60th Street Health and Wellness Summer Jam

Constituent District Day

Upcoming Events

Senior Chat N' Chew
Thursday, Sept. 28
Prayer & Faith Temple
1541 N. 61st St.

Housing Seminar Saturday, Oct. 7 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Wynde Senior Residences 2001 N. 54th St.

Talks with PECO Continue
At the top of the year, I and members of the Wynnefield Residents Association (WRA) learned of PECO's 2014 acquisition of the old M & T Bank building, which was postponed because of negotiations for its intended use. PECO announced plans to demolish the building and replace it with a new building.

Lawrence B. Nangle, Jr., of the Public Interest Law Center (PILC) of Philadelphia, and I were contacted by the WRA and community leaders and came together to strategize about how to proceed. The WRA was interested in creating a collaborative effort to address these concerns.

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Finish the budget, pay the bills, and fix the deficit

Before closing out the spring session, I proudly announced that the state legislature took positive steps towards the financial health of our commonwealth by passing an over $32 billion spending plan that reflected investments in public education, support for our senior citizens, and human services. For Pennsylvania, this budget is education means an increase of $34 million for our schools. This puts the full weight of the tax burden onto those who can afford it, and it is imperative that we keep our most vulnerable families from being left behind. However, a complete budget means that a spending plan and a revenue bill must be passed. Separate actions, with no clue on how to pay for it. Without this coming to an agreement, the only way to keep our government running is to keep the General Fund above a zero balance – a direct result of House Republican leaders not issuing an Appropriations bill in August to keep the General Fund above a zero balance. As we move closer to three months into the fiscal year, the legislature still needs to pass a revenue bill that closes a $2 billion gap in taxes.

In July, the Senate came back to session and passed their budget bill which includes a $1.3 billion increase in spending for education, and $200 million for state parks and Shale drilling funds.

Cephas’ bill to boost senior programs by up to $2 million per year advances to Full House

According to the Pennsylvania Department of Aging, our commonwealth has the third highest percentage of seniors over the age of 65 in the country, with over 1.8 million residents over the age of 65. More importantly, the fact that the fastest growing segment of our population is those who are 65 or age 65 or older. The House Republican may continue the work we are doing when it comes to sustainable revenue sources, potential budget cuts will ultimately cut into our education and human services budgets. As we move closer to three months into the fiscal year, the legislature still needs to pass a revenue bill that closes a $2 billion gap in taxes.

In May, the PA General Assembly’s Black Caucus introduced a bill that would add a definition to the state’s Older Adults Protective Services Act that would, in part, make it easier for older Pennsylvanians to report abuse, neglect, or exploitation. If passed, it will help Pennsylvanians over the age of 65. More importantly is the fact that we still have a lot of work to do.

Significant movement on Stop and go legislation

In my first 100 days, I launched the Pennsylvania Department of Laborers’ Enforcement Task Force that consists of various community stakeholders, local and state and county government officials, area business owners, its purpose is to identify and report illegal activity in our businesses with restaurant and liquor license to the 12 percent tax. As task force, we host a community public meeting reading into law the following actions: those who serve alcohol to minors, do not have the licenses to operate, or those who do not pay their liquor license and suspension, and also that board have the right licenses from the state to operate.

Additionally, I applaud our senators from the Pittsburgh delegation for successfully inserting stop-and-go language into Senate Bill 1547. The proposal would allow the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board (PLCB) to suspend liquor licenses if a violation occurs at those establishments that do not meet requirements under state law. By doing so, the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board (PLCB) could conduct an inspection, issue a license violation that the license holder does not meet license requirements (minimum seating, square footage, food and liquor license certification) upon inspection.

Cephas appointed Chair of Woman and Girls Legislative Black Caucus

In March 2017, the PA General Assembly’s Black Caucus established a committee on women and girls. The primary focus of the subcommittee is to ensure the needs and interests of women and girls are represented across all aspects of government decision-making, and the legislative process within this governing body.

Over the years, we have statistically made strides in areas of education, employment, bureaucracy and violence. Women make up 51% of the workforce, and are working in just about every profession. As we move closer to three months into the fiscal year, the legislature still needs to pass a revenue bill that closes a $2 billion gap in taxes.

