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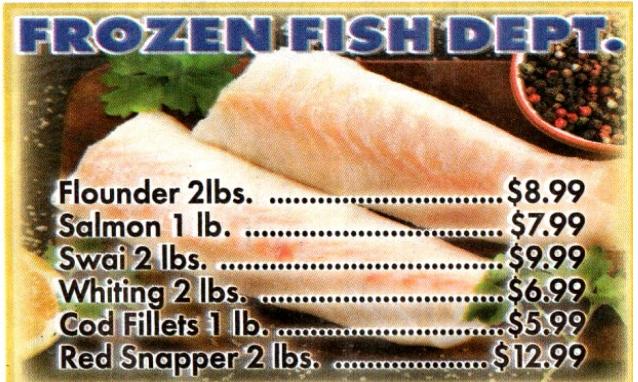
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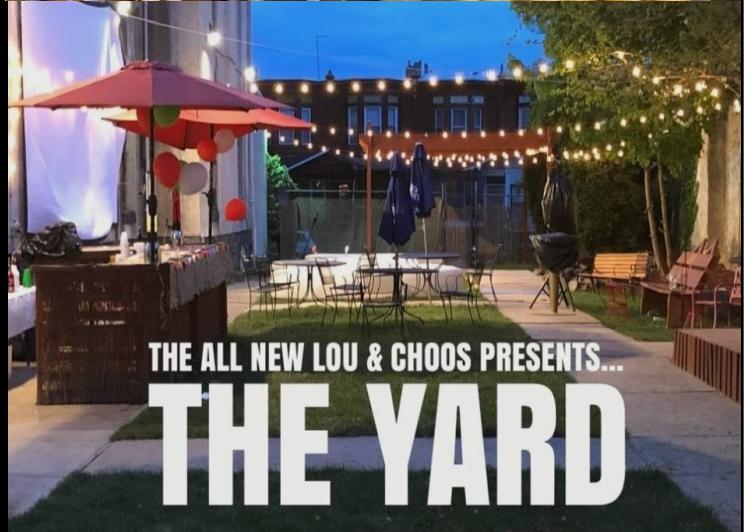


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DRIVING EQUALITY BILL PASSES

CITY COUNCILMEMBER ISAIAH THOMAS HISTORIC LEGISLATION PASSES 14-2

“I am grateful to my colleagues for voting to pass my Driving Equality bills,” said Councilmember Isaiah Thomas, “but more so, I am humbled by every person who told my office of the humiliation and trauma experienced in some of these traffic stops. To many people who look like me, a traffic stop is a rite of passage – we pick out cars, we determine routes, we plan our social interactions around the fact that it is likely that we will be pulled over by police. By removing the traffic stops that promote discrimination rather than public safety, City Council has made our streets safer and more equitable. With this vote, I breathe a sigh of relief that my sons and my friends’ children will grow up in a city where being pulled over is not a rite of passage but a measure of the safety of your driving and vehicle, regardless of the skin color of the driver.”



PHOTO CREDIT: PHL.COUNCIL.COM

By James Williams
Editor-in-Chief

JW: So how did you get to the point where you decided to craft this legislation?

IT: I think you talked about how we got to the point it was just a set of lived experiences, right? These are things that are cultural norms for us, as it relates to how we buy cars, how we move throughout the city, that feeling you get in the bottom of your stomach, after you've been followed for a few blocks. And you know, we all know about those uncomfortable search-

es that happen when they search you and search your car. Clearly, this was the focus of my campaign, like you said I campaigned twice, I had two losing campaigns before my winning campaign. And it's something that I have always focused on. So when I got into office it was a matter of having the right conversations with the right legal experts. And lucky for me, a conversation with our former chief public defender, Kiera Bradford-Gray. We worked side by side with her to put us in a position where we felt like we could find a legal precedent to be

able to pass legislation to address this issue. So looking at other different initiatives that have come out of the city that talks about enforcement of laws and enforcement of practices. For example, look at how we do small amounts of marijuana, that's an example of how you create legislation around enforcement. You also have my colleague, Councilman Johnson, and what he did with choke holds and banning choke holds by law enforcement. Those two different pieces of legislation basically laid the foundation for us to find precedent around traffic

stops. And that's how we were able to find a legal way to introduce the legislation around driving equality.

JW: Are you getting blowback from some Harrisburg politicians that are saying, we're going to write something to trump what you did?

IT: We haven't seen any type of counter legislation, we've seen some counter arguments, and we've heard some counter arguments and seen some counter narratives. And you know, everybody's entitled to their opinion, as it relates to the

legislation. We feel like we got it right. We feel like it's something that's going to have a positive impact on the city. Everybody doesn't agree with us. So it's been some blowback but not any legal blowback, not anything that questions the precedent. The bill technically hasn't been signed into law by the mayor. So at the end of the day, once that happens, then the clock will begin to tick on whether we'll see some type of legal challenge.

JW: Was it hard to get the old guard on-board with this legislation, because you got

14 votes?

IT: I think it was a combination, like some councilmembers were with me from the beginning, just because they understood what it was that I was trying to do. Other council members were worried about legal precedent. And that took time. And then you had other councilmembers who were worried about the actual guidelines that we were moving from primary reasons to secondary reasons. Every councilmember has their own vested interests based on the demographic they represent as far as the part of the city of Philadelphia, as well as the things that they prioritize. And so for me, it wasn't a difficult process, selling the premise, because almost everybody recognized that there was a problem. I mean, we had to come to an agreement with law enforcement and the administration as well. I had a consistent working group that collaborated for over a year to be able to come up with legislation that everybody was comfortable with. And even then, we still had to offer amendments even after that, just so that we could have what we felt like was the best possible bill. And that's where we are right now. So it took me over a year. I mean, the bill was introduced in its original form in 2019.

JW: Just to clear the record, you did get buy-in from law enforcement?

IT: We had a working relationship with the Philadelphia Police Department for over a year. The police department testified in favor of a bill coming out of committee. They participated in town halls, one town hall was live on WURD, where they talked about their position on the bill, why they were in favor of it, and what they felt it would do to the city of Philadelphia. So no, this is definitely not something that's anti-police. This is something that's pro black. And unfortunately, when you do things that are pro black people always try to craft and create a narra-

tive that is something different than that. That's all this is, this is for folks like you and me who grew up with that feeling in the pit of our stomach, for those of us who've been in some of those rough and uncomfortable searches. For those of us who live life the right way every single day and still are scared to buy certain cars and drive in certain neighborhoods, because you know that you're putting yourself in a position to increase the probability of being pulled over. And then what happens when we get pulled over? We blame ourselves, right? We say, Oh, I was doing too much. And the reality is everybody who doesn't look like us doesn't have that to worry about. So you know, we all wake up every day and do things the right way and deserve an opportunity to live a safe life. And I think that it's important that we think about all means and mechanisms as it relates to what safety consists of. And I think that this is a step in the right direction.

