

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Morgan Cephias

192ND LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT



Winter 2019

5921 Lancaster Ave. • Philadelphia, PA 19151 • (215) 879-6625
104-B East Wing • P.O. Box 202192 • Harrisburg, PA 17120-2192 • (717) 783-2192
pahouse.com/Cephias • /RepCephias • @RepCephias • RepCephias@pahouse.net

Dear neighbor,

My first term as your state representative came and went! I'm truly honored to be serving the district for my second term to continue fighting for you and your family in Harrisburg.

I proudly held my hand high as I was officially sworn into office on Jan. 1, 2019. Even though it's a new legislative session, my priorities remain the same. I will keep pushing for adequate education funding and jobs that provide a livable wage; work to pass common-sense gun reform; advocate for a fair and just criminal justice system; work to close the gender wage gap; and strengthen our commercial corridors and businesses to continue building middle neighborhoods.

Our countless efforts over the past two years have certainly paid dividends for the 192nd. From students to seniors, our office provided more than 8,000 constituents with significant services, handled more than 5,000 cases for residents, and assisted more than 1,000 people with SEPTA Senior ID Cards, Property Tax/Rent Rebates and Senior Fresh Food Produce Vouchers.

After hearing your concerns, we successfully secured \$1.2 million in state funds to improve our local schools, parks, businesses, and libraries, as well as jumpstart community development projects to spur economic development in our neighborhoods.



I worked tirelessly with the Philadelphia Delegation and our colleagues across the aisle to protect our neighborhoods from stop-and-gos by implementing a law to better crackdown on these nuisance establishments (**See page 2 for breakdown of law**). I brought the Democratic Policy Committee to Philadelphia and the surrounding areas to discuss expanding protections for union families, expunging suspension records for students and providing dignity for incarcerated women.

Know that you continue to be my top priority, and moving forward, we're not letting off the gas pedal.

You can count on my staff and I to continue answering your questions, confronting challenges, devising solutions, and standing up for the needs of our district.

Thank you, and I look forward to working with you for the next two years and beyond.

Morgan Cephias



President Obama Visits Pennsylvania & Philadelphia delegation

President Barack Obama always said "Change can't happen without you," and the change we achieved in November will help lay the groundwork for promising change across the country. I had the pleasure of meeting him in September during a rally in Philadelphia for U.S. Sen. Bob Casey.

Putting Your Family First Through Laws & Legislation

During my first term, I made it my mission to stay proactive in addressing issues impacting our district – issues that specifically affect our middle neighborhoods and all of our vulnerable populations.

I am proud to have introduced the following bills during the 2017-18 Legislative Session to improve the quality of life for you and your family:

Using unclaimed gambling funds to help seniors:

Would have redirected unclaimed gambling winnings to the Lottery Fund to further fund programs for seniors, such as Property Tax/Rent Relief.

Protecting older Pennsylvanians from financial scams:

Would have added a definition to the state's Older Adults Protective Services Act specific to "financial abuse" to better patrol for intentional acts of deception and prevent older Pennsylvanians from becoming victims of consumer scams, including identity theft and charity fraud.

Cracking down on squatters: Worked with Republican State Rep. John Taylor to help police address illegal trespassers in our neighborhoods by creating legislation that would have given officers the ability to remove squatters if he/she has probable cause the person is breaking the law.

Help parents afford higher education: Would have aided parents in the classroom by requiring higher educational institutions to consider a student's child care expenses when calculating financial aid eligibility.

Strengthening child care assistance: Would have changed the requirements for Pennsylvania's Child Care Works Subsidized Child Care Program to allow a parent, who wasn't employed but still enrolled in a post-secondary education or workforce training program, to be qualified for at least two years.

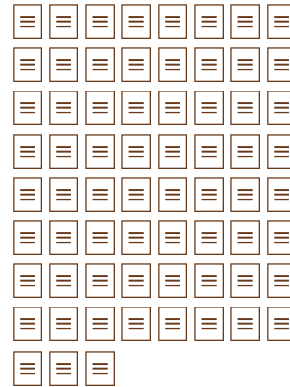
Pushing for more daycares at work: Would have created a tax credit for an employer who furnishes employee child daycare.

Providing students a second chance: Would have given school districts the ability to expunge suspensions from student disciplinary records, and prevent individuals from being rejected from post-secondary institutions because of a minor infraction committed in their youth. I held a public hearing at the Overbrook Library focusing on how important this bill was to prepare the young minds of today for the jobs of tomorrow.

In the new legislative session, I will continue standing up for you and creating solutions that put you and your family first.

Legislation: Working for You in Harrisburg

67 Bills Co-Sponsored



20 Amendments Introduced



5 Resolutions Prime-Sponsored



19 Bills Prime-Sponsored



Introduced Laws

Stop-and-Gos

In an effort to protect our communities from senseless violence, I fought alongside my Democratic colleagues to put an end to nuisance stop-and-gos. We stood proudly with Gov. Tom Wolf last year as he signed our legislation (H.B. 157) into law, allowing the state Liquor Control Board to designate saturated nuisance market areas, where violations are subject to enhanced penalties, fines and suspensions, and allow the board to remove licenses from those areas.

