

• **Holding Absentee Landlords Accountable:** Negligent landlords should not get away with illegally converting properties to multi-family housing or letting their properties fall into disrepair.

It is a great honor and privilege to serve this community. The trust you put in me and my staff is something for which we are grateful and humbled. Thank you!

Jared Solomon

State Representative
202nd Legislative District



Fighting for you in Harrisburg



My work in the state legislature in Harrisburg is directly tied to the needs and concerns we have in Northeast Philadelphia. I am working in a bipartisan way with both chambers of the legislature to move our priorities forward, as well as vote on important legislation coming before us.

- **H.B. 1231** – Veterans Registry – This would ensure state agencies coordinate to provide the best services and benefits to our veterans.

Reps. Solomon and Matt Gabler along with veterans organizations speaking about H.B. 1231.



- **H.B. 1522** – Schools-to-Work Pipeline Act – This would incentivize high schools and local businesses to partner to develop innovative curriculum connecting students with local professional qualifications and jobs.
- **H.B. 1742** – Childcare Keystone Stars – This would help parents make the best decisions about where to send their children for childcare.

Bill aims to assist parents making daycare decisions

SEPTEMBER 26, 2017



- Cultural Awareness Professional Development for Educators – This would empower teachers to deliver a curriculum focused on exposing students to different cultures and traditions.



Rep. Solomon speaking in the House Chamber on H.R. 161 which condemns vandalism against the Jewish community, and calls for cultural sensitivity education in our schools.

- **H.B. 1793** – USA250 – This would create a new commission to oversee Pennsylvania's preparation for America's 250th birthday.

Legislature eyes Pennsylvania's participation in US semiquincentennial

NOVEMBER 8, 2017



- **H.B. 1209** – Business Portal – This would create a one-stop shop for new businesses coming to Pennsylvania.
- **H.B. 1783** – No Affiliation – This would allow voters not affiliated with either party to vote in primaries.
- **H.B. 1812** and **H.B. 1813** – Nuisance offenses – This would increase penalties for those who commit quality-of-life violations in our communities such as littering.



Pa. Lawmakers Propose Legislation To Punish Public Nuisances

OCTOBER 19, 2017



I have more bills in development and am always interested in talking with you about the work I do for Northeast Philadelphia in Harrisburg. Call my office anytime – 215-342-6340 – to set up a meeting.



Rep. Solomon gets settled in his new office in Harrisburg.

What *Interns* say about working with Jared

"In 1926, my grandfather moved to the Oxford Circle section of northeast Philadelphia. Since that day, my family's roots have been planted firmly in the great northeast. At 19 years old and a native of Lawndale, I believed that there was nothing left for me to learn about my neighborhood. After being away at college for a year, I wanted to serve my neighborhood by working for a local political office. State Representative Jared Solomon granted me the unforgettable opportunity to work for his office and for his vision of our community – a vision of a thriving cultural and commercial northeast. My internship on Castor Avenue proved my initial belief wrong: there was much to learn about the new northeast.

"Just days before my internship began, I attended the Philadelphia Night Market that Rep. Solomon brought to

the northeast. It was a night that celebrated our exciting and diverse community. It was an exemplar of the tireless work of our representative, his employees and volunteers, and my fellow interns. These past few months in Rep. Solomon's office have enabled me to experience, time and again, this celebration of the northeast. From town hall meetings, where I have heard the concerns of the neighborhood, to block cleanups, where I have seen the selfless work of my neighbors, my internship has introduced me to new people and places every day. I have also witnessed new ideas and aspirations for our district flourish – from Rep. Solomon's Small Business Summit to his fight for historic preservation on Rising Sun Avenue.

"Through my internship, I have worked with different aspects of the state government and of the community. I have cultivated critical thinking and interpersonal skills. Most of all, I have left my summer internship feeling immensely proud of my roots in the northeast and of the work in Rep. Solomon's office."
– Aileen

Serving the district

In December 2016, I opened my district office at 7012 Castor Ave. (Castor and Tyson, near the Shoe Factory). Since then, my staff and I work day and night to serve the needs of our neighborhoods. When I ran for office, I promised some of the best constituent services in the state – here are just a few of the ways in which I have kept that promise:

- **Extended office hours** – The office is open Monday thru Friday 8 a.m. - 7 p.m. and Saturdays 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. No other office in the state is open as much as mine.
- **Accessibility** – I meet personally with constituents anytime they request a meeting. Call the office at 215-342-6340 and any of the staff can set up an appointment.
- **Translators** – 25 percent of our district's constituents are foreign born. I have bilingual staff and volunteers on call for your convenience who speak Spanish, Chinese, Arabic and more.
- **Trainings** – My staff welcomes city and state experts to train us in important matters that impact constituents, from conflict mediation to childcare services, taxpayer resources and more.
- **Pro-active in the community** – Staff and volunteers go around the neighborhood to locate and report problems. Since taking office, my staff has reported hundreds of complaints to city and state offices.
- **Transparency** – All of my expenses are posted on my website so you know how taxpayer money is helping me to serve you better. And I do not take per diems or use a state vehicle, saving the taxpayers' money. Check out my expenses on my website at pahouse.com/Solomon/expensereports.