JW: My dad would say, don't wear baggy pants because you don't want to draw that attention. Don't put tint on your windows and don't play your music too loud. When you ride past the cops you turn down your music or keep looking back in your rear view mirror to see if they decided to follow you, when you ride past them. People who say this bill and I've heard this, this bill makes it harder for cops to do their job. I think that's false. I think the biggest problem we have in Philadelphia is that a lot of people, especially minorities, African American males, have lost trust in the police. Because of the stops. And that's part of the reason why we have a crime problem is because cops don't have the buy-in from the black community. I think this bill takes it a step further and actually helps to change the narrative. Because of you future generations of black males in Philly won't have that bad experience being pulled over by the cops for driving

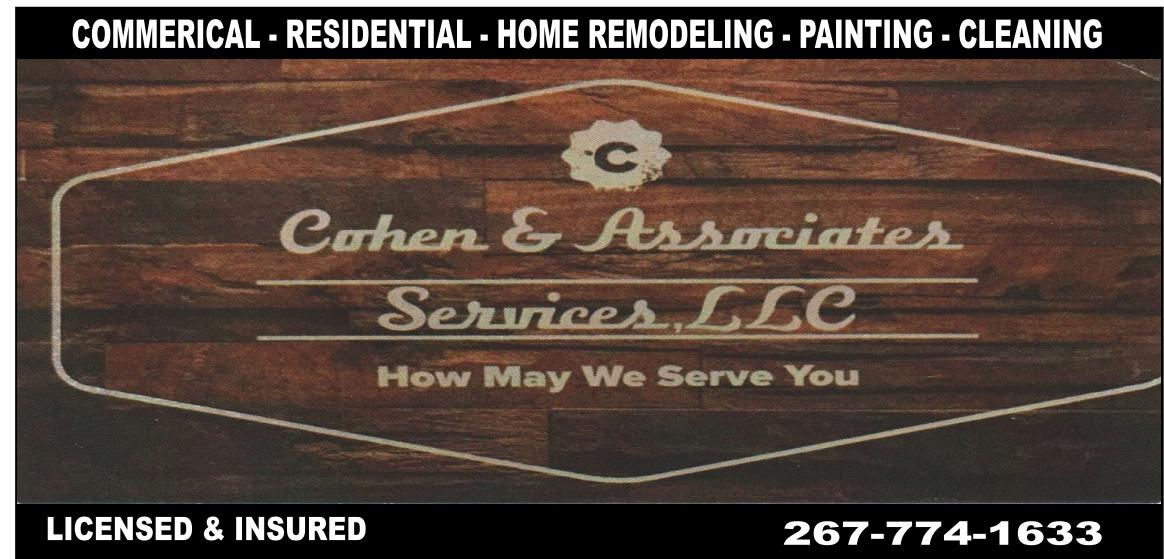
while black.

IT: I agree with you, 100%. And, you know, the data says that these types of stops, less than 1% of the time, lead to a weapon or contraband. We're definitely not trying to tie law enforcement's hand, I think, if anything, we're trying to be more efficient as it relates to what we're asking them to enforce. We know that officers spend hundreds of 1000s of hours a year on traffic stops alone, just traffic stops and traffic enforcement. And again, these are the traffic stops that less than 1% of the time lead to contraband or weapons. I don't think we're tying their hands. I think we're freeing

up their time. I think we're doing what you said as it relates to improving relationships between law enforcement and communities of color. So the next generation of young people don't have these rites of passage stories that you and I are sharing. This isn't the way it's supposed to be. But unfortunately, it's the way it is. And I'm hoping that this bill is a step in the right direction and do something about

JW: Your uptown guy, and you that the 14 police District has the highest amount of racial profile stops in the city. So this bill is a step in the right direction for making good law abiding black males safer and not targets

of predatory cops. But also I think this bill helps build better relationships with our community and police, because we're going to start seeing them in a more positive light. And now they can spend time doing the things that really need to be done, like fighting crime, the serious crimes. Like fighting the rise in homicides. I'm not worried about the person who's driving down the street with the busted tail-light. We have seen that cops practicing broken windows theory doesn't work.



ATLANTIC CITY MAYOR

MARTY SMALL SR



PHOTO CREDIT: CITY OF ATLANTIC CITY

By James Williams
Editor-in-Chief

JW: You spent 16 years the city council. So, I know that you have a good grasp of Atlantic City, and New Jersey state politics in how you want to move forward. But tell us how did being a council member prepared you for becoming Mayor?

MS: It has helped me a lot and my life experiences has prepared me for this moment, being on City Council for nearly 16 years. With the last four being the council president has really assisted me a lot. And I always said that being a councilman for 16 years with prior administrative experience will help me when I ascend to Mayor, because I have 16 years of legislative experience. I know the process. I know what it's like to be a councilmember and how to respect council members. During my tenure as Councilman, I was holding down full time positions, such as: four and a half years running the Boys and Girls Club, I ran elementary sports and after school programs for 11 years for the Atlantic City school system. And also one year prior to becoming mayor. I was the Dean of athletics, recreation and Governmental Affairs at Principal Academy Charter in Egg Harbor Township. I ran departments, I ran organizations, I've always had

that administrative experience. So when an opportunity presented itself, it was a seamless transition, because I've already knew how to run organizations and departments.

JW: I was just recently toured a condo complex, and just getting the feel of the people. I was shocked that a 77 year old Jewish lady told me how she liked what you was doing. She said was skeptical, but she's like, how you've been moving the city. Are you are you hearing that feedback in the streets as well?

MS: Absolutely. I get that all the time. And, you know, I understand, people going to be skeptical, particularly what has happened with Atlantic City in the past. And our performance have been indicative of our support at the ballot box. I mean, I'm in a unique situation with finally coming up on my seventh election in about 20 months. And I've

been overwhelmingly elected in the primary, I got 81% of the vote of the people who voted. So you know, to always saying men and women and political opportunities lie, but the numbers don't. I'm just humbled and grateful at the opportunity to be living the dream to be mayor of a city that I grew up in.

JW: I remember you said Atlantic City used to be the playground of the world. And you want to get back there, right? So we know the casino industry across the country took a hit due to Covid. But let's talk about this bounce back. So the casino's did 345 million in June, three times more than in the first quarter in 2020? What are some of the things that you contribute back that growth?

MS: I was out front in a big way during the pandemic, national international interviews, regionally. So you know, things like that help.

And, you know, our attitude is, bring people here to the city because, I love this city. My saying is, I'm Atlantic City born I'm Atlantic City breed, and when I die, I'll be Atlantic City dead. So when you look at decisions that you make, I think that the decision I made during the pandemic to keep the beach and boardwalk open. It helped a lot because we put that message out that Atlantic City is open for business. And last year during the height of COVID we had people swarming to the city. I mean, the hotels were sold out every week, the boardwalk was packed on the weekend, I think is a combination of that. And the fact that people were tired of being in the house, and you know, in Atlantic City we want everybody to come here, let people know that we are open for business.

JW: Two things that happen in the state legislator with job growth and development, economic recovery

aid the Aspire Program and the Emerge Program. How do you think those programs, with the tax credits drives more businesses to come to Atlantic City, how does this fit into your vision of redevelopment for the city?

MS: Atlantic City was particularly built on a foundation, pre casinos, where the black community and black businesses, were the hub of Atlantic City, you had Kentucky Avenue with club Harlem, all of the hotels. And to be quite honest, no administration was ever focused on building on it. We did a Small Business Academy here for Atlantic City residents about 50 residents. We're working with them on funding initiatives. We're working with organizations like Tanger Outlets to get more minorities involved in a walk, which is the main shopping district, but Atlantic city needs to do better overall. And I've always said that we don't value the



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black dollar enough in Atlantic City being so close to many urban centers, which is Philadelphia and other areas. And that's what I mean with the urban entertainment piece. We want to teach the community how to become more entrepreneurs. Because you know, during a pandemic, a lot of people lost jobs. And people started to search for pandemic proof occupations, and a lot of people became entrepreneurs, you see a shift in the workforce because now people know that you can get the job done from working from home.