Clean Slate

In our biggest victory yet for criminal justice reform, we joined our colleagues from across the aisle to push clean slate legislation (H.B. 1419) onto the governor's desk. The Clean Slate law, the first of its kind in the nation, gives individuals a chance to have their records sealed of certain offenses, including those related to marijuana.

A person may have this opportunity if they've been convicted of a misdemeanor or an ungraded offense carrying a maximum penalty of no more than five years in prison; free from conviction for 10 years for an offense that resulted in a year or more in prison; and paid all court-ordered financial debts.

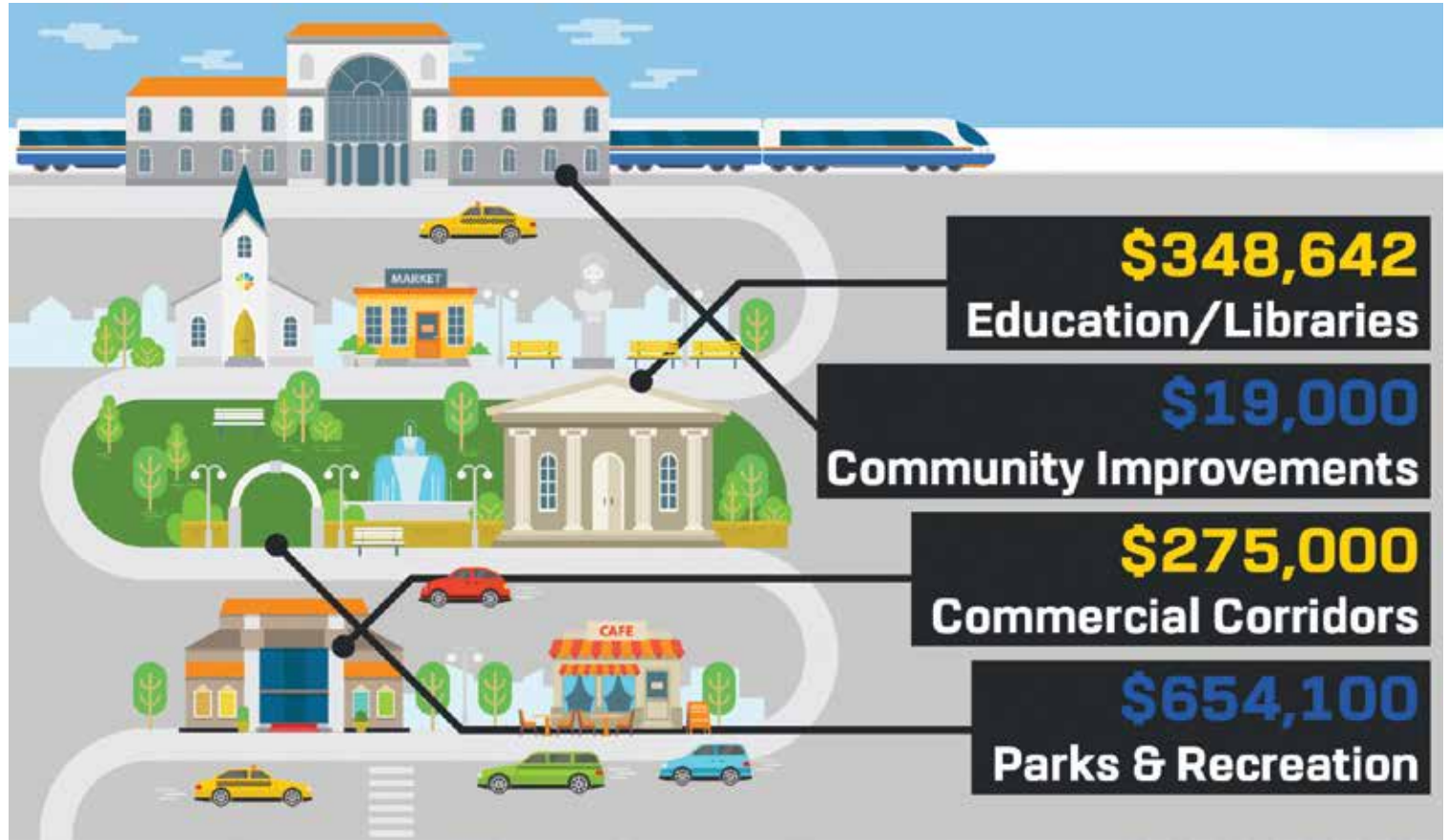
Additionally, it allows automatic sealing of records for second- or third-degree misdemeanor offenses that resulted in a less than two-year prison sentence if a person has been free from convictions for 10 years, as well as sealing of criminal history records related to charges that resulted in non-convictions.



Keeping Constituents Safe! With 19th Police District Captain John Stanford and fellow officers.

Secured \$1.2 Million to Strengthen the 192nd

I'm constantly fighting for state funds to strengthen our communities and give us the best chance to succeed. I'm pleased to announce that together, in 2017 and 2018, we secured a total of \$1.2 million in grants to spread across the Overbrook, Carroll Park, Wynnefield and Haddington neighborhoods.



