



City of
Philadelphia

2024

STATE OF THE CITY

Parker Administration Year One

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Letter from Mayor Parker

Dear Fellow Philadelphians,

When I became your mayor, I promised that my administration would get to work on Day One. That's what we've done.

After extensive planning during the transition, we released a 100-Day Action Plan. We also signed three of now 13 executive orders to launch City government into action.

We're responding to Philadelphia's public safety emergency and tackling the challenges of addiction and behavioral health that affect some of our most vulnerable residents. Philadelphia is open for business while we create new opportunities for well-paying careers and small business growth. Every city block is being cleaned. Communities are preparing for a world facing the relentless effects of climate change. And we're unlocking the resources to build, repair, and preserve quality housing for every Philadelphian.

This is possible because we have the best municipal workforce in America. From management to frontline staff – and in close partnership with our committed union leadership – our people are our greatest asset. Our public servants are essential to creating the visible, accessible, and responsive government you deserve. They strive to deliver services you can see, touch, and feel – services that impact our daily lives. I'm grateful every day for their resilience and commitment.

This strong start is also due to our transition leaders and 550 subcommittee members. Their years of work making Philadelphia the best city in the country gave us valuable insights. I want to again express my deep gratitude for their tireless effort, both last year and in recent months, as we worked to pursue our shared goals.

This One Year Report shows only a fraction of the achievements. It hints at the great efforts to make Philadelphia the Safest, Cleanest, and Greenest big city in the nation with access to Economic Opportunity for All. We expect results and accountability. This report shows our progress so far. As I've said before, don't just listen to what we say. Watch what we do.

In service,

Cherrille L. Parker
100th Mayor
City of Philadelphia





Message from Leadership

This year has been monumental, marked by Mayor Cherelle L. Parker's historic inauguration as the 100th mayor of Philadelphia and our City's first woman mayor. Every day, her visionary leadership has inspired and united us around an ambitious agenda, and our departments have risen to meet the challenge with exceptional skill and dedication. The progress we've achieved together reflects the collaborative and collective effort that our 30+ MDO departments, divisions, and programs can achieve by working tirelessly – 24/7/365 – to turn Mayor Parker's vision into reality.

There are three programs that rise to the top of what we have accomplished to help move the Mayor's top priorities forward: Our Health and Human Services teams' recovery and wellness initiatives have helped an incredible number of individuals escape the cycle of living on the streets – especially in Kensington where many live with substance use disorders – and into shelter, treatment and long-term path to recovery. The new Riverview Wellness Village will soon be ready to accept our first group of individuals seeking long-term recovery housing.

In response to the Mayor's request to ask every department to seek new ways to make Philadelphia safer, we are proud of the Philadelphia Department of Prisons for their innovative recruitment strategies under the leadership of a new commissioner that have worked successfully to recruit two of the largest cadet classes in decades.

And, our Office of Transportation and Infrastructure Systems (OTIS) is responsible for utilizing historic funding levels from the Bipartisan Infrastructure (BIL) Law to upgrade Philadelphia's streets, bridges, airports, water systems and open spaces so they are safer, more accessible and resilient. Our team is also ensuring the BIL investments grow generational wealth for Philadelphians, especially people of color who have historically been excluded from opportunity. This is but one of our contributions to the Mayor's vision to create greater access to economic opportunity for all.

It is an honor and pleasure to be part of Mayor Parker's leadership team and working alongside some of the most driven public servants in the country.

In service,
Adam K. Thiel
Managing Director

Messages from Leadership

Chief of Staff Tiffany W. Thurman



Tiffany W. Thurman
Chief of Staff

As I reflect on our first year together, I am filled with a profound sense of gratitude and excitement for the future of Philadelphia. Serving as Chief of Staff and collaborating with extraordinary leaders across every facet of our city government has been the honor of a lifetime.

Since day one, our unwavering commitment to the Mayor's One Philly vision has driven us to achieve remarkable milestones. From the passage of the historic \$6.37 billion One Philly Budget to the launch of transformative initiatives like Community College for Municipal Employment, we've made significant strides in improving the lives of our residents.

Our work has extended far beyond these initiatives. We've spearheaded the City's international business expansion, streamlined critical functions of government through innovative collaborations, and laid the groundwork for a transformative housing strategy in partnership with leaders from around the world through the Harvard-Bloomberg City Leadership Initiative. Most recently, we've embarked on a historic endeavor to bring a \$1.3 billion Sixers Arena and revitalize the Market Street East corridor through our Beyond the Basketball project, unlocking unprecedented opportunities for our city.

I am grateful for the opportunity to lead such a talented and dedicated team. Together, we've navigated complex challenges, embraced innovative solutions, and delivered results that matter. Our collaboration with Cabinet leaders has been instrumental in ensuring that every Philadelphian receives the quality services they deserve.

This is just the beginning. We have ambitious goals, and we are committed to working tirelessly to achieve them. Together, we will shape the future of our city and leave a lasting legacy.

Chief Deputy Mayor Vanessa Garrett Harley



Vanessa Garrett Harley
Chief Deputy Mayor
Social Impact &
Strategic Initiatives

As Chief Deputy Mayor for Social Impact and Strategic Initiatives, my portfolio agencies have worked tirelessly to achieve Mayor Parker's goal to be the Safest, Cleanest, and Greenest city in the nation, with access to Economic Opportunity for All.

The Extended Day/Extended Year program was launched in 25 public and charter schools, expanding after-school and before-school enrichment opportunities for students. With Philadelphia Works, we launched a youth workforce system — Career Connected Learning — to expose Philadelphia students to career pathways. We launched the Office of Minority Business Success and Mayor's Business Roundtables. We supported early childhood professionals — with incentives for staff who commit to the field.

There is more work to do. Our staff are committed to building upon our successes and expanding our abilities to support children and families, grow jobs, expand our arts and culture community and provide equitable pathways for all.

Chief Deputy Mayor Sinceré Harris



Sinceré Harris
Chief Deputy Mayor
Intergovernmental
Affairs, Sustainability,
and Engagement

From bringing City Hall services into communities, to climate mitigation and resilience planning, to all the intergovernmental work we do between Philadelphia, Harrisburg, and Washington D.C., year one of the Parker administration has been an invigorating experience in my role as Chief Deputy Mayor for Intergovernmental Affairs, Sustainability and Engagement.

Our Administration has built out Neighborhood Community Action Centers across the city to help deliver critical services to our residents.

We're working every day to ensure Philadelphia's future is resilient and sustainable. By returning the Office of Sustainability (OOS) to the Mayor's Office, Mayor Parker uplifts this important work.

Our office has worked relentlessly to secure more state and federal funding to address Philadelphia's needs. In our first year, the Parker administration secured over \$1 billion in federal funds from the Biden-Harris administration for projects ranging from new rail cars for SEPTA, to water and sewer infrastructure, to upgrades at PHL Airport and more.



Public Safety

On her first day in office, Mayor Parker signed an executive order declaring a public safety emergency, directing City leadership to form strategies, allocate resources, and deploy personnel to address the immediate crisis while also forging the path toward making Philadelphia the safest city in the country. This vision extends to safeguarding the health and well-being of all Philadelphians and especially the most vulnerable, including those suffering from substance use or mental health issues. Providing critical services and support can be lifesaving, and the Administration is working relentlessly to build a system that meets residents' needs at scale.


“Under Mayor Parker's leadership, these early successes are a testament to the hard work and dedication of our officers, professional staff, and community partners. By cutting violent crime and property offenses significantly, including a dramatic reduction in homicides and non-fatal shootings, we're not just setting goals—we're achieving them. The focus of our work remains on building safer neighborhoods and fostering trust through strong, visible community policing. The progress we're seeing is encouraging, but it's only the beginning of our commitment to transforming public safety in Philadelphia.”


Philadelphia Police Commissioner Kevin J. Bethel






HIGHLIGHTS

 **38%**
drop in homicides year to date
compared to 2023ⁱⁱ

 **36%**
decrease in shooting victims
year to date compared to 2023

 **369**
newly hired police officers –
with an incoming recruiting
class of 50 cadetsⁱⁱⁱ

 **288**
newly hired prisons
correctional officers^{iv}

 **90**
newly hired firefighters,
paramedics, and EMTs^v

 **4,596**
smoke alarms installed^{vi}

 **\$22m**
in anti-violence, justice-reform,
and overdose crisis funding
awarded to community-based
organizations

Philadelphia's Journey Towards a Safer City

Since Mayor Parker declared a public safety emergency on her first day in office, offenses of all types have declined compared to 2023 including a 38 percent drop in homicides and 36 percent decrease in shooting victims.ⁱ As of August 2024, the Center for American Progress found Philadelphia realized one of the most significant year-over-year declines in gun violence victimizations among the 50 largest U.S. cities – a trend the City's leadership and law enforcement professionals are intent on maintaining.

Our local efforts accelerated in April 2024 when Police Commissioner Kevin J. Bethel issued a 100 Day Report outlining performance goals and a comprehensive set of strategies to combat violent crime, address property and quality of life offenses, shut down open-air drug markets, maximize deployment of the police force, and increase the number of officers engaged in community policing. Two months later, the Administration secured its first budget, allocating nearly \$640 million in new operating and capital funding over the Five-Year Plan and Six-Year Capital Program to implement these strategies. These investments and interdepartmental collaboration will be essential to making Philadelphia a safer city.

“ Mayor Parker helped set a new tone starting on day one. You can feel the difference across the city with a new energy from City Hall and when you see City workers and police officers out in communities doing the work. Helping people believe that change is possible – giving them hope – is essential. Now going forward, we'll need to keep working together to build momentum and deliver results. ”

– Anton Moore

Executive Director, Unity in the Community



Office of Public Safety Established with New Leadership

Mayor Parker formally created the Office of Public Safety (OPS) led by Adam Geer, the inaugural Chief Public Safety Director. A Cabinet-level official appointed by the mayor and approved by City Council, Geer and OPS partner closely with PPD and the Managing Director's Office (MDO), coordinating the City's efforts to

promote public safety and providing input on resource deployment, policy and strategy, and stakeholder engagement. The Office of Public Safety oversees agencies responsible for violence prevention, victim services, programs for returning citizens, criminal and juvenile justice reform, overdose response, and town watch groups.

OPS has awarded more than \$22 million in anti-violence, justice-reform, and overdose crisis grants to community-based organizations so far in 2024. Another \$30 million cycle of anti-violence grants opened in October, with award announcements planned before the end of the year. Major accomplishments to date cut across multiple OPS agencies. The Office of Re-entry Partnerships opened the first Neighborhood Resource Center, a joint project with Uplift Solutions that offers services for justice-involved residents, their families, and community members, with more Centers to come. The Office of the Victim Advocate also collaborated with PPD to launch a crime-scene cleanup pilot that has garnered national media attention. Meanwhile, the City's acclaimed Group Violence Intervention strategy launched a specialized juvenile pilot in North Philadelphia.