JW: So also while we on that job growth and redevelopment I know discussions in the past about the Orange Loop, based on the Monopoly board.

MS: That's New York Avenue, St. James, and Tennessee Ave. They do a lot of outdoor entertainment, want to create a culture where safe to walk around in Atlantic City in and out of different bars, coffee shops,

etc. And it just gives residents and visitors extra amenities, particularly during a season like this. And you want to continue to make it safe. We have a new industry, which is going to make a big difference in Atlantic City, the marijuana industry, we look forward for it, to benefit off of all it has to offer as well. So we're excited about the Orange loop.

JW: How has the legalization or decriminalization of marijuana in New Jersey, really affected Atlantic City. Mainly on the boardwalk and how are you going to police it and maintain crowd control?

MS: Right now we're still in the dark, waiting for the state of New Jersey to get out of its own way. So they can pass down the regulations. And then we can do what we need to do as a municipality to adopt our rules and regulations. So we're still in a holding pattern, but we look forward, you know, for the industry.

JW: Something that I was really impressed with, I was down there a couple of weeks ago, the curfew. And the use of the sirens which I think was a great way to get that across. Was there a lot of blowback, when you want to move forward with that, let's leave that piece there.

MS: Well, you know the saying that a leader knows the way, shows the way, and goes away. Everyone is not going to be happy with your decisions. This is something that as a kid that I grew up with at 9:30pm curfew and your parents said, you better have your you know what in the house, by the time that siren goes off. This is something that we were able to do with some of our COVID funds and listen, we're not going to get every child off the street we know that. But it gives our police the tools and it's reminder that if you see juveniles on the street after 10 o'clock it has to be addressed. At the end of the day, I say all of

the time whether it's popular or not. It's not the government job raise your kids, the government is here to help parents. If everyone in the great city of Atlantic City policed their four walls of their house and had strict rules we'd be better community. So police your own house and the community will help you. It takes everyone! Some people complaining because of the noise, well then again, if we did nothing they would complain too, I'm going to do anything that I can to keep the residents of Atlantic City safe and secure.

JW: I've been paying attention to is the housing market in Atlantic City, and it's great right now for investors. Are you looking for more outside investments, or more residents investing?

MS: I want it all, outside, inside, over the top, below, and in between. We want people investing in Atlantic City, it's the greatest place in the world to live on the Wall Street Journal months

ago noted Atlantic City was one of the top markets in the nation. And you know, development is a copycat league, you know, to saying if you build it, they'll come we look forward and telling each and every one that want to invest here in Atlantic City, we're open for business. We have a lot of open land in the inlet that we want to fill in with housing developments and other amenities an the casino market is on fire. And we just want to keep this momentum because we're just getting started. But in the meantime, in between time, I'm going to be carrying that Atlantic City flag and encouraging people to remember that it's a great day here in the city of Atlantic City.

By James Williams, Publisher
Photo Credit: Marty Small



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ON 60TH ANNIVERSARY, SNCC VETERANS REFLECT ON THE STRUGGLE TO REGISTER BLACK VOTERS IN THE SOUTH



By Cherri Gregg, WHYY
Photo Credits: Wikipedia

The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, or SNCC, was founded in April of 1960 by young people dedicated to nonviolent direct action tactics. Almost immediately, SNCC emerged as a force in the southern civil rights movement through their involvement in Freedom Rides and voter registration campaigns. During the 1960s, hundreds were arrested and many beaten, some killed. But they helped change America and turn young

people like John Lewis into civil rights leaders. Their work is not done. There is a renewed movement afoot that bridges the original generation of SNCC activists with the young leaders in the Black Lives Matter movement. SNCC turned 60 years old recently and is hosting a conference this week to further cement the cross-generational connection. Judy Richardson began her activism as a student at Swarthmore College and went on to work in the SNCC National Office in Mississippi and in Ala-

bama. Jennifer Lawson was just 16 when she joined the civil rights movement and became part of the SNCC as a student at Tuskegee University. Both are part of the 60th anniversary celebration.

WHYY Host Cherri Gregg sat down with Richardson and Lawson about their journey as activists and the passing of the baton to newer generations.

SNCC was a grassroots effort. Set the scene on how SNCC was able to inspire so many people and so many young people to risk their lives to help make change. And I'll start with you.

Jennifer Lawson

(JL): SNCC was started by students, and it was founded by Ella Baker, who was a remarkable woman who worked with the NAACP. But she felt "you students should have your own group." And it was because students at that time, in 1960, were saying "I have had enough" and students started doing just very sim-

ple things, like sitting in at lunch counters of segregated places and saying, "No, I refuse to be asked to go down behind the store to eat. We demand that we should be served as human beings right here at this counter." It brought together some incredibly brilliant young people from different schools, predominantly Black colleges and universities. But all over, those students then started saying, "This is about more than just food at lunch counters. Let's look at how we can improve the lives of the African American community."

I want to bring you in, Judy, to talk about this, because you were working in the organization. Nonviolence was a cornerstone. Can you explain why that was so important?

Judy Richardson (JR): We knew that we did not have the guns. Our main thing was, how do you get Black people registered to vote without getting them killed?

And we knew that the state government, the local government — all controlled by white people — and the federal government, they were not going to support us. And what we had to do was be able to organize at the grassroots, with the Mrs. Hamers and the Mrs. Blackwells, throughout the Deep South in the rural south. But if you reacted with guns, they would shoot you down. They would kill what you were doing and everybody who was around with you. And your larger responsibility was to the people that you were organizing with. At the same time, it was the rural south. So there were people who definitely defended themselves who were local.

I read some of the transcripts, Jennifer, about being in these spaces knowing that your life was on the line. How did that impact your life and what did that do to you as a young person? People died in this movement.

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JL: Judy and I both know so many people who lost their lives because of their work in the civil rights movement. ... A very concrete way in which it changed, dramatically changed, my own life [is] I was a student at Tuskegee and planning to go on to become a doctor someday. And that all went away when one of my classmates, Sammy Younge Jr., was killed in January of 1966. We would go out into the community to help register people in rural Macon County [in Alabama] to vote and ... he was killed. And I thought to myself, "What's the value of my education if I can't even safely live in the state of Alabama?" So I joined many other students at Tuskegee who then started marching, demonstrating, continuing our work on getting out the vote, and ... then some of us decided, "No, we'll leave school and join SNCC and work full-time with SNCC in Mississippi and Alabama and Georgia to try to really change things." And it's one of the proudest accomplishments of my life that the work that we did really did make a difference.

What do you think was the critical thing that helped shift the minds of the people in power to help make the

change?

JL: Well, I wouldn't say that we were shifting the minds of people. For example, during this time. George Wallace, an avowed segregationist, was the governor of Alabama. We didn't put our emphasis on changing George Wallace's mind. Judy and I worked in Lowndes County. Where we went into Lowndes County, there were only four registered Black voters, because Black people had been so intimidated that they couldn't register to vote. When we left Lowndes County, people had not only registered to vote, they had created their own political party. The Lowndes County Freedom Organization had had as a symbol, the black panther, and that was the first Black Panther [Party] emerging in the movement. In that way, they weren't trying to change the minds of the people who were in power. They were trying to become the people who were in power. So later, the man who started the Lowndes County Freedom Organization, he became the sheriff and served as sheriff there for about 20 years.

So basically, it showed people how to pick up the reins for themselves.

JL: Exactly, exactly. It was about empowering people.