It was great joining state Sen. Vincent Hughes, City Councilman Curtis Jones, Jr., and other members of the community to cut the ribbon at Carroll Park to celebrate the improvements made possible by \$300,000 in grant funding that we secured.

AROUND THE COMMUNITY



Overbrook Library Children's "Reading Time."



Thank you to some of our 2018 college interns: Avy, Nazirah, and Quadiirah.



2018 Summer Jam with Rep. Joanna McClinton, Councilman Jones, and ACHIEVEability.



Senior Chat N' Chew

Thanks to our sponsors AmeriHealth and Woods Funeral Home, I had the pleasure of meeting with our seniors in September for great conversation and information about state programs and services that promote healthy living. From blood pressure screenings and physical fitness advice, to dancing and exercising tips, this event brought neighbors together for a day of fun and gainful information.



2018 Healthy Harvest Turkey Drive with Wynnefield Overbrook Revitalization Corporation (WORC) and Presby Life Senior Center.



Celebrating Our District Block Captains.



Medical Marijuana Dispensaries Town Halls

In October and November, I hosted a town hall series on medical marijuana dispensaries. Partnering with the Wynnefield Residents Association, 52nd Ward Leader Steve Jones, and the Overbrook Park Civic Association, residents came out to Pinn Memorial Baptist Church and Rose Playground and Recreation Center to voice their opinions, hear from experts, and learn about the medical marijuana industry.



Distributing Fruit and Vegetable Food Vouchers

This past summer, my office teamed up with the Philadelphia Corporation for Aging (PCA) and other agencies to distribute close to 500 vouchers to our seniors in the 192nd. In just three weeks this summer, my staff and I were able to connect more than 500 seniors to the Fruits and Vegetable Voucher Program. Look out for similar opportunities coming later this year.



I led a public hearing at District 1199 Union Hall to talk about the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in the case of Janus v. AFSCME.

Fighting for Women & Girls of Color

As chairwoman of the Women and Girls of Color Subcommittee of the Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus, I travel across the commonwealth, give a voice to the voiceless, stand up for women of color, and fight to ensure they are treated as equals.

Over the past two years, I've fought to close the gender wage gap for good. It's outrageous that in 2019, women in Pennsylvania are paid 79 cents for every dollar paid to men. The disparity is even worse for women of color and Latinas, who are paid 68 cents and 56 cents for every dollar, respectively. When you do the math, those women employed full time in the commonwealth lose a combined total of more than \$19 billion every year.

Further crippling our efforts is the U.S. Supreme Court's decision on Janus v. AFSCME that threatens workers rights and all families. I held a public hearing in August at District 1199 Union Hall in response to this ruling, focusing on the long-term impact for women of color, and discussing how unions protect workers, help close pay gaps, and make career advancement a reality. How do I know? Unions lifted my mother out of poverty.

I'm also fighting to make sure women and girls of color are part of the criminal justice reform conversation and are treated equitably in our prison system.





We pushed to enact the *Dignity for Incarcerated Women's Act*, which would create a Women and Girls Committee

to aid the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency related to research and programs directly impacting women and girls; provide alternative postpartum housing for inmates who are new mothers; require state prisons to provide free feminine hygiene items to all female inmates; offer a free monthly phone call to incarcerated parents; and create a system to help inmates register for all available benefits before release.

We've come too far to be simply kicked to the curb. I won't stop until all women and girls of color are treated with the respect and dignity they deserve.

MORGAN'S OFFICE

BY THE NUMBERS

 <h2 style="font-size: 2em;">8,456</h2> <p>Constituent Services</p>	<h2 style="font-size: 2em;">5,098</h2> <p>Constituent Cases</p> 	<h2 style="font-size: 2em;">780</h2> <p>Philly 311 Reports</p>
<h2 style="font-size: 2em;">751</h2> <p>SEPTA Senior IDs</p>	<h2 style="font-size: 2em;">586</h2> <p>Property Tax/ Rent Rebate</p> 	 <h2 style="font-size: 2em;">645</h2> <p>Senior Produce Vouchers</p>

Data is from 2017-18



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

MORGAN CEPHAS

P.O. Box 202192
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2192

INSIDE:

- Securing \$1.2 million for the 192nd
- Laying out priorities for 2019
- Legislation putting families first

lpo.kim.0119

Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars!

**Martin Luther King Day
of Celebration**

Jan. 21

*Stay tuned for
service information*



**3rd Annual Youth
Employment Workshops**

Saturday, Feb. 9 & 16

10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Please call the office for details: (215) 879-6625

**Annual Earth Day Clean
Up & Shredding**

Saturday, April 20

Rain Date: Saturday, April 27

10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Rose Playground

1300 N. 75th St.

Philadelphia, PA 19151

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, income assistance)
- Consumer complaints
- Complaints or questions about utilities and the PUC
- Complaints about state road conditions
- Questions about PennDOT
- PACE cards for senior citizens
- Complaints and questions with insurance companies
- Property Tax/Rent Rebate problems or questions
- Questions about the state lottery
- Local government officials' problems with state agencies