“ It is my honor to serve under Mayor Parker as Philadelphia's first chief public safety director. I get up each and every day, alongside the more than 100 employees from the Office of Public Safety, and we get to work advancing Mayor Parker's vision for a collaborative, community-centric, evidence-informed approach to public safety. It is encouraging to see historic reductions in violence in 2024, but we will not rest until every neighborhood is safe and every Philadelphian feels safe. ”

– Adam Geer
Chief Public Safety Director

Hiring and Training for Community Policing

Maximizing the deployment of the current police force and increasing the number of officers trained and equipped for community policing are two major



strategies in creating safer neighborhoods while building trust and collaboration in communities. The Police Department organized nine recruit classes for 2024 and has graduated more than 125 officers from the Police Academy, including 75 in June 2024 – the largest class since 2018. These 75 graduates were first assigned to Kensington where they joined senior officers and other experienced colleagues to support an enhanced public safety phase in the area.



Restoring and Revitalizing Kensington

The strategy to revitalize Kensington led by OPS, PPD, and MDO is underway, organized around five phases to end the open-air drug market in Kensington and secure, stabilize, and maintain the commercial corridor and surrounding residential areas. The strategy consists of law enforcement alongside comprehensive outreach and service provision involving a range of City partners including the Overdose Response Unit, the Office of Community Empowerment and Opportunity, the Office of Homeless Services, and the Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Services.

“ As a lifelong resident of Philadelphia, I am thrilled the Fire Department can contribute to Mayor Parker's vision of a safer city. The new Nuisance Fire Task Force is an excellent example of the interagency coordination and targeted effort needed to produce a tangible difference in our communities. Our department is committed to providing the dedicated, 24x7x365 service necessary to keep residents safe. ”

– Jeffrey W. Thompson
Philadelphia Fire Commissioner

The first phase began in May 2024 with notices advising of upcoming encampment actions and the opportunity for those needing addiction services and housing to receive treatment and support. The second phase focusing on enforcement involved a significant allocation of new Officers to the corridor assigned to patrol on foot. This deployment allows the Officers to cover a larger geographic area and serve as a deterrent to both nuisance and criminal activities. The ultimate goal of the final strategy phases will be to transition away from extensive enforcement measures as residents, business owners, and neighborhood groups can sustain long-term changes in their community.

Building a Neighborhood Wellness Court

As part of the Mayor's Kensington strategy, the Administration is preparing the launch of a Neighborhood Wellness Court pilot to combat public drug use. The goal of this community-based court is same-day diversion from the criminal justice system into treatment and related supportive services. Key features include low-level charges, lifting of outstanding warrants, medical and behavioral health screening and care at triage, same-day judicial hearing and treatment intake, intensive case management, and immediate expungement upon successful program completion. Led by the Office of Public Safety, program partners include PPD, the First Judicial District, the Department



“Prioritizing improvements to the social, physical, and financial environments are key to attaining the full potential for health and well-being for all. Mayor Parker’s vision of making Philadelphia the safest, cleanest, greenest big city with economic opportunity for all is directly correlated to the health of Philadelphians in every community and across the lifespan. The Health and Human Services agencies are dedicated to improving health outcomes and reducing health disparities.”

– **Crystal Yates-Gale**

Deputy Managing Director for Health and Human Services, Managing Director’s Office

of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Services, Community Behavioral Health, Merakey, Penn Addiction Medicine, the District Attorney’s Office, and the Defender Association of Philadelphia.

Transforming Lives: The Role of the Wellness Village

The Administration secured a \$100 million capital investment in its first budget to move forward with plans to expand the citywide wellness ecosystem, supporting comprehensive care, treatment, and housing stability. This major initiative will center on a new Wellness Village where

individuals with substance use, mental, and behavioral health challenges can be offered the services they need for a successful recovery journey.

The Wellness Village will provide a quality residential recovery setting for individuals striving to achieve and maintain sobriety, address physical and mental health issues, connect to supportive services, and progress to housing stabilization. Work is underway to open the Wellness Village at the Riverview campus by the end of this year, with plans to expand services and increase capacity on the campus shortly thereafter. The cottages will be 24-hour supervised residences where individuals can develop and practice the early recovery skills needed to transition successfully into the community, all while living in a safe environment.

Recommitting to Vision Zero

Mayor Parker signed her fourth executive order in March 2024, recommitting Philadelphia to its goal of reaching zero traffic deaths as quickly as possible. By December 9, Vision Zero released its 2024 annual report, highlighting key wins around automated speed enforcement and funding for Vision Zero projects. The report is also the unofficial kick-off for development of the next five-year Action Plan.

“The Parker Administration is making good on its commitment to engage and listen to the communities they serve. By bringing people together, the Mayor and her team have begun making much needed investments in Philadelphia that are bringing new and innovative services to historically underserved neighborhoods. These proactive efforts are laying the groundwork for an inclusive approach to behavioral health services that will ultimately make healthcare more effective and accessible while reducing costs to the taxpayers.”

– **Joe Martz**
CEO, Merakey



The annual report outlines the success of the automated speed enforcement program, which has saved one life every month since it was installed on Roosevelt Boulevard, according to a University of Pennsylvania study. The Parker Administration is expanding the program to Broad Street and State Route 13, with three more corridors to follow. The Office of Transportation and Infrastructure Systems also assembled a plan for piloting planters as green traffic control devices in each Council district.

Vision Zero projects have received over \$43 million in federal and state grants to date in 2024 that will accelerate improvements to High Injury Network corridors like Roosevelt Boulevard, pedestrian access to public transportation, protected bike lanes, safe routes to school projects, improvements on Spruce and Pine streets, and other safety measures.



Nuisance Task Force: A Unified Approach to Safety

A new interagency task force announced November 20 is focusing on extinguishing rubbish fires in the Kensington area, maintaining safety on the scene, removing debris, and connecting individuals with social

services. The Office of Public Safety (OPS), Managing Director's Office, Fire Department, Police Department, and Office of Clean and Green Initiatives are using a coordinated approach to address both the immediate safety concerns and the underlying needs of the community. The task force, which will operate nightly from 8 p.m. to 4 a.m. until the end of March, was launched amid a heightened fire risk due to an ongoing drought affecting communities across the region.

New Leadership and Reform for the Prison System

Following a nationwide search and after consulting subject matter experts, Mayor Parker appointed Michael Resnick as the new Commissioner of the Philadelphia Department of Prisons in April 2024. Commissioner Resnick brings more than 20 years of experience in public safety and criminal justice and is now charged with leading a system in transition. An important first step forward was achieved in June when the City announced an arbitration award for approximately 1,100 Prisons employees that included pay raises, hiring and retention bonuses, and a residency waiver for correctional staff. These measures, along with a larger, modernized Training Academy and staff wellness center in development, will bolster the personnel capacity needed at City correctional facilities.

“ It is vital for the safety of everyone at our prison facilities – including incarcerated individuals, staff, and visitors – that we have a fully-staffed, well-trained complement of correctional officers. Under Mayor Parker’s leadership, we have significantly increased both hiring and retention, which has already made our prisons safer and more effective. We look forward to continuing to restore our workforce even further in the coming years. ”

– Commissioner Michael Resnick
Philadelphia Prisons



Preparing for the **global spotlight in 2026**

“ For America’s 250th anniversary, our charge is to engage every corner of Philadelphia, working with our many partners to bring meaningful investment and the spirit of celebration to residents and businesses across neighborhoods. We want all Philadelphians to feel a part of this moment, not just as spectators — but as stakeholders in our shared story.

We must also ensure the nation’s birthplace takes its rightful place – center stage – as we host a slate of events that will bring people together around what unites us, drive economic impact, and elevate our great city on the world stage. ”

– **Michael Newmuir**
2026 Director, City of Philadelphia

2026 will place Philadelphia on the world stage. It is the opportunity to also accelerate Mayor Parker’s vision of transforming Philadelphia into the safest, cleanest, greenest big city in the nation with access to economic opportunity for all. To this end, Mayor Parker tapped Michael Newmuir as 2026 Director and Jazelle Jones as the City Representative and Director of the Office of Special Events. Both will coordinate with a wide range of partners to make Philadelphia the signature destination for celebrating the country’s 250th anniversary and lead preparations for major sporting events in Philadelphia that year including the FIFA World Cup, MLB All-Star Game, NCAA’s Men’s Basketball Tournament, and the PGA Championship.

With new leadership in place, the Administration has moved forward with strategic planning to boost Philadelphia’s global profile while aiming to maximize the long-term positive impact on residents and businesses. While the business and philanthropic sectors will play an instrumental role in planning and execution, the City will support critical logistics and infrastructure, public programming, and community engagement for a successful and inclusive 2026 celebration.



Clean and Green

Making Philadelphia the cleanest and greenest big city in the country is a vast endeavor. It encompasses a range of initiatives from planning for a hotter and wetter future as a result of climate change to tree-planting to cleaning neighborhood blocks. Thousands of Philadelphians stepped up in 2024, organizing cleanups, planting gardens, and working with City officials to craft solutions to challenging problems.

“ With new strategies, equipment, and a citywide outreach campaign, we're pulling every lever available to make Philadelphia the cleanest big city in the country. Our crews are out there cleaning and greening every block in every neighborhood, and it's been inspiring to see residents and community leaders join the fight.”

Carlton Williams,
Director, Office of Clean and Green Initiatives

“ I couldn't be prouder of our department and community partners for their extraordinary efforts this year. From the citywide cleaning program to twice-a-week trash pick-up – these initiatives are hard work, but our team is up for it, and we're seeing the results.”

Crystal Jacobs Shipman,
Commissioner, Department of Sanitation



2024 One Philly, United City Citywide Cleaning Program^{viii}



40,060
Block Cleaning



5,868
Vacant Lot Cleanup



3,046
Commercial Corridor Cleanup



7,902
Blocks with potholes repaired



2,858
Blocks with graffiti removal



3,017
Abandoned Cars



30%
of energy powering City government comes from renewable sources^{ix}

Creating the Office of Clean and Green Initiatives

Mayor Parker established the Office of Clean and Green Initiatives (OCGI) by Executive Order in May 2024, aligning several key agencies and programs under the leadership of OCGI Director Carlton Williams. As part of this new initiative, a nearly 40-member Clean and Green Cabinet comprised of government agencies, businesses, community partners, and other stakeholders will make a comprehensive set of recommendations to the Mayor. The Cabinet's six committees will identify actions to improve and enforce persistent quality of life issues like litter and illegal dumping, increase sustainability through waste reduction, advance recycling and renewable energy initiatives, and promote neighborhood-based greening and beautification efforts – all in concert with community members and businesses.

