



Summer
2022

State Representative | 192nd Legislative District

MORGAN CEPHAS



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Dear Neighbor,

I hope this newsletter finds you well and enjoying the summer!

I just wrapped up budget season in Harrisburg, and I want to keep you informed about the work I'm doing in the Capitol and here at home to continue in our recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and what we're doing to protect your freedoms which, unfortunately, are under attack.

If you have any questions about anything you read in this newsletter, please reach out to my office.

My team and I are committed to doing all we can to ensure you have access to the things you need to live, work, play and thrive in the 192nd!



Policy Highlights

➤ **Dignity for Incarcerated Women Bill moves out of committee** – On May 24, the Dignity for Incarcerated Women legislation, of which I was a co-prime sponsor, was unanimously voted out of committee. This legislation would ensure the dignity of incarcerated women by **prohibiting shackling** of pregnant women, **prohibiting solitary confinement** of pregnant women and providing for an appropriate amount of **feminine hygiene products at no cost** to incarcerated women, among other important measures. I look forward to working to have this legislation enacted into law and looking for common ground with my colleagues across the aisle to make progress for Pennsylvanians.

➤ **Legislation to require reverse mortgage counseling before one begins a reverse mortgage** – Earlier this year, I introduced legislation that would require face-to-face counseling with an approved financial counselor before one begins a reverse mortgage. If the meeting is unable to take place face to face, the potential borrower could also meet with a counselor over the phone or through video teleconference. Many seniors in the district and across our commonwealth face economic struggles and in response, have decided to enter into a reverse mortgage which allows them to borrow on the equity of their home in exchange for a lump sum, fixed monthly payment or line of credit. While this may help seniors access their assets without selling their homes, many may end up paying more than before, and some could even lose their homes. This legislation would help protect our seniors.

➤ **Neighborhood Infrastructure Repair bill introduced** – I recently introduced a bill that would help support Pennsylvania homeowners who struggle to make expensive property repairs. I've coauthored this legislation with Rep. Jordan Harris, D-Phila. Our legislation would reduce financial distress for homeowners with an investment of state funding and a match in municipality funding. Having a safe and affordable place to live is important for people of all ages, and this legislation would help to make that a reality for many of our neighbors.



Appointments

LANKENAU MEDICAL CENTER PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY COUNCIL

In March, I was excited to be named to the Lankenau Medical Center President's Advisory Council. The council is composed of a select group of community leaders whose knowledge, experience and insights qualify them to provide advice, feedback and guidance regarding Lankenau's commitment to patient care, education and research. I know that many of you travel across the county line seeking and receiving care at Lankenau. I look forward to helping Lankenau deliver the very best care for its patients and our community.

CCP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

In June, I was honored to be appointed to the Community College of Philadelphia Board of Trustees. Access to affordable education is crucial for all communities to move across the economic spectrum, and I will work to provide students in the city of Philadelphia access to an affordable education right here at home at CCP while helping to support the college as a staple in our City.

My office can help you with:

- Car registrations, special tags, titles and license applications
- Information on financial assistance for higher education
- Unemployment compensation problems
- Birth certificate applications
- Pennsylvania income tax problems
- Disability plates and placards
- Questions with the Department of Human Services (food stamps, LIHEAP, income assistance)
- Questions about PennDOT
- PACE cards for senior citizens
- Property Tax/Rent Rebate problems or questions, applications and more
- PA Treasury search for unclaimed property

COVID-19 Nurturing Maternal and Child Health Program

COVID-19 has ravaged the lives and livelihoods of mothers and their children across our commonwealth in communities that are already disproportionately impacted by maternal and infant mortality and lead poisoning.

The **Pennsylvania COVID-19 Nurturing Maternal and Child Health Program**, under the American Rescue Plan, addresses the hardships encountered by mothers and their children exacerbated during the pandemic and has allotted funds to make improvements.