JR: But I would also just like to add to that that when Jennifer mentions George Wallace, you know, he cuts back on his segregationist... He vocally becomes less racist. But that's only because there are Black people registered to vote. And in Alabama, he has to worry about these folks who are going to come to the polls on Election Day. Now, there were always white allies. I mean, there were wonderful people who really supported us and provided funding and provided their bodies, and some were killed in the process. But the main thing was how do you get Black folks organized so that white people know that we are a power to be dealt with? Part of the reason that you use the vote is because we don't have Koch brothers money. But what we do have is our vote.

Yeah. And I want to fast forward to today, when you look at the movement, I mean, we saw the tragic murder of George Floyd. You know, we look at today, a lot is left undone.

JR : Yeah, we really do understand the importance of working with the young people, and it's because we

see ourselves in them. You know, as Jennifer said, we were the only youth-led civil rights organization working in the South back in the '60s. ... And what we saw was brilliance. Part of that is seeing that brilliance in these young people, and they're looking to us and we're looking to them.

SNCC will be celebrating its 60th anniversary virtually. Tell us about this effort to bring the generations together and move forward.

JL: It will be a mixture of things. It'll be a very thoughtful gathering where we look at the strategies and we consider the future, but it will also be a celebration as well. Throughout this whole pandemic, we have been meeting with young activists and organizers from across the country and with students from many colleges and universities. And it's been so heartening to us that they are asking us to join with them, it gives me this great sort of sense of optimism about our future in this country.

It's going to be fun too.

JR: Absolutely. And you know, part of what grounded SNCC was music. I mean, we had the SNCC freedom singers. They will

be there again. Toshi Regan and Martha Redbone, Sonia Sanchez from Philly is going to be there on the artists' session. But also, you know, we have the government people who have become elected officials because Black people are voting. The new activists. Nsé Ufot, who heads the New Georgia Coalition.

What do you hope people take from this conference as you move forward and work on that unfinished business?

JL: I hope that, individually, people take with them the sense that, whatever walk of life you're in, each of us can make a real difference.

JR : So people, if they could just understand, it's a long struggle. We may not see it in our lifetime, but if you do nothing, nothing changes. And I got to change it for the people who are coming behind me.

Thank you to Judy Richardson and Jennifer Lawson.





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By Jennifer Lynn, WHYY

Play-by-play announcer Kate Scott has broken a ton of barriers. Scott is the first woman to call a Golden State Warriors game, the first woman to call an NFL game on the radio, and over the summer, she made her Olympic broadcasting debut as the play-by-play voice of men's and women's basketball in Tokyo.

Kate Scott is the new and first female television voice of the Philadelphia 76ers on NBC Sports Philadelphia. She takes over where Marc Zumoff left off when he retired in June and is teaming up with analyst Alaa Abdelnaby. Morning Edition host Jennifer Lynn recently asked her to take us back to when she first leaned in to the wide world of sports.

I'm a girl who grew up loving sports, playing every sport, watching sports, playing with all the boys at recess, then coming home and playing sports with all the guys on my street, called a tomboy growing up. And since I was a little kid, I was just told, "You don't belong here. This isn't for you." But I loved it, so I kept at it. And thankfully I had really supportive parents who told me I could do anything.

And, Kate, who are you reflecting when people see you now on TV related to the 76ers?

I represent women. I'm gay. I hope I represent the LGBTQ+ community very well and anybody who wants to do this as well, because I know there's very few out broadcasters right now. Kids who identify with that community can also see themselves doing this, if this is something they want to do. I hope to be a role model for any group who sees even a little bit of themselves in me. And you are busy. It's not just TV with the 76ers, you also have a college football gig as well. Tell us about that.

They like to say when it rains, it pours. Probably not just in this industry, but in every industry. But there are those months when you're wondering if you're ever going to work again and then all of a sudden, wonderful things happen. So I'm doing a national college football package for Learfield Radio right now with former Philadelphia Eagle Mike Golic, who played defensive line for the Eagles. So every Friday morning, I'm flying to some college town. Saturday night, we're calling a college football game on over 110 radio stations across the country, and then Sunday morning, I'm taking the first flight out and getting back here to Philadelphia so I can call Sixers games as soon as possible. So yeah, it is a very busy time right now.

I mean, that's the norm? That's how it goes? It is the norm, and these are the things you always dream about, obviously, as somebody who does what I do. The goal is now that I have this amazing, wonderful gig that I didn't even think was possible when I agreed to the college football gig... hopefully next year, it'll just be Sixers during the season.

I was looking at your Twitter feed and you write all kinds of things. You are very supportive of other women, other athletes who are living their dreams. You wrote something: "I'm here in Philadelphia because of all the women who have come before me who had it much harder than me who proved we deserve a shot." And I'm interested about that... "Had it much harder than you." In what ways? Oh, I can't repeat the stories on the radio. But I'll tell you, Jennifer, you know, it wasn't 15-20 years ago that the things that the women who were trying to get into locker rooms, that were simply trying to do their jobs... I've heard horrific stories from print journalists, from radio reporters, from television journalists, just the stuff they had to put up with from athletes, from coaches, from fellow reporters who didn't want them around, who told them they didn't belong and did very vile things to try to get them out of the industry. I have taken all of those stories to heart and told all of those women, thank you for opening the doors that allow this to be a possibility and a dream for me. And I'm going to do whatever I can to, not just crack the glass ceiling or crack open the door, but hopefully shatter the ceiling and rip the door off the hinges and throw it into the ocean, or the Delaware River. Because I have not had to put up with things nearly as awful as a lot of the women who were just 10, 15, 20 years older than me. You've done a lot of voice work, podcast work as well.

So talented. Do you ever feel like your voice is a separate part of your identity? Like, there's you, and then there's you, the performer? Oh, that's a really great question. I've never thought about that before.

Interesting. I guess you're one thing. Yeah, I guess I am one thing because I'm trying to think if I can differentiate the two... but I do know that it is a large reason that I'm here. It has been a huge part of my success. I know that especially when it comes to play-by-play, and especially for men's sports, since we are all — men and women, any of us who've listened to games at any point in our lives — we are so conditioned and used to hearing a male voice, which tends to be deeper than a woman's voice. I'm extremely lucky to have a deep voice because I think that there's no doubt that's made it easier to integrate myself into what I do, because it's not as jarring as it may be for all of us who listen to sports, [as] if I had a higher-pitched female voice.

Are you in journalism or entertainment or both? I think both, but I consider myself a sports journalist. You know, I started as a print journalist back in high school, and then I did TV and radio, and now back to mostly television. I'm not here to say "gotcha" to anybody. I'm here to check my second source before I report a story. But then at the same time, being a television play-by-play announcer for a team, I do need to be entertaining because sports seasons are long. And you know, why does somebody want to tune in to game 53 of an 82 game season with three months of playoffs to follow? You gotta make it fun and entertaining, so I also am very aware of that too.



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POLITICS

STATE REP STEPHEN KINSEY IS LOOKING FOR SOLUTIONS TO COMBAT GUN VIOLENCE



By James Williams
Editor-in-Chief

Photo by Solomon Williams
Chief Photographer

A call to action by State Representative Stephen Kinsey to address the gun violence that has been taking place across NW Philadelphia.

Kinsey has consistently been fighting to curb gun violence since he first took office. He recently joined House Democratic Leader Joanna McClinton and Rep. Joe Hohenstein in introducing the bill (H.B.2009). This bill will establish and fund a nonpartisan, academic research center on gun violence in Pennsylvania, which will provide lawmakers with the data to develop sound policy to prevent gun violence.