The first major OCGI initiative – the One Philly, United City Citywide Cleaning Program – ran from June through August as a collaboration among 13 City departments and other agencies including SEPTA, the Parking Authority, and the School District, and a wide range of nonprofit and community-based organizations. Through the initial citywide cleaning program, a second phase, and Council district by district cleanings now under way, the City has cleaned up 40,060 blocks and commercial corridors this year. In addition, as of December 10, this first-of-its-kind citywide endeavor has also cleaned 5,868 vacant lots, filled potholes on 7,902 blocks, removed graffiti on 2,858 blocks, and towed 3,017 cars.^{vii}

“ Mayor Parker’s Clean & Green Initiatives are off to a great start – we’re seeing a framework emerging, one that when implemented over-time will improve the health and well-being of our neighborhoods. This effort is more than just picking up litter, it’s lifting our collective community spirit and vision towards One Philly, and a United City. ”

– **Jerome Shabazz**

Executive Director, Overbrook Environmental Education Center



Going forward, the City will lead this massive cleaning effort twice a year, in the summer and fall. On top of this, OCGI has launched ten Council district-based cleaning teams that are responsible for proactive street sweeping and cleaning, weed-trimming, and illegal dumping abatement.

Additional OCGI efforts include the introduction of a new anti-graffiti plan, the launch of twice-a-week trash collections this month, the reinstatement of by-appointment bulk collections to cut down on illegal dumping, installation of new BigBelly trash cans, and securing funding for year-round cleaning and greening of vacant lots.

“ Philadelphia has entered an exciting era. Mayor Parker’s vision for Philadelphia as the safest, cleanest, greenest big city in the nation with economic opportunity for all, is well aligned with the federal funding available through the Inflation Reduction Act and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Never before has the country seen this much funding available for the environment, including climate initiatives and energy security, and Philadelphia is going after every dollar to deliver on the Mayor’s agenda. ”

– Elizabeth Lankenau
Director, Office of Sustainability

Prioritizing Energy Security in Vulnerable Communities

In July 2024, the Office of Sustainability (OOS) released an *Energy Poverty Alleviation Strategy* as an actionable roadmap to reduce Philadelphia’s emissions and achieve the Parker Administration’s vision of a city where all Philadelphians can access and afford energy that is clean, healthy, and safe. The framework is organized around three approaches, which include strengthening energy programs and services, advocating for local and state funding and policy, and strengthening partnerships. OOS is moving forward with its collaborators inside and outside City government to prepare plans for implementation, with several projects already underway.



Building Climate Resilience in the Eastwick Community

Southwest Philadelphia’s Eastwick neighborhood has long faced flooding from Darby and Cobbs creeks, causing property damage and rising insurance premiums, on top of ongoing environmental justice challenges. The intergovernmental initiative, *Eastwick: From Recovery to Resilience*, is led by OOS and continues to build capacity so residents have a seat at the table in strategic planning for the area and determine how local, state, and federal resources will be brought to bear to address flooding and other environment-related quality of life issues. With support from Rep. Mary Gay Scanlon, OOS secured \$1.4 million in federal funds to support community capacity building and long-term resilience planning, and more than \$2 million to install interim flood barriers, the first physical infrastructure to mitigate flooding in Eastwick.



Leading by Example on Renewable Energy

In Spring 2024, OOS, working with the Philadelphia Energy Authority and Energix Renewables, flipped the switch on Adams Solar, a 700-acre renewable energy project in Adams County, Pennsylvania. This facility generates 70 megawatts of energy from 230,000 solar photovoltaic panels. With this addition, the City's energy portfolio is powered by a mix of nearly 30 percent renewable electricity. A second project now moving through the contracting process will, if completed, allow the City to reach its goal of 100 percent renewable electricity by 2030.

Growing and Protecting the City's Tree Canopy

The Philly Tree Plan, developed by Philadelphia Parks and Recreation, is the city's first-ever urban forest strategic plan and sets out a 10-year roadmap to grow, protect, and care for the city's tree canopy. Released in 2023, the plan's implementation is being accelerated through a \$12 million grant from the U.S. Forest Service. This grant will be used to establish a public-private implementation partnership called the Philly Tree Coalition, provide community support for tree planting initiatives, and expand green workforce development programs, among other efforts. The Mayor has pledged to plant 15,000 trees and committed nearly \$2 million to the Philly Tree Plan in the FY25 budget for street tree maintenance and tree planting and care along commercial corridors under the PHL Taking Care of Business program.



Philadelphia Selected for Bloomberg American Sustainable Cities

City officials announced in March 2024 that Philadelphia will be one of 25 cities in Bloomberg Philanthropies' three-year initiative to leverage historic levels of federal funding to incubate and implement transformative local solutions to build low-carbon, resilient, and economically thriving communities. As part of the initiative, a Bloomberg-sponsored Innovation Team will be hired to bolster the City's efforts to respond to climate change. Policy and technical assistance will also be available to inform strategy, implement solutions, and mobilize further public, private, and philanthropic investments.

“ Philadelphia has invested nearly \$1 billion in energy and climate work, with equity at the forefront. Our work continues to be recognized as a national model for tackling the worst impacts of climate change at the community level. Through Mayor Parker's vision for a Clean and Green Philadelphia, we will continue to focus on the opportunities climate investment brings to our neighborhoods, to improve public health, quality of life and economic opportunity for all. ”

– Emily Schapira

President & CEO, Philadelphia Energy Authority



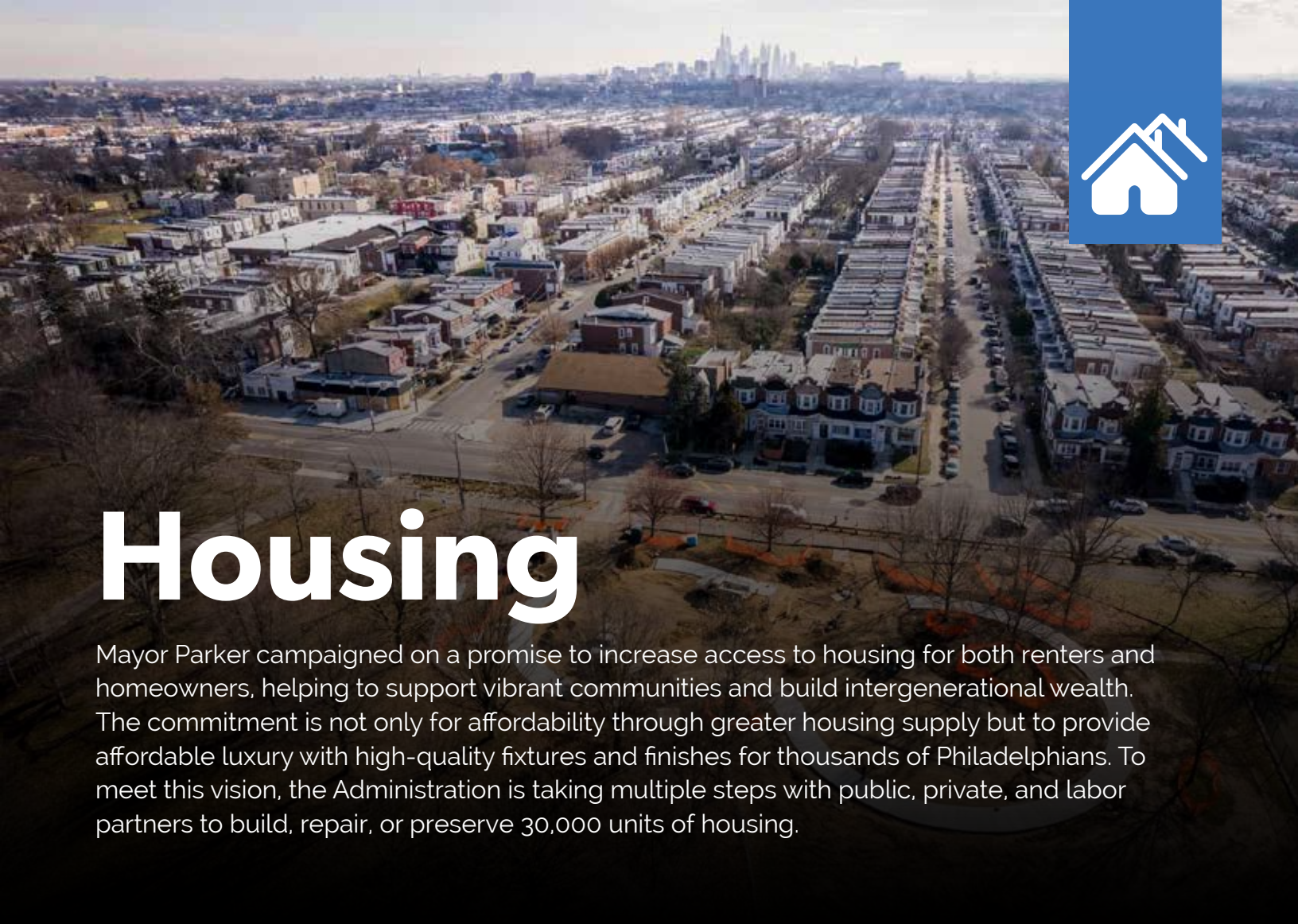
Lifting up Philadelphia as a Welcoming City

“The partnerships and trust between our City and community leaders have allowed us to accomplish a great deal since the start of the administration. Immigrants played a central role in our history, culture and economy, and we're excited to continue building a diverse and thriving Philadelphia into the future”

– Amy Eusebio
Director, Office of Immigrant Affairs

Immigration has powered Philadelphia's population growth in recent years and supports thriving commercial corridors across the city. To promote the well-being of Philadelphia's immigrant communities, Mayor Parker reappointed Amy Eusebio as the Executive Director of the Office of Immigrant Affairs (OIA), an office widely lauded for its collaborative and trusted leadership.

From citywide language access to preparations for new arrivals, OIA works closely with City departments, other government agencies, and a wide array of community partners on the successful inclusion of immigrants in the civic, economic, and cultural life of the city. Philadelphia's designation as a Certified Welcoming City by Welcoming America in 2023 celebrated the progress made and will be pursued again during recertification process come 2026.



Housing

Mayor Parker campaigned on a promise to increase access to housing for both renters and homeowners, helping to support vibrant communities and build intergenerational wealth. The commitment is not only for affordability through greater housing supply but to provide affordable luxury with high-quality fixtures and finishes for thousands of Philadelphians. To meet this vision, the Administration is taking multiple steps with public, private, and labor partners to build, repair, or preserve 30,000 units of housing.

