

JARED SOLOMON



DEAR NEIGHBORS,

It's been a wonderful year here in the Northeast! We held many events, and it was wonderful to be out and about helping you all. It's my favorite part about being your State Representative. I will continue to do my part to represent the Northeast both here in our community and in Harrisburg. Here's a recap of all the amazing things we accomplished in 2021 – and a preview of more things to come in 2022!

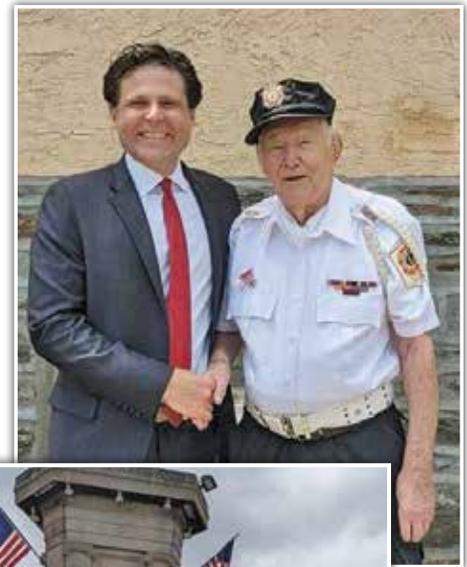
Sincerely,

BEAUTIFYING THE BURLHOME WORLD WAR I MEMORIAL

On July 8, my office presented a \$20,000 check to the Burholme Civic Association to beautify and improve the Burholme World War I Memorial at Five Points. It was an honor to rededicate this local icon and remember the brave men and women from Burholme who answered the call of duty 100 years ago.

My office secured the funding from the Department of Community and Economic Development as part of a Keystone Grant Program. This enabled us to power wash the memorial and install new lighting, flags, plaques and planters. It's my goal to continue bringing in resources to the district to complete more projects like this.

Special thanks for all our local partners. Maintaining and improving the memorial has been a joint effort between the Boy Scout Troop 160, Councilman Brian O'Neill, Councilman Al Taubenberger, Pam Baranackie, nonprofits and civic associations.



SENIOR FAIR

Our annual senior fair was held on September 25 at St. Williams' Hall. Seniors received flu shots, COVID-19 vaccinations, and blood pressure screenings. Residents also brought their unused and expired medicine for disposal.

Seniors participated in movement activities provided by Arcadia University's Pro Bono Clinic. Many enjoyed talking with vendors and learning about other senior services and programs.

We look forward to our upcoming senior fair in September 2022.

Keep an eye on your email and my social media to stay up to date.

ANNUAL SHREDDING EVENT

One of our most popular events is our annual shredding event. We always get a large turnout for these events - this year was no different. On July 10, over 150 neighbors came by with sensitive documents to shred.

Shredding is an important way we can eliminate waste, protect our identities, and keep our homes and workspaces tidy. We appreciate all the volunteers and community members who made our shredding event possible.

We are especially thankful for the Philadelphia Protestant Home for hosting us. We will host our next shredding event this spring. Keep an eye on your email and my social media accounts to stay up to date.



BRINGING YOUTH AND POLICE TOGETHER

When it comes to issues of policing in Philadelphia, there is no "one-size-fits-all" solution. But I do believe one way to ease tensions between police and youth is to get them together in a peaceful and friendly setting to build relationships and trust.

On August 7, we had a great time when we hosted a basketball game between youth and police with our community partner Leaders of Tomorrow (LOT).

This event was extra special because the basketball courts at Tarken Recreation Center were freshly repaved and had brand-new hoops installed thanks to funding we had secured a few years ago.

LOT is an amazing group of young people who make a positive impact in the district. I know they will continue to do so in the future. I always enjoy collaborating with Juan, Arianna, Nicole, Willix, and the rest of the crew.

Shout-outs also go out to Chief Inspector Altovise Love-Craighead, M.S., and Commanding Officer Captain Maria Ortiz-Rodriguez for coordinating the event alongside us and rallying the police support. This event wouldn't have been possible without you.

Thank you to Tygh Kane and Lisa Whittle from Parks and Recreation for hosting us at the Tarken Recreation Center. And thank you to Chief Operations Officer Claudio Roman with Citywide Community Counseling Services, Inc. and Gary Barbera for sponsoring.



MINI CAREER AND EDUCATION FAIR

On August 24, we hosted a Mini Career and Education Fair. It's always been a top priority of mine to expand job opportunities in the district. More jobs with good wages and benefits are crucial to building a prosperous Northeast.

Of course, the COVID-19 pandemic has made this project more challenging. The statewide unemployment rate was still not down to pre-pandemic levels by August 2021. So, we felt a great sense of urgency in bringing job opportunities directly to you.

Seventeen vendors recruited for jobs and even conducted interviews on the spot. Our wonderful community partner Kinder Academy hosted us. We received the generous support of Philadelphia Works, Inc., and PA CareerLink in securing vendors.

We plan on organizing another one in the future. If you are a business owner interested in being a future vendor, please call my office at 215-342-6340 or email me at repsolomon@pahouse.net. If you are a constituent interested in a job, please call my office and we can assist you.