These funds, \$25.6 million, include:

- **Lead Abatement & Remediation** that would also order that daycare and rental unit buildings built before 1978 must be certified as lead-free (\$10 million).
- **Medicaid Expansion for 12-months Postpartum**, extended from the previous allotment of 60 days and effective April 1, 2022 (DHS Funded).
- **Doula Certification and Workforce Development** program in PA, and money would also be available to high-need, low-income women (\$600,000).
- **Doula Services for Pennsylvania Incarcerated People**, provided to pregnant inmates at State Correctional Institution (SCI) – Muncy (\$100,000).
- **Whole Mother Care**, going towards equipment at the new Women's and Infant's Hospital in Philadelphia to improve quality of health for, particularly, women of color (\$5.2 million).
- **Grants for Local Maternal Mortality Review Committees**, and monies will also go to existing MMRCs for the purpose of technical support (\$200,000).
- **Maternal Care Innovation Grants** aimed at reducing the number of mother deaths and mothers dealing with serious disease, as well as supporting them and their families. (\$5 million).
- **Healthy Food Pilot** involving local organizations partnering to provide healthy and nutritious food to low-income expectant mothers (\$2.5 million).
- **New Mom/New Baby Training Curriculum** that partners with academic institutions to provide new mothers with educational materials dealing with what to expect once they deliver their children (\$1 million).
- **Free At-Home Pregnancy Tests** to local clinics who serve those who can't access elsewhere (\$1 million).

#DaysInTheDistrict



Scan this code for a short video about my new office!



District Office Grand Opening and New Office Location

To bring in the new year, my team and I celebrated a new beginning at the District Office Grand Opening. Nearly 100 community members came out including local businesses, civic associations, elected officials and most importantly YOU, the constituents of the 192nd District.

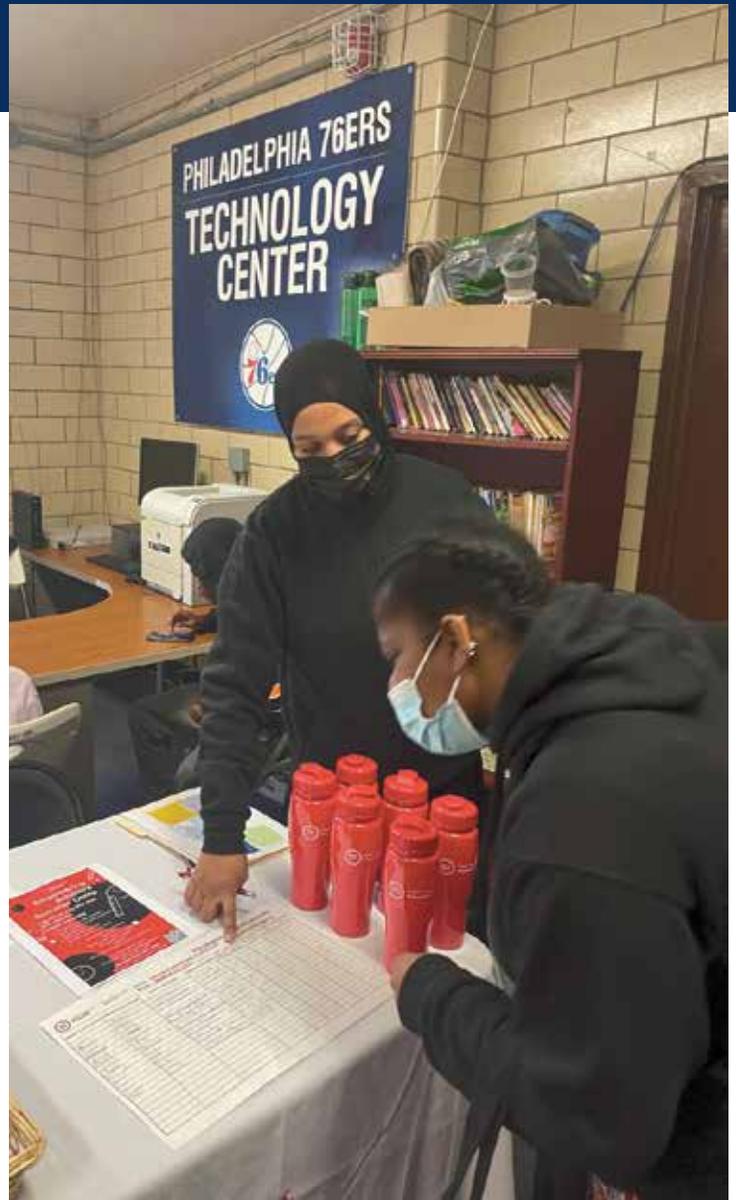


State of the 192nd Town Hall

On Feb. 17, we hosted the annual state of the 192nd Town Hall event to meet with the community and talk all things “Living in the 192nd.” Guest speakers joined the panel to talk about tangled titles and homeowners’ and renters’ assistance programs and answer questions from the community. Nearly 50 residents came out to join the discussion at BOOST CDC.