“ I am inspired by the Mayor’s commitment to improving the quality and supply of housing, stabilizing communities, and bettering the systems at work in these spaces. Dignified and affordable housing is essential to the Mayor’s vision of a Safer, Cleaner, Greener City with Economic Opportunity for All. Working- and middle-class neighborhoods, the backbone of our city, will benefit from the opportunities to create intergenerational wealth through homeownership that this administration is working tirelessly to provide. ”

Jessie Lawrence, Director, Department of Planning and Development

HIGHLIGHTS



328

Affordable housing units in large developments created or preserved in FY2024^x



511

Home repair loans totaling \$15.6 million issued through Restore Repair Renew



460

Turn the Key homes completed or under construction^{xi}



6,995

Home repairs for low-income residents completed^{xii}



\$34m

Invested in assistance to support tenants in need



1,240

Households received free legal assistance with tangled title problems in FY2024^{xiii}



70%

of the landlords and tenants receiving mediation services through the Eviction Diversion Program reach agreement and avoid filing for eviction in court^{xiv}

Investing in Homeowners and Renters

Mayor Parker worked with City Council to secure funding for a series of programs that have proven instrumental in supporting homeowners and renters. The FY25 budget continues investments in housing through multiple programs including Turn the Key, Restore Repair Renew, and the Basic Systems Repair Program. The City also invested in eviction prevention efforts, including \$34 million in financial assistance to keep tenants in their homes and support small landlords.

The budget also increased the homestead exemption from \$80,000 to \$100,000, while a new program will allow low-income homeowners to freeze their real estate taxes, preventing enrollees' tax liability from increasing even if the assessed value of their home does. City Council members and the Administration worked proactively to increase awareness of and access to these and other tax relief programs, holding community events around the city.

Addressing Racial Bias in Home Appraisals: A New Era

In 2022, then-City Councilmember Parker spearheaded the Philadelphia Home Appraisal Bias Task Force with the Reinvestment Fund's Ira Goldstein, producing an

“ I am excited to see the Home Appraisal Bias Task Force adopted by the Administration, and formalized as an advisory group, staffed, and located within DPD. This work will improve the prospects for people of color who wish to enter the appraisal profession, and for Philadelphians who need an opinion of the value of their home unbiased by their race/ethnicity or the racial/ethnic composition of the neighborhood within which their home is located. ”

– Ira Goldstein, PhD

Senior Advisor of Policy Solutions, Reinvestment Fund



action-oriented report listing 45 recommendations at the local, state, and federal levels that would begin to address the consequences of racial bias in the home appraisal industry. The Administration took steps to institutionalize the task force within the Department of Planning and Development, providing the staffing and resources necessary to pursue these recommendations alongside the Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations (PCHR), which will prioritize educational and enforcement efforts.

The Department of Planning and Development convened a new Advisory Committee on Home Appraisal Bias, built on the membership and recommendations of the task force, in July 2024. Subcommittees worked through the summer and fall to develop a multi-year implementation plan that includes strategies for state and federal advocacy, outreach and education, diversification of the appraisal field, and data sharing.

Creating a One-Stop Shop for Home Improvement

The City and its partners offer free major home repairs, free equipment and installation, low-interest forgivable loans, and other housing repair services to keep Philadelphians safe and independent in their homes and improve rental quality and affordability. Because these services are provided across multiple programs, it can be difficult for homeowners, landlords, and tenants to identify and submit separate applications to each program that may help meet their needs. One Philly Front Door, a new simple online tool for accessing eligibility for all such programs in one place, will be released before the end of the year.

Revitalizing Philadelphia: The Role of the Land Bank

The Philadelphia Land Bank was established in 2013 to accelerate the return of publicly owned vacant and tax-delinquent parcels to productive use. The Parker Administration made improving the Land Bank a top priority to achieve its housing goals, appointing five trusted experts to the Land Bank board and working closely with the Land Bank on a comprehensive review to identify changes in policy and process that

will make the Land Bank more efficient and more completely aligned with the City’s strategic goals. Close collaboration with City Council, which passed legislation protecting the Land Bank’s priority over other bidders in Sheriff’s sales, will continue to be essential.

A recent Land Bank success is the Turn the Key initiative, an ongoing partnership with homebuilders and lenders to build new affordable luxury homes on publicly owned land. To date, more than 120 working Philadelphians with an average annual income of \$45,000 have become first-time homebuyers through Turn the Key. Additionally, under this Administration the Land Bank is continuing to enhance its engagement with minority developers through its Minority Developer Program, the Urban Developers Association, Black Squirrel/Philly Rise, and the Collective, with 364 units of affordable housing in the process of development.

Enhancing Zoning Efficiency: The ZBA's New Chapter

Mayor Parker appointed seven members to the Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) in June 2024, providing the board with its first full complement of members in years. The new members bring a wealth of expertise and experience in architecture, community development, and zoning law to a body that plays an instrumental role not only in equitable growth and development but also in the ability of small businesses to comply with the City’s Zoning Code. The Administration transmitted legislation to City Council that simplifies the rules of the ZBA, changing the number of board members required for a quorum or for an action to be taken. This legislation, passed by City Council, will allow the ZBA operate more efficiently by reducing delays in the zoning process.





Appointing Philadelphia's **first** Cabinet-level Chief Cultural Officer

Philadelphia has long been recognized as a global arts and culture hub, celebrated for its world-class institutions and local cultural treasures rooted in the city's rich history and diverse communities. In a landmark step toward solidifying this status, Mayor Parker fulfilled her promise by establishing the first-ever Cabinet-level Chief Cultural Officer in City government, appointing Valerie Gay to the position in March 2024. This historic appointment gives Arts and Culture a seat at the decision-making table, ensuring that the creative sector's voice is integral to shaping the city's future.

As Chief Cultural Officer, Gay leads Creative Philadelphia – formerly the Office of Arts, Culture, and the Creative Economy – with a renewed mission to create opportunities for all Philadelphians to thrive through the arts. In its inaugural year, Creative Philadelphia announced a 12-stop citywide engagement tour beginning in early 2025. The tour, received with enthusiasm across the city, will bring the arts and culture sector closer to everyday Philadelphians by gathering community input, identifying cultural assets, and exploring how arts and culture can help make Philadelphia the safest, cleanest, and greenest big city with equitable economic opportunities. Insights from this tour will inform Creative Philadelphia's work toward creating the city's first-ever Cultural Plan.

Additionally, Mural Arts Philadelphia, the city's globally renowned public art program, is now part of the Creative Philadelphia portfolio, expanding opportunities for cross-sector collaboration. In 2024, Mural Arts celebrated its 40th anniversary with nearly 200 supporters, partners, and staff, while announcing a new partnership with REC Philly, a creative hub offering resources and community space for artists. Creative Philadelphia is also strengthening its bonds with the Philadelphia Cultural Fund, further amplifying efforts to elevate local arts, stories, and histories—particularly from marginalized communities—during the city's highly anticipated 2026 celebrations and events.

“Philadelphia's arts and culture landscape is remarkable. At Creative Philadelphia, we're inspired by the work happening across the city and excited to collaborate in supporting arts and culture programs, assets, and communities that will enrich the lives of all.”

– Valerie V. Gay
Chief Cultural Officer, Creative Philadelphia

“Collaborating with and growing stakeholders and partners will be critical goals for Creative Philadelphia as the office shapes a new strategic plan and seeks to build cross-sector engagement to heighten impact on educational and economic opportunities, building a clean and green city, and other key elements of Mayor Parker's agenda.”

– Allan Edmunds
Arts & Culture Subcommittee
Co-Chair, Parker Mayoral Transition



Economic Opportunity

Mayor Parker took office promising to make Philadelphia open for business. This goal has spurred quick action on many fronts, including a new initiative to create a business-friendly government by cutting red tape, enhancing services, and further simplifying permits and licenses. At the same time, the Administration is promoting the city's assets and advancing Philadelphia as a premier business destination. These strategies will make Philadelphia an equitable place to do business, driving growth and increasing access to economic opportunity for all.

“We recognize that about 68% of City government’s tax revenue comes from business. Therefore, business satisfaction and growth are key to the success of the city. The mission of the Department of Commerce to be a catalyst of inclusive economic growth for the City of Philadelphia. With Mayor Parker’s leadership, a united team, and an impact-focused approach, we will grow Philly with access to economic opportunity for all.”

Alba Martinez, Director, Department of Commerce

HIGHLIGHTS



15

PHL Open for Business projects underway^{xv}



129

Commercial corridors supported and cleaned by PHL Taking Care of Business^{xvi}



The Chinatown Stitch

In March 2024, the U.S. Department of Transportation announced a \$159 million grant to fund the final design and first implementation phase of the Chinatown Stitch, a highway capping project to reconnect the Chinatown community separated by the construction of the Vine Street Expressway in the 1980s. The City has begun the design and engineering phases of the project, which will continue with community engagement as construction is scheduled to start in 2028.

MACH2 Funding Announced

The Mid-Atlantic Clean Hydrogen Hub (MACH2), which includes the City of Philadelphia as a central partner, will be funded by with \$750 million from the U.S. Department of Energy. The project is expected to create more than 20,000 jobs in Philadelphia and the surrounding region while directing resources for workforce development through community college training and pre-apprenticeships.

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY



Making Philadelphia “Open for Business”

Announced in April 2024, PHL Open for Business is an all-of-government effort to improve the ease of doing business. An executive order signed by the mayor supports the initiative with a structured and ongoing process for identifying and reducing the administrative burden businesses encounter.

An initial review of City regulations and processes found scores of regulatory steps. Some create unnecessary hurdles that can be especially burdensome for small businesses like food establishments, of which there are thousands in the city. As of November 2024, the Department of Commerce, Mayor’s Office of Policy Planning and Delivery, and departmental partners have advanced 14 projects to improve business services and reform regulations.

“Our city is embracing a new and needed level of cross-sector collaboration. By aligning efforts with the City of Philadelphia, engaging the business community through issue and sector focused roundtables, and driving city-wide initiatives like PHL Taking Care of Business, we are laying the foundation for a city where every resident can access economic opportunities and thrive. The commitment to these strategies is not just exciting—it's essential for Philadelphia’s future.”

—Jodie Harris

President, Philadelphia Industrial Development Corporation



As part of the larger effort, the newly renamed Mayor's Business Action Team is providing one-on-one assistance to businesses that need help navigating City services and connecting them to resources. A new, AI-powered Digital Business Resource Hub will be available 24/7 to guide businesses through opening and operating a business, connecting with technical assistance, and providing access to capital, news, and other resources.

To tackle the most critical barriers facing micro and small businesses, the Commerce Department is also launching a \$3 million Catalyst Fund. The new program will provide flexible grants to businesses with clear plans for innovation or expansion and access to a network of resources that meet their needs. Dedicated funding will also target strategic focus areas including manufacturing, life sciences, and the creative economy.