As the bills move to the full House, I will continue to work with my colleagues to ensure that we close these gaps and help create a better quality of life for our loved ones.

PEACE OF MIND

SAFETY FOR ALL

NEIGHBORHOOD UPDATE

Cephas advocates to designate Samuel Gompers Elementary School a community school

I am excited to announce that Gompers Elementary School in Wynnefield has been selected to become a community school. Community schools are public schools with a full-time community school coordinator who works to identify and meet the needs of the whole child. Community schools are a proven approach to addressing out-of-school factors and connect, home, school, and community in a way that empowers students to reach their full potential.

Youth initiatives like St. Joseph University and Science Leadership Academy High School in the immediate area, this opportunity has the potential to create a pipeline for our students to achieve academic success. Investments in our schools are not just financial investments, these are instrumental to improving the quality of our neighborhoods and finally give our students the best opportunity to achieve success.

Thank you to Principal DeLuca, Mayor Jim Kenney and the 192nd Legislative Delegation for making this a reality for our students.

This is a major victory for our community. I am confident that the community school approach will drastically improve the quality of the school.

Cephas partners with area organizations to distribute over 500 book bags

As we work to get children back to school after the recent and productive year, I want to make sure they have the supplies they will need through this three year.

Over the last few weeks I partnered with the Wynnefield Community Revitalization Corporation (ACHTV), Philadelphia, King Seabrook and Saint Joseph University to provide kids and parent book bags and school supplies during a season of events and resources. So far, my office along with partners have distributed more than 500 book bags.

Get All the Latest Updates

Stay connected to what’s happening in Hinsberg and in the community by signing up for my email updates! You can also follow me on social media!

Jade Ryan awarded with PLC Scholarship

I congratulate Jade Ryan, a student from the 192nd legislative district, with a Black Caucus scholarship. Jade will attend Cheyney University this year.

This year’s round of scholarship applicants was the most competitive in recent memory, as we had a large number of outstanding candidates. Each applicant presented an impressive body of work, including academic achievements and leadership abilities. The selection process was a true collaborative effort between myself, my PLBC members. Recipients received a $1,000 scholarship which will go a long way to helping students we represent.

As we send our 2020-2021 legislative session up. You can also follow me on social media!

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@RepCephas
www.linkedin.com/in/RepCephas
LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Finish the budget, pay the bills, and fix the deficit

Before closing out the spring session, I proudly announced that the state legislature took positive steps towards the financial health of our Commonwealth by passing an over $2 billion spending plan that reflected investments in public education, support for our senior citizens, and human services. For Philadelphia, this budgeted in education amounts over $3.3 billion for the district’s general fund. However, a complete budget means that a spending plan and a revenue plan are necessary to balance an additional $2 billion gap in order to balance. In May, the House Gaming Oversight Committee voted out my bill, House Bill 1162, that would provide an additional $32 billion spending plan, with no date on how to pay for it. Without closing out spending and dedicating a new revenue source to fund our Commonwealth, we will be unable to reform programs for older Pennsylvanians, such as lottery, email, and mail schemes occur. The bill would add a definition to the state’s Older Adults Protective Services Act to encompass intentional acts of deception involving financial transactions to defraud, deceive, or abuse older Pennsylvanians. The legislation would have up to two years to claim their winnings before the state resells them. I also introduced House Bill 1339 to increase the oversight of the Pennsylvania Lottery to ensure the integrity of the lottery. The bill closes a $2 billion gap in order to balance.

In this session, the legislature is still needing to pass a revenue bill that the House will have to address in July, the Senate came back to session and passed their $31 billion revenue bill which covers spending for the next two years. We are close to three months into the fiscal year, the legislature still needs to pass a revenue bill that closes a $2 billion gap in order to balance.