"Shootings are happening more frequently and our current approach to combat them is not working," Kinsey said. "Our duty as legislators is to protect and serve our constituents. Establishing this research center is crucial in helping us create a safer Pennsylvania."

And creating a safe city was the goal of this event.

The event was moderated by Enon's Rev. Waller who kicked off the event by stating that we are here for solutions not to point fingers but

to discuss the issues.

On the stage Rep Kinsey assembled every elected office that represents NW Philadelphia to hear the comments and solutions from their constituents.

Rep. Darisha Parker

Councilmember
Derek Green

Councilmember
Cherelle Parker

Councilmember Cindy Bass

State Senator Art Haywood

State Rep Isabella Fitzgerald

Capt. Zimmerman of the
35th Police District

District Attorney
Larry Krasner

Police Commissioner
Danielle Outlaw

Capt. Smith of the
14th Police District

The Office of Chris Rabb

The Office of Dwight Evans

"It's not only important that we listen to our people, particularly those who live in fear of their lives and the lives of their loved ones being taken away by nonsensical violence," Kinsey said. "But we must also work together in our efforts to solving this crisis. That's why

you will see an all-hands on deck approach bringing together elected officials, law enforcement, support groups and community stakeholders, all coming together to develop a strategy that will ultimately save lives in our communities. We must understand their perspective and listen to any ideas they present."

Philadelphia Police Commissioner Danielle Outlaw was be present to hear potential solutions that will be offered by the audience.

Unlike many events with elected officials this one was about the elected officials hearing from the people, instead of the people hearing from the elected officials. Only District Attorney Larry Krasner and Police Commissioner Outlaw briefly addressed the crowd.

Krasner briefly talked about the effects of social media regarding it's connection to the gun violence taking place. In regards to instigating the violence.

Outlaw opened up by thanking the community for attending and coming with solutions for the issue at hand.

Both the Police Commissioner and District Attorney also made it clear that they were here to hear the public's opinion and they made it clear that public feedback

regarding this issue is crucial.

After Krasner's and Outlaw's brief introductions the floor was opened up to the audience to offer their solutions.

If you have been to meetings around gun violence the solutions offered are the same across the city, but this is the first time I've witnessed a meeting like this in Uptown. If you know politics like me you understand

that Uptown has a big say in local and state wide elections. So with a voice as big as that of the Uptown residents, we maybe on the path to real solutions.

We all know that the work of the non-profits are crucial in this fight and that they need more funding.

We all know having programs in the community helps as well.

We also know that local youth sports organizations are primarily funded by the coaches. Coaches who are volunteers providing community service and mentoring many of these young boys on their own dime. Let's see some more funding for them and more recreation training facilities to provide kids with the tools to help them excel in sports and academics because they go hand and hand. We know

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that this keeps them off the streets. If it's about throwing money at the problem maybe this is a good route to take by investing in our youth sports programs.

Or maybe do we go bold and ramp up the safe cam program and expand it to all residents and offer tax deductions at the state and city level for getting cameras outside of your house and your business. And having a way anonymously that the footage can be made available to the police. At Least, if we can't prevent the shooting we increase our chances of catching the shooter.

You can say that the cameras would promote a big brother state. But we are already being tracked every second by our cell phones and credit card use.

Moving on.

It was also suggested that parents get more involved. One gentleman said that if it's your kid out there causing trouble then you should turn your kid in.

And those two statements made me think about a statement that Mayor Marty Small of Atlantic City made during an interview with me in this edition. I asked the Mayor about his use of sirens to enforced a city wide curfew for minors and hear is what he said

"Well, you know the saying that a leader knows the way, shows the way, and goes away. Everyone is not going to be happy with your decisions. This is something that as a kid that I grew up with at 9:30pm curfew and your parents said, you better have your you know what in the house, by the time that siren goes off. This is something that we were able to do with some of our COVID funds and listen, we're not going to get every child off the street we know that. But it gives our police the tools and it's reminder that if you see juveniles on the street after 10 o'clock it has to be addressed. At the end of the day, I say all of the time whether it's popular or not. It's not the government job raise your kids, the gov-

ernment is here to help parents. If everyone in the great city of Atlantic City policed their four walls of their house and had strict rules we'd be better community. So police your own house and the community will help you. It takes everyone! Some people complaining because of the noise, well then again, if we did nothing they would complain too, I'm going to do anything that I can to keep the residents of Atlantic City safe and secure."

Let me ask you the reader this. Do our public servants go bold, like how the Mayor of Atlantic City has done?

And do we support them for making bold decisions to keep us safer?

All of these solutions are valid and we shouldn't stop searching for solutions, because we are all sick of the killing.

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TEENS AREN'T SCARED OF COVID.. THEY'RE AFRAID OF BEING SHOT AND KILLED

By Dana Martin,
Contributor

My kids aren't afraid of covid. They're afraid of getting shot. There have been 432 murders in Philadelphia as of October 12 2021 with over 1700 people shot this year. Gun violence is rampant in the communities in which the kids I teach live as well as in my own. I am fearful of getting another message that someone I know has been shot and killed daily. I check my phone each morning hoping that my students and family members have made it through another night in Philly. Prayers of protection are abundant.

The pandemic and the subsequent shutdown has created an alternate universe where money is both scarce and more easily available, guns are easier to get, drug overdoses are higher than ever, social media beefs result in deaths, jobs are both in abundance yet not for everyone, social interactions are more high stakes and a structured day is less important. There's a sense of heightened agitation prevalent in our communities lay-

ered with a feeling of despair.

"I want to leave Philly because it's not safe." This is a direct quote from a high school senior who just wants to make it to see his next birthday. What troubles me is that the communities most impacted by violence in this city are Black and Brown, between the ages of 15 and 30 and live in communities hit hardest by poverty and crime. Resources to improve one's trajectory may be available but the information isn't always reaching target populations. There are career programs, financial workshops, job trainings, college fairs, GED programs, food banks, community resources abundant, but those they are meant for aren't accessing them. There seems to be a disconnect between resources available and the intended recipients.

"If I get shot the person who did it won't get caught." Another quote, another kid who doesn't feel supported, seen or valued. Less than 20% of murders are solved in Philly right now. That's a 4 in 5 chance of getting

away with it. Good odds if you want to kill someone. The perception is that no one looks for the murderer of a young Black person or of a person who lives in a certain neighborhood. Add race and class to it and the case is likely to go unsolved permanently. It can feel unfair and demoralizing to feel invalidated by a place you call home.

"Why is the missing girl in Wyoming getting all this press? There's girls missing here and no one cares. My cousin got shot and no one investigated. No one came to the house and asked questions. There was no news cameras, no police or detectives. Why are we different?" Another kid, another quote, another person feeling like they don't matter in the place they live. They see the double standard and feel helpless.

From working with Philly young adults for almost 20 years I know that feeling valuable in their environment goes a long way; feeling respected goes a long way. When Philly officials simply tell what they are doing to curb violence and

describes the money being spent on programs to ensure the public's safety from afar it doesn't translate. Where is the state of emergency? Where are the town watches or guardian angels? Where is the community mobilization? Where are the law students to help police officials with unsolved crimes? Where are the tech innovators to invest in our community centers and cameras for our neighborhoods? Where are the state of the art capital ventures to improve the quality of life in the communities directly impacted by gun violence and death?

Don't tell us things are happening when every single day someone is killed and the murder is likely to go unsolved. It's hard to trust those in charge when they don't have the same stake in the game. They don't live in the communities. They don't work in the communities. They aren't personally losing people and dealing with those left behind.