“Taking Care of Business” Revitalizing Commercial Corridors

The PHL Taking Care of Business (TCB) Clean Corridors Program keeps Philadelphia's neighborhood commercial corridors clean, while also providing contracts to small businesses and creating employment opportunities for local residents. To date, PHL TCB has grown to serve 129 commercial corridors citywide, with funding for 39 community-serving nonprofits and four minority-owned cleaning companies that have hired 267 local Philadelphians for meaningful employment opportunities as cleaning ambassadors. With new

“ The new Office of Minority Business Success is committed to transforming Philadelphia into a hub where minority-owned businesses not only survive but thrive. By providing access to capital, creating opportunities, and ensuring accountability, we are laying the groundwork for a dynamic and inclusive economy that empowers every entrepreneur to succeed. ”

– Rachel E. Branson

Director, Office of Minority Business Success

funding, TCB will expand to clean more neighborhood commercial corridors and provide employment for an additional 200 cleaning ambassadors, with a linkage to the City's Future Track program. Future Track is a signature initiative providing job skills training and a pathway to City employment, which has grown dramatically to 200 positions with support from City Council.

The Department of Commerce is also investing in commercial corridor revitalization through 40 Corridor Enhancement Grants to support local events, placemaking, and beautification. It will also continue to promote and expand the Business Security Camera, Storefront Improvement, and Targeted Corridor Management Programs.

Philadelphia Named a White House Workforce Hub

In April 2024, President Biden announced Philadelphia as one of four new White House Workforce Hubs, a designation that will create more access to training and well-paying jobs stemming from hundreds of millions of dollars in federal infrastructure investment. The City is seeking to leverage \$30 million in federal funding for workforce development while implementing new policies to open pathways for individuals who may otherwise face barriers to careers paying family-sustaining wages. This



will include, critically, new preferences for the hiring of apprentices and journeypersons residing in economically disadvantaged zip codes, with the goal of 500-1,250 new job placements for underrepresented workers.

Launch of City College for Municipal Employment

The City College for Municipal Employment (CCME) officially launched its inaugural class in October 2024. A first-of-its-kind joint venture with the City, Community College of Philadelphia, School District of Philadelphia, and Philadelphia Works, CCME is a workforce development center and pipeline to City jobs that will both recruit people at the start of their careers and support those seeking to up-skill to expand career opportunities. The initiative is supported with a \$10 million investment from the Parker Administration’s first budget and has an initial focus on key workforce areas including the skilled trades, healthcare, technology, business administration, and public safety.

With nearly 6,000 open jobs across City government, CCME will play a critical role in recruiting, training, and deploying highly qualified Philadelphians directly into the City’s workforce. In addition to better enabling the City to deliver services through a top-class workforce, the thousands of Philadelphians who move through CCME and into City employment will gain access to family-sustaining salaries and benefits.

“ It would be great to work for the City and help serve the public, and working in cybersecurity could help make things easier for students and the community. My classes at CCP are going well, and I love both of my professors... The CCME program is definitely going to make a lot of changes for a lot of people. ”

– Nathaniel Caldwell
CCME Student, Computer Support Specialist Program



“ I previously worked for the City of Philadelphia, and I left to try out a different field. I really liked working for the City—the benefits are excellent, and there is a work-family life balance. Going back would be like going back home... After earning my certificate, and with my previous experience, I would like to work for the City again and advance. Thank you to CCME and CCP for this opportunity. ”

– Karen Abney
CCME Student, Office Administration Program



On the Road in the Mobile Hiring Bus: Bringing Job Opportunities into Neighborhoods

The Office of Human Resources announced in August 2024 the launch of the City's new Hiring Bus, a mobile recruitment center designed to bring job opportunities directly to the community by making the application process more accessible and convenient. The bus is staffed by Human Resources professionals who help address questions and provide step-by-step application assistance. The bus has appeared at a variety of community events, offering residents a chance to learn about working for the City and apply for jobs on site.

Sixers Arena: A Historic Agreement for Philadelphia

On September 18, Mayor Parker announced a historic agreement to build a new Philadelphia 76ers arena in Center City, the culmination of work and stakeholder engagement going back to 2022 when the proposal was first put forward. The landmark agreement would keep the Sixers playing in Philadelphia at least until 2061 and in a new development that would help to revitalize Market East, create more than a thousand construction and operations jobs, and jumpstart a broader focus on Chinatown to ensure its long-term strength and vitality. In sharp contrast to major sports facilities in most other cities, the new arena would be built with no City funds

and with a sizeable \$60 million commitment from the developers to support nearby communities and citywide investments in education and economic opportunity. The arena, if built, would also generate hundreds of millions of dollars in tax revenue for Philadelphia.

“ I started my business in 2006 to make it more affordable for people to order quality fruit bouquets for all occasions without customers breaking their pocketbooks. I have faced difficulties along the way and am grateful for the City's support along the Girard Avenue commercial corridor to help my business operate more smoothly. The Mayor's Business Action Team has been of great support with personalized assistance to help me navigate. I am a supporter of Mayor Cherelle L. Parker's PHL Open for Business initiative which is a needed effort for addressing long-standing challenges that businesses face. As One Philly, a United City, these City initiatives can further help businesses start, stay and grow in Philadelphia. ”

– Irene Council-Grant
Owner, Platinum Fruit Creations



ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY



Transforming Business Relations

Established to transform the traditional relationship between the business community and City government, the Mayor's Business Roundtables include representatives from across the private sector, business support organizations, and organized labor. Led by Director Donovan West, the groups create space for sharing insights, raising challenges, and advising on solutions related to doing business in Philadelphia. The structured collaboration includes an Executive Committee and ten industry sector roundtables, each of which share expertise and feedback with business-supporting departments.

The Office for Minority Business Success (MBS), led by Director Rachel Branson, was also created to focus on Philadelphia's business environment. The Office works to create a thriving entrepreneurial ecosystem for minority-owned businesses and connect these enterprises with public and private opportunities and access to capital. In collaboration with the Office of Economic Opportunity and the Procurement Department, MBS looks to increase access to and participation in City municipal contracts for minority, woman, or disabled-owned enterprises (M/W/DBEs).

“ We're in the midst of a tremendous comeback and experiencing growth at our airports. That translates to a large impact on the regional economy estimated to be \$18.7 Billion and over 102,000 jobs supported. Mayor Parker is helping us grow this major economic engine and increase economic opportunities for all. ”

– Atif Saeed

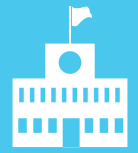
CEO, Department of Aviation, Philadelphia International Airport and Northeast Philadelphia Airport

Philadelphia International Airport "Change Your Altitude" Programs

The Department of Aviation, which operates Philadelphia International Airport (PHL) and Northeast Philadelphia Airport (PNE), hosted multiple programs to support small, minority-owned businesses through education, access, and networking. This successful "Change Your Altitude" initiative included the 12th Annual Business Opportunity Forum attracted nearly 430 attendees, including businesses, various governmental agencies, and supportive service organizations. Almost 300 of these attendees represented businesses, 70% of which were minority or women-owned business enterprises.

Another program, the Airport Concession Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (ACDBE) Academy, offered insights to small, regional, and diverse firms about opportunities within PHL's concessions program and at other airports. More than 15 organizations participated in the 2024 ACDBE Academy. For Fiscal Year 2024, 49% of revenue earned through PHL's concessions programs, including the more than 150 food, beverage, and retail locations, went to ACDBE operators.





Education

Mayor Parker's commitment to our young people is to provide a world-class education for Philadelphia students of all ages and socioeconomic backgrounds. The city's public school system has faced many challenges, but with a historic level of funding now coming from the state government and new collaborations forming across sectors and stakeholders to address critical issues – from school facilities to teacher recruitment – real progress is underway.

“Providing a quality education is the most important thing we do for our young people. It can prime a child to think critically and open up a world of lifelong learning, prepare them for a career – in today's economy and tomorrow's – and engage them in our city as active citizens. Our Administration is committed to building a system that provides such an education.”

Dr. Debora Carrera, Chief Education Officer, Mayor's Office of Education



HIGHLIGHTS



7,355

New enrichment opportunities in Extended Day, Extended Year before school, after school, and throughout the year^{xix}



5,250

PHL-preK seats offered in the 2024-25 school year^{xviii}



\$124m

in additional City funding committed to the school system



Appointing a New Philadelphia Board of Education

When Mayor Parker took office, her administration faced a fast-approaching deadline to appoint a new, nine-member Board of Education. A 13-member Educational Nominating Panel led by Otis Bullock reviewed 120 applicants with a wide range of backgrounds – teachers, advocates, community leaders, and public administrators. Mayor Parker ultimately appointed nine experienced and passionate Philadelphians to serve on the Board of Education, including President Reginald Streater and several other returning members to maintain a degree of continuity in leadership.



Launching Extended-Day, Extended-Year Schooling

The City and School District of Philadelphia announced the first 20 District-operated and five charter schools to offer Extended Day, Extended Year Schooling for students starting in September 2024. The initial program for elementary and middle school students offers academic and enrichment opportunities from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. throughout the traditional school year, across winter and spring breaks, and during the summer.



Throughout the first year of the program, the City and School District will be assessing progress and collecting insights. The feedback and evaluation process will inform planning for enrollment growth, additional school locations, and further evolutions of the program to improve student academic achievement, provide post-secondary and career opportunities, and ensure family satisfaction and engagement.

Committing to School Facilities Our Students Deserve

The average age of a School District of Philadelphia-operated school building is 73 years old.^{xviii} In addition to building age, changing communities have also left some schools significantly under- or over-enrolled – all of which affects the quality of services and programs for students. Improving school facilities in a way that enhances academic achievement and supports communities is a massive and complex task. But Mayor Parker, President Reginald Streater with the Board of Education, and Superintendent Dr. Tony Watlington have committed to tackling this challenge head on, starting with a promise to complete a long-awaited planning process by December 2025. To formally launch the Administration's efforts, the Mayor plans to sign an executive order creating a Facilities Planning Committee to advise the Mayor and Superintendent, and to collaborate with the School District during the planning process.



Making Philadelphia the Best Place to Teach

Teachers play an instrumental role in preparing young people for their future. As a former teacher, Mayor Parker understands this and entered office committed to driving a strategy to build a strong and diverse educator work force. To this end, Chief Education Officer Dr. Debora Carrera and the Mayor's Office of Education will be lending support and leadership to the Philadelphia Citywide Talent Coalition. This coalition – comprised of public agencies, advocates, academics, and other key stakeholders – is intent on growing both the diversity and effectiveness of the city's teachers across school types. The Administration will be reinforcing the Coalition's efforts to adopt and scale strategies to grow teacher talent – from marketing campaigns to seeking resources for career pathways and development.



Supporting Young Learners: The New Enrollment Portal

A new online application portal – FreePhillyPreK.org – launched in June 2024, making it easier for parents to enroll their children in public preschool programs across Philadelphia. The one-stop site – a joint project of the City, the School District of Philadelphia, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and federal partners – is offered in 12 different languages and includes all 370 Philadelphia public preschool locations across 43 zip codes. The portal is expected to boost the strong and increasing enrollment of PHL-preK and other public preschool programs.



A new \$4.4 million investment spearheaded by the Office of Early Childhood Education will also fund signing and retention bonuses for publicly funded Lead and Assistant Teachers, as well as summer trainings for teachers and coaches, providing them the tools needed to support children facing ongoing trauma and mental and behavioral challenges.