Cephas appoints Chair of Women and Girls Subcommittee for the Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus

In March 2017, the PA General Assembly’s Black Caucus established a committee on women and girls. The primary focus of the subcommittee is to ensure the needs and aspirations of women and girls are effectively communicated, heard and addressed through the legislative process within this governing body. Over the years, we have statistically made strides in areas of education attainment, business ownership and within the workforce. Most of the issues that impact our communities – such as crime, licensing and gun violence – are centered around these establishments. They serve as a deterrent to businesses that want to invest in our communities and discourage new neighborhoods from forming. Working alongside with other legislators, we are able to advance solutions for this issue.

Significant movement on stop and go legislation

In my first 10 days, I launched the Pennsylvania State Police, Pennsylvania Task Force on Crime, and Public Safety Committee. The Pennsylvania State Police, Pennsylvania Task Force on Crime, and Public Safety Committee is a task force, we hold a community public meeting and identify the needs of the white community. These are a great starting place to work towards the people. Community schools are public schools with a full-time community program on site that educate, help identify and meet the needs of the white community. Our committee meets these needs by identifying resources and funding, address out-of-school factors and connect home, school, and community in a new way. These programs are in their early stages, but hold a great deal of potential.

I introduced the bill defining “community school” to be a school that has up to two years to claim their winnings before the state resells them. These are their white female counterparts. These are clear indicators that we still have a lot of work to do.

Cephas partners with area organizations to distribute over 500 book bags

According to the Pennsylvania Department of Education, our Commonwealth has the third highest percentage of students who are not proficient in reading by the age of 8. More importantly is the fact that the largest proportion of this group are those who are 85 years of age or older. The House Republican majority continues denying the possibility that our senior Citizens suffer from higher rates of poverty, and receive lower wages than their white female counterparts. These are clear indicators that women of color are not meeting license requirements (minimum seating, square footage, financial and health license certification) upon inspection. I hope we can come together and put the people we represent first. Working with area organizations, we can address the need for workforce development and the legislative process within this governing body.

Get All the Latest Updates

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NEIGHBORHOOD UPDATE

Cephas partners with area organizations to distribute over 500 book bags

As we head into the fall, we’re excited to start distributing over 500 book bags to our area children back to school needs this upcoming school year. I want to make sure they have the supplies they need to thrive this year. Over the course of the next few weeks I partnered with the WynnDelco Diocese Recreation and ACHTability, King Sahedan and Saint Joseph’s University to provide kids and parent book bags and school supplies during a series of events and workshops. So far, my office along with partners have distributed more than 500 book bags.

Jade Ryan awarded with PLC Scholarship

I congratulate Jade Ryan, a student from the 120th Legislative District, with a Black Caucus scholarship. Jade will be attending Temple University this fall.

This year’s round of scholarship applicants was competitive and I applaud all of the outstanding candidates. Each applicant possesses skills and attributes that will contribute to future achievements and leadership abilities. The scholarships help fund each student’s application and learning more about the development of their talents.

Students must be Pennsylvania residents, and the scholarship is open to attending students from any state school, such as Temple University. The scholarship is to support one student to receive the scholarship for each year.

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Cephas advocates to designate Samuel Gompers Elementary School a community school

I am excited to announce that Gompers Elementary School in my 192nd Legislative District has been named a Community School. Community schools are public schools with a full-time community school manager who works to identify and meet the needs of the whole child. Community schools coordinate these needs by identifying resources that help address out-of-school factors and connect, home, school, and community in more that way that works best for students and their families.

Thank you to Principal DeLucia, Mayor Jim Kenney and the Schools and Community Partnerships Office of Education for making this exciting investment in our students. I am proud to assist Gompers Elementary School in becoming a Community School. This is a major victory for our community. I am confident that this approach will drastically improve the quality of the school.

Cephas partners with area organizations to distribute over 500 book bags

As we send our children back to school this upcoming academic year, I want to make sure they have the necessary tools to start the school year off right. Over the past year and a half, I have partnered with the Wynnedale Development Revitalization Corporation, ACHIEVEability, Revitalize Overbrook, King Seabrook and Saint Joseph’s University to provide kids and parent book bags and school supplies during a season of events that included Covid-19 and wildfires. So far, my office along with partners have distributed more than 500 book bags.

Jade Ryan awarded with PLC Scholarship

I congratulate Jade Ryan, a student from the 192nd Legislative District, with a Black Caucus scholarship. Jade will be attending Delaware State University.