Covid 19 has impacted all of us, but gun violence has impacted me, my family and my students far more closely and immediately.

Our kids need more from us as the City of Philadelphia. We can play the blame game all we want:

"Parents need to supervise their kids"

"Kids need to show respect to adults"

"People need to go to work and not hang out."

"Guns aren't the answer. They need to learn how to solve problems better."

"People should call the police to report crime."

"Kids shouldn't hang outside or on the corners during the day or late at night."

"People should tell on those committing the crimes so they can be off the street."

All those are statements I've heard from adults in the communities, during press conferences, from fellow teachers, Philly politicians and public figures. Here's the thing though, placing blame does not solve the problems. This is an emergency. The feeling of safety is a basic human right that many of us are being robbed of. It feels as if no one cares until it impacts them directly. That's not fair to those in our city who need us to step up.

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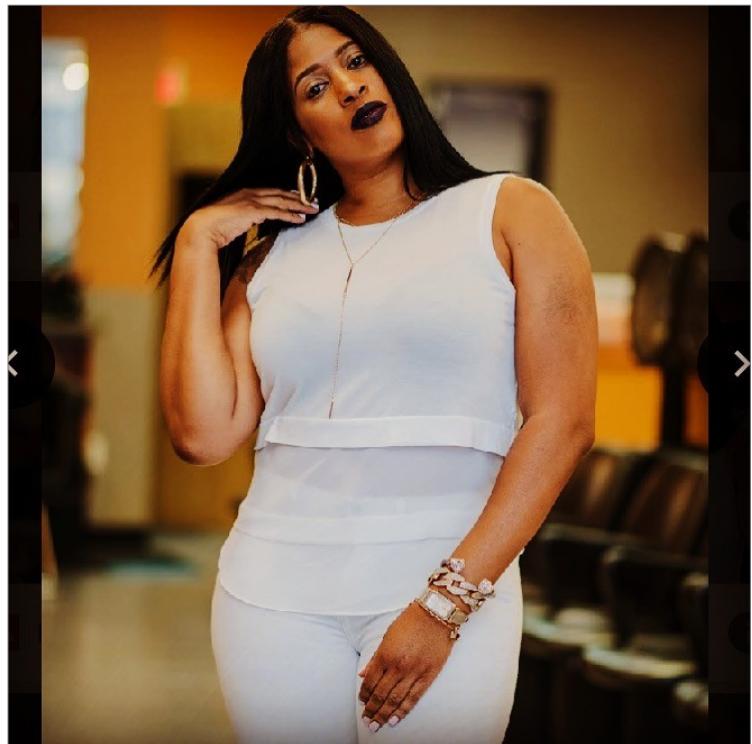
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LOTUS BEAUTY'S RASHEENA STEWART

BY SHELLY SHELL



**Rasheena Stewart of Lotus Beauty Spa Wins Up-
ity Awards Stylist of the Year**

Congratulations to Rasheena Stewart who won the Stylist of the Year award for the Inaugural Uppity Awards. Rasheena Stewart has consistently been styling hair in Uptown for over 25 Years, from Salon Manager to Co-Owner of Lotus Beauty Spa, located at 1000 Easton Rd Ste 112, Wyncote, PA 19095.

Shelly Shell: When did you know that you wanted to be a hairstylist?

Rasheena Stewart: I realized I wanted to do hair when I was in eighth grade at Leeds middle school. I was already doing my hair very well, and most of my friends. So there was no thought behind it. I just decided that I was going to go to Dobbins and take cosmetology and become a hairstylist.

Shelly Shell: You're the former salon manager of Xquisite Hair Design, and now the co-owner of Lotus

Beauty Spa; tell us about the transition from manager to owner?

Rasheena Stewart: So, after managing Xquisite Hair Design for 17 years, the transition to ownership would seem to be simple, but nothing is that simple. My old boss had been grooming me to run my own business since I was 18, so on the business side of things, I was 75% prepared. The other 25% learned as you go. The most challenging part about the transition was moving from coworker to boss position. I had to build new habits and separate myself from certain things and people to run the business from a non-bias lens.

Shelly Shell: Under your ownership; Lotus Beauty Spa expanded its services, what are some of the additional services you offer?

Rasheena Stewart: At Xquisite Hair Design, we only provide hair services. At the newly expanded Lotus Beauty Spa, we can accommodate head-to-toe services. Such as manicures, pedicures, lashes, waxing,

facials, Micro-blading, and non-invasive Medi-spa services.

Shelly Shell: The Covid 19 quarantine hit salons hard; how were you able to pivot your business to thrive?

Rasheena Stewart: During the closures due to COVID-19, it was rough! I held bi-weekly zoom call meetings with my staff to keep everyone updated. I also thought that keeping in touch with the team would keep everyone's spirits up! I often sent emails to all of the customers to check-in and keep them updated as well. During the closure, I would brainstorm different strategies to reinvent our salon. I changed the way we handled our appointment book. Due to new restrictions on capacity, we had to master how to get customers in and out in a timely fashion. Most importantly, I wanted everyone to be safe, so I implemented high-tech cleaning, disinfectant treatments and new safety precautions. God has truly blessed us with sustainability.

Shelly Shell: Lotus Beauty Spa has created hair care products; tell us about the branded products you offer?

Rasheena Stewart: The Products are under my own LLC. I can get more exposure through the salon. I've been working on these products for over seven years now. I have a facial toner and body butter also an edge control. I decided to create the body butter and facial toner because the Products I was using were not working for my skin. I figured if I am struggling with these store brand products, then someone else must be as well. Let's not forget the patented Xquisite foot Spa coming soon.

Shelly Shell: What would you consider one of your specialties as a hairstylist?

Rasheena Stewart: One of my specialties would be protective hairstyles such as the sew-in weave. Because hair care is my top priority, I turn to weaves often to limit the wear and tear on my hair and my customer's hair.

Shelly Shell: Who are your biggest influences in the hair industry?

Rasheena Stewart: When it comes to people who influence me in this industry, I'd have to say my old boss Robert O'Donnell and Aginah Shabazz, Who was another one of my old bosses I worked for when I was in high school. Judging by the people I named, becoming a boss was inevitable! I never really thought about influences until just now.

Shelly Shell: How do you keep up with the hair trends?

Rasheena Stewart: I am constantly learning new hair and business techniques. I attend Hair seminars and shows often, and I am no stranger to YouTube and Podcasts. My motto is to never stop learning!

Shelly Shell: Tell us about your yearly outreach event to serve women in the shelters?

Rasheena Stewart: For ten years now, every Christmas Eve, we close our salon for the day to cater to women who may be going through a rough time. We provide makeovers to 50 women from various neighborhood shelters. With the help of our family, friends, and local businesses, we can also provide them with hot meals and gift bags filled with personal feminine toiletries.

Some years we were able to give warm coats and toys to the families as well!

Shelly Shell: There is a lot of competition in the hair industry; how do you stay ahead of the competition?

Rasheena Stewart: We're able to stay ahead of the competition because we all learn from each other. If one of us learns a new technique, we share it with the team. I pride myself on keeping our salon a family environment.

Shelly Shell: What hair trends are your best and least favorite?

Rasheena Stewart: My best hair trend is funky colors. I love transforming hair from one color spectrum to another. My worst hair trend is wet sets or roller sets because I hate my hands being wet.

Shelly Shell: Where do you see Lotus Beauty Spa in 5 years?

Rasheena Stewart: In the next five years, I can see Lotus Beauty Spa number 2 in different cities.