Achieving Funding Equity for Philadelphia Schools

The Commonwealth Court's 2023 finding that Pennsylvania has a constitutional obligation to provide full and fair funding for public schools opened a historic opportunity. Primed to capitalize on this window, in March 2024, Mayor Parker and Chief Education Officer Carrera convened a diverse set of stakeholders including School District officials, charter school operators, organized labor, and other advocates to call on state legislative leaders to make good on this obligation. Reiterating Philadelphia's immediate funding need as calculated by the state Basic Education Funding Commission – approximately \$242 million – this unique coalition pressed further for the full \$1.7 billion over seven years that the city's students deserve.

Although the final budget did not include the desired multi-year funding commitment, Philadelphia received \$232 million – 96 percent of the requested funding for the 2024-25 school year. This investment will fortify School District efforts in the near term, while the newly formed coalition can prepare for future Harrisburg campaigns, advocating for the city's young people in one voice.

At the same time, the City increased the amount of local funding to the School District through a larger portion of real estate taxes dedicated to the school system – a shift that will generate approximately \$124 million over the next five years. This greater contribution followed the Mayor's pledge to secure the additional resources – local, state, federal, and private – necessary for major education initiatives.

At the same time, the City increased the amount of local funding to the School District through a larger portion of real estate taxes dedicated to the school system – a shift that will generate approximately \$124 million over the next five years. This greater contribution followed the Mayor's pledge to secure the additional resources – local, state, federal, and private – necessary for major education initiatives.

“ From the beginning of her term, Mayor Chelle Parker has engaged closely with the School District of Philadelphia to accelerate academic achievement from our youngest learners in PHL-Pre-K to seniors in high school, supporting us as we strive to become the fastest improving, large urban school district in the nation, From swearing in new school board members; launching a new Extended -Day/Extended-Year pilot program at 20 District schools to better support students and working families; and securing \$241 million in educational funding over the next five years to better prepare students to imagine and realize any future they desire, Mayor Parker has been steadfast in her efforts to support Philadelphia's children and schools. We are honored to partner with her in this work.”

– **Superintendent Tony B. Watlington, Sr., Ed.D.**

School District of Philadelphia



Putting federal funding to work

Philadelphia receives billions of dollars in grant funding from the state and federal government. Much of this funding – for health and human services, highways, housing, and more – is sought on a regular basis and critical to meeting the needs of city residents.

More recently, the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) created special opportunities for long-term infrastructure projects with goals spanning from climate change mitigation to pedestrian safety to workforce development. City officials moved swiftly to prioritize needs and implement strategies to maximize the amount of funding that could be steered to local projects.

As of November 2024, the City's Infrastructure Solutions Team (IST) reported that City agencies secured nearly \$689 million in BIL discretionary funds alone, more than half of which (\$364 million) was secured during the first year of the Parker Administration. Additionally, IST forecasts over 250 contracting opportunities, totaling over \$1 billion, in upcoming work.

These investments will support lasting improvements in local infrastructure while creating thousands of jobs and new opportunities to build an equitable workforce and drive diverse business participation.

U.S. Senators Bob Casey and John Fetterman and U.S. Reps. Mary Gay Scanlon, Dwight Evans, and Brendan Boyle were instrumental in securing much of this funding. Intergovernmental cooperation has been and will continue to be critical for Philadelphia to tackle its greatest challenges.

“Through strong intergovernmental collaboration, we have won many federal grants under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) that will develop our local workforce and deliver transformational projects in neighborhoods across Philadelphia. A few highlights include being named one of only seven White House Workforce Hubs across the country, fully funding the rehabilitation of the MLK Drive Bridge, \$317 million for new SEPTA rail cars, and securing nearly \$159 million for the Chinatown Stitch highway capping project. We remain committed to delivering on these projects that support the Mayor's vision for a cleaner, greener, and safer Philadelphia with access to economic opportunity for all.”

– **Michael A. Carroll**

Deputy Managing Director for Transportation and Infrastructure, Managing Director's Office

In the first three years of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), new federal grants and financing awarded to City agencies have included:



\$700m

in loans and grants to Philadelphia Water Department for upgrading sewer and storm water services.



\$348.9m*

in discretionary grants for upgrades to transportation infrastructure.



\$238.6m

in discretionary grants for essential water infrastructure upgrades, resilience initiatives, and clean energy projects.



\$101.9m

for the Airport Terminal Program for terminal energy optimization and restroom upgrades at the Philadelphia International Airport.



\$92.5m

in formula and discretionary funding from the Airport Infrastructure Grants Program for projects related to runways, taxiways, safety, and sustainability at the Philadelphia International Airport and Northeast Philadelphia Airport.



\$9.8m

in electric vehicle charging infrastructure.



\$4.6m

for workforce development initiatives to support infrastructure improvements.

*Includes \$158.9M for final design and implementation of the Chinatown Stitch, which is funded by the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).
**Funding amounts are not additive totals.



Core Support

Mayor Parker knows that improving City government operations and carefully managing the public's tax dollars are both critical to delivering better services for residents and businesses. From human resources to procurement and from senior leadership to frontline staff, investing in people and processes can make or break the City's ability to deliver services at scale when the need is great, and the stakes are high. The drive to build a visible and accessible government that Philadelphians can see, touch, and feel extends throughout the Administration.

“This is an extremely exciting time in the City. During this first year we've leveraged the power and talent of the City's workforce and its residents to transform how we do business and deliver services. We are building trust and making a tangible difference for every Philadelphian, continuing to deliver on the Mayor's promise to provide access to economic opportunity for all. With the considerable support of Mayor Parker, we will continue to work toward positioning Philadelphia as a model of creative, responsive and people-centered governance and the goal of setting new standards in public service.”

Camille Duchaussee, Chief Administrative Officer, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer

HIGHLIGHTS

CORE SUPPORT



11

Neighborhood Community Action Centers to open for residents



31

Performance indicators tracked on Philly Stat 360 dashboard



77

Students enrolled in the inaugural class of the City College of Municipal Employment



550

Backlogged contracts reviewed and approved



Historic One Philly Budget Advances Top Priorities

With steady leadership across multiple administrations, the City of Philadelphia has achieved a stronger and more stable fiscal foundation. Mayor Parker is intent on leading a government that continues to manage its finances responsibly. This included securing her historic \$6.37 billion One Philly Budget, the Five-Year Plan and Capital Program for which included more than \$2 billion in funding to advance Mayor Parker's top priorities – public safety, cleaning and greening, housing, education, and access to economic opportunity – all without raising tax rates. Mayor Parker was joined by Council President Johnson and other members of City Council at the post-passage bill signing, where the Mayor and Council President again affirmed their commitment to collaboration in service of Philadelphians.

“From Day One, the Mayor has been clear about the urgency and importance of providing services in ways residents can see, touch, and feel. She also emphasized that our service improvement efforts need to be informed both by residents and our front-line colleagues, as the people closest to challenges have deep wisdom about effective solutions. We are honored to be working with and learning from constituents and colleagues across the Administration to make city government more visible, responsive, and effective.”

– Sophie Bryan
Chief Policy Officer

“The Mayor's historic \$2 billion capital program includes support for recreation centers, libraries, police precincts, fire houses, wellness facilities, and many other types of properties that support our residents and employees. By making these investments today, Philadelphians will be able to enjoy the benefits for years and decades to come.”

– Aparna Palantino
Deputy Managing Director, Capital Program Office



While working with City Council, Mayor Parker took her budget proposal directly to residents through a series of nine town halls where she discussed the ins and outs of city finances, explained how the investments in her plan would improve quality of life, and fielded questions from attendees. The budget and five-year financial plan adopted by Council continued more than three decades of sound financial management. This includes an increasingly healthy pension system that has 62 percent of the funds needed to meet the estimated obligations to current and future retirees.^{xx} The Fund's actuary projects that it will be fully funded within a decade.

Investing in the City Workforce

The public workforce is the City of Philadelphia's greatest asset. This is why the Administration is making every effort to recruit, train, and retain the public servants who make the City run and deliver core services for Philadelphians. After the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #5 and International Association of Firefighters Local 22 each agreed to one-year contracts with the Kenney Administration, Mayor Parker and the leadership of District Councils 33 and 47 worked hard to negotiate similar extensions. All four agreements featured significant raises and bonuses along with other benefits, providing City and labor union leadership a better opportunity to pursue longer-term arrangements for the future.

“ The Parker Administration is refreshing in that it doesn't shy away from tackling major issues, whether it be the city's cleanliness, safety or intractable problems in Kensington. You can't succeed unless you try, and Mayor Parker's team is certainly trying. ”

– Phil Goldsmith

Former Managing Director, City of Philadelphia



City Employees Return to the Office

For the first time since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020, all municipal employees returned to full-time, in-office work starting on July 15, 2024. Of the City's more than 25,000 employees, roughly four in five had continued to work in-person during the pandemic, including law enforcement and first responders, streets and sanitation workers, health and human service personnel, and other frontline staff. Bringing every employee back into the office full-time was a significant transition, offering greater opportunities for collaboration and innovation that will create both a better work environment for employees and a more visible and accessible government for residents. To support the return-to-office transition, the Administration increased paid parental leave, provided additional flexibility allowing the use of sick leave to care for family members, and began offering just-in-time emergency child and elder care services.

Improving Services Residents can See, Touch, and Feel

On her first day in office, Mayor Parker signed Executive Order 2-2024 making a commitment to government that residents can see, touch, and feel. From this directive, the Better Services PHL initiative launched as a collaboration between the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, the Mayor's Office of Policy Planning and Delivery, the Managing Director's Office, and the Office of Innovation and Technology, with the overarching goal of improving a wide range of resident services.



“ The Office of Innovation and Technology is dedicated to empowering our city with cutting-edge solutions that drive productivity and enhance the quality of life for all Philadelphians. We will deploy technologies that streamline services, enhance user experience, and drive efficiency across all departments. At the same time, we are vigilant in safeguarding the data of every Philadelphian, ensuring that our systems are also secure and resilient. By embracing this dual mission, we are forging a future where technology serves as the backbone of a smarter, safer, and more connected city. ”

– **Melissa A. Scott**

Chief Information Officer, Office of Innovation and Technology



and benchmarks, use data to make evidence-based decisions, and evaluate for results while identifying areas for improvement. Chief Legal Counsel to the Mayor and Philly Stat 360 Director Kristin Bray and her team have met with more than two dozen departments to assess the landscape of existing data analytics and performance infrastructure, building a framework to guide strategy and drive outcomes from the top rungs of government. Most recently, a new dashboard was released with 31 performance indicators from 15 departments for the public to see how their government is working and where improvements are needed.