This year’s round of scholarship applicants was quite competitive with many outstanding candidates. Each applicant possesses the ability to excel in their studies, see future achievements and leadership abilities. The scholarship application and learning more about the decision process are instrumental to improving our students to achieve academic success. Investments and experiences are needed in order to prepare our students for university and learn what skills are important to improve our quality of neighborhoods and finally give our students the resources they need.

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Cephas appointed Chair of Women and Girls of Color Subcommittee for the Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus

In March 2017, the PA General Assembly’s Black Caucus established a committee on women and girls of color. The primary focus of the subcommittee is to ensure the needs and experiences of women and girls of color are heard, valued, and represented in the policy making and the legislative process within this governing body.

Over the years, we have statistically made strides in areas of education attainment, business ownership, jobs in the workforce, and violence. This is significant progress, but unfortunately, women and girls still lag behind in areas such as economic security, health and gender equality. Women and girls of color still lag in standardized testing performance, fare lower in poverty, and have higher employment rates in lower-wage industries. These are clear indicators that wealthier communities do not always have the same opportunities as those in lower-income communities.

As the chair of the subcommittee, my plan is to work together with other legislators and stakeholders to solicit input from community members, and to introduce and support legislation that ensures our communities have the resources they need to thrive. It’s imperative that we continue to make strides in filling the gaps of women and girls of color. In making the initiatives outlined in the PA Commonwealth’s Roadmap for Women achieve their goals.

As we go forward, I am confident that we will continue to make strides in ensuring that women and girls have the opportunities and resources they need to succeed. This is an exciting time for women and girls of color, and we are committed to ensuring that these opportunities are available to all women and girls in Pennsylvania.

Cephas bill to boost senior programs by up to $2 million per year advances to Full House

According to the Pennsylvania Department of Aging, our Commonwealth has the third highest percentage of residents over the age of 65. More importantly, in the fact that the fastest-growing segment of Pennsylvania’s elderly population are those who are 85 years of age or older. The House Republican majority is continuing in our efforts to improve the quality of sustainable revenue sources, potential budget cuts will cut the population at risk. These efforts will support seniors and create a climate that promotes self-sufficiency and support services to senior programs across the state.

In my first 100 days, I launched the Elderly and Vulnerable Enforcement Task Force that consists of various community stakeholders, local and state government officials and area business owners. Its purpose is to identify, and report illegal activities such as businesses with restaurant and liquor license to the 12th Administrative District. As task force, we held a community public meeting and identified the top 10 bad actors; those who serve alcohol to minors, do not have the necessary permits to do so, and other illegal activities.

In an effort to strengthen our efforts, I co-sponsored House Bill 1162, that would provide an additional $34 million for basic and special education within a year. This proposed bill will help our commonwealth have the third highest percentage of public education, support for our senior citizens, and human services.

According to the Pennsylvania Attorney General’s Office, $32 billion spending plan that reflected investments in our financial health of our commonwealth by passing an on-budget revenue bill have passed. Unfortunately, we only voted for the bill that would redirect unclaimed gambling winnings to the Lottery. This bill was defeated in the House due to a lack of revenue. Without this successful action, we will see a decrease in our home without fulfilling our constitutional requirement state legislation. As we move close to three months into the year, the legislature still needs to pass a revenue bill that brings in a $2 billion gap in taxes.

In July, the Senate came back to session and passed their budget bill which will include a $1.3 billion revenue package. One significant piece in this deal is the fact that the Keystone State Reinvestment Economic Development fund would be used to prop up local school districts. This is a positive step forward.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Significant movement on stop and go legislation

In my first 100 days, I launched the 192nd Legislature Task Force that consists of various community stakeholders, local and state government officials and area business owners. Its purpose is to identify, and report illegal activities such as businesses with restaurant and liquor license to the 12th Administrative District. As task force, we held a community public meeting and identified the top 10 bad actors; those who serve alcohol to minors, do not have the necessary permits to do so, and other illegal activities.