Winter/Spring Satellite Sites

Our office maintains three satellite sites across the 192nd where we service neighbors at a location convenient for *you*. Since January 2022, we’ve offered many of the services we provide in our district office at Haddington Library (Haddington), Boost CDC, and Episcopal Community Services St. Barnabas Community Center (Carroll Park). Keep up with my team as we visit locations throughout the district to ensure we are providing the service you need!

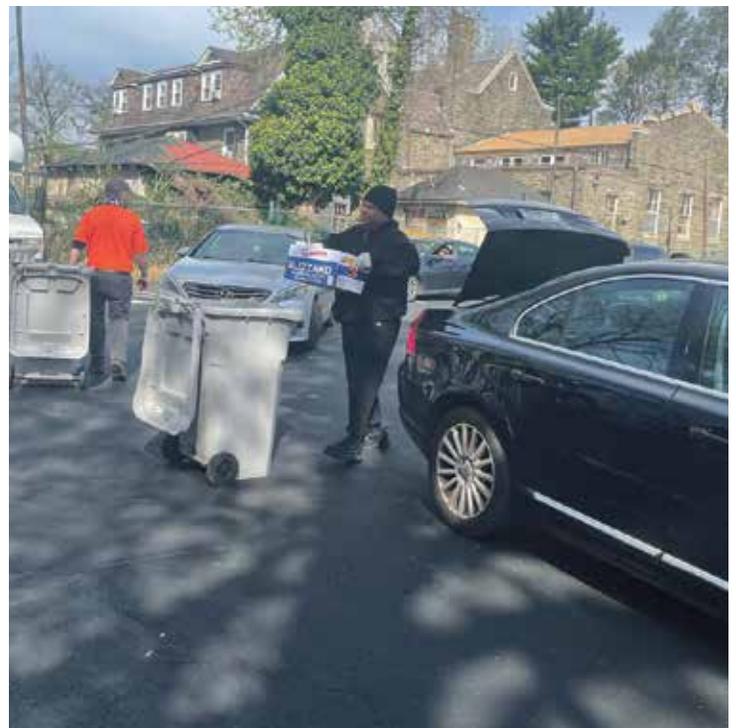


Summer Youth Employment Workshop

This year's Annual Youth Employment Workshop was a great success, where we engaged with over 75 youths to get registration for the Summer Work Ready Program. Thanks to community partners Urban League Philadelphia and Urban Affairs Coalition and employment partners like PA CareerLink and The School District of Philadelphia, we were able to connect youth and their families with job training and placement opportunities for the summer and beyond.

Spring Shredding (right)

On April 16, my team and I kicked off the season hosting the annual spring shredding event. We were joined by over 250 neighbors at Pinn Memorial Baptist Church (Wynnefield) to safely dispose of nearly 5 tons of documents.

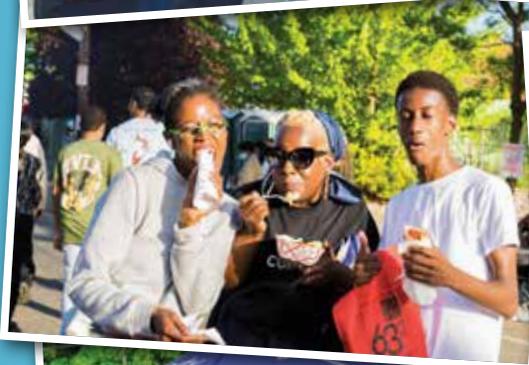


The Overbrook Night Market Recap & Impact

After two years of the pandemic and almost three years since the 2019 Night Market event, I partnered with Overbrook West Neighbors (OWN) for the return of *The Overbrook Night Market*. The night was filled with community, music and most anticipated – food trucks! Nearly 20,000 people came out for a night of family-friendly fun on Lancaster Avenue. A special thank you to our partners, vendors, local businesses and neighbors!

Event Highlights

- 13,000+ attendees
- 26 Food Trucks
- 75% black owned contractors
- 40% black owned vendors
- 27% women owned vendors
- Estimated \$335,000 generated revenue
- 30+ community volunteers

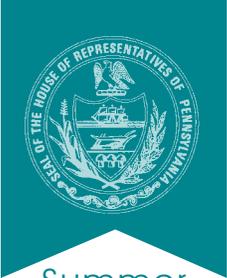




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What's to Come?

Look out for more info on these upcoming events in the 192nd. Contact my office for more details and to be added to my events notice list.

- **SFMNP Program Voucher Distribution**
September 2022
- **Mobile Office Hours**
Contact for more details
- **Healthy Parks & Open Spaces Policy Hearing**
Monday, Aug. 15 | 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. | Kingsessing Recreation Center