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT CHECK EVENT

On August 15, I presented funding to the Urban Affairs Coalition as part of my PA Schools-to-Work pipeline program.

My legislation establishes career pathways for young people to move into stable, well-paying jobs right in their own backyards. By providing incentives to schools and local businesses to collaborate on work-based learning opportunities, we will ultimately create a pipeline for job creation in Northeast Philadelphia and across the state.

I was very happy to present the check to the Urban Affairs Coalition. The funds went toward their apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs, which provide high school students at Mastery Charter Schools the opportunity to gain the skills, experiences and connections they need for a successful career in the building trades. Our youth face many barriers to gainful employment and the Urban Affairs Coalition is well-positioned to address those barriers.



TRUNK OR TREAT

On October 30, we collaborated with Kinder Academy on Rising Sun Ave., the Lawncrest Community Association, and Gary Barbera to host a fun Trunk or Treat event. Senator Christina Tartaglione and Councilmember Cherelle Parker were also there.

Trunk or Treat is very much what it sounds like: community members parked with trunks open, decorated, and full of candy. We saw some pretty fantastic costumes. Everyone had a great time while music played and families gave out candy.



TARKEN RIBBON CUTTING

When I was first elected, I did a tour in 2017 of all the recreation centers in my district. I believe that if we want our kids to have good outcomes in life we need to start early. One part of that is making sure our kids have things to do in the community that bring families together.

On December 17, we cut the ribbon for the newly renovated Tarken Recreation Center. Upgrades include refurbished playground and basketball courts as well as converting tennis courts into futsal courts. The honor of cutting the ribbon went to Sir-Ethan Merritt, a third grader at First Philadelphia Preparatory Charter School who plays flag football and soccer at Tarken.

The upgrades at Tarken prove that the things we do together are the things we do best. I met with Walt Mulholland, the former director at Tarken, when I first became a representative. He along with community representatives, like Terri Fegley, the leader of the advisory committee, and Sharon Calvin, explained the needs of Tarken.

Government at all levels, nonprofits, and the community all came together. Thank you to Councilmember Cherelle Parker, State Senator Christine Tartaglione, Philadelphia Parks & Recreation staff, and George Matysik of Philadelphia Parks Alliance for your collaboration in bringing resources and funding to Tarken. Two final shout-outs to Tygh Kane, the new recreation leader, and Paola Bonass from CareGivers America, who donated

toys for this momentous occasion.

We are beyond excited for the new and improved Tarken Recreation Center. It will provide a safe space for children in the community to participate in recreational activities, while keeping them productive and safe.



WE HAD SUCCESSFUL GIVEAWAYS!

BACKPACK GIVEAWAY

The past two years have been difficult for students and their families. The transition of many schools to online learning was unprecedented, but our students have stayed resilient through all of it.

If we can make things easier - we want to do that. In late August, we welcomed students and families in the district back to school by distributing free backpacks.

We hosted these giveaways at Cedar Grove Christian Academy, Woodrow Wilson Middle School, William H. Ziegler School, Gilbert Spruance School, Moore J. Hampton School, St. William Catholic Church and OCCEDA. Thank you to the school staff and principals for collaborating with us. Many thanks to Gary Barbera and his team for donating the backpacks.



TURKEY GIVEAWAY

Thanksgiving is a time when we get together with family and loved ones to appreciate each other and count our blessings in life. But celebrating this holiday can be a source of stress when people are struggling to pay regular food bills, much less affording the traditional items that go on the Thanksgiving table.

In fact, food insecurity increased dramatically in our community and nationwide due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In Pennsylvania, the rate of food insecurity increased from 11.1% in 2018 to over 33% in March 2020, according to the Penn State Social Science Research Institute.

On November 23, we distributed 100 turkeys outside our office to community members and community partners in need, like Feast of Justice, Christian Calvary Church, Haitian-Americans United for Change and OCCEDA. We could not have done it without Tommy Liu, who provided the turkeys to our community. We are extremely thankful for those involved in this giveaway and for our community too.



COAT GIVEAWAY

We teamed up with Tomika Lynn Miles at Journey Hair Salon for a coat giveaway. We are fortunate to have Tomika in our district, a local business owner and president of the Business Association. We appreciate Tomika and Sofia's Loving Care, a childcare center with 4 Keystone Stars, for their generous donation of coats for our kids. Parents came to the salon to pick up coats for their children. The giveaway was held to support children at Crossan and Ziegler elementary schools.





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LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

END GOVERNMENT CORRUPTION, NOW!

People must have the power to elect their politicians - not the other way around. We need honest and fair government.

I joined Councilmember María Quiñones-Sánchez and several good government groups outside of City Hall, where we held a press conference demanding integrity in our government.

The citizens of Pennsylvania are demanding trustworthy and competent leadership and want their faith in public servants restored!

In dealing with the aftermath of a global pandemic, we now more than ever need to get back to helping the people of Pennsylvania – putting them above politics and special interests. We need to end the culture of corruption and create a new brand of politics.