Shelly Shell: What advice would you give to the youth that want to become hairstylists and salon owners?

Rasheena Stewart: The best advice I would give to someone looking to get into this industry is to find someone in the industry that you look up to and follow their blueprint until it becomes your own. Attend as many hair shows and Business seminars as possible. Lastly, be patient; nothing worth having happens overnight.

WHAT THEY'RE NOT TELLING YOU ABOUT THE CAR SHORTAGE



By R. S. Broker

Have you been to a dealership to buy a new car? If you have, then you noticed its much different in 2021 than it has been ever in our lifetime. You notice that there are no cars, trucks, SUV's, etc. Also, if you happen to find a car, you will notice that the prices are higher than usual. This isn't just happening at the new car dealers, its also happening at the used cars dealers and even the auto auction.

Yes, old, cars at auction sites are selling for a premium.

We all heard about the car shortage, and that there are little or no inventory of cars at any dealership. Its also the same excuse for phone, laptop and shipping shortages. This is all blamed on the scarcity of the microchip. Yes, as the story goes, there aren't enough microchips to meet the automotive industry demands.

A few days ago, Street Money (one half of TheGetMoneyShow) told me (Raw Street Broker) that he was looking to purchase a new vehicle. He stated that the lots were empty and prices are high. Of course, he knew this, as he's abreast of today's current auto-industry issues. However, he has another theory of this

current "crisis". He believes that the car industry is switching to electric vehicles (EV) now so they don't want to continue to make gas cars. So they are slowing down production purposely to usher in these climate conscious cars. And I believe Street Money is onto something. Just saw big news on Wall Street that Hertz (ticker HTZZ) will buy 100,000 Tesla vehicles for about \$4.2 Billion. It will be the Model 3.

Then I did some more research on EV and the car industry, and saw that:

GMC Hummer has a new electric truck coming out 2022, which preorders are already sold out.

President Biden has a goal of 50 percent electric vehicle sales by 2030

BMW and Mercedes plan to be at least 50% electric and hybrid by the end of this decade.

Knowing the change to EV is being pushed by the US Government and automakers alike, the plug in cars may be here sooner than we all thought. Tesla and Hertz are leading the way, and the other car makers will be soon to follow.

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Car Shortage 2021: Why And How Long Will It Last? (parade.com)
Used car market in chaos as prices soar - The Washington Post

Tesla's deal with Hertz opens a new frontier for the EV maker | TechCrunch

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POLITICS

COUNCILMAN DAVID OH MAKING PHILLY AN ENTICING FOR BIG SCREEN PRODUCTIONS

Alana Lukens
Chief Correspondent

Councilmember (At Large) David Oh, is making Philly an enticing location for Big Screen productions.

In hopes to lure more motion picture production companies to film in Philadelphia, Councilmember Oh has introduced legislation pertaining to a new tax credit for companies opting to film in the City of Brotherly love.

The legislation proposes to offer a twenty-five percent tax credit to eligible production companies who are interested in making an investment equal to or greater than \$500,000 on a film project in our fair city. The credit will be drawn from Real Estate taxes or Business income and Receipts taxes known as BIRT. Just like Pennsylvania's film production incentive, the local tax credit is transferable to any Philly-based taxpayer.

"I believe the incentive will position Philadelphia to receive a larger slice of the booming, multi-billion dollar film and television production industry," said Oh.

In order to qualify, a production company has to meet requirements such as; at least 30 percent of its crew are of a racial minority or are women. If

such requirements are able to be verified, the companies stand to receive a credit of up to \$250,000. tallied as production expenditures.

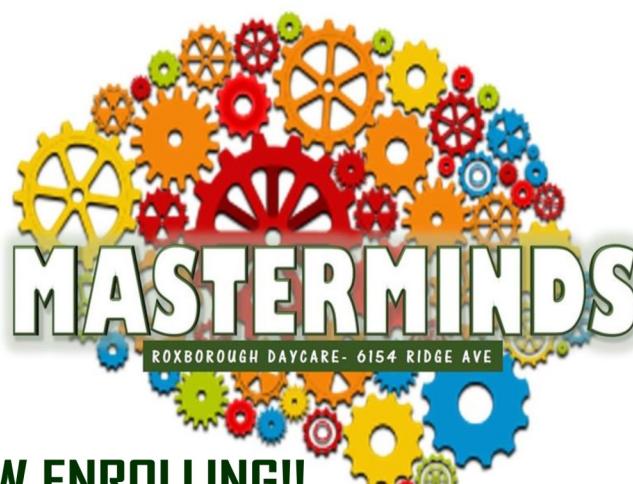
A company's "production expenditures" as a whole, will be assessed as a production's total overall budget, or 60% of a film's total production expenses.

Productions filmed at a Qualified Production facility and meet the minimum state requirements may be offered an additional 5% credit, making a possible total tax credit of 30%. As of now, there are no financial caps on the proposed incentive.

If passed into legislation, the bill would authorize the Greater Philadelphia Film Office, the City's Representative's Office, and the Department of Commerce, respectively, to approve a company's application. Applicants must complete an application called the Electronic Single application which can be found online at deed.pa.gov.

When submitting, the application must be accompanied with all required information and documentation per the program guidelines.

For further information on Article Act 84 (Article XVII-D), The entertainment Production Tax Credit go to phila.gov.



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SEN. STREET WANTS TO LEGAL CANNABIS CONSUMPTION

Alana Lukens
Chief Correspondent

legislation is finally making its way to the East Coast. Since the early 1900s, the war on weed has been vehemently, albeit falsely, portrayed as evil, the corrupter of children, a 'gateway drug,' which would cause debauchery and mayhem to ensue and bring the fall of our country's innocence.

Fast forward about a century and we get to witness how one little weed is changing the world. The nefarious campaign against Ganja is gone. We are discovering many of its multiple talents. From the magnanimous contribution to millions across the globe for its medicinal properties providing relief to those suffering from physical and mental illnesses. It has also been an answer to the prayers of their loved ones who longed for a "miracle." Oh and let us not forget to mention the economic and socio-economic tsunami that has brought forth a wave of wealth to the world.

As the majority of us sat and enviously looked towards the west as they made momentous strides and gained monetarily abundance, we wondered when we would be able to ride the bud bus all the way to the bank.

We wait no more. As we will soon, hopefully, get to legally throw our hats into recreational realm and toke to the glory of the marijuana profit smoke.

On October 12, 2021, State Senators Dan Laughlin (R-Erie) along with State Senator Sharif Street (D-Phila) have teamed up across the aisle to introduce bipartisan legislation for the legalization of marijuana across the state.

"After almost a year of working with Senator Street, advocacy groups and constituents we have introduced SB 473, which we believe is the best option to legalize recreational marijuana in Pennsylvania. Through bi-partisan sup-

port, Senator Street and I believe that we have found a way to get this important legislation to the finish line. With most of the surrounding states passing legalization bills, it's time to act now before we lose revenue due to border bleed. While the increase in revenue could raise around a billion dollars a year, the most important thing to me is that the industry will create thousands of family sustaining jobs that we so desperately need," said Senator Laughlin.

It's been stated that an overwhelming 60% of residents of the Commonwealth approved of adult recreational use of cannabis and its when not if the bill is passed, Pennsylvania has the potential to generate tax revenues anywhere from \$400 million to \$1 billion dollars annually. That's billion with a capital 'B'.