My commitment to serve the public extends throughout this community. I have hosted dozens of events and pop-up offices so that I can meet you where you are. Check out the great past events I have already had, and be sure to be on my email and call lists so you know about the ones to come!

To sign up for my contact list, stop by 7012 Castor Ave. or call the office at 215-342-6340.



Rep. Solomon helps inform entrepreneurs and business owners about how to grow their business at his Small Business Summit, July 15, 2017.



Rep. Solomon's staff, along with local and state law enforcement, address public safety concerns in the Asian Community, October 29, 2017.



Secretary of Corrections John Wetzel speaks to the community about criminal justice, October 12, 2017.



Rep. Solomon answers questions at his first of four town halls held in 2017 in which neighbors hold him accountable for his work.



Rep. Solomon helps constituents protect their identity at a free shredding event, May 20, 2017.

A great turnout for Rep. Solomon's Legislative Summit on Immigration and Refugees, February 25, 2017.

What **Volunteers** say about working with Jared

"I've lived almost 20 years in Oxford Circle, but in all the years I have walked the streets of my community, I never knew there was a representative like Jared who worked so hard to improve the area. When I heard I could volunteer with his office, I leapt at the opportunity. I have volunteered in his office for a few months now and I love meeting my neighbors, learning about the challenges they face, and how Jared and his team can help."
– Sandra

Showcasing the Lower Northeast

One of my primary goals in serving as your state representative is to shine a spotlight on the great neighborhoods and people of Lower Northeast Philadelphia. A key way I have done this is to work with citywide partners to host special events right here in the northeast and to showcase our neighborhood.



- Taste of the Northeast – Philadelphia Inquirer: In March, I walked Castor Avenue with Inquirer food critic Craig LaBan sampling the delicious food from our great restaurants.

A special section in the Philadelphia Inquirer about the great food in the Northeast, March 2017.

- Philadelphia Orchestra at Northeast High: In June, we welcomed the famed Philadelphia Orchestra to the Northeast High football field for a magical night of music under the stars.



The Philadelphia Orchestra performs a free concert at Northeast High's football field, June 29, 2017.

- Night Market on Rising Sun Avenue – The Food Trust: In May, we brought the special Night Market food festival to Rising Sun Avenue along with 10,000 people!



Rep. Solomon speaking to the thousands who attended the first Food Trust Night Market on Rising Sun Avenue, May 11, 2017.

- Pennsylvania Ballet at Northeast High: In October, we welcomed the Pennsylvania Ballet.

The Pennsylvania Ballet II dancers during a free performance at Northeast High on October 27, 2017. (photo credit, Northeast High School.)



What is...the Lower Northeast Neighborhood Partnership?



The Lower Northeast is crisscrossed by borders and boundaries and while they may not be visible, their impact is palpable.

Police districts. School catchments. City council districts. Planning sections. Civic associations. State elected official districts. And more.

The problems we face – crime, poverty, unemployment – transcend these boundaries and require coordinated approaches. That's why I have convened the Lower Northeast Neighborhood Partnership (LNNP). This quarterly meeting brings leaders together to get on the same page so we can better serve the people of this community.

What is . . . Jared's Super Volunteer Program?

Throughout northeast Philadelphia, diligent, dedicated citizens work day in and day out to look after their neighbors. This effort needs to be recognized, championed and grown. So I started building a network of volunteers from around the Lower Northeast – called Jared's Super Volunteers – to empower them with the tools and knowledge to organize clean ups on their blocks. To date, volunteers have held three cleanup days throughout the neighborhood with more to come. If you would like to be a Super Volunteer, call my office at 215-342-6340.





State Representative • 202nd Legislative District

Jared Solomon

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INSIDE:





- Making improvements in Northeast Philadelphia
- Fighting for you in Harrisburg

lpo.kl.1117

What *Constituents* say about working with Jared

"I was having great difficulty reaching a state office about an issue I needed addressed. I contacted Representative Solomon's office and discussed the situation with them. They got through to the state office immediately and stayed on top of the problem until it was resolved. There was no need for me to keep after them. Mr. Solomon's staff, and in particular his Chief of Staff Andrew Dalzell, acted above and beyond. I was not given "lip service." They listened, were empathetic, professional and responsive. Dedicated public servants all. This is the type of service that all elected officials and their staff should strive to emulate. Kudos to all! And thank you again."

- Jane

JARED'S OFFICE		
BY THE NUMBERS		
 2,326 Constituents Helped	4,830 Casework 	231 Philly 311 Reports
300 SEPTA Senior IDs	309 Property Tax/ Rent Rebate 	 542 Event Attendees
Data is from Dec. 1, 2016 through Sept. 21, 2017.		