“ Serving as Chief Legal Counsel to the Mayor and launching the Office of Philly Stat 360 has been one of the most rewarding milestones of my career. It is an incredible privilege to work alongside Mayor Parker, whose innovative vision is reshaping Philadelphia's future. Through Philly Stat 360, we're not just analyzing data—we're harnessing it as a powerful tool to drive informed decision-making, enhance government transparency and efficiency, and take decisive actions that pave the way for lasting, positive change for all Philadelphians. ”

– **Kristin Bray**

Chief Legal Counsel to the Mayor and Director of Philly Stat 360

An initial review identified nearly 300 different services currently offered by City departments — from requesting tree maintenance to paying taxes to finding healthcare. While efforts to improve services are an ongoing imperative, Better Services PHL uses a new organizing structure for identifying projects and bringing together the necessary resources and partners to implement lasting solutions with tangible impacts. The first cohort includes a range of project areas, including in-the-field technology for the Streets Department, reforming the block party application process, and improving access to the Office of Emergency Management's place-based flood monitoring information.

Philly Stat 360 to Monitor and Drive Performance

The Office of Philly Stat 360 was formally created by executive order in April 2024 as a new centralized performance management hub for City government. This represents a major shift in elevating the leadership of performance management within the Mayor's Office, where senior leadership will establish goals



“ Thanks to the dedicated efforts of our core support teams, the contracting process will be significantly streamlined, ensuring efficiency, transparency, and a stronger foundation for the City’s continued success. ”

– **Renee Garcia**
City Solicitor

Neighborhood Community Action Centers Bring Services to Residents

Led by the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood and Community Engagement (MONCE), the Administration is opening 11 Neighborhood Community Action Centers (NCAC) across Philadelphia, each allowing residents to get assistance with any City-related issue. The breadth of support available spans from filing a complaint for graffiti removal to reporting an abandoned car to getting access to benefits, including connections to state and federal agencies when necessary. The initiative is spearheaded by MONCE Director Hassan Freeman and built in partnership with a wide range of City departments. Each Action Center will be guided with input from Advisory Boards of community members who can help identify larger issues within the councilmanic district.



Taking Action to Streamline and Approve Contracts

In October, Mayor Parker announced the Administration’s commitment to tackling longstanding issues with the City’s contracting process, including delayed payments to organizations that provide critical services for residents. This began with a directive to senior leadership to review and approve a backlog of 550 contracts within two weeks. The overdue contracts totaled nearly \$390 million at the time of the announcement. Mayor Parker credited City Controller Christy Brady, City Council Majority Leader Katherine Gilmore Richardson, and numerous other Council members and organizational leaders for surfacing the issues needing urgent attention. The Administration will be working closely with these stakeholders and the Pew Charitable Trusts to further advance procurement reform.

“ Mayor Parker has demonstrated compassion in her leadership and bold visions for a safer, cleaner, greener City with access to economic opportunity for all. Bolstered by her support and commitment to a clean government, we are resolute in our mission to promote honesty, integrity, and transparency in the City and remain steadfast in building and re-building trust. ”

– **Danielle Gardner Wright**
Chief Integrity Officer

A renewed commitment to the LGBTQ+ community



On October 4, 2024, Mayor Parker signed Executive Order 13-2024 to reaffirm the City's commitment to safeguarding the rights of LGBTQ+ Philadelphians and ensuring equal rights for residents. The order builds on the prior Mayor's Office of LGBT Affairs established in 2008, ensuring greater inclusivity and establishing the Mayor's Commission on LGBTQ+ Affairs. The Mayor appointed 19 new members to the 25-member commission, which will advise on policies that could improve the quality of life for members of the LGBTQ+ community.

At the ceremony, Mayor Parker acknowledged Mark Segal, publisher of Philadelphia Gay News, who served in her transition leadership. "It was a sacrifice to stand up and fight when people weren't... welcomed and encouraged to be who they were publicly. Mark has been on the front lines fighting for the LGBTQ+ community. I'm proud to call him my teacher because there's nothing more frustrating than someone who has never walked a mile in your shoes, acting as if they understand what your struggle is. I will continue to affirm [him] as my teacher."

This year, Philadelphia also celebrated the second cohort of the Michael S. Hinson, Jr. LGBTQ+ Leadership Pipeline Program, which placed six LGBTQ+

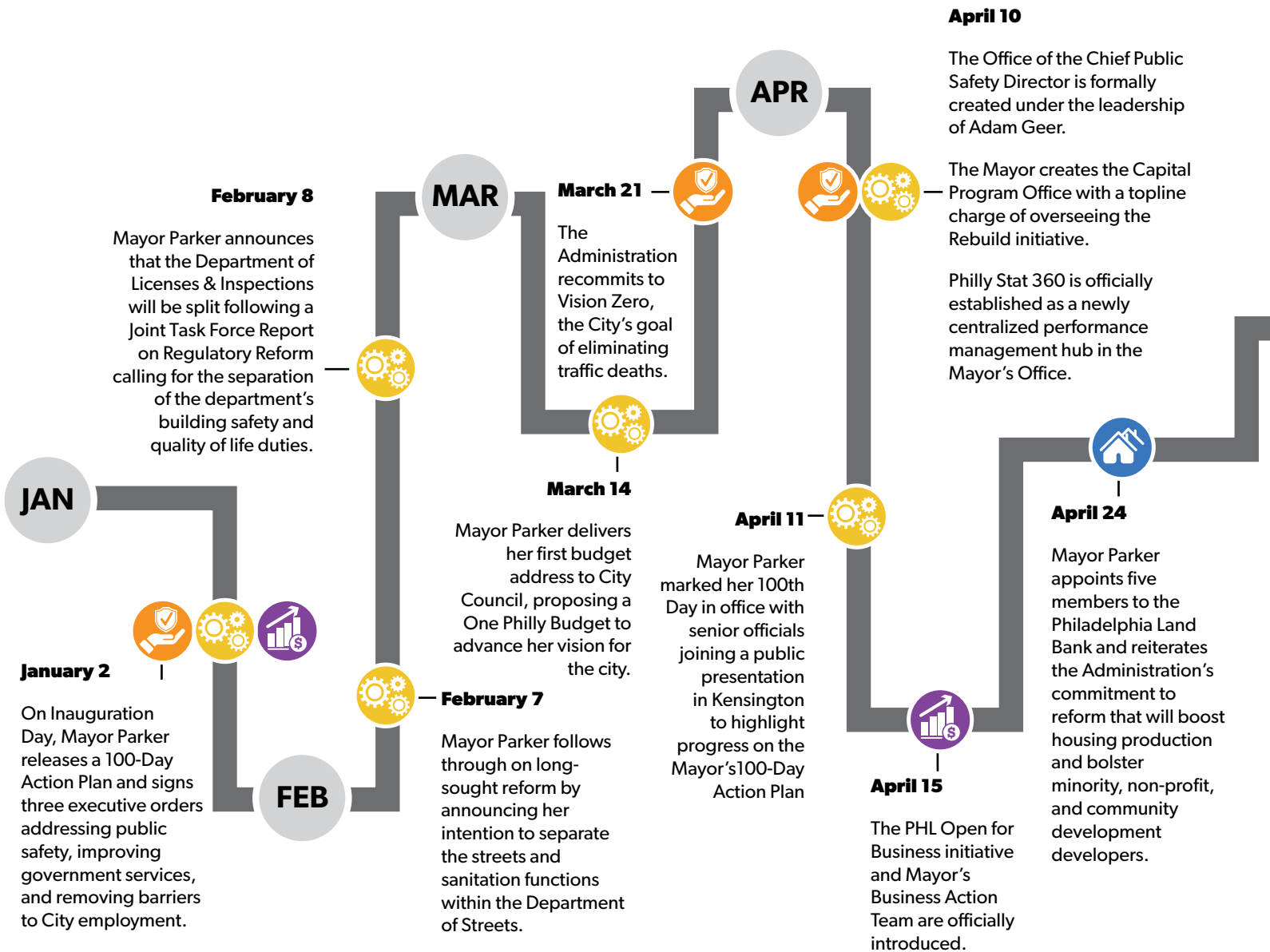
Philadelphians onto nonprofit boards and the city's commission, advancing leadership diversity and representation. Renamed in 2023 to honor activist Michael S. Hinson, Jr., this collaboration between the Office of LGBTQ+ Affairs, the William Way LGBT Community Center, the Delaware Valley Legacy Fund, and the Independence Business Alliance underscores the city's commitment to elevating LGBTQ+ voices in decision-making.

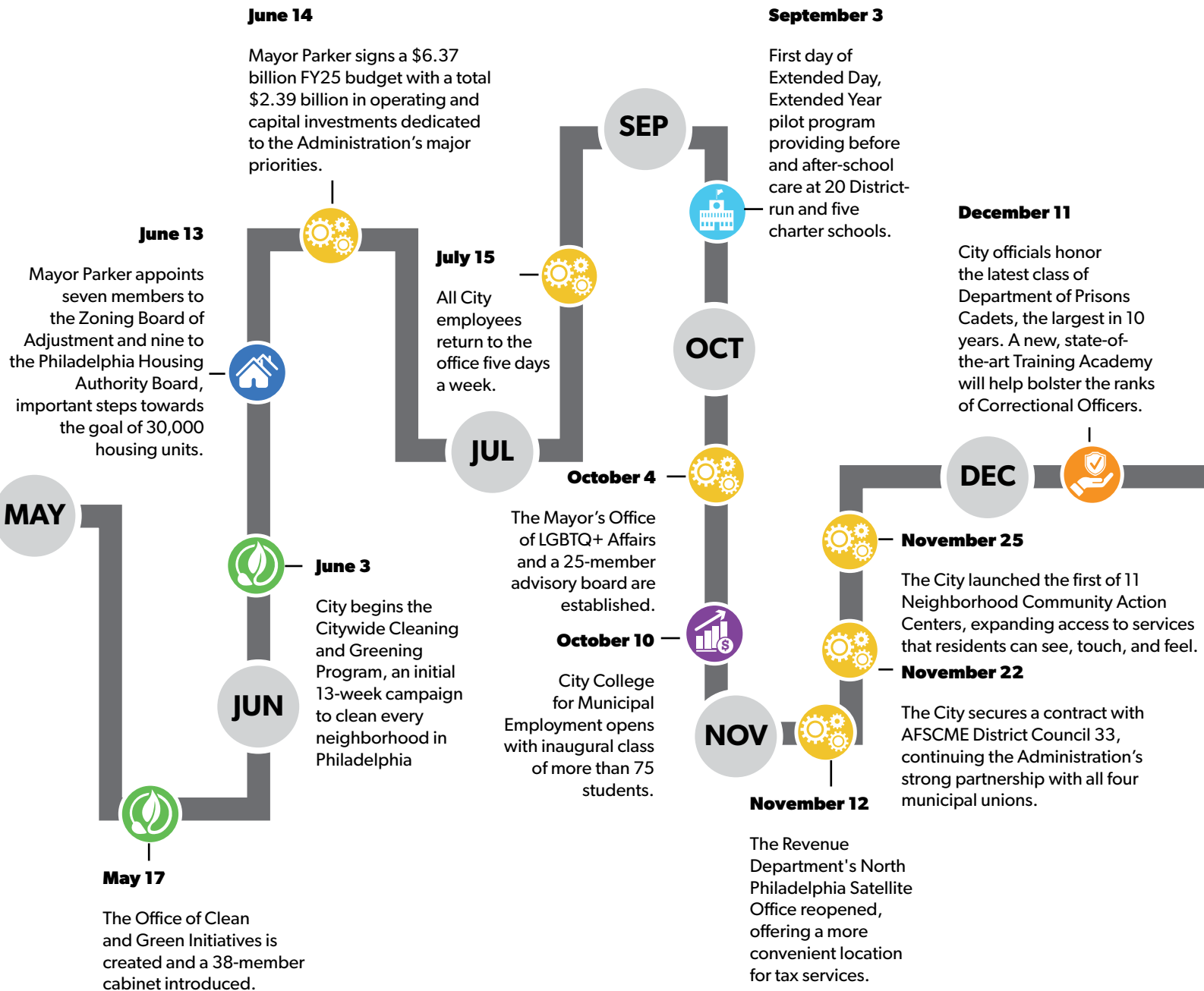
“ Philadelphia’s commitment to the LGBTQ+ community is rooted in action and purpose. Through bold steps like Executive Order 13-2024, we honor the diversity that defines us, prioritize inclusion that uplifts every voice, and ensure progress is both meaningful and tangible. Together, we are building a city where all residents can thrive with dignity and pride. ”