Now that cannabis prohibition is coming to an end, Senator Street made a statement to the fact saying that it has been "an expensive failure of public poli-

cy which has criminalized patients, personal freedoms and impacted generations in a failed war on drugs that continues to burden taxpayers with growing costs to our criminal justice system."

According to statistics, even with Philadelphia's decriminalization of cannabis, over 20,000 people were arrested for marijuana offenses in throughout the state in 2020. The legislation outlines protocols for regulating consumption, sales and taxation. As well as making safety precautions a top priority, it also emphasizes how impactful its contribution will be to our economy, our local communities, and agriculture.

Street went on to say, "This bill makes both moral and fiscal sense and prioritizes the people of Pennsylvania."

The State Senators sent out a press release mentioning some key points of the legislation which

are highlighted below. For more information about cannabis legislation, go to www.phila.gov.

Primary Goals of the Legislation

- Establish a rational and fair protocol for the safe and legal use, cultivation, and sale of cannabis.
- Develop a new industry based on free market principles coupled with responsible regulation.
- Enable those who have been harmed by prohibition to get out of prison and expunge their criminal records.
- Provide opportunities for those most affected by the war on drugs to participate in the cannabis industry.
- Reform the criminal, employment, DUI, and gun laws to align with cannabis legalization.
- Modernize the Medical Marijuana Program to reduce costs to pa-

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tients and increase patient access.

Safe and Legal

- Sets the minimum marijuana consumption age at 21 years old and mandates age verification for every purchase.
- Allows licensed medical marijuana patients to grow up to five plants in their home.
- Bans any marketing directed toward children and provides the appropriate deterrence to keep marijuana out of the hands of anyone under 21 years old.
- Provides clarity and consistency for workplace rules regarding marijuana use for all those operating in good faith and protects the Second Amendment rights of all Pennsylvanians.

Social and Economic Equity

- Expunges non-violent marijuana

convictions and decriminalizes marijuana up to a certain limit.

- Creates licenses for social and economic equity applicants and establishes that the majority of new licensees are granted to social and economic applicants.
- Leverages Pennsylvania's existing medical marijuana licensees to fulfill demand on an enhanced timetable while providing social and economic equity licensees the capital and know-how to succeed.
- Implements a Business Development Fund, administered by the Commonwealth Financing Authority, to support loans, grants, and studies.

Agricultural Engagement

- Authorizes farmers and craft growers across the Commonwealth to engage in the cultivation of marijuana.
- Through established demand, it enables any applicant who wants a license to

get a license to cultivate marijuana in a manner that is safe and regulated.



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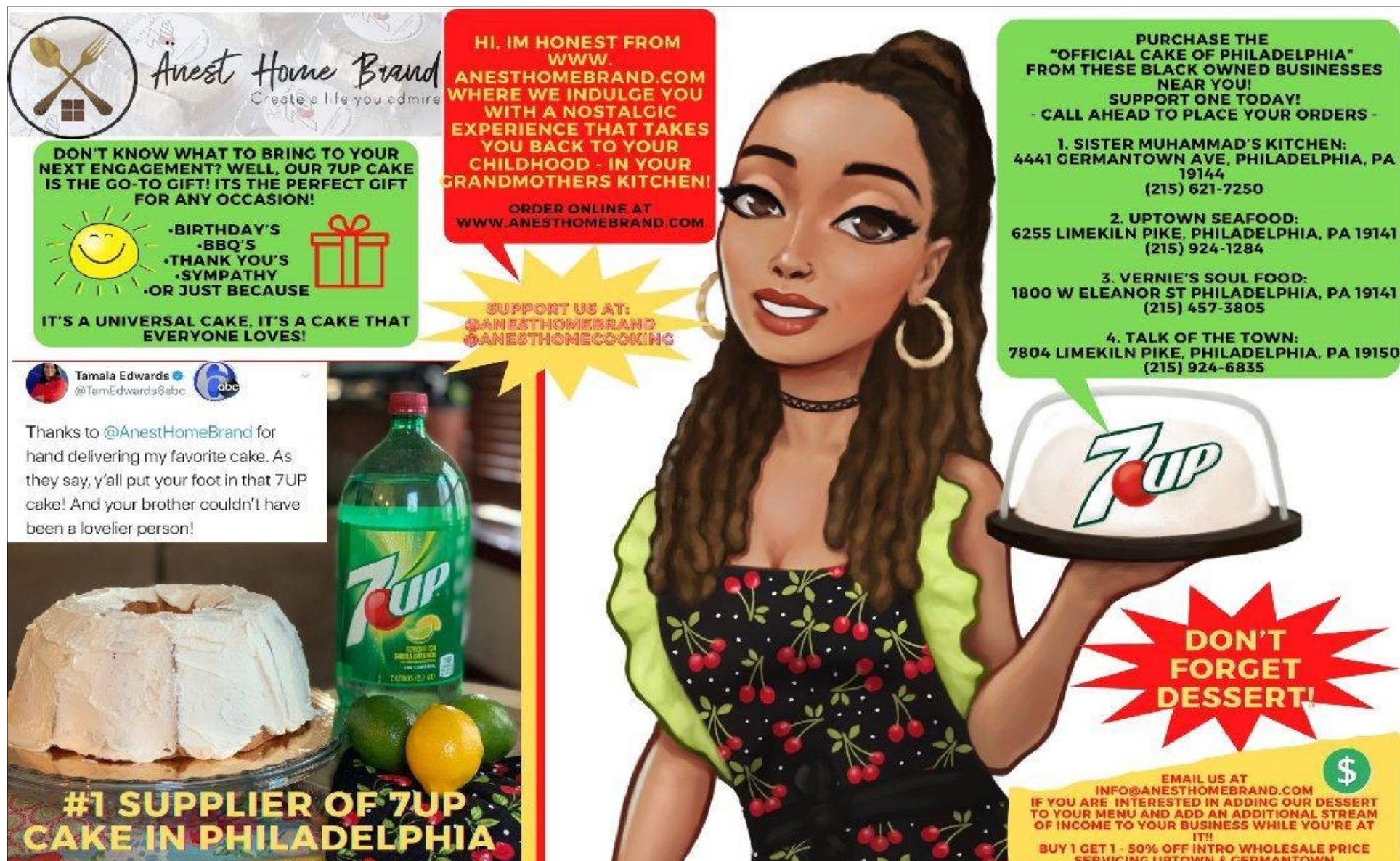
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THE BLUE ELEPHANT PROJECT WINS NON PROFIT AWARD

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RON MURRY WINS CHANGE MAKER AWARD

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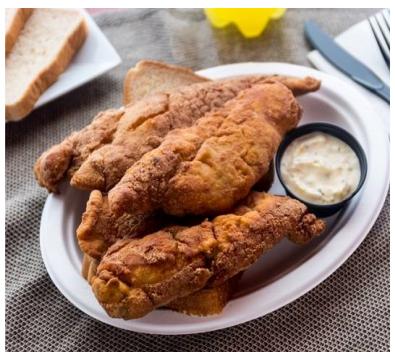
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	\$16.00 (Whole)
Jerk Chicken Platter-	\$8.00 (1/2)
	\$16.00 (Whole)
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	\$16.00 (Whole)
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Platters

BBQ Pork Ribs-	\$15.00
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BBQ Beef Ribs-	\$16.00
BBQ Chicken-	\$13.50
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Fried Chicken-	\$13.50

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BBQ Pork Ribs \$19.50

& Chicken- \$21.50

BBQ Beef Ribs \$11.25

& Chicken- \$13.50

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\$10.50 (6) \$9.50

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w/Fries \$12.00

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