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92ND SUMMER Recap

Over 1,000 constituents attended my 60th Street Summer Jam on Sept. 23. Constituents and I were thrilled to reconnect with nearly 1,000 residents at the 60th Street Health and Wellness Summer Jam. The event featured state resources, activities for the entire family, a bounce house for the kids, and entertainment, games, raffles, giveaways, food, and refreshments.

60th Street Health and Wellness Summer Jam

It was my honor to host the 60th Street Summer Jam with my colleague Rep. Joanna McClinton. We provided health screenings and resources for our constituents but more importantly, we united our communities even more. Communities where racism in healthcare is systemic and are not allowed to cross the street one side to another. This event proves that peace and unity, when our communities can come together, grow and thrive.

192nd Block Captain Highlights

On Saturday, Sept. 23, I had the opportunity to walk with the residents of the 700 block of Marlyn Road gather to discuss neighborhood investments. We had the opportunity to walk with the governor and other members of the administration. We celebrated the opening of the Wynne Senior Residence, highlighting 51 new affordable apartment units.

Carroll Park • 5800 Girard Ave.
Saturday, Sept. 23
9 a.m. – noon

Shredding Event

Fall Cleanup & Senior Chat N’ Chew

2001 N. 54th St.
Saturday, Oct. 21
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Senior Housing Seminar

As I continue my campaign, we installed smoke alarms in the community and provided fire safety tips to residents of the 192nd Legislative District in west Philadelphia. We installed smoke alarms and provided fire safety tips to residents of the 192nd Legislative District in west Philadelphia. We focused on how to strategize about next steps, my office will continue to host Pop Up festivals to conduct outreach and education efforts.

I will continue to host my Pop Up Festival to increase access to information on federal, state, and local level of government. I look forward to providing state resources, information, and strategies for next steps. My office will continue to host “Block by Block Tea Talks’ – a listening tour with residents, so I can hear from you soon.

Over the next several months I will be hosting ‘Block by Block Tea Talks’ - a listening tour with residents, so I can hear from you soon.

Work with the governor and other members of the administration. We celebrated the opening of the Wynne Senior Residence, highlighting 51 new affordable apartment units.

Over the past several months, I have coordinated and participated in a series of economic development asking tours with Governor Tom Wolf in an effort to expand and promote growth and development in our region. We have had the opportunity to walk with the governor and other residents of the administration. We celebrated the opening of the Wynne Senior Residence, highlighting 51 new affordable apartment units.

The Block of the 300 block of blocks of street gathered to discuss neighborhood postcard park. I donated book bags and clean-up tools for our neighborhood pocket park. I donated book bags and clean-up tools for our neighborhood pocket park.

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192ND SUMMER RECAP

Community District 192

Over 1,000 neighbors attended my 192ND Constituent Day on Saturday, Aug. 19 at the Tustin Recreation Center. The event featured state resources, activities for the entire family, a tasting tour of wild onions, toasts to safety, food, entertainment, games, raffles, giveaways, food, and refreshments. It was my honor to host the 60th Street Summer Jam with my colleague Rep. Joanna McClinton. We had the opportunity to walk with the governor and other members of his administration. We celebrated the opening of the new Wynne Senior Residence, highlighting 51 new affordable apartment units.

Talks with PEFCO Continue

At the top of the year I and members of the Wynnewood Residents Association (WRA) learned of PEFCO's 2014 acquisition of the old PECO Overbrook Transformer Station in the 192nd Legislative District. Given the significant wins we've achieved, it is imperative that I continue to work with PEFCO to ensure we identify and target strategic investments from the state and local level to move our district in the right direction.

Over the past several months, we joined with strategic partners to improve the quality of life in our communities. It is vital to ensure every neighborhood offers opportunities and access to housing, health care, education, employment and an overall neighborhood that allows residents to live, work, and play safely. Collectively, we have attracted new affordable housing units, including a community in the area, built against opening and established nuisance businesses, served as the host of a series of resource events, protected nearly $10 million worth of commercial and commercial investment and against opening and established nuisance businesses, served as the host of a series of resource events, protected nearly $10 million worth of commercial and commercial investments. We have worked together with WRA and the Philadelphia NAACP to call for Legislative intervention.

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