– **Brandee Anderson**
Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer

First-Year Milestones:

Building the Administration

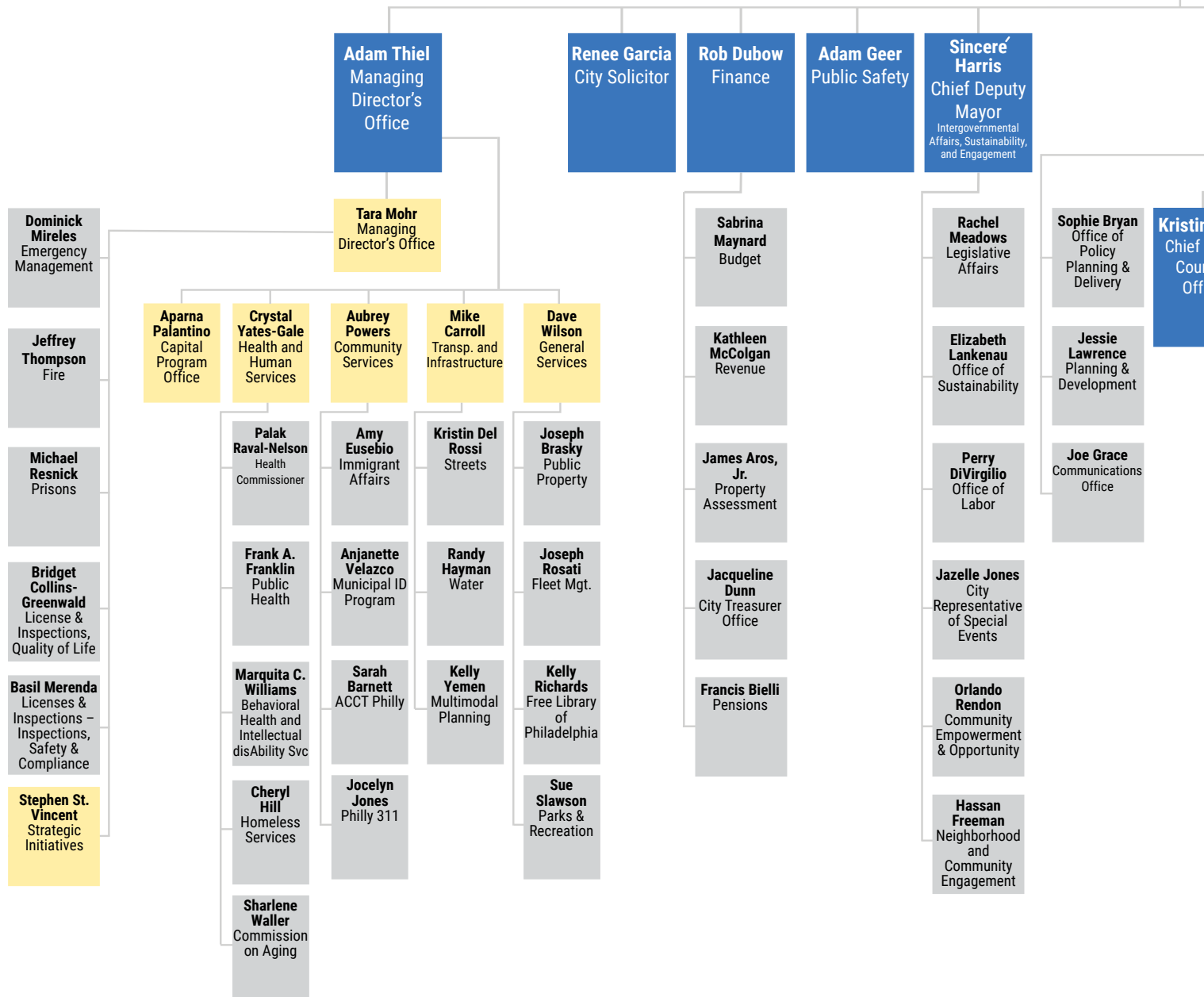


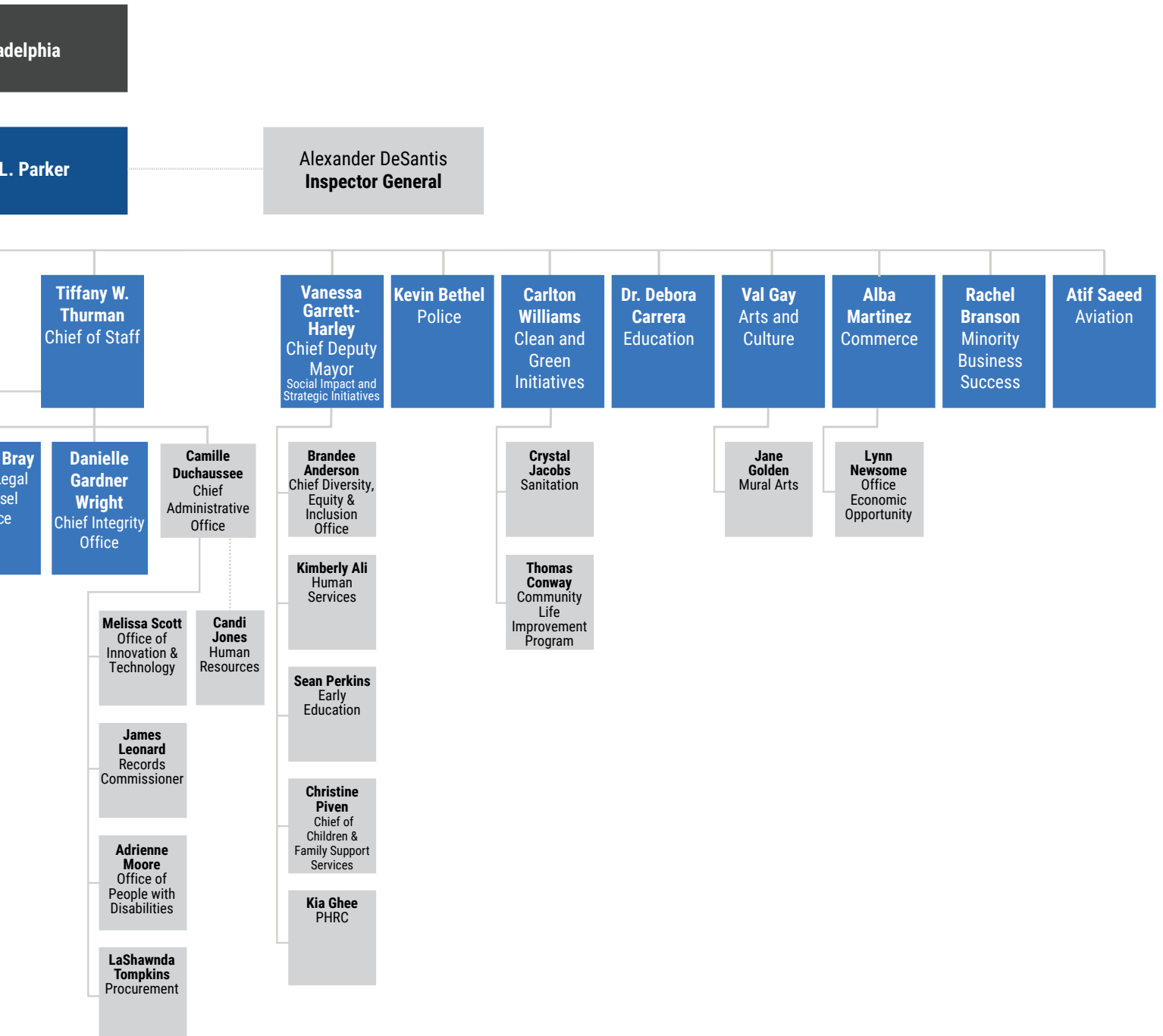


City Leadership

Building the Administration

People of Phila
 Mayor Cherelle





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Building the Administration



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Footnotes

ⁱPhiladelphia Police Department, Crime Map and Stats, December 10, 2024

ⁱⁱIbid.

ⁱⁱⁱPhiladelphia Police Department, December 2024

^{iv}Philadelphia Department of Prisons, December 2024

^vPhiladelphia Fire Department, October 2024

^{vi}Philadelphia Fire Department, November 4, 2024

^{vii}Total figures from the citywide campaigns led by the Office of Clean and Green Initiatives from June 3 - August 30 and November 4 - December 10. These figures do not include the results of other departmental efforts apart from the citywide summer and fall clean-up campaigns.

^{viii}Ibid.

^{ix}Office of Sustainability, May 2024

^xDepartment of Planning and Development, November 4, 2024

^{xi}Ibid.

^{xii}Ibid.

^{xiii}Ibid.

^{xiv}Ibid.

^{xv}Commerce Department and Office of Policy Planning and Delivery, November 2024

^{xvi}Commerce Department, November 2024

^{xvii}School District of Philadelphia, November 2024

^{xviii}Office of Early Childhood Education, September 2024

^{xix}Mayor's Office of Education, October 2024

^{xx}Office of the Director of Finance, June 2024





Join us in making Philadelphia the **safest, cleanest, greenest big city** in the nation with economic opportunity for all.

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Visit www.phila.gov for the latest on events, programs, and services from the City of Philadelphia.

